

**A TRIBUTE TO THE PRINCIPLES,
VIRTUES, HABITS AND PUBLIC
USEFULNESS OF THE IRISH AND
SCOTCH EARLY SETTLERS OF
PENNSYLVANIA; PP. 1-167**

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A Tribute to the Principles, Virtues, Habits and Public Usefulness of the Irish and Scotch Early Settlers of Pennsylvania; pp. 1-167 by George Chambers

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GEORGE CHAMBERS

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TRIBUTE

TO THE

PRINCIPLES, VIRTUES, HABITS AND PUBLIC USEFULNESS

OF THEM

Irish and Scotch Early Settlers

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

BY A DESCENDANT.

CHAMBERSBURG, PA. :
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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 these 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 these 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.