



Methodist Historical Society of Ireland

## PUBLIC LECTURE

# Alexander Knox:

his Significance to the Study of John Wesley and  
Early Methodism.

Lecturer: Dr David John William McCready

Thursday 16 April 2015

at 7.30pm

Litton Hall, Wesley House, Leeson Park, Dublin

**Alexander Knox** (1757-1831), an Anglican lay-theologian and sometime politician, was born in Derry where his parents became members of the Methodist society. His father died when he was twelve and John Wesley became an important influence in shaping Knox's life and his understanding of Christian faith and experience.

Even though he later emphasised his independence, he remained supportive of Methodism and its evangelical emphasis on individual and spiritual salvation – publishing defences of Wesley against John Walker and Robert Southey.

In the 1790s Knox became private secretary to Lord Castlereagh and was instrumental in ensuring the safe passage of Methodists to their Dublin Conference during the 1798 Rebellion. He died, where he lived for much of his later life, in Dawson Street, Dublin where he is commemorated in the east window of St Ann's Church.

**David McCready** was born in Belfast and holds an MA in Irish History from Queen's, where he was awarded the Todd History Prize for his dissertation on 'The Ordination of Women in the Church of Ireland'. In 2013 he was awarded a PhD from Trinity College Dublin for his thesis on Alexander Knox. Dr McCready currently serves as rector of a small Anglican parish in Estes Park, Colorado.