

IRISH AMONG THE EARLIEST AMERICAN SETTLERS.

In the first voyage made by Sir Walter Raleigh to Virginia Irishmen are referred to by Hakluyt, the chronicler of the expedition. The first recorded colony to establish itself at Newport News, Va., came from Cork, Ireland, in the year 1621, or only one year after the landing of the pilgrims of the Mayflower.

The first attempt of Europeans to establish a settlement on the Merrimac River, in Massachusetts, was a mixed Irish and Scotch company, which embarked at Carrickfergus, Ireland, in the year 1636 with "a considerable quantity of equipment and merchandise."

The first settlement in Shenandoah Valley, at Staunton, Va., where President Wilson was born, was made by John Lewis, from Donegal, and the first known schoolmaster in the valley was John Wilson, from Co. Armagh.

With the first English expedition to Maryland, in the Arke and the Dove, in the year 1633, Irishmen came. How many there were has never been determined, but in what remains at Annapolis of the records or "Certificates and Patents to the Earliest Settlers" in Maryland, many Irish names are found.

In the first proclamations regarding "Conditions of Plantation," issued by Lord Baltimore, he limited the settlers to "persons of British or Irish descent."

In the first voyage of William Penn to Pennsylvania in 1682 he brought with him a number of Irishmen, some of whom are referred to as "people of consequence." The first schoolmaster in Pennsylvania was Thomas Dongan, son of an eminent merchant of Dublin and kinsman of Thomas Dongan, from Co. Kildare, who, as Governor of the province of New York, gave their first chapters to the cities of Albany and New York. Dongan established his primitive school in the year 1686, at a place called Lower Dublin in Philadelphia County.

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