

## **The Trail of the Scotch-Irish Ancestors: Where to search**

**By Jeannette Holland Austin**

The Scotch-Irish who emigrated to America was undoubtedly one of the largest groups of emigrants ever to reach the American shores. Therefore, for the researcher or genealogist to locate the origin of his Scotch-Irish ancestors, he needs to know the history.

Scotland was first called Alban, Albania, or Albion; however, before the tenth century, the term Scotia was exclusively applied as a geographical term.

Ireland was first known as Hibernia.

The name in its Latin form, Scotia, was transferred from Ireland to Scotland in the reign of Malcolm the Second, who reigned from 1004 to 1034.

The vigorous immigration from the north of Ireland to the western parts of Scotland was under no leadership. Historians believe it is more like an overflow or the spirit of adventure. By the year 503, a new colony of Dalriadic Scots, under the leadership of Fergus, son of Eric, left Ireland and settled on the western coast of Argyle and the adjacent isles. From Fergus was derived the line of Scoto-Irish kings, who finally, in 843, ascended the Pictish throne.

Thus, the inhabitants of Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland were branches of the same Keltic stock, and their language was substantially the same.

### **Ulster and Antrim**

Ulster, the northern province of Ireland, comprises the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Monaghan, and Tyrone. Formerly it was the seat of the O'Neills and the lesser septs of O'Donnell, O'Cahan, O'Doherty, Maguire, MacMahon, etc. The settlements made by the earlier migrations of the Highlanders were chiefly on the coast of Antrim. These settlements were connected with and dependent on the Clandonald of Islay and Kintyre. The founder of this branch of that powerful family was John Mor, second son of "the good John of Islay," who, about the year 1400, married Majory Bisset, heiress of the Glens, in Antrim, and thus acquired a permanent footing. The family was strengthened by settling cadets of its own house as tenants in the territory of the Glens and intermarriages with the families of O'Neill, O'Donnell, and others.

In extending its Irish possessions, the Clandonald was brought into frequent conflicts and feuds with the Irish of Ulster.

In 1558 the Hebrideans had become so strong in Ulster that the archbishop of Armagh urged on the government the advisability of their expulsion by procuring their Irish neighbors, O'Donnell,

O'Neill, O'Cahan, and others, to unite against them.

### **MacDonald Clan**

In 1565 the MacDonalds suffered a severe defeat at the hands of Shane O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone. The Scottish islanders still continued to exercise considerable power. Sorley Buy MacDonald, a man of great courage, soon extended his influence over the adjacent territories, so much so that in 1575-1585, the English were forced to turn their attention to the progress of the Scots. Having been defeated, an agreement was made in which Sorley Buy was granted four districts. His eldest son, Sir James MacSorley Buy, or MacDonell of Dunluce, became a strenuous supporter of the government of James I on his accession to the British throne.

It is important to remember that King James supported the Presbyterian faith, a political division that ultimately drove the Scots and Irish to the American shores of religious freedom. Also, both Henry VIII and his daughter Elizabeth tried to force the Irish to accept the ritual of the Reformed Church. Then, as James ascended the English throne, he caused certain estates of Irish noblemen to be escheated to the crown. This confiscation of estates included almost six counties in Ulster, embracing half a million acres of land.

These lands were allotted to private individuals in sections of one thousand, fifteen hundred, and two thousand acres, each required to support an adequate number of English or Scottish tenantry.

### **Protestant colonies were transported from England and Scotland.**

The intent was that the principles of the Reformation should subdue the turbulent natives. The proclamation inviting settlers for Ulster was dated at Edinburgh on March 28, 1609. Great care was taken in selecting the emigrants, to which the king gave his personal attention. Measures were taken that the settlers should be "from the inward parts of Scotland" and that they should be so located that "they may not mix nor intermarry" with "the mere Irish."

Mostly, people were received from the shires of Dumbarton, Renfrew, Ayre, Galloway, and Dumfries.

### **Result: The Scotch-Irish**

On account of religious persecutions, in 1665, a large additional accession was received from Galloway and Ayre. The chief seat of the colonization scheme was in the county of Londonderry. The new settlers did not mix with the native population to any appreciable extent, especially before 1741, but mingled freely with the English Puritans and the refugee Huguenots. The native race was forced sullenly to retire before the colonists. Although the king had expressly forbidden any more of the inhabitants of the Western Isles to be taken to Ulster, the blood of the Highlander, to a great degree, permeated that of the Ulsterman and had its due weight in

forming the character of the Scotch-Irish.

### **The Civil Wars in the Highlands**

The commotions in the Highlands during the civil wars swelled the number to greater proportions. The rebellions of 1715 and 1745 added a large percentage to the increasing population. The names of the people are interesting, both as illustrating their origin and as showing the extraordinary corruption some have undergone.

#### **McGregor Clan.**

The proscribed clan MacGregor is mentioned because it migrated in great numbers, descendants of whom are still to be found under the names of Grier, Greer, Gregor, etc., the Mac in general being dropped; MacKinnon becomes McKenna, McKean, McCannon; Mac Nish is McNeice, Menees, Munnis, Monies, etc.

### **The Descendants of the Scotch-Irish**

From the descendants of these people came the Scotch-Irish emigrants to America, who were destined to perform an essential part of the theatre of action by organizing a successful revolt and establishing a new government. Among the early emigrants to the New World, although termed Scotch-Irish and belonging to them, we have the **Highlander Clans of Campbell, Ferguson, Graham, McFarland, McDonald, McGregor, McIntyre, McKenzie, McLean, McPherson, Morrison, Robertson, Stewart, etc.**

### **The American Revolution**

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, the thirteen colonies numbered among their inhabitants about eight hundred thousand Scotch and Scotch-Irish, or a little more than one-fourth of the entire population. They were among the first to become actively engaged in that struggle.

The Scotch-Irish furnished fourteen major generals and thirty brigadier generals, among whom were as follows:

**St. Clair, McDougall, Mercer, McIntosh, Wayne, Knox, Montgomery, Sullivan, Stark, Morgan, Davidson, and others.**

Among the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence, nine were of this lineage, one of whom, **McKean**, served continuously in Congress from its opening in 1774 till its close in 1783, during a part of which time he was its president, and also serving as chief justice of Pennsylvania. The chairman of the committee that drafted the constitution of the United States, Rutledge, was, by ancestry, Scotch-Irish. When the same instrument was submitted, the three states first to adopt it were the middle states, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey,



so they were settled mainly by the same class of people.

Look for these names across the typical migratory trails beginning in Pennsylvania and from there, taking the frontier trails into the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia before the population expansion into Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana.

The appearance of the Scotch-Irish emigrants was a splendid physique, large bones, and sound teeth, besides being trained in habits of industry. They were men of intelligence, resolution, energy, religious, and moral character. They were a God-fearing, liberty-loving, tyrant-hating, Sabbath-keeping, covenant-adhering race and schooled by a discipline made fresh and impressive by the heroic efforts at Derry and Enniskillen. Their women were fine specimens of the sex, about medium height, strongly built, with fair complexion, light blue or grey eyes, rosy cheeks, and faces indicating a warm heart, intelligence, and courage, and possessing those virtues which constitute the redeeming qualities of the human race.

### **The Great Emigration of 1704 to 1732**

These people were martyrs, for conscience's sake. In 1711 a measure was carried through the British parliament that provided that all persons in places of profit or trust, and all common councilmen in corporations, who, while holding office, were proved to have attended any Nonconformist place of worship, should forfeit the site, and should continue incapable of public employment till they should depose that for a whole year, they had not attended a conventicle. A fine of £40 was added to be paid to the informer.

Such conditions significantly contributed to the depopulation of Ulster, a fact that destroyed the woolen trade in 1700 when twenty thousand people left that province.

The Test Act drove away many more in 1704 and 1732. The protestant emigration recommenced on the failure to repeal that act, which robbed Ireland of its bravest defenders.

### **The Second Great Emigration**

A second great wave of emigration from Ulster occurred between 1771 and 1773, growing out of the Antrim evictions.

In 1771 the leases on the estate of the Marquis of Donegal in Antrim expired. The rents were placed at such an absurd figure that the demands could not be met. A spirit of resentment to the oppressions of the landed proprietors at once arose, and extensive emigration to America was the result.

During the two years that followed the Antrim evictions of 1772, thirty thousand protestants left Ulster for a land where legal robbery could not be permitted and where those who sowed the seed could reap the harvest. From the North of Ireland ports, one hundred vessels loaded



with the Scotch-Irish sailed for the New World.

It has been computed that in 1773 and during the five preceding years, Ulster was drained of one-quarter of the trading cash and a like proportion of its manufacturing population by emigration to the American settlements.

### **New Arrivals in America**

As far as is known, the arrival of the first Scotch-Irish clergyman in America was in 1682.

**Francis Makemie**, the father of American Presbyterianism, was jailed in New York and charged with preaching the gospel in a private house. Assisted by a Scottish lawyer from Philadelphia (who was silenced for his courage), he defended the cause of religious liberty with heroic courage and legal ability. A fearless New York jury ultimately acquitted him. Thus was begun the great struggle for religious freedom in America. Among those who afterward followed were **George McNish, from Ulster, in 1705, and John Henry, in 1709.**

**In 1718, Rev. William Boyd** arrived in Boston as an agent of hundreds of people who wanted to come to New England. With him, he brought a brief memorial to which was attached three hundred and nineteen names, all but thirteen of which were in a fair and vigorous hand. While Governor Shute gave a promise of welcome that on August 4, 1718, five small ships came to anchor at the pier in Boston, having on board one hundred and twenty Scotch-Irish families, numbering in all about seven hundred and fifty individuals. In years they embraced those from the babe in arms of the ninety-five-year-old **John Young**. Among the clergy who arrived were **James McGregor, Cornwell, and Holmes.**

Governor Shute dispatched about fifty of these families to Worcester. That year marked the fifth of its permanent settlement, composed of fifty log houses inhabited by two hundred people. The newcomers appeared to have been of the five shiploads' poorer and more illiterate class.

In September of 1722, a township organization was affected, and at the first annual town meeting, the names of the strangers appeared on the list of officers. The Irish potato was brought with these emigrants, first planted in the spring of 1719. When their English neighbors visited them, on their departure, they presented them with a few of the tubers for planting, and the recipients, unwilling to show any discourtesy, accepted the same but, suspecting a poisonous quality, carried them to the first swamp and threw them into the water. The same spring, a few potatoes were given to a Mr. Walker, of Andover, by a family who had wintered with him. He planted them in the ground, and in due time the family gathered the "balls," which they supposed were the fruit. These were cooked in various ways but could not be made palatable. The following spring, when plowing the garden, potatoes of great size were turned up when the mistake was discovered. This introduction to New England is why the now

indispensable succulent is called the "Irish potato." This vegetable was first brought from Virginia to Ireland in 1565 by slave trader Hawkins, and from there, it found its way to New England in 1718 through the Scotch-Irish.

**The Scotch-Irish Town of Colerain, fifty miles northwest of Worcester, was settled in 1739**

The Worcester Scotch-Irish petitioned to be released from paying taxes to support the prevalent form of worship, as they desired to keep their own method. Their prayer was contemptuously rejected. Two years later, or in 1738, owing to their church treatment, a company of thirty-eight families settled the new town of Pelham, thirty miles west of Worcester. The scandalous destruction of their property in Worcester in 1740 caused a further exodus which resulted in the establishment of the towns of Warren and Blandford; both incorporated in 1741.

**Londonderry, New Hampshire, was settled in April of 1719.**

The second settlement was from five ships.

It is remarkable that in neither Lowell's war when Londonderry was strictly a frontier town, nor in the two subsequent French and Indian wars did any hostile force from the northward ever approach that town.

During the twenty-five years preceding the revolution, ten distinct towns of influence in New Hampshire were settled by emigrants from Londonderry, besides two in Vermont and two in Nova Scotia; while families, sometimes singly and also in groups, went off in all directions, especially along the Connecticut river and over the ridge of the Green Mountains.

To these brave people, neither the crown nor the colonies appealed in vain. Every route to Crown Point and Ticonderoga had been tramped by them time and again. With Colonel Williams, they were at the head of Lake George in 1755 and in the battle with Dieskau that followed; they were with Stark and Lord Howe, under Abercrombie, in the terrible defeat at Ticonderoga in 1758; others toiled with Wolfe on the Heights of Abraham; and in 1777, fought under Stark at Bennington, and against Burgoyne at Saratoga.

**Maine Settlements**

Some of the emigrants intended for New Hampshire settled in Maine, in Portland, Topsham, Bath, and other places. Unfortunately, soon after these settlements were established, Indian troubles broke up some of them, and some of the colonists sought refuge with their countrymen at Londonderry, but the more significant part removed to Pennsylvania—from 1730 to 1733, about one hundred and fifty families, principally of Scotch descent. In 1735, Warren, Maine, was settled by twenty-seven families, some of whom were of recent emigration and others from the first arrival in Boston in 1718. In 1753 the town received an addition of

sixty adults and many children brought from Scotland.

### **New York Settlements**

The Scotch-Irish settlement at Salem in Washington County, New York, came from Monaghan and Ballibay, Ireland. Under the leadership of their minister, three hundred sailed from Newry on May 10, 1764, and landed in New York in July following.

On September 30, 1765, Mr. Clark obtained twelve thousand acres of the "Turner Grant." Upon this land, he moved his parishioners, save a few families that had been induced to go to South Carolina and some others that remained in Stillwater, New York. The great body of these settlers took possession of their lands, which had been previously surveyed into tracts of eighty-eight acres each, in 1767. The previous year had been devoted to clearing the grounds, building houses, etc. Among the early buildings was a log church, the first religious place of worship erected between Albany and Canada. March 2, 1774, the legislature erected the settlement into a township named New Perth. This name remained until March 7, 1788, when it was changed to Salem.

### **New Jersey Settlers**

The Scotch-Irish first settled in Somerset County, New Jersey, early in the last century, but not at once but from time to time. This group of settlers claimed to be pure Scottish.

From the three centers, Worcester, Londonderry, and Wiscasset, the Scotch-Irish penetrated and permeated all New England; Maine the most of all, next New Hampshire, then Massachusetts, and in lessening order, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. They were one sort of people belonging to the same grade and sphere of life. In worldly goods, they were poor, but the majority could read and write, and if possessed with but one book, that was the Bible, yet greatly esteeming Fox's "Book of Martyrs" and Bunyon's "Pilgrim's Progress." Whatever their views, they were held in common.

### **Port Cities**

The three ports used mainly by the Scotch-Irish emigrant in the New World were the ports of Boston, Charleston, and New Castle, in Delaware, the great bulk of whom being received at the last-named city, where they did not even stop to rest, but pushed their way to their future homes in Pennsylvania. No other state received so many of them for permanent settlers. Those who landed in New York found the regulars there too submissive to foreign dictation and preferred Pennsylvania and Maryland, where the proprietary governors and the people were in immediate contact. Francis Machemie had organized the first Presbyterian church in America along the eastern shore of Maryland and in the adjoining counties of Virginia.



## **Conestoga Creek**

The wave of Quaker settlements spent its force on the line of Conestoga Creek in Lancaster County. The Scotch and Scotch-Irish arriving in great numbers were permitted to locate beyond that line, and thus they not only became the pioneers but long that race so continued to be. In 1725, so great had been the wave of emigration into Pennsylvania that James Logan, a native of Armagh, Ireland, but not fond of his own countrymen who were not Quakers, declared, "It looks as if Ireland were to send all her inhabitants hither; if they continue to come they will make themselves proprietors of the province;" and he further condemned the bad taste of the people who were forcing themselves where they were not wanted. The rate of this invasion may be estimated from the rise in population from twenty thousand in 1701 to two hundred and fifty thousand in 1745, which embraced the entire population of that colony.

Between 1729 and 1750, there was an annual arrival of twelve thousand, mainly from Ulster. Among the vessels that helped to inaugurate this great tide was the good ship "George and Ann," which set sail from Ireland on May 9th, 1729, and brought over the **McDowells, the Irvines, the Campbells, the O'Neills, the McElroys, the Mitchells, and their compatriots.**

Soon after the emigrants landed at New Castle, they found their way along the branches of various rivers to the several settlements on the western frontier. The only ones known to have come through New York was the "Irish settlement" in Allen township, Northampton county, composed principally of families from Londonderry, New Hampshire, where, owing to the rigid climate, they could not be induced to remain. It grew slowly, and after 1750 most of the descendants passed on towards the Susquehanna and down the Cumberland.

## **Bucks County, Pennsylvania Settlers**

As early as 1720, a colony was formed on the Neshaminy, in Bucks County, which finally became one of the most significant landmarks of that race. The settlements that commenced as early as 1710, at Fagg Manor, at Octorara, at New London, and Brandywine Manor, in Chester County, formed the nucleus for subsequent emigration for a period of forty years when they also declined by removals to other sections of the State, and the colonies of the South. Prior to 1730, there were large settlements in the townships of Colerain, Pequea, and Leacock in Lancaster County. Just when the pioneers arrived in that region has not been accurately ascertained, but some were earlier than 1720. Within a radius of thirty-five miles of Harrisburgh are the settlements of Donegal, Paxtang, Derry, and Hanover, founded between 1715 and 1724; from whence poured another stream on through the Cumberland Valley, across the Potomac, down through Virginia and into the Carolinas and Georgia. The valley of the Juniata was occupied in 1749—the settlements in the lower part of York County date from 1726. From 1760 to 1770, settlements rapidly sprung up in various places throughout Western Pennsylvania. Soon after 1767, emigrants settled on the Youghiogheny, the Monongahela, and its tributaries, and in the years 1770 and 1771, Washington County was colonized. Soon after the wave of

population extended to the Ohio River, from this time forward, Western Pennsylvania was characteristically Scotch-Irish.

### **The American Revolutionary War**

These hardy sons were foremost in the French and Indian Wars. The Revolutionary struggle caused them to turn their attention to statesmanship and combat—all of whom were loyal to the cause of independence. The Patriot army had its full share of Scotch-Irish representation. That thunderbolt of war, Anthony Wayne, hailed from the County of Chester. The ardent manner in which the patriots' cause was espoused is illustrated, in a notice of a marriage that took place in 1778 in Lancaster County, the contracting parties being of the Ulster race. The couple is denominated "very sincere Whigs."

### **Genealogy Reminder**

Pennsylvania was the gateway, first resting place and the source of Scotch-Irish adventure and enterprise as they moved west and south. The wave of emigration striking the eastern border of Pennsylvania, in a measure, was deflected southward through Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas, reaching and crossing the Savannah River, though met at various points by counter streams of the same race, which had entered the continent through Charleston and other southern ports. Leaving Pennsylvania and turning southward, the first colony into which the stream poured was Maryland, the settlements being principally in the narrow strip which constitutes the western portion. However, they only scattered some over the colony.

### **The Frontier Trail across North Carolina, Virginia, and the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains**

During the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century, the Scotch-Irish settlements were in Albemarle, Nelson, Campbell, Prince Edward, Charlotte, and Orange counties, and even along the great valley west of the Blue Ridge. It was not until 1738 that they entered the valley in great numbers and almost wholly possessed it from Pennsylvania to the North Carolina line. During the French and Indian wars, the soldiers of Virginia were mainly drawn from this section and suffered defeat with Washington at the Great Meadows and with Braddock at Fort Duquesne, but their firmness saved the remnant of that rash general's army. In 1774 they won the signal victory at Point Pleasant, which struck terror into the Indian tribes across the Ohio.

In 1765, a youthful Scotch-Irishman, **Patrick Henry**, introduced into the Virginia House of Burgesses the resolutions denying the validity of the Act of the British parliament. By Scotch-Irish votes, he secured their adoption against the combined efforts of the old leaders. At the first call for troops by Congress to defend Boston, Daniel Morgan at once raised a company from among his own people in the lower Virginia valley and by a forced march of six hundred miles, reached the beleaguered city in three weeks. With his men, he trudged through the



wilderness of Maine and appeared before Quebec; later, on Saratoga's heights, with his riflemen, he poured like a torrent upon the ranks of Burgoyne. Through the foresight of Henry, a commission was given to George Rogers Clark in 1778 to lead a secret expedition against the northwestern forts.

The soldiers were recruited from the Scotch-Irish settlements west of the Blue Ridge. The untold hardships, sufferings, and final success of this expedition, at the Treaty of Peace, in 1783, gave the great West to the United States.

The more significant number of the colonists of North Carolina was Scotch and Scotch-Irish, in so much to have given direction to its history. There were several reasons why they should be so attracted, the most potent being a mild climate, fertile lands, and freedom of religious worship. The most excellent accession at any one time was in 1736 when Henry McCulloch secured sixty-four thousand acres in Duplin County and settled upon these lands four thousand of his Ulster countrymen. About the same time the Scotch began to occupy the lower Cape Fear. Prior to 1750 they were located in the counties of Granville, Orange, Rowan and Mecklenburg, although it is uncertain when they settled between the Dan and the Catawba. Braddock's defeat, in 1755, rendered border life dangerous, many of the newcomers turning south into North Carolina, where they met the other stream of their countrymen moving upward from Charleston along the banks of the Santee, Wateree, Broad, Pacolet, Ennoree and Saluda, and this continued till checked by the Revolution. These people were industrious, sober, and intelligent, and with their advent began the state's educational history. Near Greensborough, in 1767, was established a classical school, and in 1770, in the town of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, was chartered Queen's College, but George III repealed its charter. However, it flourished and was incorporated as "Liberty Hall" in 1777. The Revolution closed its doors; Cornwallis quartered his troops within it and afterward burned the buildings.

Under wrongs, the Scotch-Irish of North Carolina were the most restless of all the colonists. They were zealous advocates for freedom of conscience and security against taxation unless imposed by themselves. During the administration of acting Governor Miller, they imprisoned the president and six members of the council, convened the legislature, established courts of justice, and for two years exercised all the functions of government; they derided the authority of Governor Eastchurch; they imprisoned, impeached, and sent into exile Governor Sothel, for his extortions, and successfully resisted the effort of lord Granville to establish the Church of England in that colony. In 1731, Governor Burrington wrote: "The people of North Carolina are neither to be persuaded or outwitted; \* \* \* always behaved insolently to their Governors. Some they imprisoned, others they have driven out of the country, and at other times set up a government of their own choice." In 1765, when a vessel laden with stamp paper arrived, the people overawed the captain, who soon sailed away. The officers then adopted a regular system of oppression and extortion and plundered the people at every turn of life. The people formed an association "for regulating public grievances and abuse of powers." The royal



governor, Tryon (the same who later originated the infamous plot to poison Washington), raised an army of eleven hundred men and marched to inflict summary punishment on the defiant Sons of Liberty. On May 16, 1771, the two forces met on the banks of the Great Alamance. After an engagement of two hours, the patriots failed. These men were sturdy, patriotic members of three Presbyterian churches. On the field of battle were their pastors, graduates of Princeton. Tryon used his victory so savagely as to drive an increasing stream of settlers over the mountains into Tennessee, where they made their homes in the valley of the Watauga and there nurtured their wrongs. Still, the day of their vengeance was rapidly approaching.

### **Battle in Alamance County, North Carolina**

The stirring times of 1775 found the North Carolinians ready for revolt. They knew from tradition and experienced the monstrous wrongs of tyrants. When the people of Mecklenburg County learned in May 1775 that parliament had declared the colonies in a state of revolt, they did not wait for the action of Congress or their own provincial legislature. Still, they adopted resolutions, which formed the Declaration of Independence.

These men's power, bravery, and uncompromising conduct is illustrated in their behavior at the battle of King's Mountain, fought on October 7, 1780. It was unlike any other in American history, the voluntary uprising of the people rushing to arms to aid their distant kinsmen when savages menaced their own homes. They served without pay and the hope of reward. The defeat of Gates at Camden laid the whole of North Carolina at the feet of the British. Flushed with success, Colonel Furguson, of the 71st Regiment, at the head of eleven hundred men, marched into North Carolina and took up his position at Gilbert Town to intercept those retreating in that direction from Camden and to crush out the spirit of the patriots in that region. Volunteers assembled simultaneously without any concert of action and placed themselves under tried leaders. Their daily pursuits admirably fitted them for the privations they were called upon to endure. They had no tents, baggage, bread, or salt but subsisted on potatoes, pumpkins, roasted corn, and venison as their own rifles could procure. Their army consisted of four hundred men, under Colonel William Campbell from Washington County, Virginia, two hundred and forty under Colonel Isaac Shelby, from Sullivan County, North Carolina, and two hundred and forty men, from Washington County, same state, under John Sevier, which assembled at Watauga, September 25, where they were joined by Colonel Charles McDowell, with one hundred and sixty men, from the counties of Burke and Rutherford, who had fled before the enemy to the western waters. While McDowell, Shelby, and Sevier were in consultation, two paroled prisoners arrived from Furguson with the message that if they did not "take protection under his standard, he would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay waste their country with fire and sword." On their march to meet the Ferguson army, they were in the saddle for twenty-four hours. They took that officer by surprise and killed him and one hundred and eighty of his men after an engagement of one hour and five

minutes, the greater part of which time a heavy and constant fire was kept up on both sides, with a loss to themselves of only twenty killed and a few wounded. The remaining force of the enemy surrendered at discretion, giving up their camp equipage and fifteen hundred stands of arms. On the morning after the battle, several Royalist (Tory) prisoners were found guilty of murder and other high crimes and hanged. This was the closing scene of the battle of King's Mountain, an event that ultimately crushed the spirit of the Royalists and weakened beyond recovery the power of the British in the Carolinas. The intelligence of Furguson's defeat destroyed all Cornwallis's hopes of aid from those who still remained loyal to Britain's interests. The men oppressed by British laws and Tryon's cruelty were not yet avenged, for they were with Morgan at the Cowpens and with Greene at Guilford Court House until the close of the war.

### **South Carolina**

In settling South Carolina, every ship that sailed from Ireland for the port of Charleston was crowded with men, women, and children, especially after the peace of 1763. About the same date, within one year, a thousand families came into the state in that wave that originated in Pennsylvania, bringing their cattle, horses, and hogs. Lands were allotted to them in the western woods, which soon became the most popular part of the province, the up-country population being overwhelmingly Scotch-Irish. They brought with them and retained, to an eminent degree, the virtues of industry and economy so peculiarly necessary in a new country. To them, the state is indebted for much of its early literature. The settlers in the western part of the colony, long without the aid of laws, were forced to band themselves together for mutual protection. The royal governor, Montague, in 1764 sent an army against them, and with great difficulty, a civil war was averted. The division thus created reappeared in 1775, on the breaking out of the Revolution. The state suffered greatly from the ravages of Cornwallis, who rode roughly over it, although her sons toiled heroically in defense of their firesides. The little bands in the east gathered around the standard of Marion and in the north and west around those of Sumter and Pickens. They kept alive the flame of liberty in the swamps, and when the country appeared to be subdued, it burst forth in electric flashes, striking and withering the hand of the oppressor. Through the veins of most of the patriots flowed Scotch-Irish blood, and to the hands of one of this class, John Rutledge, the destinies of the state were committed.

### **Georgia**

Georgia was sparsely settled at the time of the Revolution. In 1753 its population was less than twenty-four hundred—emigration from the Carolinas set in towards North Georgia, bringing many Scotch-Irish families. The movement towards the mountain and Piedmont regions of the southeast began in about 1773. In that year, Governor Wright purchased from the Indians that portion of middle Georgia lying between the Oconee and the Savannah. The inducements he offered proved very attractive to the enterprising sons of Virginia and the Carolinas, who lived



in the highlands of those states. These people who settled in Georgia have thus been described by Governor Gilmer: "The pretty girls were dressed in striped and checked cotton cloth, spun and woven with their own hands, and their sweethearts in sumach and walnut-dyed stuff, made by their mothers. Courting was done when riding to meeting on Sunday, and walking to the spring when there. Newly married couples went to see the old folks on Saturday, and carried home on Sunday evening what they could spare. There was no ennui among the women for something to do. If there had been leisure to read, there were but few books for the indulgence. Hollow trees supplied cradles for babies."

### **Tennessee**

Most of the first settlers of East Tennessee were of Scotch-Irish blood, having sought homes there after the battle of Alamance, and hence that state became the daughter of North Carolina. The first written constitution born of a convention of people on this continent was at Watauga in 1772. A settlement of less than a dozen families was formed in 1778 near Bledsoe, isolated in the heart of the Chickasaw nation, with no other protection than a small stockade enclosure and their own indomitable courage. In the early spring of 1779, a little colony of gallant adventurers from the parent line of Watauga crossed the Cumberland mountain, established themselves near the French Lick, and planted a field of corn where the city of Nashville now stands. The settlement on the Cumberland was made in 1780, after great privations and sufferings on the journey. The Indians so harassed the settlers at the various stations, incited thereto by British and Spanish agents, that all were abandoned except Elatons and the Bluffs (Nashville). These people were compelled to go in armed squads to the springs and plowed while guarded by armed sentinels. The Indians, by a well-planned stratagem, attempted to enter the Bluffs on April 22d, 1781. A decoy party drew the men in the fort into an ambush. When they dismounted to give battle, their horses dashed off toward the fort, and they were pursued by some Indians, which left a gap in their lines, through which some whites were escaping to the fort; but these were intercepted by a large body of the enemy from another ambush. The heroic women in the defense, headed by Mrs. James Robertson, seized the axes and idle guns and planted themselves in the gate, determined to die rather than give up the fort. Just in time, she ordered the sentry to turn loose a pack of dogs that had been selected for their size and courage to encounter bears and panthers. Frantic to join the fray, they dashed off, outyelling the savages, who recoiled before the fury of their onset, thus giving the men time to escape to the fort. So overjoyed was Mrs. Robertson that she patted every dog as he came into the defense.

### **Kentucky**

So thoroughly was Kentucky settled by the Scotch-Irish from the older colonies that it might be designated as of that race, the first emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina. It was first explored by Thomas Walker in 1747; followed by John Finley of North Carolina in 1767; and in



1769, by Daniel Boone, John Stewart, and three others, who penetrated the Kentucky river. By 1773, lands were taken up, and afterward, there was a steady stream, almost entirely from the valley and southwest Virginia. No border annals teem with more thrilling incidents or heroic exploits than the Kentucky hunters, whose very name finally struck terror into the heart of the strongest savage. The prediction of the Cherokee chief to Boone at the treaty at Watauga, ceding the territory to Henderson and his associates, was fully verified: "Brother," said he, "we have given you a fine land, but I believe you will have much trouble in settling it."

### **Canada**

The history of the Scotch-Irish race in Canada before the Peace of 1783 is primarily that of individuals. It has already been noted that the emigrants who landed from the five ships in Boston harbor had made two settlements in Nova Scotia. It is recorded that Truro, Nova Scotia, was settled in 1762, and in 1756 three brothers from Ireland settled in Colchester, the same province. If the questions were thoroughly investigated, it likely led to interesting results.

The distinctive characteristics which the Scotch-Irish transplanted to the new world may be designated as follows: They were Presbyterians in their religion and church government; they were loyal to the conceded authority to the king but considered him bound as well as themselves to "the Solemn League and Covenant," entered into in 1643, which pledged the support of the Reformation and the liberties of the kingdom; the right to choose their own ministers, unfettered by the civil powers; they practiced strict discipline in morals, and gave instruction to their youth in schools and academies, and in teaching the Bible as illustrated by the Westminster Assembly's catechism. To all this, they combined a remarkable degree, the acuteness of intellect, firmness of purpose, and conscientious devotion to duty.

Sources: Chronicles of the Picts and Scots, p. 77; Stille, Life of Wayne, p. 5, says he was not Scotch-Irish; Dunlap's "Pennsylvania Packet," June 17, 1778; Source: An Historical Account of the Settlements of Scotch Highlanders in America by Arthur J. P. MacLean.