

**SCOTCH IRISH PEOPLE ON THE ULSTER PLANTATION WERE UNDER
ECONOMIC PRESSURE AND BECOMING RESTLESS**

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Society in the Ulster plantation consisted of a small landholding elite class that held economic and political supremacy over a large, poor body of tenants. The vast majority of these tenants, the Scots, were in an oppressed religious minority. They were subject to British rule as a colony. They were also recent immigrants who were not very attached to their homeland.

The Scots had come to Ulster for a better life. In the 18th century, that life was not to be found. Around Ulster land was scarce, rents continually going higher and the economy was poor. If you were a Presbyterian that meant you could not take a role in government. But you had to pay tithes to the Anglican Church. This led many Presbyterian ministers to preach against the British authorities and encourage unrest and discontent among their congregations. These ministers encouraged the Scot-Irish to go to America.

But religion was not the only motivation for migration. Rising rent, low wages and low prices on goods, combined with a period of crop failure left many people impoverished. Because of the population growth, farmable land was scarcer and landlords could charge higher rents. When leases expired, the land was rented out to the highest bidder. **Vast numbers of people left Ulster for America between the years 1717 to 1727, which corresponds to the end of the leases issued in the 1690s.**

SOURCE: The Migration of the Scots-Irish to Southwestern North Carolina.