SCOTS IRISH ARE FROM THE LOWLANDS OF SCOTLAND AND THE BORDER OF NORTHERN ENGLAND
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The origins of the Scotch-Irish are primarily in the **Lowlands of Scotland** and in **northern England**, **particularly in the Border Country on either side of the Anglo-Scottish border**, a region that had seen centuries of conflict.   In the near constant state of war between England and Scotland during the middle ages, the livelihood of the people on the borders was devastated by the contending armies.   Even when the countries were not at war, tension remained high, and royal authority in one or the other kingdom was often weak.   The uncertainty of existence led the people of the borders to seek security through a system of family ties, similar to the clan system in the Scottish Highlands.   Known as the "**Border Reivers**", these families relied on their own strength and cunning to survive, and a culture of cattle raiding and thievery developed.

Scotland and England became unified under a single monarch with the Union of the Crowns in 1603, when **JAMES VI, KING OF SCOTS**, succeeded **QUEEN ELIZABET I** as ruler of England.   In addition to the unstable border region, **KING JAMES VI** also inherited **QUEEN ELIZABETH'S** conflicts in Ireland.   Following the end of the **IRISH NINE YEARS' WAR** in 1603, and the **FLIGHT OF THE EARLS [**from Ireland**]** in 1607, **JAMES** embarked in 1609 on a systematic plantation of **English and Scottish Protestant Settlers** to Ireland's northern province of **ULSTER.**   The **PLANTATION OF ULSTER** was seen as a way to relocate the **BORDER REIVER FAMILIES** to Ireland to bring peace to the **ANGLO-SCOTTISH BORDER COUNTRY** [result of their removal] and also to provide fighting men who could suppress the native Irish in Ireland [this ability was used later on the American Frontier].

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

NOTES: Most of the Scotch-Irish coming from Ireland to America were descendants of Scottish Presbyterians originating from Scotland.   They held strong opinions on religion and education.