

Arthur O Neil



No Picture Available

Born: 1580 in Antrim Ireland

Married: Grace O Hara

Died: 1639 in ., ., Ireland

Parents: Shane O Neil & Anne Unknown

Shanes Castle is the family seat of the O'Neills of Clanaboy. The Demesne is one of the most beautiful and well maintained in Ireland. Although the castle has been in ruins since the fire of 1816, the remaining structure, including a unique Camellia House is a striking feature on the landscape.

The O'Neill Banshee In olden times, one of the O'Neills went to help McQuillan in one of his warlike raids. On his arrival, he saw a cow caught in a thorn tree. As this tree was considered sacred by the fairies ,no one would cut a branch to release the poor animal. O'Neill, however, did so and freed her. On his successful return home, he found that his daughter, Kathleen, had been carried off by the wee folks to the bottom of the Lough. From then onwards, whenever evil threatened a member of the family, her shriek was heard along the shore and along the ruined walls of the castle. Legend also blames the Banshees for the fire, which destroyed Shanes Castle in 1816.

The Black Face of Stone On one of the eastern walls of Shanes Castle there is a curious female figurehead, with a sad expression. Some say that the figurehead is much older than the ruins where it stands and was brought from the east. Folklore states that the O'Neill family will come to an end if it ever falls.

