

**IRISH SCHOOLMASTERS IN THE
AMERICAN COLONIES, 1640-
1775, WITH A CONTINUATION OF
THE SUBJECT DURING AND AFTER
THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION**

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Irish Schoolmasters in the American Colonies, 1640-1775, with a Continuation of the Subject
During and After the War of the Revolution by John C. Linehan & Thomas Hamilton Murray

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JOHN C. LINEHAN & THOMAS HAMILTON MURRAY

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BY

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AND

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FROM
T. H. MURRAY,
Secretary-General,
AMERICAN-IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
34 Newbury Street,
BOSTON, MASS.

PUBLICATION
OF THE
AMERICAN-IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

EARLY IRISH SCHOOLMASTERS.

IRISH schoolmasters were numerous in the American Colonies long before the Revolution. For generations they imparted tuition and had the satisfaction of seeing great numbers of their pupils attain positions of eminence.

Many of the leading patriots of the Revolution were educated by Irish teachers, and regarded their instructors with respect and affection. Lossing, speaking of Rev. Dr. Alison, who was one of these Irish educators, says: "His chief claim to honor among men is that he was the tutor of a large number of Americans who were conspicuous actors in the events of the revolution that accomplished the independence of the United States."

In 1640, William Collins accompanied a party of refugees from the West Indies to what is now New Haven, Conn. After a time, these refugees dispersed in various directions and "some returned to Ireland." Collins taught school at Hartford for a period. There is very little doubt that he was Irish. A brief reference to him is made in Felt's "Ecclesiastical History of New England." He had rela-