

CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



DALWAY'S BAWN (THE TURRETS), BELLAHILL NEAR BALLYCARRY, CO. ANTRIM.

Located on the B90 road from Carrickfergus to Ballycarry

This building is off the main road and not usually seen by the casual visitor. Motoring along this narrow road that is just off the main routes it is easy to miss this building. John Dalway came to Ireland in the 1570s as an officer in the army of the Earl of Essex. He was granted lands in the Ballycarry and Ballynure areas by James I in 1601 he built in c 1606 the *bawn* the name used for a cow fortress originally built with the four towers each 30 feet high with a curtain wall 133 feet long between them. There was a house built in the centre of the *bawn*. Over the entrance a gallows was erected and the ring is still in position. The towers had three floors each and there were embrasures for cannon that have now been built up and the present openings could only be used for musketry. One of the towers is invisible from the road and one has disappeared. Originally the whole complex could have held 200 head of cattle. Dalway played an active part in the community and was Mayor in Carrickfergus in 1592 and 1600. The surviving three towers were restored some years ago by the State. The last of the Dalways, Marriot Robert Dalway and family left for Australia around 1884.