

## **Towns and villages**

Many of the towns and villages in the Ards and North Down existed before the arrival of the lowland Scots in 1606, but only in a very small way. Over the centuries, waves of people – local Gaelic Irish, early Christians and monks, Viking invaders and Anglo-Norman lords - have all left traces on our landscape. However the earliest surviving maps of the area, from the 1500s, show very little evidence of organized settlements – just some abbeys, churches and castles.

The rapid development of the Ards and North Down was due to James Hamilton, Hugh Montgomery and their Scottish tenants. Most of these tenants were farming families, and can be traced to specific rural town lands which lie between the villages and towns that we know today.

Over 150 years later, a census of 1764 recorded that the Ards and North Down were 95% Presbyterian – a legacy of enormous Scottish migration, and migration between the Ards, North Down and Scotland has continued ever since. A few villages didn't develop until the late 1700s and early 1800s. The list included here focuses on the 1600s lowland Scottish story of our towns and villages.

### **Bangor**

Bangor is an ancient Christian and monastic site. In the early 1600's the ruined Abbey was one of the few buildings here. In 1611, the Plantation Commissioners surveyed the town and wrote that it consisted of 80 houses, all inhabited by Scotsmen and Englishmen. On the monument to John Gibson, Dean of Down, in Bangor Abbey, it is recorded that his congregation increased from 40 in 1609 to 1,000 in 1623.

Raven's maps - Thomas Raven drew a series of maps of Bangor and surrounding townlands for Hamilton in 1625, which are on display at North Down Museum. By this time Bangor contained some 70 houses. Hamilton built the Tower House in 1637; Hamilton Road is named after him for the role he played in establishing Bangor.

Churches - Between 1617 and 1623 the old Bangor Abbey church was rebuilt with the exception of the tower which survived from the medieval structure.

Bangor Schools - Sir James Hamilton founded a school at Bangor not long after arriving there. This was one of a number of schools he established in the parishes under his control.

First recorded Ulster-Scots settlers in Bangor were in November 1617.

### **Conlig, formerly 'Conlack'**

Conlig was part of James Hamilton's Ulster-Scots estate in 1606. On Thomas Raven's map of the estate, drawn in 1625, Conlig was spelt as "Conlack". The map records that Conlack was leased by Hamilton to an Irish tenant called James Oge Laterback, who was surrounded by Scottish tenants.

In 1798, Archibald (Archibald) Wilson of Conlig was executed for his part in the Rebellion of that year. He was just 26 and was buried at Bangor Abbey, where his grave can still be seen today.

### **Crawfordsburn**

The Thomas Raven maps of the Hamilton estate which were drawn in 1625 show a portion of land leased to an Andrew Crawford. The Crawfords are believed to have come from Kilbirnie in North Ayrshire, where their estate was also known as Crawfordsburn. The Crawfords acquired lands in other parts of early 1600's

Ulster - George Crawford was one of the fifty Scottish undertakers of the Ulster Plantation. The name "Crawfordsburn Glen" may be evidence of Scots influence.

First recorded Ulster-Scots settlers to Crawfordsburn were in 1625.

**Hollywood, formerly 'East Holle Wood'**

Hollywood is an ancient Christian site, with the Priory having originally been built in the 7th Century. It was part of James Hamilton's estate in 1606, and in 1615 he brought Robert Cunningham from Scotland to be the Presbyterian minister for the local Ulster-Scots community. According to Thomas Raven's maps, Hollywood was laid out as a neat town of 51 houses, built around the maypole, with a narrow river separating the town from the Priory. Just across the road from Hollywood Priory is Thornbank Manse – this was the home of the Rev. Henry Henderson (1820 – 1879), minister of Hollywood Presbyterian Church, who wrote a column entitled "Ulster Scot's Letters to his Friends at Home and Abroad" in the Belfast Weekly News under the pseudonym "Ulster Scot", from 1869 - 1879. When he died, his son William carried on the column as "Ulster Scot junr".

First recorded Ulster-Scots settlers to East Holle Wood were between 1617 and 1625.