Coffin Ships

By

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* **History:**
  + In 1845 a potato blight hit the potato fields in Ireland
  + As the potato was the mainstay of the Irish food this was catastrophic
  + In 1846 the potato crop was completely ruined
  + Blight did not end till 1859
* **Facts:**
  + What caused the potato blight?
  + Fungus like organism (P.infestans)
  + Landowners were in England
  + Potatoes were not the only cop that was raised during this period
  + Corn, butter, livestock, peas, beans
* **COMING TO A SOLUTION:**
  + It was clear that the English government must do something
  + Rather than provide food aid they decided to introduce new taxes
  + This was to create jobs a built housing
  + Landowners had to pay
  + Therefore, landowners would opt to ship their workers to America
* **PROBLEM:**
  + Ships were not built to transport people only product
  + Many ships crammed 300 people on board
  + Ships were not allowed to dock in the US and therefore sent to Canada
  + Death rate on board was 30%
  + Others died after landing in Canada at Grosse Isle (Quarantine Station)
  + All in all over a million Irish left Ireland and a million died in Ireland due to the potato blight
* **Famine Memorials**
  + County Mayo, Ireland
  + Dublin, Ireland
  + Slingo, Ireland
  + And others in the US
* **WEB SITES**
  + [**http://www.thegenealogyspot.com/ShipsLists-Online/canada/grosse-ile.html**](http://www.thegenealogyspot.com/ShipsLists-Online/canada/grosse-ile.html)
  + [**https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/immigrants-grosse-ile-1832-1937/Pages/immigrants-grosse-ile.aspx**](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/immigrants-grosse-ile-1832-1937/Pages/immigrants-grosse-ile.aspx)
  + [**http://www.theshipslist.com/1847/index.htm**](http://www.theshipslist.com/1847/index.htm)
  + [**https://cotyroneireland.com/emigration/GrosseIsleEmigrants.html**](https://cotyroneireland.com/emigration/GrosseIsleEmigrants.html)
  + [**https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1823240**](https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1823240)
  + [**https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2017/winter/irish-births**](https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2017/winter/irish-births)