

- 48 this stone is erected by the workmen of Messrs Peto, Brassey and Betts employed in the construction of the Victoria Bridge. A.D. 1859".

Of those who went to the U.S.A. the chief ports of entry were New York and New Orleans. Many of the ships on which emigrants sailed were described as 'coffin ships'. These were boats of all types operated by both native and foreign speculators. Passengers were crowded together regardless of sex four to a berth. Stephen de Vere a humanitarian Co. Limerick landlord described conditions thus in the First Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on Colonisation from Ireland of 1847 "Hundreds of poor people, men, women and children, of all ages from the drivelling idiot of ninety to the babe just born, huddled together without light, without air, wallowing in filth and breathing a fetid atmosphere... living without food or medicine, dying without the voice of spiritual consolation and buried in the depths without the rites of the church." Herman Melville, author of 'Moby Dick', described a voyage from Liverpool to America in 'Redburn: His First Voyage, 1849' as follows "The bunks were rapidly knocked together and looked more like dog kennels than anything else. The emigrants talked soon of seeing America. The agent had told them that twenty days would be an unusually long voyage. Suddenly there was a cry of 'Land' and emigrants crowded on deck expecting America, but it was only Ireland which they had left three or four weeks before in a steamboat to Liverpool... The steerage was like a crowded jail. From the rows of bunks hundreds of thin dirty faces looked out. Scores of unshaven men, seated on chests, smoked tea leaves and created a suffocating vapour which was still better than the fetid air of the place".

One Francis Winnis was master of a vessel, the Orazaba, which docked in New Orleans on December 30th, 1847. Twenty one passengers had died at sea. It was a typical 'coffin ship'. The following gave Mayo as their place of origin:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Notes</u>
McCain Thomas	22	No baggage
McCain Honora	21	
McCain John	--	Died at Sea
McCain --	4months	Died at Sea
McGinty Bridget	30	No baggage
McGinty Margaret	18	
McGinty Bridget	13	
McGinty Sibby	16	
McGinty Michael	7	
McGinty Mary	12	
McGinty	4	
McGinty Thomas	2	
Nicholas Ann	23	No baggage
Hart James	29	No baggage Labourer
Lacey John	30	No baggage Labourer
Smith Michael	26	No baggage Labourer
Smith Patrick	24	No baggage Labourer
Smith Peter	20	No baggage Labourer
Boylan Mary	26	
Doyle Bridget	20	No baggage
McDonald Honora	19	No baggage