

DOCTOR WILLIAM SIMPSON

Index to Derry Wills 1612-1858 Trift, Drumachose Parish:

Ballycrum - Robert Simpson, 1714
Ballycrum - Robert Simpson, 1757

Registry of DEED Lands Index for County Londonderry, covering the period 1709-1810 inclusive: 174 353 116571 Reg. 14/3/1755

Indenture of lease dated 26 May 1737, Robert Simpson, Ballycrum, Co. Londonderry, 1st part. Samuel Hunter, Drumramer, Co. Londonderry, the other part.

LAND, the park commonly called Curry's Park, and one acre of land.

TERM, for the term of 24 years to complete the term of 40 years which said Robert Simpson holds from Lord Tyrone.

RENT, L3.15.0 per annum.

Witnesses, Patrick Adams, James Kerr, both of Ballycrum, Jer(* * *) Chevers, Newton Limavady, Guarger.

Sworn at Newton Limavady 31/8/1755

N.B. Lease, Earl of Tyrone to Robert Simpson not located.

Legal documents in Alabama testify to the fact that William Simpson was a surgeon. Unfortunately there are no records available to let us know where or when he first practiced medicine. The few surviving records from Dublin, Ireland, pertain only to his involvement with the United Irishmen. These documents are located in the State Paper Office at Dublin Castle. They give some facts regarding William Simpson involvement with the United Irishmen.

In 1797, William Simpson received a major's commission in the United Irishmen. The United Irish were a Protestant organization whose goals were to gain equal representation in the British Parliament for Ireland's Catholics. After the unsuccessful rebellion of 1798, William Simpson was captured, and his trial was held at Newton Limavady, with other United Irishmen. On March 12, 1798, William was convicted of Treason, for joining and accepting a Major's Commission in a Regiment of the Rebel Army. For these charges he pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to hang at Bantry Bay. In his statement to Lord Cavan, William objected to being appointed a Major. He also stated, when the Rebellion broke out he exerted himself to prevent any uprising in County Derry. William mentioned, that he would "never fight against George, the King of England." William was imprisoned in the Donegal Arms in Belfast.⁵ After remaining there for several months, he got leave to settle his affairs under bail, and exiled himself to America.⁶

⁵Rebellion Papers from the State Paper Office, Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland, dated 1802. #D162/102.
⁶Ibid., #620/10/120/9; #620/62/80; #620/63/44; #620/63/45.