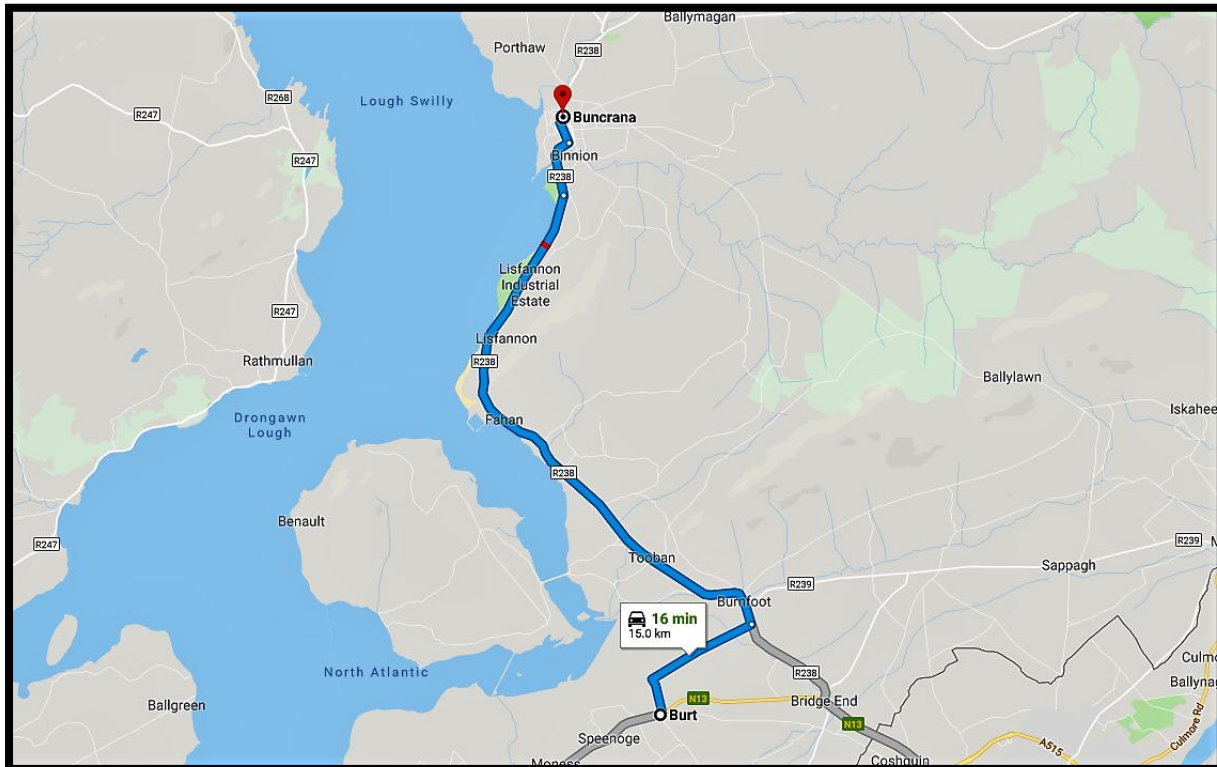


Visiting Burt to Buncrana



Contents

Introduction -	3
Geography & Key Physical Features.....	3
Geology/Soils.....	4
Ecology/Wildlife	5
Flora and Fauna	6
Agriculture and Forestry	6
Fishing/ Angling & Maritime Heritage.....	7
Historical Sites	8
Folklore/Myths.....	12
Burt Castle Legend.....	12
Derivation of Irish Place Names & Locations	14
Leisure Pursuits & Amenities	14
Famous People Associated with the Area.....	16
References & Bibliography Tour Assessment & Portfolio	17
Appendices.....	19
Key Dates in History of Buncrana.....	19

Introduction

The Inishowen Peninsula is bounded to the North and West by the Atlantic coastline. Inishowen means “Island of Eoghain” taking its name from Eoghain, one of the sons of a High King of Ireland, known as Niall of the Nine Hostages.

Choosing the Inishowen 100 as a scenic route around Inishowen is perhaps is the best way to see the highlights that the Peninsula has to offer. It is aptly named from the approximate distance in miles of the drive. Parts of this route are now incorporated in the The Wild Atlantic Way (a driving route that stretches from Malin Head (Ireland’s Most Northerly Point) to Kinsale in Cork. Exploring it with a combination of driving, walking, cycling, and climbing is one of the best ways to experience it. This allows you the opportunity to meet the locals, unfold thousands of years of history and understand what makes this region so unique.

For the purposes for this information portfolio we take an overview of the section between Burt to Buncrana via Inch Wildfowl Reserve, Burnfoot, Fahan and finishing our tour in Buncrana. This acts as brief visitor insight into the area entering the Peninsula and what it has to offer.

Geography & Key Physical Features

It may be difficult for anyone now to visualise the tidal waters of Lough Swilly rolling inwards past Burnfoot village across to the base of Grianan Hill, and encircling the “Isle of Burt” (Carrowen, Drumgowan, Ballymoney and Grange). Yet such was the position over 150 years ago until the existing embankments were created to connect Inch Island with the mainland on both sides. The main idea was merely to cut a waterway from Derry to the sea near Burnfoot, a distance of about five miles. The work of the Lough Swilly reclamation, as well as that on the Foyle, was carried out by William McCormick.

The Lough Swilly scheme required the erection of four main embankments. The first extends from near the old Tooban Junction on the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway for a distance of two and a half miles to Farland Point. It is known as “Trady Embankment” from the name of the former small island over which it passes. It was completed in 1850 and encloses over 2,000 acres, the major portion of the land reclaimed. The second embankment, which is a sea rampart, extended

from Quigley's Point on the mainland (near the old Inch Road Railway Station) to the Island of Inch. It is popularly called "Inch Embankment" and was completed in 1855 and along its side is the only public road connecting Inch Island with the mainland. The third erection, also a sea embankment and usually termed "Farland Embankment" was completed in 1856 and connected the island of Inch with the former "Isle of Burt" near Farland Point.

Geology/Soils

The general strike of all the rocks is from north-east to southwest, and they belong to that great series of metamorphic strata of which the north-west of Ireland is mainly formed. Though not actually an island, as its name indicates, being connected with the mainland by a neck of alluvial soil, yet the name is not without significance, as pointing to the inference that within the historic or at least traditionary period it may have really been an island, at least during high tides. As a physical feature, the narrow neck by which the promontory is united to the mainland, though about eight miles from shore to shore, is formed of an old sea-bed, which has been elevated into land, certainly in very recent times, and in all probability within the period during which Ireland was inhabited by Celtic tribes. As regards Inch Island, a prominent rocky mass on the eastern shore of Lough Swilly, its insular character remained till, by artificial embankments, the alluvial flats by which it is separated, from the mainland were reclaimed from the sea. Previously, the general elevation of the land must have been covered by several feet of water at low tide.

The underlying bedrock includes Fahan slate formation. The river valley of the Mill River flows over a narrow band of Culdaff limestone with a sill of metadolerite along the river's southern embankment, extending from the estuarine zone inland. Sandy gravels and clonglomerates overlies bedrock. The geology was formed during the Lower Carboniferous Period. The local soils throughout the area range from shallow to moderate depth peaty podzols and established podzolic types with a moderate percentage of loam and sandy clays.

Ecology/Wildlife

Inch Levels Wildfowl Reserve is Ireland's premier wetland site located to the east of Lough Swilly and nearly 8km to the south of Buncrana. It is an internationally significant destination and staging ground for migrating birds from three continents. This special place provides excellent viewing opportunities for summer and winter visitors including wintering wildfowl and waders, not to mention the variety of summer breeders. It supports a wide diversity of wintering waterfowl, notably swans and geese, as well as breeding terns, gulls and duck. It is an important link in the overall Lough Swilly wetland system, which includes Blanket Nook and Big Isle to the south. Some species occur in nationally important numbers such as the Greenland White-fronted Goose, Sandwich Tern and Common Tern, Whooper Swan and Greylag Goose. Swans make their Irish landfall in autumn from breeding grounds in Iceland. The two lakes land support a large population of water birds. Great Crested Grebes are usually easily seen from the lakeside road into Inch, as are Little Grebe, Tufted Duck and Coot. Different waders can be seen feeding on the mudflats at low tide; these include the Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Redshank. Herons nest in trees in groups known as rookeries. A small islet in the lake hosts a colony of nesting Common Tern, Arctic Tern and Sandwich Tern which depart for the coast of Africa in the autumn. Some of the smaller birds present around the lake are Sedge Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler and Reed Bunting. The Kingfisher is sometimes seen at Blanket Nook or on streams at Inch Lake.

The seabed offers little anchorage because the middle lough section is subject to greater wave and tidal influences. Brittlestars, amphipod crustaceans and polychaete worm species have their own niche here. Shallow areas host starfish, razor shells, otter shells and sea potatoes. These and many others form prey for the population of seals. Among the animals found here are Otters which venture into the salt water as well as the lake. All these different habitats have their own particular community of animal and plant life adapted to the conditions of the habitat, for example heather grows on acid soil mooreland but not on arable farmland. Even within a general habitat there are micro habitats and one species will grow on wet areas, others only on dryer areas.

Flora and Fauna

Another notable habitat evident is the beaches of Inch Isle, made up of broken shells physically resembling the sandy and pebble beach's common in the Middle Swilly. Pebble beach's host multicoloured lichens and moulds, boulders are covered with vegetation such as herbaceous plants as Sea Sandwort, Sea Campion and Sea Thrift. Embryo and grey dunes found at the backdrop of beaches host Marram and Redfescue grasses. In summer mosses, worts and herb flora such as thyme and *Hylocomium splendens* attract bees and butterflies. The hillocks are covered with bell heather and heath adding colour and interest to the vista. Exposed rocky areas often inaccessible feature crowberry and bilberry amongst the mat grass.

Further inland much of the local area is covered in blanket bog. Pond bog weed can be found in still or slow-moving acid peaty waters, this species can be quite variable. It has oval leaves which have opaque veins. It can also have submerged leaves with long stems and narrow blades. They flower from May to September and are perennial natives, this species being widespread within its habitat. It belongs to the Potamogetonaceae family.

Agriculture and Forestry

There are three areas of reclaimed or "Polder" land. The lands to the southeast are the Inch Levels. The rich soil raised beaches and boulder clay combines to make productive pasture, now used for intensively managed winter cereals and dairy grassland. More recently, crops of maize and lawn grass have been grown successfully. Large quantities of potato crops provide suitable stubble feed for the Whopper Swan and Greenland white-fronted geese. In the New Year these switch to intensive grasslands of clover and rye- grass. The large open field systems and managed hedgerow provide pasture for sheep and some cattle.

Interestingly, the term aqua culture has emerged. This applies to the development of "farming" of the waters along the coastline which includes oyster and mussel production and salmon farming. This has been subject to controversy; that is, the conflict between the protection of the natural environment versus the socio- economic factor.

Along the rocky shoreline low tide reveals dense kelp “forest” and extensive areas of red seaweeds. The Atlantic Climatic episode was a period of notable climate change when wetter conditions caused bogs to be formed and initiated the growth of deciduous forests comprising of Alder, Birch, Oak, Hazel and Pine.

Fishing/ Angling & Maritime Heritage

Buncrana was primarily a fishing town and naval base. It became an attractive Victorian Spa with the arrival of the railway, and retains much of the original sea front character including sandy beaches and coastal walks. Large Mackerel and Herring fleets from Ireland and Scotland used the safe water around the town and its transport infrastructure to unload and process fish during historic boom fishing periods. Lough Swilly RNLI lifeboat station is located here. The substantial pier is used by seasonal trawlers and crabbers.

Due to its natural shelter and its depth, the Lough Swilly was an important naval port. This area of the Lough Swilly has claimed many lives over the hundreds of years in terms of shipwrecks. In October 1798, immediately prior to the outbreak of the Napoleonic wars, a French warship "**La Hoche**", carrying Wolfe Tone of the United Irishmen, plus troops to assist in 1798 rebellion, was intercepted and defeated in a naval battle at the entrance to Lough Swilly. Subsequently Tone was captured and taken ashore at Buncrana.

Also during a gale on 4 December 1811, the Royal Navy 36-gun *Apollo*-class frigate the **HMS Saldanha** was shipwrecked in Lough Swilly. There were no survivors out of the estimated 253 aboard, with approximately 200 bodies washed up on shore.

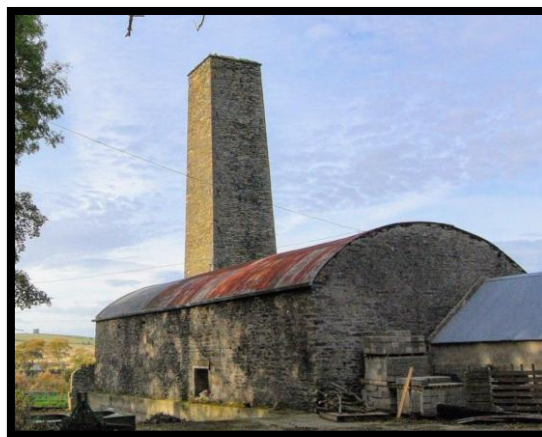
Probably one of the most famous wrecks was recorded in January, 1917 during the First World War as the intriguing story unfolds of the precious cargo it carried; 43 tonnes of gold bullion to help pay for the war effort. The tragic story of The **SS Laurentic** commissioned by the British Admiralty was used to transport prisoners of war as well as raw materials across the Atlantic, between America, Canada and Britain. Shortly after leaving Liverpool on the 23rd of January, 1917, the Captain was instructed to stop off at Buncrana, to disembark five sailors suffering from yellow fever. Sea conditions at the time were poor as a force 12 snow storm battered the ship. After leaving the

safety of Lough Swilly, The Laurentic struck two mines in quick succession, and sank. Of the 470 crew aboard the ship, 354 lost their lives at sea.

The Royal Navy launched a recovery operation to retrieve the gold. The operation lasted two years; of the 3200 gold bars that were recovered 22 remain lost at sea.

Historical Sites

Burt Distillery was an Irish whiskey distillery which operated in Burt, between 1814 and 1841. William Leathem established this small distillery at Bohillion, Burt. The distillery, though not large, was notable for being the only licensed distillery to have operated with any degree of success in Donegal, an area renowned for the production of Poitín, an illicit alcohol.



Burt Castle stands on top of Castlehill and dates from 16th century during the reign of Henry VIII. It has strong connections with the O'Doherty Clan. The towers are still partially intact with musket holes and loops and stairs within one of the towers is in good enough condition to climb to the top storey where there is a vaulted stone chamber. However the castle is on private land and access is only permitted with permission.



Grianán of Aileach It occupies the centre of a bare round hill, some 802 feet above sea level, about ten miles south of Buncrana, and it commands “one of the most extensive and beautifully varied panoramic prospects to be found in Ireland”. It includes five counties and stretches as far as Benbulbin in Sligo.



A windy and exposed place, Grianan has been a silent witness to the history of Ireland. Noted in the mythologies of Ireland, it seems the fort was first constructed around 1700 BC by the De Dananns under their King, Dagda. Its primary purpose is supposed to be a place of worship, but it was also used as a sanctuary, a temple, a place of inauguration, and a royal palace. One of the most notable of its royal occupants was Owen, brother of the King of Tara.

St. Patrick visited the Grianan, and preached the gospel therein A.D. 442. King Owen was converted and baptised by the saint; a well is still extant where it is supposed that baptism took place.

Destroyed by King Finneachta in 674, plundered by the Danes in 937, Grianan of Aileach received the knockout blow in 1101, when it ceased to be a royal residence. It was later restored some 780 years later.

St Mura's Cross, Fahan:- A fine example of a Celtic Cross of St Mura at Fahan. He was a famous abbot renowned for piety and learning. He died in 645. This national monument is carved on both sides with broad interlaced ribbon along with 2 figures, 2 birds and what appears to be an unusual Greek cross. The symbol of the bird is a common feature in early Christian art and its symbolism is usually associated with the resurrection. A simple stone message box is inset at the entrance wall.



Castle Bridge & Castle was built in 1718 by George Vaughan, it was one of the first big manor houses built in Inishowen, in the Georgian Period and stone was taken from the bawn, or defensive wall, surrounding O'Doherty's Keep to build it. It was erected on the original site of Buncrana, in the shadow of the keep. Vaughan relocated the town to the current main street, and built the Castle Bridge leading to his castle.



O'Doherty's Keep:-, which is the only surviving part of an original 14th-century Norman castle. The first two levels of the keep were built after 1333. In 1601 it was a small, two-storey castle, occupied by Conor Mc Garret O'Dochartaigh. In 1602 a third storey was added, and the keep restored by

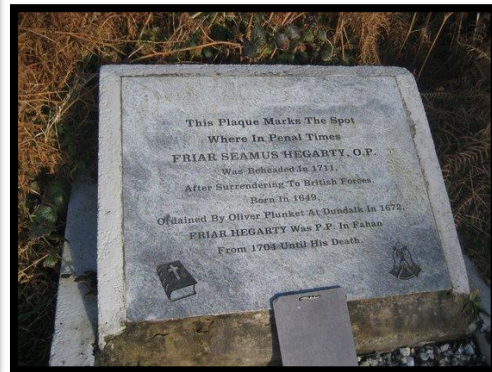
Hugh Boy O'Dochartaigh. It was intended as a base for aid from Spanish forces that were expected to arrive at Inch Island. Crown forces burnt the keep in 1608 in retaliation for the revolt of Sir Cahir O'Dochartaigh, who had sacked and destroyed the city of Derry. After Sir Cahir O'Dochartaigh's death at the Battle of Kilmacrennan, the Keep was granted to Sir Arthur Chichester, who leased it to Englishman Henry Vaughan. Further restoration work was carried out by the Vaughan family who occupied the keep until 1718.



Ned's Point- a Napoleonic fort manned by the British from 1812 to defend the area from invasion. The R.N.L.I. lifeboat station is situated nearby today.



Father Hegarty's Rock: - In Penal Days in 1711 dwelt in a cave and practised his faith and took Mass; he was betrayed by a sympathiser and chased to the sea.



Tullyarvan Mill, a 19th century renovated corn mill situated on the Crana River. Tullyarvan Mill stands as a testimony to the manufacturing past of Buncrana stretching back to the mid 1700s. In 1810 James Wilson had taken over another mill in the Tullyarvan town land at Swan Park which, including outworkers employed an incredible 600 people manufacturing duck and sail cloth. Within a few years he had come into possession of the corn mill where the present Tullyarvan Mill stands.



Folklore/Myths

Folklore is a link with the distant past. It enshrines the customs, beliefs, occupations, cures and games of our early ancestors. These are examples of the local folklores and legends:-

Burt Castle Legend

Kathleen was the beautiful daughter of an aged chieftain who lived at Port Lough Castle. At 17 she was betrothed to Ard Righ a aged man despite being in love a young chieftain Cathal who's castle stood on a nearby hill (the castle of Burt) still standing. She met him daily until the day of her wedding. She stole away from her guests gathered for her wedding. In the court yard she stopped at the fountain to take a drink. In the moonlight she saw her lover and fearful that he might meet with angry warriors she hurried to their secret meeting place. An hour past and she vowed that they must not meet again. Suddenly, she exclaimed the courtyard well is flowing still and they

rushed to warn the wedding party in the castle but the water is rising above their knees it is too late to escape she closed her eyes and died in her lovers arms as the flood engulfed them and the castle too until it disappeared.

And still' tis said, when the lake

Is reddened by the sun's sets' glow

The curious eye can plainly see

The sunken castle far below

Grianán of Aileach. Legend has it that Murtagh O'Brien, King of Munster and grandson of Brian Boru, marched into Inishowen plundering and burning fortresses and churches, including Fahan-Mura, and demolished Grianan of Aileach, the summer palace of the MacLouhlins, in revenge for their destruction of Kincora in 1088. With him were the forces of Meath, Leinster, Ossory and Connaught and he ordered that each man should carry away a stone from the Grianan in his provision bag. With these he commenced the building of his own palace at Limerick.

Mouldy Hill Legend -It is a rough coastal summit over Buncrana and Lough Swilly. Legend has it that there is a Druid living in an enchanted estate within Mouldy Mountain. He is called Lambhdearg or the "bloody handed". He had prophesised that the "Flying Horse" would come around Fahan Point with the "speed of an eagle". The prophecy was said to have been fulfilled when the railway train first began to run to Buncrana in September, 1864.

Father Hegarty's Rock - is a local landmark. Legend has it, that during the British rule, Fr. Hegarty was conducting unlawful, Catholic masses. One mass-goer was a British sympathizer; he ratted out the Father to "The Redcoats", who then raided the mass. Hegarty fled and rode into the Swilly. The soldiers called out they were there on goodwill, seeking to change faiths. Fr. Hegarty returned to the shore, whereupon the RedCoats chopped off his head which according to legend bounced eight times along the top of the rock before dropping into the sea. The marks of the bounce are 'still there today', though, your own eyes will decide whether or not this is so. Stories of Fr. Hegarty's haunting ghost add to the mystique of this location."

Derivation of Irish Place Names & Locations

Burnfoot:-(Irish: *Bun na hAbhann*) is a small village on the Inishowen peninsula in County Donegal, Ireland. It lies within the townland of Ballyderowen. It has a few local shops and a pub. It has a population of 398 (2006 census).

Fahan (Irish: *Fathain*, meaning "little green/field") (pronounced *fawn*) is a district of Inishowen, 5 km (3 miles) south of Buncrana. In Irish, Fahan is named after its patron saint, Saint Mura, first abbot of Fahan, an early Christian monastery.

Inch Island:- (Irish: *An Inse*, meaning "Island") is an island in Lough Swilly. The island is around 5 square miles (13 square kilometres) in area. Inch Island is connected to the mainland by a causeway road. The island's highest hill is at 222 m, an excellent location for bird watching and a great spot to check out a diverse range of flora and fauna. The area is a Natural Heritage Area and a key wetlands site for birds.

Buncrana:- (Irish: *Bun Cranncha*, meaning "foot of the (River) Crana") It is 23 kilometres (14 miles) northwest of Derry and 43 kilometres (27 miles) north of Letterkenny. In the 2016 census, the population was 6,785 making it the second most populous town in County Donegal, after Letterkenny, and the largest in Inishowen. The town was a major centre for the textile industry in County Donegal from the 19th century until the mid-2000s (decade).

Leisure Pursuits & Amenities

Buncrana is an attractive holiday destination with numerous traditional music and fiddle playing ***festivals, two dive clubs, surfing school with karting, kayaking or canoeing***. The Lough Swilly Car & Passenger Ferry is a popular service to visitors that connects Buncrana to Rathmullan. It has a rich artistic heritage, and is home to a vibrant artistic and creative community. Explore the quality of art, design and traditional craftsmanship.

New Old Church Visitor Centre:- find out all about the Legends of Grianan of Aileach who once lived there before (Located at the Grianán Hotel).

Lough Swilly Marina:- located at Fahan, can accommodate up to two hundred boats of various sizes used for sightseeing, fishing and cruising.

'Railway Tavern & Firebox Grill: - Fahan Railway Station opened on 19 September 1864 on the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway line from Londonderry Graving Dock to Carndonagh. It closed for passengers on 6 September 1948. After its closure as a railway station, the building continues as a restaurant and pub.

Lisfannon Beach. Enjoy quality family time walking on the stunning 5km long Blue flag beach and a discovery point on Wild Atlantic Way. There are spectacular views Lough Swilly, Rathmullan, and Inch Island.

Buncrana Golf Course was established as an 18 hole links course in 1891, situated overlooking the beautiful 'White Strand' beach area.

The Drift Inn is the original Buncrana Railway station. It still remains impressive and well maintained as a restaurant & pub. The station opened 1864 and closed for passengers in 1948. It is listed on the Record of Protected Structures in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland.

Buncrana Tourist Office: - Stop to browse for your personal guide of "What to see & do" in Inishowen

Shopping: - Main Street has catered for all needs; buying gifts, eating out, or simply window shopping. Exclusive designs in knitwear, pottery, weaving, tweed, textiles and furniture, can be found throughout the area. Visit one of the town's art studios or craft workshop and watch talented individuals at work on a special one-off piece. Browse or buy from the beautiful designs and gifts collections.

Cinema- On a wet day watch a movie in the original St Mary's Hall. At the turn of the century (1901) the foundation stone for St Mary's Hall was laid and the building was completed in 1904.

Famous People Associated with the Area

Agnes Jones (1832 – 1868) contains the grave of pioneering nurse trained with Florence Nightingale and nursed in the Crimean War.

John Newton (1725-1807) wrote the famous Amazing Grace hymn. Ireland's beautiful Lough Swilly was the setting for a dramatic story which changed the life of , a foul-mouthed slave trader who went on to pen one of the most famous and well loved songs of all time - "*Amazing Grace*," and mentor William Wilberforce, a crusader in the abolition of slavery

Edward Maginn (1802-1849) was one of Derry's most noted Bishops, born in 1802 and moved with his parents to Buncrana. He went to study for the priesthood and was ordained in 1825. When the Great Famine ravaged the country, he built the Parish Church at Cockhill, 1847. There is also a Famine Bowl at Maginns Cottage Park Road Avenue Buncrana. This is a cauldron with a capacity of approximately 370 gallons used to make porridge for the starving peasants in the district.

Theobald Wolfe Tone: (1763-1798) arrested in Buncrana in 1798 as a hero of united Irishmen that fought to bring order to the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. He was sentenced to be hanged, however took his own life in Dublin.

Harry Percival Swan: (1879-1970)- Famous writer, Swan Park named after him as dedicated historian and best selling local author.

John Doherty, (1798–1854) was a Cotton Spinner and voice of the people - radical factory reformer for the working class.

Eddie Fullerton, (1935 – 25 May 1991), Sinn Féin councillor assassinated by the *Ulster Defence Association*

Frank McGuinness, (born 1953), playwright and poet whose work includes "*Observes the sons of Ulster marching towards the Somme*"

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Appendices

Key Dates in History of Buncrana

400 AD Sons of Niall of the Nine Hostages establishes the northern Uí Néill dynasties, giving their names to Tír Chonaill, Tír Eoghan and Inishowen.

C1350 The rise of the O'Dohertys in Inishowen following the decline of Anglo Norman power that had been controlled locally in the castle of Northburgh (Greencastle).

1601 Fourteen year old Cahir O'Doherty is appointed Lord of Inishowen with English support and in defiance of his overlord, Red Hugh O'Donnell.

1602 O'Doherty's Keep upgraded by Hugh Boy O'Doherty as an intended base for Spanish military aid.

1607 (Sep) Flight of the Earls from Lough Swilly.

1608 (19th Apr) The revolt of Sir Cahir O'Doherty and his burning of Derry.

(5th July) His death in a skirmish with English forces at Doon Rock near Kilmacrennan.

1610 Sir Arthur Chichester is granted the Inishowen Plantation following the confiscation of O'Doherty lands.

1615 Captain Henry Vaughan occupies the old tower house (Keep) that was O'Doherty's castle on the Crana River.

1711 Friar James Hegarty, a local cleric, is martyred on the shore at the place that now bears his name.

1716-1718 Colonel George Vaughan builds Buncrana castle, the first big houses built in Buncrana, the stone was taken from O'Doherty's keep to build it. Erected on the original site of Buncrana, which has grown up in the shadow of the keep, Vaughan moved the town to its present location, where he founded the current main street and built the Castle Bridge (a six-arched stone single lane bridge).

1748 John Newton's stricken ship finds a haven in Lough Swilly. Afterwards the slave trader changes his life, becoming a clergyman and renowned Olney hymnist. John Newton wrote '*Amazing Grace*'.

(John Newton (1725-1807), former slave trader turned clergyman and composer of "Amazing Grace").

1798 Birth of John Doherty in Buncrana. He becomes an apprentice at the local Wilson's mill aged just ten years old, and later, in England, a pioneering trade union activist, journalist and well known radical for the early 'working class movement'.

1798 (Nov) Wolfe Tone landed as a prisoner at Buncrana from the French warship "La Hoche", after a French/English naval battle off the Donegal coast.

1805 Christ Church (Church of Ireland) is constructed on Main Street as Lower Fahan Parish Church.

1810 Last fatal duel in Ireland fought at Druminderry Bridge near Buncrana (William Todd V Bateman).

1811 (Dec) HMS Saldanha wrecked at entrance to Lough Swilly, entire crew of 274 hands lost.

1812 Ned's Point Fort is constructed as part of Lough Swilly fortifications.

1812 (May) The entire town of Buncrana (spelt Bonecrannagh or Buncranagh) is sold in the Court of Chancery on behalf of the trustees of the Marquis of Donegal to Isaac Todd.

1830 The Todd family introduce the first courthouse at the Market Square and erect the present courthouse in 1840.

1839 (Jan) Most destructive hurricane ever recorded - Night of the "Big Wind" (Irish: *Oíche na Gaoithe Móire*)

1847 (July) St. Mary's Church Cockhill (RC) is opened and dedicated by Bishop Maginn.

St. Mary's RC Church, Cockhill - dedicated 1847 by Bishop Edward Maginn. (Photo: Flickr - leppre)

1849 (Jan) Death of Bishop Maginn.

1861 Presbyterian Church is built on St. Mary's Road.

1861 First sewing machines to reach Inishowen arrived in Buncrana. Tailors and garments workers who feared for their employment destroyed them during the night.

1864 Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway is extended to Buncrana.

1867 Lough Swilly Hotel Buncrana constructed.

1868 New Swan's Mill replaces the obsolete buildings.

1870 (Oct) Railway communications between Derry and Buncrana suspended for almost a week owing to flooding - main road bridge between Buncrana Station and Town swept away.

1872 Demise of Richardson's Spinning Mill on the Crana River.

1890 Beginning of Buncrana Golf Club.

1891 North West Golf Club is established.

1901 Railway branch line is opened to Carndonagh.

1904 St. Mary's Hall is completed and opened.

1903 (July) Over 10,000 visitors come to Buncrana for the royal visit of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra to Buncrana.

1905 Oct) Buncrana the first town in Co. Donegal to get electricity, generated at Swan's mill.

1907 National telephone service extended from Derry to Buncrana.

1914-1918 The importance of Lough Swilly and the seaside resort of Buncrana during World War One became evident when Admiral Jellicoe moved his British Grand Fleet HQ from Scappa Flow to Lough Swilly.

1917 (Jan) Some of the 344 victims of the HMS Laurentic Disaster are buried in Fahan and Cockhill after a mine at the mouth of Lough Swilly scuttled their ship.

1924 Recovery completed of the 3,168 tons (out of 3,211) gold bars from the wreckage of the Laurentic in Lough Swilly – valued at over £4 million pounds.

1929 St. Mary's Oratory (RC) is opened and dedicated.

1931 W.P. McCarter's Hosiery Factory is established in Buncrana – the town became a focal point for the industry in Ireland.

1935 Rail link to Carndonagh is discontinued.