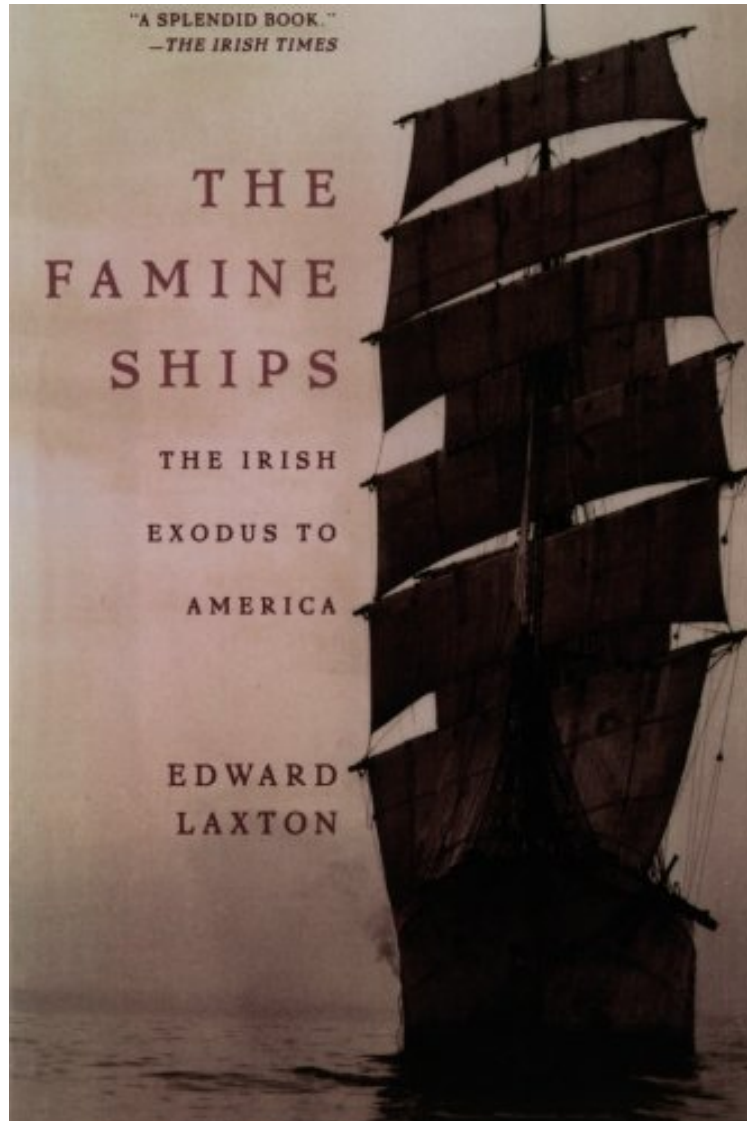


(Free pdf) The Famine Ships: The Irish Exodus to America

## The Famine Ships: The Irish Exodus to America

*Edward Laxton*

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**Edward Laxton : The Famine Ships: The Irish Exodus to America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Famine Ships: The Irish Exodus to America:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. ... and gives you a glimpse of what it was like for those who left Ireland during the famine and ...By nancy hoesel This book is compelling and gives you a glimpse of what it was like for those who left Ireland during the famine and came to the United States. I have three great, great grandparents who came during this time and one even came on one of the ships mentioned in the book. It told a story that I had never heard before of the suffering and desperation our ancestors lived and how relieved they must have been to have even

survived the trip over the ocean. I could hardly put the book down and was sorry when it ended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By smart shopper Amazing documentation of the Irish famine and history. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The Famine Ships; the Irish Exodus to America By Cathy Barnard Interesting history/topic but very, very dryly written with much redundancy and minute details that distract from the history. There is a tendency to go back and forth from one period to another and not stay on task chronologically, which I found distracting. Some of the writing itself seemed immature with a lot of of trite phrasing (i.e., "watery grave" over and over) with an attempt to be profound; there were times when I felt I was reading someone's Master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, rather than an historic book written for the general public. It was so dry and laborious that I finally stopped reading it about three-quarters of the way through and picked up two other books to read. I would have liked much more detail about the famine itself and its impact on the families and/or details of the poorhouses from which many of the emigrants came and specifically what they were escaping. The destitution and impact of the famine wasn't detailed enough nor were the actual shipboard situations; the details involved the shipping companies and such, with only cursory details of the actual events on board, etc. Obviously, I was very disappointed in this book.

Between 1846 and 1851, more than one-million people--the potato famine emigrants--sailed from Ireland to America. Now, 150 years later, *The Famine Ships* tells of the courage and determination of those who crossed the Atlantic in leaky, overcrowded sailing ships and made new lives for themselves, among them the child Henry Ford and the twenty-six-year-old Patrick Kennedy, great-grandfather of John F. Kennedy. Edward Laxton conducted five years of research in Ireland and interviewed the emigrants' descents in the U.S. Portraits of people, ships, and towns, as well as facsimile passenger lists and tickets, are among the fascinating memorabilia in *The Famine Ships*.

From *Library Journal* The defining moments of Irish history are studded with arrivals (St. Patrick, Oliver Cromwell) and departures (St. Columbanus, James Joyce). In the 1840s the great arrival was the Potato Blight, and the even greater departure was the multitude of ships carrying the nearly one million emigrants escaping the Irish famine to America. In this work, Laxton, a former newspaper editor, narrates the stories of these emigrants as they sailed for the the New World. The work is a fascinating compilation derived from family histories handed down through the generations; it describes both the horrible conditions aboard the ships and the emigrants' boundless optimism concerning the freedom of America. This well-written supplement to the various works on the Irish famine exodus finally draws attention to the people and the ships that defined a moment in Irish and American history. ?John J. Doherty, Montana State Univ., Bozeman Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. A splendid book, written in a fresh and accessible way, which will grip anyone with the most superficial interest in the Famine years. *Irish Times* Fascinating . . . finally draws attention to the people and the ships that defined a moment in Irish and American history. *Library Journal* About the Author Edward Laxton is of Irish descent. He was the news editor of England's *Daily Express* and *Daily Mirror* for nearly thirty years. *The Famine Ships* is his second book. He lives in England.