



Migrations

From Europe to Berks County

The *Täufers*/Anabaptists of Swiss background migrated primarily to South Germany and France—most living anywhere from several years to three or four generations before emigrating to Pennsylvania. The first to arrive in Berks County, Pennsylvania, were Amish-Mennonite Detweilers in 1736 who settled along the Northkill Creek. By 1759, a few Amish-Mennonites began to move into Lancaster County where many Mennonites lived. A letter written in 1773 by Mennonite bishops stated that the Amish “hold very fast to the outward and ancient customs.”



Reasons for Migration:

- Religious persecution
- Devastations of almost 100 years of war
- Bitter winter of 1708-1709—coldest in more than 100 years
- Oppressive taxation (especially on Anabaptists)
- Desire for adventure and land ownership
- Attractive advertising by the proprietors of Pennsylvania and the Carolinas

~ Lemar Mast



For the London Magaz-