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Ulster-Scots historical locations in County Donegal

Donegal Ulster-Scots

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WELCOME TO DONEGAL

Donegal is the most northerly county in Ireland and is bounded by approximately 120 miles of Atlantic coastline with some of the most beautiful golden beaches in the country. Northeast Donegal has two substantial rivers running through it into the Atlantic Ocean: namely the River Swilly and the River Foyle. It was in this area that the first Scots settled when they arrived in Ulster at the beginning of the seventeenth century and this territory later became known as the Laggan Valley. The Scots settlers in the Laggan Valley were quickly fortified by the influence of the Stewart brothers and the Cunningham brothers and over the ensuing centuries, many important events, which later influenced and shaped Irish history, emanated from the Laggan Valley in East Donegal.

East Donegal Ulster Scots was founded in 2001, based on the establishment of The Language Body and the Ulster Scots Agency as part of The Good Friday Agreement of 1998, signed by both sovereign governments of Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. This development presented an exciting opportunity for Donegal Ulster Scots to share our heritage with our distant cousins throughout the world, especially the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Apart from the many cultural, historical and language activities East Donegal Ulster Scots are involved in, we thought it was important to highlight this region by the creation of a tourist brochure and the development of a website so the next time you decide to holiday in Ireland you might consider the North West region of Ireland in the knowledge that you will enjoy the history and the heritage, as well as the tranquil beauty of the hills, valleys and coastline of Donegal where a **yin hunnèr yin thoosan fair faa ye or céad míle fáilte** awaits you.

Jim Devenney
East Donegal Ulster-Scots Association



Flight Of The Earls

One of the most important turning points in Irish history was the Flight of the Earls. On 14th September 1607, Hugh O'Neil, the Earl of Tyrone, and Rory O'Donnell, the Earl of Tyrconnell, along with a small party of their family and followers, boarded a ship at Rathmullen and sailed for Spain. The reason for the earls' flight is hard to determine. There is some suggestion that O'Neill believed the new Lord Deputy of Ireland, Sir Arthur Chichester was attempting to usurp him. But King James had reassured O'Neill in 1606 that his fears were unfounded.

There are also suggestions that in fact James was on the verge of arresting the earls for treason but no proof of this has ever been found. Some historians argue that O'Donnell and his kinsman, Maguire, were intent upon joining the Spanish forces in their war in the Netherlands. Whatever their intention at the time, they never returned and this left the way clear for King James I to seize their land and inaugurate the most ambitious plantation ever undertaken in Ireland. Hundreds of thousands of lowland Scottish planters arrived over the next hundred years and changed the character of Ulster forever.

Plantation Town - Manorcunningham

The land confiscated by the Crown after the Flight of the Earls was allocated to specially chosen undertakers from the lowlands of Scotland and the border areas of northern England. The most important region designated for plantation was The Laggan Valley, prime farmland running south from the Foyle and Swilly estuaries. It was divided into two parts: Lifford and Portlough and was awarded to the Cunningham and Stewart families from Ayrshire. They brought their own tenants and leased them farms at low rent. Only a few of the native Irish received any land and many moved west to the Barony of Kilmacrenan.

The village of Manorcunningham, originally named the Manor of Fort Cunningham, takes its name from its first proprietor James Cunningham, who was married to the daughter of the Earl of Glencairn, and his relatives Cuthbert, James and John. Between them they were granted 5,000 acres in the Portlough district of Raphoe, Co. Donegal.

No less than five Cunninghams were among the fifty Scottish undertakers of the Ulster Plantation and all were granted lands in Co. Donegal. One Alexander Cunningham of Sorbie in Wigtonshire, was granted 1000 acres in the baronies of Boylagh and Banagh in Co. Donegal. Although he did not prosper and the lands were taken from him, he and his descendants remained in the area. Though all presumably settled some of their kinsmen on their properties, the only one who remained and prospered was John Cunningham of Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, brother of Sir James, whose lands bordered on Lough Swilly. He is remembered in the name of the towns Newtowncunningham and Manorcunningham in Co. Donegal.





Sir Richard Hansard

Sir Richard Hansard, an English soldier who served in Ireland in various locations during the Nine Years War (1594-1603), became governor of Lifford castle during the latter stages of this conflict and subsequently served the crown loyally during the rebellions of the Earl of Tyrone in 1607 and of Sir Cahir O'Dogherty in 1608. As a reward for his services Sir Richard was granted Lifford and the surrounding lands by James I and given permission to found a corporate town at Lifford with weekly markets and bi annual fairs. This helped to provide a stable nucleus for the ensuing Plantation of Ulster which Sir Richard supported until his death in 1619. One of the most remarkable church monuments in west Ulster is undoubtedly the 17th century monument to Sir Richard Hansard in Clonleigh Church of Ireland church in Lifford. It consists of two sculpted figures, representing Sir Richard and his wife Dame Anne, kneeling on either side of a prayer lectern. Sir Richard is wearing his military armour, while his wife is wearing a long dress and a veil. King James ordered that the hands on the monument be cut off. It may be viewed on those days when the church is open.

The Battle of Glenmaquin

The Irish rose in rebellion in 1641 under Sir Phelim O'Neill as a long-term result of the "Plantation" policy. Key strongholds were captured, Protestant settlers were evicted from their lands, farms were burnt, cattle stolen. Thousands of settlers were killed in the uprising and many fled to England. Commissions were sent to Sir William and Sir Robert Stewart from the Laggan Valley in Donegal 'to raise two regiments, consisting of officers who were worthy and gallant gentlemen, and two troops of horses'. Surrounded on all sides by rebels, the Lagganeers fought off all attacks and ventured far outside their own territory to relieve castles as far away as Coleraine.

Sir Phelim O'Neill decided to take advantage of the absence of the Laggan Army. He attacked Raphoe castle but the Lagganeers heard of the impending invasion and set off in pursuit of the rebels, inflicting a defeat on them near Castlederg. In 1642, Sir Phelim, reinforced by the MacDonnells of Antrim, tried once more to invade the Laggan. He gathered a huge army and marched towards Raphoe. The two armies met at Glenmaquin on 16th June 1642, and again the Lagganeers were victorious. The Irish lost many men at the Battle Burn, including Donnell Gorm MacDonnell, an Antrim chieftain. This important victory ensured the safety of the Laggan Valley during the rest of the rebellion.





Mongavlin Castle

Mongavlin Castle was once the home of Ineen Dubh, mother of the famous Red Hugh O'Donnell, Chief of Tirconail. There is a fascinating local tradition that following her marriage to Red Hugh's father, Princess Ineen brought her own bodyguard of 100 soldiers over from Scotland. It is claimed that 80 of these men were called Crawford and that this explains why almost everyone in the adjoining townlands was called Crawford for many generations and why the name is still so prevalent there today! In the early 17th century disputes arose within the O'Donnell family and in 1610, at the time of the Plantation of Ulster, the manor of Mongavlin was granted to the Second Duke of Lennox.

Both the Duke of Lennox and his brother, who inherited the property from him, died reputedly of poisoning, but no-one was ever charged with any wrongdoing and the manor passed by marriage to James Hamilton, the Second Earl of Abercorn who had a seat at Baronscourt, in County Tyrone. A stone which was placed in the wall of the castle in 1704 by the Earl of Abercorn, states inaccurately that his mother, "The Hon. Elizabeth Hamilton.... purchased this manor and annexed it to the opposite estate of the family". Unfortunately, Baronscourt remained the Hamilton family seat in Ulster, and Mongavlin fell into disrepair.

Donegal Castle

The castle was built in the Norman style by Aed Ruadh, 19th chieftain of the O'Donnell clan around 1474. The famous Red Hugh O'Donnell, 24th chieftain, made Donegal Castle his main home after his escape from Dublin Castle in January 1592. Red Hugh burnt the building in 1595, before leaving for Spain, to prevent it from falling into English hands.

After the Plantation, the castle was granted in 1623 to an English soldier, Sir Basil Brooke. He had the castle repaired, adding a bay and mullioned windows and a magnificent fireplace decorated with carved fruit and coats-of-arms. He also added a fine, three -storied, Jacobean manor house as an extension to the Tower.

The castle was again damaged during the Williamite wars, 1688 – 1691. The Brooke family abandoned Donegal Castle in the opening decade of the 18th century when the family moved to Brookhall in county Fermanagh. Lord Brookborough, 1888 - 1973, was a member of the Brooke family. In 1943, he succeeded Mr. John M Andrews as Prime Minister of Northern Ireland and remained in that office for twenty years.





Bishop Leslie - Raphoe Castle

Although still awaiting restoration, Raphoe Castle is probably the most impressive castle in Donegal. In 1633, John Leslie was translated from the Scottish See of the Isles to become the Bishop of Raphoe.

Marrying at the age of 67, absorbing the Bishopric of Clogher at the age of 90, Leslie dominated the area until his death, aged 100, in 1671. Feeling threatened in his new location, he built himself a new palace on a hill overlooking the town using stone from an ancient Round Tower in 1637. This proved fortuitous when rebellion broke out in 1641 and the Bishop was forced to shelter in the "castle", as it has come to be known, until relieved by the Lagganeer army. Eight years later, Leslie, a Royalist was besieged by Cromwellian troops. This time, he was forced to surrender but unlike virtually every other bishop in Ireland, Leslie survived and was returned to his See at the Restoration in 1660. A leading figure in the Established Church, Bishop Leslie was no friend of either Catholic or Non-conformist. In 1664, he ordered four dissenting Presbyterian ministers to appear before his court, and when they failed to appear, had them arrested and imprisoned in

Lifford gaol. A century later, in 1798, the castle was attacked again, this time by the United Irishmen, three of whom were killed. The castle was destroyed in an accidental fire in 1838.

Raphoe Cathedral

St. Columcille and St. Eunan, ninth abbot of Iona, had churches at Raphoe in the 5th and 6th centuries. Several 9th century blocks of stone can be found in the porch and in the north wall of the present cathedral. The south-east corner dates from the 12th century. The latest building dates from the 1730's. The communion plate is also noteworthy.

Notable bishops include George Montgomery, first Protestant bishop 1605-1610, a Scot, who was mainly involved in re-claiming church lands, and bishop Andrew Knox 1611-1633, who set about repairing and rebuilding the cathedral. A stone inscribed "And. Knox II. Epi. Cura", set in the porch, commemorates him. Bishop John Leslie had formerly been a soldier and had his own private army which he led into battle. Bishop Twysden, 1747 - 1753, spent little time in Raphoe but squandered the family fortune in London. Subsequently he was shot whilst in the act of robbing a stage-coach. Sandy Montgomery, a kinsman of Bishop Montgomery lies within the churchyard. His inscription reads, "Here lyeth the Body of Alexander Montgomery Esq., who departed this Life 29th September 1800, aged 78. He Represented this once Independent Country, 32 years".





The Parish Church - Taughboyne

Taughboyne Parish Church takes its name from the Irish, Tigh Baithin, or House of Baithin. St. Baithin, a cousin of St. Columba of Iona, founded a monastery here in the Laggan Valley in about 560AD. The old monastery church, in a state of near ruin, was restored in 1627 after an attempt to build a new church in the nearby town of St Johnston failed. The remains of the half finished church can still be seen within the grounds of an old graveyard in St Johnston. Both this graveyard, and the one at Taughboyne, like most parish churches in Donegal, contain the graves not just of members of the Anglican church but also many Catholic Irish and Ulster Scots Presbyterians. This was because the law forbade anyone but Anglican church ministers from performing services.

In the Nineteenth century, the meticulous Reverend Bowen kept a detailed Vestry Minute Book which records the work of the Vestry Committee. This was not confined to church affairs. They raised militias to resist a Napoleonic invasion, built schools, sought out illicit poteen distillers, fought cholera, provided coffins for the poor and pursued the mothers of foundling children left abandoned on doorsteps! Interestingly, many churchwardens and Vestry Committee members were local Ulster Scots Presbyterian tenant farmers who saw it as their duty to participate in the running of their communities.

Francis Makemie - The Old Meetinghouse, Ramelton

Francis Makemie was probably born in Fanad of Scottish parents in 1658. The family later settled in the Ramelton neighbourhood where Francis converted to Presbyterianism. The Old Meetinghouse was the first permanent structure erected by the Presbyterian congregation in Ramelton sometime in the seventeenth century. It was here that the Reverend Makemie worshipped as a youth before leaving for Glasgow University in 1676 to study for the ministry. Ordained for the Maryland mission in 1681/82, he worked in Maryland, North Carolina, Philadelphia and Barbados where he gained lasting fame for his vigorous defence of freedom of worship and for his forthright style of preaching. Makemie spent six weeks in jail in New York for the crime of preaching without a license. The Governor of New York described him as "a preacher, a doctor of physic, a merchant, a counsellor at law, and...worst of all, a disturber of governments". Makemie died, aged 50, in 1708 and is considered to be the father of Presbyterianism in the United States. The meetinghouse remained the place of worship for the small, austere outlying planter settlement until the turn of the C19, when the congregation built a fine new Gothic edifice with money raised partly from descendants of Makemie's congregations in America. Today it is the home of Ramelton Public Library.





The Reverend William Boyd - Monreagh

In 1725, the Reverend William Boyd from Macosquin, County Londonderry, was appointed minister of Monreagh Presbyterian Church. Seven years earlier, on 25th July 1718, the Reverend Boyd had landed in Boston, Massachusetts on board the "William and Mary". Acting as their agent, he presented a petition signed by 319 people, including nine other Presbyterian ministers, from the Bann Valley area of Ulster, to Governor Shute of Massachusetts, requesting his support for a mass emigration to New England. These Ulster Scots were keen to leave their homes because of the high rents charged by the local landowner, the collapse of the linen trade and increasing persecution by the Anglican Church. On 4th August 1718, 800 Scotch-Irish arrived in Boston aboard the famous "Five Ships", led by the Reverend James McGregor of Aghadowey. This was the first of four massive waves of emigration from Ulster to America during the 18th century, which has resulted in one in every seven Americans being able to trace her or his ancestry to the Scotch-Irish of Ulster. The Reverend Boyd returned to Ulster and served for 47 years as the minister of Monreagh, dying in service on 2nd May 1772. He is interred at nearby Taughboyne Parish Church, where his gravestone may be seen at the rear of the building.

Old Ray Graveyard

After the Plantation of Ulster, the new settlers used the former graveyards of old abbeys for their burials. In 1644, the Covenant was administered at Ray to great multitudes. The Reverend Hugh Cunningham was chaplain in the Earl of Glencairn's Scottish regiment which was based here as part of Montrose's army which had been sent over to fight the Irish rebels. When the regiment was disbanded in 1646, Reverend Hugh became the first minister of Ray Presbyterian Church.

He was succeeded by the Reverend Robert Campbell of Dunoon in Scotland, who was ordained here in 1672. He fled to Scotland during the siege of Derry but returned to Ray in June 1691 and ministered there until his death in 1722. The Reverends Cunningham and Campbell are both buried at Ray.

During the period 1754 -1778, Ray congregation was served by a father and son, the Reverend James and the Reverend Francis Turretin, who were of Waldensian origin. They also are interred here. The Reverend Francis Dill, a member of the Fanad Dill family, was minister here from 1795-1829. He was succeeded by the Reverend John Brown 1830 -1854, who was a brother of the celebrated poetess, Frances Brown.





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Rathneeny Presbyterian Church - Laghey

Originally known as Raneeny church, this church was receiving ministers from the Laggan Presbytery as early as 1672. On 17th March, 1674, the Reverend William Henry was ordained to the charge of First Donegal, Belleek and Greystown. In 1677, he was sent as a supplying minister to the people of Connaught (i.e. west of the river Shannon) but was arrested by the order of the bishop of Killala and spent eighteen months in jail in Dublin. Their second minister, the Reverend Thomas Craighead, a Scotsman, was ordained here in 1698. He emigrated to America and lived there between 1715 and 1719. He is responsible for building the first Rathneeny church between 1699 and 1700. It was the only Presbyterian church between Ballyshannon and Killybegs.

The present building was built one hundred years later in 1801 during the ministry of the Reverend W. Houston. Of historical interest are the original flags in the aisle, the unvarnished pews with doors and the double pulpit with a lower place for the "Presenter" leading the psalm-singing. In 1979, during its tri-centenary, a group of Americans came over from Donegal Springs Church, Pennsylvania and planted a "Liberty Oak" at Rathneeny to commemorate the links between Donegal and Pennsylvania.

Ardara Methodist Church

In 1786, Mathew Stewart from Castlederg, a dragoon at Athlone barracks, was converted to Methodism by John Wesley. Ordained in 1788, Stewart was sent to preach in the Barony of Boyleagh. In Ardara, he received opposition from the local clergy but when he stood up to preach in the Diamond, he was protected by two leading townsmen, James Pearson and William Bates. Over the next twenty years, the area suffered from emigration. In 1806, a group of preachers from near Ballyshannon came to the district.

Mr. McCullough from Maas was converted and opened his home for preaching and class meetings. In 1858 a school was built at Loughrospoint where Master Lockhart taught.

Methodism spread westward and northward to Portnoo, Lettermacaward, Rutland Island and the Rosses. In 1813, the first Methodist church was built in Ardara. This area has produced eight Methodist ministers including Rev. Victor Buckanon of the United Church of Canada, and Rev. James and Rev. Charles Burns of the United Methodist Church, U.S.A. and Dr. Charles Elliott who became a leading scholar in the United States. Ardara congregation now shares a minister with Dunkineely. Some Methodist surnames from this area are Boyd, Lockhart, Young, Given, Donlevy, Adair, Pearson and Porter.





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The Stewarts - Killydonnell Friary

Killydonnell Franciscan Friary was founded in 1471 by Calvagh O'Donnell. It is probable that Caffir O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, briefly stopped here in 1607 whilst fleeing from Ballindrait to join Rory O'Donnell at Ramelton before boarding a ship at Rathmullan in the event known as "the Flight of the Earls". In the ensuing Plantation of Ulster, Sir William Stewart from Wigtownshire in Scotland was granted one thousand acres around the Ramelton area, which he planted with Scots, building the town of Ramelton between 1609 and 1622 and a fort for defense along the Lough Swilly shore. His first Reformation church in the area now stands roofless. He is credited too with building part of Letterkenny town. In the Laggan the two Stewart brothers formed an army both of them were distinguished soldiers in the continental wars they formed an army that came to be know as the 'Lagganeers' and they were a tremendous force of men. They won the battle of Glenmaquin against O'Neill, they went on to save Londonderry, Newtownstewart, Coleraine they went as far as Ougher in Tyrone. They were an exceptional force and they came to be known as 'Lagganeers'. A domestic outbuilding at Killydonnell has been converted into a family vault for the Stewart family of Ramelton.



The Stewarts - Ramelton

Sir William Stewart came to Ireland during the Ulster plantation.

William Stewart had distinguished himself as commander of a select troop sent by King James I to quell the rebellion by Sir Cahir O'Doherty. His reward, in 1610, was a grant of 1000 acres along Lough Swilly in the area known as the Lough Side.

Stewart lost no time in establishing the requisite fortifications. Sir William immediately set about building a town and church at "Rathmelton". between 1609 and 1622. In 1611 he built a fort called Fort Stewart for defence along the Lough Swilly shore.

Rewarded with the grant of an estate near Strabane, he built a castle and the town of Newtownstewart. When Sir Richard Hansard moved to Lifford, Stewart acquired Hansard's Ramelton estates. In 1623 he was made a baronet and given the title "Sir", he was granted Ramelton Castle and became the biggest landowner in Ramelton with valuable fishing rights on Lough Swilly. He moved to the castle and leased Fort Stewart. Donegal became a county in 1585 and Sir William was one of Donegal's three Members of Parliament during the period 1613-15 and again in 1634.

The Quayside - Ramelton

Once a thriving industrial port, Ramelton today is a small picturesque riverside town. Following the Flight of the Earls in 1607, the town and its hinterland were granted to Sir William Stewart, an Ayreshire soldier, who immediately built a new castle, a church and 45 houses. Ramelton's "Golden Age" was undoubtedly the Georgian period when the Stewarts and other Ulster Scots families, such as the Watts and the Scotts, became prosperous businessmen. Ships regularly traded between Ramelton, New York, and Kingston, Jamaica. The 1835 Ordnance Survey Memoirs record, "Good slates are bought from Dooish Hill in the Laggan across Lough Swilly, timber from Norway and America and lime from Oughterlin". Flax was widely grown by the local Ulster Scots farmers and Ramelton was the most important linen market in the county. Six tons of flax per week were sent to the shirt factories in Derry. A. A. Watt also set up a whiskey distillery, and Tyrconnell Whiskey is still enjoyed worldwide today.

Ramelton's majestic quayside warehouses, along with its unique layout, where the main street runs alongside the River Lennon, give the town a distinctive quality quite unlike most small Irish towns. The riverside promenade is flanked by a terrace of Georgian town houses, most of which are still in residential and commercial use today.

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Clachans – Feddyglass

One of the most common patterns of settlement in Donegal, as in many other parts of Ireland and Scotland, was the clachan. The Griffiths Valuation of the 1850s shows that a typical clachan, such as the one still evident at Lower Feddyglass, consisted of a small cluster of perhaps a dozen dwellings, along with sheds and byres. The surrounding land was divided between the inhabitants, sometimes in separate plots but also sometimes held in common. This tradition of several members of a family holding land in common was known as rundale. It derived from the reluctance by both the native Irish and the Scots planters to adopt primogeniture, the willing of a farm to a single heir.

In many parts of Ireland it led to uneconomically small farms, which in turn contributed largely to the many famines in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some landlords, such as Lord Abercorn, who owned much of the Laggan Valley, refused to regrant leases in rundale and this mitigated the effects of the great famine of 1845-50 in this part of Donegal. Many of the old farmsteads can still be seen at Lower Feddyglass.

John and David Wark – Tiroddy

Henry Wark of Tirrody raised two sons, John and David, who left indelible marks in Canadian history. John left Taughboyne Parish in 1814 and traveled to Rupert's Land (now Canada) to become a fur trader with the Hudson's Bay Company. John penned 17 journals, valuable historical sources for anyone studying the fur trade. He established the first successful agricultural farm west of the Rocky Mountains and earned his Chief Tradership in 1830 and his Chief Factorship in 1846. By 1849 he was a member of the Board of Management which directed the Company's affairs west of the Rocky Mountains. One of the earliest pioneers in Victoria, British Columbia, he purchased 583 acres of farmland in 1853, becoming the largest landowner in the city. Also that year he was appointed a member of the Legislative Council of Vancouver's Island, a position he held until his death on 22nd December 1861.

John's youngest brother, David, left Ireland in 1825 and traveled to New Brunswick. He entered politics in 1843 and in 1851 was appointed to the Legislative Council where he remained until Canada's Confederation in 1867. He was called to the Senate by Royal Proclamation, a position he held until his death on 20th August 1905 at the very advanced age of 101.





Croaghan House - Tamney

Reverend William Patton and his wife Margaret, both “Scotts Protestants”, bought this house and 500 acres in 1636.

Reverend Patton was born in Scotland in 1590 and ordained a minister in 1613. Attracted by the financial opportunities offered by the Ulster Plantation, the Pattons came to Ireland and by 1622, they were living in the Fanad Peninsula at William Stewart’s of Fortstewart.

Reverend Patton prospered in shipping and next lived in the Glebe House at Kerrykeel from 1630 until he bought Croaghan House in 1636. The Patton family lived at Croaghan for over 250 years. In 1797, while the Penal Laws were still being enforced, a liberal member of the Patton family gave land in which the Catholics could bury their dead because a Protestant rector of Rosnaskill had refused burial to a Catholic man. A church named Massmount was later built there and is still in use. Reverend Patton was the ancestor of thousands of Patton descendants in the United States including the first man to walk in outer space, Edgar Higgins White II.

General George Patton - Springfield Manor

Henry, a third generation Patton, was granted 300 acres in 1688 at Springfield on the other side of the hill from Croaghan House, Fanad, in recognition for military service to King William of Orange. Henry built Springfield Manor which was a large three-storied, sixteen-roomed manor house.

His fourth child, Captain James Patton, a merchant sea-captain, was born in 1692 and served in the Royal Navy during Queen Anne's War before entering the merchant navy after 1713 when he sailed to Spain and the Mediterranean and also to America. He is credited with shipping Bulle Rock, the first thoroughbred horse, to Virginia about 1730 where it was owned by a Sam Patton who was probably another brother.

In 1737 Patton received a grant of 30,000 acres on the Calfpasture river beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains under condition of settling one family for each 1,000 acres and immediately set about bringing over families from North West Ireland. Many cousins came over on the Walpole in 1738. The area they settled in is now Augusta county and Patton virtually ruled over this area himself.

Patton descendants made their mark in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama and they include General George Smith Patton, who commanded the Third American Army in Europe during World War II. He was the general primarily responsible for the defeat of Germany's last offensive when he halted their counter attack on the Allies in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. The last Pattons at Springfield, who emigrated to America in the middle of the eighteenth century, leased their estate to the Dill family.



The Dill Family of Springfield

Springfield House was leased by the Patton family to the Dill brothers – John and Mark – two local Presbyterian farmers. Their descendants had a very significant theological and academic impact in Ireland, producing doctors, lawyers, and ten Presbyterian ministers, three of whom – Sam, his brother Richard and their cousin Francis – were ministers of congregations in Donegal.

In 1799, Sam invoked controversy at Donoughmore church near Castlefin by overturning stalls at the Holy Fair on communion Sunday and by barring a Mr. Wauchope from communion because he indulged in cock-fighting and gaming on Sunday. Richard, like the rest of his family, was a noted preacher and Francis of Rye Church was almost sentenced to death for being implicated in the Sharon murder of Dr. Hamilton of Fanad. John Dill, of Springfield, survived an assassination attempt by a redcoat soldier. The Dills were suspected of being secret members of the United Irishmen.

Richard Dill was minister in Ussher's Quay in Dublin where, in 1844, he persuaded a wealthy widow, Mrs. Magee to leave £75,000 for the founding of Magee Theological College in Derry. Richard also left much of his estate to Magee and also his library. Magee College opened in 1865. The Reverend Edward Dill worked in the Irish Mission in Kerry during the Famine and was sent to the U.S.A. to raise funds for poor relief. A copy of his book, "Ireland's Miseries, their Cause and Cure," was sent to Queen Victoria. Springfield became ruinous and was demolished in 1968.





26 Field Marshall Montgomery - New Park, Moville

The Montgomerys were a Scottish family and have been in Ireland since the early days of the Ulster Plantation. Samuel Montgomery was a rich Derry merchant who had served as Sheriff of Derry City in 1754. In 1768 he bought the land where Moville now stands and built his home, New Park, there. Samuel's descendants include the Reverend Samuel Law Montgomery who was rector of Moville. Sir Robert Montgomery also lived at New Park. He was Chief Commissioner of Oudh and Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab during the Indian Mutiny.

Bishop Henry Hutchinson Montgomery, 1847–1932, was ordained in the Anglican church in 1872 and he became fourth bishop of Tasmania in 1889. He married Maud Farrar, daughter of Canon Farrar of Westminster Cathedral in 1881. They had nine children. Their fourth child was Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery who, when he defeated Field-Marshal Rommel at El Alamein during World War II, became Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. The Viscount spent part of his childhood at New Park and considered himself Irish and a Donegal man. After the war, he continued to visit his mother at Moville and referred to New Park as, "my dear old Irish home."

Davy Crockett

John Stewart from Scotland was living at Ballylawn on the shores of Lough Swilly in 1629. About 1700, John's descendant, Sarah Stewart married Joseph Louis Crockett at Rathmullan. Crockett was Anglo-French. His family had worked for several generations for the Huguenots in the south of France. In 1672 when a religious edict ordered all Huguenots to leave the south of France, the Crockett family fled to Ireland. Joseph Louis Crockett was born somewhere in the south of Ireland on January 9th 1676. In 1709, Joseph Crockett and Sarah Stewart emigrated to New Rochelle Huguenot colony in New York State. There, their fourth child, William was born. William was to become the great-grandfather of Colonel David Crockett, the hero of the Battle of the Alamo.

Joseph's nephew travelled with the couple to New Rochelle. He was the son of Joseph's favourite brother James Crockett who farmed 300 acres at Portlough which lies midway between Manorcunningham and St. Johnston. James had married Margaret Montgomery who was also of Scottish descent. There are still descendants of this Crockett family living in East Donegal and in counties Londonderry and Tyrone who are all related to America's best known hero. Ballylawn fell into decay and was finally abandoned about 1830.





Lords Londonderry and Castlereagh

Alexander Stewart was born at Ballylawn, a townland near Moville in county Donegal in 1700. He was the descendant of a Scots planter of modest origins who obtained a small portion of land during the Ulster Plantation. Alexander was apprenticed in a business in Belfast. He later entered into a partnership with two or three other merchants trading with the Baltic and the Netherlands. He also had contacts with the ports of Holland and France especially Bordeaux where he had interests in the wine trade.

His elder brother died and Alexander inherited Ballylawn. In 1737, he married his cousin, Mary Cowan who had inherited a very large fortune from her half-brother, Sir Robert Cowan, a retired Governor of Bombay. In 1743, Alexander bought estates at Newtownards and Comber. His son Robert became Marquis of Londonderry and also married an heiress. His grandson was Lord Castlereagh. By the late eighteenth century, the family had ceased to be Presbyterian and had gone over to the Episcopalian Church. They changed their views from those of Dissenting Liberals to the more authoritarian views of the government.

Montgomery Family - Boyton House

The Montgomery family of Convoys is descended from Alexander Montgomery, Prebendary of Doe who died about 1658. He was brought over from Scotland by his kinsman, George Montgomery, who became first Protestant bishop of Raphoe in 1604. Alexander Montgomery of Croaghan, near Lifford, bought the Convoys estate from the Nesbitt family in 1719. Boyton House was first occupied in November 1807 by the family of Robert Montgomery of Brandrim who had inherited the estate from his cousin, Sandy Montgomery of Convoys.

Sandy represented Donegal in Grattan's parliament for thirty two years. He spent part of his youth in America and was noted for his duelling. His brothers were John of Lisbon and Richard, a general in Washington's army who fell at the siege of Quebec in 1775. Sandy was a friend of Lord Edward Fitzgerald and a secret supporter of the United Irishmen. He voted against the Act of Union in 1800. Boyton House used to contain the letter which Washington wrote to the family on Richard's death and receipts for meat bought by the hundred-weight in Raphoe by the Montgomery family for free distribution in Convoys during the Famine. The house passed through marriage to the Boyton family in the nineteenth century.





Sharon Manse

On the night of 2nd March 1797, the Reverend William Hamilton, Church of Ireland Rector of Clondevaddock in Fanad, was forced to take refuge with his colleague, the Reverend Doctor Waller, Rector of Raymoghey, at the Sharon Manse near Manorcunningham. A storm was raging and the ferrymen at Fort-Stewart had refused to take him across the Swilly. Some have suggested that this was a deliberate ploy to detain the Reverend Hamilton, as he was on his way to Derry to give information against local United Irishmen. As the ministers were dining, a crowd attacked the house, firing through the window and killing the Reverend Waller's wife. The Reverend Hamilton was dragged from the house and murdered on the doorstep. Tradition has it that he clung to the banister until servants, who were sympathetic to the attackers, put a red hot poker to his hands! No-one was ever convicted for the crime but a local Presbyterian minister, the Reverend Francis Dill of Ray, who, like many Ulster Scots in Donegal, supported the United Irishmen, was tried by court-martial at Lifford and was only saved from execution when one of his parishioners insisted that he was attending a dying relative that night. Sharon Manse has recently been restored and the current owner claims that Mrs Waller's ghost has now been exorcised!

Reverend Porter - Tamnawood

On 2nd July 1798, the Reverend Porter, a Presbyterian minister from Tamnawood, was hanged for treason outside his church in Greyabbey, County Down. The reason was not just his sympathy for the United Irishmen's cause, but also the fact that he had made a deadly enemy in Lord Londonderry, the local landlord by lampooning him in a series of political cartoons. The Reverend Porter, like many Presbyterians in the late 18th century felt that the aristocracy which dominated

government in London was not only unsympathetic to their religion, but also ignored their economic interests. Notwithstanding the fact that the Reverend Porter had spoken out against the armed uprising, when Lord Londonderry joined the jury at his court-martial in June 1798, his fate was sealed.

Some Ballindrait folk like to believe that the Reverend Porter fled the authorities and was hidden by locals in the area but the story probably refers to his son, Alexander, who, aged 14, had carried the United Irishmen's flag at the Battle of Ballynahinch. Porter's great great grandson, the Reverend Dr. J. H. Bewglass, served as minister at Ballindrait Presbyterian church for many years and, in 1969, unveiled a plaque to his illustrious ancestor, which can still be seen on the gable wall of the old Porter home at Tamnawood.





Cavanacor House

Cavanacor House is one of the earliest Plantation houses in Donegal and has been in continuous occupation since the 17th century.

Protestant armies amassed on the flat plains at Cavanacor prior to the Siege of Derry and on 20th April 1689, James II dined at Cavanacor House during the Siege. Due to his protection, the House survived his subsequent retreat from Derry.

In the 1690's Magdalene Tasker, who was born at Cavanacor in 1634, married Capt. Robert Bruce Pollock. They and their children immigrated to America and settled in Somerset County in Maryland.

In America the family shortened their name to Polk. James Knox Polk, born 1795, the great, great, great grandson of Magdalene Tasker Polk, became the 11th President of the United States of America in 1845. He is one of at least 15 American presidents who are of Scotch-Irish descent. A Democrat, he is best remembered for his highly successful expansionist policy, bringing Texas, Oregon and then, after a highly successful war against Mexico, New Mexico and California into the union of the United States of America.

Big Ards

President Buchanan's grandmother, Jane was a member of the Russell family. She died in 1768 when the children were still young. President Buchanan's father James, was brought up by the Russell family at Stoney Batter, Big Ards near Letterkenny. James emigrated to the United States in 1783 and settled in Pennsylvania where he married Elizabeth Speer.

Their second son, James Buchanan, was born in 1791. He studied law at Dickinson College and was a gifted debater. Elected five times to the House of Representatives, Buchanan next became Minister to Russia. After service in the Senate, Buchanan became President Polk's Secretary of State and Pierce's Minister to Great Britain. He won the Democratic presidential nomination in 1856.

When he became president, Buchanan tried to steer a middle way between the slave-owning states in the South and the non slave-owning states in the North. He only succeeded in angering the Republican party and in alienating members of his own Democratic party. Buchanan denied the legal rights of Southern States to leave the Union. Next he threatened them with force and then reverted to a policy of inactivity. He left office in March 1861 and retired to "Wheatland," his Pennsylvanian home, where he died in 1868. He never married.





Woodrow Wilson

34 Woodrow Wilson's grandfather, James Wilson, learned the printing trade in Strabane before emigrating in 1807, aged just 20. His father was a Presbyterian pastor in the American Civil War. Woodrow was born in 1856 and went on to graduate from Princeton and the University of Virginia Law School, returning to become president of Princeton in 1902. A decade later he was elected 28th President of the USA. As the leader of a multinational country, including a large German minority, and as a virtual pacifist, Wilson was very reluctant to take America into the First World War.

This position became impossible however after the sinking of the Lusitania off Cork by a German submarine in 1915 and Wilson reluctantly led his country into what he called the "war to end all wars". Following Germany's surrender, Wilson insisted on including the idea of a "League of Nations" in the Versailles Settlement. This was the precursor of the modern United Nations. It was for this that Wilson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919. Unfortunately, the American Congress refused to ratify the League of Nations and instead retreated into its old policy of isolationism. Campaigning for the League ruined Wilson's health and he died a disappointed man in 1924. Wilson is the only American president buried in Washington DC.

John Dunlap

John Dunlap was born in Meetinghouse Street, Strabane in 1746, the grandson of a Scots planter. Although tradition has it that he served his apprenticeship in Gray's Printers in Strabane, it has now been shown that Gray's Printers was not established until 1793. By 1756 John had immigrated to Philadelphia to join his uncle William, a printer, whose business he inherited in 1766. By 1784, he was publishing the United States' first daily newspaper, The General Advertiser. He played his part in military affairs during the War of Independence, as a founder in 1774 of the 1st Troop of Philadelphia City Cavalry, taking part in actions at Princeton and Trenton.

In 1773 John Dunlap had been appointed printer to the Continental Congress, whose members drafted the Declaration of Independence, and the Declaration itself was printed in 1776 in John Dunlap's office and circulated to the colonial assemblies. Until 1789, when the Federal Government was founded, Dunlap continued as printer to the Congress, and the Constitution of the United States was printed by Dunlap and first published in his paper. John Dunlap died in 1812 and was buried at Christ Church, Philadelphia. The site of his birth at Meetinghouse Street is marked by a plaque erected by Strabane Urban District Council in 1965.





William Gregg

William Gregg (1817-1909) was born in Killycreen, the son of Daniel Gregg, who was for many years a ruling member in the Presbyterian Church, Ramelton, and Jane Graham, both of whose ancestors were Ulster Scots. He worked for a merchant in Londonderry for eight years before going to Scotland where he received a Master of Arts degree at Edinburgh in 1844. He studied theology at Free College, Edinburgh and moved to Canada in 1846 to work as a missionary for the Colonial Committee of the Free Presbyterian Church.

In 1847 he was ordained minister of the John Street Presbyterian Church, Belleville and retained this pastorate until 1857, when he became pastor of Cooke's Church, Toronto, where he remained until 1872. The Reverend Gregg was the moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church of Canada in 1861 when the union was effected between it and the United Presbyterian Church of Canada.

In 1849, he married Phoebe Holden and the couple had 11 children. In 1875 he was appointed Professor of Apologetics and Church History at Knox College, Toronto. He retired in 1895. During his life, the Reverend Gregg published many books and tracts, including "A Book of Prayers for Family Worship", and "The Presbyterian Book of Praise" but his chief literary production was the "History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada".

Robert Bonner

Robert was born in Ramelton in 1839. Aged fifteen, he emigrated to the U.S.A. with an older brother. His first job was as a printer's devil for the Hartford Courant in Connecticut. He then moved to New York and by 1844 he was a successful editor and writer for the New York Evening Mirror.

Bonner bought a printing press and in 1846 began printing the New York Merchant's Ledger which had a circulation of around 3000. Bonner bought the Ledger in 1851 and gradually transformed it into a popular weekly newspaper renaming it "The New York Ledger." He halved its price and gradually included serialised stories by some of the best writers of the period such as Dickens, L.A. Alcott, and E.D.E.N. Southworth. He added illustrations and advertised whole pages of "the Ledger" in rival newspapers. His ideas in display advertising were amongst the most innovative and visionary of his era. In 1858 the Ledger's circulation had risen to 300,000.

Robert Bonner founded and was president of the Scotch-Irish Society of America. His other great interest was the breeding of trotting horses. His wife Jean McConlis was also of Donegal extraction, immigrating to America at the age of ten in 1839. They had six children. Bonner died in 1899 leaving an estate of six million dollars.





John Wallace Crawford 1847 – 1917

An army scout and playwright known as “Captain Jack, the Poet Scout”, John Wallace Crawford was born in Carndonagh, in County Donegal, in 1847. He immigrated to America in 1860. In 1863, he joined F Company of the 48th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded twice and in hospital he learned how to read and write, being taught by a sister of charity. In 1869, he married Anne Marie Stokes and they had five children. John Wallace lived on the frontier by scouting and prospecting. He helped found the frontier towns of Deadwood, Custer City, Crook and Spearfish.

In 1876 Crawford joined Buffalo Bill’s “Wild West Show” and was wounded during a performance. Whilst he was recuperating, he wrote his first play, “Fonda, or the Trapper’s Dream” which was very successful. When he couldn’t finance a tour to Australia, he returned to scouting but continued writing poetry.

His first collection of poems, “The Poet Scout,” was published in 1879. Throughout the 80’s and 90’s, he produced plays, poems, prospected and lectured on his life on the frontier and on the topic of teetotalism.

In his plays, he created the concept of the American hero, which has been much copied ever since. In 1903 he left his family in New Mexico and settled in Brooklyn, New York. He co-authored a play, “Colonel Bob,” in 1908 and continued to write poetry until his death in 1917.

John Johnston

John Johnston was born in 1775 near Ballyshannon. His paternal ancestors came from Scotland with King William while his maternal ancestors, named Bernard, were Huguenots. His father emigrated in 1786 at the close of the American Revolution and settled in Shearman's Valley, Pennsylvania. Before he was 17, John Johnston drove an army supply wagon in support of General Wayne to Pittsburgh. This was his first taste of the frontier.

During the next few years, he held various government posts, including Factor at Fort Wayne, before moving to Upper Piqua with his family in 1811. Early in 1812, this was made a government agency, and at the outbreak of the war with Britain, all the neutral tribes were removed to this point and placed under his supervision. Johnston was a great influence on Native Americans, attending all the councils held at Piqua, where he was listened to with more reverence than were the government commissioners. In 1842 Johnston arranged a treaty with the Indians by which these last tribes were removed to the west.

Throughout his life, he continued to look out for the welfare of the Native Americans. In the winter of 1860-61, Johnston was in Washington tracing claims against the government for supplies which had been furnished to Indians. Here he died in 1861, still in the service of his friends. His remains were brought to Piqua, and were interred in the family lot at the Upper Piqua cemetery beside his beloved wife, Rachel.





John Calhoun

The son of a County Donegal Presbyterian, Patrick Calhoun, and Margaret Caldwell, who was Virginia-born of Co Antrim immigrant parents, John Caldwell Calhoun was the leading South Carolina politician of the early 19th century and a major force in events leading to the American Civil War.

After a short stint in the South Carolina legislature, where he wrote legislation making South Carolina the first state to adopt white male suffrage, Calhoun began his federal career as a staunch nationalist, favouring war with Britain in 1812 and a federal program of internal improvements. He reversed course in the 1820s, when the "Corrupt Bargain" of 1824 led him to renounce nationalism in favour of states' rights of the sort Thomas Jefferson and James Madison had propounded in the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798. Although he died a decade before the American Civil War broke out, Calhoun was a major inspiration to the secessionists who created the short-lived Confederate States of America. Nicknamed the "cast-iron man" for his staunch determination to defend the causes in which he believed, Calhoun pushed nullification, under which states could declare null and void those federal laws which they deemed to be unconstitutional. He served as the seventh Vice President of the United States, first under John Quincy Adams (1825–1829) and then under Andrew Jackson (1829–1832), and was Secretary of War (1817–1824) under James Monroe and Secretary of State (1844–1845) under John Tyler.

Monreagh Church - the Jewel in the Laggan Crown

Established in 1645, this is the oldest of the Presbyterian churches in Donegal. Its first minister, the Reverend Robert Cunningham, a former Episcopalian minister, represented the Irish Presbyterians before the church of Scotland and the Parliament in London. He was instrumental in having the first supply minister sent to the Laggan Valley. His successor, in 1655, was the Reverend John Hart from Hamilton, Scotland, an able preacher who was invited to Dublin by Cromwell to a conference in 1658 to try to settle the ecclesiastical differences in Ireland. The Reverend Harte was deposed by the second Bishop Leslie of Raphoe in 1661. In 1664 he was imprisoned in Lifford jail along with three other ministers and held there for six years for refusing to accept the bishop's primacy in religious affairs. The Reverend Neil Gray and his son the Reverend William Gray, who was called to Ussher's Quay in Dublin and founded the congregation at St. Johnston, followed until 1721. The next incumbent, the Reverend William Cornwell of Bushmills, had spent two years at Casco Bay, U.S.A. Installed in 1722, he was followed in 1725 by the Reverend William Boyd of Macosquin, who in 1718, had travelled to Boston to carry out negotiations for the first planned emigration of Presbyterian families from the Bann Valley area to North America. The Reverend Boyd was responsible for the building of the beautiful church which still stands today before his death in 1772.

The Monreagh Heritage Centre is based in the former manse and will soon be a valuable contribution the many links between Ulster Scots and America. The building is now converted to a cultural heritage and education centre and will be officially opened on 14th November 2008.



ADDRESSES OF LOCATIONS

Flight of the Earls Rathmullan	The Reverend William Boyd Monreagh Church	Field Marshall Montgomery Newpark Moville	The Dill Family Springfield Manor, Tamney, Fanad
Plantation Town Manorcunningham	Old Ray Graveyard Manorcunningham	Davy Crockett Portlough	Cunningham Monreagh
Sir Richard Hansard Clonleigh Church of Ireland Lifford	Rathneeny Presbyterian Church Laghey	Lords Londonderry & Castlereagh Ballylawn Moville	Presbyterian Church
The Battle of Glenmaquin Glenmaquin	Ardara Methodist Church Ardara	Mongomery Family Boyton House Convoy	John Wallace Crawford Carndonagh
Mongavlin Castle Mongavlin St Johnston	The Stewarts Killydonnell Friary Letterkenny	Sharon Manse Manorcunningham	Robert Bonner Ramelton
Donegal Castle Donegal Town	The Stewarts Ramelton	Reverend Porter Tamnawood	John Johnston Ballyshannon
Raphoe Castle Sheep Lane Raphoe	The Quayside Ramelton Clachans Feddyglass	Cavanacor House Ballindrait Lifford	John Calhoun Co Donegal
Raphoe Cathedral The Diamond Raphoe	Lifford John and David Wark Tiroddy	Big Ards Stoneybatter Letterkenny	William Gregg Killycreen, Ramelton
The Parish Church Taughboyne	Croghan House Tamney	Woodrow Wilson Dergalt, Co. Tyrone	
The Old Meeting House, Ramelton	General George Patton Springfield Manor Tamney	John Dunlap Mettinghouse St Strabane Co. Tyrone	



Travelling to Donegal

Donegal Airport,

<http://www.donegalairport.ie>

City of Derry Airport,

<http://www.cityofderryairport.com>

Belfast City Airport

<http://www.belfastcityairport.com>

C.I.E , Irish Rail and Bus Network

<http://www.cie.ie>

Northern Ireland Rail and Bus Network

<http://www.nirailways.co.uk>

Donegal's local airport in Carrickfinn lies at the mouth of Donegal Bay. Letterkenny is less than an hour away by road or fly into The City of Derry airport which is located 7 miles North-east of Londonderry. Belfast airport is also convenient.



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www.eastdonegalulsterscots.com

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