Caroline Chisholm, Diplomacy, and the Irish Orphan Brides

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Process Paper

After reading an article about the Earl Grey Scheme and Irish orphan brides, we decided this would be a good topic for our project because we knew we wanted to do a performance, and we liked that the girls involved with the scheme were our age. We also felt the topic relates to the theme Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences, because the Potato Famine resulted from years of failed diplomacy between England and Ireland, it took diplomacy to convince Earl Grey and Parliament to carry out the scheme, the motives behind the scheme were debated in Australia, England and Ireland, and the consequences of the scheme can be shown as both success stories and failures for the 4,000 girls involved.

We began our research in October reading both internet and written sources. *The Kerry Girls: Emigration and the Earl Grey Scheme* by Kay Moloney Caball and *Earl Grey’s Daughters: The Women Who Changed Australia* by Jonathon Fairall were among our best sources and provided detailed accounts of the event and personal stories of the girls involved that helped us write our script.

In our search for primary sources, we accessed the Irish National Archives, National Archives of Australia, British Archives, Trove, and Chronicling America. These sources were important because they helped us see perspectives of the story from Australia, Ireland, Great Britain and America. We used quotes from some of these articles in our performance.

In February we began working on our script. We started by marking passages in books and articles that we thought were important to include. Next, we chose stories of Irish orphan brides that would reflect both successes and failures and we combined them to create composite characters. Finally, we decided to use the character of Caroline Chisolm because she could convey the British and Australian perspectives while the other characters offered the Irish
perspective. Our props and costumes were selected after looking at photographs of the women of the Earl Grey Scheme. For the backdrops we chose a plain brown to reflect the workhouse and ship and patterned cloth to show the wealthy home of Caroline Chisholm.

In 1848, at the urging of Caroline Chisholm, Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies, implemented a diplomatic scheme to ease overcrowding in Irish workhouses while also providing female companions and laborers in Australia. Over a two year period, more than 4,000 Irish Catholic orphan girls between the ages of fourteen and eighteen were selected to fill this scheme. Debate ensued in Great Britain, Ireland, and Australia as to the integrity of the scheme’s motive arguing that the British government was trying to discard unwanted Irish Catholics, using funds that could have been spent to ease famine conditions and flooded Australia with less than desirable brides. Ultimately, the Earl Grey Scheme was seen as a success to some participants and a failure to others. Either way, the women of the scheme were among the founding families of Australia’s history.
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

This article included a man's description of what it looked like in the Irish workhouses, mainly on how starved, dirty, and disgusting they looked, but also gave information on the number of ill people compared to the somewhat healthy. We used this newspaper article for what the characters we played needed to look like as well as giving us an estimate of the ratio of sick to healthy people for our script.

https://www.newspapers.com/clip/24860102/newspaper-reports-on-effects-of-potato/
This newspaper article spoke about Sir Robert Peel’s lack of control over the potato blight and ability to find a solution. It included quotes from several different people who assessed the potato problem in their area. We learned that most people reported a loss of one third to one half of their potato crop and insisted the problem was growing worse.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5468053/.
This is a website containing a man's firsthand account of the Irish Potato Famine. This source was used to gain information on how people lived and survived the Potato Famine and how miserable it was to live during those times. This source helped us understand our topic by taking a person who really lived through those times and telling us how hard it was to survive.

This document is a copy of Caroline Chisholm's scrapbook that dates from the 1840s until her death. It contains newspaper clippings, letters, posters, advertisements, and notes concerning immigration to Australia. We used this to learn more about the life of Mrs. Chisholm and her efforts to help Australian immigrants.

This newspaper article was a letter to the editor written by Caroline Chisholm. In the letter, Mrs. Chisholm stated that she had placed numerous girls as domestic servants for families in the interior of Australia and only five had ever complained or sought reassignment. This was a good example of the strength of Mrs. Chisholm's commitment to helping single women find a safe job and taught us more about her work with the Immigrants' Home she established for females.
Clark, Anna. "Wild Workhouse Girls and the Liberal Imperial State in Mid-Nineteenth Century Ireland." JSTOR. Accessed March 1, 2022. https://www.jstor.org/stable/3790774. This source was a website that had a newspaper article that talked about how the South Dublin Workhouse had a riot break out between the workhouse girls and the workhouse officials. This newspaper talked about how the girls were throwing bottles at the workhouse officials and the police had to get involved and stop the riot. This gave us ideas on how the Kerry girls felt being in the workhouses.

"Devon Commission, County Clare, 1845:." Clare County Library. Accessed January 20, 2022. https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/devon_commission_clare.htm. This source is an article about the Devon Commission. The Devon Commission was when in 1843 a royal was appointed to inquire into the occupation of the land of Ireland, after its chairman, Earl Devon, collected evidence from landowners and others. The Devon Commission helped us understand by bringing a whole new aspect into our topic.

"1834 Poor Law." The National Archives. Accessed January 6, 2022. https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/1834-poor-law/. This source is a website about the 1843 Poor Law. We used this source because it gave us information on why the poor were sent to workhouses. The poor were sent to workhouses and worked several hours a day in return they were clothed and fed and the children also received some schooling. This source helped us figure out why the Irish were sent to workhouses which helped us understand our project more.

Freeman's Journal. (Sydney, New South Wales, AU) "Firsthand Account of Levels of Potato Rot in Irish Village; Landlords Have Little Sympathy." Accessed January 24, 2022. https://www.newspapers.com/clip/24860322/firsthand-account-of-levels-of-potato/. This source is a primary source about potato rot in an Irish village. The article told how the potato rot was most alarming because that was one of the only sources of food. This helped our play by showing how the potato blight impacted lives in Ireland.

Freeman's Journal. (Sydney, New South Wales, AU). "Irish Orphans and London Needle-Women." October 23, 1851. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/115766869?searchTerm=irish%20orphans. This newspaper article was written to criticize the way Irish orphans had been denounced as bad people when 32 out of 36 English orphans sent from London had turned out to be troublemakers and not the needle-women they were promised. We used this article to learn how Australian papers portrayed the Irish orphans and how people felt about them immigrating to their country.

The Guardian. "1 November 1845: The Looming Irish Potato Famine." November 1, 1845. Accessed October 12, 2021. https://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/from-the-archive-blog/2011/may/08/newspapers-national-newspapers5. This online newspaper article includes a photograph of the newspaper from 1845, of the Irish workhouses and the people surrounding it during the famine. The newspaper is an informational source, as well as an accurate representation of what the people had
thought was going on. This source helped us understand the thoughts of the Irish people during the Great Famine.

This newspaper page is about disastrous famines around the world. We learned that the most disastrous famine was in China in 1877-78 which killed more than 9.5 million inhabitants and that the famine in Ireland was responsible for over a million deaths and over 750,000 perished during a famine in India. This helped our project by giving us an estimated total of how many people died during the Irish famine as compared to other famines worldwide.

This is a newspaper on a database website about Ireland's population. This article states that Ireland's population rapidly increased from 1811 to 8,196,000, then in 1881 the population was 5,174,000. This article helps us see the difference in population loss from the famine.

This newspaper article informed us that emigrants from Ireland did not just migrate to Australia but to other locations too, such as Canada, the United States of America, and Great Britain. We use this information to explain in our script that there was a humongous decrease in population not only from famine and death but also from emigration to other locations.

This ebook was found on the Project Gutenberg Australia website. The book was written with the help of Caroline Chisholm and is a testament to the many works she did on behalf of immigration/emigration to Australia. We used this to learn more about the personality of Caroline Chisholm and how she felt about the people she was helping.

This newspaper article was written to answer two questions: how bad was the potato blight and what was being done to help those who were affected. We learned that the author traveled from Dublin to Limerick and viewed a great deal of suffering and devastation. This helped us see that the British were aware of the starvation and sickness in Ireland.

*Nebraska Advertiser* (Nemaha County, NT). "The Potato-Its Uses and Origin." November 29, 1856.
We learned from this newspaper article that the potato was first introduced in England by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1588. According to the article, there are many kinds of potatoes, but the one most preferred is an English white, not the mushy lumper that was grown in Ireland. This article helped us understand how important the potato was to people and how a crop failure could result in famine in any area.

New York Herald (New York City, NY). "The Census of the United States and England - Frightful Decrease of Population in Ireland." July 10, 1851. https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030313/1851-07-10/ed-1/seq-4/. According to this newspaper article, we learned that people were blaming the British government for the decrease in population due to famine in Ireland. This information helped us to comprehend the number of deaths caused by the famine, and how Great Britain was fueling this fire by not giving Ireland the help and resources it needed during a time of such desperation. We used this information in our performance to discuss the fault of the British causing failed diplomacy between Ireland and Great Britain and to explain the reason why Ireland's population did not recover from the population loss.

New York Herald (New York City, NY). "The Potato Blight in Ireland." August 22, 1871. https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030313/1871-08-22/ed-1/seq-6. This newspaper article is about potato blight in Ireland. We learned that the potato crops failed, many peasants died from hunger, and the potato blight grew throughout all of Ireland. This helped our play by giving us an understanding of why there was such a population loss in Ireland and why most people emigrated from Ireland to other countries.

Port Tobacco Times, and Charles County (Port Tobacco, MD), November 27, 1845. https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89060060/1845-11-27/ed-1/seq-2/. This is a newspaper about the failure of the potato crops in Ireland. This article in the newspaper informs us that the Dublin Corporation held a meeting about the failure of the potato crop and how to avoid danger. This article helped us see how the people addressed the failure of the potato crop and how it affected them.

Morus. "Base Attempt at Seduction." Australasian Chronicle (Sydney, New South Wales, AU), December 21, 1841. Accessed February 5, 2022. https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning/significant-individuals-caroline-chisholm. We used this newspaper article to learn about the role Caroline Chisholm played in helping desperate women who had moved to Australia. This newspaper article was a letter to the editor explaining how Mrs. Chisholm helped women find employment with respectable families. This helped us understand the charitable work that Caroline Chisholm did in Australia.

This newspaper article was written in Australia at the time of the Earl Grey Scheme. We used this to learn how the Australian people felt about the immigration of Irish orphan girls into their colony. This article gave us the story of a young girl who was asking the court to remove her from her indentured service because she was ill-used, which was highly doubted by the editor of this article.

The Earl Grey Scheme had been underway for two years when this newspaper article was written. We learned that according to this author many Irish orphans shipped to Adelaide ended up being trained as prostitutes with no hope for a decent future. This helped us understand that not all of the orphan girls found a better life after leaving the Irish workhouses.

*St. Croix Avis*. "Luggacurran." July 2, 1887.
From this article, we learned that landowners evicted their tenants from their homes during the period of the famine, and many of them died on famine ships or in workhouses. We used this article in our performance to explain how the landowners unfairly treated their tenants throughout the famine.

https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030362/1849-05-13/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1838 &index=0&rows=20&words=Dungarvan+workhouse&searchType=basic&sequence=0& state=&date2=1856&proxttext=dungarvan+workhouse&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1.
We used this newspaper article to see how the conditions in Ireland were being reported on in America. We read about the Dungarvan Workhouse which originally was built to hold 700 people but housed more than 3,400 people at that time. We learned from this story that hundreds of people died every day from famine and disease.

This newspaper article showed us that seven years after the Earl Grey Scheme ended, people were still concerned about the Irish immigrants in America to the Australian Irish immigrants and wished the Irish immigrants well. We used this information in our performance when our characters described what happened to them after they reached Australia.

*Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney, New South Wales, AU). "Emigration of Irish Orphans."
September 29, 1848.
This was an interesting newspaper article about the release of information concerning Irish orphan girls who would be arriving in Sydney. The author was concerned that the residents of Sydney had not been warned that these girls were coming, and he questioned
if the girls would be of good moral value. We used this to learn about the Australian perspective of the Earl Grey Scheme.


This newspaper article provides information about the failed potato crop and public cries to open the ports and allow outside sources of food to enter Ireland. We wanted to learn about the British response to the famine. This article helped us see that there were people putting pressure on the British government to help the famine victims, including the United States.

**Secondary Sources**


This source included many facts about the lives of the Irish people and how they were treated after immigrating, specifically to Boston. This source helped us to understand that some Americans did not accept the Irish people that were Catholic, and as we read, we were informed that some Catholic churches were burned by anti-Irish mobs. We used this information to help create context of how the Irish people were treated after they left Ireland due to the Great Hunger, or Irish Potato Famine.


This online website informed us about the Irish Potato Famine. We learned that the scientific name for the disease that infected Ireland's potatoes is called the Phytophthora infestans and that the disease spread quickly throughout Ireland. This source gave us information about the Potato Famine and the role of the British.


We used this source to understand more about our topic of the Kerry girls who were shipped off to Australia because of the Earl Grey Scheme. This website explains what happened to the girls, what they were given to bring on the ships, how many girls were shipped away to Australia, and questions that need to be explained. This was a useful source for us because it helped us get a bigger picture of our topic and also helped us get more information for our performance.

This is a website about the Great Famine and the immigration from Ireland to America. We used this source because even though it was not about the Kerry girls, it gave us good information about the Great Famine like how 1.5 million children and adults went to America to seek refuge. This helped us understand that not every child was sent to workhouses in Australia and some went to America.

This source is a slideshow on a website. This source gave us information like how many families, especially lower-class families would die from pure hunger; some would even fall down and die while they were walking on the road. This source helped us understand how hungry people were during these times which will also help us with our play.

This book was written by an Irish woman who grew up near the area where the Listowel Union Workhouse had been. She heard the stories of the Great Famine and the hardships of people in the workhouses, and she used that perspective while researching and writing this book. We used information from this source to develop characters for our performance.

This source is a website about a man's account of the Irish Potato Famine. This source was used to gain information on how people lived and survived the Potato Famine and how miserable it was to live during those times. This source helped us understand our topic by taking a person who really lived through those times and telling us how hard it was to survive.

This source was a website about Caroline Chisholm who was born in 1808 and died in 1877. She married Archibald Chisholm and moved to India, where she opened a school for daughters of soldiers in India. She moved to Australia in 1838 where she noticed many female immigrants were having trouble finding jobs; she arranged for these women to have jobs on farms. This source helped us really understand Caroline Chisholm's life and how determined she was to help people.

This is an article about Caroline Chisholm founding the Female Emigrants Home. Caroline Chisholm established the home to give shelter to young women and help supply jobs for them; she did this because the girls in Ireland's workhouses were working in poverty, disease, and starving. This article helped our play by giving us more information
about Caroline Chisholm who is the diplomat in our play and gives us background information about the Earl Grey Scheme which Caroline helped to found.


We used this internet article to learn about Caroline Chisholm. This was important to our research because we wanted a British and Australian perspective. Mrs. Chisholm's story helped us create a character for our performance.


We learned from this website that the girls that were shipped off were the children of idiots, felons, cripples, also deserted children or orphans. We learned numerous facts from this, and it also stated the rules the children had to follow. We used this information for the character's personalities for our performance.


This is an article about the Great Famine and the emigration from Ireland. When the Earl Grey Scheme was devised, girls 14-18 were chosen to go to Australia to serve as domestic servants. There was also a huge difference in the colony between males and females which was another reason the Irish orphans were sent to Australia. This article provided the passenger lists for all of the orphans sent to Australia.


This is a website over the Irish Potato Famine and how it affected Ireland. We used this source because it was about the Great Famine and it gave us background information like how many people died which was over one million and how it killed nearly one-eighth of the Irish population. This source helped our project by showing how serious this Famine was and how it affected many people's lives.


This website gives a summary, the impact of the famine, the government's responses from the British, and the biggest famine hits. We learned from this website that, although some places in Ireland were more affected than others, the population grew in a handful of places. We used this information to ensure our script is an accurate representation of the Great Hunger, or also known as, Irish Potato Famine.

This is a website about the Earl Gray Scheme that transported Irish girls to provide domestic servants and solve the problem of overcrowding in Ireland's workhouses. Emigration schemes like this one aimed at assisting those in the most desperate circumstances in a way to leave Ireland and start a new life. This article helped us understand our topic by explaining the Earl Grey scheme and what it aimed to do.

"Earl Grey Irish Female Orphans in Australia." Geni. Accessed October 12, 2021. https://www.geni.com/projects/Earl-Grey-Irish-Female-Orphans-in-Australia/15952. This article teaches us how 4,175 Irish girls were sent to Australia to work as domestic servants. The Orphan Emigration Scheme happened in October 1848 they did this to help resolve Australia's shortage of female labor and stop the overcrowding in the Irish workhouses. This article helped us to gain a full understanding of why the Irish girls were sent to Australia.

"The Earl Grey Scheme." SPSP Publishing. Accessed January 10, 2022. https://www.spsppublishing.com.au/the-earl-grey-scheme. This is a website about how and why the Earl Grey Scheme was created. They are unsure who originally created the scheme, but Grey embraced the idea and ordered the Colonial Land and Emigration office for appropriate young females to be sent to Sydney. 4,114 girls were pulled out of Ireland’s workhouses to be sent to Australia in the hope they would stop some from dying of hunger because of the Great Famine, and stop the overcrowding in Irish workhouses. This helped our project by giving us facts to help write our play and help give us an understanding of the scheme.

"The Earl Grey Scheme and the Emigration of Girls from the Workhouses of Laois." Laois Heritage Society. Last modified May 13, 2019. Accessed October 12, 2021. https://laoisheritagesociety.ie/the-earl-grey-scheme-and-the-emigration-of-girls-from-the-workhouses-of-laois/. This source is a website article that talks about dozens of teenage girls being sent away from Ireland to go to Australia's workhouse. During the Great Famine, dozens of teenage girls left the workhouses of Laois bound for Australia, the emigration was a part of a British government scheme to provide the British colony with wives and domestic servants and to rid the workhouse of dead weight. The information from this website helped our play by explaining what the teenage Irish girls were sent to Australia to do.

Fearon, Alana. "Potato Orphans: Woman Uncovers Truth of Irish Relative Orphaned by Famine and Shipped to Australia to Marry Convict." Irish Mirror, May 27, 2015. Accessed October 12, 2021. https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/potato-orphans-woman-uncovers-truth-5766216. This is a newspaper article about a girl named Gail Newman discovering her great-great-great-grandmother was one of the Irish orphans. We learned the orphans sailed for 124 days, many of the girls did not survive the voyage, and some of the girls were given away by their parents. This article helped us with our performance because we learned about the circumstances surrounding the girls' departures.
We used this internet article to learn about the Female Immigrants' Home in Sydney, Australia. The home was established by Caroline Chisolm as a philanthropic gesture to help the women who emigrated to Australia from Ireland. This information helped us write our script.

This is an article about the Orphan Scheme. By 1840 Ireland's workhouses were already full, to alleviate these conditions Earl Grey made a plan to help Ireland and Australia, he sent appropriate young women to Australia to help the overcrowding in the workhouses and help the shortage of women in Australia. This article helped us write our play and gave us a reason why this Scheme was put in place.

This is an article about the Orphan Scheme. By 1840 Ireland's workhouses were already full, to alleviate these conditions Earl Grey made a plan to help Ireland and Australia, he sent appropriate young women to Australia to help the overcrowding in the workhouses and help the shortage of women in Australia. This article helped us write our play and gave us a reason why this Scheme was put in place.

This website showed us that the problem of the Great Hunger, the food, was going on well before the famine was widely known, and most families required about five pounds per person and would live off of these potatoes until the disaster of the Great Hunger infamously struck. This helped us to understand the impact it had on the families and people of Ireland. We used these details to create a precise representation of the events that occurred during the Great Hunger.

We used this book to learn about the potato famine that struck Ireland in 1846. This gave us a very detailed account of what it was like to be an Irish Catholic during the famine when a million people died from starvation and disease. This helped us better understand the extreme suffering of the Catholic people who went to the workhouses as their only choice of survival.
This is a website about how the Great Famine started in Ireland. This source gave us information like how scientists are now using DNA from dried lumper potato leaves in herbariums an international team has sequenced the genome of the organism that ravaged the Irish potato crop and found it was a single strand of the fungus-like pathogen Phytophthora infestans. This source helped us understand how the Irish potato Famine actually started.

This is a website about The Great Famine which killed roughly one million people. The Great Famine began as a fungus that destroyed Ireland's potato crops, this was horrible to Ireland because the potato was a cheap and affordable crop for Ireland's people. This article helped us to determine what the setting of our play should be.

This is an article about the great famine relief effort. The Great Famine effort aimed to relieve some of the hunger in Ireland after the famine struck, when this effort ran out of the funds and failed, thousand of tenant farmers and laborers were evicted from their homes which led to the poor law being enacted which sent able bodied people to the workhouses. This helped our play by giving information about how the Kerry Girls ended up in the workhouses.

This is a web page about the Great Famine. The great famine was a tragedy for all of Ireland, the potato crop was the main source of food for Ireland and what made the landowners who sold potatoes money, when the potato crops failed the farmers lost money and people were kicked out of their homes and left starving, roughly one million died to this from starvation or disease. We used this source to get an understanding of the effects the famine had on Ireland.

This was a good documentary because it talked about the Great Hunger as a whole and not just how it starved the people of Ireland. This source was used because it gave visual detail on what was happening and where the servants that came from Ireland had to move around in the house of the richer people. This source helped us get visual evidence for our play.

This article helped us understand that many Irish-Catholic immigrants were not allowed to apply for certain jobs because of coming from Ireland after the Great Famine with the majority also being Catholic. We also know that many Americans were openly
anti-Catholic and any places that were advertising for employment had signs saying "No Irish Need Apply." We incorporated this information into our performance to show how horribly many Irish-Catholics were treated after immigrating to escape the Great Famine.

Hall, Peter Anthony. *Potato Famine Orphan*. Kew East, Victoria: David Lovell Publishing, 2018. This book is written by the descendant of one of the Irish orphan brides. Mr. Hall researched his great-grandmother, Catherine O'Laughlan Kirby Lawson, and presented her story in this novella. We used parts of Catherine's story to develop a character for our performance.

Hertz, Kayla, ed. "4,000 Women from Workhouses in Ireland Became Australian Pioneer." *Irish Central*. Last modified June 13, 2016. Accessed November 17, 2021. https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/genealogy/4000-women-from-workhouses-in-ireland-became-australian-pioneers. From this website we learned that many of the women married soon after they arrived and that they were also uneducated and illiterate. We used these details to understand what happened to the girls after being shipped off to Australia. This helped us to realize how uneducated the Kerry girls were, but it also helped us to build character for our performance.

"History of Australia." *One World’s Nations Online*. Accessed March 5, 2022. https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/History/Australia-history.htm. We used this internet article to learn about the history of Australia. We wanted to know why the Irish orphans were needed in Australia and how England colonized and used the continent. Information from this article led us to the story of Caroline Chisholm, one of our main characters.

Holan, Mark, ed. "Ireland's Famine Children 'Born at Sea.'" *National Archives*. Last modified March 18, 2019. Accessed January 6, 2022. https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2017/winter/irish-births. This website is a very reliable source for us to use, and this source states information on how the Kerry girls had babies while onboard the ships on their way to Australia. This is new information for us, as we did not know they had babies while on board, but we will use this information from now on. We will use this in our performance to understand how life and the conditions on the ships were like.

Iltis, Judith. "Chisholm, Caroline (1808–1877)." *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Last modified 2006. Accessed February 5, 2022. https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/chisholm-caroline-1894. We used this website article to learn more about Caroline Chisholm. Mrs. Chisholm was an important part of the Earl Grey scheme as she was the person who introduced the plan to Earl Grey. We used information from this source to write our script.

This is a short article that explains to us why some people say variations of the Great Famine that took place in Ireland. We used this to know what we should call the famine in our performance script.

This is a website article about the Great Famine. When the Great Famine struck and the potato crops failed the prices of food went up, most farmers relied on the potato crops to pay the rent to their landlords, when the Irish couldn't pay their rent their landlords kicked them out and some emigrated from Ireland, Ireland people crowded into the disease-infected workhouse hoping to get a job and a place to stay. This helped our play by giving us information on the Irish Potato Famine and what caused overcrowding in workhouses which led to the Earl Grey Scheme.

This website provides us with a transcript of a conversation between experts on the Earl Grey Scheme, Heidi Pritchard and Dr. Perry McIntyre. It told us about how Australia is looking into records and trying to understand more of what happened to the Kerry girls associated with the Earl Grey Scheme. We used this transcript to help us get reliable information.

This is a website about the Irish orphans that were sent to Australia. This website gave us valuable information about 4,000 Irish orphans who had to be sent to Australia because of the potato famine that had happened in Ireland. This helped us understand why the orphans had to be sent to Australia and gave us background knowledge for our performance.

This was a website about the Irish Potato Famine and how it affected the Irish people. This gave us information about the famine fever when people were getting sick with cholera, dysentery, scurvy, typhus, and infestations of lice-soon throughout the Ireland countryside. It helped us understand why so many people were dying because of hunger and sicknesses.

This is a website that was about the Irish Potato Famine. This website was about the Irish Potato Famine and how it affected Ireland and the people that lived there, it gave us information on who owned the farmlands when the famine started and how much farmland they owned. This helped us understand where the potatoes were grown and how it was the staple crop in Ireland.

This is a film about what caused the Great Famine to occur through 1845-1852. The Great Famine occurred because of a fungus that ruined Ireland's potato crops and caused millions to die, yet the British government still wanted food from Ireland so they took food from them leaving them starving. This source provided background knowledge regarding the British government's role in the Irish famine and why the workhouses were overcrowded.


This website provides useful information about the Irish Potato Famine timeline. It also gave us information such as September 1, 1845, is when the Irish Potato Famine started and on June 1, 1848, emigration exploded. This helped us understand when everything was happening during the Great Famine.


This website helped us in multiple different ways because it gave us further information that we have not seen before. On this website, we learned that over a quarter of a million tenants and laborers were kicked out of their homes, some also left voluntarily so they could avoid the certain death of starvation, but thousands of them ended up roaming around waiting for food. This website includes numerous other topics on the Great Famine, we will continue to use this for our performance because of all of the information presented.


This is a video clip about the Great Famine and how it affected Ireland. The fungus that killed the potatoes originally emerged from the United States but came to Europe in cargo holds, the fungus spread to the continent by the rainy summer and carried by the wind. This video helped our play by giving us an understanding of why the Great Famine started.


This source is a website about the Irish Potato Famine also known as The Great Hunger. We used this source because it gave us information like when and how long it occurred, and a sum of how many people died during this famine. We used this source to understand the timeline and the overall summary of our topic which helped gain background information about our play.

This source is a video about the Irish Workhouse system. This source told us about the Irish workhouse and the system, it also showed us how the barracks were split up and how the workhouse worked, it also showed the inside of the ruined old Irish workhouse where so many girls and boys were kept. This helps us understand what was happening in the workhouses and why they had to be moved to Australia.


This is a newspaper website about the famine that left more than a million dead. The Great Famine occurred in 1845-1852; more than a million people died from starvation and fever nearly 800,000 people were evicted from their homes. This happened because of a fungus-like organism called Phytophthora infestans spread throughout Ireland that ruined a half of the potato crops that year. This source helped our project by giving us an idea of what happened throughout all of Ireland and the tragedy that killed over a million people.


This source was used to study more of life inside of the workhouses. This citation explained to us that inside of these workhouses, the people had inadequate health and hygiene. The website helped us build character for our performance.


We used this source to figure out if other girls were being shipped off to different places. This was a noteworthy website because it gave us new information that we have not seen before. We will continue to look back at this source for future reference.


This source gave us information on the relationships between Ireland and the other countries involved. It gave us information that other sources had not listed and we will use the source to give us a background on the relationships between Ireland and other countries, specifically Britain and the United States.


This source is a video about The Great Famine that killed Ireland's potato crops. Ireland's potato crops were the main source of food for Ireland and when they died it left Ireland...
people starving, some were evicted from their homes because they couldn't pay rent, while roughly one million Irish people died from hunger or typhus. This video helped our play by showing how serious the situation is and the tragedy that occurred to give us a setting for our play.

"Lost Children?" History Ireland. Accessed January 6, 2022. https://www.historyireland.com/20th-century-contemporary-history/lost-children/. This website has explained to us how the lives of the girls shipped to Australia worked. The death rate of the girls was less than one percent, they were closely watched by the Poor Law Commission and were usually brought into forced marriages for a middle-class to an upper-class lifestyle. We can use this information in our script for their life during and after being shipped to Australia.

Maranzani, Barbara. "After 168 Years, Potato Famine Mystery Solved." History. Last modified May 21, 2013. Accessed January 10, 2022. https://www.history.com/news/after-168-years-potato-famine-mystery-solved. This is an article about the discovery of what caused the Great Famine. Researchers found out that HERB-1 which originated in the Americans caused the blight and destroyed Ireland's potato crops and hundreds of other potato crops around the world, now scientists believe that HERB-1 is instinct. This helped our play by giving us information to write our play and giving us an understanding of why the Great Famine occurred.

McDonagh, Marese. "Some 4,000 Irish Girls Sent to Australia under Orphan Scheme." The Irish Times. Last modified August 10, 2016. Accessed September 30, 2021. https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/some-4-000-irish-girls-sent-to-australia-under-orphan-scheme-1.2750923. This source is a website article about 4,000 Irish girls sent to Australia under an orphan scheme. This source is about Bridget Cannon and 4,000 other girls being taken away from their homes and taken to Australia to work in workhouses, they had to eat, sleep, and work in now the room where they were forced to pick oakum, as 12 inmates were dying every week in the workhouse, those who left may have been regarded as the lucky ones. This source helped us by the conditions that the girls went through and what their living conditions were like.

McNally, Frank. "Irishman's Diary: An Enigma of the Famine Years in Ireland." Irish Times, August 14, 2019. Accessed October 5, 2021. https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/irishman-s-diary-an-enigma-of-the-famine-years-in-ireland-1.3986333. This is an online newspaper called "The Irish Times," and this article is debating whether Polish Count Pawel Strzelecki was a British spy during the Great Famine or not. This newspaper also provides many quotes making it a great source for our performance. This newspaper gave an Irishman's diary from during the Great Famine.

The information on this website was incredibly useful to write the script of our play. We learned that over a million Irish people immigrated, another million of Irish citizens died from disease and starvation, approximately over half a million Irish tenants were evicted from their houses owned by British landlords, with also the information that Ireland has never recovered from the population loss during this time that happened over a century ago. Using this information, we are given a clearer and more accurate idea of the death toll and population loss Ireland suffered during the years of the Great Famine.

This source is a website about the Irish girls that were shipped to Australia from Ireland. This source was used to give us details about what happened to the Irish girls that went to Australia during the Earl Grey Scheme. This helped us understand what happened at the workhouses that the Irish girls were kept at.

This is a website about The Great Famine. The Great Famine was a tragedy that occurred throughout Ireland, the British helped Ireland by giving food to Ireland, the British also had a law called the Poor Law that was enacted in Ireland in 1838 that sent Irish girls to workhouses rather than give the famine relief. The source helped our play by receiving an understanding of why the Irish girls were sent workhouses which will be beneficial to our play.

This source is a website about the Kerry Workhouse Girls. This source was used to gain more information about the Kerry girls like how many girls were sent to the workhouses and how 117 were not orphans and how the British sent over a large number of Catholic girls that were also not orphans. This source helped us to understand that not all of the Kerry girls were orphans, that some were just girls with different religions.

This source is a website about the Irish Potato Famine but more importantly about the Kerry Workhouse Girls. We used this source because it tells how over 100 girls that were in the workhouses were taken out and started new lives all around Australia. This source helped us understand that some of the girls had to leave their country and start brand new lives in a whole new country.

This is a website article about the Poor Law and how it affected the people in the Great Famine. In 1847 the harvest was small and few potatoes had been planted this caused the public workers to abandoned the soup kitchens and they shut down, this caused no other option for the poor except to beg for entry into workhouses, the poor law inspectors told Ireland people if you work in the workhouses you are cut off from the poor law relief, this left an impossible decision for the Ireland people to make. This helped our play by giving us information to write our play and gave us an important scene to add to our play.


This website stated to us how many items the Kerry girls were permitted to bring with them, as well as how many girls were sent off. We will use this website to help gain more valuable information for our performance. This website furthermore explained to us that no one knows if the girls were forced to go to Australia or if they wanted to.


This source is an article about how the young women who came to the Australian colonies were sent from Irish workhouses. This source was used to give us information on why the orphan girls were sent to the workhouses in Australia as well as saying that the girl's family could not support them. This source helped us understand the topic because it showed why they simply could not stay in Ireland.


This is an article about the Poor Law. The Poor Law is a law that was enacted in Ireland to help the poor in Ireland, the poor law provided relief for the poor and sick but provided no relief for able bodied people except employment around 4,000 girls were sent from Ireland to Australia to work in workhouses. This article helped our project by helping us understand why the Irish Girls were sent to workhouses.


This article gives both positive and negative perspectives of the Irish in Australia. We learned that about 20-30 percent of all people in Australia in 1914 had Irish ancestry. This helped us understand how important Ireland was to the development of Australia.


This source includes two pictures of lists informing us about their names (first and last), ages, how many were on the two boats, among other informational pieces in the text. It told us that there were 60 people aboard the ship "Pemberton" IN 1849 and 9 girls in 1850 aboard the "Maria." We used this information to be more historically accurate in our script.
Santry, Claire, ed. "The Kerry Girls: Emigration and the Earl Grey Scheme." Irish Genealogy News. Last modified May 30, 2014. Accessed November 15, 2021. https://www.irishgenealogynews.com/2014/05/the-kerry-girls-emigration-and-earl.html. This website explained to us the research and events following the launch of the book "Kerry Girls" by Kay Moloney Caball. The book included multiple factual statements that are great for using in our performance, and the website also mentioned where Caball got the information. We will use this website to explain to us why Caball wanted to write a book over the Kerry girls, but also where she got the information from.

Tao, Kim. "Remembering the Irish Famine Orphans." Sea Museum. Last modified March 17, 2019. Accessed September 28, 2021. https://www.sea.museum/2019/03/15/remembering-the-irish-famine-orphans. This source is a website about remembering the Irish orphans that were a part of the Earl Grey Scheme. This source was used to give us more information about the Earl Grey Scheme, and how it affected 4,114 Irish girls that were put on ships and sent away. We used this source to understand the famine orphan scheme, and it also helped us get ideas to put in our performance.

Thackray, Lucy. "Poor, Alone and Shipped against Their Will to the Other Side of the World: The Untold Story of Ireland's 'Potato Orphans', the Teenagers Sent to Australia to Be Married off to Convict Settlers." DailyMail.com (Australia), May 25, 2015. Accessed October 6, 2021. https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3095781/Poor-shipped-against-world-untold-story-Ireland-s-Potato-Orphans-teenagers-sent-Australia-married-convict-settlers.html. This newspaper article gave us lots of information, it even provided a video about the orphans when they got to Australia. This source helped us understand visually because of the video and pictures which gave us a good idea to know more of what it was like for them.