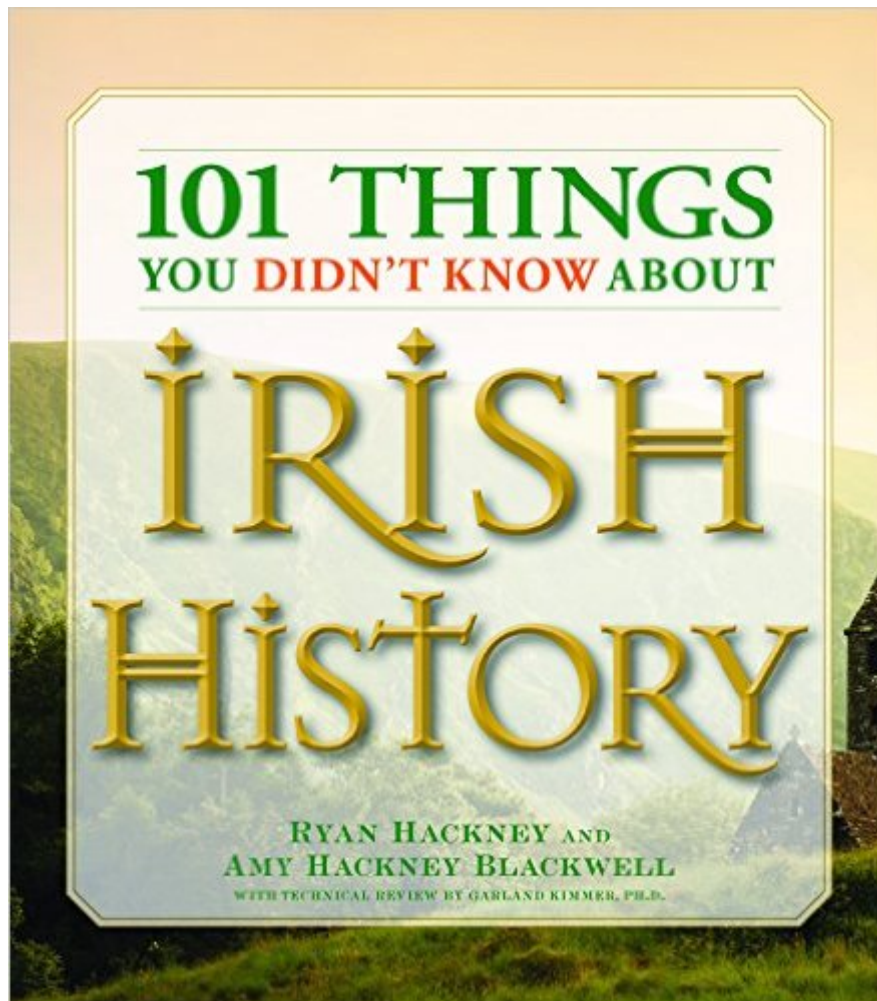


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# 101 Things You Didn't Know About Irish History: The People, Places, Culture, And Tradition Of The Emerald Isle



## Synopsis

Discover the truth behind the myths of the Emerald Isle. Forget about shamrocks, leprechauns, and all that blarney; 101 Things You Didn't Know about Irish History dispels the myths and tells the true story of the Irish. Inside, you'll learn about: Lives of the ancient Celts before the British invasions. Famous Irish including Michael Collins, Charles Parnell, and Bono! The potato famine and emigration (were there really gangs of New York?). Irish music and dance. Complete with an Irish language primer and pronunciation guide, 101 Things You Didn't Know about Irish History is an informative reference for anyone who loves the Irish.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With a title like "101 Things You Didn't Know", I was expecting a list of fun facts and trivia items that could be pulled out on St. Patrick's Day during conversation. That's not what this is. Instead, it's a collection of 101 mini-essays (each of them several paragraphs long) going chronologically through the history of the Emerald Isle from prehistoric times to the present day. It's fairly light reading and is useful for the typical general interest reader who knows next to nothing about the Celts, the Book of Kells, or Bloody Sunday. It is arranged into four sections: Ancient Ireland, Arrival of Christianity and the British, Preserving Irish Culture and History, and Emigration to Modern Life. There are also two appendices: one on Irish Gaelic pronunciation with a few basic phrases, and another with a very short collection of Irish proverbs and blessings. After reading "101 Things You Didn't Know About Irish History", you will know a lot more about Ireland than a book of random fun facts could have

taught. Sometimes it's good to have your expectations broken!

I've read my books of Irish History, both ancient and modern and this is by far the best. It provides all you need to know without hundreds of pages of details. It allows you to understand where the Irish came from and why they are who they are. I absolutely loved this book.

When I was in school, I studied Medieval history, with an emphasis on England, and it astounded me when I read this book to realize how little I really knew about Ireland and Irish culture and history! I liked the format of this book - many (101, to be exact!) very short chapters, only 2-3 pages at most - that were easy to read and didn't overload on the facts. Most of the items were presented in chronological order, though there was some overlap, especially during tumultuous times in Irish history. The tone was very light, and there were a few times where I thought it was a bit TOO light, but not to the point of being offensive. Factual information was given, but not in a way that made you feel you were reading a scholarly book. I did find it a bit tedious as the chronology approached modern times, but that's most likely just me, since modern history isn't my interest - the writing and style did not change. I was very glad to have a chance to partially fill in what turned out to be a huge gap in my knowledge, and finished the book with a much greater respect for the Irish and their history and culture. I would recommend this to just about anyone. It won't replace any scholarly works on Ireland and the Irish, but it's an excellent beginning book for someone who is casually interested in Irish history. For what it is - a quick, light, factual read - it's just right. Note on Kindle formatting: Excellent. I found a few instances of incorrect punctuation throughout the book, all which could easily have been found in a print version as well. There was nothing that impacted ease of reading.

Do yourself a favour and buy a decent history of Ireland. This is badly written and sourced. It is so superficially handled that there is nothing to recommend it. For example, one of the striking aspects of Iron Age Ireland is that very few weapons have been found by archeologists for the period - to read this author you would think that early Ireland was in a constant stage of warfare. He confuses mythology with history - and the actual archeological evidence is not considered. The Penal laws of the 18th century are dealt with as if they didn't happen - or only resulted in Catholics choosing different career paths because of them! This is a howler .....and a misrepresentation of the actual Irish historical experience. I don't recommend this book as having much validity.

I decided to read this book in honor of Saint Patrick's Day, expecting it to just skim over the history of Ireland. The book surprised me by the depth it covered. Still, this book is not for scholars, but it should suffice those readers wanting to know something about the people of Ireland. Though I feel the amount of information was more than adequate, sometimes the book came across as rather "dry". But the book held my interest in the long run.

This was a very entertaining book, I bought it for my husband and it turned out he already had it. I read it and there was so much information written in a concise yet entertaining manner. It's worth it to read, and it also great to test those friends/family members who think they know all about the Irish.

I had picked this up when it was free, but promptly forgot it. While taking a break from 100 year old mysteries, I rediscovered this and read it. Lots of good information about Irish mythology, history, religion, immigration and politics. Definitely recommend to anyone interested in the history of the Irish, and what led to where Ireland is now. It was described as a collection of mini-essays in another review, and that is a good way to put it.

I have a book by the same author called "The Everything Irish Book," and it's pretty much the same. So if you have that one, don't get this one too! Great books though.

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