

*The Ancestry of Frank T. Craven
and Nancy Manship Craven
From Craven, Brook, Kitching, Gough,
Manship, Kirkham, Durden, Murray, Diven, Linn,
Junkin, Gettys, and Ramsey Surname Lines*

Appendix B: The Scots-Irish Immigrations

The Gettys, Ramseys, Linns, Divens, and Junkins of our lines belong to that historically-interesting group known as Scotch-Irish, Scots-Irish or Ulster Scots. The Murrays may have been Highland Scots, arriving in America directly from Scotland in the mid-1700's, or may also have been Scots-Irish. The history of the migration of thousands of these forefathers is of interest.

In the 1710 to 1775 era, over 200,000 people emigrated from Ulster to the 13 Colonies, from New Hampshire to Georgia. The largest numbers went to Pennsylvania. From that base some went south into Virginia, the Carolinas and across the South, with a large concentration in the Appalachian region; others headed west to western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and the Midwest.¹

The Scotch-Irish comprise a people who have exerted wide influence in American history. In the seventeenth and early eighteenth century they were maintaining in the north of Ireland the stern faith of Calvin. Besides following the teachings of John Knox, they had a political faith devoted to freedom, as opposed to the oppression exerted by the English Crown. Unable to find peace at home, they at last concluded to emigrate to the New World. About 1720 the movement westward had reached large proportions. Douglas Campbell says, "ships enough could not be found to carry from Ulster to America the men who were unwilling to live except in the air of religious freedom." Mr. Campbell shows that the Scotch-Irish influx continued half a century. Entire districts were almost depopulated. Within a period of two years, some 30,000 crossed the Atlantic. Many were well-to-do farmers. Others had been bred in Scottish universities. As a class, they were the equal of any emigrants who in those times sailed out of English harbors.²

When did the term Scotch-Irish emerge?

... it is evident that the Scotch-Irish were being very generally so called soon after they had begun to arrive in Pennsylvania in large numbers, and it is probable that the name was first applied to them by the Episcopalians and Quakers, who by no means intended it to be complimentary. Edmund Burke, in describing the migration of large numbers of settlers from Pennsylvania to the Southern colonies around the year 1757, says: "They are chiefly Presbyterians from the northern part of Ireland, who in America are generally called Scotch-Irish." Thus it appears that, though often called Irish by others than themselves, the name Scotch-Irish was far more generally applied to them in the provincial era than our Irish friends would have us believe. If, then, the question be asked, "Who are the Scotch-Irish?" the answer is that they are a people who were originally **Lowland** Scots; that they emigrated on a large scale to Ulster about three centuries ago;" and that their descendants, being oppressed there, emigrated in large numbers to America, particularly to Pennsylvania, where they have long

been known as Scotch-Irish to distinguish them from the Celtic, Catholic Irish, who were a different race-stock.³

How did these Low-land Scots end up in Ireland to begin with?

James (now four years king), long aware of the tumultuous warring of these unconquerable [Scots] clans, discerning that they would yet keep the north of his kingdom in even greater uproar than in times past, at last saw his opportunity to silence them forever.....[he] asked them to pray him to remove them "elsewhere where his paternal goodness should assign them sustenance".....
.....In filling Ulster Province with Scotch, one thing he [King James] did intend to accomplish. England had always been entered in time of war with Ireland; Ireland herself has never failed to aide a foreign foe in his attempts to despoil the British Isles. James knew and every other name knew the Celt of Erin ever ready to stab old England in the back. To overcome this constant menace, he put the loyal Scotchmen there to watch treason. The Irish were lazy; the Scotch would stimulate industry and thrift. In order that the few loyal Irish might be appeased and now more heartily support the king, he gave them the level parts of Ulster most easily tilled, they being indolent. To the Scotch, he gave the hilly northern part. It was rugged and wild. They made them homes, however, and were comfortable. Peculiar privileges were granted. Free schools were erected. A university was endowed. Linen was their chief industry. Flax culture was their reliance. In distinction to other Scots, they were called "Irish Scots". After a long residence in Ireland, they came to be called Scotch-Irish. The wild Irish, whom they dislodged and upon whose tracts they dwelt, frequently assailed them. Their old skill in such affrays would quickly nerve their arms, and the Irish always got the worst of it. the prosperity of these old clan warriors was marked. Their fields were amply tended and their towns hummed with busy spindles.⁴

Its fundamental purpose was to displace the Irish Catholics and to make Ulster a Protestant community occupied by immigrants from England and Scotland, the Saxon supplanting the Celt. Large tracts of land were reserved for the Church, for schools, and for the sites of boroughs; the remainder was divided among the English and Scotch undertakers, the public servitors of the Crown in Ireland, and some of the old Irish proprietors who were accounted loyal. The allotments to the English and Scottish grantees, however, were kept close together to prevent, as far as possible, mixing with the Irish. In fact, as has been noted, a law was passed forbidding the marriage of British settlers with the Irish, experience having proved that such marriages invariably resulted in the adoption by the British of the Irish customs and religion.....⁵

So were Scots-Irish a blend of Scottish and Irish blood?

Some additional points need to be cleared up before proceeding further with our story. Though the Scotch-Irish themselves are well aware that they are of pure Scottish descent and that the Irish part of the hyphenated name refers only to place origin in relation to their sojourn in Ireland, it appears that there are some people who suppose that the term Scotch-Irish signifies a blending of the Scots and Irish by intermarriage; and some writers have been so confused in their thinking as to make this assertion. Hence it seems desirable to explode this fallacy. According to Hanna, an excellent authority, "the application 'Scotch-Irish' is not, as many people suppose, an indication of mixed Scottish descent." Dr. John Hall, an eminent Presbyterian minister of New York, who was a native of Ulster, gives a convincing explanation of the matter, as follows: "I have sometimes noticed a little confusion of mind in relation to the phrase 'Scotch-Irish,' as if it meant that the Scotch people had come over and intermarried with the Irish, and that thus a combination of two races, two places, two nationalities had taken place. This is by no means the state of the case. On the contrary, with kindly good feeling in various directions, the Scotch people kept to the Scotch people, and they are called Scotch-Irish from purely local, geographical reasons, and not from any union of the kind that I have alluded to.... They are Scotch through and through, they are Scottish out and out."

This does not mean to say, of course,that there was never an instance of marriage between the Ulster Scots and the Irish, for such unions undoubtedly occurred; but all the evidence points to the conclusion that these were rare, especially after the plantation of Ulster under James I. In fact, the King expressly directed that the settlers should be taken from "the inward parts of Scotland" and so located that they "may not marry with the mere Irish." The intermarriage of the Irish with the Scots occurred more frequently before the "Plantation" and was with the Scotch Highlanders and "wild islanders"-a group of Scots who were Catholics and were largely Celts, and would therefore be more inclined to intermarry with the Irish than would the Lowland Scots, who were Protestants and of a different racial strain. The number of the early Highlanders who emigrated to Ireland was, however, relatively few and did not belong to the Ulster Scots of the Plantation, as will be more fully explained in the following chapter. There is, it is true, abundant evidence to show that many of Cromwell's soldiers, who settled in the southern parts of Ireland after 1650, intermarried freely with the Irish and that their descendants, overcome "by the invincible Catholicism of the Irish women," lost their English characteristics and became "more Irish than the Irish themselves," but this was far from being the case with the Scotch Presbyterians settling in Ulster, where "intermarriages between the Scotch settlers of the seventeenth century, and their descendants in Ulster, have been so rare and uncommon as to be practically anomalous."

The Ulster Scots kept their racial strain pure in matters of intermarriage. They sent their sons to Scotland to be educated for the ministry, etc. Many of them married there before they returned to Ulster. Thus they remained under the influence of Scottish religion, philosophy, and family ties to their early and some later generations.⁶

This whole question is admirably disposed of by the *Edinburgh Review*, as follows: "Another effect of the Plantation was that it effectually separated the two races, and kept them apart. It planted a new race in the country which never coalesced with the native population. There they have been in continual contact for more than two centuries; and they are still as distinct as if an ocean rolled between them..."⁷

Were all the Scots who moved to Ireland in Ulster? Were they all Presbyterians? Were the Irish expelled for the Scots to settle?

.... There appears to be a rather general impression that, at the time of the plantation of Ulster under James I, all the inhabitants of the old Irish stock were expelled from this region in order to make room for the newcomers, whereas this was by no means the case. In fact, many of them remained, either as small landholders or as hewers of wood and drawers of water; and today they are quite numerous, predominating in several of the counties of Ulster. Again, the occupation of Ulster by the Scottish immigrants was not as overwhelming as is ordinarily supposed; many Englishmen settled there, together with a respectable number of Huguenots. It is doubtful, indeed, if the Scots at any time constituted a majority of the population of the province of Ulster. Furthermore, contrary to popular belief, the Presbyterians, while very numerous and influential, were not so all-pervading as we have been accustomed to believe, if indeed they were a majority at all, in Ulster as a whole. The English were mostly Episcopalians, the Irish were almost universally Catholics, and not all the Ulster Scots were Presbyterians; nor, for that matter, were all the Presbyterians Ulster Scots. There were undoubtedly quite a few Presbyterians in Ulster who were of English and French blood, and it is said that there were not wanting instances of Presbyterians among the native Irish, though these must have been rare. Some of the Ulster Scots were Episcopalians, Quakers, Baptists, and Methodists, though there can be no doubt that the overwhelming majority of them were Presbyterians, who brought their kirk with them to Ireland, just as they later brought it to America. It must be said also that while intermarriage of the Scots with the Irish was exceedingly rare, it seems reasonable to believe that there was some slight admixture of the two races. It may be stated further that it would be a

mistake for us to believe that all the Lowland Scots coming to Ireland settled in Ulster, since a respectable minority of them settled in other Irish provinces.⁸

The Presbyterians in Ireland were largely Ulster Scots. During two and a half centuries after the first plantation of Scottish Presbyterian colonies in Ulster, ca. 1606, they maintained a close connection with their homeland, while they remained a race apart from their Irish and English neighbors. They were hated by the Roman Catholics of Ulster, whose land they had usurped. They were despised by the English, whose Government and Established Church inflicted persecution upon them due to religious non-conformity.⁹

How many Scots went to Ireland?

There was a steady stream of emigrants from Scotland to Ireland, mainly to Ulster, throughout the whole of the seventeenth century. It is estimated that between thirty and forty thousand Lowland Scots arrived in Ulster between 1608 and 1618, and ten thousand are known to have arrived between 1633 and 1635; and the Cromwellian conquest was, as noted above, followed by a particularly large immigration of Scots to Ulster. Froude estimates the number of Scots in Ireland following the Cromwellian Settlement at 100,000, nearly all of whom were Presbyterians. Only about half the Cromwellian settlers coming from England were Episcopalians, the remainder consisting of Presbyterians, Baptists, Independents, and Quakers. Sir William Petty estimated the population of Ireland in 1672 at 1,110,000, of whom there were 800,000 Irish, 200,000 English, and 100,000 Scots; the English were scattered all over the country, whereas the Scots were concentrated mostly in Ulster. Prendergast informs us that after the Revolution of 1688, Ulster "was nearly colonized anew by the Scotch settlers and camp followers of King William's forces. Eighty thousand small Scotch adventurers, between 1690 and 1698, came into different parts of Ireland, but chiefly into Ulster." In 1715 it was estimated by Archbishop Syngue that 50,000 Scotch families had settled in Ulster since the Revolution."¹⁰

If so well established in Ireland, then why did they leave to come to America?

.....the famine of 1725 stared thousands in the face. The Scotch exiles had lived 119 years in their Irish country happily, and now there was no work. Mills were closed. The distress among the laboring class was terrible; growing poorer and poorer; food grew dearer and dearer, and the gaunt starvation came upon them.

The Duke of Ulster saw a new disaster spring up. In haste, he wrote to London: "American agents are seducing the people with prospects of better homes across the Atlantic.....The preceding summer, 3100 left for America and now seven ships are lying at Belfast....the worst of it all is it only affects the Scotch-Irish Protestants."

Pennsylvania through Penn's agents had sent them greeting and kind invitation to the province. In fact, Penn himself had been among them in 1677, and a few had come over about 1711.....West from the Delaware and Susquehanna was a land in which they would find the object of their search¹¹

...advertisements of the new land across the water. Indeed there were advertisements, and many of them, all describing this land of America as a spearhead of adventure. One most famous account is labeled, *History of Pensilvania*, published in 1698 by Gabriel Thomas.....The language is flowery enough to persuade even the author to wish that "Pensilvania" were the land of milk and honey.....¹²

THE EMIGRATION of the Ulster Scots to the New World is one of the significant movements of history, not only on account of its volume but because of its far-reaching effects upon American life. Beginning in the last decade of the seventeenth century, it continued uninterruptedly throughout the whole of the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth, nor has it ever ceased. Its greatest relative importance, however, was in the eighteenth century from about 1717 until 1775. The causes leading to the migration of the Ulster Scots, while partly political and partly religious, were chiefly economic, although there was a growing sense of oppression due to a combination of these causes. Having by their energy and skill redeemed Northern Ireland from its physical and moral degradation and transformed it into a prosperous community, their reward at the hands of the English Government was a series of political, economic, social, and religious persecutions, resulting in a wholesale emigration to America, particularly to Pennsylvania. Never a submissive people, they decided to seek a new home in the wilderness rather than to endure the accumulated wrongs inflicted upon them, being urged the more thereto by their restless disposition and their love of adventure....Not all of them emigrated to America, however; some returned to Scotland, while others went to England, France, Germany, Spain, and the West Indies.

.....The most potent, as well as the most constant, cause of emigration was economic. This assumed the forms of repressive trade laws, rack-renting, famine, the decline of the linen industry, and a general feeling of economic insecurity.

Another inducing cause of emigration was that of rack-renting landlordism, which drove many thousands of Ulstermen beyond the seas.

The recurring bad harvests and resulting famines which afflicted Ireland in the eighteenth century were the occasion of another large exodus of Ulstermen. Especially severe were the famines of 1727 and 1740, which led to two of the largest waves of emigration from Ulster in this century.

A major cause of the great exodus of 1771-1773 was the decline of the linen manufacture.

Of great significance also as a cause of emigration was the religious persecution suffered by the Ulster Scots at the hands of the Established Church of Ireland, where the Church of England, though represented by but a small part of the population, had been established by law....The Presbyterians, comprising the bulk of the Ulster Scots, had transferred their system of churches and church government to Ireland, and were strongly organized. Their growth and prosperity aroused the animosity of the Church of England, and they became the victims of unjust laws and petty persecutions directed against them by the ruling powers in Church and State. All of the Episcopal bishops and some of the Episcopal landlords inserted in their leases clauses prohibiting the erection of Presbyterian churches on their estates. Marriages performed by Presbyterian clergymen were declared illegal, and those performing them were subjected to fines in the ecclesiastical courts. Even their right to conduct services for the burial of the dead was questioned, sometimes at the grave itself. The Test Act of 1704, enacted as a blow against Protestant Dissenters in general and against the Ulster Presbyterians in particular, excluded them from all civil and military offices under the Crown by requiring all who served in these capacities to take communion of the Established Church. Not only were they thus deprived of the rights of citizenship, but were required to pay tithes to support the clergy of the Episcopal Church, whose bishops were the chief instigators of their civil and religious disabilities.¹³

Where and when did the Scotch-Irish come in PA? And how many?

When did the migration begin? Where did the immigrants go? The first settlement of Scotch-Irish in America occurred as early as 1632 along the Eastern shore of Maryland when this new land was granted to Lord Baltimore; but the migration began in earnest about 1718 or 1719 after a series of bad harvests in Ulster. The immigrants landed at Philadelphia after a sea journey of two months or more during which they endured many hardships. From Philadelphia they went north to Bucks County

or south to Chester County, and a few, like the Chambers brothers, pushed their way along to the Susquehanna. This great river remained a barrier to further migration for some years...But finally the four Chambers brothers burst across the barrier about 1730, making their way down what was later to be called the Cumberland Valley.¹⁴

What are now Northampton, Lehigh, Lebanon, and Northumberland Counties were first settled by the Scotch-Irish. In brief, these were the first Scotch-Irish settlements in America.....a scattered few had come (1711-1714), but there was no distinctive immigration prior to 1727. After this, they began to pour into Pennsylvania...along the west bank of the Susquehanna.¹⁵

Famine struck Ireland in 1740 (Not to be confused with the potato crop failure that was the cause of the great Catholic Irish migration in 1845-47) 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 1740-41; for the next decade there was a tremendous exodus to America. This 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 opens out toward North and South Carolina. Arthur Young, writing in 1779, estimated that between 1728 and 1750 Ulster lost a quarter of her trading cash and probably a quarter of her population that had been engaged in manufacture. His comment, if accurate, suggests the caliber of men now leaving the country.¹⁶

The emigration of Ulster Scots to America on a large scale dates from the beginning of the eighteenth century. There was, however, a slight emigration of this group to the New World in the last decade of the seventeenth century, though it appears that only a small percentage of it was at this time directed to Pennsylvania. The first Scotch-Irish settlers in America located on the eastern shore of Maryland about 1649, and in South Carolina in 1682. It is probable that there were a few Scotch-Irish in southeastern Pennsylvania in 1685. A Presbyterian church was organized in Philadelphia in 1695, and it is likely that there were some Scotch-Irish in the membership. James Logan, who arrived at Philadelphia in 1699, was a Scotch-Irish Quaker, secretary of the province and confidential agent of William Penn. Nevertheless, the emigration of Ulster Scots prior to 1700 was slight, consisting of a few individuals or of small groups who, not yet oppressed at home, felt the impulse to seek a better environment abroad.

.....While there was a steady stream of emigration of Ulster Scots throughout the whole of the eighteenth century, there were certain periods when the tide was unusually strong; these were the years 1717-1718, 1727-1728, 1740-1741, 1771-1773.

.....Another great wave of emigration from Ulster began in 1740-1741. While the grievances previously described were still operating to produce discontent and to induce emigration, the immediate occasion of this particular exodus was the famine of 1740- 1741, which was quite as severe as that of 1727-1728, and probably even more devastating in its effects. It is estimated that within two years at least 400,000 people in Ireland perished from starvation. A large movement of population to America at once began, and continued for some years above the ordinary volume; in fact, for a decade or more Proud informs us that in 1749 and for several preceding years it amounted to nearly 12,000 annually in Pennsylvania alone.

Two facts stand out clearly with reference to the emigration from Ireland to America in the colonial era: it was large and it was Protestant. It is computed that from 1728 to 1750 Ulster lost one-fourth of her manufacturing population, and that the counties of Down, Antrim, Armagh, and Londonderry

"were almost emptied of their Protestant inhabitants." In the great exodus beginning in 1771, Ulster is said to have lost one-fourth of its population and one-fourth of its trading cash within five years. Newenham estimates that between 1750 and 1800 about 200,000 emigrated from Ireland, though not all of these came to America; and Woodburn is of the opinion that at least 200,000 emigrated from Ulster alone between 1700 and 1776. All the authorities are agreed upon the statement, and the evidence warrants it, that Irish emigration to America in the eighteenth century was overwhelmingly Protestant and mainly Presbyterian; and that the bulk of the emigrants were Ulster Scots, although there was a respectable number of Protestants emigrating from other parts of Ireland. The emigration of the Catholic Irish was very slight in this period, nor did it become noteworthy until well into the nineteenth century.

.....It is impossible to determine with certainty the number of Scotch-Irish immigrants into America in the colonial era, but taking into account the estimates of the authorities cited above and the known facts about the continuous and heavy emigration from Ireland to these shores extending over a period of three quarters of a century and more, we venture to compute this immigration at about 250,000 in the eighteenth century.

The principal American ports at which the Scotch-Irish emigrants debarked were Philadelphia, Newcastle, and Lewes, on the Delaware, and Charleston, South Carolina. But few landed at Boston or at any other New England port after 1720 because of the inhospitable reception accorded them in that section. A respectable number landed at New York, Baltimore, and Norfolk, and any southern port was likely to receive a few. The largest number, however, entered the country through the ports along the Delaware, especially Philadelphia. Late in the colonial era some landed preferably at Baltimore as being the most convenient way to reach western Pennsylvania.

There need be no wonder, however, as to why Pennsylvania was the favorite colony of the Scotch-Irish immigrants. They found here to a greater degree than existed elsewhere the political, economic, social, and religious conditions that appealed to them. They desired civil and religious liberty and economic opportunity, and these were to be found in Pennsylvania as nowhere else in America. Only in Rhode Island was religious liberty equally secure, but that was a small colony, already well settled, and land was neither so abundant nor so fertile as in Pennsylvania. Furthermore, the inhospitable reception they met with in New England, especially in Massachusetts, convinced them that they were not wanted there, whereas Penn had "invited People to come & settle his Country." Again, the excellent laws, low taxes, and general reputation of Pennsylvania throughout the world for its liberal institutions, together with the favorable reports of the first comers to the colony, served still further to persuade the Scotch-Irish that this was the haven they had long been seeking....

Prior to about 1718, Scotch-Irish immigration was directed to New England rather than to Pennsylvania. Being mostly Presbyterians and stout Calvinists, they had much in common with the Puritan settlers of New England, who had themselves fled from persecution to seek a refuge in the wilderness. What more natural, therefore, than that the Presbyterians of Ireland, conscious of a somewhat similar background and a certain community of interest in relation to the New Englanders, should bend their course in that direction. Upon arrival, however, they soon found that they were not welcome among the Puritans and that obstacles were thrown in their way. They were at once confronted with a bigotry, intolerance, and exclusiveness of which they had never dreamed, and which was quite as great as that they had left behind in Ireland. Hence, after a few settlements had been made in that bleak and inhospitable region, they turned their steps toward Pennsylvania and the South. Thus it happened that the majority of the emigrant ships carrying Ulster Scots to the New World landed their passengers on the shores of the Delaware.

As to the number of Scotch-Irish in Pennsylvania at the close of the colonial era, say 1790, it is impossible to speak with certainty Hanna estimates the Scottish element in Pennsylvania in 1790 at 100,000, but this includes both the Scots and the Scotch-Irish. If this estimate is correct, as there is every reason to believe it is, and if the Scotch-Irish numbered 80 per cent of the total, which would seem to be a conservative estimate, then we are warranted in computing the Scotch-Irish population of Pennsylvania in 1790 at 80,000.

....it is well established that prior to the immigration of 1717-1718, the Scotch- Irish had already effected settlements as early as 1710 in present Chester County and were pressing forward to the Susquehanna. The first Scotch-Irish group settlements in Pennsylvania were made in the western part of Chester County, in Lancaster County, and in the southern part of Dauphin County, as we now know these districts, though they were all embraced in Chester County until 1729.From 1720 to 1730 the Scotch-Irish were moving northward from Donegal Township in Lancaster County to present Dauphin County, settling principally on the Swatara and its affluents, with "scattered settlements along the foot of the first range of mountains."

.....In present Adams County the Scotch-Irish, who were the pioneers in this region, effected the "Marsh Creek Settlement" and the "Great Conewago Settlement" in the general vicinity of the present town of Gettysburg, around the year 1740. These settlements were small, however, and the Scotch-Irish influence in Adams County has never been especially noteworthy. The Scotch-Irish settlers in Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, York, and Adams Counties were located in a region predominantly German and rapidly becoming more so. Hedged in on all sides by increasing numbers of Germans in what was to become an integral part of Pennsylvania German-Land, they soon found themselves in an uncongenial environment. As a consequence, the Penns instructed their agents in 1743 to sell no lands to the Scotch-Irish throughout this region, but to make them generous offers of removal to the Cumberland Valley, farther to the westward. Since these offers were liberal, many of the Scotch-Irish accepted them

The first great settlement of the Scotch-Irish in Pennsylvania was in the Cumberland Valley, now comprising the counties of Cumberland and Franklin - one of the most beautiful and fertile sections of the commonwealth. This valley became the headquarters of the Scotch-Irish not only in Pennsylvania but in America as well. It was the seed-plot and nursery of their race, the original reservoir which, after having been filled to overflowing, sent forth a constant stream of emigrants to the northward and especially to the South and West. For a generation other racial groups were but scantily represented here. It was estimated that in 1751, when there were about five thousand people in the Valley, all except fifty families were either Scotch or Scotch-Irish, principally the latter. It is probable that at that time and for many years thereafter there was no area of similar extent in Pennsylvania as homogeneous as the Cumberland Valley, the camping ground of the Scotch-Irish, where about 90 per cent of the population were of that race down to the Revolution.

.....the provincial authorities encouraged settlement west of the Susquehanna by this racial group. Provincial policy favored settlement in the Cumberland Valley by the Scotch-Irish not only because of the ill feeling existing between them and the Germans, but also as a "cordon of defense" on the frontier against the Indians, as well as a means of safeguarding the territory against the intrusion of Marylanders along the southern border of the province. For some years also, in recognition of the hardships suffered by these settlers on the extreme frontier, they were excused from taxes, even for county purposes, and forbearance was exercised in postponing collection of payments for the land.

Furthermore, the character of the region to be occupied was inviting, the best land in the province to the eastward had already been taken up, and the newcomers were generally too poor to buy lands in that section. Again, the, Scotch- Irish, always a border people, had no aversion to the frontier....

The first comers in this region settled either as squatters or under the authority given by Blunston's licenses, but in 1736 the Indian claims to the land were extinguished, and thereafter the settlements could be legalized through purchase at the land office at Philadelphia. It must be admitted, however, that there were some who overlooked the detail of visiting the land office and proceeded to locate where fancy dictated. Others, though willing to pay were unable to do so, at least not until they had made their improvements and had accumulated the wherewithal to pay. This situation, however, was by no means peculiar to the Scotch-Irish, but prevailed quite generally on the frontier, regardless of the racial group to which the settlers belonged. As early as January 1726, James Logan had complained to Hannah Penn that "there are at this time near a hundred thousand acres possessed by persons, who resolutely sit down and improve, without any manner of Right or Pretence to it."

SETTLEMENTS IN THE JUNIATA VALLEY [including what is now Perry Co.]

Though there were many Germans and smaller numbers of other racial stocks occupying the Juniata Valley," the pioneer settlers of this region were prevailingly Scotch-Irish. Beginning as early as 1741, settlement of the valley proceeded slowly, being retarded by the ruggedness of the country, the lack of transportation facilities, and the French and Indian War. According to Jones, the historian of the Juniata Valley, the pioneers in this district were "nearly all Scotch-Irish." It appears that the early settlements throughout this area were in large part the result of the movement of the Scotch-Irish from the Cumberland Valley and from their other centers farther east, together with the pressure for new lands caused by another heavy wave of immigration from Ulster around 1749-50. Since most of the best lands to the eastward had already been occupied, it was but natural that there should be a movement to the hitherto unoccupied lands of the Juniata Valley. Furthermore, since the Scotch-Irish had long been the predominant racial group on the frontier and had by this time become the typical frontiersmen of the province, they naturally moved westward when they began to feel crowded in their old quarters. Thus we find them braving the hardships and dangers of the wild, which but served as a challenge to their adventurous natures.

When settlement of the Juniata Valley began in 1741, the lower part of this area was the first to be occupied. It was not, however, until after the French and Indian War that large and permanent settlements were effected throughout this territory. Since the Indian claims to this region were not relinquished until the Albany Purchase of 1754, lands that were occupied there before this time were without legal warrant and the settlers ran the risk not only of Indian hostility but also of being ejected as squatters. These considerations did not deter them, however, though eventually some were forcibly ejected as squatters, while others were massacred in the Indian wars. From 1755 to 1764 the hazards of settlement throughout this region were great, and even when there were no Indian wars in progress the hardships and privations were ever present.

.....Meanwhile straggling settlements were being made in present Perry County. Though the majority of the pioneers in this county were Scotch-Irish, the first settler appears to have been Frederick Starr, a German, who located with some companions, probably east of Big Buffalo Creek. After the opening of the land office in 1755 for the sale of lands in Sherman's Valley and on the Juniata, additional settlers came; the French and Indian War, however, prevented further immigration into this region for some years. When the war was over [1763], settlement proceeded more rapidly and by 1776 there was a considerable population in Perry County, especially in the vicinity of the mouth of the Juniata River and in Sherman's Valley. The pioneers were prevailingly Scotch-Irish, but there were many Germans and a few English. Eventually the Germans became the predominant racial strain in this county, and so remain to this day.

.....As we have noted, the pioneer settlers in the Juniata Valley were mainly Scotch-Irish, though there were many Germans and a few English, Scots, and French among them. The first settlements throughout this territory were made before the Indian claims had been extinguished. This gave rise to Indian complaints, and the provincial authorities, anxious to preserve the peace with the savages as well as to discourage squatters from occupying the land, took strong measures to eject them, burning their cabins in some instances and threatening them with dire penalties should they return.

.....Further trouble with the Indians was avoided by the Land Purchase of 1754, which included the region embraced in the Juniata Valley. The Indian wars, however, not only rendered settlement in this area hazardous, but resulted in the temporary abandonment of it by many of the inhabitants. Hence it was not until about 1766 or 1767 that it was reoccupied in force by the settlers who had fled, and that settlement on a larger and more permanent basis got well under way. By 1776 the more desirable portions of this mountainous district had received a considerable body of settlers, of whom the majority were Scotch-Irish, the Germans being the strongest minority group.¹⁷

What were they like?

Peculiar people these Scotch-Irish, they were poor but intelligent; needy but independent; paupers but princes; men not weaklings--they had their power within themselves. The influences of education in the schools King James had given to Ulster were upon them.....Their big Scotch brains and native wit, their warm passionate natures, their intense zeal and earnestness, marked them with distinctive individuality. No other nationality had greater integrity of purpose, more enthusiastic ardor or undaunted force of character.....¹⁸

Were the Scots-Irish as scrappy as their reputation suggests?

.....[1730 fight between Marylanders and Pennsylvanians] Such a state of affairs, such tumultuous excitement, kept peaceable and quiet settlers out of the territory. Not so the Scotch-Irish; to them it had allurements. What were they? "They would rather fight than eat."....Inheriting the blood of contention from stubborn forefathers, they found the possibilities for exercising contrariness in the disputed country west of the Susquehanna. It is not to be denied they made themselves very unpleasant to the governor and his tax-gatherers. Hardest and boldest of these settlers, they always pressed forward upon the wild frontier. They were foremost in the acquisition of dangerous country, and measured their fields beyond the most remote outposts.....¹⁹

The first serious clash between the Scotch-Irish and the Quaker government was over the question of military preparedness, now brought to a head by the French and Indian War. This war found Pennsylvania defenseless in the face of the enemy, and with a pacifist Quaker assembly upon whom rested the responsibility for measures of defense. the Quaker assembly failed to meet the emergency. Instead of arming for the fray, they expended their energies in petty squabbles with the proprietaries and in seeking to conciliate the Indians whose hands were red with the blood of the frontiersmen. ...

.....With the renewal of Indian barbarities during Pontiac's War, the questions at issue between the Scotch-Irish and the Quakers were revived and accentuated. The depredations committed against the frontier settlers at this time were even more distressing than those following Braddock's defeat, and the inhabitants were compelled to flee for their lives to the more settled parts of the province. The savages, plundering and massacring, advanced far into the interior, but the assembly, again under the control of the Quaker party, adopted a policy of appeasement toward the Indians. By this time the Scotch-Irish, thoroughly enraged over the scalping of their wives and children, had arrived at the conclusion that the only good Indian is a dead Indian, and resolved upon their extermination wherever found. It was one of the by-products of the Indian wars and one of the fruits of a mistaken Indian policy upon the part of the assembly. Had the assembly responded promptly and vigorously to the appeals of the frontiersmen for military protection, it would never have occurred.

SOLDIERLY QUALITIES OF THE SCOTCH-IRISH: that the Scotch-Irish have a genius for war has been abundantly proved on many a hard-fought battlefield. As their whole history shows, they came of fighting stock ... It was ever their lot to struggle against hostile forces, whether on the Scottish border, or in Ulster, or on the American frontier; nor did they fail to meet unflinchingly every menace to their liberties, from whatever direction it might come. From the beginning of their migration to Pennsylvania the Scotch-Irish "formed a cordon of defense around the non-fighting Quakers. Constituting the outer fringe of settlement and constantly exposed to Indian ravages, they occupied a position of extreme danger. Thus they became familiar with danger, inured to hardship, and ready at a moment's notice to defend their firesides or to march against the enemy."²⁰

Was there a difference between Scots who came to North America and the Scotch-Irish?

.....A clear distinction should be made at this point between colonists from Scotland and those from Ulster, for the two have often, to the complete distortion of events, been thought identical. It has already been noted that by 1717 Scots and Ulstermen were two different nationalities. Extensive emigration from Scotland to America occurred during the eighteenth century, possibly a fourth or a fifth as large as that from Ulster; but the reasons for Scottish emigration were distinct. Before the union of the two Crowns in 1707, many Scots were exiled as criminals and many more came as indentured servants or as merchants to America. After the Union, since Scots had equal rights with Englishmen, including the right of moving to the colonies, thousands came over to escape the grinding poverty at home. Defeat of the Highlanders in 1746, after the collapse of the Stuart cause, with the determination of the government to "civilize" these people, caused a large exodus; and the enclosure of lands, the dispossession of tenants, and the consequent dissolution of ties of personal loyalty binding man to chief, sent thousands of others to America. The pull from the colonies was, as usual, the opportunity for a better life. At times during the nineteenth century there came to be a positive "rage for emigration" throughout both Lowlands and Highlands.

Scots in America from the first showed traits clearly different from those of the Scotch-Irish. Scots were seldom explorers, Indian fighters, or frontier traders; they played only a minor role as pioneers, preferring to settle in the east and to carry on business enterprises. Their greatest difference from their Ulster cousins, however, was seen at the time of the American Revolution: whereas the Scotch-Irish were usually ardent patriots and notable fighters in the cause of the colonies, the Scots were, with notable exceptions, Loyalists faithful to the Crown. Only in their Presbyterianism and a few of their traits of personality did they resemble the Scotch-Irish. In North Carolina the Highland Scots for a long while retained their Gaelic language and even their Highland dress.

Children and grandchildren of the original Scotch-Irish settlers in America were always among the leaders in the move to the new West; but they were no longer Scotch-Irish in their social characteristics and outlook. Just as they were likely to become Methodists and Baptists instead of remaining Presbyterians, so they were likely to marry persons whose background may have been English or German. The memory of Ulster and its respectabilities and distinctions meant little or nothing to these constant pioneers. They were Americans.²¹

For a few more references, see this endnote.²²

Endnotes:

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotch-Irish_American

² Old New York frontier : its wars with Indians and Tories, its missionary schools, pioneers, and land titles, 1614-1800, Francis Whiting Halsey, 1901; pgs 188-119

³ The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania, Wayland F. Dunaway, 1944

⁴ History of York County Pennsylvania, John Gibson, historical editor, 1886, Page 290-298, the Scotch Irish, by R. C. Bair

⁵ The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania, Wayland F. Dunaway, 1944

⁶ Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research Volume I, Repositories and Records, by Margaret Dickson Falley, B.S., published by Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc. 1981.
<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mccl2/homepage/ulster.htm>

⁷ The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania, Wayland F. Dunaway, 1944

⁸ The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania, Wayland F. Dunaway, 1944

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¹⁰ The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania, Wayland F. Dunaway, 1944

¹¹ History of York County Pennsylvania, John Gibson, historical editor, 1886, Page 290-298, the Scotch Irish, by R. C. Bair

¹² Chambersburg, Frontier Town, 1730-1794, Paul Swain Havens, 1975, Pages 20-21

¹³ The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania, Wayland F. Dunaway, 1944

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¹⁵ History of York County Pennsylvania, John Gibson, historical editor, 1886, Page 290-298, the Scotch Irish, by R. C. Bair

¹⁶ The Scotch-Irish, A Social History by James G. Leyburn, published by The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, copyright 1962
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¹⁹ History of York County Pennsylvania, John Gibson, historical editor, 1886, Page 290-298, the Scotch Irish, by R. C. Bair

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²¹ The Scotch-Irish, A Social History by James G. Leyburn, published by The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, copyright 1962

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²² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster_Scots_people

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