THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

CONNECTING THE CITY OF LONDON & COLERAINE

Fifty-five London livery companies were made to invest in the Plantation of County Londonderry.

A body was established in London, called 'The Society of the Governor and Assistants, London, of the New Plantation in Ulster, within the Realm of Ireland'. This society was to oversee all aspects of the County Londonderry Plantation.

In 1613, through a royal charter granted by King James I, the society was re-named 'The Honourable The Irish Society'. They were given direct control of Coleraine, Londonderry and the valuable fishing rights. Their purpose was 'for the better ordering, directing and governing all, and all manner of things for and concerning the citizens and city of Londonderry, and the county of Londonderry, and the plantation to be made within the same city and county, and other businesses belonging to them."

The Governor, Sir W. A. Rose used this trowel

to lay the foundation stone of the Irish Society

and Tristram Beresford, and they arrived arrived in 1610. Tristram Beresford became the first mayor of Coleraine whilst he was also the agent for The Honourable The Irish Society. Thomas Raven was an alderman whilst he was also the City of London's surveyor. This close connection between Coleraine and the City of London would continue for some time. Regular deputations visited and reported back to London on the

The City of London was also involved in the Virginia Company

and the East India Company. The costs of the Londonderry

The first agents of the Society in Coleraine were John Rowley

at Jamestown in America, the Newfoundland Company

Plantation would impact on supplies being sent to the

new and vulnerable colony in Jamestown, Virginia.

County Londonderry Plantation.



The Monourable The Trish Society

Today The Honourable The Irish Society maintains a strong presence in Coleraine based at The Cutts as a charitable organisation, with a number of schools, grants for community groups as well as holding the fishing rights of the Bann. The Tercentenary window was erected by the Society in 1913 to celebrate their 300th anniversary. As part of the Heritage Trail the legacy piece has been placed into the ground at the Diamond, commemorating



