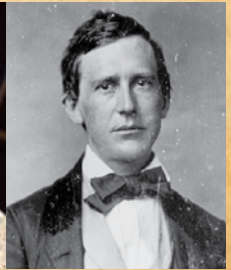
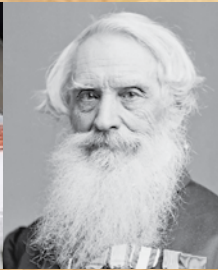


When Ulster sailed west

The Ulster-Scots contribution to the making of the United States



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Who are the Scotch-Irish?

The simplest answer is that they are the Scots, planted in Ulster in the seventeenth century, and their descendants, some 250,000 of whom moved across the Atlantic during the course of the eighteenth century to create a new life for themselves and their families in the New World. William Smith, an eighteenth-century immigrant described himself and his compatriots as ‘people of the Scottish nation in Ulster who had given their strength and substance and lives to uphold the British connection there...’

A century later Robert E. Lee, asked which race made the best soldiers, offered an interesting answer: ‘The Scotch who came to this country by way of Ireland’, a neat definition of who are the Scotch Irish. Pressed to explain his answer, ‘Marse Robert’ replied, ‘Because they have all the dash of the Irish in taking a position and all the stubbornness of the Scotch in holding it.’

Why did they come to America?

The Scotch-Irish, or the Ulster-Scots as they are known on the other side of the Atlantic, left Ulster for a mixture of reasons, religious and economic. Revd James McGregor of Aghadowey, County Londonderry, alluded to both in a sermon preached prior to his departure, along with a large section of his congregation, to the New World in 1718. He said: ‘Brethren, let us depart for God has appointed a new country for us to dwell in. It is called New England. Let us be free of these Pharaohs, these rackers of rents and screwers of tithes, and let us go into the land of Canaan. We are the Lord’s ain people and He shall divide the ocean before us’.

There is some dispute as to whether religious or economic factors were uppermost. Modern historians, especially in Europe, living in a secular age, have placed greater emphasis on economic factors. Yet, it would be

almost impossible to exaggerate the importance of religion to the lives of eighteenth-century men and women. The words of the great nineteenth-century French historian Elie Halévy seem particularly appropriate: ‘Men are usually governed less by interest than by beliefs and passions’.

Religious factors

Ulster Presbyterians, like Irish Roman Catholics, were disadvantaged on account of their religious beliefs. Presbyterians were excluded by the Anglican ascendancy from public office by the ‘Test Act’ of 1704. Ulster Presbyterians had played a vitally important role in the siege of Londonderry in 1689 in particular and events between 1688 and 1691 in general. Yet, the heroes of great siege ‘had scarcely taught their children the story of their fame’, complained Revd William Campbell, a late eighteenth-century Presbyterian minister, when they ‘beheld with indignation, that they were rendered incapable of serving that country, which they just saved to the crown, and defended with such distinguished honour and gallantry’. When the American War of Independence broke out Britain encountered no more implacable foes than the descendants of these Ulster Presbyterians. In the words of the English historian J.A. Froude: ‘The resentment which they carried with them continued to burn in their new homes, and in the War of Independence England had no fiercer enemies than the grandsons and great-grandsons of the Presbyterians who held Ulster against Tyrconnel’.

Presbyterians also resented having to pay tithes for upkeep of the Church of Ireland, as well as having to contribute to the maintenance of their own ministers. Other grievances included a brief ban on Presbyterians teaching in schools and the validity of Presbyterian marriages. Presbyterian marriages were not recognised as legal; therefore the children of Presbyterian marriages were regarded as illegitimate and therefore potentially could not inherit their father’s property. The strict letter of the law was rarely enforced but the sense of grievance was not thereby diminished.

Economic considerations

Rising rents and short leases, especially between 1718 and 1719 and again in the early 1770s, provided a strong incentive to emigration. The prospect of cheap land in America was a very attractive proposition to the Scotch-Irish. This, after all, was one of the principal reasons why the Scotch-Irish had settled in Ulster in the first place. Poor harvests and down-turns in the economic cycle were stimuli to emigration, there being a strong correlation between these and high levels of emigration.

Emigration became a self-perpetuating process – those who had done well in America urged their friends to follow. For example, in 1773 Thomas Wright wrote to his fellow Quaker Thomas Greer of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, pressing him to allow his nephew to come to Pennsylvania: ‘I believe with approbation I might venture to think that he or any young man may have ten chances to one to make a fortune here than in Ireland.’

The captains of the trans-Atlantic ships – who clearly had a vested interest in the passenger trade – conducted a steady propaganda to persuade people to emigrate. The ships that brought flax seed (or timber, grain and tobacco) from America to Ulster often returned with emigrants. By the early 1770s it is calculated that Ulster emigrants were reaching North America at the rate of 12,000 per year.

The Ulster-Scots and the Frontier

Ulster-Scots played an important part in the extension of the frontier. James Logan of Lurgan, Provincial Secretary of Pennsylvania, encouraged Ulster-Scots settlement in the colony and welcomed them as his ‘brave’ fellow-countrymen. He wanted the Ulster-Scots to act as buffer between his fellow Quakers and the Indians.

In 1720 he wrote: ‘At that time we were apprehensive from the Northern Indians... I therefore thought it might be prudent to plant a settlement of such men as those who formerly had so bravely defended Londonderry and Enniskillen as a frontier in case of any disturbance... These people if kindly used will be orderly as they have hitherto been and easily dealt with. They will also, I expect, be a leading example to others.’

He ended up feeling sorry for the Indians, claiming that ‘A settlement of five families from the north of Ireland gives me more trouble than fifty of any other people.’

Ulster-Scots were not worried by legalities. To Logan’s acute annoyance, they increasingly settled on land without bothering to secure legal rights to it. According to Logan they ‘alleged that it was against the laws of God and nature, that so much land should be idle, while so many Christians wanted it to labour on, and raise their bread’.

The Ulster-Scots role in the American Revolution

Many Ulster-Scots brought with them a strong sense of grievance against the Government and their influence strengthened the growing anti-British feeling among the colonists. George Bancroft, the distinguished American historian, noted: ‘The first voice publicly raised in America to dissolve all connection with Great Britain came, not from the Dutch of New York, nor from the Cavaliers of Virginia, but from the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians’. Hugh Walpole, the literary son of the first British Prime Minister, joked, ‘I hear that our American cousin has run away with a Scotch-Irish parson’. A Hessian captain, fighting on the British side, is recorded as saying, ‘Call this war by whatever name you may, only call it not an American rebellion; it is nothing more than a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian rebellion’.

George Washington is supposed to have said, 'If defeated everywhere else I will make my last stand with the Scotch-Irish of my native Virginia'. Lt Anthony Allaire, a New York loyalist, described the Scotch-Irish of the Waxhaws as 'the most violent rebels I ever saw.' The Scotch-Irish played a major role in defeating the British at the Battles of King's Mountain (October 1780) and Cowpens (January 1781).

The wider role of the Ulster-Scots

W.F. Marshall examined the wider contribution of the Ulster-Scots in *Ulster Sails West* in 1943. The book's subtitle – 'The story of the great emigration from Ulster to North America in the 18th century, with an outline of the part played by Ulstermen in building the United States' – accurately conveys its subject matter.

Marshall's book also reveals the extensive influence of the Ulster-Scots in so many different spheres. Among those identified are Revd Francis Makemie, the 'Father of American Presbyterianism'; Cyrus McCormick, the inventor of the reaping machine; and Samuel Morse, the pioneer of the electro-magnetic telegraph and the code which bears his name. Pre-eminent in the world of politics were Andrew Jackson and Ulysses S. Grant, the 7th and the 18th Presidents of the United States respectively.

The Scotch-Irish have been praised by Theodore Roosevelt, John Fiske and Henry Cabot Lodge, especially for their role in the American Revolution and the winning of the West. The Scotch-Irish also have made a significant contribution to education, religion and politics in both the Colonial and the post-Colonial era and continue to do so right down to the present day.



Francis Alison

1705 - 1779

Francis Alison, who was born at Leck, near Letterkenny, County Donegal, emigrated to America in 1735 after graduating from Glasgow University where he had been a student of Francis Hutcheson, the Ulster-Scots philosopher and 'Father of the Scottish Enlightenment'. A Presbyterian minister and teacher, Alison played a significant role in transmitting Hutcheson's political thought to the American colonies and in shaping American public opinion prior to American independence. Endowed with a formidable intellect, Alison ran an academy in Philadelphia and was acknowledged by Benjamin Franklin to be 'a man of great ingenuity and learning'. Three of Alison's pupils were members of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and were signatories to the American Declaration of Independence: Thomas McKean, Charles Thomson and James Smith. Charles Thomson, who served as Secretary of the Continental Congress, was also a pupil of Alison. Francis Makemie (1658 -1708), another County Donegal Presbyterian minister, founded the first presbytery in America in 1706 and is normally considered to be 'the father of the American Presbyterianism'.



Neil Armstrong

1930 - present

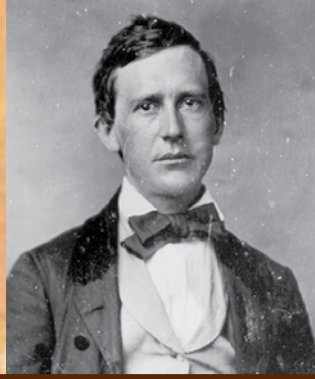
Neil Armstrong was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio, and is a former American astronaut, test pilot, university professor, and United States Naval Aviator. Armstrong's first spaceflight was aboard Gemini 8 in 1966. On 20 July 1969, as Commander of Apollo 11, he became the first man to set foot on the moon, famously observing as he did so: 'That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.' While there is no dispute that Armstrong is descended from Border Reivers, his authorised biographer has challenged the hitherto prevailing view that his Reiver ancestors ever settled in County Fermanagh. James Benson Irwin (1930-91), another Ulster-Scot astronaut whose family hailed from Pomeroy, County Tyrone, was the eighth person to walk on the Moon. To date twelve men have walked on the surface of the Moon, two of whom have been Ulster-Scots.



David Crockett

1786 -1836

In popular legend this celebrated nineteenth-century American folk hero was known as 'the King of the Wild Frontier'. A frontiersman, soldier and politician, he always referred to himself as David Crockett rather than Davy. He represented Tennessee in the United States House of Representatives, was an active participant in the Texan rebellion against Mexican rule and famously died defending the Alamo. Crockett told William Travis and Jim Bowie that he had travelled to the Alamo to aid them in their 'noble cause' and to defend 'the liberties' of their 'common country'. His Ulster forbears hailed from Castlederg in County Tyrone. Another frontiersman, Jim Bowie (1796-1836), the inventor of the Bowie knife, also died defending the Alamo. Bowie's family roots were in Aughnacloy, also in County Tyrone.



Stephen Collins Foster

1826 -1864

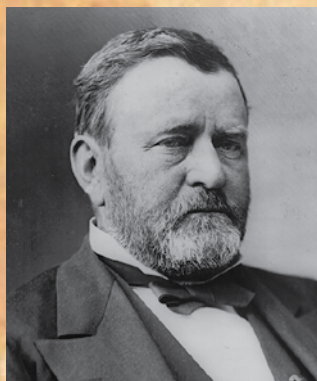
Foster was nineteenth-century America's pre-eminent songwriter. Although many of his songs have Southern themes, Foster never lived there and visited the Deep South only once, on a river-boat trip down the Mississippi to New Orleans in 1852 on his honeymoon. His songs, such as 'Oh Susanna', 'Camptown Races', 'Old Folks at Home' ('Swanee River'), 'My Old Kentucky Home', and, above all, 'Beautiful Dreamer' remain immensely popular over 150 years after their composition. 'The father of American music' died tragically young and in abject poverty in New York. Foster's great grandfather sailed to America from Londonderry about 1728. The lyrics of 'The Star-Spangled Banner', the national anthem of the United States of America, were written by Francis Scott Key, another Ulster-Scot, after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry at Baltimore, Maryland, by ships of the Royal Navy during the War of 1812.



Greer Garson

1904 - 1996

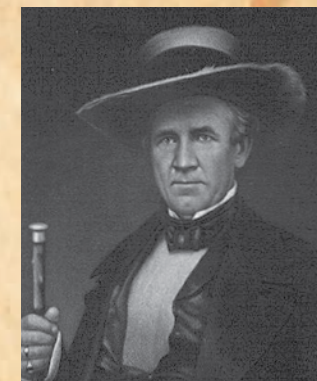
Titian haired, elegant, highly intelligent and possessed of a beautiful voice, Greer Garson was one of the most popular actresses of the 1940s. As one of MGM's major stars of that decade, Garson received seven Academy Award nominations, winning the Best Actress award for Mrs Miniver (1942). Although she was born in London in 1904, she always claimed that she was born in Ulster in 1908. However, she did spend many of her childhood days in Castlewellan, County Down, at the home of her maternal grandfather who was a sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary. In the 1960s she told Captain Terence O'Neill, the then Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, that she was extremely proud of her Ulster roots and that she sported the Red Hand of Ulster on any car she owned. In Sunrise at Campobello (1960) Greer Garson played the role of the formidable Eleanor Roosevelt. Ava Gardner (1922-90), who was a stunning green-eyed brunette, was another famous film actress of Ulster-Scots ancestry.



Ulysses S. Grant

1822 - 1885

Many of the outstanding soldiers of the American Civil War on both sides of the great conflict were of Ulster-Scots stock. Confederate generals 'Stonewall' Jackson (1824-63) and 'Jeb' Stuart (1833-64) immediately spring to mind but the military historian J. F. C. Fuller has described Grant as 'the greatest general of his age and one of the greatest strategists of any age'. If Abraham Lincoln was the Union's political saviour, Ulysses S. Grant saved the Union militarily. Lincoln's apt riposte to those who objected to Grant's fondness for the bottle was: 'I wish some of you would tell me the brand of whiskey that Grant drinks. I would like to send a barrel of it to my other generals'. The 18th President of the United States, whose ancestors came from Ballygawley, County Tyrone, was a conspicuously more successful general than he was a politician. Although a man of great personal integrity, many of Grant's acolytes subscribed to very lax standards.



Samuel Houston

1793 - 1863

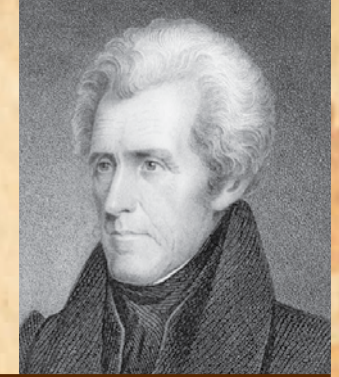
Sam Houston avenged the Alamo by defeating General Santa Anna and the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto on 21 April 1836. The first President of the independent republic of Texas had his roots in Ballyboley near Ballyclare, County Antrim. He was born in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. A key figure in the history of Texas, he variously served as President of the Republic of Texas, Senator for Texas after it joined the United States, and finally as governor. Indeed, Houston is the only person in United States history to have been the governor of two different states: Tennessee and Texas. Although a slave owner and opponent of abolition, Houston refused, because of his unionist convictions, to swear allegiance to the Confederacy when Texas seceded from the Union. To avoid bloodshed, he declined the offer of a Union army to put down the rebellion and instead retired to Huntsville, Texas, where he died before the end of the Civil War. The city of Houston was named in his honour. Houston's reputation survived his death: posthumous commemoration has included a memorial museum, a United States Army base, a national forest, a historical park, a university, and the largest free-standing statue of an American figure.



Mary Draper Ingles

1732 - 1815

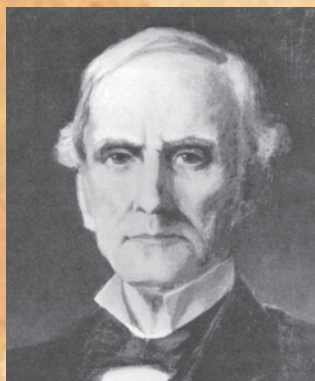
Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mary was a pioneer and early settler in the Shenandoah Valley of western Virginia. George Draper, her father, had emigrated from Donegal in 1729. The Draper family subsequently established Draper's Meadow, close to Blacksburg, Virginia. In 1750 Mary married William Ingles and gave birth to two sons: Thomas in 1751 and George in 1753. Mary was abducted by Shawnee Indians after the Draper's Meadow Massacre of 1755 and was taken to Big Bone Lick, Kentucky. From there she escaped, making a harrowing trek over 850 miles of rough terrain to return home. She and her husband established Ingles Ferry across the New River in 1762. Her remarkable story has been a source of inspiration to both authors and filmmakers.



Andrew Jackson

1767 - 1845

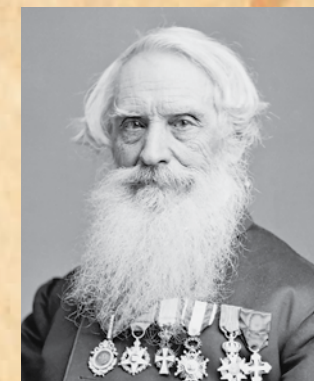
'Old Hickory' (as Jackson was nicknamed) was the first President to be elected from west of the Appalachians. Unlike his predecessors he was not born to great privilege and was the first President to be born in a log cabin. As the founder of the Democratic Party, he was the first President to found a modern political party. He was the first President to expand the role and powers of the Presidency, so much so that his opponents bitterly denounced him as 'King Andrew I'. Jackson was the first (and remains, arguably, the greatest) of a long line of Ulster-Scots Presidents. The 8th President's parents hailed from Boneybefore, near Carrickfergus, County Antrim. James Polk (1795-1849) and James Buchanan (1791-1868), 11th and 15th Presidents of the United States respectively, were protégés of Jackson. Polk's roots were in County Londonderry while Buchanan's were in Counties Donegal and Tyrone.



Thomas Alexander Mellon

1813 - 1908

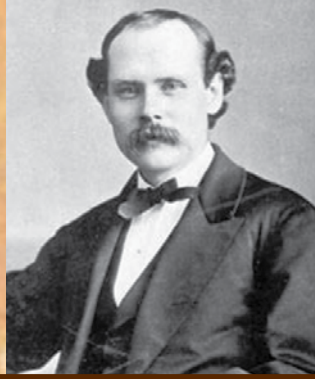
Thomas Mellon emigrated as a child from Omagh, County Tyrone, in 1818. The modest Mellon family homestead, which is still there, formed the original nucleus in the creation of the Ulster-American Folk Park in 1976. At the age of fourteen, Mellon read *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* and was greatly inspired by Franklin's rags-to-riches tale whose achievements he easily surpassed by becoming an outstanding entrepreneur, lawyer and judge and the patriarch of the Mellon family of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He also wrote an autobiography, modestly entitled *Thomas Mellon and His Times*. However, he is best remembered as the founder of the Mellon Bank. Thomas Mellon's son Andrew (1855-1937) was born in Pittsburgh in 1855, trained as a lawyer and entered the family bank in 1882. He was 'a chip of the old block' and soon became a major figure in both banking and industry in his own right. He was Secretary to the Treasury under Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover. He was briefly ambassador to the United Kingdom between 1932 and 1933. A great patron of the arts, he endowed the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. Jean Paul Getty (1892-1976), the oil man, was a scion of another outstandingly successful Ulster-Scots commercial and industrial dynasty whose origins may be traced back to County Londonderry.



Samuel Morse

1791 - 1872

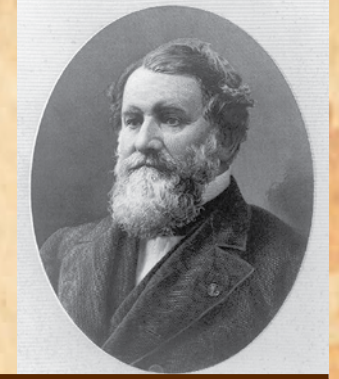
Morse was the founder and first president of the National Academy of Design in New York. He was a gifted and prolific painter of portraits and historical scenes. However, this aspect of his life has been completely overshadowed by his invention of the telegraph and the 'Morse Code' (which he devised for use with the telegraph). These inventions were the product of his keen interest in electricity. The impact of Morse's invention on the era in which he lived invites comparison with Sir Tim Berners-Lee's invention of the World Wide Web at MIT (the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in the late 1980s. Morse was a profoundly religious man, a fact reflected in the first message which he transmitted between Washington and Baltimore on 24 May 1844: 'What hath God wrought?' His Ulster-Scots ancestors hailed from Mullabrack, County Armagh. Lord Kelvin (1824-1907), another Ulster-Scot and probably the greatest physicist of the nineteenth century, was responsible for laying the first submarine trans-Atlantic cable in 1857-58.



Robert Ross McBurney

1837 - 1898

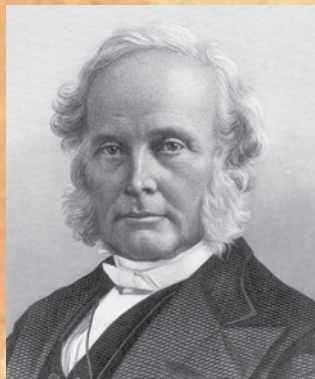
McBurney was born in Castleblayney, County Monaghan, and emigrated to the United States in 1854. On his arrival in New York City he obtained a room in the YMCA. This began a life-long interest and commitment to the organisation. He became the organisation's executive officer in 1862 and presided over a period of extraordinary expansion in terms of increased membership, new branches, and more buildings between the 1860s and the 1890s. McBurney School, a college preparatory school in Manhattan founded in 1916 and run by the YMCA of Greater New York, commemorates McBurney's life and work. Robert John Gregg (1867-1948), the inventor of Gregg shorthand, was another Ulster-Scot from County Monaghan. Born in Rockcorry, his method met with great success in the United States, and Gregg settled in Chicago where he authored numerous books for the Gregg Publishing Company on the subject of shorthand and contemporary business practices. His shorthand system is widely used and has been adapted to other languages. He died in New York.



Cyrus McCormick

1809 - 1884

Cyrus McCormick's ancestors hailed from Ballygawley, County Tyrone, eventually settling in the Shenandoah Valley. McCormick designed and built the first practical reaping machine. His invention allowed farmers to harvest grain faster and cheaper than ever before. Prior to McCormick's invention, farmers could only harvest 1/2 an acre per day; after his invention farmers could harvest 12 acres per day. The prominent American politician William H. Seward observed that as a result of McCormick's reaper 'the line of civilisation moves westward thirty miles each year'. McCormick transformed agriculture and made possible the diversification of American industry. Harry Ferguson (1884-1960), the man whose name is most closely linked with the development of the modern tractor, was another great Ulster-Scot agricultural innovator who transformed agriculture in the twentieth century. In partnership with Henry Ford, they manufactured over 300,000 Ford Ferguson tractors before Ford's headstrong grandson foolishly reneged on his grandfather's famous 'hand-shake' agreement with Ferguson.



James McCosh

1811 - 1894

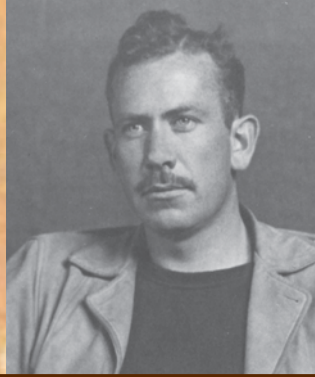
James McCosh was a major figure in the religious and intellectual history of Scotland, mid-nineteenth century Ulster and the late-nineteenth century United States. In Ulster he was Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in Queen's College, Belfast, an outstanding educationalist and opinion former. As President of Princeton, he led the college with great skill, transforming it and preparing it for university status. He represented the last great flowering of the Scottish Enlightenment. If Francis Hutcheson (1694-1746), Professor of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow University from 1729 until his death, was the intellectual embodiment of the 'constant factor' between Ulster and Scotland, McCosh was emblematic of the wider Ulster-Scots epic linking Scotland, Ulster and America.



Dolly Parton

1946 - present

Dolly Parton, 'the Queen of Country', is a Grammy Award-winning American singer-songwriter, author, actress and philanthropist. With 25 'number-one' singles and a record number of 'top-ten' country albums to her credit, Dolly Parton is the most successful female artist in the history of country music. She is known for her distinctive Tennessee-mountain soprano voice, her occasionally bawdy humour, flamboyant dress sense and voluptuous figure. Dolly Parton is extremely proud of her Scotch-Irish ancestry and generously acknowledges the 'massive influence' of her roots on her music. The Ulster-Scots Agency has presented Dolly with an Ulster-Scots translation of her hit 'Jolene' and, with Dolly's approval, Whitney Houston and Katherine Jenkins, have both recorded 'I Will Always Love You'.



John Steinbeck

1902 - 1968

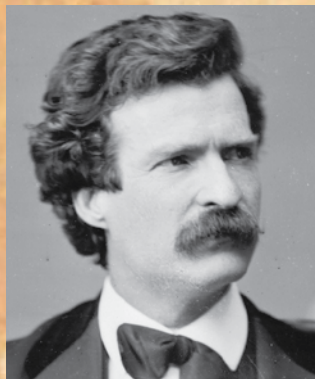
Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California, and was of German ancestry on his father's side and of Ulster-Scots ancestry on his mother's. The Hamiltons, his mother's family, had their origins in Ballykelly, near Limavady in County Londonderry. Olive Hamilton, a former school teacher, was responsible for instilling in her son an abiding love of reading and the written word. Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* appeared in 1937 while his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Grapes of Wrath* was published two years later. In all, he wrote twenty-five books, including sixteen novels, six non-fiction books and several collections of short stories. Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. In doing so, he was following in the steps of William Faulkner (1897-1962), another Ulster-Scot and one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1949.



Charles Thomson

1729 - 1824

Charles Thomson was born in Gortead, near Maghera, County Londonderry, in 1729. A decade later he arrived in America as a penniless orphan, robbed of all he possessed by a rascally ship's captain. He rose to prominence in patriot politics in Philadelphia, and between 1774 and 1789 he was Secretary to the Continental Congress. Thomson's thinking was very close to that of General George Washington. The American Declaration of Independence is written in Thomson's hand. Although he did not sign the original document, his name (as secretary) appeared on the first published version of the Declaration. Thomson also designed the first Great Seal of America and it was Thomson who in 1789 conveyed Congress's invitation to George Washington at his Mount Vernon home in Virginia to become first President of the United States. A Presbyterian elder, Thomson's reputation for integrity gave rise to a proverb: 'It's as true as if Charles Thomson's name were to it.' The Declaration of Independence could be construed as an Ulster-Scots document. It was first printed by an Ulster-Scot, John Dunlap of Strabane, County Tyrone. It was first read in public by the son of an Ulster-Scot, Colonel John Nixon. The large, flamboyant signature of John Hancock, the wealthiest man in New England, President of the second Continental Congress and Governor of Massachusetts, was the only one affixed to the document for a month. Hancock's ancestors were County Down Presbyterians.



Mark Twain

1835 - 1910

Described by the Nobel Prize winning author William Faulkner as 'the father of American literature', Samuel Langhorne Clemens took 'Mark Twain', his pseudonym, from the leadsman's call on the Mississippi river, meaning two fathoms deep or, in other words, safe to navigate. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885), has been hailed the first 'Great American Novel', a concept meaning a novel which most perfectly represents the spirit of life in the United States at the time of its writing. He wrote more than 30 books, including The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876), and hundreds of short stories and essays. During the last decade of his life he was a vehement critic of US foreign policy. His ancestors emigrated to the United States from Ballyclare, County Antrim. Edgar Allan Poe (1809-49) and Henry James (1843-1916) are two highly significant but very different nineteenth-century authors of Ulster-Scots descent, both men having roots in County Cavan.



John Wayne

1907 - 1979

Born Marion Michael Morrison, John Wayne made over 80 films, many of them westerns in which he often played the role of either a warm-hearted gunfighter or lawman. He was famous for his distinctive voice, walk and height and became an enduring American icon. His last film was The Shootist (1976), whose main character, J. B. Books, was dying of cancer, the illness to which Wayne himself succumbed three years later. A Harris Poll released in 2007 placed Wayne third among America's favorite film stars, the only deceased star on the list and the only one who has appeared on the poll every year. In the 1950s Wayne told a Hollywood reporter that he was 'just a Scotch-Irish little boy'. Wayne's ancestors came from Bushmills, County Antrim, near the site of the world famous Giant's Causeway. Jimmy Stewart (1908-97), another popular and extremely versatile film actor, was also of Ulster-Scots descent.



James Webb

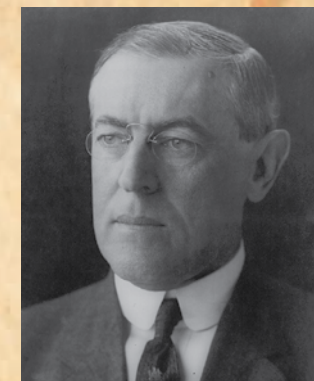
1946 - present

As the senior Senator from Virginia and a member of the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and the Joint Economic Committee, James Webb is arguably the most influential Ulster-Scot in the world today. He is descended from a Scotch-Irish family which settled in Virginia in 1732.

The top graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968, Webb served as a Marine Corps infantry officer until 1972, and is a highly decorated Vietnam War combat veteran. During his four years with the President Reagan's administration he served as the first Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, then as Secretary of the Navy.

He is also an author of many books, including *Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America*. In this fascinating volume Webb traces the decisive role that people of Scots-Irish ancestry have played in American history and culture. He credits them with a culture that 'shaped the emotional fabric of the nation, defined America's unique form of populist democracy, created a distinctively American musical style, and, through the power of its insistence on personal honor and adamant individualism, has become the definition of "American" that others gravitate toward.'

A Democrat, Webb was first elected to the Senate in November 2006. He lives in Northern Virginia.



Woodrow Wilson

1856 - 1924

The 28th President and former President of Princeton led the United States into the Great War in 1917 and became the leading exponent of the League of Nations at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. Wilson became the second American President to win the Nobel Prize for Peace. James Wilson, his grandfather, emigrated to the United States from near Strabane, County Tyrone, in 1807. James Wilson married Annie Adams, another Ulster immigrant. Joseph Ruggles Wilson, Wilson's father, was a Presbyterian minister of indomitable character and theological distinction, who left a lasting impression upon the character of his son. The first American President to win the Nobel Peace Prize was Theodore Roosevelt in 1906. Roosevelt won the Prize 'for his successful mediation to end the Russo-Japanese war and for his interest in arbitration'. Despite his obviously Dutch name, the 26th President nevertheless had significant Ulster-Scots ancestry. Jimmy Carter, the 39th President, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.



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