

CLARK and the Battle of Culloden, 1746.

Query: If the Clarks had a Scotch-Irish ancestry Why did they leave Scotland?

An undocumented hypothesis: Clarks may have fought in the Battle of Culloden for the Stewarts in 1746, and afterwards gone to Northern Ireland, from which they emigrated to America by 1797.

Notes: In the Scottish clans "Clark" is recorded as spelled CLARK, CLARKE, CLARKSON, CLERK. Although there are at least four variations in the orthography of CLARK they all belong to the one Clark clan and have the same tartan.

The Clark clan is divided between the Cameron, Macpherson and Mackintosh divisions or septs. Their lands were south of Inverness near Loch Ness. The Mackintoshes owned the lands on which was fought the Battle of Culloden Moor in 1746.

At the battle of Culloden, Camerons, Macphersons and Mackintoshes participated or were in reserve on the side of Charles Stewart in his dynastic struggle with the House of Hanover. During an hour's visit to the battlefield the undersigned noted a memorial stone dedicated to the Mackintoshes.

After the cause of Bonnie Prince Charles was lost at Culloden the defeated were punished and deprived of their lands, "and a number of them emigrated". Here is a possible explanation of the Scotch-Irish tradition with the Maryland Clarks.

Minor note: the Edinburgh telephone book has two and a half pages of Clarks, many with such familiar given names as David, John and James.

Note: There are other hypotheses in re the Scotch origin, such as the action of James I in promoting Scot settlement in Northern Ireland.

Interesting note: As a young man, Louis Thomas Clark (1872-1957) knew an immigrant woman from Northern Ireland who remembered relatives of the Howard County Clarks "living in a big house on a hill", presumably near Belfast. The undersigned was taken to meet her daughter, but the information had died with the mother.

Luck in research could test such possibilities.

26 June 1978.
Lutherville, Md.

Louis Dorsey Clark.