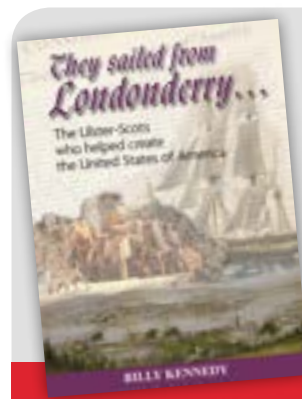


# the Ulster-Scot

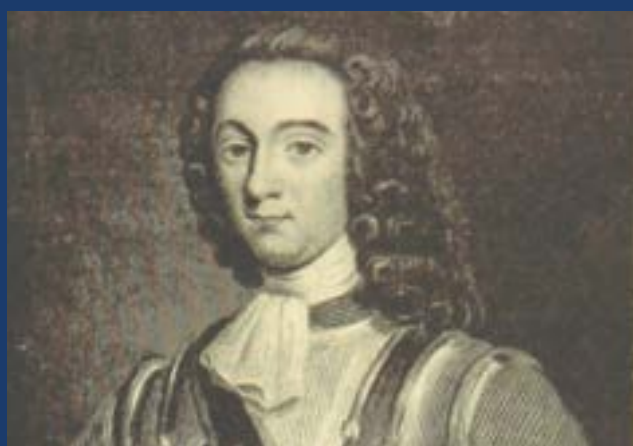
SATURDAY 29th JULY 2023



Available to purchase at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre. DETAILS ON PAGE 14



◆ Celebrating 25 Years: The Maiden City Festival kicks off with an exciting week of events from August 5-12. Don't miss Highland Dancing, Piping, Tea Dances, and More! Check page 3 for details.



◆ The Siege of Derry – an Ulster-Scots story

PAGE 6



◆ Explore more of the Maiden City

PAGE 8-9



◆ Over 900 children enjoy summer school

PAGE 13

# Patriots, Pioneers and Presidents

## Stories of the Scotch-Irish from Ulster to America

The Scotch-Irish are the bedrock of the United States. Their deeds have shaped the nation, from the Declaration of Independence to the moon landings and beyond. They have provided leadership of all proportion to their numbers, whether as politicians, soldiers, business people, inventors or clergy.

To find out more about Patriots, Pioneers and Presidents and to download our trail map, scan the QR code or visit [www.discoverulsterscots.com](http://www.discoverulsterscots.com) and search for Patriots, Pioneers and Presidents.

To collect a free copy of the Patriots, Pioneers and Presidents trail map, visit our Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast or Raphoe.



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[www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com)



# Declaration of Independence exhibition given extension

PRONI has extended its Ulster-Scots exhibition, enabling more people to view one of the remaining original copies of the US Declaration of Independence, on display in Northern Ireland for the first time. The 247 year old document is now available to view until August 11.

The Declaration of Independence is on loan to Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) from The National Archives (UK) as the centrepiece of the exhibition in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency.

The document, a Dunlap Broadside, was printed on July 4, 1776, for distribution across the 13 American Colonies. Of around 200 printed, only 26 survive today.

Along with John Hancock, President

of the Continental Congress, the Declaration bears the name of two Ulster-Scots: Charles Thomson, the Secretary of the Continental Congress, from Upperlands near Maghera, and the printer, John Dunlap, from Strabane.

The exhibition celebrates the Ulster-Scots' role in helping to establish the United States of America and offers a unique opportunity to see a rare artefact up close.

Admission to the exhibition is FREE and it is open to the public at PRONI, 2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast BT3 9HQ until August 11. Opening times are Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.45pm (except for Thursdays open from 10am). Visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com) or follow the Agency on social media for updates.



# Festival Round-up



Today, July 29, River Valley Development Association is hosting a Heritage Day at Hanna's Close, Kilkeel from 10am-4pm, with lots of fun for all the family including storytelling, dog shows, fun fair rides, demonstrations and more

- Over the summer and autumn Ulster-Scots Agency is supporting 12 festivals with funding of almost £100,000. These include:
- Donaghadee Community Development Association: August 16-20
  - Drumderg Flute Band Centenary Festival: September 2
  - Duncairn Ulster Scots Society: September 11-23
- A few Ulster-Scots community and voluntary groups have availed of the Agency's small events programme to host events during August and September 2023.
- Derganagh Training and Development Association: August 19
  - Templepatrick Orange Lodge: August 19
  - Legananny LOL1455: September 1 - October 27
  - Bushside Accordion Band: September 9
  - Annaghmore LOL2033: September 15 - October 27
  - Castlederg Young Loyalists: August 16
  - The SHARE Group: September 20 - October 18
  - Mullintur Ulster Scots Improvement Committee: September 22

For more details of all Ulster-Scots Agency funded events visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/events) or follow the Agency on social media for updates.

# Spectacular programme as Maiden City Festival marks 25 years of celebrating culture, heritage, and community

The Maiden City Festival is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with an extraordinary programme of events from Saturday to Saturday, August 5-12. The Ulster-Scots Agency is proud to once again support this event which promises to be bigger and better, than ever before, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and vibrant spirit of our community.

For a quarter-century, the Maiden City Festival has been an integral part of our city's identity, fostering unity and celebrating the richness of our shared heritage. This year, with the support of the Ulster Scots Agency, the festival aims to honour the community offering a range of events designed to entertain, educate, and engage people, with something for everyone to enjoy.



Highlights of the 25th Anniversary Programme:

- ◆ **Ulster Championship Highland Dancing**  
**Date:** Saturday, August 5  
**Time:** from 9am  
**Location:** Memorial Hall  
**Event Details:** The return of the prestigious Ulster Championships. This competition is confined to the top Premier standard dancers from across the province of Ulster to see who will be crowned this year's champion.
- ◆ **The Skirl of The Pipes**  
**Date:** Monday-Friday, August 7-11  
**Time:** 11am-3pm (hourly)  
**Location:** Walls - Grand Parade  
**Event Details:** Piping, drumming and Highland Dancing demonstrations on Grand Parade from The Sollus Highland Dancers.
- ◆ **Ulster Scots Night**  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 8  
**Time:** 8:30pm-late  
**Location:** Memorial Hall

**Event Details:** An evening of piping, dancing and singing as the Ulster Scots take over the Memorial Hall with a traditional night of entertainment!

◆ **The Siege Pageant**  
**Date:** Saturday, August 12  
**Time:** 12pm-12:30pm  
**Location:** Carlisle Circus  
**Event details:** The traditional curtain falls on the festival as the Siege Pageant re-enacts the story of the siege at Carlisle Circus prior to the commencement of the 334th anniversary of the Relief of Londonderry parade.

◆ **PLUS MUCH MORE...**  
Join us to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Maiden City Festival. For more information and to keep up to date, follow the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Maiden City Festival on social media.



See Highland dancers compete in the Ulster Championships



The Skirl of the Pipes will bring sound and colour to the city centre every weekday

# Maiden City Festival – 25 years young

David Hoey organised the Maiden City Festival for most of its first 15 years. In this 25th anniversary year he looks back on how the idea of the festival was sparked, and how it grew to become the major event it is today.

Prior to a first visit to meet the Apprentice Boys I had only ever been to Londonderry once. That I had been to the city at all might be regarded as unusual for many from Belfast and the surrounding towns. The name was associated mostly with riots and violence, and 'not a good place for protestants'. It was a place in the news. It was not a place to visit. There was probably not much expectation from myself or the Apprentice Boys when we first met. I was living in London at that time, working for large international and global clients, in the business of providing branding, marketing and PR. A long way from Londonderry.

The context for meeting was of collapsed talks with the Bogside Residents Group, parades targeted and the centre of Londonderry trashed by republican mobs. Community relations were not in a good place, and away from the city but through which much of the media viewed the issue of parades there was Drumcree, deteriorating. Walking through New Gate on that first visit, the message on a wall that greeted me was: "Londonderry no more. Start swimming." Hardly welcoming.

The opening discussion was on the parades' situation in Londonderry, and Northern Ireland generally. It wasn't so much answers being sought, as the challenge of asking the right questions to start finding a way out of the vicious



Enjoying the tea dance, 2012

cycle into which the Apprentice Boys had been thrust.

**An idea was born**

Observing that there was a difficulty for the Apprentice Boys in Londonderry being regarded only in the context of 'parades' the suggestion was that an effort should be made to widen the cultural context of those parades, in a longer and wider cultural footprint. The idea of the Maiden City Festival was born.

With a £10,000 grant from the Community Relations Council, the

first year of the Maiden City Festival was about proving that the protestant community could organise a festival with a range of activities. Strange as it may seem now, the Maiden City Festival was ground-breaking.

In that first year, the festival focused on small events. A quiz night at the Memorial Hall, Ulster-Scots poetry reading, history talks, a schools' project for pupils to draw murals with the theme of the Walls of Londonderry. That year, 1998, was the year of the Good Friday Agreement, and breakthrough talks with the Bogside Residents Group.

From that first year and small beginning, the Maiden City Festival grew. Collaborations opened new doors. Our thanks to James Kerr at the Verbal Arts and Pauline Ross at the Playhouse who worked with us to build art exhibitions, workshops, exploring diversity from among other communities in the city - Chinese dragon dancers and Pilipino nurses bringing colour and something different to our lunchtimes - and music and verse. Thanks to Frank Galligan for supporting our early bluegrass events. A big thanks to Adele of In One A Chord Music and Wookalily for her encyclopaedic knowledge of the emerging band and entertainer scene, who provided dozens of performers for the lunchtime Culture Bites: for many of those artists it was an opportunity to put 'Festival' on the CV, and sometimes their first opportunity to perform in public.



Street entertainment, 2002

## Historic Apprentice Boys deal wins wide applause

THE Apprentice Boys and the Bogside Residents Group have reached a historic agreement to grant the right to parade through the city centre.

1998 was a year of historic breakthroughs

The 'start swimming' message made David Hoey feel less than welcome on first arriving in the city



Dancers and pipers, 2009



Fireworks at St Columb's Cathedral, 2012



A scene from the Apprentice Boys pageant, 2001



A 'soldier' reenacts the siege in 2009



The Apprentice Boys parade, 2012

The Junction was added to an ever-widening range of venues being used, and in time lunchtime Culture Bites spread from the Verbal Arts centre to every café in within the Walls, and beyond. Thanks to all the café owners for being so welcoming. A big, big thanks to all the volunteers who have helped selling tickets, collecting tickets at the door, setting



The Apprentice Boys parade, 2012



Enjoying the pipes and drums, 2009



A musical interlude, 2013

## THE MAIDEN CITY FESTIVAL PRESENTS Crackitopen Productions "Besieged"



Wednesday 7th August - Saturday 10th August at 8pm  
The Millennium Forum, Londonderry  
Written and Composed By Sam Sterritt, Tracey McRory and Richard Laird  
Produced and Directed By Jonathan Burgess

Caption

migrants of the 18th century who left the Port of Londonderry for the New World.

The Crimson Players Pageant of the Siege became the festival's contribution to the Apprentice Boys' Relief commemorations, heralding the start of the main parade. In the early years it also provided pantomime, variety shows, and retrospectives on events and of characters such as the irreplaceable late Drew Porter of the Churchill Band.

We worked to remind people of what had been lost. Before the troubles broke out, and broke communities in the city apart, the Memorial Hall had been the centre of entertainment in the Swinging Sixties for young people from all communities. We hosted events with Roy Arbuckle who had played with the Signets in that period. The Woodlanders, the Memorial Hall's resident band in the mid-60s, came together again for a night of MEMories. The big glitter ball sparkled once again.

That '60s generation is older now, naturally. The popular afternoon festival tea dances bring many back together to meet and reminisce on times past, and hopes for their grandkids.

Ulster-Scots has played a big role in the festival, from the very first year. There are the historical notes such as

the Bluegrass. The dance and skirl of the pipes provide an ever-popular show for visitors on the Walls, while inside the Memorial Hall there has been an annual Highland Dance competition for more than 20 years.

**Story telling**

Story telling though drama has always played a part in the Maiden City Festival. In the UK City of Culture there was a trilogy of plays telling the story of the Ulster-Scots migration of the early 1700s, the role of Londonderry as a significant port and industrial centre of the early empire, and of the exodus as thousands of protestants fled insecurity and strife across the west bank of the city to the Waterside, Newbuildings and beyond.

The story of the siege itself is told in pageant, and in the dramatic setting of St Columb's Cathedral, while characters tell of life during the siege through a series of Siege Tales on the historic walls. We even told the story in a musical by the late Sam Sterritt, 'Premonition'.

The largest series of lectures was in 2013 with national and international academics looking at "Siege and Consequence", though through the years we have explored the cannon on the Walls and in a more light-hearted

(though sometime heated debate) asked 'Was Lundy a Traitor?'

The Festival continues as a strong presence in the summer schedule. From that first year when almost no-one came to Londonderry to visit, bed nights are at near 100% occupancy for many nights of the week. Members of the Apprentice Boys who might have travelled for only the day of the Annual Relief Commemorations on the Saturday, in and out, now stay, often with their families, for a long weekend: many for the week.

Today, people like me, from the other side of the Glenshane Pass, who once might never have visited Londonderry, are taking the opportunity to visit and explore the rich history and culture of the city, bringing the family or visitors with them (around 50% of all visitors of Northern Ireland stay with friends/family) for a fabulous day out in Londonderry.

The Maiden City Festival has been good for the Apprentice Boys, good for the community, good for business, and for the city and beyond. It is now a firm fixture on the summer schedule.

If you haven't been to Londonderry, the week of the Maiden City Festival is the best excuse to go.

Maiden City Festival, August 5-11.



Line dancing, 2013

# The Siege of Derry: An Ulster-Scots Story

Many people are aware of the strong association between the City of Londonderry and the London livery companies who played a key role in the settlement of the city and surrounding areas during the plantation of Ulster. You could be forgiven for thinking that the city must have been defended by English settlers, but that is not the case. At the time of the siege, the population of the city was many times larger than normal, swelled by troops and Protestant refugees from all over Ulster who had travelled to the walled city as a stronghold and refuge. In fact, the siege was very much a story of the Ulster-Scots community.

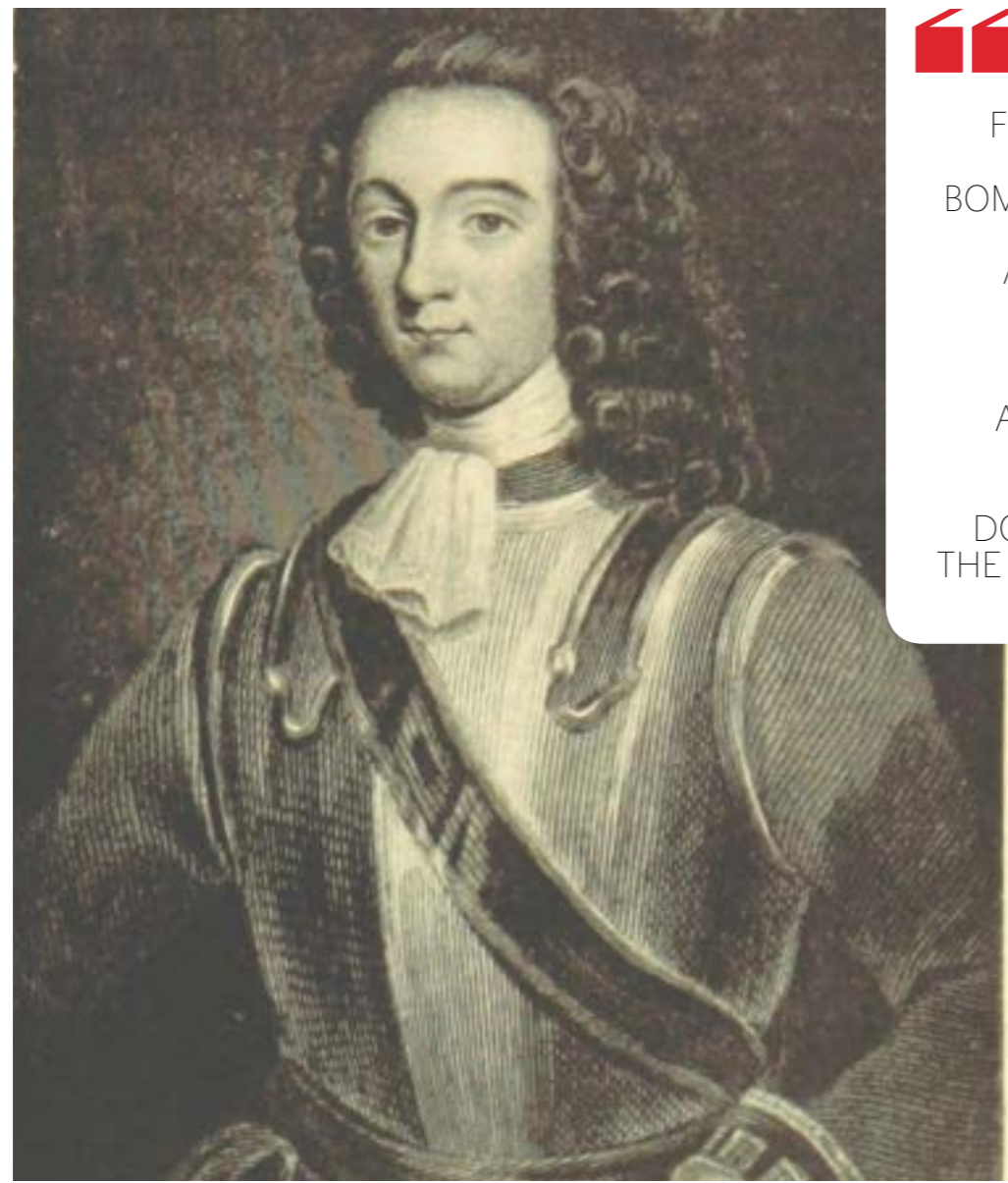
In his epic work *Fighters of Derry*, first published in 1932, Rt Hon William R Young, of Galgorm, Co Antrim, told the stories of known participants on both sides of the siege. Of the defenders, he wrote, "...for 105 days of fierce bombardment, ceaseless attack and counter-attack, pestilence and famine, the Ulster Scot held doggedly to the crumbling bastions, hurling defiance in the teeth of the armies of his legitimate sovereign, and the French and Irish generals who in turn were in command".

Most of the young men who closed the gates in the faces of King James' soldiers were Ulster-Scots. The 'gallant thirteen' as they became known, were Henry Campsie, Alexander Irwin, James Steward, Robert Morrison, William Crookshank, Alexander Cunningham, John Cunningham, William Cairnes, William Sherrard, Daniel Sherrard, Samuel Harvey, Samuel Hunt and James Spike. The Cunninghams came from Scottish family that had been in Donegal since around 1611. William Cairnes was descended from a prominent family in Kircudbrightshire, Scotland. William Crookshank is believed to have been a kinsman of Rev John Crookshanks, one-time Presbyterian minister of Raphoe, who was among the Covenanters killed at the Battle of Rullion Green in 1666. Several others like Campsie, Irwin, Morrison and Steward have names that are well known in Scotland. The person who inspired them to shut the gates was Rev James Gordon, the Scots-born minister of Glendermott Presbyterian Church, who later played a vital role in the breaking of the boom and whose story is told elsewhere.

Shortly after the gates were closed, a trusted emissary was sent to communicate with King William's court. David Cairnes was a prominent lawyer and Burgess of the city, with a large estate in County Tyrone. He was an Ulster-Scot, the grandson of Alexander Cairns, laird of Orchardston in Kircudbrightshire. He was also an uncle of William Cairnes, one of the thirteen. On December 11, Cairnes left the Foyle on board one of his own ships to let King William know that the city had risen in support of his cause and appeal to the new King for vital weapons and supplies.

As well as petitioning for King William's support, the citizens of Londonderry also sought aid from their kin in Scotland. The two men entrusted with the vital mission were James Lenox and Alexander Lecky. Both were Aldermen of the city who had been appointed captains, each heading a company of defenders. Lecky had been born at Leckie, Dumbarton, but lived out the rest of his life in Londonderry. They secured a crucial shipload of weapons and provisions for the defenders.

Most of the defenders in the city during the siege were Presbyterian Ulster-Scots. According to Dr J Seaton



FOR 105 DAYS OF FIERCE BOMBARDMENT, CEASELESS ATTACK AND COUNTER-ATTACK, PESTILENCE AND FAMINE, THE ULSTER SCOT HELD DOGGEDLY TO THE CRUMBLING BASTIONS

David Cairnes was sent to plead the defenders' cause to King William

Reid, 'Among the soldiers (in Derry) were fifteen Presbyterians for one Episcopalian, though this proportion is somewhat reduced by the high Church authorities; yet all accounts concur in representing an overwhelming majority of the defenders of Derry as members of the Presbyterian Church'.

Leading Ulster-Scots landowners raised entire regiments from among their tenants, which swelled the forces defending the city. Sir Nicholas Acheson from Markethill, Co Armagh, whose family originally came from Lothian, brought a regiment to the city. A gentleman from Monaghan,

known as Squire Johnston, one of many from the prominent Scottish borders family, brought 1,000 infantry soldiers to Londonderry. Sir George Maxwell of Killyleigh took a regiment from the Hamilton estate in Co Down and Hugh Montgomery, 2nd Earl of Mountalexander, took a large

detachment of infantry and cavalry from Co Down.

The leading commander in the defence of the city was Colonel Adam Murray, an Ulster-Scot, whose story is on page 7.

The Presbyterian defenders and civilians of the city were ministered to throughout the siege by eight ministers, who also played a hands-on role in the city's defence: Rev John Mackenzie of Derriloran, Rev Thomas Boyd of Aghadoe, Rev William Crooks of Ballykelly, Rev John Rowat of Lifford, Rev John Hamilton of Donagheady, Rev Robert Wilson of Strabane, Rev William Gilchrist of Kilrea and Rev David Brown of Urney. The last four of these clergymen did not survive the siege. Rev John Mackenzie left a crucial legacy by documenting the siege from a Presbyterian perspective and correcting what he felt were the distortions of others, not least Rev George Walker, who he believed had played up his own contribution at the expense of others. After the siege, Queen Mary II donated the funds for the building of what became First Derry Presbyterian Church to reward the Presbyterian citizens for their defence of the city.

A hugely underappreciated fact is the extent to which the seeds of the American Revolution were sown at the Siege of Derry, and carried to America by Ulster-Scots emigrants. Professor Frederick Jackson Turner (1861-1932), an American historian, said of the Scotch-Irish: 'These lowland Scots had been planted in Ulster early in the seventeenth century. Followers of John Knox, they had the contentious individualism and revolutionary temper that seem natural to Scotch Presbyterianism. They were brought up on the Old Testament, and in the doctrine of government by covenant or compact. In Ireland their fighting qualities had been revealed in the siege of Londonderry, where their stubborn resistance balked the hopes of James II.'

Professor Ian McBride explains: "Among the first Presbyterian emigrants to the colonies had been a number of siege veterans, including the Rev James McGregor and the Rev Matthew Clerk, founders of the settlement of Londonderry in New Hampshire. Along with their political and religious principles, the linen industry and the potato, these settlers brought with them their historical myths and memories. During the war for American Independence, the Presbyterian clergy of Philadelphia cast George III in the role of James II, reminding their congregations of their ancestors' struggle for liberty at Derry and Enniskillen."

The American Revolution started less than 90 years after the siege. There may well have been very old people still alive who had been in Derry as children. Many will certainly have grown up listening to stories of the siege from their parents and grandparents. The American legacy of the siege is explored in more depth in the Ulster-Scots and the Declaration of Independence exhibition which is currently on display at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

# Adam Murray: The hero of Londonderry whose cry was 'No surrender'

Adam Murray was an Ulster-Scot, descended from the Murrays of Philiphaugh in Selkirkshire, Scotland. His father, Gideon Murray, came to Ireland in 1648, settling at Ling on the Faughan Water, nine miles from Londonderry, where he held some of the lands planted by the Skinners Company of London.

When the Protestants of Ulster armed to resist Tyrconnell in late 1688, Adam Murray raised a troop of horse from among his neighbours. In April 1689, Colonel Lundy, the Governor of Londonderry, sent Murray and 30 of his men as part of a force to hold the ford over the River Finn at Clady, near Strabane, but neglected to provide the necessary supplies. Despite fighting bravely, Murray and his men were forced to withdraw when they ran out of ammunition.

Murray returned to Londonderry at about the same time as King James II was approaching the city on April 18 and was ordered in a dispatch from Lundy to take his cavalry to Gloughglass. On being informed by the messenger that surrender terms were being negotiated, Murray defied his orders and headed for the city at breakneck speed. After a brief skirmish with Jacobite dragoons, he arrived at the Shipquay gate and was admitted by James Morrison, the watch commander, in defiance of Lundy's orders. Murray gate-crashed the meeting of the council of war, accusing Lundy and others of treachery. He addressed the soldiers and citizenry, urging defiance, and is credited as being the first to use the famous war cry 'No Surrender!'.

By his action Murray caused those seeking terms to leave the city and played a major role in provoking Lundy's decision to flee the city. Murray was offered the governorship of Londonderry but declined, saying that he preferred to be a soldier in the field. The role of governor was then offered to Major Henry Baker. The next day, Claude Hamilton, Lord Strabane, came into the city under a flag of truce and offered Murray a colonel's commission and £1000 to fight for King James, which he refused. Murray was appointed Colonel of Horse and commanded the Williamite cavalry throughout the siege.

Col Murray's sword is on display at the Siege Museum in Londonderry



Col Adam Murray is buried at Old Glendermott graveyard



The memorial stone in Selkirk

On April 21, hostilities began. Jacobite artillery pounded the city, causing damage to several buildings, including the Town Hall in the Diamond. Only one man was killed. At noon, Adam Murray led a force of 300 cavalry and a significant detachment of infantry in a daring raid on the Jacobite camp at Pennyburn. The Marquis de Maumont, the French Commander-in-Chief of the Jacobite forces at Londonderry, was killed in this engagement. Both John Mackenzie in his *Narrative of the Siege of Londonderry* and Mitchelburne in his play, credit Murray with killing him. The attack at Pennyburn was a brilliantly planned and executed operation, suggesting serious military skill. Gideon Murray, Adam's father, had certainly been a cavalry officer. The first Battle of Pennyburn must have boosted the morale of the besieged garrison and greatly enhanced Murray's reputation. Two days later, Murray mounted a second daring raid at Pennyburn, apparently in retaliation for further bombardment of the city. The raid had telling consequences for the Jacobites. Another French

commander, Major General Pusignan, died and two other senior officers were wounded, including the Duke of Berwick, who was the illegitimate son of King James himself.

The author of the 'Londonderry', an epic poem about the siege, recorded that as time went on: *'The name of Murray grew so terrible That he alone was thought invincible: Where'er he came, the Irish fled away.'*

Richard Hamilton, a leading Jacobite, recognised that Murray was key to the city's defence. He seized Gideon Murray, Adam's elderly father and threatened to hang the old man if he could not induce his son to surrender the city. Gideon, who was nearly 80, went into the town as ordered, but once inside urged his son to fight on and never submit. The old man returned to the Jacobite camp expecting to be hanged, but Hamilton relented and allowed him to return to his farm at Ling, where he remained for the duration of the siege.

While Murray's cavalry was able to play a significant role in the defence of the city in the early days of the siege, the horses eventually had to be slaughtered for want of fodder or as food for the besieged.

Murray was the most able, intelligent and resourceful soldier within the walls, but he was almost certainly frustrated as the siege went on. This may account for his serious animosity towards Rev George Walker. He accused Walker of selling or embezzling the stores of which he had charge; of abusing officers who were sent to the stores to draw supplies; of attempting to surrender the town and offering to betray it for money.

In July 1689, Murray was badly wounded in both legs and did not fully recover until the end of October. When Major General Kirke entered the relieved city in early August, he proposed to amalgamate the wounded hero's regiment with another, but nearly all his men refused and went home. In reprisal, Kirke confiscated their saddles and also Murray's favourite horse, one of very few animals to survive the siege. It is very difficult to

imagine that this petty vindictiveness was linked to the alliance between Walker and Kirke, who was himself criticised for his slowness to act in relieving the city.

From 1691 to 1694, Murray had a commission commanding the militia forces of Ulster. He was Lieutenant Colonel of Viscount Charlemont's Regiment of Foot from 1694 to 1697

and then on half-pay of six shillings a day until his death. After his death in 1706, Murray was buried at Old Glendermott graveyard, where his grave is revered to this day. He is commemorated by a brass plaque in Glendermott Presbyterian Church, which remembers Murray as a member of the congregation, alongside their former minister, Rev James Gordon, who also played a key role at the siege. He is also commemorated in the name of the Murray Club, one of the parent clubs of the Apprentice Boys of Derry. His sword, possibly used to kill General Maumont, is on display at the Siege Museum in Londonderry.

## Ulster-Scots Photography Competition

As part of our Bessy Bell & Mary Gray Ulster-Scots Festival in November 2023, Derry and Raphoe Action Group is hosting and Ulster-Scots Photography Competition.

Categories this year will be people and places. Entries to be received by 30th September 2023.

For more information and to submit entries, email [draulsterscots.info@gmail.com](mailto:draulsterscots.info@gmail.com).

Photographs taken on mobile phones are perfect.

No entries of a political nature and please be mindful of Safeguarding issues.

**Goodluck!**

DERRY & RAPHOE ACTION

Ulster-Scots Agency  
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch

# Visit the Walled City

Embrace the city's rich history and Ulster-Scots heritage. The Ulster-Scots, who migrated from Scotland centuries ago, left an indelible mark on Derry's culture. Experience the unique Ulster-Scots language, history and culture, exploring museums and heritage centers for a deeper understanding of this cultural connection. Derry's landscapes and historical sites offer a glimpse into the enduring ties between Scotland and Northern Ireland. Discover Derry and its captivating Ulster-Scots heritage on your visit to the Walled City.



**Caption**

All other photos taken by Mervyn Catterson

*The Siege Museum*



*The famous walls*



*The canon on the walls are a must-see*



*Inside St Columb's Cathedral*



*The Guildhall from the walls. Image from Derry and Strabane Borough Council*



*The Guildhall and the Peace Bridge. Image from Derry and Strabane Borough Council*



*St Columb's Cathedral*



*A stained glass windows in St Columb's Cathedral depicts the Siege*



*Glenderrymott Presbyterian Church*

*This tablet in Glenderrymott Presbyterian Church honours the contributions of Rev James Gordon and Col Adam Murray*



*The entrance to the Blue Coat School*



*St Columb's Cathedral and the walls. Image from Derry and Strabane Borough Council*

*Living history tours include the First Derry Presbyterian Church and Blue Coat School. Image from Derry and Strabane Borough Council*





Rev James Gordon is commemorated with a sculpture over Ferryc Quay Gate, the gate shut by the thirteen 'apprentices' in 1688

# Rev James Gordon: The maverick who changed history

In an obscure old graveyard at Cardross, on the banks of the Firth of Clyde, is the burial place and eroded gravestone of a key figure from the Siege of Derry. The grave is of Rev James Gordon (1645-1693), a Presbyterian minister whose actions at vital moments changed the entire course of events at Londonderry. Not only did he inspire the closing of the gates, he also planned the breaking of the boom, two actions that saved the city and its Ulster-Scots defenders and ultimately cemented the Williamite victory.

John Malcolm Bulloch LLD FSA (1867-1938) was a renowned Scottish historian who had comprehensively researched the Gordon family of Aberdeenshire. In 1911, he published a pamphlet entitled *Strange adventures of the Reverend James Gordon*. Sensualist, Spy, Strategist and Soothsayer. It paints a fascinating picture of Rev Gordon, who it turns out was something of a rogue and maverick minister who flitted between Scotland and Ulster throughout his life, defying Presbyterian norms and rules. It includes the many stories from various sources of him having been present at both the beginning and the end of the Siege of Derry.

**Early Life**  
Gordon's origins were in the Aberdeen area, where he was born around 1645. He graduated from King's College in Aberdeen in 1663 - which was really bad timing given that pretty much all of the Presbyterian ministers across Scotland and Ulster had been ousted from their pulpits by the government in 1661. But theological commitment wouldn't be an issue for Gordon as he manoeuvred his way through life.

**Minister, Elopement and Marriage**  
He was appointed minister at Glass (south of Keith) and was engaged to "the sister of a gentleman who served the cure of Moville" in Donegal. However, around 1667, he eloped "secretly in the night tyme with some accomplice" with a different

woman! She was Helen Gordon, the daughter of John Gordon, the 8th Laird of Cairnburrow. They arrived in Londonderry where Bishop Robert Mossom gave him permission to preach at Glendermott Church. But Gordon was summoned back to Scotland where he was reprimanded and married Helen, but he was banned from ever preaching in the Moray region. Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions (1907) says this of him:



Rev. James Gordon, M.A. was ordained in 1666. On October 23, 1667, he was directed to be excommunicated for breach of promise of marriage, running off with another woman, going to Ireland, and deserting his charge. On his subsequently confessing in face of the congregation, the great scandal he had given to God's people by his 'ryot' and 'unlawful procedour in marriage with Helen, daughter of John Gordon of Cairnburrow', the sentence was relaxed. He was not reinstated, however - being declared 'incapable of holding another charge within the diocese'.

**Coull and Cabrach**  
Gordon moved to a different Presbytery and in 1671 he became minister of Coull, west of Aberdeen. However, he was deposed from this pulpit due to 'swearing, drinking, striking, denying his own subscription, and lying'. He and Helen settled at 'a farm in the Highlands' near Cabrach from which he operated as a kind of rogue freelance minister within the Presbytery of Alford. They summoned him to various Presbyteries to account for his behaviour, but by February 1681 he was set upon leaving Scotland again.

**Dungiven and 'Our Scotch Informer'**  
He went to London where he met 'with some non-conformist preachers' and then ended up back in Ireland again, becoming minister at Bovevagh Presbyterian Church near Dungiven, around September 1681. He seems to not have lasted there long and was soon back in Edinburgh, seemingly to appraise his relative George Gordon,

the Lord Chancellor of Scotland (who was also the 1st Earl of Aberdeen) of the activities of Presbyterian 'fanaticks of Ireland and their brethren in Scotland and England' who were planning to smuggle three shiploads arms from London and Holland into Ireland via Portaferry 'or somewhere thereabout'.

If true, the timing is significant. In 1681 the 'Killing Times' had been ongoing for 20 years, with the State and Crown persecution of Presbyterians. The battles of Drumclog and Bothwell Brig had taken place in 1679; Scottish refugees had poured into Ulster. By 1684 the future King James II, then merely the Duke of York, threatened that 'there would never be peace in the country until the whole south of Scotland had been turned into a



The kirkyard at Cardross on the Clyde where Rev James Gordon is buried



A famous image of the Shutting of the Gates in 1688, which depicts Rev James Gordon, but wrongly attributes the action to Rev George Walker

hunting field'. So Presbyterian armed self-defence, and the potential re-arming of Covenanters in Scotland, were highly plausible scenarios.

In sharing this information, it looks like Gordon was ingratiating himself with the authorities for personal advancement. The Duke of Ormonde said of Gordon that 'our Scotch informer is certainly a rascal and frames his intelligence for his profit'. Ormonde's son wrote that Gordon was 'the improperest man in the world to be employed under you'. Scathingly, the son later wrote, in February 1683, that Gordon 'promises to make great discoveries but I believe getting money is what he aims at'.

**1683-1690: Gordon and the Siege of Derry**  
Timing is everything and Gordon timed his contribution to history

perfectly. Gordon's life gets a bit fuzzy here, which is a shame because this is where his legend resides. Renowned Scottish minister and historian Robert Wodrow (1679-1734) recorded traditions about Gordon that 'it was he who relieved Derry from its Siege'.

At the beginning of the Siege, it was Gordon who had advised the 13 Apprentice Boys to close the gates of the city. Rev Samuel D. Alexander wrote, 'on the 7th of December, 1688, the inhabitants of Derry, acting on the advice of James Gordon, minister of Glendermot, and in opposition to that of Bishop Ezekiel Hopkins and most of the prelatric [Anglican] clergy, seized the keys of the city and shut the gates against the Earl of Antrim's Red Shanks'.

At the end of the Siege, it was Gordon who planned the breaking of the boom. Gordon said he was at Greenock in Scotland in July 1689. He took a voyage to Lough Foyle where he boarded the famous Mountjoy, captained by 'Captain Brauny' (Browning). Gordon harangued Major-General Percy Kirke for his inaction, and drew up the plan to break the boom. Thomas Witherow wrote: 'There can be no doubt that in this interval James Gordon, Minister, of Glendermot, the man who at the outset of the troubles had counselled the apprentices of Derry to shut the gates in face of King James's troops, got aboard the fleet, had an interview with Kirke, and pointed out how the matter could be done'.

Mackenzie's Memorials of the Siege of Derry, a first-hand account of the Siege, written by another Presbyterian minister, confirms Gordon's role in events and additionally states that 'almost all, if not all, the Apprentice Boys who shut the gates were Presbyterians'.

# SEE THE ORIGINAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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## FREE EXHIBITION OPEN UNTIL 11TH AUGUST

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND  
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**Ulster-Scots Agency**  
Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch

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www.communities-ni.gov.uk



**DATE EXTENDED**

# Festival fun for Donegal's Monreagh Heritage Centre

Nestled in the fertile lowlands of East Donegal, one mile from Carrigans Village, Monreagh Ulster Scots Heritage Centre features a series of museum-quality exhibitions documenting the region's intriguing history. Visitors receive a guided tour of the refurbished former Victorian Presbyterian manse, learning about the life and times of the Scottish families who settled here during the early 17th century.

Opposite the Centre stands one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in Ireland, dating to 1644. Monreagh Church blends naturally into the lush green countryside and is still in active service to the present day. Guided tours include details of the trials and tribulations experienced by the former ministers in their quest to promote and preserve the faith. Some of these ministers also made their mark on the global stage. For example, Reverend William Boyd organised the first mass cross-Atlantic migration from Ireland to America in 1718. Yet another, Francis Makemie, is considered the father of American Presbyterianism and featured on an Irish stamp in the 1980s.

Flax grows in the history garden next to the Centre, and our guests can enjoy a live demonstration of the plant being processed to raw linen by hand. Five themed rooms present a unique insight into the region's social, cultural, and industrial legacy, whilst a fully stocked library offers many free booklets and pamphlets on related topics. The vastness of the surrounding countryside, with sloping valleys, green fields and grazing livestock, presents a multi-sensory vision of a land unblemished by modern technology.

Local family history experts are available for those wishing to know more about their Ulster-Scots genealogy. Additionally, information is available about the many early



MONREAGH CHURCH BLENDS NATURALLY INTO THE LUSH GREEN COUNTRYSIDE AND IS STILL IN ACTIVE SERVICE TO THE PRESENT DAY.

migrants from the region who impacted the global stage in politics, industry, religion and artistry.

### Family History Festival

In celebration of the extraordinary and varied history of the region, Monreagh Ulster Scots Heritage Centre will be hosting its fourth annual Family History Festival from Monday to Friday, August 21-25. Celebrity chef Paula McIntyre will serve up her signature dish of wit and culinary talent, whilst Donegal's favourite bluegrass musicians, The Rednecks, are sure to impress with a live performance at the nearby Community Hall. Television presenter, author, journalist, and witty yarn teller Frank Galligan will compere a night with the amazingly talented Bards of East Donegal, whilst Ian McCracken, with 85 years experience of rural life in East Donegal, will recreate some of the vintage street games so popular when he was just a bit of a lad. The Flax Man of Donegal also will be on hand to demonstrate the art of pulling flax and processing linen, whilst special guests will showcase their local craft and horticultural skills. For those needing a little help tracing their family



tree, Ulster's leading family historians will present an evening of finding your ancestors from 1600 to 1900. The Ulster-Scots Agency supports the week-long family history festival, and admission to events is free.

Further details are available on

Monreagh Facebook page: Monreagh Heritage Centre, and their website [www.monreaghulsterscotscentre.com](http://www.monreaghulsterscotscentre.com). Monreagh Ulster Scots Heritage Centre is open to the public all year, Monday to Friday, from 10am to 4pm. Telephone: 00353 74914 0708.

# Almost 900 children enjoy Ulster-Scots Summer Schools

The Ulster-Scots Agency has for the last 15 years supported community and voluntary groups to deliver a summer school programme for children aged 7-16. The funding stream is part of a variety of programmes offered by the Agency to support communities as they develop Ulster-Scots culture, heritage, and language.

Over the summer months the Agency has provided funding to 25 groups in Northern Ireland and Co Donegal, with places for almost 900 children. Each group can receive up to 90% funding for a five-day programme of Ulster-Scots activities.

During the week, the children get hands-on experience of a wide range of

Ulster-Scots activities with workshop options including piping, drumming, flute, Lambeg drumming, drama, storytelling, cookery, football, fiddle, living history, arts, and crafts.

All Ulster-Scots summer schools are required to offer an Ulster-Scots language workshop which is delivered via games, storytelling and word games. Funding is also provided for groups to include an educational trip to a site or venue which has links with the Ulster-Scots language, culture and/or heritage.

The Agency is aware of the many challenges faced by families due to the cost-of-living crises and as a result in the 2022 and 2023 summer school programme it has increased the level of



financial support from 75% of eligible costs to 90% of eligible cost. Due to the rising cost of food, we have also included a daily food allowance for each child as an eligible cost.

This summer we have provided financial support to 22 community and voluntary groups. In addition to the annual applications we have also supported several new applicants in Tubrid, Co Fermanagh, Carrickfergus, Ballybeen, and Coleraine.

Groups in Belfast, Lisnaskea, Rathfriland, Castleterg,

Newtownstewart, Killeel, Annalong, Killinchy, Killyleagh, Magherafelt, Portadown, Lisburn, Spa and Newtowncunningham, Co Donegal, also received financial support.

Derek Reaney, Community Development Officer responsible for the Summer School programme, said: "We are delighted to offer financial support to these groups, and especially to the new groups applying for the first time. The summer school programme offers us the opportunity to engage with almost 900 children and through

a mixture of learning and fun, they experience a range of Ulster-Scots cultural and linguistic activities.

"The Summer School programme is a vital part of our community outreach work and builds upon our engagement with the schools' sector. It is vital that we encourage young people to take an interest in their cultural heritage. Many of these young people will in future years also participate in our music and dance tuition programmes and play a vital role in the future of our marching band community."

**EAST DONEGAL Family History Festival**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

At Monreagh Ulster Scots Heritage Centre, The Old Manse, (near Carrigans), County Donegal F93 DN24

**FEATURING:**

- Celebrity Chef Paula McIntyre
- Donegal's favourite bluegrass musicians, The Rednecks
- Broadcaster Frank Galligan and the amazingly talented Bards of East Donegal
- Ulster's leading family historians Brian Mitchell & Boyd Gray
- Special guests and local talent

**INCLUDING:**

- Local crafts and horticultural demonstrations
- Vintage street games
- Music, song and dance
- Family history consultations

Free tickets available at [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) Search for 'East Donegal Family History Festival'

Website: [monreagh.net](http://monreagh.net) Facebook: [monreaghheritagecentre](https://www.facebook.com/monreaghheritagecentre)

# Summer continues at Cockle Row Cottages



Ards and North Down Borough Council welcomes visitors to the Cockle Row Cottages in Groomsport, County Down, for the summer season. These charming fisherman's cottages, lovingly restored, are hosting Sunday afternoon entertainment, featuring various Ulster-Scots activities on selected dates in July, August, and September.

The cottages are accessible to the public from Thursday to Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm, until the end of August. Inside, you can find a wealth of tourist and heritage information, along with a quaint gift shop offering local crafts and pottery.

Excitingly, the cottages will also participate in the European Heritage Opens Days on Sunday, September 10, from 2-4pm. This event is a yearly celebration of local architecture, history, and culture.

Come and be part of the excitement with highland dance, piping, soda bread making, and even falconry! Stay tuned to our social media for the latest updates. Don't pass up this chance to immerse yourself in our shared history - there's something for everyone, regardless of age.

### Programme of Ulster-Scots activities:

♦ **August 6:** Demi Walker Highland Dance School and soda bread making with Tracey's Farmhouse Kitchen.  
♦ **September 10:** European Heritage Weekend offering a host of traditional activities organised by Ards and North Down Borough Council and the Ulster-Scots Agency including music, soda bread making and falconry.

For more information on Ards and North Down Borough Council's full



summer entertainment programme visit [www.visitardsandnorthdown.com/whats-on](http://www.visitardsandnorthdown.com/whats-on).

**Cockle Row Cottages, Groomsport Harbour, Groomsport, BT19 6JP**

**EAST DONEGAL Family History Festival**

**Schedule: -**

**MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST**

10am - 12noon Open Day at Monreagh Heritage Centre  
12noon - 3pm Ulster Scots Cookery Demonstrations by Paula McIntyre (Monreagh Community Hall)

**TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST**

12noon - 4pm Music, Crafts & Vintage Street Games (Monreagh Heritage Centre Garden)  
Family History Consultations (Monreagh Heritage Centre)

**WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST**

7pm - 10pm The Bards of East Donegal & Table Quiz with Comper Frank Galligan (Monreagh Community Hall)

**THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

7pm - 10pm The Rednecks - Bluegrass Five Piece Band (Monreagh Community Hall)

**FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

7pm - 10pm Researching Ulster Ancestors 1600 - 1900 with Boyd Gray & Brian Mitchell (Monreagh Community Hall)

Free tickets available at [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) - search for 'East Donegal Family History Festival'

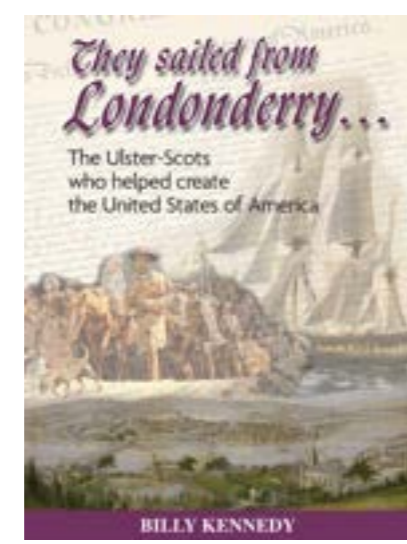
# How the *Ulster settlers* helped shape modern America

Northern Ireland journalist-author Billy Kennedy traces the remarkable contribution of hardy Ulster-Scots who 250-300 years ago pioneered life in America – ‘Land of the Free’

Ulster-Scots (Scots-Irish) influences in the United States have been meaningful and enriching since the nation was established in 1776, and even 100 years before when America was a colonial region the cultural and social expression of folk from the north of Ireland was manifesting itself in a positive way.

Today, in various parts of the United States the distinctive Scots-Irish culture is deep-rooted and markedly identifiable amongst people directly descended from the Ulster emigrants of the 18th century. The early Scots-Irish settlers may have immediately assimilated and adapted into the fabric of day-to-day American life, but they left an enduring legacy which is still to the fore in this 21st century.

The Scots-Irish immigrants were, after all, first Americans, who pioneered new townships on the frontier, after cutting their way through dense forest and across formidable river and mountain barriers. They were settlers who set the parameters of life in many cities and towns along the western frontier of 18th century America and, with close identification



to the home, church and school, they laid the foundations for a caring, civilised society.

It has been said of the Scots-Irish that they are the first to start and the last to quit. The vigour and grit of the people are seen in their pioneering instinct, and these sterling qualities became deeply engrained into the American psyche. More than 300 years have elapsed since the first Ulster immigrants landed on American soil and, in that time, the enormous landscape they inhabited has changed beyond all recognition, with political, social and cultural perspectives of the population now increasingly diverse in what is a great melting pot of humanity.

have Irish blood extraction, in various forms. Of these, 56 per cent can be identified as tracing their roots back to families who moved from Ulster through the 18th century. Between the late 17th century until the early-19th century an estimated 200,000 migrants, mostly of Presbyterian stock, left Ulster for America, sailing from the ports of Belfast, Larne, Londonderry, Newry and Portrush.

**44 million Irish**  
The Scots-Irish diaspora in America has survived over three centuries of growth in this ethnically-diverse society and the contribution it makes to life in the United States of today is very widely acknowledged as being at the heart and soul of the nation.

American federal government estimates, as conveyed from the 2000 census figures, that in the United States an estimated 44 million people

and western Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, western Virginia, East and Middle Tennessee, North Carolina, the South Carolina Piedmont, Kentucky, North Georgia, Alabama and parts of Texas.

Of these regions, Scots-Irish culture is probably the most intense in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, East Tennessee, and in western Pennsylvania, which for 200 years had the highest concentration of Presbyterian churches in the United States. Extent of Scots-Irish settlement even beyond these states was well illustrated by Co Tyrone folklorist/historian the late Rev William Fergus Marshall, when he said: "Ulster's mark in America is also visible on its place names. There are 18 towns in the USA named Belfast. There are seven Derrys, nine Antrims, and 16 Tyrones. There is a Coleraine in Massachusetts, New Hampshire has a Stewartstown, Hillsborough is in Washington, Illinois, North Dakota and Wisconsin, Maine and South Carolina has Newry, Ohio has Banbridge. In 12 states there are 12 Milfords, Not forgetting Dungannon in Virginia."

The United States has had a Consulate General in Belfast for 227 years and the office is one of the oldest American diplomatic posts in the world.

Towns in the United States and Northern Ireland which have been officially twinned include La Grange (Georgia) with Craigavon (Co Armagh); Moorhead (Kentucky) with Ballymena (Co Antrim); Clover (South Carolina) with Larne (Co Antrim) and Drumore (Pennsylvania) with Dromore (Co Down). Belfast has also had a twinning arrangement with Nashville, Tennessee and Londonderry has also enjoyed close economic and social ties with Boston, and Newry with Pittsburgh.

The rich Scots-Irish inheritance

Other American luminaries of Ulster extraction were Samuel Lanthorn Clements (author Mark Twain), poet-playwright Edgar Allan Poe, songwriter Stephen Collins Foster, frontiersman David Crockett, founding Texas politician Sam Houston, and Hollywood movie actors John Wayne and James Maitland Stewart.

**Scots-Irish regions**  
Regions of the United States where the social and cultural inheritance of the Scots-Irish has become firmly embedded include eastern, central

in America is reflected in politics, religion, commerce, industry, education, technological innovation, music, journalism and literature, the arts and entertainment, dialect, mannerisms and general attitudes to life. Colloquial Scotch-Irish dialect and terminology in the United States, with the very distinctive patterns of pronunciation, enjoys remarkable parallels with speech patterns in Northern Ireland today and there are other personal characteristics which define people who may live far apart, but are intrinsically linked in the passage of history.

Mutual interests in culture and historical research in relation to the Scots-Irish diaspora are also maintained through shared programmes and projects at the Ulster-American Folk Park at Omagh, Co Tyrone and at the Museum of American Frontier Culture at Staunton in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Ulster-Scots culture is also recognised by numerous Scottish and highland societies located in the United States with highland games promoting music and cultural displays.

The Ulster-American link has indeed been vibrant since the first wooden sailing ships tentatively left ports in the north of Ireland for the colonies of the 'New World' in the early 18th century, and it continues to resonate with many people in various aspects of life in both the United States and Northern Ireland. The personal ambitions and remarkable attainments of the sturdy Scots-Irish immigrants from Ulster and their descendants, have become an integral part of the great American dream which still shines brightly with people in this land of the free, radiating back across the Atlantic to those who passionately claim the bonds of kinship.

**Billy Kennedy is author of the Scots-Irish Chronicles (11 volumes 1995-2016).**

## Ulster-Scots Community Network – who we are

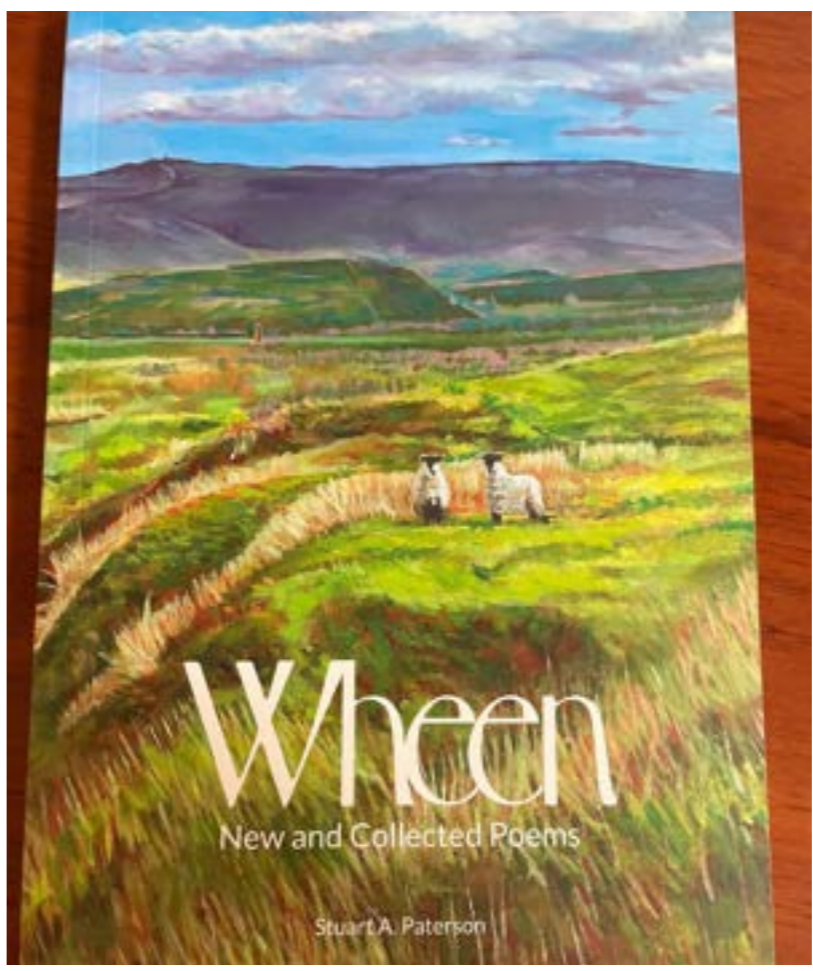
The Ulster-Scots Community Network has been in existence for over 25 years and we are an umbrella body of over 600 groups that operate within the broad Ulster-Scots sector with groups ranging from cultural societies, churches, marching bands and schools amongst others. We work to help groups on the ground right across all nine Ulster counties.

We're here to help groups develop their skills, improve their knowledge of Ulster-Scots and assist them to grow their community and cultural confidence. So if you want to know more about Ulster-Scots through educational courses, talks or guidance about delivering an Ulster-Scots event then we can help.

From our office in the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast, our staff travel across the country to help groups or to deliver workshops and talks in community venues including halls, churches and libraries. If you want to talk to us about anything around Ulster-Scots, policies or governance, funding advice or practical elements like Safeguarding and AccessNI then don't hesitate to give us a call.

Our Office number is (028) 9043 6710 or you can email [info@ulster-scots.com](mailto:info@ulster-scots.com)

You can talk to our staff about all these things:



♦ Charles Neville is the Development

Officer for South Ulster including Armagh and Fermanagh and he also is responsible for some of our Education Courses. To contact Charles – 07824 510304 or [charlesn@ulster-scots.com](mailto:charlesn@ulster-scots.com)

**Join the Ulster-Scots Community Network**

USCN is a membership based organisation acting as a resource for the broad Ulster-Scots community in Ulster. We make it our task to represent the interests of the community across the country and to lobby on their behalf. Membership is free and provides access to a range of services including advice about funding opportunities, governance assistance – help with constitution, policy templates etc – as well as providing an AccessNI service for groups who need to have volunteers AccessNI checked for projects.

There is no fee for joining the Network and it's easy to sign up. Simply enter the details of the link below and that will take you to our sign-up page, check out our Facebook page, or scan the QR code using your smartphone and complete your details. If you want to be aware of what's going on in the Ulster-Scots community then it makes sense to be part of the Network.

♦ Deirdre Speer Whyte is the Development Officer for Mid-Ulster and the North West and can deliver talks for groups on a range of topics including genealogy and family history. She's also responsible for the delivery of some of our Education Courses along with Charles. To contact Deirdre – 07826 849767 or [deirdre@ulster-scots.com](mailto:deirdre@ulster-scots.com)

♦ David McAuley is the Development Officer for Antrim and looks to help groups with governance advice and funding support. To contact David – 07825 005425 or [david.mcauley@ulster-scots.com](mailto:david.mcauley@ulster-scots.com)

♦ Dayna Jost – is the newly appointed Development Officer for County Down and she's keen to hear from groups in the area to offer advice and assistance to them. If you want to get Dayna, contact the office on (028) 9043 6710 or [dayna@ulster-scots.com](mailto:dayna@ulster-scots.com)



♦ David Gilliland is the Networks' Operations Director and has years of community development experience. If you need advice or guidance around policies or procedures or our AccessNI and safeguarding issues, then David can help you out. To contact David – 07795 490600 or [david@ulster-scots.com](mailto:david@ulster-scots.com)



**Upcoming Events**

**Modern Writing in Ulster-Scots**  
Saturday, August 5, sees an afternoon featuring some of the best new modern Ulster-Scots writing. The event, hosted by Steve Dornan, will feature work by Robert Campbell, Angela Graham, Angeline King, Anne McMaster and Al Millar amongst others. It's taking place at 2pm in the Sunflower Bar, Union Street, Belfast. For more info email [stevevodornan@gmail.com](mailto:stevevodornan@gmail.com).

**Wigtown Book Festival**  
Earlier this year we were the first organisation outside Scotland to be awarded a grant from the Scottish Government to publish a book in the Scots Language. We produced a poetry anthology by Scots poet Stuart Paterson – *When*. We're delighted to be taking part in the Wigtown Book Festival in Wigtown on September 28 at 4pm for readings and a discussion of the book.

♦ Adam Pollock is our newly appointed Digital Marketing Officer and has a wealth of experience in promoting events and managing our social media presence and is keen to maximise opportunities to promote Ulster-Scots identity across the world. If you think your group could benefit from Adam's assistance, then you can get him through the office on (028) 9043 6710 or [adam@ulster-scots.com](mailto:adam@ulster-scots.com)

## Win up to £500 for prose or poetry

Wordsmiths are invited to enter the Linen Hall's Ulster-Scots Writing Competition, in collaboration with the Ulster-Scots Agency. This exciting literary event is taking place this summer, celebrating and showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Ulster-Scots community.

The competition features two categories, prose and poetry, providing a platform for aspiring writers to showcase their talent. Each category has a £500 cash prize for the winner, while one runner-up from each section will be awarded £250.



The winners will be revealed during Ulster-Scots Language Week in November 2023, and their entries will be published in a special edition anthology. We are honoured to have a distinguished panel of judges, including Dr Frank Ferguson, Ally Heather, and Dr Carol Baraniuk, who will lend their expertise to the adjudication process.

Entrants are encouraged to submit their work by Thursday, August 31, at 5pm, adhering to the Ulster-Scots Writing Competition entry guidelines. For more detailed information and to submit entries, please visit our website: [www.linenhall.com/ulster-scots-writing-competition](http://www.linenhall.com/ulster-scots-writing-competition).

Linen Hall Director, Julie Andrews, said: "The Ulster-Scots writing

competition shines a spotlight on emerging talent within the vibrant Ulster-Scots community. At The Linen Hall, we take great pride in preserving a significant collection of Ulster-Scots language holdings, including the world's largest collection of Scots poet Robert Burns items outside of Scotland. As we enter the third year of this competition, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Ulster-Scots Agency for their continued sponsorship, enabling us to nurture and showcase the rich literary heritage of the Ulster-Scots tradition."

Gillian Pearson, Director of Development at the Ulster-Scots Agency, added: "We are delighted to partner with The Linen Hall for the Ulster-Scots Writing Competition again this year and to continue fostering and encouraging the tradition of Ulster-Scots writing. This competition, now in its third year, offers a welcome opportunity both to highlight and promote contemporary Ulster-Scots writers and hopefully inspire others to re-engage with the language as well. We hope that many members of the Ulster-Scots community will submit their poetry and prose pieces to the competition – no matter how experienced a writer you are, enter the competition. You could be one of our next Ulster-Scots Writing Competition winners announced at the awards ceremony in The Linen Hall Library during Ulster-Scots Language Week in November."







Discover  
Ulster-Scots

20-25  
November  
2023

Ulster-Scotch  
**Leid Week**  
Ulster-Scots  
**Language Week**

# D'YE HAE A WHEEN O WURDS?

The Census told us over 190,000 people in Northern Ireland have some Ulster-Scots. That's over 50,000 more than ten years ago, but it's still just scratching the surface.

Many more have Ulster-Scots and don't realise it. To find out if you're one of them, go online and take the When o Wurds quiz!

#tipoftheiceberg  
#wheenowurds

Northern  
**aye**reland

Everybody kens a wee bit of Ulster-Scots

**How many of  
the 30 words  
do you know?**



USE THIS QR CODE  
OR GO ONLINE:

[www.discoverulsterscots.com](http://www.discoverulsterscots.com)