

## **Employment & Emigration**

People think that emigration occurred which it did to a great scale after the great famine in Ireland but emigration occurred on a regular basis from Ireland from about the eighteen fifties onwards. There was certain lulls, for example there was a lull during World War Two (travel). A lot of people stayed at home because of war time the economy there was generally plenty of work for them but in the late forties into the fifties this had all stopped and again people could travel.

There was great emigration from Ireland, North and South. I remember well that it was so bad one would have difficulty getting out of a football team, couldn't find fifteen or so young men of that age for your team and I remember important games taking place I'm talking about Carrickmore now where we were we would always have three or four exiles that would have to be brought home for the games at a great expense and sometimes a great complaint from other people around. It was so serious, you see families because the man had no work families would stay at home and the man would work generally in England or Scotland, America was too far away to come home on a regular basis.

What actually happened was the man would send home so much money and his wife then would settle up the bills. I remember this happened because my father used to have these people all the time in the shop where they would buy clothes and boots for the children, you put it in the book and the next time the man came home he would come in himself or send the money to his wife and the bill would be squared up. It was a way of life few people nowadays understand.

The difference in lifestyle from the twenty first century to the middle of the twentieth century that this is quite amazing. Most people had no money, they had enough money maybe for the bare necessities but luxuries were generally out. There were few motorcars, people didn't travel nearly as much because they couldn't afford it. Business was done or shopping was done. Going back to the shop again that my father had opened at nine in the morning closed at nine at

### ***Disclaimer***

*The information on this site is for informational purposes only. BEAM assume no liability for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.*

night, people could come in at all times if, for example you had some business going to the doctor or something go to the shop and at set times like Christmas and Easter, the shop would stay open until twelve at night. I remember very well and this would open on a Sunday after second mass and stay open 'til half two or three depending on the number of people. Now this was to accommodate the customers because naturally coming down from mass was a good time or if you had Christmas Eve or a couple of days before that if they were going to Midnight mass and do the shopping for example. We had toys left for Santa Claus, they would be collected at the same time of course. There is twenty four hour shopping now in these big stores. There was no supermarkets, or hypermarkets life was much simpler.

But in many cases people didn't come home for various reasons maybe they didn't do well in wherever they went America or Australia. It was very, very difficult to get back from America. I had an uncle for example who emigrated to America in nineteen twenty six he returned in nineteen thirty two and he didn't return again until nineteen fifty two, quite simply during the famine he couldn't afford to go home and didn't have the same access to cheap flights and the regular flights that we have today. Many people would have gone to America. I remember hearing about people going out on such and such a ship from Cobh or some place.

Very few people in those days, very few if any would have flown never mind flying back again. There were many homesteads that people would see, places broken down, derelict - that was so and so's place, they went away to America and never came back. It was common enough and then you would find their descendants coming back at times looking to see were their ancestors came from and as I said before there was some who went and unfortunately in some cases a few cases they were never heard tell of again it was quite simply necessity it wasn't always necessity the economic necessity looking for a new life also young men and women would have gone to look for the more exciting life

**Disclaimer**

*The information on this site is for informational purposes only. BEAM assume no liability for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.*

generally it was the people who had more go in them that went off person who stayed behind not necessarily but sometimes not all the time were a person who didn't have that same sense of venture go get and of course who did become very wealthy and noted one way or another on the business field or political field or whatever the Irish have a great record of doing well in America that's the other side of the coin

***Disclaimer***

*The information on this site is for informational purposes only. BEAM assume no liability for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.*