

Patrick Joyes, Irishman, of Louisville

In 1784, Patrick Joyes settled in Louisville and left many descendants in Jefferson County. He was a man of education, speaking French, Spanish and other tongues fluently, so that at least one Irishman was of polished intellect in the early settlement of the city.

The Irish in Jefferson County

There were Irishmen in Kentucky long before the exploration of Daniel Boone. Colonel George Croghan, an Irishman, wrote in his journal June 1, 1765, "We arrived within a mile of the falls of the Ohio (Louisville) where we encamped after coming 50 miles this day."

Colonel Croghan was connected by marriage to General George Rogers Clark, who reduced the British possessions in the entire Northwest and made it first possible for the United States to acquire this territory.

If General Clark was not an Irishman himself, his records show that he had many Irishmen with him as soldiers. His sister married William Croghan.