

# COMING TO AMERICA

## LOCAL NEWS

## A PUB IS A GOOD PLACE TO MAKE DECISIONS

### IRELAND 1767

One evening in mid-summer, James Wylie, a 45 year old farmer, and protestant, is sitting in an Irish pub. He is married, and like his father he will likely die in the same town where he was born and where he is currently sitting. It's a tough time in Northern Ireland. Food is scarce and land ownership is out of the grasp of most people. With his wife Sara and four children, his future prospects are looking slim.

However, James's life is about to change and the change is coming from a long way across the Atlantic. The United Kingdom has expanded its borders into a new Colony, and there is plenty of profitable farm land and very few people. In Ireland it is the opposite, plenty of people and no land. This is a moment of synergy for James.

You've heard the joke, a guy walks in to a bar.... for James, that guy arrives today and he has a proposal.

## SWINDLE?

## TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

**H**is offer went something like this:

In September, the Ship The Earl of Donegall is sailing for Charlestown in the British Colony of Carolina. Bring your family to the Port of Belfast and you'll get a FREE boat ride to a new place.



Best of all, when you arrive in Charlestown, you'll get free land.... lots of free land. 100 acres for each grown man, and 50 acres for each woman, and child. Quick math and James is looking at 350 acres of land! Likely, it all sounded a little too good to be true, what kind of trap or swindle was this?



## LEAVING HOME

## AND WE ARE OFF?

**A**pparently James took him up on his offer and they sold everything. They made their way to Belfast, where they boarded the ship, and 60 days of sailing later, landed in Charlestown, Carolina, arriving just in time to start the new year of 1768 in a new colony. Perhaps he was surprised, and most likely relieved, as the family received everything they were promised.

350 acres of land in Craven County, Carolina. .

