Irish in the U.S. in the 19th Century
Immigration to America

Sheet music cover image, 1848
Close-knit Communities & Prejudice

Sketch depicting a family in the Five Points neighborhood in New York, 1873
Anti-Catholicism & Nativism

Nativist print depicting a Know-Nothing figure

Painting depicting a violent anti-Catholic riot in Maine in 1854
Central Historical Question: Were the Irish considered “white” in the United States in the 19th century?
Saxon, seemingly used interchangeably with Anglo-Saxon in this passage, is being used as a classification for a white person of English descent.

Celt in this passage is being used as a classification of an Irish person.

During the late nineteenth century, terms like Saxon and Anglo-Saxon were sometimes used as racial labels to contest the whiteness of other European ethnic groups and exclude them for various political and cultural reasons. The term Celt was often employed by nativists to racially distinguish themselves from Irish immigrants.
THE IRISH DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THAT WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH.
Central Historical Question:

Were the Irish considered “white” in the United States in the 19th century?