

emigrate to Prince Edward Island. Williams, who is known by some as "Sandy" Williams—his Christian name, if I am not misled, was James—first went about through the western Highlands telling the people of the offer of Lord Selkirk to establish them on farms of their own if they would emigrate and settle upon his estate. We may take it for granted that Williams painted the picture in roseate hues, and that his representations caused many to resolve on emigration. Emigration was much talked of at the time, and it is possible that the people heard of America through other sources than the Earl's agent. Be that as it may, the persons who comprised the settlers of Belfast were in various ways got together. Some of their descendants tell us that the Highlanders, after disposing of their stock, retained as many of their household utensils as they could, and marched, loaded up like pack-horses, to the point of embarkation. In one instance a family had many miles to travel. Almost every member was loaded down with household goods and furniture but their endurance was not sufficient for them to sustain their burdens till the journey ended and they arrived, in this case at Oban, with but few of the dishes, tubs, tools, and smaller articles of furniture with which they had laden themselves at the outset of their march. Doubtless many suffered severe hardships even in this first stage of their migration, but they were upborne by the hope of a happy future—a hope kindled in a large measure owing to the indefatigable efforts of Agent Williams, about whom I shall have something to say in the next issue of this Magazine.

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