

Hidden gems and Forgotten People

CARRICKFERGUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



RATHLIN ISLAND - CNOCKNASCRIEDIN OR HILL OF THE SCREAMING

In the summer of 1575 Sorley Boy McDonald heard of an impending invasion of the Glens of Antrim by the Earl of Essex and as a precaution sent his family together with their possessions and livestock to shelter on Rathlin Island. The Earl of Essex dispatched Francis Drake and Captain John Norris from Carrickfergus to put the population of the island to the sword. They succeeded and the women of the island and their children watched from this hill as their men folk were slaughtered in the fields below. The women fled and hid in caves. Only one woman called McCurdy survived and afterwards the island was largely uninhabited for many years.

John Hulme