Scotch-Irish Research
Craig L. Foster AG®

History of the Scotch-Irish

Scots-Irish or Scotch-Irish
- At the time, they were not known as either.
- Now days, in the British Isles they are called Scots-Irish and are called the Scotch-Irish on the American side.
- They were sometimes called Ulster Scots.
- Patrick Griffin argues in The People with No Name that many of them just called themselves “frontier inhabitants” after settling in America.

The Ulster Plantations · A result of the Nine Year’s War (1594-1603), also known as Tyrone’s Rebellion.
- The Ulster Plantations coincided with the reigns of the Stuart kings and queens, 16031714.
- The plantations were a part of King James I’s agenda of blending English, Scottish and Welsh together in Ulster.
- Lands of Irish chieftains were confiscated and parceled out to English and Scottish landowners.

Scottish Settlement in Ulster
- Significant Scottish settlement in Ulster.
- Between 1603 and 1700, more than 100,000 Scots immigrated to Ulster.

Where the Scots Came From
- The majority of the Scots came from the Scottish lowlands.
- The lowlands of 17th century Scotland were the most populated part of the country.
- The Scottish lowlands were also filled with poverty, violence and other social problems. People were desperate to immigrate to hopefully find new land and work.
- A number of these Scots were Scottish border “Reivers” or “Riding Families.” They were lowland Scots who raided along the Scottish-English border. They made their living by cattle stealing, kidnapping, blackmail and looting. These border families were fearless and “highly adaptable guerilla fighters.”

Problems in Ulster
- Problems with the native Irish population
- Ulster’s failing economy in the first decades of the 18th century
- Religious persecution – Charles II’s Lord Justice of Ireland forbade meetings of “Papists, Presbyterians … and other fanatical persons.”
Immigration to North America

- Between 1718 and 1775, more than 100,000 emigrated from Ulster to the American colonies.
- They called themselves “frontier inhabitants.”

Influence of America’s Scotch-Irish

- They strongly supported the American Revolution, which one English contemporary called “an Irish-Scott Presbyterian Rebellion.”
- They were the backbone of American frontier settlement.
- Over the years, they have produced numerous American business, cultural and political leaders.

Ulster/Scots-Irish Research & Records

FamilySearch and the Family History Library

- FamilySearch Records
- FamilySearch Catalog – Archives and Libraries; Biography; Church Records; Court Records; Directories; Land and Property; Military Records; Etc.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

- PRONI’s electronic Catalogue
- Freeholders’ List
- Will Calendars
- Londonderry Corporation Records
- Name Search

Other Societies and Websites

- www.ancestry.com
- http://www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/ulsterscots/37-2/ - Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies and Institute of Irish-Scots Studies
- https://www.emeraldancestors.com/
- www.findmypast.ie
- www.genuki.org
- http://www.plantationofulster.org/
- http://www.rootsireland.ie/
- http://www.scotch-irishsocietyusa.org/ - Scotch-Irish Society USA
- http://www.nmni.com/uafp - Ulster American Folk Park and Centre for Migration Studies
- http://www.ulsterancestry.com/
- http://www.ancestryireland.com/ - Ulster Historical Foundation
- http://www.ulsterscotssociety.com/ - The Ulster-Scots Society of America
For Further Reading


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#FamilyHistoryLibrary
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