

glenullin Balintemple House

Gleann An Iolair 'the eagle's glen'



Situated two miles west of Garvagh this Grade II listed building is a fine example of a late 18th Century farmhouse, rare in Northern Ireland because most such houses have been pulled down or abandoned and are now derelict.

The front of the house contains many of the original 18th Century features such as the small paned sash windows and the fine fanlight above the front door, which is also flanked with two sidelights.

Internally it retains original features such as butler's bedroom over the kitchen and spacious entrance hall.

The house was acquired by the Heyland family in the mid 18th Century when it was described as a thatched Hunting Lodge in the possession of the Bishop of Derry. By 1800 it would appear the house was slated and much improved.

The Heyland family were among the first of the original "planters" arriving in Derry in 1611. During the troubles of the 1641 rebellion the family took up residence at Castleroe near Coleraine from where they moved to Balintemple.



The Heyland Family Coat of Arms

The family had a long history of military service. Major Arthur Rowley Heyland, born in Belfast in 1781, was the most famous. He was killed at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 while serving under the Duke of Wellington. A very fine memorial erected to his memory, by his wife, can still be seen on the interior



Major Arthur Rowley Heyland

of the north wall of St. Patrick's Church in Coleraine. Two of Major Heyland's sons, William and Alfred Thomas, also had distinguished careers as army officers serving in the Crimean War.



Colonel William Heyland

Close to the house, and further along the waymarked trail, is Errigal Old Church, graveyard and souterrain. One of the most recent burials in the graveyard, in 1964, was that of Mr Hart Buck who resided in Ballintemple House.

The waymarked trail passes the rear entrance to



the house on Churchtown Road, where a rare Post Office Letter Box can be seen in the boundary wall, bearing the Royal Cipher of King Edward VII, believed to be the only such box still surviving in the district.

Good relationships have existed between the Heyland family and the people of Glenullin. That goodwill continues, with the current landowner, a direct descendant of the Heyland family, working closely with local people and Coleraine Borough Council to develop this section of the Errigal Glen Trail through the estate.