

**A TRIBUTE TO THE PRINCIPLES,  
VIRTUES, HABITS AND PUBLIC  
USEFULNESS OF THE IRISH AND  
SCOTCH EARLY SETTLERS OF  
PENNSYLVANIA. [1856]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649068241

A Tribute to the Principles, Virtues, Habits and Public Usefulness of the Irish and Scotch Early Settlers of Pennsylvania. [1856] by George Chambers

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GEORGE CHAMBERS**

**A TRIBUTE TO THE PRINCIPLES,  
VIRTUES, HABITS AND PUBLIC  
USEFULNESS OF THE IRISH AND  
SCOTCH EARLY SETTLERS OF  
PENNSYLVANIA. [1856]**



1890  
A

# TRIBUTE

TO THE

PRINCIPLES, VIRTUES, HABITS AND PUBLIC USEFULNESS

OF THE

Irish and Scotch Early Settlers

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

---

BY A DESCENDANT.

---

*See in Chambersburg, Pa.*

CHAMBERSBURG, PA.:  
PRINTED BY M. KIEFFER & CO.  
1866.

## P R E F A C E .

THE writer of the Tribute contained in this work, had long desired to see from the Historical publications in Pennsylvania, a vindication of the character and principles of the Irish and Scotch early settlers of this great State and their descendants against reproach, as well as aspersion, cast upon them in some modern compilations having pretensions to Historical accuracy.

Appreciating highly the religious and moral character, intelligence, industry and energy of those settlers, as well as their great usefulness in raising the standard of education—in promoting religious Christian influence—in defending the frontier against the wars of the French and Indians, and in their patriotic devotion of their lives and fortunes to the cause of American Independence; he did think if there were any class of citizens of Pennsylvania entitled to gratitude and reverence, not only from their descendants, but from all others enjoying the blessings of a home and residence under this free government, it was the Irish and Scotch early settlers of Pennsylvania.

The events in the lives of these men, and the incidents of the times in which they were actors, political, civil, religious or military, which led to the prosperity of the State and the establishment of the free institutions under which we live, prosper and are happy, should be to every American citizen objects of peculiar interest.

Instead of acknowledgments of gratitude and reverence for the men who were the pioneers of the Province of Pennsylvania, laying broad and deep the foundations of its prosperity and republican government, we have been chagrined to find them slighted in some historical compilations of Pennsylvania History; whilst by others, we have been incensed at the unjust and unfounded aspersions cast upon the race.

Having the blood of some of those early settlers flowing in our veins, and having been born, ever lived and prospered on Pennsylvania soil, we feel as if we were under obligations, in common with many

others, to come up to the vindication of the reputation of ancestors, who long since have rested from their labors, and who, by toil and sacrifices, did much to achieve the inheritance which their posterity and others are enjoying.

We have presumed to offer the sketch herein contained as our Tribute to the memory and reverence of those settlers. The writer, feeling as if the sand of his Time glass was nearly run out, and that he ere long must be laid aside from labor, and that if any thing were done by him in vindication of the principles, virtues and habits, of these settlers of a past age, it must be done quickly—has hastily thrown together in his leisure hours, taken from other avocations, the remarks contained in the subsequent pages.

It has little merit, other than a compilation from public documents, historical records, and traditions from reliable sources, together with some observations of the writer, whose reminiscences go into the past century.

It is but a summary of facts and illustrations and an outline to be extended by some one better qualified, having more time and better access to historical collections of the early history of Pennsylvania, of which there is a dearth. It will be ample gratification to him if this Tribute shall be a leader to some more extended vindication of the character of the Irish and Scotch early settlers of Pennsylvania, which will be worthy of a place amongst the historical records of this great State.

The author acknowledges his obligations for information, in the preparation of this work, to Dr. Foote's Sketches of North Carolina—and Virginia—Day's Historical collections—Dr. Smith's Old Redstone—Dr. Alexander's Log College—Dr. Miller's Life of Dr. Rogers—Dr. Elliott's Life of McCurdy and others—Craig's History of Pittsburg—Hazard's Colonial Records and Archives of Pennsylvania, and American Archives by Force—and Gordon's History of Pennsylvania—Mr. Rupp's—Histories of Lancaster, Cumberland and Franklin counties.

Chambersburg, Pa.

G. C.

## CHAPTER I.

*Classes of Emigrants—Dissensions—Rivalries—James Logan—Dickinson—Franklin in opposition to Emigrants—Mr. Day's accusation—Trespasses on Lands claimed by Indians—Their complaints—Redress—Other causes of dissatisfaction with the white Inhabitants and Proprietary Agents—Traders—and French Influence—Causes of War.*

THE Province of Pennsylvania was early attractive to emigrants from other countries. It was recommended by its free and constitutional government—by the character of its fundamental Laws, adopted and established by the first emigrants to its territory—its fertile soil, salubrious and temperate climate—its adaptation to a large and rural population; with advantages for trade, commerce and manufactures. The dissatisfaction prevailing with large classes of intelligent, industrious and enterprising men, under several of the European governments, directed their attention to the American colonies, and to men of this character, Pennsylvania was generally preferred for their abode, after the organization of its government.

The population of Pennsylvania was made up of emigrants from various parts of Europe. They were not homogeneous, but were diversified by their origin, religious principles, habits, and language. They were united in devotion to the principles of the Reformation, and in favor of civil and religious liberty. Equality of rights and the liberty of worship according to the dictates of conscience, were standard principles so founded and guarded, that no party or power dared to assail them. These established and avowed principles made Pennsylvania a desirable asylum for the oppressed and persecuted of all nations.

The diversity which characterized the inhabitants, divided them into three classes, whose separation was maintained unbroken for some generations, and is not even yet effaced. They were the English, the Scots and Irish, and the Germans. The associates and followers of Penn, who were amongst the first



to establish her government, were an honest, intelligent, virtuous, peaceful and benevolent population, known in England and the Colonies by the name of Friends or Quakers. Much of the wealth of the Province was with them, and as their location was in the city of Philadelphia, or in the country near it, they were influential in the organization of the Provincial government. They were able also, from their numbers, to maintain an ascendancy in the Assembly, and control its legislation. As the Proprietary was, in his associations and principles, of their Society, there was generally harmony and correspondent sentiment between the Quaker party and the Proprietary and the officers of his appointment, most of whom were of the Society of Friends. The Quakers were an orderly, industrious and law abiding people, cultivating peace with all men. They had their peculiarities of dress, manners, language and religious worship, opposition to war and military service, which distinguished them from the other population of the Province.

The Germans were of different denominations of Christians and various origin. The Swiss Mennonites were amongst the earliest who entered this Province, about the beginning of the last century. They came in considerable numbers and settled in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, about Pequea and other parts of what formed Lancaster county. They were orderly, industrious and frugal, farmers; peaceful and honest in all their relations and dealings. They resembled the Quakers in opposition to war and military service, and in maintenance of peace principles. The Lutheran and German Reformed Germans, who had been emigrating since 1710, settled before 1720 in considerable numbers in parts of what are now in the counties of Montgomery, Bucks, Berks and Lancaster. Others of the same class continued to arrive yearly, and in some years the influx of these German emigrants was so great as to alarm some of the English first settlers, lest the Germans should make a German province of Pennsylvania. Amongst these Germans, though mostly Lutheran and German Reformed, there were some Mennonites and Dunkards.

The French Huguenots who settled in Pennsylvania were but few, some of whom settled about 1712 on Pequea creek,

which seems to have been an attractive country for settlement to emigrants from different parts of Europe.

These Germans were a hardy, frugal and industrious people, and in many districts have preserved their foreign manners and language. They have established in every part of the State, communities much respected for religious and moral character; many of them emigrated for conscience' sake, and others to improve their condition and circumstances. Their industry and frugality have enabled them to add greatly to their own wealth and resources, whilst they were increasing that of the Province and State. With most of this class, education has been promoted and their descendants, in acquirements and intelligence, are in advance of their ancestors, and many are amongst the most respectable and useful citizens of the Commonwealth, whilst they have, by branches of their families, contributed greatly to the industrious and useful population of several of the Western States.

Emigrants from Scotland and Ireland constituted a large portion of the early settlers of Pennsylvania. Many of these were called Scotch-Irish, from the circumstance that they were the descendants of Scots, who had by the government been encouraged to take up their residence in the north of Ireland, and to the improvement and civilization of which they had greatly contributed; but being oppressed by the tyranny and exactions of a despotic and profligate monarch, and the restrictions and penalties imposed by an obsequious parliament, as well as the intolerance and persecutions of a haughty hierarchy, expatriated themselves, with their families to the American colonies. To these were added many of the native Irish from the north of Ireland, as well as emigrants from Scotland. Pennsylvania was the selection of most of them, when they considered, that, under the charter of Penn and the fundamental laws of the Province, they could enjoy civil and religious liberty. They sought an asylum from Church and State intolerance and oppression, if it were to be had only in the wilderness of another continent, under a government of equal rights. They were nearly all Presbyterians in their Church relations, and many of them had settled in Pennsylvania before the close of the seventeenth century.

The emigrants from Ireland and Scotland approached so close in national character, and were so congenial in sentiments, habits and religious principles, having in the land from which they emigrated, suffered from common grievances, that they were identified as one people. As professors of religion, they united in church organizations and worshipped together at the same Christian altars.

The first settlements of this class were in Bucks county, but chiefly in the territory, which, in 1729, was organized into the county of Lancaster. Settlements were made in it about 1717, on Octorora creek, and about the same time or earlier, in Pequea, and in 1722 in Donegal and Paxton. In 1730 and '34, the same class of emigrants, with the license of the Proprietary government, located themselves in the Kittochtinnny valley, west of the Susquehanna, where they increased rapidly and in a few years formed there a large, respectable and influential community.

Under a free government of equal rights, with political power accessible to all the citizens, it was to be expected that amongst these different classes or races of emigrants, there would be rivalries and competition, as well as jealousies of ascendancy and political power. They would be apt to differ in their opinions of public measures, as well as in their predilections for the men who were to establish measures or execute them.

The Quakers had the advantage of the other classes, that they were parties to the first organization of the government, and in the establishment of the three first counties of Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks, and in regulating their representation. In those counties they had the majority of the inhabitants, which enabled them to elect as members of Assembly and Council, such as were entirely acceptable to them.

Their majority in the Assembly, which prevailed for a long time, made its legislation to conform to their wishes and principles; the Proprietary, who belonged to their Society, being disposed generally to cooperate with them.

From the great influx of emigrants from Ireland, Scotland and Germany, there was every prospect, that the control of the