

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
Adam Eves (AE)	SUE	Belleek, Co. Fermanagh	M	64	PG qualification	C	7.3.1

KPC So tell me a wee bit about the Plantation of Fermanagh, a kind of potted history.

AE The Plantation of Fermanagh, Fermanagh was ruled by the Maguires, as Donegal was ruled by the O'Donnells, and Tyrone was ruled by the O'Neills. Eh, but Fermanagh was only ruled by the Maguires under sufferance of the O'Neills of Tyrone because the... they had their thumb on Fermanagh.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE Maguire's county was not considered to be a very... he people of this county were not considered to be great swordsmen or fighters, and when the Maguires went to war, they brought in the O'Reilly's of Cavan.

KPC Mm.

AE Or the McCabes out of Scotland, who were mercenaries, or various other tribes that, em, eh, employed this, eh, mercenary armour, armoury... eh, sorry, army.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE But anyhow, the, em, eh, in the plantation, eh, Sir John Davies came, eh, to Enniskillen here, found out all the Maguire lands. Eh, the English Maguire who had fought for Que... Queen Elizabeth during the Nine Years' War...

KPC Mm-mm.

AE ... he was supposed to be granted three baronies.

KPC Right.

AE Eh, and he ended up with only, n... not even one full barony at the end of the thing. Eh, two were allocated to... entirely to Scottish, two allocated entirely to English.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE And then there was other bits of mixtures and there's seven baronies.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE Em, and the Barony of Kino... em, Knockninny, which is where Brendan Guilfoyle comes from.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE Up around Derrylin country. That's, eh, that was allocated to, eh, to Scottish, but by the end of the first ten years, the Scots ha... had it all, bar one. Out of their 9,000 acres allocated they, eh, they had sold on 8,000, eh, acres. So, em, I'm, I'm getting stuck in about this whole business of, you know, Sc... Ulster Scots, and all that kind of craic, you know.

KPC So tell me a bit about Ulster Scots and your view of it, and...?

AE Oh, the Ulster Scots. Eh, well, it's, it's, it's an invention of these people who are, eh, on the extreme Protestant side, the same way as sort of the IRA is the extreme invention of the Catholic side.

KPC Mm.

AE Eh, and it more about annoying each other than is about actual reality and... I mean, when they come up with this Ulster Scots dialect – which is o... is a dialect; it's not a language – em, and eh,

you know, it was, it was really to get on the same level as the Irish language, where the Irish languages go.

KPC Mm.

AE 'Right, wherever the Irish language is written down, we want the Ulster Scots version of it written down.

KPC Mm.

AE Really crap stuff altogether. But I've always been interested in the idea that the... what the English two, the two English baronies, one was around here running off towards Irvinestown and...

KPC Mm-mm.

AE ... and Belleek, and the other one was up around about Rosslea.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE Eh, and these were English people and, basically, they all came from, eh, a lot of them... oh, oh, most of the ones in those all came from, eh, East Anglia.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE The Blennerhassets had the Belleek Estate and the Kesh Estate, and then the next ones were up there were the Archdales...

KPC Mm-mm.

AE ... and then it was the Bartons.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE And, eh, so, eh, th... the English had m... had made a much gr... greater and much less noticed contribution to the plantation over here.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE And things like, you know, most of these things are written about from the macro history point of view. I tend to write from the micro history point of view, which is the common man or woman.

KPC Mm.

AE Em, how did the ordinary tenants ca...? Did they really give a damn?

KPC Mm-mm.

AE Eh, he was going to have to pay rent to somebody or other.

KPC Mm.

AE Eh, and the Maguires, the exactions of the Maguires and these other chieftains could be very severe...

KPC Mm.

AE ... and, and rather arbitrary. It wasn't just that you paid your rent. But when the king was, or your chieftain was going to war, well, he, you had to send on some of your, many of your sons or whatever it is to go to fight. [*coughs*]. You also had to hand over a, em, a pile of cattle because this was what they took with them to slaughter and eat.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE Eh, eh, and, eh, you know, this was a fairly arbitrary sort of life.

KPC Mm.

AE Em, so new boys coming in, and as, as it turned out, th..the native Irish, in the end they couldn't get rid of them, or they had nowhere to put them. But, an...and, in fact, a lot of these people that came in on the plantation, only for the native Irish, they'd have died of starvation in the first couple of years because...

- KPC** Mm-mm.
- AE** ... when they came in, they might have had a certain amount of stock and stuff like that, but they wouldn't have had time to plant crops, and they wouldn't have had... you know, so, em, in actual fact, the... in, in the Barony of Lurg, there was quite a lot of interaction between the, the Irish and, eh, eh, and the English.
- KPC** Mm-mm.
- AE** Eh, and, eh, the Irish and the Scots as well. Eh, but it wasn't until, em, the Borderers came over. The people from, eh, the border areas between England and Scotland.
- KPC** Mm-mm.
- AE** The steel bonnets that used to raid, raid down to England when it suited them. They raided up into Scotland when it suited them, and then the rest of the time they spent raiding each other. And these boys, eh, when James the VI of Scotland was granted the throne of James the I of England, he, eh, decided to put an end to the carry on, because no matter where they raided, they were raiding his subjects.
- KPC** Mm.
- AE** So he hanged them in 30s and 40s in Carlisle and Jedburgh, and across that whole Newcastle to Carlisle route.
- KPC** Mm-mm.
- AE** Eh, and invited the whole lot of the rest of them to go to Ireland for the good of their health. Eh, and so that's how we ended up in Fermanagh. We have... three out of the five most common names in Fermanagh are, eh, Scottish Border names.
- KPC** Mm-mm.
- AE** Johnson, eh, Armstrong and Elliott.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE And the two Irish ones, the most numerous Maguire, and the third one most numerous were McManus.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE So, eh, that's how we got them over here. And the Borderers survived because, basically, they were, they were good, light cavalry. This is how they raided each other...

KPC Mm.

AE ... eh, by horseback. Eh, and for example, the Johnson's have a, a winged spur, as their, eh, as their family...

KPC Mm.

AE ... em, symbol. Eh, so these boys, eh, eh, they came over here. They spoke a variety of Gaelic which allowed them to get to know what the Irish were saying, so that the Irish couldn't plot behind their back, like they could against the poor old English...

KPC [*laughs*].

AE ... who hadn't a bull's notion what was being said behind their back. Eh, and because they were fairly good, eh, fighting men, eh, they survived, and eh, eh, a lot of them were planted in the area of the Fews in South Armagh.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE And, eh, apparently there's a rhyme there that said, that's supposed to be composed by the local Irish, that said, 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, save us from the Johnsons, King of the Fews.'

KPC Fews. [*laughs*].

AE Or there is another, eh, little verse about them, and this is, eh, it's called *The Lament of the Parting Reiver...*

KPC Mm.

AE Departing Reiver.

KPC Mm-mm.

AE And this is the Border raider, em, being kicked out and sent to Ireland or wherever.

KPC Mm.

AE Em, and its says, 'This is my departing night, for here no longer must I stay, for, there's neither friend nor foe of mine but wishes me away'. So it was a bit of an epitaph to your, self and all belonging to you, that...

KPC Mm.

AE ... neither your friends nor your enemies want you about, you know.

KPC Mm.

AE So, eh, so this is the Border Reivers, and this is this, you know, this whole myth of the Ulster Scots and all the rest of it. Eh, I mean, Scotland gets its name from the original name for Ireland, and it was that there was so many people passing over and back between.

KPC All the time.

AE Aye, all the time for...

KPC Mm.

AE ... probably since thousands of years. Eh, so, Scotia was the original name for Ireland...

KPC Mm.

AE ... em, by the Romans and because there was so many Irish over there, that it got transferred over...

KPC Mm.

AE ... and then became Scotland. Em, so they, eh, these, probably Irish, as much as Irish as much as Scots, I think, they got their DNA all done for themselves.