



While some displaced families could only find shelter by digging a Scalp (a hole in the Earth or a bog), others - more fortunate, by far - created a home (called a Scalpeen) within abandoned (or ruined) houses.

As reported in the December 15, 1849 issue of *The Illustrated London News*:

*A Scalpeen is a hole, too, but the roof above it is rather loftier and grander in its dimensions. It is often erected within the walls when any are left standing, of the unroofed houses, and all that is above the surface is built out of the old materials. It possesses, too, some pieces of furniture, and the Scalpeen is altogether superior to the Scalp.*

Credits:

Image, and quoted passage, from "Conditions of Ireland: Illustrations of the New Poor-Law," [an article](#) from the December 15, 1849 issue of *The Illustrated London News*. Online, courtesy [Claire County Library](#) in Ennis (County Claire), Ireland.

PD

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Potato-Famine-What-is-a-Scalpeen-0>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Potato-Famine-What-is-a-Scalpeen-0>

## Media Stream



### Potato Famine - What is a Scalpeen?

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>