

This is a full length article on the immigration of the Irish to the United States. The challenges they faced with employment opportunities and housing due to discrimination and prejudice were only a sliver of the difficulties they faced attempting to settle in America.

When the Irish began to immigrate to the United States in the late 1800's it was known as the "wake" of America and most Irish immigrants made the choice to leave Ireland knowing that they would never be able to return to their birth country and never again see their families that remain in country. Upon arrival to America; Irish immigrants were immediately faced with discrimination and prejudice from the Americans, they were financially taken advantage of, placed in the worst and lowest poverty living conditions, and they were even denied employment opportunities because of their ethnicity. The Irish also were largely discriminated against for their religious beliefs and cultural heritage; they were not only discriminated against for being Irish but also because they were Catholic. (R. Marshall. n.d.).

The Irish immigrants faced a considerable amount of prejudice and segregation when they immigrated to the United States. They arrived on over-crowded and disease ridden boats that were barely adequate to sail the ocean, when they arrive to America they were forced to live in segregated communities that were the worse living conditions in New York. The majority of the Irish were segregated with the black ethnic group due to prejudice and discriminative behavior from the Americans. The black and Irish ethnic groups shared the small low poverty communities and struggled to settle in America together being the most rejected and unwanted ethnic groups in America at that time.

The Irish were often victims of redlining in employment and housing options, most businesses advertised that no Irish were allowed in the business or to apply for work within the business and they were forced to live in huts and shacks because America accused them of being “bad” for the neighborhood due to their ethnicity. To further emphasize the segregation issues that the Irish faced, the following was stated by the Associated Content News “their living conditions propagated sickness and disease, ushering an early death because health care was unavailable to them. Their dress, illiteracy, and brogue provoked ridicule in the new land, and their unfamiliarity with plumbing and running water brought about scorn and contributed the sicknesses and diseases that killed the majority of newborns.” (Associated Content News 2008). The Irish gathered together to assist each other in becoming accepted in America, the men fought in American wars, built railroads and bridges, and the women worked as chamber maids and cooks. Through the years the Irish have become quite well known for how hard working and reliable they truly are.