

**THE SCOTCH-IRISH IN AMERICA:  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
SCOTCH-IRISH CONGRESS AT  
COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE, MAY 8-  
11, 1889; PP. 1-207**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649699186

The Scotch-Irish in America: Proceedings of the Scotch-Irish Congress at Columbia, Tennessee, May 8-11, 1889; pp. 1-207 by Scotch-Irish Society of America

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**SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

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THOMAS T. WRIGHT.

# THE SCOTCH-IRISH IN AMERICA

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Proceedings of the Scotch-Irish Congress

AT

COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

MAY 8-11, 1889

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF  
THE SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY OF AMERICA



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CINCINNATI  
ROBERT CLARKE & CO.  
1889

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY OF AMERICA:

In offering this compilation to the Society, and the general public, we do not pretend that it is a complete history of the Scotch-Irish people. That will require the systematic effort of years. As the initial volume of distinctive Scotch-Irish records, however, we believe that it will prove interesting and satisfactory. In the selection and arrangement of the matter contained, we have acted with the advice of the Executive Committee. For the convenience of the reader, the formal addresses, bearing directly upon the race, have been taken from their regular order in the minutes and arranged separately in Part Second.

The addresses are published as they were delivered, and we do not assume any responsibility for the views of the speakers. We bespeak for the volume kindly reception and consideration.

A. C. FLOYD,

LUCIUS FRIERSON,

ROBERT PILLOW,

*Publishing Committee.*



# THE SCOTCH-IRISH IN AMERICA.

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## PART I.

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### INTRODUCTION.

BY ROBERT BONNER

To Mr. Thomas T. Wright, a prominent citizen of Florida, belongs the credit of having suggested the formation of an organization to preserve the history and perpetuate the achievements of the Scotch-Irish race in America. Owing to the efforts of Mr. Wright, who was ably assisted by Mr. A. C. Floyd and other gentlemen, the movement was started which resulted in the grand and successful meeting of the Scotch-Irish Congress at Columbia, Tennessee, in May last, and which led to the permanent organization of the Scotch-Irish Society of America.

It does not come within the purpose, scope or object of this Society to cultivate or in any way encourage sectarian feeling, for people of all denominations are eligible to membership; nor is it the purpose of the Society to stimulate undue pride of race, although it is impossible to ignore the historical fact, so eloquently stated by William Wirt Henry, Esq., a grandson of the great revolutionary orator, that the Scotch-Irish in America have given five Presidents to the United States.

I have been requested to write an introduction to this volume, which gives a carefully prepared report of the action of the late Con-

gress; but it appears to me that a formal or lengthy introduction would be superfluous. The eloquent speeches made during the session of the Congress, and the other proceedings of that body, tell their own story. They exhibit the cordial good will, the patriotic fervor, the indomitable spirit, the tenacity of purpose, and the stern integrity which have always characterized the Scotch-Irish; and it is to be hoped that the Society so auspiciously inaugurated at Columbia will develop, as the years go on, into an organization of the highest usefulness.

## THE SCOTCH-IRISH CONGRESS, ITS OBJECTS AND RESULTS.

BY A. C. FLOYD.

The Scotch-Irish people have been second to none in their influence upon modern civilization. Their impress upon American institutions has been especially strong. They have been leaders in every sphere of life, both public and private. They were the first to declare independence from Great Britain, and foremost in the revolutionary struggle; leaders in the formation and adoption of the Constitution, and its most powerful defenders; most active in the extension of our national domain, and the hardest pioneers in its development.

The associations suggested by a few of the illustrious men of the stock are sufficient to outline the extent of their influence. Among them were Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, John Witherspoon, John Paul Jones, James Madison, John Marshall, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, and Ulysses S. Grant.

That they have been no less conspicuous in the material development and intellectual progress of the country, is evidenced by the names of Robert Fulton, Horace Greeley, Robert Bonner, and the McCormicks.

These men are but types of the Scotch-Irish, and their achievements are but examples of the numberless illustrious deeds of the race; and yet no distinct and connected history of this people has ever been written. Their marked and distinctive impress upon the country and their proverbial race pride renders this passing strange, especially in this history-writing age, when the Puritan, the Huguenot, the Dutch, and every other class and nationality composing our population, have recorded their deeds with minutest care. In this, they have done nothing more than perform their duty, for it is the duty of all to study great examples and hold their virtues up for the emulation of on-coming generations. Thus is patriotism cultivated and every noble endeavor stimulated. Thoughtful men, indeed, knew the wealth of Scotch-Irish achievement and keenly felt the poverty of its recognition. Where else could nobler types of manhood be found? The hand of the historian, brushing away the dust of time, was alone