



Object of the Newsletter

To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky, the area from which it comes, the people that inhabit the land and it's history. By the way, I am merely expressing my opinion on the whiskies I am tasting, as you know, everybody has one.

I now look at the "Linkwood" 15-year-old, single Malt whisky, which I tried at the Gleneagles hotel in Scotland.

Again this is a distillery (Speyside) that may not be known to most people as they rarely release single malts, but thanks to some independent bottling companies such as this Gordon & McPhail, you can get your hands on some of their whiskies.

I think my choice of whisky to drink was inspired! I was at one of the world's great hotel's and this whisky was an elegant accompaniment to the wonderful lunch we had.

Would I buy it, yes I would, it has some slightly unusual flavors going on, but it is a fine and complex whisky none-the-less. Your best bet to buy a bottle would probably be online, unless you are going to Scotland and you plan on visiting the Gordon & McPhail shop in Elgin, which I did last year, and I highly recommend you do.

[You can buy Gordon & McPhail "Linkwood" for around \\$74.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Port, oak & smoked meat?

Palate - Compote, licorice & toffee

Finish - Oak & spice

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Who were the Scotch-Irish?

George Washington himself is quoted as saying: "When our friendless standards were first unfurled, who were the strangers who first mustered around our staff, and when it reeled in the fight who more brilliantly sustained it than Erin's generous sons". He, like his son was referring to the Scotch-Irish (Presbyterian Scots) from Northern Ireland.

"Fourteen United States presidents were descendants from the small northern corner of the island of Ireland. More than seven Pennsylvania governors were descendants of the Scotch-Irish as well as many U.S. senators, congressmen, judges, and other prominent people from all walks of life."

Who were the Scotch-Irish?

The term "Scotch-Irish" is an American term adopted by descendants of this group in the 19th century to describe their ethnic origins, and to distinguish themselves from the Irish Catholic immigrants who came to America after the potato famine of the late 1840s. The British, Irish, and Canadians prefer the term "Ulster Scots" to describe this group. They numbered 250,000 by 1775.

The earliest settlers of the Cumberland valley were mainly Scotch-Irish. These people came from Northern Ireland and they were descendants of the Scotch Presbyterians that had migrated from Scotland to Northern Ireland during the reign of King James I of England. This ruler, a Protestant, had encouraged people from Scotland to cross over into Ireland, a distance of eleven miles, by water, and take up land that had been seized by the English crown. The Irish, who were dispossessed, were Catholic and had revolted against the crown because of restrictive religious laws that had been imposed on them.

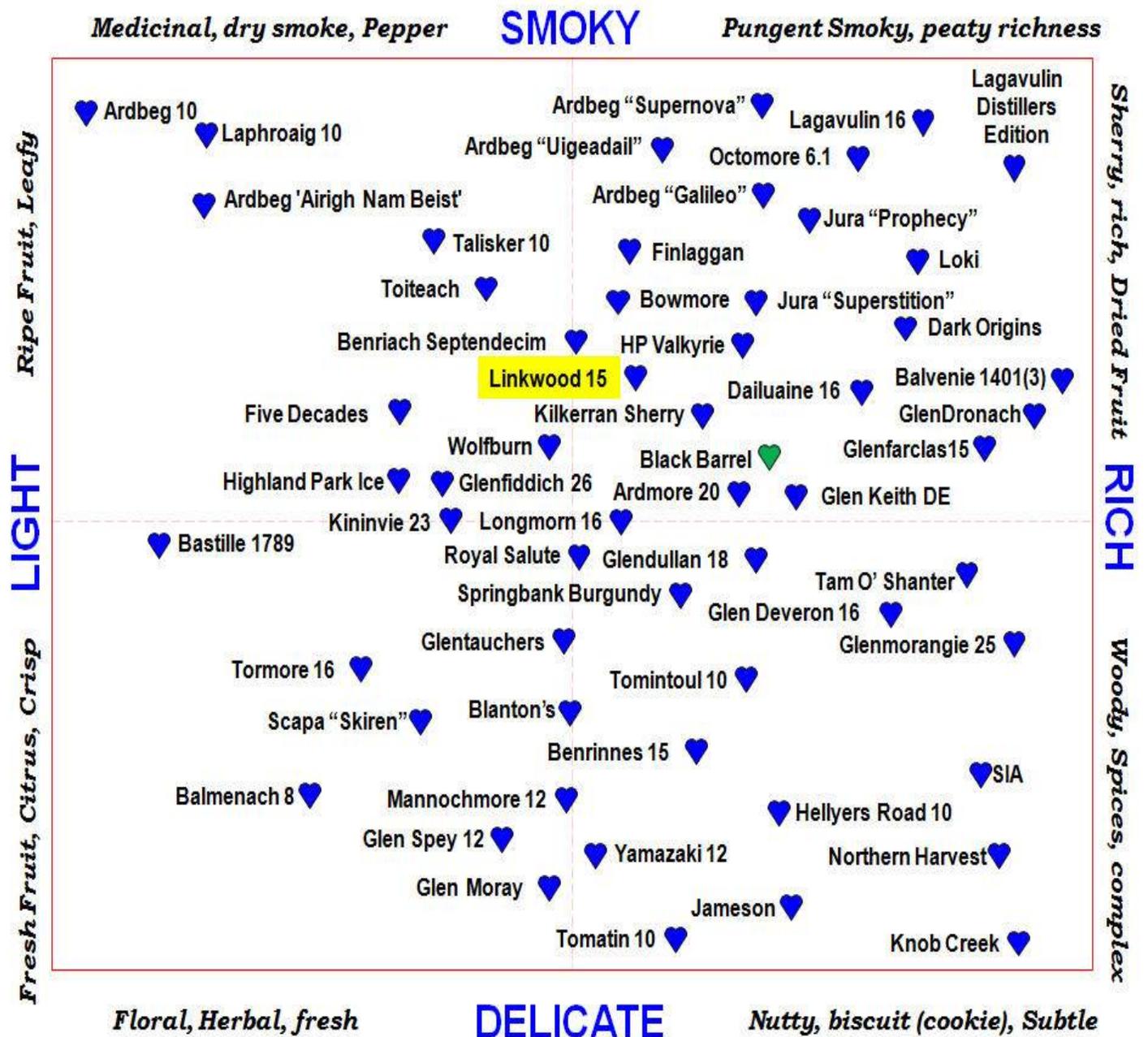
Thousands of Scotch families went to Northern Ireland and settled in the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Caven, Donegal, Fernmanagh, Londonderry, Monaghan, and Tyrone. This is the part of Ireland where religious conflict between Presbyterians and Catholics continues to this day (thankfully lessened of late)

The island of Ireland is about the size of the state of Maine, and is divided into four provinces or regions: Leinster in the southeast, Munster in the southwest, Connacht in the far west, and Ulster in the north.

The Ulster Scots in Ireland were largely Presbyterians. During two and a half centuries after the first plantation of Scottish Presbyterian colonies in Ulster, ca. 1606, they maintained a close connection with their homeland, while they remained a race apart from their Irish and English neighbors. They were hated by the Roman Catholics of Ulster, whose land they had usurped. They were despised by the English, whose Government and Established Church inflicted persecution upon them due to religious non-conformity.



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. This issue; "Linkwood" 15-year-old. For more information go to [No distillery website](#).





Who were the Scotch-Irish? Cont.

The Ulster Scots kept their racial strain pure in matters of intermarriage. They sent their sons to Scotland to be educated for the ministry, etc. Many of them married there before they returned to Ulster. Thus they remained under the influence of Scottish religion, philosophy, and family ties to their early and some later generations.

Unfavorable economic conditions in Ireland by the early-18th century caused many Protestant families in Ulster to consider emigration. Trade legislation enacted by the English Parliament discriminated against Irish goods and produce, causing hardship. Bad harvests and crop failures discouraged farmers, as did high rents on farm land.

The tithe (a tax on agricultural produce), which was paid to support the established Church of Ireland, was especially resented by the Presbyterians, who were termed dissenters in Ireland. In Scotland, the Presbyterian Church was established and supported by tithes, so the Ulster Scots resented being treated as dissenters in Ireland.

After James I the English government did not always protect and encourage these Scotch-Irish in their new homes and because of difficulties with Roman Catholics and later English rulers, many of them began to come to America. When William Penn founded Pennsylvania as a colony for free lands, free religion and self government, thousands came. In September of 1736, for instance, one thousand immigrated to the colony.

Throughout the reign of Charles II, the harshness of the law in Scotland and Ireland led to many plans for removal to America, and it is known that small settlements of immigrants from these countries were established in Maryland, Pennsylvania and the Carolinas prior to 1685. Under Queen Anne (1702 - 1714) the Presbyterians in Ireland again lost almost every advantage that had been gained, and became by the Test Act of 1704 virtually outlaws.

Their marriages were declared invalid and their chapels were closed. They could not maintain schools nor hold office above that of a petty constable.

Scotch-Irish, who migrated from about 1717 until the Revolution in a series of waves caused by hardships in Ireland. They were primarily frontiersmen, pushing first into the Cumberland Valley region and then farther into central and western Pennsylvania. They, with immigrants from old Scotland, numbered about one-fourth of the population by 1776

The Scotch-Irish began to fill the Valley, clearing the forest and carving out their farms. Between 1771 and 1773 over twenty-five thousand came. These people were the true pioneers of the Cumberland Valley.



Who were the Scotch-Irish? Cont.

In the 13 colonies overall in 1776, about two-thirds of the population were for the patriot cause, or for independence from England. The Scotch-Irish were among the first to volunteer to fight the British in 1775. They comprised about 30% of the Patriots. General Washington stated that they were the driving force in defeating the British.

Many of the Scotch and Scotch-Irish had been battling the English for nearly 100 years by the time the American Revolution came along, doing so earlier in Northern Ireland and, earlier still, in Scotland. They had fought them, at Culloden Moor in 1745, in The Battle of Derry in Ulster, at The Battle by the River Boyne on July 1, 1690, and elsewhere in the 1600's.

The Scotch-Irish were attuned to despotism in all its variety of shades from a 100 years experience with England, and fought England's efforts to take away their liberties and freedom with all their might and strength. They were willing to lay down their lives, if necessary, in order to gain freedom. Many did lay down their lives for the cause of liberty and freedom

The Scotch-Irish in America at the time of the American Revolution were overwhelmingly for independence from England, nearly to a man.

Washington's adopted son George Washington Parke Custis, wrote:

"In the War of Independence, Ireland furnished 100 men for every single man furnished by any other nation. Let America bear eternal gratitude to Irishmen."

Many Presbyterian Scots were moved by order of the Crown from the Scottish border region and settled in Northern Ireland. They were later forced out of Northern Ireland, and many came to America. The peak periods of Scots-Irish migration to America occurred between 1718 and 1774 with over 250,000 coming during that time period.

