

# THE SHUTE PETITION

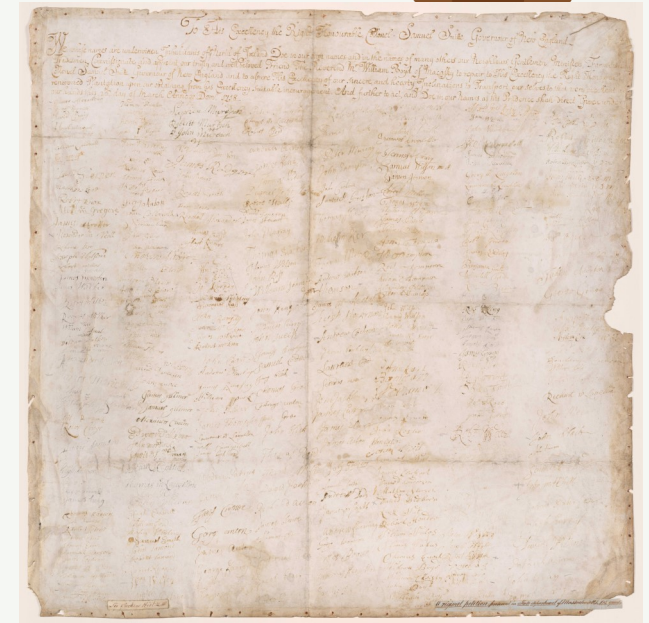


## What was the Shute Petition?

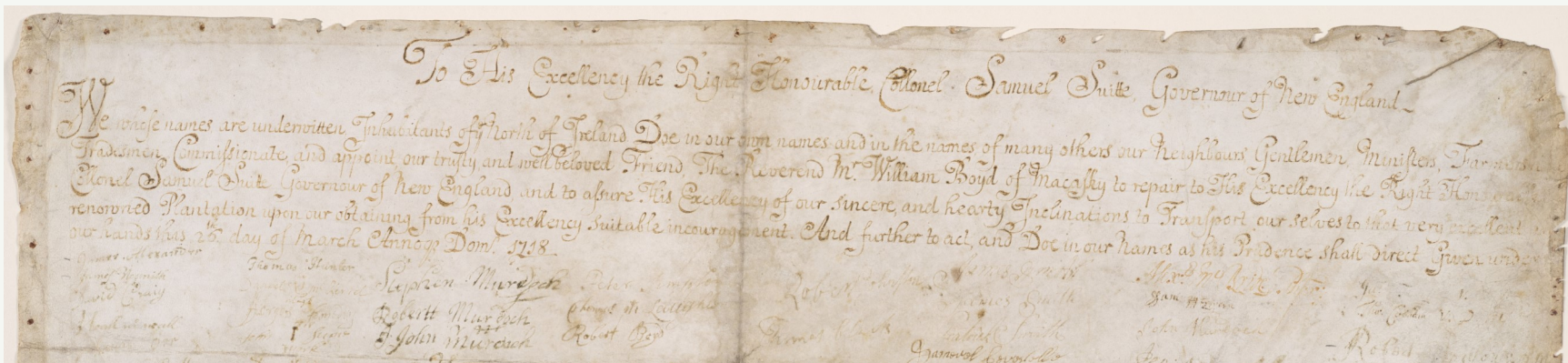
The Shute Petition was written in 1718 by Scots-Irish settlers hoping to come to New England. It was a document addressed to Governor Samuel Shute asking him if the Scots-Irish could come to Massachusetts and live there. Many Scots-Irish wanted to leave Ireland and start new lives in America. More than 300 Scots-Irish settlers signed their name to the petition.

Before Governor Shute could respond to the petition, the Scots-Irish settlers began to arrive in Boston. More than 800 Scots-Irish arrived in Massachusetts in the summer and fall of 1718. They moved to towns all over New England, including 16 families who came to the Merrimack Valley in New Hampshire. These 16 families were the founders of Londonderry, which became the center of the Scots-Irish community in New England in the 18th century.

It's very hard to read the petition now as the ink has faded. It is one of the oldest documents at the New Hampshire Historical Society.



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This is a detail of the Shute Petition.

Can you read what it says?