

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

ANTRIM AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE MILL AT MILLTOWN.

The Milltown lies north west of Antrim town. Take the A6 Castle Road to Randalstown. After 2 miles turn right into Milltown Road, follow it to where it joins Junction Road. Here we find the mill from which the hamlet derived its name. It dates from 1738, as indicated by the date stone found 3 metres from the ground on the south wall, and it is the corn mill which ground corn for the inhabitants of the hamlet, its surrounding area and Shanes Castle Park.

The mill was driven by a breast water wheel 15 feet 6 inches in diameter and 2 feet 9 inches broad. It was powered by water from the Mill Burn via the millpond and millrace, both of which have now disappeared. In 1850 the mill was owned by James Kerr and the property included the corn mill, kiln, offices, 6 mill houses and with land extending to 20 acres it had a rateable value of £57-10-00. The mill suffered fire damage on two occasions. First in the 1880's and then in the 1940's when the owner, Bernard Kerr, was attending the Thursday fair in Antrim. After this second fire new machinery for scutching flax was installed but did not get much use before the mill ceased operating in the late 1940's.