Session 1: Irish Migrations to America and Canada: From the 18ᵗʰ to the 20ᵗʰ Centuries

Ann G. Lawthers, ann.lawthers@nehgs.org

To find your ancestor's place of origin in Ireland, it helps to understand the history of Ireland at the time they left. What was pushing them out of their homeland? Studying the migration paths and settlement patterns of our ancestors can serve as clues for discovering the origins of our Irish ancestors.

Objectives

1. Identify push-pull factors for the 18ᵗʰ through the early 20ᵗʰ century.
2. Highlight important group migrations by time period and destination in North America.
3. Provide resources for understanding the various migrations and for finding your ancestor's name.

Migration to 1775

Push Pull Factors

Push	Pull
Economic 　　　Rack-renting 　　　Drought/bad harvests 　　　Famine	Economic 　　　　　Land 　　　　　Fishing 　　　　　Business
Religious persecution	Religious tolerance
Political refugees 　　　1798 rebellion	Chain migration – follow one's family and friends

Migration Waves from Ulster

Time Period	Destination
1717-18	Boston and then to New Hampshire and Maine Ports of Philadelphia and Charleston, SC
1725-1729	Southeastern Pennsylvania
1740-1741	Port of Philadelphia and the Great Valley
1754-1755	North Carolina
1771-1775	Carolinas
1749	Nova Scotia, Halifax
1760-1765	Nova Scotia, Truro, Londonderry, Pictou, Granville

Pre-Famine Migration

Push Pull Factors

Push	Pull
Population growth	Work – canal building, timber
Sub-divided land plots and landlord consolidating holdings	Group settlement activities
Agrarian terrorism	Land
Political refugees 1798 rebellion	

Famine to 1880 Migration

More emigrants went to the U.S. rather than Canada, in part because the 1847 emigration experience resulted in high death rates on "coffin ships." Typhus and then cholera infected many of the 1847 passengers to Canada. The diseases spread to Quebec and Montreal and prompted the imposition of a head tax on immigrants in 1848.

Migration since 1880

Push Pull Factors

Push	Pull
Changes in land inheritance	Employment
Women needed dowries	Safer, cheaper passage
Agrarian terrorism	Chain migration
Political refugees 1798 rebellion	

Suggested Reading

Migrations to 1775

Bolton, Charles K, *Scotch Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America* (reprint Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989 from 1910 print).

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Gleeson, David T., *The Irish in the South 1815-1877* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2001).

Punch, Terrence M., *North America's maritime funnel : the ships that brought the Irish, 1749-1852* (Baltimore, MD : Genealogical Publishing Company, 2012).

Famine Migrations to 1880

Glazier, Michael A and Michael Tepper, *The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983-1987).

National Archives and Records Administration, Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File (FIPAS), 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851. https://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=639&cat=GP44&bc=,sl&col=1002

Migration since 1880

Diner, Hasia, *Erin's Daughters in America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1983).