

2023-2024

Ireland

McMaster Fellow

Dr. Agnes Caldwell, Executive Vice President - This McMaster project examines our research of the watershed moment, An Gorta Mor, also known as The Great Hunger, in Ireland from 1847 to 1852. An Gorta Mor leads to the death of over one million Irish and the immigration of up to two million more. This event impacted countless Irish lives in and around the world. In this study, the researchers examine real-life examples of immigrants who left Ireland and moved to our local community in Defiance, Ohio, and are buried in Riverside Cemetery. The researchers trace the stories and journeys of 34 participants with potential to Irish roots. Our findings reveal An Gorta Mor as a profound event, highlighting the resilience of Irish immigrants in overcoming the adversity of forced migration, disease, and death. The researchers in this study use qualitative interviews, case studies, and unobtrusive measures such as archival work to understand the harsh conditions needed to leave Ireland.

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