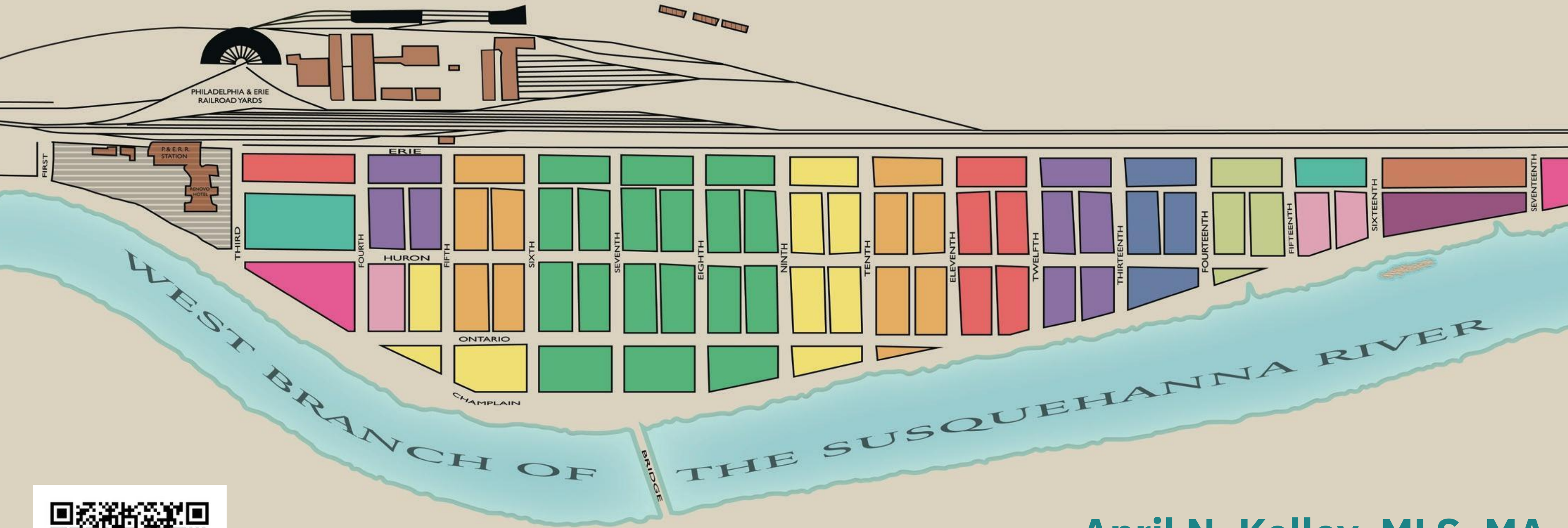


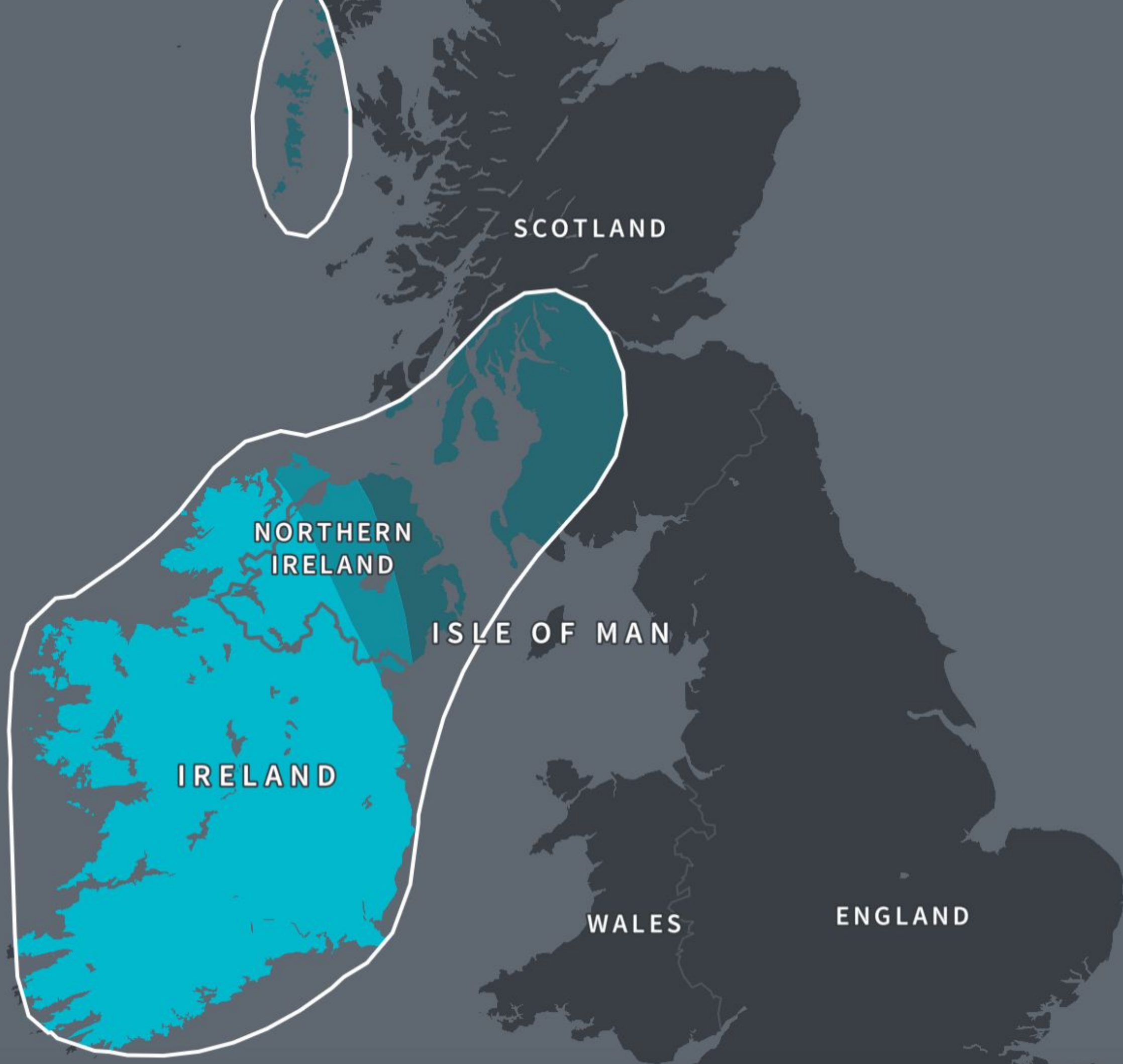
Irish Immigrants in Renovo, 1880 - 1910



April N. Kelley, MLS, MA

Greater Renovo Area Heritage Festival

June 24, 2023



Fred Big

Ireland

Primarily located in: Ireland

Also found in: Channel Islands, Faroe Islands, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland

Surprised to see some Scottish in your report? [Learn more about this map and ethnicity](#)



15%

Your ethnicity estimate is 15%,
0–19%. ⓘ

Screenshot of Ancestry.com DNA report.

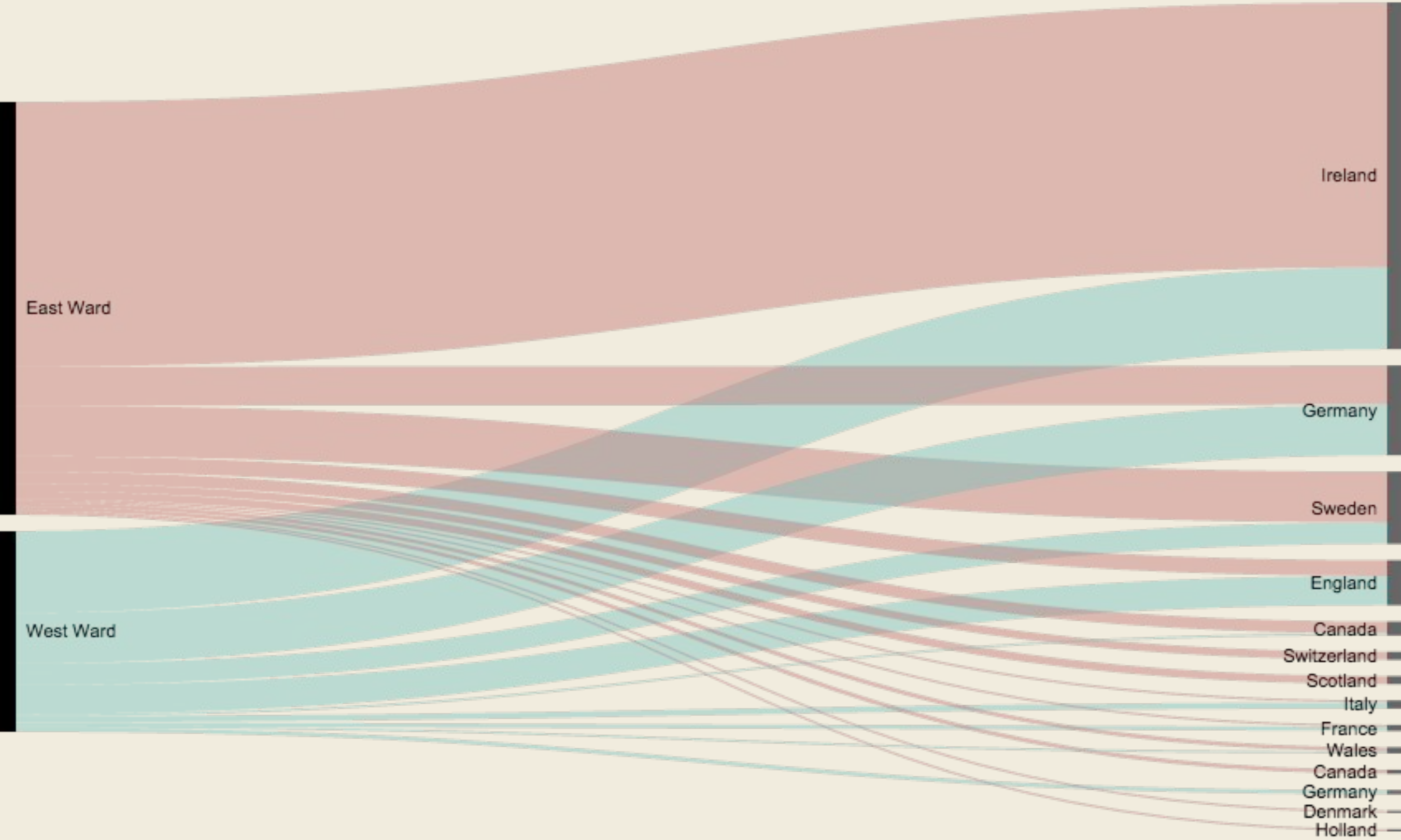
Using Historical Census Data & Maps for Research

- Researched immigrant homes in Renovo from 1880 - 1910 and their role in the town's economy and railroad industry
 - 2015 final project - History and Cartography graduate course, George Mason University
- Viewed census records for Renovo in 1880 and 1910, highlighted homes where someone was born outside the U.S.
 - color-coded and transcribed into spreadsheets
 - noted occupations, highlighted railroad employees
- Created diagrams and marked available insurance maps to visualize the countries of origin.

1880 Renovo Census Trends

- Census did not give corresponding addresses
- Divided into East and West Wards
- Top 3 Countries of birth in the **East Ward** (outside of U.S.)
 - Ireland
 - Sweden
 - Germany
- Top 3 Countries of birth in the **West Ward** (outside of U.S.)
 - Ireland
 - Germany

Visualization of 1880 Census data - place of birth by ward



Data analysis visualization created with RAW Graphs - <https://www.rawgraphs.io/>

Mapping the 1910 Census to 1911 Insurance Maps

- Downloaded 1910 Census Schedules from **Archives.gov**.
- Transcribed into a spreadsheet, identified homes with immigrants.
- Downloaded 1911 Sanborn Insurance Maps of Renovo from **Penn State Libraries' Digital Collections**.
- Uploaded maps to Adobe Illustrator to edit.
- Identified houses on map that had occupants born outside of United States using a color coded system.

1910 Renovo Census Trends

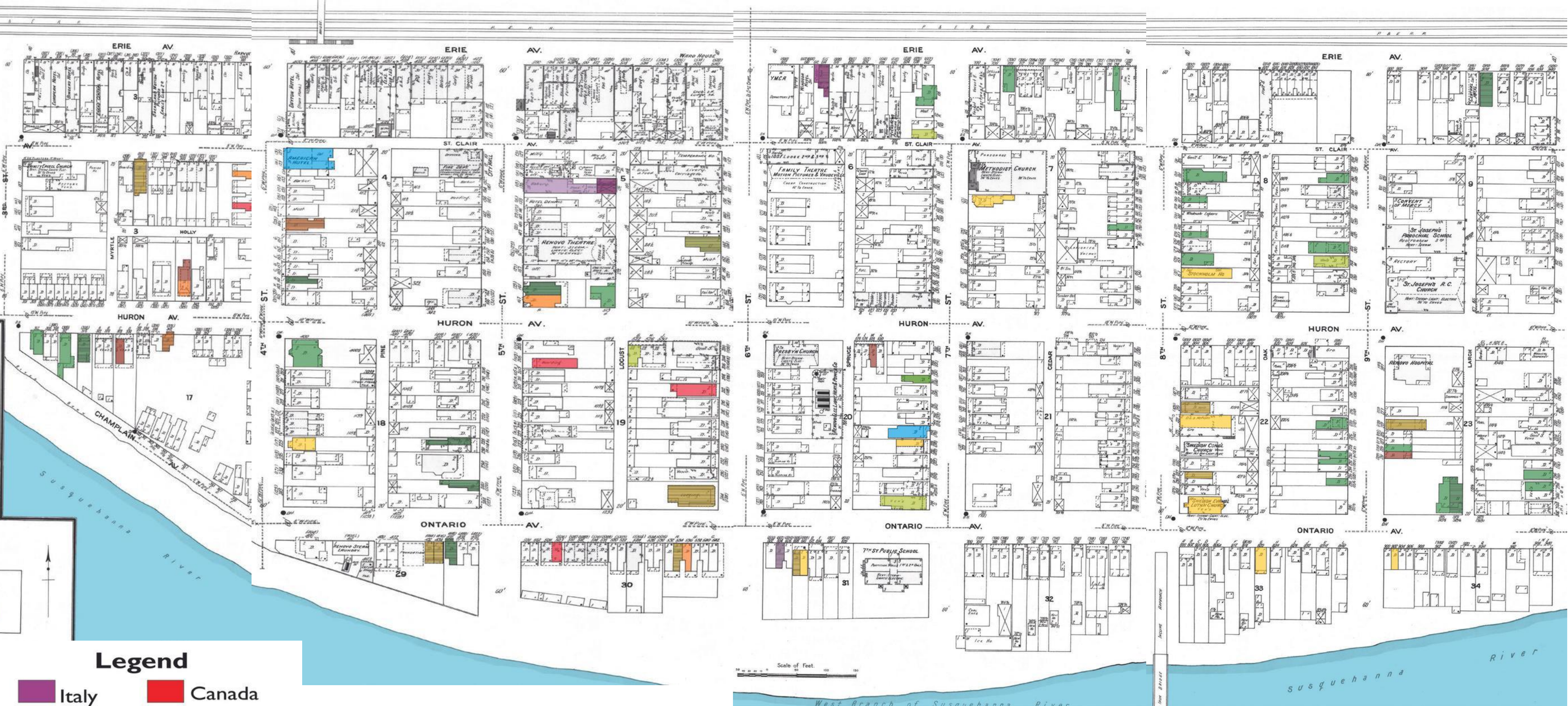
- **Irish-born immigrants were plentiful!**
 - 87 born in Italy
 - **83 born in Ireland**
 - 73 born in Sweden
 - 404 residents born outside of United States total
 - **4,621 total residents** in Renovo Borough
- Addresses listed - able to plot on map
- Many European ethnicities lived among each other (see map)
 - Many Irish families lived in center of town
 - "Irish Acre" - 7th - 11th Streets
- Railroad was a major employer of immigrants

Irish Immigrant Spotlight: John Healy

- Born in Ireland around 1851
- Arrived in Renovo around 1865-1870.
- 1870 Census, Renovo, Clinton County:
 - Lives with older brother Daniel, mother Margaret, sister Julia, her husband Rodger Fowly/Foley, and their 4 year old daughter Mary. All born in Ireland except Mary.
 - Works as a laborer and claims \$1200
- 1880 Census, Renovo, Clinton County:
 - Lives on 8th Street with wife Maggie (parents both born in Bavaria), 4 year old son Frank, 1 year old daughter Julia, and mother Margaret, 62.
 - Works in Oil House

Irish Immigrant Spotlight: John Healy

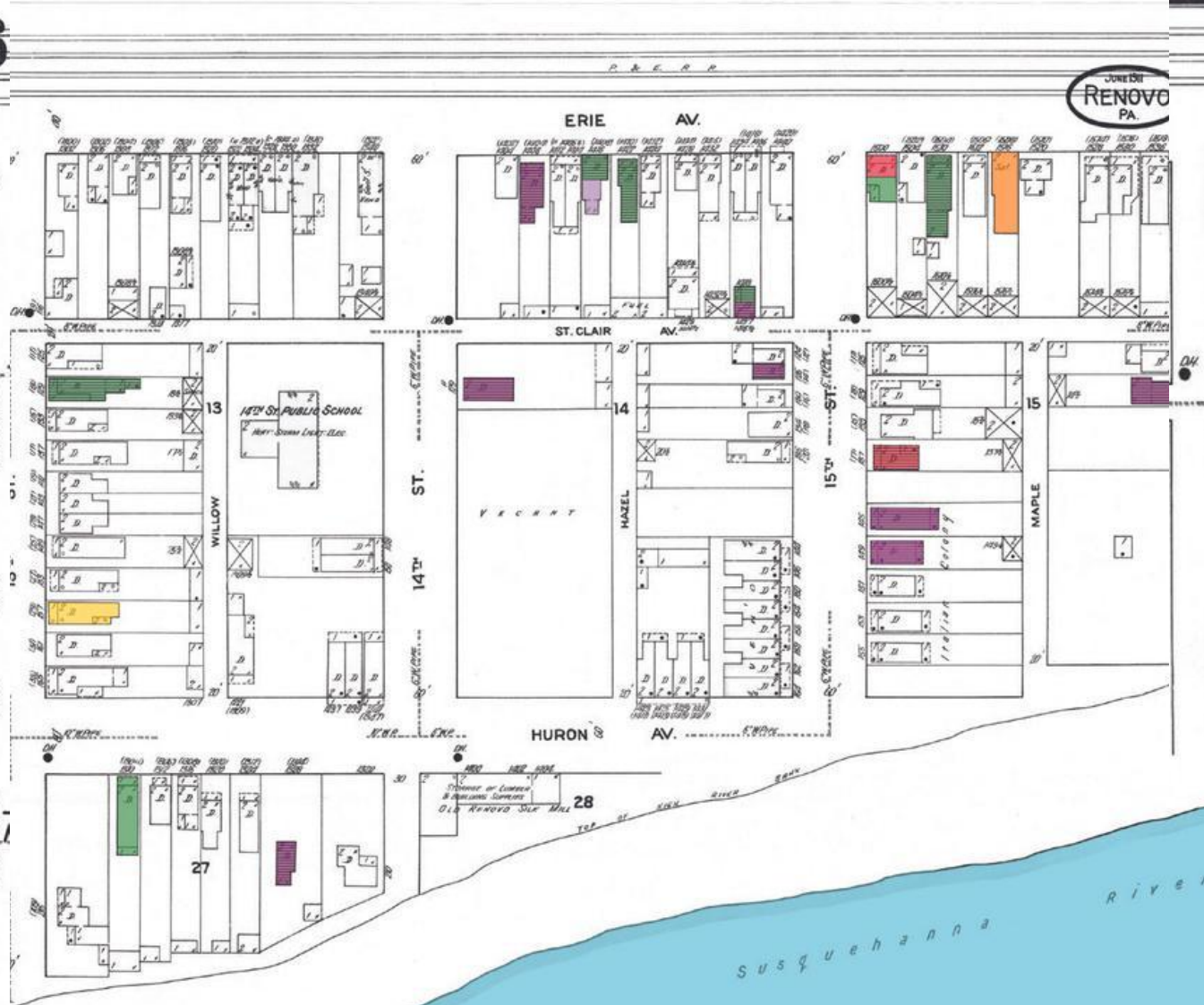
- 1900 Census, Renovo, Clinton County:
 - Around 52, lives on 8th Street with wife Margaret (45), son Frank (24), son Michael (18), daughter Margaret/Maggie (15), daughter Annie (formerly Julia?) (11)
 - Naturalized, lived in US 24 years, owned home, occupation was landlord.
- 1910 Census Renovo, Clinton County:
 - 61, lived at 153 8th Street, with wife Margaret, son Frank (33), daughter Margaret (24), daughter Annie (19)
- 1914 died of pneumonia, about age 66. Buried at St. Joe's















Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
| Italy | Canada |
| Ireland | England |
| Sweden | Russia |
| Austria | Scotland |
| Germany | Wales |
| Hungary | Railroad Employee |

3rd - 10th Streets, Renovo Borough, 1911



Legend

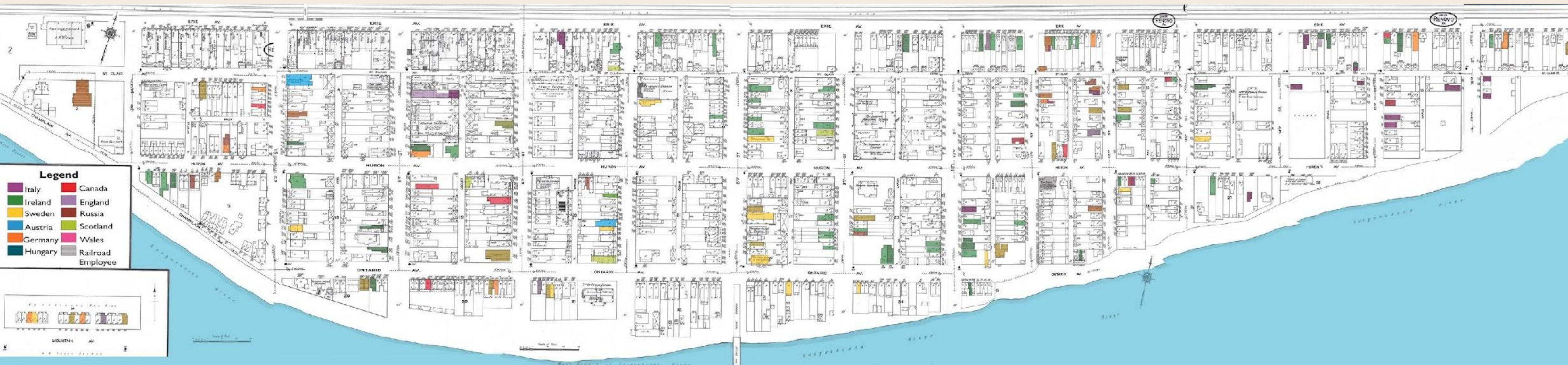
- | | |
|---|---|
|  Italy |  Canada |
|  Ireland |  England |
|  Sweden |  Russia |
|  Austria |  Scotland |
|  Germany |  Wales |
|  Hungary |  Railroad Employee |

Scan the code to download the original essay.



10th - 17th Streets, Renovo Borough, 1911

Interactive Map of Irish Immigrants in Renovo, 1910/1911



Visit bit.ly/1911RenovoMap to view details.

Genealogy Resources

- **Local libraries**
 - Historical newspapers, obituaries
 - Access to genealogical websites and local history books
 - Helpful librarians!
- Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park
- Genealogical Society
- Digitized historical books and documents
 - [Archive.org](https://www.archive.org/) (Internet Archive)
 - [National Archives Census website](https://www.ancestry.com/census) - 1790 - 1950
 - [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (subscription) or [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) (free)
 - Google News Archive Search -

References

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1910.



Thank you!

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