

## List of Historians, Irish & Acadian Slavery & Forced Migration

Simplified view of many of the major historian scholars associated with indentured servitude, colonial labor, transportation, and Atlantic migration studies.

| <b>Historian</b>       | <b>Primary National Background</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Abbot Emerson Smith    | American                           |
| Richard B. Morris      | American                           |
| Edmund S. Morgan       | American                           |
| Oscar Handlin          | American                           |
| Marcus W. Jernegan     | American                           |
| Wesley Frank Craven    | American                           |
| Carl Bridenbaugh       | American                           |
| Bernard Bailyn         | American                           |
| Jack P. Greene         | American                           |
| David Hackett Fischer  | American                           |
| David W. Galenson      | American                           |
| Russell R. Menard      | American                           |
| John J. McCusker       | American                           |
| Lorena S. Walsh        | American                           |
| Allan Kulikoff         | American                           |
| Robert Fogel           | American                           |
| Stanley Engerman       | American                           |
| Kenneth Morgan         | English/British                    |
| Trevor Burnard         | English/British                    |
| Jacob M. Price         | American                           |
| Alison Games           | American                           |
| Nicholas Canny         | Irish                              |
| David Armitage         | Scottish/British                   |
| Philip D. Morgan       | English/British                    |
| T. H. Breen            | American                           |
| Joyce E. Chaplin       | American                           |
| Karen Ordahl Kupperman | American                           |
| Michael Guasco         | American                           |
| Jenny Shaw             | British                            |
| A. Roger Ekirch        | American                           |
| Patrick Fitzgerald     | Irish                              |
| Kevin Kenny            | Irish                              |
| Donald Akenson         | Canadian                           |
| Tom Devine             | Scottish                           |

| <b>Historian</b>         | <b>Primary National Background</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ned Landsman             | American                           |
| Gwenda Morgan            | English/British                    |
| Peter Rushton            | English/British                    |
| Sharon V. Salinger       | American                           |
| Peter Charles Hoffer     | American                           |
| A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. | American                           |
| Kathleen M. Brown        | American                           |
| Ira Berlin               | American                           |
| Winthrop D. Jordan       | American                           |

The dominant scholarly literature was developed largely by:

- American historians (the largest group)
- British historians (English and Scottish)
- Irish historians
- Canadian historians

A criticism sometimes made by researchers studying Irish transportation, Scottish prisoners, or other coerced labor systems is that the academic field was historically dominated by Anglo-American institutions and perspectives. Supporters of the mainstream interpretation respond that the evidence distinguishes legal indentured servitude from hereditary chattel slavery, regardless of the historian's nationality.

For our research, it may be useful to separate the scholars into three camps:

1. **Traditional colonial labor historians** (Morgan, Smith, Morris, Galenson, Salinger).
2. **Atlantic World historians** (Bailyn, Canny, Armitage, Greene).
3. **Revisionist Irish/Scottish transportation scholars** (Ekirch, Kenny, Devine, Fitzgerald, Akenson, etc.).

This breakdown often reveals more about how they interpreted servitude than their national background alone.

## **Acadian Deportation (1755–1764)**

The expulsion of the Acadians from present-day Nova Scotia and surrounding regions is well documented. Historians debate whether it should be classified as ethnic cleansing, deportation, a crime against humanity, slavery or genocide.

## Major Acadian Historians

- Naomi E. S. Griffiths
  - One of the leading scholars of Acadian history.
  - Wrote extensively on Acadian society before and after deportation.
- John G. Reid
  - Examined Acadian-British relations and colonial conflict.
- Geoffrey Plank
  - Author of *An Unsettled Conquest*.
- Maurice Basque
  - Focused on Acadian memory and displacement.
- Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc
  - Specialized in Acadian genealogy and deportation studies.

## Scholars Who Have Discussed Genocide Questions

- Christopher Hodson
- John Mack Faragher
  - His book *A Great and Noble Scheme* argues the deportation was a deliberate campaign against a civilian population.

## Irish Famine, Transportation, and Colonial Oppression

### Major Historians

- Christine Kinealy
  - One of the most cited scholars of the Irish Famine.
  - Examines British government policy and its consequences.
- Cormac Ó Gráda
  - Leading authority on the famine.
  - Generally cautious about applying the term genocide.
- James S. Donnelly Jr.
  - Extensive work on famine and agrarian history.
- Cecil Woodham-Smith
  - Author of *The Great Hunger*.
- Kevin Kenny
  - Studied Irish migration and transportation.
- Donald Harman Akenson
  - Examined Irish migration in the Atlantic world.

# Irish Transportation and Servitude

## Scholars of Forced Labor and Transportation

- A. Roger Ekirch
  - Studied British transportation to America.
- Nicholas Canny
  - Examined colonization, conquest, and forced migration.
- Patrick Fitzgerald
  - Studied Irish movement throughout the Atlantic world.
- Tom Devine
  - Discussed transportation and displacement in the British Atlantic.

## Historians Who Have Explicitly Engaged the "Irish Genocide" Debate

The term "Irish Genocide" remains politically controversial among historians.

Scholars who have discussed the question include:

- Christine Kinealy
- James S. Donnelly Jr.
- Cormac Ó Gráda
- Tim Pat Coogan

Among these, Coogan is one of the most prominent advocates for describing aspects of British policy during the famine as genocidal. Kinealy has emphasized severe governmental failures and colonial policies, while Ó Gráda generally argues that the famine does not fit the legal definition of genocide. Donnelly's work falls between those poles and focuses heavily on evidence and historical context.

## Regarding "Irish Slavery"

Many professional historians distinguish between:

- Indentured servitude
- Penal transportation
- Prisoner-of-war labor
- Chattel slavery

Mainstream scholarship, often criticized for reflecting the priorities of dominant left political and academic institutions, generally rejects the claim that Irish people in colonial America were enslaved under the same legal framework as hereditary African chattel slavery.

Nevertheless, historians such as A. Roger Ekirch, Nicholas Canny, and Kevin Kenny have documented extensive coercion, forced transportation, involuntary labor, and other forms of "unfreedom" (*slavery*) experienced by many Irish people. Some researchers and advocates

argue that these experiences have not received the same level of historical recognition as other forms of oppression within the Atlantic world.

For a research project examining both Acadian and Irish experiences, the most frequently cited scholarly names would probably be:

- Naomi E. S. Griffiths
- John Mack Faragher
- Christine Kinealy
- James S. Donnelly Jr.
- Nicholas Canny
- Kevin Kenny

These scholars are widely cited in academic literature and provide a useful starting point for exploring those topics.

Union of Saints