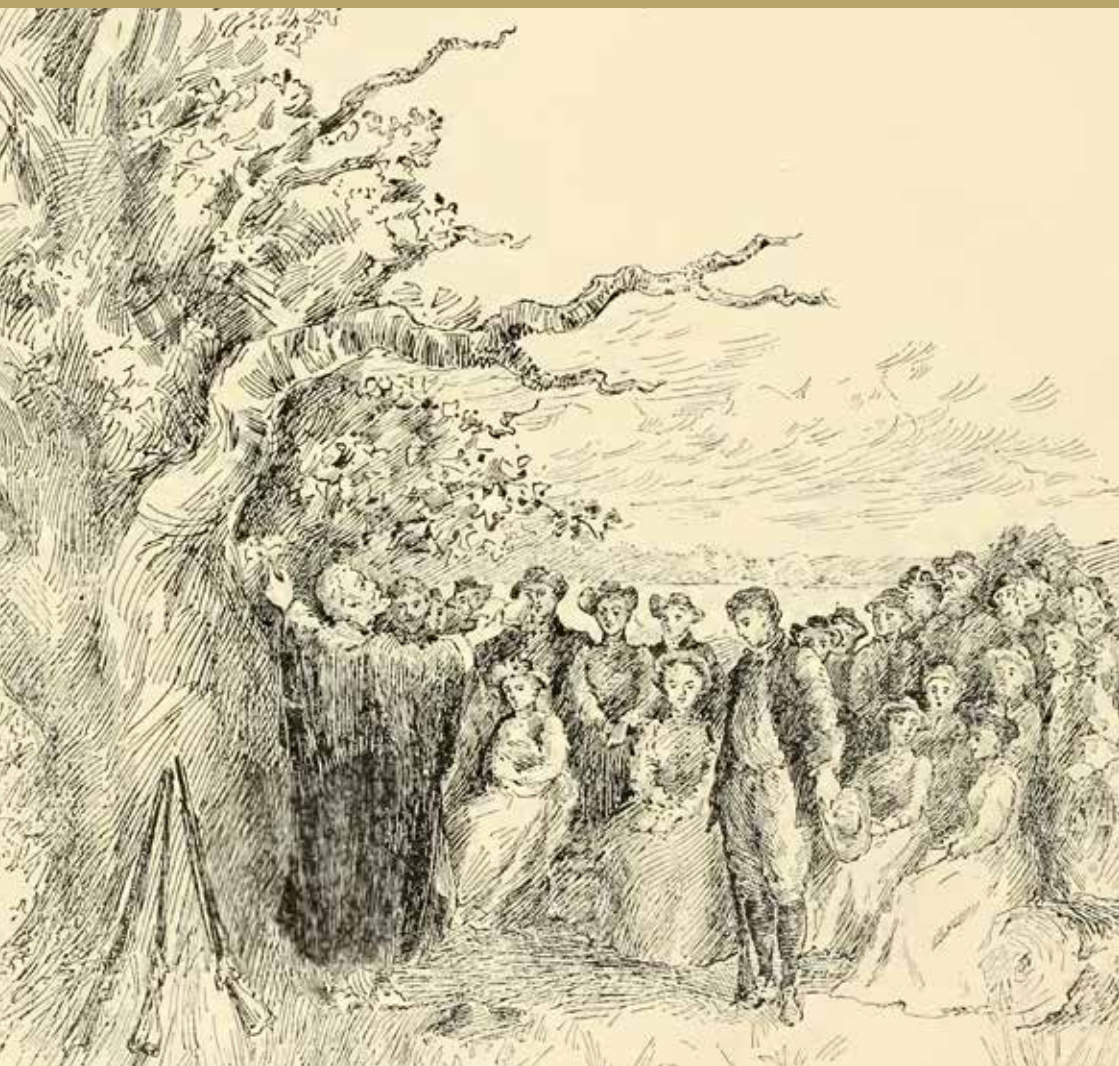


1718 WHAT'S ON

PROGRAMME COMMEMORATING THE 1718 BANN VALLEY MIGRATION
ISSUE ONE: APRIL - JUNE 2018



The 1718 Bann Valley Migration

In the summer of 1718, James McGregor (born Magilligan circa 1677), minister in Aghadowey, along with a large part of his congregation, left for the New England colonies. The Aghadowey people were joined by many others from the north of Ireland, especially from the Bann valley and Ballymoney.

Bad harvests, cattle disease, higher rents and the 1704 Test Act, had prompted Presbyterian ministers and many others to petition the Governor of Massachusetts seeking encouragement to emigrate. The petition was carried to Boston by William Boyd, a minister from Macosquin; it was signed by 319 people, including nine ministers, most from the Bann valley.

Arriving in Boston in August 1718, the new settlers were moved quickly on. Some followed McGregor to Nutfield, New Hampshire (later renamed Londonderry); people from Dunboe and Macosquin settled in Maine; others went to Massachusetts and Connecticut, and eventually on to Nova Scotia and Vermont.

New settlers in America faced challenges including the poor land they were granted, continuing civil and religious difficulties, fights with other settlers, friction with Native Americans and being far away from families and friends. Families were migrating to North America before 1718 and continued long after that year. The significance of 1718 is that this was the first organised group migration from Presbyterian-settled areas of Ireland to North America.



The Chrispeen House, a typical Londonderry homestead. From *Willey's Book of Nutfield* G.F. Willey. New Hampshire 1895. Courtesy American Library Association.

April-June at a Glance

Date	Organiser	Event	Page
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28 June	Aghadowey Presbyterian Church	Talk: The 1718 Emigration from East Londonderry to New Hampshire	Page 7
28 - 29 June	Ulster University	Ulster 1718: Culture, Family and Space conference	Page 8

Details for events later in the year will be included in *1718 What's On* Issue 2, available July. Advanced notices of known events are included below (pages 9-11)

Causeway Coast and Glens Family History Society



Townland Database

A freely accessible database linking surnames to townlands in the Bann Valley during the period 1660-1740 will be hosted on our website <http://causewayfhs.org.uk/> to help the descendants of migrants identify possible locations for their family in Ulster. This resource will also list variant names and spellings used in the C18th and before alongside modern equivalents. Members of the public are invited to submit details from their own research for possible inclusion in the database.

DNA Project

Irish records for the period before 1864 are notoriously patchy making paper research difficult. NIFHS have already started a project on Family Tree DNA covering the whole province of Ulster www.familytreedna.com/groups/nifhs or <http://www.nifhs.org/dna/> and we are encouraging both locals and those with possible roots in our area to take a DNA test and join the group to establish definite links where the written record is incomplete.

Genealogy Advice - May to August

The Causeway Coast and Glens Branch of NIFHS is the Family History Society for the area where the 1718 migrants left from to travel to the New World. Our members shall be lending their expertise in local genealogy to the descendants of migrants calling with Causeway Museum Service at Coleraine Town Hall and Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre during summer 2018. Members will be in attendance at 1718 events during peak times and will also be contactable by telephone through Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Services on **028 2766 0230** or cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

For more information, please contact:
Causeway Coast and Glens Branch
North of Ireland Family History Society
Charity No. NIC106071
Website: <http://causewayfhs.org.uk/>
Email: Return2causeway@gmail.com

Scotti Rooms

Talk: 1718 and the Petition to Governor Shute, by George Dallas

17 April, 7.45 pm

Macosquin Orange Hall, Ringrash Road, Macosquin.

Tha Lee'in - including a talk by Alison McCaughan, music, poetry, and the launch of the 1718 Heritage Trail map.

22 May, 7.30 pm

1st Dunboe Presbyterian Church Hall, Mussenden Road, Articlave

With on street community engagement events in Coleraine, Ballymoney, Garvagh in June. Free Admission to all events.

For more information, please contact **Joanne Honeyford on 07814 264 584** or **cuilrathainhcc@gmail.com**.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services

Causeway 1718: Society in Transition

11 May - 20 June, Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-4pm

Coleraine Museum @ Coleraine Town Hall

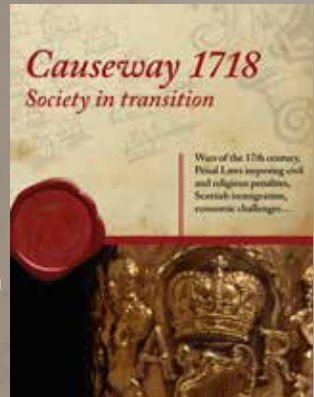
The Diamond, Coleraine BT52 1AP

Admission Free

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. This was the background of the first organised migration from Ulster to North America – the 1718 Bann Valley Migration. This exhibition explores the people and places of the Causeway area, connecting local people and places with bigger national stories. Discover what was happening, why it happened, and what the 1718 Bann Valley Migration was all about.



COLERAINE MUSEUM AT COLERAINE TOWN HALL



Garvagh Museum

1718: Penal Laws, Poverty and Migration Conference

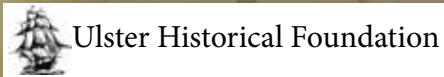
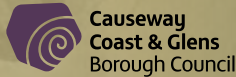
12 May, 9.45 am – 1 pm

Garvagh & District Development Association (GADDA) Community Building, 85 Main St, Garvagh BT51 5AB

Admission Free

This brief conference, organised in association with the Ulster Historical Foundation, will include a series of fascinating talks which explore the tragic reasons why upwards of 100 local families abandoned their homes and emigrated to America with the Reverend James McGregor and Reverend James Woodside in 1718.

For more information, please visit Garvagh Museum on Facebook or email 1718garvaghmuseum@gmail.com



ARK (Aghadowey Rural Kinship)

Living history tour and service in Agivey Old Church

26 May, 2pm with service at 3pm

Glenkeen Rd Aghadowey

Open day in Aghadowey area and driving tour, map provided

23 June, 10am - 2pm

Halls and Churches in the Aghadowey area open to visitors providing an historical and cultural understanding of the Aghadowey area with historical artefacts on display. Maps available at Aghadowey Presbyterian Church and St Guaire's Church of Ireland. Teas and crafts available in various venues.

For booking information or any further details, please contact:

G. Dallas 078 49820949 or L. McAuley 077 24999536

First Presbyterian Church Dunboe

In Search of a New World: 1718 - The First Mass Migration from Ireland to America

20 - 24 June

Wed from 7pm; Thurs - Sat, 10am - 10pm, Sunday 2pm - 6pm, concluding with a service of worship at 7.30pm with the Moderator, Dr. Charles McMullen

Admission Free

Discover the phenomenal story of 1718 when the people of Dunboe and the Bann Valley braved the Atlantic in search of a new world.

For more information, please contact:

JMcCaughan@presbyterianireland.org

Aghadowey Presbyterian Church

Anniversary Service

24 June, 12 pm

Talk: 1718 - The Journey Begins, with Mr George Dallas

26 Tuesday, 8 pm

Talk: 1718 Exodus - Local Connections and Consequences, with Dr Linde Lunney

27 June, 8 pm

Talk: The 1718 Emigration from East Londonderry to New England, with Mrs Alison McCaughan

28 June, 8pm

Free Admission to all events, light refreshments will be served.

Contact: **Jennifer on 028 7086 8325 or William on 028 7086 8415**

aghadoweypci.co.uk

Ulster University

Ulster 1718: Culture, Family and Space Conference

28 - 29 June

Ulster University, Coleraine Campus, Northern Ireland

To commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the 1718 migration, Ulster University will host a gathering of academic and community writers to explore the connections between Ulster and North America. The event will examine three main shared areas of interest between the two places: culture, family and space. This conference is a sister conference of the Maine Ulster Scots Project Ulster Diaspora Reunion and Conference (see page 10 for more details).

Proposals for papers of 20-25 minutes are invited on the following themes:

- Afterlives of 1718
- Ulster Diaspora
- Family history, memoirs and correspondence
- Literatures of Migration and Diaspora
- Narratives about space, place and landscape
- Interactions with indigenous peoples
- Reflections on connections Scotland, Ireland and America
- Culture and memory/ forgetting
- Ulster-Scots and Scotch-Irish commemorations

For more information, please contact

Dr Frank Ferguson at f.ferguson@ulster.ac.uk

Further details can be found at: [@HurchinHome](#) Twitter Account



July -December Advance Notices

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services

Causeway 1718: Society in Transition

29 June - 25 August

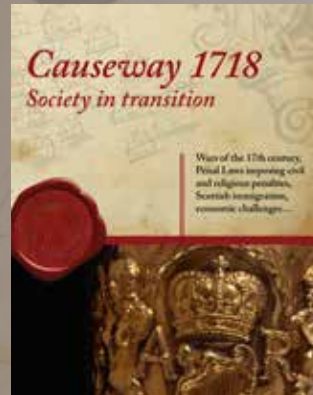
Mon-Weds & Sat, 9.30am-5pm; Thurs & Fri, 9.30am-9.30pm

Limavady Museum @ Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre

24 Main St, Limavady BT49 0FJ

Admission Free

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. This was the background of the first organised migration from Ulster to North America - the 1718 Bann Valley Migration. This exhibition explores the people and places of the Causeway area, connecting local people and places with bigger national stories. Discover what was happening, why it happened, and what the 1718 Bann Valley Migration was all about.



Scotti Rooms

On Street community engagement events in Coleraine, Ballymoney, and Garvagh throughout July. **Free Admission.**

Bus Tour of Heritage Trail departing Coleraine

4 August - time TBC

For more information, please contact **Joanne Honeyford** on **07814 264 584** or cuilrathainhcc@gmail.com

ARK (Aghadowey Rural Kinship)

Open days in Aghadowey area and driving tour, map provided
21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 10am - 2pm Halls and Churches in the Aghadowey area open to visitors providing an historical and cultural understanding of the Aghadowey area with historical artefacts on display. Maps available at Aghadowey Presbyterian Church and St Guaire's Church of Ireland. Teas and crafts available in various venues.

For booking information or any further details, please contact:
G. Dallas 078 49820949 or L. McAuley 077 24999536

Maine Ulster Scots Project

Stories We Share: 1718-2018 Ulster Diaspora Reunion & Conference - Three Centuries of Scots-Irish Heritage
14 - 18 August

All conference events are at Bowdoin College, 255 Main Street, Brunswick, Maine, USA. Maine Highland Games take place at the Topsham Fair Grounds, 49 Topsham Fair Mall Road, Topsham, Maine, USA.

Through genealogy, music, cultural legacy and legends, we will explore the political, legal and cultural impact as a result of the continuous migration from the North of Ireland to Maine. We welcome scholars and interested relatives of diaspora to reunited and share stories to rebuild connections for the future.



For further information, please visit
www.maineulsterscots.com

Ulster Historical Foundation

Tracing your Irish Ancestors: 300 years and more of Irish Migration

5 - 12 September, 9 am - 9 pm

The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon St, Belfast, BT1 2LG

£949.99pp

Celebrate 300+ years of migration, and mark the tercentenary of the 1718 migration. Visit sites and places synonymous with the migration of families to the New Worlds. Learn about the history of Ireland, your ancestors' lives & migration experiences through assisted archival research, complemented by excursions through Ireland's beautiful landscape. **BOOKING**

ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED

If you choose to tour, many sites will be outdoor. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.



Phone: 02890661988, Email: enquiry@uhf.org.uk, Web: <https://www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/autumn/>

ARK (Aghadowey Rural Kinship)

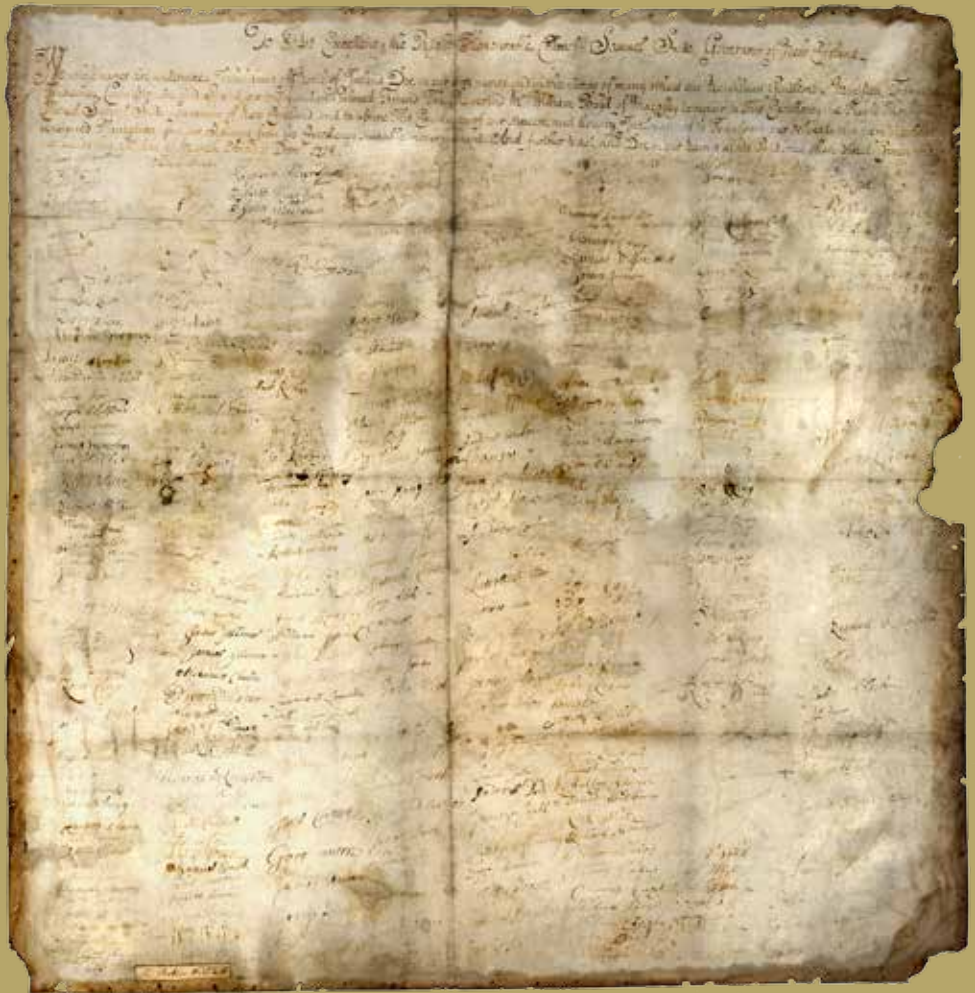
Mc Gregors Rant Thanksgiving festival

24 November, time to be confirmed

Great food and Music in the theme of traditional thanksgiving with an Aghadowey Twist. Booking essential.

For more information, please contact:

G. Dallas 078 49820949 or L. McAuley 077 24999536



Front cover:

'The First Sermon in Nutfield', from *Willey's Book of Nutfield*, G.F. Willey. New Hampshire 1895.

Rear cover:

Petition to Governor Samuel Shute from 'Inhabitants of the North of Ireland' (26 March, 1718).
Courtesy New Hampshire Historical Society.