

- 1  **British Roots**
Four Colonial Migrations
as Clues to British Ancestry

Martha Teeter, Davis, CA
teeter@ucdavis.edu
- 2  **Main Migrations 1629-1775**
 - 1  ●The East Anglia Puritans, 1629 –1640 (about 21,000 immigrants)
 - The Cavaliers and their Servants from Southwest England to the Chesapeake, 1641 – 1675 (~45,000 immigrants)
 - 2  ●North Midlands English Quakers to the Delaware Valley, 1675 – 1725 (~23,000 immigrants)
 - The "Scots-Irish" to Backwoods America, 1717 – 1775 (~250,000 immigrants)
- 3  **Atlantic Coast Colonies 1607-1626**
 - Mostly unmarried young men
 - Early Jamestown, only one had descendants
 - Different nationalities – French, Dutch, English, Swedish
 - Plymouth Colony 1620 was families – in 1691, it became part of the Mass Bay Colony
- 4  **1. Great Puritan Migration (1629-1640) – 11 years of Tyranny**
 - 1  ●Charles I 1625-1649. In 1629 disabled Parliament to rule unimpeded
 - Archbishop William Laud persecuted Puritans
 - Economic depression & epidemic disease
 - Great Migration - 80,000 Puritans left – 20,000 to Ireland, 20,000

to the Netherlands/Rhineland, 20,000 to Barbados, Nevis and St. Kitts, and 20,000 to New England

- 2 ● “City on a Hill” show Puritan life
- Election, strict rules, report your neighbor – Calvinist
 - Educated, most paid passage and had a trade
 - Twice chosen (by God and the Mass Bay Company)
 - Yankees doubled every generation for 100 years to 16 million in 1988 from 11 years

5 **The Elite of New England**

- Elite ministers intermarried – Winthrop-Downing-Dudley-Endecott, Bradstreet-Cotton-Mather – from 7 eastern English counties
- One Matriarch was Sarah Story Cotton Mather
- Ministers dressed in black (status)
- Ordinary people used “sad” colors such as liver, tawny, puce or *feuille morte* (dead leaf)

6

7 **British County Origin of Puritans**

8 **Mass. Counties Match England**

- Before 1660, 60% of town names from England
- From Suffolk: Ipswich, Groton, Boxford, Sudbury, Hadley, Wrentham, Framingham
- From Norfolk: Newton, Lynn, Hingham
- From East Anglia (ancient name): Cambridge, Dedham, Springfield, Topsfield, Braintree, Billerica, Chelmsford, and Boston

9 **Living Patterns Transplanted From East Anglia**

1 Naming Patterns

2 ● 90% biblical names

- Boys: John, Joseph (Old Test.), Samuel, Josiah – not Paul
- Girls: Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah most popular. Rebecca, Abigail, Rachel, Ruth, also female prophets: Anne, Huldah Hannah, Deborah.
- First son named for father, first daughter for mother
- If child died, could reuse name

3 Speech, Food, Commons

- 4 ● Yankee twang from the Norfolk Whine – ginral, yistidy, darter, cah,

yahd

- East Anglia food – boiled or baked beans
- Town meeting - voting by freemen
- Towns organized with strips of fields and common grazing (commons) – from East Anglia
- Houses “salt box” – like Kent

10 **2. West Country Royalists/Cavaliers Exodus 1641-1675**

- 1641, Royalists lost Civil war, Charles I & Laud beheaded, Puritan Oliver Cromwell ruled, Royalists out
- Sir William Berkeley – Royalists form West Country
- Berkeley got a commission to be Royal Governor of VA
- 2nd sons got no land but went to clergy or military
- Recruited 2nd sons to run plantations of 1000 acres or more in VA
- 45,000 came in all including servants

11 **Chesapeake Settlements – 1641-1660**

- Plantations: Virginia (Anglican) and Maryland (Catholic)
- In VA, organized and recruited by Lord Berkeley
- In Maryland, by Lord Baltimore
- Plantations on rich bottom lands near rivers
- Tobacco was the main crop
- Needed indentured servants worked plantations. Given land they could occupy after 10 years service

12

13 **Cultural Patterns in VA and MD from West Country Rural Life**

- 1 ● Boy's names from English kings, Teutonic or Frankish warriors
 - Girl's names Christian saints not in Bible: Margaret, Jane, Catherine, Frances, Alice. Mary, Eliz, Sarah
 - 1st son for father's father, 1st daugh for mother's mother, 2nd son for father & 2nd daughter for mother
 - 1st sons inherited land but also bequests to more distant relatives, such as cousins, nieces
 - Southern drawl originates in Sussex, Wiltshire, Surrey, Dorsett
- 2 ● Anglican vestry handle civil and social affairs – watch day to day
 - Landowners taxed by parish for social welfare
 - Church records important genealogically
 - VA Elite: Filmer-Byrd-Beverley-Carter-Culpeper-Berkeley

- Matriarch Mary Horsmanden Filmer Byrd
- Lived on country estate with great house and out buildings just like West Country

14  **3. County Origins of Quakers**

- Quakerism arose in North Midlands (especially Pennines – dark)
- Area invaded by Vikings, then Norman French Catholic landlords
- Farmers egalitarian, Protestant, and fiercely independent – free men gathered in open field meetings
- Not pay parish tax & persecuted
- William Penn’s father owed debt from Charles I & Cromwell
- Penn became Quaker & wanted colony to show Quaker way of life
- Charles II gave him “Sylvania” and added Penn prefix in his own hand

15  **Quaker Settlement 1675-1715**

- Penn trustee of West Jersey & 1st city 1675 Salem (Shalom)
- Pennsylvania colony 1681
- Rhineland Germans, some Quaker, some “friendly” Germans and oppressed sects. Founded Germantown 1683
- Also came to SE VA & NE NC
- Religious tolerance, egalitarian

16  **Quaker Folkways**

- Anachronistic “Quaker Oats” gentleman not from America
- North Midlands farmers ate with farmhands “simple” fare
- Dressed in “hodden gray”
- Used Thee and Thou in speech although gone from Puritans before Great Migration
- Naming for grandparent but could be maternal or paternal
- Inheritance double part for 1st son, widow’s third, later equal for all children.
- Up to 16 rules for marriage

17  **English & American Quaker Locations**

-  ●80% of immigrants were from North Midlands

- None came from East Anglia
- Some from Dublin and from NE Wales
- ~23,000 settled in America according to origin in England
- 2 ● Quakers from Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire, settled in Chester and Bucks Counties – same rich uplands
- Londoners went to Philadelphia
- Dublin Quakers to Newtown, NJ
- Emigrants from Wales settled the Welsh Tract – Bala Cynwyd, Radnor, Haverford, Bryn Mawr

18 **Quaker influence in PA**

- Four stages of Quaker religion
 1. Founding in 1646-1666 – radical, evangelical, messianic
 2. Flowering (1666-1750) – institutional, rational, progressive, optimistic
 3. Turning inward (1750-1827) – sectarian, exclusive, perfectionistic
 4. Denominational division with Hicksite separation
- Stage 2 most important for founding of the nation. No policy then against bearing arms or slavery
- After Rev War, many Quakers fled to Canada. Would not sign Oath of Allegiance, which required bearing arms.

19 **4. Migration from Borderlands**

- Last colonial migration (1725-1775) often called Ulster Irish or Scotch-Irish. Really Scottish and English borderers who came to America via Northern Ireland
- Unique, homogeneous culture at the border – 700 yrs of war, since Duncan was murdered by Macbeth in 1040
- 150,000 emigrated from Northern Ireland (Londonderry, Carrickfergus). 75,000 came from the coast of Scotland (Kirkcudbright, Wigtown, etc.). 50,000 from the northern English seaports of Liverpool, Maryport, Morecambe or Whitehaven

20 **Scottish/English Border Culture & History**

- 1 ● Thane or clan head owned the land with castle 3-4 stories and 10'

walls

- Tenant farmers/warriors paid crops as rent & blackmail for protection

- Farmer's impermanent cabbins

- In debatable lands clans there were "Scottish when they will, English at their pleasure." Outside the law

- 2 ● 1st Borderer Ireland migration.

1. James I ruled both Scotland and England in 1603-1625
2. Got Northern Ireland ~1610, sold titles and gave land to Dukes
3. Dukes hired tenant farmers from the England border and made 100 year leases to expire ~1710.

- 2nd Borderer Ireland migration

1. Scotland & England were unified in 1707 and the border land sold.
2. Borderers moved to N. Ireland as tenant farmers in 1710 but were exploited. Very poor. They emigrated.

21 **Borderland of Scotland & England**

22 **Northern Ireland ~1715 – Pre Migration to America**

23 **Borderers Settled in Backwoods of US 1725-1775**

- Folklorist Cecil Sharp discovered songs of SW PA, WV and Carolinas same as those at English-Scottish border, despite Ireland connection
- Map shows 1790 distribution of those with "Scotts-Irish" surnames
- Mainly in PA, MD, VA, NC. 80% of Augusta, VA. 100% Hillsboro, NC
- Half the population of SC and GA
- Descendants to GA, AL, LA and TX in early 1800s.
- Mountains at same elevation as border

24 **Distinctive Border Culture**

- 1 ● "Southern highland" speech – over 200 years old & recognized as ethnic "Scots-Irish" in the Revolutionary War

- Familiar today in country-western singers, movie cowboys
- Names are biblical, saints (Andrew), border warriors, or Teutonic (Richard or Robert). Favorites David, Patrick. Archibald, Ronald (Scandinavian) & warriors Bruce, Wallace, Percy, Howard, Ross, Clyde, Tyne.
- 2] ●First sons are usually named for the paternal grandfather, etc.
- Men (tall, lean, weather beaten) in loose sackcloth, close belted, baggy trousers, knit socks, & wooden shoes
- Women with sensuous full skirts, bare legs and full bodices
- Directed by wary Quakers in PA to the backwoods – SW PA to buffer with Indians & squatted land or had “hatchet rights”

25  **Main Migrations 1629-1775**

- 1] ●The East Anglia Puritans, 1629 –1640 (about 21,000 immigrants)
- The Cavaliers and their Servants from Southwest England to the Chesapeake, 1641 – 1675 (~45,000 immigrants)
- 2] ●North Midlands English Quakers to the Delaware Valley, 1675 – 1725 (~23,000 immigrants)
- The "Scots-Irish" to Backwoods America, 1717 – 1775 (~250,000 immigrants)

26  **SOURCES**

- 1. William Dollarhide, British Origins of American Colonists, 1629–1775. 1997. Heritage Quest Genealogical Service, available from <http://www.familyrootspublishing.com/>.
- 2. David Hackett Fischer, Albion’s Seed: Four British Folkways in America. 1989. Oxford University Press.