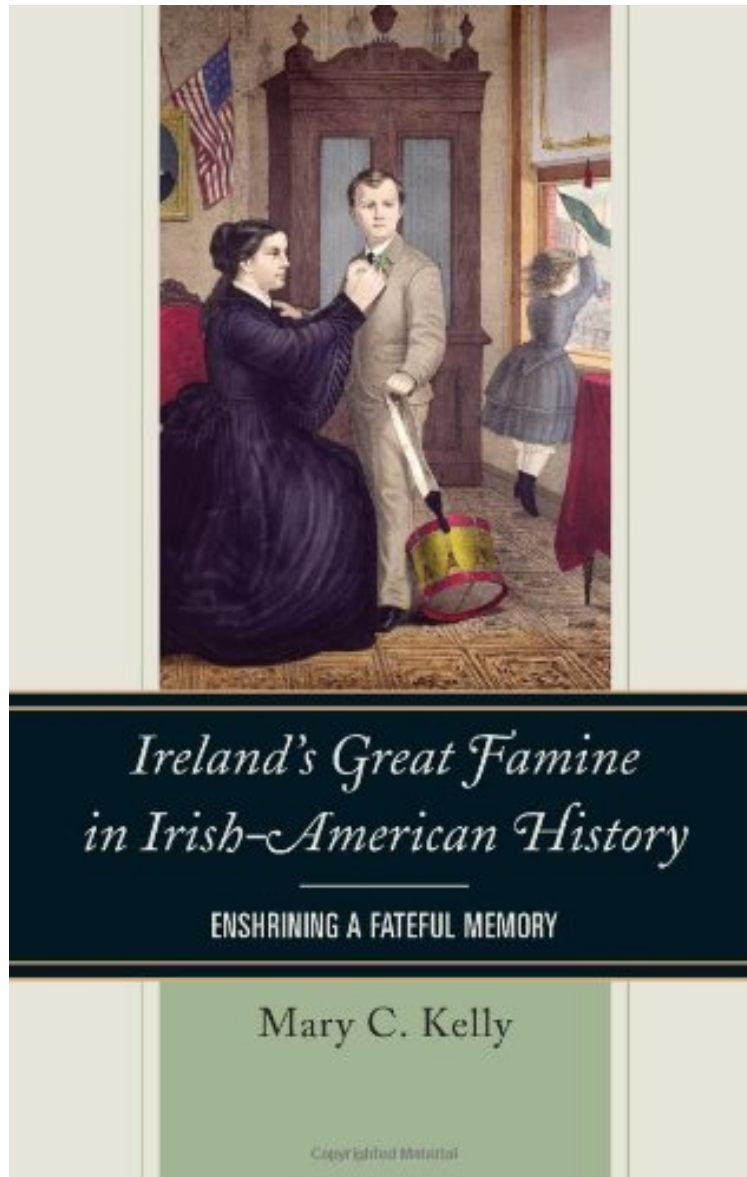


(Read free ebook) Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History: Enshrining a Fateful Memory

# Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History: Enshrining a Fateful Memory

Mary Kelly PhD superintendent of schools Amityville Union Free School District Amityville New York  
audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#3658592 in Books 2013-11-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.35 x .99 x 6.231, 1.15 #File Name: 1442226072288 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Mary Kelly PhD superintendent of schools Amityville Union Free School District Amityville New York :  
**Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History: Enshrining a Fateful Memory** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History:

## Enshrining a Fateful Memory:

Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History: Enshrining a Fateful Memory offers a new, concise interpretation of the history of the Irish in America. Author and distinguished professor Mary Kelly's book is the first synthesized volume to track Ireland's Great Famine within America's immigrant history, and to consider the impact of the Famine on Irish ethnic identity between the mid-1800s and the end of the twentieth century. Moving beyond traditional emphases on Irish-American cornerstones such as church, party, and education, the book maps the Famine's legacy over a century and a half of settlement and assimilation. This is the first attempt to contextualize a painful memory that has endured fitfully, and unquestionably, throughout Irish-American historical experience.

Kelly examines Ireland's mid-19th-century potato famine, its consequences within the transatlantic community, and the long-term impact of this event on the Irish psyche in the US. She recounts with impressive detail the mind-set of the Irish American community concerning the Gorta Mór and its linkages to ethnic identity, sociocultural constructions of victimhood, and the difficult process of remembering and internalizing such a tragic event. Although commemoration of the famine eventually found a vast global audience by the late 20th century, the journey was not an easy one. It took well over a century for the offspring of Irish immigrants to the US to recognize and understand the trauma wrought by the potato blight. Feelings of discomfort drove successful second- and third-generation Irish Americans to experience a form of historic amnesia when it came to their ancestors' troubled past. Kelly shows the complex evolution associated with public memory and trauma and the ways political and cultural rhetoric framed this debate. Meticulously researched, the book succeeds in capturing a fresh perspective on a complicated topic. **Summing Up: Recommended.** Graduate students and researchers/faculty. (CHOICE) In this provocative and interesting work on the great famine and Irish American memory Mary C. Kelly argues that charting the course of that great rupture is essential to understanding the evolution of Irish American identity since the late 1840s. Kelly makes a convincing case that the famine was experienced, reframed in nationalist oratory, then largely forgotten before, in the second half of the twentieth century, being reconstructed or even constructed anew as part of a mature ethnic identity. Historians of Irish America will find much of interest here, as will scholars of ethnicity and memory. Throughout the book there is a productive comparison and sometimes tension between Irish and Irish American memories of the famine, and Kelly raises interesting questions about the way that identity and broad geopolitical considerations are intertwined. (Journal of American History) Mary Kelly tells the crucial, fascinating story of how and why the Irish in the United States first experienced, later 'forgot,' and in recent decades 'recovered' in memory the horror of the Great Famine of 1845-52, the tragic, foundational event of Irish-American history. (Kerby A. Miller, University of Missouri) Exhaustively researched and beautifully written, Mary Kelly's Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History is not just a recounting of historical events in this case of Irish mass starvation and emigration. It is rather a subtle and compelling study of the powerful and culturally determinative influence of how those events were remembered and the legacy of that remembrance. The immigrant generation brought stories of the Great Hunger with them to America; successive generations recalled, retold and commemorated those stories, and shaped their ethnic identities around them. It is the case that the Irish went through a brief, self-inflicted bout of forgetfulness, only, and just recently, to be restored to memory and to Famine remembrance. Kelly's very fine book is a brilliant evocation of that process of remembering and forgetting and of the collective 'Irish post-traumatic (and post-colonial) stress disorder' that initiated and propelled it. (David M. Emmons, University of Montana) Kelly shows how a necessary suppression of the shocking impetus for post-1840s Irish emigration facilitated the transition from hated Papists to acceptable white ethnic grouping. She deploys disparate sources to suggest how this holocaust throbs silently under the loud St. Patrick's Day celebrations that appear to denote ethnic success. Kelly is a diviner able to track underground memory currents and to uncover testimony in the lacunae. She marries the instincts of a novelist with the rigor of the historian, a rare ability that will make Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History a work of enduring importance to scholars and general readers from a wide spectrum of disciplines and interests. (Mary Burke, University of Connecticut) Mary Kelly's Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History is a groundbreaking work of investigative scholarship. As well as offer important insights into the continuing evolution of the Irish-American identity, Kelly chronicles the human struggle to make sense of a past that, though painful to possess, is impossible to escape. In terms of ethnic history in general and Irish-American history in particular, this book is a milestone. (Peter Quinn, Author of Banished Children of Eve) Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History is a fascinating and important study of how our perceptions of this epic tragedy have changed over time and why those changes matter. Those new to this story will learn a great deal from her thoughtful analysis, while experts in Irish studies will marvel at her exhaustive research and new insights. (Tyler Anbinder, George Washington University) In a style that is both sensitive and straightforward, Mary C. Kelly proves beyond doubt that the urge to remember and commemorate the Great Irish Famine despite concerted efforts to forget and deny it has won the day. Drawing together an astonishing amount of evidence from Irish and Irish American

sources, she compellingly convinces us that the hushed and silenced voices are no more and the tidewaters of Famine memory are a long way from cresting. Every page bristles with knowledge gleaned from a vast array of scholarship, which makes Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History the vade mecum to which scholars and students of 19th and 20th century Irish America will turn again and again for a comprehensive overview of the processes of Great Irish Famine remembrance. (E. Moore Quinn, College of Charleston) Although the history of the Great Irish Famine itself may be familiar to scholars, research on how the Famine was remembered, misremembered, and forgotten has barely begun. In this pioneering and wide-ranging book, Mary Kelly makes a significant contribution to this project. Drawing on the insights of contemporary memory studies, as well as on her own deep knowledge of Irish American history, Kelly provides a roadmap to the complicated process by which the memory of the Famine shaped what it meant to be Irish in the United States. (David Brundage, University of California, Santa Cruz) About the Author Mary C. Kelly is a professor of Modern Irish and American Histories at Franklin Pierce University. She is the author of *The Shamrock and the Lily: The New York Irish and the Creation of a Transatlantic Identity* (Peter Lang Publishing, 2005).