

Celtic Life & Heritage  
Foundation

*presents*

# Historic Overview of Ireland

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# Ancient Times

Thousands of years ago, the earth looked different than it does today. After the last Ice Age, the oceans were lower exposing more land. Ireland was not an island but connected to the rest of the continent, enabling people and animals to walk across.



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The map depicts the continent as it would have been at the end of the last ice age ~16,000 BC. What is now known as the islands of Ireland and England were joined to the rest of the continent.

## **Did people live in the area now covered by water?**

The area between today's England and Norway is known as Doggerland, and humans and animals lived in the low lying plain that is now beneath the North Sea at least 9,000 years ago.

## **Did people live in Ireland then?**

A recent discovery evidences human occupation in Ireland as early as 12,500 years ago

<http://education.nationalgeographic.org/maps/doggerland/>

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/12/doggerland/spinney-text>

<http://irisharchaeology.ie/2016/03/new-discovery-pushes-back-date-of-human-existence-in-ireland-by-2500-years/>

# Ancient Times

As the oceans continued to rise, Ireland became detached from the rest of the continent.

England followed, creating the islands in modern times.



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## What happened to cause the water to rise so much?

Gradual warming and rising seas flooded low-lying lands. By 7,000 BC only a small land bridge in the very north side of Ireland connected Ireland and England.

About 8,200 years ago a catastrophic release of water from a North American glacial lake combined with a tsunami from a submarine landslide off of Norway caused the waters to rise close to present day levels, a 400' increase from the end of the last ice age.

<http://education.nationalgeographic.org/maps/doggerland/>

# Geography/Early Irish



Humans were in Ireland over 12,000 years ago, when Ireland was mostly covered with trees.

Ireland has a diverse landscape ranging from sheer cliffs, to limestone rock, to forests.



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## What are these pictures?

The first picture is of the famous Cliffs of Moher on the west side of the island. At their highest point they are 702 feet above the ocean and stretch for 5 miles.

In the east are the Wicklow Mountains. Although their highest point only reaches 3,035' the topography is varied with streams and waterfalls (the rock in the photo is actually the bed of a stream flowing down the mountain) bare in places and others covered in forest.

# Early Irish – Stone Age



Poulnabrone was a portal tomb in Ireland. It marks the entrance to a tomb that was used for over 600 years from 3800 BC – 3200 BC.

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## **What do you think they found here?**

The 22 skeletal remains found at Poulnabrone give insight into the lives of these Neolithic people. The oldest remains were only forty years old. The remains also showed hard physical labor, malnutrition, and violence/war. Both genders were found here as well as both children and adults.

Poulnabrone is located on the east side of Ireland in The Burren. Portal tombs typically have two large portal stones showing the entrance and, along with a back stone, support the roofstone. The largest roofstone is in Brownshill, Co. Carlow weighing approximately 100 tons.

## **How did they get the stone to sit at the top with no machinery to help?**

Most likely wooden rollers, pulled by men and animals with ropes. They may have built a stone and earth ramp to help rest the stone while putting it in place. Some such ramps have been found in other portal tombs.

There are approximately 174 of these types of tombs throughout Ireland.

<http://irisharchaeology.ie/2013/06/poulnabrone-tomb-life-and-death-in-the-burren/>

# Early Irish – Stone Age

People created architectural marvels like this tomb in Newgrange c. 3200 BC. Intricate carving on the foundation stones and the artistic rock placement has lasted through the ages.



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## Who built Newgrange?

A farming community that prospered on the rich lands of the Boyne Valley.

## Is it more than a tomb?

Although once classified as a passage tomb, Newgrange is now recognized to be much more. **Ancient Temple** is a more fitting classification, a place of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial importance, much as present day cathedrals are places of prestige and worship where dignitaries may be laid to rest.

Newgrange is older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids at Giza. The 60 foot long inner passage leads to a cruciform chamber with a corbelled roof. The amount of time and labor invested in construction of Newgrange suggests a well-organized society with specialized groups responsible for different aspects of construction.

## Where is it located?

North of Dublin on the East side of the island.

<http://www.newgrange.com/>

## Early Irish – Stone Age



This above burial grave, Knowth Tumulus, was built c. 3000 BC.

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### **How big is Knowth Tumulus?**

It is ~213' in diameter and between 40'-50' high. The large mound holds two burial tombs. There are eighteen satellite tombs surrounding the large one. The large mound is surrounded by 127 giant kerbstones, many of them decorated.

### **Where is it?**

Knowth Tumulus is found within Brú na Bóinne located near the east coast of Ireland approximately 25 miles north of Dublin.

<http://www.meath.ie/Tourism/MeathsTownandVillages/Knowth/>

<http://www.newgrange.com/knowth.htm>

# Early Irish – Bronze Age



Farmers lived in small huts similar to this one reconstructed at the National Heritage Park, County, Wexford.

Some communities built larger buildings with stone bases and used wood and thatch to make the roofs. Cnoc Raithnighe was built c. 1500 BC.



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## **What were the huts made of?**

Most were built with a wood structure and covered with thatch, then insulated with mud, dung, and straw.

Stone circles were many times fences to protect small settlements inside, although some structures were built of stone walls with the roof being of wood and thatch.

## ***Bronze Age delayed in Ireland***

Although the Bronze Age was much earlier in the middle east, Asia, and Europe, it appears metal did not spread to Ireland until c. 2500-2000 BC when French settlers brought with them the knowledge of forging copper and tin into bronze.

[http://www.wesleyjohnston.com/users/ireland/past/pre\\_norman\\_history/bronze\\_age.html](http://www.wesleyjohnston.com/users/ireland/past/pre_norman_history/bronze_age.html)

## Early Irish: 1,000 BC - 1,000 AD

Dun Aengus is a magnificent example of an ancient ring fort. Built c. 800 BC, Dun Aengus uses the security of a 330' drop on one side of the fort and walls and rock formations as defense on the other.



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### Who lived there?

Dun Aengus (*Dún Aonghasa* in Irish) housed primarily the prominent members of society, as evidenced by the remains of gems and metalwork. It was occupied beginning in the late Bronze Age, when it was first built, and continued to be used up until the early medieval period.

### How big is it?

It is famous not only for its location on the edge of a cliff, but also its size covering an area of about 14 acres.

### What are the stones formations for?

In addition to the defensive walls, Dun Aengus also employed a *chevaux de frise*, which is a band of closely spaced sharp stone uprights at various angles. This defense made it almost impossible for horses to cross and slowed attackers on foot.

### Where is it located?

On Inishmore, the large island of the Arran Islands off the West Coast of Ireland.

<http://www.doolin2aranferries.com/blog/dun-aengus-fort-icon-aran-islands/>

# Celtic Ireland – 500 BC – 400 AD



In the Iron Age, the Celts settled Ireland around 500 BC. Ireland is one of the few countries today where the Celtic culture has survived.



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## Why did the Celts come to Ireland?

There was great pressure on the Celts to migrate because of the expansion of the Roman Empire.

## Why is Ireland one of the few countries where Celtic culture has remained?

Celtic culture was either destroyed or assimilated into the Roman Culture, but those that travelled to Ireland retained much of their lifestyle and culture because Ireland was never directly impacted by Rome, being too far removed.

## What is that funny house?

A Celtic house in Galiza, Spain found at the very NW tip of country. The Celts brought to Ireland their architecture.

*Celtic House in Galiza copyright Carlos Pereira*

<https://www.uni-due.de/DI/Background.htm>

<http://www.ancestraljourneys.org/celtictribes.shtml>

# The Celts Arrive



The Celts brought with them a new building style of round huts.

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## **What are those buildings?**

These are houses.

## **What are they made of?**

The walls were usually made of wood with a pole in the center. A basket type weave (wattle) was created on upright posts of the wall and filled in with “daube” a combination of clay, dung, straw, and water. Roof beams were tied to the center pole and smaller beams horizontal on the roof beams. Thatch was used for the roof.

## **How did they stay warm?**

A fire was built in the center of the hut so all areas of the hut could get heat. The roof was high so the smoke could stay at the top of the hut and filter out through the thatch. The fire also helped to dry out the thatch.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/animations/ironage\\_roundhouse/index\\_embed.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/animations/ironage_roundhouse/index_embed.shtml)

Photo: <http://exarc.net/issue-2015-4/aoam/celtic-village-iron-age-farmstead-lessons-learnt-twenty-years-building-maintaining-and-presenting>

# Celts Art & Metalwork



The Celts also brought intricate metal work and art that still influences Irish art today.

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## **What are the characteristics of Celtic Art?**

The one most people think of as Celtic Art matured in the middle ages and is considered insular art: characterized by an abstract style, a horror vacui (dislike for empty space), brilliant patterns and swirls with seemingly no start or end.

Left: Ardagh Chalice, 6" tall (also 8<sup>th</sup> Century) bowl and foot are made of silver, décor of gold, silver, amber and enamel. It was used for dispensing Eucharistic wine during the celebration of Mass. It is now at the National Museum of Ireland.

Right: Close up of Tara brooch (early 8<sup>th</sup> Century), found on the seashore near Laytown, Co. Meath

<http://www.ancient-celts.com/ancientvsmedievalart6.html>

## Christianity Arrives: 400AD



Christianity was successful at converting the pagan Irish without bloodshed because the leaders blended pagan beliefs into Christianity, keeping the new religion familiar.

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### **What effect did Christianity have on the Celtic Culture?**

Prior to Christianity, most Irish held pagan beliefs closely related to nature and animals. With the coming of Christianity, Celtic Culture transitioned to Christian beliefs but retained much of its artistic culture. Many Irish adopted Christianity but held onto Celtic beliefs alongside.

#### **Pictures**

Left: Stain Glass from St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin; depicts St. Patrick

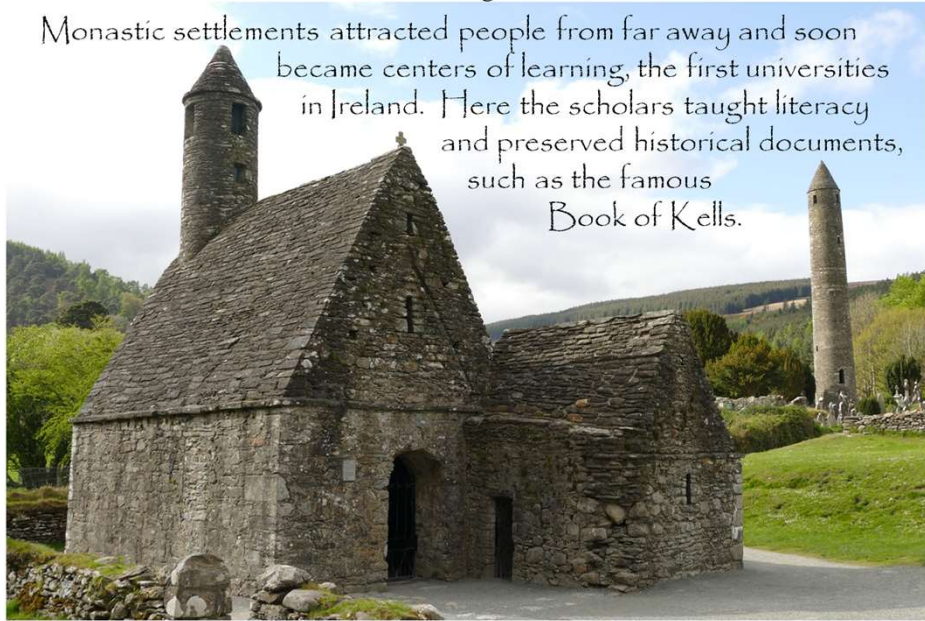
Middle: Tobernalt Holy Well in County Sligo; prior to Christianity Tobernalt was the main area where the festival of Lughanasa was celebrated (harvest festival), the festival became Christianized and came to be known as Garland Sunday.

Right: Celtic High Crosses – the left one The Cross of Muiredach, one of the most famous high crosses blending both Christian and Celtic symbolism. Dates to the 9<sup>th</sup>C or 10<sup>th</sup>C AD and is 17 feet high.

<http://www.holywellsligo.com/about.html>

# Christianity Arrives

Monastic settlements attracted people from far away and soon became centers of learning, the first universities in Ireland. Here the scholars taught literacy and preserved historical documents, such as the famous Book of Kells.



© 2016 Celtic Life & Heritage Foundation

## Were there schools before the monasteries?

Yes, in pagan times the Druids taught education in oral tradition so nothing was written down. Not all children went to school. Some learned skillsets from their families. Written language does not appear to have occurred until Ireland was Christianized with the coming of the monks. Much schooling was done by apprenticeship and were learned in the homes of the master, typically hereditary.

## What subjects did they teach?

Monasteries: Religion, mathematics, sciences, literature, language (Latin and Greek), philosophy

Lay: poetry, history, Irish literature, law, and other vocations

The Irish were well known for their literacy throughout Europe both from an Ecclesiastical (monasteries) and secular (Druids, Ovates, and Bards) perspective. Such was the literary acclaim of Ireland that foreign students were sent to Ireland to finish their education.

Picture : Part of Glendalough monastery nestled in a valley of the Wicklow Mountains – East Coast

<http://www.libraryireland.com/SocialHistoryAncientIreland/II-VII-1.php>

<https://irishhistoryandgenealogy.wordpress.com/category/druid/>

# Christianity - Book of Kells



The Book of Kells is a famous illuminated manuscript which survived the Middle Ages. Illuminated manuscripts combine text and artwork on the same page.

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## What was the book about?

The Book of Kells contains the four gospels of the New Testament Bible, along with narratives and prefaces from evangelists.

## Who wrote it and when?

It was written around 800 AD, although the exact date is unknown. Four major Columban monks scribed the text along with three artists. Exact names are unknown.

## Why is the Book of Kells Famous?

Mainly because of its lavish decoration, the extent and artistry is incomparable. There are full pages of decoration and abstract images of plant, animal and human ornamentation punctuate the text throughout.

<https://www.tcd.ie/Library/manuscripts/book-of-kells.php>

# The Vikings

The Vikings discovered the bounty of Ireland and began raiding the people in the late 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. The Vikings began to winter in Ireland in-between attacks c. 840 AD.



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## Where did the Vikings come from?

From Scandinavia: Denmark, Norway, and Sweden

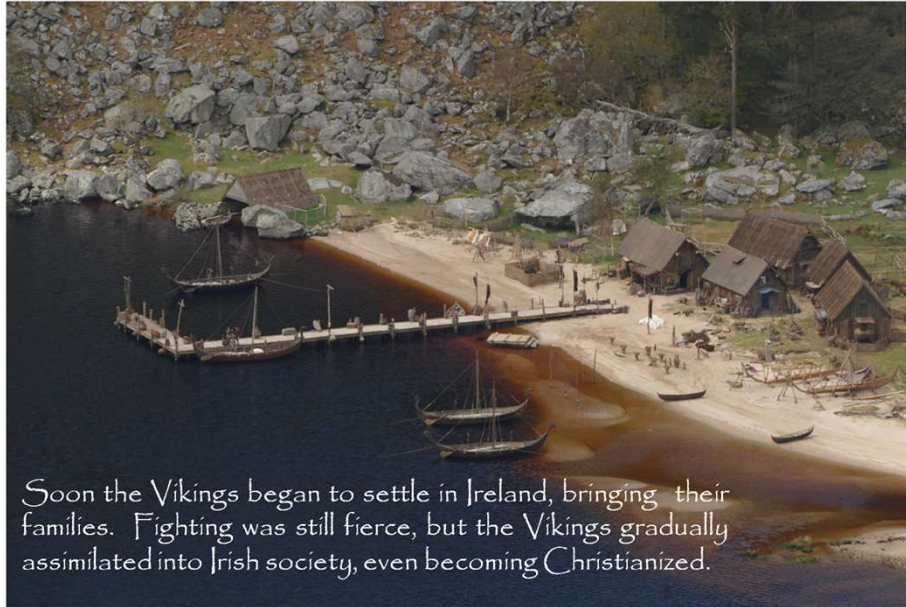
## Where did they raid?

Monastic sites were all through Ireland by the time the Vikings began raiding. Monasteries had stores of food as well as precious religious objects and became targets, many destroyed. The Vikings, being pagan, had little regard for the sanctity of those objects except for their physical value. It was around this time that the round towers were built both as outlooks to give warning of the Vikings coming, and as a place of safety and protection.

<http://www.ncte.ie/viking/vikage.htm>

<http://www.dochara.com/the-irish/ireland-history/vikings/>

# The Vikings



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## **Why did they stay?**

The Vikings began to forge alliances with the Irish, form communities, and establish trading centers. Intermarriage soon followed, sometimes arranged with the Irish Chieftains, for strategic alliances and mutual advantage.

## **Where did they live?**

The Vikings were seafarers and merchants and brought these advantages to Ireland. They were not as interested in amassing land or armies, nor interested in taking over and ruling Ireland. Instead they primarily stayed on the coast and rivers where they could set up trade.

<http://www.dochara.com/the-irish/ireland-history/vikings/>

# Viking Contributions

Ireland owes its first cities to the Vikings as well as the first minted coins to be made in Ireland. With the Vikings also came increased trade outside of Ireland.



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The Vikings created the basic layout of the center of Dublin, and established Christ Church Cathedral which is still in use today.

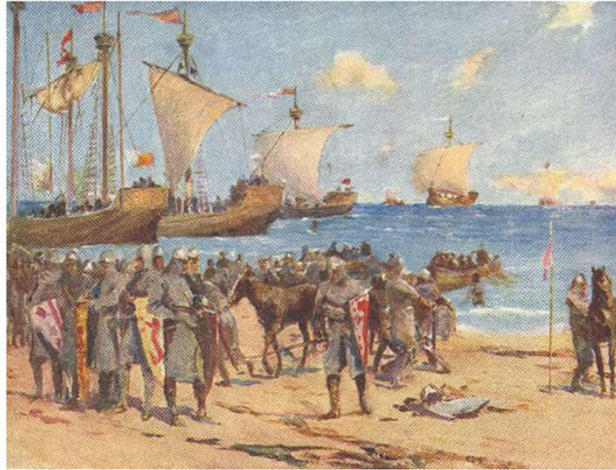
## **What did the Irish use for currency before the Vikings came?**

Prior to the use of coins, Ireland used cattle as currency as well as for milk, butter, and curds. Meat was not typically consumed. Coins were found before the Vikings minted the first Irish coins in Dublin around 997, but were not typically used as currency, rather for curiosities or for the bullion value (value of the metal only).

<http://what-when-how.com/medieval-ireland/coinage-medieval-ireland/>

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/ancient-irish-ate-very-little-beef-or-fish-despite-abundance-of-both-1.2207005>

# The Normans



In 1170 a Norman Lord, Strongbow, was asked by an Irish King to help him defeat his enemies. The result was so successful the king of England became concerned and visited Ireland to ensure loyalty from his Lord. Thus started the Norman invasion of Ireland.

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## **Who were the Normans?**

The Normans were originally Vikings. In 911 AD a Viking Chief named Rollo accepted as a peace treaty a large area of Northern France. He and his 'Nor(th)men' settled the area now known as Normandy. Rollo became the first Duke of Normandy. About a hundred years later, the King of England died and the Duke of Normandy, Duke William, believed he should have been crowned king and marched into England to do battle. The Duke of Normandy won the battle and took over the English throne as king. He was known as William the Conqueror.

<http://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/The-Norman-Conquest/Nomans>  
invaded England

Painting public domain

# The Normans



Because of pushback from the Irish, the Normans built castle fortresses in troubled areas. This brought a new type of architecture to Ireland.



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## **How long do you think it took to build this castle?**

About 30 years, all manual labor, no machines.

The castle shown is the ruin of Trim Castle in County Meath. It was built over a thirty year span starting in 1176. Hugh de Lacy was granted the Liberty of Meath by King Henry II in 1172 in an attempt to curb the expansionist policies of Richard de Clare, (Strongbow). At first he built a wooden structure, but the Irish Lord near attacked and destroyed it. So Hugh de Lacy, and then later his son Walter, built a much stronger castle to both cow and intimidate the Irish, as well as creating a safe stronghold for himself and family.

Trim castle is the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland and was featured in the film Braveheart.

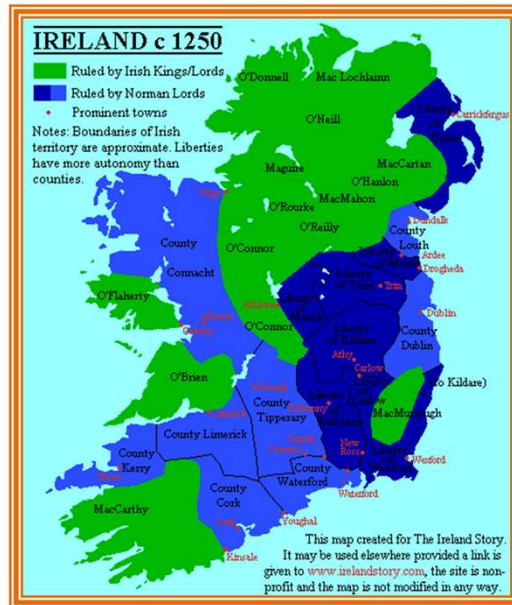
<http://www.meath.ie/tourism/heritage/heritagesites/trimcastle/>

<http://www.discoverboynevalley.ie/boyne-valley-drive/heritage-sites/trim-castle>

# The Normans

Although a truce was signed between the high King of Ireland and the King of England in 1175, the Normans would continue to take over Irish land with and without the King of England's permission.

By c. 1250 Normans controlled more area in Ireland than the Irish Kings did.



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## Why did the Normans continue to take territory without the king's permission?

In 1171 John de Courcy arrived from England to help the Irish King of Leinster defeat the High King of Ireland. Soon after the treaty was signed, but de Courcy continued to amass territory including by marriage. Having not received permission to continue the King of England gave permission to Hugh de Lacy to battle with de Courcy and Hugh ended up taking over his territory.

## How were the Normans able to take over the land?

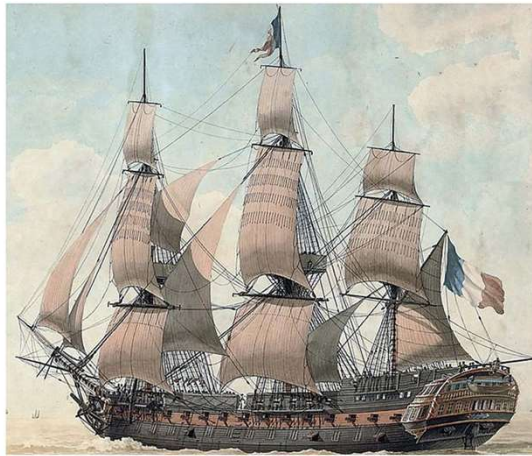
They fought for it. Irish law allowed for land transfer by conquest.

[www.irelandstory.com](http://www.irelandstory.com)

[www.yourirish.com/history/medieval/norman-invasion](http://www.yourirish.com/history/medieval/norman-invasion)

<http://www.yourirish.com/history/medieval/the-norman-invasion-of-ulster>

# Flight of the Earls



Irish Earls fought the English at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601. When the Irish lost, the last Gaelic chieftains left Ireland paving the way for English take over.

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## **Why is this so significant?**

The Earls represented the last of the Gaelic leaders. They asked Spain for help but the Spanish landed in the south and the Earls were in the north. The Earls marched in the middle of winter south to meet up with the Spanish and try to overthrow the English that were there. The English had been made aware of their plans by an informant and were ready. The Gaelic earls lost the Battle of Kinsale. Had the Spanish landed in the North, history would have been written differently. When the Earls left Ireland there were no more Gaelic leaders and no further substantial opposition to thwart English rule.

## **What happened to the earls?**

The Earls left Ireland on a ship flying a French flag and travelled on to Italy where they were celebrated and welcomed, living in Rome the remainder of their days.

<http://www.irishidentity.com/stories/earls.htm>

[www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/history-of-ireland/the-flight-of-the-earls-1/](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/history-of-ireland/the-flight-of-the-earls-1/)

Photo: The Mont-Blanc off Marseille, penned by Ange-Joseph-Antoine Roux (1765–1835); photo in the public domain

# English Invasion



Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, is infamous in Ireland because of his ruthless containment of Irish rebellion and the creation of the Act of Settlement in 1653 which forced the Irish off their land. The English conquered Ireland and were now in charge.

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## Why was the Act of Settlement created and what effect did it have??

Over the course of military campaigns and financiers, there was much land owed to soldiers and investors as payment once Ireland was “settled”. Land was taken from Catholics, from the Catholic church and clergy, and from landowners that either rose against the English or that did not “manifest constant good affection to the interest...of England.” The land in the West was more wild and not as secure. It also was more barren with little resources on which to live. Irish soldiers were given the option of death or exile - 40,000 left to fight in foreign wars.

Within ten years only about a third of those given land as payment remained in Ireland. They were not farmers and found the land difficult to farm. Irish tenant farmers became valued for their skill and knowledge and many ended up staying in English “settled” lands as tenant farmers rather than moving West.

Cromwell painting: *Oliver Cromwell*, by Samuel Cooper (died 1672); public domain

Map from the University of Texas at Austin. From the Cambridge Modern History Atlas, 1912.

[www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon48.html](http://www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon48.html)

<http://www.irish-society.org/home/hedgemaster-archives-2/people/cromwell-oliver-tyranny-of-1649>

<http://www.irish-society.org/home/hedgemaster-archives-2/people/cromwell-oliver-to-hell-or-to-connaught>

# Famine

Healthy Potato



Blight Potato



Most Irish relied almost solely on potatoes as their food, although they farmed many grains for English exports. The potato crop failed from blight in the mid 1800's. Millions of people died or emigrated, scattering the Irish across the globe.

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## Why did they only eat potatoes?

The class most effected were the tenant farmers, the rural poor, especially in the west of Ireland where the soil was poor. Potatoes were fairly easy to grow, nutrient rich, and calorie dense.

## Why didn't the people eat the grain they grew?

The Irish did not own the land but worked it and in return were given an area to grow their own food. Grain was an export crop and belonged to the land owners, many of which did not even live in Ireland.

## Why did the Famine happen?

The farmers relied on only one or two types of potatoes which reduced the genetic variety that ordinarily would prevent the decimation of an entire crop. Because of the lack of variety, blight arrived coupled with unusually cool moist weather and the blight thrived. The next three years saw increased and almost complete ruin of the crop.

## What could have prevented the famine?

Having a diverse crop of potatoes and variety of other foods grown.

Photo: <http://irahistory.com/tagged/EarlyHistory>

<http://www.britannica.com/event/Great-Famine-Irish-history>

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/famine/introduction.htm>

# Famine



Half the Irish who left the island came to America aboard ships so crowded many people died. These ships were nicknamed coffin ships.

© 2016 Celtic Life & Heritage Foundation

## What did they do once in America?

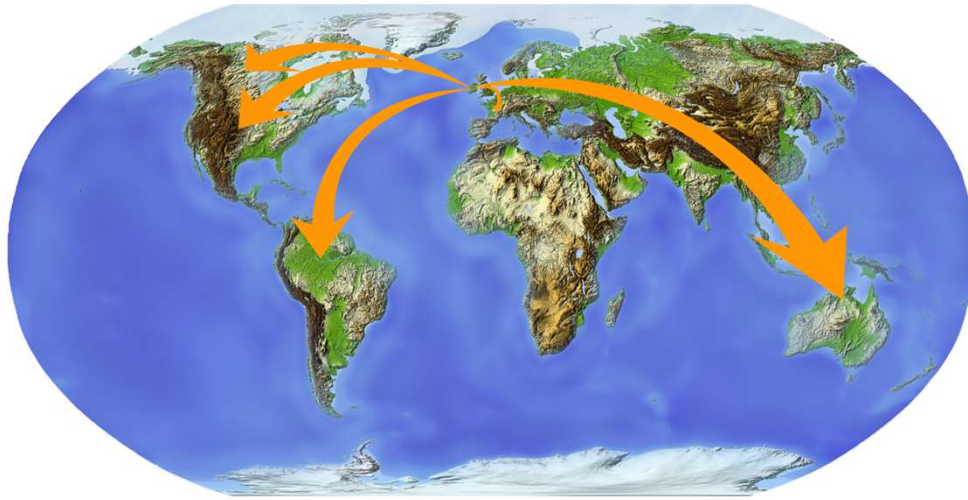
Most arrived in either Boston or New York and were not welcomed. They were taken advantage of, tricked, lived in horrible unsanitary conditions, and worked unskilled jobs. Life expectancy for Irish immigrants from the time they stepped off the boat was only six years. Over time they began to assimilate into American society but it would take several generations.

The most famous Irish Catholic in America is President John F Kennedy whose great-grandfather was a farmer from Country Wexford and left Ireland in 1849.

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/famine/america.htm>

Drawing From *The Illustrated London News*, July 6, 1850. depicting the plight of Irish emigrants on ships heading to America.

# Irish World Impact



The Irish also emigrated to Great Britain, Australia, Canada, parts of Europe, and Latin America.

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**Continental Europe:** Began emigrating from the 16C onward, reaching its peak in the 18<sup>th</sup> C due to Catholic persecution from Great Britain.

**Great Britain:** Highest rates were in famine years, then in the 1950's when Ireland was dealing with depression and Great Britain was doing well. Estimated one million of Irish birth living in Britain today with millions more of second and third generation and of Irish ancestry.

**United States:** Over 40 million people in the US claim some Irish Ancestry with 25% claiming to be solely Irish. The states with the most Irish are CA, NY, PA.

**Canada:** By 1867 people of Irish descent comprised over 20% of the population.

**Australia:** Up to 30% of the population is of Irish descent. Prior to the potato famine, many emigrants came as convicts both political and non-political.

**New Zealand:** 15% of the population is of Irish descent.

**Latin America:** Many Irish emigrated to serve in armies and to farm.

Map art by Michael Schmeling & Sue Malone

<http://www.ireland-information.com/reference/abroad.html>

## Easter Rising



The Irish fought for independence from England for hundreds of years. On Easter 1916, a group of Irish Nationalists staged a rebellion in Dublin. The Irish were defeated within a week.

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### **If they lost, what is the significance of Easter Rising?**

Public opinion began shifting after Easter Rising and the executed leaders were hailed as martyrs. Easter Rising was the turning point that would lead to the establishment of Ireland as a free country.

Photo:

Large – fighting on O'Connell street, then known as Drogheda Street, in front of the post office, a wagon aflame on the right

<http://irahistory.com/tagged/EasterRising>

# Easter Rising



Buildings were destroyed and over 2000 people were dead or injured.



The English executed the rebellion leaders for treason making them martyrs, paving the way for Irish Independence.

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## What happened next?

Over the next five years there was significant guerilla warfare between the IRA /Volunteer Fighters and the British Army / Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC). The British began reprisals on the civilians for IRA attacks. Violence on both sides escalated. A truce was agreed to in July 1921. In December, Michael Collins (a prominent leader for the Irish independence) went to London to negotiate a treaty. (see next slide)

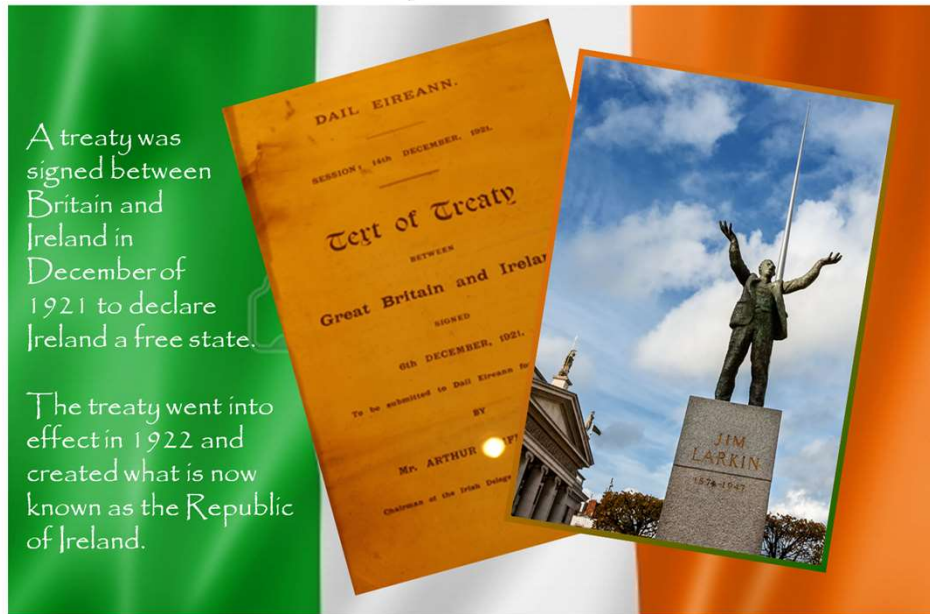
<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/ireland-1845-to-1922/michael-collins/>

<http://www.theirishstory.com/2012/09/18/the-irish-war-of-independence-a-brief-overview/#.VzNzdlQrKUK>

Photos

<http://irahistory.com/tagged/EasterRising>

# Independence



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## What does free state mean?

The treaty allowed free rule but Ireland was still in the British Empire. Ireland had its own president but the British monarchy was head of state. In 1948 the Republic of Ireland Act became law which removed Ireland from being in the British Empire. The British created the Ireland Act in 1949 which retained special citizenship and trade preferences with the new Republic.

## Why isn't the entire Island of Ireland its own country?

Each county voted whether to be separated as a free country or to stay with Great Britain. The counties of Northern Ireland voted to stay with Britain. Those counties were mostly Protestant vs. the Republic of Ireland were mostly Catholic. This is true in modern times as well.

<http://www.yourirish.com/history/20th-century/eire-becomes-the-republic-of-ireland-in-1949>

Photos - Left: The first page of the Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland

Right: Statue of Jim Larkin with the post office on the left and the sphere on the right, commemorating Irish independence –

Photo copyright Andrei Nekrassov

Irish Flag art by Laurent Davoust

# The End

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