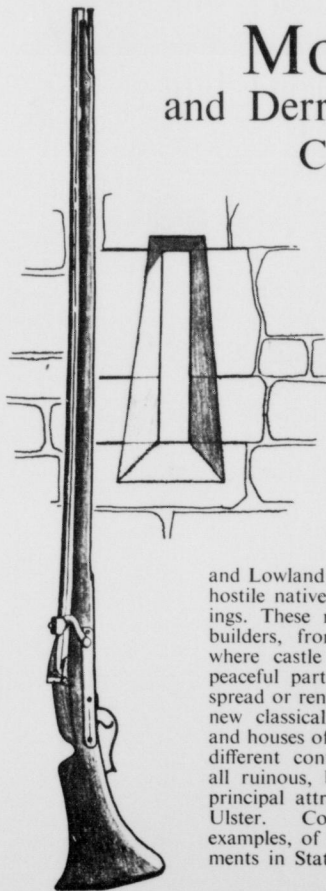


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CASTLETOWN MONEA:

Monea Castle (in ruins) [sc]

# Monea Castle and Derrygonnelly Church County Fermanagh



## The Plantation in Fermanagh

Throughout the late 16th Century Queen Elizabeth's attempt to rule Ireland was challenged by the leaders of the Gaelic aristocracy. Nowhere were her generals more fiercely opposed than by the O'Neills, O'Donnells and Maguires in West Ulster. King James's advisers used the Flight of the Earls in 1607 as an excuse to confiscate land, and grant it to those who would undertake to settle and support the royal claim.

The undertakers, mainly English and Lowland Scots, finding themselves among a hostile native population, built defensive dwellings. These reflect the varied origins of their builders, from the troubled Scottish borders where castle were still in use, to the more peaceful parts of southern England where the spread or renaissance ideas was already creating new classical fashions. The plantation castles and houses of Ulster are a unique blend of these different contributions. Now they are almost all ruinous, but their remains are among the principal attractions for the visitor to western Ulster. County Fermanagh has important examples, of which several are Historic Monuments in State Care.

