

Subject: Name * SHIER

May to November 1709 estimated 2,000 to 32,000 emigrants landed in England. Many in Ireland from the land known as the Palatine; Rhenish or Lower Palatinate Country. They had survived a long war of 30 years and were truly remarkable people due to the fertility of the land and soil. They had survived stamping of Louis XIV's armies. Marshal Turenne thoroughly devastated the providence in 1674.

Year 1708 the winter was cruel and devastating beyond the precedent of a century set in to blight the region. Early October it was intense and by November it was said, firewood would not burn in the open air. In January 1709 wine and spirits froze in solid blocks of ice and the birds fell with wings frozen. It is said that saliva fell congealed in its fall from the mouth to the ground. Need for mount for lavish expenses of the Kings ment heavier taxes that mounted higher and higher day by day. A letter from the Palatinate in 1681 mentioned that thousands would gladly leave the Fatherland if they had the means to do so, because of the French devastation and plague of high taxes. So to leave the country they pleaded religious persecution.

On July 7, 1709 the council of Ireland, with Joseph Addison among them, proposed to the Queen that a number of Palatines be sent to Ireland to strengthen the Protestant cause there, and late in August 794 families were sent there. They were taken in wagons to Chester, where they embarked for Ireland. The first group landed between the 4th and 7th of September, others came during October. In January 1710 the total number of Palatines in Ireland was 3,073 of whom 1,888 were adults and 1,175 were under 14 years of age. The transportation charges amounted to 3,498 pounds, 16 shillings and 6 pence.

A committee of ten Irish gentlemen, supporters of the Protestant cause, were organized as the Commissioners for settling of poor distressed Palatines in Ireland. On their arrival the Palatines were temporarily lodged in Dublin and received for subsistence 18 pence a week for each person above 14 years of age and 12 pence for each under the age of 14. The "Crown" appropriated 15,000 pounds of its revenue in Ireland to be paid in 3 years at 5,000 pounds a year. Early in 1710 an additional 2,000 pounds were set aside under similar agreement. Charitable collections secured 490 pounds, 18 shillings and 6¹/₂ pence more for the fund. This raised the speculative interest of the Irish landlords. Their Irish tenants did not possess capital of 24 pounds per family of four neither did the Irish tenants have the financial backing of the 'Crown'. As a result, the Palatines were distributed in lots varying in size from one family to 56 families. The 43 gentlemen, who became their landlords by a draw, were to settle the Palatines on their lands. Because the Palatines were charged rent for the land of which they were told was paid by the 'Queen' to them free, many started to leave Ireland and go to England the Motherland (Queen's) and assure themselves of a decent living. It was soon learned that the landlords were being paid but the Palatines were not given the amount allotted to them because the landlords felt the poor peasants could not handle such things. After it was brought to his attention, Earl of Wharton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, recommended that the 'Crown' allow 40 shillings a year to each Palatine family for 21 years. This was to be offered as an encouragement for them to stay in Ireland. The Earl of Wharton was replaced by the Duke of Ormond and a perfect stranger to the whole transaction; ask for a full report and on December 12th the new Secretary of State Dartmouth issued an order to stop the continued return of Palatines from Ireland to England.

The Palatines were reported as having employed themselves very industriously in raising flax and hemp. At that time the Commissioners recommended that a minister be secured to read to them the liturgy of the Anglican Church, to which the Palatines readily conformed. The commissioners further suggested that an agent who understood the German language be appointed to see that the Palatines were not misused by their landlords or by their Irish neighbors. Incidentally, this settlement of Palatines in Ireland was made against the background of distrust of the Irish Catholic population. The Roman Catholics were rumored to be forming an army, as a result in the next year an act was passed by the Parliament of Ireland, expelling all Roman Catholics, resident of Caway and Limerich, unless they gave sufficient assurance of allegiance to the Queen and her successors. Similar rumors continued to haunt the authorities in the next ten years. Consequently, the introduction of Protestant settlers in Limerich County was particularly fortunate from the view point of those in power.

All those able to bear arms were enrolled in the Free Yeomanry of the country and were known as "The German Fusiliers", or True Blues". Each man was supplied with a musket called the Queen Anne with which to protect himself and his family. In 1745 Wesley (John) found the Palatines without pastors and completely demoralized but he soon remedied that condition. The Germans became staunch Methodists, which many of them still remain.

For sometime after they settled they fed upon saurkraut, but by degrees left it off, and took to potatoes. Their industry goes so far, that jocular reports of its excess are spread, in a very pinching season, one of them yoked his wife against a horse, and went in that manner to work and finished a journey at plough. The industry of the woman is a perfect contrast to the Irish ladies in the cabins, who cannot be persuaded on any consideration, even to make hay; it not being the custom of the country. Mr. Beidelman found that the descendants of the Palatines has so intermarried with the Irish population, that their descendants were more Irish than German. The adult generation of today is largely the ninth in Ireland. Some are still pure stock, German tongue was completely a loss as far back as 1860.

Were there any truth in the prejudice against close marriages, these Palatines descendants should show degeneracy, but the healthy ruddy stock left with marked signs of longevity goes far to show otherwise, when the stock is good to begin with. On the other hand, there are at least two families showing marked feeble-mindedness. In more recent times, the prosperous Palatines are held in high regard in the county and many native Irishman will ask his Palatine neighbor for his opinion of price to be asked for his cattle at the county fair. Most families had from ten to twenty children. One custom is still recalled. That was the custom of the Palatines of having their own Burgomaster, who judged their disputes. In later years he was known as the King of the Palatines. The last to really hold that title was James Teskey over 60 years ago. The Palatine women are still hard working and would never have a maid they that could possibly do for themselves. They are helpmates to the core. Their prosperity is well organized in the country. Frugality has concealed much of their wealth, but that which is evident is sufficient to excite the friendly envy of the Irish neighbors. The Palatine farmers were the first to build the 'silo' and all indications their wealth was outside of the government aid.

These families were listed from the memory of Mr. Julius Sheppard of Ballingarrane, a remarkable keen-witted descendant of Palatine ancestry. Palatines also lived in Ballyorgan and Kilfinnane but their names were not mentioned. They are probably included in the other Palatine families listed below taken from William Crook, (The Palatine in Ireland) London 1866. Some of these names appear to be French or English origin. They may be attributed to mixed marriages or perhaps a change of name by Palatine descendants.

Adare:

Barkmand, Fred & son Erick
Bobanzer, John
Bobanzer, James, son of Moses
Fitzell family
Hiffle
Legueur, Fred
Miller, Samuel, Richard & Fred.

*Shier, Julius
Switzer, Nathaniel
Teskey, Augustus
Miller, Richard & son Berry
Piper family
Ruckle, Tuttle, Daniel & son William
Sparling, Joseph

Askeaton:

*Cross, Mrs. Alice (formerly Shier)
Ruttle, Tom
Ruttle, William

*Shier, Pembroke
*Shier, Jethro. Sr. & Jr. / *Shier, Jack
Teskey, Mrs. George

Askeaton & Foynes:

*Shier, Ernest
*Shier, Fredrick

Court Matrix:

Bowen, John
Delmege, Robert
*Shier, Samuel / *Shier, William
Switzer, Christopher
Switzer, Nathaniel
Switzer, John
Teskey, Albert / & / Teskey Joseph

Askeaton & Ballingarrane:

Ruttle, Ed
Ruttle, William

Ballisteen:

*Shier, Henry

Killibeen:

Teskey, Jack
Teskey, William

Ballingarrane:

Baker, Harry
Baker, John
Baker, Robert
Doupe, Edward
Gilliard, Henry
Latchford, Richard
Lovee, Mrs. William
Mick, William
Ruttle, Michael Heck & William
*Shier, George
Shier, John

Rathskeal:

Hudson, William
Sparling, James
*Shier, Bertie
Stark, Samuel
Teskey, William
*Shier, Amos

(Other Palatine families copyright 1965)
(Genealogical Publishing Co. Baltimore, Maryland
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