SCOTCH-IRISH RESEARCH

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, 1603-1714.
- 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-Scotch 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.ancestry.com)
- [http://www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/ulsterscots/37-2/](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/](https://www.emeraldancestors.com/)
- [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie)
- [www.genuki.org](http://www.genuki.org)
- [http://www.plantationofulster.org/](http://www.plantationofulster.org/)
- [http://www.rootsireland.ie/](http://www.rootsireland.ie/)
- [http://www.nmni.com/uafp](http://www.nmni.com/uafp) - Ulster American Folk Park and Centre for Migration Studies
For Further Reading


