

**Removals from England:**

- a) An excellent blog at: <https://blogs.ancestry.co.uk/ancestry/2017/05/25/an-alien-act-against-the-irish-the-poor-law-removal-law-statute-8-9-vict-c-117/>

**General Overview:**

How The Irish Poor Law differed from that of England & Wales:

1. No outdoor relief was allowed.
2. No legal right granted for relief, unlike England & Wales.
3. No law of settlement in Ireland; the poor & destitute could be moved from England to Ireland, but not vice versa.
4. Great emphasis was placed on assisted emigration

The following data can be found in the Poor Law Records of Ireland:

1. Indoor relief registers, listing the name, age, religious denomination, marital status, former occupation and, if disabled, the nature of the disability, of those entering and leaving the workhouse.
2. Births and deaths registers - Lists births and deaths that occurred in the workhouse.
3. Outdoor relief registers.
4. Vaccination registers - give the name of the child, the names and addresses of the mother or father or other person in charge of the child, the date of vaccination and the age of the child at the time of vaccination.

**Finding the Records:**

- a) To match townlands to the appropriate Poor Law Union, check at [www.thecore.com/seanruad/](http://www.thecore.com/seanruad/)
- b) Good intro: [www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/poor-law-union/](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/poor-law-union/)
- c) The location of all Poor Law records in UK & Ireland can be found at: [www.workhouses.org.uk/records/archives.shtml](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/records/archives.shtml)
- d) Many of the Reports & Returns from the various Poor Law Unions now form part of the British Parliamentary Papers of Ireland, & some are already available at: <http://eppi.dippam.ac.uk>
- e) Many workhouse inmates are listed in the 1901 & 1911 census entries. Note, however, that many inmates are not given their full names, just their initials. See: [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) Earlier census fragments from 1821 onwards can also be found at this site.
- f) The Irish Poor in Britain: <https://search.findmypast.ie/search-world-Records/ireland-poverty-relief-loans-1821-1874>. This website also includes much information relating to the island of Ireland.
- g) Scottish Poor Law records differ from those in England & Wales. Start at: <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/poor-relief-records>

**Workhouses:**

- a) Overview: [www.workhouses.org.uk/Ireland/](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Ireland/)
- b) Visiting Workhouses: some of the Irish workhouses have been restored or are currently under restoration. Their websites may also contain personal recollections & other interesting history. For instance, look at:- [www.workhouse.bawnboy.com](http://www.workhouse.bawnboy.com) Bawnboy Workhouse, Co Cavan
- c) <http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/etworkhouse.htm> A Guide to Ennistymon Union 1839 - 1850 (Courtesy of North Clare Historical Society)
- d) <http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/minutes/minutes.htm> Kilrush Union Minute Books 1849
- e) Workhouse records leaflet produced by Public Records Office Northern Ireland (PRONI) includes a list of the 28 Poor Law Unions in Northern Ireland and their related reference numbers in PRONI records. [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/research\\_and\\_records\\_held/catalogues\\_guides\\_indexes\\_and\\_leaflets/information\\_leaflets.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/research_and_records_held/catalogues_guides_indexes_and_leaflets/information_leaflets.htm) Look at Leaflet no 13

**Criminal Reports:** see [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) for vast records from Irish Prison Registers & Petty Sessions.

**The Great Hunger:**

- a) Famine Relief Commission papers 1844-1847 at National Archives of Ireland are now available online at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) Some 10,000 names are mentioned, being mainly officials, doctors & others attempting to help the crisis.
- b) [www.irishfaminememorial.org/](http://www.irishfaminememorial.org/) Australian website documenting over 4000 young single Irish women, who arrived 1848 to 1850.
- c) <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Killarney/> This includes a link to the Workhouse minute books, 1845 to 1848, scanned from the original Killarney Union Minute books. These pages document the activities of the workhouses, including numbers of the homeless seeking shelter, descriptions of those accepted or denied, and the cost and disbursement of provisions.
- d) [www.irishidentity.com/stories/molony.htm](http://www.irishidentity.com/stories/molony.htm) contains an interesting account of an Irish priest's testimony at a Westminster Select Committee enquiry in 1850.

**Unusual Donors of Famine Aid:**

<http://irishamerica.com/2009/08/international-relief-efforts-during-the-famine/>

**Assisted Emigration:**

- a) Sending the poor abroad: <http://webhome.idirect.com/~obrienr/cork1823.html> This describes the Peter Robinson scheme 1823 from Cork to Upper Canada, & gives the names of many settlers.
- b) [www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/the-kerry-workhouse-girls-who-became-australian-pioneers-1.2018759](http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/the-kerry-workhouse-girls-who-became-australian-pioneers-1.2018759) The Earl Grey migration scheme - a programme designed to meet an Australian demand for domestic servants and marriageable young women.
- c) State-Aided Emigration Schemes from Crown Estates in Ireland ca. 1850, presented by Eilish Ellis & published in 1960 in *Analecta Hibernica* (22), pp. 329-407, the journal of the Irish Manuscripts Commission. An account of state-aid emigration from five crown estates in Ireland over the periods 1847-52, namely the Crown Estates at Ballykilcline, Co Roscommon; Irvilloughter & Boughill, Co Galway; Kingwilliamstown, Co Cork; Castlemaine, Co Kerry and Kilconcouse, King's County. It gives considerable detail about the emigrants.

**Contemporary writings:**

1. Arthur Young: "A Tour of Ireland 1776 to 1779". *Young was an eminent English writer & commentator on agriculture & economics.*
  2. William Makepeace Thackeray: "An Irish Sketch Book" published in 1842. *Note especially his remarks on page 42*
  3. Elihu Burrett: "A Journal of a visit of three days to Skibbereen", published in 1849. *A short, but very vivid & harrowing read.*
  4. Isaac Butt: "The Poor Law Bill for Ireland, examined...", published in 1837
  5. W S Trench: "Realities of Irish Life", published in 1868, & containing an account of the removal of 3500 people from Lord Lansdowne's Co Kerry estate in 1849-1850
- The above are all downloadable free from the internet*

**Books etc:**

1. *The Great Hunger*, by Cecil Woodham-Smith. ISBN 998-0140145151
2. *Modern Ireland 1600-1972*, by Roy Foster. First published 1988 0-140-132-503
3. *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine* - John Crowley (Author, Editor), William J Smyth (Author), Mike Murphy (Author, Editor), ISBN 978-1859184790 Published Aug 2012
4. Laragy, Georgina, 'The Cavan Workhouse, 1842-1922' in *Cavan Town, 1610-2010: a Brief History*
5. *Ballingarry, Granagh & Clouncagh, Co Limerick*, compiled by Christy Kerins . ISBN 0-9538402-0-4 pp111-121 -The workhouses of Ballingarry 1848 & 1850, by S Delia Curtin
6. *Handran's Townlands in Poor Law Unions* 622 pages available as CD or download from Eneclann