

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1839**

## **Annalong Presbyterian Congregation Established**

In 1839, Presbyterians who were attending Mourne Presbyterian Church formed a new congregation in Annalong. This meant that now many Presbyterians in Mourne didn't have as far to travel for worship. For the first two years when the Church in Annalong was being built, meetings were held in Annalong Cornmill. The barn-shaped Meeting House was completed in 1842 and the first Minister was Rev. Samuel Burnside who served the congregation until 1887.



***Annalong Cornmill***

'Dae Ye Ken' Rev. Edward Pyper who was the Minister of Annalong Presbyterian Church from 1910-1945 was a local leader in Carson's Ulster Volunteer Force and also served as a voluntary Army Chaplain during the First World War!

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1845**

## Famine in Mourne

Like much of the rest of Ulster, Mourne also suffered during the great Potato Famine. Prior to the Famine, Kilkeel Workhouse was already half full and by 1847 mid-way through the Famine; the Workhouse reached capacity and required more and more supplies. Four fever hospitals were established in Mourne to cope with the increased numbers and there was an average of seven deaths every week. During this time, the Minister of Mourne Presbyterian Church, Rev. Canning continued to minister to his congregation, getting himself into debt in his efforts to help the sick and needy.



***Kilkeel Workhouse***

'Dae Ye Ken' after the Workhouse in Kilkeel closed, the building was later used in the early 1920s by the local RUC A and B Specials as a barracks.

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1849**

## **Mourne Men at Dolly's Brae!**

A number of Mourne men were involved in the Battle of Dolly's Brae! Orangemen from lodges including Ballyvea, Ballinran and Aughnahoor were on parade through Dolly's Brae when they too were attacked. This included Brother Samuel McMurray of Ballinran who was later to become the Worshipful District Master of the Mourne District.



***District Master Brother  
Samuel McMurray***

'Dae Ye Ken' men such as Samuel McMurray are still remembered today in their respective Orange Halls for their brave actions at Dolly Brae!

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1858**

## Ballyvea Museum Built

The 19th century Victorian farmhouse in Ballyvea was built in 1858 and was inhabited by the Irvine family who fled from Scotland to Ulster in the 1600s. The lease of the house was given to Edward Irvine by General Francis Rawdon Chesney as a wedding present as Edward was General Chesney's coachman. The Irvine family were staunchly Presbyterian and farmers who had a strong work ethic. In 1882, Edward's son, William followed in the footsteps of many other Ulster-Scots at the time and emigrated to America. He soon became a large rancher and bank owner in Wyoming. His prosperity encouraged many of his nieces and nephews to later emigrate for a better life.



***Ballyvea Museum***

'Dae Ye Ken' the old Victorian Farmhouse has recently been restored to its former Victorian glory and is privately owned by a descendent of the Irvine family and is now known as Ballyvea Museum!

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1872**

## **Kilkeel Harbour Built**

At this time, the fishing industry in Mourne was growing with Kilkeel and Annalong folk owning at least 20 large fishing vessels. In 1872, Kilkeel harbour was constructed at its present location and by 1885, improvements were made to the harbour and “it had the finest fishing fleet in the country!”

‘Dae Ye Ken’ a large majority of the men who skipper the boats today in Kilkeel Harbour still has Scottish surnames! Names such as Orr McKee Hanna Robinson Patterson Graham McCullough Chambers Campbell



***Kilkeel Harbour***

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1886**

## The Mourne Regiment of the Orange Army

In 1886, a full muster roll was released to the media detailing the organisation of an Orange Army that would be mobilised in the event that Home Rule was imposed on Ireland. It was organised in military fashion and within the South East Ulster Division, the third Brigade contained the Mourne Regiment of Infantry. It had eight companies with a 410 man 'Army of Action' and a further 299 Reserves. However, it was never mobilised, as the first Home Rule Bill was defeated in Parliament.



***Mourne Orange District  
Circa 1900***

'Dae Ye Ken' the Orange Infantry of Mourne was overwhelmingly Ulster-Scots and they were adamant they would oppose Home Rule by force of arms if necessary!

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1912**

## **Mourne Men and Women Sign the Covenant**

In the year of 1912, following a public meeting in Kilkeel Courthouse, Kilkeel Unionist Club was formed under the leadership of Robert Forsythe of Ballinran to oppose Home Rule. The Covenant and Declaration was greeted with great enthusiasm in Mourne with 1038 men signing the Covenant and 1076 women signing the Declaration.



***Mourne Presbyterian  
Lecture Hall***

'Dae Ye Ken' the venues for signing the Covenant in Mourne included Mourne Presbyterian Lecture Hall, The Parish Church Hall and in Ballinran, Ballymageough and Glenloughan Orange Halls!

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1913**

## Mourne Ulster Volunteer Force Established

The Ulster Volunteer Force began recruiting in Mourne and by the end of the summer, units had been formed in Kilkeel, Ballinran, Derryogue, Brackney, Cranfield, Maghereagh, Ballymageough and Glenloughan with a total of 352 men. Under the command of the Earl of Kilmorey, these were known as the 'Mourne Companies' and were part of the 2nd Battalion. Annalong under the command of the Rev. Pyper boasted a further 105 men and Ballymartin another 105 and were part of the 1st Battalion covering the greater Newcastle area.



***Rev. Edwin Pyper of  
Annalong Presbyterian  
Meeting House***

Dae Ye Ken' Edward Carson was enthusiastically welcomed to Kilkeel in September 1913 where he reviewed the Mourne Companies of the Ulster Volunteer Force in the Kilmorey Field in Greencastle Street!



# The Kingdom of Mourne

## 1916

### Mourne Men at the Somme

Following the outbreak of The Great War in 1914, many men and women from Mourne enlisted in the British services, with a large contingent of the local Mourne U.V.F. joining the 'D' Company, 13th Battalion, 36th Ulster Division. At the Battle of the Somme, at least seven Mourne men lost their lives on the first day of the offensive including three members of the Ulster Volunteer Force and one member of the Young Citizen Volunteers.



***U.V.F. Rifleman  
Thomas Ballance***

- Rifleman Thomas Ballance, Kilkeel
- U.V.F. Rifleman William Teggarty, Kilkeel
- U.V.F. Rifleman Peter Rooney, Kilkeel
- Y.C.V. Rifleman William Hunter, Ballinran
- U.V.F. Rifleman Hugh Campbell, Annalong
- Lieutenant Corporal Robert Purdy, Annalong
- Private James McDowell, Annalong

# The Kingdom of Mourne

## 1918

### Mourne U-Boat Attack

On the 30th May 1918, nine fishing boats from Kilkeel and Annalong were sunk by a German U-Boat off the South Down coast. In an extraordinary act of humanity, the lives of the crews, most of whom were Ulster-Scots, were spared by the commander of the U-Boat Otto von Schrader and were allowed to row ashore in small punts. Fishing boats and the fishing industry were regarded by the Germans as supporting the British War effort by supplying the country with fresh fish and resources.



***Mural in Reivers House Depicting  
The U-Boat Attack***

'Dae Ye Ken' the names of the nine Kilkeel and Annalong boats that were sunk were the Never Can Tell, Glad Tidings, Jane Gordon, Cyprus, St. Mary, Sparkling Wave, Lloyds, Marianne Maccrum and Honey Bee.

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1921**

## The Kingdom of Mourne Medal

A packed Kilkeel Courthouse was the venue for the presentation of a unique 'Mourne medal'. The medal was presented to all those who served during the Great War from the Kilkeel district. Medals were also given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in service. Some 200 natives of the district were identified as having enlisted with 36 making the supreme sacrifice.



***The Kingdom of Mourne Medal***

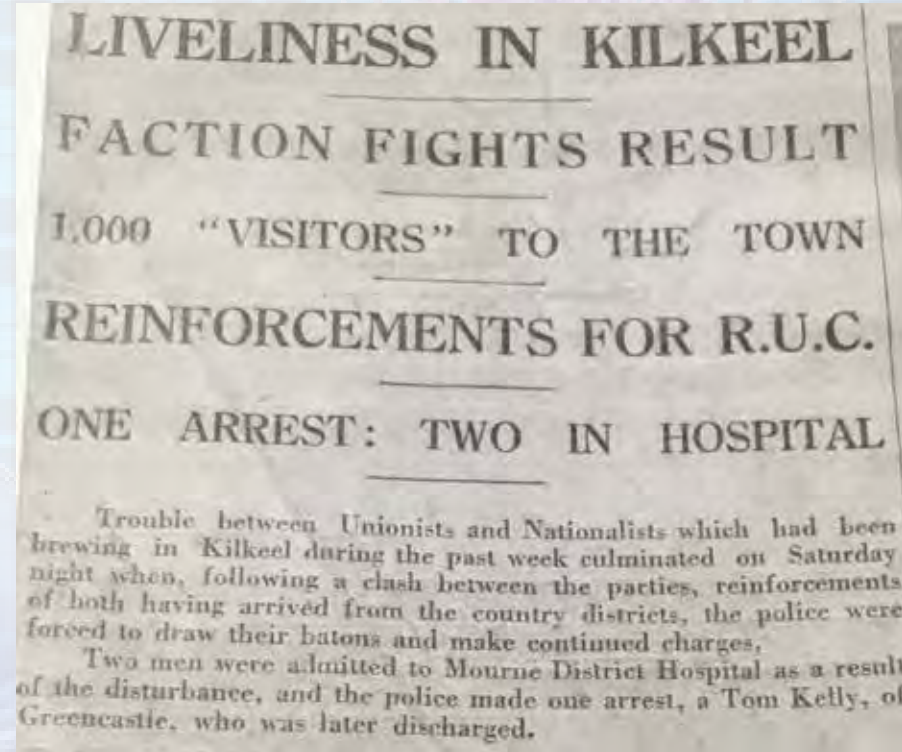
'Dae Ye Ken' the committee of the Kilkeel Women's Orange Lodge provided a lavish supper to finish off the evening of presentations of the Kingdom of Mourne Medal!

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1933**

## Sectarian Trouble in Kilkeel

Trouble between Unionists and Nationalists which had been brewing for some time in Kilkeel in the run up to the Northern Ireland elections broke out. It came to a head on Saturday 2nd December 1933 after De Valera was elected MP for Mourne and South Down. Serious rioting occurred between Loyalists and Republicans with as many as 1,000 people involved. Shots were fired, damage was done to property and several people were injured.



### ***Press Report from the Riot in Kilkeel, 1933***

'Dae Ye Ken' Calm was not restored until the early hours of the morning when police reinforcements arrived from Downpatrick.

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1940**

## The Mountains O' Mourne Spitfire

With the threat of invasion looming over Britain from Germany, the RAF was seriously short of Spitfire Fighter Planes to defend her coasts. A Spitfire fund was launched all across the UK. The call was answered in Mourne and on the 17th August fundraising began in earnest. Collections, raffles, donations and dances in Orange Halls were held all across the area, raising a grand total of £5,000. The Spitfire was given an Ulster-Scots name, the 'Mountains O' Mourne' and was handed over to the RAF on the 9th January 1941. Flown by the free French, she saw action in Battle



### *Spitfire Mural*

of Britain, credited with shooting down a German Messerschmitt on the 7th May 1941.

'Dae Ye Ken' during World War Two, Mourne was a major base for thousands of American soldiers and airmen. Soldiers were based at Mourne Park and a huge American airbase was built at Greencastle. In May 1944, Supreme Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was to become the 34th President of the United States, visited Mourne to inspect the airmen and troops prior to the Normandy Landings!

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1970**

## Mourne 'B' Company of the Ulster Defence Regiment Formed

Mourne also suffered during The Troubles with 12 Mourne men murdered by Republican terrorists. A company of the Ulster Defence Regiment was formed at the old Moravian Abbey in Kilkeel to help in the fight against Republican terrorism. Mourne 'B' Company was the largest in 3rd County Down Battalion with over 100 part time and full time members, drawn mainly from the Ulster-Scots community. During the period of The Troubles, there was much sectarian unrest in Mourne. This led to



### ***Mourne Memorial Stone***

much community division in Mourne with distinctly segregated Nationalist and Unionist areas developing in Annalong and Kilkeel.

'Dae Ye Ken' in 1999, a large memorial stone was erected in Kilkeel to remember the victims of Republican violence in Mourne. Each year on Remembrance Sunday, there is a short service and laying of wreaths to remember those who lost their lives to Republican violence during The Troubles.

# The Kingdom of Mourne

**1990**

## Tercentenary Celebrations in Mourne

A large event was organised in June 1990 by Mourne District Orange Order to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne. King William, the Duke of Schomberg and Williamite soldiers landed at Kilkeel Harbour, where over 1,000 Orangemen and spectators gathered. A parade made its way through the town centre, with many saying it was the largest in memory in Mourne. As part of the celebrations, a sports day was also held in the District Fields on the Manse Road.



### ***King William Lands at Kilkeel Harbour***

'Dae Ye Ken' 3,500 specially produced Tercentenary mugs were handed out to local children at the celebrations in Kilkeel!

# The Kingdom of Mourne

## 1998

### The Formation of the Schomberg Society

The Schomberg Society was formed in 1998 by a group of Mourne Ulster-Scots enthusiasts. It was established to preserve, protect and promote all aspects of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage in the Kingdom of Mourne and beyond. In 2004, Reivers House was officially opened in Kilkeel town as an Ulster-Scots hub and centre of excellence! From humble beginnings, the Schomberg Society is now recognised as one the leading Ulster-Scots community groups in Ulster and is an umbrella organisation for local Ulster-Scots groups! The Society annually organises one of the largest and most successful Ulster-Scots Festivals in the country, 'The Reivers Festival' and facilitates the broadcasting of an Ulster-Scots Community Radio Station, 'Fusefm Mourne'!



### *The Schomberg Society Annual Burns Night Celebrations*

'Dae Ye Ken' the Schomberg Society takes its name from the Duke of Schomberg whose Williamite troops were stationed at Greencastle in the winter of 1689! Schomberg lost his life at the Battle of the Boyne on the 1st July 1690. Reivers House is named after the many Border Reivers who settled in the Mournes during the 1600s!