THE IRISH

History

Half of the Irish immigrants in the colonial era came from the Irish province of Ulster! By 1790, approximately 400,000 people of Irish birth or ancestry lived in the United States. From 1820 to 1860, nearly 2 million Irish arrived, 75% of these after the Great Irish Famine. The famine and its effects permanently changed the island's demographic, political, and cultural landscape, producing an estimated two million refugees. A second wave of post potato famine Irish immigration, resulting largely from a changing rural economy and the lure of high-paying jobs in America, continued from 1855 to 1921. The Irish have had a huge impact on America as a whole. In 1910, there were more people in New York City of Irish ancestry than in the whole of Dublin.

Irish Camus Bulb, the Potato

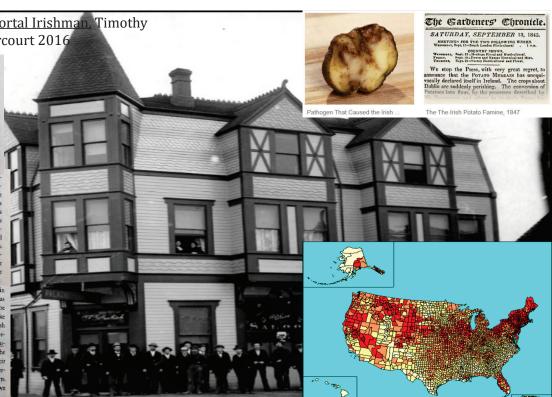
PALACE HOTEL

Excerpts from the The Immortal Irishman, Timothy Egan, Houughton Miflin Harcourt 2016

dirt, with a little bartering and piecework on the side. It was subsistence life, not unlike an Alaska native who feeds his family with what comes from the sea. And the rural Irish more than got by: a family derived nost of its nutrition from potatoes. Many varieties were tried-rocks, ups, codders, thistlewbippers, skerry blues. The most popular were lumpers, large and knobby, with pale brown skin and yellow flesh, not particularly tasty; they looked like unevenly shaped stones. Living in tiny uts on rented acreage, a family could get ten months of food out of eir potato patch, with some left for the pig. Meat and bread were rare. Meals were simple: a pot of boiled spuds, lathered in butter if lucky, a ittle bacon fat, with mustard at the center of the table, cabbage as well, pickled for preservation or fresh. At this setting, an adult could conume more than a day's worth of carbohydrates, potassium, Vitamin C and fiber.

What motivated Meagher, the fount of his fury, was the fast-develop ing famine; it epitomized all the wrongs of Ireland. Through the winter of 1846 and into the spring, hundreds, then thousands of people dropped dead of starvation. Bellies of little children swelled, their faces went powdery, their hair fell by the handful, and they sniffled away to a corner of a hut or a roadside ditch, their parents soon to follow. Others were sickened by scurvy, their gums swollen and bleeding, skin bluesplotched. They had subsisted, for a time, on nettles, blackberries and raw cabbage, none of which could be foraged during the cold months. A doctor in Skibbereen found seven people under a single blanket, unable to move; one had been dead for hours. Coffins were reused after asty ceremonies, the bottoms cut out, the deceased dropped into the

There was the rub-interference. The British ruling class was in thrall to the idea of unfettered free markets. The term laissez faire was not just a fancy import but a governing principle. To interfere would be to upset the natural economic order. The market, in time, would make all things well. The Americans sent corn, flour, clothing, from Jewish ynagogues, from Quaker churches, from Catholic parishes in Boson, New York and Philadelphia. The Choctaw Nation was particularly generous. The Indians were sympathetic, they said, because of the aunger they had endured during their Trail of Tears march out of their nomeland nearly twenty years earlier. In England there was considerable debate over whether to even allow these food ships into Irish ports. Vhat would that mean to the free market? To the price of grain grow y English farm



The Palace Hotel in the photograph above was a prominent, 3-story landmark on the Stanwood waterfront at the end of Market Street which is now called 102nd Avenue or the Pacific Highway. There are few references to the hotel in the history books, but this early 1900 photograph by John T. Wagness seems to display a grand beginning.

Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

Garden's goal is to provide Was

Legends & Lessons

As taken from: Stanwood Area Echoes Spring 2019 no. 62, "following an influx of Scandinavians (many of them Norwegians) in the 1870s, he was part of an Irish wave that settled in the lower Stillagumish Valley in the latter 1800 ... many Irish were from Maine or just north along the shores of eastern *Canada.*" The Irish left Canada under duress, three-fourths of the Accadian population were expelled with the French between 1755 and 1764. Arriving in Louisiana (which had passed to Spanish control in 1762), they became Cajuns with the French. In the Northwest, they became freeborn like the Scandinavians.

Logging, iron smithing, mining, and owning a tavern became common occupations. The owner of Stanwood's largest hotel was Irish who "may have found some success mining in the Yukon upon his return to Stanwood in 1901."

If you are interested in local history, please visit the D. O. Pearson House Museum. It is open Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:00 – 4:00 PM and is located in (old) Stanwood at 27108 102nd Ave NW.

. These efforts are now underway with assistance of local school districts and the Washington - RCW 4.24.200 & 4.24.210 allowing public recreational use, includin Coovright 2019 - 2020 Pilchuc

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