



WIN...
A FAMILY PASS TO THE
ULSTER-AMERICAN FOLK PARK (SEE P16)

Celebrating the bedrock of a nation

The 1718 Migration

FROM ULSTER TO NEW ENGLAND

The Scotch-Irish journey began 300 years ago with the migration to America - and they have been shaping the foundations of the country ever since. This month's edition of **the Ulster-Scot** marks the significant tercentenary with a **commemorative eight-page pullout**, examining the origins of a unique relationship between Ulster and America...



NASHVILLE DELEGATION HONOURED AT
THE ULSTER-SCOT CENTRE

PAGES 4 & 13



SCHOOL IN FOCUS: MONAGHAN
COLLEGIATE HITS THE RIGHT NOTE

PAGE 14



FLAGSHIP AWARD FOR MONEYMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

PAGE 15

Fair faa ye



Welcome to the May edition of the Ulster-Scot.

It has been a busy time for the Ulster-Scots Agency. On 1st May a reception in honour of the Nashville Sister Cities Delegation was held in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre. The visitors from Nashville, one of Belfast's Sister Cities, were warmly welcomed by the guest speakers.



The keynote speaker was former First Minister, the Rt. Hon Arlene Foster MLA who brought good wishes from Northern Ireland. The event saw the launch of the Ulster-Scot's latest publication *Andrew Jackson, the first Scotch-Irish President*. The author, Billy Kennedy, gave an overview of the book and then signed copies for the guests. The delegation also sampled some true Ulster-Scots fare, which was pronounced delicious, especially Tatle Apple fadge! More Nashville in Belfast news on Pages 4&13.

Perhaps the most important single year in the story of the relationship between Ulster and America is 1718. It was not by any means the first migration of people from Ulster to the American continent but it was probably the first that was organised successfully to bring settlers from one catchment area. Read more in our special feature inside.

As always we welcome your feedback and hope that everyone finds something of interest in this edition.

Ian Crozier is Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency

Focus on languages at BIC conference

Belfast recently hosted a conference on behalf of the British Irish Council for policy makers and practitioners of indigenous, minority and lesser used languages.

About 80 delegates attended the event, which was held at Crumlin Road Gaol, on both days with talks from Welsh, Scottish, Manx and Irish

speakers on promoting and profiling language within the community and business.

Ian Crozier, CEO Ulster-Scots Agency, (pictured) delivered a presentation focused on Robert Burns. Workshops by Manx, Welsh, Cornish, Ulster-Scots and Irish practitioners were well attended each day.



Rebekah amazes sell-out crowd



Newtownards Highland Dancer, Rebekah Murdoch, wowed a sold out audience at Belfast's SSE ARENA.

The 11-year-old was especially selected to perform a solo section

along with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland in the Peace Proms.

The Johnston School of Highland Dancing from Moneyrea are regular performers at the huge

event and have also been touring with the show.

To date, they have danced alongside the Orchestra in Liverpool, Dublin, Galway, with the next stop being Kilkenny.

The Ulster-Scot

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Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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Ulster-Scots Agency
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

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WORD OF THE ISSUE

Thole

Meaning:
Endure

Lorraine Ronaldson 'honoured' to be named RSPBA Director

Lorraine Ronaldson was appointed a Director of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) representing the Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI) at the branch meeting in March.

This appointment of a third Northern Ireland Branch Director is a new position - the other two directors are Kenny Crothers and Arlene Faulkner.

In March 2014 Lorraine was installed as President of the County Down Section of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland in succession to the late Wilfred McFadden MBE who served the section and the community for many years. Speaking of her new appointment, Lorraine said: "My grateful thanks go to the NI Branch Executive and the NI bands for their support.

"I consider it an honour to represent the Northern Ireland Branch.

"This is a new challenge for me in the pipe band world; I am looking forward to it and shall carry out my duties to the best of my ability."

Brief profile on Lorraine:

Her grandfather, the late Edward McVeigh JP MBE, was President of the Co Down Section many years ago in addition to being Honorary President of the NI Branch. He was the first and one of only two in NI to hold the Chairmanship in Scotland (that was before Lorraine was born).



He with many others was instrumental with the process of being adopted in NI as a branch in their own right. Lorraine began her time in the pipe band world as a piper with the Leapoughs Pipe Band.



Lorraine Ronaldson (main), pictured in her chain of office as President of the County Down Section of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI), has been appointed a Director of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. Also pictured are current RSPBA Directors Arlene Faulkner and Kenny Crothers

the compiling team under the watchful eye of the late Ernie Clarke, compiling officer. There were four of them in the team: Ernie, Quintin, Lorraine's late cousin Edith McVeigh and of course Lorraine. After the compiling team, Lorraine was elected as Secretary of the NI Branch to follow on from Fred Walker.

This was after Fred had retired from the post of Executive Officer after completing 38 years.

Lorraine loved this office but due to time constraints with her daily workload, she was forced to relinquish this position. She was then elected as Promotions Officer for the Branch, a post she held for two years.

Through the RSPBA Lorraine met her husband Alan Ronaldson from Edinburgh, an Ensemble and Piping Adjudicator. Alan in his younger years was very much involved competitively in solo piping and was a member of the Woolmet Pipe Band. He then joined the Lothian and Borders Police and was for many years playing at top level with their band until retiring from competitive playing and becoming a full member of the RSPBA Adjudicators Panel.

Border Reivers Festival makes a global impression



The Hawick Border Reivers Festival 2018 attracted visitors from all over the world, including the US, Canada, Finland, Germany and the UK.

They visited the Living History Ireland tent to learn more about the Ulster-Scots connection, listening to and watching displays and demonstrations put on during the day by the team over a packed weekend of events.

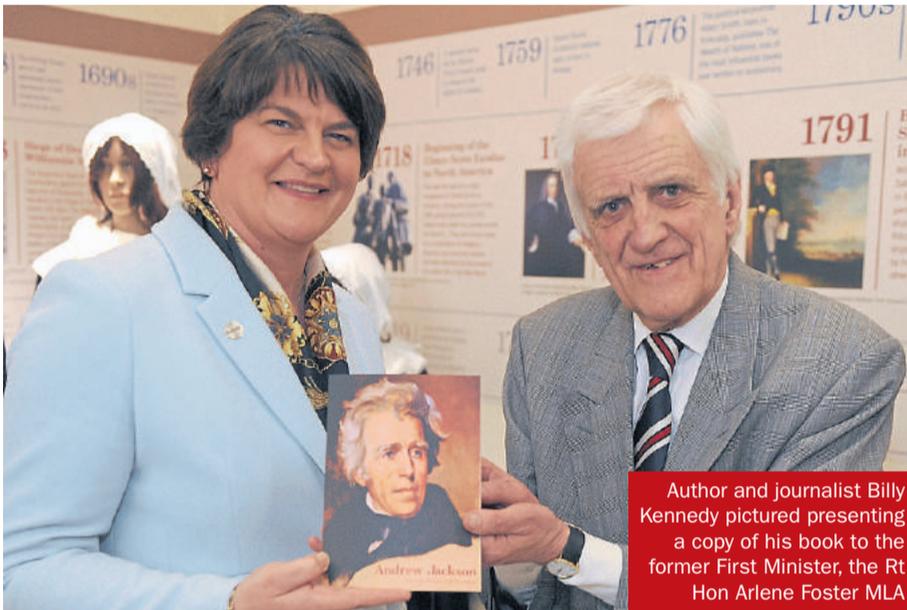


Linen Hall Library in Henry Joy McCracken presentation



Pictured (from left to right) Linen Hall Librarian Samantha McCombe, Director Julie Andrews, Deputy Librarian Monica Cash and Customer Services Manager Marie Ryan with the Henry Joy McCracken bust

New book charts the distinguished and iconic career of Andrew Jackson



Author and journalist Billy Kennedy pictured presenting a copy of his book to the former First Minister, the Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA

The turbulent life and iconic career of Andrew Jackson, the first Ulster-Scots President of the United States, was recognised in Belfast on May 1 by public figures from both sides of the Atlantic.

Jackson, son of Carrickfergus parents Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson who emigrated to America in 1765, was, in a highly distinguished career, commander as 'Old Hickory' of the US Army, and President over two terms (1828-36).

A detailed and illustrated 50-page brochure, charting the heroic exploits of President Jackson, was launched by the Ulster-Scots Agency at a reception for a delegation of public representatives, academics and educationalists from Nashville as part of the Sister-Cities' twinning linking Belfast and the Tennessee capital.

DUP leader and former First Minister Arlene Foster, Nashville Metropolitan councillor-at-large Jim Shulman and other guests were welcomed by Ian Crozier, chief executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency. Mr Crozier said Andrew Jackson was a 19th century American luminary whose profile as a statesman, politician and soldier was tangibly recognised in the Ulster homeland of his Co Antrim-born parents and, particularly, in Tennessee where he lived for most of his life.

The Jackson brochure was written and compiled, on behalf of the Ulster-Scots Agency, by senior *News Letter* journalist Billy Kennedy, author of 11 books on 18th century Ulster migration to America. In the brochure, Billy, who lives in Tandragee, quotes another US President Theodore Roosevelt, who said Andrew Jackson had many faults, but, with the exception of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln,

"Andrew Jackson had many faults, but, with the exception of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, "no man has left a deeper mark on American history"

- US President Theodore Roosevelt

"no man has left a deeper mark on American history".

Kennedy recounts that Jackson, born in the Waxhaws, Carolinas region 20 months after his parents moved from Ulster, had an American patriot militia role as a teenager in the 1770s Revolutionary War and, later, as commander of the US Army, defeated British forces in the epic Battle of New Orleans on January 18, 1815.

He became a politician in Nashville and founded the Democratic Party, espousing Jacksonian democracy - "government for the people, by the people". He was the seventh, and the first "common man" to be elected President. His connection to Nashville, living with his wife Rachel at 'The Hermitage' estate remained until his death in 1845, aged 78.

• Copies of *Andrew Jackson The First Scotch-Irish President* by Billy Kennedy are freely available from the Ulster-Scots Agency in Belfast.

New book recalls Ar

The DUP leader and former First Minister, Arlene Foster, visited the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre on May 1 to welcome a delegation of civic leaders from Nashville, Tennessee, who were here for Nashville in Belfast, a programme of events organised to mark the Sister Cities relationship between the two places.

Mrs Foster spoke about the shared kinship that existed between Northern Ireland and America, as a result of the thousands of people who migrated from these shores and played a huge role in the development of the United States; and she also expressed her desire to see our shared Ulster-Scots/Scotch-Irish heritage occupy a much more prominent role in the economic and cultural life of Northern Ireland in the future. The Nashville delegation, which included a mix of City Councillors, lawyers, academics and business people, were also joined at the event by Belfast Councillors Lee Reynolds, Brian Kingston, Guy Spence and Jeff Dudgeon; and Newtownabbey Councillors

Philip Brett and Jordan Greer. Also present were North Belfast MLA William Humphrey and former DUP Culture Minister Nelson McCausland, as well as a host of people from the Ulster-Scots community on both sides of the border.

The event also saw the launch of a new publication from the Ulster-Scots Agency, entitled *Andrew Jackson, The First Scotch-Irish President*. Written by *News Letter* journalist and author, Billy Kennedy, it charts the life and legacy of the seventh US President, whose Ulster-Scots family moved from County Antrim to the Carolinas shortly before he was born.

Belfast has been a sister city of Nashville for over 20 years and the Belfast-Nashville relationship has grown to include music, cultural exchanges and business opportunities in both cities. This year's Nashville in Belfast programme, the first event of its kind, ran from April 28 to May 6.

Pictures: John Kelly



LEFT: Patsy Cottrell, Alderman Brian Kingston (Former Lord Mayor of Belfast), Russ Deaton and Nancy Gregg pictured at a reception in honour of the Nashville Sister Cities Delegation in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast



Dr Terry Kennedy, Billy Kennedy (author and journalist), Roy McGivern (Chairman of Linfield Football Club) and Gary Kennedy MBE pictured at the launch of Billy's latest publication *Andrew Jackson, the first Scotch-Irish President*



Dr Marieta Velikova, Nancy Gregg, Janis Smyth, Jacqui Leeman, Patsy Cottrell, Dan Walsh and Ian Crozier



The
1718
Migration

FROM ULSTER TO NEW ENGLAND

To His Excellency the

We whose names are underwritten, Inhabitants of North of Ireland, & Tradesmen, Commissionate, and appoint our trusty and well beloved Fr Colonel Samuel Sute Governour of New England, and to assure our renowned Plantation upon our obtaining from his Excellency suitable our hands this 25th day of March Annoq Dom^o 1718.

James Alexander
Daniel Nesmith

Thomas Hunter

Stephen Murdock Peter



Newburyport, Massachusetts. Where the Merrimack River meets the Atlantic Ocean. © Carol Neuschul (Flickr Creative Commons).

CURRENT EXHIBITION

**CAUSEWAY 1718:
SOCIETY IN TRANSITION**

Wars of the seventeenth century, Penal laws imposing civil and religious penalties, Scottish immigration, economic challenges and the introduction of new industries all impacted on the Causeway area in the early eighteenth century.

This was the background of the first organised migration from Ulster to North America – the 1718 Bann Valley Migration. This exhibition explores the people

and places of the Causeway area, connecting local people and places with bigger national stories. Discover what was happening, why it happened, and what the 1718 Bann Valley Migration was all about.

Coleraine Museum
Coleraine Town Hall
Coleraine
County Londonderry
BT52 1DE
(028) 7034 4723

Dates: May 11 - June 20 2018
Tuesday – Saturday 11am - 4pm
Limavady Museum
Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre
24 Main Street
Limavady
County Londonderry
BT4 9FJ
(028) 7776 0650
Dates: June 29 - August 25 2018
Monday – Saturday 9.30am - 5pm
Admission Free



Wars of the seventeenth century, Penal laws imposing civil and religious penalties, Scottish immigration, economic challenges and the introduction of new industries all impacted on the Causeway area in the early eighteenth century.

1689	1700	1701	1704	1714		1718		
Siege of Derry	Rev. James Woodside ordained minister of Dunboe	Rev. James McGregor ordained minister of Aghadowey	The provisions of the Test Act were extended to Ireland	Rev. William Holmes emigrated from Strabane to Boston	A succession of bad harvests began in Ulster	Petition to Governor Samuel Shute (26 March)	Arrival in Boston of <i>William and Mary</i> carrying Rev. William Boyd and the petition to Shute (21/25 July)	Arrival in Boston of McGregor and the Aghadowey contingent (early August)

BACKGROUND TO THE STORY

On 28 July 1689, a boy named JAMES MCGREGOR is reputed to have climbed to the top of the tower of St Columb's Cathedral and fired the cannon that signalled the breaking of the boom – the barrier that had been placed across the River Foyle by Jacobite troops – which led to the lifting of the siege of Londonderry. As many as 30,000 people as well as a garrison of 7,000 men had been packed into the city for over three months and it is reckoned that 15,000 of them died of fever or starvation, or were killed in battle. The siege was an event of immense importance in the lives of many of the subsequent 1718 emigrants, McGregor among them. Memories of this time were carried with them to the New World and passed down through the generations. The period following the end of the Williamite war in Ireland was to prove hugely disappointing for Presbyterians. Having fought for King William, Ulster's Presbyterians expected their loyalty to be rewarded by the government. However, to their considerable frustration they found themselves excluded from full access to political and civil power as a result of the

Penal Laws that were passed by the Anglican-dominated Irish Parliament. Presbyterians were particularly aggrieved when the provisions of the Test Act were extended to Ireland in 1704. Henceforth those wishing to hold public office would have to produce evidence that they had taken communion in the Church of Ireland; this effectively disbarred Presbyterians from public appointments. Furthermore, marriages conducted by Presbyterian ministers were not considered valid and children born of such marriages were regarded as illegitimate. For many members of the establishment, Presbyterians were regarded as more of a threat than Catholics, especially because of their numerical superiority over Anglicans in Ulster. No less a figure than JONATHAN SWIFT is believed to have been the author of a publication which declared that Ulster Presbyterians were a 'more knavish, wicked, thievish race than even the natural Irish of the other three provinces'. In the circumstances, it is hardly surprising that Presbyterians were restive and ready to look beyond Ireland for alternative places to live and worship.



St Columb's Cathedral



Londonderry's historic walls

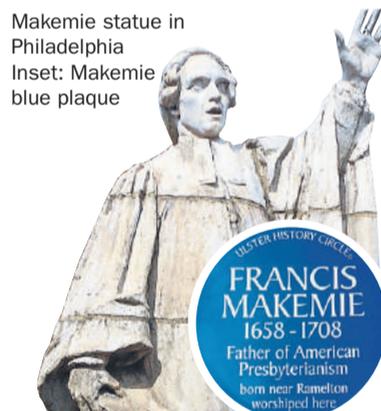


Plaque in First Derry Presbyterian Church to those who resigned from the Londonderry Corporation as a result of the Test Act

EARLIER LINKS BETWEEN ULSTER AND AMERICA



Warner House, Portsmouth



Makemie statue in Philadelphia
Inset: Makemie blue plaque



Old Meeting House, Ramelton

The inclination of the Ulster Scots to look for emancipation across the Atlantic was manifested as early in 1636, when the *Eagle Wing* set out from Belfast Lough for New England with a company of would-be emigrants. By the end of the seventeenth century there were small settlements of Ulster Scots in America, especially on Chesapeake Bay, but there was nothing like a general movement prior to 1718.

T. W. Moody, *The Ulster Scots in Colonial and Revolutionary America*, Studies, vol. 34 (1945)

At the beginning of the eighteenth century Ulster people may only have had a limited knowledge of America, but it was certainly not unknown to them. The first attempt to transplant families from Ulster to America took place in the mid 1630s. This venture was led by four Ulster-Scots ministers who had fallen foul of the civil and religious authorities on account of their Presbyterian beliefs. They commissioned the building of a ship, *Eagle Wing*, and set sail in September 1636. Due to severe storms, however, the ship was forced to turn back. By the 1680s the city of Londonderry and town of Coleraine were part of a transatlantic trading network that connected America, Ireland and Britain, and individuals and families began to take advantage of these links to emigrate from Ulster to the New World. Among these early emigrants was Donegal-born REV. FRANCIS MAKEMIE who left for Maryland in 1683. His pioneering ministry earned him the title, 'Father of American Presbyterianism'.

Another Donegal native to emigrate to America at this time was WILLIAM HOLMES who, as a young man, moved to New England; subsequently he returned to Ireland and was ordained minister of Strabane in December 1692. In 1714 Holmes resigned as minister of Strabane and again sailed for New England. In the following year he became pastor of a congregation in Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard. His son Robert was a ship's captain with trading connections to Ireland. Father and son are believed to have played a pivotal role in promoting New England as a land of opportunity to audiences in Ulster. Another figure who seems to have been important in this regard was ARCHIBALD MACPHEADRIS who actively sought out families from Ulster for New England. Probably from Ballymoney, MacPheadris established a successful business in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where his home – now called the Warner House – still stands.

1718-19

1719

1720

1722

1729

Rev. Edward Fitzgerald leads a party of migrants, mainly from the Foyle Valley, to Worcester, Massachusetts (possibly August)

Arrival in Boston of Woodside and further families from the Bann Valley (September); they soon move on to Merrymeeting Bay, Maine

McGregor moved to Dracut, Massachusetts (October), spending the winter ministering there

Woodside became minister of Brunswick, Maine (November)

Part of the Aghadowey contingent spent the winter at Casco Bay

McGregor joined his fellow emigrants in Nutfield, New Hampshire (April)

Woodside sailed to London (January), having been dismissed as minister of Brunswick (September 1719)

Nutfield was incorporated as a town (21 June) and the name was changed to Londonderry

Death of McGregor (5 March)

REV. JAMES MCGREGOR OF AGHADOWEY

In the spring and early summer of 1718 families in Ulster were getting ready to depart for New England. To some observers, the desire to emigrate was comparable to a raging fever. The Anglican bishop of Dublin wrote of an 'unaccountable humor that has possessed the generality of the people'. The advocates of the planned emigration tended to be Presbyterian ministers, the natural leaders of their communities. As highlighted already, it was the pastor of Macosquin who carried the petition to Boston. It was one of his ministerial colleagues from the Bann Valley who would come to be regarded as a Moses-type figure in the story of the 1718 migration. In 1701 James McGregor was ordained minister of Aghadowey. He had been born c. 1677, probably in Magilligan, County Londonderry, the son of David McGregor. As noted previously, he was in Londonderry in 1689 during the siege. He followed the customary path to the Presbyterian ministry, receiving his higher education in Scotland, probably at Glasgow University. He was able to preach in Gaelic and was appointed by the Synod of Ulster to address Irish-speaking congregations in a number of places. By the mid 1710s the Aghadowey congregation was in serious financial difficulties and McGregor himself was owed some £80 in stipend, a colossal sum of money for the time. McGregor could see no future in Ireland and decided to take both his family and others from his congregation to America.

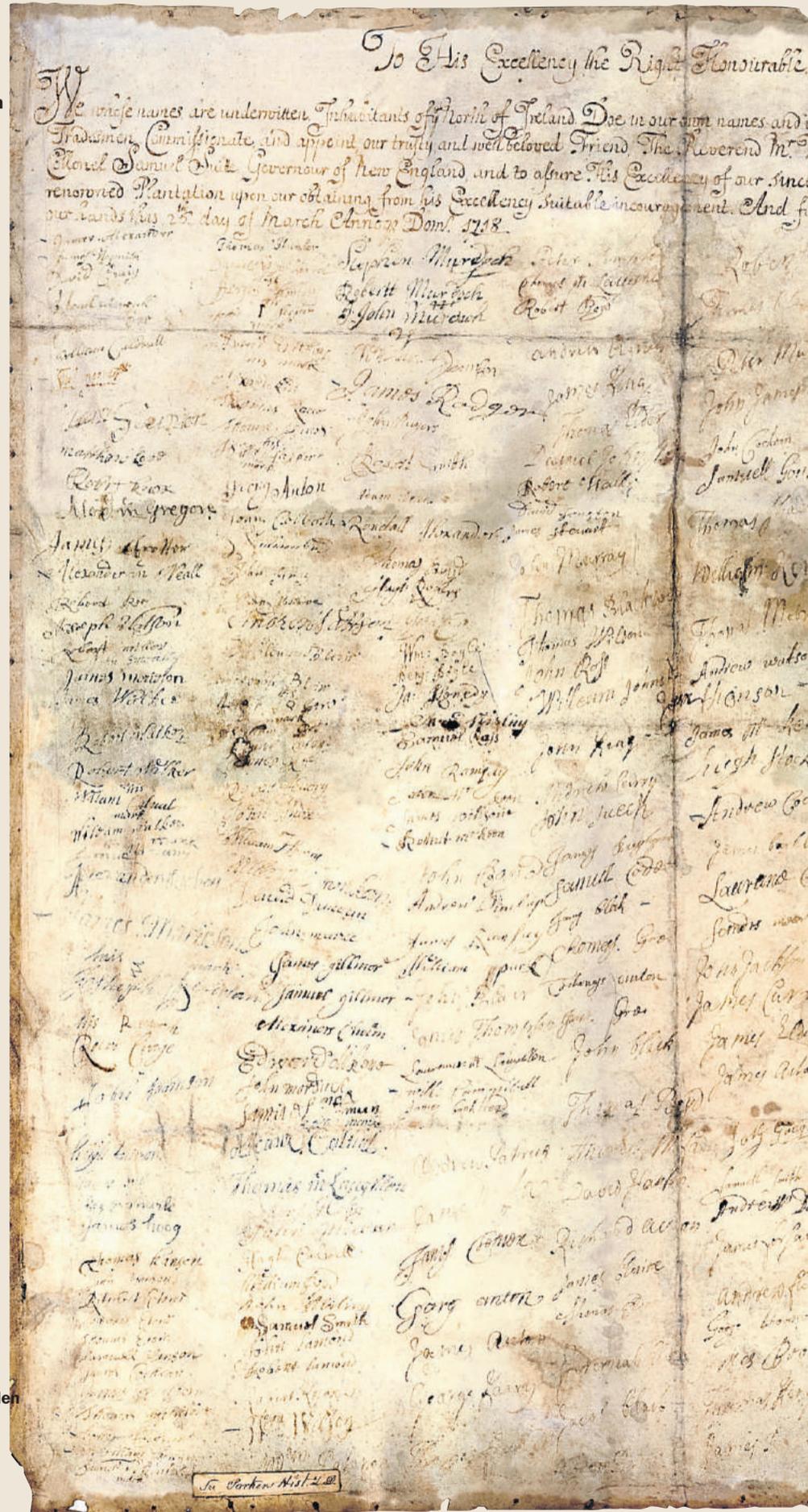
In his farewell sermon delivered on the eve of departure, he stated that he and his flock were leaving Ireland: to avoid oppression and cruel bondage, to shun persecution and designed ruin, to withdraw from the communion of idolators and to have an opportunity of worshipping God according to the dictates of conscience and the rules of His inspired Word.

One of the most important documents relating to the period of the 1718 migration is the Aghadowey session book, which begins in 1702 and runs up to 1761 and which provides a fascinating insight into the congregation. The volume is preserved in the library of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland in Belfast. Image courtesy of PHSI and Aghadowey Presbyterian Church



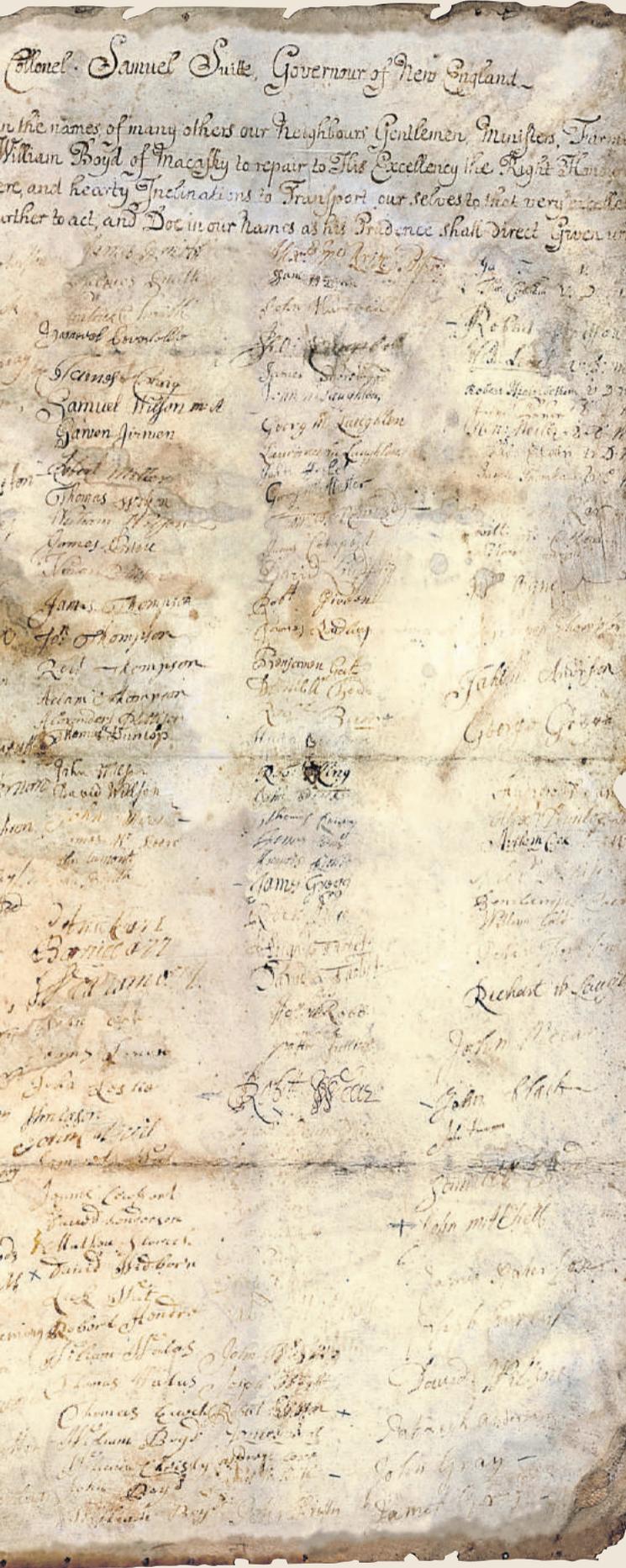
The petition that proved to

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| James Teatte V.D.M | Ninian Pattison |
| Thomas Cobham V.D.M. | James Thompson |
| Robert Houston V.D.M. | John Thompson |
| William Leech V.D.M. | Robert Thompson |
| Robert Higinbotham V.D.M. | Adam Thompson |
| John Porter V.D.M. | Alexander Pattison |
| Thos Elder V.D.M. | Thomas Dunlop |
| James Thomson V.D.M. | John Willson |
| William Ker | Thomas Walas |
| Will McAlben | Thomas Cewch |
| Jahon Andron | William Boyd |
| George Grege | William Christy |
| Andrew Dean | John Boyd |
| Alexander Dunlop M.A. | William Boyd |
| Arch M Cook M.A. | Hugh Orr |
| Alexr Blair | Robert Johnston |
| B. Cochran | Thomas Black |
| William Galt | Peter Murray |
| Peter Thompson | John Jameson |
| Richard McLaughlin | John Cochran |
| John Muar | Samuel Gouston |
| Willeam Jeameson | Thomas Shadey |
| Wm Agnew | William Ker |
| Jeremiah Thompson | Thomas Moore |
| John Mitchell | Andrew Watson |
| James Paterson | John Thonson |
| Joseph Curry | James McKerrall |
| David Wilson | Hugh Stockman |
| Patrick Anderson | Andrew Cochran |
| John Gray | James Carkley |
| James Greg | Lawrence Dod |
| Alexr Mc Bride, Bart | Sandrs Mear |
| Sam McGivorn | John Jackson |
| John Hurdock | James Curry |
| Geo. Campbell | James Elder |
| James Shorswood | James Acton |
| John McLaughlen | X - name illegible |
| George McLaughlen | Samuel Smith |
| James Henre | Andrew Dodg |
| Thomas Ramsay | James Forsaith |
| Francis Richie | Andrew Fleeming |
| James Gregg | George Thomson |
| Robert Boyd | James Browster |
| Hugh Tarbel | Thomas (illegible) |
| David Tarbel | Jeatter Fultone |
| John X Robb | Robert Wear |
| John Heslet | Alexander |
| George McAlester | Donaldson |
| Thomas Ramadge | Archd. Duglass |
| James Campbell | Robert Stiven |
| David Lindsay | Robert Henry |
| Robt Giveen | James Pettey |
| James Laidlay | David Bigger |
| Benjamin Galt | David Patteson |
| Daniel Todd | David (illegible) |
| Robert Barr | John Wight |
| Hugh Hollmes | Joseph Wight |
| Robert King | Robert Willson |
| John Black | James Ball |
| Peter Christy | Andrew Cord |
| James Smith | James Nesmith |
| James Smith | John Black |
| Patrick Smith | John Thompson |
| Sameuel Ceverelle | Samuel Boyd |
| James Craig | Lawrence McLaughlen |
| Samuel Wilson M.A. | John Moor |
| Gawen Jirwen | James McKeen |
| Robert Miller | John Lamont |
| Thomas Wilson | John Smith |
| William Wilson | Patrick Orr |
| James Bryce | Bonill Orr |
| | William Orr |
| | John Orr |
| | Jeams Lenox |
| | John Leslie |
| | John Lason |



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| Robert X Crage | Thomas Hanson | Samuel Hanson |
| John Thompson | John Hanson | James Cochran |
| Hugh Tomson | Richard Etone | William Cochran |
| James Still | | Samuel X Hunter |
| James X Hogg | | John Hunter |

be a defining moment



- John Calvil
- Samuel Wat
- James Craford
- David Henderson
- Mathew Storah
- David Widborn
- Luk Wat
- Robert Hendre
- William Walas
- James Baverlan
- Peter Simpson
- Thomas McLaughlin
- Robert Boyd
- Andrew Agnew
- James King
- Thomas Elder
- Daniel Johnston
- Robert Walker
- David Jonston
- James Steuart
- John Murray
- Thomas Blackwel
- Thomas Wilson
- John Ross
- William Johnston
- John King
- Andrew Curry
- John (illegible)
- James (illegible)
- Samuel Code
- James Blak
- Thomas Gro
- Thomys Ouston
- Jame Gro
- John Clark
- Thomas McFader
- David hanson
- Richard Acton
- James Claire
- Thomas Elder
- Jeremiah Claire
- Jacob Clark
- Abram Baberley
- Stephen Murdock
- Robert Murdock
- John Murdock
- Willaim Jennson
- James Rodger
- John Buyers
- Robert Smith
- Adam Dean
- Randall Alexander
- Thomas Boyd
- Hugh Rogers
- John Craig
- Wm Boyle
- Benj Boyle
- Ja. Kennedy
- M. Stirling
- Samuel Ross
- John Ramsay
- John McKeen
- James Willson
- Robert McKeen
- John Boyd
- Andrew Dunlap
- James Ramsey
- William Park
- John Blair
- James Thompson
- Lawrence McLaughlin
- Will Campbell
- James Bankhead
- Andrew Bankhead
- Andrew Patrick
- James McFee
- James Tonson
- George Anton
- James Anton
- George Kairy
- Thomas Freeland
- Thomas Hunter
- David X McKerrell
- Hargos Kennedy
- John X Suene
- Adam X Dikoy
- Alexander kid
- Thomas Lorie
- Thomas Hines
- Will X Halkings
- George Anton
- John Collreath
- William Caird
- John Gray
- John Woodman
- Andrew Watson
- William Bleair
- Hugh X Blare
- Willaim Blare
- Samuel Anton
- James Knox
- Robert Hendry
- John Knox
- William Hendry
- William Duncan
- David Duncan
- John Muree
- James Gillmor
- Alexander Chocran
- Edward McKene
- John Morduck
- Samuel X McMun
- Henry Calual
- Thomas McLaughlen
- Robert Hogg
- John Millar
- Hugh Calwell
- William Boyd
- John Stirling
- Samuel Smith
- John Lamond
- Robert Lamond
- Robert Knox
- William Wilson
- Wm. Paterson
- James Alexander
- James Nesmtih
- David Craig
- Weall McNeall
- Thomas Orr
- Wm. Caldwell
- James Moore Jr.
- Sam Gunion
- Matthew Lord
- Robert Knox
- Alex McGregore
- James Trotter
- Alexander McNeall
- Robert Roo
- Joseph Watson
- Robert Miller
- John Smeally
- James Morieson
- James Walker
- Robert Walker
- Robert Walker
- Samuel X Young
- Alexander Richey
- James Morieson
- Joseph X Beverlan

REV. WILLIAM BOYD AND THE PETITION TO GOVERNOR SHUTE

In the early 1700s, Presbyterians in Ireland felt under pressure on a number of fronts. In addition to the religious and legal hindrances noted already, there were economic difficulties as well, with a large number of 21-year leases falling in and higher rents being demanded. Added to that, there was a succession of bad harvests in the 1710s, and the manufacture of linen had become less profitable. In early 1718, men who were dissatisfied with the situation in Ireland signed an elaborate petition, still in existence, and sent it to Boston. The petition, dated 26 March 1718, was addressed to SAMUEL SHUTE, the Governor of Massachusetts, and those who subscribed to it were anxious to assure his Excellency of our sincere and hearty inclination to transport ourselves to that very excellent and renowned plantation upon our obtaining from his excellency suitable encouragement. The signatories, including nine ministers of the gospel, can be identified as coming from an area centring on the Bann Valley, in counties Antrim and Londonderry – a region that had strongly affected by migration from Britain, especially from Scotland, and where there was strong support for the

Presbyterian Church – with others from further south and west. There were 319 signatories to this petition, of whom only a handful did not write their own names. The man delegated to carry the petition to New England was REV. WILLIAM BOYD. Born in 1685, he was possibly the son of Rev. Thomas Boyd, the minister of Aghadowey who had been in Londonderry during the siege of 1689. William Boyd studied at the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and in 1707 was licensed by the Route Presbytery. On 31 January 1710 he was ordained minister of Macosquin. On his arrival in Boston in July 1718 Boyd negotiated with the authorities there. They were quite keen to have new settlers, especially people used to farming and frontier life; the colonial government thought that Ulster settlers could be placed on the outer reaches of their colony. Boyd made a favourable impression on those whom he met. The Puritan divine, REV. INCREASE MATHER, wrote that Boyd was a man distinguished 'by the Exemplary holiness of his Conversation, and the Eminency of his Ministerial Gifts'.



Rev. William Boyd returned to Ireland in 1719 and in 1725 was ordained minister of Monreagh, County Donegal. He remained minister of this congregation until his death in 1772. He was buried in nearby Taughboyne churchyard where his gravestone can still be seen



Monreagh Presbyterian Church

Petition to Governor Samuel Shute from 'Inhabitants of the North of Ireland' (26 March 1718). Courtesy of the New Hampshire Historical Society

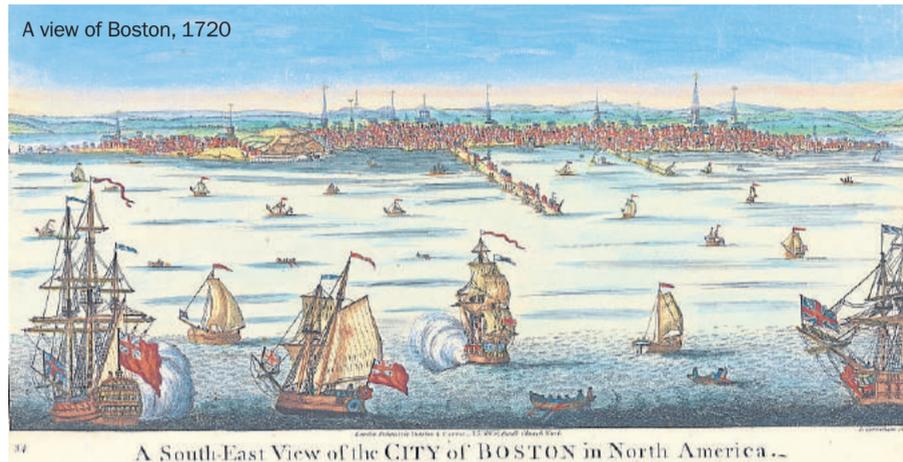
THE ARRIVAL IN NEW ENGLAND

We can safely say that upwards of 100 families, perhaps more than 500 people (some estimates have put the figure at 1,000 individuals), departing from Coleraine and from Londonderry, arrived in Boston from mid-summer to early autumn, 1718. (According to tradition they are said to have arrived in five ships, though the actual number of vessels is not known for certain.) It is also safe to say that once the Boston authorities realised the full implications of what was happening they grew increasingly concerned.

Though Shute had been encouraging enough to Boyd's overtures, and promises had been made, no area of land had actually been set aside.

The Puritans in Massachusetts, in the final analysis, were never going to be too keen on Ulster Presbyterians, for doctrinal and historical reasons. Moreover, they had little enough in the way of spare supplies of food, even for emergency support for existing residents, and were not delighted at having 'hordes of Irish' arriving.

In spite of what the 1718 migrants hoped, they were not able to stay together in a community; they were obliged to split up and move separately to various locations. One group of about 20 families stayed in their ship, the Robert, and went on up the coast to Casco Bay, Maine, where



The migrants took with them their Lowland Scots tongue, and Matthew Clerk was no exception, as the following excerpt from one of his sermons shows:

Just like Peter, aye mair forrit than wise, ganging swaggering about wi' a sword at his side; an' a pair han' he mad' o' it when he cam' to the trial, for he only cut off a chiel's lug, an' he ought to ha' split down his head!

Rev. Matthew Clerk from E. L. Parker's History of Londonderry (1851)



unfortunately they were shortly frozen in, and spent a very miserable winter in desperate conditions. In the spring, they sailed to the mouth of the Merrimack River and moved inland to an area 30 miles north of Boston, then called Nutfield. McGregor had spent the winter preaching in Dracut, Massachusetts, and he and his party joined the Nutfield group in April 1719. It is recorded that he preached a sermon while standing under an oak tree beside Beaver Pond; it is certain that on that day he was preaching to people who had been his hearers in Aghadowey.

The population of Nutfield grew rapidly in the years that followed as families who had settled elsewhere as well as newcomers from Ulster moved there.

In 1722 the community renamed their settlement Londonderry, symbolically linking their new home to the siege city. McGregor continued as minister of Londonderry until his death from fever on 5 March 1729. A few months later McGregor was succeeded by 70-year-old MATTHEW CLERK, a battle-scarred veteran of the siege of Londonderry who had resigned as minister of Kilrea, County Londonderry, and travelled to Londonderry, New Hampshire. He went on to marry McGregor's widow. Clerk died in 1735 and, as he had requested, was carried to his grave by old comrades from the siege of Londonderry.

FAMILIES IN LONDONDERRY NEW HAMPSHIRE

As well as these inspiring leaders, we know a surprising amount about some of the people who travelled with them.

The heads of the founding first families in Londonderry were JAMES MCKEEN (brother-in-law of James McGregor), JOHN BARNETT, ARCHIBALD CLENDINNEN, JOHN MITCHELL, JAMES STERRETT, JAMES ANDERSON, RANDALL ALEXANDER, JAMES GREGG (another brother-in-law of McGregor), JAMES CLARK, JAMES NESMITH, ALLEN ANDERSON, ROBERT WEIR, JOHN MORRISON, SAMUEL ALLISON, THOMAS STEELE and JOHN STUART. JAMES MCKEEN and his brother JOHN were well-to-do merchants in Ballymoney, County Antrim. They apparently sought refuge in Londonderry during the Williamite War and survived the siege there. John died shortly before the planned departure in 1718, but his widow, three sons and daughter travelled with James and other family members and neighbours to New England.

JANET MCKEEN, daughter of John McKeen was a young girl when she left Ballymoney; her memories of arriving in America were recorded around 1785 by her granddaughter Elizabeth (Dinsmore) Thom. Janet remembered 16 people without enough money to emigrate who had indentured themselves to her father, and she recalled that the travellers sang Psalms

when they arrived in Boston on the Sabbath.

JAMES GREGG, married to Janet Cargill (a sister of McGregor's wife Marion), was born in Scotland c. 1670, and moved with his parents to Macosquin, County Londonderry, c. 1690.

He was a linen draper and tailor, and it is said that he met his wife to be when she came into his shop to be measured for wedding clothes. She told the young man that she was unwillingly being married to an older man called Lindsay, to whom her parents owed money; the couple eloped that evening and were married by the curate of a neighbouring parish.

Their son William Gregg, born in Ireland c. 1695, became the principal surveyor who laid out property lots in the new settlement of Londonderry.

OCEAN-BORN MARY was born in 1720 on board the ship on which her parents, James and Elizabeth Wilson, were travelling to America. The story goes that a pirate attacked their vessel, and threatened all on board with death, but the newborn baby's cries excited his pity; he said if they named the child Mary, after his mother, he would spare the whole ship. Not only that but he gave the child a bolt of green brocade material for her wedding dress. Mary Wilson spent the rest of her life in Londonderry, New Hampshire.



Far left: Headstone to David and Janet Cargill from Aghadowey in Forest Hill Cemetery, East Derry, New Hampshire. Courtesy Heather Wilkinson Rojo

Left: Detail from the headstone of Rev. James McGregor in Forest Hill Cemetery. Courtesy Heather Wilkinson Rojo.



My impression is that these leading families were men of some education and substance, and might have made their mark anywhere. Rev. T. H. Mullin, Aghadowey: A Parish and its Linen Industry (1972)

OTHER ULSTER SETTLEMENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Among the other places in New England settled by immigrants from Ulster was Worcester, Massachusetts, which at that time would have been considered a frontier settlement.

REV. EDWARD FITZGERALD, described as 'of Londonderry', but about whose background nothing else is known, led a group of families here in the late summer of 1718. It seems that many of the early Ulster settlers in Worcester were from the Foyle Valley, comprising adjoining portions of counties Donegal, Londonderry and Tyrone. A number of families can be traced to Ardstraw in Tyrone as well as other parishes in this region.

Similar to the experiences of Ulster settlers elsewhere, the reaction of the English Puritans in

Worcester was hostile with some of the locals even going so far as to burn down the new arrivals' Presbyterian meeting house, which was in the process of being built. As a result, many of these families moved on elsewhere.

A headstone in Worcester commemorates surely the oldest of the 1718 migrants. The inscription to JOHN YOUNG notes that he died in 1730 at the age of 107, meaning that he must have been in his mid-90s at the time of his departure from Ireland.

The inscription also records that he was from the 'Isle of Bert' – Burt in County Donegal. Some of those who left Worcester settled a few miles away at Sutton where REV. JOHN MCKINSTRY began his ministry c. 1720.

McKinstry seems to have been a son of Roger McKinstry who lived near Edinburgh, but fled Scotland as a Covenanter in the 1660s.

John was born apparently in Broadisland, County Antrim, and graduated from the University of Edinburgh with an MA degree. Voluntown, Connecticut, had so many Ulster settlers that the English protested against allowing them to have their own minister.

However, in 1723 REV. SAMUEL DORRANCE, who had been associated with the presbytery of Coleraine in Ireland, became minister of this community. Another Ulster minister in Connecticut was REV. JAMES HILLHOUSE, from a family settled at Freehall near Limavady, who became pastor of New London in 1722.

MAP SHOWING THE MAIN AREAS IN ULSTER AFFECTED
BY THE 1718 MIGRATION TO NEW ENGLAND



PROOTA FARLS - A DELICIOUS TASTE OF HISTORY

The idea of combining potato and wheat flour is recorded as early as the mid 1700s.

The word farl comes from the old Scots word 'fardel' meaning quarter because of how it is formed.

In some recipes the ingredients are rolled out quite thin called fadge then cooked on a griddle or hot frying pan.

They are so easy to make, a great way to use up potatoes and they taste fantastic!

APPLE PROOTA FARLS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 x quantity of Potato Bread mix



• Stewed Apples

METHOD :

Roll out circles 1cm (½") thick about the size of a saucer.
Place 2 tablespoons of apple on one side of the circle, damp round the edge with

water, fold in half and seal. Cut a little slit in the top to allow steam to escape. Cook for about 10 minutes or until golden brown, turn over and repeat on the other side.

Enjoy!

1st Dunboe Presbyterian Church, Articlave

‘In Search of a New World’ 1718 - the first mass migration from Ireland to America

20th – 24th June, 2018

Discover the phenomenal story of 1718 when the people of Dunboe and the Bann Valley braved the Atlantic in search of a new world.

The exhibition will be launched on Wednesday, June 20th at 7.00pm.

The exhibition will be open:

Thursday 21st from 10.00am to 10.00pm
Friday 22nd from 10.00am to 10.00pm
Saturday 23rd from 10.00am to 10.00pm
and Sunday 24th from 2.00pm to 6.00pm

A Pilgrim People: A Sending Church

Sunday 24th June 7.30pm A Pilgrim People : A Sending Church

The Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen

[Moderator of the Pres. Church in Ireland]

Admission to the exhibition is free

Donations will be divided equally between:

- Home-Start Causeway – supporting 70 local families with 175 children
- First Dunboe Building and Repair Fund – building for the future

Refreshments available in the Mark Memorial Hall, Articlave

Causeway 1718

Society in transition

Wars of the 17th century, Penal Laws imposing civil and religious penalties, Scottish immigration, economic challenges ...

Wars of the seventeenth century, Penal Laws imposing civil and religious penalties, Scottish immigration, economic challenges and the introduction of new industries all impacted on the Causeway area in the early eighteenth century.

This was the background of the first organised migration from Ulster to North America — the 1718 Bann Valley Migration. This exhibition explores the people and places of the Causeway area, connecting local people and places with bigger national stories. Discover what was happening, why it happened, and what the 1718 Bann Valley Migration was all about.

Coleraine Museum

Coleraine Town Hall

11th May – 20th June
Tuesday – Saturday
11am – 4pm



Limavady Museum

Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre

29th June – 25th August
Monday – Saturday
9.30am – 5pm



Admission free

Reverse — Top to Bottom

Detail from Aghadowey Map, surveyed by Alexander Stewart in 1717. Courtesy of National Library of Ireland.
Newtowne Limavady town crest. Courtesy of Council's Museum Collections.
Queen Anne Mace, 1702. Courtesy of Council's Museum Collections.

Top to Bottom

Detail from Ballycastle Collieries map, 1790. Courtesy of EdD Downing R. Horton.
Gunter Quadrant. Courtesy of Council's Museum Collections.
Best Flax Yarn Linen Seal. Courtesy of Council's Museum Collections.



The Executive Office

For Further information

Follow Coleraine and Limavady Museum on Facebook
T: 028 2766 0230 E: cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Andrew Jackson, Nashville's favourite son



ABOVE: Alderman Brian Kingston (former Lord Mayor of Belfast), Alderman Guy Spence, Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA, Ian Crozier (Chief Executive Officer, Ulster-Scots Agency), William Humphrey MLA and former MLA Nelson McCausland

RIGHT: Jim Shulman, Dan Walsh, Heather Cunningham, Dr Marieta Velikova, William Humphrey MLA and Dr Katy Radford MBE (Vice-Chair, Arts Council of Northern Ireland) pictured at a reception in honour of the Nashville Sister Cities Delegation in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre



Alderman Guy Spence and Christopher Marsicano (Chairman of the Nashville Sister Cities Committee)



Billy Kennedy pictured signing copies of his latest publication for the Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA (keynote speaker) and Jim Shulman (Nashville Sister Cities Delegation)



Jim Shulman, Ian Crozier and former First Minister, the Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA (Keynote Speaker)

Education update

By Richard Hanna Director of Education and Language

The Agency continues to support core education activities such as the Flagship Programme, After Schools Clubs and music and dance tuition.

The number of schools achieving Flagship status grows and presentations of the popular trophy take place on a regular basis.

The trophy was commissioned by the Ulster-Scots Agency and is a hand crafted ceramic piece made by local artist Gail Gilmore.

Previously I highlighted the launch of 'Woven in Ulster', a teaching and learning resource commissioned by the Ulster-Scots Agency based on the theme of linen.

On a recent visit to Monreagh Ulster-Scots Heritage and Education Centre in east Donegal I learned about how a group of schools are involved in curriculum based work on the linen theme.

Generations of men, women and children earned their living from occupations associated with linen production.

As with the rest of Ulster, legacies of the industry remain.

Learning about this aspect of



"The number of schools achieving Flagship status grows and presentations of the popular trophy take place on a regular basis."

- Richard Hanna

history is important and recently developed resources help teachers to plan lessons on the topic.

The Monreagh Ulster-Scots Heritage and Education Centre has developed a linen teaching resource including a DVD demonstrating the process of sowing, harvesting and processing flax; classroom displays; and flax seed to sow at the school. The centre recently hosted a training day for local teachers to explain and demonstrate the history and processes of the flax/linen industry. Photographs show the teachers getting 'hands on' with flax, sowing flax seed at the centre.

They also had a demonstration of scutching and combing flax to produce raw linen.

I'm grateful to Kieran Fegan of the Centre for sharing details of the work.

I'm very pleased to have **Monaghan Collegiate** as our first post-primary 'School in Focus' in this edition of the Ulster-Scot.

The application process for the Ulster-Scots music and dance tuition programme has now closed.

This is a popular annual programme that provides opportunities for young people to learn new skills and have their achievements accredited. The Ulster-Scots Agency is planning to celebrate the achievements of these learners and there will be more about this in the next edition. Future plans include the development of more teaching and learning resources.

These, together with existing programmes will help develop knowledge and understanding of Ulster-Scots history, heritage and tradition.



School in focus: Monaghan Collegiate

By School Principal Mr Johnston Reid

Monaghan Collegiate is a small Protestant ethos school on the outskirts of Monaghan town.

Its predecessor, Monaghan Diocesan School was originally founded by an Act of the Dublin Parliament, in 1570, and underwent a number of transitions until 1902 when it fell into abeyance.

The school was re-established in 1950 under the joint patronage of the Church of Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Based on its Protestant tradition and history, the school is committed to providing for the welfare of all its pupils in an inclusive and caring environment, and to the development of mutual respect and tolerance grounded in Christian compassion. Both its tradition and geography ensure that it is closely linked to the Ulster-Scots tradition.

Up until recently the school was unable to afford musical instruments and had no access to them, resulting in a lack of participation in music, both in school and also in local churches.

However the involvement of our feeder primary schools in the

Ulster-Scots Agency projects for the fiddle and the tin whistle has spawned a great interest in both the music and the culture.

This has fed through to the secondary school with the backing of the Ulster-Scots Agency allowing the school to purchase twenty four ukuleles and five fiddles last year. Further assistance this year in the form of a loan of twenty fiddles has truly transformed the music scene at school giving new life and meaning to the carol service and prize day. This change has also greatly helped enhance the confidence of our students.

We look forward to engaging further with the Ulster-Scots Agency and in particular Richard Hanna so that young people can truly enjoy a vibrant and confident culture respectful of all, and we are deeply indebted to Keith Lyttle for his tuition and assistance.

This engagement with the Ulster-Scots Agency is an embodiment of our motto, "Obair le Chéile, Flourish as individuals"; working together so that we may flourish as individuals.

Working with the Ulster-Scots Agency has allowed our students to flourish as musicians.



Keith Lyttle with the fiddle orchestra playing at the Carol service, First Monaghan Presbyterian Church



The fiddle orchestra playing at Prize Day in St Patrick's Church

Straidbilly Primary and Glenmaquin meet in twinning programme



The senior children from Glenmaquin National School travelled to the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh where they met the children from Straidbilly Primary School.

After exploring the museum area and trying on costumes, they had a tour of the park where they discovered more about

the novel *Under the Hawthorn Tree* by Marita Conlon Mc Kenna. The children chatted as they walked along in the snow and had a delicious lunch together. Each school swapped a book about their school and their local area which was enjoyed by all the children on their journey home on the bus. Glenmaquin also presented Straidbilly with a book written for their 150th Anniversary year which had lots of memories

of the school's history and they received a lovely present as a memento of the meeting. The schools hope to meet again in the summer term. The pupils from Straidbilly agreed it was a great experience. Pupils and staff in Straidbilly have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the boys, girls and teachers from Glenmaquin National School and having fun with them on school trips.

All of their younger children had a wonderful time playing at Alley Cats in Coleraine. Straidbilly really enjoyed reading Glenmaquin's scrap book and their 150th Anniversary book. They would love to meet up again to further develop their Ulster-Scots partnership. The schools expressed thanks to the Ulster-Scots Agency for enabling them to meet through their schools twinning programme.

Money more PS earn prestigious flagship award

Money more Primary School have received a Flagship Award in recognition of their excellent engagement of the Ulster-Scots Agency Flagship programme.

Pupils were involved in a wide range of cultural experiences during and after school over a number of years.

Ashley Cunningham, principal of Money more PS, said: "The pupils have enjoyed participating in various strands of the programme including traditional music, language studies, history and drama.

"The school has also benefited greatly from support given with plays performed at the Leavers' Assembly, which parents have appreciated. Gary Blair, Education Officer said: "Money more Primary School has been a joy to work with as they progressed steadily through the Ulster-Scots Flagship School Programme.

"Ms Cunningham and Mr Donaghy have proved to be an excellent team and they never failed to inspire enthusiasm amongst the pupils.

"I was delighted to present the school with their Flagship Award and the Ulster-Scots Agency looks forward to a continuing relationship with the school in the future."



WEANS' WURLD**HOW MANY OF THESE SCOTCH-IRISH PRESIDENTS CAN YOU FIND?**

JACKSON
POLK
BUCHANAN
JOHNSON
GRANT
ARTHUR
CLEVELAND
HARRISON
ROOSEVELT
WILSON
TRUMAN
NIXON
CARTER
BARACK OBAMA
CLINTON
BUSH

**ULSTER-SCOTS PLACE TO VISIT****HEAR THE STORIES BEHIND EMIGRATION AT THE ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK**

It could be said that the history of Ulster is as much about leaving as living. The voyage in search of new beginnings in the 'New World' became a well trodden path in the 18th and 19th centuries as politics, poverty and the potato famine forced the population to look hopefully across the Atlantic. That story of emigration is brought to life spectacularly at the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, County Tyrone.

For over 40 years visitors to the open air museum, part of National Museums NI, have experienced the journey from the farmsteads of rural Ulster to the log cabins of pioneers to the American Frontier. This is the ultimate in living history with original, authentic buildings restored, relocated and populated by a cast of colourful, costumed characters going about their day to day business as they might have done many years ago.

Visitors can follow the trail of thousands of brave emigrants as they journey from the thatched cottages of Ulster, across the Atlantic Ocean. They can board a full-scale emigrant ship to experience the conditions faced by many as they set sail for a new life in America.

With over 30 buildings and exhibits to explore, and masses of things for the kids to do, the Ulster American Folk Park is a



wonderfully unique experience for visitors of all ages.

This summer there is a host of events and a new exhibition at the museum. On June 9, *A Taste Of Culture - Thread of our Lives* will celebrate the rich variety of cultures and traditions that are found within the Fermanagh and Omagh district through international cuisine, crafts and fun activities.

An Irish dance exhibition, *A Step in Time*, opens on June 15 and is part of National Museums NI's year long programme, *Hear Her Voice*, which celebrates the women in the collections. Women have played a hugely significant role in the history of Irish dance over the last 125 years, as dancers, choreographers, musicians, and designers and makers of costume. This exhibition

**the Ulster-Scot
COMPETITION****WIN****A FAMILY PASS
TO THE ULSTER AMERICAN
FOLK PARK, OMAGH**

To win a one day family pass to the Ulster American Folk Park just send your answer to this question:

Q. What date will the Ulster American Folk Park celebrate American Independence Day?

Email your answer to competition@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk with 'Folk Park' in the subject line. Please remember to include your name and contact details.

CLOSING DATE: JUNE 30

Alternatively post your answer to:

**Ulster Scots Agency,
The Corn Exchange,
31 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG**

LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS

(multi-packs of Ulster-Scots Agency merchandise)

Mrs Norah Campbell, Augher, Co Tyrone
Mrs Anne York, Magherafelt, Co Londonderry
Mr Peter Wilkinson, Portglenone, Co Antrim
Mr Thomas McCracken, Ballymoney Co Antrim
Katie Burke, Portadown, Co Armagh

draws on the folk life collections of National Museums, to showcase objects associated with Irish Dance at home and abroad, many of them made and used by local women such as Pat Bond and Patricia Mulholland. On Wednesday July 4 the Folk Park will celebrate all things American from the 18th and 19th centuries with its *American Independence* celebrations. It's a festival for all the family with American Revolutionary soldiers, fur trappers and traders, live Bluegrass and American Folk music as well as traditional Punch and Judy Shows and American games.

The award winning annual *Bluegrass Music Festival*, from Friday August 31 to Sunday September 2, is the largest of its kind outside North America and brings award-winning international and home-grown performers attracting thousands of visitors from far and wide. The Festival explores the strong musical connections between traditional music from these islands and American folk music. Visitors can enjoy an authentic experience, exploring the themes of emigration and folk-life from this part of the world to North America, through music, song and dance - all within the unique setting of the Ulster American Folk Park.

For further information on the Ulster American Folk Park and the events taking place, visit www.nmni.com