

Finding Irish Origins

Class 1: Irish Migrations to America and Canada:

From the 18th to the 20th Centuries

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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.

Colonial Migration

Push Pull Factors

Push	Pull
Economic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rack-renting• Drought/bad harvests• Famine	Economic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land• Fishing• Business
Religious persecution	Religious tolerance
Political refugees <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1798 rebellion	

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