

LISNASKEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CASTLE BALFOUR IN LISNASKEA

Castle Balfour is a Plantation castle in Lisnaskea built by the Balfour family, from Scotland, in 1618 and re-fortified in 1652. It was partially dismantled in 1689 and burnt in the 19th century. It stands on the site of a much older stronghold built by the Maguires who were the ruling family in Fermanagh. Conor Roe Maguire was the chieftain at the time of the Flight of the Earls (1607) and because he had been on the side of the crown, was nicknamed the "The English Maguire". Unfortunately for him, that did not stop him losing his ancestral lands when the time came. He was granted lands in Brookborough but went unwillingly and that delayed the building of this castle. You can see the Scottish influence in the architecture. In 1618 there was also a chapel of ease, a school and a mansion built on this site. The present day Church of Ireland is just to the left, with its graveyard.

Victoria Herbert