

Great
Hunger
Ctee.

January 1

1997

In union with Irish Communities throughout the Diaspora there was a deep longing to remember the tragic events of 1845 -1847. In Glasgow a memorial lecture was given and in Lanarkshire a Memorial was unveiled by the Irish Taoiseach in 2001.

**Glasgow Famine
Commemoration**



THE GREAT HUNGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT HUNGER
COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE, GLASGOW
NUMBER 1

GREAT HUNGER TO BE COMMEMORATED IN SCOTLAND



At a public meeting in Govanhill on 27 February, The Great Hunger Commemoration Committee (Glasgow) was launched to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Great Irish Hunger. Members of various Irish organisations were in attendance including the Gaelic League, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Several suggestions for activities were discussed and the following were agreed upon:-

- The erection of a permanent memorial in Glasgow to the victims;
- Hold an exhibition in the Mitchell Library;
- Organise a Mass in St. Andrew's Cathedral.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Thursday, 27 March in Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, Daisy Street at 7.30pm. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved is welcome to attend.

An historian's verdict

CHRISTINE Kinealy, in her book on the Great Hunger *This Great Calamity, The Irish Famine 1845-52* (published by Gill and MacMillan 1994) concludes that:

"... the response of the British government to the Famine was inadequate in terms of humanitarian criteria and, increasingly after 1847, systematically and deliberately so. The localised shortages that followed the blight of 1845 were adequately dealt with but, as the shortages became more widespread, the government retrenched. With the short-lived exception of the soup kitchens, access to relief — or even more importantly, access to food — became more restricted. That the response illustrated a view of Ireland and its people as distant and marginal is hard to deny. What, perhaps, is more surprising is that a group of officials and their

non-elected advisors were able to dominate government policy to such an extent. This relatively small group of people, taking advantage of a passive establishment, and public opinion which was opposed to further financial aid for Ireland, were able to manipulate a theory of free enterprise, thus allowing a massive social injustice to be perpetuated within a part of the United Kingdom. There was no shortage of resources to avoid the tragedy of a Famine. Within Ireland itself, there were substantial resources of food which, had the political will existed, could have been diverted, even as a short-term measure, to supply a starving people. Instead, the government pursued the objective of economic, social and agrarian reform as a long-term aim, although the price paid for this ultimately elusive goal was privation, disease, emigration, mortality and an enduring legacy of disenchantment."



Like the Highlanders, the Irish would often find accommodation only in the backlands
Annual photograph

1841. 7, Water Street, Liverpool.

STEAM CONVEYANCE FOR BELFAST, BY A FIRST-CLASS STEAM-SHIP.



The TARTAR,..... Captain STEWART. IS INTENDED TO SAIL AS UNDER:—

FROM GLASGOW,	FROM BELFAST,
July, Vessel, Railway	July, 1841.
Monday, 26th, at 11 P.M.	Wednesday, 28th, at 6 P.M.
Friday, 30th, at 8 P.M.	Monday, 24 August, at 9 P.M.

The TARTAR will remain at Greenock for the arrival of Passengers by the Railway Trains, which leave Glasgow at the hours noted above.

Cabin Passage, 10s., Fee, 2s.—Steerage, 2s. 6d.

Passengers are particularly requested to look after their own Personal Luggage, as the Proprietors will not be accountable for any article whatever, unless entered and signed for as received by them or their Agents.

For Freight or Passage, apply to Mr. Hill Charley, Belfast; Messrs. Kippen & Lindsay, Greenock; or here, to

THOMSON & MACCONNELL,
15, Jamaica Street.

Glasgow, July, 1841.

GLASGOW AND LONDONDERRY STEAMERS.

THE GLASGOW AND LONDONDERRY STEAM PACKET COMPANY'S Powerful and Fast-sailing STEAM VESSELS.



ROVER,.....Capt. DAVID WYSE,
ST. COLUMB,.....Capt. ALEX. COULTER,
FOYLE,.....Capt. JAS. TURBULL.

Are intended to Sail in JULY—
FROM GLASGOW,

Vessel	Monday, 26th July, at 5 Evening.	By Railway Train to Greenock.
Rover	at 5 Evening.	6 Evening.
St. Columb	Friday, 30th ... at 9 Morning.	12 Noon.

The ROVER calls at PORT-RUSH, and the ST. COLUMB at CAMPBELTON, both in going and returning.

Apply to John Lyon, Londonderry; J. Caldwell, Port-Rush; P. Watson, Campbelton; J. Martin, Greenock; and here, to

T. CAMERON & CO.,
7, Ankerston Quay, Broomielaw.

Glasgow, July, 1841.

Advertisement.
Glasgow Herald, 26
July 1841.

Diaspora to be united in famine memorial

BY NIAMH CONNOLLY

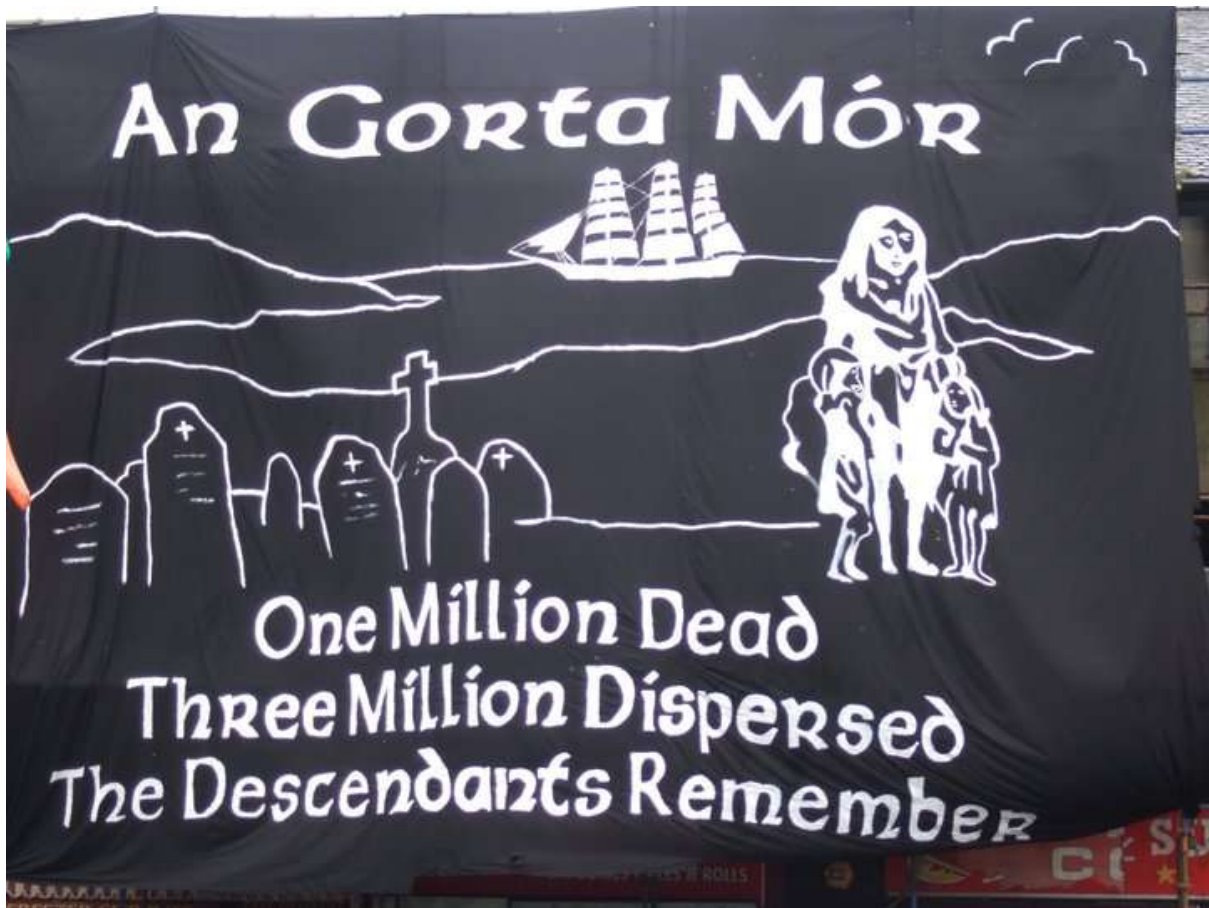
EMIGRANTS in Britain, Canada, Australia and the US will be united on June 2 in a candle-lighting Famine commemoration event, the Irish leg of which is being hosted by President Mary Robinson.

She will be at Millstreet, Co. Cork, on that bank holiday Monday and will aim to link up with identical ceremonies hosted by President Bill Clinton, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and other world leaders.

A weekend of themed events in Ireland will include performances by The Corrs, Donal Lunny, Gabriel Byrne and Patrick Bergin, and there will be Famine walks and a commemorative Famine ship berthed in Cobh harbour.

Among those attending last week's Dublin unveiling of details was London-based Irish actor Patrick Bergin, who told The Irish Post that this summer's event would be "a celebration of survival".

Ger Egan, chief executive of the Great Famine Event, a Big Issue initiative, explained: "The candle-lighting ceremony represents the light of hope as Ireland again leads the world in raising funds to combat world famine, and tackling the problems of modern Irish society such as poverty, homelessness and long-term unemployment".



This Banner was made by the Green Brigade and unfurled at Celtic Park to Commemorate the Great Hunger.

In subsequent years it was displayed at the St Patrick's festival in Royston Rd. The immense size of the banner can be gauged from the fact it is hanging from a three storey tenement in the above picture.

Public Meeting to Launch:

Coiste Cuimhneach an Ghorta Mhor
(The Great Hunger Commemoration Committee)

Thursday 27 February 1997 at 7.30pm
Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre
Daisy Street, Glasgow

Speaker: Patrick McAleer (The Irish
in Scotland Historical Society)



Most significant in the story of the Irish in Scotland is the event known as the 'Great Irish Famine' which reached its direst form in the years 1845-47 but spread its effects over the period 1845-50. The Irish were forced to desert their country - those who were capable that is - for while it is known that over a million people emigrated at this terrible time, it is believed that at least another million died from starvation and fever. At this time Ireland produced food in abundance, but it was exported to Britain. The situation is summed up in the saying, 'Almighty God sent a potato blight but the English government created a famine'.

About 8,000 Irish people a week were arriving in Glasgow at the peak of the 'famine'. Many came to Scotland, and Glasgow in particular, because they could not afford the fare to America, and most of those who came to the city were on the verge of starvation when they landed. An estimated 115,000 Irish immigrants arrived in the decade 1845-51.

The Irish in Scotland Historical Society has organised this meeting to launch a committee to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this tragic event. A series of activities, including the erection of a memorial in Glasgow to the unfortunate victims can be planned and anyone who is interested in becoming involved is welcome to attend.



Carfin Memorial Cross unveiled 2001.