

Away...I'm Bound Away

Migration into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia



Oh, Shenandoah...I long to hear you...Away you rollin' river...

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Germans

There were three main waves prior to the Revolution.

1. 1683-1710 -- beginning with the founding of Germantown (in/near Philadelphia). Few immigrants.

- Pennsylvania Germans had their own ship, "Concord".

2. 1710-1727 -- immigration was reaching large proportions, publishing of statistics began. Increasing numbers. Mostly Swiss Mennonites. Quite stubborn, refusing to bear arms. Many returned to Switzerland. The plan was to force them to proceed through Holland, hoping they would be deported to America. Holland and England said no. Mennonites of Berne could sell property, take their families and sail with free passage down the Rhine – if they would promise never to return! Came to Conestogoe (Lancaster).

3. 1727-1776 -- outbreak of Revolution, put an end to all immigration. Large numbers. Provincial Council (1727) required masters of all vessels importing Germans and other foreigners to prepare a list of such persons, their occupations and place from whence they came. Also signed a declaration of allegiance and subjection to the king of Great Britain, and of fidelity to Proprietary of Pennsylvania. Sometimes listed number of Protestants and Catholics.

- Germans were loyal to the land. If they fought against the principles and demands of the English crown, they did it alongside stiffbacked Presbyterians, whose veins were filled with blood like that of the enemy they fought. They were among the first to fight. Mennonites fought with the plow – farming, making warm clothing, making shots and shells.

Quakers in Virginia

Colonial Virginia held much animosity against Quakers. Those who defied the law were subjected to whippings and imprisonment. Many lost farmland, stock, and crops.

A short history of the Quakers in Colonial times:

- Quakers were flocking to Maryland, where the Act of Toleration was practiced by the Catholic Church.
 - Some went on to North Carolina, and established meetinghouses and left lots of records.
- Quakers were vulnerable. They would not resist or defend themselves.
- Wherever they lived, they held the same beliefs.
 - All people could choose their beliefs.

- Europe, New England, and Virginia held no state church, but allowed no doctrinal differences.
- The Church of England was the major religion in Virginia. Puritans, Quakers, and other sects were not welcome.
 - Quaker converts were frequently punished by their own families. Most would end up being disinherited.
- Thousands of early Virginians became Quakers.
 - The earliest Quaker missionaries were after 1650.
 - Court records show severe punishments for home meetings.
- Property was confiscated, fines and tithes and 'priest costs' had to be paid to the Anglican church.
 - Homes were invaded. Military leaders confiscated pewter to make bullets.
 - Several became "redemptioners".
 - It involved selling themselves to the shipping agent to pay for their passage.
 - When they arrived in Pennsylvania, the captain sold them to the colonists.
 - They worked to pay their owner for a period of five to ten years. There was no lasting stigma or disgrace because it was considered a business transaction.

Just before the Revolutionary War, there were reasons for Quakers to be on the move.

- They were under strict teachings concerning slavery.
- Look to monthly meetings for 'disownings'.
 - If you have Virginia or North Carolina Quakers that 'disappear' before and after the Revolutionary War, look to Ohio valley – good land for less acreage.
 - Look to courthouse records for fines and grievances, for as conscientious objectors, they would not fight or supply goods to the cause.

The Scots-Irish

Four principal British migrations:

1. Puritans, mostly middle class, from eastern counties of England to Massachusetts Colony, 1629-1640.
2. Small Cavalier elite, some middle class, and a large group of indentured servants from western and southern English counties to Virginia Tidewater area, 1642-1675.
3. Quakers from north midland counties of England and Wales to Delaware Valley (Pennsylvania) 1675-1725.
4. English-speaking people from the northern counties of England, Scottish lowlands and Province of Ulster (Scots-Irish) to Appalachian backcountry of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Carolinas, 1718-1775.

- They left Scotland because the land could no longer support them due to ravages of war and high rents.
 - Also hit by the same bad weather as the Palatines in Germany.
 - Estimated close to 500,000 emigrated 1730-1770.
- Most considered native Irish quite barbarous. Hoped the Scots would help to pacify the Irish.
 - Poverty and persecution caused them to be separate and second class citizens.
- At the close of the 17th century, English landowners began persecuting the Presbyterians again.

- Presbyterians could not be married in their own church without being labeled “fornicators”.
- Could hold no position above postman.
- Many paid passage by agreeing to four years as indentured servants.
 - Plenty of fertile and free land in America.
- Many parallels between Palatine migration and Scots-Irish migration.
 - Both were non-conformist Protestants.
 - Both were hit hard by warfare and persecution.
 - Both were mainly farmers, hit hard by severe weather.
- The voyage was severe and not atypical.
 - Usually lasted 2-3 weeks, ships were overloaded, rations were short and food was vermin ridden, water was stagnant and scummy.
- The Scots-Irish occupied the hills around the settlements in Pennsylvania and Maryland. They chose land that reminded them of home.
 - Early settlements were along the coast and navigable rivers. Scots-Irish obtained what was left and moved further inland.
 - Those that were indentured set out for the frontier immediately.
 - Indentured servants were treated as “temporary help”, not valued property.
 - The “frontier” was 40-50 miles west of Philadelphia and south into Maryland.
- They marked their property by cutting their initials into trees, then cut circles in the bark to kill the tree.
 - They refused to pay for the land, since God owned it.
- Irish wives spun flax, milled the corn, worked in the fields and bore 10-15 children and educated them.
- They felled the trees and cleared around the stumps, rather than clearing the land.
- They were known for drinking, arguing, singing and dancing.
 - Neighbors gathered to clear land, build houses, harvest crops, THEN they partied.
- They were used to form a barrier around the English and the Germans, cordoning them from the Indians.
 - For every Native American killed, 40 Irish settlers were either killed or kidnapped.
 - They began to move down the Cumberland to Virginia and the Carolinas.
- They dominated the Shenandoah Valley. By 1730, they were pouring into it.
- The old reivers of the Scots-English border became the frontiersmen and the mountain men.
 - “Border reivers/reivers” were raiders and robbers along England/Scotland border.
 - The tenant farmers of the Scots settled in many of the same areas as the Palatines.
 - They proved to be more scrappy than the Germans.
 - Presbyterian Scots never had a pacifist background as did the Anabaptist Palatines.
 - They were clannish, aggressive, violent and devoted to their livestock.
 - They influenced the south more than any other group.
- During the French and Indian War, the Scots-Irish were among the first to suffer the most.
- Augusta Stone Church and Tinkling Spring Church (Shenandoah Valley) became a refuge.

- After the war, they were full of self-confidence and ready to take on anything. Became very active in government, and were for autonomy and independence.
 - The Calvinists of New England fired the first shot in the Revolution, but were soon joined by the Scots-Irish from Pennsylvania and Maryland.

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