

Famous Ulster-Scots O' Mourne

Captain Henry Hunter

A Fearsome Soldier and Important Figure in the Ulster-Scots Story of Mourne

Following the Williamite Wars, this successful Williamite Veteran Soldier with a formidable reputation became the largest tenant of Bagenal's Mourne estates leasing a number of townlands in Mourne. Hunter and Bagenal had saw action in 1689 at the Relief of Derry and following the Siege, Hunter was appointed Governor of Carlingford by the Duke of Schomberg when he came to Mourne. On the death of Schomberg at the Battle of the Boyne, although forgotten by many, Hunter was remembered by Nicholas Bagenal who granted him the lease of townlands in Mourne.

Just six years after the Battle of the Boyne, Captain Henry Hunter helped to set up the first formally recognised Mourne Presbyterian Meeting House in Ballymageough next to where he lived. Rev. Charles Wallace (1696-1736) was the first recorded minister at the church and probably gained his tenancy with Bagenal as he had married one of Hunter's daughters!

Bagenal was keen to encourage Protestant settlers, mainly of Scottish origin to his lands in Mourne. The presence of this man with his stature and reputation would give confidence, not only to new settlers but Bagenal himself and would help with the defence of Mourne should there be any further Jacobite Wars. Bagenal's plan proved to be a huge success.

Hunter is today remember as the anchorman who attracted many Scottish Presbyterian tenants into these newly granted townlands giving Mourne its distinctive Scots character and flavour, which still dominates the Kingdom of Mourne today!





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