

7. *St Patricks Chapel, Park Place* Many local doctors, nurses and clergy had the courage to continue working in the poorest districts at great risk to themselves when highly infectious diseases were rampant. Many of them died as a result. A memorial to the ten Catholic priests who perished carrying out this work stands in the grounds.

8. *James Larkin, Coombevale Street* A plaque marks the street where James Larkin, Irish labour leader, was born. Like so many thousands of Irish men, Larkin was a manual worker on the docks. Self-educated, he was a formidable and articulate fighter for better pay and conditions for the poorest workers in Liverpool. He was founder of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union. Whilst the plaque is on the side of a pub, Larkin himself was not a drinker.*

9. *Museum Of Liverpool Life, Near Albert Dock* The plaque is on the side of a building facing the Mersey. Most of the migrants stopped only a short time in Liverpool staying in lodging houses before courageously embarking for an uncertain future in North America. Liverpool was the hub of the Irish Diaspora around the world. To get an idea of conditions on board, visit the Maritime Museum.*

10. *Relief Station Site, Fenwick Street* This was where the parish authorities distributed a meagre ration of bread and soup each day to thousands of families. *"The parish offices in Fenwick Street have for several weeks presented an extraordinary scene of confusion, owing to the immense number of applicants for relief, but yesterday appeals were more numerous than ever. The street was quite impassable. No fewer than 1,500 families representing on average three persons, were yesterday relieved of whom probably three fourths were Irish"* The Times 5 July 1847*

11. *Father Nugents statue, St Johns Gardens* In the years after the Famine starvation and disease left thousands of children without parents. Fr Nugent was the most prominent of those who came to their aid, providing shelter, health care and education to the poor and destitute. He organised the 'Save the child' campaign, was a Catholic Chaplain at Walton Prison and founded the Catholic Institute.

12. *Lace Street* 'TAIM IN MO CHONAI I STRAID LACE. In 1850, most of the population in the street spoke the Irish language. During the nineteenth century,

the Irish born population in Liverpool was greater than most Irish towns. At the time of the Famine, diseases such as cholera and typhus fever killed large numbers of the poorly nourished people who lived in this densely populated district. During just three months in 1847, 181 people died in the street.*

13 *Dandy Pat Memorial, St Anthony's Church* Over the generations the Irish have made an important contribution to the life of Liverpool and surrounding areas in many fields including the professions and the arts. Many politicians have also come from their ranks. Amongst the best known was 'Dandy' Pat Byrne, a popular publican. He was an Irish Nationalist councillor for the area. This was also the only constituency in Britain to return an Irish Nationalist MP.

14. *Clarence Dock, Regent Road.* ("The dock road") This gateway is exactly as it was when 1,300,000 Irish migrants fleeing the Great Hunger, arrived in Liverpool during the years 1845-52. The poorest travelled on deck. One observer noted that *"if there were no horses on board the people could occupy the stables, but if there are horses the people are put out"**

15. *Price Street Birkenhead* This plaque marks the heart of the Irish district in Birkenhead. Here many found jobs as shipwrights, dockers and domestic servants. Their descendants went on to make an important contribution to the life of the town in later years.*

*indicates site marked by a plaque.



Photographs: Memorial Stone (front page): Maureen C McIver. Plaque (above): Tana Corps

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Liverpool and The Irish Great Hunger

A HERITAGE TRAIL



Irish Heritage Trail Liverpool and Birkenhead

IRISH HERITAGE TRAIL

Liverpool & Birkenhead



LIVERPOOL AND THE IRISH GREAT HUNGER

☞ A HERITAGE TRAIL ☞

1. *The Liverpool Famine Memorial, St Lukes Garden, Leece Street.* This sculpture in bronze and Mourne granite, resembles an Irish standing stone. It recalls the starvation of the 1840s, when repeated failures of the potato crop drove millions from the land. Landlords and Government offered little effective assistance. It also represents the fracturing of Irish culture brought by famine and the coming together of contrasting cultures here in Liverpool.*

2. *Pleasant Street School* Even before the Famine there was a large Irish community in Liverpool. This school was built by the Benevolent Society of St Patrick (founded 1807). Here education was provided for Irish children, regardless of their religious background.

3. *The Workhouse Site, Brownlow Hill* (Catholic Cathedral precinct). This was the largest workhouse in Britain, where the very poorest Irish immigrants went, when they had no other way of surviving. Parents were separated from their children and husbands from wives. Parts of the original walls can be still seen on the perimeter of the site.*

4. *Site Of Pauper's Graveyard, Mulberry Street* In the 1840s thousands died of starvation and famine related diseases. Some died in the streets. Many families could not meet the costs of a burial. So the victims were buried in communal graves. Many of these burial grounds were later converted into parks. This one was cleared in the nineteen fifties. The remains were taken elsewhere and the site is now a college carpark.*

5. *Agnes Jones House, Catherine Street,* is named after the Donegal woman who learned her nursing skills under Florence Nightingale. She brought about great improvements in the Liverpool Workhouse, insisting on better living conditions, food and standards of care. There is a memorial window to her in the Anglican cathedral.

6. *Kitty Wilkinson's Grave, Anglican Cathedral Cemetery* Like Agnes Jones, she was one of the many Protestant emigrants who came to Liverpool from Ireland. She pioneered good practice in public health, saving the lives of hundreds simply by washing.