

Public History Internship with the Irish American Archives. Available for course credit (up to 3 credits).

In 1883-1884, an English Quaker named James Hack Tuke led an "assisted emigration scheme" that brought 3,300 individuals in family groups from Blacksod Bay, County Mayo, Ireland to North America. His goal was to alleviate famine and poverty caused by potato blight. By carrying some people to America, he believed those left behind could acquire more land and prosper.

Ionad Deirbhile, a heritage center on the Belmullet peninsula in County Mayo, has done the foundation work of transcribing and indexing the passenger manifests for the 15 "assisted" sailings and cross-referencing the information on the manifests with information that is available in the report on the project that Tuke himself published. Some of the passengers supplied a final destination after they landed in Boston or Quebec. About 1/4 of the passengers stated that they were going on to Cleveland, Newburgh, or Ohio. Spot-checking the 1900 census has revealed that even more of the passengers ended up in Cleveland by 1900.

The internship involves working with Margaret Lynch, director of the Irish American Archives. Students will add information to the existing database by systematically checking the 1900 US census online for evidence of where these families settled and how they were occupied. In addition, students will cross-check other kinds of records (obituaries, marriage, death, and birth records) to verify the identity of the families in the records and to assist with tracking women who may have married after emigrating. Once basic information about the Tuke Emigrants is established, further scholarly analysis of their collective experience can be pursued.

Please contact Prof. Rodney Hessinger for details ([rhessinger@jcu.edu](mailto:rhessinger@jcu.edu)).