

From whitewashed cottage to White House

Andrew Jackson Cottage

US Rangers Museum



Commemorative
pin badge and
postage stamp.



General Jackson
– At the Battle of New Orleans
lithograph by
Charles Severin (1856)
Image courtesy Library of Congress

Andrew Jackson was the seventh President of the United States and the first of many occupants of the White House with Ulster roots.

Jackson was born in the Carolinas and lived most of his life in Tennessee. His parents had emigrated from Boneybefore, Carrickfergus, in 1765 just two years before his birth.

The original Jackson Cottage was demolished in 1862, but the home of their former neighbours, the Donaldsons, now serves as an interpretive centre.



Elizabeth Jackson telling stories of life back in Ulster.
From *Andrew Jackson – Frontier Statesman*, (Illinois, 1954).
Illustration by Lorence F. Bjorklund (1911–78).

The Donaldson family would have known Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson and the mother and father of the future President would have visited the home which is now the Andrew Jackson Cottage.

When you step through the door of the cottage the Donaldsons built in 1750 you enter a different world, experiencing something of how people lived in the Ulster of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Key features include the open fireplace, the canopy above it to channel the smoke, and the various household items which were once part of everyday life.



The Cottage has an exhibition gallery which outlines the story of the Jacksons and Ulster emigrants in the 18th century and visitors can learn what motivations lay behind the mass Scotch-Irish migration.



Andrew Jackson Cottage & US Rangers Museum

2 Boneybefore
Carrickfergus BT38 7EQ

Opening hours:

Wed–Sun, 11am–3pm
Tours available outside
normal opening hours

Visitor facilities:

- Guided tours
- Exhibition gallery
- Special events/workshops
- Free car parking
- Toilets

Visitor Information

Carrickfergus Castle,
Marine Highway BT38 7BG
T 028 9335 8222

E visitorinfo@midandeantrim.gov.uk

W www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/museums

Free admission

Rangers lead the way!



Major William O. Darby
Courtesy of US Army Signal Corps

Below: Rangers snipers cover Arzew. The Ranger on the right side is carrying a Fairbairn-Sykes knife, which was used by special forces across Europe and is still produced today.
Courtesy of US Army Signal Corps



Left: Major William O. Darby with some of the men of the 1st Battalion US Rangers, activated in Carrickfergus on 19 June 1942.
Courtesy of US Army Signal Corps

Above: A Ranger leaping 20 feet with full pack and rifle during training in Scotland.
Courtesy of US Army Signal Corps

Of the 2500 men who volunteered, only 500 were selected to form the 1st Battalion of US Rangers.



Above: Interior shot of US Rangers Museum.

The 1st Battalion, US Rangers, under the command of their dynamic leader Major William O. Darby, were activated on 19 June, 1942 at Sunnylands Camp, Carrickfergus.

They trained in extreme conditions and fought in some of the deadliest battles in Europe to become one of WWII's most courageous and decorated units. It remains the only US military unit to be formed on foreign soil.

Following the United States' entry into WWII, General Lucian Truscott identified the need for a US unit similar in style to the British Commandos, – agile units who could carry out rapid, precise amphibious raids on the enemy.

This new elite unit was placed under the command of Major William O. Darby who travelled across the country recruiting willing volunteers, who then gathered at Sunnylands Camp to undergo rigorous test exercises. Of the 2500 men who volunteered, only 500 were selected to form the 1st Battalion of US Rangers.

The original museum was first opened in 1994, following a 50th anniversary event when visiting US Ranger veterans generously gave their photographs and memorabilia to create a permanent exhibition.

Today the museum contains visually striking displays, never seen before artefacts and photographs, as well as compelling film footage. The museum aims to be a fitting tribute to the men who volunteered their services to the elite fighting force the US Rangers, in Carrickfergus and beyond.