

SCOTCH IRISH PASSAGE TO AMERICA

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The English landlords no longer had a need for the soldier farmers. There had been no harvest for five years due to the ravages of war and several severe winters. This area of the Scots-Irish was hit by bad weather the same as the Palatines living in Germany. This created the need for emigration in the early 1700s. **A wave of Scotch-Irish immigrants left Ireland in the 1720s. They faced the same dangers that the Palatines did as they left Germany about the same time period. The Palatines were better record keepers of their journey than the Scotch-Irish. Here is an account of the debarkation process in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, New Castle, Delaware, and other eastern ports.**

When a ship arrived in port, the ones who could pay full price were allowed to pay and get off the boat. Next the heathy ones were sold to their new masters for full fee. **There was a great need for labor in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and other areas on the frontier.** Lastly the unhealthy ones were sold at auction to the highest bidder. This process often took several weeks. If one of the family died, the rest of the family members were held accountable for passage fees of the deceased. However, like the Germans, the Ulstermen thought they had found the promise land.

There was continual movement out of Pennsylvania by the Scotch-Irish and Germans in search of cheap land. There were people coming and going all the time on the "Great Wagon Road" to the south into Virginia on down into the Carolinas. Relatives were often still living in Chester County Pennsylvania and other Counties around Chester County. The family would often return to Chester County for a visit by way of the "Great Wagon Road". These stays might be up to a year or more. Because of the high price and the lack of land in and around Chester County younger sons would often settle land in Virginia and the Carolinas. Once the father died in Chester County, the son usually returned for the final time to settle the estate.

SOURCE: Scots Irish Immigration of the 1700s.