

## **In The Den near Dalry, Aryshire, Scotland. Connection to Dungiven.**

The Thomas Hull II and Mary Benson family traveled from Dungiven across Northern Ireland to Belfast where they took a boat to Ardrossan, Scotland. Thomas had a sister who lived in Ardrossan by the name of Christina (Margaret) and she had married a man and they ran a boarding house /Inn/saloon there on Princes Street. They were married in January of 1852.

In addition to Christina there was a niece who was named Margaret, the daughter of Thomas's brother James. She had run away or left home and had traveled to Ardrossan by stowing away on a ship. Half way across the sea she was discovered and she told the Captain of the ship that she had an aunt living in Ardrossan and so he took her to her aunt and demanded payment from the aunt. She paid the fee but then required that Margaret pay her back by working in her establishment. She did and while working there she met a sailor by the name of Robert Curlett. They were married in 1880 in Ardrossan.



James or Jock Curlett

Christina would have married during the time that Thomas and Mary and their family were in the Den mining and preparing to go to America. Margaret the niece would have arrived in Ardrossan after they had already immigrated.

One of the descendents of Margaret Hull and James Curlett, Rea Hamilton, told us when we were visiting with her and her husband in Ardrossan, that Cristina and Adam used to walk over the hill from Ardrossan to In The Den to visit Thomas and his family on Sundays which was about 10 miles one way. They would visit, play games and eat lunch then walk home in the evening.

I am sure that the migration of Thomas and his family had a direct relationship to family that already lived in the different areas such as the Millars or Millers in Portglenone, Ireland and Hull family in Ardrossan, Scotland.

Rea Strain Hamilton lives in Ardrossan and is the 4<sup>th</sup> great grand daughter of Richard Hull of Londonderry. When she grew up she made annual trips to the Hillfoot Farm in Dungiven to stay the summer and be with her aunt and uncle (really her cousins) Maggie and Tom Hull who were the last Hulls to live at the farm.



Ardrossan across the harbor



Cherrying near the lake — possibly iron workings. Clear evidence

