

Was Your UE Ancestor Also an Irish Palatine, like Mine?

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First of all, what is an Irish Palatine? The following explanation is by Robert Fizzell and can be found on the website of the Irish Palatine Special Interest Group (IP-SIG) of the Ontario Genealogical Society (<http://www.ogs.on.ca/ip-sig/>):

Who are the IP?



The Rhineland-Palatinate was an important area in southwest Germany. Its main city was Heidelberg. Recurring wars and invasions in the 1600's and early 1700's devastated the area and created economic hardship for the people

In 1709, at Queen Anne's invitation, nearly 13,000 people left the middle Rhineland-Palatinate to seek new lands in the British colonies. The worst winter in recent history had destroyed the vines and orchards that were the livelihood of these poor farmers. They had hopes of starting anew with land and supplies offered by the Queen.

While not all of these families were from the lands of the Elector Palatine, modern-day Rhineland/Pfalz, they were from that general region and became known as "Palatines."

The people of London were not prepared for such an onslaught so the Palatines set up temporary camps around the city. Some families were even housed in warehouses. Those migrants who would not swear to being Protestant were sent back to the Rhineland. Still not able to house all these people and unable to provide shipping to the colonies, some English landlords in Ireland agreed to accept some families in Ireland to help with the plantations, especially in the south and west.

Though over 3,000 people (over 800 families) moved to Ireland, many chose not to stay on their new lands and continued their journey to the British colonies. Ultimately, one landlord in Ireland, Lord Southwell, settled most of the families on his estate in central County Limerick. Later, as families grew and rents were no longer subsidized by the Crown, the Palatines began to disburse to a wider area in Munster.



Leavetaking at Limerick quay, June 1760

The Pery leaves Limerick in 1760

In 1760 a shipload of Irish Palatines went to the colony of New York. Sixteen years later, during the American Revolution, many served as Loyalists against the American colonials and, when the conflict ended, many moved on to Upper Canada. Many others later left Ireland and moved to the US, Australia, Canada and many other countries around the world.

But what is the connection between the Irish Palatines and the Loyalists? My UE ancestors, the Emburys were among those passengers on The Pery. They remained loyal to the British and fought for them during the American Revolution. Like the other Loyalists, they paid the cost for that loyalty with the loss of their lands and chattel in the States when they fled. Were your UE ancestors also Irish Palatines? A quick comparison of the IP names on the IP-SIG website (http://www.ogs.on.ca/ip-sig/?page_id=248) with the Loyalist Directory from the website of the UELAC (http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/loyalist_list.php) will reveal many common surnames.

If they were, you might be interested in meeting some of your distant cousins. In September 2013, the IP-SIG is sponsoring a bus tour through Ontario that will emphasize the Irish Palatine history of Ontario. The tour will include visits to many major historical and tourist sites across Ontario, but its emphasis will be on meeting Irish Palatine descendants and visiting settlements, cemeteries, memorials and churches with Irish Palatine historical roots. Besides Ontario, tour members are coming from western Canada, the United States, Ireland and Germany. There are still about ten spaces available on the bus so if you would like to join us you will have to act soon.

Some of the major Irish Palatine-themed events on the tour are briefly described below:

- Lunch in Kirkton with descendants of the Doupes, followed by a guided tour of the local cemetery and a stop at the Switzer/Corneille cairn



- Attendance at a Sunday service at Centenary United Church, the first Methodist church in Hamilton, built to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Methodism in New York City by Philip Embury and Barbara Heck

Centenary United Church – Hamilton, Ontario

- Lunch with descendants of the Shiers and other Palatine families in Brock Township with a show-and-tell presentation of early Irish Palatine immigrant artifacts
- A Workshop/Genealogy Interchange at a peaceful, cottage-country resort, guided by several Irish Palatine descendants who have extensive experience in researching their heritage
- A guided tour of Irish Palatine sites in Lanark County, including a visit to a Wesleyan Methodist cemetery with Teskey and Dulmage ancestors, a stop in “Teskeyville” and lunch with local Irish Palatine descendants in a church hall in Pakenham



- A visit to the Blue Church and the Barbara Heck memorial near Prescott, followed by dinner with local Irish Palatine descendants

Blue Church & Barbara Heck Memorial – Prescott Ontario

- Exploration of the Irish Palatine settlements in Lennox Addington County, including Tamworth, Camden East, and Switzerville
- Participation in a service at Hay Bay church in Adolphustown, the oldest Methodist church in Ontario, built in 1792 with Irish Palatine involvement, followed by a picnic with local descendants

We have also lined up several noted historians to address topics of interest, and musical groups to provide dinner entertainment.

If you are interested in joining our tour, please contact “Great Canadian Holidays” at 1-800-467-8687 X280 from North America and 011-01-519-896-8687 from outside North America to book. To obtain a copy of the Tour brochure, go to [Tour Brochure](#). Should you have any other questions regarding the tour, please do not hesitate to send us an email at IP2013Tour@ogs.on.ca. We will endeavour to do our best to answer your questions. We want to welcome our Irish Palatine cousins!