



Surnames A-G

Abercrombie

In 1631 Thomas Abercrombie of Whitechurch in Ballywalter parish received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Adair

First mention in North Down and the Ards

The earliest mention of the name Adair in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when a Gilbert Adair of Archine, Adquin, received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Other instances of the name

In 1625 Alexander Adair of Ballymaghan, Holywood, received a grant of denization. In the same year William Adair of Ballymughan, along with his wife Catherine Cathcart, and sons William and Robert also received grants of denization.

Adams

First mention in North Down and the Ards

The earliest mention of the name Adams in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when a Daniel Adams of Ballymullan, Bangor, received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland. It is not known where he was originally from in Scotland.

Other instances of the name

In 1625 Daniel Adams, probably the same as the above, was a tenant of 113 acres in Ballygilbert, part of Sir James Hamilton's estate.

Agnew

First mention in North Down and the Ards

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when Andrew Agnew of Carneyhill and Thomas Agnew of Greyabbey received grants of denization so that they could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Aicken

First mention in North Down and the Ards

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when John Aicken of Donaghadee received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Armstrong

In 1663 Ninian Armstrong of Ballytrim appears in the subsidy roll of Killyleagh parish.



Austin

First mention in North Down and the Ards

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1613 when Francis Austin was named as one of the original twelve burgesses of Bangor.

Other instances of the name

A tenant on Lord Clondeboy's estate was Mr Austin who was in possession of 65 acres in 'Bangor and Vicinity'.

In 1659 George Austine, gentleman, of Ballymurcock, Greyabbey, was a poll tax payer.

Bell

Robert Bell of Newtownards, shopkeeper, appears in a schedule of debts concerning the Rosemount estate in 1691. He was probably the same as the Robert Bell of Newtownards, merchant, whose will was probated in 1697.

Gravestone inscriptions

COMBER CHURCHYARD

Here lyeth the body of John Bell of Balykigle who departed this life the 27 of Decemib 1701 aged 82 years. Heir lyeth the body of Barbra Dixson wif to John Bell in Balykigle who departed this life the 18 of May 1686 aged 72 years. Here lyeth the body of John Bell of New-Combar who departed this life the 1 day of April 1721 aged 73 years.

TULLYNAKILL GRAVEYARD

Here lyeth the body of John Bel son to Wellem Bel in Ballydrain who desessed the first of Febuare being of age 36 years 1681.

Boyle

First mention in North Down and the Ards

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when Robert Boyle of Drumfad, Donaghadee, received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Other instances of the name

In 1622 John Boyle (or Bole) was rector of Killyleagh parish. He was a graduate of Edinburgh University. In 1600, on account of blindness, he was discharged from fulfilling any clerical duties with the exception of preaching. He ministered in the Borders, but was charged with adultery and deposed in 1610. How he came into contact with Sir James Hamilton is not known, but on his presentation Bole became minister of Killyleagh.

Though there is little evidence that Bole was Presbyterian in practice, he denounced the 'Black Oath' that was imposed on all Scots in Ulster as a test of their loyalty in 1639. Despite afterwards taking it, under pressure from Sir James Hamilton, and being by this stage an aged man, he still ended up imprisoned in Dublin. His fate is not known.

Byers

In 1681 George, William and Widow Byers appear as tenants in Ballywalter in the Clanbrassil



rent roll.

Gravestone inscriptions

GREYABBEY GRAVEYARD

Here lyeth the body of Janet Biers late wife to Robert Mackcoide who departed this life the 4 of August 1683 of age 34 years.

Caldwell

In 1676 William Caldwell was leased 20 acres in Ballyrawer in perpetuity by the Earl of Mount-Alexander.

Carmichael

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1631 when a Rachel Carmichael of Ballywalter received a grant of denization so that she could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland. In 1681 James Carmuheall is listed as a tenant in Bangor in the Clanbrassil rent roll.

Carson

In 1666 John Carson was master of the *Margaret* of Donaghadee.

Cathcart

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1613 when James Cathcart of Ballenyane was returned to the Irish House of Commons as MP for Newtownards. This James Cathcart was probably the same as the man of that name who along with a Robert Cathcart were noted in 1613 as being in possession of Ballymacreny and Ballygovernor, near Newtownards. In 1617 James Cathcart of Ballyrogan, Newtownards, received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Cleland

A memorial secured to the north wall commemorates members of the Cleland family, among them John Cleland, late provost of Bangor, who died in 1714 [1715] aged 49. A portion of the inscription that was added in the early nineteenth century, clearly in an attempt to emphasise the lineage of the family, states:

Patrick Cleland of Bangor Esqr, son of Alexander Cleland of that ilk Esqr, died 1682 aged 57. Janet Blackwood, his widow, daughter of John Blackwood, Esqr Provost of Bangor, died 1689.

This Patrick Cleland had been living in Bangor since at least the late 1650s. In 1659 he was leasing lands from the Countess of Clanbrassil. He was then a merchant, but in a later deed of 1678 he is denoted a gentleman. His rise in status was no doubted related to his intermarriage with the prominent Blackwood family. In the Clanbrassil rent roll of 1681 Patrick Cleland's rent for property in Bangor far exceeded nearly all the other tenants in the town. The inscription indicates that Patrick was the son of Alexander Cleland of that ilk', i.e. originally of the lands of Cleland in the parish of Dalziel in Lanarkshire.

Cooper



A headstone in Whitechurch graveyard, Ballywalter, records that John Cooper died in 1608 aged 92.

In 1617 James Cooper of Ballychosta (Ballyhaskin?) received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland. It is not known where he was originally from in Scotland.

In 1653 Ensign James Cooper was among those Scots in the 'Lord Clandeboye's Quarters' identified for transplantation to Connacht (never put into effect).

Dickson

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1625 when Saunders Dixon was a tenant of 75 acres in the parish of Dundonald.

In 1681 Andrew Dixon was a tenant in Church Quarter, Dundonald, according to the Clanbrassil rent roll.

Dunbar

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1613 when William Dunbar was nominated one of the first 12 burgesses of Killyleagh.

Duncan

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1613 when James Doncan was nominated one of the first 12 burgesses of Newtownards.

Ferguson

In 1681 Thomas Ferguson of Bangor Town and Hugh Ferguson of Tollenekill in the manor of Ballydrine appear in the Clanbrassil rent roll.

Forsyth

In 1625 John Forsyth was a tenant of 2 acres in Bangor.

In 1639 a Scot, James Forsyth, whose credentials had obviously satisfied the vehemently anti-Presbyterian Bishop Henry Leslie, was appointed rector of Killinchy. Forsyth was not popular with his parishioners, however, and on one occasion while reading the burial service during a funeral he was pushed from the graveside by women 'with their laps full of stones and men armed with swords'. This was at a time of considerable unrest following the imposition of the Black Oath on Scots in Ulster.

Frazer

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when John Frazer of Donaghadee received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Gemmil

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when John Gemmil of Ballymullan, Bangor, received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same



rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Glen

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when James Glen of East Holywood received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.

Gordon

First mention in North Down and the Ards

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1613 when Alexander Gordon was nominated one of the first 12 burgesses of Newtownards.

Other instances of the name

In c.1645 James Gordon was ordained minister of Comber. He was ejected in 1661 for refusing to conform and remained in the area to minister to local Presbyterians. The will of Hugh Gordon of Killyleagh was probated in 1686.

Gravestone inscriptions

COMBER CHURCHYARD

(Here lieth) these bodies of Robert (Si)nkler who died in 1666 aged (71) years. And (his) wife Giels Gordon who died in 167(7) aged 74 years. Also their son John (Si)nkler who died in 1684 aged 61 years. [Slate stone laid flat on the ground and badly flaked.]

Greenshields

The earliest mention of the name in North Down and the Ards dates from 1617 when William Greenshields of Ballygrainey, Bangor, received a grant of denization so that he could enjoy the same rights as English subjects in Ireland.