

BAILIFF ROOTS IN SCOTLAND

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The route from Scotland to America discussed in this document is the route **Thomas Bailiff's ancestors** followed through the generations in arriving in Chester County, Pennsylvania. **Thomas Bailiff** is Scottish in origin. This group of Scots are referred to in America as Scot-Irish. The movement of the Scots-Irish in coming to America has been well documented with several books being written on the subject.

The Catholic Church was a part of Scotland's history up until the turbulent times of the 1500's. The fire and brimstone preacher John Knox influenced the establishment of Protestantism in the lowland area of Scotland. The northern half of Scotland remained Catholic (highlands) while the southern half of Scotland (lowlands) became staunchly protestant or Presbyterian. The southern half of Scotland adjoins England.

The effective preaching and public education by the Presbyterian Church in the lowlands of Scotland left the Scots with a deep rooted hatred of both religious authority and the old Catholic Church.

ULSTER, IRELAND

In 1603 King James of Scotland inherited the English and Irish thrones. This united the Crowns and made King James the king of England, Scotland and Ireland. King James was very much a protestant king. James's problem was the fact that Ireland had an extremely high population of Catholics and they had no love or tolerance for Protestants. James was of the opinion that the only way to pacify the Irish was to plant a group of protestant, English speaking settlers among them.

In 1607 the opportunity came to establish a settlement in Ireland. Two Ulster Chieftains, the earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell, fled to France rather than live under English rule. King James confiscated 3.8 million acres of their land. This 3.8 million acres of land was located in the very north part of Ireland and was called the Ulster Plantation. James encouraged the settlement of the Ulster Plantation by Scottish Presbyterians.

The lowland Scots were eager to move from their homes in southern Scotland to Ulster, Ireland mainly due to economic reasons. Their homeland was becoming over populated and the land rents were too high to make a living. Ulster, Ireland, was just a short distance across the Irish Sea from southern Scotland.

In Ulster, the Scots were able to rent land for a period of 21 to 31 years. Prior to the Scots coming to Ulster, this land was granted to English and Scottish men of high standing who had served the king. The Scots could only lease or rent this land. The Scots thought this would be a good way to improve their economic situation.

By 1717, a good life was not to be found by the Ulster Scots in Ireland. They were despised by the Irish Catholics, forced by England to pay tithes to support the Anglican church, could not participate in government and as recent immigrants they were not very attached to their homeland. The land leases for many of the Scots were now up. The landlords raised the rents so high that the Scots could not survive. This triggered a mass migration to America.

The first great wave of emigration by the Ulster Scots occurred in 1717 to 1720. Another big wave of emigration followed in 1725 to 1727 when land leases west of Ulster came up for renewal and were greatly increased. **When famine struck Ulster in 1740 and 1741, the stream of emigrants to Philadelphia reached 12, 000 yearly. EDWARD BAYLIFF shows up in the 1740 Chester County, Pa, tax records for the first time.** In between the high emigration periods, Scots continued to come to America at a much slower pace except during the revolution when emigration stopped. Upon arrival in America, these Scots from the Ulster area of Northern Ireland were known as Scots Irish. In 1754-55 another disastrous drought hit Ulster and spurred another surge of emigration. The last big emigration was 1771-1775 when leases on the large estate of the Marquis of Donegal in County Antrim expired and the tenants couldn't afford to renew the rent.

How did the Scots Irish immigrants travel to America? A linen trade had established an overseas trade route between the ports of Ireland and Philadelphia. Ship-owners and sea captains who hauled hundreds of tons of flaxseed annually from Pennsylvania to Ulster were eager for a paying cargo for the return voyage. They actively recruited emigrants to come to Pennsylvania. The emigrants could pay their own passage or come as indentured servants. The indentured servant worked for four to seven years in return for passage to Pennsylvania. Most indentured servant records become a part of the court records in Pennsylvania.

The majority of the Scots Irish emigrants to America were Presbyterian. They came from five Ulster ports: Londonderry, Portrush, Larne, Belfast and Newry. A lesser number came through the ports of Cork, Drogheda, **DUBLIN**, Sligo and Waterford.

In the 32 year period of 1718 to 1750, a period covering the largest Scots Irish migration from Ulster, two hundred and sixty five Quaker families came to Pennsylvania. One hundred and thirty five of these families were from Ulster. It is likely a number of these families were Scots Irish. They came largely from Quaker meetings at Antrim, Ballenderry, Ballinacree and Lisburn in County Antrim the heart of the Scots Irish Country. A large number also came from County Armagh. **There are likely many family ties between the Ulster Quaker and the Ulster Presbyterians.**

By 1740 most of the rich lands around Philadelphia had been occupied and the prices had risen. This forced the Scotch Irish families arriving after 1740 to move on westward filling up Chester and Lancaster Counties and crossing the Susquehanna River into York County. The Scots Irish were willing to go where cheap land could be had.

Chester County, Pa, 1740 tax records establish that **EDWARD BAYLIFF** appears for the first time in West Bradford Twp. Famine had struck Northern Ireland in 1740 resulting in a migration of families from Ireland to Chester County, Pa. **EDWARD BAYLIFF** had just arrived from Ireland in 1740 so he would be considered one of the famine immigrants. A record has recently been found on Family Search website showing that **EDWARD BAYLY** was born in 1714 in **DUBLIN, IRELAND**. It looks very likely this **EDWARD BAYLY** is the **EDWARD BAYLIFF** arriving in Chester County, Pa, in 1740. It appears that **EDWARDS** name changed from **BAYLY** to **BAYLIFF** to **BAILIFF**. The English were usually the keepers of official records in America. It wasn't unusual for there to be spelling errors in names they didn't know how to spell. Sometimes the immigrant accepted the name change. **BAYLY** sounds like **BAILEY**. Both **EDWARD** and his brother **THOMAS** have a number of connections with the **BAILY FAMILY** in Chester County, Pa, and Orange County, North Carolina. The possibility is great that **EDWARD** and **THOMAS'S** father [**EDWARD**] was deceased before **EDWARD** and **THOMAS** left Dublin, Ireland.

The Scots who poured into Philadelphia from Ulster were hardy middle class farmers and craftsmen who suffered in the old world from their industriousness and their religious beliefs. Most of them came from the poor, rural counties of Northern Ireland: Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Firmanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone where English rule had grown increasingly severe.

The principle reason for the movement of the Scots Irish from Pennsylvania to North Carolina was the scarcity of good land on the Pennsylvania frontier and the prohibitive cost of farms farther east. Other causes were disputed boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania and rapid population growth. County records also support the fact that families often migrated to North Carolina and other states to the south of Pennsylvania immediately after the death of the father or family patriarch.