

THE Famine

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(P.s For some reason it wont let me copy and paste images.)

The great famine was as its title says was a great famine. It happened in the period of 1845 until 1849. All this happened because of a fungus called Blight. Blight is an airborne fungus which means that it floats in the air. Back then all the poor people of Ireland mostly depended on the potato crop. The Blight infected the potatoes and made them black and mushy and just made them completely inedible. And because of this many people in Ireland starved to death (over a million!). But the people that starved were mostly poor. The Blight didn't just infect Ireland it infected countries all over Europe (such as Belgium, France, Holland and so on). But it infected Ireland the worst because the Irish didn't get help

Emigration

Emigration means to travel to a different country and live there. Emigration played a vital part in the famine as many people were forced to emigrate. Over a million people emigrated to America alone! The Irish also emigrated to England as well as Australia and New Zealand. Many people died on the way to their destination on the so-called coffin ships. Coffin ships were large enough ships that carried people from A to B. BUT they put too much people on them and as result many people died. What's worse many people were carrying lots of disease like cholera and typhus and that was a result of many of the deaths on coffin ships. Irish mothers would usually send their oldest child (kids as young as 12 years old!) to make their fortune. This is the cause of losing many Irish speakers as "the oldest child" would send back letters saying that no one knows how to speak Irish and the mothers would teach her other children to speak English instead. The result being the other children

emigrate, don't teach their own children how to speak Irish and so on.

Politics

Politics also played a vital part in the great famine as many people died because of it. Some politicians tried to help the Irish, some wanted genocide. Sir Robert Peel (F.I.Y he invented the police) helped the Irish in the form of public jobs. Jobs such as laying roads and building bridges. ect. Jobs were given to the poor Irish (Known back then as the poorest of the poor). The pay was around 10 pence. Robert Peel imported cheap corn from America for the poor to buy with their salary. On the other hand there was Charles Trevelyan. On an election, by a vast majority, Peel was voted out and Trevelyan in. Trevelyan lowered the salary on the pay as much as he could and wanted genocide in the Irish population.

Why genecide?

Trevelyan wanted genecide because of farming. Now this may sound strange but you would be surprised. Before the famine, the Irish imported lots of food to the British. But because of tradition, farms were divided between family. So to break it down if a farm started at 16 acres, the farm would be divided to the oldest child and the farm would be divided in half. Then the oldest child would have kids and the farm, yet again, divided. ect. Because of this, there was less produce. And if there was genecide, there would be bigger farms and therefore - more produce. But however, that would be much help as lakes and rivers were fished clean. Along beaches, even beaches cleaned out of seaweed!

James Mahony

James Mahony was one of the most famous artists of the famine. His main works usually drawings or engravings. Most of his most famous works were mostly drawings. He usually drew the struggle of people of the famine. He lived until the age of 69 (1810-1879). It is thought that he studied drawing and painting in Rome, Italy and France then later returned to his home in Cork (he was 32 when he came home). The sad thing is that most of his work is out of experience and not his head. But on the other hand, his engravings were described as highly romantic.

THE CONCLUSION

Ireland has still not fully recovered from The Great Famine as the population has dropped 2.5 million. It would probably be higher if we got the help we so so needed. To be honest I might have been a little biased but to be completely honest it's hard not to be. It was hard times back then as an understatement. It's cool that Joe Biden's Great Great Grandad was born in Mayo and was part of the famine relief. I really enjoyed doing this project and I really learned quite a lot doing this project and it really was quite sad what happened. And now it's time for a brief bibliography.

Wikipedia(only for James Mahony)

And my memory.