

SCOTCH IRISH MOVE TO THE FRONTIER

Transcribed By: Ron Cornwell

Most Scotch-Irish headed for Pennsylvania, with its good lands, moderate climate, and liberal laws. **By 1750, the Scotch-Irish were about a fourth of the population**, rising to about a third by the 1770s. Without much cash, they moved to free lands on the frontier, becoming the typical western “squatters”, the frontier guard of the colony, and what the historian Frederick Jackson Turner described as “**the cutting edge of the frontier**”.

The Scotch-Irish moved up the Delaware River to Bucks County, and then up the Susquehanna and Cumberland valleys, finding flat lands along the rivers and creeks to set up their log cabins, their grist mills, and their Presbyterian churches. **Chester, Lancaster and Dauphin counties because their strongholds**, and they built towns such as Chambersburg, Gettysburg, Carlisle and York; the next generation moved into western Pennsylvania. **With large numbers of children who needed their own inexpensive farms, the Scotch-Irish avoided areas already settled by Germans and Quakers and moved south, through the Shenandoah Valley, and through the Blue Ridge Mountains into Virginia.** These migrants followed the Great Wagon Road from Lancaster, through Gettysburg, and down through Staunton, Virginia, to Big Lick [now Roanoke], Virginia. **Here the pathway split, with the Wilderness Road taking settlers west into Tennessee and Kentucky, while the main road continued south into the Carolinas.**

SOURCE: Scotch-Irish Americans From Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia.