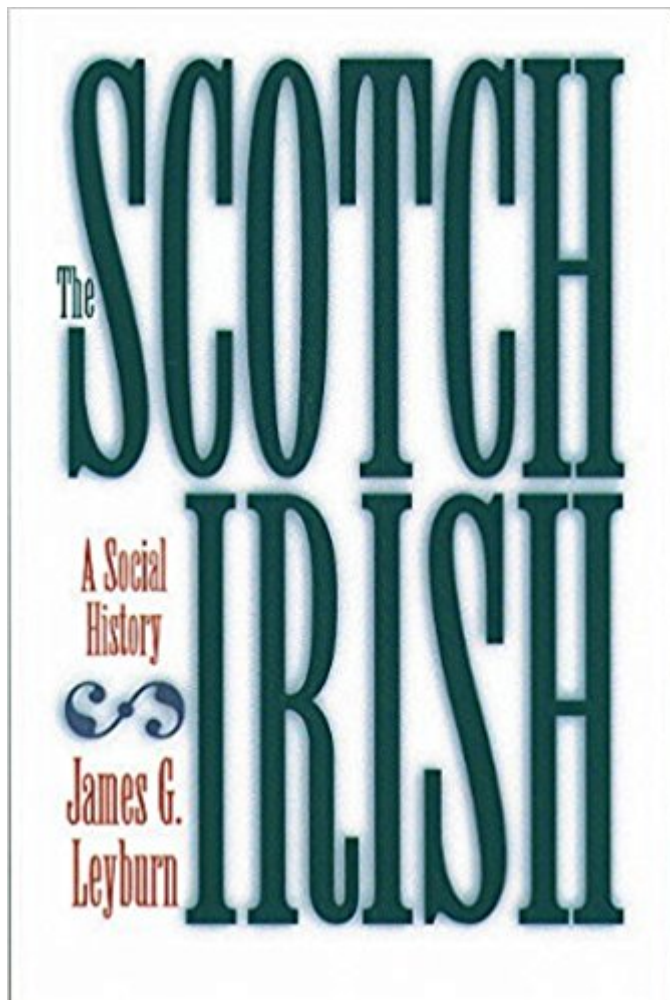


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The Scotch-Irish: A Social History



Synopsis

Dispelling much of what he terms the 'mythology' of the Scotch-Irish, James Leyburn provides an absorbing account of their heritage. He discusses their life in Scotland, when the essentials of their character and culture were shaped; their removal to Northern Ireland and the action of their residence in that region upon their outlook on life; and their successive migrations to America, where they settled especially in the back-country of Pennsylvania, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, and then after the Revolutionary War were in the van of pioneers to the west.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This admirable book takes a fresh and frank look at the Scotch-Irish."Journal of Presbyterian History"Work . . . of such merit that it should supersede most of its predecessors."Mississippi Valley Historical Review"Shrewd and novel speculations on frontier society and national character. . . . The best survey yet of the Scotch-Irish."American Historical Review"Clearly written and well organized. . . . Leyburn has provided the general reader with an extremely useful account."North Carolina Historical Review"A most readable contribution to the growing body of sophisticated literature on immigration in the colonial period."Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography"

Shrewd and novel speculations on frontier society and national character. . . . The best survey yet of the Scotch-Irish.--American Historical ReviewThis admirable book takes a fresh and frank look at the Scotch-Irish, examining with discernment the effect on them of their long migration from

Scotland through Ulster to colonial America. . . . Soundly conceived and written with insight and verve, the book dispels some common misconceptions of the Scotch-Irish.--Journal of Presbyterian History[Leyburn] has produced the best synthesis of what is known of the Scotch-Irish in their two centuries as an identifiably distinct people. . . . It is a tribute to the author's skill in writing that the epic quality survives even when he has discredited the many myths that have come to surround it. . . . We have to thank [Leyburn] for a most readable contribution to the growing body of sophisticated literature on immigration in the colonial period.--Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography

Sociologists interested in the field of intergroup relations will read with interest this sweeping social history of the Scotch-Irish. . . . A substantial contribution to the literature on American ethnic groups.--American Sociological Review

Particularly welcome as a general study of the Scotch-Irish before and during their move to America. . . . This book shows clearly the usefulness of an interdisciplinary approach to social history.--Maryland Historical Magazine

The work of an able sociologist who is equally proficient as a historian, this scholarly, objective study of a significant immigrant group is of such merit that it should supersede most of its predecessors. Against the background of the history of the Lowland Scot, as he moved from Scotland to Ireland to America, the author has made a sober reappraisal of how character and culture were molded by these migrations. His style is clear and most readable.--Mississippi Valley Historical Review

Clearly written and well organized. The chief value of the work lies in its successful attempt to provide a natural connection between Scotch-Irish history in Scotland and Ulster and that in America. . . . Leyburn has provided the general reader with an extremely useful account.--North Carolina Historical Review

This is an informative book, giving a lot of background information about the Scots and conditions in Scotland prior to the start of the Scots migration to the Belfast Plantation, their experience in the Belfast Plantation, and their migration to and settling in America. It was a good read, but more like a textbook. It supplements several other books I've read lately about the Scots-Irish and their impact on America.

What a great book! I'm new to this history, and I thought it was very nice to break up the history of the Scotch-Irish into 3 periods: when they were in Scotland a long-long time ago, when they were in Ireland a long time ago, and when they were in America before the Revolution. It really puts into perspective some of the early colonists who settled and then headed "out west" into PA, VA, and the Carolinas. I'm very happy about my purchase. One thing to note in the Kindle version, there is

some amount of scanning issues, where the letters didn't exactly come out perfect. For example, "king" might look like "ling." It was the most distracting towards the middle of the book, but overall it wasn't too bad. Again, I would definitely recommend this book to someone interested in Scotch-Irish history.

Great story of the Scotch-Irish and their migration to the Ulster Plantation and then on to America. Leyburn gives not only a historical narrative but also the rationale for why people moved. This really helps to put things in context. It is a worthwhile read for those of Scotch Irish background. Only negative comments is that it is a bit dated so some of the words used are no longer politically correct in the current environment. But that is a minor point in the big picture.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book it gave me a much better understanding of the strong determination of the Scot Irish people who settled this country. The strong willed people let nothing stand in their way of starting a new life where they would not be oppressed by the Catholics or the English. I recommend it to all who are descendants of these brave strong Americans who not only migrated from Ireland but then moved west to settle and build our country west of the Mississippi river.

An excellent review of the low-land Scots and their movement into Northern Ireland (Ulster). The level of detail of their culture (or absence of one) and daily life styles is very interesting. If you have these folks in your genetic history, a real must read.

Well written-from the establishment of the Ulster Plantation, to the miserable slaughter of "meen people", gives a historical perspective often not known of in our understanding of our establishment, not only of the Americas, but of the times thereof. Bought multiple copies for family members. Very good bibliography for those who want to research further.

I gave this book as a gift to my niece - no word from her yet. I was gifted a copy many, many years ago by a fellow genealogist, and I thoroughly enjoyed the read. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to understand their Scots-Irish ancestors and heritage.

An excellent explanation of how the Scots-Irish became a "separate people"- -neither Scots nor Irish. The role of John Knox and the Presbyterian Church in the development of their character was explained and supported with documentation. The events taking place in England, Scotland, Ireland

and on the Continent that caused the eventual migration to the "new world" were documented with names of people, places, ships and ports. Great resource for those doing genealogy research on their Scots-Irish roots.

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