

The Kingdom of Mourne

1603

Mourne at the Dawn of the 17th Century

The Kingdom of Mourne following the famine of the 1590s was sparsely populated and was under the Lordship of the Bagenals. In 1552, Sir. Nicholas Bagenal had been awarded the Lordships of Newry and Mourne by King Edward VI for his services and was responsible for leasing the area to farming tenants.

'Dae Ye Ken' Sir. Nicholas was an English born soldier and politician who later went on to become Marshal of the Army in Ireland.



Sir. Nicholas Baganel

The Kingdom of Mourne

1606

Scots Arrive in Mourne

A trickle of families from the Lowlands of Scotland began arriving to the Kingdom of Mourne.

These Scots introduced a new culture to Mourne bringing with them their Scots tongue, music, dance, new methods of fishing and farming and an ethos of hard work.

'A fair days work
for a fair days pay!'

'Dae Ye Ken' these traditions are still
very much alive and well in the
Kingdom of Mourne today!



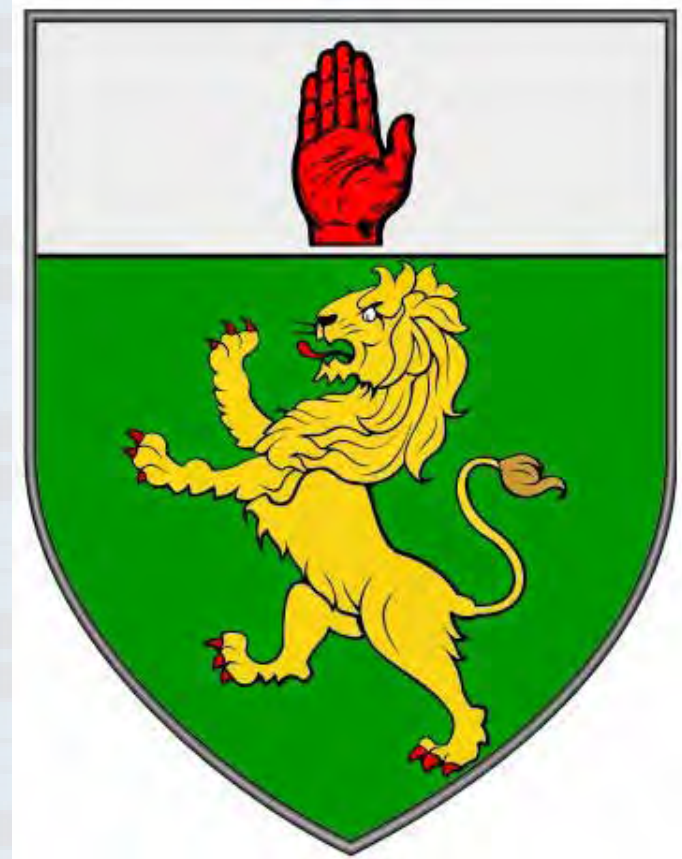
Kilkeel Primary School Mural

The Kingdom of Mourne

1607

The Magennis' of Mourne

At this time, the Bagannels remained firmly in control of the land in Mourne. The Irish Gaelic Magennis clan who were for centuries chieftains of much of South Down including the Kingdom of Mourne had their lands broken up. However, as a reward for their loyalty to Elizabeth I during 'The Nine Years War', they were able to retain much of their land and remained a force to be reckoned with. Their stronghold was in the Rathfriland/Iveagh area.



Magennis Coat of Arms

'Dae Ye Ken' the famous Guinness family who founded the famous Dublin brewery in 1759, claimed to be descended from the Magennis Clan from South Down!

The Kingdom of Mourne

1610

Key Populated Areas

Despite the arrival of a small number of Lowland Scots, Mourne still remained lightly populated. The key populated areas were Greencastle, Kilkeel, and Tamlaght in Lisnacree at the mouth of the 'Cassy' Water.

'Dae Ye Ken' 'Tamlaght' meaning 'plague monument or burial place' is probably the oldest Christian site in Mourne dating back to the 5th Century and the time of St. Patrick!



The Cassy Water, Kilkeel

The Kingdom of Mourne

1640

Hanna's Close Settled

The first Scottish settlers began arriving around this time in Hanna's Close. They were granted some acres of land in Aughnahoory, which they then began clearing of trees, bushes and stones before they were able to start building and farming the land, bringing with them many new farming techniques to the Mournes.

The houses were built above the river and close together with only front doors and small windows to afford better protection from attacks.



Hanna's Close, Kilkeel

By 1860, there were eight Hanna families of Scottish descent living in the close of nine small cottages!

'Dae Ye Ken' that the term 'Ulster-Scots' was first used in the year of 1640? That's almost 400 years ago! Hou! Yer Wheesht - For We're Still Here!

The Kingdom of Mourne

1641

The Bloody Bridge Massacre, Newcastle

In the winter of 1641/1642, as many as 50 Protestant captives of the Irish Rebel Sir Con Magennis were marched from Newry to be exchanged for Rebel prisoners in Downpatrick.

Travelling through Mourne via Greencastle and stopping overnight in Ballinran, they eventually reached the Ballagh between Annalong and Newcastle. On hearing that the Rebel prisoners in Downpatrick had been executed, Magennis' soldiers brutally slashed and hacked the Protestants, many of whom were Ulster-Scots, to death and threw their bodies over the Bridge.



The Bloody Bridge, Newcastle

'Dae Ye Ken' it is said that the cries of the prisoners pierced the air as they fell to their captor's blades and the river ran red for three days, giving rise to the name 'The Bloody Bridge'.

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1642

Monro's Army in the Mournes

A contingent of Monro's soldiers was sent from Newry into the Greater Mournes. The army marched through Magennis' territory and in an act of revenge for the 1641 Irish Rebel massacres, these Scots soldiers, many of whom were former Planter settlers reportedly killed 500 Irish, burned houses, crops, confiscated cattle and took many prisoners.

'Dae Ye Ken' Many of Munro's Army of 10,000 Presbyterians eventually stayed in Ulster, encouraging other Scots to return or indeed, to make the journey for the first time across the Irish Sea, boosting the number of Scots in Ulster and in the Kingdom of Mourne.



Ulster-Scots Soldier 1642

The Kingdom of Mourne

1649

Cromwell's Army attacks Greencastle!

After Cromwell's victory at Drogheda, 5,000 of his troops moved north, seized Carlingford, resulting in both Narrow Water Castle and Greencastle's Royalist defenders surrendering. Cromwell's artillery went on to destroy the defences of Greencastle to stop it being used by Royalist forces again.



Greencastle Castle

'Dae Ye Ken' Greencastle was also captured by Edward Bruce, the brother of the famous Scots King Robert Bruce in 1316 and the area was settled by Scots soldiers whose descendents are still in the Mournes today!

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1660

Increase of Scots Settlers in Mourne!

By 1660, approximately 20% of the population in Mourne was English and Scottish. They were concentrated mainly along the coastal townlands, particularly in Annalong and Kilkeel, where there were natural harbours for fishing, the land was better for farming and it was also easier to defend.

'Dae Ye Ken' the fishing boats in Annalong and Kilkeel are still predominately owned by fishermen with Scottish surnames such as: McKee Orr Gordon Chambers Campbell Nicholson Patterson Hanna



Annalong Harbour

'Dae Ye Ken' it was said that in 1663, a Presbyterian Minister, Rev. McGee who was practicing in Mourne was imprisoned along with six other Presbyterian Ministers in Carlingford Castle. Local Presbyterians rowed across the Lough on a Sunday to attend his services which he preached through the prison bars!

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1685

'Black Plague' in Mourne

It was recorded that during the 1680s, Mourne suffered an epidemic of 'Black Plague'. The numbers of English and Scots settlers fell to approximately 10% in Mourne. It is thought that many of the Scots and English settlers fled the epidemic and returned home to Scotland and England.



***The Block House,
Carlingford Lough***

'Dae Ye Ken' that the Block House on Rock Island on Carlingford Lough at this time was used as an improvised Fever Hospital, where many victims were taken during this Plague to be treated or to die! It is said that Presbyterian Ministers rowed across the Lough to preach the Gospel to the sufferers from boats moored by the Block House walls!

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1688

The Duke of Schomberg's Troops were billeted in Greencastle!

In the winter of 1688/89, a contingent of The Duke of Schomberg's Williamite Army was stationed in Greencastle. Under the command of Colonel William Stewart, they were tasked with guarding the entrance to Carlingford Lough and access to the strategic town of Newry.



Duke of Schomberg Mural in Reivers House

'Dae Ye Ken' that in 1689
some of King William's
troops reportedly landed
near the Bloody Bridge,
Newcastle at a place now
known as 'William's
Harbour'!

The Kingdom of Mourne

1690

Williamite Influx of Scots to Mourne!

The final migration of Scots in the 17th Century took place following the victory at the Battle of the Boyne. A new wave of Scottish families, some fleeing famine and some seeking better land arrived in the Mournes. Many settled in and around Kilkeel and Scottish surnames which are now commonplace in the Mournes had arrived!



***King William III at the
Battle of Boyne***

Do you recognise any of these Scottish surnames?

Donaldson Hanna McKee Orr Agnew Irvine
Patterson Houston Hamilton Campbell
Graham Wilson McBride McDowell Adair
Stevenson Gordon

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1696

First Presbyterian Church in Mourne

The first Mourne Presbyterian congregation was established on 21st July 1696 at Ballymageough, outside Kilkeel when Rev. Charles Wallace was ordained as the first minister. The land for the Church was leased from Captain Henry Hunter.

'Dae Ye Ken' that James Hanna of Hanna's Close was one of the signatures on the original church deeds!



***Sundial in Memory of
Rev. Charles Wallace***

The Kingdom of Mourne

1712

The Bagenal Line comes to an End

When the Bagenal family line came to an end in 1712, his estate was divided between his cousins Edward Bayley (who received land in Co. Louth) and Robert Needham who received the lands in County Down and Armagh. The Needhams leased Baganel's Castle and they established their principal residence at Mourne Park, Kilkeel. Needham became the new landlord and the numbers of Presbyterian tenants in Mourne continued to increase.



Bagenal's Castle, Newry

'Dae Ye Ken' the legacy of the Needhams is carried on today by Richard Needham, 6th Earl (or Lord Kilmorey), Mourne Park, who was an English MP and served for a time as the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Northern Ireland.

The Kingdom of Mourne

1720

Mourne Presbyterian Meeting House established in Kilkeel Town

Almost certainly as a result of Captain Hunter successfully attracting hundreds of new Scots settlers into Mourne, there were now three flourishing Presbyterian Meeting Houses in Mourne. These were at Ballymageough, Derryogue and Ballymartin. The minister of all three churches was the Rev. Wallace, Captain Hunter's Son In Law. Rev. Wallace persuaded the majority of his congregation that a more central Meeting House should be built in Kilkeel town. Services still continued at Ballymageough for a short time and the



Mourne Presbyterian Meeting House

old building at Ballymartin was still in use for Church purposes until the early 1900s.

'Dae Ye Ken' in 1741, Rev. Andrew Kennedy became the second Minister of Mourne Presbyterian Church giving his name to 'Kennedy's Brae' on the Mountain Road, Kilkeel! 'Brae' being the Ulster-Scots word for 'Hill'!

The Kingdom of Mourne

1756

Mourne Presbyterian Meeting House moves again!

A new larger church was built to accommodate the ever growing Presbyterian congregation of Mourne. The old church with its thatched roof was located where today's present graveyard is. It was replaced with a new triangular shaped building with a slated roof and built on the site of the present Meeting House.



Ballymartin Presbyterian Meeting House Ruin

'Dae Ye Ken' Mourne Presbyterian Church is still known today as the 'Big Meeting'!

The Kingdom of Mourne

1779

'Men of Mourne Volunteer Corps'

At this time, reports were coming to Mourne of the American War of Independence and the possibility of a French Invasion. As was the case across the country, The 'Men of Mourne Volunteer Corps' was formed to guard against an invasion and was captained by Robert Ross of Rostrevor. This Corp was one of the first Yeomanry Companies in County Down and had a membership mainly made up of Ulster-Scots.



***Major-General Robert Ross
of Rostrevor***

'Dae Ye Ken' the Rev. Andrew Kennedy, second Minister of Mourne Presbyterian Church served as the Chaplain of this Volunteer Corp and the Corp had its own Fife and Drum Band who were dressed in blue and white uniforms!

The Kingdom of Mourne

1795

First Orange Lodge formed in Mourne

Aughnahoorry LOL 343B is recorded as being the oldest Orange Lodge in Mourne and dates back to the late 1790s. Captain James Annett marched with the 81st Regiment of foot soldiers from Dundrum to Ballyvea, where he held lodge meetings in the barracks for many years. Later, in the 1800s, the Lodge moved to Maghereagh and eventually to Augnahoorry and is now one of three lodges based in Kilkeel Orange Hall.



Aughnahoorry Pipe Band

'Dae Ye Ken' Augnahoorry LOL 343B is now accompanied by Augnahoorry Pipe Band who play traditional Scottish Highland Pipes!

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1797

Rebellion in Mourne

Trouble was stirring in Mourne as a number of radical Presbyterians together with some local Roman Catholics formed a branch of the United Irishmen in Kilkeel. To combat this threat, Captain Chesney raised one of two infantrys of Yeomanry (stationed at Ballykeel) to deal with the disturbances in Mourne. The troubles in the area included houses being burned, threats to Loyalists and damages to property.



The Battle of Ballynahinch

'Dae Ye Ken' one of the darkest events of the Rebellion is reported to have happened in Kilkeel in the summer of 1797 when as many as twenty civilians were allegedly massacred by British Dragoons and Yeomanry in the search for rebels. Following the Rebellion, gun-running continued to take place along the Mourne coast in the winter of 1798!

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1801

Mourne District LOL No. 6 Formed

Early records show that Mourne District LOL No. 6 was formed in 1801.

As the years went on, the District continued to grow in numbers and by 1857 there were 10 lodges in the Mourne District. In 1857, the District Master was Brother Samuel McMurray of Ballinran and had a membership of 250 brethren.

'Dae Ye Ken' today Mourne District is the largest Orange District in the Province with over 1000 members and Ballyvea LOL 343A is the largest private lodge in the Province having over 160 members!



Mourne District LOL No. 6

The Kingdom of Mourne

1814

Sectarian Riot in Kilkeel

At the fair day in Kilkeel on the 9th February, a quarrel started between two residents, one Protestant and one Catholic. This quickly escalated into a serious riot between the Catholic and Protestant inhabitants of the town. Stones, bottles and even musket fire were exchanged between the two sides. A large number of Catholics besieged the house of one of the Yeomanry and were not repelled until Protestant reinforcements arrived. The tables were turned and before the day was over, upwards of 50 Catholic houses in the town had been attacked, many being burned and severely damaged.



***An Artist Impression of
the 'Wreck of Kilkeel'***

'Dae Ye Ken' this riot became known as the 'Wreck of Kilkeel' and in the following days, many country folk flocked from all around to view the destruction of the town!

The Kingdom of Mourne

1826

Kilkeel Presbyterian Meeting House Formed

In 1822, the Seceders, a dissenting Presbyterian movement in Scotland were planting congregations throughout Ulster. It was felt there was sufficient numbers of Presbyterians in Mourne to have another Presbyterian Meeting House. Four years later, one was established in Kilkeel town, known as Kilkeel Presbyterian Meeting House with the first Minister being Rev. John Allen who served from 1827 - 1831.



Kilkeel Presbyterian Meeting House

'Dae Ye Ken' Kilkeel Presbyterian Church is still known today as the 'Wee Meeting'!