

# The Cahans Walk

2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to take part in the Cahans Walk.  
I am available on these dates (please tick):

- 15th June Cahans to Annyalla
- 16th June Annyalla to Newtownhamilton
- 22nd June Newtownhamilton to Bessbrook
- 23rd June Bessbrook to Narrow Water

Please return form to:  
Celebrating our Cultural Diversity Project  
Clogher Historical Society  
St Macartan's College  
Monaghan

## June 2012

- Friday 15th June
- Saturday 16th June
- Friday 22nd June
- Saturday 23rd June

# The Cahans Walk

2012

## Contact information

Celebrating our Cultural Diversity Project  
Clogher Historical Society  
*Cumann Seanchais Chlochair*  
St Macartan's College  
Mullaghmurphy  
Monaghan

+353 (0)47 71984 (10am-2pm)  
info@clogherhistory.ie  
www.clogherhistory.ie



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND



This project is funded by the International Fund for Ireland and is managed by the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council (RDC) under the Integrating Communities Programme.

The project has also received assistance from:  
The Community Foundation for Ireland  
County Monaghan Heritage Office  
Monaghan Credit Union  
Ballybay Credit Union

# The Cahans Walk

Take part in the historic re-enactment of the Cahans Exodus of 1764, when 300 members of the congregation of Cahans Presbyterian Meeting House, Ballybay, County Monaghan, walked to Narrow Water near Newry and boarded a ship bound for the New World.

## June 2012

- Friday 15th June
- Saturday 16th June
- Friday 22nd June
- Saturday 23rd June



# The Cahans Walk

## 1764

Presbyterians began to come from Scotland to the Ballybay area of County Monaghan in the 1690s. In 1748, Thomas Clark was sent to minister to the first Seceder congregation in the county. He established the 'Ballybay New Erection', later known as Cahans, and built a small church there in 1751. Clark was a striking and energetic figure with a charismatic personality. He had a good knowledge of medicine and was an ex-soldier. He was jailed on several occasions for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance by kissing the Bible but, undaunted, he performed christenings and marriages in the jail and preached out of the window of his cell.

Following the death of his wife and one of his children, Clark began to contemplate emigration. In 1764, he led 300 of his congregation to Newry, where they boarded the ship 'John', bound for New York. Robert Harper of Ballybay, who had emigrated a few years earlier and was a professor of mathematics in New York, helped the emigrants to get established, negotiating the land on which they settled.

Some Cahans emigrants settled on frontier territory, travelling up the Hudson river to Stillwater and to New Perth (later known as Salem). The remainder put down roots around Abbeville, South Carolina and established churches at Little Run, Long Cane and Cedar Creek.

# The Cahans Walk

## 2012

Why not join members of the three organising groups to re-enact the Cahans Walk in June 2012? Everyone is welcome. You can walk the whole route, a full day or just a mile.

If you would like to take part, just give us a call or return the form at the back of this leaflet to register your interest.

**Friday 15th June**

**Cahans to Annyalla**

**Saturday 16th June**

**Annyalla to Newtownhamilton**

**Friday 22nd June**

**Newtownhamilton to Bessbrook**

**Saturday 23rd June**

**Bessbrook to Narrow Water**



# Celebrating our Cultural Diversity

The Cahans Walk 2012 is part of the Celebrating our Cultural Diversity Project, a partnership of three groups: The Cahans Project, Knockatallon Ramblers and Clogher Historical Society. It aims to bring diverse communities in County Monaghan together through the exploration of history. People from all over the county have already taken part in the project, which began in 2010.

'A Walk with Patrick', a drama based on St Patrick's walk through Monaghan in the 5th century, was staged by over a hundred children, teachers and parents from 5 primary schools in the county in May 2011.

The project ran a twelve-week Genealogy Club in Ballybay Wetlands Centre in Spring 2011. Participants got to know each other whilst exploring their family histories. A series of talks on the origins of local communities ran in tandem with the club.

The Eoghan Ruadh O'Neill Walk in Knockatallon was guided by costumed re-enactors who gave an insight into the turbulence of 17th-century Monaghan.

The Famine Walk took place in Clones in September 2011 and was part of the National Famine Commemoration. It brought together 120 children from six primary schools, to provide on-street re-enactments of famine scenes around the town.