

MIGRATION FROM IRELAND TO AMERICA 18th CENTURY

- 1717 Scottish settlers left Ulster because of poor harvests and rackrenting.
- 1740-1741 Potato famine, 200,000 died & emigration intensified from the Provinces of Ulster, Leinster & Munster. Few left Connacht Province before the 19th Century.
- 1760' s Another impetus because of agrarian violence within the landlord/tenant system. Barn burning, beatings and sabotage of livestock by peasant secret societies such as the "Whiteboys" in Munster and the "Oakboys" and "Hearts of Steel" in Ulster.
- 1771 -1775 Decline in the Belfast linen trade caused 10,000 to migrate each of these years.

3,000 to 5,000 Ulster Protestants left each year during the 18th Century. Most emigrants were men. Some paid their own way. some were indentured servants, some redemptioners (hoping "redeemers" would pay the remainder of their fair) and 20,000 convicts (before the American Revolution).

By 1790. one-sixth of the three million citizens of the "United States" was of Irish birth or descent. Of the approximately 447,000 Irish Americans, 280,000 were Ulster Protestants, 106,000 were native Irish (Catholics), and 61,000 were descendants of Irish Catholics from Ulster and English settlers from Ulster and the South.

19th CENTURY

- 1815 End of the War of 1812. Immigration and trade to America resumed.
- 1815-1845 Many more Catholic and Southern Irish
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|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 1815-1825 | 28,600 | (These figures can be doubled by the |
| 1826-1835 | 118,400 | (many who went to Canada first and |
| 1836-1845 | 289,700 | (then South to the U.S. |

GREAT FAMINE AND AFTERMATH

There were potato crop failures in 1822. 1831. 1835-1837. 1839 & 1842. but the potato crop failures in four consecutive years, (1845. 1846, 1847 & 1848) lead to the worst famine and ultimately to the greatest migration from Ireland. It is estimated that one million died of starvation or disease and one and a half million emigrated.

1846-1855	1,442,000	(Another 300,000 went to Canada
1856-1865	582,400	(and many again came South to the U.S.
1866-1875	645,700	

Half a million left Ireland every 10 years until World War I!

NOTE: Figures from *The Exiles of Erin. Nineteenth-Century Irish-American Fiction*, by Charles Fanning. Editor.

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