

THE ORIGINAL SETTLERS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

It is not known who was the first settler in Franklin County; however it is known that eight Blunston licenses were issued in 1733. Among the receivers of these licenses were Benjamin Chambers, Joseph Crunkleton, Jacob Snively, James Johnston, and James Rhody. These licenses were issued after the fact in some cases at least 3 years had passed. When Lord William Penn died his three sons living in Philadelphia were unsure of their legal status to sell land and issue deeds. John Blunston who was a Quaker and personal friend of Lord Penn stepped into to help, he was the Sheriff and thus had legal standing and along with his son Samuel Blunston who was also sheriff for Cumberland County issued these licenses to those people living on the land. These licenses were in effect promissory documents acknowledging that the said person or persons were living on the specific piece of land and had first rights to buy it. These licenses are in the archives at Harrisburg.

It is known that Joseph Crunkleton arrived in Philadelphia in 1729 and most probably was in Franklin Co. in 1730 along with his sons. Benjamin Chambers is said to have been in the Chambersburg area in 1730, Johnston, Snively and Rhodey were all in the Shady Grove general area about the same time. With the exception of Jacob Snively all of these people were Ulsterscots and most likely all came from various Ulster counties. It is the writer's belief that there was substantial settlement by about 1735-36. My reasoning is that survival in what was then the wilderness required that first a rough dwelling be erected and in most cases this was a simple log house. It is interesting to note that this type of dwelling was not known in any part of the United Kingdom. Log huts or houses are a Norse invention. Secondly clearance of land for crops in order to feed the family was next in importance. It is estimated that the average settler and his family could clear 2 acres per year if of wooded nature; meadow of course could be cultivated much quicker. For some arcane reason the Ulsterscotss preferred wooded and hilly land, but well watered. The next thing to come about was the establishment of their churches which was extremely important to them because they were the Scottish Dissenting Presbyterian Covenanters. Their church was of great importance and guided their lives. So it is known that in 1738 they established the Old Red Church in Greencastle along with their cemetery called Moss Spring...

In the 1500's the Scots held a convention in which they signed and affirmed as the Covenant. The Scottish kings and also the English kings were Catholic and they ruled the people thru their parishes and their bishops all whom were appointed by the Crown. This was against the wishes of the Scots who were Presbyterians and who abided by the rules set down by their church and thru their individual parishes and the bible. The religious issue led to wars and almost all of the Pastors were deposed by the King who had up till then paid their salaries and provided housing etc. Once deposed they were forbidden to preach, but at great risk they did

The earliest migrations were in the reign of Queen Anne who granted both free passage and land grants to people to settle in her colonies Citizens of the United Kingdom were of course among the first, but Europe with it's many wars was also a fertile ground for

recruitment, and thus became the flow of the Rhineland Germans (Palanates) and the Huguenots from France. Most of these immigrants were either paid passengers or entered into indentured contracts with the shipping companies and Rotterdam was the main port of embarkation. The Germans were mostly farmers and very industrious and in time replaced many of the Ulsterscots on the land. For reasons which I have never discovered, the Scots remained foot loose and adventurous and frequently up-routed their families and moved South or West while the Germans took their place. The Germans were mostly Protestant and of Lutheran or Brethren faiths.

Starting about 1600 the migration began in earnest to the nine counties of Ulster and parts of the surrounding counties of Ireland. This came about because the Irish chieftain O'Neil lost a battle with the King of England and his lands were confiscated and he was imprisoned in a castle in Ireland. Sir Hugh Montgomery approached the king with a proposal to take over and populate some of the lands; before this could happen Sir James Hamilton found out about it and was included in the agreement. O'Neil agreed and surrendered title to most of his lands and was granted freedom. Land clearances in Scotland and the chance of a better life lead to a vast migration from Scotland, especially the lowlands to Ireland which was a short boat ride away. There were ruthless land clearances in Ireland by the London Companies and Montgomery & Hamilton of the Irish natives. By 1700 there were several hundred thousand Scots in Northern Ireland, but they too had enough of the endless battles, land clearances, and large increases in their rental amounts. The entire feudal system was under attack, example: Both Ireland and Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom were under the control of Barony's and their masters, some of which were knights and other high ranking persons or simply gentlemen of rank. These persons required that all the serfs on their lands be required to serve their master under arms or at any other time. This lead to constant battles and deaths and the families being left destitute while the men were off fighting. This system did not sit well with the Ulsterscots who were not members of a clan such as were the highlanders. As said before their life centered around their church and parish and as dissenters against all forms of government, courts, they were ready to move on to America and other colonies of the Crown. And thus began the flood to America.

THE SCOTCH-IRISH EPIC

The following is a short account of where the Scotch-Irish started out from, where they travelled to, and then settled in, America. Source: "The Scotch-Irish: A Social History" by James G Leyburn. Ulster, one of the four traditional "kingdoms" or Provinces of Ireland, was only 20 miles across the north channel from Scotland. In 1603, a laird of northern Ayrshire (Scotland), Hugh Montgomery, learned that Con O'Niell was in prison. O'Niell was a chieftain with large tracts of land in County Down, and County Antrim. Montgomery proposed to O'Neill a bargain. He could effect the escape and pardon of O'Neill, if in return, O'Neill would grant him half of his lands. The escape and pardon was achieved, but the granting of lands to Montgomery, was denied by King James. Montgomery sought the aid of another Ayrshire laird, James Hamilton, who had great influence with the King. With a new agreement drawn, giving each of the two Lairds a third of O'Neill's property, but had conditions, "that the lands should be planted with British Protestants, and that no grant of fee farm(ie freeholds) should be made to any person of "mere" Irish extraction." In 1609, the two Scots, Montgomery and Hamilton, began to induce tenants and other Scots, to come over as farmer-settlers. Within 10 years, the population of the Plantation of Ulster, had reached around eight thousand. The assignment of lands to Scottish undertakers, was to have a permanent effect on the character of Ulster. Despite every vicissitude, including terrible massacres and bloody war, the Plantation gradually grew strong and proved to be a success. If one cause more than any other can be singled out for its success, it would be the presence, the persistence, and the industry of the Scots. Back in Scotland, there was an increasing hardship occasioned by the spread of a form of land tenure, called the feu, which had the effect of dispossessing many farmers of their traditional lands. They were attracted to the generous lands visible by the naked eye across the channel from the shores of south western Scotland. Any Scot who had the inclination might now take the short journey by boat across to Ulster and there, on easy terms, acquire a holding of land reputed to be far more fertile and productive than any he was likely to know in his own country. Economic distress in the Lowlands and economic opportunities in Ulster were the predominant causes for migration during the first fifty years after the plantation scheme had begun in 1610. In the Lowlands a positive fever for emigration swept. Ships were travelling back and forth with the frequency of a ferry. >From 1634 onward to 1690, life for the colonists of Ulster was to consist of a series of crises, some of them so prolonged and severe that the very existence of the Scottish settlements were threatened. The trouble had two causes: religious exactions from England and native uprisings. Under the Jesuits the Irish people had become fervently Catholic; to them the Protestants of Ulster were heretics as well as interlopers although in fact Scotland had originally been settled by people from Ireland called "The Scotti" from which the country took its name. The native Irish resented the intrusion of Scottish (and English) settlers on their ancestral lands, and their resentment exploded in 1641 in bitter insurrection. Between 1717 and the Revolutionary War some quarter of a million Ulstermen came to America. By the time the Great Migration began in 1717, a few Ulstermen were present in at least half of the American colonies, often alongside immigrants who had recently come directly from Scotland. It was when Ulster developed, in rapid succession, two new industries that the pinch came. Both woolen and linen manufacture grew apace in the closing years of the seventeenth

century, bringing remarkable prosperity to North Ireland and arousing uneasiness among English competitors. Belfast, had arisen from the swamps of the Laggan Valley, giving Ulster a sheltered seaport for her growing trade. The competition of Irish cloth seemed unendurable to English cloth interests. At the Kings command, Irish Parliament in Dublin passed the Woolens Act in 1699, giving a crippling blow to the industry in Ulster. The substantial leaders of Ulster had put their primary economic faith in manufacture and trade, and their success in life now depended upon two unknown and uncontrollable factors: the arbitrary acts of the English Parliament and the ups and downs of the foreign market. A third and more immediate economic cause stimulated the first great migration of 1717. This was the suffering caused by rack-renting. The land question assuredly played a large part in driving Presbyterian Ulsterman to take the drastic step of removing to America. From rack-renting, whole villages lost their Protestant element by migration to America. The final blow was a succession of calamitous years for farmers. During the 'teens, there were six years in succession that were notable for insufficient rainfall (1714-1719). The first migration, then was touched off by a combination of drought, rack-renting, diminished trade in woolen goods, depression, and also religious discrimination and "persecution." When the fourth successive year of drought ruined the crops in 1717, serious preparations began to be made for a migration. Ships were chartered, consultations were held, groups were organized(usually whole congregations led by their minister), and property was sold. More than five thousand Ulstermen that year made the journey to the American colonies. There were but two real drawbacks--the dangers of an ocean crossing(especially for woman and children) and the expense of that passage. The practice of indenture has long been a familiar device and greatly dispised . There were five great waves of emigration, with a lesser flow in intervening years: 1717-1718, 1725-1729, 1740-1741, 1754-1755, and 1771-1775. In 1717, at least 5000 Ulstermen left Ireland. Jonathan Dickinson reported from Philadelphia in 1717, that there had arrived "from ye north of Ireland many hundreds in about four months," and that during the summer "we have had 12 or 13 sayle of ships from the North of Ireland with a swarm of people." The second wave was so large, that not only the friends of Ireland, but even the English Parliament became concerned. In the Pennsylvania Gazette it was reported "that poverty, wretchedness, misery and want are become almost universal among them; that...there is not Corn enough rais'd for their subsistence one year with another; and at the same time the trade and manufactures of the Nation being cramp'd and discourag'd, the labouring people have little to do, and consequently are not able to purchase bread at its present dear rate; That the taxed are nevertheless exceeding heavy, and money very scarce; and add to all this, that their griping, avaricious landlords exercise over them the most merciless racking tyranny and oppression. Hence it is that such swarms of them are driven over into America." The third wave marked, on the American side, the first movement of Scotch-Irish in any numbers beyond the confines of generous Pennsylvania to the southwest. Following the path through the Great Valley, many Ulstermen now went into the rich Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, whose southern extremity opened out toward North and South Carolina. The second wave had so well established the Scotch-Irish in the south eastern tier of counties in Pennsylvania, that their influence, even in political affairs in the Quaker commonwealth was becoming impressive. Famine struck Ireland in 1740, and was certainly the principal occasion for the third large wave, which included numbers of substantial Ulstermen. An estimated 400,000 persons died in Ireland

during 1740-1741; for the next decade there was a tremendous exodus to America. The fourth exodus had two major causes: effective propaganda from America, and calamitous drought in Ulster. A succession of governors of North Carolina had made a special effort to attract to that province colonists from Ulster and from Scotland. Governor Dobbs of North Carolina, (formally from Carrickfergus County Antrim) declared that as many as ten thousand immigrants had landed in Philadelphia in a single season, so that many were "obliged to remove to the southward for want of lands to take up" in Pennsylvania. In 1717, when the leases on the large estate of the Marquis of Donegal in county Antrim expired, the rents were so greatly advanced that scores of tenants could not comply with the demands, and so were evicted from the farms their families had long occupied. During the next three years nearly a hundred vessels sailed from the ports in the North of Ireland, "carrying as many as 25,000 passengers, all Presbyterian." Thousands of the Scotch-Irish began their New World careers as servants. In 1728, it was estimated that "above 3,200" persons had come from Ulster to America in the previous three years, and "that only one in ten could pay his own passage." Going to America" came to mean, by the middle of the century, not launching out into a vast unknown, but moving to a country where one's friends and relatives had a home. It offered the very exciting chance to own one's own land, instead of holding it on a lease that might end in rack-renting; it meant a heady freedom from religious and political restrictions; it even promised affluence and social prominence to those who were truly ambitious. Every group who went made it easier for others to follow and so by 1775, probably 200,000 Ulstermen had migrated to America. The southern provinces, Virginia and the Carolinas, were hardly considered, for the impoverished Ulstermen would see nothing attractive in a region of plantations and slave-owning, where the Church of England was established. Maryland had been founded for Roman Catholics, was principally a plantation colony, and now had an Established Church; it was therefore not the place for Presbyterians who wanted small farms. New York's governors were reportedly hard on dissenters, and her lands up the Hudson were owned in great estates. Eliminating these, there remained the Middle colonies and New England. Reports from Penn's settlements were enthusiastic as to the quality of land and the treatment of colonists; moreover, an invitation to settle there had come from the Secretary. The people who entered America by the Delaware River, found a land of the heart's desire. Their enthusiastic praise of Pennsylvania persuaded others to follow them, and then still others, until by 1720 "to go to America" meant, for most emigrants from Ulster, to take ship for the Delaware River ports, and then head west. For the entire fifty-eight years of the Great Migration, the large majority of Scotch-Irish made their entry to America through Philadelphia or Chester or New Castle. With these towns as their starting point, and the western frontier their destination, the immigrants, as they poured in found their path of progress almost laid out for them by geography. The Great Valley lead westward for a hundred miles or more; then when high mountains blocked further easy movement in that direction, the Valley turned southwestward across the Potomac to become the Shenandoah Valley. From the southern terminus of the Valley of Virginia, it was a short trip, by the time the pioneers had reached it, into the Piedmont regions of the Carolinas, where colonists were now warmly welcomed. Within this seven hundred mile arc of back-country, therefore, from Philadelphia as far as the upper Savannah River, most of the Scotch-Irish made their homes. It would have been difficult to imagine

anywhere, in the world of 1717, conditions more attractive to discontented inhabitants of the Old World, than those which prevailed in the province of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania, among the last of the original colonies to be founded, had by 1717 been proving for thirty years its stability and prosperity, its practical liberality and hospitality. Nothing like the generosity of its appeal was known in other colonies. Penn himself and his friends, set forth to Europeans the advantages of his province. Pennsylvania became the scene of an alternating and parallel movement of two peoples. The Scotch-Irish went to one part of a river valley, Germans on the other; the next year's arrivals advanced beyond the settlements to repeat the process. To the three original counties of Pennsylvania, along the Delaware (Philadelphia, Chester, and Bucks) the proprietors thought it wise in 1729 to add a fourth, Lancaster. The Scotch-Irish followed the river valleys, keeping north of the disputed border line of Maryland. The provincial government organized still further counties as the frontier was filled up: York in 1749, Cumberland in 1750, and Bedford 1771, not to mention other counties to the north of Philadelphia. Chroniclers speak of the Scotch-Irish, who arrived in Cumberland during the decade after 1725 as folk "of the better sort...a Christian people." It has been called the most important single Scotch-Irish centre in America--"the seed-plot and nursery of their race..." Franklin County received its first Scotch Irishmen between 1728 and 1740, and York, whose initial settlers consisted of "families of the better class of peasantry," between 1731 and 1735. It is said that no Scotch-Irish family felt comfortable and truly at home until it had moved at least twice!