



ENTER OUR  
COMPETITION, PAGE 16

## Young pipers and drummers are honoured at Stormont



At recent Celebrating Achievement events, talented youngsters from across Ulster were awarded certificates in Lambeg Drumming; and Piping, Drumming & Drum Majoring **PAGES 8-9**



OMAGH PROTESTANT BOYS MELODY FLUTE BAND TRAVEL TO SAVANNAH FOR US PARADE

SEE PAGE 3



ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY LAUNCHES NEW EXHIBITION ON THE LIFE OF ANDREW JACKSON

SEE PAGE 5



BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATIONS TELEVISED IN TRIUMPH FOR THE ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY

SEE PAGE 3

## Fair faa ye



As you are aware, it has been a while since our last edition of the Ulster-Scot, however, I would like to express my thanks to you, our readers, for conveying a keen interest in seeing another issue of our paper.

So far, 2019 is turning out to be another busy year for the Agency. In January, we kicked off the year with our Annual Burns Celebrations. This concert took place at the iconic Titanic Belfast and featured Eddi Reader, Phil Cunningham plus a wealth of local Ulster-Scots talent. The show was then broadcast on BBC Northern Ireland and Scotland on Burns night reaching an audience of over 160,000 people. During March and April, the Ulster-Scots Agency was represented at a number of high profile events in the United States. The Omagh Protestant Boys travelled alongside the Agency to Savannah, Georgia to take part in a number of engagements leading up to their Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade (read more on Page 3). In April, the Agency also collaborated with the Maine Ulster-Scots Project to launch their new publication "1718 -2018, Reflections on 300 years of the Scots-Irish in Maine" (Page 6), as well as attending 'Founders Weekend' in New Hampshire and launching a new Scotch-Irish play in New York (read more on Page 3).

Our links with the United States are also making waves on this side of the pond as we launched our new Andrew Jackson exhibition commemorating the first Scotch-Irish President (Page 5). We ran our annual Celebrating Achievement events in Piping, Drumming, Drum Majoring and Lambeg Drumming at Parliament Buildings Stormont (Page 8-9). This year, we witnessed a record number of students awarded with their OCN certificates following a successful tuition programme within their respective schools across Ulster. As you can see from the stories in this paper, Ulster-Scots is continuing to be celebrated within the local community both here in Ulster and the United States. We hope this success continues and we can't wait to share some more of our exciting projects with you in the next edition!

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency

## The Ulster-Scot

The official newspaper for the Ulster-Scots Agency /  
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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# World premiere of Ulster-Scots play

**The Ulster-Scots Agency in partnership with the Northern Ireland Bureau and the Origin Theatre Company marked the world premiere of 'The Land of Promise,' a new play that celebrated the arrival of Scotch-Irish to America.**

Making its debut at the state-of-the-art Sheen Centre, New York City recently, this play was part of the Carnegie Festival of Migration: 'The Making of America' - a citywide festival that celebrates people from different origins and backgrounds who helped to shape and influence the evolution of American arts and culture. Penned by renowned producer and writer Turlough McConnell and directed by George C. Heslin, Founding Artistic Director of the Origins Theatre Company, this production explored the story of how the Scotch-Irish became the Pioneers, Patriots and Presidents of the United States through a celebratory evening of music, song and dance.

Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language, Ulster-Scots Agency commented: "The Ulster-Scots Agency is very pleased to stage this exciting event in New York in association with the Northern Ireland Bureau.

"This first of its kind event will tell the story about Ulster-Scots migration to America and the enduring legacy of these people.

He continued: "It's an honour to be able to raise awareness of Ulster-Scots migration as part of the Carnegie Festival of Migration in New York City. This is part of a programme of work led by the Ulster-Scots Agency in the United States that helps to raise awareness of Ulster-Scots history and heritage at home and abroad.

"There is a large Ulster-Scots diaspora in the United States and the Agency has led a series of projects including exhibitions, celebrations of



Ulster-Scots in the USA and learning collaborations between schools in Ulster and the USA, all aimed at educating those at home and abroad about the Ulster-Scots contribution

and legacy to government and society in the USA."

This event formed part of a visit to the United States in April 2019 by the Ulster-Scots Agency to promote Ulster-Scots history, language and culture. The Ulster-Scots Agency was also present at the Nutfield 300 Founders Weekend in Londonderry, New Hampshire from Friday, April 12 to Sunday, April 14.

This festival celebrated the town's strong links to Co. Londonderry and the influence of Ulster-Scots history and culture within the area linking back to the 1718 migration of Rev. James McGregor of Aghadowey, Co. Londonderry and 16 Ulster-Scots families who settled in Nutfield, later to be renamed Londonderry.

## CLICK ON THIS...

For details of what's on check out our events calendar -  
[www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events)

For Ulster-Scots news -  
[www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news)

To sign up for the Ulster-Scots E-Newsletter -  
visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe/register](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/newsletter/subscribe/register) your details and receive updates on the areas that you are most interested.

Join us on Facebook - visit [www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency](http://www.facebook.com/UlsterScotsAgency) now and like our page to keep up to date on what's happening, upload your photos from Ulster-Scots events and share your comments.



## WORD OF THE ISSUE

### Heartsome

Meaning:  
Cheering,  
encouraging

# New publication tells the story of Tyrone WWI nursing heroines

**A new book telling the story of a group of Co Tyrone nurses who established a hospital in France during the First World War was launched by the Ulster-Scots Agency recently.**

'Tell Them of Us', by local author Claire McElhinney, tells the story of a courageous group of women who trained as part of the Ulster Volunteer Medical and Nursing Corps during the Third Home Rule crisis and volunteered for active service following the outbreak of war. Their offer of service had been rejected by the British military authorities, who didn't think they would need extra nurses, therefore the Tyrone women volunteered to serve with the French forces and established the Ulster Volunteer Hospital at Pau, near the Pyrenees. Claire, a local history enthusiast, was inspired to research the story of the Tyrone nurses as her grandmother, Edith Harkness, was one of the volunteers who sailed for France in 1914 to serve at the Ulster Volunteer Hospital during the war. Claire said: "During the last four years there has been a huge amount of work done on the Great War, but much of it has focused on the stories of the fighting men.

"I hope my book will help to redress the balance, shedding new light on the story of pioneering women from Ulster and letting my grandmother Edith and her fellow volunteers have their voices heard 100 years later." Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive Ian Crozier added: "The Agency is proud to have been involved in helping to tell the story of a group of courageous women from the Ulster-Scots community who did extraordinary things in extraordinary times, from their activity in Ulster during the Home Rule crisis to their efforts in France and eventually England during the Great War." The launch was attended by over 200 people and commenced with remarks from HM Lord Lieutenant of Co Tyrone, Robert Scott OBE with performances by the Omagh Protestant Boys melody flute band and a selection of WWI songs by the Strule River String Band, of which Claire McElhinney is also a member. It marks the latest of a series of projects undertaken by the Ulster-Scots Agency under the theme of Ulster and the Great War, which has included developing exhibitions and publications, erecting Blue Plaques and distributing educational resources to every school in Ulster.



Ian Crozier, Claire McElhinney, HM Lord Lieutenant for Tyrone, Robert Scott OBE and Amanda Porter, project manager

## Series of lectures kicks off

**The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre will be hosting a series of lectures and discussion over a period of 10 weeks with historian and author Alister McReynolds at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast.**

This series of talks entitled: "The Scotch-Irish in America, an exploration of the connections through music, poetry and events," will allow Alister to speak about the influential figures with Scotch-Irish roots and their impact on the music/literature of the world.

Following the event, there will be an opportunity for guests to chat about these Scotch-Irish figures and explore the impact that they had on the wider community.

Confirmed dates are:

**September 6**  
**September 13**  
**September 20**  
**September 27**  
**October 4**  
**October 18**  
**October 25**  
**November 8**  
**November 15**  
**November 22**

For more information, contact the Discover Ulster-Scots at (0)28 9023 1113 or email discoverulsterscots@gmail.com.

## Ulster-Scots Agency takes Savannah by storm in US parade

**The Ulster-Scots Agency recently supported the Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band in appearing at the Annual St Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia.**

The St Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia is the second largest in the USA attracting almost one million people to watch the three-mile parade in the city.

The Parade Committee requested an Ulster based marching band that represented the Ulster-Scots tradition and the Ulster-Scots Agency worked with the Northern Ireland Bureau and The Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs to make this trip possible. The Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band travelled to Savannah Georgia for a number of engagements in the city, including a Military Parade, a performance for the Mayor at a city centre reception, the St Patrick's Day Parade and a performance for the St Andrew's Society of Savannah. Spirits were high during the family-day event with celebrations taking place in a dignified way.



Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language in the Ulster Scots Agency said: "There was an enormous amount of planning involved in this tour with more than 30 people travelling. As well as the logistics, it was important that we organised high-profile engagements which allowed the band opportunities to perform to a wide range of audiences. It was great to see so much cultural diversity represented at a St Patrick's Day celebration, with bands from High Schools, Police Forces, The Armed Forces and of course the Ulster-Scots tradition represented by the Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band."

## Titanic celebration held in memory of iconic Robert Burns

**Titanic Belfast was the setting for Burns by the Lagan, a spectacular musical celebration to celebrate the life and legacy of iconic Scottish poet, Robert Burns, hosted by the Ulster-Scots Agency.**

Celebrated Scottish musicians, Phil Cunningham MBE, Aly Bain and Eddi Reader made the journey across the water to entertain a packed venue, alongside some of the best young talent Ulster has to offer. Acclaimed Scottish actor David Hayman also made an appearance, reciting some of Burns' best-loved works of poetry to a rapt audience. Scots folk legend, and the event's musical director, Phil Cunningham MBE, said: "It is always a pleasure to perform in Northern Ireland. The evening was a spectacular celebration of Ulster-Scots culture, heritage and art. I would like to thank all of the artists involved, and of course, all of the people who came along – it was a wonderful experience."

Ian Crozier, Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency added: "Robert Burns is a cultural icon and it felt very fitting to celebrate his genius within the atmospheric location of Titanic Belfast. We are also extremely proud that the event was

recorded for inclusion in a television programme which was broadcast in both Ulster and Scotland on Burns Night, which was a major achievement for Ulster-Scots." Burns by the Lagan was broadcast on BBC 2 Northern Ireland and Scotland on Friday, January 25. Meanwhile also in January, the Ulster-Scots Agency organised a Burns Night Celebration at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Raphoe where over 70 Burns enthusiasts joined together to commemorate the 260th Birthday of Scotland's National Bard. Guests were treated to performances from Moyne Highland Dancers and the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band, as well as a special performance from Stewart Buchanan, Chair of Monreagh Heritage Centre.



# 'Father of Ulster-Scots Studies' awarded Blue Plaque in Larne



**The Ulster-Scots Agency and the Ulster History Circle commemorated Robert J. Gregg (1912-1998) scholar, linguist, founder of Ulster-Scots Studies, with the unveiling of a Blue Plaque last month at Larne Museum & Arts Centre.**

The plaque was unveiled by William Gregg, the son of Robert J. Gregg. William, who lives in Toronto, travelled to Larne especially for the occasion which marked Larne's first Ulster History Circle Blue Plaque.

## Making history

Born on July 2, 1912 in a house on the Glenarm Road, Robert John Gregg was the eldest son of Thomas Gregg and Margaret McDowell. The McDowell family came from the Glynn/Gleno area of Larne. In 1905, Robert's grandfather, George Gregg and his family arrived in Larne from the Clough area of Co Antrim. George Gregg & Sons commenced a very successful road contracting business, and many of the roads in and around Larne were built by the Gregg Company. Young Robert J. Gregg attended Larne Grammar



School, before graduating from Queen's University, Belfast with a BA Honours in Languages, and attributed his interest in the Ulster-Scots dialects from a very early age to his mother and his McDowell aunts. The McDowell's farm was in the area of Glynn/Gleno where there was a thriving Ulster-Scots language, and in later life, Robert said that he owed them a "debt of gratitude" for encouraging him as he became fascinated by the number of dialects he heard at school, and in the villages in east Antrim.

## Intensive research

Robert started collecting linguistic material and by 1930 he was compiling a notebook and had commenced intensive research on the Ulster-Scots language which was to last for seven decades. His passion for language led to a very successful career as senior modern language master at Regent House School, Newtownards and senior master at the Belfast Mercantile College, from 1939-1954. Apart from French, German and Spanish, the talented linguist spoke Russian and Latin, whilst

his work on the Ulster-Scots language continued. In 1953, his MA dissertation at Queen's University, on the phonology of the East Antrim Ulster-Scots he knew so well, formed the basis of his later work, doctoral thesis: *The Boundaries of the Scotch-Irish Dialects in Ulster*. However, in 1954 Robert decided to emigrate to Vancouver, Canada with his wife Millicent and family.

## Vancouver bound

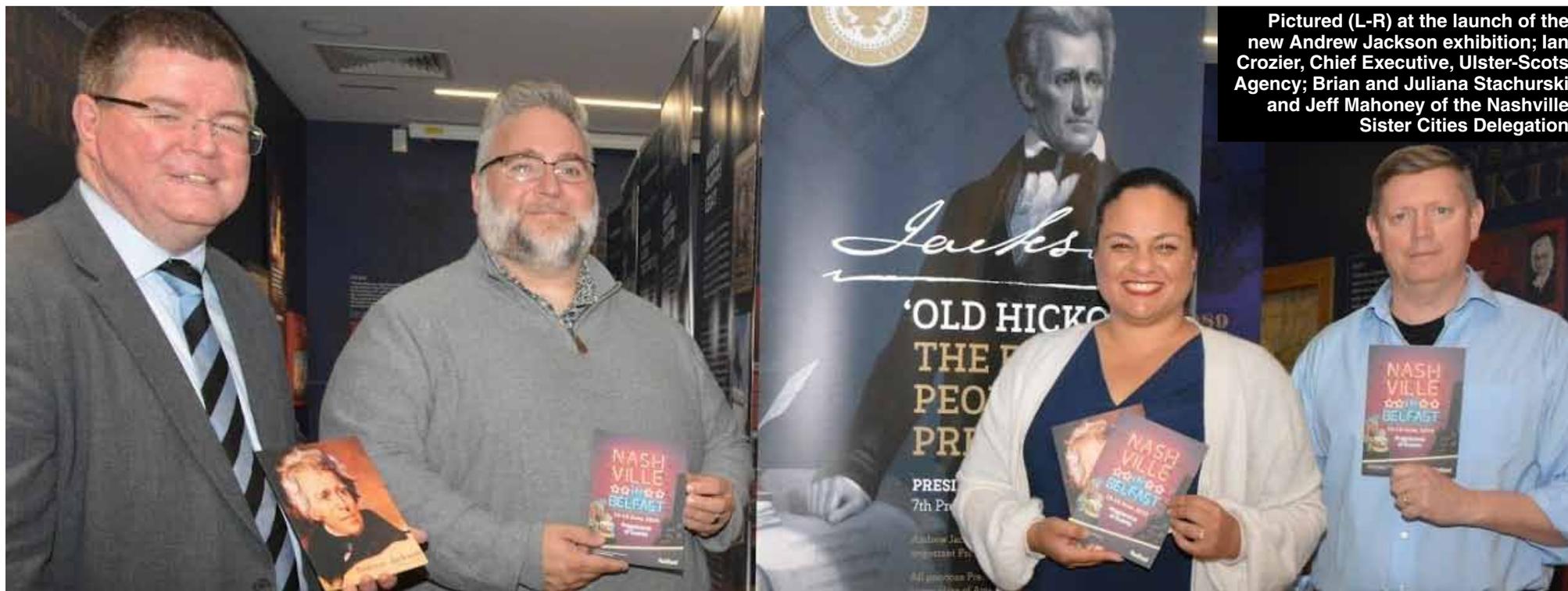
Robert taught in Vancouver for the next 25 years, becoming Assistant Professor of French at the University of British Columbia; then in 1969 as Professor in the Department of Linguistics, and finally as Head of Department from 1972-1980, when after a distinguished career, he retired. His years in Canada saw the professor set up a language laboratory in the University of British Columbia, write at least six articles on the English spoken in Vancouver and environs, and edit the prestigious Gage Dictionary of Canadian English. Robert kept an abiding interest in the dialects of his homeland and remained in very close contact with colleagues back in Ulster. His daughter, Margaret

Gilley in Vancouver, tells the Ulster-Scots Agency that in 1960 her father travelled back to Ulster on a year's sabbatical from UBC, during which time he attended and spoke at the conference inaugurating the Ulster Dialect Archive at the Ulster Folk Museum. The year's absence enabled the culmination of three decades of his informal observations and documentation, and the mapping of where Ulster-Scots was spoken in parts of Antrim, Down, Londonderry and Donegal. The map became a classic and continues to be cited and reproduced by scholars as a point of reference on the geography of the Ulster-Scots speech areas.

## 'Tireless founder and life-long student'

For a time professor Robert J. Gregg was Co-Editor of the Ulster Dialect Dictionary project, and when the Department of Education commissioned the 400 page, Concise Ulster Dictionary, he was enlisted as a consultant. Much of his own material he donated to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, and he was more than generous in making all of his research available to others.

Vice-Chairman of the Ulster History Circle, Paul Clements commented: "Professor Gregg was a tireless founder and life-long student of Ulster-Scots studies. He was a renowned scholar, a writer, and a teacher of languages who emigrated to Canada in 1954 but always retained a great love of Ulster and its speech, and played an important role in preserving the Ulster dialect. Robert Gregg was a trailblazer in language, and many of the words and phrases that we enjoy today are the result of his research and pioneering work in the 1950s and 1960s." The Ulster History Circle is grateful to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards this plaque, and to the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for permitting the Circle to place the plaque at the Larne Museum, formerly the Carnegie Library, a place that would have been well known to Robert Gregg as a boy. Professor Robert J. Gregg, one of Larne's most gifted sons; the man known as the 'Father of Ulster-Scots Studies' never forgot his Ulster roots, and his pioneering work in the study of Ulster-Scots as an academic discipline is incalculable.



Pictured (L-R) at the launch of the new Andrew Jackson exhibition; Ian Crozier, Chief Executive, Ulster-Scots Agency; Brian and Juliana Stachurski and Jeff Mahoney of the Nashville Sister Cities Delegation

# Remembering the first Scotch-Irish US President

“It is important for everyone in Northern Ireland to understand the relationship we have with Nashville and the USA”

**T**he Ulster-Scots Agency launched a new exhibition celebrating the life of Andrew Jackson, the first Scotch-Irish President of the United States of America and Nashville's most famous son as Belfast City Council's programme of activity 'Nashville in Belfast' returned to the city for another year.

The launch took place at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter and drew a wide audience, which included members of the Nashville Sister Cities delegation, who were in the city for the week's festivities. Launching the new exhibition, Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive Ian Crozier said: “It is important for everyone in Northern Ireland to understand the relationship that we have with Nashville and with the USA more widely. The Ulster-Scots people in Northern Ireland and the Scotch-Irish people in the USA are kith and kin. Many of the most significant events in the history of the USA have been driven by people, including Andrew Jackson, whose roots are here in Ulster: and their outlook on life was shaped by

our shared heritage as a people and the journey from Scotland to Ulster and then on to America. It is a relationship that all of us should be proud of and it is a relationship that can and should be the foundation for positive social, economic and cultural developments on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Andrew Jackson's family left Boneybefore, outside Carrickfergus, around 1765 and the future President was born around two years later. As a young man, he married Rachel Donelson, whose father John was a co-founder of Nashville. He had emigrated from Carnmoney, between Belfast and Carrickfergus.

Nashville in Belfast was a five-day festival of events ran by Belfast City Council to celebrate the strong links between Belfast, capital city of Northern Ireland and Nashville, state capital of Tennessee. The new exhibition, “Andrew Jackson – The First People's President,” is currently on display at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre and will be available for hire. To find out more, email [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) or call 02890 231 113.

Freddie Kettle and Ida Fisher at the launch of the Agency's new Andrew Jackson Exhibition



# Transatlantic launch of new Maine Ulster-Scots publication

**T**he Ulster-Scots Agency celebrated its partnership with the Maine Ulster-Scots Project by launching a new publication '1718 – 2018, Reflections on 300 years of the Scotch-Irish in Maine.'

The dual launch took place on both sides of the Atlantic, firstly on Thursday, April 11 at the Freeport Community Library, Maine and then on Wednesday, June 19 at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast.

'1718 – 2018, Reflections on 300 years of the Scotch-Irish in Maine' was produced following an academic conference at Bowdoin College in 2018. As a result of this conference, 19 authors were chosen for inclusion in this new publication.

The book contains a mixture of papers - academic, poetic and personal, sharing the Ulster-Scots / Scotch-Irish stories of those who migrated from Ulster to Maine, New England.

## Enduring legacy

Guest speakers at the launch event at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast included; Dr. William Roulston, Ulster Historical Foundation; Alister McReynolds, author and historian; Sarah Carson, museum manger, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council; and Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language, Ulster-Scots Agency.

Speaking about this new publication, Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language at the Ulster-Scots Agency commented: "There is a very large Ulster-Scots diaspora in the United States.

"This publication makes a valuable contribution to help raise awareness about the people, their impact on America and their enduring legacy. There are tangible reminders of the links between Ulster and Maine.

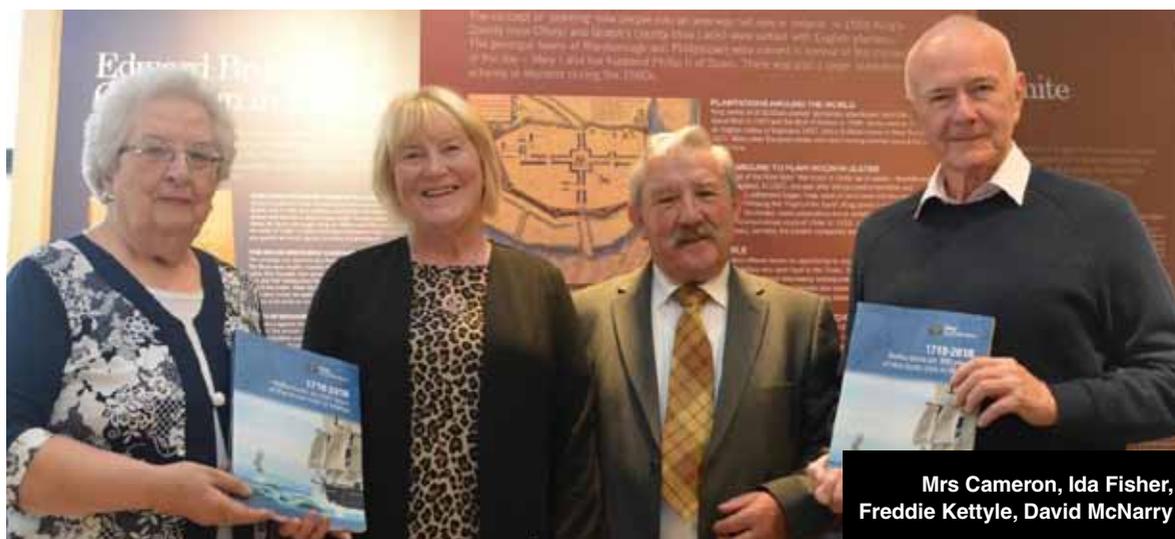
Towns and places in the state share names with those the early Ulster-Scots settlers left behind in Ulster."

Mr Hanna continued: "The Ulster-Scots Agency and the Maine Ulster Scots Project have established a meaningful and productive partnership in which we share common objectives. The Ulster-Scots Agency is delighted to be involved with this publication and would like to thank all of the contributors as well as our friends at the Maine Ulster-Scots Project for the meticulous work in making this publication possible."

**Copies of '1718 – 2018, Reflections on 300 years of the Scotch-Irish in Maine' are priced at £20 and are available from the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, 1-9 Victoria Street, Belfast, BT1 3GA. Readers are invited to contact: 028 90 43 6710 for further details or alternatively, email: info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk for more information.**



Sarah Carson, Museum Manager, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council; Alister McReynolds, Author and Historian; Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language, Ulster-Scots Agency and Dr. William Roulston, Ulster Historical Foundation are pictured at the launch of a new Ulster-Scots publication

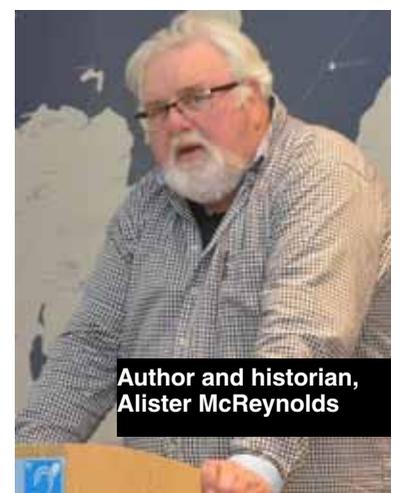


Mrs Cameron, Ida Fisher, Freddie Kettle, David McNarry



Dr. William Roulston, Ulster Historical Foundation

Guests attend the book launch at the Freeport Library, Maine



Author and historian, Alister McReynolds

# Legacy of Ulster's linen industry

## Woven in Ulster: Ulster-Scots and the 'Story of Linen'

**The Ulster-Scots Agency celebrated the history of Ulster's thriving Linen Industry by supporting CCEA in creating a new educational pupil resource 'Woven in Ulster: Ulster-Scots and the Story of Linen.'**

At an event at the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum, Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language alongside Janice MacArthur, Education Manager, CCEA presented copies of this new educational book to Councillor James Tinsley, Chair of the Leisure Services Committee at Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

A new website 'Woven in Ulster: Ulster-Scots and the Story of Linen' was also created to support these resource manuals.

This website is currently available to all Northern Ireland Primary School teachers through CCEA at [www.ccea.org.uk/woven\\_ulster](http://www.ccea.org.uk/woven_ulster).

Speaking at the event, Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language at the Ulster-Scots Agency commented:

"The Ulster-Scots Agency was delighted to work in partnership with CCEA to develop this new resource.

"By mapping this story into the school curriculum, it provides valuable teaching and learning opportunities for teachers and students.

"This is an important curriculum



Copies of 'Woven in Ulster' are presented to the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum. Pictured (L-R) Paul Allison, Museum Services Manager; Janice MacArthur, Education Manager, CCEA; Ricard Hanna, Director of Education and Language, Ulster-Scots Agency and Councillor James Tinsley, Chair of the Leisure Services Committee, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

resource that helps to raise awareness of the significant impact that the linen industry had on the economy and society of Ulster. To this day, the legacy of that industry still endures in both urban and rural communities and within our landscape."

Janice MacArthur, Education Manager, CCEA added: 'The production of linen was such a major part of the history of Ulster and the Ulster-Scots community played a significant role in that.

"This Key Stage 2 resource, linked to the Northern Ireland Curriculum, explores that link and provides teachers with all the necessary resources to teach this Key Stage 2 local history World Around Us topic.

"In Ulster practically every town and village had a mill or factory and many of our pupils will have had someone in their family who was involved with the linen industry. We are delighted that the Lisburn Museum will use this resource with visiting schools and we would

encourage our Primary School World Around Us coordinators to contact us at: [cceadistribution@ccea.org.uk](mailto:cceadistribution@ccea.org.uk), or telephone: (028) 9026 1200 (ext 2161) for their copy of the resource."

On the day, Collette Brownlee, Education Service Officer expressed her thanks to the Ulster-Scots Agency and CCEA for approaching Lisburn Museum to be part of the development of this resource, she commented:

"The Irish Linen Centre was

delighted to assist in the development of Woven in Ulster, by facilitating CCEA's teacher training days at Lisburn Museum.

"Through a series of online resource videos shot here at the Lisburn Museum, teachers will get to see real hands-on demonstrations by one of our education team, Philip Simpson.

"Schools are welcome to come along here with their pupils to see the museum and experience the story of linen for themselves."

## Ulster-Scots Festivals for 2019

**The Ulster-Scots Agency has supported a varied range of Ulster-Scots community festivals this year.**

The festivals are being held throughout Ulster, offering a wide variety of Ulster-Scots activities to attend.

A number of festivals have already concluded and successfully attracted large numbers of attendees. These festivals included a number of new activities, chiefly an outdoor Ulster-Scots Tattoo in Rathfriland showcasing the local talents of Ulster-Scots music and dance. Other novel events included Ulster-Scots guided walking tours and Highland Dance flash mob's on Londonderry's walls, as well as annual events such as the Ulster-Scots outdoor concert in Kilkeel and Ulster-Scots music and dance displays during the July 13 event in Scarva.

### Upcoming events

Upcoming festivals still have plenty more to offer for all the family, such as an Ulster-Scots ceildh in Seskinore, a family fun day as part of the Livingston festival in Killinchy,

an Ulster-Scots art exhibition in Belfast, Ulster-Scots poetry workshops in schools promoting the Ulster-Scots language, living history tours within Belfast graveyards telling the stories of some notable Ulster-Scots, and a flax demonstration at Monreagh Ulster Scots Heritage & Education Centre as part of their Ulster-Scots Genealogy Family History Festival.

Derek Reaney, Development Officer with the Ulster-Scots Agency, said that the Agency was delighted to offer funding to these festivals and was particularly encouraged by the number of new applicants as well as those planning to deliver high profile events.

"This year there are a number of festivals offering new, innovative Ulster-Scots events, potentially creating further interest and attracting new crowds.

"The Ulster-Scots Agency would encourage community groups to get involved and they would be happy to meet with those thinking of running a festival next year, or indeed those wishing to expand their existing festival.

"Please email Derek directly at: [reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)."



# 2019 record year for local you

## Beating the Drum for Ulster-Scots at Parliament Buildings

**A**t a recent Ulster-Scots Agency's Celebrating Achievement event, a number of talented children were presented with their Open College Network (OCN) Certificates in Lambeg Drumming.

The Ulster-Scots Agency has a keen interest in promoting Ulster-Scots musical traditions, particularly amongst children, and the Lambeg drum, an instrument indigenous to Ulster, has proven to be popular amongst students in both the primary and post-primary sectors. This year, over 180 children from Carr's Glen Primary School, Culcroe Primary School, Oakfield Primary School, Glynn Primary School and Tandragee Junior Orange Lodge took part in Lambeg tuition as part of the Ulster-Scots Agency's Flagship School Programme and Music and Dance in Schools Programme. Michelle McIlveen MLA hosted this event at the iconic Parliament Buildings, Stormont and presented these delighted pupils with their OCN Lambeg Drumming Certificates as family and friends watched on. Michelle McIlveen MLA commented: "I would like to commend the Ulster-Scots Agency on the work they do in

promoting and reinvigorating interest in traditions such as drumming. It is always a pleasure to support the OCN Lambeg Drumming Awards. The Lambeg has been a part of our culture for hundreds of years and the OCN course is playing an important role in ensuring its continued place in our culture. With large numbers of graduates each year, it is incredibly encouraging to see that there remains a keen interest in the instrument and that its use is flourishing."

Speaking about the event, Ian Crozier, Chief Executive, Ulster-Scots Agency commented: "Ulster-Scots has a rich heritage of music and dance.

"Each year the Ulster-Scots Agency provides grants to schools to provide music tuition for learners and the programmes give young people the opportunity to develop new skills playing a musical instrument. The skills they learn are accredited externally by the Open College Network.

He continued: "As well as learning to play an instrument young people get opportunities to collaborate with others and learn about Ulster-Scots heritage and culture through the medium of music."



## Pupils delight in Piping and Drumming

**P**arliament Buildings, Stormont was the venue for a major celebration of new Ulster-Scots performers recently when the Ulster-Scots Agency hosted its annual graduation for young pipers, drummers and drum majors.

The event was the opportunity for pupils from 39 different tuition classes across Ulster to receive their Foundation Certificates, which are accredited by the Ulster-Scots Agency and Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI.

The bagpipe, snare drum and tenor drum are instruments very much associated with Ulster-Scots heritage and culture along with drum majoring.

'Celebrating Achievement' has grown from strength to strength since its introduction in 2012, and this year, a record number of students took part in piping, drumming and drum majoring tuition classes.

Schools participating in this year's programme included: Abercorn Primary School, Ballytreah Primary School, Banbridge High School, Campbell College, Carnaghts Primary School, Carrntall Primary School, Coagh Primary School, Cookstown High School, Cooley Primary School, Donaghney Primary



Ian Burrows, RSPBA NI Officer alongside young piper Matthew Armstrong

School, Down Academy Pipe and Drums, Dromore High School, Drumlins Integrated Primary School, Fivemiletown College, Fort Hill Integrated Primary School, Kilross Primary School, Magherafelt Primary School, Moneymore Primary School, Newmills Primary School and Old Warren Primary School. Omagh Academy, Omagh Country Primary School, Omagh

High School, Orritor Primary School, Parkhall Primary School, Phoenix Integrated Primary School, Portadown Integrated Primary School, Rainey Endowed School, Royal School Dungannon, RSPBA NI Banbridge, RSPBA NI Enniskillen, Saintfield High School, Scarva Primary School, Stewartstown Primary School, The High School Ballynahinch.

Wallace High School and Wallace Preparatory Department also took place in the programme.

Michelle McIlveen MLA, who kindly hosted the event at Parliament Buildings, Stormont was on hand to present certificates to pupils as their family members proudly watched on. Michelle McIlveen MLA commented: "I hosted the first of these events back in 2012 and I have always been greatly encouraged by the sustained growth in the number of participants

"The pipes and drums have a long history in Northern Ireland and the numerous competitions which take place across the country have a strong and loyal following.

"There is a buzz and a palpable excitement in a town or locality where a contest is taking place as well as an important increase in footfall in the commercial centres of those areas.

"This all points to a vibrant and flourishing part of our cultural tradition.

"This programme has and will contribute to the growth of that tradition."

Speaking about the event, Ian Crozier, Chief Executive, Ulster-Scots Agency added:

"In our first ever graduation event in 2012, we saw 28 participants

receiving certificates in the Long Gallery at Stormont; this year, the Great Hall had to be used for two separate events on the same night, as 239 pupils had completed a Foundation Certificate.

"Here in Ulster we have a reputation as world beaters when it comes to pipe bands.

"We want to ensure that reputation continues long into the future; and with the huge number of young people and level of achievement represented here tonight, we can be sure that the legacy of excellence which has been built over decades will be in safe hands with the next generation of Ulster-Scots musicians."

This event was enthusiastically attended by both members of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBA NI) and Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA). On arrival visitors were also treated to a demonstration in Highland bagpiping by Ian Burrows, RSPBA NI officer.

**To find out more about the range of School tuition programmes available, visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com), email [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) or call 028 9023 1113.**

# ng Ulster-Scots musicians



Pupils from Carr's Glen Primary School, Oakfield Primary School and Glynn Primary School proudly show off their Lambeg Drumming Certificates at the Ulster-Scots Agency's Celebrating Achievement event at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on May 30. Joining the pupils on stage are Michelle McIlveen MLA and Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language, Ulster-Scots Agency



Pictured (L-R) Ashtyn McAllister, Oakfield Primary School; Willie Hill, Tutor; Michelle McIlveen MLA; David Swann, Tutor; Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language, Ulster-Scots Agency and Nathan Grant, Oakfield Primary School



Richard Hanna, Director of Education and Language, USA, Michelle McIlveen MLA and Winston Pinkerton, RSPBNI president attended



Michelle McIlveen MLA hosted the event at Parliament Buildings, Stormont and was on hand to present certificates to pupils



Michelle McIlveen pictured alongside William Buchanan from Raphoe Ulster-Scots tuition classes

# Golf: The 19th-century institution has “survived the ravages of time”

Written by Gordon Lucy

**It is often alleged, with more authority than the observation merits, that the word ‘golf’, ‘originated as an acronym for ‘gentlemen only, ladies forbidden.’ This mildly amusing theory, which no doubt appeals to sad old misogynists and ardent feminists alike, deserves short shrift.**

The word ‘golf’ first appears in a Scottish statue of 1457 relating to forbidden games as ‘gouf’, possibly derived from the Scots word ‘goulf’ meaning ‘to strike or cuff’. The word may be derived from the Dutch word *kolf* meaning ‘bat’, or ‘club’, and the Dutch game of the same name. The first game of golf for which records survive was played at Bruntsfield Links in Edinburgh in 1456. The modern game of golf spread from Scotland to England and has now become a worldwide game, with golf courses in the majority of affluent countries. Golf Digest in 2005 calculated that there were almost 32,000 golf courses in the world, approximately half of them in the United States. The countries with most golf courses in relation to population, beginning with those best supplied with courses were: Scotland, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Canada, Wales, United States, Sweden, and England. How golf came to this Ireland is hotly disputed. Some contend that Hugh Montgomery, of Hamilton and Montgomery fame, established the first golf course in Ireland at Newtown (now Newtownards) in the first decade of the seventeenth

century. The course was attached to the school which he had founded in the town.

Army officers at the Curragh, Co. Kildare, founded the first golf club in Ireland: the Royal Curragh Golf Club. Other Irish clubs too have a degree of military origin. For example, Sligo Golf Club at Rosses Point was founded in 1894 by Lieutenant Colonel James Campbell of the Sligo Militia.

The first non-military golf club to be founded in Ireland was founded on 9 November 1881. Some credit the club’s foundation to Thomas Sinclair, the prominent Ulster Liberal (and subsequently Liberal Unionist) politician and future organizer of the Ulster Unionist Convention of 1892 and author of the Ulster Covenant of 1912. Sinclair, a man acutely and proudly aware of his Ulster-Scots ancestry, had witnessed golf being played at St Andrews and was hooked there and then by the game. Others give the credit to George Baillie, a Scot who taught English at Belfast Royal Academy, the longest established school in Belfast. As Thomas Sinclair was the first President of the Club and George Baillie was the club’s first honorary secretary any such argument will strike intelligent men and women as rather silly. In all probability, Sinclair enlisted the Scot’s support to establish the club.

Originally named Belfast Golf Club, it became the Royal Belfast Golf Club after the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VII) visited the club in 1885. The Prince also became the Club’s first patron. Only four Irish clubs



**Following the recent huge success of the Portrush Open, Gordon Lucy details how golf has survived the ravages of time**

have been honoured with the prefix ‘Royal’.

In 1886 Arthur James Balfour, a Scot and nephew of the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, the Prime Minister, and an enthusiast for golf, was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland (a position broadly comparable to that held by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland). Although Balfour is best remembered for his policy of ‘Constructive Unionism’ or ‘Killing Home Rule with Kindness’, Balfour’s political and social prestige also gave golf a tremendous fillip, especially among Unionists. By 1891 there were 10 golf clubs and courses in Ireland, nine of which were in Ulster.

The Golfing Union of Ireland was founded on 12 October 1891 and is

the oldest Golfing Union in the world. Two years later the Irish Ladies’ Golf Union was founded. It is the oldest Ladies Golf Union in the world. A men’s amateur championship began in 1893 and two years later the first professional tournament in Ireland and the first ladies championship in the world were held in Portrush, Co. Antrim.

The Portrush club was founded in 1888 as ‘The County Club’. It became ‘The Royal County Club’ in 1892 under the patronage of the Duke of York (the future King George V) and assumed the title ‘Royal Portrush’ in 1895 (like Royal Belfast Golf Club) under the patronage of the Prince of Wales. The Nobel Laureate Rudyard Kipling was very keen on Portrush, observing that it

had a “golf course second only to St Andrews.”

The sport grew steadily in popularity, enjoying the patronage of substantial land-owners, the professional classes and the commercial and industrial elite, groups which would have been disproportionately Ulster-Scots in composition.

The expansion of the railway network also greatly assisted the popularity of golf and individual golf courses. The Northern Counties’ Railway was largely responsible for promoting golf at Portrush, where the station master would often delay the Belfast train to accommodate returning golfers. The Belfast and County Down Railway played an important role in the emergence of Royal County Down which opened in 1889. At one stage the railway station at Newcastle doubled as a golf clubhouse. The Great Northern Railway claimed it was ‘the line for golf links.’ In 1910 it boasted that it served 10 1-hole golf courses and 18 nine-hole courses.

The GNR owned the golf course at Bundoran, Co. Donegal, which was adjacent to its hotel there.

Not all Ulster-Scots are golf enthusiasts.

Mark Twain once famously observed that golf is a good walk ruined.

However most golfers love to ruin their day even more by playing on extremely challenging golf courses. Each to his own (or ‘chacun à son goût’ as the French say).

It also has to be conceded that few 19th-century institutions have survived the ravages of time with the same aplomb as golf clubs.

## Newtownbutler Primary School victorious at Hawick Reivers

The Ulster-Scots Agency attended the Hawick Reivers Festival from Friday, March 22 to Sunday, March 24.

The festival, which takes place every year in the Scottish Borders, travels back in time to the mid 16th century where feuds between Scotland and England were rife. Visitors to the festival are able to experience first-hand through music, drama and re-enactments what life was really like for the men and women in the Borderlands of Scotland.

This year the Ulster-Scots Agency and Ulster-Scots Community Network were joined by community activists from County Fermanagh; re-enactors from Living History Ireland; and pupils and staff from Newtownbutler Primary School.

The story of the Border Reivers is key to Ulster-Scots, especially in Fermanagh and during the cultural



visit they explored ways to link with Scotland and bring the story to life back at home.

Newtownbutler Primary School who attended as part of the Ulster-Scots Agency’s Twinning Programme beat off stiff competition from local primary schools to be awarded the festival’s school games trophy and they were awarded the honour of

being the first school in pageant procession.

To find out more about the Hawick Reivers Festival, visit [www.hawickreivers.com](http://www.hawickreivers.com).

Pictured, Above: Representatives from the Ulster-Scots community in Fermanagh enjoy their trip to Hawick, and Right: Newtownbutler Primary pupils pictured at the Hawick Reivers Festival Parade.



# Blue Plaque for US War Hero Colonel Joe Thompson in Kilkeel

**T**he Ulster-Scots Agency recently supported the erection of an Ulster History Circle Blue Plaque to honour Kilkeel-born US war hero Joe Thompson, who won the Medal of Honor during WWI. The ceremony was held at a special event at the Kilmorey Arms, Kilkeel where the plaque was unveiled by the American Consul-General in Belfast, Elizabeth Trudeau.

Joseph Henry Thompson was born on September 26, 1871 in the townland of Dunnaval, Kilkeel to Jacob Thompson, a farmer and Sarah Jane Reilly, daughter of Henry Reilly. Joseph was the eldest of three siblings, Albert William Thompson and Robert Reilly Thompson.

## Education

In 1743 the first of the Thompsons arrived in the area from the lowlands of Scotland, and a John Thompson, a linen draper settled in the townland of Benagh.

Little is known about the early years of Joseph H. Thompson but a life in the Mourne was not for him, and so he emigrated in 1889 to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He entered Duff's College whose ethos for young men was – 'One of the marked characteristics of our country and time is the wonderful opportunity for young men to make for themselves position and influence'. He continued his education as a student at Geneva College and at Pitt Law School where he graduated as an attorney.

## Sport

During his years at Geneva and Pitt, Joseph Henry Thompson, the man from Mourne excelled at sport – playing halfback and also coaching at Geneva, Carnegie Tech, Pittsburgh High School, and being paramount in Pittsburgh winning the 1st National Championship. His football career is well documented.

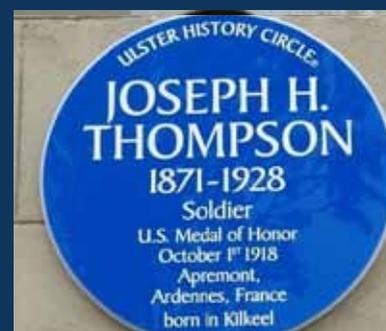
His business career was as an attorney in his home town of Beaver Falls, Beaver, Pennsylvania but Joseph also served as a member of the Pennsylvania Senate from the 47th district from 1913 to 1916. As World War I raged in Europe, America joined the war in 1917, and Joseph and his battalion were transported to France.

## Military service

It is for his bravery in the field of battle at Apremont, Ardennes that we commemorate Joseph



The Ulster History Circle is pleased to commemorate renowned soldier Joseph Henry Thompson (1871-1926) with a Blue Plaque in Kilkeel, the place of his birth



Henry Thompson.

His military service record shows that he entered the Pennsylvania National Guard 14th inf. Regiment on February, 16 1905 and was discharged from active service duty on December 13 1919, as Col. Joseph H. Thompson, commanding the 110th Regiment, 28th Infantry Division.

He was wounded four times; on September 29 1918, September 30 1918 and twice on October 1, 1918 when he was gassed. Each time Major Thompson remained on duty and encouraged his battalion on the front line against heavy machine guns and artillery. His courage

and bravery saw him rushing forward on several occasions, under anti-tank gunfire and leading the only remaining tank to obliterate the German machine gun, thereby assisting the infantry to advance. For his bravery and courage, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross which was later replaced by the Medal of Honour by President Herbert Hoover. Joseph Henry Thompson was also awarded the Croix DeGuerre of France.

## Lauded a hero by his peers

When he returned from France, he continued to work

as an attorney and visited Kilkeel many times. He was lauded as a hero by his peers. Joseph had married in 1908, a Californian lady, Violet Edith Smeight and they had one son, Joseph Smeight Thompson. Sadly at the age of just 57, the war hero and local man from Kilkeel died, and was buried with full military honours in Beaver Falls Cemetery where today the Stars and Stripes continue to fly over his veteran's grave.

## Blue Plaque

As chairman of the Ulster History Circle, Chris Spurr said: "Joseph

H. Thompson was an award-winning college football coach, attorney and state senator in Pennsylvania, who then distinguished himself on military service in France in 1918. His valour there led to him receiving the United States Medal of Honor, the nation's highest personal military decoration, and he is the only Ulster-born soldier to win this medal in World War I. "The Ulster History Circle is pleased to commemorate this renowned soldier with a Blue Plaque in Kilkeel, the place of his birth, and we are honoured that the American Consul-General, Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau, has unveiled it.

"The Circle would particularly like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency for their financial support towards this plaque, and the Kilmorey Arms Hotel for their assistance."

**Pictured at the launch (L-R); Ian Crozier, Chief Executive Ulster-Scots Agency, Bernard Gilliland, American Legion, Samuel Hamilton, Kilmorey Arms Hotel, American Consul-General in Belfast, Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau and Maynard Hanna.**

# USCN news update: Doing our bit for the Ulster-Scots community

By David Gilliland, Operations Director, Ulster-Scots Community Network

Over the last few months the Ulster-Scots Community Network have carried on working with the Ulster-Scots community to keep promoting Ulster-Scots across Ulster. Here is the Ulster-Scots Community Network's most recent update:

## Community Support

"Our community support – advice about funding, helping with policy development for groups and offering training hasn't slackened off and we'll keep working away on this with groups right across the province. "We recently hosted two sessions of Designated Officer training for groups with over 20 people completing the training and going back to their groups in Monaghan, Cavan, Banbridge, Belfast, Armagh and other parts of the country better informed about how they can help to ensure children and young people are kept safe.

"As ever we remain an umbrella body for groups who need AccessNI checks carried out and have been delivering these checks for a range of groups with almost 100 completed this year so far. We've also just had our AccessNI monitoring visit and we'll be drafting some new policies for groups to keep our sector in line with best practice in the coming years. More details to follow soon."

## Education & Learning

"The Network is delighted to continue to deliver the OCN Accredited Ulster-Scots courses that we offer at Level One and Level Two. So far this year we've delivered four courses in County Armagh, two in County Monaghan and one in Londonderry and County Antrim. We've two more scheduled for Mid-Ulster later in the year and will continue to deliver these across Ulster. The courses were a great success in both rural and urban County Armagh and in a school in County Monaghan.

"Our Staff also delivered two language sessions in the Mid-Ulster area in conjunction with the council and we're delivering another set of these later this year as well as rolling out some other Ulster-Scots language projects in the area. Again keep an eye on our social media feed for further details.

"We're also now into the season of summer schools funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency and Matthew, our Education Officer will be out helping to make them as fun and enjoyable as they can be, whilst at the same time passing on knowledge about the history, culture and traditions of the Ulster-Scots community to the next generation. Giving young people the chance



Ulster-Scots Community Network staff were privileged to be invited to take a stall along to a VIP function in Lurgan where we were introduced to HRH Prince Charles alongside participants from our OCN course

to learn about their history, where their family roots come from or even about the musical traditions that they see within their community are all part of that learning process and it's a task we take very seriously."

## Visits, important guests and anniversaries

"As we head into the summer we always notice the upturn in visitors to the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre. "Each year brings us lots of people looking to explore their roots. Deirdre, our Development Officer with expertise in genealogy, spends a large part of her time helping these visitors trace their family connections back to this side of the Atlantic Ocean. We host visits for the Rick Steves Tour Company based near Seattle who bring us 50 tour

groups each year, many of whom are keen to trace their Scotch-Irish roots. It's important to us to help to explain the Ulster-Scots/Scotch-Irish story to them and we enjoy seeing them at this time of the year.

"The Centre is also used for launch events and for marking anniversaries and this year we were lucky enough to have secured some funding that enabled us to update and reprint some of our publications about Ulster-Scots connections to America. On 4 July to coincide with American Independence Day, we invited Alistair McReynolds, author and historian to the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre to give a talk on these Scotch-Irish connections.

"Ulster-Scots Community Network staff were also very privileged to have been invited to take a stall along to a VIP function in Lurgan

where we were introduced to HRH Prince Charles along with a number of participants from our OCN course that had been delivered in Brownlow House earlier in the year. The participants got to meet Prince Charles and he chatted with Alan, David, Deirdre and Charles from the Network, along with Grahame Harris from Harris Piping and Charmain Jones from the Rural Community Network who had organised the OCN group in Lurgan. A great day and a nice memory to have."

## Keeping the tunes flowing

"Throughout the year we play host to a number of musical events both regular and one-off. The early part of the year allowed us to showcase the amazing talent of Armagh's very own bluegrass sensation Cup O'Joe who kept the crowd in the centre very entertained with their rendition of some bluegrass standards as well as some of Robert Burns songs that had been bluegrass-ified.

"We also held a very successful masterclass for for Scottish Country Ceilidh musicians on fiddle and accordion. The masterclass led by Nicky McMichan and Dennis Morrison passed on hints and tips to local musicians, as well as practiced tunes that were designed to fit with the Scottish Country Dances and to keep the toes tapping. Almost 20 local musicians took part in the day and we hope had the opportunity to learn from some of the foremost Scottish Ceilidh musicians around.

"Piping & Drumming plays a huge part in the Ulster-Scots community and as always we delivered a number of masterclasses across the year as well as got organised for the next batch of them to take us through to March 2020. The classes provide a learning opportunity for young and old alike and pass on tips about playing and care of the instruments as well as providing an opportunity for the musicians to all play together in a slightly different forum from where they usually would.

"On a monthly basis we also open

the doors to the Blackthorn Pipers Society who celebrate all things piping on 3rd Wednesday of every month from September through to April. The sessions are always very popular and feature a leading piper as well as a junior piper of the month. We also have a monthly musical session of Traditional Ulster-Scots small pipe music, with a good crowd joining in each month to play a range of tunes of small pipes, whistles, percussion and strings. "This takes place on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7pm in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre and is free to all.

"July 7 also provided a wonderful chance to welcome the Pipes & Drums from Knox Grammar School in Australia to the centre. The school embark on a UK & Ireland tour every three years and bring over 50 members of the school Pipe Band all the way around the world to take part in displays and competitions as part of their musical programme. They were lucky enough to be here on a sunny day and to entertain people on the streets outside the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre."

## Building connections

"USCN are happy to develop the links with core member groups like Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) to enhance the traditions, but we also work with other groups who are helping to develop the skills of young people and maintain the heritage within the community."

## What's next?

"We've also been opening on the first Saturday of the month to see if this is a popular option for those who want to visit the centre but can't make it in during the week – the next two openings are Saturday, August 3 and Saturday, September 7 from 10.30am to 2.30pm each day.

"Coming months will see us develop a range of events in both the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre and across Ulster. The Small Pipes sessions will be continuing over the summer, the Blackthorn Pipers are back in September and we have a whole series of talks about the musical connections between Ulster and America scheduled to start from early September through to November. We're also planning activities for Culture Night on September 20, we'll be in Raphoe on Saturday 21 for the Ulster-Scots Heritage Day and we'll be hosting a range of events across the year – keep checking our Facebook page and website for information. We'll have language, literature, music, food, poetry and more over the coming months as well as continuing our work within the community. If you need help let us know on 028 9043 6710 or info@ulster-scots.com."

# Highland dance enthusiasts celebrate success

Budding dancers receive their exam certificates from the Ulster-Scots Agency



Sollus School of Highland Dance, Cookstown held their end of year presentation night recently, in which members received their exam certificates



Emma McCluskey, Bright Lights Dance Group, with Alana Wright & Jane Wallace of Ulster-Scots Agency



Pupils from Kirknarra School of Dance were presented with certificates and medals at their annual Awards Night in Reivers House by Derek Reaney, Ulster-Scots Agency

# New exhibition opens in Belfast

**T**he Ulster-Scots Agency is delighted to be working with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to part fund a new exhibition at the Museum of Orange Heritage in Belfast.

This exhibition: "For Singing & For Dancing" highlights and explores diverse aspects of Orangeism's musical heritage, from the iconic Lambeg Drum and marching bands to poetry, ballads and prose. Ulster-Scots Agency CEO Ian Crozier said:

"For more than a century the Orange Order has drawn much of its membership from the Ulster-Scots community and the music of our community is at home in Orange Halls and plays a key role in the pageantry of Orange parades.

"This new exhibition helps to shed a light on that important relationship." Speaking at the recent launch event, Edward Stevenson, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, pointed out that the motivation

behind the new exhibition was to articulate the story of Orangeism and the musical skills and traditions that have delivered such a positive legacy to modern society:

"Through this exhibition we are giving a platform to some of the many aspects of Orange musical heritage that have grown, evolved, and influenced thousands of people for the past 300 years.



Rt. Hon. Arlene Foster MLA enjoying one of the interactive listening stations in the exhibition

"Traditional airs and ballads mingle with lesser known songs that have captured and articulated the story of Orangeism to an audience well beyond the confines of the lodge room."

Visitors are able to explore the exhibition and the new interactive elements on display.

Dr Jonathan Mattison, Museum Curator, explained the importance of the new project:

"We wanted to shed light on the rich and complex strands that make up Orangeism's musical heritage, especially the individuals that have been involved with various bands, drumming associations, and business that have helped create aspects of a world beating tradition."

The Ulster-Scots musical and literary tradition is a key strand in the rich tapestry of Orange culture. Orange Halls have for many years



Veteran pipe drummer Wilby Hanna from Upper Crossgare playing one of his own innovative drums which he designed and built in 1981

been a home for not just marching bands and Lambeg drums, but also traditional accordion and fiddle folk music and the associated dance traditions of the Ulster-Scots community. One key new interactive display charts the location of Ulster's marching bands with a number of extended histories and profiles as well as extracts from the recent BBC NI documentary 'The Band' which was commissioned by the Ulster-

Scots Broadcast Fund. Several significant items are on display including Brian Boru pipes, traditional fifes and flutes and, of course, several examples of Ulster's iconic Lambeg Drum. The new exhibition is part of the Museum of Orange Heritage, Schomberg House, 368 Cregagh Road Belfast and is open Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm until Saturday 14 December 2019.

# Ulster-Scots cultural traditions being kept alive in Fermanagh

By Market House Cultural Group

The Ulster-Scots Agency provided funding for Piping and Drumming to the 'The Market House Culture Group' based in the rural village of Maguiresbridge in Fermanagh.

Fermanagh has a strong Ulster-Scots connection. This is highlighted through their rich history of marching bands and many of the students who took part in the tuition programme came from Ulster-Scots families within the area.

The tuition programme ran for 20 weeks and was attended by students of all ages and backgrounds.

A spokesperson from the Market House Culture Group commented:

"Prior to attending these tuition classes many of the students expressed that they had a limited knowledge of Ulster-Scots.

"However, it is great to see that they had strong ties with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage.

"For example, looking at their attendance list, there were many strong Border Reiver surnames listed including Graham, Johnston and Armstrong."

They continued: "It was heartening to watch this terrific group of



students join together and learn a new musical skills in piping and drumming.

"Each evening our talented tutors felt an enormous level of pride watching the pupils make progress in their tuition classes.

"The tuition programme has made a real and positive difference to our

local community. Learning a musical talent can open so many doors and as we always say, it is never too late to start learning a new skill and keeping our brain cells awake and active.

"We would like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency, without whom we couldn't have acquired such high

quality tutors to run this project. It is our mission to continue to promote Ulster-Scots music, culture and heritage throughout Fermanagh for future generations to come."

Following the 20-week tuition programme, the group gathered together to enjoy an end of project get-together as a thank you to the

students, families, tutors as well as Ulster-Scots supporters.

On the night, attendance certificates were handed out and guests enjoyed a barbecue as well as a musical display by the group of talented students, their tutors and a range of local musicians also attended.

## Reivers Festival a roaring success

The Schomberg Society's Reivers Festival kicked off recently with a fantastic variety of events which took place in the Kingdom of Mourne right up until July 11.

There was something for everyone in this year's Reivers Festival promoting the best of Ulster-Scots music, dance, poetry, song, language, food and living history.

This year's Reivers Festival saw many new events, all of which went down a treat with huge numbers of spectators and visitors, one of which included 'A Taste of Ulster-Scots Cookery Night' with famous Ulster-Scots chef Jenny Bristow in the Kilmorey Arms Hotel. The Festival aimed to provide something for both old and young, and for the first time, held a 'Kids Ceilidh Night' where many local children got an opportunity to learn the traditional skill of Scottish Country Dancing. As part of The Reivers Festival this summer, the Schomberg Society revived the tradition of a Lambeg Drumming Competition in Killeel Town. The well-attended event saw many Lambeg Drummers travelling from far and near to compete and showcase the skills of Lambeg Competition playing.

The Reivers Festival also featured numerous other events including music and dance workshops. an



Ulster-Scots Guided Walking Tour of Killeel Town with Blue Badge Guide Gwen Chambers, an Ulster-Scots Craft Market and live Ulster-Scots musical performances.

However, the biggest highlight of this year's Reivers Festival was the July 11 celebrations, which included Ulster-Scots musical performances in the Kilmorey Arms Hotel, plus an afternoon Ulster-Scots event which featured Highland Strongmen, Ulster-Scots displays of weaponry, Ulster-Scots living history with interactive campsites, exhibitions, Scottish country and Highland dancing, Lambeg drums, Ulster-Scots folk music, archery, and more. The Traditional 11th Night Pageant made its way through Killeel Town featuring horses, cannons, vintage vehicles, Ulster-Scots living history re-enactors, marching bands, fifes, drums and many more performers.



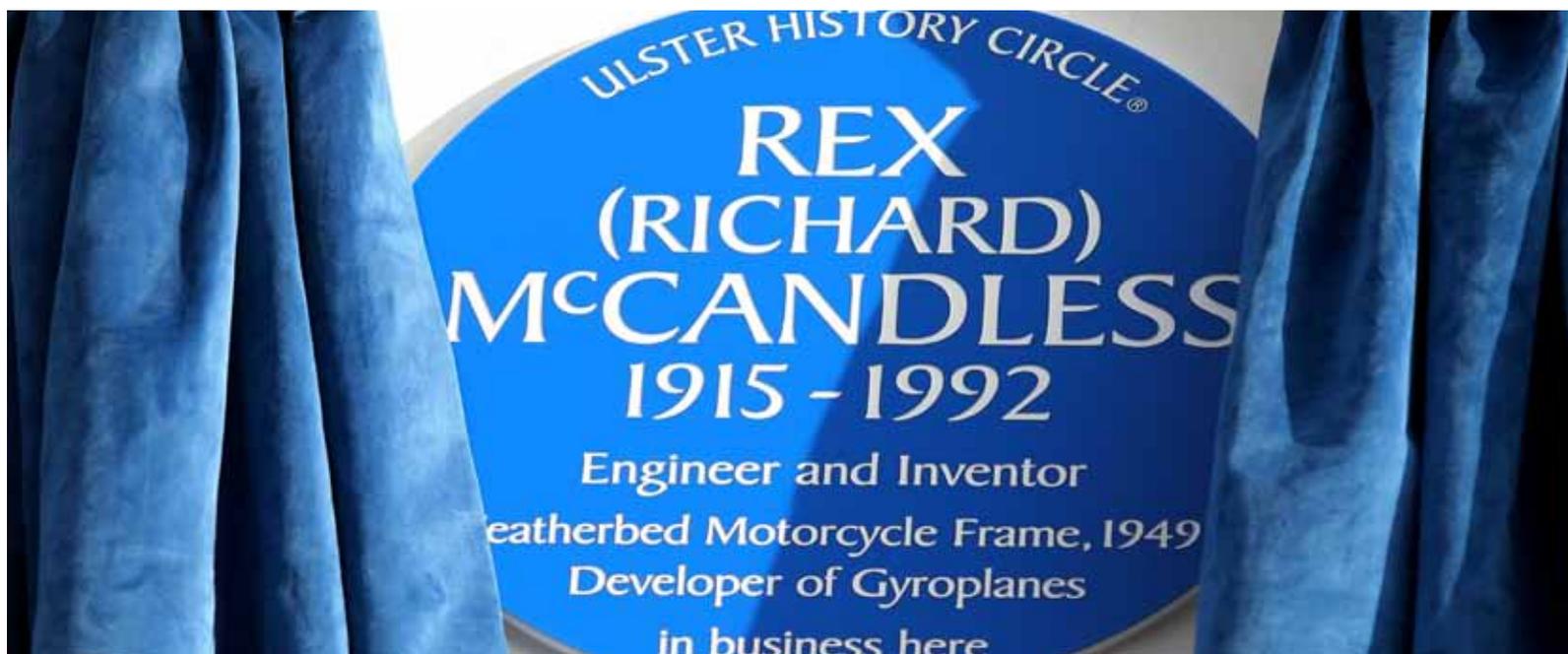
Following the Pageant, the Open Air 11th Night Concert took place in the Demonstration Fields with star act and Britain's Got Talent Finalists 'The D-Day Darlings,' who performed for the first time in Northern Ireland. A spokesperson commented: "This year's Reivers Festival was one of the busiest and best yet with lots of new events taking place for the first time.

"This proved hugely successful and we are very proud to now have

one of the largest Ulster-Scots Festivals which promotes the best of all facets of Ulster-Scots culture, and is a major festival which is now recognised by the local council as one of their main tourist attractions." The Schomberg Society would like to thank the Ulster-Scots Agency, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the Community Relations Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for supporting this year's festival.



# New Blue Plaque unveiling



**T**he Ulster History Circle, in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency, unveiled a new Blue Plaque in October 2018 to commemorate local Co Down engineer and inventor Richard 'Rex' McCandless, creator of the Featherbed Motorcycle Frame and developer of Gyroplanes.

Speaking at the event, Ian Crozier, Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency commented: "The Ulster-Scots Agency are delighted to support the Ulster History Circle

in unveiling this commemorative plaque in honour of Rex McCandless, engineer, inventor and Ulster-Scot.

"Rex McCandless was a talented individual and a great role model not only to the people of North Belfast, but also to the people of Ulster. "As an Agency, we want to help share his story, as well as the stories of many other great Ulster-Scots through our initiative 'Ingenious Ulster'. This programme of work celebrates the Ulster-Scots who

have helped change the world through science and innovation with the aim of inspiring communities to be proud of who they are and where they come from. It also inspires our children and young people to be involved in the world of engineering and science and encourages them to become the innovators of our future." Also present at the event, was special guest, motorbike racer Jeremy McWilliams, who was bestowed the honour of unveiling this new plaque at Rex's family

business, W.A.C. McCandless (Engineering) Limited in Belfast. Blue Plaques are a universally recognised symbol celebrating men and women who have enriched the life of their communities and they are erected on buildings, many of which are a significant part of our architectural past. Ulster has produced a huge number of world renowned figures who have distinguished themselves in the arts, literature, academia, medicine and more.

# Cultural Ulster-Scots space



**A** new €14.5million Peace Campus was launched on Tuesday, April 30 in Monaghan town which will provide a major boost for Ulster-Scots in County Monaghan and the wider border region.

Ulster-Scots Agency Chief Executive, Ian Crozier, said: "The Peace Campus project will provide valuable shared space for the entire

community in County Monaghan. It will also provide a dedicated space where the story of the minority Ulster-Scots community will be told. This will be the first time that Ulster-Scots identity will be recognised and celebrated in a public building in the Irish Republic. We hope that this important milestone will be the foundation for much greater levels of support for the Ulster-Scots

community in the Monaghan/Cavan border region and we look forward to working with Monaghan County Council to make it a reality." The Ulster-Scots Agency has supported Monaghan County Council in developing the Peace Campus concept, which has secured €9.5million in funding from the EU's PEACE IV Programme, via the Special EU Programmes Body.

The remaining €5million will come from Monaghan County Council. In addition to the new Ulster-Scots cultural space, the Peace Campus will include a range of cultural facilities including provision for young people, a new library and a new county museum, which will all be located on a regenerated brownfield site at Plantation Road near the town centre in Monaghan.

## Raphoe Heritage Weekend returns

The Ulster-Scots Agency is hosting the fifth Annual Raphoe Ulster-Scots Heritage Weekend, on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 September.

To kick off the celebrations, there will be an Ulster-Scots Heritage walk in Raphoe on Friday 20 September at 7pm starting from the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre. This will then be followed by a traditional Ulster-Scots music session in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre.

Events on Saturday 21 September will commence at 1.30pm with a special performance by the Ulster-Scots Agency Juvenile Pipe Band at the Diamond area in the centre of Raphoe. During the day there will also be a display of 100 highland dancers, a living history demonstration, and live music on stage from a traditional Ulster-Scots group.

A parade of pipe bands, drum majors, highland dancers and living history characters will commence at approximately 4pm, followed by a performance of massed pipe bands in the Diamond area under the command of Andy McGregor, Pipe Major of the Ulster-Scots Agency's Juvenile Pipe Band.

To top off a great weekend of Ulster-Scots activities, there will also be a number of craft and food stalls, a children's farm and a wealth of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. Admission to all events is free.

Derek Reaney, the Agency's Development Officer based in Raphoe commented: "The event is growing year on year and we are looking forward to pipe bands from throughout Ulster attending.

"The event celebrates the rich Ulster-Scots heritage of Raphoe and East Donegal and is an opportunity for the local community and visitors to come together and enjoy various aspects of our Ulster-Scots culture and traditions."



# WIN AN ULSTER-SCOTS GOODIE BAG!

To be in with a chance of winning one of three Ulster-Scots goodie bags, simply answer this question below.

**Q: In what year, did Andrew Jackson's family leave Boneybefore, Carrickfergus?**

Clue – Keep your eyes peeled on page 5.

To enter, email your name and contact details to [competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk) with 'Andrew Jackson Competition' as the subject line. You can also post your answer to; Ulster-Scots Agency, The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG.

**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 30 AUGUST 2019.**

**the Ulster-Scot**  
Ulster-Scots Agency  
The Board of Ulster-Scotch

## Upcoming events at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre



**Saturday opening of Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast**  
September 7, 2019 10.30am to 2.30pm.

### Traditional Ulster-Scots Small Pipe sessions

A chance to take part in an open session with small pipes, whistles, percussion and other instruments; playing tunes that are found broadly within the Ulster-Scots musical tradition. This event takes place from 7pm to 9pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday August 14, 2019
- Wednesday September 4, 2019
- Wednesday October 2, 2019

**Blackthorn Pipers Society, Wednesday September 18**  
From 7.30pm - 10pm  
The Discover Ulster-Scots Centre

plays host to the Blackthorn Pipers Society as they celebrate all things Piping and feature a guest soloist and a Junior Piper of the month.

### Cup O'Joe: Saturday, October 26 in DUSC

Another chance to hear the Co Armagh Bluegrass combo playing a set featuring Appalachian Murder Ballads.

**To keep up to date with the latest events taking place at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, visit [www.discoverulsterscots.com/events](http://www.discoverulsterscots.com/events).**

**You can also contact the team at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre at 028 9023 1113 or email [discoverulsterscots@gmail.com](mailto:discoverulsterscots@gmail.com).**

## Ulster-Scots place to visit

The Andrew Jackson Cottage in Mid & East Antrim reopens

**One of Northern Ireland's most cherished tourism attractions, The Andrew Jackson Cottage in Mid and East Antrim, has reopened after £250k renovation works.**

The Andrew Jackson Cottage, named after the seventh President of the United States is an Ulster-Scots farmhouse built in the 1750s in Boneybefore near Carrickfergus. It's where Andrew Jackson's parents lived before they left for a new life in South Carolina.

The renovation work included repairs to the roof and chimney, remedial repairs have been made to include damp proofing, repair of windows and doors, installation of French drains and external repair to the paving and grassed area.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council are also in the process of applying for the venue to be approved for civil marriages and partnerships. In the grounds of the cottage is the US Rangers Centre, a museum dedicated to the men of the first battalions of the elite American Army Unit, the US Rangers that was first 'activated' in Carrickfergus in 1942. The display includes documents, uniforms and photographs and other material detailing this famous combat unit.

**The cottage is FREE to visit and open Wednesday to Sunday 11am - 3pm. You can also book tours at the Visitor Centre at Carrickfergus Castle or by T: 028 9335 8222 or E: [visitorinfo@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinfo@midandeastantrim.gov.uk).**

