

The Castle at Castle Gardens



Turn this into a comic strip.



The original castle belonged to a clan named the O'Neill's, but it was given to Sir Fulke Conway in 1611 by King James I. Conway took over the already existing castle and to show his authority he had it repaired, making it Castle House. A church, known today as Lisburn Cathedral, was built on the same site as the castle and was used for private worship by the O'Neill's. Conway also had it repaired and enlarged so that the townsfolk of Lisnagarvey could attend.

Sir Fulke died in an accidental fire at his home in March 1624 and was succeeded by his elder brother Sir Edward Conway who was a soldier. He died in January 1630 leaving his eldest son, also called Edward, in charge of the Estate. He took over, repaired the house once again and called it "Chief Dwelling House" (Lisburn Castle today).

During the Great Rebellion of 1641, Sir Phelim O'Neill tried but failed to burn the estate down. While the estate remained unharmed the rebels, unable to take the town, reduced it to ashes. After the fire the name of Lisnagarvey began to change to 'Lisburn'.

In 1707, a second burning known as 'The Great Fire' halted the growth of Lisburn. Once again it was reduced to ashes, this time even the great castle fell to the flames. The castle was never rebuilt, but its gardens remained to become the property of the people of Lisburn in the later nineteenth century.

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