

County Wicklow

Relief Service
Derry 19th December 1846

Sir

In my report of the 17th inst. I
to the scarcity of food in the town and neighbourhood
of Wicklow - and stated the difficulty which would
attending supplies -

I have now the honour to state for
information of this Commission of Public Works
reference to this important subject, which it
would be improper in me to give unauthorised
corroboration of my statement, but I
refer to

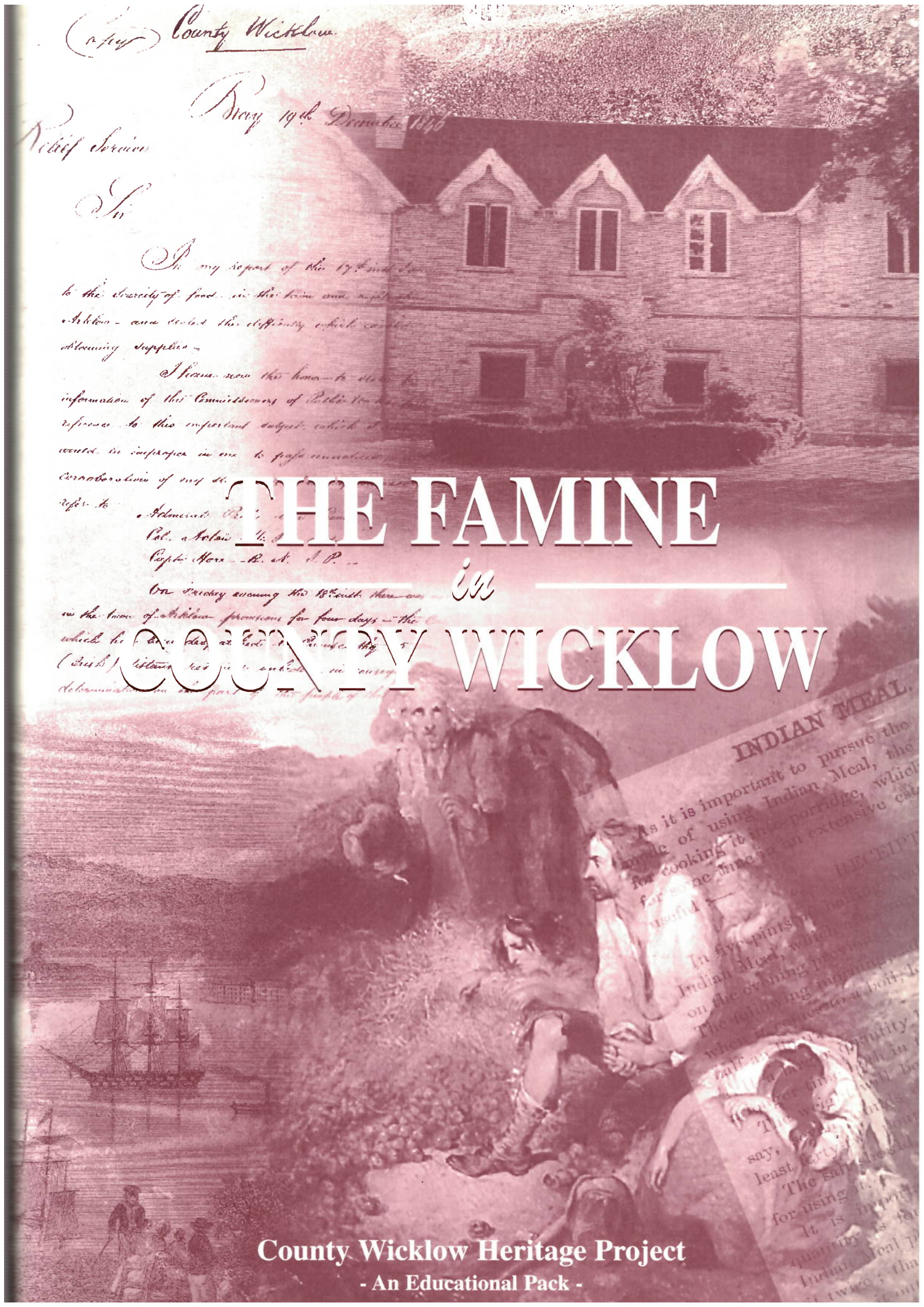
- Admiral B. ...
- Col. ...
- Capt. ...

On Sunday evening the 18th inst. there was
in the town of Wicklow provisions for four days - the
which he ...
(Irish) ...
determination on the part of the people of the

THE FAMINE

in

COONEY WICKLOW



INDIAN MEAL.

As it is important to pursue the
mode of using Indian Meal, the
for cooking it into porridge, which
for some time in an extensive est
useful -

In five pints of boiling
Indian Meal, which
on the evening previous.
The following morning,
when it comes to a boil, le

say, a small quantity
The weight will be
least forty pounds
The salt should
for using it.
It is important
quantity is for
Indian Meal p
twice; tha

"The Famine in County Wicklow" is part of Wicklow County Council's programme to commemorate a tragic period in our country's history. The aim of this educational pack is to bring the realities of the famine in County Wicklow into the classroom using original source material. It should prove to be a valuable source of reference and teaching aid, providing students with an insight into the history of their own county.

The County Wicklow Heritage Society gratefully acknowledges its indebtedness to:

**Wicklow County Council
Irish Fertilizer Industries Ltd.
Bank of Ireland
Allied Irish Banks
Irish Hotels Federation (Wicklow Branch)**

Without their generous sponsorship this pack would not have been possible.

The research and writing of this educational pack was carried out by the
County Wicklow Heritage Project.

CO-ORDINATORS

Joan Kavanagh, Joe Langtry, Enda Fitzpatrick

TRAINEES

Karen Nugent, Prunella Cleary, Rowland Geraghty, Michaela Flanagan, Alma Hudson,
Vivienne Conway, Jackie Geoghegan, Olive Curley, Des De Courcy, Joanna Corscadden,
Sandra O'Shaughnessy, Dawn Bolger, Michelle O'Neill, Stephen Doran.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This publication would not have been possible without the valued assistance of Mr. Ken Hannigan, Senior Archivist, National Archives of Ireland. Grateful appreciation is also extended to Blaise Treacy, Tom Broderick, Gerry Maher, Brendan O'Connor, Eddie Shaw, M.K.I. Fields, Chris Quinn, Michael Mulvaney, Pat Power, Fr. James Murphy, Kevin Byrne, Prof. F.H.A. Aalen, Dr. F. D'Arcy, Seamus Cannon, Stephen Jordan, Rev. Br. T.A. Connolly, Dr. W. Nolan, Marianne Cosgrove, Carmel Moore, Anne Ford, Richard Carroll, Department of Irish Folklore, U.C.D. and all at Popeye Design, Wicklow.

Front Cover (from top right)

Rathdrum Workhouse courtesy of Kevin Byrne.

Indian Meal Poster courtesy of National Archives of Ireland.

The Discovery of the Potato Blight in Ireland by Daniel McDonald courtesy of Department of Irish Folklore, U.C.D.

The Cove of Cork by James Bartlett.

Report from James Boyle courtesy of National Archives of Ireland.

This publication is the product of a FÁS Training Programme which is funded by the Local Community, the Employment Levy and EC Structural Funds.

County Wicklow Heritage Project, The Courthouse, Wicklow. Tel: 0404 67324

FOREWORD

No other event in Irish history has had such an emotional effect on the Irish psyche as that of the Great Famine. For a country with a population of eight million people, dependent for survival on a single agricultural crop, the potato, the arrival of the blight in 1845 spelled disaster. The legacy of that tragedy was the death of one million people and the emigration of another million. In our own county of Wicklow the devastation wrecked by the famine resulted in the population being reduced by one quarter through death and emigration.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this publication which I believe will bring the realities of this tragic event into the classroom using as it does original source materials and actual eyewitness accounts. As part of Wicklow County Council's programme to commemorate this catastrophic episode in our history it will, I believe, be of enormous benefit to both teachers and pupils alike.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge, yet again, the continued involvement of FÁS in the County Wicklow Heritage Project since its inception in 1987. The Project is fulfilling its dual role of providing a genealogical research service for people of Wicklow origin and helping tourism and employment in the county. It is also fulfilling a training role, offering young people the opportunity to acquire and develop such skills as computer literacy, job search, interview techniques, life and social skills and research.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and members of Wicklow County Council and Mr. Tom Broderick, County Development Officer for their on-going support. I must commend the contribution made by the members of the County Wicklow Heritage Society and the work of Mr. Gerry Maher, County Librarian as Chairman of the Famine Commemorative Committee. It goes without saying that without the dedication and commitment of Joan Kavanagh that these activities would not have happened and certainly not with the level of professionalism that we now take for granted with these groups.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and compliment the work of the present group of trainees in researching and producing the material for this publication and to wish them every success in the endeavours they may undertake in the future.



Blaise Treacy,
Wicklow County Manager,
April, 1996.

TEACHERS NOTES

Aim of the pack

This Educational Pack on the Famine in County Wicklow was undertaken by the County Wicklow Heritage Project in order to provide students with an insight into the famine in their county using source material, both of a primary and secondary nature. It is intended to allow students to:

- examine and analyse both primary and secondary sources
- develop skills appropriate to the study of local history
- obtain a better knowledge, understanding and interpretation of history
- examine the diversity of experiences of real people during the famine
- enter into class discussions and exchange

The resource pack should provide the teacher with a variety of teaching and learning experiences appropriate to the needs of students of a wide range of ability. It is intended to support cross curricular activities to include elements of English, Maths Geography, Art, Science and Commerce. Teachers may choose to concentrate on particular sections and omit or curtail the use of others. Each section can stand alone and in this way the teacher can select what to emphasise based on student age and ability and the constraints of time. The questions in the various sections should prove useful and can be answered in both written form or orally. The educational pack contains twelve sections dealing with the famine in County Wicklow using original source material mainly from the National Archives of Ireland.

SECTIONS 1, 2 AND 3 deal with the demographic and social aspects of County Wicklow in the immediate years before the famine. The charts should prove useful in showing the dramatic fall in population and types of housing, while students should enjoy examining the list of occupations from the period.

SECTION 4 studies the importance of the potato in the lives of the majority of people in Ireland taking into account its nutritional value and growing over dependence by the people in their diet. A number of cross curricular activities can be undertaken throughout this section such as geography and science. A good deal of emphasis is placed on primary sources using a contemporary newspaper article and an eyewitness account.

SECTION 5 concentrates on early attempts to avert a crisis in the country such as Peel's Plan and the efforts of the local Relief Committees. The experience of Arklow should bring home to students the extent of distress in the town and the efforts to overcome this situation.

SECTION 6 examines the efforts undertaken by local Relief Committees to set up relief works and the methods by which they were financed by local ratepayers and matching government funds. The reports of James Boyle should help students to realise the difficulties encountered by people during the famine in procuring food as prices rose and the relief schemes became inadequate.

SECTION 7 contains many examples of distress experienced by people in Wicklow. The harrowing report by Constable John Norris detailing the plight of the Aughrim woman and her child, the worsening hardship caused by the snow storm of February 1847 and the necessity of establishing Soup Kitchens in such urban centres as Wicklow and Arklow should help to allow students to understand the extent and reality of the famine in the county.

SECTION 8 deals with the establishment of the Workhouses in Ireland and their operation and overall function. Students should find the emphasis on Rathdrum Workhouse of particular interest highlighting the hardships and poor conditions which the increasing number of inmates were forced to endure. An increase in the number of deaths was the inevitable outcome of the famine in Ireland.

SECTION 9 is concerned with the causes of death, not solely from starvation, but from the spread of fever which also took its toll on the population.

SECTION 10 relates to the types of crime committed during the famine years. Students should find the details from the Wicklow Gaol Register extremely interesting, particularly the case study of Christopher Bryan and the child inmates.

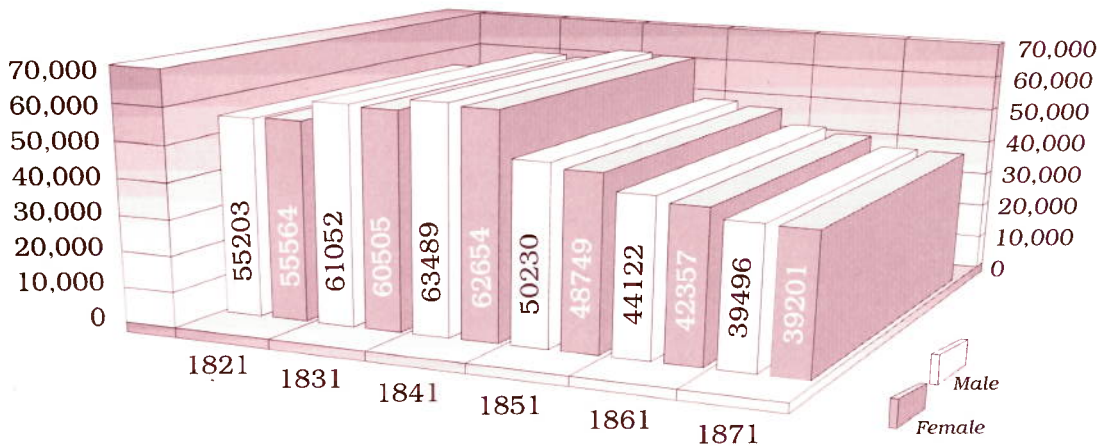
SECTION 11 describes the reasons for emigration prior to and during the famine period. Assisted emigration from the Fitzwilliam Estate as well as from the Workhouses is dealt with, along with the extraordinary adventure undertaken by Fr. Hoare. The description given by Elizabeth Smith of the exodus of young people in her locality is interesting and poignant to the situation in our country today.

SECTION 12 is geared towards reinforcing the work already undertaken in the educational pack through a variety of activities. We recommend that these activities should be used after a study of the complete pack.

Population

A government organised Census of the Population of Ireland took place every ten years beginning on May 28th, 1821 and was conducted by officially appointed enumerators or surveyors. A Census is the collection of data on the inhabitants of a country. The Returns were recorded by county, barony, parish and townland. The Census became effectively more detailed as it progressed recording individuals, population growth, occupations, property and land usage. No record of one's religious persuasion was made in the early years. Only the statistical information from these early Census Returns survive today.

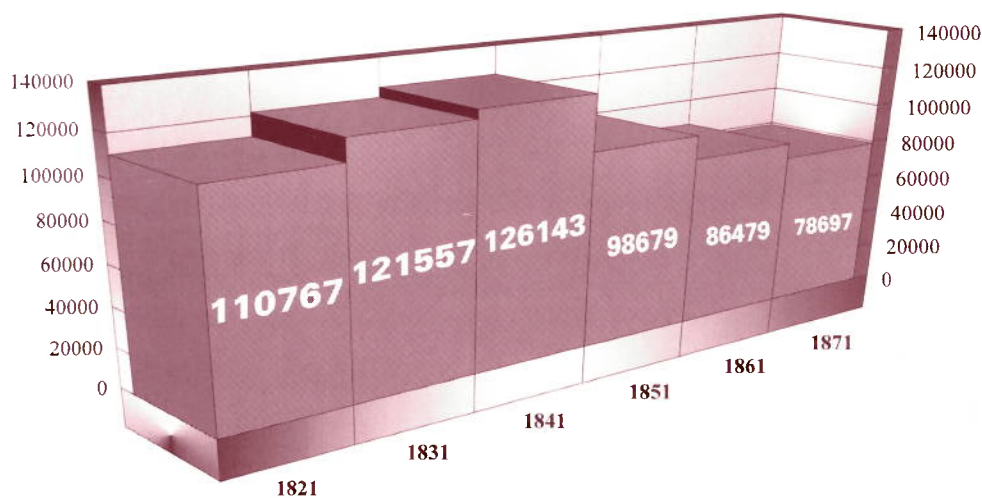
Population in Wicklow 1821-1871



The graph above details the breakdown of the male/female population in County Wicklow from the Census Returns of 1821-1871.

The graph below details the total population in the County.

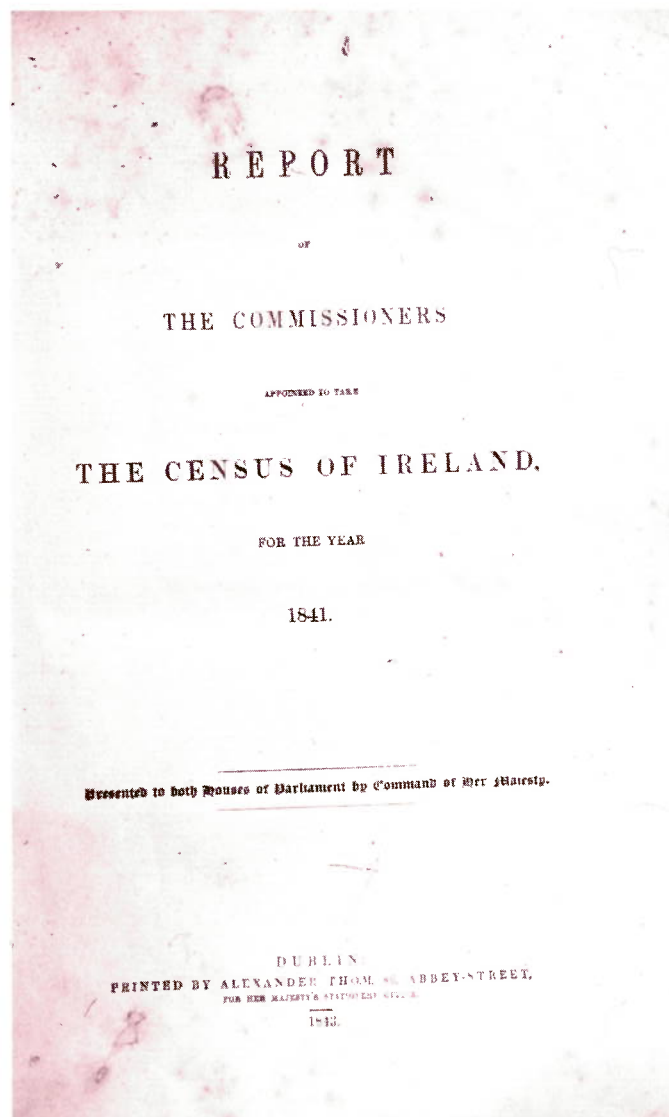
The Total Population of County Wicklow 1821-1871



Source: *Irish Historical Statistics, Population, 1821-1971* (eds.)
W.E. Vaughan & A. J. Fitzpatrick (Dublin, 1978) p. 8.

Questions

- 1 When were enumerators appointed to undertake a Census of the Population in Ireland?
- 2 What kind of information was recorded in the Census?
- 3 What was the population of County Wicklow in 1841?
- 4 According to the graph when did the population of Wicklow reach its peak? When did it reach its lowest point?
- 5 What other kinds of information is asked in today's Census?
- 6 Find out the population of County Wicklow today.



Title page of Census of Ireland for the year 1841

Occupations

According to the 1841 Census there were 21,182 families in County Wicklow. Of these 14,032 were engaged in agriculture while 4,740 were involved in manufacture and trade. The number of people recorded as being employed was over 50,000 and they were mainly farm labourers and domestic servants.

Fishing and mining, and to a lesser extent boot-making, dress-making and tailoring were the principle sources of non-agricultural employment. There were 638 fishermen who were based at Arklow, Bray and Wicklow. A total of 721 miners were employed at Avoca and Connary, as well as at Glenmalure and Glendalough.

The average wage of a labourer in Dublin in the 1840s was 16d (old pence) per day. This was most likely a typical wage in Wicklow and the rest of the country. In real terms this works out at 7.3d (3p in today's money) but allowing for inflation this figure works out at £1.42 (note: this reflects a 47.02% fold increase). A labourer could survive on this wage while food prices remained constant. The cost of bread in Dublin in September 1845 was 8½d and rose to its highest level in January 1847 when it cost 10d. By 1849 the situation stabilised and the cost of bread dropped to 5d.

Please note - 12d = 5p Figures supplied by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Questions

- 1 How many families lived in the County?
- 2 What were the principle sources of non-agricultural employment?
- 3 What was the typical wage of a labourer in the 1840s?
When could a labourer survive on such a wage?
- 4 **Study the 1841 Census Table of Occupations overleaf and answer the following questions:**
What was the principle form of employment for
(i) females under fifteen years (ii) males under fifteen years
- 5 According to the 1841 Census what was the main source of employment for men and women?
- 6 Draw a map of County Wicklow. Mark on the map the main centres associated with fishing and mining in the county.
- 7 Many of the occupations listed are no longer carried out today.
Draw up a list of those occupations which you think are no longer practiced.
- 8 How many people were employed in the following areas:

Fishermen	Dress makers	Carpenters
Bakers	Knitters	Blacksmiths
Spinners of wool	Stone cutters	Constabulary
Boot and shoemakers	Stone masons	Shopkeepers

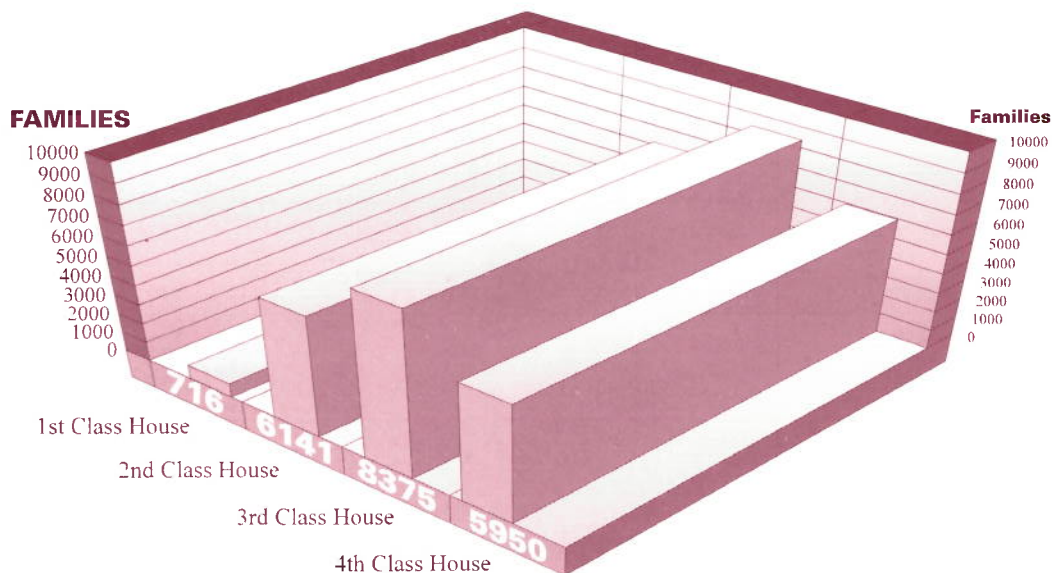
Classification of Houses

There were four classes of dwellings in which people lived in the mid-nineteenth century. The four types of houses were classified as follows:

- Class 1 - Nine rooms and upwards with windows
- Class 2 - Five to nine rooms with windows
- Class 3 - Two to four roomed mud cabin with windows
- Class 4 - One roomed mud cabin and no windows

In the townland of Ballinalea, near the village of Ashford, thirty seven of the fifty one inhabited houses were one roomed mud cabins; four in every five. Indeed, 28% of families in County Wicklow lived in Class 4 type housing. Most houses in the Wicklow hills would have used the readily available granite to build stone cottages.

Classification of Houses 1841



Source: Report of the Commissioners Appointed to take the Census of Ireland for the year 1841 (Dublin, 1843) p. 140.

Questions

- 1 How many classes of houses were there?
- 2 How many rooms were in a first class dwelling?
- 3 How many rooms were in a fourth class dwelling?
- 4 In which class dwelling did the largest number of families live?
- 5 Describe in your own words what you think the insides of the four classes of houses looked like (hints: size, windows, chimney, furniture, cleanliness, cutlery).

Examples of Class 1 and Class 4 Types of Houses



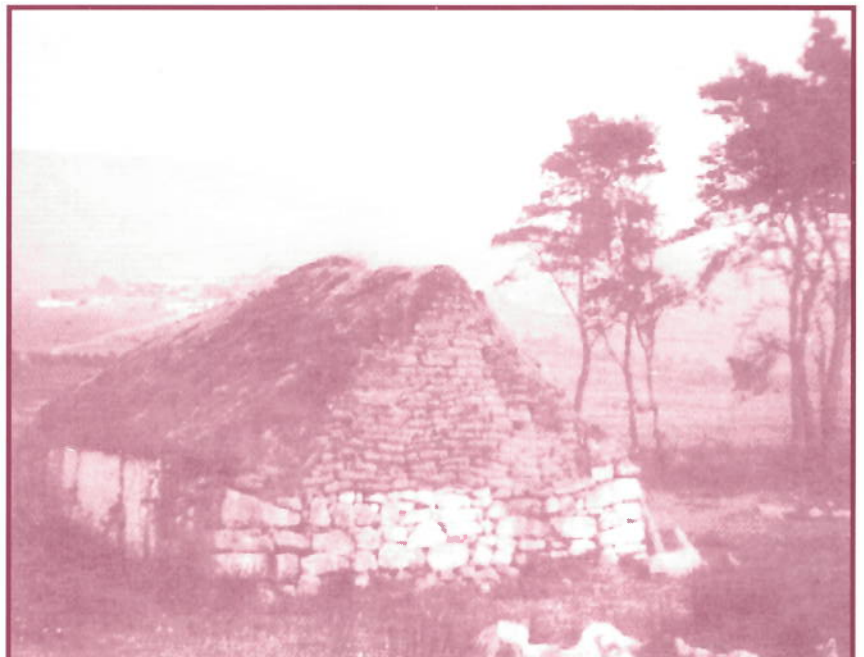
Avondale House today, an example of Class 1 type housing.



Interior of Class 4 type housing. Notice the fire at floor level with crane and pots. Fuel cavities of carved stone, keepingholes and mantelpiece above.



House wall made of sods with marl and mortar in between. Lackan west Wicklow. (*Phoulaphouca Survey, 1939*)



Sod Gable on dwelling House. Ballyknockan, west Wicklow. *Photographs courtesy of Professor F.H.A. Aalen.*

The Potato

It is believed that the potato was first introduced into Ireland during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Sir Walter Raleigh grew potatoes on his estates in County Cork in the 1580s. The high yield and high nutritional value of the potato made it an ideal choice for the poorer people over the following centuries. During the eighteenth century this trend continued, until the potato became the staple food of the majority of the people in the whole country.

This diet was sometimes supplemented with buttermilk and fish. The standard needs of an average family of four children was nineteen stone of potatoes a week. Given the high yield of the potato (the lumpers was the most common variety) it produced a more than generous crop on inferior soils. It was rich in vitamin C and could be grown on a holding of half an acre. Contemporary travellers noted how poor and wretched the people looked, but yet how healthy they appeared, nourished almost completely on potatoes. It helped to prevent the Irish poor from suffering from such diseases as scurvy.

The Nutritional Value of the Pre-Famine Potato Diet

Protein	134.6 grams	Calcium	2398 milligrams
Energy	4720 kcals	Carbohydrate	1099.1 grams
Fat	3.6 grams	Iron	24.5 milligrams

Source: Cormac O'Grada, *The Great Irish Famine*, (Dublin, 1989) p.27.

Only 56.1% of the land in Wicklow was arable. There was comparatively little meadow or pasture as much of the low lying land was tilled. On this arable land the majority of the population was concentrated. By 1841 there were 9,467 holdings over one acre, 2,001 of which were over 30 acres and 5,572 were under 15 acres.

Charles Edward Trevelyan was the Assistant Secretary to the Treasury in London. He describes Wicklow during the famine years as follows:

"the barren mountains which make it so attractive to the tourist, have allowed the existence of a state of society, and a dependence on the potato, approaching to what prevails in the wildest districts of the west, and it is only within the present century that this district has lost its former reputation for lawlessness".

Source: Trevelyan to Mr. S. Jones Lloyd, January 26th 1847 Parliamentary Papers 1847, Relief of Distress in Ireland (Commissariat) IUP Famine series Vol. 7 p. 377.

The famine of the 1840s was not the first time the potato crop failed and caused a disaster. There were a number of famines of varying severity in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. What made the Great Famine worse was the continual failure of the harvest over a number of years, the increased dependence on the potato and overpopulation by the 1840s. Ironically, it was the high yield of the potato which enabled large families to be supported on a small holding.

The Food of the Poor

Poor Law Inquiry replies to questions concerning diet

Parish and correspondent

Diet

Castlemacadam
(including Redcross)
Rev William Wingfield

Ordinary diet potatoes.

Castlemacadam
Rev Thos. Webber

Potatoes, buttermilk, oatmeal and occasionally salt herrings. The better sort of farmers give meat to their men. A good deal of meat is consumed by the miners: they might be more comfortable were the men not so fond of whiskey and the women of bread and tea.

Drumkay and Kilpoole
Joseph Pim

Potatoes and milk and little else where labourers feed themselves: where farmers feed them stirabout, butter salt herrings, perhaps a little bacon once a week.

Glenealy
Joseph Dickson J.P.

Potatoes, milk or herrings if they diet themselves. Farmers give bacon and butter and potatoes.

Kilbride and Enereilly
Rev M. John Mayers

Potatoes and oatmeal.

Annacurragh and Killaveney
Rev Charles O' Brien

Potatoes, herrings and milk. (funds supplied by their wives or children begging).

Derrylossary
Rev L.W. Hepenstal

Potatoes and stirabout and milk frequently with meat.

Derrylossary
William Bookey J.P.

Potatoes, milk, butter and eggs occasionally.

Glendalough and Derrylossary
Rev J. Johnson P.P.

Potatoes with poor milk.

Newcastle
St George Knudson

Oatmeal and potatoes and occasionally milk.

Newcastle
Rev William Archer

Potatoes, milk, salt and herrings.

Newcastle
James L. Andonin J.P.

Potatoes, herrings, oatmeal and milk.

Delgany, Kilcoole and
Kilmacanogue
Arthur Jones J.P.

Oatmeal made into cake or stirabout and potatoes and milk.

Delgany, Kilcoole and
Kilmacanogue
John Dick

Potatoes, oatmeal, milk and herrings.

<p>Delgany, Kilcoole and Kilmacanogue Rev William Cleaver</p>	<p>Potatoes and meal; fish in some districts.</p>
<p>Kilquade and Kilmurray Rev Charles B. Kennett P.P.</p>	<p>Potatoes (seldom with milk), sometimes a salt herring. As to animal food, they never taste it.</p>
<p>Powerscourt Rev Robert Daly</p>	<p>Potatoes and milk with herrings and a little bacon.</p>
<p>Carnew Robert Chaloner</p>	<p>Potatoes.</p>
<p>Carnew Jos. Syms J.P.</p>	<p>Potatoes, sometimes alone, more generally with milk or herrings.</p>
<p>Carnew Thos. de Renzy J.P.</p>	<p>Potatoes, sometimes with milk, sometimes with herrings, rarely without either and rare use of flesh meat.</p>
<p>Clonmore Rev P. Healy P.P.</p>	<p>When provided by themselves is of the lowest. Half of the year they live on dry potatoes and at best only procure a little buttermilk or a few herrings at certain seasons. When fed by the farmers and employed at hard work (they receive) butter each day at one of their meals and meat sometimes twice a week. If work is light generally potatoes and milk.</p>
<p>Ballynure Rev Thos. Taylor</p>	<p>Potatoes and milk.</p>
<p>Baltinglass Rev Henry Scott</p>	<p>Potatoes and milk - milk not always to be had.</p>
<p>Baltinglass, Ballynure, Rathbran and three parishes in Kildare Rev Daniel Lalor P.P.</p>	<p>Potatoes, sometimes with milk, sometimes dry.</p>
<p>Dunlavin and Tubber Rev M. Morgan</p>	<p>Potatoes! Potatoes! Potatoes! the ordinary diet, sometimes with stirabout or milk.</p>
<p>Granabeg and Kilbeg Rev Arthur Germaine</p>	<p>Labourers at their own tables potatoes and milk.</p>
<p>Kilranelagh and Kiltegan Rev William Scott</p>	<p>Potatoes, in summer with milk but not in winter, occasionally salted or fresh herrings.</p>
<p>Kilranelagh and Donaghmore Francis W. Greene J.P.</p>	<p>Three-quarters of the year potatoes with oaten meal.</p>
<p>Rathbran Rev Mark Lyster</p>	<p>Potatoes and milk.</p>

Source: Compiled from the Poor Law Commission 1836, Vol. XXXI, Appendix D.

Questions

- 1 When was the potato first introduced into Ireland?
- 2 Why did the potato become the ideal choice of food for poorer people?
- 3 What was the standard intake of potatoes of an average family in a week?
- 4 How many holdings were under fifteen acres?

Study the replies to the Poor Law Inquiry and answer these questions:

- 5 With what foods did the people supplement their diet?
- 6 Name the parishes where only potatoes were consumed and those where potatoes and herring were eaten.
- 7 What do you think was the attitude and feelings of the Rev. Thomas Webber and Rev. M. Morgan?
- 8 Compare and contrast the food of the people in the 1840s with those consumed today under the following headings:
 - (i) how they are acquired
 - (ii) varieties
 - (iii) cooking methods
 - (iv) nutrition

The Blight

The fungus, *phytophthora infestans*, which destroyed the potato plant first struck in the eastern United States in the summer of 1843. The fungus was transported to Belgium and devastated the potato crop in Flanders, Normandy, Holland and southern England. By August 20th, 1845 the blight was recorded at the Dublin Botanical Gardens. Its spread to Wicklow was reported in the Dublin Evening Post on October 16th, 1845 and further reports reached Dublin Castle throughout October and November.

Extract from the Dublin Evening Post, Thursday, October 16th, 1845 from a correspondent writing the previous day.

Wexford, Carlow and Wicklow
Wexford October 15 - We deeply regret to say that the accounts reaching us, from all quarters, in regard to the failures in the potato crop, are alarming. Where potatoes were believed generally, if not altogether, safe a week or ten days past, it is now found that they are infected, and by entire masses become totally unfit for use....As regards the County Carlow, and the adjoining portion of the county Wicklow, we are sorry to have received a similar account from a respected and intelligent friend, who feels a deep interest in the prosperity of agriculture, and the welfare of the poor.

The following extract from his letter tells a sad tale, and the sadder because it is but too true:-

"I have just returned from the town of Carlow, where I have been since Friday. I regret to inform you, after a minute inspection, that the potato crop, from Shillelagh to the above, is seriously damaged. In the town of Carlow the reports, from those worthy of belief, are most alarming. On this day week, I had some of my own tried in the ground, and found no sign of decay. However, on my return this day, I repeated the trial, and I find it rapidly commencing. I do not know what will become of the poor".

Rev. John Gowan, a curate in Glendalough, was an eye-witness of the Famine. Some years later he delivered a moving lecture in the presence of the Archbishop of Dublin on behalf of St. Brigid's Schools, Little Strand Street, Dublin. In the following extract he describes how he first came across the blight in July 1846.

"Everybody knows that the cause, or at least the occasion of the great Irish Famine of 1847 was the potato blight. The severest blight fell upon the potatoes on July 19, 1846. It was a very warm day. I was descending the mountains going towards the seaside about 3 o'clock on that day when I saw a thick, white fog gradually creeping up the sides of the hills. When I entered it I was pained with the cold. I at once feared some great disaster. The next morning, when I travelled about in discharge of my duty, I found the whole potato crop everywhere blighted. The leaves were blackened and hanging loosely on their stems, and a disagreeable odour filled the air....."

Source: Rev. John Gowan C.M., "The Irish Famine of 1847" in Sister M. Assisi (ed.) *Sisters of the Holy Faith* (Dublin, 1967), pp. 32-39.

Questions

- 1 What is the Latin name for the fungus which caused the blight?
- 2 In which country did the potato blight first strike?
- 3 Why do you think the blight did not cause serious famine in other countries where it attacked the crop?
- 4 When was the first sighting of the blight in Wicklow?
- 5 On a map of the world plot the spread of the fungus as it was transmitted from the United States to mainland Europe and then to Ireland.
- 6 Read the newspaper extract and Fr. Gowan's description on the outbreak of blight. Imagine you are a newspaper reporter and write an article describing the first outbreaks of blight in Wicklow.
(Hints: climate, odour, effects on crop, thoughts on the future).



The Discovery of the Potato Blight in Ireland by Daniel McDonald (1821-1853)
Courtesy of the Department of Irish Folklore, U.C.D.

Early Relief Efforts

The British Prime Minister of the day, Sir Robert Peel (1788-1850), realised how dependent Ireland was on the potato and responded by introducing relief measures.

Peel's Relief Plan

ACTIONS	OUTCOME
1. Establish Scientific Commission	Calculated that one half of the crop was destroyed by November 15th, 1845
2. Purchase £100,000 worth of Indian Corn	The corn helped to keep food prices down
3. Repeal of Corn Laws to enable grain to be imported freely	Law repealed June 25th, 1846 - led to the fall of Peel's government on June 29th
4. Set up Relief Commission to raise subscriptions to purchase food. Establish Food Depots and persuade landlords to increase employment.	£98,000 collected £66,000 added by Exchequer. Food Depots opened May 16th Supplies quickly exhausted Closed August 15th.

By January 1846 local Relief Committees were being established in Wicklow to co-ordinate relief efforts and work with the government. These committees were comprised of the local gentry, county officials and local clergy; both Protestant and Catholic. Initially, the greatest distress appeared to be among the agricultural labourers of the eastern part of the county and in urban centres such as Arklow and Baltinglass where rising food prices had the most immediate and drastic effect.

One half of the crop was reported destroyed in Newcastle, two thirds in Killiskey while in Carnew and Shillelagh the loss was less extensive. Other areas such as Hacketstown did not suffer as much but there was a growing shortage of food as demand increased and prices began to rise. This gap between the cost of food and what people could afford to pay was one of the main problems facing County Wicklow during the famine period.

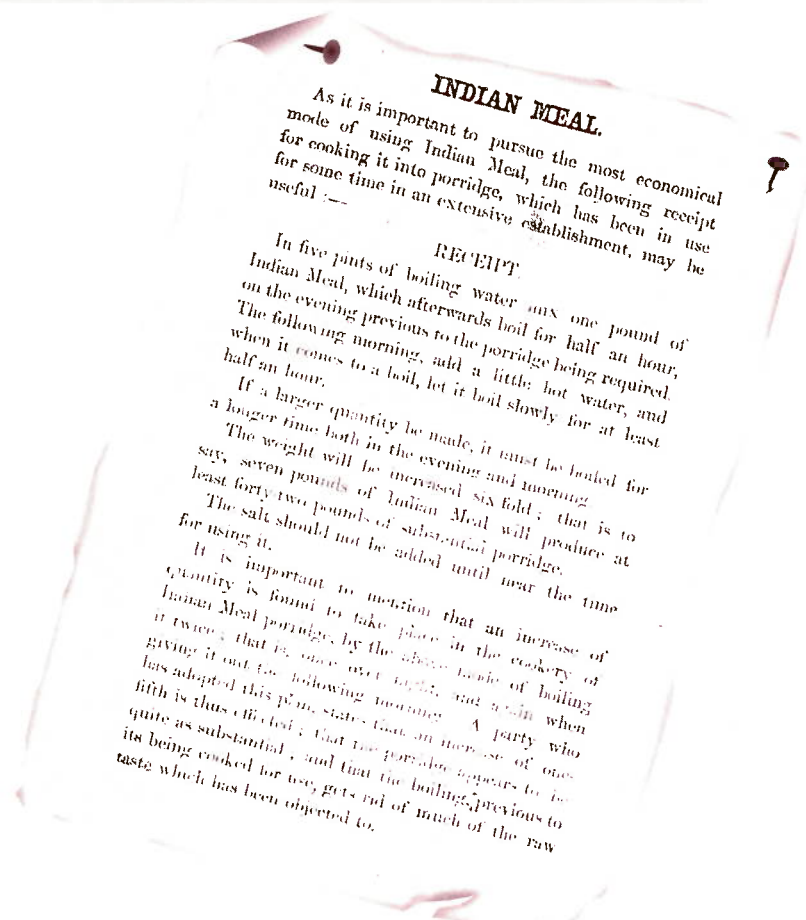
The rector of Arklow, Henry Brownrigg was secretary of the town's Relief Committee. By June 1846 he was reporting that there was extreme distress in the town. This crisis was heightened in Arklow by the failure of the herring fishery.

The fishermen were badly effected by this tremendous loss to their income which was used to maintain their nets and buy potatoes. Many were forced to pawn their nets in a bid to survive. However, they were caught in a vicious cycle as food prices continued to rise. At the same time, many other people in the locality suffered as they relied on the herring catch to supplement their diet. When the herring did return the fishermen were placed in a very frustrating situation. By June 1847, 161 nets were released from pawn with the assistance of the Quakers and a surplus catch allowed them to survive the winter.

The extent of destitution in Wicklow is revealed in the reports sent by the Relief Commissioners on the numbers of people who were supplied with food rations in 1847.

Union	Maximum number of persons supplied with food on any one day	Percentage of population relieved
Baltinglass	6,450	15.9
Naas	12,931	24.8
Rathdown	5,839	13.2
Rathdrum	12,365	21.8
Shillelagh	7,201	20.7

Document B
Source: NAI, M 3486



Questions

- Who was the British Prime Minister in 1845?
- How much money was spent on purchasing Indian Corn initially? How did this help?
- Why did Peel's government fall?
- For what purpose were the Relief Committees established?
- What group of people appeared to suffer the greatest distress?
- What position did Henry Brownrigg hold in Arklow?
- What was one of the main problems facing County Wicklow during the Famine period?
- Why was the crisis heightened in Arklow?
- What vicious cycle did the fishermen face?
- Who provided the fishermen with assistance?
- Which two Unions had the maximum number of persons receiving food rations in 1847?

Questions

- 1 What instructions were the Relief Committees given in relation to food?
- 2 What became apparent to the Relief Committees?
- 3 What kind of schemes were set up by the Relief Committees?
- 4 How were the relief works funded?
- 5 How much money was subscribed by the Glendalough and Calary Relief Fund?
- 6 What type of people contributed to the fund?

During the winter of 1846-47 there was an increase in reports of distress in the county as is evidenced by reports from James Boyle, Superintendent Engineer for the Board of Works Relief Department in County Wicklow. According to reports from Boyle the situation worsened in the county during that period. Many carts which had been sent from Arklow to Enniscorthy for meal were returning empty because of the growing demand for food in Wexford. By December 17th, 1846 the Avoca mills could no longer provide the local mine workers with meal.

Document D

Letter from James Boyle to the Relief Service, Dublin Castle, describing the conditions in County Wicklow and the difficulties in procuring food.

Source: NAI, RLFC3/2/8633 (Barony of Arklow).

TRANSCRIPT

<p>Relief Service</p> <p>Sir</p> <p>In my report of the 17th inst. I adverted to the Scarcity of food in the town and neighbourhood of Arklow - and stated the difficulty which existed in obtaining supplies.</p> <p>I have now the honor to state for the information of the Commissioners of Public Works, facts with reference to this important subject, which I consider it would be improper in me to pass unnoticed - and for corroboration of my statements I beg if necessary to refer to-</p> <p>Admiral Proby, Vice Lieut. Col. Acton M.P. and Capt. Hore R.N. J.P.</p> <p>On Friday evening the 18th inst. there was not in the town of Arklow provisions for four days - the carts which had been despatched to Enniscorthy 25 miles (Irish) distant returned unladen, in consequence of a determination on the part of the people of that neighbourhood to prevent any further transport of food towards Wicklow.</p>	<p>-County Wicklow Bray 19th December 1846</p> <p>On the evening of Thursday the 17th instant the supply of meal at the Avoca Mills, towards the N.W. of the Barony of Arklow, and from which the labourers employed in the mines have always been supplied, failed before they had all obtained their usual weekly quantity - much anxiety was created - and had it not been for the efforts of some Gentlemen in the neighbourhood the consequences might have been serious.</p> <p>So difficult is it now to procure food (for ready money) that numbers may every morning be seen at the small Mills of the neighbourhood each awaiting the delivery of their half stone or at most stone of meal - the price of which has now in this Barony risen to 3/2.</p> <p>It is the unanimous opinion of those Gentlemen that a famine is rapidly impending in this Barony - and as they are and have been resident and useful landlords - now affording most extensive employment - and giving out food at reduced prices their opinions are deserving of respect - to them I might add those of almost every other Gentleman in the Barony. In fact I have not heard a different opinion on the subject.</p> <p>I have the honour to be Sir Your most obd. (obedient) servant James Boyle Superintendent Engineer for the Co. Wicklow.</p>
--	---

Ms. 3

County Wicklow

Dublin 19th December 1846

Relief Service

Sir

In my report of the 17th inst. I alluded to the scarcity of food in the town and neighbourhood of Arklow - and stated the difficulty which existed in obtaining supplies.

I have now the honor to state for the information of the Commissioners of Public Works, facts all in reference to this important subject, which I consider it would be improper in me to pass unmentioned - and for corroboration of my statements I beg if necessary to refer to - Admiral Raby, Vice Lord, Col. Bolton M. P. - and Captain Store - R. A. C. P. -

On Friday evening the 15th inst. there was not in the town of Arklow provisions for four days - the carts which had been despatched to Kinniscorthy 25 miles (which) did not return unless, in consequence of a determination on the part of the people of that neighbourhood

to prevent any further transport of grain towards Wicklow - On the evening of Thursday the 17th instant the supply of Meats at the Arklow Mills, towards the S. W. of the Barony of Arklow, and from which the laborers employed in the mines have always been supplied, failed before they had all obtained their usual weekly quantity - Much anxiety was excited - and had it not been for the effect of some gentlemen in the neighbourhood the consequences might have been serious -

So difficult is it now to procure food (for ready money) that numbers may every morning be seen at the small Mills of the neighbourhood and awaiting the delivery of their last stores or at most stone of meal - the price of which has now in this Barony risen to 3/6 -

It is the unanimous opinion of the gentlemen that a famine is rapidly impending in this Barony - and as they are and have been poor and infatigable laborers - now offering most extensive employment - and giving out food at reduced prices their opinions are deserving of respect - to them I might add that of almost every other gentleman in the Barony, in fact there is not a house a different opinion on the subject -

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

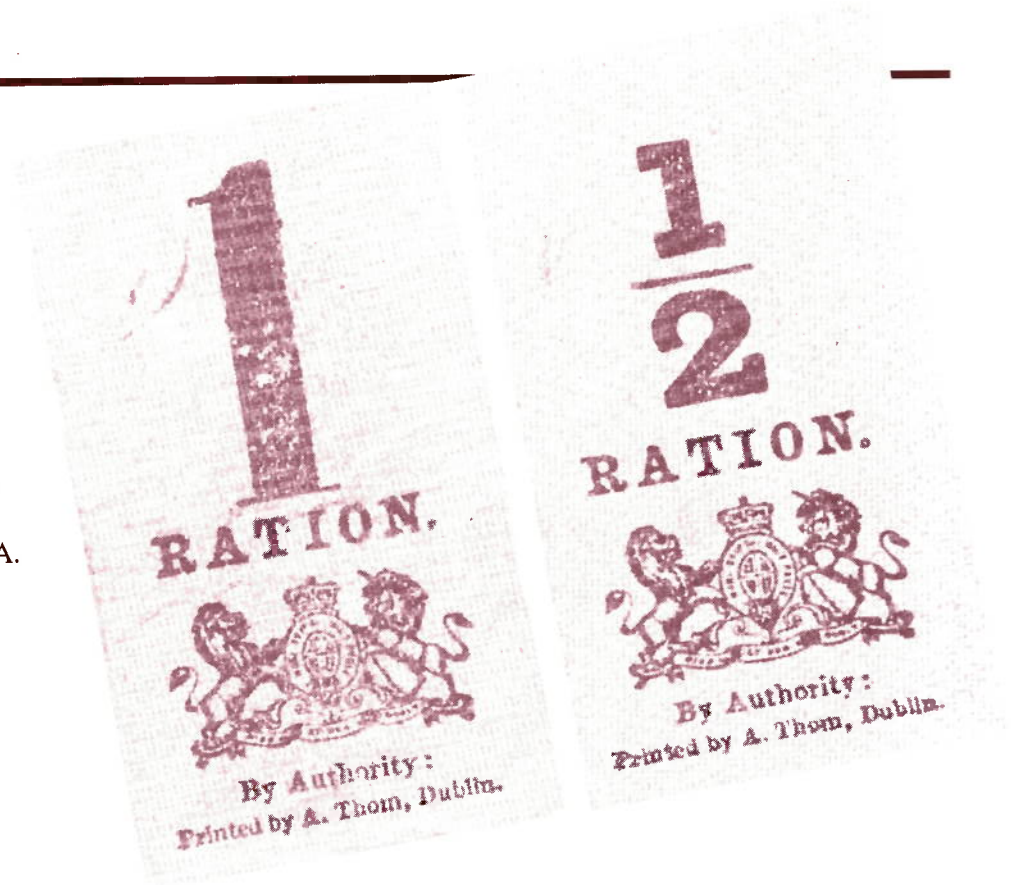
Your most obt. servant

James Boyle

Superintendent

of the Co. Wicklow

Ration Cards issued during the Famine, as part of an early attempt at organising relief. Courtesy of Rev. Br. T.A. Connolly.



Questions

- 1 What post did James Boyle hold?
 - 2 According to Boyle how many days provisions were left in Arklow?
 - 3 Why did the carts return from Enniscorthy unladen?
 - 4 Why were the miners anxious in Avoca?
 - 5 What price had the meal risen to?
- Study Section 6A and answer the following questions:**
- 6 How many people were engaged on the relief works near Tinahely?
 - 7 How many relief workers depended on supplies in Dunlavin and Carnew?
 - 8 How did Boyle describe the men on the relief works?
 - 9 Why do you think this situation arose?
 - 10 How many fields did Boyle see labourers working in?
 - 11 How many farms had seed that would last two months?
 - 12 How long did he think they could last out?

Public Works

Public works were slow to get off the ground in Wicklow so that by the end of the year only 1,225 people were employed on the public works. By March 1847 the numbers on the works had increased to 6,678.

Document E

Extract from a report by James Boyle detailing the amount of provisions available in Wicklow, the Relief Works and the general state of agriculture.

Source: NAI RLFC3/2/9290 (Barony of Arklow).

TRANSCRIPT

Co. Wicklow / Arklow 17/1/47

James Boyle Esq. Engineer for the Co. Wicklow - To J.C. Walker Esq.

During the past week has travelled nearly 190 miles, visiting Relief Works- embracing half the county, and including a population of 88,000 of whom 5230 are on the Public Works - Urges for this county the introduction of seed and the tillage of the ground by the Government. Works not economically executed, owing to the physical state of the county. Many works under him are crowded. On one road (near Tinahealy) 2.5 miles, 570 are at work. As respects, the Political state of the county, he has no bad apprehensions. From actual examination, finds that destitution is greater than was anticipated. There is no grain, very little attempt to cultivate the land. In Tinahealy, the Capital of the Barony, he found barely in the shop, two days provisions. In Dunlavin, there were only three days provisions- and in the town 4000 Relief Labourers depend for supplies. In Baltinglass there is 1.5 tons of meal. Carnew, Capital of a district, has three days provisions. 700 Relief Labourers depend on it for supplies. Arklow equally bad, as these towns, 5200 labouring depend for food. Credit is diminished, and the number of huxters lessened- prices have increased. The condition of the peasant and small farmer is becoming hourly worse. Oatmeal 25/- per cwt Indian meal 2/9 per stone-1/- will do little in supporting a family of eight persons daily. Men who joined the works stout and vigorous are now seen to faint at the time when this meal should be supplied, has more than 4000 working willingly by task. Yet they can't come by food. Turnips were recently sold at 15/- per ton, they are now 35/-. Cattle are unprofitable. Disease is becoming prevalent, and often fatal- in travelling over 180 miles, agricultural Districts, found only 28 fields on which labourers were at work. In a drive of 27 miles yesterday, he saw but 4 Haggards of 3/4 of the farmers of the better class 18 had not seed beyond a supply of food for 2 months, the majority could not hold out beyond April- they have neither money nor seed, nor food for labourers. Fears that ploughing will be neglected- as the small farmers have become careless.

To Wicklow
Arklow

17/1/47

9290

James Boyle Esq, Engineer for the Co Wicklow - To J. C. Walker Esq

During the past week has traveled nearly 190 miles, visiting Relief Works embracing half the County, & including a population of 88,000, of whom 5230 are in the R. Works - Urges for this Co. the introduction of seed & the tithing of the Ground by the Govt - Works not economically executed, owing to the physical state of the County - many Works under him are crowded - on one Road (near Tinahally) 2 1/2 miles 870 are at work - as respects the Political state of the County he has no bad apprehensions - From actual examination, finds that destitution is greater than was anticipated - There is no grain - very little attempt to cultivate the land - In Amahally, the Capital of P.W. he found barely in the shops 3 days provisions - In Decatur there was only 3 days provisions - & on this town 4000 Relief labourers depend for supplies - In Rathfriland there is not 1/2 tons of meal - Curran (Capital of a District) had but 3 days provisions - 700 Relief labourers depend on it for supplies - Arklow equally bad - on these towns 5200 labourers depend for food - Circuit is diminished - & the number of Hospitals lessened - prices have increased - the condition of the peasant & small farmer is becoming hourly worse - Oatmeal 35/6 per bush - Meal 2/9 per stone - 1/11 will do little in supporting a family of 3/4 money daily - men who joined the works stout & vigorous, are now seen to faint, at the time when their meal should be supplied - has more than 4000 working willingly day to day - yet they can't command food - Hemp was recently sold at 15/6 per ton, they are now 35/6 - (little are unprofitable - Disease is becoming prevalent - and often fatal - in travelling over 180 miles, agricultural Districts, found only 20 fields on which labourers were at work -

can

9290 Contd

In a drive of 27 miles yesterday he saw but 4 Haggards of 3/4 of the farms as of the better Class 18 had not seed beyond a supply of food for 2 months - the majority could not hold out beyond April - they have neither money nor seed - nor food for labourers - It is feared that ploughing will be neglected - as the small farmers have become careless -

Document E

Extract from a report by James Boyle detailing the amount of provisions available in Wicklow, the Relief Works and the general state of agriculture.

Source: NAI RLFC3/2/9290 (Barony of Arklow).

Distress

The new Whig government led by William Russell decided to close down the public works in a bid to force labourers to return to agricultural work for the Spring and Summer. This began with an immediate closure of 20% of the works from March 20th, 1847 which caused great distress for many people. The rest were closed by May.

Document F

Report from Constable John Norris, Aughrim, detailing the case of a fever-stricken pauper woman and her child on the road near Aughrim.

Source: NAI, RLFC Misc. Papers.

TRANSCRIPT

County of Wicklow
Aughrim June 16 1847

I have to state that on the 11th inst. a travelling pauper named Honor Kirwan and her child dropped on the highway near Aughrim, both being ill with fever and lay on the side of the road till the following day when I reported the case to Jeremiah Tool, the warden, who had them conveyed to Rathdrum Fever Hospital immediately. But being refused admittance there they were sent back to this place and left on the cross roads at Aughrim the most part of the night and then put in to a shed. On the following day (Monday) I informed Doctor Atkins of the case who gave a certificate stating the poor woman had fever and was a fit object for the Fever Hospital. The Rev. Mr Malony and two cess payers recommended them to the Fever Hospital also. These recommendations

together with the wardens note, was forwarded same day, with the poor woman, to Arklow Fever Hospital and was refused admittance there stating they should have been sent to Rathdrum and had them conveyed back to Aughrim and left on the cross roads for the night to the great danger of the people of this neighbourhood. On Tuesday myself and two of this party with some others of the neighbours procured timber and erected a shed and put the two sick persons in to it and went through the neighbours and got a few pence to get nourishment for them and also procured a nurse tender to take care of them. It is a very hard case that there is no place to remove poor persons of this description when they fall on the public roads and although I am well aware it is no part of my duty to interfere in such cases. Still every person calls on me to keep the public pathways clear of such nuisances. There is 8 or 9 families at present ill with Fever in this neighbourhood, some of them in sheds and no place to receive them. I hope you will see if there is any remedy to this state of things.

John Norris Constable

Document F

Report from Constable John Norris, Aughrim, detailing the case of a fever-stricken pauper woman and her child on the road near Aughrim.

Source: NAI, RLFC Misc. Papers.

County of Wicklow.
Aughrim June 16/47

I have to state that on the 11th Inst. a travelling pauper named Honor Keenan & her child dropped on the highway near Aughrim, both being ill with Fever & lay on the side of the road till the following day when I reported the case to Sergeant Toal, the Warden who had them conveyed to Rathdown Fever Hospital. Immediately, but being upon admission there they were sent back to this place & left on the cess road near Aughrim, the first part of the night & then put in to a shed, in the following day (Monday) I informed Doctor Atkins, of the case who gave a Certificate stating the poor woman had Fever and was a fit object for the Fever Hospital. The Rev. Mr. Maloney & two other parsons recommended her to the Fever Hospital also.

together with the Warden's Note, was forwarded some days since the poor woman to the Fever Hospital, and was also refused admission there stating they should have been sent to Rathdown -- and had them conveyed back to Aughrim & left on the cess roads for the night to the great danger of the people of this neighbourhood.

on Tuesday myself & two of the party with some others of the Neighbourhood procured timber & erected a shed, in part the two sick persons in to it. I went through the neighbourhood and set a few pence to get nourishment for them and also procured a Nurse tender to take care of them. It is a very hard case that there is no place to receive poor persons of this description when they fall on the public house. Although I am sure it is no part of my duty to interfere in such cases, still every body calls on me to keep the public house open as a place of residence for these poor people. At present all will come in the neighbourhood, some of them will be the place to receive them I hope you will be of some use in this way. The State of things is very bad.

John Norris Constable

Questions

- 1 How many were employed on the relief works in March 1847?
- 2 Who was the Prime Minister of the new Whig government?
- 3 Why was the government anxious to reduce the numbers on the relief works?
- 4 What was the name of the travelling pauper and near which village did she collapse?
- 5 To which Fever Hospitals were they sent?
- 6 Why do you think they were refused admittance to the hospitals?
- 7 How did the Constable deal with the situation?
- 8 How many families had fever in the neighbourhood of Aughrim?

Document G

Letter from John Anderson describing the hardship in the County which was heightened by the snow storm of February 6th, 1847.

Source: NAI, RLFC3/2/11008 (Barony of Ballinacor North).

TRANSCRIPT

Sheanna
9 February 47

My Dear Sir,

I left Rathdrum early this morning with a view of proceeding to Moyne to meet its Relief Committee according to appointment, but from the great quantity of snow that has fallen, I reached this place with great difficulty I had literally to dig the horse out at some places, wherever the snow had drifted and was some feet deep in fact many of the roads of this mountainous district are almost impassable. I regret to inform you that I was informed by the Secretary of the Relief Committee of this place that they have only six hundred weight of meal left and though more has been ordered, I fear no cart will make this place as long as the storm lasts. What the consequence will be God only knows. I heard of one family that were laying in a bed as they had neither food nor fuel. I believe these and many others similarly situated would perish were it not for private benevolence and in this mountainous wild District it is to be feared many, many perish unheard of - I know you have done

all that men could do but I feel I would be sorry were I not to put you in possession of these sad facts. I write from this place in case the state of the roads prevents my getting to Headquarters in time for Post, I am to meet the Ashford and Bray Relief Committees tomorrow and will, if I can go up in the evening to Dublin in case you should wish me to go and wait on Sir Randolph Routh-

Believe me
My Dear Sir
Yours very truly
(signed) John R. Anderson

11000

Copy 1



My Dear Sir,
 I left Rathfriland early this morning with
 a view of procuring the means to visit the Relief Comtee
 according to appointment but from the very great
 quantity of snow that has fallen. I was unable to
 pass with great difficulty had literally to dig the
 horse out at some places wherever he had been
 stuck, and was some five days in fact weary of
 the roads of this mountainous District are almost
 impassable. I regret to inform you that I was in-
 formed by the Secretary of the Relief Comtee
 of this place, that they have only six hundred
 weight of Meal left, and though more has been
 ordered. I fear we will not reach this place as
 long as the storm lasts. What the consequence
 will be God only knows. I think of one family
 that were lying in a bed as they had neither
 food nor fuel. I believe there are many others
 similarly situated would perish were it not
 for private benevolence and in this mountainous
 wild District it is to be feared many more
 perish unheard of. — I know you have done
 all.

all that man could do and I feel I would
 to every man I met to get you in possession
 of these sad facts. With from this place in
 care the date of the roads presents my
 getting to Head quarters in time for Post,
 I can't visit the Relief Comtee until I
 Relief Comtee tomorrow and will if I
 can go up in the morning to Dublin, in
 case you should wish me to go and
 wait on the Randolph Knight —

Believe me
 very Dear Sir
 Yours very truly
 John R. Anderson
 (signed)

Document G

Letter from John Anderson describing the hardship in the County which was heightened by the snow storm of February 6th, 1847.
 Source: NAI, RLFC3/2/11008 (Barony of Ballinacor North).

Questions

- Read the account given by Captain Anderson on the snow storm of February 1847.
- (a) Draw a map of the county and mark in the areas he proposed to visit.
 - (b) Write a newspaper report detailing what he experienced.

Soup Kitchens

According to Constabulary Returns, 14,861 acres were re-planted with potatoes in Wicklow in 1846. This figure represents only 88% of the amount planted in 1845. There was a sharp decline in re-planting in the coastal baronies of Rathdown (72.76%) and Newcastle (79.03%). These baronies had a high proportion of agricultural labourers.

As the relief works failed to cope with the worsening crisis the government was forced to issue instructions to the Relief Committees to establish Soup Kitchens. They aimed to establish temporary feeding centres instead of relief works. A Soup Kitchen was established in Wicklow town where it was reported at the end of January 1847 that 471 families were receiving this form of relief. However, many were still too proud to stand in line to be fed and to be seen to be receiving "charity".

Document H

Letter from Rev. Henry Brownrigg detailing a Soup Kitchen which was feeding seven hundred families per day in Arklow.

Source: NAI, RLFC3/2/10709 (Barony of Arklow).

TRANSCRIPT

10/09 Sheep-House,
Reg NR6,
Arklow.
Feb:10th 1847

Dear Sir,

A sum of £160 has been subscribed to carry on a soup kitchen at Arklow and I am requested to apply through you to the government for such a grant of money in aid of it, as His Excellency The Lord Lieutenant may think proper to give. The Town and neighbourhood of Arklow was in great distress and but for this soup kitchen many persons must perish - 700 families are being relieved from it daily.

When the Relief Committees shall have been formed under the provisions of the contemplated Act, Arklow will come forward with a list of local subscriptions to entitle the poor to Government aid under the new system: mean while it is a life and death business to keep up our soup kitchen, and therefore it is hoped that Sir Randolph Routh will recommend a present grant to be made towards it's support. My friend the Rev. Redmond and I are prepared to work for it's necessity and to pledge ourselves that it shall be properly and beneficially and economically applied. The existing funds are inadequate to carry it on much longer, at it's present outlay as it has been for nine weeks in active operation, and much of the money has been necessarily expended.- I will furnish a formal list of subscribers and should you require it, but mean while procure for our poor people a grant of money from Government.

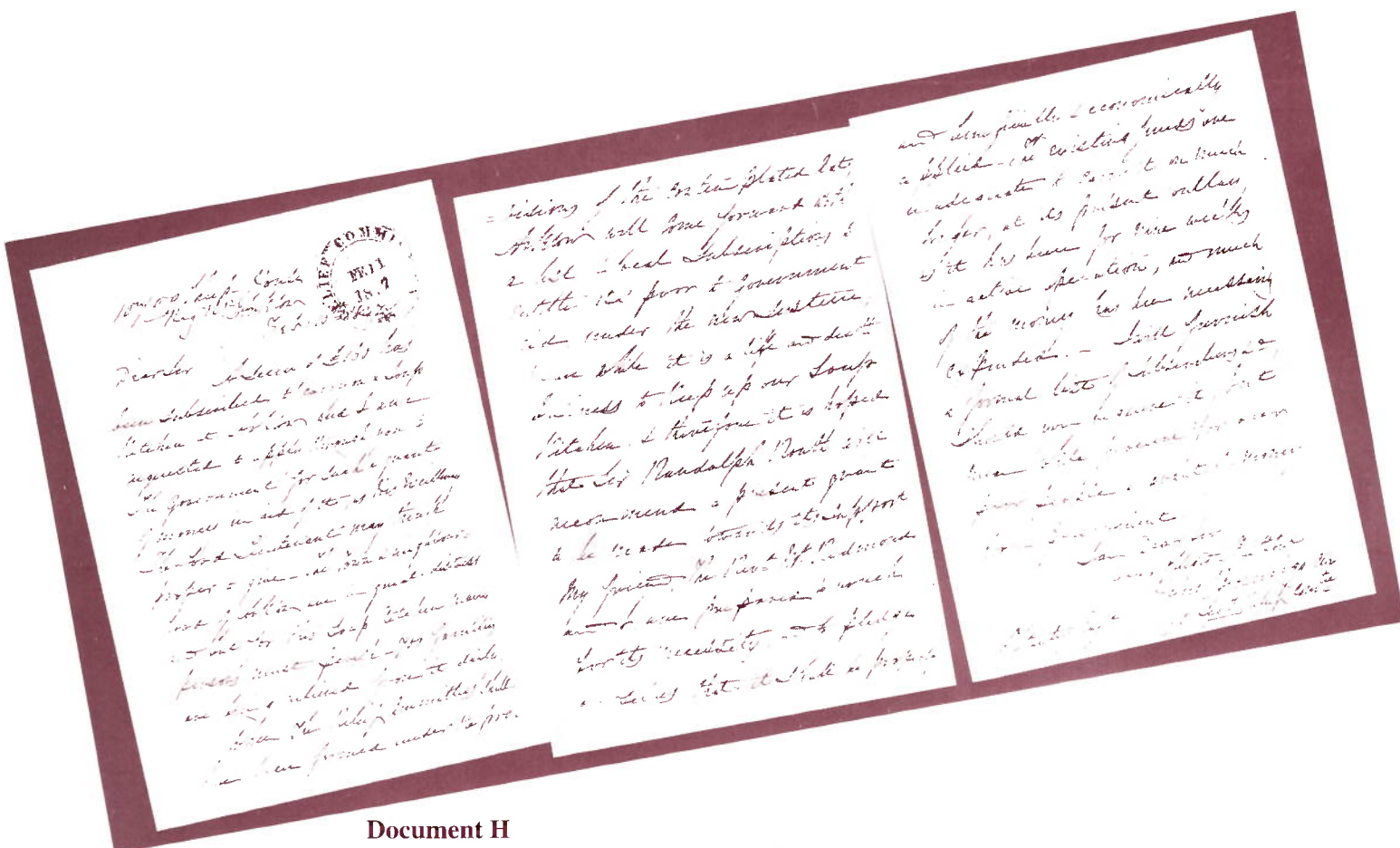
I am, Dear Sir,

Your Obligated and Faithful,
Henry Brownrigg

D. Stanley Esq.

Questions

- 1 How many acres were replanted with potatoes in Wicklow in 1846?
- 2 Explain why there was a drop in the number of acres planted?
- 3 Why were the Soup Kitchens established?
- 4 How many people received relief from the Soup Kitchen in Wicklow town?
- 5 How many families were being relieved daily in Arklow?
- 6 How did Rev. Brownrigg describe the distress in Arklow?
- 7 Why do you think Rev. Brownrigg and the Roman Catholic priest Rev. Redmond worked together?
- 8 How long was the Soup Kitchen in operation?
- 9 Imagine you are queuing for the first time at a Soup Kitchen. Describe how you feel, the circumstances which brought you to the Soup Kitchen and the scene as it unfolds around you.



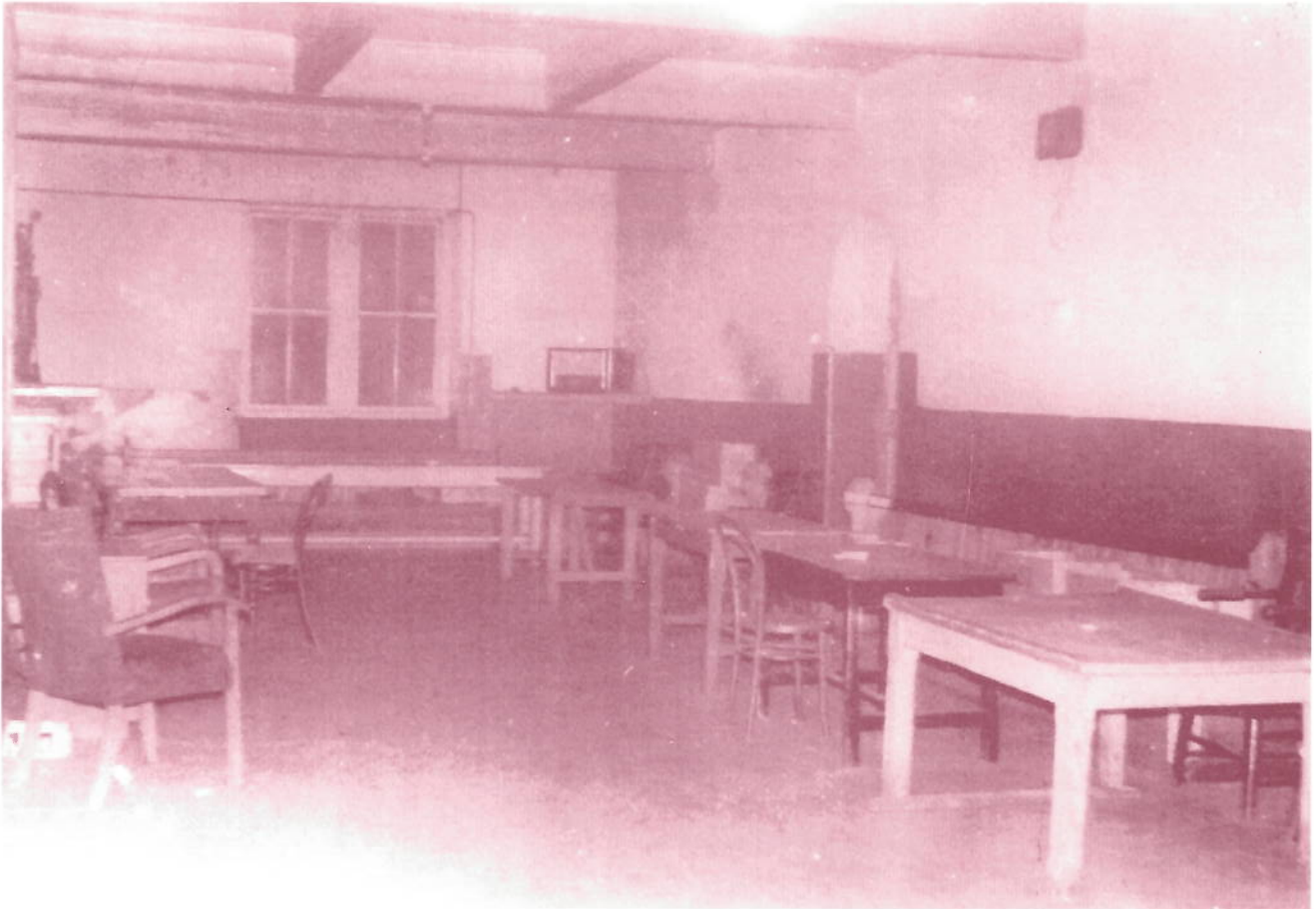
Document H

Letter from Rev. Henry Brownrigg detailing a Soup Kitchen which was feeding seven hundred families per day in Arklow.

Source: NAI, RLFC3/2/10709 (Barony of Arklow).

Workhouses

The Act establishing the Workhouses in Ireland came into effect in 1838. Its aim was to provide relief for the poverty stricken, estimated at two million. The country was divided into Unions, composed of electoral divisions which were governed by a Board of Guardians, consisting of two thirds elected and one third ex-officio members. The Union was made responsible for the relief of the poor in their own areas. Workhouses were established in every Union, supported by the levying of a poor rate which depended on the number of poor in a given area. Assistance was also provided to people wishing to emigrate.



"The Walking Hall" Rathdrum Workhouse. Courtesy of Kevin Byrne.

WORKHOUSE	INMATE CAPACITY	COST	OPENED
RATHDRUM	600	£8,363	MARCH 8TH 1842
BALTINGLASS	500	£7,848	OCTOBER 28TH 1841
SHILLELAGH	400	£7,394	FEBRUARY 18TH 1842
NAAS	550	—	AUGUST 4TH 1841
RATHDOWN	600	£9,683	OCTOBER 12TH 1841

(note: cost relates to amount to build workhouses.)

The Poor Law Unions of County Wicklow



On admittance to the Workhouse a family was separated into male and female sections. The harsh discipline, tedious work and diet within the Workhouse was designed to ensure that only the very destitute would wish to pass through its doors. By mid November 1846 the Workhouses were reporting that they had reached capacity. Baltinglass Workhouse was reported to be full on November 14th, 1846; Rathdrum on December 12th; Naas and Shillelagh on January 10th, 1847. This crisis of overcrowding forced the Boards to convert stables and sheds to provide additional space. Rathdrum Workhouse rented the local brewery in November 1846 as well as the Flannel Hall, the present R.D.A. Hall, which allowed for an additional two hundred places.

A new Master, Isaac Flower, was appointed to Rathdrum Workhouse in 1850. He described conditions in the Workhouse as "disorganised and unhygienic" and a breakdown in discipline was inevitable, he believed. In one instance, the Master reported "a female pauper aged 32 years attempted to commit suicide by throwing herself into the cesspool, but it was not of sufficient depth. She was rescued by the women in charge but later succeeded by throwing herself over the bannister of the stairs".

Mr. Comerford, the local Poor Law Commissioner for Rathdrum drew up a report to the Board of Guardians on October 25th, 1850 stating "I inspected the Workhouse on the 21st October I found the clay floors of the male and female day rooms, the idiot ward and the workshop are in a very bad state". The Master responded by ordering the hiring of a contractor to lay the floor with bricks and to tile the idiot cells with stone tiles.



Lunatic Cells "Idiot Wards" Rathdrum Workhouse. Courtesy of Kevin Byrne.

Questions

- 1 When was the Act establishing Workhouses in Ireland passed?
- 2 What was the aim of the Act?
- 3 How many Poor Law Unions were created in County Wicklow?
- 4 What was the overall inmate capacity in the Workhouses of the five baronies?
- 5 What provisions did the Board of Guardians take to allow for extra space in the Workhouse at Rathdrum?
- 6 How did the new Master, Isaac Flower, describe conditions in Rathdrum Workhouse?
- 7 How did the new Master respond to these poor conditions?
- 8 **Study the table of the *State of Rathdrum Workhouse* for the week ending May 11th, 1850. Answer the following short questions:**
 - (a) What was the cost of provisions for the week?
 - (b) What was the average cost of an inmate for a week?
 - (c) List the food ordered by the Master for the ensuing week?
 - (d) How many inmates were in the Workhouse?
 - (e) Could the Workhouse cater for more?
 - (f) A higher number of females than males entered the Workhouse. Why do you think this was so?
 - (g) How many cases of fever were recorded?
 - (h) How many destitute people were relieved out of the Workhouse that week?
 - (i) Who was Chairman of the Board of Guardians of Rathdrum Workhouse?
 - (j) What was the name of his famous son?
- 9 Why do you think conditions were so harsh in the Workhouse?
- 10 Imagine you are a young girl/boy separated from the other members of your family as you entered the Workhouse. Describe conditions in the workhouse, how you feel and what your fears would be for the future.

State of Rathdrum Workhouse

The Clerk's Account of petty Disbursements made by him since last Meeting, amounting to £ was produced and passed.

The following Books were exhibited by the Clerk, he having first ascertained the accuracy of the entries made therein by the Master of the Workhouse, and authenticated the same by his signature:

1. The Weekly Relief List and Abstract.
2. The Provision Check Accounts.
3. The Provision Receipt and Consumption Account.

By which it appeared that the Cost of Provisions and Necessaries received during the week, was £ 58 s. 10 d. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$

Debit Provision Account, and Credit Invoice Account.

The Cost of Provisions and Necessaries consumed was

Debit Maintenance Account, and Credit Provision Account.

And the general average Cost of an Inmate for the week was - - - 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Average cost in Infirmary, - - - 11

Average cost in Fever Hospital, - - - 11 $\frac{1}{5}$

The Master's estimate of Provisions and Necessaries required for the ensuing week was examined, and Orders were duly made for the several articles specified, namely:

- 130 Loaves Brown Bread
- 220 White do
- 2 Ton Indian Meal
- 1 Ton Oatmeal
- 100 gallons Buttermilk
- 480 lb New Milk
- 1 lb Salt

The following Books were also produced by the Clerk, their accuracy having been previously ascertained by him, and authenticated by his Signature:

1. The several Clothing Accounts.
2. The Medical Officers' Books.

The Out-door Relief Lists and Weekly Receipt and Expenditure Books of the several Relieving Officers were then produced by the Clerk, their accuracy having been previously ascertained by him, and authenticated by his signature.

The Abstract of the Out-door Relief Lists was also produced by the Clerk, having been duly entered up by him for the last week ended Saturday, the 11 day of March; whereby it appeared that in that week the Total Expenditure in Out-door Relief was

In money,	-	-	-	-	£	8	d.	0
In kind,	-	-	-	-		18		1 $\frac{1}{4}$
				Total,		26		6 $\frac{1}{4}$

Credit each Relieving Officer, as per Receipt and Expenditure Book.

The requirements of each Relieving Officer for the ensuing week having been duly considered and estimated by the Board, checks on the Treasurer, and orders on Contractors, were duly signed and delivered to each of them, of the following amounts and value, respectively:

Document I
Source: Minute Book,
Rathdrum Union 1850
(2 pages)

Rathfrum

UNION.

Population in 1841, 56,709

Present Net Annual Value, £122,062 5

STATE of the WORKHOUSE for the Week ending Saturday, the 17th day of May 1850.

Number of Inmates for which accommodation is provided.	No. that can be accommodated in each building	Total No. in each building on the above date.	Able-bodied.		Aged and Infirm persons, and adult persons, above 15 years of age, but not working.		Boys and Girls, above 9 and under 15 years of age.		Children above 5 and under 9 years of age.	Children above 2 and under 5 years of age.	Infants under 2 years of age.	Total.	RETURN OF SICK AND LUNATICS.		OBSERVATIONS.	
			Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Boys.	Girls.					Number in Hospital on the above date.	No. of Lunatics and Idiots in Workhouse on the above date.		
Workhouse,	280	241														
Temporary Buildings,	100	94														
Additional Workhouse,	350	193														
Permanent Fever Hospital,	50	57														
Fever Sheds,																
Total,	1290	1487														
Remaining on previous Saturday, as per last Return,			91	323	96	106	162	152	79	105	70	1172	In Workhouse Hospital, 168	In separate Wards, In Fever Hospital, 57		
Admitted during the Week,			13	24	2	4	4	4	4	2	4	61				
TOTAL,			107	347	98	112	146	157	83	110	74	1234	Total, 225	Total, 2		
Discharged during the Week,			7	15	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	40				
Died,				1	"	"	"	"	2		4	7				
Total Discharged and Dead,			7	16	2	1	6	6	5	3	7	47				
REMAINING ON THE ABOVE DATE,			100	331	76	111	142	154	75	107	67	1187				

There were 2 Butth added on the Belfast Clap

RETURN of DESTITUTE PERSONS relieved out of the Workhouse, as by Relief Lists, for the last Week ended Saturday, the 17th day of May 1850, authenticated and laid before the Board of Guardians at this Meeting.

RELIEF DISTRICT.	Destitute Persons relieved out of the Workhouse under 10 Vict. c. 31, s. 1.		Destitute Persons relieved out of the Workhouse, but not comprised in Sec. 1.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		RELIEF DISTRICT.	Destitute Persons relieved out of the Workhouse under 10 Vict. c. 31, s. 1.		Destitute Persons relieved out of the Workhouse, but not comprised in Sec. 1.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.	
	Number of cases relieved.	Number of Persons, including Applicant and Family, dependent on him or her.	Number of cases relieved.	Number of Persons, including Applicant and Family, dependent on him or her.	Cases.	Persons.		Number of cases relieved.	Number of Persons, including Applicant and Family, dependent on him or her.	Number of cases relieved.	Number of Persons, including Applicant and Family, dependent on him or her.	Cases.	Persons.
No. I.	9	18					Bt. forward						
No. II.	6	12					No. X.						
No. III.	3	10					No. XI.						
No. IV.	"	"					No. XII.						
No. V.	"	"					No. XIII.						
No. VI.	1	5					No. XIV.						
No. VII.	"	"					No. XV.						
No. VIII.							No. XVI.						
No. IX.							No. XVII.						
Car. forward	19	45					TOTAL,						

COPY of MINUTES of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians, at a Meeting held on Tuesday the 24th day of May 1850

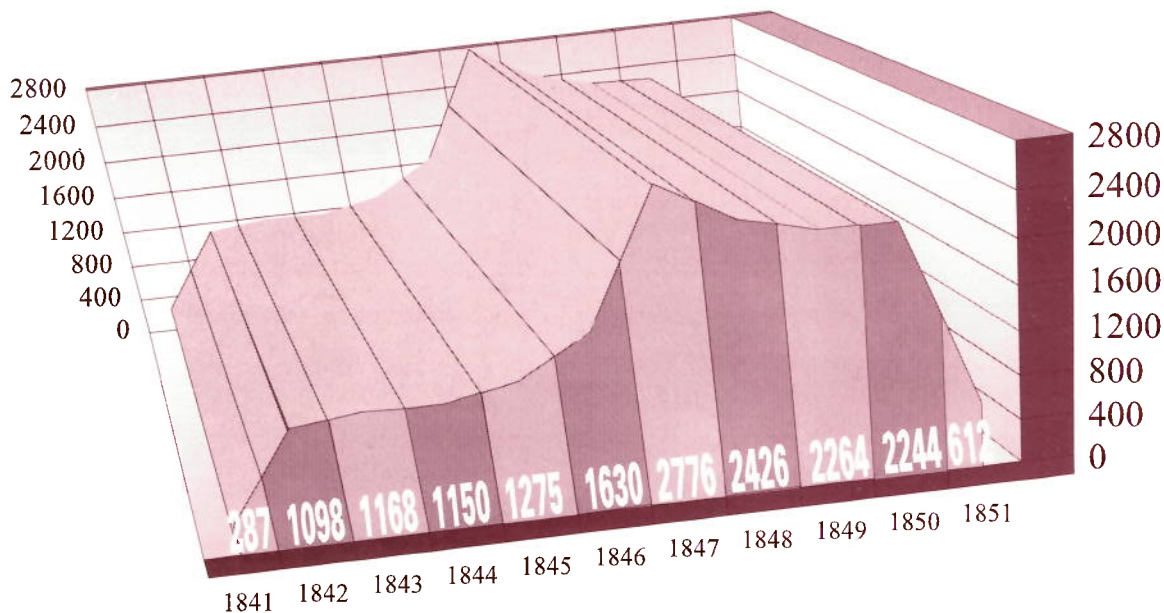
PRESENT: In the Chair, John Farrell Esq.
 Other Guardians: Chas. Tottenham Esq.
Stephen W. Healy, H. M. Redmond, Wm. Gilbert, R. Murray,
John Murphy, John Booth, Silvester Burke,
Patrick Gaslin, Jas. Comerford & John Chapman

Deaths

The majority of the 16,930 recorded deaths in Wicklow were mainly due to consumption (2,796), infirmity, debility and old age (2,730), fever (2,172) and wasting (1,175). Deaths were not solely due to starvation as the first three causes of death were common in pre-famine Wicklow.

The dispensaries at Annamoe, Dunganstown and Redcross as well as returns from the Medical Officer of Wicklow Fever Hospital recorded the spread of fever which reached its height in 1847.

Total Number of Deaths 1841-1851



Source: Census of Ireland 1851.

Note: Reliable figures of deaths were not available until compulsory registration commenced in 1864. The above figures were compiled retrospectively for the 1851 Census. The number of deaths for 1841 and 1851 only cover part of those years.



Numerical Summary of Patients Affected with General Paralysis
 Dr James Wright, Medical Officer, from
 1st June to 1st September, 1846
 Report

	Admitted into Hospital	Had Discharge	Remaining under treatment	Remarks
	140	5	92	13
Admitted into Hospital	91	1	85	5
Treated Externally	205	6	197	18
Total No. of Cases	245			

(Value below)

Document J

Numerical summary of Patients affected with Fever under care of Dr. David Wright Medical Officer from 4th June to the 1st September 1846

	Admitted into Hospital	Died	Discharged	Remaining under treatment	Remarks
	110	5	92	13	The worst description of cases were admitted into Hospital, and the fatal cases were chiefly persons of very great age who from wretchedness and starvation had not stamina to bear up under Typhoid Fever.
	Treated Externally 91	1	85	5	
	Total No. of Cases	6	177	18	

Wicklow

Dr. Wright Medical Officer

Arklow Union Fever Hospital

Source: NAI, RLFC3/2/5607 (Barony of Arklow).

Questions

Study the tables and answer the following questions:

- 1 In what year was the highest number of deaths recorded in County Wicklow during the years 1841-1851?
- 2 Calculate the number of deaths which occurred between 1845 and 1850?
- 3 What were the main causes of death during the 1841-1851 period?
- 4 Returns regarding the spread of fever were received from what locations?
- 5 Why do you think the fever reached its height in 1847 and the highest numbers of deaths occurred in that year?
- 6 How many people were admitted into Wicklow Fever Hospital between June 4th and September 8th, 1846? How many people died?
- 7 According to Dr. Wright what kind of people were affected the most and why?
- 8 Would such an outbreak occur as easily today?
What measures could be taken to prevent it spreading?

Crime

Contemporaries such as Boyle and Anderson predicted that a breakdown of law and order would occur in the county. They felt this would take the form of disturbances and riots. Indeed, there was an increase in crime, but more often it was crime against property as opposed to crime against the person which took place.

As the crisis worsened many people deliberately committed crimes in order to be imprisoned where they were guaranteed food and shelter.

The Vagrancy Act of 1847 meant that magistrates were compelled to commit to gaol all those convicted of begging. This increased the number of prisoners in gaols and helped spread disease.

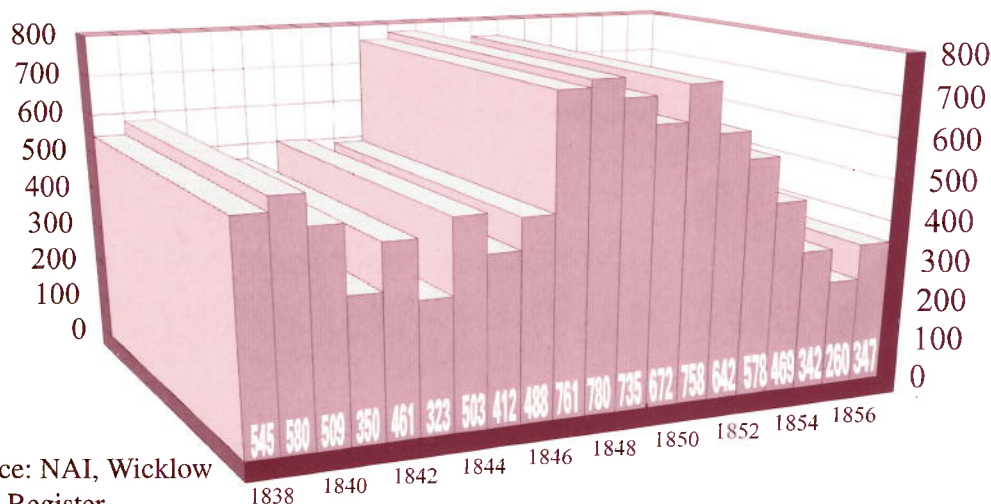
Questions

- Why do you think that people such as Boyle and Anderson predicted a breakdown in law and order?
- What was the most common form of crime committed?
- Why do you think people deliberately committed crimes?
- What was the effect of the Vagrancy Act of 1847?

Examine the Return of Outrages in County Wicklow 1846-50 and the Table of Inmates in Wicklow Gaol 1838-1857 and answer the following questions:

- From the Returns what were the four highest categories of crime committed?
- In what year was the highest number of inmates held in Wicklow Gaol?
- How many prisoners were held in the Gaol for the years:
 - 1838-1846
 - 1847-1851
 - 1852-1857

Number of Prisoners in Wicklow Gaol 1838-1857



Source: NAI, Wicklow Gaol Register.

CHILD INMATES IN WICKLOW GAOL 1846 - 1850

NAME	AGE	CRIME	SENTENCE	HEIGHT	EYES	HAIR
Catherine Dunne	15	Stealing turnips	1 Week	4ft 9 inches	Hazel	Dark Brown
John Philips	12	Stealing a cow	1 Fortnight	4ft 2.25 inches	Blue	Brown
James Cousins	14	Stealing turkey and hen	1 Week	4ft 9.5 inches	Blue	Fair
John Dempsy	13	Rooting potatoes	1 Week	4ft 3.5 inches	Grey	Brown
Lawrence Murphy	14	Disorderly conduct in Baltinglass Workhouse	1 Month	4ft 8.5 inches	Blue	Fair
Edward Kirwan	11	Stealing eggs	1 Day	4ft 1.5 inches	Grey	Light Brown
John Weadock	13	Stealing a quantity of gooseberries	1 Month & Hard Labour	4ft 5 inches	Grey	Brown
Mary Anne Spenser	9	Malicious injury to timber	1 Fortnight	3ft 11.5inches	Blue	Dark Brown
Margaret Spenser	8	Malicious injury to timber	1 Fortnight	3ft 9 inches	Blue	Dark Brown
Edward Cantwell	16	Larceny	Transported 7 years	4ft 9 inches	Brown	Light Brown
John Kavanagh	15	Stealing a chicken	1 Week in solitary	4ft 8.5 inches	Blue	Brown
Thomas Leonard	13	Stealing from the old chapel a quantity of old ropes	1 Fortnight & Hard Labour & Once whipped	4ft 7.5 inches	Grey	Brown
Patrick Kelly	14	Stealing apples	1 Day & to be once privately whipped	4ft 10 inches	Blue	Light Brown
Henry Wilson	15	Stealing from the workhouse at Shillelagh	1 Fortnight Hard labour 1 Week solitary & to be whipped once	4ft 3 inches	Brown	Light Brown
Richard Kiddy	13	Did root with intent to steal a quantity of potatoes	1 Month & Hard Labour	4ft 7 inches	Blue	Fair

Source: NAI Wicklow Gaol Register

COMPLEXION	NATIVE PLACE	RELIGION	MARITAL STATUS	EDUCATION	YEAR	ADDITIONAL INFO.
Fresh	Delgany	R.C.	Single	Neither	1846	
Fresh	Rathdrum	R.C.	Single	Neither	1847	
Fresh	Castlemacadam	R.C.	Single	Read only	1847	
Fair	Wicklow	R.C.	Single	Read only	1847	
Fresh	Dunlavin	R.C.	Single	Read and write	1847	
Fresh	Shillelagh	R.C.	Single	Neither	1847	
Fresh	Rathdrum	R.C.	Single	Neither	1848	
Pale	Castlemacadam	Protestant	Single	Neither	1848	
Pale	Castlemacadam	Protestant	Single	Neither	1848	
Fresh	Baltinglass	R.C.	Single	Read and write	1849	Second time
Fresh	Powerscourt	R.C.	Single	Neither	1849	Reoffended
Swarthy	Wicklow	R.C.	Single	Neither	1849	Reoffended
Fresh	Arklow	R.C.	Single	Neither	1849	
Fresh	Hacketstown	R.C.	Single	Read and write	1849	
Fresh	Newcastle	R.C.	Single	Neither	1850	

**RETURNS OF OUTRAGES IN COUNTY WICKLOW REPORTED
TO THE CONSTABULARY OFFICE 1846 - 1850**

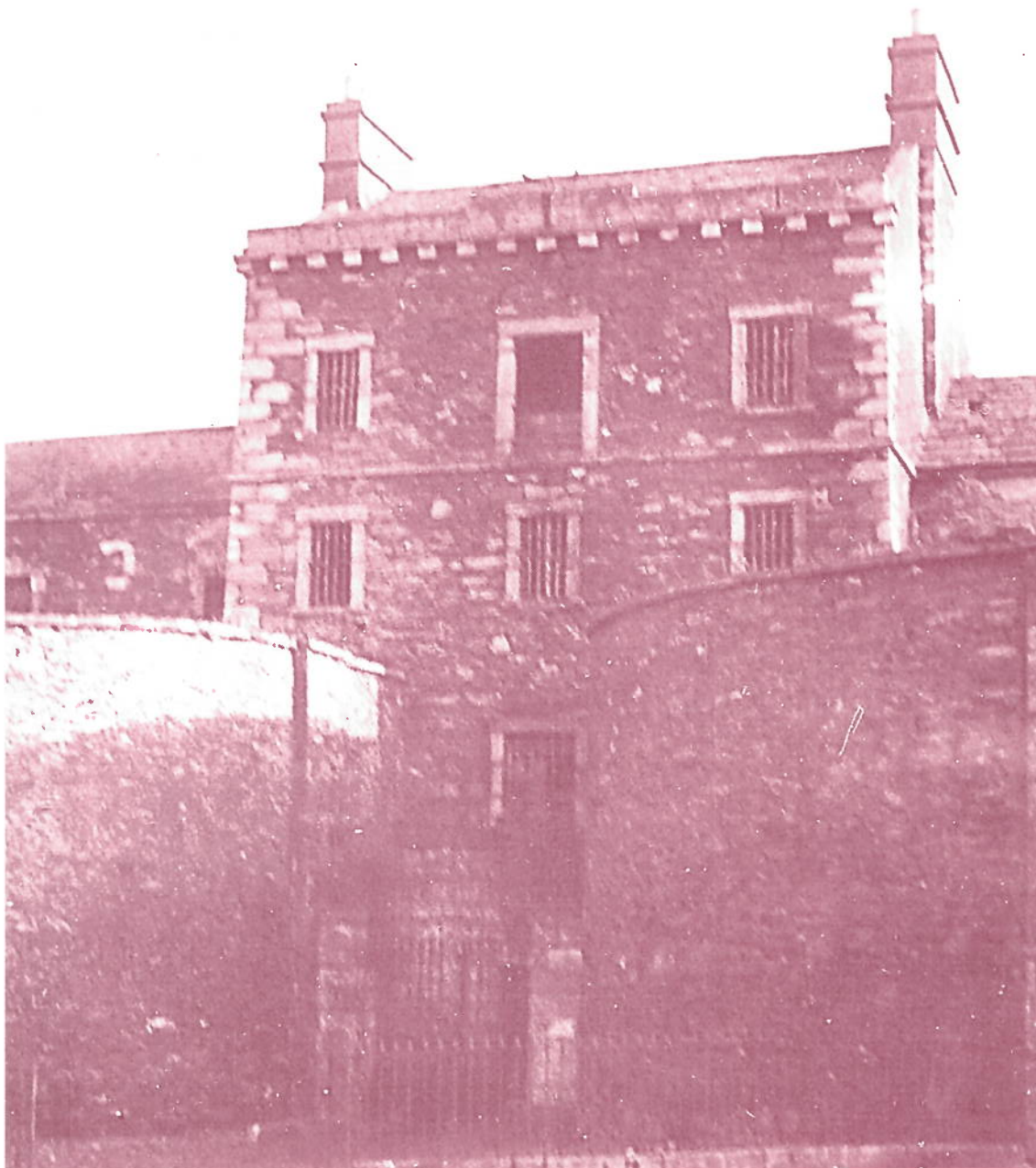
TYPE OF OFFENCE	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	TOTAL
Homicide	1		3	3	2	9
Firing at the person		3		1		4
Conspiracy to murder			1	1		2
Infanticide	3	2	3	3	1	12
Abduction	1					1
Assault to Police				2	1	3
Aggravated assault	3	1	2	6		12
Assault endangering life	4	1	2	1	4	12
Assault with intent to rob		1				1
Desertion of children	5	3	1	3	3	15
Concealing birth	1		1	2		4
Incendiary fire	3	11	7	18	12	51
Burglary and housebreaking	17	30	7	12	7	73
Highway robbery	2	1	1	3	4	11
Robbery	13	20	13	21	37	104
Taking & holding forcible possession	1			1		2
Cattle and sheep stealing	95	330	108	144	149	826
Illegal shearing of sheep	1				2	3
Killing, cutting or maiming cattle	3	3	2	2	2	12
Plundering provision	4	7				11
Levying contributions				1		1
Sacrilege	2		2	2	4	10
Demand or robbery of arms			2			2
Riot	2			2	1	5
Threatening notices or letters	8	7	6	5	8	34
Pound breach	1	2		1	1	5
Attacking houses				1		1
Rescuing prisoners				1		1
Resistance to legal process				5	3	8
Illegal meetings or processions				1		1
Levelling	3		1	2	1	7
Injury to property	7	3		2	2	14
Party demonstration				1	1	2
Coining and uttering base coin	1				1	2
Prison breaking & aiding escape of prisoners					1	1
Forgery or passing of forged notes					1	1
Embezzlement				1		1

TOTAL	181	425	162	248	248	1263
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Source: NAI, Return of Outrages, Irish Crimes Records 1848-76, Vol. 1

Prisoner Profile

On February 24th, 1847 Christopher Bryan was convicted of sheep stealing and sentenced to seven years transportation. While in Wicklow Gaol he sent a petition, signed by people of note in his locality, to the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin Castle seeking mercy. This was forwarded to the Judge at his trial for his comment. In his reply the Judge stated that from evidence given in the court Bryan was a miner and in work at the time of the offence. He stated that he would not have inflicted such a heavy punishment for a first offence if he felt Bryan had been truly a deserving case.



Wicklow Gaol pre 1950s

Prisoner Report Sheet

Name: Christopher Bryan

Age: 33

Place of Birth: Castlemacadam

Physical Description

Height: Five foot three and three quarter inches

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Complexion: Fresh

Marital Status: Wife, 2 children (both boys)

Religion: Roman Catholic

Read and Write: Read only

Occupation: Miner

Crime: Killing a sheep; charged with stealing two sheep; quantity of mutton and wool was found in his house

Year: 1847

Sentence: Transportation for seven years

Convicted

Where: Wicklow

When: February 23rd, 1847

Name of Judge: Judge Jackson

Source: NAI, Wicklow Gaol Register.

Transportation Record

Ship:	Pestonjee Bomanjee
Date of arrival:	January 2nd, 1849
Master:	John Baker
Surgeon:	John Tarn
Sailed:	September 20th, 1848
From:	Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire)
Days:	104
Route:	Direct via Cape of Good Hope
Destination:	Van Diemen's Land
Embarked:	
Males :	304
Females:	0
Relanded (en route)	4
Deaths:	
Male:	2
Landed:	Hobart
Total:	298

Questions

Study sections 10A and 10B and answer the following questions.

- (i) What crime was Christopher Bryan found guilty of?
- (ii) What sentence was Bryan given by Judge Jackson?
- (iii) What does the term transportation mean?
- (iv) What was Bryan's marital status?
- (v) What was the date of Bryan's conviction?
- (vi) Write up a full physical description of Bryan.
- (vii) To whom did Bryan address his petition?
- (viii) Bryan admitted his guilt. What reasons did he give for committing the crime?
- (ix) What did he ask of the Lord Lieutenant?
- (x) Name the ship Bryan was transported on?
- (xi) Why do you think there was a delay between the date of sentencing and the date of sailing?
- (xii) Bryan was transported to Van Diemen's Land. What is its present name?
- (xiii) Draw a map of the world and plot the course taken by the "Pestonjee Bomanjee".
- (xiv) Imagine you are Christopher Bryan sitting in your cell in Wicklow Gaol having learned that your petition has been rejected. Write a letter to your wife explaining to her how you are now feeling (hints: deprived of liberty, leaving family behind, fears for the future, knowledge of Van Diemen's Land).
- (xv) Do you think Judge Jackson's sentence on Bryan was harsh?

Petition of Christopher Bryan

Document K

Petition of Christopher Bryan, a prisoner in Wicklow Gaol, to John William, Earl of Bessborough, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, seeking mercy.

Source: NAI, CRF 1847/B9.

TRANSCRIPT

To John William, Earl of Bessborough
Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor
of Ireland.

The petition of Christopher Bryan now in Her Majesty's Gaol of Wicklow.

Humbly Sheweth

That at the Spring assises held at Wicklow a few days back, your petitioner was convicted of the crime of Sheep Stealing and in consequence sentenced to Transportation for Seven years.

That your petitioner admits the fact of his delinquency and the justice of the punishment which is awaiting him.

That your petitioner never was before guilty of any breach of the Laws of his Country and That in consequence of the horrifing want and destitution of himself, wife and two small children in these times of Dearth and Famine he was prompted and influenced to perpetrate a crime which under other circumstances he would never have attempted.

That your petitioner humbly implores your Excellency's mercy may be extended towards him in granting a Mitigation of the sentence so justly passed on him and having it changed to Imprisonment and hard labour and your petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray

Courtenay Turner, Rector
John Byrne, JP
James Loughlin
James Charles Kenna, JP Rathdrum
William Smith Guinness
Rector Rathdrum,
J. Nicholson
Francis Meegan, Coolaflake
Robert Porter, Chaplain in Gaol.

Emigration

The population of Wicklow declined between 1841 and 1851. However, this decline cannot be entirely attributed to the Famine. By 1843 there were already indications of a drop in the population growth while early marriages tended to be discouraged for those without means.

Before the Famine, assisted emigration had taken place to clear uneconomic holdings on the Fitzwilliam Estates. The majority of those who were assisted to emigrate from the Estates did so during the years 1847 and 1856. About 850 families, totalling 6,000 people left south Wicklow and sailed to Canada.

The Workhouses in Wicklow also fulfilled their other function of assisting inmates to emigrate. Indeed, a large number of the 965 assisted emigrants from the Workhouses in Ireland came from Wicklow.

Questions

- 1 Why were early marriages discouraged even before the Famine?
- 2 Why had assisted emigration taken place on the Fitzwilliam Estate before the Famine?
- 3 When did the majority of people emigrate from the Estate?
- 4 Where did the families sail to?
- 5 How many people were assisted to emigrate from the Workhouses in Ireland?

One of the most outstanding episodes of emigration during the Famine years in Wicklow was the intensive and well organised exodus of parishioners from Tinahely, Killaveney and north Wexford by Fr. Thomas Hoare. In October 1850, he chartered a ship to bring 450 people to America with the aim of establishing a settlement in Iowa. The route taken was from New Ross to New Orleans via Liverpool.

Extract from Constable David Lynch's letter, detailing a sermon given by Rev. Thomas Hoare in Whitefield, Tinahely on June 3rd, 1850.

Source: NAI, Outrage Papers 1850 32/105.

"...After service the Revd. Thomas Hoare P.P. addressed a numerous and mixed congregation who had assembled for the purpose of hearing him explain his views for giving up his parish and emigrating to America and the reasons which induced him to leave this country....and that the mass of the people would much benefit their condition by going there as he (Mr. Hoare) saw no prospects improving by remaining in this country but the certainty of inevitable ruin should they remain...

He next went on to say that he intended leaving this country about the commencement of September next and that he would that day commence to take down a list of names as such who were willing to accompany him....About 2000 persons were present many of whom came a distance of seven or ten miles. I understand that about one hundred persons gave down their names with the intention of accompanying Mr. Hoare and it is supposed that from six to seven hundred persons will leave the county with him".

The majority of people who did emigrate from Wicklow were small landholders who managed to scrape the money together. From 1847 the numbers increased dramatically. According to contemporary observers such as Elizabeth Smith, the wife of Colonel Smith, a landowner from Baltiboys, West Wicklow, it appeared to be a "torrent".

In April 1850 she wrote that:

"there are very few boys left on our side of the country; there will be few men soon for they are pouring out in shoals to America. Crowds upon crowds swarm along the roads, along the bye roads, following carts with their trunks and other property. We have forty children as yet in the girls' school; but I don't really think they will be half that number by Autumn".

Source: *The Highland Lady in Ireland*; journals 1840-50, (eds.) P. Pelly and A. Tod (Edinburgh, 1991) p. 507.

Questions

- 1 From which parishes in County Wicklow did Fr. Hoare bring parishioners to America?
- 2 Study the letter by Constable Lynch. (i) What reasons did Fr. Hoare give to the assembled people for undertaking this trip to America?
(ii) How many people attended the meeting?
(iii) Why do you think Constable Lynch wrote this letter?
- 3 On a map of the world mark out the course of Fr. Hoare's journey from Wicklow to America.
- 4 How would you describe the majority of emigrants from Wicklow?
- 5 Describe in your own words the scene on the roads in Elizabeth Smith's locality in April 1850.
- 6 Why do you think she said there will only be half the number of girls in school by the Autumn?

Activities

Explain the following terms:

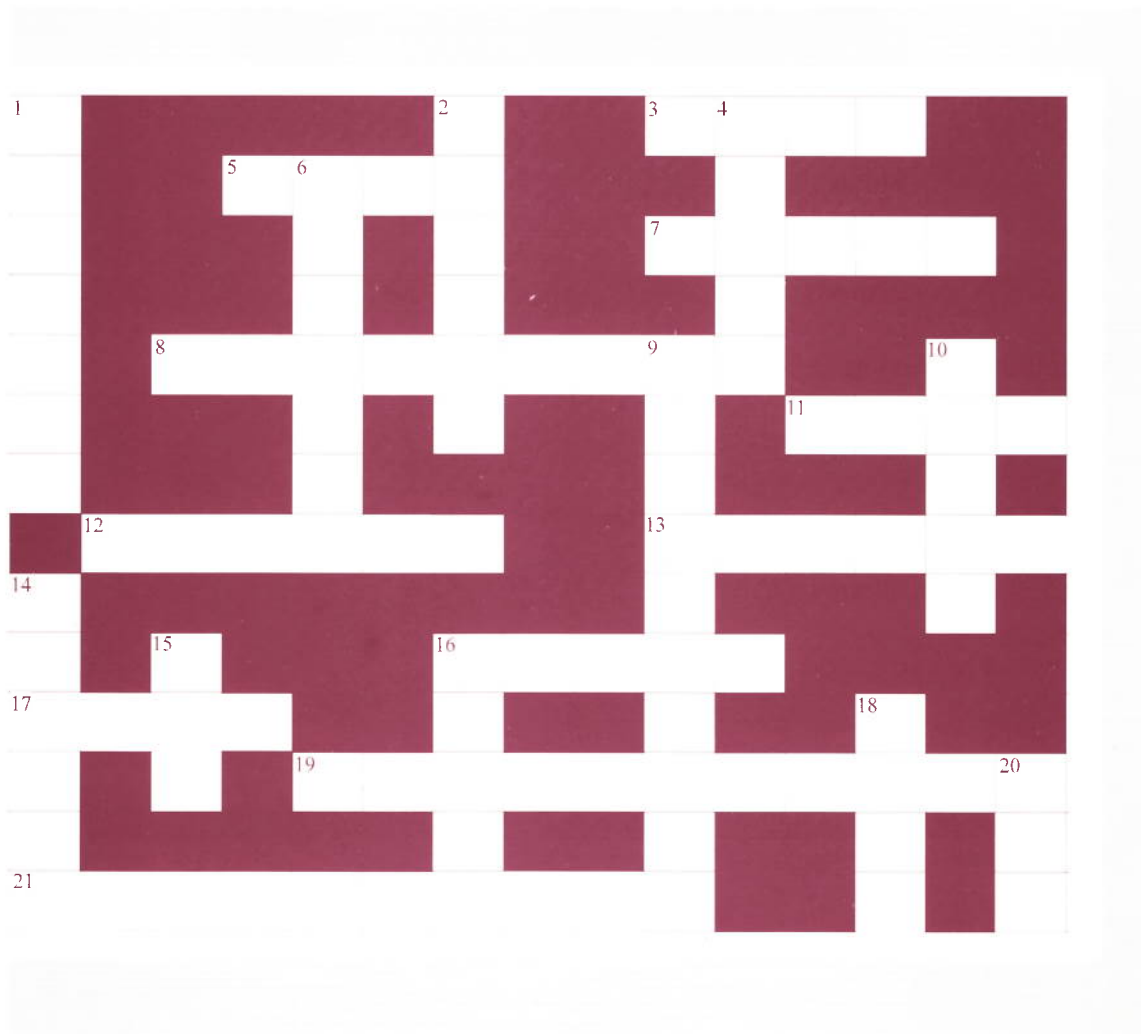
Census	Nutrition	Fever
Relief	Blight	Famine
Baronies	Contemporary	Returns
Emigration	Arable	Levy
Diet	Destitute	Vagrant
Supplemented	Dispensaries	Exodus
Subscribers	Distress	Committee

Fill in the blanks of the following sentences:

- I A _____ was recorded every ten years.
- II _____ first introduced the potato to Ireland.
- III The _____ is rich in Vitamin C.
- IV The blight was a fungus called _____.
- V The British Prime Minister, _____ repealed the Corn Laws.
- VI On October 16th, 1845 the first report of blight in Wicklow appeared in the _____ newspaper.
- VII The Relief Committees were to sell the food at _____.
- VIII The Superintendent Engineer for the Board of Works relief in County Wicklow was _____.
- IX The Workhouses were established in Ireland under an Act passed in the year _____.
- X Christopher Bryan was transported to _____.
- XI A large group of people left Tinahely and Killaveney organised by _____.
- XII Between 1847-1856 six thousand people from South Wicklow emigrated from the _____.

Cost Price, Census, Mr. James Boyle, Dublin Evening Post, 1838, Fitzwilliam Estate, Phytophthora Infestans, Sir Robert Peel, Sir Walter Raleigh, Australia, Fr. Thomas Hoare, Potato.

Crossword



Across:

3. In February it lay 8 feet deep! (4)
5. Christopher Bryan was held in this. (4)
7. James _____ wrote to Dublin Castle. (5)
8. A place of refuge for the poor. (9)
11. A British prime minister who's name rhymes with "meal". (4)
12. The staple diet of the poor. (6)
13. A work scheme to "RELIEVE" the destitute. (6)
16. Eye witness of the famine. (5)
17. Food introduced to curb the hunger pangs. (4)
19. It was set up as a temporary feeding centre. (11)
21. Major factor of the decline in population. (10)

Down:

1. What people in gaol are called. (7)
2. The fungus which destroyed the potato. (6)
4. Criminals often awaited the hangman's _____. (5)
6. A new land to start a new life. (7)
9. Without food you suffer from this. (10)
10. You'd feel "hot" and bothered if you had this illness. (5)
14. What this educational pack is all about! (6)
15. Source of documents in this pack. (3)
16. People suffering during the famine looked like this. (5)
18. Convicts went to Van Diemen's Land on this. (4)
20. Fishermen in Arklow pawned this. (3)

"The Famine in County Wicklow" is part of Wicklow County Council's programme to commemorate a tragic period in our country's history. The aim of this educational pack is to bring the realities of the famine in County Wicklow into the classroom using original source material. It should prove to be a valuable source of reference and teaching aid, providing students with an insight into the history of their own county.

The County Wicklow Heritage Society gratefully acknowledges its indebtedness to:

**Wicklow County Council
Irish Fertilizer Industries Ltd.
Bank of Ireland
Allied Irish Banks
Irish Hotels Federation (Wicklow Branch)**

Without their generous sponsorship this pack would not have been possible.

The research and writing of this educational pack was carried out by the
County Wicklow Heritage Project.

CO-ORDINATORS

Joan Kavanagh, Joe Langtry, Enda Fitzpatrick

TRAINEES

Karen Nugent, Prunella Cleary, Rowland Geraghty, Michaela Flanagan, Alma Hudson,
Vivienne Conway, Jackie Geoghegan, Olive Curley, Des De Courcy, Joanna Corscadden,
Sandra O'Shaughnessy, Dawn Bolger, Michelle O'Neill, Stephen Doran.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This publication would not have been possible without the valued assistance of Mr. Ken Hannigan, Senior Archivist, National Archives of Ireland. Grateful appreciation is also extended to Blaise Treacy, Tom Broderick, Gerry Maher, Brendan O'Connor, Eddie Shaw, M.K.I. Fields, Chris Quinn, Michael Mulvaney, Pat Power, Fr. James Murphy, Kevin Byrne, Prof. F.H.A. Aalen, Dr. F. D'Arcy, Seamus Cannon, Stephen Jordan, Rev. Br. T.A. Connolly, Dr. W. Nolan, Marianne Cosgrove, Carmel Moore, Anne Ford, Richard Carroll, Department of Irish Folklore, U.C.D. and all at Popeye Design, Wicklow.

Front Cover (from top right)

Rathdrum Workhouse courtesy of Kevin Byrne.

Indian Meal Poster courtesy of National Archives of Ireland.

The Discovery of the Potato Blight in Ireland by Daniel McDonald courtesy of Department of Irish Folklore, U.C.D.

The Cove of Cork by James Bartlett.

Report from James Boyle courtesy of National Archives of Ireland.

This publication is the product of a FÁS Training Programme which is funded by the Local Community, the Employment Levy and EC Structural Funds.

County Wicklow Heritage Project, The Courthouse, Wicklow. Tel: 0404 67324