

Hollywood (Hamilton)



Origins: 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. He was ordained on 9 November.

Hollywood (called "East Holle Wood") and its surrounding townlands feature on the Thomas Raven maps of the Hamilton estate that were drawn in 1625. It is laid out as a neat town of 51 houses, built around the maypole, with a narrow river separating the town from the Priory.

In April 1644 Hollywood was the scene of the public signing of the Solemn League and Covenant by the local population. It is on the collection of the Ulster Museum, with 67 signatures.

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:

- 11 Nov 1625 - Alexander Adair (Ballymaghan)
- 11 Nov 1625 - William Adair (Ballymaghan)
- 28 Nov 1617 - James Glen (East Hollywood)
- 20 May 1617 - George Hamilton (Ballymaghan)
- 20 May 1617 - Hugh Hamilton (Ballymenoch)
- 28 Nov 1617 - Robert Kyle (Ballymenoch)
- 28 Nov 1617 - Alexander Waddell (Ballymenock)

See: Hollywood Priory / Twizel Burn and Twizel Bridge / Maypole