

History

This record begins with Alexander Joyce (one) a North Carolina plantation owner. Who according to family tradition immigrated to the southern colonial colony of Virginia from Ireland and settled in Pittsylvania county in the state of Virginia about 1720. Alexander later moved to the colonial colony of Carolina and settled in Guilford county in the state of North Carolina. A will was made by Alexander sometime before the year 1773. David Smith of Shelbyville, Indiana got a copy of this will from William Joyce in Stuart, Virginia about 1946 or 1947. David's copy was destroyed by fire about 1962. In this will there were mentioned an iron kettle and brass lined kettle. Alexander had a brother Thomas Joyce.

On March 3, 1773 Alexander executed another will and last testament and died soon afterwards. The will was proved in open court in May 1773 at Guilford courthouse where on March 15, 1781 one of the decisive battles of the American revolution was fought. In this will Alexander disposed of; a plantation on the river in Guilford county, in the state of North Carolina; 640 acres of land; 19 negro slaves; 1 entry of tract and a mill; a still; 620 pounds money; residue in excess of 100 pounds money; 4 spinning wheels; 4 sets of bed and furniture and 526 acres of land in Pittsylvania county in the state of Virginia.

The mighty surge of English into the thirteen colonies during the 17th and 18th centuries settled the cultural destiny of America. By 1773 their number was in excess of 2.7 million and comprised about 80 percent of the total population, the estimated population of Virginia was 87,757 white (26,559 negro). They had expanded not only by immigration but by natural increase as well, a high birth rate was experienced because of early marriages, economic factors, and social approval of large families. Their sheer numbers set the cultural pattern that eventually absorbed all non-English elements. The English language became practically universal—the means by which cultural developments in Europe were transmitted to the New World. English ideas and practices, laws and liberties were transplanted and took root. This is a proper emphasis; but it would distort American history to ignore the many non-English tributaries that fed this broad English river. Large numbers of immigrants speaking non-English tongues, practicing non-English faiths and pursuing non-English ways poured into colonies.

Each group gravitated to its own community. The Huguenots (French protestants) and the Scotch-Irish settled along the eastern foothills of the Appalachians into the mountain valleys of Virginia and the Carolinas. The Scotch-Irish left North Ireland in droves to escape the oppressive acts of the English landlords who crippled their thriving cattle and woolen industries, trebled their rents and excluded them from political office. The lot of their southern neighbors, the Irish Catholics, was even worse. The Irish came in steadily throughout the colonial period.

There was great wealth to be gained from the vast stretches of arable soil in the New World. The first necessity was to develop a self-sustaining agriculture. The colony of Carolina was slow in establishing an agricultural staple but a profitable trade in deerskins sprang up with the Indians to the southwest. By 1700 the cultivation of rice brought a profitable export staple to Carolina. The three main non-English people to come to the colonies were; Palatine Germans; Scotch-Irish and Negro slaves. The Germans began immigrating in large numbers about 1710. The Scotch-Irish from Northern Ireland soon followed the Germans. The rich soil and long growing season in the south encouraged the growth of plantations. All the colonists who became landowners produced the basic cereals; vegetables and fruits; raised poultry and hogs; herded cattle; cut down forests for building material, fuel and tools; grew flax and wool and concocted an impressive variety of alcoholic beverages in their still. Saw mills in all the colonies produced lumber for export as well as for multiple local uses. Flour milling was important and all colonies produced flour for local consumption; textile making was a home industry, cloth was made of wool and flax, little cotton was used.

Negro slaves were imported to work the rice fields and a plantation type of economy developed. The colonial attitude of slavery seems to have been that labor was needed, negro slaves were available for about 40 pounds sterling each and slavery was more profitable than indentured servants in areas where there was extensive farming. So they were bought for the tobacco plantations of Virginia and the rice plantations of Carolina, by 1778 the estimated negro population of North Carolina was 91,000. In 1778 95 percent of the more than 2.5 million colonists were farmers, the estimated population of North Carolina was 270,133 white, the estimated Irish population of North Carolina by 1778 was Ulster 5.7 and Free State 5.4

The values of the main coins in circulation were round sterling value; the English Shilling 10 pounds; the French Crown 50 pounds and the Spanish Dollar 46 pounds; the Portuguese Johannes gold coin 160 pounds and the Dutch Guilder 110 pounds. 12 pence equal 1 shilling; 20 shillings equal 1 pound. The price of beef was 7 pounds 10 shillings per barrel; refined sugar cost 2 shillings 6 pence per pound.

Religion and the religious outlook strongly affected the attitude of people toward all aspects of life in colonial times much more so than today. In the back country of the south, Presbyterians (Scotch-Irish), Baptists and Quakers were prominent.

As long as the colonies were weak and threatened by war, they needed the protection of England whether or not economic relations were entirely satisfactory. When the colonies became strong enough to protect themselves and the economic controls of the British empire became stifling, they recognized the possibility and need for independence and a nation was born. Within the colonies the revolutionists (Patriots) outnumbered the loyalists (Tories) about two to one. The state governments confiscated large land holdings and personal property of loyalists. Loyalists were most numerous among the upper classes - officials, wealthy merchants with British connections, professional people, and Anglican clergymen. Small farmers, workers, debtors, southern planters, and frontiersmen were more likely to join the patriot cause.

Chronology of events 1720 - 1778:

- 1 The French and Indian war (1756-1763)
- 2 Colonial resistance to British rule (1763 - 1776).
- 3 The American revolution (1776-1783)
- 4 Washington at Valley Forge in winter of (1777-1778). in 1778 Franklin signed treaty of alliance with France.
- 5 The British decided to invade the south and captured Savannah in 1778 and Charleston in 1780. the Americans were most defeated at Cowpens South Carolina, but at King's Mountain frontiersmen destroyed a large British force.
- 6 The battle at Guilford courthouse on March 15, 1781.

Chart of Ancestors

**Alexander Joyce (son)
Jane Joyce

husband
wife

Died 1778 (will of 1778)

There children were:
Robert

**Thomas Joyce

John
James
Elijah

***Alexander Joyce (son)

Elisha
Andrew
Sarah
Margarett
Esther
Elizabeth
Mary

Note: The asterisk indicate direct ancestor line of LeRoy Clarence Kelsey.