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NEITHER IRISH NOR ENGLISH: THE SCOTTISH PRESENCE IN ULSTER

Cira Danda

Mentors: Derek Hirst and Christine Johnson

By the end of the Tudor reign, the British government fully adopted plantation as the most effective method of colonizing Ireland with the ultimate goal of “making Ireland British” as discussed by scholar Nicholas Canny. The Ulster Plantation represents the most prominent of these schemes throughout the island. The massive influx of Protestant English and Scottish settlers threatened the political and economic position of the Catholic, Old English nobility as well as that of the few Irish lordships remaining in the region. It also inspired resentment among the native Irish inhabitants, ultimately resulting in the 1641 Rebellion—a violent Irish-Catholic uprising against their Protestant neighbors. This thesis argues that out of the 1641 Rebellion and the failure to create a “British” identity, the Scottish settlers in Ulster developed their own distinctive “Scots-Irish” identity. The project examines the formation of this identity through an analysis of Scottish settlement within Ulster from the start of plantation under James I through the 1641 Rebellion. More specifically this thesis first analyzes the Scottish role in the plantation’s early development and their relationships with both the English and the Irish during this time followed by a discussion of the Scottish nobility’s successes in establishing predominantly Scottish communities and preserving Scottish culture within Ulster. Finally, the project concludes with an analysis of the Scottish role in the violent upheaval of the 1641 Rebellion.