



VISITOR MAP
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GET READY TO EXPLORE THE EPIC STORY OF IRISH EMIGRATION. THERE ARE FOUR STAGES TO OUR JOURNEY.

Don't miss our essential highlights, marked with this icon.

Visitor Centre

Check in for your timeslot at the Visitor Centre and find out what's happening today around the Park. Start your adventure and discover the stories of the families and individuals who left Ulster in hopes of a better life. Explore our emigration timeline then head outside. You'll come back through Centre at the end of your visit - be sure to browse the shop and support local makers before you leave.

Old World

1. Single Room Cabin

Imagine trying to stay warm on a cold winter's night in the Devine family's single room cabin. This small structure was transported, stone-by-stone, from Altghoney in the Sperrin Mountains. Many poor people who didn't own land would have lived in places like this before the Great Famine of 1845. This home dates from the late 1700s. Initially, animal skins and bushes were used to block the entrances - the doors and windows were only added in later.

2. Forge

Step inside this blacksmith forge from the 1800s - a vital part of rural life in years gone by. The blacksmith made tools for the farm and home such as ploughs and griddles. Under the hearth is a water trough to cool his tools.

Folklore has it that this water can cure warts.



3. Weaver's Cottage

Many homes were more than just places to live, but places of business. The weaver's cottage is a good example. You can imagine the entire family here - children combing and carding the flax, their mother spinning flax fibres into yarn, the man of the household at his loom, weaving the yarn into cloth.



4. Mountjoy Meeting House

Take a pew in this replica of the Mountjoy Presbyterian Church, which is located at a crossroads only a few miles away. It dates from the 1700s, and is where Thomas Mellon worshipped as a boy. He would go on to found one of America's most prominent banks. You can imagine the minister delivering his sermon from the pulpit, his voice amplified by the sounding board above.

5. Vestry

The vestry is where the minister studied. This replica sits in the corner of the yard, just like the one that partnered the Meeting House at Mountjoy. Walk inside and imagine the minister sitting at his desk, preparing his Sunday sermon.

6. Mellon Homestead

Thomas Mellon was born in this small farmhouse in 1813, and it still stands on its original site. In 1818, at the age of five, he emigrated with his parents to Pennsylvania. He would grow up to become a lawyer, a judge, and the founder of the Mellon Bank, which remains one of America's largest. The Mellon Homestead is a living building - there are ducks and hens in the yard and soda bread on the griddle - just as it was in the 19th century.



7. Viewpoint

Before leaving the Mellon Homestead, visit the viewpoint to take in the meandering River Strule and the distant Sperrin Mountains.

8. Mellon Farm Landscape

Look out over the Mellons' land - 23 acres where they grew potatoes, flax and oats. Poultry and a few cows would have grazed in these fields. Could you live the life of a tenant farmer?

9. Campbell House

Enter the original, ancestral home of the Campbell family from Plumbridge, County Tyrone. It was built in 1786 by Hugh Campbell. Two of his sons, Hugh and Robert, emigrated to America around 1818. Robert would become a famous fur trapper, a successful businessman, and a close friend of US President, Ulysses S. Grant.



10. Tullyallen Mass House

This was a place of worship for Killeeshil's Catholic parishioners. It was built in 1768 and extended in the 1830s when Catholics could again practice their faith openly. It has been reconstructed in its 1830s form with plain sash windows, whitewashed walls and thatched roof. Imagine how it would have been in its heyday - filled with local farming families on a Sunday.

11. Turf Bank

Turf, cut from a peat bog like this one, has long been an important fuel source in Ireland. People often had free access to the bog as a common resource. It takes hard work and good weather to dry the wet bog into turf, but it burns well.

12. Hughes House

This is John Joseph Hughes' boyhood home, carefully moved from Dervand townland in County Monaghan. Look at the jamb wall as you enter - this would have protected the hearth from draughts and offered the family some privacy. John left this house for America in 1817, where he eventually became Catholic archbishop of New York and the builder of 5th Avenue's St Patrick's Cathedral.



13. Schoolhouse

This one room National School was moved from the nearby townland of Castletown. It dates to 1845, although records reveal that there had been a school on the site since the 1790s. Nineteenth century families valued education as much as we do - maybe more. Country children, who might otherwise have worked on the farm, often walked barefoot to school to learn reading, writing and simple arithmetic. On opening, Castletown School had a daily attendance of 70 pupils.

The Journey

14 - 22. Ulster Street

Prepare to bid farewell to the familiar sights and sounds of Ulster as you explore this cobble-stoned street, lined with original 19th-century shopfronts. Among them is a Post Office which, along with its Victorian letterbox, once stood in Mountjoy village. It's typical of many small shops in the late 1800s - business was conducted downstairs while the family lived upstairs. Browse the shelves in Hill's Chemist, or the surprising range in Blair's Printers. Stock up on provisions from Reilly's Pub Grocer and equip yourself at the saddler's shop or the rope works. Better off migrants offered quayside stores good business as they prepared for their journey across the Atlantic.



23. Ship and Dockside Gallery

Collect your ticket and board the Brig Union - a replica of the emigrant sailing ship that carried members of the Mellon family to Baltimore in 1816. You'll get a taste of the conditions that migrants endured during their twelve-week crossing. The merchant's office near the dock stood in Great George Street in Belfast, while the boarding house dates to the 1700s and once offered shelter to emigrants on Bridge Street in Derry.



24. Port of Arrival

Step onto the dock where the new arrivals took their first steps in the New World. Some would have been met by faces they thought they would never see again - sending shouts of recognition over the throng and the din of the city beyond. Others set out alone - disappearing into the crowd and a vast new continent.

25 - 29. American Street

Thousands of emigrants were greeted by just this kind of street on their arrival in cities such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York or Boston. Explore a general store with an original, North Virginia interior, a tinsmith's exhibition, a wheelwright's workshop and a replica of the first Mellon Bank.



New World

30. Samuel Fulton Stone House

Think of the time and effort it must have taken Samuel Fulton to build his new home. This original building was moved from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Samuel emigrated from Donegal in 1724, bringing Irish building methods with him. The house's one-and-a-half storeys were constructed from field stones he found on his land.



31. Log Cabin

How would you house yourself if all you had were the materials to hand? This small, two-room log cabin is typical of those built by early emigrants such as the young Thomas Mellon and his family. Many new arrivals lived in these types of dwellings for years, living frugally and saving carefully until they could build more spacious and permanent homes.

32. Pennsylvania Log Barn

Grab your partner and dosey-doe! This multi-purpose building from a frontier farm housed animals, feed and crops. Its large central area allowed wagons to manoeuvre easily and could double as a dance floor during weddings and gatherings.



33 - 35. Farm Outhouses

How would you keep food without refrigeration? In the yard near the barn you'll find a collection of farm outhouses that demonstrate how settlers solved their food storage challenges. The smokehouse was used to preserve fish and meat - some of which was hunted. The springhouse was a larder cooled by the natural spring it was built above. The corn crib was a small store for maize.

36. Pennsylvania Log Farmhouse

This is a replica of the house that Thomas Mellon and his family built four years after they had arrived in Pennsylvania. You can see that they were prospering - it is larger and better equipped than their first log cabin. The original farmhouse still stands in the town of Export, Pennsylvania.



37. Herb Garden

Smell the aromatic herb garden that provided fresh herbs and medicinal plants in a time before modern healthcare. New herbs such as sassafras joined familiar ones like yarrow, rosemary and thyme.

38. Cunningham Springhouse

Life in America demanded innovation, hard work and self-sufficiency - qualities represented in this humble springhouse. It was built over a natural spring, its cool waters helping to keep meat, vegetables and dairy fresh. The logs are notched to fit snugly with each other, and a mixture of clay, straw, stones and animal hair forced into the gaps. Imagine having to fall back on your own resources, as the Cunningham family did when they built this, and many other buildings, on their farmstead in Pennsylvania.

39. Western Pennsylvania Log House

Rural American life was not all hard graft. Imagine spending long summer evenings on the front porch of Uriah Hupp's log house - a common feature of 19th century homes. This well-preserved example originally stood on a farm in Greene County, Pennsylvania.



40. West Virginia McCallister House

Richard McCallister, the descendent of migrants from Ulster, built this house by Tyler Creek in West Virginia. This was a region of yeoman farmers who, despite their small landholdings, seemed to prosper. The 1860 Census shows that Richard was literate and held property and personal belongings to the value of \$1,200 - about \$36,545 of purchasing power today.



41. Tennessee Rogan Plantation House

Francis Rogan's family became prosperous, reflected in this red brick home. However the Rogans' wealth was owed to the work of enslaved people. Generations of African-Americans cleaned and looked after children in these rooms. Slavery in Tennessee officially lasted until 1865. The 1870 census records there were five black people living here, labouring and cooking for the Rogans. Their names are recorded as Eliza Bill, Richmond, Jason Rogan, Rhodes, and Stokely.



YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE PAST HELPS OUR JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE.

Thank you for exploring the epic journey of Irish emigration at the Ulster American Folk Park. Your day out helps us continue our work of preserving precious buildings and stories from our past and conducting research into our shared heritage.

As we plan for the future, we are working to reveal previously marginalised histories. This will include bringing to the fore the stories of Indigenous Peoples, many of whom suffered greatly as the result of colonisation, as well as enslaved Africans, who were exploited by Ulster emigrants such as Francis Rogan. These experiences are a shocking and unavoidable part of the history of emigration from Ulster to North America, and we commit to understand them better and work toward intercommunity healing. Your visit will help fund our efforts to work with and learn from new partners across Ireland, the UK and North America.

ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK

Embark on a journey across the centuries and the vast Atlantic Ocean as you recreate the story of Irish emigration. There are four parts to your voyage into the past – the Visitor Centre, the Old World, the Journey, and the New World.

Don't miss our essential highlights, marked with this icon. ★

KEEPING YOU SAFE

- Please follow current government guidance and wear a mask indoors if you can.
- Keep social distance and give folks space so everyone can enjoy their visit.
- If you see other visitors inside a Park building, wait for them to step out before you go in.
- Use the recommended route to avoid crowding. Please listen to our team and follow their instructions to stay safe.
- Don't touch - our buildings and objects can't be cleaned over and over. Keep yourself and your precious past safe.
- The ground can be rough or muddy underfoot. Please wear suitable footwear.
- Assistance dogs only, please. There are farm animals onsite.
- Thank you for not smoking or vaping in the buildings.
- Please keep children supervised.

Visitor Centre

- A Loaf Café
- B Gift Shop
- C Exhibition Gallery
- A Step in Time (until Feb 2022)
- Bad Bridget (from Spring 2022)
- ★ D Emigrants Exhibition
- E Mellon Centre for Migration Studies

Old World

- 1 Single Room Cabin
- 2 Forge
- 3 Weaver's Cottage
- 4 Meeting House
- 5 Vestry (please take care crossing the public road)
- ★ 6 Mellon Homestead
- 7 Viewpoint
- 8 Mellon Farm Landscape
- ★ 9 Campbell House
- 10 Tullyallen Mass House
- 11 Turf Bank
- ★ 12 Hughes House
- 13 Schoolhouse

The Journey

- 14 Mountjoy Post Office
- 15 R.J. Blair Printer
- 16 J. McMaster Saddler
- ★ 17 J. Reilly Publican & Grocer
- 18 J. Devlin Pawnbroker
- 19 D. Reynolds Rope Maker
- ★ 20 Hill's Chemist
- ★ 21 W. Murray Drapers
- ★ 22 W.G. O'Doherty Grocer & Publican
- ★ 23 Ship & Dockside Gallery
- 24 Port of Arrival
- 25 E. Pattison Tinsmith
- ★ 26 General Store
- 27 Photographic Emporium
- 28 Mellon Bank
- 29 Wheelwright's

New World

- ★ 30 Samuel Fulton Stone House
- 31 The Log Cabin
- 32 The Pennsylvania Log Barn
- 33 Corn Crib
- 34 Smokehouse
- 35 Springhouse
- ★ 36 Pennsylvania Log Farmhouse
- 37 The Herb Garden
- 38 Cunningham Springhouse
- ★ 39 Western Pennsylvania Log House
- 40 West Virginia McCallister House
- ★ 41 Tennessee Rogan Plantation House

