

# The Scots-Irish, Presbyterianism, and Other Things\*

## Part 1

**\*Why is John Knox Buried in a Public Parking Lot?**

November 16, 2025

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# Who Are the Scots-Irish Anyway?

- Scots Who Migrated to Ireland in the early 1600's and Then Migrated to the American Colonies in the Early 1700's (and Kept Moving)
- Why Did They Keep Moving Around So Much?
- BTW, We Used to Call This Group: "Scotch-Irish", but...
- Better Known in the U.K. and Ireland as Ulster Scots.

# Why Should We Care About the Scots-Irish Anyway?

- Well For One Reason – You Wouldn't Be Here Without Them!!
- The Mecklenburg Presbytery Was Founded by the Scots-Irish.
- The Scots-Irish Were Instrumental In Establishing the Presbyterian Church in the American Colonies.
- And...the Scots-Irish Were in the Vanguard of Pioneers Settling Along the Appalachians from Pennsylvania to Alabama.
- Tough, Independent, Indomitable, Politically Involved and ...Calvinist.  
(P.S. How Do We Square Fighting and Drinking with Calvinism?)

# Not That You Have to Be of Scottish Heritage to be a Presbyterian

- The First African Presbyterian Church was Founded in Philadelphia in 1807 by Former Slave John Gloucester.
- Samuel Cornish Established the First Black Presbyterian Church in New York City in 1822.
- Theodore Wright was the First African American to attend the Princeton Theological Seminary in the late 1820's.

## ... And Just to Keep Us Humble

- While there are about 1.5 million Presbyterians, of all stripes, in the United States...and, Sadly, Shrinking:
- There Are Easily Over 14 million Presbyterians in Africa and...
- Over 9 million Presbyterians in South Korea.
- Point: We Are Not the Center of the Universe.

# Where is Scotland, Exactly?



# Scotland – Surrounded By Water



# Geographic Scotland

- Edinburgh same latitude as Moscow.
- But Climate is Moderate Because of the Warming Effect of the Gulf Stream.
- Think Wet, Chilly, Dark Winters and Wet, Cool Summers Moderated By the Warming Effect of Scotch Whiskey.
- The Soil is Thin - Five/Sixths of the Land Not Suitable for Farming. Thin Soil, lots of Bogs and Moors.
- By 1500 the Land Was Deforested; Peat Used As Fuel Instead of Wood.
- You Get It – Not Exactly the Fertile Crescent



# Lowlands



# Scottish Heating Unit



# Highlands vs. Lowlands



# Highlanders vs. Lowlanders

- The Highlanders: The Very Image of Scotland: the Tartans, Kilts, Clans, Bagpipes – Romanticized By Sir Walter Scott and Hollywood.
- All the Movies/TV: *Highlander, Outlander, Rob Roy*. Everybody Wants to Wear a Kilt and Gaze Off into the Mist while the Bagpipes Skirl.
- The Lowlanders: Where by Far the Majority of Scots Live. No Kilts.
- The Scots-Irish Were Lowlanders.

# Now, There's A Highlander





# Highlanders



# Lowlander





## BTW Where Did the Scots Come From ?

- Good Question – Celtic Tribes from the Europe (land bridge), From the South (England), and by Boat From Northern Europe and Ireland.
- Main tribes were the Celtic Picts in North and East Scotland and the Celtic Scoti who came from Ireland to Western Scotland
- Hunter/Gatherers Becoming Farmers/Herders, mingling/fighting, etc.
- Later Invasions from the Germanic Angles and Vikings (of course)
- Linguistically developing into Gaelic speakers (Highlanders) and Scots speakers (Lowlanders) - think Robert Burns:

“The best-laid schemes o Mice and Men gang aft agley”



# The Romans Cometh and Goeth

- Thank Goodness for the Romans – They Actually Recorded What Happened -- Not Necessarily Accurately However.
- The Romans Invaded Scotland and Even Defeated the Caledonians (As The Romans Called All The Various Scottish Tribes)
- But The Romans Retreat to the Famous Hadrian Wall. Why? Was Scotland Worth It? No Grapes?
- Almost All of Scotland Was Not Romanized; by 410 AD the Romans Left All of Britian.

# The Picts Were Not Hospitable



# The Scottish Heathen Are Converted

- Christianity Slowly then Suddenly Gained Traction Across Europe so That By 380 AD Christianity Became the Official Religion of the Roman Empire.
- Columba, a Missionary from Ireland, Introduced Christianity to Scotland 561 AD. The Monastic Community on Iona Became a “Renowned Center of Learning and Artistic Excellence.”
- Christianity Eventually Spread Across Scotland Displacing Paganism – Even with the Picts.

## But...The One Main Thing About the Scots...Christian or Not

- They Hate the English.
- England Attempted to Subdue the Scots for Centuries; the Border is Hotly Contested. England Wants Scotland to be a Vassel State. The Histories of England and Scotland Are Inextricably Intertwined.
- Think William Wallace and Robert the Bruce: Independence Finally Achieved in 1290 – House of Stuart Began 1371.
- France Acts as the Spoiler– the “Auld Alliance” Between Scotland and France Lasts Centuries (in France’s Favor Not Surprisingly).

# Scotland on the Eve of the Reformation 1500

- Scotland is the Poorest Country in Europe With a Population of About 500,000 Mostly in the Lowlands.
- The Governing System is Feudal (Clans in the Highlands.)
- Everyone is Roman Catholic.
- The Catholic Church in Scotland, Supported by the Monarchy, Is Fabulously Influential, Wealthy, Powerful – Holds Half the Wealth of the Country.

# In Scotland - An Early Challenge to the Church

- Grumblings In Europe – Martin Luther Nails His 95 Theses On the Door of a Wittenberg Church in 1517.
- Luther's Theology Spreads Across Europe Aided By the Newly Invented Printing Press.
- In 1525 The Scottish Parliament Forbids the Sale of Luther's Books.
- In Scotland, a Young Catholic Priest, Patrick Hamilton, Returned From Germany, Marries and Espouses Lutheran Doctrine.
- Hamilton is Burned at the Stake as a Heretic at St. Andrews in 1527 by Cardinal David Beaton.

## In England -“The Defender of the Faith” Responds to the Reformation

- A Model Roman Catholic, Henry the VIII of England Denounces Luther and His Heresy in 1521.
- Fine...But Henry Encounters A Succession Problem... No Male Heir.
- “Annulment?” Responds Pope Clement VII in 1527. “Are You Kidding Me?”



# Henry VIII – Affectionately Known As “Cuddles”





## A Cunning Plan...And More

- Thomas Cromwell, Advisor to His Majesty and a Founding Member of the Henchmen Hall of Fame, Has a Cunning Plan....
- By 1534 Henry VIII is Head of the Church of England – Which is Protestant – Kind of – And Has All Kinds of Benefits: Money, Property and As Many Wives As He Wants and Most Importantly:
- A Male Heir in 1537, the Future Edward VI.

**“If I Might Suggest, Your Majesty...”**



**Meanwhile...Back in Scotland**

# The Stuarts and Along Comes Mary

- In 1503 James IV Married Margaret Tudor of England, Henry VIII's Sister, Following the Treaty of Perpetual Peace Between Scotland and England. James IV Killed Fighting the English.
- Son James V, Nephew of Henry VIII, Became King of Scotland at Age 12 Days. Married Mary of Guise of France. James V Dies Just After Fighting the English in 1542 and Therefore:
- His Daughter, Mary Stuart, AKA, Mary Queen of Scots, Great Niece to Henry VIII, Becomes Queen of Scotland at Age 6 Days.

# “What If”...Muses Henry VIII Back in England

- “What If My Son, Five-Year Old Prince Edward VI, Should Marry Infant Mary Queen of Scots and They Have Kids,” ... A United Tudor Kingdom of England and Scotland!
- Some Scots (leaning Protestant) Like It; Most Do Not.... England!
- The Rejection of the Proposal Infuriates Henry VIII; A Very Destructive War Ensues Called “The Rough Wooing” in 1543.
- Catholic Scotland Survives: Five-Year Old Mary Sent to France and To Become Engaged to the Dauphin!

# Which, in Philly, Is Pronounced “Doll-Fin”



# There's Something About Mary

- Beautiful, Young, Mary Queen of Scots, Lives in Luxury in France, Goes Native, Charms the French. Speaks Perfect French (Her Preferred Language). Oh, the Balls and Dances. And....She Is Devoutly Catholic of Course.
- Becomes Queen (Consort) of France at Age Sixteen!
- But, Sadly, Becomes a Widow (and not a Queen of France) at age Eighteen. No Children and Therefore No Further Use to the French. C'est Dommage.
- Mary Has No Course But to Return to Scotland in 1561.
- Au Revoir Marie!



# A Young Mary Queen of Scots (Maybe)





**Meanwhile....Back in Rainy Scotland, It's  
Been an Eventful 14 Years Since Mary Went  
to Live in France...  
Very Eventful And Not Exactly Balls and  
Dances.**

# Youthful Indignation and Idealism

- Even Before Mary Sails for France, Many Young Scots Spread Exciting Protestant Views And Gain Followers Throughout the Land, Including a Former Catholic Priest – John Knox.
- Cardinal Beaton, Outrageously Corrupt Even By the Standards of the Day, Is Murdered in 1546 in Revenge.
- Retaliation – John Knox is Captured and Sentenced to Be a French Galley Slave in 1547.
- In a Twist, After his Release, Knox Becomes a Favored Preacher to Young Edward VI in England!

# John Knox

- However, Knox Has to Skedaddle From England After Edward VI Dies and his Half-Sister “Bloody” Mary I (Tudor), Ardently Catholic and Pro-French, Becomes Queen of England in 1553.
- Knox Writes: *“The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstruous Regiment of Women”*. Hmmm....
- Hangs Out with John Calvin in Geneva and Becomes a Fervent Calvinist.
- Armed With Righteous Indignation He Goes Back to Scotland in 1559 to Inspire Scots to Break Ties with Rome and Embrace Calvinism....

## ... And To Inspire ZZ Top Years Later



# Opportunity Knox - Scottish Reformation

- The Impetus for the Reformation Came From a Portion of the Nobility “The Lords of the Congregation of Christ” in 1557.
- The Benefits of Confiscating Church Property Was Not Lost on Them – More Political (anti-French) and Economic Than Religious (?).
- There Ensued an Armed Conflict Between Which Pitted the Protestant Lords of the Congregation (with English Support) Against the Queen Regent (Mary’s Mom) and Catholic Nobility (with French Support.) The Protestants Prevailed.

# The Kirk

- With the Timely Reappearance of Knox, a Talented Orator and Passionate Reformer, in 1559, More and More Scots Are Inspired by the Protestant Movement and Calvinism.
- The Scottish Parliament in 1560 Ended Catholicism and Presbyterian Church Becomes the Kirk of Scotland.
- The Kirk “Won First the Awe, Then the Admiration, and Finally the Affection of the People.” – Leyburn.
- In Actuality, the Kirk Evolved Over 130 Years to Become the Presbyterian Church as We Know It.

## But Not So Fast: Enter Mary, Mary Quite Contrary

- While Many in Scotland Might Be Adopting Presbyterianism, the Returning Monarch Was Decidedly Catholic.
- Mary Queen of Scots, All of Eighteen, Arrived in Scotland in 1561, She Wisely Decides On A Policy of Conciliation – She Not a “Bloody Mary.”
- Mary Is Popular At First “People Were Enchanted By Her Vivacious Charm”...Tall, Athletic, Graceful and Dazzlingly Beautiful with Her Almond-Shaped Hazel Eyes and Auburn Hair, She Looked Every Inch A Queen.”

# Proud Mary On Her Way to Scotland





## Beauty and the Beast – All Tied Up in Knox

- Mary's Confrontations With John Knox are Well Known.
- He Was So Out of Bounds Such That the General Assembly of the Kirk Censured Him for His Behavior.
- Mary Did Not Attempt to Revoke the Reformation Acts.
- She Sanctioned the Prosecution of Public Mass And Campaigned Against Fellow Catholics.
- Mary Was Popular...Until She Wasn't.

# Mary's Downfall and Sweet Baby James

- Her Downfall Was Precipitated By Her Ill-Advised Marriage to Lord Darnley a Handsome English/Scottish Catholic/Protestant Relative.
- The Good – the Marriage Produces an Heir to the Scottish Throne – James VI.
- The Bad – Just About Everything Else.
- The Ugly – Murders, Abduction, Another Rotten Marriage, Abandonment, Abdication, Escape, Civil War, Captivity, Treason, Execution, You Name It...

# **Wait A Minute...What About the Scots – Irish?**

Oh Yeah...Got Sidetracked.

## James VI and ... James I

- James, Son of Mary, Becomes King James VI of Scotland at Age Thirteen Months in 1567 Because of Her Abdication.
- He is Raised Presbyterian; A Precocious Child of Considerable Intellect.
- Young James' Presbyterian Instruction Included the Belief that A Monarch's Subjects Retained Inalienable Rights to Life, Liberty and Property.
- Young James' View Was that a King is Answerable to God Alone.

## James and the Giant Kirk

- With the Death of John Knox, Andrew Melville Takes Over and Insists on No Interference By the Crown on Kirk Affairs.
- James Does Not Agree and Insists that Church Assemblies Required the Assent of King and Parliament:
- Melville: *Sir, I Must Tell You, There are Two Kings and Two Kingdoms in Scotland. There is Christ Jesus the King, and His Kingdom the Kirk, Whose Subject King James the Sixth Is, and of Whose Kingdom Not a King, Nor a Lord, Nor a Head, But a Member.*

# A Presbyterian King of England?

- Elizabeth I of England, Famously the Virgin Queen, Dies and James VI of Scotland, Raised Presbyterian, Becomes James I of England in 1603 As Well.
- So, in One of History's Great Ironies the Stuarts Trump the Tudors!
- But James, Is Not the Enthralled With the Republican Style Governance of Presbyterianism. He Famously Says: "No Bishops; No Kings."
- James Not Going to Export Presbyterianism to England. Goes Totally Anglo...



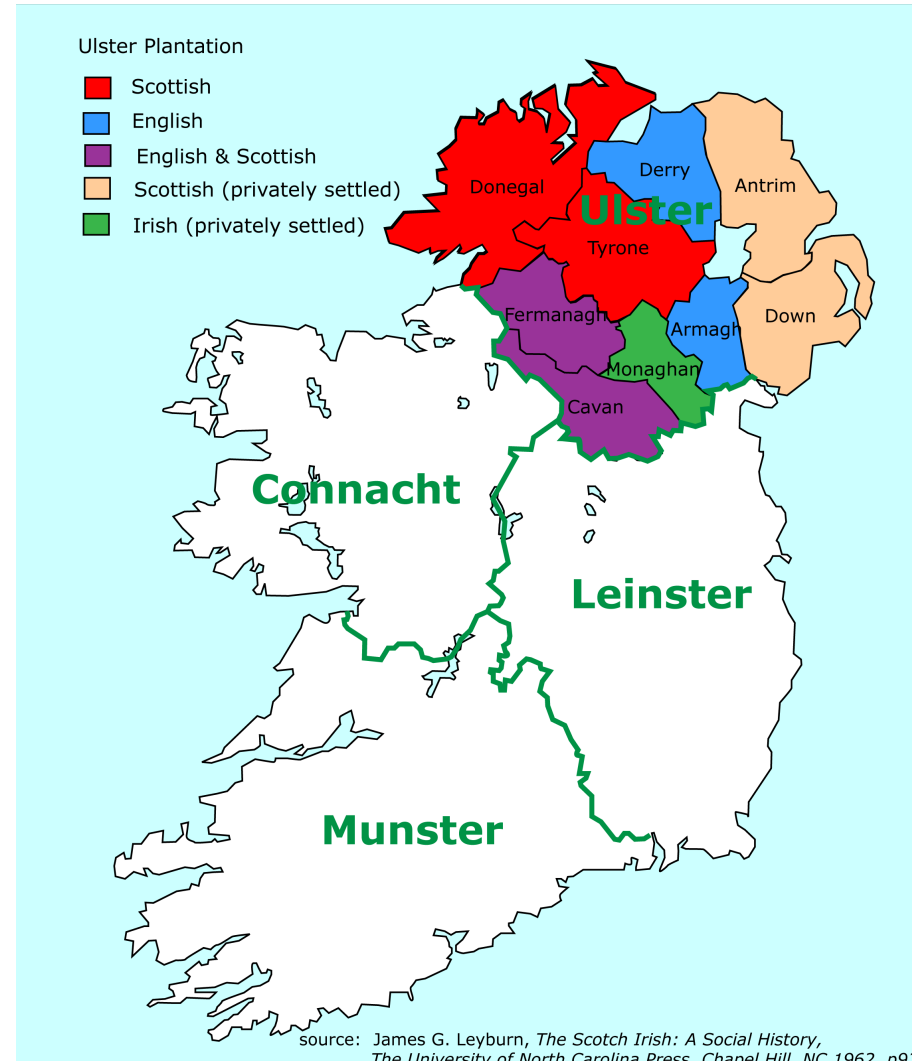
## And Becomes a Real Estate Developer

- James Was an Eager Colonist: Approved Jamestown, Virginia Settlement in 1607 For Example.
- Closer to Home: Ireland Had for Centuries Been a “Problem” for England.
- No Reformation in Ireland: Gaelic, Catholic and Warlike.
- After the Latest Devastating War with England in 1603, There Was a Power Vacuum in Ulster Province, Only 20 Miles From Scotland.
- Huge Amounts of Land Suddenly Become Available...But Ya Gotta Move Fast.

## And They (Crown and Investors) Do

- Through Private Investment and Public Grants Ulster was Offered to Lowland Presbyterian Scots and Protestant English. One Firm Rule For Acceptance: You Must Be Protestant.
- Lowland Scots Especially Embraced the Opportunity to Move to Land that Was More Affordable and, as Advertised Anyway, More Arable.
- King James Knew: *the adventurous nature of the Scots , and the appeal of a good bargain* – Leyburn.
- Thankfully, Feudalism Was Not Transplanted to Ulster.
- The Passage to Ulster Was a Stride Toward Individualism.

# Ulster



# Will The Scots in Ireland Be Happy For Evermore? Is This Their Last Stop?

- Are the Scots Really Ever Happy?
- I Hear There Is Some Really Good Land Available – Just 3,260 Miles to the West (As the Seagull Flies) – and the Natives Are Pretty Friendly - Someone said.

# Coda: Why Is John Knox Buried in a Public Parking Lot?

