

## Two Wallace Fountains Located in Lisburn



In Lisburn Market Square circa 1884



In 1870 upon the death of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Hertford, Richard Wallace inherited a large income producing estate near Lisburn, Northern Ireland. Wallace, a kind and generous man, was elected to represent the local constituency in parliament, serving as an MP for 12 years. Among the many community improvements funded by Wallace for the benefit of the local inhabitants, Wallace improved the water supply system and donated five grand model Wallace drinking fountains to the town in 1876. Each fountain was placed where all could have access to its safe drinking water and be charmed by its beauty.

The fountains at Lisburn were originally located at:

the junction of Market Place and Bow Street,  
in Market Square,

in the Castle Gardens,

at the junction of Seymour Street, Low Road and Millbrook, in front of the Seymour Street Methodist Church,

and in Wallace Park on the main walk.

During World War I, three of the fountains were thought to be melted down to support the demand of metal to make armaments. The fountain in Castle Gardens has always remained in its original location and was restored by Lisburn City Council with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The fountain at Market Square was relocated to the Wallace Gardens around 1922. It was often vandalized in the 1970s and 1980s. It was returned to Market Square where the fountain resided in a sunken garden. In 2013, the fountain was moved to its previous home in Wallace Park. It was severely damaged in 2015 when vandals knocked down the top half. Fully restored, the fountain played an important part in the community's celebration of Sir Richard's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary in 2018.

Source: Lisburn Historical Society, the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum and R-Space.