



Famous Ulster-Scots O' Mourne

*Nurse Margaret Anderson
Royal Red Cross, 1881-1956*

A True Ulster-Scot

Margaret Anderson had very strong Ulster-Scots roots. She was born in Ballinran, the eldest child of Joseph and Elizabeth Anderson and became known as 'Mourne's Florence Nightingale'. Her grandparents had come over from Scotland to settle in Ulster in the mid 1800s and established a tuck mill beside the Kilkeel River in Ballinran. It was here that Margaret was reared in a place known locally as 'Anderson's Holms' and of course 'Holm' is the Ulster-Scots word meaning 'A flat area beside a river'.



After leaving Ballinran Presbyterian School, Margaret worked as a medical receptionist in Warringstown, where she developed an interest in nursing and later made her way to England to undertake training to qualify as a State Registered Nurse. Margaret's war service commenced in 1916 when she joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Reserve. Margaret Anderson was a compassionate and dedicated nurse who regularly went above and beyond the call of duty in her quest to ensure the best possible care for injured soldiers, sailors and airmen. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross by King George V for her distinguished contribution to the war effort. This was the highest award that could be conferred on a woman for war service and Queen Alexandra presented Margaret with a special book, signed with a personal message of gratitude for her endeavour.

After the war, Margaret nursed in various places including Iraq before she returned home to Mourne in 1926, where she became Matron of the hospital at the Silent Valley. At the outbreak of World War Two, despite Margaret's age of fifty eight, she re-joined the Nursing Reserve, taking part in several sorties across the English Channel during the evacuation of Dunkirk. Margaret passed away in 1956 and was buried in the grounds of Mourne Presbyterian Meeting House and is now commemorated on Mourne Presbyterian Church Cenotaph for her service in both World Wars.





*Nurse Margaret Anderson (Top Left) pictured
with Nursing Colleagues during the First World War*

The Schomberg Society

Reivers House, 8-12 Newcastle Street, Kilkeel, Co. Down, BT34 4AF
Tel: 028 4176 9678 / 07753222553

Email: schomberg@schombergsociety.plus.com

 Find us on Facebook Schomberg Mourne Ulster-Scots

 Twitter @SchombergSoc

