



Causeway 1718 Society in transition

Top Left: Newtown-Limavady town crest.

Top Right: Queen Anne mace, 1702.

Wars of the seventeenth century, Penal Laws imposing civil and religious penalties, Scottish immigration, economic challenges and the introduction of new industries all impacted on the Causeway area in the early eighteenth century. These factors became the background to the first organised group migration from Presbyterian settled areas of Ireland to North America



Above: Gunter Quadrant.

Below: Best Flax Yarn Linen Seal.



Acknowledgements

Records of The Honourable The Irish Society and the London Companies during this period document many aspects of life in County Londonderry — civic administration, land ownership, rents, the landscape, farming, fishing and settlement. Research carried out by Janis Thompson Bolan into the Guild Hall and London Metropolitan archives, funded by HLF in 2009, has been invaluable.

Dr Linde Lunney and Dr William Roulston have been so generous with their knowledge of the 1718 Migration, providing the sources of images and information that their research has revealed.

The work of other local historians provided information on County Antrim at this time: Danny Magill with the Ballycastle Community Development Association, and the Ballintoy Archaeology and History Group.

However, it has been widely acknowledged that a huge debt of gratitude is owed to Rev T. H. Mullin for his original and comprehensive research across a wide range of sources, contained in his books on Coleraine, Aghadowey, Ballyrashane and Limavady. Without this work our task to open up this period of history would have been very much harder.



County Londonderry: Lands

In the early eighteenth century, land in County Londonderry continued to be held by the City of London Livery Companies (or Guilds), The Honourable The Irish Society, the Church of Ireland and those rewarded for their loyalty to the Crown. In north County Antrim, the Earl of Antrim was the major land owner. Lands were leased to agents, who then sublet to others.

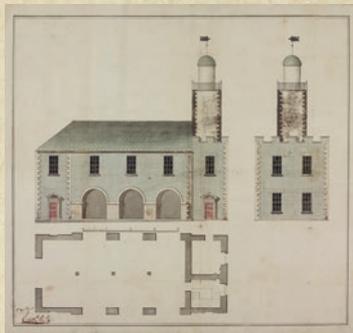


In the early eighteenth century leases were being renewed with significant rises in costs to the tenants. Church tithes (or taxes) were also rising. The Canning family held the Ironmongers estate through leases from 1617 but lost out to a higher bidder in 1726. In preparing the next lease, the Ironmongers Company commissioned Pyke to carry out a survey of their estate.

The Honourable The Irish Society, by this time, would arbitrate in disputes between the Companies, withholding dividends if necessary. The Society was also trying to conserve woodlands and fisheries from poaching and damage. By the middle of the century

the woodlands had largely disappeared. Further economic pressure came about when, in 1720, the financial disaster known as the South Sea Bubble collapse resulted in heavy losses to the City of London and, as a result, the Companies looked to their estates in Ireland to recoup their losses.

While the Companies had largely lost their lands by the beginning of the twentieth century, The Irish Society remains active today. It still retains its headquarters at Cutts House, Coleraine, manages its interests as a charity and maintains the historic links between City of London and County Londonderry.



Above: Thomas Raven's map of the land division by the London Companies of County Londonderry. Courtesy of Lambeth Palace Library.

Left: In 1743 The Honourable The Irish Society built Market House in the Diamond, Coleraine. Courtesy London Metropolitan Archives

Below: The crest of The Honourable The Irish Society.



Tithes on the Ironmongers estate were collected 'in so rigorous a manner as is not known and scarce would be believed in England.'

Pyke, Surveyor for the Ironmongers estate, 1725



Left: Presentation box 1876 made from timber from 17th century houses in Coleraine. Courtesy of The Honourable The Irish Society

Below: Illustration of a stained glass window installed in Coleraine Town Hall to mark the tercentenary in 1913 of The Honourable The Irish Society.



STAINED GLASS WINDOW ERRECTED IN COLERAINE TOWN HALL BY THE HON. THE IRISH SOCIETY TO COMMEMORATE THEIR TERCENTENARY, 1603-1913.



A scheme to plant Ulster

In 1609 King James I agreed a Scheme to 'Plant' Ulster after the devastating Nine Years War. This would control the area, secure Ireland against invasion and restore his Treasury.

Coleraine, then Derry, were to be fortified under the scheme for the new County Londonderry.

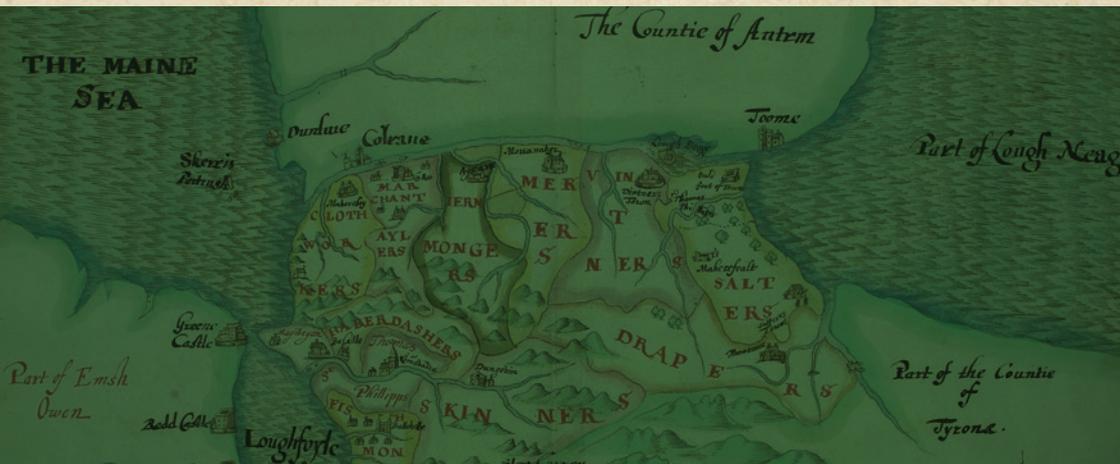
The City of London was governed by the London Livery Companies or Guilds. These Companies were 'obliged' by King James I to invest in the Ulster Plantation, competing with funds for the new Plantation in America. Persuaded by the economic attraction of the fishing rights, twelve Great Livery Companies with their partners established a company, now known as The Honourable The Irish Society, to manage their affairs. The Honourable The Irish Society was granted

Coleraine and Londonderry with their extensive liberties along with valuable fishing rights. The rest of the new County Londonderry was divided up by lots granted to the 12 Great Livery Companies and their smaller partners. The Companies appointed agents to manage their lands.

In order to manage holdings and send reports back to the City of London, regular surveys including maps were commissioned.

Engraving of the first Irish coinage of King James I, 1603-1604.

From Simon's Essay on Irish Coins, Dublin 1810.





County Londonderry: Town Corporations

Coleraine Common Council was formed under the terms of the Town Charter of 28 June 1613. The first appointed mayor, Sir Tristram Beresford, was also agent for The Honourable The Irish Society (The Irish Society). The charter allowed the town to hold markets, to send two representatives to the Irish Parliament and the power to make laws for the regulation of Coleraine, but these had to be approved by The Irish Society.

The early eighteenth century was an unsettled time for council, now known as the Corporation of Coleraine. As they were largely self-elected, it had become a closed body under the control of some of the big families, such as the Beresfords and Jacksons.

The surviving Corporation Minute Book (1671–1710) records various disputes between council members. Incidents included William Jackson withholding the Town Charter, members not attending meetings when summoned and numerous legal disputes against the mayor, corporation or other members. At one stage there was a call to seize the mace and sword which was unsuccessful. William Jackson even attempted to dissolve the corporation in 1707. Often fines were imposed.

Below: From The Manor of Newtown Limavady for William Connolly Esq. Surveyed by C R Philim MDCCXVIII



'Newtown is a very clean, English-like town, a Burrough, well planted with English and Scotch inhabitants.'

Dr Thomas Molyneux 'Journey to the North', 7 August 1708.



'The town in 1699 had just one long street, Market Street, later renamed Main Street. There were 20 holdings on the north side of the street.... On the South side there were 28 holdings.... the "Brig of the Roe" which was further north than the present bridge. Christ Church was on its present site, while opposite was the old Newtown-Limavady Presbyterian meeting house.'

Rev. T. H. Mullin, M.A., D.D. (1983) Limavady and the Roe Valley

The Corporation of Coleraine did attempt to make improvements to the town. They tried to increase trade by making an appeal to advance linen manufacture in the town which was rejected by The Irish Society. The Free School was re-established and efforts made to identify and help the poor of Coleraine. The Irish Society assisted with funds to help build a bridge over the River Bann and a tower on St Patrick's Church.

Newtown-Limavady also received its charter in 1613. The Corporation of Limavady, under its charter, had a provost not a mayor. Sir Thomas Phillips (1560–1633) was granted land in Roe Valley to compensate for the land he had lost in Coleraine. The town consisted of eighteen houses on a cross roads which Phillips developed. The town was burnt during Lord Antrim's retreat from the Siege of Derry in 1689. In 1697 the Limavady estate was bought by William Conolly, later Speaker of the Irish House of Commons.

Above Left: Newtown-Limavady Town crest features the flax flower indicating the importance of the linen industry.

Above: Queen Anne Mace. The inscription reads: 'This mace was given to the Corporation of Coleraine in the year 1702 by The Honourable The Trustees appointed by Act of Parliament made in Scotland for ye sale of ye forfeited and other estates and interests in Ireland.'

Right: Coleraine Button Mould featuring the town crest.

Below: 'View of the Old Bridge at Coleraine, Erected, A.D. 1716. Taken down 1843.'



'Whereas the Towne of Colrain was before the Warr began in 1641 a comly neat and flourishing place ... [it] did suffer extremly in and by the said warr and bath now again suffered very much in the late war which began in 1689 so that good part of the place is ruined and many of the houses are lying wast and falling to decay through want of [inhabitants] and the Common Council is mightly eclipsed of the Honor and Reputation which formerly it had.'

Introduction to a scheme sent to The Honourable The Irish Society to make Coleraine a county town early in the eighteenth century. It would collapse, possibly due to competing interests. Coleraine in Georgian Times, Rev. T. H. Mullin (1979)



Trade and Industry

In Ballycastle, Hugh Boyd (later colonel) was starting to develop an important industrial centre based around the coal mines. Years of drought in 1714 and 1719, poor harvests between 1726-1728, as well as livestock disease in 1716 and 1717, affected agricultural prosperity and impacted on trade.

When Hugh Boyd inherited the Ballycastle estate in 1711, the town was very small. The Milltown had a blacksmith's shop and corn mill, salt and fish were traded at markets on 'Margiemore' and there was an annual fair at Lammias time. A harbour had been needed since 1721 when it was realised that Ballycastle coal could be used to power the development of Dublin.



As Boyd's Ballycastle Colliery Saltworks and Co., harbour, glassworks and bleach works developed, more merchants and skilled craftsmen arrived in Ballycastle. Soon there were soapworks, a chandlery, brewery, distillery, limeworks, sandstone quarries, brickworks and a tannery. Boyd's industries employed as many as 600 people.

The Corporation of Coleraine wrote to Queen Anne about the 'great decay of our trade' in 1704 and Tristram Beresford described his Coleraine tenements as in 'a very ruinous condition' in 1715.



Above: Circa 1720 scale and coin weights used to identify counterfeit coins. Courtesy of R. Heislip

Right: Irish coin weight of 1768. Courtesy of R. Heislip

Far Right: Ballycastle coal token. Courtesy of Dr. J.F. Finney

Left: Ballycastle Glass House



'A large part of the food would come from the gardens and lands around. Turf bogs for fuel were near at hand. It was a town of shopkeepers and craftsmen: there were tanners and wavers, coopers and carpenters, masons and thatchers, saddlers and smiths, tailors and shoemakers.'

Limavady and the Roe Valley. Rev. T.H. Mullin, M.A., D.D. 1983

Access to Coleraine harbour, via the mouth of the River Bann, was not easy to navigate, especially for increasingly larger ships. Ship building had ceased in the town though merchants still owned and operated ships. Luxury goods were imported while agricultural goods and fish were exported.

Later in the eighteenth century, there was a bakery in New Row, tanning businesses, salt pans, a house for melting tallow off Abbey Street, coopers and coppersmiths, curriers and saddlers, hatters and makers of straw bonnets. There was a bookseller and bookbinders, turners who made spinning wheels, an umbrella maker, and four watch and clockmakers. In 1755 Coleraine was second only to Dublin as a distilling centre.

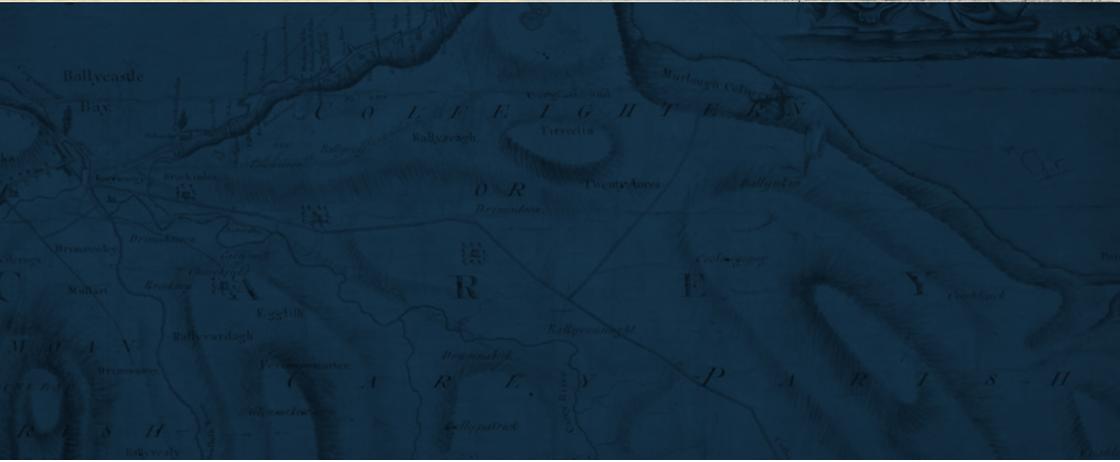
In 1702 Newtown-Limavady Corporation purchased a standard barrel, bushel, peck and gallon to use as official measures for the town, indicating a prosperous market. The Roe Mill was there for grinding corn with a tuck (woollen) mill nearby. The town had several tan yards and would develop a thriving linen industry.

In the Limavady area, Mr Bacon introduced the drainage system he had seen in the Netherlands to reclaim wetlands, bogs and forests. Improving the quality of land increased its value, shown in rising rental prices during the eighteenth century.

Left: Ballycastle Galleries, 1790. Courtesy of GAO Downing-Fullerton

Bottom Left: Revealed during New Row excavations, this chamber pot was imported from Stoke-on-Trent. Dated after 1720 but before a William Scott moved out of his house in 1730. Courtesy of Historic Environment Division, Department of Communities

Below: The Customs House moved out of town to Killybeg after 1672. In 1711, following complaints about loss of income, it moved back. The Customs House built in 1783 on Bridge Street still stands. This watercolour is from the Book of Coleraine.



Linen Trade

Linen produced in Ireland was imported duty free to England and America. By the end of the eighteenth century, linen made up around half of Ireland's exports.

Prior to this wool was the main fibre trade and tuck (or woollen) mills were to be found across the area. As linen took over, the tuck mills disappeared, replaced by linen bleaching greens. The area grew to heavily rely on income from linen, a more luxurious and expensive cloth.

In the early eighteenth century Limavady quickly developed a successful linen trade. Coleraine Corporation proposed to set up a linen industry in their town. They suggested that Protestant Huguenot refugees should be brought to Coleraine to carry on their manufacturing.

The Honourable The Irish Society dismissed the scheme as inconsistent with their constitution. However, the townspeople and others decided it was worth pursuing. On Rathlin Island, the Manor House built in 1756 replaced a row of existing weaving shops. Export records from the mid-eighteenth century record Ballycastle exporting linen from its harbour and improvements there to the bleachworks encouraged improvements at other bleachworks. Bleachworks were established at Balnmore in the latter half of the eighteenth century.



Top Right: 'Aaron peeping' from Silas Marner, The Weaver of Ravolles, by George Elliot. Illustration by Hugh Thomson (1868-1920) showing a hand loom for weaving.

Above: Linen seal - 'William White, Registered Bleacher, N-Lemavady'.

Right: Coleraine Linen Seal used as a warrant for the quality and quantity of the cloth.



From 1730 there began a rapid expansion in Coleraine's linen trade. In 1734, the first water-powered bleaching green was established by John Orr at Aghadowey. There were 18 bleach greens in the Coleraine area in the early eighteenth century, often protected by watch houses. The punishment for stealing linen from a bleaching green was hanging. Families involved in linen production included Orr, Hezlet and Gribbon. A turnpike road was built from Coleraine to Ballymoney, Ballymena and Antrim to carry linen to Dublin.

Coleraine's linen was considered to be one of the finest linens produced in Ireland and in 1763 was defined in an Act of Parliament — 'No piece of linen cloth of the kind or denomination commonly called and known by the name of Coleraine shall be sold or exposed to sale, that shall not be, when brown, and before the same shall be bleached, 32 inches broad at least, or that shall not be, when bleached, 30 inches broad at least, upon pain of forfeiting such piece.'

'This town (Limavady) consists of one broad Street and tho it has a mean appearance, yet it has great trade in the linen and linen yarn, insomuch that there are many in the town who can at any time give considerable bills of Exchange in London.'

Richard Pococke's Irish Tours (1762), edited by John McVeagh, 1995



Right: An Tuirme Beag or The Little Spinning Wheel shop sign, Ballycastle. The spinning wheel was an important symbol of home industries.

Hackle Comb

Linen is one of the oldest fabrics in the world.

Linen is produced from the flax plant. Flax is pulled by hand, retted in flax dams and dried in fields. It is then scutched to remove the outer cover and the inner core. Following this the flax fibres are hackled or pulled through closely spaced pins to make the fibres parallel.

Spinning would follow, work usually done by women at home on a spinning wheel, this is the origin of the word "spinster", meaning an unmarried woman. Weaving was done on hand looms by men, also in the home.

The newly woven linen was brown and had to be bleached on bleach greens to make it white. The final stage before being sealed, was beetling where the cloth would be hammered smooth.

Below: A hackle comb from The Little Spinning Wheel shop, Ballycastle

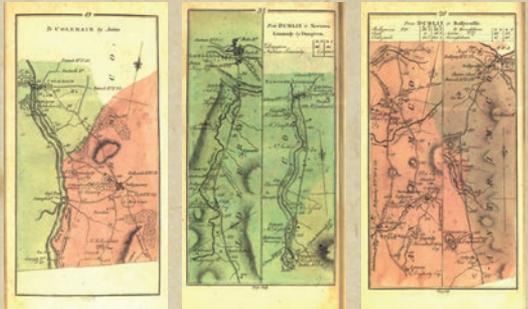


Getting There

2 ½ hours from Dunluce to Coleraine

4 hours from Coleraine to Newtown-Limavady

People travelled between places using horses and horse drawn carriages. Frequent inns were required along the route to support weary, hungry travellers. Inns were also places to do business. An ancient road ran between Tara and Dunseverick Castle with a branch crossing the River Bann at Camus. Roads generally kept to high ground avoiding bogs.



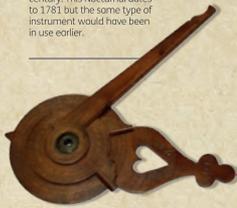
Left: Illustration of a late eighteenth century cart and horse by Hugh Thomson (1860-1920).

Above: Taylor Skinner Maps showing roads, towns and major features in 1777. Courtesy of American Library Association

Below: The Nocturnal (night dial) tells time at night using stars. Introduced in the sixteenth century they remained in use until the late eighteenth century. This Nocturnal dates to 1761 but the same type of instrument would have been in use earlier.

'From this to near Newtown, which is half way to Derry, is all a most Excellent, new, artifiically-made Cawsey in dismall wild, boggy mountains, It runs for Some miles in an Exact Straight Line, and it makes a pretty figure to see a work so perfectly owing to Art and Industry in So wild a place, We arrive at Newtown Lemnavaddy, where Mr Connelly lives in about 4 hours.'

Dr Thomas Malyneux August 1708. The new road is The Murder Hole Rd



John Ross has lately opened the Inn in Newtown-Limavady formerly kept by John Mullan ... and having fitted up the house in a proper manner for the accommodation of gentlemen who travel the road and provided himself with the best wine and other liquors, with good stabling, pasture bay and oats for their horses and proper attendants.'

Advertisement from 1766. Extract from 'Limavady and the Roe Valley', Rev. T.H. Mullin, M.A., D.D. 1983

7-10 weeks to cross the Atlantic or more

Providing passage for emigrants was a profitable trade for agents and sea-captains. Those unable to pay would sign up to work for the captain and, on arrival, have their services sold to the highest bidder. Voyages were unpredictable and dangerous – waiting for winds blowing westward, storms, pirates and other dangers. Passengers were cramped, often short of food and lived in unhygienic conditions. Children struggled to survive.

Navigational instruments were in use. However, during the early eighteenth century there was no way to measure longitude. Sailors needed to know how to avoid crashing onto rocks or missing their destination. The 1714 Longitude Act, offered £20,000 for a solution which could find longitude to within half a degree. It would not be solved until the middle eighteenth century.

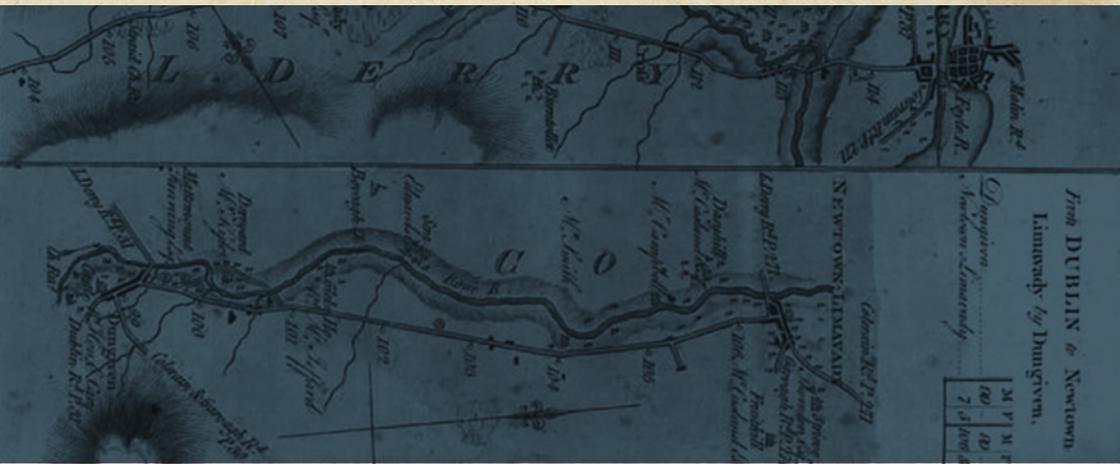


Left: Globe by Willem Janszoon Blaeu, 'Nova et accurata Terra Marisq, Sphaera, denovo recognita et correcta a Gulielmo Blaeu', Amsterdam, 1606 (1621). Courtesy British Library

Right: Since the early 17th century, the Gunter Quadrant was used to find the time of day. It has fixed sights to line up the sun and a plumb-line hung to show the sun's altitude.



Above: Engraving showing eighteenth century ship from Ballycastle: Coal Taken, Simon's essay on Irish Coins Dublin 1810.





Nutfield New Hampshire

Named for its abundance of chestnut, butternut and walnut trees.

In 1719 McGregor and his congregation received a grant of 100 square miles on the frontier at Nutfield, New Hampshire. Renamed 'Londonderry', it was for almost a century, a settlement of farmers. Each settler was allotted 120 acres — a home lot and an out lot of 60 acres each. Because of danger from the native Pennacook Indians, the settlers decided to make their home lots long strips, the narrow ends fronting on either side of a small

brook. They brought with them their education and their skills of the linen industry from home — spinning and weaving. In Londonderry, New Hampshire, they would produce high quality linen reminiscent of the fine 'Colerains' linen. In 1722 they built a meeting house and in 1723 a school house. During the War of Independence (1775–1783), some Nutfield settlers would support the patriots (anti-British), in their fight against Britain.



Above: Typical Londonderry farmstead. From Willey's Book of Nutfield, G.F. Willey, New Hampshire 1895. Courtesy American Library Association



Right: Illustration of the first sermon. From 'Willey's Book of Nutfield' G.F. Willey, New Hampshire 1895. Courtesy American Library Association



Left: Ulster settlements in New England in the eighteenth century. Information courtesy Dr. Luray G. DeWaldston

Below: Map of Nutfield found amongst Sam Henry's genealogical research into the Stark and Nichols families requested by Mrs Parker, Clonmore, Upperlands 1942. John Stark was born in Nutfield 28 August 1728.

