

### THE PATTERSONS AND PRAEGERS

This family made an astonishing contribution to the study of Irish natural history, literature, sculpture and folk life. **Sir Robert Lloyd Patterson** (1836-1906), an authority on birds and fish, lived at Croft House. His brother, William Hugh (1835-1918), (left), was the author of *A Glossary of Words and Phrases used in Antrim and Down* (1880), full of Ulster-Scots words and expressions. Their sister **Maria** married Dutchman **Willem Praeger** who became the parents of **Robert Lloyd**, a distinguished naturalist, and **Rosamond**, an accomplished sculptor, both born in Holywood.



### TWO ULSTER-SCOTS WRITERS

Twisel Bridge has a memorial to **Richard Patterson**, one of the Patterson family mentioned above. Nearby was Thornbank Manse – the home of the **Rev. Henry Henderson** (1820-79), minister of Holywood Presbyterian Church (left). From 1869 to 1879 he wrote a column entitled “Ulster Scot’s Letters to his Friends at Home and Abroad” in the *Belfast Weekly News* under the pseudonym “Ulster Scot”. A subsequent minister of the congregation was **Rev. James Barkley Woodburn**, author of the famous book *The Ulster Scot - His History and Religion* (1914).



### HOUSES AROUND HOLYWOOD

There are many fine houses in the vicinity of Holywood with Ulster-Scots connections. Built in 1902, and now within the grounds of the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, **Cultra Manor** was the home of the Kennedy family, originally from Ayrshire. **Lorne House** overlooking Belfast Lough (left), is now home to the Girl Guide Association of Ireland. It was built by Henry Campbell, a wealthy industrialist, in the Scottish baronial style in 1875 and named after the hereditary home of the Campbells in Scotland. Now a 5\* hotel, **Culloden** was built by William A. Robinson in 1876, and took the maiden name of his wife.



### THE FIRST GOLF CLUB IN IRELAND

Golf is first recorded in Ireland at the school founded in Newtownards in the early 1600s by Sir Hugh Montgomery. The oldest golf club on the island is **Royal Belfast Golf Club** (left) which was established in 1881, now located at the foot hills of Holywood on the shores of Belfast Lough. The leading founder members were **Thomas Sinclair**, a prominent Presbyterian businessman and the author of the Ulster Covenant of 1912, and **George L. Baillie**, a teacher in Belfast who came from Musselburgh in Scotland. The course was originally at Kinnegar (now Carnalea) on a site granted by Captain John Harrison.



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*With thanks to the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Ulster-Scots Language Society*



# ULSTER-SCOTS HERITAGE IN HOLYWOOD



Holywood, Co. Down, has a rich historical connection with Scotland. From the development of the town itself, to the influence of Presbyterianism, architecture, local place names and even the arts and sport, this leaflet will introduce you to some of these.



### EARLY HISTORY

Holywood's most interesting link with its medieval past is the ruin of the Priory. There has been a religious establishment on this site possibly from as far back as the seventh century. In the early 1600s the Priory was rebuilt by Sir James Hamilton and became the Church of Ireland church and continued as such until 1844. Earlier, in the 1570s, Sir Thomas Smith (left) attempted without success to establish an English colony in County Down. Craigantlet and Holywood were two of the places that Smith proposed building forts.



### JAMES HAMILTON

Born in 1559, James Hamilton was the son of Hans Hamilton the first Protestant minister in Dunlop, Ayrshire. In 1604–05 he received a third share of the Claneboye O'Neill lands in County Down and was responsible for developing the towns and villages of **Bangor, Groomsport, Holywood, Ballywalter and Killyleagh**. He was knighted in 1608 and made Viscount Claneboye in 1622. He died in 1644 and was buried at Bangor Abbey, one of six churches he rebuilt. Portrait of James Hamilton courtesy National Trust, Castle Ward.



### THE EARLY TOWN

In 1605 James Hamilton received a grant from King James authorising him to hold a **'market at Holywood ... to be held on every Wednesday weekly for ever'** and an annual fair on 24 March. Holywood and its surrounding townlands feature on the Thomas Raven maps of the Hamilton estate which were drawn in c.1625. Holywood is laid out as a neat town of 51 houses, built around the maypole/market cross, with a stream separating the town from the Priory. Thomas Raven's maps can be viewed at North Down Museum.



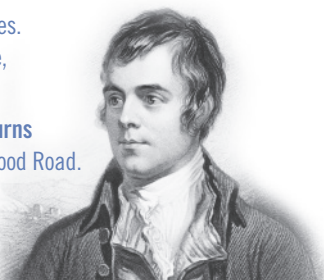
### THE OLD PRIORY GRAVEYARD

The graveyard adjoining the Priory has been in use for centuries and is one of the best places to study the history of Holywood. In the early 1600s it became the place of burial for Scottish families that had settled in the area. Several of the Hamiltons, kinsmen of Sir James Hamilton, were interred here, including his younger brother William who was **'creditably buried, and with great lamentation'** in the 1620s. The earliest date on a gravestone is 1645.

## DID YOU KNOW?

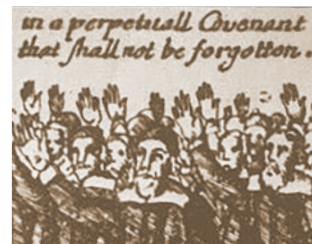
There is a Holywood in Scotland, just outside Dumfries. **Holywood Abbey**, the oldest church in Dumfriesshire, was built in 1225 on an earlier Christian site.

In the late 1780s Scotland's national poet **Robert Burns** lived at a nearby farm called Ellisland, on the Holywood Road. Today Ellisland is a museum and visitor centre.



### 1615 – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER

In 1615 Robert Cunningham, previously the chaplain to the Duke of Buccleuch's regiment, became the first Protestant minister of Holywood, and the second Presbyterian minister in Ireland. It was said that he was **'a faithful pastor over the flock'**. Around 1632 there was a religious revival in Holywood when **'about a thousand were brought home to Christ'**. On account of his Presbyterian views he was deposed by the Church of Ireland hierarchy in 1634. He returned to Scotland where he died in Irvine, in 1637. Photo: Cunningham's flat gravestone at the Old Parish Kirk, Irvine.



### 1644 – SOLEMN LEAGUE AND COVENANT IN HOLYWOOD

The Solemn League and Covenant of 1643 was a religious and political agreement between the Scottish Covenanters and the English Parliamentarians. In the spring of 1644 people pledged their allegiance at 26 locations across Ulster, one of which was Holywood. An original copy of the Holywood Covenant, containing the names of 67 signatories, is in the collection of the Ulster Museum. Some of the surnames of those who signed were **Bailie, Waddell, McCormick, Waugh, Scott, McBride, Gillespie and McClelland**. Image: illustration from the Covenant.



### REV. MICHAEL BRUCE

In 1715 Michael Bruce was ordained minister of Holywood Presbyterian Church. His father was Rev. James Bruce, minister of Killyleagh and his grandfather was Rev. Michael Bruce, minister of Killinchy. He was a lineal descendant of **King Robert the Bruce**, the victor at Bannockburn in 1315. Bruce was a prominent non-subscriber and with a number of other like-minded ministers was placed in the Presbytery of Antrim in 1725. He died in 1735. Generations of Bruces are buried at the Priory.



### SCOTTISH SPEECH AND PLACE-NAMES

The legacy of the settlers was apparent in Holywood in 1819 when it was observed that **'The language in use here is ... strangely tintured with the Scottish idiom and accent. Indeed there is little difference between it and that used by the inhabitants of the opposite coast.'** A few place-names around Holywood have a Scottish derivation. Twisel Bridge, for example, is said to have been named after a bridge in the Battle of Flodden of 1513.

**'... But the sicht o' sights was the seconder, a chiel they ca'd lang Bab, wha stud ahint O'Connell, for a' the world like the Holywood maypoul wi a whin bush for a head on't ...'**

From *The Repealer Repulsed* (1841) by historian, poet and publisher William M'Comb (1793–1873), the 'Laureate of Presbyterianism'.

