



**Ballinasloe
Poor Law Union
Archives Collection
1842 – 1931**

G00/5





Ballinasloe Poor Law Union Archives Collection 1842 – 1931

G00/5

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Identity Statement

Reference Code:	IE GCCA /G00/5/
Title:	Ballinasloe Poor Law Union
Dates:	1842 – 1931
Level of description	Fonds
Extent:	19 volumes and separate 6 items
Context	
Creator(s):	Ballinasloe Board of Guardians

Scope and Content

This incomplete collection of Ballinasloe Poor Law Union archives consists primarily of Board of Guardian minute books.

Several of the earlier volumes have suffered severe mould damage, with resultant loss of substantial qualities of text and rendering other sections illegible. Conservation work was carried out on the damaged volumes in 2001. Extensive paper repair has resulted in the in-fill of lost pages and the strengthening of other damaged pages. Rebinding has been completed to resemble, as close as possible, the original.

Most of the collection, for security and preservation purposes, was microfilmed in 2001. However, the later acquisitions (G00/5/42 and /77) have yet to be microfilmed.

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 1923. 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 paid for by locally collected poor rates. The workhouses were designed by George Wilkinson, Architect. 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 based in London until 1847, originally the Poor Law Commissioners and after 1872 the



Local Government Board. It was a strong central authority which issued orders for the guidance and control of Guardians and Union officers throughout the country.

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 Archives holds some archives, mainly Board of Guardian minutes, from all Unions except Oughterard.

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 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 rate-payers whose holding was valued at £4 or over. The position was unpaid. Lists of members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Slater's or Pigot's, or indeed 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; that is a property tax which funded a Union's operations. The poor law rate was until 1898 decided by the Guardians. 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. For instance, in the early 1850's they also assumed responsibility for the provision and management of dispensaries to provide free medical attendance for the sick poor, for the boarding-out of children from the early 1860's, 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.

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. 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.

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'¹. Galway County Council discussed the amalgamation of the Unions in the county in 1903 and sporadically thereafter until 1919 when the scheme was discussed again in detail, and also in October 1921. It was decided by the Council to replace the existing workhouses and poor law union system and to have one central hospital in Galway with ambulances, and have one central home for old and infirm in Loughrea² (GC1/3, p308). The Unions remaining functions were transferred to county councils, and administered through Boards of Health and Public Assistance. Outdoor relief was replaced by home assistance. The Poor Law was formerly abolished in 1923.

Ballinasloe Poor Law Union – a summary review

As only a small number of minute books survive it is difficult to gain a comprehensive view of Ballinasloe Union. It is fortunate however, that given the importance of the period in Irish history that most of the minute books covering the period of the Great Famine – though in some instances severely damaged – have survived.

The Ballinasloe Poor Law Union was formally declared in June 1839, and covered an area of 198 square miles. Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, 36 in number, presenting its 22 electoral divisions. The Board also included 12 *ex-officio* Guardians, making a total of 48.³

The Ballinasloe workhouse was erected in 1841 on a six-acre site on Sarsfield Road (the Green), Ballinasloe and opened on 1st January 1842. The Contractor's account for the building, fixtures and fittings of the workhouse was £10,162.19.1, less £72.17.11 for pointing and other works which he failed to perform (G00/5/1, p3). The workhouse was originally built to accommodate 400 inmates. However, additional accommodation was subsequently acquired in the town to house the growing number of destitute poor flocking to its doors. Tenders for a 64-bed fever hospital were received in 1845, and Anthony Clark's tender of £925 was accepted (G00/5/3, p200).

We learn from the minutes that the overcrowding in the house was discussed in early 1848, when the Board considered refusing to accept further admissions, and called on

¹ P. J. Meghen, 'The Development of Irish Local Government' in *Administration* Vol.8., No.4 Winter 1960, p339

² Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/3, p308

³ Workhouses website <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/> (Jun 2004)



the Poor Law Commissioners for permission to extend Outdoor Relief, *'That the present over crowded state of the House is injurious to the health of the inmates, that taking into consideration the alarming fatality which has occurred during the last week (41 deaths) and which the Medical Officers of the Board attributed to the deleterious influence of a tainted atmosphere. The Board is of the opinion that with due regard to the lives of the paupers no further admissions should be sanctioned until increased accommodation be procured...'* (G00/5/6, pp29-40). By the end of June 1849 the workhouse had over 4,000 inmates and was distributing out-door relief to at least another 4,000.

The minutes also reveal that for the duration of World War I the Union experienced difficulty in procuring sufficient quantities of meat to satisfy the inmates' dietary needs. The Guardians resolved that they had *'...never been disregarding of the interest of the inmates and would remind the Local Government Board (1898) that it was this Board, elected since the passing of the Local Government Act which first did away with Indian Meal Dietary of the Famine Times and gave the inmates the meat Dietary, which in the present crisis they thought well to moderate...'* (G00/5/51, p207).

From 1916 onward the Board became more vocal regarding contemporary political events. In particular it reacted strongly to the threatened introduction of conscription to Ireland. The Guardians passed a resolution stating it noted *'...with disgust the revival of the conscription campaign by the yellow press of Great Britain and Ireland and now as Home Rule is on the Statute Book we deny the right of any British Government to legislate in reference to this matter for our Country, as we contend that the people in Ireland should stand on exactly the same grounds as the self governing Colonies of the Empire.'*

And furthermore if at the command of the well known enemies of our race and creed any Government attempt to force the abomination of our Country we are determined to resist it by every means in our power ' (G00/5/56, p183).

The Board later protested again *'...in the strongest possible manner against any attempt to enforce Conscription on this Country which is already so denuded of man power as to be badly able to cope with the increased tillage regulations, and that we call on the Irish Party in the event of their protect being unheeded, to leave the House of Commons and return to Ireland to consider the best means of resisting conscription'* (G00/5/59, p13).

In September 1918 the workhouse was taken over by the Military Authorities for the accommodation of British troops (G00/5/59, p572). The workhouse inmates were transferred on 8th October 1918 to the Portumna workhouse (G00/5/60, p29). For the



duration of the occupation the Clerk's private rooms were used as offices, boardroom and stores.

On 20 May 1919 the Military vacated the workhouse and the Master together with the Local Government Inspector, Mr McCarthy, took back possession of the premises (G00/5/61, p205). However, the inmates housed in Portumna remained there pending the outcome of the question on amalgamating the Unions in East Galway. In June 1919 the Board wrote to the Local Government Board requesting it to take steps to have the Amalgamation of Unions in East Riding of Galway put in operation - the Unions were of the opinion that one Union was sufficient in each Riding (G00/5/61, p403). Though the question had not been completely settled - amalgamation was discussed up until 1920 - the inmates were nevertheless repatriated to the Ballinasloe workhouse in October 1919.

The minutes of the Portumna Rural District Council reveal that the Ballinasloe Union incurred a debt of £470.7.10 for the care, clothing and so on of its inmates during their stay in the Portumna Workhouse (G01/3/24, p174).

During the War of Independence the Board resolved '*...to cut off all communication with the Local Government Board, and that all correspondence etc, be forwarded to An Dáil Eireann*' (G00/5/65, p39).

The workhouse was closed at the end of December 1921 or beginning of 1922 following the amalgamation of Union schemes introduced by Galway County Council. Under this scheme 206 officials employed in the Unions in the county were dispensed with. The Union Masters, Clerks, Matrons and other staff received pensions or gratuities⁴.

The former workhouse was used as a Technical School from 1925 –1937. It was later taken over by the local Defence Units as a training centre and afterwards it served as Committee Rooms for several organisations such as the Boys' Club, the Brass Band, and the Gaelic League.

From 1937 until the mid-1990s, the infirmary section housed the Dubarry shoe factory. Most of the building was destroyed by fire in 1955⁵, and only the East wing remained. Part of the building was used as a lamb slaughterhouse until the 1970s. In the 1980s the property was bought by a hardware store, which demolished the remainder of the building

⁴ See the Connacht Tribune 17th Dec 1921 for details of the Ballinasloe employees who received payments

⁵ Tadhg McLochlainn, *Ballinasloe, A Story of a Community over the Past 300 Years*, 2nd ed.



in 1995. Only the main block of the workhouse fever hospital now survives as part of a supermarket⁶.

Arrangement

The collection consists of minute books together with one volume listing out-door relief recipients, and several other minor documents. The minutes are arranged chronologically, and the remaining material is arranged according to significance.

Overall this collection illustrates various aspects of Union administration, and reveals to some extent how the authority cared for and provided assistance to the destitute poor in the district and in particular how it responded in times of crises. It also shows the evolution of the Board's provision of health and related social services. The collection commences with records created when the authority, and country, was under British rule and concludes with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Eireann.

The collection should be of interest to administrative, economic, political, social, and local historians.

The item reference number (e.g. G00/5/2) should be used in full when citing documents or records, and each reference cited should be preceded by the initial GCCA (Galway County Council Archives, GCCA G00/5/2).

Place names are generally given as they appear in the records.

Readers are also requested not to view as definitive the appended list of District Councillors. Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories, such as Slater's or Pigot's, and in contemporary local newspapers.

Disclosure Requirement

As much of the information in this collection clearly identifies families and individuals researchers are requested, in order to prevent possible distress or embarrassment to near descendants, to sign a disclosure form prior to consulting the records verifying a willingness not to cite specific names in research work.

⁶ Workhouse web site <http://www.workhouses.org.uk> (Jun 2004)



Archival History

The surviving records of the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians had been in the custody of Galway County Libraries for many years, prior to transfer to the Archives in 2000. A Heritage Council grant received in 2001 assisted with cost of conservation and microfilming. Six volumes received conservation treatment from Paper Conservation Studio, Dublin, 2 of which required extensive work. The collection was then microfilmed by DPA in November 2001.

Two additional items, (minutes for June to December 1899 (G00/5/42) and the volume of press cuttings (G00/5/77) were donated in 2012, when found in the Courthouse in Ballinasloe.

Archivist's Note

Descriptive list prepared by Patria McWalter, Archivist, 2000 and updated 2012.



Acknowledgment

Galway County Libraries and Archives wish to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the grant received from The Heritage Council, which contributed towards the conservation, and microfilming costs expended to assist with the preservation of the collection.





Allied Material

Primary Sources

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Ballinasloe No.1 Rural District Council, G00/6/
- Ballinasloe No.2 Rural District Council, G00/7/
- Portumna Rural District Council, G01/3/
- Mountbellew Poor Law Union, GPL4/
- Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/
- County Galway Board of Health and Public Assistance (GC5/)

Records held at the National Archives of Ireland

- Relief Commission Papers (NAI RLFC) (Copy of the papers (1845-'47) pertaining to county Galway are available at Galway County Libraries, Island House)
- Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers (NAI, CSO)
- Transportation Registers (NAI GPO)
- Office of Public Works, OPW
- 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
- Files of the Dáil Éireann Department of Local Government, 1919–1923.

Records held at the 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)

Records held at the Dublin City Library & Archives

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

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/>. They are also available at the James Hardiman Library, NUI, Galway



Secondary Sources

Useful WWW sites

www.workhouses.org.uk

Irish Poor Law Maps showing levels of poor relief in every poor law union in Ireland in the years 1851, 1871, 1891 and 1911 together with statistics for the percentage of relief given as outdoor relief and the average weekly cost of relief. The maps provide a quick and easy reference point for people researching the history of the poor law in their locality.

<http://ah.brookes.ac.uk/researcharchive/irishpoorlawmaps/index.htm>

Tithe Applotment Books of Co. Galway, (1823)

(Available on-line at <http://tithemapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/home.jsp>)

Hard 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

Barrington, T J

The Irish Administrative System, Dublin, 1980

Burke, Helen

The People and the Poor Laws in Nineteenth Century Ireland
Dublin, 1987

Egan, Rev Patrick K

The Parish of Ballinasloe, Its History from the Earliest Times to the Present Century
2nd ed., Galway, Kenny Bookshops & Art Galleries Ltd., 1994

Egan, Rev. Patrick

'Ballinasloe Town and Parish 1585-1855'
in *Galway Reader*, Vol. 4 No.1, Spring 1953

Glazier, I., ed.

The Famine Immigrants. List of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851, 1985

Kelly, Declan

Between the Lines of History, Vol. 1 People of Ballinasloe
Ballinasloe, 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., Dublin, Geography Publications, 1996

Lohan, Rena

Guide to the Archives of the Office of the Public Works
Dublin, The Stationery Office, 1994



- McClaughlin, Trevor *Barefoot and Pregnant? Irish Famine Orphans in Australia*
Australia, 1993
- McLochlainn, Tadhg *Ballinasloe, A Story of a Community over the Past 300 Years*
The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc., 1991, 2nd edition.
- Meghen, P J *The Development of Irish Local Government*
in Administration Vol.8., No.4, Winter 1960
- Moran, Gerard &
Raymond Gillespie, ed. *Galway History and Society,*
Dublin, Geography Publications, 1996
- Murray, P James *Galway : A Medico Social History*
Galway, Kenny's Bookshop & Art Galleries Ltd., , c 1996
- Nicholls, George *History of the Poor Laws in Ireland,* London, 1856
- O'Connor, Gabriel *A History of Galway County Council*
Galway County Council, 1999
- O'Connor, John *The Workhouses of Ireland The Fate of Ireland's Poor*
Dublin Anvil Books, 1995
- Crowley, John, Smyth,
William J, & Murphy,
Mike, eds. *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine,*
Cork, University Press, 2012
- O'Keefe, B E, ed. *The Search for Missing Friends, Irish Immigrant*
Advertisements Placed in the Boston Pilot, Vol. I – VIII
New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, 1996
- O'Neill, Timothy P 'Minor Famines and Relief in Galway 1815 –1925'
In *Galway History & Society,* ed. Gerard Moran and
Raymond Gillespie, Geography Publications, Dublin, 1996
- Roche, Desmond *Local Government in Ireland,* Institute of Public
Administration, Dublin 1982
- Shiel, Michael &
Roche, Desmond, ed. *A Forgotten Campaign and Aspects of the Heritage of South East*
Galway, Woodford Heritage Group, 1986
- Spellissy, Sean *History of Galway,* Celtic Bookshop, Limerick (c.1999)





Appendices





List of Some of the Members of the Board of Guardians

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

Ballinasloe Board of Guardians numbered approximately 72 members.

- Adams, John (1899?)
- Ashe, Norman
- Ashtown, Lord
- Banfield, Andrew
- Barrett, Samuel
- Beegan, T. F.
- Bell, James
- Bellew, Sir M. D., Baron
- Bermingham, Thomas
- Blake, James
- Bohan, M.
- Brennan, John P (1899?)
- Brennan, France
- Brown, Andrew
- Burke, William H.
- Cahill, T.
- Carr, Michael
- Carthy, Michael
- Caulfield, James
- Claffey, P. (G)
- Claffey, P. (C) (Chairman 1913 – ?)
- Clancarty, Earl of, Chairman 1842
- Clonbrock, Lord (Vice Chairman, 1843)
- Cogavin, J. (+1918)
- Colohan, W.
- Comyn, Andrew
- Connolly, J.
- Conyn, Joseph P.
- Cowen, J. H.
- Croughwell,
- Curley, M.
- Curray, M.
- Daly, P. P.
- Daly, A. G.
- Daly, Richard
- Darcey, Major
- Dillon, James
- Dolan, M.
- Donagh, Walter
- Donnellan, Stephen
- Dowling, W. E.
- Duffy, Walter
- Dunlo, Lord
- Egan, Frances
- Evans, John
- Eyre, John
- Eyre, Stuartford
- Eyre, Thomas
- Fahey, J.
- Filgate, Charles
- Finn, D. J.
- Finneray, William
- Finney, R. W.
- Flaherty, M.
- Flynn, J. (c)
- Flynn, John (m)
- Flynn, P. J. (T)
- Flynn, Patrick
- Frehill, J.
- French, William Le Poer, Lord
- Gardiner, John
- Garvey, Patrick (1899?)
- Gascoyne, Captain Henry J.
- Gavin, Mrs M.
- Geraghty, Michael
- Glynn, J.
- Graydon, Thomas
- Grehan, J.
- Hanrahan, M.
- Hardiman, L.



- Harney, Thomas
- Harrison, S.
- Hill, George
- Hoban, James
- Hogan, M.
- Jordan, S.
- Joyce, Pierce
- Kelly, Denis H.
- Kelly, Hugh
- Kelly, J. (B)
- Kelly, J. (C)
- Kelly, L.
- Kelly, P. W.
- Kenny, P.
- Kenny, T.
- Keogh, P.
- Kilduff, Thomas
- Killeen, T. P.
- Kirkaldy, G. D. H.
- Kirwan, John
- Kirwan, Michael
- Lancaster, Thomas
- Larkin, Mrs A.
- Larkin, Peter
- Lawrence, Walter
- Lenehan, P.
- Loughnane, M.
- Lynch, J.
- Lynskey, P.
- Lyons, M.
- Madden, D. J.
- Mahon, Joseph C.
- McDermott, J.
- McDonagh, John
- McDonagh, Walter
- McKeigue, John - Chairman, 1918⁷
- McNally, J. J.
- Mitchell, J.
- Monahan, J.
- Murphy, Michael E.
- Murray, P.
- Naughton, P.
- Nevin, P.
- Noctor, M.
- Noctor, P.
- Nolan, J.
- O'Brien, Richard
- O'Flanagan, T.
- O'Kelly ,C. J.
- O'Riordan, C.J.
- Parker, R. J. – Chairman, 1920
- Persse, William
- Petty, Connor
- Potts, Harry, T.
- Prendergast, J.
- Reynolds, Alderman
- Ronaldson, R.
- Ryan, M.
- Ryan, T.
- Salmon, John
- Seymour, R. B.
- Seymour, Thomas
- Sharpe, Robert
- St George, Robert
- Staunton, A M
- Supple, W.
- Trench, Admiral W de Poer
- Trench, The Honourable Robert le Poer, Captain
- Tully, John
- Usher, William
- Wade, John (+1899)
- Ward, W.P.
- Whelan, P.
- Whynns, John
- Whynns, Ml.
- Whyte, Thomas

⁷ According to family he is buried in Doon Cemetery, Eyrecourt but there is no headstone.



A. Electoral Divisions covered by Ballinasloe Poor Law Union

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Abbeygormacan* | 17. Kilgerrill |
| 2. Ahascragh* | 18. Killaan* |
| 3. Aughrim* | 19. Killallaghtan* |
| 4. Ballinasloe* | 20. Killasolan |
| 5. Ballydangan* | 21. Killoran* |
| 6. Ballymacward* | 22. Killquaine |
| 7. Ballynakill | 23. Killtormore* |
| 8. Carrowreagh* | 24. Killure* |
| 9. Clonfert* | 25. Kilmacshane* |
| 10. Clontuskert* | 26. Kylemore* |
| 11. Cloonburren* | 27. Laurencetown* |
| 12. Creagh* | 28. Lismanny* |
| 13. Culliagh* | 29. Moore* |
| 14. Eyrecourt | 30. Moylough |
| 15. Kellygrove* | 31. Oatfield* |
| 16. Kilconnell* | 32. Taghmaconnell |

* Divisions in the Union as at 1859



B. List of Some Members of Workhouse Staff

Lists of most staff members are found in various contemporary directories such a Slater's or Pigot's

Workhouse Master

- Charleton, Robert Wood, 1841 –1845 (transferred to New Ross Union)
- Workman, ? ? - 1849 (asked to resign due to incompetence)
- Philips, John 1850 - ?
- Breen, D, ? – 1858? - ?
- Hession, ? - 1888
- O'Carroll, Nicholas 1888 – 1916
- Whymys, Martin 1916 – 1922?⁸

Anxillary Workhouse Master

- Shaughnessy, Peter, 1848 -?

Clerk of Union

- Gill, John, 1842 – ?
- Gill, Thomas 1845 – 1859 onwards? (son of John)
- Gill, R.G., ? - 1914
- Martin, J including 1873
- MacGiolla, Thomas (Gill) 1915? - ?

Assistant Clerk of the Union

- O'Carroll, Michael Denis, 1916 – 1921

Matron

- Charleton, ?- 1845 (wife of Master)
- Curry, Margaret, 1846 - ?
- O'Carroll, Mary, 1888 – 1916 (wife of Master)
- Gilmartin, C ?-1921

School Mistress

- Heenan, Ann, 1913 – 1921

⁸ Whymys married the matron Ms Gilmartin (Shrleigh, Ballinasloe) at St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe on 10 January 1922, Connacht Tribune 14 January 1922



School Master

- Connolly, James J. ? – 1899 resigned
- Kelly, James 1899 - ?
- Whymes, Martin 1902-1916 (promoted to Workhouse Master in 1916)

Medical Officer

- Dr Rossiter 1899? –





Ballinasloe
Poor Law Union
Archives Collection
1842 – 1931

G00/5



List of Items and Descriptions:-

A. Minutes of Board of Guardians Meetings, 1842 - 1921

Bound volumes recording details of attendance and proceedings of weekly meetings relating to the maintenance, administration and financing of the workhouse, (from 1847) 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 [after 1845] include details on the number of persons accommodated in the workhouse, 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 Commissioners 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 from 1854 provision is included for minutes of the proceedings of the Board under the Medical Charities Acts and Nuisances Removal and Disease Prevention Acts, and subsequently under Public Health Acts ; from 1874 the proceedings of the Board as the Sanitary Authority are recorded ; and from 1893 the 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 the Chairman. Many of the earlier volumes include an index to main resolutions passed and discussion topics.

1. 5 October 1842 – 10 January 1844 Includes:-
 - Statement that 'Clerk paid before the Board the Contractors account for building the Workhouse together with a copy of the Architect's Report thereon, and a statement of the Loan already obtained, and the expenditure thereof' (p3), together with details of the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the accounts for the Contractor for building the workhouse' (p19).



- '-Resolved that a letter having been submitted from Admiral Trench (W. De Poer Trench) resigning the office of Guardian in this poor Law Union our Clerk be directed to communicate to Admiral Trench the unanimous request of this Board, that he will withdraw his resignation and continue to act at least until the next annual election of Guardians, and this Board having already on more than one occasion recorded their sense of the valuable services rendered by Admiral Trench in the administration of the Poor Law in this Union earnestly hope that to the Poor and to the Rate Payers those services will still be continued' (p77, see also p83-84).
- Notice of Motion was given by Mr Bell on the part of Denis H. Kelly (Castle Kelly, Ballygar) 'I hereby give notice that I will bring forward on the first of March a proposal for petitioning Parliament for a full searching and immediate enquiry into the working of the Irish Poor Law in order that the varied opinions on the subject being brought to the test of rigid examination such alterations may be made as may adapt it to the wants of the country and carry out the benevolent intentions of the Legislature' (p110).
- The Guardians 'Showith that universal dissatisfaction with the Poor Law exists in Ireland. That whilst many consider that limiting the extravagance and excessive powers of the Poor Law Commissioners combined with certain modifications of the law and an unproved [nuisance] of administering it would render it efficient for the purposes contemplated by the legislature, very many consider the whole system so radically vicious that it ought to be entirely repealed.
That to ally Public discontent, and to give the country a measure adapted to its circumstances a full searching and speedy Parliamentary enquiry into the whole system and the mode in which it has been administered is imperatively necessary in order that these varied opinions being brought to the test of Public examination, facts may be elicited and substantiated, and such measures taken therein as an enquiry may appear necessary.
That your Petitioners therefore pray your Honourable House to institute a full, searching and speedy, enquiry into the working of the Irish Poor Law, and to make such enactment on the subject as to your Honourable House may seem expedient' (p118-119).
- 'Having taken into consideration the Report of the Roman Catholic Chaplin, We consider that the conduct of the Protestant Chaplain as therein complained of in treating some of the Pauper inmates with Tea Oranges and Tobacco to have been an infringement of The Regulations of the Workhouse, but it does not appear that those presents were given for the purpose of creating undue influence' (p164).
- The Poor Law Commissioners, much to the indignation of the Board, require a more comprehensive investigation into the matter, the Board advice the Commissioners '...The Roman Catholic Chaplain's complaint above alluded to bears date the 5th inst. on which day



the Board met, and had it before them twelve of the Guardians were then present of which eight were Protestants and Four were Roman Catholics, in the ordinary course of business it was their duty to dispose of this, as of all other matters ; but seeing that it involved a question of much delicacy, they unanimously agreed "that the Board be summonsed specially for the 12th inst. to take into consideration the "Report of the Roman Catholic Chaplain" and of this fact the Commissioners were fully congressant.

That on the 12th inst. the Board again met pursuant to that notice when there were thirty one Guardians present of whom sixteen were Roman Catholics, and Fifteen Protestants, and at which meeting after the very fullest investigation, the minute, the subject of the Commissioners interference was moved by Lord Ffrench and unanimously agreed to, all of which matter was also fully before the Commissioners.

The Board cannot separate without expressing their opinion that this interference is calculated to stir up, or keep alive religious discussion, which it has been the constant object of the members of this Board individually and collectively to present, appeared reconciled, and in which object They were in no instance more happily successful than on this occasion of the very delicate investigation they felt it their duty to institute.

And the Board consider that in meddling interference of this kind, upon the part of the Commissioners will be found one of the many causes through which they have brought the Poor Law System in Ireland and the Law which gave them the power to make it into so such disrepute' (p179-181).

403pp

(2.)

3. 21 May 1845 – 24 September 1845 Includes:-

- 'Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners....accompanying the Working Drawings and Specification of the Fever Ward, and stating that Mr Wilkinson (architect) will be at Ballinasloe in about a fortnight and will be happy to take the opportunity of arranging with the Guardians as to the position of the proposed building' (p54).
- 'An application having been made by Mr Rigney for permission to attend and be present in the Board Room for the purpose of reporting the Proceedings for "The Galway Vindicator", Mr Rigney having been sent for by the Board was informed by the Chairman that although no member of the Board could object to its proceedings being placed fairly and impartially before the Public, still he wished to point out to Mr Rigney the 14th Article of the General Order of the Poor Law Commissioners for regulating the meetings of Boards of Guardians which having been read by Mr Rigney, he retired' (p92).



- 'The Master's Journal and Punishment Book were submitted to the Board, by the latter it appeared that Nancy Lyons, Honor Morgan and Catherine Raftery were deprived of milk for two days for having refused to work' (p116).
- 'The following tenders for the erection of the Fever Hospital being under consideration viz
J H [Lansle] £950
Anthony Clarke £925
Michael Kelly £990
Edward [Page] £962

It has Resolved that Anthony Clarke's tender be accepted, and that he be called upon to name two Securities for the approval of the Board' (p200).

c.255pp

(4. -5.)

6. 16 February 1848 – 6 December 1848 Includes:-

- 'Notice of Motion : That the present over crowded state of the House is injurious to the health of the inmates that taking into consideration the alarming fatality which has occurred during the last week (41 deaths) and which the Medical Officer of the Board attributes to the deleterious influence of a tainted atmosphere this Board is of opinion that with due regard to the lives of the paupers no further admissions should be sanctioned until increased accommodation be procured. That many efforts to obtain other buildings for this purpose having been already made without success the Board feel it incumbent upon them to apply to the Commissioners for permission to extend the Outdoor Relief for a limited period to such able-bodied paupers as have heretofore fairly undergone the test of the Work House and thus enlarge the means of providing accommodation for those who have not. Signed George Mahon, MD' (pp29-30).
- 'Resolved that the plan for a Board Room submitted by Mr Wilkinson (architect) is perfectly inapplicable affording even more contracted accommodate for a Board numbering 72 Guardians who at present suffer very seriously from the contracted space and deficient ventilation of the present Board Room that the Guardians beg to suggest to Mr Wilkinson something in the [___] of the annexed sketch which would afford a much more capacious Board Room and by allowing the ceiling to rise t the Roof will give abundant ventilation' (p129).



- 'The state of the House and infirmary is such as to reflect credit upon the new Master and Matron both of whom appear to take much pains and to have introduced considerable industrial improvement among the paupers....Signed Clancarty (the Earl of Clancarty, Chairman of Board) (p205).
- 'Resolved that Lord Clancarty having kindly consented to accommodate the Board with the requisite site for the New Board Room etc contemplated in the resolution of 29th March and 5th April late the attention of the Commissioners be again respectfully requested to the subject, as the present Board Room is quite inadequate to the purposes and dangerous to the health of the persons called on to discharge the duty of Guardians, particular in present hot season and with so much disease amongst the Poor' (p208).
- 'Referring to the letter signed J Derry, Bishop of Clonfert, charging the Board of Guardians with neglect of duty and improper motives of conduct towards the poor upon which an enquiry was held, the Board request they may be favoured with a copy of the minutes of the evidence taken at the enquiry etc of Captain Labalmondier's Report thereupon referred to in the Commissioners letter of 17th of June addressed to the Guardians upon the charges made against them' (p209).
- 'The Report of the Medical Officer on the introduction of Rye bread and vegetable soup was read as follows "I cannot report from experience what the effect of changing the present dietary and substituting rye bread and vegetable soup would be upon the inmates of the workhouse, from the extensive use made of the rye bread and vegetable soup in Dungarvan workhouse and the very favourable report by the Medical attendant I see no obligation that [] should be made in the Ballinasloe Union Workhouse. Rye is at present in quantity, therefore time should not be lost provided the diet is found less expensive"' (p246).
- 'Letter from the Commissioners No 57,116 dated 18th October 1848 transmitting the list of names of orphan girls selected for emigration and stating the vessel is to sail from Plymouth on the 30th October 1848' (p366)'.
'
- Report from Lord Clancarty (Chairman of the Board) 'The House appears in as satisfactory state as considering the previous filthy habits of the paupers now crowding into it, could be the Master is getting the system of Stone breaking into some order, and as they are supplied finely broken from the paupers work we shall by degrees have the yards and walks neatly and well covered and levelled.



- 'The Fever Hospital is in a particularly creditable state, both as to order and cleanliness and I am much pleased to find that the grounds about it have been tastefully laid out and applied both to use and to ornament. In the girls yard a small garden is in course of preparation in which to form the children's taste and to give them useful amusements...' (p375).

- 'Resolved that under the pressure of destitution which must very shortly visit the poor of the Union it is a matter of the greatest possible importance that every aid in the way of reproductive employment should be provided for the able-bodied.
That the proposed drainage of the Suck, which with its tributaries including the Shevin either intersects or abuts on so large a portion of the Union would if carried out afford employment of the most valuable description for this purpose.
That the delay on the part of the Board of Works in publishing the report on this drainage appears to us most unreasonable particularly as full two months since an assurance was given by them to our Chairman, the Earl of Clancarty, that it should be immediately published.
That our Chairman be requested to press on the Commissioners of the Board of Works the great importance of not having further delay in this matter and pressing on them the immediate publication of the report in order the preliminary proceedings may be gone through before the season for such work comes on' (p429).

438pp

(7.)

8. 13 June 1849 – 31 October 1849 Includes:-

- 'Letter from the Commissioners.....stating they had under consideration a report received from their Inspector Major Stuart stating the Collection of Poor Rates was almost suspended and that the Collectors have not furnished their lists of Immediate Lessors etc and stating that it would be advisable that a reduction should be made on the sum remaining uncollected and referring the Guardians to the 100 Sect. of the Act which enacts that any Officer disobeying the legal and reasonable orders of the Board shall upon conviction forfeit a sum of £5.0.0 for every offence' (p107).

- 'Letter No. 53,955 dated 15th September 1849 referring to the official communication received from The Chief Secretary's Office in which it is stated that the 38 female orphans sent from this Union to Australia had arrived safe, and was satisfactorily disposed of,' (p147).



- 'The Master's Punishment book was submitted to the Board by which it appeared that John Mannion for attempting to strike the Assistant School Master was ordered to be confined 12 hours in the Black Hole, Mary Egan, Rory Roohan,for going over the Boundary Wall order 24 hours confinement and their milk to be stoped (sic) for 2 days' (p160).
- 'Circular from the Poor Law Commissioners....calling attention to the provisions of the Act of the last session of parliament.... Authorising the Public Work's Loan Commissioners to make additional advances for building Workhouses in Ireland the sums to be issued for such purposes not to exceed the amount which after the passing of the Act may be from time to time received in repayment of the Work House Loans heretofore made, and requesting that the Guardians will cause to be entered on their minutes an account of the several instalments already due, payment of which has been called for, showing the total amount of these also the several payments made showing the balance at present due' (p166).
- 'Dominick Burke, Medical Officer's report stating 'With reference to the Fever Hospital department I have the pleasure to inform the Board that Fever has amongst the inmates of the House considerably abated, few cases have been admitted during last week except from the Town and neighbourhood, and generally observing it has assumed a milder form. Dysentery, diarrhea, scrofula, scurvy and ophthalria form a large proportion of Infirmary Diseases but contrasting the admissions and discharges, with the few deaths occurring I may venture to assume for the information of the Guardians, that all classes are taking a favourable turn' (185).

210pp

9. 7 November 1849 – 10 April 1850 Includes:-

- Report from the Earl of Clonbrock (Visiting Committee) stating ' Visited the Main House found everything in good order with respect to the discipline and general management, the door generally require painting and repairs, particularly in the Cholera Ward where weather Boards are absolutely necessary for the exclusion of wind and rain, the gutters were overflowing in all directions, this may probably be prevented by their being thoroughly cleansed. The Fever Hospital is in remarkably good order and the state of it reflects great credit on the Matron in charge...' (p5).
- 'Resolved - That the incompetence of Mr Workman, the Workhouse Master to retain the control of this Establishment is manifest from the general laxity of all discipline therein. That in confirmation thereof we beg to refer to the minutes at the last day of meeting (19th inst.) on this subject, on the complaint of Dr Burke and to the fact of no less than 9 paupers this day



being brought up for drunkenness and breaking out of the House, and the fact of the discrepancy between the stores of the house as acknowledged by himself and the returns this day furnished which shows an entire want of correctness of accounts.

Under these circumstances we look upon him as incompetent, and request the Commissioners to sanction his removal from his office' (p79, see also p86).

- 'Resolved that John Philips be appointed Workhouse Master at a salary of £80 a year with apartments and rations, on trial for two months and if found adequate his appointment to be then confirmed' (p108).
- 'Resolved That it be an instruction to the Valuers to adapt Mr Griffith's Valuation as the basis of this proceedings and that in any instances in which they may consider it just and advisable that it should be updated from that each such individual instance be submitted to the investigation of a Committee nominated by the Guardians and the Valuers and that this decision thereon be reported to the whole Board and not acted on formally till approved by them' (p160).

229pp

(10-20)

21. 8 September 1858 – 26 February 1859 Includes:-

- Transcript of letter from Richard Hall, the school master to the Board relating to allegations against the Master (Breen) and his wife for taking oatmeal from the workhouse store which was then 'given as food to some ducks kept in the premises' (p171), and of 'having got half a dozen small tables made in the workhouse by the carpenter' (p171) for his 'friends in town' (p172). The Master refutes the allegations in an open letter to the editor of the 'Western Star' newspaper, wherein he declares the oatmeal was taken to mix, as required, with poison to feed to rats 'that persisted to remain on the premises in spite of all our "notices to quit"' (p197), and that the tables were made by the workhouse carpenter completely at the personal expense of the Master for his mother and sister who acquired 'a new house, which they were desirous (and small blame to them) of having ready, if possible, for the "October Fair"' (p194). The Master further states that 'I brought (to the workhouse) in the boards in the middle of the noonday, and I sent out the tables at the same hour, with not as much as a nail in them but what was my own property. Irregular it may have been in a very strict sense of the term, but not the robbery people have been pretending for the last week to believe' (p196).



- 'Resolved That no additional store or fire place is necessary in the Ballinasloe Dispensary, there being two large fire places there already, the Ballinasloe Dispensary House comprises two comfortable apartments with fire places in both, the waiting room being only divided by a wainscotting or slight studded partition '(p216).

- Report from Dominick Burke, Medical Officers stating 'that the tea at present in use is decidedly inferior to any heretofore supplied, and that previous to its quality having been under your consideration, I requested the Master to inform the Contractor that unless a marked improvement could be noted in his next supply I would have to direct your attention to it. I also deem it of importance to observe that a good description of sugar is essentially necessary to render a fair quality of Tea wholesome and nutritious. In almost all cases requiring a stimulant I prefer spirits free from adulteration - to contract wine, the latter are principally consumed by such as are under a promise to abstain from spirits; and for their benefit I would consider an improvement advantageous.
As regards the female school I am free to admit that shoes and stockings would be at all seasons conducive to health and comfort, but feel in the absence of epidemic or endemial disease that I ought not depart from my usual habit of recommending shoes and stockings only in such cases as delicacy or constitution, or employment outside, would in any judgement render their use indispensably necessary' (p229).

- 'That we feel it our duty to draw the attention of the Commissioners of National Education to the great defect existing in their system in consequence of the total absence of Historical information, and we call upon the Commissioners to direct their immediate attention to the necessity of providing their schools with such historical books as may be best calculated to afford to the pupils knowledge of the History of their own and other countries' (p308-309).

- Transcript of a letter from the Commissioners advising the Board that 'We are directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Board of Guardians, that the Commissioners of National Education have long been anxious to introduce into their series of books a work on History; but they have been unable to find any work extant which would be suitable for united Education. We are further directed to state, that before receiving the Resolutions enclosed in your letter the Commissioners had come to the decision that steps should be taken as soon as possible, towards the compilation of a Historical work which should serve for the united Education of children of every persuasion and which should contain no matter that could give just cause of offence, either on religious or political grounds to persons of any denomination in Ireland' (p451).

c.510pp



(22.-41.)

42. 17 June 1899 - 6 January 1900 Includes index to main topics discussed, also includes:-
- 'That We the Guardians of the Ballinasloe Union strongly support the action of the Irish Land Commission arranging money for the purchase of grazing farms and believe every facility ought to be offered to those in occupation for purchasing their holdings; and furthermore that this Board are of the opinion that it is a great benefit to have grazing farms bought under Land Commission thereby converting them into Agricultural Holdings instead of the semi-barren and uncultivated state many of them are in at present' (p39, see also p160, p251).
 - Visiting Committee reported 'Took a general view of the House and grounds. The House is exceedingly clean and well kept, the crops on the grounds attached to the House are healthy and the ground worked with economy and good judgement which reflects great credit on the Master for his very high efficiency in the general management of the House & grounds' (p95).
 - Inmate John Moran punished for 'returning under the influence of drink when sent out on a message and acting in an impertinent and disrespectful manner to the Medical Officer' (p99).
 - 7 October 1899, no meeting due to the Fair (p481).
 - Master reported 'That an inmate named Kate Kennedy admitted to the House on 5th September last gave birth to an illegitimate child on this morning' (p666).
 - 'That Mrs O'Shaughnessy and a number of ladies with her, gave a Christmas tree, tea etc to the children of the workhouse, and tobacco, snuff, tea and sugar to the aged and infirm inmates on 4th instant' (f817).
 - 'R O'Connell reported that on the 21st ultimo he buried an old woman, who was in receipt of outdoor relief, named Mary Farragher, who was found dead. Having searched the house he found £0.10.10/½ which he devoted towards part payment of the burial expenses, the amount being granted to him by the Coroner for the purpose, and asked the Board's approval of his action' (pp821-2).
- 840pp

(43.-49.)

50. 27 December 1913 – 9 May 1914 Includes:-
- 'Letter from the Local Government Board No. 65,774 dated 19th December, 1913 referring to the Guardians Minutes of the 6th instant and stating that they have sanctioned the proposal to allow the Master of the Workhouse a Bonus of five per cent on all monies collected by him and lodged to the credit of the Union in respect of the cost of maintenance of inmates and on the profits of the farm for the current and past half-years' (p11).
- 546pp



(51. – 52.)

53. 10 July 1915 – 20 November 1915 Includes:-

- Visiting Committee's Report, 'We visited the house on this day and found the place in good order, the several departments being clean, tidy and well kept. Also visited the stores and found the provisions of good quality. No complaints either in the Infirmary or any other portion of the house. The farm management is all that could be desired' (p67).
- 'Resolved /- That the Dispensary Medical Officers be asked in the case of poor persons of unsound mind whom they consider it necessary to have removed from their homes to certify them as insane, and that the Relieving officers on receiving such certificates, procure the necessary House Form from the Asylum, and have the patient transmitted thereto, and that the workhouse Ambulance be at the disposal of the Relieving Officers for this purpose' (p121).
- '...In framing this temporary dietary the Guardians were mindful of the advice of the Board of Trade as to lessening the consumption of meat in the County, advice which the Members of the Board have found necessary to adopt in their own homes as well as by the impossibility at the time of getting a fully supply of fresh meat during the whole week either by contract or purchase elsewhere. The Guardians have never been disregardful of the interest of the inmates and would remind the Local Government Board that it was this Board, elected since the passing of the Local Government Act which first did away with Indian Meal Dietary of the Famine Times and gave the inmate the meat Dietary, which in the present crisis they thought well to moderate...'(p207).
- 'Letter from the Local Government Boardreferring to the Guardians Minutes of the 23rd ultimo containing an entry of a proposal the grant assistance to Mrs Hochdorfer the wife of an interned alien who is stated to be interned and stating that they have observed that the Guardians at their Meeting on the 16th October refused an application for assistance from this woman on a report in the case, appearing in the Guardians' Minutes of the 23rd October, is vague and inconclusive, the Board desire to be furnished with the full particulars of the circumstances of Mrs Hochdorfer which were before the Guardians when they allowed her relief, also calling for the full name and occupation of her husband prior to internment, the date and place of internment, and the maiden name of Mrs Hochdorfer' (p487).

560pp



54. 27 November 1915 – 8 April 1916

Includes:-

- 'Read a letter from Messrs Golding & Sheill, Solicitors, Ballinasloe dated the 8th January, 1916 stating that as a Decree for possession of Mrs Hocdorfer's house was granted at Loughrea Quarter Sessions, and as she has absolutely no means of paying the rent due, she will be certainly quite destitute, if the Decree is executed, and in these circumstances the Guardians should have no difficulty in feeling satisfied that they are safe in granting her the allowance which she claims' (p207, see also p235, p345).
- 'Resolved :- That we join with the public boards all over Ireland in protesting against the withdrawal of Education, Agricultural and other Grants in Ireland. The action of the Treasury in this starving Irish while pampering English services is only another evidence that even yet unjust discrimination between England and her weaker sister continues to be the fixed policy of the British Government' (p235).
- 'That our experiences of the working of the Insurance Act in Ireland convinces us day by day not along of its utter worthlessness but of its injustice to employers and employees alike. We are assured that no amount of contemplated amendment can make it either now or in future beneficial or popular in this Country and as its benefits are in no way proportionate to the erroneous cost of its administration we call for its complete abolition' (p317).
- 'That We, the Members of the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians in meeting assembled, in union with the whole Irish Nation condemn in the strongest possible manner the mean and cowardly action of the Local Government Board in resurrecting a dead buried, and long since rotten Act of Parliament in order to enable them to levy an ignoble tax on our Saintly Priests the Franciscan Fathers of Athlone, and while condemning this dastardly crew the Auditor & Co., of the Local Government Board, we tender all thanks and praise to the Chairman and Members of the different Boards of 'stout' Athlone as also to Messrs John Dilloan (sic), J.P. Hayden, and Sir Walter Nugent for their manly action in condemning this bigoted folly by an almost obsolete body of hirelings' (p403).

537pp

(55).



56. 26 August 1916 – 13 January 1917 Includes:-

- 'That we the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians protest against the evidence tendered by Major Price before the Commission of Inquiry touching on the rebellion, wherein he stated that the appointment of Magistrates made by the present Lord Chancellor was detrimental to the carrying out of the Law in Ireland, in as much as that they were afraid through local influence to discharge their duty impartially. That we believe that the appointment of Nationalist Magistrates made by the present Lord Chancellor have purified the atmosphere of the Petty Sessions Courts hitherto constituted by the Landlord class and their tools the Graziers' (p41).
- 'That we notice with disgust the revival of the conscription campaign by the yellow press of Great Britain and Ireland and now as Home Rule is on the Statute Book we deny the right of any British Government to legislate in reference to this matter for our Country, as we contend that the people of Ireland should stand on exactly the same grounds as the self governing Colonies of the Empire.
And furthermore if at the command of the well known enemies of our race and creed any Government attempt to force the abomination on our Country we are determined to resist it by every means in our power' (p183).
- 'That We, the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians protest against this batch of evictions coming before us especially at this trying time during the War, as it is from this very class of mend who are supplying the sinews of war are taken' (p207).
- Notice of Motion ' I hereby give Notice that in the event of the Schoolmaster being elected to the position of Master for which position he is a candidate, I will move on this day fortnight that the position of Schoolmaster be abolished and that the schoolboys be either sent to the outside school or boarded-out and so save from £90-£100 a year' (p215).
- 'That we the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians beg to express our most severe condemnation on the action of County Court Judge Doyle, in confirming the savage sentences on the Falty Prisoners, and we hope that no stone will be left unturned to have this judgement reviewed' (p267).
- 'That We call on the Government to immediately take steps to prevent the export of potatoes and thereby avoid the scarcity of seed which will eventually occur next Spring if the Country be now deprive of the potato crop' (p317).

560pp

(57 – 58.)

59. 13 April 1918 – 28 September 1918 Includes:-
- 'That We, the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians protest in the strongest possible manner against any attempt to enforce Conscription on this Country which is already so denuded of man power as to be badly able to cope with the increased tillage regulations, and that we call on the Irish Party in the event of their protest being unheeded, to leave the House of Commons and return to Ireland to consider the best means of resisting conscription' (p13).
 - Master (Wyms) reported that 'on the 11th instant the Body of the House was inspected by Officers of the Norfolk Yeomanry, with a view to ascertaining its suitability (or otherwise) as a Winter Quarter for Troops' (p514).
 - '...Mr Pack-Beresford, Local Government Inspector who was present at the Meeting informed that the Military Authorities had decided to take over the Workhouse, the Infirmary and Fever Hospital for the accommodation of Troops, and stating that he was making arrangements for the transfer of the Sick and Healthy Inmates to the Portumna and Loughrea Unions (28 September 1918, p557).

572pp

60. 5 October 1918 – 29 March 1919 Includes:-
- Master's report detailing the number and classification of inmates transferred to Portumna Workhouse, and advising that the 'body of the house was officially taken over by the military Authorities (per Captain George R.E.) on 10th inst.'... (p29, see also p317).
 - 'Mr Beresford (Local Government Inspector) who was present at the Meeting read a letter from the Clerk of the Portumna Union regarding the reception of the Inmates from the Ballinasloe Union and the treatment they received on arriving. When on the motion of the Chairman, Seconded by Mr Hoban a vote of thanks was passed to the Guardians and Officers of the Portumna Union for their kindness to the transferred inmates,...' (p33)
 - Resolved, 'That the Prime Minister be called upon to release all the Irish Prisoners interned in English and Irish prisons at the present time for political offences, as we consider that the time has now come for a general Amnesty to be extended to all persons suffering for political offences' (4 January 1919, p297).

551pp



61. 5 April 1919 – 16 August 1919 Includes:-

- The Master, Martin Whyms, reported, '...that on Tuesday 20th instant I received possession of the Workhouse from Mr McCarthy, Local Government Inspector who simultaneously received possession from the Military through the Representative of the Royal Engineers. That in conjunction with the Foreman of the Royal Engineers, Athlone I have taken particulars of the repairs which are necessary as a consequence of Military Occupation....' (p205).
- 'Order /- THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD BE CONVENED FOR THE 7th JUNE, 1919 TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF RECEIVING BACK THE INMATES WHO WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE PORTUMNA UNION CONSEQUENT OF MILITARY OCCUPATION, AND THAT THE CLERK CALL ON THE CLERK OF THE PORTUMNA UNION AND GO INTO THE COST OF MAINTENANCE ETC, IN THAT INSTITUTION.... (p207)
- 'Resolved /- That the Clerk communicate with the clerks of the neighbouring Union and ascertain from their Board of Guardians their views on amalgamation of the Workhouses in East Galway, and that a further Committee meeting be held on 28th inst. at 12 o'clock to consider the replies received' (p291).
- Board issued orders, ' (1) That the replies received from the several Unions be sent to the Local Government Board, and that the local Government Board be requested to take the necessary steps to have the Amalgamation of Unions in the East Riding of Galway put in operation. The Special Committee further suggest that one Union is sufficient in each Riding...' (p403).
- The Local Government Board advised the Guardians that they 'have not at present before them sufficient details to enable them to take any immediate steps to carry out the Guardians proposal' (p489).

560pp

62. 23 August 1919 – 2 January 1920 Includes:-

- 'Letter from the Local Government Board ...drawing attention of the Boards of Guardians and of the Councils of the Rural Districts comprised therein to the provisions of Section 7 of the Local Government Board (Ireland) Act 1919 and from which it will be observed that the Rural District of Ballinasloe No. 2 comes within the limits of population and rateable value laid down in the section, and, as a consequence, it devolves upon the Board to amalgamate it with the



adjoining rural district of Athlone No. 2 in the same county, and that an Order to that effect will accordingly be issued and the necessary adjustments made in due course, and having regards to its effect on the county administrative system and poor law representations, it becomes a matter for consideration whether it would be desirable to alter the Unions concerned in a similar manner by transferring the Electoral Divisions constituting the Ballinasloe No. 2 District Ballinasloe Union to that of Athlone, and the Board would be glad to learn the views of the Guardians on the proposal' (p13).

- 'Resolved/- "That having fully considered the question of the transfer of the Roscommon portion of the Ballinasloe Union to Athlone, we are altogether opposed to any change from the present arrangements on the following grounds (1) The change would be highly inconvenient to the Guardians concerned.
(2) It would be equally inconvenient and injurious to the poor and sick in the Roscommon portion of the Union. (3) It would deprive Ballinasloe Union of the considerable portion of revenue contributed by Roscommon without any corresponding saving or indeed any saving at all. On these grounds we call on the Local Government Board to refrain from making any change in the present arrangements' (p96-97).
- Master reported that on 1st October 1919 48 inmates were 'transferred to the House from Portumna Union by Motor Lorry supplied by Military and accompanied by me and the Matron...'. (p177).
- 'That We, the Members of the Ballinasloe Urban Council condemn in the strongest possible manner the action of the Police for the brutal and savage attack made on defenceless men and women on Saturday last October 11th in the streets of Ballinasloe' (p239).

560pp

63. 10 January 1920 – 22 May 1920 Includes:-

- 'Resolved/- That We, the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians strongly commend to the Traders and People of Ballinasloe Urban and Rural Districts the recent automatic boycott project started in Tuam which we believe is necessary in order to bring the Carsonites of the North to realise that their best interests lie in a one free and undivided Ireland, and that we call on the Traders of Ballinasloe and surrounding towns to follow the excellent lead given by the Traders and people of Tuam' (p99).



- 'Resolved /- That We, ...beg to congratulate the sterling Irishmen of the North of Derry in battering down the walls of that Citadel and selecting that staunch old Fenian Hugh O'Doherty as Mayor of that old City' (p99).
- 'Resolved /- That in view of the very serious report of the Local Government Board's Medical Inspector Dr. Clinch on the Financial condition of the Galway County Hospital in which he states that the finances of the Institution are in a hopeless condition we strongly represent to the Local Government Board the absolute injustice of forcing the Ratepayers of our Union to pay an impost of £1,000 towards the upkeep of this admittedly badly managed Institution till we are satisfied that its management be placed on proper business lines' (p179, see also p347).

533pp

(64.)

65. 21 August 1920 – 12 February 1921 Includes:-

- 'Read a letter from Dáil Eireann dated August, 1920 on the subject of Conciliation Boards was on the motion of Mr Connolly, Seconded by Mr Croughwell unanimously adopted' (p15).
- 'Arising out of the reading of the Minutes of last Meeting, the Clerk stated that the Guardians Minutes of the 21st August, 1920 had not been transmitted to the Local Government Board, owing to the fact of a Special Meeting of the Republican Members of the Board being specially convened by the direction of Dáil Eireann to meet on the 24th August 1920 when at that Meeting it was unanimously decided to cut off all communication with the Local Government Board, and that all correspondence etc, be forwarded to An Dáil Eireann, and having regard to such stops being taken he tendered his resignation as Clerk of the Union at said Meeting, and this being the first Meeting of the Board of Guardians since that special Meeting, he (the Clerk) now ratified his action of that date' (p39).
- 'Letter from Dáil Eireann Department of Labour on the subject of finding labour for all Members of the R.I.C. who have discarded the Uniform of the Army of Occupation was unanimously adopted, and the Clerk was directed to ascertain any man who has left the Force and being the matter up for consideration with a view of finding him suitable employment' (p41).



- Master's Reports included 'That as the Military Occupation of the Men's side of the House seems likely to take place immediately, and as in relation to this matter the Board has declined to give me instructions I have made such preparations as I have deemed necessary. These preparations necessitated the employment of a Mason for the past week' (p65).
- 'Resolved /- That the Bank of Ireland be disposed of the Treasurer ship of the Ballinasloe Union, and that the Agent be requested to publish (sic) in the Press that they are no longer Treasurers to the Guardians of the Ballinasloe Union' (p67)
- 'Ordered/- That the Clerk send the Portumna Officers Remuneration Claim to the Military Authorities to pay the amount of the remuneration paid to the Portumna Officials consequent of the Ballinasloe Inmates being transferred to that Institution owing to Military Occupation of the Ballinasloe Workhouse' (p67).
- Master's Report 'That at 4 p.m. on Saturday the 25th ultimo I received notification (herewith) that the occupation of one side of the House by Military would taken place at 10 am on the following Monday.

To transfer our furniture, beds, bedding etc, to the other side and to make all necessary separations between us and the Military Quarters and between Male and Female on the side we retain, I was obliged to procure on Sunday the 26th ultimo at the rate of double time the services of three men and two Carpenters in addition to our own helpA permanent separation now exists at all points between Military Quarters and those of the Inmates.....This was the best arrangement I could make under the circumstances and within time left to us. Under it the inmates are comfortable but the situation presents some features which I cannot recommend as satisfactory, such as the following :- There is no separation of children from Adults. Unmarried Mothers and their children have to sleep in the same division as the old women though not on the same floor.....The men's side of the House was vacated by the Inmates on the night of Sunday 26th ultimo, and occupied by Troops on the following day...'

(pp152-153).

- 'Letter from the Galway County Council stating that the Estimates of the Union and Rural District Council will be reduced by £3,177 and £288 respectfully consequent of the stoppage by the Government of the Grants in aid of Local Taxation' (p155).
- 'Letter from An Dáil Eireann dated 11th October 1920 following on recent instructions ordering a complete severance of relations with the English Local Government Board, and requesting that the Medical Officers send their half-yearly Returns direct to this Department through the Clerk, and to no other Body' (p207).

556pp

(66.-69.)



B. Outdoor Relief List, 1913 - 1931

70. 30 September 1913 – 30 September 1931 For Ballinasloe Union, Relief District No. 1. detailing the name of person in receipt of relief together with statistical information such as summary of number given relief such as sex, children, lunatics ; and money information such as amount for week ending and total for 1/2 year. Relieving Officer, D. Hession.

45ff

(71. - 74.)

C. File of Draft Notices to Take Possession of Property, 1893

75. 2 May 1893 Issued by the Petty Sessions Court, Ballinasloe to the Relieving Officer of Ballinasloe Poor Law Union advising that Mrs Margaret Hayden (Plaintiff) obtained orders from the Court declaring her entitlement to take possession of premises at Abbotts Lane, town of Ballinasloe, parish of Kilclooney, barony of Clonmacnowen and electoral division of Ballinasloe, and further advising that she intends to take delivery of them from the defendants Thomas McNamara, Michael Kelly, Mary Moran, and John Farrell.

4 items



D. Receipts from the Ballinasloe District Agricultural Society, 1893 – 1894

76. 4 November 1893 – 2 November 1894 Receipts issued to R. G. Gill, (Secretary of the Union and the Society) on behalf of Society in respect of monies given for prizes at the Horse Show.
- 2 items

E. Scrapbook of Press Cuttings, 1888 – 1920

77. 26 July 1888 – 26 June 1920 Notices and advertisements placed in the local press by the Board of Guardians relating to vacancies in various posts, such as nurses (1912 & 1914), mid-wives (1914), engineer (1914), and notices publicising various matters, such as the enforcement of the Compulsory Vaccination Acts (1917), and consideration of tenders for items such as coal (1917), turf (1917), and repair of pumps (1918). Also includes 'Sensational Report' relating to the last audit of the Ballinasloe District Asylum Committee (c. 1914). (Starts at page 3).
- 20pp