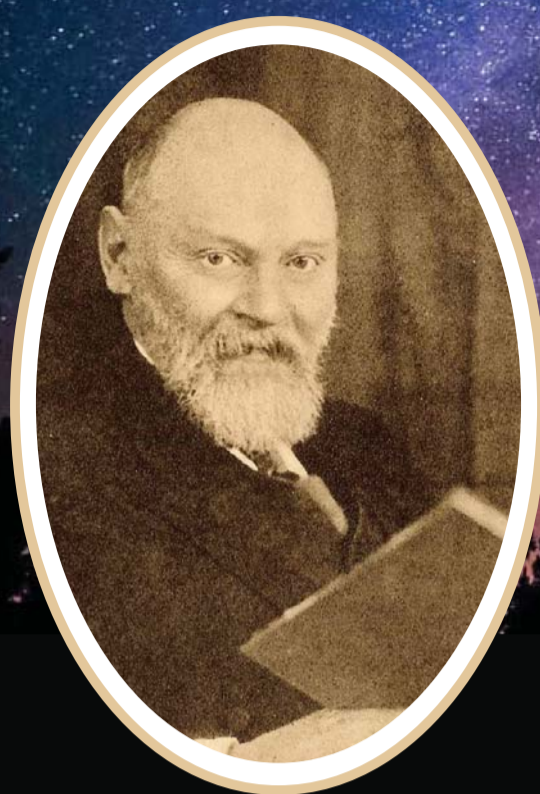


'The Comet Man'

Andrew Claude de la Cherois Crommelin (1865-1939)



Andrew Claude de la Cherois Crommelin, a man who would become one of the world's leading authorities on comets, was born in Cushendun, Co. Antrim in 1865. Two of Andrew's ancestors were prominent Huguenots, French Protestants. Both Louis Crommelin and Daniel de la Cherois joined a Huguenot colony in Lisburn at the end of the seventeenth century following persecution in France and an English Act of Parliament (1696) which encouraged the settlement of foreign Protestants in Ireland. Louis Crommelin's background in the linen industry was welcomed in Ireland where flax production was being invigorated on the orders of King William III.

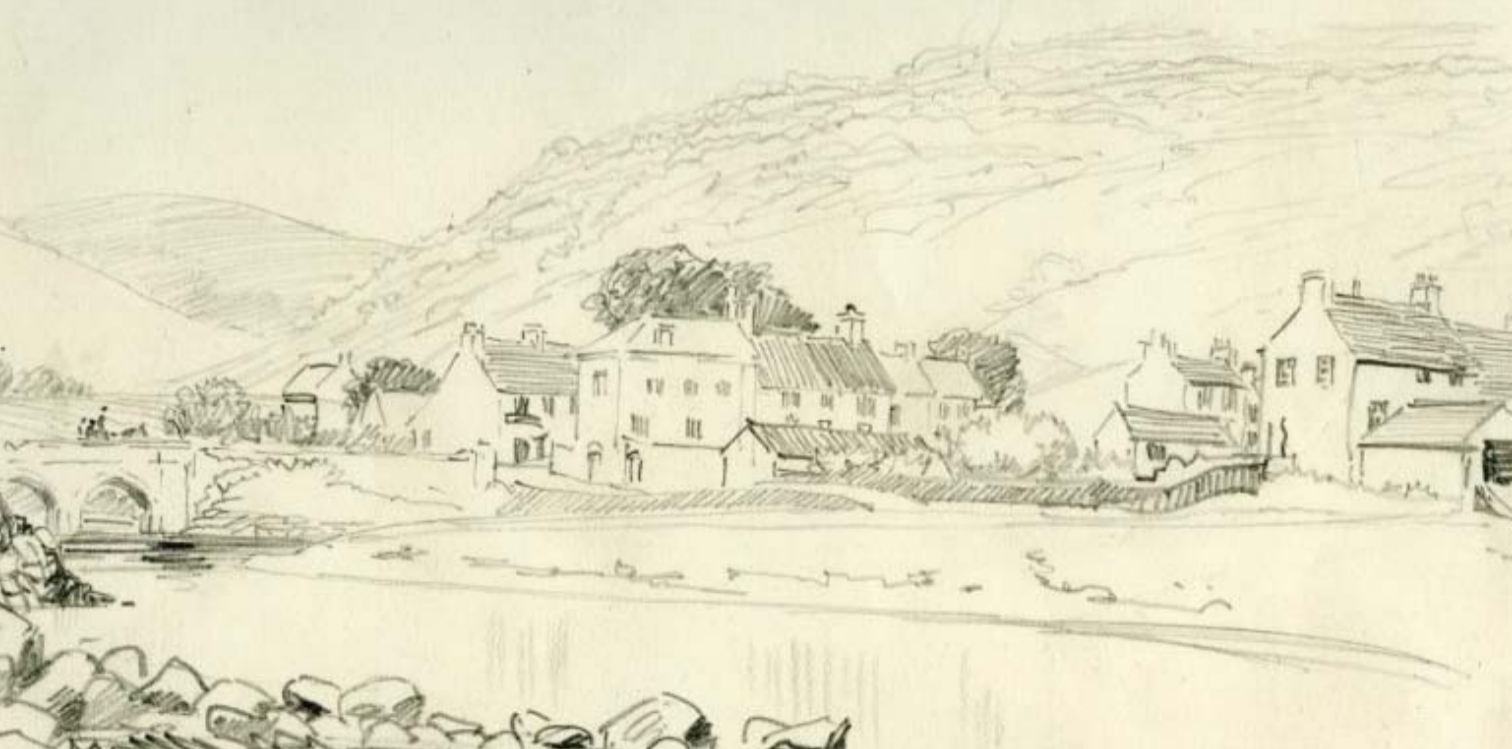
In 1826, Nicholas de la Cherois Crommelin father of Andrew Claude de la Cherois Crommelin purchased the townland of Sleans, south of the mouth of the river Dun, and proceeded to invest in Cushendun village. The family were responsible for the construction of Cave House, a steam-powered scrutching mill and rope works in the village. Plans were drawn up for a fully developed harbour, but only the south quay and the present stone bridge were ever built. At the age of three, Andrew de la Cherois Crommelin moved with his family to England where he was educated, graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1886.

The career of Andrew de la Cherois Crommelin

1865	Born, Cushendun, Co. Antrim
1886	Graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge
1888	Elected fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society
1891	Started work at the Royal Greenwich Observatory
1904 -1906	President of the British Astronomical Association
1910	Predicted of the return of Halley's Comet (1P/Halley)
1917-1923	Appointed Secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society
1929-1931	President of the Royal Astronomical Society
1935	President of the International Astronomical Union's sub commission on periodic comets
1939	Died shortly after being struck by a motorcycle

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Cushendun Village, 1898 sketch by Hugh Thomson (1860-1920)



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