

CASTLES AND FORTIFIED HOUSES

Among the most striking physical reminders of the Plantation are the castles that survive from the early seventeenth century. Under the terms of their land grants the undertakers were required to fulfil specific building obligations. A grantee of 2,000 acres was required to build 'a stone house with a strong court or bawn about it', that of a 1,500 acre proportion a stone or brick house and a bawn, and an undertaker of a 1,000 acre estate at least a bawn. Many of the surviving castles show similarities with buildings erected in Scotland in the decades leading up to the Plantation. Claypotts castle outside Dundee (shown left) is a good example of this.

1 Rathmullan Priory
COUNTY DONEGAL
In the early seventeenth century Andrew Knox, bishop of Raphoe, took over the former priory in Rathmullan on the shores of Lough Swilly and turned it into his family residence. In 1622 it was noted Knox had 'voluntarily built adjoining to the old castle and church of Rathmullan (now repaired), standing on Lough Swilly, a good house of lime and stone, slated in some part 3 storeys and in other two storeys and a 1/2 high, with flankers of lime and stone'. Here he lived with his wife and children. Another report from the same year stated that Rathmullan was a market town with 100 British inhabitants.

2 Raphoe castle
COUNTY DONEGAL
The most impressive residence of a bishop in Ulster was the castle in Raphoe built by John Leslie in 1636-7. It was described by a seventeenth-century antiquarian as the 'the fairest and withal the strongest of that sort in this kingdom'. Leslie was appointed bishop of Raphoe in 1633, having previously been bishop of Orkney and the Isles. The castle comprises a square four-storey block with bastion-like towers at each corner. Although the structure witnessed a number of alterations in the period between its construction and its burning in 1838, it is still possible to admire the magnificence of Leslie's castle.

3 Newtownstewart castle
COUNTY TYRONE
Standing at the foot of Main Street in Newtownstewart, this castle displays both English and Scottish architectural influences. The castle was begun by Sir Robert Newcomen, an Englishman who had purchased an estate originally granted to a Scottish undertaker. In 1622 the castle was described as being of 'good strength' and here Newcomen lived with his family. Some time after this the estate and castle were transferred to Newcomen's son-in-law, Sir William Stewart who gave his name to the town. The most visible part of the castle is the west wall with its three cross-stepped gables, the central one of which is topped by a star-shaped brick chimney.

4 Roughan castle
COUNTY TYRONE
Roughan castle, standing on the front lawn of Roughan House, not far from the village of Newmills, is unlike any other plantation castle in Ulster. At each corner of a square block are four tall circular towers. The central block is 20 ft square, with the internal diameter of the towers 8 ft. This castle was built by Andrew Stewart, son of Lord Castlestewart, who had acquired the estate on which the castle stood some time prior to the end of 1618. In 1622 it was described as a 'handsome castle' in which Stewart and his family were dwelling.

5 Monea castle
COUNTY FERMANAGH
Generally regarded as the finest Plantation castle of all, Monea was built by Malcolm Hamilton, a clergyman from Scotland who would later become an archbishop in Ireland. The castle was being built when Nicholas Pymon visited the site in 1618-9 and he described it as a 'strong castle of lime and stone'. In 1622 it was noted that the roof was thatched. Today the outer shell of the castle survives reasonably complete. The most striking feature of the structure is the pair of tall circular towers at the west side protecting the entrance.

6 Castle Balfour
COUNTY FERMANAGH
Castle Balfour in Lisnaskea was begun by Sir James Balfour, later Lord Balfour, around 1618. According to the report of the 1622 commissioners, it was a 'strong and beautiful castle of stone and lime ... 100 ft long, 41 ft broad, most of the lower rooms being strongly vaulted'. The castle was part of a much larger complex being constructed by Balfour, which also included a bawn, servants' quarters, and a church. Nearby was the town of Lisnaskea which in 1622 contained 40 houses. In its plan and in many of the details, such as the corbelling, the castle is unmistakably Scottish in character.

7 Tully castle
COUNTY FERMANAGH
Tully castle, on a beautiful spot overlooking Lower Lough Erne, was built by Sir John Hume around 1613. The structure is T-shaped in plan comprising a main rectangular block with a square projection slightly to the east of centre on the south side. The ground floor of the main block has a semi-circular barrel vault. What makes this castle interesting is the fact that while the overall style is very much Scottish, in the masonry details it is possible to discern Irish hands at work. It seems that Hume did not have Scottish masons available and so employed Irish craftsmen instead.

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

8 Alexander Sanderson
COUNTY TYRONE
One of the very few pre-1641 memorials to a Scottish landowner in Ulster can be seen on the inside of the east gable wall in Desertcreat Church of Ireland church, commemorates Alexander Sanderson, owner of the manor of Tullyagan, near Cookstown, County Tyrone. A fairly simple and rather crudely cut slab, its interest lies in the brief account it provides of Sanderson's life: born in Scotland, a foot soldier in Belgium, a master of horses and infantry in Poland, a justice of the peace in Ireland and three times high sheriff. Sanderson was not one of the original Scottish grantees in Ulster, but rather acquired his manor through purchase c.1618.

9 Robert Granger
COUNTY TYRONE
Coincidentally this gravestone, commemorating Robert Granger who died in 1630, is in Grange graveyard, the site of a former Augustinian abbey. Granger was probably the same as the man who was listed as a tenant in the manor of Dunmalong owned by the Earl of Abercorn in 1622. The gravestone is now broken in two and one corner is worn away completely. Typical of tombstones of this period, the inscription is carved in false relief and runs around the edge of the stone. In the centre of the stone a shield featuring three stag's heads has been carved - a device employed to indicate the status of the deceased.

10 Robert Algeo
COUNTY TYRONE
A remarkable stone built into the north side of the Malison Bridge in the village of Artigarvan near Strabane is a powerful piece of evidence that the Scots who came to Ulster in the early seventeenth century were not exclusively Protestant. The stone bears the inscription AD DEI GLORIAM ROBERTUS ALGEO 2 MAR 1625. It bears a scene of the crucifixion, a common emblem of the Counter-Reformation, and illustrates the fact that Robert Algeo, whose surname is believed to be Italian in origin, was one of a number of Scottish Catholics in the Strabane area in the Plantation period.

The PLANTATION of ULSTER

THE STORY OF THE SCOTS: 1610-1630

Ulster was not the sole destination for Scottish migrants in the early 1600s. Thousands of young men headed east to Scandinavia and Poland:

'... [Poland is] a mother and nurse for the youth and younglings of Scotland, who are yearly sent hither in great numbers ...'

WILLIAM LITHGOW, 1616

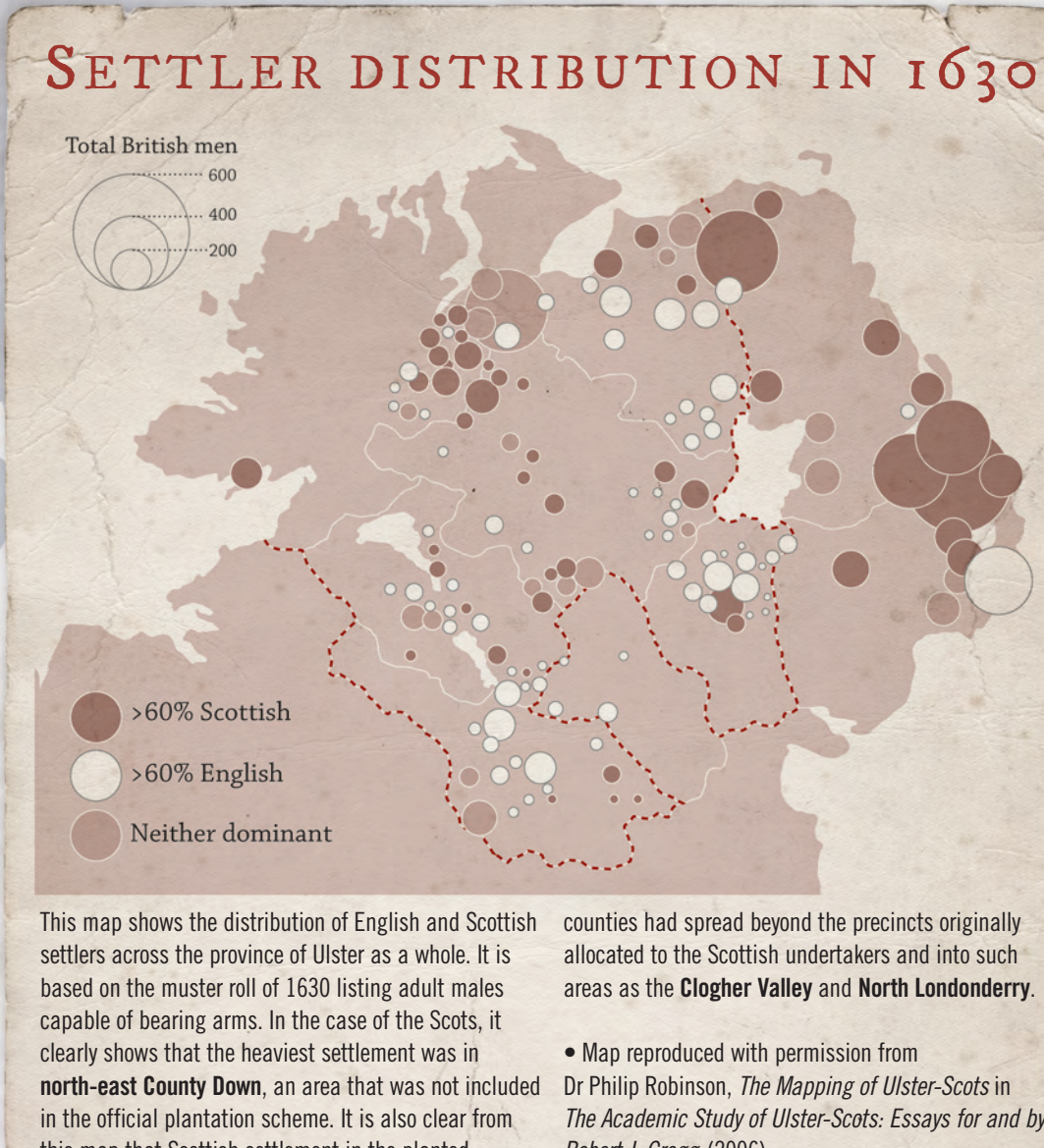
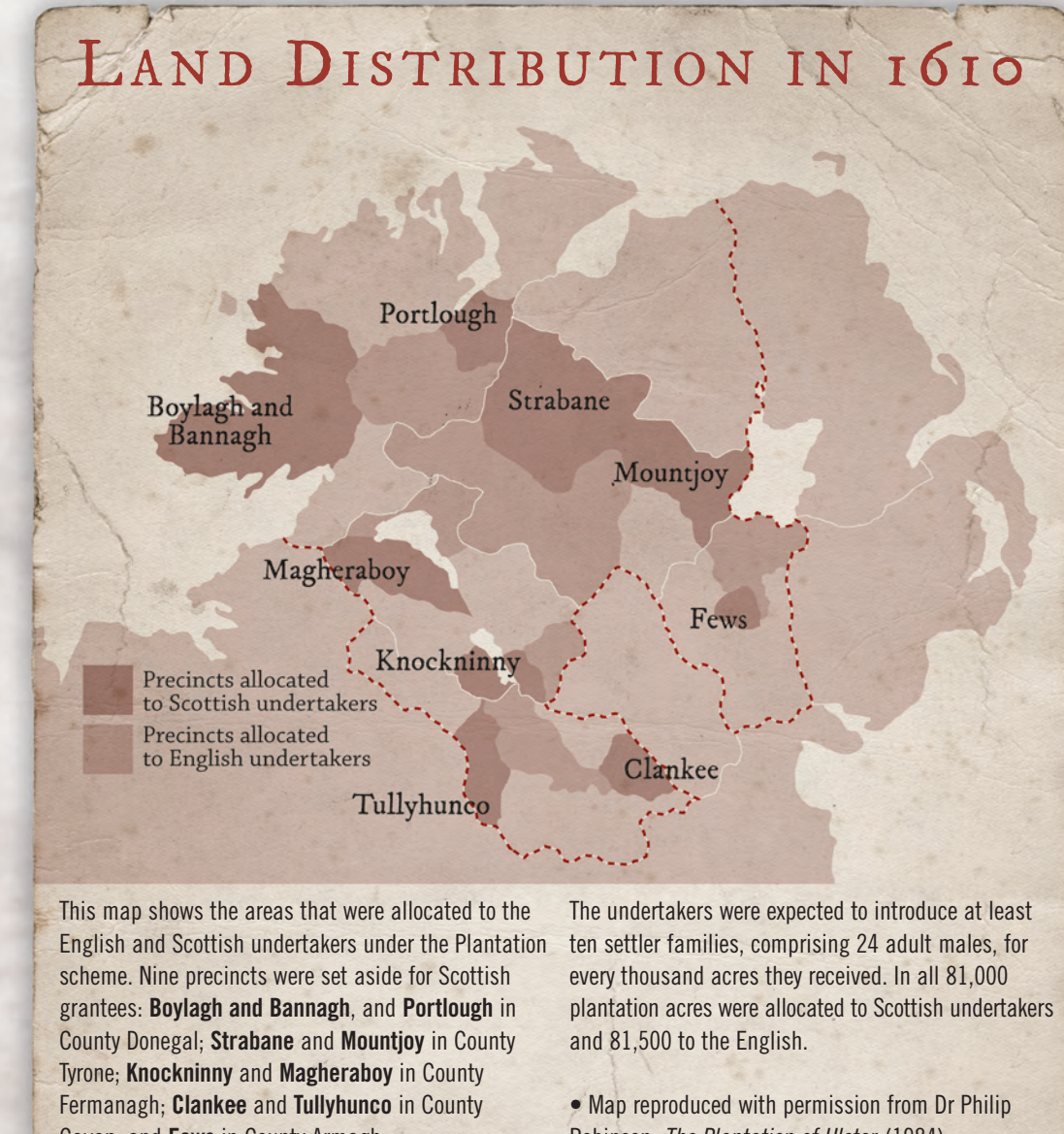


THE ORIGINAL 59 SCOTTISH UNDERTAKERS

The original list of Scottish undertakers, so-called because of the undertaking they gave to plant their lands, was finalised in 1610.

<p>COUNTY ARMAGH Fews Barony Henry Acheson (East Lothian): 1000 acres Sir James Craig (probably East Lothian): 1000 acres Sir James Douglas (East Lothian): 2000 acres Claud Hamilton (East Lothian): 1000 acres William Lawder (Midlothian): 1000 acres</p>	<p>COUNTY DONEGAL Boylagh & Banagh Barony Sir R. McClelland (Kirkcubrightshire): 2000 acres G. Murray (Wigtownshire): 1500 acres W. Stewart (Kirkcubrightshire): 1500 acres Sir P. McKee (Ayrshire): 1000 acres J. McCullough (Wigtownshire): 1000 acres A. Dunbar (Wigtownshire): 1000 acres P. Vans (Wigtownshire): 1000 acres A. Cunningham (Wigtownshire): 1000 acres</p>	<p>COUNTY FERMANAGH Knockninny Barony Lord Burley (Kinrossshire): 3000 acres Lord Mountwhany (Fife): 1500 acres Sir J. Wishart (Kincardineshire): 1500 acres T. Moneyenny (Fife): 1000 acres J. Trail: 1000 acres G. Smalholm: 1000 acres</p>	<p>COUNTY TYRONE Mountjoy Barony Lord Ochiltree (Ayrshire): 3000 acres R. Stewart (Perthshire): 1000 acres Sir R. Hepburne (East Lothian): 1500 acres G. Crawford (Ayrshire): 1000 acres B. Lindsay (East Lothian): 1000 acres R. Lindsey (East Lothian): 1000 acres R. Stewart: 1000 acres</p>
<p>COUNTY CAVAN Clankee Barony Lord Aubigny (Stirlingshire): 3000 acres W. Baile: 1000 acres J. Gibb: 1000 acres J. Lindsay (Midlothian): 1000 acres W. Fowler (Midlothian): 1500 acres A. Home: 1000 acres J. Dunbar: 1000 acres</p>	<p>Portlough Barony Duke of Lennox (Stirlingshire): 3000 acres Sir W. Stewart (Lanarkshire): 1000 acres A. McAuley (Dunbartonshire): 1000 acres J. Cunningham (Ayrshire): 1000 acres W. Stewart (Ayrshire): 2000 acres C. Cunningham (Ayrshire): 1000 acres J. Cunningham (Ayrshire): 1000 acres J. Stewart (Ayrshire): 1000 acres</p>	<p>Magheraboy Barony Sir J. Home (East Lothian): 2000 acres R. Hamilton (Lanarkshire): 1500 acres J. Gibb: 1000 acres J. Lindsay (Midlothian): 1000 acres W. Fowler (Midlothian): 1500 acres A. Home: 1000 acres J. Dunbar: 1000 acres</p>	<p>Strabane Barony Earl of Abercorn (Renfrewshire): 3000 acres Sir T. Boyd (Ayrshire): 2000 acres Sir C. Hamilton: 2000 acres J. Clapham: 2000 acres Sir G. Hamilton (Renfrewshire): 1500 acres G. Hamilton (Linlithgow): 1000 acres Sir J. Drummond (Perthshire): 1000 acres J. Haig (Berwickshire): 1500 acres</p>

* List reproduced with permission from Dr Philip Robinson, *The Plantation of Ulster* (1984)



CHURCHES

The churches built by Scottish settlers were for the most part fairly simple structures, rectangular in plan, and lacking any degree of ornamentation. This was a reflection of a number of things, including the relative simplicity of Reformed worship and the lack of resources available for church-building. It was also the style of many of the churches in Scotland that the settlers were familiar with. The old church at Anwoth near Gatehouse of Fleet (shown right), where the famous Samuel Rutherford was minister, is a good example of this. Often the churches built by the settlers stood on the site of the pre-Reformation parish church, though in other instances churches were built in the towns and villages that were being developed at this time.

11 Ramelton
COUNTY DONEGAL
The town of Ramelton was developed in the early seventeenth century by Sir William Stewart. By 1620 a castle and bawn had been built and a market town of 45 houses had been founded. A church had also been started and there was a paved street from it to the castle, suggesting some sort of planning had gone into the layout of the town. The most distinctive feature in this now ruined church is the east window which displays a level of sophistication in design not usually associated with Scottish-built churches in Ulster. It incorporates elements salvaged from an earlier church.

12 Taughboyne
COUNTY DONEGAL
The present Church of Ireland church at Taughboyne, near St Johnston, stands on the site of the pre-Reformation parish church. The church is a fairly simple church in design, rectangular in plan and lacking a tower. Set into the wall beside the door are two carved figures, probably dating from the medieval period. A stone tablet set into the exterior wall of the church above the door bears an inscription in Latin: 'Thomas Bruce, seditificavit restoravitur 1627'. Bruce was the first post-Reformation rector of Taughboyne and had been presented to the parish in 1618 by the patron, the Duke of Lennox.

13 Derryloran
COUNTY TYRONE
The ruins of this church stand in a graveyard on the outskirts of Cookstown. The church was described in 1622 as 'almost finished'. Archaeological investigations have shown that the early seventeenth-century church was built on the foundations of the medieval parish church. This was an area of predominantly Scottish settlement and if the builder of the church were not Scots the congregation would have been mainly Scottish in character. The east window survives though it has the appearance of having been assembled from the parts of two different windows, possibly in the aftermath of damage to the church.

14 Derrygonnelly
COUNTY FERMANAGH
The now ruined church just outside the village of Derrygonnelly was built by Sir John Dunbar, the grantee of Plantation land in this area. His coat of arms and the date 1627 can be seen above the doorway in the west gable. It is this doorway which is the most distinctive feature of this small rectangular structure. Round-headed, and studied with diamond-shaped facets, parallels can be drawn between this doorway and similar decorative features found across Europe - even at the Kremlin in Moscow. The window in the east gable by contrast is in the more traditional Gothic style.

15 Killeshandra
COUNTY CAVAN
The development of Killeshandra in the early seventeenth century was due to the efforts of a branch of the Hamilton family from Innerwick in Haddingtonshire. By 1622 a settlement containing 20 houses had emerged and by 1629 this had grown to 34 houses. The old medieval church adjoining the town was taken over by the Scottish settlers and in 1622 this building was described as 'newly repaired'. The first Protestant clergyman known to have ministered here was Adam Watson. The present ruins are from various periods. The church was rebuilt in 1688, though some earlier sections may have been retained.

SITES IN SCOTLAND ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLANTATION

16 Dunskey castle and the Adairs
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
One of the most spectacularly situated fortifications in Scotland, Dunskey castle was built by the Adairs and later purchased by Sir Hugh Montgomery, Viscount Ards. Several members of the Adair family played a prominent role in early seventeenth-century Ulster. The development of Ballymena due to the efforts of William Adair and his son Robert. In County Donegal, Archibald Adair served as dean of Raphoe before going on to become bishop of Killybegs and then bishop of Waterford. In the cathedral in Raphoe is an inscribed slab in memory of his wife Janet who died in 1618 aged 20, having borne two sets of twins in their brief married life.

17 Kirkcubright castle and Sir Robert McClelland
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
Sir Robert McClelland of Bonnie was born c.1592 and as a young man had a reputation for a fiery temperament; among the many altercations he was involved in was an assault on the minister at Kirkcubright. In 1610 he was appointed the chief undertaker in the barony of Boylagh and Banagh in Donegal. He did little, however, to settle his lands and sold them in 1616. He then turned his attention to County Londonderry, leasing the lands of two of the London companies - the Haberdashers and the Clothworkers - and actively developing them. The impressive, though now ruined, castle in Kirkcubright was built by his father around 1580.

18 Sir James Hamilton, Lord Claneboey, and the mausoleum at Dunlop
AYRSHIRE
Sir James Hamilton's exploits in County Down are much better known than his activities in Cavan. However, when he took over the lands that had been originally allocated to Lord Aubigny he became the leading landowner in the precinct of Clankee. When his two younger brothers joined him in Cavan 5,000 of the 6,000 plantation acres in Clankee were in the family's possession. In 1622 Sir James Hamilton sold his lands in Clankee to Sir Henry Piers and henceforth concentrated on his County Down estate. The mausoleum in Dunlop was erected at his direction in 1641 in memory of his parents, Rev. Hans and Janet Hamilton.

19 The Place of Paisley and the Hamiltons
RENFREWSHIRE
The former monastic buildings adjoining Paisley Abbey are known as the Place of Paisley. Here was the home of the Hamiltons, lords of Paisley, from the middle of the sixteenth century to the middle of the seventeenth. In 1610 three Hamilton brothers - James, 1st Earl of Abercorn, Claud and George - received lands in Strabane barony as part of the Plantation scheme. Abercorn proved one of the most active of the new Ulster landowners, introducing settlers to people his estates and developing the town of Strabane. He died in 1618. His descendants continue to live to this day in the Strabane area at Barons Court, near Newtownstewart.

20 Acheson House, Sir Archibald Acheson
EDINBURGH
Archibald Acheson was a leading figure in the Scottish settler community in Ulster with links to other prominent Scottish landowning families. By 1619 he was in possession of 3,000 plantation acres in Fews barony, County Armagh, as well another 1,000 acres in County Cavan. In 1628 he was created a baronet of Nova Scotia, and held several important positions in Scotland, Solicitor-General, Senator of the College of Justice, and Joint-Secretary of State. He 'possessed a large and elegant mansion' in Edinburgh's Canongate which still stands. He died in Letternagilly, County Donegal, in 1634. He was the ancestor of the Earls of Gosford.