

1.The cemetery is built around the little parish church nestled on the pinnacle of the hill, which was consecrated in 1737. It was designed by Richard Cassels, a lauded Palladian architect, and built by Lady Middleton, mother of the first Viscount Dungannon, Arthur Hill-Trevor. According to a nearby information board, Knockbreda Cemetery was a 'fashionable place to spend eternity' as it became renowned for its funerary monuments and exquisite mausolea which were erected by some of the wealthiest, most influential families in Ulster at that time. Amongst those buried here are Sir Charles Lanyon, an architect responsible for designing some of Belfast's most famous buildings including Queen's University, the Crumlin Road Gaol and the very-grand-indeed Customs House which overlooks the river Lagan as it flows into the Irish Sea. Also interred at Knockbreda Cemetery are Samuel Nielsen, a member of the revolutionary Society of United Irishmen and founder of the Northern Star newspaper, and merchant Waddell Cunningham, whose wealth was accumulated through his sugar plantation operated by slaves in the Caribbean. According to local folklore, his funeral procession was led by two lions who also remained at his tomb for a week after his burial to deter grave-robbers and body snatchers. One of the more unusual graves is that of Alexander Corry whose epitaph notes that he died when he was '*accidentally strangled by his neck handkerchief being caught whilst turning at a lath in his own works, Belfast 2nd December 1859 aged 25 years*'. It concludes with a helpful reminder of the brevity and uncertainty of life: '*We cannot tell who next may fall, Beneath thy chastening rod.*'

2."KNOCKBREDa, or KNOCK-with-BREDa, a parish, partly in the barony of LOWER-CASTLEREAGH, but chiefly in that of UPPER-CASTLEREAGH, county of DOWN, and province of ULSTER, 2¼ miles (S. S. E.) from Belfast, on the road to Downpatrick; containing 3900 inhabitants. The ancient fortress called Castle-Reagh, or "the royal castle," which gives name to the barony, was formerly the baronial residence of a branch of the O'Nials. It is said to have been erected in the reign of Edw. III. by Aodh Flann, whose descendants possessed the Great Ardes, Toome, Massereene, Shankill or Belfast, and Carrickfergus. By inquisition in the reign of Elizabeth it appeared that Con O'Nial, the last of that powerful sept, possessed this castle, together with 224 townlands, which were all freehold, and many others held by various tenures. In 1602, O'Nial having exhausted his cellars during a grand banquet which he gave here, sent some of his soldiers to Belfast to procure more wine; and there meeting with a party of the Queen's soldiers, a battle ensued, and O'Nial was sent prisoner to Carrickfergus castle, but was liberated the year following by the master of a Scottish trading vessel and conveyed to Scotland, where Sir Hugh Montgomery, in consequence of a surrender of most of his lands, obtained a pardon for him from Jas. I., who had just ascended the English throne. After the decease of O'Nial, the castle fell into decay, and with the adjoining lands was purchased by the Hillsborough family; there are now no vestiges of it. The parish is bounded on the north and west by the river Lagan, over which are two bridges connecting it with the parish of Belfast and is intersected by the great Scottish road by way of Donaghadee. It comprises, according to the Ordnance survey, 8098¼ statute acres, of which 6968¾ are in the Upper and 1129½ in the Lower barony; the lands are chiefly under tillage, and in a high state of cultivation; there is neither bog nor any waste land. Large quantities of tobacco were grown previously to its cultivation being prohibited. There are extensive quarries of clay-slate for building and for repairing the roads; and on the townland of Gillinahirk has been opened a fine quarry of basalt, of which a bridge is now being built at Belfast over the river Lagan, which is navigable along the whole boundary of the parish. The surrounding scenery is richly diversified, and within the parish are Ormeau, the seat of the Marquess of Donegal; Belvoir Park, the residence of Sir R. Bateson, Bart.; Purdysburn, the splendid mansion of Narcissus Batt, Esq., built after a design by Hopper, in 1825, in the Elizabethan style; Orangefield, of J. H. Houston, Esq.; Fort Breda, of W. Boyd, Esq.; Cherry Vale, of J. Stewart, Esq.; and Ravenhill, of H. R. Sneyd, Esq. Previously to 1658 there were two separate parishes, called respectively Knock and Breda, both rectories; but the church of the latter being in ruins, they were united into one rectory at the restoration of Chas.II. The two villages have long since disappeared, and a parish church was, in 1747, built in the village of Newtown-Breda, which see. The rectory is in the diocese of Down, and in the patronage of Sir R. Bateson, Bart., who purchased the advowson in

1825; the tithes amount to £586. 5. 7½. The glebe-house was built in 1816, by a gift of £100 and a loan of £825 from the late Board of First Fruits: the glebe comprises nearly 20 statute acres. The chapel of Ballymacarrett was formerly in this parish, from which that townland was separated by act of parliament in 1825 and made a distinct parish. There are places of worship for Presbyterians in connection with the Synod of Ulster, Covenanters, and Seceders. About 130 children are taught in three public schools, of which one is supported by Mrs. Blakeston; and there are five private schools, in which are about 170 children, and four Sunday schools. Six alms-houses, built by subscription in 1810, are endowed with £100 by the Rev. Mr. Pratt, late rector, who also bequeathed £100 to the poor, to whom Lady Middleton, in 1747, left £50. On an eminence near the south-eastern extremity of the parish are the picturesque ruins of Knock church; and near them are the remains of a cromlech, consisting of five large stones, and a Danish rath of conical form. Of Breda church there are no remains, except the cemetery enclosed with a high stone wall in Belvoir Park, in which is a small mausoleum built by Arthur Hill Trevor, who was created Viscount Dangannon in 1765".

3.In 1868, the parish of Knockbreda contained the following places: "KNOCKBREDa, a parish in the baronies of Upper and Lower Castlereagh, county Down, province of Ulster, Ireland, containing Ballymacarrett and the village of Newtownbreda. Belfast is its post town. The parish is 3½ miles long by 3 broads. It is situated on the river Lagan, near Belfast Lough. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Down, value £434. The church was built by Lady Mornington in 1747. There are two Presbyterian meeting, houses, four Sunday and eight-day schools. Belvoir is the seat of Sir R. Bateson, and Castle-Reagh was the ancient seat of the O'Nials. The ruins of the old church are very interesting, occupying an elevated site. Near it are a cromlech and Danish rath. Basalt and clay slate are the prevailing rocks." "NEWTOWNBREDa, a post-office village in the parish of Knockbreda, barony of Upper Castlereagh, county Down, province of Ulster, 3 miles S.E. of Belfast. It is situated on the road from Belfast to Saintfield, and near the Giant's Ring. Here stands the parish church and a police station. Petty sessions are held in the village. Among several seats is that of Belvoir Park, the residence of Sir R. Bateson."

4.The Parish Church of Knockbreda. In medieval times there were two churches in the parishes of Knock and Bredagh. The one at Bredagh was close to the old cemetery in Belvoir. The first record of it was in 1442 but it is possible that it was build earlier. It was ruined by 1662. The parishes were united by Oliver Cromwell in 1657 to form Knockbreda. By the early 1700s the Church of Breda was in ruins, and although the old Knock Church had been repaired, it was unsuitable for worship. A new church had to be built but the decision had to be made about where it was to be built and where the money would come from. Ann Trevor, Lady Middleton, was responsible for building Knockbreda Parish Church in 1737 at her own expense but stipulated it must be situated at Breda. Belvoir Park. The Hill family were the family who built Belvoir and were most closely linked with the estate. Moyses Hill was the founder of the "dynasty". He built forts on the river Lagan and later residences at Hillhall and Hillsborough, hence the names. In 1690 Michael Hill married Anne Trevor who was a very rich lady in her own right. Their eldest son Trevor inherited the Hill properties. In 1722, their second son Arthur bought Belvoir which extended over a very large area of land. Arthur Hill administered his estate from Belvoir until his death in 1771; he was buried in the family vault in Belvoir cemetery. The name "Belvoir" was possibly given by Viscountess Middleton, Arthur Hill's mother. It may be short for "belle voir" or "beautiful view" and could be named after Belvoir Castle near Grantham in Lincolnshire where she spent many happy days of her childhood. Arthur was her favourite son and she created Belvoir for him, so the work was done under her instruction. However, she died in 1747 before the house was finished. The whole family, and particularly Arthur, were very rich and powerful. They were also very active in politics and in fact Arthur Hill was Chancellor of the Exchequer. The famous Duke of Wellington had close links with Belvoir. His mother Anne Hill who married the Earl of Mornington in 1759 was the daughter of Arthur 1st Viscount Dungannon. As a girl she lived in the newly built Belvoir House and later in life at Annadale. Arthur Hill-Trevor died in 1771 and was buried in the family vault in Belvoir. The estate

should have been passed down to his eldest son, but he had died in 1770 so it went to his grandson who was only eight years old. He became the second Viscount Dungannon at the age of 8. This would have been a huge responsibility. From this time on the Hill-Trevors only stayed in the house occasional. The eighteenth century was an age of great parties and the parties in Belvoir would have been no exception. The "Twelfth Night" was on the 12th day after Christmas and was traditionally a big party night. In 1788 Viscount Dungannon, by now 25, held a grand fancy dress party. It was the last party to be held by Hills at Belvoir.

In 1808 there were auctions at Belvoir where they sold crops, cattle, brewing equipment, furniture and a library of over three thousand books. Between 1809 and 1818 Robert Bateson acquired Belvoir. The Batesons came to Ulster from Yorkshire. One branch of the family established itself at Orangefield in the early 18th Century. Robert Bateson, founder of the house of Deramore, was born in 1782 and died in 1863. He was created a Baronet in 1818. His eldest son Robert had died in 1843 so his second son Thomas inherited the estate and was made Lord Deramore in 1885. The Batesons figured prominently in the 19th century Irish Political life and there were a lot of important people who came to visit Belvoir. Lord Deramore died in 1890 leaving no male heirs so the title went to his brother, George William. He sold off the estate and went to live in Yorkshire.

5. The nailers of Newtownbreda. Before the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th/early 20th century, there were no large factories or mills, so most people worked in agriculture or in "cottage" industries such as spinning flax or weaving linen. In Newtownbreda, the biggest cottage industry was the production of nails. All that was needed was a small hearth and bellows for heating the iron rods, an anvil and a hammer. Men, woman and children made a living by making nails. By the 1840s, hand-forged nails were being ousted by machine cut or punched ones which were faster and cheaper to produce. Robert S McAdam, The Nailers of Newtownbreda; The McAdam Manuscript 1872.

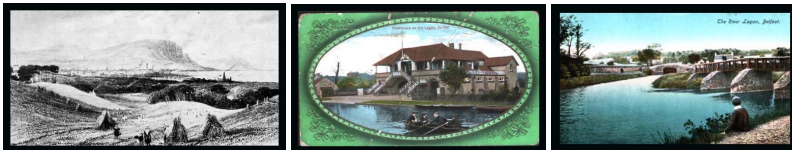
SOURCES:

1. <http://watchinghorrorfilmsfrombehindthecouch.blogspot.com/2018/06/knockbreda-cemetery.html>
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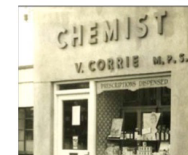
<https://apps.spatialni.gov.uk/PRONIAApplication/>

PHOTOS a painting by Nicholl c. 1830 You can see Newtownbreda parish church spire on the left; Castlereagh Presbyterian spire on the right with Castlereagh House in front of it. In the background is Cave Hill; in the centre are the Belfast chimneys on the left and Belfast Lough on the right. 1 shows the boathouse on the river Lagan c. 1920 (Breda townland) and 2 shows a bridge over the river Lagan nearby. c. 1913 <https://www.rosdavies.com/PHOTOSwords/KnockbredaAll.html>



An account from 1744 declared Belvoir, an agreeable seat of Hon. Arthur Hill stands about two miles south of Belfast pleasantly seated on the river Lagan. The creation of Belvoir Park (which originally extended to over 600 acres) dates back to the early 1700s when Arthur Hill (later 1st Viscount Dungannon) bought the townlands of Ballynaghagh, Breds and Galwally Belvoir Park Golf Club extends to 130 acres and was founded in 1929 and the Belvoir Park housing estate was built during the 1960s.

LEFT: Thomas Harper (pictured) has been described as 'Porter in charge at the Galwally Drive to Belvoir Park known in Estate papers as The Low Lodge' it was demolished in the 1930s. In this PRONI photograph the caption is 'State Lodge, Arrevalle entrance to Belvoir Park - Old keeper at porch - the Lodge Keeper'.



LEFT: This chemist shop was opened in 1968 by Victor Corrie. It was the first to be opened in the area and had the address of 77 Saintfield Road. The area the shop sits on since been demolished. The staff of The Iris Pharmacy in the early 1980s included Linda Carson who wearing a sash when she was the winner in a Northern Ireland-wide competition run by the National Pharmaceutical Union, for 'Pharmaceutical Assistant of the Year' and she had to travel to London to take part in the national final. Fellow staff members are pharmacist, Eileen Hamilton (left) and Olive Finlay.

A sand-bagged military post (below inset), with flags flying, occupies the Rosetta junction during the 'Troubles' of 1922 and a couple of billet tents are also in view. However, it seems to be business-as-usual at the tollhouse with a couple of carters paying their dues. The Belfast Street Directories for the 1890s mention the presence here of a Public Weighbridge and Weigh Master.

A FAMILIAR SIGHT

Close to the junction of the Ormeau and Ravenhill Roads is the familiar sight of a row of early nineteenth century cottages known as 'Saddlers' Row' (below main). Farmers coming into Belfast markets would leave bits of harness to be repaired at the cottages, collecting them on the way home. Resident at the row in the 1930s was Lizzie Moodie, a 'character', whose spring cleaning

brought the entire contents of her house, chamber pot included, onto the street. She kept a bucket of water behind her front door to empty over anyone who, innocently, off-ended her by waiting at the tram stop nearby. The stop had to be moved. Mistakenly believed to be without relatives, she was buried at the expense of the local Catholic parish, it was later revealed that Lizzie had been a Baptist. A very Northern Ireland story!



NEWTOWNBREDA



Aidan Campbell has previously published 11 local history books. Profits are donated to various local charities. He regularly gives illustrated talks to groups and societies. The books retail at £10.00 each and are on sale at Hillmount Garden Centre, Gilnahirk and Marie Curie Hospice.

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