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**Loughrea Poor Law Union,  
Board of Guardian Minutes**

**1839 – 1922**

**Archive Collection**

**GPL2/**

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# LOUGHREA POOR LAW UNION, BOARD OF GUARDIAN MINUTES, 1839-1922

## ARCHIVE COLLECTION

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First produced 2019

**Produced by**

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Island House

Cathedral Square

Galway

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'The Guardians of this Union are men deeply interested in protecting the funds of the Union, and altho' anxious in this season of misery and want to relieve destitution as much as possible, are not likely to admit persons who are not destitute, neither is this Workhouse, filled as it is with fever and other disease, a place into which admission is likely to be sought by any human being, who was not in a state of utter destitution...'

(4 December 1847, GPL2/4, p70)

## CONTENT & STRUCTURE

	Page No.
<b>Scope and Content</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Poor Law Unions</b>	<b>v</b>
Loughrea Poor Law Union – Biographical Notes	vii
Arrangement	xiii
Related Collections	xv
Further Reference	xvii
Appendices	xxi
1. List of Some of the Workhouse Staff	xxii
2. List of some of the Members of the Board of Guardians	xxix
3. Electoral Divisions covered by Loughrea Poor Law Union	xxxi
4. Recorded Number of Inmates Resident and	xxxii
Deaths in the Workhouse	xxxii
5. Abbreviations	xl
<b>MINUTES OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS MEETINGS, 1839-1922</b>	<b>1</b>

## Scope and Content

This collection of Loughrea Poor Law Union archives consists of 102 Board of Guardian minutes books, some of which are rough minutes. The collection has been assigned the archival code of GPL2/.

### Poor Law Unions

The poor law act for the '*more effectual Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland*' was introduced to Ireland by the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1838 and operated until 1925. The Poor Law system was originally constituted for the sole purpose of relieving paupers in workhouses, but by the 1880's had gathered to itself a great variety of powers. George Wilkinson, Architect, designed the workhouses.

Under the Act the country was divided at first into 130, later increased to 163, different poor law union administrative districts, each of which had a workhouse, financed by poor rates paid mostly by landowners. The Union areas in Ireland were formed by describing an area of ten miles radius around each market town. Initially the Act did not permit outdoor relief; assistance and relief to the destitute poor was granted only in a workhouse. However, by 1847 outdoor relief was granted.

Each Union was under the close supervision and control of a central governing body. Prior to 1847 the English Poor Law Commission had responsibility for the administration of the poor law in Ireland, thereafter a separate Poor Law Commission for Ireland was established. Its membership comprised of the Irish Chief Secretary, the Under-Secretary, and the Chief Commissioner. Assistant Commissioners, inspectors and clerks staffed it, and it supervised the election and proceedings of Board of Guardians. The Commission was abolished in 1872, and its functions were transferred to the Local Government Board. This Board was composed of the Irish Chief Secretary, the Under-Secretary, a Vice President and two commissioners. It took over responsibility for supervising the administration of the poor law system and public health legislation. The Board had a staff of regional inspectors and auditors to supervise and report on the activities of poor law guardians and other local authorities<sup>1</sup>.

A Board of Guardians, consisting of two thirds elected and one-third *ex-officio* members, had direct responsibility for the administration of the union workhouses. The Guardians

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<sup>1</sup> S.J. Connolly, (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*, Oxford University Press, 1998.

were generally local magistrates, landlords and the better class of farmers. Roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Board's members ( $\frac{1}{2}$  after 1847) were appointed from among the Justices of the Peace holding land within the Union. The remaining members of the Board were elected by the ratepayers whose holding was valued at £4 or over. The position was unpaid. Every ratepayer had at least one vote, and the number of votes increased according to valuation and other conditions in a most complex manner. The owners of property had similarly plural votes, the general maximum being six. Lists of Guardians are often found in various contemporary directories such as Slaters or Pigots or may often be found in local contemporary newspapers.

The Board regulated, ratified and controlled, subject to approval from the central governing body, all aspects of Union administration. The Board was financed by the collection of rates, a property tax which funded a Union's operations. The poor law rate was until 1898 decided by the Guardians, thereafter the rate was struck by the newly established County Councils.

The Board was also responsible for the erection, maintenance and administration of a workhouse. In addition to providing directly for the poor and the day to day administration of the workhouse, the poor law guardians gradually accumulated further responsibilities. The Guardians became overtime 'the public sewer-makers<sup>2</sup>, the custodians of burial grounds and wells, the constructors of waterworks<sup>3</sup> the proprietors of dwellings for labourers, the executors of compulsory vaccination laws, and the laws relating to the sanitation of dwellings and public nuisances, and the repositories of a number of other powers down to the muzzling of dogs and the slaughtering of diseased animals<sup>4</sup>.

For instance, in the early 1850's, under the Medical Charities Act of 1851, they were responsible for the provision and management of dispensaries to provide free medical attendance for the sick poor. From the early 1860's they were responsible for the boarding-out of children, and from 1883 under various Labourers Acts they were responsible for the provision of houses for agricultural labourers. The administration of the sanitary services was re-organised and codified under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts of 1874 and 1878. Under these acts the municipal corporations and town commissioners were appointed sanitary authorities for the larger urban areas and Boards of Guardians became the sanitary authorities for the rural areas and smaller towns.

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<sup>2</sup> In Loughrea town, and Athenry in circa late 1870s – with approval requested for a loan of £3,000 for Loughrea sewerage works, £350 for Athenry, £400 for Woodford (GPL2/50, 21 Feb 188, f145)

<sup>3</sup> For example sinking a well in Greethill in 1880

<sup>4</sup> Muldoon, J. & McSweeney, G., *A Guide to Irish Local Government Comprising an Account of the Law Relating to the Local Government of Counties, Cities and Districts, with a Full Explanation of the Act of 1898*, Eason & Son, Ltd., Dublin 1898



Under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 county councils and rural district councils were established. The poor law guardians were also the rural district Councillors; the same individuals but working in a separate capacity. From 1898 the Boards of Guardians were 'restricted to poor relief and dispensary district work and were relieved of their power to strike a poor rate'<sup>5</sup>. The district councils were granted responsibility for the Unions' functions relating to housing and sanitary services. These functions were in turn transferred to council councils in 1925 following the dissolution of rural district councils under the Local Government Act of that year.

When the Poor Law was abolished in 1925 the Guardians remaining functions were transferred to county councils, and administered through Boards of Health and Public Assistance. These Boards were established by County Councils in counties outside of Dublin under the Local Government Act, 1925 to operate as executive committees of the county council to perform health, sanitary and housing functions, assuming responsibility for administering measures against infectious diseases and tuberculosis, sanitary arrangements, labourers' cottages schemes, water and sewerage schemes and school medical services in small towns and villages. The Boards were abolished in 1942 and their functions taken over by the County Council. The workhouses were replaced by a system of county homes for the old and infirm and hospitals for the sick. Outdoor relief was replaced by home assistance.

There were ten workhouses in county Galway. Those at Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway, Gort, Loughrea, and Tuam were established in the 1840's. The Unions at Glenamaddy, Mountbellew, Oughterard and Portumna were established in 1852.

Galway County Council Archives holds some archives, mainly Board of Guardian minutes, from all Unions except Oughterard, and only one item for Portumna Union.

## **Loughrea Poor Law Union – Biographical Notes**

The Lough Board of Guardians held its first meeting in the Court House in Loughrea on 11 October 1839. It admitted its first inmates on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1842.<sup>6</sup>

Sir John Burke was elected Chairman and Denis Daly Vice Chairman. John Smyth was elected Clerk.

<sup>5</sup> Meghen, P. J., *The Development of Irish Local Government*, in Administration Vol.8., No.4 Winter 1960, p339

<sup>6</sup> 25 Feb 1842, GPL2/1,

Its original capacity was for 800 inmates<sup>7</sup>. But by early 1849 the Union had accommodation in its various additional workhouses, fever hospital and so on for 2,900 paupers.

It had additional accommodation, during the time of the famine, at the Brewery auxiliary workhouse, Mount Pleasant, a house in Bride Street in Loughrea (rented from Mr Cowen for £50 per annum, *'with power to surrender same by giving 6 months' notice'* (GPL2/6, p249), and a house in Monivea (Jan 1849, p338). *'Brewery House & concerns'* were leased from Mr Callanan at a yearly rent of £250, and was expected to accommodate 920 paupers (12 Feb 1848, GPL2/4, p189). There was also a temporary hospital at Portumna.

In August 1850 the houses at Bride Street and O'Brien's House were *'given up and the officers discharged'* (GPL2/9, p85). In November 1850 the Board agreed to *'take the House in Barrack Street, (recently held by use from Mr Thomas Burke) for one year from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1850 to the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1851 for the sum of twenty pounds to that date, and that we do further agree to take the House in Barrack Street, from Mr Robert Power for one year from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 1850 to the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1851 for the sum of seven pounds to that date'* (GPL2/9, p207) for use as auxiliary workhouses. In February 1851 the Board renewed its lease on the Brewery Auxiliary Workhouse from Mr Callanan for 12 months at a reduced rate of £140 per annual (GPL2/9, p337)

The population in the Loughrea Union area in 1841 was 71,744, and in 1861 is recorded as 29,139, and in 1871 it was recorded as 26,402.

Expenditure on out-door relief is recorded. For instances, the minutes of 1848 recorded that for week ending 22 July 1849, £232.4.10 was spent (GPL2/5, p279)

In February 1848 the Board received a Sealed Order from the PLC *'dissolving the Board of Guardians'* (GPL2/4, p196). As the Board had no prior indication of this step it considered *'this step upon the part of the Commissioners as discourteous, offensive and unwarranted, because we have afforded relief to all who have applied for it, procured Houses for the reception of 1,200 additional paupers, imposed a three shilling rate, collected a great portion of it, and we have proposed to afford extensively relief to the really destitute, tho' opposed to indiscriminate outdoor relief. This arbitrary proceeding upon the part of the Commissioners against this Board of Guardians, who are composed of men deeply interested for the Union, its poor, and its ratepayers, and who when the rates could not be collected advanced funds to sustain the workhouse, is calculated to diminish any confidence which the right minded and well disposed might have henceforth placed in the administration of the Poor Law'* (GPL2/4, pp197-8).

<sup>7</sup> O'Connor, John The Workhouses of Ireland The Fate of Ireland's Poor, Anvil Books, Dublin, 1995

Paid Guardians, George Rawson Richards and Terence Brodie, attended at the subsequent meetings.

Outdoor relief was discontinued in September 1849 (GPL2/7, p287). At the time there were 1,713 inmates in the workhouse and there had been 19 deaths during weekending 15<sup>th</sup> September 1849, and 227 people in receipt of outdoor relief.

### Distress

The number of inmates in the workhouse at the end of weekending 7 November 1846 was 308, with no deaths. However, later that month, the minutes for 28 November 1846 record that *'There being a hundred applications today from the several Electoral Divisions and a pressure on the house to the number of 500, it would be advisable for the Guardians to attend early and punctually every day for sake of all the interests involved'* (GPL2/4, 28 Nov 1846, p8). By weekending 5<sup>th</sup> December 1846, the number in the workhouse was 434, with two deaths. The Medical Officer reported the death of a child of 3 months from 'marasmus'<sup>8</sup> (GPL2/4, 12 Dec 1846, p5). On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1846 he reported the death of 5 young children from marasmus.

In November 1847, with 640 inmates in the workhouse, the Master advised that as the number of admissions *'in all probability may continued to increase same as the last few weeks'* additional materials, such as blankets, calico, shoes and thread would be required (GPL2/4, 27 Nov 1847). By weekending 15 January 1848 there were 931 inmates in the workhouse, and by 19 February 1847, with 53 deaths that week. At the around this time temporary hospitals were proposed to be erected in the electoral divisions of Athenry and Clonkeen.

In December 1847 defending a charge of admitting 3 individuals into the workhouse who were not destitute, the Guardians outlined the facts thus, *'Thomas Fahy, one of the three abandoned a mountain holding which he held at the yearly rent of £4.4.0., of which only one rood was in cultivation, and was provisionally admitted upon the recommendation of the Parochial Clergyman, in a state of starvation, and died the next day of exhaustion.*

*Michael Larkin, the second, held a small mountain farm at the yearly rent of £1.2.0., and was in a state of great destitution, and is now with his family in fever in the House.*

*The third person, James Mannion, held a mountain farm at £2.4.4., which he abandoned and appeared in great destitution, the Guardians regret to say that at the instance of the*

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<sup>8</sup> Marasmus is caused by a severe deficiency of nearly all nutrients, especially protein and carbohydrates

*Poor Law Inspector (William Burke) they discharged this family, who are since in Fever and in a state of awful destitution'* (4 Dec 1847, GPL2/4, p70).

The Board was also under instruction at this time to appoint six relieving officers to the Union, and also after many delays finally struck a rate.

At its meeting of 22 January 1848 the minutes note that as the '*present state of the Workhouse is such as not to afford sufficient accommodation for the amount of destitute to which the poor are becoming daily now exposed, he (Guardian, William Tully), will on Saturday next [raise] that outdoor relief be extended to the classes contemplated by the 1<sup>st</sup> Section of the Poor Law Amendment Act*' (GPL2/4, p148). However, at its meeting of 8 February the Board resolved that it '*could not give outdoor relief till we obtain the Sealed Order of the Commissioners and that having failed to procure the necessary buildings to enable us to give sufficient indoor relief, owing to the objections made by Doctor Phelan to the one we are had taken, we are of opinion that Mr Conan's house taken by us on the first January last should be occupied by the female children now in the workhouse, as originally intended and that the objection made by Doctor Phelan to this building appears to the Guardians not well founded...*' (GPL2/4, p179). The Guardians also, at this time, ordered the Master to make lists of all those in the workhouse who might be entitled to outdoor relief.

## Assisted emigration

Loughrea Union participated in various schemes of assisted emigration<sup>9</sup>, on a number of occasions, for orphan girls, generally to Australia.

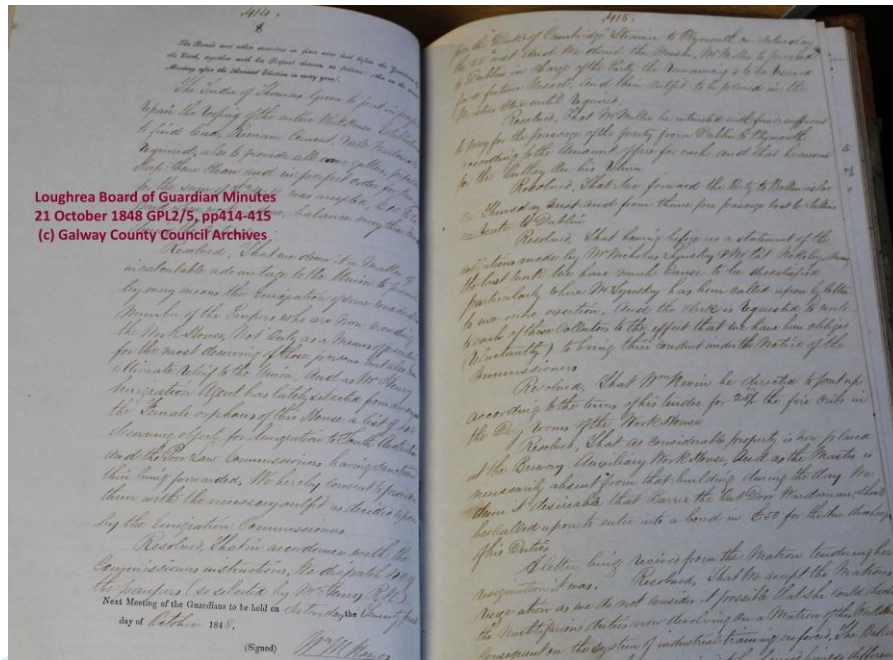
For instance, in 1848 the 'despatched' 40 female orphans to Australia (21 Oct 1848, p208-09). Girls from Ballinasloe Union also travelled with them, first via canal, and then train prior to taking the boat to Plymouth prior to the journey to South Australia (GPL2/5, pp414-415)

The Guardians, '*Resolved: That in accordance with the Commissioners instructions we dispatch 40 of the paupers (so selected by Mr Henry R. N.) per the "Duke of Cambridge" steam to Plymouth on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> inst., and we direct the Master (Mr Miller) to proceed to Dublin in charge of the party, the remaining 8 to be reserved for a future vessel and their outfit to be placed in the Master's store until required*' (p416, 21 Oct 1848).

<sup>9</sup> Schemes were generally organised by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners (CLEC) in London

£46.0.11 is recorded as been spent on clothing for the emigrants (28 Oct 1848, p214 – rough Minutes), with another £52 for the travelling expenses of the Master, Mr Miller, who accompanied the girls to Plymouth, and the emigrants, with another £10 given to Mr Miller shortly afterwards (p291).

Girls from Loughrea also travelled on the *Inchinnan* to Sydney



Extract from *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade*, 17 Feb 1849 - Page 44@

**February 13.—Inchinnan, barque, 565 tons, Captain Pearce, from Plymouth the 4th November, with 185 immigrants, Dr. Ramsay, Surgeon-Superintendent. Passengers — Mr. Cradock, Mr. Staples, Miss Burney, Mrs. Ramsay and child.**

In October 1849 25 female orphans were selected for emigration. They went to Dublin via Ballinasloe and the Master, Mr McDonnell, was directed to accompany them. From Dublin they would depart for Plymouth (GPL2/7, p328)



## Disease

There were several instances of **Smallpox** in the Athenry district in 1875. Sanitary Sub-officer, Lally reported on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1875 that he had ordered 45½ barrels of lime, for lime washing, for distribution in Athenry town.

In April the Guardians issued a strongly worded resolution condemning the action of its Athenry Dispensary doctor, Dr Leonard in sending a small pox case to Loughrea Workhouse without prior warning, it stated *'We the Board of Guardians assembled this day, at the Loughrea Workhouse cannot separate without expressing our strong disapprobation of the conduct of the Athenry Dispensary Doctor, Dr Leonard, in forwarding without any previous intimation, a small pox case in the day time from Athenry to Loughrea a distance of nine miles, the van in which the patient was borne arriving in the town of Loughrea a little after 5. o'clock pm. When the streets were crowded, being Market day, which caused great consternation and dismay to the inhabitants of the District hitherto perfectly free from such disease'* (17 April 1875, f125).

At the time Dr Leonard asked the Board, due to the prevalence of the disease in the town, to provide Hospital accommodation in Athenry (17 April 1875, f127, GPL2/43), following on from which the Board they ordered that a temporary Hospital be set up in Athenry (17 April 1875, f128).

Following the death of a man from the disease in the Coolaugh district, the Sanitary Sub-officer, Lally, reported in September that year that *'...a good number of the Houses there are lime-washed and any that were not warned, the occupiers to do so at once, which they accordingly promised. The widow and children of the deceased have been supplied with plenty of new clothes and bedding, the clothing in the House having been burned as a precaution against the spread of the disease. He did not relieve the parties as the widow stated she required no assistance from him...'* (GPL2/44, 11 September 1875, p55).

Dr Leonard the Medical Officer, reported to the Board of Guardians on 18<sup>th</sup> September advising that *'he is glad to observe that Athenry is now more free from sickness that it had been in his experience and that as all have passed thro a long and terrible trial, he trusts the Guardians are satisfied with the manner in which he has discharged his duties during the trying ordeal, that he has taken stock of the Articles in the Hospital a list of which he would be to enclose'* (GPL2/44, 18 September 1875, f66).

The Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1923<sup>10</sup> in relation to the abolishment of offices, states:

- As from the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1921, all Offices under the Poor Law Guardians of the Unions of Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway, Glenamaddy, Gort, Loughrea, Mountbellew, Oughterard, Portumna, and Tuam, with the exception of the Offices mentioned in Clause 8 of this scheme shall be abolished, and the Boards of Guardians of the Unions mentioned shall, as from the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1921, cease to function.

Under the "County Scheme" introduced by Galway County Council (i.e. scheme prepared under or in accordance with the 1923 Act by the Council of a County for the administration of the relief of the poor in that County) which included the amalgamation of Unions, 206 officials employed in the Unions in the county were dispensed with. The Union Masters, Clerks, Matrons and other staff received pensions or gratuities<sup>11</sup>.

### Arrangement

This collection consists of one category of records, minutes of the Board of Guardians.

The item reference number (e.g. GPL2/55) should be used in full when citing documents or records, and each reference cited should be preceded by the initials GCCA (Galway County Council Archives, e.g. GCCA GPL2/40).

Rough Minutes have generally been assigned the letter A e.g. GPL2/1A, and the master minutes the letter B.

The collection gives an example of the various aspects of the early administration of the workhouse and union district of Loughrea. It should be of interest to administrative, social, medical, and local historians.

The extracts from the Minute books listed herewith are intended as a representation of the proceedings. The purpose of their inclusion is to give the reader an indication of the Guardians' areas of concern and responsibility. It is hoped that the extracts will clearly and fairly reflect their work and involvement with the administration of the workhouse, dispensaries and Union area.

Overall the collection is in fair condition. The minutes are recorded in bound volumes, on good quality paper, but the bindings are damaged with the result some pages are loose.

<sup>10</sup> The electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB), [http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1923/sro/917/made/en/print?q=workhouse&years=1920-1926&search\\_type=all](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1923/sro/917/made/en/print?q=workhouse&years=1920-1926&search_type=all)

<sup>11</sup> See the Connacht Tribune 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1921 for details of the Ballinasloe employees who received payments

Six volumes<sup>12</sup> received extensive conservation treatment in 2019. A further three volumes were reviewed for conservation at that time but are so badly damaged that it was deemed uneconomical to repair them<sup>13</sup>.

In 2020 the first 13 volumes of the collection dating from 1839-1852, were digitised by Mallon Technology, Co. Tyrone. In 2021 volumes GPL2/13-34, for 1852-1868 were digitised by DPI, Youghal, Co. Galway.

In 2025 volumes GPL2/35-85 (1868-1899) were digitised by Mallon Technology, Co. Tyrone. To enhance searchability handwritten text recognition was applied to these volumes, using Transkribus. To search for a word / name, use Control F (to find) and insert the required word in the pop-up search. The digitisation was grant aided by a Heritage Council Heritage Stewardship Funding grant 2025.

**Patria McWalter**  
Archivist

<sup>12</sup> These are 1839 - Vol. 1; 1843 - Vol. 2; 1846 - Vol. 10; Oct– Nov 1856, Vol. 19; Feb – Aug 1894: Vol. 76; and May – Nov 1896, Vol. 80.

<sup>13</sup> These are these are Sept 1894 – Mar 1895 (Vol. 77); Mar 1895 – Oct 1895. (Vol 78), and Nov 1895 – April 1896 (Vol. 79) – they are placed in phase boxes.



## Related Collections

Records held by James Hardiman Library Archives:

- Broderick, Prison Diary of Peter<sup>14</sup>, 1881 -1882, POL21

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/
- Loughrea Rural District Council, G01/8
- Loughrea Waterworks & Sewerage Committee Minutes, GS01/11 (1903-1933)

Records held at the National Archives of Ireland (NAI):

- Relief Commission Papers (NAI RLFC) (A copy of certain papers (1845-'47) pertaining to County Galway is available at Galway County Libraries, Island House)
- Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers (NAI CSO) (see partial on-line catalogue at <http://www.csorp.nationalarchives.ie/>)
- Transportation Registers (NAI GPO TR)
- Office of Public Works, OPW (Contains files relating to relief works, roads, bridges & piers, etc.)
- Congested Districts Board (Baseline Reports for Co. Galway 1894 are available on microfilm at Galway County Libraries, Island House)
- Orders made by Poor Law Commissioners and Local Government Board, 1839 - 1921
- Loughrea Poor Law Union National School, County Galway, male & female, ED/1/34/13, 03 Apr 1842-28 Apr 1842, roll number 03366.1 application; 4pp
- Files of Dáil Éireann Department of Local Government, 1919 - 1923.

**National Library of Ireland:**

- British Parliamentary Papers, *Accounts and Papers. Relief of Distress and Union Workhouses (Ireland)*. (Galway County Library has some of these also, and some are accessible on-line on the Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland (EPPI) website at <http://www.dippam.ac.uk/>)

**Dublin City Library & Archives**

- The Mansion House Relief Committee, 1880, Ch/1

<sup>14</sup> A member of the BG, from Athenry. He was arrested under the 'Inciting to Boycotting' Act and placed in initially Galway Jail, and served a 10 month sentence in Kilmainham Prison

### House of Commons, London

- *Report of Dr. Brodie, Poor Law Inspector, on the condition of the western districts of Galway, 1861.* HMSO, 1864. In Parliamentary Papers, Session 1864, Vol. LIII, p.59. House of Commons papers. 1864; 237 : Parliamentary Papers are available on-line at <http://www.dippam.ac.uk/> & are also available at the James Hardiman Library, NUI, Galway
- *Papers relating to proceedings for relief of distress, and state of unions and workhouses in Ireland, 1848* (See [http://eppi.dippam.ac.uk/documents/12269/eppi\\_pages/295713](http://eppi.dippam.ac.uk/documents/12269/eppi_pages/295713), Jun 2013).

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## National Archives, UK

- Poor Law Commission records, 1847-52, Ref: T 64/367-370

## Further Reference

Useful WWW sites

[www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)

[http://www.askaboutireland.ie/show\\_narrative\\_page.do?page\\_id=1900](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/show_narrative_page.do?page_id=1900) Ask About Ireland site, with section on the Poor Law Union

Tithe Applotment Books of Co. Galway, (1823-'37)  
(copies available at Galway County Libraries, Island House)

*The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland*  
Dublin, London and Edinburgh, A. Fullarton & Co. 1884

*Transactions of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends During the Famine in Ireland in 1846 and 1847*, with an index by Goodbody, Rob, and published by Edmund Burke, Publisher, Blackrock, co. Dublin, 1996

[Select Committee of the House of Lords appointed to inquire into the operation of the Irish Poor Law](#), various annual reports

Commissioners for Administering Laws for Relief of Poor in Ireland: third annual report with appendices and other records available on the Dippam (Documenting Ireland: Parliament, People and Migration) website – an online virtual archive of documents and sources relating to Ireland and its migration experience. See for instance <http://www.dippam.ac.uk/eppi/documents/12752/page/322958>,

Irish Famine Orphans, Database, Australia  
<https://irishfaminememorial.org/orphans/>

Nicholson, Asenath, *Annals of the Famine in Ireland*  
Ed. by Maureen Murphy, The Lulliput Press Ltd., Dublin, 1998

Barrington, T J *The Irish Administrative System*  
Dublin, 1980

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Dublin, 1987

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 Geography Publication, Dublin, 2004
- Daly, Mary              The Famine in Ireland, Dundalk, 1989
- Edwards, R Dudley, &      *The Great Famine: studies in Irish History 1845-52*  
 Williams, T.D. (eds.)      Dublin, 1956
- Feingold, W.L.              *Transformation of Local Government in Ireland 1782-1886*,  
 Boston, 1984
- Ferriter, Diarmaid,        *'Lovers of Liberty'? Local Government in 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland*  
 Dublin 2001
- Loughrea Arts & Historical Society Journal Vol. III, 2001  
 (articles on The Famine 1845-1850 / Poor Law Union and  
 Workhouse)
- Glazier, I., ed.              *The Famine Immigrants. List of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the*  
*Port of New York 1846-1851*  
 1985
- Glazier, I., ed.              *The Famine Immigrants. List of Irish Immigrants Arriving*  
*at the Port of New York 1846-1851*, 1985
- Kavangh, M.                *Galway – Gaillimh A Bibliography of the City and County*  
 Galway County Council, Galway 2000
- Kinealy, Christine        *'The Response of the Poor Law to the Great Famine in*  
*County Galway' in Galway History & Society*, ed. Moran,  
 G. & Gillespie, R., Geography Publications, Dublin, 1996
- Lally, Stephen              *The Leaving of Loughrea: an Irish Family in the Great Famine*, 2013
- Lohan, Rena                *Guide to the Archives of the Office of the Public Works*  
 The Stationery Office, Dublin, 1994
- McClaughlin, Trevor      Barefoot and Pregnant? Irish Famine Orphans in Australia  
 Australia, 1993
- Meghen, P J                *The Development of Irish Local Government*  
 in Administration Vol.8., No.4, Winter 1960
- Moran, Gerard &        *Galway History and Society*,  
 Raymond Gillespie, ed.      Geography Publications, Dublin 1996
- Murray, P James          *Galway : A Medico Social History*  
 Kenny's Bookshop & Art Galleries Ltd., Galway, c 1996

Muldoon, John & McSweeney, George	<i>A Guide to Irish Local Government Comprising an Account of the Law Relating to the Local Government of Counties, Cities and Districts, with a Full Explanation of the Act of 1898</i> Eason & Son, Ltd., Dublin 1898
Nicholls, George	<i>History of the Poor Laws in Ireland</i> , London, 1856
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O'Connor, John	<i>The Workhouses of Ireland The Fate of Ireland's Poor</i> Anvil Books, Dublin, 1995
O'Keefe, B E, ed.	<i>The Search for Missing Friends, Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in the Boston Pilot, Vol. I – VIII</i> New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, 1996
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Reid, Richard & Johnson, Keith eds.	<i>The Irish Australians, The Irish Emigrant, Selected Articles for Australian and Irish Family Historians</i> Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney, Australia, 1984
Reid, Richard Mongan, Cheryl	'a decent set of girls' <i>The Irish Famine Orphans of the 'Thomas Arbuthnot' 1848 – 1850</i> Yass Heritage Project, Yass, NSW, Australia, 1996
Roche, Desmond	<i>Local Government in Ireland</i> Institute of Public Administration, Dublin 1982
Smith, Cecil Woodham	' <i>The Great Hunger</i> ', London, 1962
Spellissy, Sean	<i>History of Galway</i> , Celtic Bookshop, Limerick (c.1999)

## Legislation

- Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1838
- Medical Charities Act, 1851
- Poor Law Amendment Act, 1862 (granted BGs right to place children p to age 5 out to nurse)
- Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1874, 1878
- Pauper Children (Ireland) Act, 1898, amended 1902: (gave boards power to assume control of orphaned or deserted children without the requirement of sanction from the Local Government Board – power to send children to nearby schools outside of the workhouse, and authority to hire out children over the age of twelve)
- Labourers Acts, 1883-1936
- Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898

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# Appendices

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Appendix 1

## 1. List of Some of the Workhouse Staff

### Clerk of the Union

Smyth, John	1839 <sup>15</sup>	
Moloney, Michael	1845? -1847	(resigned, 'being about to leave this country' 20 Nov 1847, p49)
Coffey, Ferdinand	Dec 1847 -	
Hayes, William	1848 <sup>16</sup> -	
Newman, Philip	1859?	
Egan, Patrick (1837-1905) <sup>17</sup>	1869 - 1899 at least?	
Conway, L <sup>18</sup>	1901? -	

### Egan – dearth cert

1905 1908	1905 1908	1905 1908	1905 1908	1905 1908	1905 1908	1905 1908	1905 1908	1905 1908	1905 1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908

### Conway – 1901 census

**CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.**  
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

**FORM A.**

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st MARCH 1901.

NAME and SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH.
1. Winifred Conway	Head of Family.	Roman Catholic	Read & write	60	F	Farmer	Widow	Co. Galway	Irish
2. Thomas Conway	Son	"	Read & write	34	M	Farmer's Son	Not Married	Co. Galway	Irish
3. John Conway	Son	"	Read & write	32	M	Farmer's Son	Not Married	Co. Galway	Irish
4. Laurence Conway	Son	"	Read & write	28	M	Farmer's Son	Not Married	Co. Galway	Irish
5. Michael Conway	Son	"	Read & write	26	M	Farmer's Son	Not Married	Co. Galway	Irish
6. Winifred Conway	Daughter	"	Read & write	24	F	Farmer's Daughter	Not Married	Co. Galway	Irish

<sup>15</sup> Elected at Guardian's first meeting Oct 1839, GPL2/1, p4

<sup>16</sup> 15 Jul 1848, GPL2/5, p271

<sup>17</sup> 1901 Census indicates he was originally from Mayo, lived in Barrack Street, Loughrea and was married to Clare (1851-?), and they at least 4 daughters, Annie (1873-), Mary Kate (1878-), Clare (1881-), and Lizzie (1888-) and a son Patrick (1881-). Died 18 Feb 1905

<sup>18</sup> Possibly Laurence, born 1881



**Assistant Master**

Barren, William	1848 <sup>19</sup> -
Hood, Martin	1849?

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<sup>19</sup> Appointed at a salary of £25 pa, officer's rations and apartments (GPL2/5, 4 Mar 1848, p15)

## Master

Gilhooley, James	1841- April 1846	(resigned GPL2/2, p330)
O'Brien, Patrick	1846 <sup>20</sup> – 1848	(‘...duties were at present too arduous for one person he begged to tender his resignation’. 28 Feb 1848)
Miller, John	1848? –	
O'Donnell, John	1849?	
Hood, Martin	[1850] -	
Spelman, Patrick	1859?	
McKeigue, Timothy	1870? –	
<a href="#">John Kearney</a>	? 1881? – 1883 (April)	
James [Frederick] McKenna	May 1883 <sup>21</sup> – Nov 1889 <sup>22</sup>	
Keary, Patrick	Nov 1889 <sup>23</sup> -	
Monaghan, Edward	1894? - +1898 <sup>24</sup>	
Killeen, T.B	? - + 1919 (as per LTC1/4, 17 November 1919)	

## Assistant Master

McKeon, Michael

## Matron

Gilhooley, Mrs Honoria	1841 <sup>25</sup> -	(wife of Master)
Nelson, Eleanor	1846 <sup>26</sup> - Apr 1846	(died of fever, GPL2/2, p330)
Murphy, Mrs Anne	1846 <sup>27</sup> - 1848	(Resigned, 21 Oct 1848, p413)
Miller, Anne,	Feb 1849 - ?	(Master's wife)
Moran, C		(there in 1850?, see GPL2/9, p118)
Young, Margaret? A	1870?	
Killeen, Mrs Marie J.	(1918 at least?)- 1925?	

## Assistant Matron

Kelly, Miss Ellen	? - 1850?	[ill ; 10 Aug 1850?]
Walker, Mrs	1850 -	(the apt Matron of the Barrack St house be removed to the Main house', 10 Aug 1850 to replace Miss Kelly)
Saul, Mrs	1850?	(there in 1850, GPL2/9, p118)

<sup>20</sup> Elected Master Ma 1846, GPL2/2, p336

<sup>21</sup> See minutes 12/05/1883 regarding appointment

<sup>22</sup> See minutes 02/11/1889 & 14/12/1889 regarding resignation

<sup>23</sup> See 30/11/1889 and 14 December 1889 regarding his appointment

<sup>24</sup> See GPL2/84, 2 July 1898, p9

<sup>25</sup> Elected Matron at meeting of 12 Oct 1841 (GPL2/1)

<sup>26</sup> Appointed in Jan 1846 at a salary of £25 pa, GPL2/2, 3 Jan 1846, p297

<sup>27</sup> Elected 2 May 1846, GPL2/2, p336

### School Mistress

Moran, Catherine	1848?	
Hayes, Maria	?	(Salary reduced in Sept 1850)
Staunton, Maria	1870?	
Clare, Margaret	? – 1925?	

### School Master

McDavitt, Neil	1846 <sup>28</sup>	
Larkin, Thomas	1847 <sup>29</sup>	
Reynolds, John	Jul 1848 <sup>30</sup> - 1851??	
Whyte, Peter	Feb 1848	(assistant School Master)

### Apothecary

Underwood, Dr	1850 – 187XX???	(1850 for Mount Pleasant Fever Hospital & workhouse, GPL2/9, p107)
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### Workhouse Medical Officer

Lynch, Dr	1848? – Marc 1881 (retired)	(1850 MO for Mount Pleasant Fever Hospital & workhouse, GPL2/9, p107)
O'Donoghoe, Dr	1881-	(elected in place of Dr Lynch)

### Medical Officer, Loughrea District

Lynch, Dr	1848? – Marc 1881 (retired)	(1850 MO for Mount Pleasant Fever Hospital & workhouse, GPL2/9, p107)
McDonnell, Dr Walter	? - 1847	Resigned due to ill health, Apr 1847
Cloran, Dr	1847-	
O'Donoghoe, Dr	1871?-1881	
Ryan, J.F.	1881?	MO of workhouse, so assume also Loughrea district?

### Medical Officer, Bullaun District

Underwood, Dr	1871?	
Geraghty, Dr J.	(181	
Burke, Dr	1880	

<sup>28</sup> Appointed 2 May 1846, GPL2/2, p336

<sup>29</sup> 11 Nov 1847, GPL2/4, p6

<sup>30</sup> 29 Jul 1848, appointed at salary of £25 per annum, GPL2/8, p88

### Medical Officer, Athenry District

Leonard, Dr Henry John Wellington	1871? -1893 <sup>31</sup>	House)
Quinlan, Dr	1918?	

### Medical Officer, Woodford District

#### Porter

Hynes?, John	? – Jan 1848	– resigned following death of his brother from fever
Whyte, Peter	1848 <sup>32, 33</sup>	
Wall, John	1848 <sup>34</sup>	- unable to produce required sureties
Staunton, James	1848 <sup>35</sup>	
Flanagan,	- there in 1850	
Bane, Tom	- there in 1880	
Finnegan, Patrick	- +1893 <sup>36</sup>	
Noonan Patrick	1893 - ?	
Killeen, T.B.	189?- 1898?	(appointed Master in 1898?)
Flynn, M.	(1918)	

#### Loughrea Registrar (Births, Deaths Marriages)

Donoghoe	? – 1888
Sweeney, Peter	1888 -

<sup>31</sup> 1829-28 May 1893, of Athenry House, Athenry, for more see <https://athenryparishheritage.com/dr-henry-john-wellington-leonard/>

<sup>32</sup> Appointed at salary of £12 per annum, officer's rations etc., and a suit of clothes (4 Mar 1848, GPL2/5, p15)

<sup>33</sup> Suspended, See GPL2/5, p273, see also p284

<sup>34</sup> GPL2/5, p297

<sup>35</sup> GPL2/5, p299

<sup>36</sup> GPL2/ 75, p67

## Relieving Officers

### No. 1 Relieving District (Loughrea, Kilmeen, Kilchreest

Coghlan, Michael	Dec 1848 -	
Madden, John	1848? - Dec 1848	- resigned

### No. 2 District (Athenry, Craughwell, Kilconian)

Proctor, William	Dec 1848
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### No. 3 District (Cloonkeen, Killimoredaly and Kiltulla)

Rochfort, Edward	Dec 1848	
Connor, Thomas	1848 –	- dismissed

### No. 4 District (Dooniry, Ieenor & Portuma)

Head, Patrick	Dec 1848
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### No. 5 district (Ballinakill)

Haynes, Michael	Dec 1848
-----------------	----------

### No. 6 District (Kilchrest and Killeenadeen)

Dillon, James	Dec 1848
---------------	----------

Flynn

## Wards Woman

Kelly, Maria	Nov 1847	
Glynn, Mary Ann	1848	(pauper inmate appointed unpaid ward-mistress over knitting and spinning rooms, GPL2/5, p273)
Farrell, Bridget	]	1848 (appointed unpaid assistants to School Mistress, GPL2/5, p273)
Silk, Ellen	]	

## Wards Man

Dermody, John	Nov 1847 –	
Staunton, James	1847?	(at Brewer auxiliary. Appointed porter to Workhouse in Aug 1848)
Hanberry, James		there in 1850

**Wards Master**

Flanagan, John	1848	appointed at salary of £8 pa and suit of clothes (GPL2/5, p275)
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**Protestant Chaplain****Roman Catholic Chaplain**

O'Loughlin, Rev J	1848
Carroll, Rev James	- there in 1880

**House Tailor**

Brogan,	Feb 1848
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**House Shoemaker**

Kearn, John	Feb 1848
Fury, John	- there in 1880

## Appendix 2

### 2. List of some of the Members of the Board of Guardians

*Lists of members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Thom's, Slater's or Pigot's, or in local contemporary newspapers.*

Blake, John A,	Dolphin, Oliver (+1890-02)
Blake, Peter	Dolphin, Peter H
Bateman, N.	Dunsandle, Lord [James Daly] (Chairman 1847) <sup>38</sup>
Brodie, Terence (Vice Guardian 1848)	Dunsandle, Lord [Denis St George] (Chairman 1849, 1870-71, 1879-1881)
Broderick, Peter (1880s-c1891) <sup>37</sup>	Egan, James, J (Chairman ?) (+1890-02)
Burke, Sir John, Bart.	Egan, L.M.
Burke, Thomas J.	Egan, Martin
Burke, Thomas	Gloster, John (1880s + )
Burke, John A.	Glynn, John (1880s)
Burke, Patrick	Glynn, Thomas
Burke, Robert	Hardy, James [1880]
Burke, Sir Thomas Barton, MP (Chairman 1849)	Hayes, Patrick
Caroll, James	Hennelly, Michael
Carr, Patrick	Hogan, M (1890s)trans
Clarke, James	Holland, John
Comyn, A	Keary, Patrick <sup>39</sup> (+1891)
Conway, Thomas	
Cavanagh, Edward	
Daly, Major	
Darcy, Thomas	
Diamond, John	

<sup>37</sup> Ivymount House, Athenry. Broderick (c1852-pre-1910?) was arrested in Nov 1881 on suspicion of promoting boycotting. (Galway Advertiser, Jan 3, 1997)

<sup>38</sup> Minutes of 21 Aug 1847 include 'Proposed by Thomas J Tully, Esq., seconded by Patrick Skerrett Esq., That in consequence of the death of the late Rt. Honourable Lord Dunsandle, Chairman of this Board, that the present Vice Chairman, Captain Thomas, J Burke, M.P., be elected and Robert Henry Persee Esq., Vice Chairman. Carried unanimously' (GPL2/3, p419).

<sup>39</sup> Died Oct 1891 (See GPL2/71, f323. According to his death cert he was a 57-year-old widow, and a merchant

Kelly, Peter (1880s)	Richards, George R (Vice Guardian 1848)
Kennedy, Patrick (1880s + )	Rogers, Captain / Major
Kinneen, Tim	Rogers, William
Lambert, John W. H.	Ryan, Bryan
Lewis, Captain	Ryan, Patrick (+1888)
McCarthy, John P (1880s)	Seymour, Colonel
Mitchel Patrick	Skerret, Patrick
Mitchall, Edward	Smyth, Captain
Obrien, Tim [1880]	Taylor, Benjamin [1880]
O'Grady, J.	Toole, John
O'Farrell, Charles	Tully, Lawrence
Persse, Robert Henry (1840s)	Villiers, Edward (1880-1890s)
Rafferty, William	Westmeath, Earl
	Wallace, James



## Appendix 3

### 3. Electoral Divisions covered by Loughrea Poor Law Union

Electoral Divisions which at various periods came under the administration of the Union

Aille	Killimoredaly
Athenry	Kilconiean
Ballinakill	Killogilleen
Ballinagar	Kilmeen
Bucklagh	Kilrickle
Bullaun	Killeskill
Cappaluck	Kiltulla
Castleboy	Luckalea
Cloonkeen	Letrim
Colemanstown	LoughBarck
Craughwell	Loughrea
Derrylaun	Marblehill
Dunkeary	Mountain
Gragabbey	Mayode
Grange	Rafard
Grechille	Tiquin
Kilchrest	Tynagh
Killina	Woodford

## 4. Recorded Number of Inmates Resident and Deaths in the Workhouse

Population 1861 29,139

Population 1871 26,402

Week Ending	No. in Workhouse	No. of Deaths	No. In Receipt of Outdoor relief
17 Oct 1846	247	-	
21 Nov 1846	388	2	
12 Dec 1846	428	4	
2 Jan 1847	428	10	
16 Jan 1847	494	10	
23 Jan 1847	524	6	
6 Feb 1847	524	26	
13 Feb 1847	498	26	
20 Feb 1847	529	21	
13 Mar 1847	553	22	
10 Apr 1847	633	28	
31 Jul 1847	573	19	
18 Sept 1847	330	6	
23 Oct 1847	455	4	
30 Oct 1847	497	9	
20 Nov 1847	640	6	
27 Nov 1847	716	7	

4 Dec 1847	774	18	
11 Dec 1847	863	9	
8 Jan 1848	811	15	
15 Jan 1848	931	27	
22 Jan 1848	1028	23	
29 Jan 1848	1127	36	
5 Feb 1848	1190	47	
12 Feb 1847	1146	41	
19 Feb 1847	1087	53	
11 Mar 1848	1575	42	
1 Apr 1848	1613	53	
24 Jun 1848	1874	19	
15 Jul 1848	1854	28	
22 Jul 1848	1760	40	
24 Mar 1849	2603	56	5502
26 May 1849	2736	67	6974
5 Aug 1849	1420	19	
16 Sept 1848	1468	8	
30 Sept 1849	1603	9	

7 Oct 1848	1766	14	
14 Oct 1848	1850	19	
21 Oct 1848	1944	20	
4 Nov 1849	2168	28	
9 Dec 1848	2393	38	
16 Dec 1848	2479	27	
23 Dec 1848	2364	32	
13 Jan 1849	2800	37	
20 Jan 1849	2892	49	
27 Jan 1849	2965	42	
3 Feb 1849	2952	48	
10 Feb 1849	276	43	
17 Feb 1849	2897	64	
24 Feb 1849	2827	69	
3 Mar 1849	2851	67	
10 Mar 1849	2816	79	
17 Mar 1849	2665	70	
24 Mar 1849	2603	56	5502
7 Apr 1849	2581	56	5643
28 Apr 1849	2871	60	5963
5 May 1849	2717	150	6425
12 May 1849	2676	189	6668

19 May 1849	2668	104	6809
26 May 1849	2736	67	6974
2 Jun 1849	2768	63	7442
16 Jun 1849	2810	43	7347
30 Jun 1849	2826	42	7476
7 Jul 1849	2811	41	7315
14 Jul 1849	2891	25	6663
28 Jul 1849	2520	29	6221
25 Aug 1849	2004	13	2551
1 Sept 1849	1906	18	643
20 Oct 1849	1597	10	206
3 Nov 1849	1678	7	203
15 Jun 1850	3038	25	2
22 June 1850	3061	24	2
13 Jul 1850	2959	17	-
27 Jul 1850	2568	7	-
24 Aug 1850	1767	4	-
14 Sept 1850	1473	8	-
2 Nov 1850	1633	3	-
9 Nov 1850	1632	-	-
30 Nov 1850	1737	3	-

4 Jan 1851	1886	6	-
18 Jan 1851	2174	7	-
25 Jan 1851	2290	7	-
15 Feb 1851	2451	11	-
19 Apr 1851	2611	20	
19 Jul 1851	2859	14	-
23 Aug 1851	1891	8	-
25 Oct	1559	1	-
27 Dec 1851	1628	1	
31 Jan 1852	1818	4	-
27 Mar 1852	1827	4	-
18 April 1852	1812	7	-
5 Jun 1852	1895	9	
24 July 1852	1695	5	-
30 Oct 1869	138	?	-
11 June 1870	154	--	
6 May 1871	126	1	7
28 Oct 1871	112	1	7
2 March 1871	136	1	13
8 March 1873	143	1	23
21 June 1873	118	1	38

2 May 1874	15	2	37
8 April 1876	132	3	79
3 June 1876	123	4	39
16 Dec 1876	112	-	28
2 June 1877	107	-	32
24 Dec 1877	126	1	41
3 January 1880	139	1	37
29 May 1880	154	1	117
11 Dec 1880	157	1	65
8 Jan 1881	153	3	70
29 Jan 1881	160	1	631
19 Feb 1881	167	1	175
9 April 1881	159	1	192
28 May 1881	152	1	210
25 June 1881	154	2	232
9 July 1881	149	2	237
8 Oct 1881	108	1	186
31 December 1881	128	1	195
c.14 Jan 1882	127 (24 inmates left, including 15 able-bodied males)	2	195
13 May 1882	115	2	287
15 July 1882	109	-	277
30 Sept 1882	104	-	230

10 Feb 1883	138	2	285
7 July 1883	103	-	643
15 Sept 1883	99	1	405
16 Feb 1884	142	2	356
18 Oct 1884	114	-	276
21 Feb 1885	144	1	341
12 Sept 1885	129	2	289
6 July 1886	142	2	365
6 Nov 1886	145	-	322
19 Mar 1887	141	1	383
16 July 1887	156	1	366
14 April 1888	155	2	345
2 Mar 1889	142	1	303
24 Aug 1889	130	-	336
28 Sept 1889	122	-	319
18 Jan 1890	142	2	328
29 Mar 1890	155	2	325
19 Jul 1890	141	3	349
29 Nov 1890	135	-	336



14 Mar 1891	162	-	386
2 May 1891	134	2	361
10 Oct 1891	141	2	326
21 May 1892	126	1	365
3 Dec 1892	150	1	311
4 Feb 1893	144	-	317
12 Aug 1893	122	1	307
38 Oct 1893	122	-	297
26 Dec 1896	141	1	282
17 Apr 1897	150	1	309
31 July 1897	128	1	294
25 Jun 1898	156	-	-

Appendix 5

## 5. Abbreviations

B.G.	Board of Guardians
C.D.B.	Congested Districts Board
Co.Co.	County Council
DÉ	Dáil Éireann
E.D.	Electoral Division
G.C.C.	Galway County Council
GCCA	Galway County Council Archives
I.P.M.	Irish Plantation Measure
J.P.	Justice of the Peace
L.G.B.	Local Government Board
MGWR	Midlands Great Western Railway Co.
M.O.	Medical Officer
M.P.	Member of Parliament
O.P.W.	Office of Public Works
P.L.C.	Poor Law Commissioners
P.L.	Poor Law
P.P.	Parish Priest
R.C.	Roman Catholic
R.D.C	Rural District Council
RIC	Royal Irish Constabulary
R.O.	Relieving Officer

**Loughrea Poor Law Union,  
Board of Guardian Minutes  
1839 - 1922**

**Archive Collection**

**GPL2/**

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS MEETINGS, 1839-1922

Bound volumes of manuscript and typed minutes recording details of attendance and proceedings of weekly meetings relating to the maintenance, administration and financing of the workhouse, distribution of out-door relief, and the care of workhouse inmates relating to their accommodation and employment, and to medical, pastoral, educational, and dietary needs. Minutes include statistics on the number of persons accommodated in the workhouse, together with the numbers of births and death, and the number receiving outdoor relief; confirmation that various reports, financial and other records, such as the Workhouse Register, Provision Check Accounts, Out-door Relief Lists, Medical Officers' books, and reports of the Visiting Committee, the workhouse Master and other Officers were produced, examined and approved together with details of required action relating to the information provided therein, and details of all monies received or paid, and all orders and cheques given, such as those required for the supply of food and clothing; details of rates collected, arrears, and declared irrecoverably in each electoral division; also includes details of orders and letters received from or written to the Poor Law Board and others, and details of subsequent resolutions passed and instructions issued authorising required action; details of the master's report and resolutions adopted to address any issues raised therein; and provision is included for minutes of the proceedings of the Board under the Medical Charities Acts and Nuisances Removal and Disease Prevention Acts, and under Public Health Acts; the proceedings of the Board as the Sanitary Authority are recorded; and proceedings of the Board of Guardians acting as the Rural Sanitary Authority under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts are included.

The minutes are generally dated, and signed by the Clerk of the Union, and/or the Chairman.

Average size 400pp

- 1A. 11 Oct 1839 - 7 March 1844 Includes (Rough Minutes)
- Tenders for furniture discussed (Sept 1841).
  - Resolved that our clerk be directed to issue advertisement for Tenders for the bedding, clothing and furniture etc agreed to be procured for the Union Workhouse ...' (12 Oct 1841, see also 5 Nov 1841).
  - The workhouse admitted its first inmates in 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 1842 (25 Feb 1842).
  - Resolved that until a sufficient number are in the workhouse potatoes be substituted for Breakfast instead of stirabout. The same quantities of potatoes to be given for breakfast as for dinner' (25 Feb 1842).
  - Includes names of several women 'having husbands got admitted into the House and stating that their husband had deserted them and having reason to believe such statement in general are not founded on fact and that such desertions have been collusive the following women and their family be forthwith discharged....' (25 Mar 1843).
- 1B. 11 October 1839 – 19 October 1843 (Repaired & rebound)
- 2A. 21 Mar 1844 – 3 Oct 1846 Rough Minutes
- Includes Roll Call (attendance) detail at the back of the volume, indicating with a 'P' Guardians present for meetings on various dates.
- 2B. 16 Nov 1843 – 10 Oct 1846 Includes: (Repaired & rebound)
- Order that the windows of the workhouse be glazed, and 'to have a boiler fixed in the kitchen in places of the one that is cracked, as the cooking cannot be continued in the probationary any longer' (64p, 6 Jul 1844).
  - 'Resolved, That we once again urge on the Poor Law Commissioners the necessity of reducing the salary of the Protestant Chaplain more particularly as there is not at present in the House been one Pauper of the Protestant persuasion and we now trust that the Commissioners will no longer oppose themselves to so reasonable a resolution' (p148, 11 Jan 1845).

- 'That half a ton of Indian meal be provided for the use of the paupers, and that they be allowed the same quantity therefore breakfast and for dinner if potatoes cannot be procured as is used of the present oatmeal for breakfast' (p345).
- 'Resolved that a Special Meeting of the Board be called for Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., at 12 o'clock noon, to take into consideration the present perilous condition of the Poor in this Union as regards the Common necessities of their existence, and to devise the best and most economical means under the present provisions of the law for meeting a calamity which we have reason to believe is making fast strides towards an eventful crisis (p373, 12 Sept 1846).
- '....There being a meeting of the Relief Committee by Lynch's Hotel for the purpose of devising means of employment for the poor which commenced at 3 o'clock and was not over until 5 o'clock after which the following gentlemen attended the meeting' (p381).

3      24 Oct 1846 - 16 Oct 1847      Includes      (Repaired & rebound)

- 'The M.O. reports the death of Michael Fury, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst., of general debility and old age, aged 64 years' (28 Nov 1848, p55).
- Resolved that Pat Fahy being employed by the Board to bring Indian Meal from Galway and having gone there twice for that purpose, but being obstructed from doing so by the mob that he be now paid £0.8.4 compensation for his trouble' (28 Nov 1846, p57).

4A.      24 October 1846 – 17 April 1847,      Rough Minutes. Gap in minutes  
23 October 1847 - 24 February 1848      Includes:

- 'The M.O. reports the death of Michael Fury, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst., of general debility and old age, aged 64 years' (28 Nov 1848, p5).
- 'Resolved that one ton of Indian meal be purchased, and that the Clerk do write to Limerick and Galway to ascertain the price thereof per ton' (28 Nov 1846, p7).
- 'Resolved: That Pat Fahy being employed by the Board to bring Indian meal from Galway and having gone there twice for that purpose, but being obstructed from doing so by the mobs that he be now paid £0.04 for compensation for his trouble and loss of time' (28 Nov 1846, p7).

- 'The M.O. reports the following deaths during the week viz: James Day, aged 73 yrs, of general debility and old age; John Marty, aged 3 months of marasmus<sup>40</sup>; Margaret Kelly, 35 yrs, of chronic diarrhoea and fever; and Mary Martin, aged 8 years of Fever' (12 Dec 1846, p5).
- '...Catherine Mahony has unmercifully beaten an infant child and refused to take care of same, and stated to the Matron that if she was compelled to do so, she would have him dead before the end of a week' (12 Dec 1846, p7).
- The MO reports the deaths of the following, 'Honor Fahy, James Moore, Andrew [Farrigan], and Bridget Kenny of old age and infirmity. Catherine Mooney aged 4 months, of marasmus, John Wall of disease in the heart and Catherine Grealy of fever' (p519 Dec 1846).
- The MO reports the deaths of the following: Margaret Coffey, Fever, Mary Mahon of general debility, Michael Kelly of old age, Matthias Fallon of chronic diarrhoea and old age, and Catherine Cahalan of old age (26 Dec 1846, p5).
- The MO reports the deaths of the following: Bridget Whelan aged 5 yrs, Thomas Keely, aged 9, Thomas Fahy, aged 1½ yrs, Ellen Fahy, aged 3 months and Mary Coin aged 4 months died of marasmus. Mary Murray, aged 70 yrs, Catherine Craughwell aged 60, and Bridget Connell aged 55 years of age of old age etc., Thomas Crawford aged 50, of effusion in the chest, and Bridget Gough aged 70 of chronic diarrhoea (2 Jan 1847, p5)
- Inmates Ellen Henry got a pass for an hour to go to Loughrea (2 Jan 1847, p5).
- The MO reports the deaths of the following: Mary Grealy aged 1½ yrs and Anne Loughane aged 2½ yrs of marasmus. Pat Hardiman aged 50 years of [homotria], debility etc., Ulick Loughnane (Ballynakill ED) aged 70 yrs of effusion in the chest; Thomas Vesey aged 72 yrs of Chronic diarrhoea and old age; Winifred Cunane aged 65 yrs of general debility and old age; Pat Connor aged 60 of chronic diarrhoea ad old age (2 Jan 1847, p5)
- PLC letter 'suggesting the propriety of enlarging the Workhouse, so as to afford more extensive accommodation and pointing out to the BG the manner in which same may be carried into effect (16 Jan 1847, p6).
- 'Resolved: That the following persons be summoned before the Magistrates at Petty Sessions on Thursday next the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., viz Sally Lynch, Sally Coy and Mary Ford for assaulting Catherine no one and rioting in workhouse (16 Jan 1847, p7, see also 23 Jan 1847, p1).
- Thomas Burke, inmate, stole a loaf of bread from the Dining Hall (23 Jan 1847, p5).
- Inmate, Martin Winter, robbed while asleep by John Fallon (23 Jan 1847, p5).

<sup>40</sup> The malnutrition associated with marasmus leads to extensive tissue and muscle wasting.

- 'The MO reports that in consequence of the increasing number of sick and the crowded state of the Hospital and having sent as many of the Fever patients to the Fever hospital as it could accommodate he was obliged to send a number of the sick to one of the upper dormitories (30 Jan 1847, p9).
- 'Out of the number of sick in the Workhouse about fifty of them are accommodated in the Hospital or Infirmary, and the remaining number in the upper dormitories (27 Mar 1847, p7)
- Lord Dunsandle was elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year (3 Apr 1847, p7).
- Letter relating to the 'Burial ground being so convenient to workhouse and calling the attention of the Guardians to the 20<sup>th</sup> Section of the Act 10<sup>th</sup> Vic. Cap. 31 on the subject of the purchase of land to be used for that purpose. (No order made on it)' (23 Oct 1847, p6).
- 'Resolved: That we adopt Mr Griffith's Valuation as the basis for the collection of the Poor Rate in this Union as being more uniform than any revision we have been able to obtain, and that the High Constabulary of each Barony be called upon to furnish to our Clerk the sworn applotments apportioning to each tenement in each townland its proportion of such valuation' (11 Nov 1847, p7).
- Alexander Granger, aged 33 years, registered as Protestant changed to RC (13 Nov 1847, p5).
- John Lawless, inmate, absconded, leaving his wife and five children in the workhouse. Pat Holland also absconded (4 Dec 1847, p65).
- Thomas Fahy, *'was provisionally admitted upon the recommendation of the Parochial Clergyman, in a state of starvation and died next day of exhaustion'* (4 Dec 1847, p70)
- Michael Larkin *'was in a state of great destitution and is now with his family in fever in the House'* (4 Dec 1847 p70).
- James [Mannion] *'...appeared in great destitution, the Guardians regret to say that at the instance of the PL Inspector they discharged this family, who are since in Fever and in a state of awful destitution'* (4 Dec 1847, p 70)
- Lawrence Monahan, inmate, absconded (1 Jan 1848).
- 'Circular No. 634 N47 stating it to be the duty of the several Board of Guardians to give relief to the destitute either in or out of the House, whether they belong to the Union or not' (p118).
- Joseph Glynn and Andrew Hanlon absconded. Mary Kelly refused to work, Bridget Gannon assaulted Honor Mitchell (p125).
- 'The Guardians state for the information of the Commissioners that since the appointment of Relieving Officers they have felt obliged in some instance to grant temporary admission



to fractions of families into the workhouse, such as wives and children deserted and exposed by husbands and parents...'

'A great amount of destitution presents itself in the persons of those deserted wives and children almost impossible to reject from its forlorn aspect at the same time involving an abuse if admitted. The Guardians wish to know the course recommended under such painful circumstances' (8 Jan 1848, p129).

- Body of John Burke was 'found in the wood of Marble hill demesnes, on 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo and died of starvation' (p146 & p149).
- Denis Naughton died of want 'of proper and sufficient nourishment after sickness' (p156).
- Thomas Fahy died of exhaustion, from Kilchreest (p168).
- Catherine Daly, Raceourse, deceased (p187).
- Larry Hynes died of 'destitution and want' (p196).
- 'Ordered: That the Clerk advertise for tenders from competent persons, to undertaken the duty of House tailor and House shoemaker at (blank) per week to instruct a class of boys in their respective trades and cut out and make up the clothing required for the House....' (p517).
- Inmates Mary Forde and Bridget Burke reprimanded for visiting the Hospital (pp220-1).
- 'Ordered: That in consequence of the places now used as a cemetery being within the Workhouse grounds and the pits into which the deceased paupers are deposited being now made within a few yards of the Workhouse itself. The Clerk be directed to advertise for a piece of ground to be conveyed by lease to the Commissioners, to be appropriated to a cemetery, and at the same time to write to Mr D'Arcy, the Agent to Lord Clanricarde, to [know] if he would let a field for that purpose, as if the practice is continued of interring the paupers almost within the grounds of the House must have the certain effect of disseminating the poison of contagion and its most deadly shape throughout the entire establishment' (pp221-2).
- Pat Aughegan and Catherine Molloy died of want and destitution p232).

4b Missing

5. 28 February 1848 - 27 December 1848 [Rough minute book] Includes index to main resolutions passed, also Includes:

- 'The punishment book was produced and three paupers, named Mary Dignan, John Murray and Margaret Farrell, were brought before the Board. Dignan for an assault on

Sarah Flaherty, ordered to be confined an hour and get no dinner. Murray for refusing to work, ordered to get no dinner any day he so refused, and Farrell for a violent assault on Mary Naughton, the wards women, was ordered to be discharged the House' (28 Feb 1848, p3).

- 'The Master reports that John Henry, aged about 18 years, who was charged on the Athenry Electoral Division, absconded from the Workhouse on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., ... Also a boy named Owen [\_\_by], aged about 16 years, who was charged as the same division arrested and Committed by R. D'arcy' (p11).

- 'The Board sat each day this week except Tuesday when the Guardians visited the Divisions of [Clonkeen], Kiltulla and Killimor Daly, and made minute enquiries into the destination of these districts.

On Thursday the Guardian held their meeting in the Board room, R.O., Rochfort being in attendance, a considerable degree of dissatisfaction appeared to prevail amongst a crowd of applicants at relief not being afforded, and the Rev. Cahillan, appeared to complain that Mr Rochfort held no office in Killtulla, but that he forced the poor people to visit him at his own house, a distance of several miles and that he neglected to see the applicants in their own houses...' (p25).

- 'A serious disposition to riot, amongst some of the male paupers, having manifested itself on the night of Thursday, at being searched on coming into the Auxiliary workhouse, which was followed up on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>, when the ring-leaders were admonished by the vice-Guardians, and the Porter having reported that he apprehended personal injury and a breach of the peace from Joshua Glynn & others, who were armed as he stated with a pitchfork & stone hammers, determined to commit murder, and having offered to swear information of the peace against Glynn, which were prepared for him by one of the Vice Guardians, and for the purpose of swearing which the Porter, went to the residences of several Magistrates on last evening. And having this day entered the Board Room in a very insulting manner and refused to swear any information, and having used abusive language to the Vice Guardians, and otherwise having conducted himself in a highly improper manner. It was resolved to suspend Peter Whyte, the Porter from his office until the pleasure of the Commissioners be known....' (p273).

- Pauper inmate, Mrs Ford (wards-woman over Brewery Auxiliary), applied to be sent to 'the American Colonies' (p274).

- Tenders of 'several traders willing to contract for the clothing required for Emigrants were considered...' (p384)

- Report of the Visiting Committee ' The General management of the workhouse is much improved, but there is much required still to be done to reduce it to perfect order, and

discipline there is more system required at the female side of the House as to the daily employment of the able women, of whose idleness we have had often to complain. We are also of opinion that it is not advisable longer to permit the Matron's son to have the liberty of residing continually in the House, such a course being directly contrary to the order of the Commissioners, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1848' (7 Oct 1848, p391. There were 1766 inmates in the Workhouse at the time, 14 had died that week).

- Report of the Visiting Committee, 'We are much surprised an going through the Establishment this morning to find that gross negligence on the part of some of the Female officers is again manifesting itself. The scullery yard presented a disgraceful appearance, several human facies having been deposited continuously round the walls, the like appeared outside the door of the Female workroom, and in other parts of the House years. The floors of some of the Dormitories – all of the passages and the stairs were filthy, and appeared as if purposely left so. They have not been washed with one or two exceptions for some time. We cannot but feel that the conduct of the Matron and assistance Matron is highly to be censured, betokening<sup>41</sup> as it does an anxiety to return to the former discreditable state of things, and we hereby inform them that this is the last time we will direct their attention to such matters' (p401)
- 'Letter No.55/256 dated 9<sup>th</sup> October respecting Lieut. Henry's report of girls selected for emigration to Australia (p402)
- 'Resolved: That we deem it a matter of incalculable advantage to the Union to promote by every means the Emigration of some considerable number of the paupers who are now crowding the Workhouse, not only as a means of providing for the most deserving of those persons but also an ultimate relief to the Union, and as Mr Henry, Emigration Agent, has lately selected from amongst the female orphans of this House a list of 48 deserving objects for emigration to South Australia, and the PLC having sanctioned their being forwarded, do hereby consent to provide them with the necessary outfit as decided upon by the Emigration Commissioners' (p414).
- 'Resolved: That in accordance with the Commissioners instructions we dispatch 40 of the paupers (so selected by Mr Henry R. N.) per the "Duke of Cambridge" stream to Plymouth on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> inst., and we direct the Master, Mr Miller, to proceed to Dublin in charge of the party, the remaining 8 to be reserved for a future vessel and their outfit to be placed in the Master's store until required' (p415, 21 Oct 1848).
- Resolved, That Mr Miller be entrusted with funds sufficient to pay for the passage of the party from Dublin to Plymouth according to the Amount of fare for each and that he account for the outlay on his return' (p415).

<sup>41</sup> To mean something or be a sign of something; *verb* to indicate.

- 'Resolved that we forward the party to Ballinasloe on Thursday next and from there per passage boat to Sallins en route to Dublin' (p415).
- 'Resolved: That in accordance with the Commissioners instruction we despatch to Plymouth, via Dublin, on Thursday next the 30<sup>th</sup> inst., the 8 female orphans, now in the Workhouse, being of the number originally selected by Lieutenant Henry Miller, for Emigration to South Australia, that they proceed to Ballinasloe on Thursday morning and from thence by passage boat to Sallins (Sallins, Co. Kildare) en route to Dublin and that the Master be directed to procure a trustworthy person to take charge of party' (p465, 25 November 1848).

6. 1 July 1848 – 21 March 1849

- 'Resolved. That we deem it a matter of incalculable advantage to the Union to promote by every means the Emigration of some considerable number of the paupers who are now crowding the workhouse, not only as a means of providing for the most deserving of those persons but also an ultimate relief to the Union, and as Mr Henry, Emigration Agent, has lately selected from amongst the female orphans of this House a list of 48 deserving objects for emigration to South Australia, and the PLC having sanctioned their being forwarded, do hereby consent to provide them with the necessary outfit as decided upon by the Emigration Commissioners' (p208).
- 'Resolved: That in accordance with the Commissioners instructions we dispatch 40 of the paupers (so selected by Mr Henry R. N.) per the "Duke of Cambridge" stream to Plymouth on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> inst., and we direct the Master (Mr Miller) to proceed to Dublin in charge of the party, the remaining 8 to be reserved for a future vessel and their outfit to be placed in the Master's store until required' (p208-9, 21 Oct 1848).
- Report from Dr Lynch to the Commissioners, advising that 'Dysentery in a very server and fatal form is still extremely prevalent amongst the paupers. During the past week I have observed that a considerable number of strong, healthy looking paupers have been attacked with this disease in a severe form. I am sorry to be obliged to state that dysentery seems to be on the increase in the Poor House and that the disease continues to assume an extremely un-management and fatal form.

It is of such importance to discuss the causes of the continued existence for so long a period of so fatal a disease as Dysentery in your Workhouse. I am strongly of opinion that an impure condition of the air in the workhouse occasioned by impure sewerage in the air of the Poor House, predisposing to dysentery is provided by the fact that most of the officers and other persons whose duties obliged them to spend some time at the Workhouse although not exposed to contagion have had dysentery some very seriously and many

repeatedly in most of those instances the individuals complain of perceiving a bad smell before getting ill, and all the inmates at times particularly in rainy weather complain of the foetid effluvia from the cesspools and sewers...' (p279, 13 Dec 1848).

- Application for Lally family to emigrate considered (p286, 20Dec 1848).
- Dietary of Loughrea Union, detail quantity of food to be distributed to various classes of inmates, such as male and female adults, and children between 5-9 years, for breakfast, dinner and supper. (p410).

7. 28 March 1849 – 7 November 1849

(8.) Missing



**DESTRUCTION OF LOUGHREA WORKHOUSE BY FIRE**

... DESTRUCTION **LOUGHREA WORKHOUSE** BY **FIRE**. Loughkea, 3d January.—About two o'clock this (Thursday) morning a **fire** broke out in the union **workhouse** of this town, which totally destroyed the principal building. A detachment of the 89th Regiment, ...

**Published:** Monday 07 January 1850  
**Newspaper:** Cork Examiner  
**County:** Cork, Republic of Ireland  
**Type:** Article | **Words:** 171 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none



**DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN THE LOUGHREA UNION WORKHOUSE**

... DESTRUCTIVE **FIRE** IN TIIE LOGUGREA UNIONI WV OLRKHIOUSE. (FRvmn A CORRIKSP'ONDENT.) On the night of Wednesday, the 2d instant, an awful **fire** broke out in the above concern, which almost destroyed the entire buildings. It is stated that the **fire** commenced ...

**Published:** Saturday 05 January 1850  
**Newspaper:** Freeman's Journal  
**County:** Dublin, Republic of Ireland

Fire Loughrea 1850 - Some Notes taken from newspapers.

1850. Fire in Lrea wkhouse, Thurs morning, c. 2 o'clock; military and police to check progress of fire, before they communicated to the wings of the adjoining buildings, but all efforts ineffectual to preserve the main building, which was entirely burned to the ground. The premises were insured; but furniture, clothing, bedding not insured to the extent of the injury. An investigation into cause held, nothing elicited to origin. The books and papers of the union 'fortunately preserved'. *Tuam Herald*, 5 Jan. Said to have started in master's room, *Anglo-Celt*, 18 Jan. Requested by a correspondent to state that the late Master was not concerned in the burning of L'rea Workhouse, Lord Dunsandle the chairman and the board of Gs, having, upon investigation, found nothing whatever to implicate him in the alleged arson. The master had resigned several days before the burning, and was not under dismissal. *Limerick Chronicle*. See *Tuam Herald*, 2 Feb.

9. 15 June 1850 – 1 February 1851 Includes:- 339pp
  - 'Letter No 42,443 dated 1<sup>st</sup> August intimating the receipt of a Communication from the Chief Secretary's Office, respecting the transmission and safe arrival of 25 emigrant pauper girls from the Loughrea workhouse to Sydney' (pp76-77, 3 Aug 1850).
  - 'Resolved that the Clerk be directed to write to Messrs Grace & Co., Mr A Ireland, Mr Commerford and Messrs Evans (emigration agents) to ascertain the lowest average cost of emigration for each pauper to British America or United States' (p87).
  - Resolved: That Dr Lynch be the medical officer of the Fever Hospital at Mount Pleasant proposed to be maintained under the 16<sup>th</sup> Section of the Act 6 & 7 Vic, Cap 92 and that his salary for attending that Hospital and the workhouse be £120 per year' (p107).
  - 'Letter 30<sup>th</sup> August from the clerk of the Portumna Union, requesting to get a boiler at Tynagh for the use of a temporary Workhouse in Portumna and also to get one now at Monivea for the same purpose' (p117).
  - Details of Medical Officer's recommendation for dietary needs for inmates (p180).
  - 'The Board of Guardians of Portumna Union having proposed to withdraw about 160 paupers of certain classes belonging to their Union, from this Workhouse and not having clothing for them have requested a supply of suits for the above number' (p217).
  - 'Resolved: That having considered the Commissioners letter no. 63,816 dated 6 December in relation to the Portumna Union, and desiring as much as possible to accommodate them, this Board do agree to increase the accommodation afforded to the paupers of that Union from 1/5 to ¼, the Reservation Order being changed accordingly by the Commissioners, provided that it is guaranteed by the Commissioners that out of the large sum now due to the Loughrea Union the Portumna Board pay at present £500, and pay punctually in future the amount of the monthly estimate as prescribed by the Reservation Order, till the accounts of the Unions are finally made up, and provided also that the Portumna Union shall be liable to ¼ of the rent of the Auxiliary Houses, which this Board are now obliged to retain for their accommodation, till such periods as the Loughrea Guardians may be at liberty according to law to surrender or give up such houses' (GPL2/9, p277, see also p267).
  - Discussion regarding the amount due to the Loughrea Union by the Portumna Union for maintenance of its paupers in the Loughrea workhouse, which amounted to €883.6.3 ½ (p287).
  - 'The Master states that a man named James Bohan no. 1773 desires to have his registration altered to Roman Catholic' (p335).
10. 8 Feb 1851 – 30 Aug 1851
11. 10 Sept 1851 - 3 Apr 1852
12. 10 Apr 1852 – 30 Oct 1852

GPL2/

13	1852-11-06 - 1853-04-30	
14	1853-05-07 - 1853-10-15	
15	1853-10-22 - 1854-04-01	
16	1854-04-08 - 1854-09-16	
17	1854-09-23 - 1855-03-03	
18	1855-09-22 - 1856-05-30	(no minutes between Mar – Sept 1855)
19	12 Apr 1856 – 8 Nov 1856	(Repaired & rebound)
20	15 Nov 1856 - 30 May 1857	
21	1857-06-20 - 1858-03-06	
22	1858-03-27 - 1859-01-15	
23	1859-01-22 - 1859-12-10	
24	1859-12-17 - 1860-11-03	
25	1860-11-17 - 1861-07-27	
26	1861-08-02 - 1862-06-07	
27	1862-06-14 - 1863-01-24	
28	1863-02-14 - 1864-01-02	
29	1864-01-16 - 1864-10-13	
30	1864-10-29 - 1865-08-26	
31	1865-09-02 - 1866-05-05	
32	1866-06-02 – 1867-03-02	
33	1867-03-16 - 1867-11-23	
34	1867-11-30 - 1868-09-12	



35 1868-09-26 - 1869-06-12

36 1869-06-19 - 1870-02-19 Includes;

- 'That an inmate named Mary Conboy was assaulted by Ellen Staunton on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst.; she was summonsed before the Magistrates at last Petty Sessions, and let off with 48 hours imprisonment under the circumstances that she had been provoked by complainant' (f21).
- 'That an inmate named Catherine Power having show symptoms of insanity is considered by the Medical Officer a fit subject for the Lunatic Asylum' (f41).
- 'Bridget Griffin having come before the Board and consented to take her illegitimate child J (Fallon) out of the workhouse; the Board agreed to withdraw the Summons lately issued against her and also allowed the boy a suit of clothes, cost not to exceed 10s' (f132).

277ff

37. 26 February 1870 – 14 January 1871 Includes:

- Master reported 'That the separate ward for lunatics in Hospital having been discontinued since the 12<sup>th</sup> inst, and the weather getting mild, the supply of fuel for Hospital has been considerably diminished. The services of one of the assistant nurses has been also dispensed with' (p42).
- List of salary payment to staff, such as Margaret A young, Matron, £5 (f51, 2 April 1870)
- Report from the Secretary, Education Office transmitting extracts from the District Inspector's Report on the Workhouse School, 'The course of training and instruction given in this School is of an elementary character, but on the whole fairly adapted to the ages and capacities of the children. The results of my examination indicate that they have made good progress for their years in Reading, Writing and Writing from Dictation. The proficiency in Arithmetic was only moderate. I consider the School to be in a fairly progressive and efficient state especially in regard the younger children, but there are two or three Boys of eleven years old and above who seem to make no progress during the intervals between inspections. It happens their time is taken up in doing work of various kinds about the establishment and acting as messengers' (pp92-83).
- 'Letter from the Rev Sellars, C. A. dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 1870 stating that a school girl, named \_\_\_\_\_ aged 13 years has had her passage paid by her mother in America, and that she will be sent out in charge of some parties who are going from the neighbourhood, requesting that the Board would allow her some money for clothes which she requires' (p103).
- 'Relieving Officer Rickham reported:  
"That he is obliged to bring under the notice of the Board the constant annoyance he is



receiving from the large number of Night Lodgers seeking admission to the Workhouse. When refused tickets after questioning them as to their cases and circumstances he is sure to be abused; crowds gather about his House, and in many instances his windows are broken (such has been the case this week) and that he has no redress owing to the absence of a Magistrate, and from the peculiar position in which he is placed, he will be obliged to give up his situation unless the Police in Town – Sergeant be called on to prevent such characters from crowding into town; Since last Board day not less than 46 strangers annoyed him in this manner; the names of the few relieved will appear on his application and Report Book, as he considered them destitute’ (p184).

- 38      1871-01-21 - 1871-12-16      Includes:
- ‘Take Notice that I will on this day fortnight move that the salary of the Schoolmistress be taken into consideration with a view of increasing same from £16 to £20 a year’ (f22).
  - ‘That two farmers named [Cormickan] and Brien have applied for Patt [Keighery] and Thomas Case (school boys) as servants’  
The Board having enquired into the foregoing directed these Boys to be discharged with their employers and supplied with clothes (cost of both suits not to exceed £1’ (f91).
  - ‘The Master brought before the board three inmates named John [Mullanel], Michael Maloney and John [\_\_\_hclan] the first charged with striking one of the School Boys and playing cards in Daly Room, and the other two with gambling and assaulting each other’ (f222).
  - ‘That the inmate Catherine Donoghoe was taken before the Magistrates and made an information stating that Denis Kennedy was the father of her illegitimate child’ (f231).
- 39      1871-12-30 - 1872-10-26      Includes:
- ‘That a member of the Constabulary force stationed at Dalystown was admitted (by way of load) to the Fever hospital on 2<sup>nd</sup> December’ (9 Mar 1872, f76)
  - ‘That a pauper named John Ryan admitted to Hospital on 5<sup>th</sup> inst. was transferred to the body of the House on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, where he still remains’ (27 Apr 1872, f116).
  - ‘An inmate named Bridget Griffin was ordered to be taken before the Magistrates at next Petty Sessions with a view of making an information against the putative father of her illegitimate child’ (8 Jun 1872, f133).
  - ‘That an old man named Linnane wants permission to leave the house without his wife who is in hospital blind and bedridden’ (13 Jul 1872, f166).
  - ‘Letter from Michael Hynes convict in Limerick Prison dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1872 stating that his term of imprisonment will shortly expire and that he has carried what will barely defray his expenses to New York request that the Board of Guardians would be pleased

to pay the passage and provide outfits for his two children Peter and Michael Hynes at present inmates in this house, as he is most anxious to earn a livelihood for far away from the scenes of his former misfortunes' ( 3 Aug 1872, f183).

40 1872-11-09 - 1873-06-28

Includes:

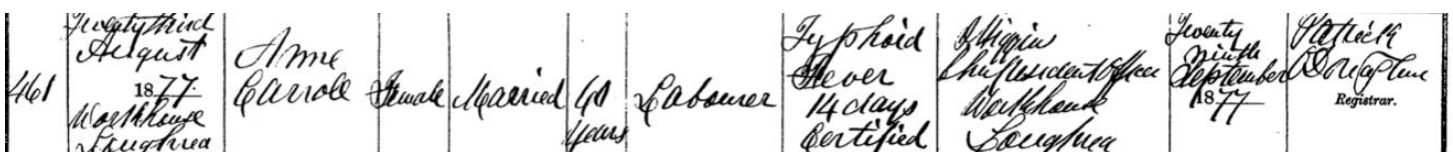
- 'An inmate named Patrick Kelly charged on the Punishment Book with going to town without leave and assaulting the man in charge of the Entrance gate was called before the Board and reprimanded and also informed that he would be summoned on the next occasions' (9 Nov 1872, f11)
- 'Two Inmates named John Wilson and Patrick Keighery were ordered to be discharged on Monday next, not being deemed destitute' (21 Dec 19872, f62)
- 'A Boy named John Fullon charged on the Punishment Book with striking one of the inmates was balled before the Board and reprimanded and the Master directed to punish him on a repetition of such conduct' (21 Dec 19872, f62).
- Tw boys John Fallon and Thomas Charlesworth jailed for 14 days for stealing wine, tea etc, and then sent to a Reformatory for 5 years (25 Jan 1873, f100).
- Athenry Committee '...the most suitable place for a pump for supplying the inhabitants with pure water have selected for that purpose the common south of the widow Higgins's house and between the Rive and Mr Shaughnessy' garden, the place being the site of an old well now dry from which the required supply could be had at a very moderate outlay' (14 Jun 1873, f257).

41 1873-07-05 - 1874-04-04

Includes:

- Case of Anne Carroll was discussed, she having been deported from the Marylebone Union London despite a long residence in their Parish, 'The Loughrea Board of Guardians consider it was a case of great injustice, on the part of the Marylebone Board of Guardians to deport an infirm sickly inmate and transmit her to this Union, upon which as appears by her own account, she has had no claim whatsoever. Ballinasloe Workhouse being the place (if any) to which she should have been sent' (24 Jan 1874, f197).

Death Cert Anne Carroll, Workhouse, 1977



42 1874-04-11 - 1874-12-19

Includes

- Circular letter from the Clerk of the Enniskillen Union with copy of a resolution on the 'subject of the hardship imposed upon Irish born poor by their compulsory removal from England and Scotland to this country and placing upon the Irish Rate payer the burden of the support and praying that the Local Government Board would use their influence in having his law of removal amended' (2 May 1874, f42).
- Salaries of several members, e.g. Medical Officer, Clerk, Matron and Master, paid (27 Jun 1874, f101).
- Loan of £200 required for pump at Athenry, several townlands in Athenry ED should for the area of charge (31 Oct 1874, f232).
- Sanitary Sub-officer reported 'he inspected the town of Athenry and warned all parties who had pigs in their dwelling houses or their premises not in a clean state that the provisions of the new Sanitary Act would be enforced against them, they all promised to complete with the direct given them' (28 Nov 1874, f262).

43    2 January 1875 – 31 July 1875    Includes:

- Report from the Visiting Committee stating 'Your committee have to advert to the great drawback in the organisation of this Establishment in not having, same as other Unions in the County, a property constructed Building for the reception of infectious disease, and having consulted Dr Lynch thereon, he stated as his decisive opinion, after many years experience that a separate and isolated Hospital was much required into which Fever, Small Pox, Scarletina and other dangerous epidemic cases could be sent and treated without fear of having any direct or indirect communication with the occupants of the other parts of the House or Infirmary' (p116).
- 'Upon the recommendation of the Medical Officer the Board directed that the present cemetery on the Workhouse ground be closed up and what is known as the old graveyard used for future interments of deceased inmates' (p112).
- 'The Guardians assembled having taken into consideration the subject of the expediency of destroying the van, which had been employed in the conveyance to the Workhouse of the Small Pox patient \_\_\_\_\_, are of opinion that the van in question ought be repaired and kept on the Workhouse pounds for the purpose of being sent out for the conveyance of any similar cases of small pox or other infectious disease, that may arise in the Union in future also that the said vehicle be thoroughly disinfected in such manner as the Medical Officer Dr Lynch may approve' (p128).
- 'Sanitary Sub-Officer, Lally reported:  
That since last meeting he has visited the town of Craughwell and the villages in its neighbourhood warning the occupiers to lime wash and clean up their several dwellings, which required the like, they all promised to do so and he gave them a weeks' time to carry out his instructions...' (p137).
- 'Letter from Dr O'Donoghoe, Loughrea, dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 1875, stating that in company with the

Sanitary Sub-Officer, he proceeded to Athenry on the 20<sup>th</sup> ulto but was unable to procure a site for the [ ] Hospital in that neighbourhood, and that Dr Leonard refused to co-operate with him, also suggesting that in the appointment of Nurses for attending on Small Pox patients, no persons from Loughrea be selected, lest they might by themselves, or their friends bring the disease into this locality' (p149).

- 'Letter from the Local Government Board ....returning back the Plans and Specification of the proposed sewage works for Loughrea and drawing attention to certain observations made by Mr Barney as to the advisability of having a cover sewer by Dolphin street and The Walks, and defining the locality for forming an Outfall for the sewage and the way in which it is to be collected and utilised' (p207).

44 14 August 1875 – 8 April 1876

45 15 April 1876 – 10 February 1877 Includes:

- Tender of Mr M Gough accepted for keeping the public pumps in Loughrea (3), Athenry (1) and Kilchreest (1) in repair accordingly to the specification for five years (7 Oct 1876, f195).
- 'Ordered – For the inmates a Bread and Tea Breakfast and 8- lbs beef for dinner on Christmas day' (16 December 1876, f243; with 115 inmates in the house).

46 17 February 1877 – 1 December 1877

47 15 December 1877 - 20 July 1878

48 3 August 1878 –15 March 1879

- Masters Report 'That the military Authorities having refund to provide the small pox patient with clothes, he had to procure him a suit at a cost of £1.10.0 and he took his discharge from hospital on 9<sup>th</sup> inst. His military clothes were burned.  
That the pauper boy Michael Hynes who was indentured, and got a suit of clothes from the Board left his Master the next day" (17 Aug 1878, f21).
- 'That three Night Lodgers relieved since last meeting got baths and were also employed breaking stones' (31 Aug 1878)
- Received '...Draft for the sum of £158.12.10 being the Parliamentary Grant for Medical and education purposes for the past half year' (31 Aug 1878).

49. 1879-03-22 – 1879-11-15 includes:

- 'Dr Lynch reported:  
That he requests permission to destroy the small pox clothing at once, the disease having ceased and the Board having already agreed to do so also hat a sum be fixed on to purchase the suit of clothes for Bridget Mannion, who is about to leave the House. An inmates named Catherine Mchugh aged 68 years is in his opinion of unsound mind and incapable of taking care of herself, being at times violent and dangerous to herself and others'  
'The board directed that the clothing and bedding in the Fever hospital be forthwith burned, that a sum of £1.5.0 be expended in the purchase of a suit of clothes for Bridget Mannion, and that steps be taken to have the inmate catherine Mchugh transferred to the Ballinasloe Lunatic asylum' ( 19 Jul 1879, f143).
- 'That the Board of Guardians of Loughrea Union accede to the request or Mr C P Cotton contained in his letter of 31 July 1879 via that owing to his having taken a government appointment he would be unable to continue private practice and asking that Mr Townsend be allowed to superintend the completion of the Loughrea Water-works. So granting Mr Cotton's request the Guardians express a hope that on or before the completion of the contract Mr Cotton will be enabled to visit the works and with Mr Townsend see that the contractor has faithfully and properly completed the works' (9 Aug 1879, ff170-171).

50      1879-11-22 - 1880-05-22      Includes:

- 'The case of Kilchreest graveyard and pump having been considered the Board requested Mr Taylor to prepare a specification for repairing the entrance and providing a gate for the former and as regards the latter that it be used as a draw well till next summer when a new pump will be provided' (3 Jan 1880, f71).
- 'That they would recommend to have a pump sunk in the village of Greethill in compliance with the memorial of the inhabitants the cost of same to be charged on the townlands of Cloran, Gortroe and Greethill' (3 Jan 1880, f74, see also f84, f125).
- 'We the Guardians of the Loughrea Union assembled...beg to impress on the Government the present necessity and importance of advancing the sum of £50,000 at 3% to the Midland Great Western Railway co. for the purpose of constructing a Railway from Loughrea to Attymon, a distance of about nine miles - and as a employment for unskilled labour is very much required in this very distressed state of the county particularly in the localities through which this railway would pass. We earnestly hope and request that His Grace the Lord Lieutenant will generously advise the Government to accede to our request' (24 Jan 1880, f100).
- Resolutions relating to the sewerage works for Loughrea (7 Feb 1880, f126)

- Distress in the town of Loughrea and rural mountain districts (14 Feb 1880, f131) (harvest failures 1877-1880).
- Letter from LGB 'stating they are not in a position to consider the question of recommending the loan of £400 for the Woodford sewerage, until the plans etc are submitted and requesting that the form of application be transmitted to them' (28 Feb 1880, f155).
- 'Resolved the Local committee for Loughrea Union assembled this day having heard with regret of the intended departure from Ireland of The Duchess of Marlborough<sup>42</sup> cannot separate without tendering to Her Grace their heartfelt thanks for the noble and generous exertions she has made during the past severe and trying winter in the cause of the poor. The Committee feel assured that in taking leave of this country Her Grace carries with her the blessings of the Destitute, the Widows and the Orphans and their earnest hopes and prayers for her future happiness and prosperity' (24 April 1880, f230).

51. 1880-05-29 - 1880-12-18 Includes:

- PLU Board decided request for outdoor relief was not necessary, following inquiries of the Relieving Officers and Medical Officer, the Board 'ascertain that destitution such as has been represented does not exist in the locality and that sufficient employment for unskilled labour can be had from landed properties in the neighbourhood of Loughrea, if the parties wish to avail themselves of the opportunities' (29 May 1880).
- LGB letter 'adverting to Dr O'Donoghoe's observation upon the outbreak of Typhus Fever and recommending that a report be obtained from each of the other Medical Officers as to the sanitary state of their districts (12 June 1880; see also f62, f82, f83, f92).
- 'That he (Dr Leonard, Athenry Dispensary doctor) inspected the Old Barrack house and found that all the rooms had been limewashed. There are seven families residing in it with a population of twenty-one in all. The house presents a most dilapidated appearance such as would render it unfit for habitation, still the consideration must be where are those poor people to be located when removed by the Guardians' (31 Jul 1880).
- Poundage rate for each electoral division as agreed (25 Sept 1880, f163).
- 'Ordered, That lists of children sent out of the workhouse to service for the past six months be prepared with names and residence of employers and that the same be

<sup>42</sup> Churchill, Frances Anne Spencer, 1822-1899, nee Vane, Duchess of Marlborough, daughter of Frances Vane, Marchioness of Londonderry, Charles Vane, 3rd Marquess of Londonderry. Married Sir John Spencer-Churchill, 7th Duke of Marlborough (m. 1843-1883), who served as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, c 1876-1880. They had eleven children, including Randolph, father of Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. Her principal home was the monumental Blenheim Palace, which she rejuvenated. She was invested as a Lady of the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert for her efforts at famine relief in Ireland, having established a Duchess of Marlborough Famine Relief Committee in 1879; for the relief of distress. This distress had been caused by the successive failures of the harvests of 1877 - 1879, and by 1880 it had developed into the Little Famine.

handed to the Relieving Officers of the respective districts with instructions that they visit the localities and report upon the state and treatment of the children and that in future similar reports and inspections in all such cases must be made by them once a quarter' (23 Oct 1880).

- 'Letter from the Town Clerk, Loughrea,...draw attention to the leakage from the public fountains and necessity of having sewers constructed with grating to convey the waste water to the main sewers also that the river from Mahonys Bridge to the Walks requires to be cleaned up, the time being most opportune for that purpose' (6 Nov 1880).

52. 1881-01-01 - 1881-07-02 Includes:

- The minutes of special meeting of the Athenry Dispensary Committee summoned to consider the distress existing amongst the labouring class in Athenry town...' (1 Jan 1881) .
- 'That provision of the 3rd Section of the Relief of Distress Ireland Act be forthwith put in force in Loughrea and Athenry towns, and that as at present on account of the state of the weather stone-breaking is impracticable, the Board direct that the labouring class be employed in any light manual labour that may appear advisable...' (15 Jan 1881, see also p43, ff52-53, f72).
- 'Letter from Mr E Townsend .... stating that the contractors having completed the Loughrea Water works to his satisfaction he has given a Certificate for the balance due them...' (2 April 1881, f147).
- Details of elected Guardians and appointment of Chair (9 April 1881)
- Tender of Michael Page accepted for sinking the well at Woodford (f167).
- 'The petition praying for an amendment in the law of removal of poor persons from Great Britain to this country was laid before the Board' (7 May 1881, f192).
- 'Upon the application of a woman named Mary martin whose passage has been paid to New York, the board agreed to allow her £3 to purchase an outfit and pay travelling expenses to Queenstown, the sanction of the Local Government Board to be requested there so' (7 May 1881, f192).



53. 1881-07-09 - 1882-01-09 Includes:

- 'Resolved. That we desire to express our regret at the recent arbitrary arrest and imprisonment under the Coercion Act of a respected member of this Board. Mr P Broderick<sup>43</sup> of Athenry and that we tender to him in his prison cell our warmest sympathy and the expression of our earnest hope for his speedy restoration to liberty so that we may soon again have the pleasure of his presence amongst us at this Board of which since his election to it he has proved himself a useful active and intelligent member' (19 Nov 1881).
- Master reported 'The inmates partook of a plentiful supply of Bread and Tea for Breakfast and Beef for dinner on Christmas Day, for which they felt grateful to the Board' (31 Dec 1881, f263).

54. 1882-01-14 - 1882-07-22 Includes:

- 'That two of the young men in the house Patrick Farrell and Michael Hynes enlisted in the 88th Regiment during the week' (f31).
- 'The case of the Porter against Mary Anne Martin for assault and the cross case of Mary Anne Martin against the Porter and Ellen Staunton were heard at Petty Sessions and dismissed' (f31).
- 'The tender of Mr Michael Keller was accepted for the years supply of coffins for the indoor and outdoor poor at the following rates...' (f33).
- 'That the burial ground attached to the Abbey Athenry is in a very bad state from pigs rooting the graves, there is no lock on the gate, but it is well fenced in (f78).
- Letter from LGB 'referring to the proposed emigration of inmate Mary Sheil and her illegitimate child to Boston, and of stating that they object to an expenditure of the Poor Rates for the purpose of assistance of persons of this class to emigrate' (f153).
- 'Letter from Mrs Mary Anne Quirke ... praying the Board would be pleased to grant some assistance to her daughter Eliza, aged 19 years, to procure an outfit and pay traveling charges to Queenstown as her passage has been paid to the United States of America...'. Board granted £2.10 (f154, see also f173, f183).

<sup>43</sup> Born c. 1852, son of Martin Broderick. He was a member of Loughrea Board of Guardians in the 1880s, and Honorary Secretary to the Land League in Athenry. A branch of the League was established in Athenry in February 1880. He was arrested in [November] 1881, under the Coercion Act, and served a 10-month sentence in Kilmainham Prison (Freeman's Journal, 24 Aug 1882).

University of Galway Archives holds a Copy of the prison diary of Peter Broderick of Athenry, Co. Galway. Broderick was arrested under the "Inciting to Boycott" Act and placed in Galway jail in 1881. The diary includes accounts of his arrest, as well as entries detailing his time in prison, personal letters, interaction with other inmates, and his writings on British rule in Ireland.

He was married to Julia M Rushe (Athenry) in February 1885 and had a son Peter Bernard in September 1893. Lived at Kingsland North [Athenry], described as a Farmer in his son's birth notice.



55. 1882-08-05 - 1883-02-10

- Letter from the LGB 'referring to the case of the inmate Kate Davock and stating that as they are opposed to any assistance being given out of the Rates towards defraying the cost of the emigration of women having illegitimate children they regret that they cannot accede to the Guardians wishes in the matter (f109).
- Circular from LGB 'transmitting copy of a communication received from the Lord Lieutenant relative to the administration of relief and responsibilities of Boards of Guardians and observing it should be known that if poor persons in occupation of land be relieved in the Workhouse that circumstance will not in any way affect their interests in their holdings' (6 Jan 1883, f209).
- 'Letter from Mr Thomas O'Brien, Agent to The Beaver Line<sup>44</sup> dated 3 February 1883 stating that the company which he represents will be prepared to take out emigrants to America at moderate rates and that their Steamers will call at the Port of Galway for that purpose' (3 Feb 1883, f249).
- 'The Board having received the Returns from Messrs Toole and Kennedy of the parties in Loughrea whom they recommended to be assisted to emigrate under the Arrears of Rent Ireland Act, revised the lists and rejected the names of any not properly chargeable to the Division in question' (3 Feb 1883, f249).
- Medical Officer advised 'That he received notices from Mr Blake, Galway, for the eviction of three parties named Hardiman, Connolly and Grady in the Moyode Electoral Division. He gave the parties verbal notice thereof and also relieved Hardiman provisionally, he being destitute and 84 years of age' 10 Feb 1883, f261).

<sup>44</sup> Canada Steamship Company, Canada Shipping Company and Beaver Line. Benjido Historical Research Resources website @ <https://www.benjido.co.uk/TheShipsList/BeaverLine.php> states:  
Formed in 1867 as the Canada SS Company, this line sailed from Liverpool to Quebec and Montreal. They ordered four 1,000 ton sailing ships, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. They were partly replaced by the second-hand ship Lake Saint Clair. In 1872, they chartered steamers on an experimental basis for passenger and cargo use. These vessels included the Redewater, Harold, South Tyne and Atholl. The company started to order their own steamships in 1874.  
In 1875 the Canada Shipping Company, Limited, ran a service from Liverpool to Canada, also to Portland, Maine & Baltimore. There were occasional voyages from London. In 1881 a New York service was inaugurated and intermediate calls at Boston began in 1887. Saloon fare was \$50 in the 1890s but \$60 on the Lake Superior (second). Because of the Beaver on their flag, the company soon became known as the Beaver Line.  
The company experienced difficulties in the early 1890s, and in 1894 liquidators, under Canada Shipping Company Limited (D. & C. MacIver, Managers), took control. They suspended sailings until the spring of 1895 when creditors received a payment. A new company, Beaver Line Associated Steamers was floated in November, 1897 and operated a weekly service from Liverpool to Quebec and Montreal in the summer and Halifax and Portland in winter, with a call at Moville (Ireland). In December 1898 Elder Dempster & Co settled Beaver Line's outstanding claims. There were two sailings from Batumi in the Black Sea to Halifax in December 1898 and the company made their last transatlantic sailing on 20th May 1899. Services resumed later in May 1899 under the title Beaver Line of Steamers (Elder Dempster & Co).

56. 1883-02-17 - 1883-08-18 Includes:
- 'That the five families whose destinations were changed from Canada to The United States left for Galway on Thursday last in charge of Mr Sweeney. They sailed on yesterday for Boston (21 July 1883, f226).
  - 'Letter from Mr James A Grant ... stating as regard the emigration of two families destined for Canada that the callings of the Allan Line of Steamers at Galway for Quebec were for Union passengers but as none had been offering the Vessels were withdrawn and that the families (Carroll and Hawkins) referred to will have to go by Londonderry as to land them in Boston and send by rail to Quebec would cost £2.1.9 additional.'  
'Order: Write saying the Board expect the Company will keep to their contract or pay the additional expenses to Londonderry Port' (21 July 1883, f229, see also f236).
  - Relieving Officer reported 'That he inquired regarding a boy named Thoms Melody who had been hired out of the Workhouse as servant in his district and was informed by his employed Mr Thomas Fahy that the boy absconded from his service on the 30<sup>th</sup> ulto and is now residing with his mother in Loughrea' (11 Aug 1883, f260).
57. 1883-08-25 - 1884-02-23 Includes:
- 'The Medical Officer Report: That on Christmas day he visited the Hall when the inmates were at dinner, the beef was of the best quality and well cooked. Cheerfulness and contentment prevailed, the Mater and the Matron were most attentive. In the hospital on that day any patient who was fit got a tumbler of hot punch which the Master and the Matron kindly mixed and divided amongst them' (29 Dec 1883, f182).
  - Master reported 'That the storm of Wednesday night caused some damage to the House. Several of the ridge tiles of the front building were blown down and broke, the north wing of the main building is very defective, and the schoolmaster's room in its preset state is unfit for occupation' (26 Jan 1884, f220).

58. 1884-03-01 - 1884-08-30 Includes:
- 'The tender of Mr Peter Sweeney, Loughrea was accepted at £668 for the erection according to plan and specification of the new building for the nuns at the workhouse Hospital ....  
The Board also accept the tender of Messrs Hill and Smith for enclosing the grave yards on the workhouse site with 120 yards of railing, scantlings according to specification at 3/3d per yard and supplying and erecting the two gates at £1.15.0 each' (24 May 1884, f131; see also f250 re loan of £700).
59. 1884-09-06 - 1885-03-14 (no. 59)
60. 1885-03-21 - 1885-09-19
61. 1885-09-26 - 1886-04-10 (No. 61)
62. 1886-04-17 - 1886-11-06 (no. 62) Includes:
- Labourers Ireland Acts, following the inspection of several 'sites suggested for labourers cottage in the Grange Electoral Division and selected same on the farm of Patrick Forde, Skehana South, as being the most suitable place'.  
'A letter was read from Forde protesting against interfering with or curtailing his small farm and he subsequently appeared before the Board to sustain his objections etc' (7 Aug 1886, f155).
63. 1886-11-13 - 1887-06-04 Includes:
- The Clerk 'had an interview with Mr Tenor, the Agent to the Marquis Clanricarde on Thursday last regarding the rent due upon the Workhouse and mill premises, the declined to allow or promise any reduction in the yearly rent of the workhouse land and added that the entire rents which accrued up to the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept last should be paid next January' \*GPL2/64, 3 Dec 1887, p554).
  - 'That the inmates in the Nursey complain that the Nursey is infected with rats and that they attack the children and cut them. Cats are the only remedy as poison will to exterminate them only killing the cats' (f561).
  - 'That we the Guardians of the Loughrea Union take this the first opportunity of protesting in the strongest manner possible against the tyrannical action of the

Balfourian Government in sending to prison three respected members of our Board, Messrs Keary<sup>45</sup>, Roche and Egan on a trumped up charge of having taken part in an alleged unlawful meeting while that same Government with that mean cowardice which characterised its action did not dare to prosecute Englishmen and others who were present. That we believe the prosecution of Messrs Roche, Keary, Egan and others was aimed not at the upholding of law and order but an attempt to crunch the just and equitable rights of the tenants on the Clanrickard estate...' (pp585-586).

- 'The forms of application for the loans required for the erection of the cottages approved of for the Athenry and Loughrea Electoral Divisions were laid before the Board and signed by the Chairman' (p643).

64. 1887-06-11 - 1887-12-24 (no. 64)

65. 1887-12-31 - 1888-07-07

66. Missing

67. 1889-02-16 - 1889-08-24

68. 1889-08-31 - 1890-03-08

69. 1890-03-15 - 1890-09-20 (no.69)

70. 1890-09-27 - 1891-03-28

71. 1891-04-04 - 1891-10-17

72. 1891-10-24 - 1892-05-21

73. 1892-05-28 - 1892-12-10 (no. 73)

74. 1892-12-17 - 1893-07-13

<sup>45</sup> Died Oct 1891 (See GPL2/71, f323). According to his death cert he was a 57-year-old widow, and a merchant.

75. 1893-07-22 - 1894-01-27 (no. 75) Includes
- Pump in Woodford required new brass bearings (p398)
  - 'The Chairman Mr P J Kelly, having drawn attention to the inconvenience felt by the Workhouse porter during his recent illness, in having one apartment only, which he had to use as bedroom also for cooking and other domestic purposes and that he had neither privacy or comfort while confined to his bed. The guardians request the Local Government board to inform them whether there would be any objection to their allowing the Porter to utilise the Register office as a sleeping apartment' (p409, see also p449).
- (Evidence of slight water damage, esp at front of volume, ; cloth cover partially detached)
76. 1894-02-10 - 1894-07-28-18 (Repaired & rebound in 2019)
77. 1894-09-10 - 1895-03-18 : Closed – fragile<sup>46</sup>
78. 1895-05-01 - 1895-10-01 : Closed – fragile
79. 1895-11-01 - 1896-04 : Closed – fragile
80. 30 May 1896 - 9 Nov 1896 (Repaired & rebound), commences at p81, e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> few pages missing /
81. 14 November 1896 - 29 May 1897
82. 5 June 1897 – 18 December 1897 Includes:
- 'The Master being ill and confined to his bed since the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. She (the Matron) and the Porter are discharging the duties' (27 November 1897, p491).
  - Letter from LGB 'returning back plan etc of the proposed new nurse in the Workhouse s prepared by Mr Persse CE and stating that they see no object to the works in question' (p537).

<sup>46</sup> In 2019 9 volumes were sent for conservation, however 3 (GPL2/77-79) were so badly damaged it was cost prohibitive to repair them. They were re-boxed.

83. 1 January 1898 – 25 June 1898 Includes

- 'Letter from Mr E Monaghan, Master dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1898 enclosing Certificate from Dr O'Donoghue stating that he has been in professional attendance for four months for low fever evidently contacted from the infection of epidemic fever patients removed last Autumn from the outer parts of the Union to the Workhouse. That the fever has recently disappeared, his health is becoming restored and that in all probability he will shortly be perfectly recovered' (2 April 1898, p284).
- 'In reference to the long illness of the Master the Board direct that he be communicated with and request his attendance before the Board at next meeting in order to ascertain whether he is competent to discharge his duties' (16<sup>th</sup> April 1898, p340).
- 'That this Board have heard with much regret the recent death of Mrs Martyn, Tullyra Castle and having regard to the long connection of her family with this Union, namely her lamented father Mr James J. Smyth, who had been for so many years Deputy Vice-Chairman of this Board, her brother Capt John Smyth, and Mr J.J. Smyth, also members, that as a mark of respect to her memory we do now adjourn, and direct our Clerk to convey to her son, Mr Edward J Martyn, our sympathy and condolence in his affliction and that his resolution be placed on the minutes of our days proceedings' (p427).
- 'An inmate Bridget Daly gave birth to an illegitimate child on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst' (p447, see also p493)
- 'Letter from the Workhouse Master dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 1898 requesting leave of absence for one month in order to recruit his health after his late illness, and enclosing Certificate from the Medical Officer to the effect that he considers a change of air in his case most necessary' (p537).

End cover board has slight damage on the bottom right corner / damp / eaten

84. 2 July 1898 – 31 December 1898 Includes
- 'In consequence of the death of the Master, The Clerk was directed to advertise for the election of a workhouse Master on the 30<sup>th</sup> July inst. at the usual salary & ration. In the meantime, the Porter, T. B. Killeen, be appointed Master pro term' (p9).
  - 'That this Board desire to express their deep sympathy and regret with the loss sustained by Mrs Monaghan by the death of our late Master (and her husband). That our Clerk be directed to convey this to the family and copy be inserted on the minutes' (pp8-9).
  - 'Letter from Miss Emily Goulding dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 1898 stating that as it is her intention – with the kind permission of the Board – to make her annual Xmas distribution of toys, sweets etc to the School children – tea, snuff & tobacco to the aged and infirm inmates she requests a return of those classes be furnished to her by 1<sup>st</sup> December; (p383, 5 Nov 1889).
85. 1899-01-07 - 1899-06-29 Includes:
- '.... Received report from their Medical Inspector Sir a McCullagh who after visiting Loughrea making special inquiries into the matter is of opinion that it is essential a Midwife should be appointed for the Dispensary District and workhouse and that a fixed rate of remuneration would be fixed for cases occurring in the Workhouse requesting that the Guardians will fix the salary of Midwife after 14 days' notice and proceed t the appointment of a duly qualified person to the post' (p391).
  - Resolution passed '...The Local Government board must know well that the number of workhouses at present are far in excess of the requirements for paupers and we feel confident that in the future this state of things will be in still stronger evidence.  
If such a scheme ((amalgamation) was carried out the disused workhouses could be converted into schools for pauper children. Schools for Technical education which we hope before long to see in the country. Reformatory schools, asylums for imbeciles where they could be cared for and equally well, at far less cost than in Lunatic Asylums, and for other useful purposes.  
We considered the Local Government Board the most capable body to draw up such a scheme as they have full information regarding all Unions in their office and numerous staff to formulate the scheme which we thing would be mot advantageous to the rate-payers and the poor of Ireland' (pp426-427).

- 'That the Loughrea Board of Guardians hereby demand the release of the remaining political prisoners confirmed at present in English and Irish jails' (p427).

(Front cover board has historic damage (damp))

86. 1899-07-06 - 1899-12-21
87. 1900-01-04 - 1900-06-16
88. 1900-06-23 - 1900-12-15
89. 1900-12-22 - 1901-06-22
90. 1901-07-06 - 1902-01-11
91. 1902-02-18 - 1902-07-12
92. 1902-07-19 - 1903-01-24
93. 1903-02-07 - 1904-04-02
94. 1904-04-09 - 1905-06-03
95. 1905-06-17 - 1906-07-07



96. 1906-07-14 - 1907-07-13 Includes

- 'The Clothing committee reported that they have condemned the following articles and ordered that they be deducted from the Stock: - 48 Rugs, 43 Blankets, 78 sheets, 18 Ticks<sup>47</sup>, 6 Bolster covers, 3 Pillow slips, 4 Straw Palliasses<sup>48</sup>, 30 Flannels, 75 Shirts, 59 Men's socks, 31 trousers, 14 vest, 25 coats, 16 braces, 3 bed jackets, 2 overcoats, 23 caps, 60 pr books, 8 school suits, 4 boy's collars, 40 aprons, 6 women's caps, 54 Gowns & Frocks, 23 Handkerchiefs, 44 over petticoats, 17 under petticoats, 41 shifts. 45 woman's and girls boots, 6 shawls, 90 prs stockings, 10 canvas slippers, 4-night dresses, 14 bibs and a girls school suit' (24 Nov 1906 p5).
- Dr Quinlan, Medical Officer of Athenry Dispensary District, wrote recommending that a patient of his named Mary Anne Walsh be sent to a Dublin Hospital for special treatment' (1 Dec 1906, p5).
- 'Read lettered (A.G. 2/1851) from the War Office acknowledging receipt of the Board's resolution asking that Private Peter Whelan of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Connaught Rangers be allowed to return to support his widowed mother and her children and regretting that as Whelan is at present serving in India they cannot accede to the Guardian's wishes' (8 Dec 1906, pp4-5).
- 'Relieving Officer Whelan submitted an eviction notice at the suit of Martin Farrell against John Costelloe and Margaret Scully of Caraminna' (8 Dec 1906, p5).
- 'An inmates named Martin Huban applied for and was granted a few hours' pass on some day during the Christmas week' (15 Dec 1906, p5).
- Master reported 'Honor Green, paid attendant in charge of infants, wet to see her daughter who was very ill on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>; she returned on Sunday under influence of drink. I suspended her and placed a nursing mother, Bridget Burke, in charge of infants, giving her extra rations. Medical Officer approved of arrangement' (5 Jan 1907, p5).
- 'That the RIC brought two children named Quilligan to the house under Prevention of Cruelty to children Act; their mother was sent to jail for 5 weeks' (5 Jan 1907, p5).
- 'Mr Roseingrave B.E. attended the meeting and submitted for approval plans, specification estimate and maps in connection with the new dispensary in the town of Loughrea which the guardians propose to provide' (5 Jan 1907, p5) (board request approval to borrow £700 for purchase of plot of found and erection Dispensary & office) (See also 2 Mar and 13 July 1907).

<sup>47</sup> Tick is a large bag made of strong, stiff, tightly woven material.

<sup>48</sup> A straw-filled bed tick is called a paillasse, palliase or pallet, and these terms may also be used for bed ticks with other fillings.

- 'Read letter from Relieving Officer Coyle stating that Miss Fitzgerald-Kenny recommends that Fred Hawkins who is boarded -out with Mary Cherry, Loughrea be take from her and be boarded-out with some person who keeps a cow' (19 Jan 1907, p5) (See also 15 Jun 1907, p4)
- 'Read letter from the Cabra Institution for Deaf and Dubm stating that they would not admit the girl, Ellen Dillon to their institution, she being an idiot, and suggest that the Rev. mother, St. Raphael's Home, Youghal be written to regard the girl.  
Read letter from Rev. mother, St. Raphel's home, Youghal, stating that she could not admit the girl to her institution as the home is an Auxiliary Asylum to the Cork Lunatic Asylum and patients can only be admitted from the parent Asylum' ( 1 Jun 1907, p7).
- 'Read letter from Mrs Maria Brady, Loughrea complaining of the bad treatment to which her son was subject in the Workhouse Hospital before his death by Wardsmaid, Mary Burke. Mrs Brady stated that her son wanted to leave the hospital on a few occasions, owing to the wardsmaid's treatment of him and that she (the wardsmaid) compelled him to get out of bed to take his dinner when he was expiring...' (8 un 1907, p6), (see also 15 Jun 1907, p4).

889	1907 Third June Union hospital Loughrea	Michael Brady from Croughwell	m	married	40 years	Labourer	certified bertha embolism 1 hour certified	Thomas D. Killeen occupier Loughrea Workhouse	Twenty fifth June 1907	J. Kelly assistant Registrar.
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- 'That Mrs Burke, whom I placed in charge of infant Monks (mother in hospital), is also going out' [leaving institution] 13 july 1907, p4)

397	1907 Third August Union hospital Loughrea	George Monks from Loughrea	M. Bachelor	6 months	Armed persecution's child	Convulsions 6 hours certified	Thomas D. Killeen occupier Loughrea Workhouse	Thirtieth September 1907	J. Kelly assistant Registrar.
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23	1909 Ninth February Union hospital Loughrea	Catherine Monks from Loughrea	F. married	40 years	Wife of an Army Pensioner	Phthisis Pulmonalis 2 years certified	Thomas D. Killeen occupier Loughrea Workhouse	Twenty seventh March 1909	J. Kelly assistant Registrar.
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[Census Years](#) / [1901](#) / [Galway](#) / [Loughrea Town](#) / [Barrack Street](#) / Residents of a house

**Residents of a house 28 in Barrack Street (Loughrea Town, Galway)**

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head
Monks	John	50	Male	Head of Family
Monks	Catherine	23	Female	Wife
Monks	Ethel J	9	Female	Daughter
Monks	Josephine	9	Female	Daughter
Monks	Michl Joseph	6	Male	Son
Monks	William	5	Male	Son
Monks	Christina	3	Female	Daughter
Monks	George	1	Male	Son

[Census Years](#) / [1911](#) / [Galway](#) / [Galway South Urban](#) / [Parade](#) / Residents of a house

**Residents of a house 7 in Parade (Galway South Urban, Galway)**

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head
Monks	John	63	Male	Head of Family
Monks	Ethel Teresa	19	Female	Daughter
Monks	Josephine	19	Female	Daughter
Monks	William	15	Male	Son
Monks	Christina	13	Female	Daughter
Monks	Samuel	7	Male	Son

234	1903 24th August Abbey Lane Loughrea	Samuel m	John Monks Abbey Lane Loughrea	Catherine Monks formerly Mealy	civil bill officer	John Monks Father Abbey Lane Loughrea	Twenty ninth September 1903	J. Kelly assistant Registrar.
208	1922 15th September Prospect Hill.	John Monks	Ch. Widener 75 year.	Tommy Purpurio.	Francis confid.	Ethel Kelly daughter deceased widow of abdotho Prospect Hill.	15th October 1922	His Hon Asst. Registrar.

97. 1907-07-20 - 1908-12-12
98. 1909-01-02 - 1910-12-24
99. 1911-01-07 - 1912-12-14
100. 1913-01-04 - 1914-12-26 (no. 100)
101. 1914-12-26 - 1916-12-30
102. 1917-01-06 - 1918-12-28 (no. 102)
  - 'With reference to entries in minutes of last two meetings in the failure of Miss J Hayes, Midwife of Athenry Dispensary district, to attend Mrs Galvin, a midwifery case, a latter was read from Dr Quinlan, Medical Officer, stating that Galvin presented him with a ticket on the 26<sup>th</sup> ultimo and that he told Galvin to go and ask Nurse Hayes to attend the case. On the latter's refusal to attend, he himself, attended it and then employed Nurse O'Gorman as a Nurse was required in the case. He also states that Galvin was a labourer and a fit person to receive relief' (21 Sept 1918, p1370).
  - That M\_\_\_ K\_\_\_ admitted on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> instant, gave birth to an illegitimate male child on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> instant. I requisitioned Maternity Nurse Kelly' (28 Sept 1918, p1373).
103. 1919-01-04 - 1920-12-09
104. 1921-01-13 - 1922-01-05

## Drawing of Sewage Disposal Works, 1910

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|------|------------|--|--------|
| 105. | 1910-06-30 | <p>Drawing No. 2 (on cotton) of purification works (with slight colour tint), section elevation and plan, showing time cover, sludge outlet, ventilator, feed pipe, stoneware half pipes and so on, signed and dated by T W Roseingrave BE<sup>49</sup></p> <p>Scale 1/8 inch – 1 ft (585mm x 460 mm; crinkled, stained, fold marks)</p> | 1 item |
|------|------------|--|--------|

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<sup>49</sup> Roseingrave, Thomas William (1849?-1926), Engineer, of Limerick, active in from 1906 or earlier until 1921 or later. Thomas Roseingrave, who, according to the 1911 census, was born in Co. Galway in 1848 or 1849, had a BE degree. He worked on the sewerage and water supply for Gort between *circa* 1908-1910. By the time of the 1911 census, he was a widower and had three daughters and a son living with him; Mary Josephine (1883- ), Kathleen (1888 - ) and Lizzie (1897) and son John Patrick (1895). He married Kate Mary Boland (1858 - ) in September 1878.