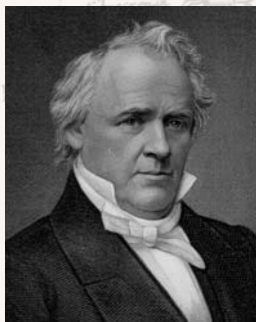


Sons & Daughters of Donegal



Sons & Daughters of Donegal

Those who do not look upon themselves as a link connecting the past with the future do not perform their duty to the world.

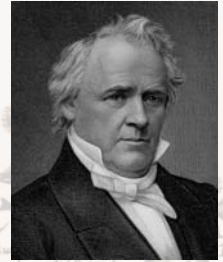
Daniel Webster.

Down through the years Donegal has produced many significant sons and daughters who themselves and/or their descendents have contributed to local life or globally have made a difference and shaped the world into what we have today. These include American pioneers, politicians, soldiers, sailors, sportsmen, judges, churchmen, educators, novelists, poets, inventors, Members of parliament, Senators, Lord Mayors, Field Marshal and even an American President and Vice President. Countries that they ended up living in cover the globe including USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Ireland, India, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and even living for periods in different parts of the world in a lifetime. Some were also involved in great changes in the world as well as in great conflicts, birth of new nations as well as new inventions. The following list is but a fraction of those from an Ulster-Scots background that lived in, were born in, raised in, or descended from parents, from County Donegal.

James Buchanan
(1791-1868)

15th President of the USA

James Buchanan Snr. Was born in Ramelton 1761 and left for America in 1783, sailing from Londonderry to Philadelphia on the ship "Providence." He settled in York County and met his future wife Elizabeth Speer and once said " My Ulster blood is a priceless heritage and I can never be too grateful to my grandparents from whom I derived it." His son James was born on 23rd April 1791 near Mercersburg in Pennsylvania and studied law and admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1812. He became active in the Federalist Party which was the predecessor of the Democratic Party. He served two terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. In 1820 he was elected to the US Congress and served five terms from 1821 to 1831. In 1824 after the demise of the Federalist Party he joined the emerging Democratic Party and played a prominent part in Andrew Jackson's presidential campaign in 1828. He spent some time as US minister to St. Petersburg and on his way home in October 1833 he visited Ramelton. Buchanan was elected to the US Senate from Pennsylvania and served from 1834 to 1845. President James K Polk appointed him as secretary of state which Buchanan served from 1845 to 1849 while President Franklin Pierce appointed him as minister to Great Britain in 1853 when he won the favour and friendship of Queen Victoria. On his return from Britain he became President and entered the White House after forty years in public service, became President in 1856 until March 1861. President Abraham Lincoln was his successor. He then retired completely from public life. He was the second of America's three "first generation" Presidents who were all Ulster-Scots. In 1868 he wrote "My father, James Buchanan, came to this country in the year 1783. He was born in the County Donegal, was brought up by his grandmother Russel at a place called Ramelton or Rachmelton. I am quite confident that none of his family except himself emigrated to the United States. My father had a brother called John of whom he spoke with much affection; but he died in Ireland." James Buchanan died at home at Wheatland Estate near Lancaster on 1st June 1868 and was buried at Woodward Hill Cemetery in Lancaster with 20,000 attending his funeral.



John Caldwell Calhoun

(1782-1850)

Vice-president of the USA

Patrick Calhoun born in Convoy in 1727 went to America, while still a child, with his parents and siblings, James Calhoun, in 1733. John Caldwell Calhoun was the third son of Patrick and his second wife Martha (nee Caldwell) and was born in Abbeville on 18th March 1782. The Calhoun Family landed in Philadelphia. After the death of James Calhoun they moved to Augusta (now Wythe) County, Virginia and then ten years later to Long Creek of Granville (now Abbeville) County South Carolina. John Caldwell Calhoun studied law and was admitted to the South Carolina bar in 1807 and was also elected that year to the South Carolina state legislature. He was elected to Congress in 1811 and was one of the most distinguished men in the political history of the United States of America. He served eight years as Vice-president, first to John Quincy Adams and then to Andrew Jackson which he resigned because of a disagreement with him. He also served as congressman, secretary of war, senator and secretary of state. When he was chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations in 1812 he drafted as such, with his own pen the declaration of war against England. He died in Washington on 31st March 1850, just thirteen days after his 68th birthday and was buried in St. Philip's Churchyard in Charleston.

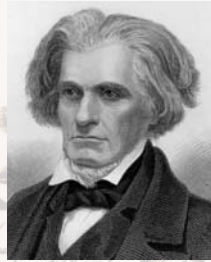


Image courtesy of www.evistum.com

John Carleton (1846-1934)

Oldest commissioner of the Salvation Army

John was born in 1846 and was a native of Bunclara and was the oldest commissioner of the Salvation Army and the originator of its "self denial" scheme. In the summer of 1886 the first Self Denial Week was held and nearly £5,000 was raised for the Salvation Army. Over the years the amount doubled and then trebled and then the idea was gradually introduced to every country in which the Salvation Army operated. The first officially commissioned Songster Brigade in the Salvation Army was at the Penge Corps in South London. The 24 strong brigade was led by Commissioner John Carlton and was formed in September 1898.



Bernard Law Montgomery

(1887 - 1976)

British Field Marshal

Rev. Henry Montgomery's third son was Bernard Law Montgomery. He was 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. He was born on 17th November 1887 in St. Mark's vicarage at Kennington Oval, London. In 1889 he travelled with his family to Tasmania where his father became Bishop (1889 - 1901). He distinguished himself during WWI and remained in the army afterwards. Under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower he conducted the Normandy invasion on 6th June 1944. Promoted to Field Marshal he led the British and Canadian 21st Army group to victory across northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Known as Monty he received the surrender of the German Northern armies in May 1945. He was Field Marshal and one of the outstanding Allied commanders of WWII. He served as Chief of the Imperial General Staff from 1946 - 1948. He died on 25th March 1976.



Thomas Dunbar Ingram

(1826 - 1901)

Professor of Hindu law in Calcutta

Thomas was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and Queen's College, Belfast. In 1853 he graduated in law and was called to the bar in 1856. From 1856 to 1867 he was professor of Hindu law in Calcutta, India. He wrote many works including "History of the Union".



Alexander Craighead

(c. 1700 - 1766)

Presbyterian Minister and American Patriot

Alexander Craighead was born in Donegal town around 1700. His father was the minister of 1st Donegal Presbyterian Church (Rathneeny). The family emigrated to America and arrived in Boston in October 1714. Alexander was ordained and installed as the first regular minister of the Middle Octorara Church in Pennsylvania in 1735. After being stationed to a couple of different churches he moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. This county was largely made up from Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. In January 1742 Rev. Craighead led his congregation in a renewal of the old Scottish covenants and the following year preached a sermon that was a precursor to the Declaration of Independence which led to him being charged with treason. He became a fiery spokesman for the people of Mecklenburg County and their protests. He is counted as the spiritual father of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence which was written 9 years after his death. He was a prolific writer and leader and published numerous works. He died in 1766 and is buried in the oldest burial ground at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina. Huntersville in North Carolina was first known as Craighead until the name was changed around 1873.



Robert Crawford

(1831-1914)

Professor of Engineering

Robert was born in Ballyshannon on 2nd June 1831 and gained a BA and MA degree from Trinity College Dublin. For a short time he was Professor of Road and Railway Engineering in the University of Montreal (McGill College) in Canada but was obliged to resign in order to proceed to Austria where he had an important post on the construction of the railway from Vienna to Linz.

He was Professor of Engineering at Trinity from 1882 to 1887. At different times he was a member of many scientific bodies including the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Geological Society of Ireland.

During his career he spent more than 20 years abroad on engineering projects in France, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Canada and South America.

He was a JP and became High Sheriff for County Donegal in 1894.

He died at Stonewold, Ballyshannon on 31st May 1914 and was buried at St. Anne's Church.



Erminda Rentoul Esler

(1860-1924)

Novelist and short story writer

Erminda was the daughter of Rev. Alexander Rentoul MD DD of 2nd Ray Presbyterian Church Manorcunningham. She was educated privately and then abroad at schools in Nimes and Berlin. In 1879 she graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with first-class honours certificate. She wrote the following which are only a sample of her work: *Almost a Pauper* (1888), *A Maid of the Manse* (1895), *The Wardlaws* (1896) which was her most popular work, *The Trackless Way* (1904). She married a physician, Robert Esler, in 1883 and went to live in London and had two sons.



William Glass

(1724 -)

American revolutionary soldier

William Glass was born near Dunkineely about 1724. He went to sea at the age of 16 and travelled as far as India and South Africa. In 1759 he settled in Pennsylvania and then moved to Orange County, Virginia where he married. He fought in the American War of Independence and fought at the Battle of Brandywine in 1777. After a period out of service he enlisted again as a resident of Washington County in East Tennessee in the Watauga militia of General Isaac Shelby. He fought at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780 when he was injured by musket shot over the right eye. He returned to farming and is reputed to have planted the first apple orchard in Washington County. He and his wife Sarah had thirteen children.



Walter Henry

(1791 - 1860)

Army surgeon and author

Walter Henry was born in Donegal Town on 1st January 1791. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and studied surgery in England. In 1811 he entered the British Army as a hospital assistant. He saw service in the Peninsular War, Nepalese War, Canadian rebellions of 1837 and 1838. He was stationed in Canada as staff surgeon from 1827 to 1841 and in 1852 he returned to Canada as inspector-general of hospitals. In 1839 he published "Trifles from my Portfolio" under the Name of "A Staff Surgeon" and in 1843 a second edition under the title "Henry's Military Life". He retired on half-pay in 1856 and settled in Belleville, Upper Canada where he died on 27th June 1860.



William Gregg (1817 - 1909)

*Moderator of the
Presbyterian Church of Canada*

William Gregg was born near Ramelton on 5th July 1817. After leaving school he worked for eight years for a merchant in Londonderry and then obtained a BA degree in 1843 from Glasgow College. He then obtained a MA degree in 1844 from Edinburg College. Gregg then undertook theological studies in Edinburgh and on 13th February 1846 he was licensed by the Free Church of Scotland and sent as a missionary to Canada. During his first year he worked in the Kingston Presbytery until he was ordained on 22nd June 1847 and appointed minister in Belleville at John Street Church. In 1857 he moved to Toronto and became pastor of Cooke's Presbyterian Church until July 1872. He was moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in 1861 and appointed lecturer in apologetics in Knox College, Toronto in 1864. In 1878 he was awarded a doctorate by the University of Hanover in the United States of America. He retired in 1895 and died in Toronto on 26th May 1909.



George Vance

(1816-1899)

Methodist Minister in Ireland

Dr. G. Vance was born in Dunkineely and was said by Conference that he was "one of the men who laid the foundations broad and strong of present day Methodism." In 1848 he was appointed as assistant minister to the Abbey Street circuit in Dublin and lived nearby in Blackhall Place. He lived and ministered in the heart of Dublin and soon became acutely aware of the needs of the young men in the city. He was instrumental in establishing the Dublin YMCA which was founded in May 1849 and was the second one established in the world.



Charles Inglis

(1734 - 1816)

First Bishop of Nova Scotia

Charles was born in Glencolmille in 1734, son to the Rector there Rev. Archibald Inglis. His Great-grandfather Archibald Inglis was ordained in Scotland in 1654. After the abolition of the Scottish Episcopacy in 1689 he became rector of Killybegs. Charles Inglis went to America around 1755 and worked as a teacher. He was ordained in London in 1758 and spent several years in Delaware before moving to Holy Trinity Church in New York in 1765. During the American Revolution he remained loyal to the British Crown and as a result his Church was burned by the American Patriots, his congregation scattered and his land confiscated. He went to Nova Scotia in 1783 and then England the next year. In 1787 he was consecrated the first Bishop of Nova Scotia and the first bishop consecrated for work outside the British Isles. His title was Bishop of Nova Scotia but his charge included Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. Bishop Inglis worked hard to bring Anglicanism to a level worthy of state support but it was an uphill struggle. However under his leadership more than twenty churches were built. In 1788 he founded a church academy at Windsor and for the first year his Nephew Archibald Paine Inglis was president of the academy. The academy was granted a royal charter in 1802 as the University of King's College. Due to declining health Bishop Inglis moved in 1796 to Clermont, a farm near Halifax. In 1809 he became a member of the Council of Nova Scotia. He died at Halifax on 24th February 1816. The 150th Anniversary of his consecration came in 1937 and this was marked by a commemorative plaque unveiled in All Saints Cathedral in Halifax by the Primate of All Canada and a commemorative service was held in St. Paul's Cathedral in London.



Image courtesy of www.evisium.com

Agnes Elizabeth Jones

(1832 - 1868)

Nurse

Agnes Jones was born in Cambridge in 1832. Her family returned to the family home in Fahan when her father retired as lieutenant colonel of the 12th Regiment of Foot around 1843. Then moved to Dublin in 1850 after the death of her father. Inspired by the work of Florence Nightingale she became a Nightingale Probationer at St. Thomas's Hospital in London in 1862. She was Florence Nightingale's "best and dearest pupil". She was a devout Christian and organised Bible Studies for her nurses and tried to lead sinners to repentance. She died of typhus fever in Liverpool workhouse infirmary on 19th February 1868 and is buried at Fahan parish church. There was a memorial erected to her in the Liverpool workhouse which was later moved to the city's Walton Hospital and a memorial window in Liverpool Cathedral.



Jemima Montgomery

(1807 - 1893)

Novelist

Jemima Montgomery was born at Seaview, Bundoran in 1807. Today it is called Villa Nova. She was a novelist and married Baron von Tautphoeus in 1838 who was chamberlain to the King of Bavaria in Germany where she spent the rest of her life. Many of her novels were set in Germany such as "The Initials" (1850), "Quits" (1857), "At Odds" (1863).

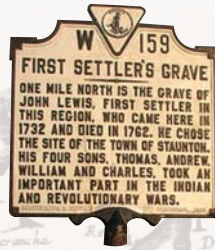


John Lewis

(1678 - 1762)

John Lewis and his wife Margaret Lynn were both Ulster-Scots from the Laggan area. They had 5 sons, 4 of them born in Donegal, and 2 daughters. John was a tenant farmer and emigrated to America in 1731 under a cloud that had involved him in the death of a landlord who was threatening to dispossess his tenants and settled in the Shenandoah Valley. The epitaph on his grave reads "Here lie the remains of JOHN LEWIS, who slew the Irish Lord, settled Augusta County, located the town of Staunton, and furnished five sons to fight the battles of the American Revolution. He was a true patriot and a friend of liberty throughout the world."

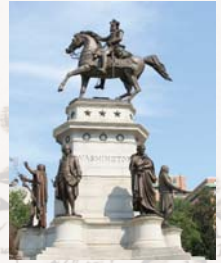
His son Thomas was a surveyor and planned the town of Staunton, the basis of the present day city.



Andrew Lewis

(1720 - 1781)

Another son of John Lewis was General Andrew Lewis who was a Captain in George Washington's Virginia regiment. He was born in County Donegal and went to America in 1732 with his mother a year after his father went. He married Elizabeth Givens and had seven children. They set up home called Richfield near Salem and Andrew worked as a surveyor. He joined the army in 1754 and served as a captain in George Washington's Virginia regiment in the French-Indian War of 1756-63. He supervised the construction of frontier forts and was county lieutenant for Augusta County. He commanded 1,000 men in Dunmore's War against the Indian tribes in South-western Virginia in 1774. He won a crucial battle at Point Pleasant, although his brother Charles was killed in the fighting. He became a brigadier general in the revolutionary army in March 1776 and took command of units at Williamsburg, Virginia. In July 1776 he commanded the American force that drove Governor Dunmore out of old dominion of Virginia. He died in 1781 in Bedford on the way home to Richfield from Richmond. There is a statue of him at the base of the equestrian statue of George Washington in Richmond.



Harrison McCain

(1927 - 2004)

Co-Founder of McCain frozen foods

Harrison's father, William with his brother and sister left the Castlefenn area and went to Florenceville, New Brunswick, Canada. Harrison was born in Florenceville on 3rd November 1927. Harrison and his brother Wallace founded McCain Frozen Foods in 1956. They began making frozen chips in Florenceville in January 1957. The company entered the British market in 1965, Australia in 1968 and America 1969. He served as chairman of the board of the National Gallery of Canada. After a dispute Wallace left McCain Frozen Foods and went to Toronto and purchased Maple Leaf Foods in 1994. The McCain family were very aware of their roots in Ulster. Harrison McCain died on 18th March 2004.



William Marcus Dill Macky

(1849-1913)

Protestant Champion in Australia

William was born at Lisfannan on 8th June 1849. In the early 1850's his father disappeared on the Victorian goldfields. He was ordained by the Magherafelt presbytery on 26th October 1876 and ministered in Draperstown Presbyterian Church for ten years. During this time he joined the Apprentice Boys of Derry and opposed Home Rule. On 26th December 1886 he arrived in Sydney and was installed in Scots Presbyterian Church, Sydney on 17th May 1887. He was a prominent Freemason and joined the Loyal Orange Institution of New South Wales and was Grand Chaplain from 1899 to 1904 and was senior Presbyterian chaplain to the Australian Military Forces from 1892 to 1904. He was moderator of the New South Wales General Assembly in 1899. He also was president of the Evangelical Council of New South Wales in 1900 and was executive member of the New South Wales Alliance for the Suppression of Intemperance, five mission boards and several refuges. He was known as a champion for Protestantism and founded the Australian Protestant Defence Association in June 1901 and was its first president which spread as far as New Zealand and by 1904 had 22,000 members in 135 branches. From 1902 to 1904 he edited the "Watchman" which sold 20,000 copies a week. He died of cancer in Sydney on 15th November 1913 and was buried in Rockwood Cemetery with Orange and Masonic ceremonies.



Francis Makemie

(1658 - 1708)

Father of American Presbyterian

Francis was born near Ramelton of Scottish parents about the year 1658. He was converted as a young man when, in his own words, God "wrought on my heart, at fifteen years of age, by, and from the pains of a godly schoolmaster." He enrolled in Glasgow University and each term walked from Donagadee, sailed to Portpatrick, and then walked to Glasgow. He was licensed in 1681 and ordained in 1682 as a missionary to the American colonies. His first 15 years in America were spent as a travelling evangelist in Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia. His work on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia led to the formation of four or five churches, notably Rehoboth and Snow Hill. He visited Philadelphia in 1692 and planted the seed of Presbyterianism there. Makemie combined preaching with business and in 1704 he owned 5,109 acres of land. Also in 1704 he went to London and returned with two missionaries. In the spring of 1706, Makemie, the two missionaries and four others met in Philadelphia and formed the first presbytery in America with Makemie as Moderator. He died at his home in Accomac, Virginia in 1708.



Matthew Richey (1803-1883)

President of the Canadian Methodist Conference

Matthew was born in Ramelton on 25th May 1803. He was born into a Presbyterian family but at 14 Matthew became a Methodist. Although he was not allowed to attend other churches he was able to attend Methodist Prayer meetings and was convinced that “the Methodist are a peculiar people, the people of God ... with them I will by the grace of God, both live and die.” In 1819 he emigrated with his brother to Saint John, New Brunswick. Rev. James Priestly persuaded Matthew to become a candidate for the Methodist ministry and in 1820 he was appointed assistant to Rev. Duncan McColl at St. David in New Brunswick by the Nova Scotia District. In 1825 he was admitted to full connexion as a Methodist minister. His preaching was marked by evangelical zeal and learning and within a decade he had established a reputation as “a preacher never to be forgotten by any who listened to him.” Richey played an active part in the development of Methodism in Canada. In 1836 he was appointed the first principal of Upper Canada Academy in Coburg, which became Victoria College in 1841. He remained at the school until 1840. Over the years he was stationed in various Methodist Churches. From 1841 to 1843 he was in Toronto and then to Kingston and later Montreal. In 1849 he was appointed acting president of the Canada Methodist Conference and in 1851 he became president. When he retired in 1870 he had held the highest positions open to him in the Methodist community. He had been chairman of the newly formed Western District and led to the formation of the Methodist Conference of Eastern British America and served as president from 1856 to 1861 and 1867-68. He was chairman of the Prince Edward Island District and chairman of the Saint John District until his retirement. He died after a lengthy illness in the residence of his son Matthew Henry Richey who was Lieutenant Governor in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Richard Montgomery

(1736 - 1775)

America's first national hero

Richard Montgomery was born at Convoy House on 2nd December 1736. On 21st August 1756 he became an ensign in the 17th Foot Regiment. He was fighting in the French-Indian War and took part in the siege of Louisburg in Quebec. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant and was at the capture of Martinique and Havana in the West Indies. Montgomery then returned to New York at the close of the war with France in 1763 and returned to England until 1773 when he returned to America. He purchased a farm at King's Bridge, Westchester County, New York and married Janet Livingston in July 1773. They then moved to Rhinebeck overlooking the Hudson River. Richard was a delegate to the 1st Continental Congress in New York in May 1775. In June 1775 he became a brigadier-general in the American Revolutionary army. He was second in command in the invasion of Canada and later took full command. He took St. John's and then Montreal, which capitulated on 12th November 1775. For this victory Congress raised him to rank of major general. Along with Benedict Arnold they attacked Quebec on 3rd December 1775 during a snow storm when Montgomery was shot. The British commander at Quebec, Sir Guy Carleton who was born near Strabane, gave him a military burial. In 1776 the Second Continental Congress paid tribute to him and had a memorial erected to him, the first one authorised by Congress. It came from France and was erected in 1789. It stands in New York beside St. Paul's Church directly across from where the World Trade Centre once stood. In 1818 Janet Montgomery spearheaded a movement to have Richard's body removed from Quebec and reburied in St. Paul's churchyard. In 1901 a memorial tablet was erected by the Sons of the American Revolution at the spot where he fell at Quebec. The city of Montgomery, the capital of Alabama was named after him, as was Montgomery in Texas. Also 4 US Navy ships and a WWII Liberty Ship have been called after him.



Henry Hutchinson Montgomery (1847 - 1932)

Bishop of Tasmania

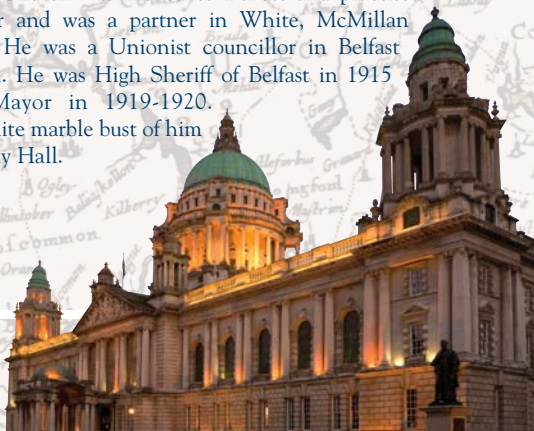
The Montgomery's had family homes in different parts of Donegal, at Killaghtee and Moville. Henry Hutchinson Montgomery was Bishop of Tasmania 1889 - 1901. He was born on 3rd October 1847 at Cawnpore, India, where his father was Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab. He was ordained deacon in 1871 and was made a priest in 1872. He was consecrated Bishop of Tasmania on 1st May 1889 and took up residence in Hobart. While there he nearly doubled the number of churches in the diocese. In July 1901 he was appointed to the secretaryship of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. In 1906 he was made prelate of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Montgomery was a unionist and in 1912 he was one of the leading churchmen who signed the Ulster Covenant against Home Rule. He resigned from the SPG in 1918 and retired to the family home at New Park, Moville. He was the author of 25 books and in 1930 he wrote a series of articles about the town of Moville. He died on 25th November 1932 and was buried in the Moville church cemetery.



John Campbell White (d 1923)

Lord Mayor of Belfast

John was born in Milford where his father was the first minister of Milford Presbyterian Church. He moved to Belfast and practised as a solicitor and was a partner in White, McMillan & Wheeler. He was a Unionist councillor in Belfast City Council. He was High Sheriff of Belfast in 1915 and Lord Mayor in 1919-1920. There is a white marble bust of him in Belfast City Hall.





Ulster-Scots Heritage Council

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