# SCOTCH IRISH SETTLING IN AMERICA
## Transcribed By: Ron Cornwell

Scholarly estimate is that over **200,000 Scotch-Irish** migrated to the Americas **between 1717 and 1775**. As a late arriving group, the Scotch-Irish found that land in the coastal areas of the British colonies was either already owned or too expensive, **so they quickly left for the more mountainous interior where land could be obtained cheaply**. Here they lived on the first frontier of America. Early frontier life was extremely challenging, but poverty and hardship were familiar to them. The term hillbilly has often been applied to their descendants in the mountains, carrying connotations of poverty, backwardness and violence; this word has its origins in Scotland and Ireland.

The first trickle of Scotch-Irish settlers arrived in New England. **Valued for their fighting prowess as well as for their Protestant dogma, they were invited by Cotton Mather and other leaders to come over to help settle and secure the frontier**. In this capacity, many of the first permanent settlements in Maine and New Hampshire, especially after 1718, were Scotch-Irish and many place names as well as the character of Northern New Englanders reflect this fact. The Scotch-Irish brought the potato with them from Ireland [although the potato originated in South America, it was not known in North America until brought over from Europe]. In Maine it became a staple crop as well as an economic base.

**From 1717 to the next thirty or so years, the primary points of entry for the Ulster immigrants were Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and New Castle, Delaware**. The Scotch-Irish radiated westward across the Alleghenies, as well as into Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee. **The typical migration involved small networks of related families who settled together, worshipped together, and intermarried, avoiding outsiders.**

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