



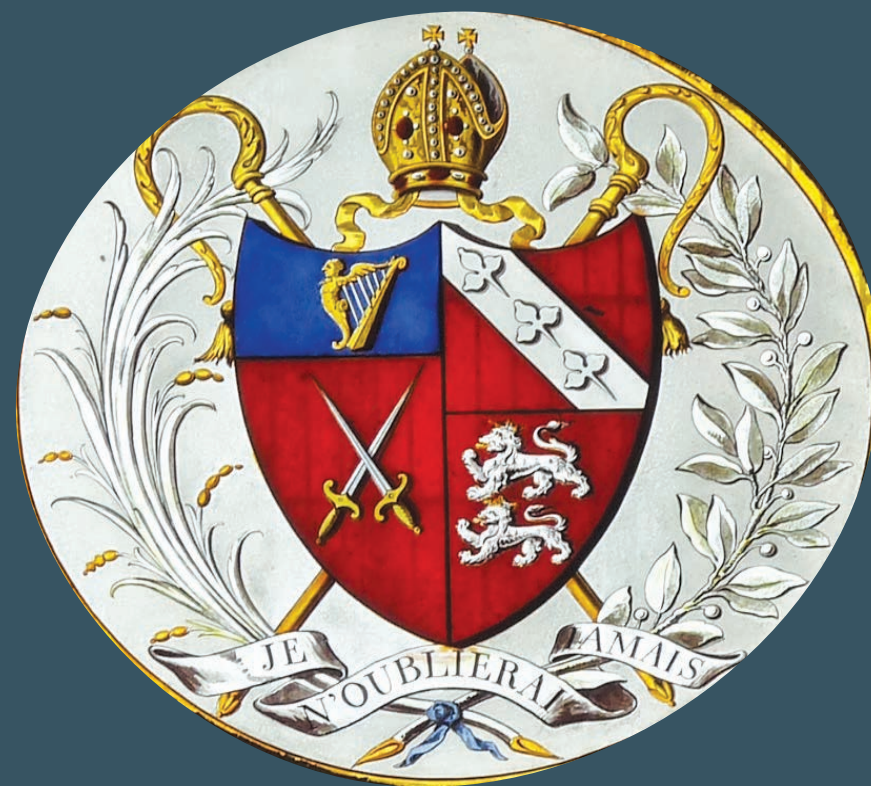
THE EARL BISHOP TRAIL

Charismatic Cleric

Tamlaghtfinlagan
Parish Church, Ballykelly



Frederick Augustus Hervey (1730-1803)
©National Trust Images



The Earl Bishop Coat of Arms detail
from stained glass window inside
Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church
Image courtesy of L. Blackwood

Frederick Augustus Hervey (1730-1803), Bishop of Derry and 4th Earl of Bristol (hence, the Earl Bishop) was one of the most charismatic individuals to have ever lived in the North West of Ireland. He was not only a bishop but a scientist, geologist, politician, builder, art collector, traveller and a powerful proponent of religious equality.

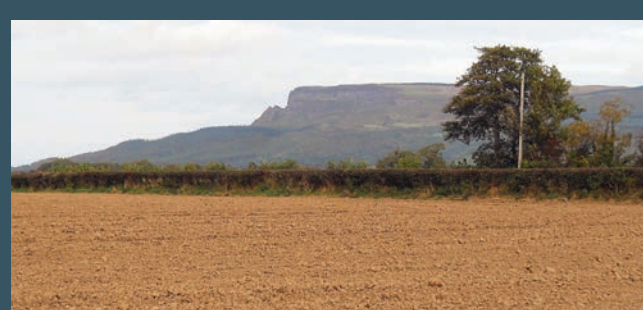


The Garrison Church constructed by the
Fishmongers' Company in 1629
Image courtesy of L. Blackwood

Tamlaghtfinlagan Church is regarded as the best of all the churches for which the Earl Bishop was responsible. It was built in 1791-1795 at the joint expense of the Bishop and a landlord, John Beresford, to replace the Garrison Church constructed by the Fishmongers' Company in 1629. The interior contains a number of monuments – the most renowned being that of Jane Hamilton, wife of a local landlord. Frederick is also remembered; the roundels on the window nearest the Chancel are those of the Earl Bishop.



Tom Nicholl
Image courtesy of Nicholl family



Site of the Brouighter Gold
discovery
Image courtesy of R. Cassidy

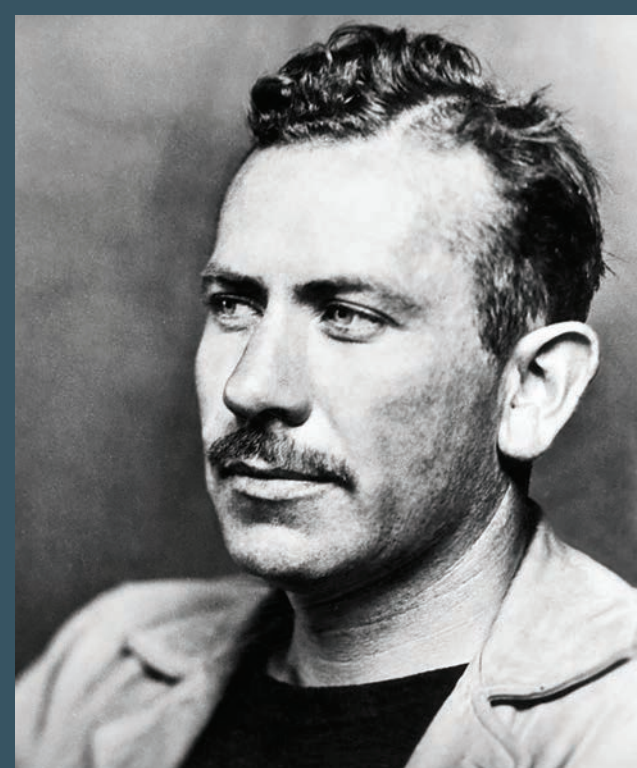


The Brouighter Gold Hoard
© National Museum of Ireland

The churchyard contains the grave of Tom Nicholl, a ploughman who discovered the Brouighter Gold Hoard in 1896. Nearby is the grave of Jimmy McCurry, a blind fiddler, who played a melody later known as the Londonderry Air, which then became famous as the tune for Danny Boy. Jane Ross, a local music teacher, noted down the tune one market day in Limavady in 1851.



The Hamilton family grave
Image courtesy of L. Blackwood



John Steinbeck
Image by McFadden Publications, Inc.;
[Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons



1952: Steinbeck visits the grave
Image courtesy of Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church,
Ballykelly

There is also the grave of the Hamilton family, who were the ancestors on the maternal side of Nobel Prize winner for Literature, John Steinbeck.



Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Places of interest in the area:

Nearby is the 17th century Plantation village of Ballykelly, where The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, London, constructed a number of fine buildings including the Presbyterian Church, the Model Farm and the Agent's House, now the Drummond Hotel, where the Fishmongers' Coat of Arms appears at the entrance. Two miles to the North at the Roe Park Resort, Limavady, is the site of the Convention of Drumceatt (AD 590), where St Colmcille intervened successfully on behalf of the bards of Ireland, who were threatened with eviction from Ireland.



The Fishmongers' Coat of Arms in the
Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly
Image above and above left courtesy of J. Hunter



The Fishmongers' buildings at Ballykelly
Image courtesy of Lambeth Palace Library, Ref M5634/28v-29

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