

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/home-away-from-home/sources>

In most years the Irish dominated the outflow, although they formed a lower proportion of those going to Australasia than to North America.

The exodus from Ireland did not reach the levels of the years of the Great Famine, and reflected less the pressure exerted by recurring harvest fluctuations (as in 1855-1857, 1858-1861, and 1864-1866), than falling passage costs, declining travel time, the attraction of higher living standards and employment opportunities in the countries of destination, and the prospect of finding an Irish marriage partner overseas.

Behind the continued outflow also lay the failure of Irish industry to offer alternative employment opportunities, slow urban growth, and continuing changes within Irish agriculture, including evictions of small holders, a shift from tillage to pasture which reduced labour needs, the enclosure of remaining common land, and the rise of impartible inheritance.

The post-Famine emigrants were predominantly Catholic, young, and single, while a high proportion of females distinguished the Irish outflow from other contemporary migratory movements.

Most of the males were described as labourers and most of the females as domestic servants, the 'surplus offspring farmers and rural labourers, drawn from a broad band of social strata but largely excluding both strong farmers and destitute squatters or beggars.

Only a small proportion of the emigrant Irish chose Australasia as their destination, most preferring the United States, Kenny suggesting that 'The most prosperous ... went to Australia and New Zealand ... the least prosperous went to Britain and the vast majority went to the United States.'

New patterns of emigration from Scotland emerged after the Highland famine of the 1840s.

The numbers leaving surged during the 1860s, and, indeed, during the 1860s Scotland lost through emigration 27.5 per cent of its natural increase, the corresponding figure for the English/Welsh being just 7.2 per cent.

During the period 1853 -1860 some 45.2 per cent of the emigrant Scots went to Australasia, but in the period 1860-June 1863, New Zealand emerged as the most preferred destination.

We know this from a return kept only for the period from 1860 to June 1863 which recorded emigration from the United Kingdom.

The return shows that in all three years and for the first six months of 1863, New Zealand was the preferred destination, taking an astonishingly high 30.6 per cent in 1860, 27.2 per cent in 1861, 37.3 per cent in 1862, and 29.2 per cent in the first six months of 1863.