

New England colonies the journal of John Winthrop credits Darby Fields with discovering the White Mountains. He was a native of Slieve Bhan in Roscommon (which in Gaelic means white mountain.) The General Court records concern the Irish at many points. In 1636, it directed all Irish to "bear arms and train others." It directed John Downes of Banden Bridge, Cork, to transport three shiploads of Irish immigrants to Massachusetts, 550 natives of Cork, Waterford and Wexford arrived in Massachusetts in 1653. The Boston Town Records are filled with native Irish names. Calvin Coolidge has traced his ancestry to Teague Barron of Kilkenny who arrived in Massachusetts in 1635. By 1682, 33 per cent of the General Court was either Irish or of Irish descent. In 1643, John Cogan doubled Harvard College's land area with a gift of 50 acres. The Anglo-Irish conflict was prominent too. Cornelius Merry of Wexford was ordered "to be whipped 20 stripes for abusing English authority by seditious speech." Jane Sullivan was publically whipped for refusal to attend Puritan church services. By 1790, Lowell's population was 52 per cent Irish and had a Gaelic newspaper since 1750. By 1739 Petersborough, Massachusetts was founded by an all Irish group of 184 people.

In Pennsylvania, a group of 200 Irish Quakers arrived with William Penn, who was converted in Cork in 1666. The Pennsylvania Archives reveal 5,655 people of Irish birthright were in Pennsylvania in 1729. In 1728, 4,500 people from Ireland arrived in Delaware. The most famous fighting battalion in the Revolutionary war was the Pennsylvania Line. It was 90 per cent Irish and praised by George Washington and General Harry Lee. Daniel Morgan of Ireland was its leader. The records of two Moravian missionaries are filled with terms like "Irish", "Irish tracts of land", "Irish coin", etc.

The Virginia Archives has a letter written in Leinster Gaelic by a Francis Maguire. It was a prospectus of the colony to be sent to a Spanish merchant-investor. Captain John Smith records a Daniel Goolin of Cork, leading 125 people to Virginia. In 1649, a ship with 100 Galway people landed in Newport News. In the Shenandoah Valley there are areas called "New Dublin", "New Wexford", etc.

Colonial New York was a center of Irish influence too. Names like James Duane, Thomas Dongan need no explanation to historians. The early New York papers tell the story of the St. Patrick's Day parade as early as 1700. Irish names on the town records have "ill" after them signifying illegitimate. This was done because children of all not married in the Dutch Reformed Church were considered illegitimate.

The greatest Irish influence lies in Kentucky and it is here where history claims "Scotch-Irish" inhabitants. In the Kentucky Educational building the bark of a tree with the engraved name "James McBride, 1754", is held there. It was he who first explored Kentucky, not Daniel Boone. Boone first reached this area in 1769 where he was taught to reach and write by Thomas McGee, a schoolmaster from Leinster. The names of landowners in the Kentucky Register were 53 per cent native Irish as late as 1785. From Kentucky men like Patrick Kennedy, McGarry, Hogan and McBride moved westward across the Mississippi River. The Carolinas and Georgia were not disregarded by Irish immigrants. Atlanta's first St. Patrick's Day parade was in 1715.

Mentioned previously was the great number of Irish schoolmasters who entered the colonies. It should be noted that the men who created our American democracy were educated by Irish scholars. Alexander Hamilton was taught by Dr. Hugh Knox of Armagh; William Cochrane taught John Randolph of Roanoke; Roger B. Taney was instructed by James McCormick and David McConeughy; Peter McLouth trained John Hancock and the very "Penman of the Revolution", John Dickinson was trained by Francis Allen and William Keller. All these teachers were exiled from Ireland.

The Scotch-Irish phrase has become popular--it is fallacious. Irish influence cannot be denied, although many seem to try.

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