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**GPL3/  
Clifden  
Poor Law Union  
Archive Collection  
1849 - 1921**

*A Descriptive List Prepared by Galway County Council Archives*

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**GPL3/**

**Clifden  
Poor Law Union  
Archive Collection**

**1849 - 1921**

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**Letter from Thomas McWalters CC, Inishbofin to the Board of Guardians stating:-**

*'In consequence of there being no Guardian at present to represent the ratepayers of this Island at your meeting I deem it incumbent upon me respectfully to suggest to the Board the necessity of appointing some fit person to act in the capacity of Relieving Officer here for the coming six months.*

*This necessity arises from the fact that several families on the island are already suffering from want of food, and that if "outdoor relief" be not extended to them there is every likelihood that they will perish of hunger.*

*Seeing the poverty and misery of many of the poor people here I have been endeavouring for weeks past to induce them to enter the Workhouse but all to no purpose, they seem determined to die of sheer want in their own little hut rather than become inmates of it...'*

(11 February 1863, GPL3/28, p409)



# Table of Contents

	Page No.
<b>Scope and Content</b>	<b>v</b>
POOR LAW UNIONS	v
<i>CLIFDEN POOR LAW UNION – BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES</i>	viii
<i>Medical Charities</i>	xviii
<i>Workhouse Staff</i>	xxi
<i>Religion</i>	xxii
<i>Water, Drainage and Sewers</i>	xxiii
<i>Amalgamation and Closure</i>	xxvii
Arrangement	xxix
Condition	xxix
Non-Disclosure Requirement	xxx
Archival History	xxx
Allied Material	xxxi
<i>Primary Sources</i>	xxxi
<i>Secondary Sources</i>	xxxii
Appendices	xxxv
A. <i>List of Some of the Members of the Board of Guardians</i>	xxxvii
B. <i>Electoral Divisions covered by Clifden Poor Law Union</i>	xli
C. <i>List of some Workhouse Officials and Staff</i>	xliii
D. <i>Recorded Number of Inmates Resident and Deaths in the Workhouse</i>	xlix
E. <i>Cost of Inmates in the Workhouse</i>	lviii
F. <i>List of Abbreviations</i>	lx
<b>A. Minutes of Board of Guardians Meetings, 1849 - 1921</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>B. Incoming Letter Books, 1849</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>C. Diet Book for Healthy Inmates, 1856 - 1857</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>D. Damp Press Copy Letter Book, 1903 - 1907</b>	<b>73</b>





## Scope and Content

This collection of Clifden Poor Law Union archives consists primarily of Board of Guardian minute books, 84 in total, dating from 1849 to 1921, with some gaps, together with letter books and a diet book. Several of the earlier volumes have suffered severe mould damage, with resultant loss of substantial quantities of text and rendering other sections illegible. Several volumes (namely GP3/16b, 38, 39, 51 and 65) were initially inaccessible, but following conservation treatment in 2014 are now accessible

### 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 1880s 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 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 Boards 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 and 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 were

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

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. Every ratepayer had at least one vote, and the number of votes increased according to valuation and other conditions in a complex manner. The owners of property had similarly plural votes, the general maximum being six. The position was unpaid.

Lists of Guardians are often found in various contemporary directories such as Slater's, Pigot's, or Thom's 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; the 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 over time 'the public sewer-makers, the custodians of burial grounds and wells, the constructors of waterworks, the proprietors of dwellings for labourers, the executors of compulsory vaccination laws and 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>2</sup>.

For instance, in the early 1850s, 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. The boards had to provide the necessary appliances and medicines, and the salaries of the medical officers were to be paid out of the poor rate. In 1851 the 3,438 electoral divisions of the country were divided into 718 dispensary districts.

While many boards of guardians had allowed the non-destitute to enter workhouse hospitals for treatment during the 1850s, the 1862 Poor Law (Amendment) Act officially opened the workhouse hospitals to the non-destitute sick. '*As a result of these developments, Ireland had one of the most advanced health services in Europe in the mid-19th century, if policy and structure are to be taken as criteria*'<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> J. Muldoon & G. 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*, (Dublin, 1898) Eason & Son, Ltd.

<sup>3</sup>Donnelly, Brian, National Archives, *ARA Spring Newsletter*, 2015, p12.

From the early 1860s 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.

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>4</sup>. The district councils were granted responsibility for the Unions' functions relating to housing and sanitary services. These functions were in turn transferred to county councils in 1925 following the dissolution of rural district councils under the Local Government Act of that year.

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 persons in Loughrea<sup>5</sup> and outdoor relief was replaced by home assistance.

The Unions' 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.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> GCCA, Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/3, p308

Mountbellew, Oughterard<sup>6</sup> and Portumna were established in 1852.

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

### ***CLIFDEN POOR LAW UNION – BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES***

Much of the detail that follows is extracted from the minutes of the Guardians' meetings. The detail is not intended to be a full history of the Union, rather it is a simple and very condensed account of it during the period 1849 – 1921, the period for which Board of Guardian minutes survive.

Where possible, so as to ease family research, any inmate's name found in the minutes has been included in the descriptive list.

Clifden Poor Law Union was established in August 1840 and covered an area of 296 square miles. Its workhouse was located on a four-acre site at the south side of the Galway Road. The land for the workhouse was acquired by the Poor Law Commissioners (PLC) under a 500 year lease dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1842 from H D'Arcy. It cost £4,856.7.8<sup>7</sup> to build and £900 for fittings. Its original capacity was for 300 inmates<sup>8</sup>. Although the workhouse was ready for admissions in 1845 it did not receive its first inmates until March 1847.

**The surviving minutes, which commence in 1849**, show that the highest number of inmates in the workhouse was during the period January to March 1850 when there were just less than 2,000 in the house. By 1858 the number had dropped to around 100, and generally fluctuated, depending on periods of distress, between 80 and 150 from then on. The official capacity of the workhouse in 1897 was 822, though at that time there were only about 130 inmates in the workhouse.

Though no records survive it appears that in the region of 300 girls from Clifden workhouse emigrated to Canada, together with substantial numbers for Galway and Gort<sup>9</sup>.

The Union's operation was initially overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, initially 12 in number, representing the electoral divisions of Ballindoon, Clifden, Renvyle and Roundstone.

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<sup>6</sup> Board of Public Health & Assistance minutes include, 'Submitted quotation from Messrs M. Duan & Co., South Prince's Street, Dublin, for the purchase of the old papers in above workhouse.

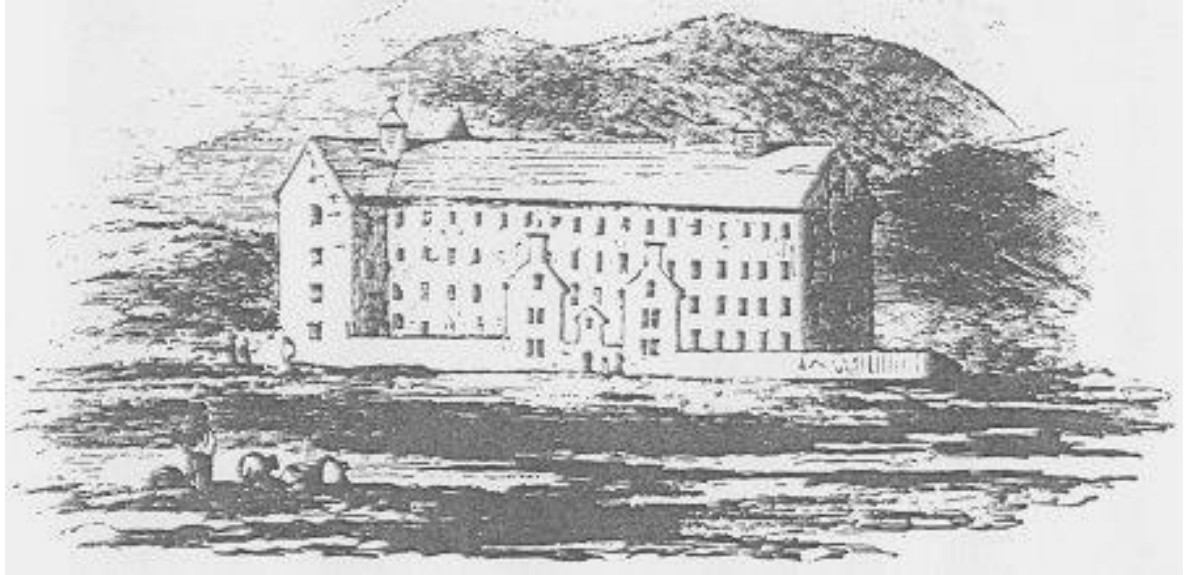
Order- Mr Sweeney, County Engineer, is authorised to have the papers sold' (6 Sept 1941, GC5/20 p5).

<sup>7</sup> Report of the Commissioners appointed to Inquire into the Execution of the contracts for certain Union workhouse in Ireland, Mar 1845

<sup>8</sup> J. O'Connor, *The Workhouses of Ireland: The Fate of Ireland's Poor*, (Dublin 1995) Anvil Books

<sup>9</sup> Gerard Moran, historian (lecture Clarinbridge October 2016)

The Board also included 4 *ex officio* Guardians, making a total of 16. The Guardians met each week on Wednesday at noon<sup>10</sup>.



*Image of the Clifden Workhouse which appeared in the Illustrated London News in 1850.*

*The accompanying report stated: "Clifden itself is an exotic in an unfavourable climate. It was reared by the patronage of the late Viscount; and since that ceased, it began to decline: the Poor-law has almost finished it. . . Extreme poverty exists in the neighbourhood-- the soil around is poor-- great numbers of houses have been levelled-- but the poor, unlike those of Kilrush, have in great part disappeared with the houses. They have not found refuge in the workhouse-- they have not been carried away as emigrants; they have either wandered away or have died, or both may have contributed to cause their disappearance. . . I have taken a Sketch of the workhouse, which I send as a memorial of this pet place of the late Viscount Clifden." Illustrated London News, January 19, 1850*

The Union was re-organised in about 1851 at which time the following electoral divisions came under its jurisdiction, Clifden, Derrylea, Inishbofin, Ballinakill, Cleggan, Cushkillery, Rinvyle, Bunowen, Derrycunlagh, Dunloughan, Errislannon, Bencorr, Illion, Moynes, Roundstone, Knockbog, Owengowla, Silerna, and Skannive. The number of guardians was also increased to approximately 21.

Dr Suffield, the workhouse doctor between 1848 and 1868, wrote that upon taking up his post he had '*...the workhouse, a fever and cholera hospital in Clifden, five auxiliary<sup>11</sup> workhouses in different localities*' under his care (GPL3/37, f66).

The Clifden Board of Guardians generally met weekly in the Boardroom of the workhouse, though during the early 1870s it only met about twice a month. Extensive minutes were kept of their meetings together with detailed statistical information pertaining to the administration of the Union.

<sup>10</sup> The Workhouse (<http://www.workhouses.org.uk>) (June 2004)

<sup>11</sup> One at Kylemore, Bunowen and Roundstone

When the surviving minutes commence in May 1849 the PLC was managing the workhouse. Elections for new Guardians were held in November; a list of the Guardians is recorded in the minutes (GPL3/10, p166). At that point there were 1,482 inmates in the workhouse, including at the ancillary accommodation in Roundstone and Bunowen, and another 2,345 receiving outdoor relief.

The numbers remained high during the early 1850s but dropped significantly by the mid-to-late 1850s, at which time there were in the region of 120 inmates in the House, and often fewer than 100. From around this time elections of new members and Chairmen generally took place annually in April.

In December 1849 following appeals from a Relieving Officer for further assistance the Board resolved that in order to give as *'...much relief as possible with any funds which may be available'* that it would be advantageous to all concerned if the Relieving Officers would *'administer relief in money in preference to food'* (GPL3/10/238). At the same time a Medical Officer advised that *'disease and mortality are greatly on the increase in consequence of want of proper clothing, and an insufficient supply of milk. The Board have to regret that the wants complained of in reference to the clothing were occasioned by a scarcity of funds, and the clothing in the Workhouse being in the hands of the Sherriff'* (GPL3/10, p239). Nine people had died in the workhouse that week.

The Clifden Board of Guardians was constantly in financial difficulty, finding it difficult to collect rates and at the same time provide relief, particularly in times of distress. Even after the Great Famine, the Union suffered from periods of immense distress, such as in 1867, the late 1870s, the early 1880s, in 1890 and 1894, and also between 1904 and 1905.

In 1867, for example, the Board drew the Commissioners' attention to the *'...present distress now prevailing in this Union almost bordering on famine...'* (GPL3/35, f236). Some years later, in October 1896, the Board drew attention to the *'...lamentable condition of the country owing to the great losses sustained by the tenant farmers by reason of the almost total destruction of their crops by recent heavy rains and unusually inclement season...Clifden Union one of the poorest and most heavily taxed unions in Ireland...'*(GPL3/81, p47). The Board outlined to the Local Government Board (LGB) that it was one of the poorest Unions in the county and was constantly in a grim condition, with wretched poverty throughout the district.

In January 1850 the Board had to withdraw outdoor relief *'...for want of funds'* but ordered that their Relieving Officers be supplied with a small portion of meal *'...to enable them to give relief to the most urgent cases in order to save life...'* (GPL3/10, p272). Furthermore the Board pointed out to the PLC that even if all the outstanding rates were collected their position would *'...be very little bettered. That every step, the Law admits of being taken for the recovery of*

*those debts has already been taken, and that this Board wash their hands of all the consequences of death and the seizure and sale of the property belonging to this Union arising from the present want and future deficiency of funds'* (GPL3/10, p 278). The PLC provided an initial sum of £70, and later a second sum of £200 to assist with '*...meeting the necessities of the Union'* and thus allowing supplies to be obtained for outdoor relief (GPL3/10 p280). Further monies were submitted in the following weeks, some obtained by the sale of goods at auction at the workhouse.

The Board resolved in February 1850 to take steps to acquire further indoor accommodation in order that outdoor relief could cease (GPL3/10, p318). At that time 3,767 persons were in receipt of outdoor relief.

In May 1867 the Board drew the Commissioners' attention to the '*...present distress now prevailing in this Union almost bordering on famine with a view that the Government would take some steps to alleviate it as the Guardians feel they will not be able to cope with the distress now existing'* (GPL3/35, f236). At that time there were 158 inmates in the workhouse, with one death, and 18 cases receiving outdoor relief. By 15<sup>th</sup> May the number in the workhouse increased to 182. They further wrote that '*...this district is in a state of the utmost distress. That the potato on which the population does chiefly subsist is entirely or nearly consumed and that the next means of subsistence, namely Indian meal, is at a price that people cannot buy it....and that we humbly pray that the Government will take the distressed state of this district into consideration and try to provide yellow meal or biscuit at such a reduced price as the people can buy it at...the paupers in the House are nearly double the usual number but we beg to assure the Government that both rich and poor, landlord and tenant with very few exceptions are literally unable to meet the rate payment'* (GPL3/35, f245).

Following a crop failure in 1879 the Board campaigned in 1880 for public works to help alleviate distress and in particular championed the case for the railway between Galway and Clifden (see for instance GPL3/52, ff5-6 and GPL3/66, p450). Also due to the prevailing conditions at that time the Local Government Board (LGB) authorised '*...administering relief out of the workhouse in food and fuel to poor persons other than those described in Sec 1, 10 Vic cap 31 for a period of the calendar month'* (17 Feb 1880, GPL3/52, f16).

The Guardians continued to campaign for public works, in particular the railway, in subsequent years. Such as in July 1883 advising the '*...great social and material advantage which would be conferred on a very large area of county (about 50 square miles) if he (the Lord Lieutenant) were to assist the undertaking of a Railway from Galway to Clifden'* (GPL3/57, f64).

The number receiving outdoor relief in April 1880 was 500, with 152 inmates in the workhouse. By 29<sup>th</sup> May 1880 the number receiving outdoor relief had increased to 829. In June 1880 the

LGB approved the '*...continuous of outdoor relief under the Relief of Distress Ireland Act 1880 to 1<sup>st</sup> July 1880*' (GPL3/52, f165). The Board then directed the Relieving Officers that '*...every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of the Order are to be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he received relief. The Board consider the best and only way to fill employment is by stone breaking in their respective districts and that they be allowed at the rate of 1/6 [1s. 6d] in kind per cubic yard*' (GPL3/52, f165). By 26<sup>th</sup> June 1880 the number receiving outdoor relief was 1,022, with 135 in the workhouse.

Outdoor relief was further extended to 31<sup>st</sup> July 1880. By early August the number in receipt of outdoor relief had dropped to 383. However, outdoor relief was extended again in mid February 1881 until the end of the month, though the Guardians at that time considered that '*...a renewal of the Order is not required at present as ample employment can be obtained during the progress of the Spring work*' (GPL3/53, f149).

In November 1882 the Board again called upon the Government to provide public works, stating '*That taking into consideration the almost complete failure of the crops in this part of Connemara and seeing also that the fishing during the present year owing to the unfavourableness of the weather and scarcity of fish half the number of families in some districts of this Union shall be in complete destitution before the early spring. We the Clifden Board of Guardians call upon the Government to give timely relief in the shape of Public Work and thus prevent a famine which shall otherwise certainly come with all its miseries amongst us*' (GPL3/56, p149).

In January 1883 the Board received a letter from the Board of Works' Solicitor advising that the Board's cheque of £53.5.4 had been dishonoured and the Clerk of the Union advised the Board that '*...there were no funds to meet this or any other cheque*'. The Board resolved to '*...undertake to pay the Treasurer moderate interest of £500 for three months to meet the current expenses of the Union...*' (GPL3/56, p249). At its subsequent meeting it '*...earnestly and respectfully*' begged the Government to commence public works '*at once*' (GP3/56, p251).

At its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1883 the LGB Inspector, Mr Robinson, advised the Board that it was £2,200 in debt and '*...as the Board of Works in pursuance of the provisions of the Seed Supply Act were impounding the money lodged by the collectors, the Guardians were unable owing to the backward state of the collection to comply with provisions of Co Vic c31 and to put money in the Relieving Officers hands to administer Relief and that the Clerk of the Union had advanced over £50 for the payment of milk etc.*' Robinson recommended that the Board take action against defaulters (GPL3/56, pp369-370). The financial situation was again discussed at the subsequent meeting when the Board resolved to '*...obtain a loan of £1,000*



*for some months on easy terms and the Board request the LGB to use their influence and cooperation with the Board of Works to recommend the loan'* (GPL3/56, p389). A loan of £500 was permitted by the LGB and the Commissioners of Public Works agreed that only half *'...of the weekly lodgements being impounded for the Seed Rate etc'* (GPL3/56, p408).

However, in May 1883 the Board resolved *'...that as the Resolution said to be passed at the Board meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> April was neither proposed, seconded nor put from the Chair that it be expunged from the Minutes of said meeting and that we the Guardians of Clifden Union now bind ourselves not to borrow any money for which interest would have to be paid and further more we call upon the collectors to use more exertion in the collection of the Rates in their respective districts so that money may be forthcoming to meet outstanding debt'* (GP3/57, f4).

In September 1883 the Board advised the LGB that the debt of the Union was *'...upwards of £3,000 and no available funds and a balance due Treasurer of £1,500, that the Seed Rate nearly £4,000 is uncollected, and we believe uncollectable, owing to the large number of persons emigrated, evicted, dead and left their holdings and that we earnestly, and respectfully request the LGB to allocate a sufficient grant from the funds at their disposal to assist this insolvent Union, and further that if possible they would see their way to a reduction of the present rate'* (GPL3/57, f164). Following this appeal the LGB granted £900 for the distressed districts towards the reduction of the rate. The Guardians expressed their gratitude for the grant but asked the Board *'...to take into consideration the improvised state of our Union and assist us with a further grant for the relief of the Union'* (GPL3/57, f194). Ongoing appeals were made for grants and financial assistance. Despite the Rate Collectors making progress with their collection the *'...depressed and unsettled condition of the small farmer'* meant it was *'...next to impossible to bring in the rate to the extent of clearing off the Balances due, and meeting the current requirements'* (GPL3/58, f75, March 1884).

In July 1884 the liabilities of the Union were £2,800 (GPL3/58, f185), and the Board again called on the LGB to *'...press on the Government the necessity of coming to our aid with a grant to enable us to tide over the current year...'* (GPL3/58, f195).

In March 1886, during yet another period of great distress, the Board of Guardians urged the Local Government Board to establish public works immediately, stating, *'To the poverty of the Union we need scarcely refer. The rates are already ruinously high and consequently people are unable to meet any further addition to them, and nothing but the immediate inauguration of works can save the people from starvation, and we earnestly and respectfully beg the LGB to recommend to her Majesty's government the construction of a Light Railway from Galway to*

*Clifden which would open up the country and give employment in this period of dire distress'* (GPL3/61, p409).

Following a subsequent appeal the LGB authorised outdoor relief, but the Board of Guardians advised that due to its 'bankrupt' condition it was unable to provide such relief and urged that '*...a good portion of the £40,000 granted would be put at once at our disposal to carry out the requirements of the LGB'* (GPL3,61, p469).

The passing of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act 1886 afforded some assistance, enabling relief works. The Board submitted a schedule of works proposed to be carried out in the Union under the Act.

260 individuals were in receipt of outdoor relief by January 1887 (GPL3/63, p181).

A review by the Local Government auditor, Colonel O'Hara, of the Union's accounts in early 1887 found that '*The exceptional relief given under Relief of Distress Act 1886 in this Union appears to have been given not strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Act but to have been given as temporary relief by Relieving Officers and subsequently sanctioned by Guardians'*.

*'There can be no doubt there was great pressure both on Guardians and Relieving Officers, and much distress existing at the time. This will account for some irregularities and I do not deem it necessary under the exceptional circumstances of the case to question the legality of the expenditure...'* (GPL3/63, p189).

In January 1889 the issue of the '*...unfortunate state of indebtedness'* of the Union was again discussed, when the Board asked the Local Government Board to '*...procure for us the power of borrowing a sufficient sum to be repaid with 3½ per cent spread over a number of years. We could then work our Union in a satisfactory manner. We feel that in bringing this matter under the notice of the LGB we are conveying to them the wishes of the Ratepayers of our Union'* (GPL3/66, p449). At the same time the Board again recommended the '*...construction of a line of railway from Galway to Clifden'* (GPL3/66, p450).

Finally in May 1889 the Board was able to express its appreciation to the Chief Secretary '*...for the warm interest he takes in the improvement of our long neglected county evinced by his statement that he is about to carry out the recommendations of Sir John Alport's Royal Commission to have the Railway constructed from Galway to Clifden*<sup>12</sup>. *We feel that on the carrying out of this measure the prosperity of our country depends, and we trust the Bill will meet with no obstructions...'* (GPL3/67, p208).

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<sup>12</sup> The Light Railways (Ireland) Act was passed in 1889. Under the Act, the Midland Great Western Railway Company (MGWR) constructed rail links to Achill and Killala in County Mayo and to Clifden in County Galway. The line from Galway to Oughterard was opened on 1 January 1895 and the rest of the line came into operation in July. There were six stations between Clifden and Galway,

On 3 December 1890 the Board resolved *'We the Board of Guardians of the Clifden Union representing the inhabitants of Connemara at this our first meeting since the Galway Grand Juries gave their sanction to the construction of the Galway and Clifden Railway feel it our duty to tender our grateful thanks to Her Majesty's Government for the munificent grant of £264,000 for the construction of the line and especially to the Right Honourable Arthur J Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, for his unwearied exertions in having the Railway Bill passed. We also tender our best thanks to the Grand Juries for the cordial manner in which they gave their sanction to the proposed measure. We also feel our best thanks are due to Sir Ralph Cusack, the Chairman of the M.G.W. Railway Company and his co-directors for the manner in which they have co-operated with the Government and the Grand Juries thereby securing to our county the inestimable benefit of internal communication'* (GPL3/69, p282b).

It took several years to build the railway, and various delays were encountered with different contractors. The Board, in June 1892, urged the contractors to *'press on the work'* of railway construction and noted that the *'...works appear to be neglected this year as they were last year when they might be most satisfactorily proceeded with'* (GPL3/73, p211).

In September 1892 the Board wrote to the Chief Secretary of Ireland regarding the debt incurred by the Union under the *'Relief of Distress Act of 1896, when ¾ of the whole population of the Union were in absolute want. The Grant to the Union under the Act was entirely inadequate to meet the widespread distress existing and the poverty of the Union is so great that it is simply impossible to pay the large balance due...'* (GPL3/73, p492).

In December 1893 the minutes record that the work on the railway was *'virtually suspended,'* and had thus *'...thrown out of employment the greater number of the people working thereon'* (GPL3/75, p250).

However, the railway finally opened in January 1895, and operated until its closure in 1935<sup>13</sup>.

Due to the distress in 1890-91 caused by yet another crop failure relief works were again introduced. In 1890 Stephen Joyce, the Relieving Officer (RO) for the Renvyle district, reported that many of the people in the district were in *'...a most destitute condition and stand in immediate need of relief, many of them have not a potato for the last month and some, having found their crops not worth digging have decided to leave them in the ground. They have been refused credit, a fact I have learned not alone from the statement of the parties*

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each about 7 to 8 miles apart, Moycullen, Ross, Oughterard, Maam Cross, Recess, Ballynahinch. The total length of the line was 48 miles, 550ft.

<sup>13</sup> Finance Committee Minute, *'Clifden Railway Line: Submitted letter dated 11 April from the Department of Industry & Commerce stating that train service will be discontinued as from the 29th April 1935'* (GCCA, GC/3/6, 13 Apr 1935, p150). Also *'Galway -Clifden Railway: Co. Cooke proposed & Co. Ashe seconded that the County Surveyor of the Western Division and the County Secretary be requested to accompany a deputation from the Galway Urban Council to the Gt. S. Rly Co. Dublin with a view to prevent the removal of the Railway Bridge over the Corrib and the removal of the line with particular reference to that part of the line between Galway and Menlo'* (GCCA, Galway County Council, Financial Committee Minutes, GC/3/6, p195).

*themselves, but from inquiry I made in the shops. Though distress is more intense and widespread in Renvyle Division than in any other, equally extensive portions of my District there are other isolated spots where a very unsatisfactory state of things prevails....'* (GPL3/69, p282d). The statement made by the RO was disputed as being 'untrue' by the Board of Guardians.

However, at its meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 1891 the Board of Guardians (BG) expressed their '*...alarm at the large increase in number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief in the Union and the still more increasing demand for it. Last week the number was 725, the amount £31, this week the number was 694 the amount £32...'*. The Board applied to the Government for assistance, advising that they could not afford to provide all the required relief. They advised they would '*...be obliged in future to refuse to sanction such provisional relief unless the LGB come to the aid of the Guardians. This will involve the breaking up of the homes of many families and becoming paupers in the workhouse and consequently a burthen for ever on the Union. Like the Turbot Island families who abandoned their homes last week and came into the workhouse...'* (GPL3/70, pp32j-k).

In April 1891 the Guardians advised the LGB that the Union was 'indebted' in the sum of £4,500, primarily due to the grants issue for seed, instigated by the Seed Supply Act of 1880, and the difficulty in collecting the seed rate (GPL3/70, p291); a fact which had been highlighted on numerous occasions since 1880.

Indeed from the beginning the Board had warned it was likely to encounter difficulties with the seed rate. When the LGB enabled Unions to take out loans on the security of the rates for the purchase of seed potatoes to be '*....given out or distributed to the small farmers on credit. The Board are of opinion that in this Union such a scheme would be impracticable as the majority of the small farmers are already in debt far beyond their means to pay and could not be accepted as sufficient guarantee for the repayment thereof. The Board therefore think that considering the reduced circumstances of the small farmers and considering too that the Union is poor and already overtaxed and that this year's expenditure will raise taxation, (despite the efforts of private charity) to an alarming extent it would be involving the Union in utter ruin under the circumstance to borrow money. The Board therefore think that the deficiencies in the seed supplies of the Union ought to be filled up by the presentment and funds for that purpose as well as for the giving of extraordinary outdoor relief and the institution of public works for the immediate employment of unskilled labour in distressed districts should be voted by Parliament'* (GPL3/52, ff25-28).

In 1886 following an investigation into the Seed Rate accounts the Board urged the LGB to accept the investigating committee's recommendations into the matter and to '*...strike off the*

*arrear of Seed Rate appearing outstanding, and we would ask the LGB to take into consideration the fact that in consequence of the large sum of £1,900 taken from the funds we levied for the legitimate purposes of the Union, we are plunged deeply in debt, unable to pay our contractors and that if the authorities do not come to our relief either by repaying our Union the sum so deducted for Seed Rate, or procuring us a loan, this Union will be brought to the verge of bankruptcy as the people of the county are in such a distressed state. We will find it impossible to carry out our duty of giving adequate relief to the paupers'* (GPL3/61, p332).

In late 1894 the BG warned the LGB of a poor potato crop and warned that '*...many persons will have exhausted most of their store of potatoes before Xmas, that we believe a little assistance given now immediately while other provisions are cheap and the people can spare their seed will go further than twice as much later on when the seed is exhausted and that we therefore call upon the Government to open up Public works such as piers, roads, drains etc which all admit to be yet much needed in this Union'* (GPL3/77, p191).

During this time the BG advised the LGB that due to severe weather conditions '*...hookers between Galway and Clifden were unable'* to trade, and requested that the new railway be used to help get provisions to Clifden to help alleviate the distress: '*The permanent rails being now laid as far as Ballynahinch and if a few wagons of provisions were taken to this for each trade the poor people's wants would be supplied for the present'* (GPL3/77, p244). As the Board campaigned for assistance, seed potatoes and relief works there were 108 inmates in the workhouse with 556 in receipt of outdoor relief (16 February 1895, GPL3/77, p547).

In early 1895 a shipment of 152 tons of seed potato was delivered by steamer to Clifden (GPL3/77, p594(b)). Also around that time, in February 1895, the LGB's auditor, O'Hara, declared that the rate collection for 1893/94 was '*satisfactorily collected'* (GPL3/77, p580). Yet the overall financial condition of the Union was poor and overtaxed due to '*by periodical distress'* (GPL3/77, p633).

In 1898 and 1899 the Guardians were pre-occupied by the relief works introduced to help alleviate distress caused by yet another poor harvest. The minutes include various details relating to the schemes, such as road works at Ballafada and a well opening at Claddaghduff, together with names of supervisors, gangers, timekeepers and, in many cases the names of individuals<sup>14</sup> taken on to work on the systems in the various electoral divisions, and payment details. In June 1898 the LGB wrote advising that it had examined '*....the lists of payments made for the two weeks ended the 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo to the labourers, timekeepers,*

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<sup>14</sup> See, for instance, GPL3/84, p63

*supervisors and paymasters employed on the Relief works amounting to £224.13.6. Directions for the payment of a sum of £171.1.1 has been given. This includes the Government proportion of the wages amounting to £4.1.11 in respect of which recoupment had been deferred...*' (GPL3/84, p34).

During the same period the Board was also involved in providing 'spraying machines' and material to small farmers to help ensure better crops. For instance, '*Having read further letters from Messrs Harrington Bros., Cork, [and] L.W. Kenzie, Dublin asking for immediate settlement of their accounts amounting to £298.10.0., and being informed by the Clerk that only about 5 tons of the 15 tons of material supplied by Messrs Harrington would be required for this year's spraying...*' (GPL3/84, p225).

In December 1898 the BG expressed its appreciation to the Congested Districts Board (CDB) for their 'noble work' and the '*...great assistance afforded the poor of this District by their exertions on the development of the Fishing Industry last year along the Connemara coast. The visible signs of this industry is to be observed by Clifden Quay where a fleet of fishing boats lie at anchor awaiting the fine weather before proceeding on their harvest of industry....*'. The Board also appealed to the government to assist the CDB with the erection of a pier at Doughbeg or with an extension of the old pier at Clifden Quay (GPL3/84, p581).

The distress of 1904-05, again due to a poor harvest, resulted in the establishment of further relief schemes. Parish Committees were formed to consider what schemes could be introduced (GPL3/91, p5), such as in the Bunowen ED a small pier at Aillebrack and in the Clifden ED walls at Clifden old graveyard and various roads, together with the appointment of named gangers for each area (GPL3/91, pp18-26). The LGB advised the Guardians that they could open the relief works from 27<sup>th</sup> February 1905, and that they could administer outdoor relief '*...in money to destitute persons*' from that date too (GPL3/91, p37).

### *Medical Charities*

The issue of lack of funds and the PLC's desire for the Union to increase rates to fund the requirements of the Medical Charities Act was ongoing during 1852. The Board wanted total revision of the valuation, so made a case to the Commissioners for one to be carried out for the whole Union, stating for example '*... the present valuation has been successfully appealed against in several instances and quashed, and the Board are aware of omissions and errors existing sufficient to support many more appeals against any future rate struck on the present valuation*' (GPL3/14, p12, 28 April 1852,). Also that the '*...Board are of opinion that in consequence of decrease of the population and cultivation the selling value of seaweed for manure has fallen from 5/ to 2/6 per boat, that a considerable additional value was placed on some of the coastal district of this Union in consequence of the great value of*

*such weed as an article of trade with Galway and other places in its neighbourhood, and that the fall in value from this cause has not been sufficiently considered in the present valuation...*'(GPL3/14, 28 April 1852, p13).

Throughout 1855-1856 the Board was in ongoing communication with the PLC Commissioners regarding the establishment of a Medical Dispensary in Renvyle.

In late 1859 there was discussion about the establishment of a Medical Dispensary in Carna, though at that time some of the Board members and the Roundstone Dispensary Committee were of opinion that *'...a dispensary at Carna is quite unnecessary'* (GP3/24, 5 October 1859, p11). In 1873 the location of the Carna dispensary was again discussed and after some discussion and despite objections on behalf of the people of the district the dispensary was changed from Carna to Killkerrin (GPL3/45, pp169-172, 3 Nov 1873, and pp188-189). Yet a little while later, at their meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> January 1874 the Board accepted a *'...substantial slated house at Carna at £10 a year for a Dispensary'* from Mr Leonard (GPL3/45, p249).

In 1861 there was discussion about the provision of medical care on the islands of Inishbofin and Inishark, and the proposal to have the Renvyle Dispensary rather than the Clifden dispensary district responsible for the islands (GPL3/26, ff194-195, ff244-245). In April 1862 the PLC agreed to the temporary appointment of a medical officer for Inishbofin. By December of 1862 the issue was still ongoing with the BG advising the PLC that *'We consider no properly qualified medical officer could be obtained to reside in the island of Inishbofin for a lesser salary than £70 a year. There will be no emolument public or private beyond the mere salary. We propose to fix the salary at £70 and trust this arrangement will meet with the Commissioners' sanction, with regard to the reduction of £20 a year on the salary of the present Medical Officer of the Clifden Dispensary District, we are of opinion it would not be a judicious step and that the present salary of £100 per annum is only reasonable remuneration for the arduous duties he has to perform even relieved of the attendance on the island of Bofin, he still has a most extensive district and the largest population of the three dispensary districts in this Union which we look on as a sure test of the work to be performed....'* (GPL3/28, p349).

By the end of 1863 the issue was again discussed, this time with the view that the Medical Office of Bofin should be abolished and amalgamated with the Renvyle Dispensary District (GPL3/30, f47). This was due to the *'...very extensive taxation caused on a great degree by the vast expenses in this Union under the Medical Charities Act, and the very serious suffering and complaints made by the ratepayers and public generally of the enormous amount of our rate which together with other causes over which we have no control are*

*forcing the ratepayers of the country generally, thus leaving the Union with a very diminished population and of course thereby rendering it less able to meet those very large and excessive demands on its means, and further it is our opinion that such an arrangement would be for the decided advantage of the Union as we would thereby accomplish a saving of £70 per annum to the ratepayers and the salary of £90 a year at present paid to the Medical Officer of Renvyle District would be most ample pay for the amalgamated districts with the fees under the new Births and Deaths Registration Bill' (GPL3/30, ff47-48, see also f57 & f116). The PLC were not in favour of the proposed amalgamation, and the Board in trying to convince them of its necessity advised '...the fearful state of this Union, the high rate, the poverty of the ratepayers, the exodus from the Union such as never has been witnessed and which must terminate in a general bankruptcy of the Union if not immediately met...' (GPL3/30, f145).*

In May 1864 the salary of the Bofin dispensary doctor was discussed, when it was agreed to place 'Bofin under the Renvyle Medical Officer and that his salary be increased by £20 a year' (PLG3/31, p45).

In July 1866 the issue was raised yet again, this time the Board advised the PLC that they considered '*...it a grievance to be obliged to pay a Doctor from the Island of Bofin which is no part of the county of Galway, but a part of the county of Mayo and in the Petty Sessions District of Louisburg in the county of Mayo and it is further resolved that the transfer of the Island of Bofin to the Clifden District was a great injustice for the following reasons viz: At the time of transfer to the Clifden Union the island of Bofin had no medical staff. Since the transfer a medical officer and establishment has to be maintained by the Clifden Dispensary District.*

*Resolved: That the Clifden Board of Guardians use every legitimate means in their power to remove so objectionable a burden from the ratepayers of Clifden' (GPL3/34, f195, see also f217). The PLC advised the Board the following month that Inishbofin being part of the Clifden Union must be included in whatever division may be adopted' (GPL3/34, f235).*

In April 1867 there was a proposal that Inishbofin should be a self paying dispensary district and the Board continued to outline its grievance at the Clifden dispensary district having to support Bofin which was in county Mayo.

In 1868 the Roundstone Dispensary District was split in two, (GPL3/37, f235 & f245) and a second dispensary doctor was appointed.

In the mid 1890s the issue of adequate dispensary provision on Inishbofin was discussed, as the existing accommodation had '*....repeatedly been pronounced unfit by members of the Medical Committee' (GPL3/80, p406 b).*



### *Workhouse Staff*

In February 1856 (GPL3/21, 13 February p14) the Poor Law Union Commissioners agreed with the BG to amalgamate the office of the Clerk and the Master. However, in June 1858 Mr John Burke was appointed as Clerk of the Union. But an amendment to the resolution stated that the Board '*...are of opinion that the amalgamation of the Clerk and Master in one office was [exercised] hitherto very satisfactorily and that a mere temporary absence is not a sufficient argument for making a new permanent appointment*'. In August 1858 a Notice of Motion was received '*In compliance with Commissioners' letter No. 18102 we give notice that on this day fortnight we will propose that the two offices of Master and Clerk to this Union be from thenceforth separated and held by two distinct persons*' (GPL3/23, 18<sup>th</sup> August 1858, p8). The issue was discussed further at the Board's subsequent meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> September 1858. Mathias Mallen, who had been acting Master for the previous nine months, was appointed Master on 15<sup>th</sup> September at a salary of £25 a year and rations. The posts of Matron and Schoolmistress were also amalgamated for a time in 1860.

In 1874, following the resignation of the Master, Patrick Davern, after his having left his post and returning drunk one evening, it took the Board many months to agree on a replacement candidate. When they finally agreed on a candidate, John Coney, the LGB initially declined to sanction the appointment, based possibly on his young age (see for instance GPL3/36, p128). However, by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1874 a new master, Coney, was appointed.

Later again, throughout 1895 and 1896, much of the Board's attention was taken up with the election of a new Master for the workhouse, following the death of Patrick Higgins. The Board appointed Mr P. Cloonan, but his election was disputed, and was further complicated when a query regarding his age arose. The age requirement was that candidates be between 30 and 50 years of age. Cloonan was apparently 50, yet after several elections he was accepted as Master, but only remained in the position a short time, as he resigned in April 1897.

In 1903 the Board abolished the position of School Mistress, arranging instead for any children remaining in the Workhouse to be boarded out or transferred to other institutions, such as Letterfrack Industrial School (GPL3/89, p143 & p317).

In 1904 an outbreak of typhus resulted in the death of Dr Coney, MO for the Roundstone district (3 Feb 1904, GPL3/89).

## Religion

In the 1850s and 1860s there were sporadic references to the religion of the inmates and in some instances complaints from the Catholic or Protestant Chaplains regarding the religious denomination under which some inmates might have been registered. In September 1865 there was discussion about the registered religion of one boy, Pat Conneely, aged 8, the *'...illegitimate child of Kate Davin'* who was born in the workhouse and baptized a Roman Catholic and so *'...he continued to be registered from time to time until the death of his mother. His religious denomination was changed by the Master owing to his being brought to the workhouse by one of the agents of the Irish Church Missions<sup>15</sup>, whose school he had been attending for some weeks'* (GPL3/33, f145).

In April 1867 the Protestant Chaplin, Charles Campbell, prompted by an instance of *'....tampering with Protestants committed to your Guardianship'*, issued a long letter of complaint asking *'...if it is fair to the Protestant ratepayers who entrust you with the Guardianship of their poorer co-religionist, that a little boy so firmly opposed to what they believe to be the destroying errors of the Church of Rome in Ireland should have been publicly received into that church while under your care.*

*He constantly complaining of ill treatment from the other boys and feared to keep the Bible you provided for his use; to escape this I believe he has been induced to ask for the change which I humbly submit you could not legally allow.*

*Much better would it be to protect the Protestant inmates from insult and from being tampered with....'* (GPL3/35, ff225-226, see also ff236-236).

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<sup>15</sup> The Society for the Irish Church Missions (ICM) (1849-69) was founded in March 1849, largely through the work of an English clergyman, the Reverend Alexander Dallas, (1791-1869) Vicar of the parish of Wonston, Hampshire. The particular focus of his concern was the Roman Catholic people of Ireland, as he became increasingly convinced of the need to bring the Gospel to Irish Roman Catholics. With the support of an evangelical landlord and member of the Board of Guardians, Hyacinth D'Arcy of Clifden, Co. Galway, missionary schools began to spread in the west of Ireland. One controversial aspect of ICM's Gospel activity was its timing: ICM's earliest missionary work coincided with the Great Famine. The charge of 'souperism' – offering soup to starving peasants in exchange for conversion – was strenuously refuted by ICM.

In Connemara, there were forty-six centres of activity by 1860 and mission stations were strategically placed throughout the Galway area. Much of the success of the work was due to the tireless work of Hyacinth D'Arcy and the support of the Bishop of Tuam. However, the large numbers of initial converts began to slow down by the time of the census of 1861. The explanation of ICM to their critics was that this was due to the large scale emigration that affected the west of Ireland, the young people who left for employment in England and in the British armed forces, and the increasing bitter and violent opposition that many converts faced from their families, which often forced them to leave their own communities. Even so, in one area of Connemara, where in 1834 the registered number of Protestants didn't even reach 100, the census of 1861 showed that about 2,000 people voluntarily registered themselves as Protestants.

## *Water, Drainage and Sewers*

From the mid 1870s the Board issued progressively more resolutions relating to the provision of water, drainage and sewers. In particular the provision of a waterworks scheme for the town of Clifden pre-occupied the Board for nearly twenty years, with delay after delay encountered.

In 1876 for instance a Notice of Motion proposed '*...that Mr Humpreys, County Surveyor, be requested to make a survey with plan, specification and estimate for supplying the Town of Clifden with pure water from a level sufficient to command with sufficient pressure the highest portions of the Town and which survey, plan, specification and estimate shall include suitable cast iron main supply pipe for the principle main streets and four [piece] fountains for the poor residents and that Mr Humpreys to get a fee of ten guineas for same*' (GPL3/48, ff236).

Due to a missing volume there is a gap in the minutes between January 1877 and May 1878. However, the issue is again mentioned in the minutes in June 1878, with the Clerk advising the Guardians that '*...it appears that the Clifden people are not at present inclined to charge themselves with this amount*' (GPL3/50, p28). However, by December 1879 there must have been a change of mind as the Board received a memorial from the inhabitants of Clifden '*...relative to a supply of pure water for the Town*'. The Board requested the LGB to approve of the '*...carrying out of the said works under the Sanitary Acts and enable the Board of Guardians to avail themselves of the facilities now offered by the Board of Works for that purpose (The area to be Clifden Electoral Division)*' (GPL3/51, pp389-390). The Board proposed to raise a loan of £1,000 for the provision of a water supply to Clifden town. By April 1880 the works had not commenced, when the Guardians advised the LGB that the '*...plans have been returned to the Engineer for revision and the Clerk has been instructed to request he will return them as soon as possible so that advertisements may be made for contracts*' (GPL3/52, f115). The amended plans and estimate were received by the Guardians the following week and forwarded to the LGB for approval.

In July 1880 the Board accepted the tender of Joseph Gorham to '*...execute and furnish the waterworks for Clifden Town for the sum of nine hundred and forty four pounds ten shillings and seven pence £944.10.7*' (GPL3/52, f225). However, Gorham subsequently withdrew his tender and the contract was re-advertised. In August the tender of O'Neill and Kavanagh for £1,220 was accepted (GPL3/53, f5).

Further delays ensued as the Board had difficulty raising funds for the required works. For instance in September 1880 it applied for a loan of £1,500 for the waterworks, and again in

February 1881 it requested the Board of Works for a loan of £1,500 for the Clifden Water Works for a term of 50 years under the Public Health Act (GPL3/53, f157, see also f173).

However, the works had still not commenced by 1891, when in February of that year Dr Gorham, Medical Officer of Health, reported on the defective water supply in Clifden. He advised that there are '*...no public wells in the town. The principal supply of water is taken from the Owen-Glen River. The workhouse, as you are aware, is standing on its immediate banks about 400 yrds above the Town. The workhouse sewerage must necessarily empty its impurities into the river.*

*The Industrial and Convent Schools have their drainage leading directly into the river immediately above the town. Wells from which the people get their water supply are I understand, private property and the proprietor can at any moment prohibit the public from using these wells.*

*I have frequently called the attention of the Board of Guardians to the want of pure water which is much required in Clifden'* (GPL3/70, p78). In July 1891 a Notice of Motion was issued which had the Board agreeing to have the proposed water works constructed as the Government agreed to '*lend the money for the purpose to be repaid in 50 years at 4 per cent...*' (GPL3/70, p456).

In May 1892 James Perry, the County Surveyor, forward to the Board a '*...published map, plan, section of pipelines, specification & estimate in connection with the proposed water work for the Town of Clifden and stating that he would be in Clifden on Wednesday and would be glad to afford any information they might require...*' (GPL3/73, p136).

In March 1893 the Board requested that the loan for the construction of the Clifden Waterworks be increased from £1,316 to £1,600 (GPL3/74, p57).

Further delays were encountered but in late October 1893 the Board advised the Local Government Board that all the '*...preliminaries are now being complied with. Mr Eyre having given his claim to the water right etc gratuitously (as entered on the minutes of the Guardians of the 6 July 1892) with the view of having the works at once commenced, that they will give their sanction to the loan as matter is pressing & of vital importance'* (GPL3/75, p137). Yet in early March 1894 delays still ensued, primarily due to difficulties in finalising the conveyance of land (GPL3/75, p497).

In late June 1894 the Board advised the LGB that 'legal difficulties' were the reason for the continued delay in enabling them to acquire the loan for the waterworks, and asked the Board to assist them '*...by overlooking the legal technical delay. All owners and occupiers being willing to give all rights necessary and thus enable us to go on with the works, and let the legal matter be subsequently arranged. The delay is most dangerous to the health of the*

*inhabitants'* (GPL3/76, p359-60). However, the LGB advised the Guardians that they had no power '*...to dispense with proof of full title to the lands required for the proposed waterworks at Clifden*' (GPL3/76, p411). Later at the end of July they reiterated that '*...until the conveyance is executed no loan would be issued even if recommended*' (GPL3/76, p489).

Finally in early November 1894 the various legal difficulties had been overcome and the Board was able to pursue the required loan (GPL3/77, p199). The LGB was prepared to recommend a loan of £1,600 (GPL3/77, p281). However, the Office of Public Works (OPW) refused '*...owing to the existing outstanding arrears in the repay of previous loans*' to extend a loan (GPL3/77, p359). The Union had an outstanding debt of £500 with the OPW under a Seed Rate loan of 1880. The Board appealed the decision and stressed the necessity of providing clean water to the town.

In late March 1895 the LGB advised the Guardian that the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury '*...are willing to entertain a proposal for a loan of £1,100 for the construction of the waterworks at Clifden if submitted by the Guardians on the usual form...*', and with regard to the balance of £500 '*...which is estimated will be spent on the unskilled labour in connection with the works the Irish Government will be prepared to supplement the loan by a grant of this amount out of sums provided by Parliament for the relief of distress when the necessary conditions of the loan have been complied with, etc*' (GPL3/78, p9). By May the Deed of Mortgage had been executed, whereupon the Clifden BG advised the PLC that it did not require the whole £1,100 in one lump sum, but would rather receive it by '*...instalments as occasion may require*' (GPL3/78, p185).

At the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> August 1896 the salary agreed for the waterworks caretaker, Martin Greaney, was £3.15.0 for a six month period up to 29<sup>th</sup> July 1896 (GPL3/80, p391). At that time the Guardians struck the contract (water rate) with, for instance, John W King, Publican to pay £0.10.0 a year, William Nee, Victualler to pay £0.10.0, Mullarkey's Hotel £0.10.0, and Mrs Wards Bakery to pay the same amount. Several others, such as K Lydon and J. D'Arcy were to pay £1.0.0. In January 1897 Greaney's salary was increased from £7.10.0 to £10 per annum' (GPL3/81, p247).

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the need for a proper sewerage scheme also occupied the Board. For example, in late November 1893 the Guardians received a letter from James Perry, County Surveyor, relating to the sewerage in the town of Clifden and approving of the work designed and the estimate, but suggesting that well-glazed pipes 12" in diameter should be used instead of concrete (GPL3/75, p237).

In February 1895 the Board received a report from its Medical Officer, Dr Gorham regarding the sewers in Clifden, advising that they are in a '*...shockingly unsanitary state and highly*

*dangerous to the public health. I have on very many occasions brought this state of affairs under your notice with the result that 13 months ago it was ordered that contracts be invited to repair them. Nothing has since been done'* (GPL3/77, p541).

In September 1897 it was recommended that the Board '*...make perfect the sewer from about Mr Kneafsey's house, Main Street, along by the Hotel to the bed of the River at Pouladullagh by laying the proper sized pipe'*. It was estimated that the work would cost £75<sup>16</sup>.

In December 1897 the BG appealed to the Congested Districts Board (CDB) for aid for the construction of a '*...well devised scheme of main drainage for the town of Clifden'*. Mr Perry estimated the cost of the scheme to be £1,800, '*...an amount which would be absolutely impossible to provide from our local rates based on the Valuation of the Clifden Electoral Division (£3,198)...'*(GPL3/83, p12). The CDB advised that they felt a '*...difficulty in employing their funds for purposes of this nature'*. The Guardians responded by asking them to re-consider and pointing out the importance of Clifden as a centre of tourism, '*Since the opening of the Galway and Clifden Railway a very large sum has been expended by private individuals in improving and enlarging the existing hotel accommodation and the Guardians, the Sanitary Authority, feel keenly their inability owing to the present excessive taxation to undertake the necessary main drainage in order to complete the work begun by private enterprise, and thus make Clifden in every respect a comfortable and healthy place of resort for the tourists...'*(GPL3/83, pp191-2).

In March 1899 Perry was paid £57.10.0 for preparing maps, plans and specifications for '*a general scheme of sewerage for Clifden...'*, and for supervising a portion of the scheme' (GPL3/85, p220).

Apart from the town of Clifden, other areas in the district received some improved water facilities. For instance, in June 1880 the Board ordered the expenditure of £100 for the sinking of a well or '*...running of pipes for the conveyance of water in Roundstone from Mr Boughton's well of the neighbourhood. Area of charge Roundstone Electoral Division'* (GPL3/52, f189). Tenders for sinking the pump were advertised for in August 1880.

Also in August 1898 J J MacDonnell, Medical Officer of Health, advised the BG that there was an inadequate supply of '*drinkable water at Cleggan during the fishing season'* and advised that it was '*...absolutely necessary to either have wells sunk in the vicinity or water conveyed from a neighbouring lake by means of pipes'*. The Board advised that due to lack of funds it was unable to provide such a supply, but if the CDB could '*...supply funds necessary and also give a grant in aid of the much needed drainage works for the town of*

*Clifden. The Guardians would be prepared afterwards to bear the cost of the necessary maintenance that the outlay would involve'* (GPL3/84, pp255-6).

In its capacity as sanitary authority the BG was also responsible for the provision and maintenance of burial grounds. For instance, in July 1896 the Board accepted the tender of George Brennan to carry out repairs and prepare an extension to the Ardbear cemetery.<sup>17</sup>

### *Amalgamation and Closure*

Following the enactment of the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898 Galway County Council and Clifden Rural District Council were established. Many of the functions of the BG devolved to these Councils. For instance the Board was no longer responsible for rate collection. After the elections in March 1899, the new Board placed its first demand on the Galway County Council for the sum of £937.6.8 to cover the period 25<sup>th</sup> March to 25<sup>th</sup> July 1899 (GPL3/85, p250).

There was some discussion regarding the amalgamation of Unions in 1904. The BG issued its response to queries on the topic to the Poor Law Reform Commission in September 1904, advising that it was in favour of such a plan. It also was in agreement that if dissolved the workhouse could be taken over by the County Council, but the Board was against the workhouse '*...being utilised as an Auxiliary Lunatic Asylum but in favour of it being used for the purpose of starting some home industry in the district which would give employment, relieve taxation and help to stay the tide of emigration'* (GPL3/90, p383).

There was further correspondence, primarily with Galway County Council, on a proposed amalgamation in the early 1920s. The Board approved '*...of the principal of amalgamation of Unions if, as a result of a public inquiry it is shown that economies can be effected in the ratepayers' interest without undue injury to the sick and destitute poor.*

*Clifden workhouse being 50 miles from Galway is also fully equipped and up to date, possessing an excellent sewerage system with the best water supply in the county, automatic flushing closets, bathing arrangements, steam cooking and washing, etc, roofs slated and set in mastic. We consider it should be retained. Galway, Loughrea, Tuam workhouses are within a radius of 20 miles of each other'* (GPL3/107, p341).

Though there is little reference to the ongoing political disruption in Ireland at this time, or to the establishment of the first Dáil, the minutes do record that in May 1921 it unanimously agreed to sever connection with the English LGB (GPL3/107, p278).

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<sup>16</sup> 27 Sept 1897, GPL3/82, p463

In December 1921 the Board received instruction from the Galway County's Hospital, Homes, & Home Assistance Committee advising that '*...all workhouses and Union Hospitals must be cleared immediately to the County Home and Hospital. That the existing outdoor relief system is to be carried on by the district Council until 3<sup>rd</sup> March (1922) and the services of the Relieving Officers retained 'til that date etc'*' (GPL3/107, p557). The proceedings for that meeting also included details of a letter from the same Committee stating that '*...as soon as the Clifden Workhouse and Hospital are completely cleared of inmates and patients arrangements will be made to discharge the liability of the Guardians to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1921 but no further instalment will be issued until the buildings are vacated'*' (GPL3/107, p558).

The last recorded number of inmates in the workhouse, for the week ending 19<sup>th</sup> November 1921, was 60. The minutes for the remaining Board's meetings deal with the closure of the workhouse, and the transfer of materials, such as bedding (GPL3/107, p559), and of the old and infirm inmates (GPL3/107, p560) to the Home in Loughrea. Also at this time the Master advised that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) '*...took over possession of the workhouse on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant (December) together with bedding, clothing, utensils and furniture, etc., and are still in possession'*' (GPL3/107, p559). The IRA asked the Board to grant the Master permission to '*remain out of the workhouse at night as they required his apartments'*' (GPL3/107, p560).

Under the amalgamation of Unions scheme, introduced by Galway County Council, 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>18</sup>.

A year after the closure it is recorded in the Board of Health & Public Assistance: Hospital & Dispensary Committee minutes that Dr Casey reported '*... that Clifden Workhouse Buildings are gradually disappearing. The Dispensary has been completely destroyed, and he removed to a private house whatever drugs etc, were left ...'*' (GC6/1, 9 December, 1922, p7).

Some years later, under a lease of 10<sup>th</sup> August 1927, part of the lands, comprising of 4 acres, 3 roods & 17 perches, were conveyed for 99 years to the Irish Sailors' & Solders' Land Trust (51 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2) at a rent of £6 per annum. Six cottages were erected by the Trust for ex-soldiers and sailors. Former workhouse lands, still held by local authorities became vested in the Western Health Board on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1971, pursuant to Section 38 of the Health Act, 1970.

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<sup>17</sup> 16 Jul 1896, GPL3/80, p325

<sup>18</sup> See the Connacht Tribune 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1921 for details of the Ballinasloe employees who received payments



## Arrangement

The minutes are arranged chronologically, and the remaining material is also arranged thereafter in chronological order.

The extracts from the various Minute books included hereunder are intended as a representation of the proceedings. The purpose of their inclusion is to give the reader an indication of the diversity of the Board of Guardians areas of concern and responsibility. Given the quantity and multiplicity of the Board's work it is not practical in this instance to include an extract highlighting every single district, item and aspect mentioned in the minutes. However, it is hoped that the extracts will clearly and fairly reflect the institution's work, activities, development, and influence in the district of Clifden during its existence throughout a long and important period in Irish history.

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 crisis. 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 were under British rule and concludes with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Éireann.

The collection should be of interest to administrative, economic, political, and social historians. In particular, it should be a major source of information for local historians.

The item reference number (GPL3/?) should be used in full when citing from the records in this collection. The most appropriate form of reference is Galway County Council Archives, Reference number (GPL3/?), and page number or date

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

Readers are also requested not to view as definitive the appended list of Board of Guardians or staff members. Lists of Guardians may be further researched in various contemporary directories, such as Thom's, Slater's or Pigot's, and in contemporary local newspapers.

## Condition

When the collection was first processed and thereafter microfilmed and /or digitised several items were very fragile due to mould damage. These were thus closed until their repair in 2014. Galway County Council Archives acknowledges the financial support received from The Heritage Council of Ireland under its 2014 Grant scheme, which contributed towards the cost of conservation of this material. The items which received conservation treatment are GPL3/16B, /24, /28, /38, /39, /51 and /65. They were subsequently digitised in 2014.

## Non-Disclosure Requirement

As much of the information in this collection clearly identifies families and individuals researchers are required, in order to prevent possible distress or embarrassment to near descendants, to sign a non-disclosure form prior to consulting the records giving an undertaking not to disclose or cite specific names from these archives in research work.

## Archival History

The collection has been in the custody of Galway County Libraries for several years. A 1928 minute in the Board of Health & Public Assistance records '*Clifden Books and Records – Secretary reported that since last meeting he visited Clifden with an ambulance and brought back to Galway some of the more recent books and records. The Boardroom and Clerk's office in the Clifden Workhouse were absolutely full of books, papers, etc., many of which are useless, and there is also some furniture in the place. The County Council have decided to retain the same for use in their own offices. It will take a lorry or two to remove the furniture and books, but where the latter are to be stored is a problem. Order: The Secretary, or a member of his staff, to visit Clifden as soon as convenient and arrange for the transfer of the furniture and goods to Galway, but any useless documents of unbound records which are no longer required to be destroyed*'<sup>19</sup> (28 Sept., 1927, p10).

A later minute, of 1929, records that the Assistant County Surveyor was asked to '*...arrange to have all the books, etc., packed in boxes and removed (from the disused workhouse) to the old Galway Hospital*'.<sup>20</sup>

The collection was microfilmed in 2012; volumes GPL3/14 to 57 by DPA, Dublin in early 2012, the remainder in late 2012 by Mallon Technology of Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. Volumes GPL3/10 and GPL3/58 onwards were first digitised, and then converted to microfilm. Mallon also digitised the microfilm produced by DPA. Therefore, the collection is available in both a digitised and microfilm format.

One volume, GPL3/14, has been in private hands for many years, possibly rescued from the Workhouse when abandoned. However, the holder of the volume kindly gave temporary access to facilitate its digitisation, and thus enable researchers have access and to have a more complete range for minutes for the period. The original remains in private hands.

**Patria McWalter**  
**Archivist, 2012**  
**Updated 2014**

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<sup>19</sup> County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, Minute Book, GC5/5 p10

<sup>20</sup> County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, Minute Book, GC5/8, p20

## Allied Material

### Primary Sources

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Clifden Rural District Council, (G01/07)
- 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) (A copy of certain 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 (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
- 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 James Hardiman Library, N.U.I. Galway

- Galway, Oughterard and Clifden Tramway and Light Railway Company Ltd. 1884-5, BUS2

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](http://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)  
(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

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Dublin, 1980
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- Campbell, Stephen J. *The Great Famine. Words and Images from the Famine Museum Strokestown Park, County Roscommon*  
1994
- Cassell, Ronald D *Medical Charities, Medical Politics: The Irish Dispensary System and the Poor Law, 1836-1872*  
Woodbridge, Boydell Press, 1997
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- Connelly, Bridget *Forgetting Ireland*  
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- Crossman, Virginia *Local Government in Nineteenth-Century Ireland*,  
Belfast: Institute of Irish Studies, 1994
- Crossman, Virginia *The Poor Law In Ireland 1838-1948*  
Economic and Social History Society of Ireland, 2006

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Dundalk, 1989
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- Edwards, R Dudley, & Williams, T.D. (eds.) *The Great Famine: Studies in Irish History 1845-52*  
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- Ferriter, Diarmaid *'Lovers of Liberty?' Local Government in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland*  
National Archives of Ireland, Dublin 2001
- Glazier, I., ed. *The Famine Immigrants. List of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851*, 1985
- Griffin, Richard *General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland – Union of Clifden in the county of Galway*
- Johnson, Joan *James and Mary Ellis: Background and Quaker Famine Relief in Letterfrack*  
Historical Committee of the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland, Waterford, 2000
- Kavanagh, Mary *Galway – Gaillimh A Bibliography of the City and County*  
Galway, Galway County Council, 2000
- Kinealy, Christine 'The Response of the Poor Law to the Great Famine in County Galway' in *Galway History & Society*, eds. Moran, G. & Gillespie, R., Dublin, Geography Publications, 1996
- Lohan, Rena *Guide to the Archives of the Office of the Public Works*  
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- Lynam, Shevawn *Humanity Dick Martin 'King of Connemara' 1754-1834*  
Lilliput Press
- McClaughlin, Trevor *Barefoot and Pregnant? Irish Famine Orphans in Australia*  
Australia, 1993
- Moffett, Miriam *Soupers & Jumpers, The Protestant Missions in Connemara*  
Ireland, The History Press, 2008
- Mooney, Thomas A. *Compendium of the Irish Poor Laws; and general manual for the Poor Law Guardians and their Officers*  
Dublin, 1887

- Moran, Gerard & Raymond Gillespie, eds. *Galway History and Society*, Dublin, Geography Publications, 1996
- Murray, James P. *Galway: A Medico Social History* Galway, Kenny's Bookshop & Art Galleries Ltd., c. 1996
- Muldoon, John & McSweeney, George *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
- Nicholls, George *History of the Poor Laws in Ireland*, London, 1856
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- Roche, Desmond *Local Government in Ireland* Dublin, Institute of Public Administration, 1982
- Smith, Cecil Woodham *The Great Hunger*, London, 1962
- Tuke, James H Mr. Tuke's Fund for Assisted Emigration 1882-5; 1885<sup>21</sup> Eneclann CD: Ref: IET0048 ISBN: 1-84630-056-8, 1885
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- Villiers-Tuthill, Kathleen "Clifden Union, Connemara, County Galway", In *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine*, eds. John Crowley, William J. Smyth, Mike Murphy, Cork University Press, 2012

<sup>21</sup> Copies available in Galway County Libraries, various branches & HQ

# Appendices





## A. List of Some of the Members of the Board of Guardians

*Lists of members are often found in contemporary local newspapers.*

Acheron, Capt.	
Allie, Cyril	Cooker, John F
Archer,	Copland, James
Armstrong, John (JP)	Coyne, P.
Black, C (Inishbofin)	Coyne, J.J.
Blake, Edgar. H (Chairman, 1852-53)	D'arcy, Hyacinth, (Abbeyglan) (Ex-officio, Chairman 1849)
Blake, Ethelstane H (Chairman, 1860)	D'arcy, John (+1899)
Blake, Robert A.	D'arcy, John (+1915)
Blake, V.	D'arcy, John Talbot, (Major) (Chairman 1888-91, 1895-6) +1896
Bodkin, John J.	Diamond, William J. (+1920)
Brennan, George	Duane, B.
Briscoe, H. (Poor Law Inspector)	Eastwood, Thomas
Broughton, A.	Eyre, J. (Clifden Castle) (+1894)
Broughton, Coleman. R. (+1887) <sup>22</sup>	Eyre, H.B.
Browne, Edward	Eyre, Edwin (Streamstown House)
Browne, Gillman	Fitzgerald, Patrick
Burke, John	Forbes, Col. W
Burke, Richard (Poor Law Inspector)	Fogarty, Patrick
Cafferkey, Joseph?	Freyer, Samuel
Campbell, William	Geraghty, John
Canavan, Thomas	Gordon, Mrs Bridget, T (Chairman 1920/21)
Carr, Mark	Gorham, James
Casey, James	Gorham, Joseph, +1904
Cloherly, J.	Gorham, Patrick +1868
Cloherly, Thomas	Gorham, William
Coffey, Br. B.	Graham, Francis (Ex-officio, 1849)
Coney, Thomas	Grealish, P.
Coneys, Walter	Hall, J.C.
Connolly, Edward	Halon, J.
Connolly, Frank J.	Hart, Martin (Vice Chairman 1853-'54)
Connolly, John J. (Chairman, 1901, 1910-11) +1911 <sup>23</sup>	Hart, R
Connolly, Stephen (1918 on active Military service)	Hazel, Thomas
Cooke, Joseph	Hearne, Thomas
	Henry, M

<sup>22</sup> GPL3/63, p128

<sup>23</sup> 22 Nov 1911, GPL3/98, p225

Hildiband, Henry  
 Hynes, Richard J.  
 Jones, John C.  
 Joyce, James B.  
 Joyce, James R.  
 Joyce, Tobias  
 Joyce, Michael (Chairman 1913-14)  
 Joyce, Patrick  
 Joyce, Redmond  
 Kane, John  
 Kearney, Richard  
 Kelly, B  
 Kelly, J.  
 Kendall, Edward (JP, 1880) +1895  
 King, B.  
 King, Cornelius (Chairman, 1884)  
 King, John  
 King, Mark  
 King, Martin  
 King, Michael (Chairman 1905, 1911/13)  
 King, Stephen  
 King, Patrick  
 King, Thomas  
 Kneafsey, John M.  
 Lavelle, Michael  
 Lee, Bernard. (Chairman 1899) (+1915)  
 Leonard, D.  
 Lynch, Edward, (Omey)  
 Lyden, A. J.  
 Lydon, John  
 Lydon, Martin<sup>24</sup>  
 Lydon, P. J.  
 Lydon, Thomas (+1874)  
 Lydon, Thomas  
 McCullagh, Thomas  
 McDonagh, Thomas (+1898)  
 McDonnell, Joseph 1863 (Renvyle)  
 McDonnell. Miss M. (c.1911- )

McDona (McDonagh), Patrick (+ 1914)  
 McDonnell, Harry  
 McDonnell, J.  
 McLoughlin, John J.  
 McLoughlin, Martin  
 McMahan  
 Maguire, Br. Bernard (Ardbear Monastery, Clifden, )Vice  
 Chairman 1885)  
 MacAuley, Patrick  
 Maloney, M.  
 Manning, Michael T.  
 Mannion, Michael  
 Meredith, Thomas  
 Mongan, Martin (+1921)  
 Moran, Martin  
 Morris, Anthony  
 Mullarky, T.  
 Mullen, Michael  
 Mullin. James  
 Murphy, Stephen  
 Nally, M.  
 Naughton, Coleman  
 Nee, P.  
 Nolan, Colonel J.P., MP (Chairman 1885)<sup>25</sup>  
 O'Connor, C.S. (1917 employed in Munitions works)  
 O'Donnell, H.  
 O'Donnell, P.  
 O'Flaherty, George  
 O'Flaherty, Thomas (Jr.)  
 O'Grady, W?  
 O'Hara, Patrick  
 O'Leary, Dennis  
 O'Loughlin, John (Nov 1917 excused from Board for  
 non attendance)  
 O'Malley, John (Nov 1917 excused from Board for non  
 attendance)  
 O'Malley, Mark (+1904)  
 O'Neill, Michael  
 O'Neill, Patrick (resigned 1892) (+1916)

<sup>24</sup> Resigned as Guardian in November 1885 as he wished to apply for the position of Relieving Officer (GPL3/61)

<sup>25</sup> In 1889 he was elected Chairman of Tuam BG (GPL5/67). In 1899 Nolan (1839-1912) was elected the first Chairman of Galway County Council (GC/1/1)

O'Toole, Peter

Prendergast

Prior, Thomas

Reidy, John (+1911)

Robertson, [William]

Robertson, John

Robinson, George (JP) (Ballinahinch Castle)  
(Chairman 1862-'66, 1873-'80, 1886-'87)

Robinson, Henry A.(Chairman 1894)

Scully, M.

Shea, Gartside (resigned Apr 1870)

Smith, Hamilton C (+1892)

Stuart, C.

Stewart, Charles (Bencor ED)

Sweeney, James (Nov 1917 excused from Board for  
non attendance)

Thomson, Capt. C. H. (Ex-officio) +1905

Wall, Walter S. (+1902)

Walsh, Anthony

Walsh, Thomas

Ward, Stephen

Vallely, James J. (+1908)

Vallely, M.

Vaughan, Martin



## From Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory for the Year 1862 Galway County

The Board of Guardians meets on Wednesdays.

<i>Chairman</i>	Geo. J. Robinson, esq., J.P., Ballinahinch Castle, via Galway.
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Martin R. Hart, esq., Clifden.
<i>Deputy Vice-Chairman</i>	John Geraghty, esq., Doonpark, Clifden.
<i>Treasurer</i>	William H. Suffield, M.D., Clifden.
<i>Clerk and Returning Officer</i>	John Burke.
<i>Master and Matron</i>	Mathias Maley & Margt. Concannon.
<i>Chaplains:-</i>	<i>Established Church, * * *</i> <i>Roman Catholic, Rev. Patrick M'Manus.</i>
<i>Medical Officer</i>	William H. Suffield, M.D.
<i>Relieving Officer</i>	Cornelius King, Clifden.

Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts:-

*Clifden, William H. Suffield, M.D.*  
*Renvyle, George St. George Tyner, M.D.*  
*Roundstone, C. J. Payne, M.D.G.*



## **B. Electoral Divisions covered by Clifden Poor Law Union**

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

Ballindoon  
Bunnowen  
Clifden  
Derrylea  
Dunloughan  
Errislannon  
Renvyle  
Roundstone

Electoral Divisions which at various periods came under the administration of the New Union (c1851-52)

Ballinakill  
Bencorr  
Bunnowen  
Cleggan  
Clifden  
Cushkillery  
Derrycunlagh  
Derrylea  
Dunloughan  
Errislannon  
Illion  
Inishbofin  
Knockbeg  
Moynes  
Owengowla  
Rinvyle  
Roundstone  
Silerna  
Skannive





## C. List of some Workhouse Officials and Staff

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

### Vice Guardians, appointed 1848 - 1849

#### Workhouse Master

Joyce	? - 1849 <sup>26</sup>	
Workman, George	1849 <sup>27</sup> -	
Divine, John	? - 1852 <sup>28</sup>	
Greany, K?	1852? - 1854?	
Burke, John	1854? - 1858	(also acting as Clerk from 1855, post amalgamated for a period)
Maley, Mathias	1858 -1860, 1860-1863	(Acting Master, for nine months before being appointed in Sept 1858. Resignation accepted July 1860 following complaints of the 'dirt and neglect' of the workhouse but re-instated at same meeting (GPL4/25, 11 July 1860, p9)
Hearne John	1864 - 1869	
Davern, Patrick	1869 <sup>29</sup> - 1874 <sup>30</sup>	
Coney, John	1874 - 1880	
Higgins, Patrick	1880 <sup>31</sup> - 1895+ <sup>32 33</sup> -	(ill for much of 1893, Connolly appointed Master pro-tem, e.g. GPL3/75, p269 see also p389)
Cloonan, Patrick	1895 - 1897 <sup>34 35 36 37 38</sup>	Acting Master for initial period
Casey, Patrick	1897 - 1900 <sup>39</sup>	
King, Richard	1900 - <sup>40</sup> 1901?	
Wrin, John	1901 <sup>41</sup> - 1908 <sup>42</sup>	
Lavelle, Michael	1908 <sup>43-44, 45</sup> [1923]	(resumed duty after war absence on 18 <sup>th</sup> April 1920) <sup>46</sup>
King, Stephen	1915 -	(Temporary, during war absence of Lavelle)
Mullen, Patrick	1919 - 1920 <sup>47</sup>	(Temporary, during Lavelle's war absence)

<sup>26</sup> GPL3/108, resigned, letter from PLC 13<sup>th</sup> Jun 1849, ref. 36099/1849

<sup>27</sup> GPL3/10, p8

<sup>28</sup> 31 Mar 1852, GPL3/14, p9, appointed to Master in Castlebar Union

<sup>29</sup> 3 Nov 1869, GPL3/39, f4

<sup>30</sup> GPL3/45, pp290-1

<sup>31</sup> 2 Jun 1880, GPL3/52, f165 & f175

<sup>32</sup> Apr 1890, GPL3/69, p10, requested leave of absence to have tumour in his side operated on

<sup>33</sup> 5 Jun 1895, GPL3/78, pp228-9

<sup>34</sup> 25 Sept 1895, GPL3/79, p8

<sup>35</sup> GPL3/79, p162 & p185

<sup>36</sup> 18 Dec 1895, GPL3/79, pp272-3, see also p426 & p449

<sup>37</sup> 29 Apr, 1896, GPL3/80, p74

<sup>38</sup> 7 Apr 1897, GPL3/81, p417

<sup>39</sup> 5 Dec 1900, GPL3/86, p491

<sup>40</sup> 13 Feb 1901, GPL3/86, p567

<sup>41</sup> 25 Nov 1903, GPL3/89, pp518-9

<sup>42</sup> 25 Mar 1908, GP3/94, p276, see also 294b-g, p325

<sup>43</sup> 13 May 1908, GPL3/95, p373

<sup>44</sup> 5 Jul 1915, GPL3/102, p6 – granted leave with full pay '...during his absence on war service at the rate of £40 per year'

<sup>45</sup> 10 Mar 1920, GPL3/106, p77

<sup>46</sup> 12 May 1920, GPL3/106, p167



## Assistant Workhouse Master

Tristan, John	1849 <sup>48</sup>
Mullin, John	1849 –
Fruston, John	[1849] –
[Kneafey], Peter	[1849] –
Connolly, Michael	1852 –

## Clerk of Union

Smith, Hamilton	1849 - 1855?
Burke, John	1854? - 1890+ <sup>49</sup> (1888 ill but resumed work)
King, Festus	1890 – 1925?

## Assistant Clerk

Gallagher	1849? –
King, Festus	1886? - (Assistant Clerk under the Relief of Distress Act 1886)
King, Festus	1888 - (appointed assistant Clerk during Burke's illness) <sup>50</sup> he acted as assistant Clerk for over 15 years, generally paid direct by the Clerk (Burke) out of his own salary.
Connolly, John	1891? – 1894
Bodkin, P.H.	1909?- 1912

## Medical Officer

?	184? - 1848 (died of typhus fever which 'ragged' in the workhouse' (GPL3/37, f65)
Suffield, Dr William	1848 - 1868 <sup>51</sup> (Clifden Dispensary & Workhouse; resigned due to ill health)
Payne, Dr C	1849 - 1886 <sup>52</sup> (Roundstone Dispensary, appointed workhouse Doctor following Dr Suffield's resignation)
Kearney, Dr Ambrose	1868?- +1890? <sup>53</sup> (Carna district & 1868 Roundstone No. 1 district)
Painter, Dr	186?- 1874 (Inishbofin Dispensary, September 1868 appointed to Roundstone Dispensary district)
Kerr, Dr	18?? – 1872 <sup>54</sup> (Renvyle Dispensary district)
Hart, Dr	1867- 1899 <sup>55</sup> <sup>56</sup> (Inishbofin dispensary district, c. 1873 Clifden No.2 District)
McManus?, Dr	1874 - ? (Inishbofin dispensary district)
Griffin, Dr,	1873?-1877? (Inishbofin dispensary district)

<sup>47</sup> 24 Mar 1920, GPL3/106, p113

<sup>48</sup> GPL3/109, 15 Sept1849

<sup>49</sup> GPL3/69, pp330-1, 'he exhibited a zeal and ability in the discharge of his arduous and many times much more than arduous duties through all that time that elicited from the people in the highest positions the deepest gratitude for the valuable services he had rendered them and all in times of great difficulty and distress'.

<sup>50</sup> GPL3/66, p90, see also p308

<sup>51</sup> Transcript of letter of resignation, due to ill health (27 May 1868, GPL3/37, f195), see also letter regarding resignation due to ill health and setting out case for superannuation (Sept 1868,GPL3/38,f f65-67)

<sup>52</sup> 'sudden & lamented death of Dr Payne', 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1886, GPL3/61, see also p309 & p329

<sup>53</sup> 7 May 1890, see GPL3/69, p57

<sup>54</sup> See 30 Oct 1872, GPL3,44, p12

<sup>55</sup> See 12 Dec 1898, GPL3/84, p615

<sup>56</sup> 16 Jan 1899, GPL3/85, p39, see also p61





Gorham, Patrick	1874 – 1913	(Roundstone dispensary district & appointed Medical officer to workhouse & Clifden dispensary following Dr Payne's death in 1886) <sup>57</sup> (1895 on sick leave) <sup>58, 59</sup> (+1920)
Fox, P.H.	1877? - 1879	(Inishbofin dispensary district) <sup>60</sup>
D'Alton, Dr.	1879?	Clifden no. 2 (also known as Inishbofin dispensary district)
Gorham, James	1880 ?- 1914? <sup>61</sup>	Clifden no. 2 (aka Inishbofin dispensary district), ill 1911
Keans, Dr	1880? – 1886	Clifden no. 2 (aka Inishbofin dispensary district)
McDonnell, J.J.	1886? -	Renvyle Dispensary
Bodkin, Dr Geoffrey	1886 <sup>62, 63</sup> - +1894	Locum initially, then appointed to Roundstone No. 2 Dispensary district, Uncle of Dr Kearney)
Foley, Thomas H.	1894? - 1897+	Roundstone Dispensary no. 2 district
Semple, Dr	1888	Temporary MO in workhouse
Loftus, Dr J.J.	1890? – 1913	Roundstone Dispensary No. 1 district <sup>64, 65</sup>
Coneys, Walter J.	1894? - 1904 <sup>66+</sup>	Roundstone Dispensary No. 2 district
Ryan, Jeremiah B.	1899 <sup>67</sup> - 1901	Clifden No. 2 (aka Inishbofin Dispensary District)
Hayes, S E Bouchier	1901 - 1903	Inishbofin Dispensary District also known as Clifden No. 2 district & included Inish Shark)
Young, Benjamin P	1903 <sup>68</sup>	
Hickey, Thomas	1904 <sup>69</sup>	Roundstone No. 2 Dispensary District
Young	1904 <sup>70</sup> - ?	Roundstone No. 2 Dispensary District
Casey, Dr Joseph	1904 <sup>71</sup> -	Temp. MO of Clifden No. 2 district; 1914 appointed to Clifden No. 1 DD & Clifden workhouse
O'Hanlon	1904 - +1905 <sup>72</sup>	Clifden No. 2 District (aka Inishbofin)
Lydon, Michael A	1905	Temporary MO. Inishbofin Dispensary District; Roundstone No. 2; & Carna <sup>73, 74</sup>
Gray,	1905 <sup>75</sup> -1906?	Clifden No. 2 District
Hassard , Robert	1907- 1911 <sup>76</sup>	Roundstone No. 2 District
Murphy	1912?-1916	Roundstone no. 2
Freyer, P.W.	1906?-1911 <sup>77</sup>	Clifden no. 2 District (aka Inishbofin)
Moore, John P	1911 <sup>78 79</sup>	Clifden No. 2 district (aka Inishbofin)

<sup>57</sup> See GPL3/61, pp449-51, for instance, validity of appointment queried by LGB and case argued by BG

<sup>58</sup> 27 May 1895, GPL3/78, p215

<sup>59</sup> 24 Dec 1913, GPL3/100 pp318-9, resigns '*owing to infirmity and illness I find I am unable to carry out the very onerous duties of my various offices*'. See also p338 & p345

<sup>60</sup> 9 Apr 1879, GPL3/50, p509,

<sup>61</sup> 12 Aug 1914, GPL3/101, p79

<sup>62</sup> GPL3/63, p192

<sup>63</sup> See GPL3/69, p96

<sup>64</sup> 9 Aug 1905, GPL3/91, p382, 'Dr Loftus services be dispensed with...'

<sup>65</sup> 26 Nov 1913, GPL3/100p, p238-41, 258-9

<sup>66</sup> Died of Typhus fever, see 20 Jan 1904, GPL3/89, p602

<sup>67</sup> See GPL3/85, p171

<sup>68</sup> See 11 Nov 1903, GPL3/89, p504

<sup>69</sup> See 30 Mar 1904, GPL3/90, p87

<sup>70</sup> See 8 Jun 199, GPL3/90, p218

<sup>71</sup> 27 Sept 1911, GPL3/98, p158 & p179

<sup>72</sup> See GPL3/90, 4 Jan 1905, pp570-1

<sup>73</sup> 9 Aug 1905, GPL3/91, p382

<sup>74</sup> 2 May 1906 GPL3/93, p14 regarding Inquiry into the resignation of Dr Loftus as Workhouse Medical Officer in Feb 1905

<sup>75</sup> 19 Apr 1905, GPL3/ 91, p174

<sup>76</sup> 11 Oct 1911, GPL3/98, p180b

<sup>77</sup> GPL3/97, p998 & p1040b

<sup>78</sup> 26 July 1911, GPL3/98, p58

<sup>79</sup> GPL3/98, p118, see also p158 & p178, p199, p298, p318, p340b, p358-9



O'Brien, James	1914	Roundstone No. 1 District <sup>80</sup>
Fryer, P.W.	1914 <sup>81</sup>	Clifden no. 2 District – temporary appointment
Ash,	1914 -	Roundstone No. 1 & temporary Roundstone No. 2
Collins, Thomas	1914 <sup>82</sup> -	Roundstone No. 1
Lee, Michael	1919 <sup>83</sup>	Roundstone no. 2
Shannon, Dr	1919	Substitute for Casey in Clifden No. 1 DD & Clifden workhouse
Kearns, Dr	1919 - 1920 <sup>84</sup>	Roundstone no. 1
Nohilly,	1920 <sup>85</sup> -	Roundstone no. 1
O' Flaherty,	1920	Roundstone No. 1
Collins	1920?	Roundstone No. 1
Freyer,	1921	Roundstone No. 2 (Carna)

### Matron

[Skaronban], A	1849?	
Greany, C	1852? – 1854 <sup>86</sup>	
Concanon, Margaret	1854? – 1868	(Post of School mistress & Matron amalgamated for a time in 1860)?
Bruen, Maria	1869 - 1872 <sup>87</sup>	
King, Mary Anne	1873 <sup>88</sup> - 1874? <sup>89</sup>	
Boughton, Margaret	1880 <sup>90</sup> , <sup>91</sup> - 1908 <sup>92</sup>	
Conroy, Bridget Teresa	1908 <sup>93</sup> - 1909	
Schley, Ellen	1909 <sup>94</sup> - 1919 <sup>95</sup>	
Coyne, Annie	1914	Temporary matron (Aug 1914 - )
O'Halloran, Hannah	1919 <sup>96</sup> -	

### Assistant Matron

King, Mary	1849? -	
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<sup>80</sup> 25 Feb 1914, GPL3/100, p358

<sup>81</sup> 9 Sept 1914, GPL3/101, p120

<sup>82</sup> 11 Nov 1914, GPL3/101, p219 & p238

<sup>83</sup> 8 Oct 1919, GPL3/105, p482

<sup>84</sup> 14 Apr 1920, GPL3/106, p142

<sup>85</sup> 14 Apr 1920, GPL3/106, p142

<sup>86</sup> GPL3/18, pp131,p133

<sup>87</sup> Resigned, 18 Dec 1872, GPL3/44, p109

<sup>88</sup> GPL3/44, p269

<sup>89</sup> GPL3/52, f189

<sup>90</sup> 11 Feb 1880, GPL51, f5,

<sup>91</sup> 26 Feb 1896, GPL3/79, p473

<sup>92</sup> 26 Feb 1908, GPL3/95, p228

<sup>93</sup> 25 Mar 1908, GPL3/95, p261

<sup>94</sup> 17 March 1909, GPL3/96, p311

<sup>95</sup> 10 Sep 1919, GPL3/105, p424 – resigned due to continued illness. See also p446, 489, 511, 555 & GPL3/106, p23, 77

<sup>96</sup> 8 October 1919, GPL3/105, p467, see also p555, & GPL3/106, p238



## School Mistress

Glynn, Honor	? - 1854
Kelly, A	1854? - 1856 <sup>97</sup>
Reilly, ?	1856 - 1857 Feb
Egan, Catherine	1857 - 1858 (resigned Sept 1858)
Walshe, Bridget	1858 - 1860 (Matron acted as school Mistress for a time in 1860-'61)
Reilly, Ellen	1861 – 1866
Prendergast	1866 <sup>98</sup>
King, Mary Anne	1867? - 1873 (became Matron)
Prendagast, Kate	1873 - 1874 <sup>99</sup>
Geraghty,	1878? - 1886 (resigned to join her family in Australia, GPL3/61, p308)
Lydon	1886 <sup>100</sup> -
King, Mary	1886? - 1903 (Office of School Mistress abolished (children boarded out or sent to other institutions))

## School Master

Purcell, Richard	[1849] –
Commins,	? – March 1853
Hacket, Walter	? - 1854 <sup>101</sup>
Bruen, Edward	1869? - 1870 <sup>102</sup>

## Hospital Nurse

Fogarty, Mary	1863? - 1894 <sup>103</sup>
Broughton, E	1895? -
Bodkin, Mary Kate	1900? - ?
Walsh, Mary	1902 -1904 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Nurse appointed due to growing number in hospital)
Kearney,	1904 - 1914
Walsh, Alice	1919 <sup>104</sup> - (Cleggan)

## Porter

Duane Thomas	? – 1857 Feb
Faherty, Patrick	1857 - 1860 June (resigned Apr 1860, but subsequently re-instated)
Davis, William	1860 - 1863
Galvin, Hugh	1863 – 1864

<sup>97</sup> 10 Sept 1856, p8, GPL3/21, p8

<sup>98</sup> 12 Dec 1866, GPL3/35, 12 Dec 1866

<sup>99</sup> GPL3/46, p387 and *ibid* p429

<sup>100</sup> GPL3/61, p448, given her age, only 17, the LGB questioned her suitability. See also GPL/61, p468

<sup>101</sup> See Tuam Poor Law Union archive collection, GPL5/24, p368)

<sup>102</sup> Resigned as he had been appointed Master of Ballinrobe workhouse (county Mayo) (26 Oct 1870, GPL3/41,f95)

<sup>103</sup> Resigned, as considered too cold for the job, see GPL3/76, p 554 & 609.

<sup>104</sup> 28 May 1919, GPL3/105, p269 & p291



McDermott, William	1864 - 1898
Bodkin, Bernard	1899 - +1920
Joyce, Myles	1920 -

### Poor Law Inspector

Brodie, Dr	1860 – 1868	- Ceased to be associated with the Union (GPL3/37, f25)
Roughan, Dr	1868 –	
Brodie, Dr	1873? – 1879	[transferred to Cork District] <sup>105</sup>
Power, A.	1879 - ?	
Fair, Major Rutledge	1891?- +1913 <sup>106</sup>	
Dillon, Dr Florence	1913	Assistant Temporary Medical Inspector of Infirmary & Workhouse

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<sup>105</sup> GPL3/50, p468

<sup>106</sup> 8 January 1913, GPL3/99, pp285-286



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

Original capacity in 1841 was for 300 inmates

By 1849 the total capacity including temporary buildings, sheds and fever hospital was 1,856

Population of Clifden Union in 1881 was 24,259 and in 1891 it was 20,569

<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>No. in Workhouse</b>	<b>No. of Deaths</b>
30 June 1849	1,671	4
14 July 1849	1,528	7
21 July 1849	1,590	5
18 August 1849	1,705	5
15 September 1849	1,389	4
20 October 1849	1,294	2
17 November 1849	1,603	6
1 December 1849	1,750	3
5 January 1950	1,642	9
12 January 1850	1,845	7
19 January 1850	1,906	8
26 January 1850	1,909	12
9 February 1850	1,964	7
23 February 1850	1,971	12
9 March 1850	1,963	13
16 March 1850	1,926	18
17 January 1852	1,269	-
5 June 1852	1,399	4
24 July 1852	1,240	1
4 September 1852	752	3
11 December 1852	550	1
4 January 1853	[592]	2
1 June 1853	577	
7 December 1853	302	1
4 January 1954	302	3
3 June 1854	283	1
6 December 1854	227	1
1 December 1855	165	1
7 June 1855	190	-
15 November 1855	140	-
3 December 1856	136	-



3 June 1957	139	1
25 November 1857	110	1
2 December 1857	107	1
2 June 1858	107	-
8 December 1858	97	-



<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>No. in Workhouse</b>	<b>No. of Deaths</b>
22 January 1859	100	-
15 June 1859	100	2
4 April 1860	102	-
6 June 1860	114	-
5 December 1860	96	1
5 June 1861	117	-
1 January 1862	119	-
4 June 1862	176	-
7 January 1863	125	-
28 November 1863	134	-
26 March 1864	142	-
1 June 1864	174	-
5 October 1864	100	-
28 December 1864	124	-
19 April 1865	152	-
7 June 1865	161	-
3 January 1866	119	-
20 June 1866	114	1
5 September 1866	96	1
5 December 1866	117	-
30 January 1867	141	-
20 February 1867	130	-
16 March 1867	125	2
24 April 1867	140	1
15 May 1867	182	-
1 June 1867	197	4
8 June 1867	195	-
28 June 1867	180	4
7 December 1867	144	-
4 January 1868	151	-
30 June 1868	162	-
9 September 1868	143	-
5 December 1868	148	-
30 January 1869	167	1
20 February 1869	160	-
30 October 1869	132	-
20 January 1870	182	1
5 June 1870	144	0
July 1870	149	-
4 January 1871	151	-
March 1871	139	-
7 June 1871	133	-
27 December 1871	104	-



<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>No. in Workhouse</b>	<b>No. of Deaths</b>
3 January 1872	107	-
5 June 1872	131	1
18 December 1872	116	2
4 June 1873	112	1
26 July 1873	112	-
10 January 1874	145	-
6 June 1874	171	1
23 January 1875	133	-
1 May 1875	113	-
1 April 1876	136	-
3 June 1876	122	1
23 December 1876	115	1
18 May 1878 -	134	1
14 December 1878	137	-
4 January 1879	138	-
19 April 1879	156	1
18 October 1879	136	-
31 January 1880	153	1
29 May 1880	139	1
7 August 1880	131	-
1 December 1880	142	1
1 January 1881	143	1
7 May 1881	139	1
9 September 1882	135	-
13 January 1883	142	1
5 May 1883	141	2
8 December 1883	134	-
5 January 1884	140	1
7 June 1884	153	-
30 August 1884	135	1
31 December 1884	141	1
21 February 1885	158	2
28 March 1885	145	1
13 June 1885	154	-
29 August 1885	145	-
5 December 1885	171	1
9 January 1886	184	1
16 January 1886	202	0
5 February 1886	188	3
27 February 1886	177	1
1 May 1886	168	1
20 November 1886	146	-
11 December 1886	141	5





<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>No. in Workhouse</b>	<b>No. of Deaths</b>
1 January 1887	142	-
5 March 1887	141	-
15 May 1887	141	1
11 June 1887	133	-
27 August 1887	124	-
12 November 1887	119	2
31 December 1887	127	1
14 January 1888	131	-
25 January 1888	139	-
25 April 1888	129	2
27 June 1888	122	-
25 July 1888	121	-
28 July 1888	115	1
3 November 1888	122	-
29 December 1888	122	1
9 February 1889	129	-
16 February 1889	131	-
4 May 1889	110	1
10 August 1889	97	-
31 August 1889	100	-
26 April 1890	95	2
11 October 1890	100	-
27 December 1890	100	4
24 January 1891	105	1
11 March 1891	104	2
9 May 1891	99	1
13 June 1891	84	-
18 July 1891	82	-
30 January 1892	94	1
19 March 1892	105	1
23 April 1892	97	-
6 August 1892	96	-
24 September 1892	96	-
2 October 1892	97	-
12 December 1892	110	-
15 February 1893	106	1
12 April 1893	101	-
12 July 1893	99	-
30 August 1893	99	1
9 September 1893	98	-
28 October 1893	93	-
13 January 1894	99	-
24 February 1894	104	1
10 March 1894	103	-
26 May 1894	103	-
21 July 1894	101	-
12 September 1894	101	1
3 November 1894	108	-



<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>No. in Workhouse</b>	<b>No. of Deaths</b>
26 January 1895	103	1
23 February 1895	110	2
16 March 1895	98	2
15 May 1895	105	-
10 August 1895	103	2
14 September 1895	102	1
2 November 1895	119	1
25 January 1896	115	2
28 March 1896	120	-
9 May 1896	117	1
11 July 1896	123	-
12 September 1896	119	-
3 October 1896	122	-
14 November 1896	123	-
30 January 1897	140	-
17 April 1897	134	-
8 May 1897	129	1
3 July 1897	127	1
2 October 1897	121	-
27 November 1897	115	-
1 January 1898	112	1
19 March 1898	119	-
28 May 1898	107	-
30 July 1898	101	-
5 November 1898	115	1
7 January 1899	116	-
29 April 1899	111	3
3 June 1899	104	1
23 September 1899	92	-
2 December 1899	93	-
13 January 1900	97	2
10 March 1900	94	1
18 August 1900	92	-
15 December 1900	99	-
9 February 1901	107	-
27 November 1901	106	1
19 February 1902	105	-
24 May 1902	102	2
27 September 1902	91	1
6 December 1902	102	-
3 January 1903	99	1
9 May 1903	99	1
12 September 1903	99	-
5 December 1903	100	-



<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>No. in Workhouse</b>	<b>No. of Deaths</b>
30 January 1904	100	-
23 April 1904	100	2
28 September 1904	98	-
3 December 1904	103	-
14 January 1905	105	-
4 March 1905	110	-
22 July 1905	99	-
23 September 1905	92	-
28 April 1906	107	-
1 September 1906	115	-
5 January 1907	106	-
27 April 1907	96	-
13 July 1907	98	-
2 November 1907	93	-
22 February 1908	104	-
23 May 1908	100	-
4 July 1908	101	-
7 November 1908	93	1
2 January 1909	91	-
8 May 1909	92	1
10 July 1909	87	-
22 December 1909	93	1
22 January 1910	96	-
21 May 1910	80	1
24 September 1910	81	-
4 February 1911	65	-
10 June 1911	68	-
16 September 1911	73	1
13 December 1912	81	-
6 January 1912	80	-
16 March 1912	69	-
18 May 1912	69	-
10 August 1912	60	-
7 December 1912	70	-
11 January 1913	76	-
8 March 1913	74	-
24 May 1913	67	-
5 July 1913	68	1
8 November 1913	73	-
10 January 1914	67	2
18 April 1914	74	1
6 June 1914	78	-
5 September 1914	66	-
21 November 1914	70	-
19 December 1914	66	1



<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>No. in Workhouse</b>	<b>No. of Deaths</b>
6 February 1915	73	-
8 May 1915	61	1
19 June 1915	59	1
4 September 1915	59	1
4 December 1915	56	-
8 January 1916	62	-
8 April 1916	65	-
8 July 1916	62	1
20 September 1916	68	-
9 December 1916	69	1
6 January 1917	70	-
21 April 1917	67	-
7 July 1917	55	-
22 December 1917	56	1
19 January 1918	62	1
8 February 1918	56	1
6 July 1918	64	-
7 September 1918	57	1
23 November 1918	54	1
7 December 1918	54	-
8 February 1919	55	-
7 June 1919	62	2
6 September 1919	54	1
8 November 1919	62	-
4 January 1919	59	-
8 March 1919	61	-
9 August 1919	55	-
22 November 1919	60	-
6 December 1919	61	-
10 January 1920	64	-
6 March 1920	60	2
8 May 1920	61	1
24 July 1920	56	1
20 November 1920	45	-
4 December 1920	48	-
8 January 1920	53	1
12 March 1921	53	-
23 July 1921	62	-
24 September 1921	53	-
19 November 1921	60	1





## E. Cost of Inmates in the Workhouse

	Average cost of an inmate in the		
	Workhouse	Infirmary	Fever Hospital
1849	£0.1.0½	£0.1.11	£0.2/2½
December 1856	£0.3.2½	£0.2.0	
September 1858	£0.1.11	£0.2.00	
May 1862	£0.2.4½	£0.3.10	
May 1867	£0.2.7½	£0.3.7	
December 1876	£0.2.4	£0.4.0	
March 1880	£0.2.9	£0.3.8	
July 1883	£0.2.5	£0.4.7	
October 1885	£1.11		£3.6
February 1889	£0.2.1	£0.3.7½	
May 1895	£0.2.5½	£0.3.8	£0.3.10
September 1908	£0.4.1¼		





## **F. List of 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







**GPL3/**

**Clifden  
Poor Law Union  
Archive Collection**

**1849 - 1921**



## A. Minutes of Board of Guardians Meetings, 1849 - 1921

Bound volumes of manuscript minutes recording details of attendance and proceedings of weekly or twice monthly meetings relating to the maintenance, administration and financing of the workhouse, distribution of out-door relief, and the care of workhouse inmates as regards 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 number of births and deaths, 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; 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 irrecoverable in each electoral division; also includes details of orders and letters received from or written to the Poor Law Commissioners, and their successor the Local Government 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 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.

Only occasionally are inmates referred to by name, usually in the context of specific situations such as an application to be discharged from the workhouse or relating to a disciplinary matter.

From 1899 the pre-printed format alters slightly, reflecting the transfer of some functions to the Rural District Councils, in particular rate collection. From about this time the minutes primarily relate to the management of the workhouse and the dispensary districts. Most of the business conducted related to the appointment of Medical Officers, and to the maintenance of their residences, of dispensaries and the workhouse.

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.

Average size 450pp

(1-9)



10. 3 July 1849 - 27 March 1850 Includes:
- Details of the diet recommended by the Medical Officer (p19 & p79).
  - PLC letter No 53133... 'stating in reference to the number of persons who can be accommodated in the Bunowen Workhouse building, that Mr Bourke P.L. Inspector considers them capable of accommodating about 600 persons' (p47).
  - 'The Master requires 500 yards of calico for immediate use, as all the materials in the house are in the possession of the Sheriff, and many of the women are unclothed in consequence, and unemployed, and a number of the men have not shirts' (p185).
  - 'Letter from John Mullin, Assistant Master, expressing his regret at having in a moment of excitement been led into a breach of discipline by striking Mary Gilmore, a pauper, with a stick, she having attempted to obtain more rations than she was entitled to – appealing to his former good conduct and praying that he might be re-instated in his office' (p207).
  - 'The Master would call the attention of the Board to the daily increasing number in the house with the view of checking the issue of admission tickets to the Workhouse and at the same time to mention that the accommodation for Females and Children is quite insufficient. He has been obliged to appropriate one of the Male wards exclusively for Females and to remove the beds and bedding from another of the Male wards which is at present particularly unoccupied, as the bedding, blankets, etc which are in the store are in the hands of the Sherriff and cannot be applied to any immediate use' (p215<sup>107</sup>).
  - 'That Inishbofin Island being so distant and inaccessible except in fine weather it would be most dangerous that the Clifden Relieving Officer should take charge of it. We therefore continue of opinion that a person should be appointed for that Division but at a small salary not exceeding £20 a year, and that Tenders be received on the 26<sup>th</sup> instant (p220, see also p271)'.  
  
Transcript of a letter from Anthony Kearns, Relieving Officer, Clifden to the Chairman of the Board stating "Knowing your humanity and the moral responsibility which rests upon me as Relieving Officer of the district, I feel it my duty to state to you as Chairman of the Board, that if I am kept another week out of supplies I fear very much that some people in my district will die of want, while others will be driven to crime' (p237).
  - 'The Master of the Workhouse having complained that Mr Redmond Joyce accompanied by certain strangers did on the evening of Friday at a late hour enter the kitchen of the W.house and make use of language to the female paupers there present likely to lead to a breach of discipline and which did end in an assault upon Mr Joyce and those persons with him, and that Mr Joyce subsequently went up with the said persons to the female dormitories while the women were in bed, all which is totally destructive of discipline, and Mr Joyce on the other hand having charged the Master amongst other things, at coming at if not encouraging, the insults offered to him by certain paupers while in the discharge of

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<sup>107</sup> At that time, 8 November 1849, there were 710 able-bodied females and 330 males, and 396 boys and 396 girls.

- his duties as a member of the Visiting Committee. Resolved that the Board enquire into all the circumstances of the case on Tuesday next...'(p278).
- Report from the Medical Officer advising that 'disease is much on the increase in your workhouse and ancillaries. Fever, Dysentery and Bowel complaints have become very prevalent. The Infirmary and Fever Hospital are over-crowded with patients, and I was yesterday obliged to refuse admission to many sick paupers for want of room. It will be therefore necessary that further Hospital accommodation be provided without delay, numbers of paupers come into the workhouse suffering from disease and the majority of them are much reduced by previous want and starvation. The severe cold and want of sufficient clothes increase the evil' (p279).
  - PLC letter advising they had received communication from 'Rev Mr O'Malley in which he acknowledged that he was the author of the letter bearing date the 15<sup>th</sup> January which appeared in the Tablet Newspaper but stated that he did not intend to convey an insinuation that the object of the Guardians in administering relief to the Poor was to Proselytize the applicants for relief' (p367).
  - 'Mr Griffith Inspector reported that he had received from the PLC £150 to be applied exclusively in aid of the rates for the relief of the destitute poor also that he had received £500 for the purpose of providing clothing & bedding and additional workhouse accommodation' (p368).
  - 'Ordered that Mr Colles, solicitor, be directed to take proceedings by Civil Bill against Mr Edward Coneys.  
Ordered that Mr Colles be directed to take proceedings by Civil Bill against Mr J D'Arcy at Sessions where he resides for £24.60 amount due by him as occupier....' (p368)

(11-13)

14. 21 January 1852 - 4 August 1852                      Volume of rough minutes. Includes:
- 'Resolved that the Committee to meet on Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> inst be requested to draw up a full statement of the hopeless embarrassment of this Union, point out the utter impossibility of the rate at present in course of collection being more than sufficient to meet the current expenses of the House, and the utter ruin that would be caused by an attempt to increase the local taxation, and to prepare a resolution requesting the Commissioners to bring the unfortunate and hopeless state of his Union before government in the hope that some necessary relief may be devised' (28 Jan 1852, p13).
  - Absconded during the week ended 21<sup>st</sup> February, Pat Mannion and Thomas [McDono] both admitted on the 18<sup>th</sup> and absconded on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, taking with them a full suit of clothes each.  
Ordered to be prosecuted. (25 Feb 1852, p7).



- Detailed opinion of the Board on the Medical Charities Relief Bill, stating that 'These opinions being opposed to the idea that the execution of the provisions of this law would establish a beneficial result', and 'This Union, pointing back to a period of three or four years, was extremely populous, very destitute, and at one time awfully visited with disease. However efficient or inefficient might there have been our means of affording relief by food, still, it was never questioned that Medical assistance was wanting, nor was there then, nor could there have been found any fault in the local provision for Medical relief.....'.  
'In our present position we find ourselves with a comparatively small and very healthy population while emigration seems to threaten that the whole population will soon be left within the walls of the Poor house, our small insufficient and rigorously exacted rates are totally inadequate to our daily wants, while our liabilities are increasing day by day. We therefore earnestly hope and confidently request that the Commissioners will not in the face of increasing health among decreasing numbers and the daily necessary but unprovided wants of the Union compel us to tax the Union in a second rate for salaries and medicines when food is wanting for the poor and contractors and officers remain unpaid and that the Board protest against the carrying out of the Medical Charities Act as unnecessary' (25 Feb 1852, pp14-16).
- '...The Board of Guardians thought it was unnecessary to point out to the Commissioners the perfect impossibility of collecting any new rate even if the Guardians were disposed to strike one, and the palpable injustice it would be to the very few rate payers in this deserted and miserable Union who have punctually and at great sacrifices paid the last very heavy rate of 5/ and in some cases 5/6 in the pound to re-impose upon them the support of this Union after having paid fully the portion which they were liable for, particularly when the Guardians made every possible exertions to secure payment of all arrears was obtained. The Board assure the Commissioners...but they must most respectfully but firmly decline striking any new rate at present as they feel it would create an amount of pauperism and emigration which would entirely destroy this Union' (3 Mar 1852, p13).
- Report from the Roundstone Medical Officer advising '...there is a very great increase of illness and mortality among the school children, which, in my opinion, is occasioned by the want of proper liquid food. This I have repeatedly brought under your notice. It is quite obvious that milk cannot be procured in sufficient quantity even for ready money. Ground rice, the substitute I recommended and which was agreed upon by your Board and sanctioned by the Commissioners has not been supplied for some time back...' (20 Mar 1852, p4c).
- 'Resolved that the Commissioners be requested to send down money for the supply of the paupers in the workhouse, they being at present without a week's supply of provisions, there being no funds for the purchasing of more, and the contractors refusing to give further supplies without payment' (26 May 1852, p11).



15. 28 July 1852 – 5 January 1853 The original hardcopy volume is privately held. Galway County Council is grateful to the holder for permission to digitise the volume, and thus provide access to it and to a more complete range for minutes for the period<sup>108</sup>.  
Condition – ink fading, can be difficult to decipher. Includes index 497pp
- 16a. 9 March 1853 - 28 June 1853 Volume of minutes (first ¼ of volume is blank), includes
- 'Resolved that the Board have reason to believe the strictness that ought to be used by the Officers of the House in preventing paupers from being about the town, and the Board being determined to stop such proceedings, they have called the attention of the Master, and parties, to the circumstances and directed them in future not to allow any paupers outside the House on any pretence whatsoever, except the boys required as messengers ...' (1 June 1853, p13).
- 16b. 9 Mar 1853 - 7 July 1853 Volume of Rough Minutes (Conserved in 2014)
17. 6 July 1853 - 7 December 1853 Includes:
- Includes list of 21 inmates discharged who were issued with 'suit of clothes' (10 Aug 1853, p109), giving their name, age, electoral division, and [date of admission], further list included in 17 Aug 1853, p129.
  - 'Ordered that the Clerk do write to the Westport Board of Guardians requesting they will send to this Board the sum of £129, appearing due to the Clifden Union by the Final adjustment order of the PL Commissioners.  
Mr Hall, PL Inspector brought under the notice of the Board the claim of the Westport Union for £22.10, value of meal alleged to have been left in store in Inishbofin Island...' (p513).
18. 14 December 1853 – 7 June 1854 Includes:-
- 'Mr Kearnes (Relieving Officer) also informed the Board that he had been served with an Eviction notice against 87 families in the Electoral Divisions of [Derryculla] and Dunloughan, the notice was signed by Mr John Robertson' (p51).

<sup>108</sup> The family acquired the volume in circa late 1920 via son of the previous Union Doctor, Dr Casey. It apparently has the handwriting of the great grand-father of the family, who was a clerk during that period.





- 'The Master reports that on the morning of Saturday last Samuel [Panes] Esq. P.P. called his attention to a woman named Bidly Joyce an inmate of the Infirm Ward whom he found crossing the River near the Workhouse with a bottle of milk in her possession which she stated belonged to herself and was carrying it to her daughter who was then sick in Ardbear' (p69).
- 'PL Commissioners' letter no. 60,756/53, 29<sup>th</sup> Dec., stating that they the PLC being responsible, that Medical Aid shall be available when required by the sick poor they cannot consent to the proposal of the Board of Guardians to reduce the number of Dispensary districts and, consequently, the number of Medical Officers employed therein under the Medical Charities Act' (p70, see also p73).
- 'That of the 21 persons ordered to be discharged by the Board on the last day the Master discharged 10 of them, the remaining 11 could not be discharged in consequence of their own clothes not being in the old clothes store and would suggest that the Board do procure clothes for them in order to enable the Master to discharge them at once, the greater portion of which were admitted as scholars and being a long time in the House their own clothes would not fit them' (p188).
- Report from the Medical Officer regarding the conditions of the inmates and requests the Board of Guardians to remedy same, advising '...that no time should be lost in putting the House in proper order and placing the paupers in such a position as to best enable them to resist disease but especially that pestilence (cholera) which is making rapid strides towards our Union...' (p267).
- PLC Commissioners 'Recommending the Guardians to cause active legal proceedings to be taken for the recovery of the rates for which Mr Crawford was collector and if necessary to avail themselves of the best professional assistance which they can obtain to effect the payment of the rates without further delay' (p431).

19. 14 June 1854 – 6 December 1854 Includes:-

- Report from the Visiting Committee stating it 'was most gratified at the general appearance of the entire establishment as well as with the Lunatics, who appeared to be most orderly, the Master and other Officers were in their respective places' (p226).
- 'Resolved that with relation to the letter on the subject of the emigration of Annie Ryne and her children whose husband is now a convict in Australia. The attention of the Commissioners be called to the matter, and that they be requested to assist the Board in funds for the purposes of forwarding the party to the port of embarkation from which port their expenses are to be paid' (p291).
- PLC reply '...that they have no fund applicable to the purpose of assisting the family in question to emigrate, etc' (p309).
- '...a report was made to him (Relieving Officer) that a man was found dead on the morning of Monday last on the old road near Kylemore Lake. He learned the particulars of the case and found that he was a single man of about 25 years of age, named Patrick Burke, a native of Ballinakill, a lunatic...' (p389).
- 'Letter from Mr Burke Workhouse Master stating it was with pain that a sense of public duty compelled me to report to you the improper conduct of Mr P Collins, which report has



been since his removal from office fully borne out as you are aware.  
He never did keep my books but assisted with them until I found some errors in the accounts made out by him to which I called the attention of Mr Smith Clerk of the Union, who desired me not to permit Mr Collins to interfere with the account in future, since then he frequently requested to be allowed to assist with the Books but I at all times refused' (pp408-409).

(20.)

21. 5 December 1855 – 16 November 1856 Includes
- Poor Law Commissioners whereby they 'agreed to the feelings of the Board as regards the amalgamation of Clerk and Master. The Guardians wish to express their pleasure at the Commissioners having assented to this proposition as they are of opinion the duties will be efficiently discharged by one competent Officer....'(13 Feb 1856,p14).
  - 'The Committee appointed to examine into the proposed new Medical Relief District beg to report for the information of the Board their opinion of the several objections which they consider would make the proposed arrangement a great hardship instead of benefit to the inhabitants of the Renvyle Medical Relief District and the reasons for which they would recommend the Board to adhere to their former proposition....'(20 Feb 1856, p11, see also 9 Apr 1856, pp7-8,9 Jul 1856, p10, 30 Jul 1856, p11).
  - Discussions regarding proposal to 'dispense with the services of a local Treasurer', and favour of using a Bank in Galway instead (27 Feb 1856).
  - Letter from the PLC 'stating that from a Report made by Dr Brodie it appears that there is a large amount of rates due in the Union and requesting the Board will urge the collector to exert themselves with their collections etc' (9 May 1856, p8).
  - Letter from Poor Rate Collection stating "that he had been on the property of Mr Lynch of [Barna] and that all the tenants rated under four pounds have been instructed by their Landlord (as appears to him) not to pay any rate and as he is evidently trying to baffle the Board he suggests that the Board will take steps for compelling him to pay his rate' (15 Jul 1856, p8, see also 6 Aug 1856, pp9-10).
  - Extract from report of The District Inspector of Schools stating 'Sometime since the Board of Guardians came to the resolution of dispensing with the services of a male teacher and of requiring the female teacher to discharge all the duty which she has since done, giving three hours to the boys and three hours to the girls daily. This arrangement seems to work very badly. The literacy proficiency of both boys and girls is at the lowest ebb, and what is still worse, all order and decorum seems to have vanished. The boys especially are free from all restraint and exercise no respect either for the teacher or any other person. It would require a woman of much firmer character than Miss Kelly, the teacher, seems to be, to teach these mischievous lads with efficiency. I much fear that until a male teacher is appointed matters will become worse and worse' (30 Jul 1856, p9).
  - 'Resolved that the duties of Matron and Hospital Nurse be amalgamated and that the hospital nurse be dispensed with for the future, and that the duties of the hospital nurse be entrusted to the Matron along with those she has already to perform. Her salary not to be more than £20 a year and first class rations. This can be safely carried out from the reduced number in the house'<sup>109</sup> (7 Sept 1856, p11, see also 24 Sept 1856, pp8-9).
  - Details of salary payments (1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1856, p5).
  - 'We propose that a further revision of the paupers of this house take place on this day week for the purpose of expelling such of the inmates as shall appear to be able to support themselves outside and that the revision take place at 11 o'clock on said day' (29 Oct 1856, p11, see also 5 Nov 1856, p8).

<sup>109</sup> There were 134 inmates in the workhouse at that time.



- 'Stephen Moran an orphan boy 11 years of age applied for workhouse relief stating that he wanted to be at school. The Board divided and there appeared for his admission Mr Hart and Mr Shea, against his admission Mr Prior and Mr Bodkin. Applicant refused' (6 Nov 1856, p10, see also 12 Nov 1856, p8).
  - Votes taken on three applications for admission to the workhouse (6 Nov 1856, p11).
22. 3 December 1856 – 25 November 1857 Includes:
- 'Read letter from M Nally, RO, stating that he had proceeded to Renvyle to enquire relative to the deaths of the family named Walsh. He found that Coroner's inquests were held and that verdicts of 'died by the visitation of food' was given upon them. They never applied for relief (7 Jan 1857, p9).
  - 'Ordered that Mr Leslie's tender be accepted and that he be called on to provide his Bills in the English language, that is to say in the merchantable form' (29 Apr 1857, p9).
23. 2 December 1857 – 8 December 1859 Includes:
- 'A woman named Peggy O'Donnell went out on pass and did not return, she left her child, 3 years, in the workhouse' (13 Jan 1858, p7).
  - 'That Biddy Mongan, an inmate of the Workhouse infirmary called for the R.C. Chaplain on last Thursday night, she being in a dangerous state. He (the Master) sent for Chaplain and she then stated she wished her religion to be changed from Protestant to Roman Catholic' (17 Feb 1858, p7).
  - 'Read letter from Porter of Workhouse requesting the Board would allow him some meat, as he is the only Officer now in the Workhouse who is not allowed meat ration. Ordered that he get 4lbs of meat weekly' 17 Dec 1858, p9).
  - 'Ordered that the Commissioners be requested to send a Clerk from their office to close the old Union a/cs, which it is hoped will be done in a few weeks by the aid of the Union Clerk, who will be directed to give his undivided assistance to aid the Commissioners' Clerk, as the Union is still [\_\_\_] poor' (14 Jul 1858, p9).
  - 'Medical Officer reports that the clothes worn by Thomas Early (a boy who was taken out of the Workhouse some time since by a man named Luke King) are in such a state of filth, and dirt and vermin that they ought to be at once burned as they are dangerous to the inmates of the workhouse. I have also to draw the attention of the Board to the miserable state this boy came into the House, half starved, and covered with vermin from head to foot, the Board should take steps to prosecute the person who treated the unfortunate boy in this manner'. 'Ordered that the clothes be burned and that the Master be directed to have information sworn in this case and the party treating the boy so cruelly prosecuted according to law'. (28 Jul 1858, p7).

- 'The Master reports that on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult a child apparently about a week old was brought to the Workhouse by a Policeman and a woman who stated she found the child near a cock of hay in Ardbear that morning.  
I request the Board will inform me what name he is to be called and what religion etc.  
Order that the child be baptised by the name of Anthony Hay by the Roman Catholic Chaplin' (4 Aug 1858, p7).
- Includes list of contractors for various articles, such as pepper, rice, sugar, starch, tea, soap (29 Sept 1858, p9).
- 'Resolved that the thanks of this Board are due and hereby tendered to Mr McDermott of the PLC office, Dublin for the very satisfactory and businesslike manner in which he has brought the a/cs of the former Clifden Union to a close as well as for the courtesy with which he has explained the different items comprised in these and the other a/cs of the Union' 13 Oct 1858, p9).
- 'Read letter from Secretaries of National Education forwarding extracts from Inspector's reports;  
The teacher's qualifications are middling and her method of conducting the school is pretty fair.  
The numbers in the school are very small and the children, with one or two exceptions are very young and nearly all in first and second works.  
The new teacher appears to be more careful and anxious for the children's improvement than her predecessor, though much inferior in literacy attainment and I have to observe that sufficient attention is not paid by the proper officer to the cleanliness of the boys who are allowed to retire to bed for a week or more without washing their feet' (17 November 1858, p9).
- 'That M. Evans having asked for her discharge with her four children and being now in the workhouse for over three years and having no clothing of their own that a sum of 15/0 be allowed to purchase five suits of clothes for them' (1 Dec 1858, p9).

24. 14 December 1858 – 28 March 1860 Includes:

- 'The House appears clean and well ventilated. The paupers appear healthy... Also the food for healthy inmates is simply composed of water and oatmeal and it may be well to consider the propriety of using some coarse meat in its preparation which we have no doubt would tend to diminish the number of patients in the hospital at present' (22 Jun 1859, p7).
- 'The following report was read from Medical Officer of Workhouse;  
"My attention has been called to the attention in the dietary recommended by the Visiting Committee, that meat should be added to the soup on certain days in the week for the paupers generally, such as sheep's heads, [calf's] heads and other coarse parts. It would render the soup more nutritious and would diminish in some degree the numbers on the hospital wards, at present there are six persons on the hospital wards [\_\_\_] them to enjoy a better dietary than the House affords [\_\_\_] are aged and infirm, at the same time I would recommend that the aged and infirm do receive [\_\_\_] bread and milk for breakfast in lieu of stir-about and white bread, and meat soup three or four times in the week for dinner, and white bread and milk the remaining days. On the whole it would be advisable to allow meat in the soup for the paupers

in the body of the house generally on three or four days in the week. Of the 35 cases at present in Hospital, 31 [came into] the House sick and went direct to the Hospital.

I would also recommend the milk for classes 4, 5 & 6 for supper, as suggested in PLC's letter of 4<sup>th</sup> inst..." (6 Jul 1859, p9).

- 'Notice of Motion

"I hereby give notice that consequent upon the continued excessive high rates of this Union, which appear to be increasing instead of diminishing and over which I feel there is no control I or some other members competent to do so will on this day fortnight, move that an amalgamation of either Oughterard with this Union or this Union with Galway shall take place and the Commissioners be requested to give this important subject their kind consideration as most competent to assist us in this matter", signed M. R. Hart', (10 Aug 1859, p10).

- 'Notice of Motion

"I hereby give notice that I will on this day fortnight bring forward a resolution that all the women having bastard children in the House be questioned as to who is the father of same and that the names of said fathers be placed up on a conspicuous part of the Board Room over the fire place in large class writing and be kept always there for general information" (5 October 1859, p10).

- 'We have visited the House – the children's schoolroom and dormitory – we are of opinion that from the great size of both [they] are too cold for the number of children in the school. We recommend that a partition be erected in each and that they be reduced to a suitable size for the number of children in them, which will make the rooms more compact, and warm. We also recommend that the floor in one of the temporary sheds which are now rotting and sinking into the earth be raised at once and that they be used in making partitions so required, this will save what remains of the boards from rotting and save considerable expense' (22 Feb 1860<sup>110</sup>, p6-7)

- 'Master reports that the infirm men in the workhouse at present are not able to work or discharge the dung from the dung pit. He would suggest the propriety of employing 3 or 4 men for one week and particularly if the Guardians intend on sowing potatoes in the laundry yard' (21 Mar 186, p7).

25. 4 April 1860 – 31 October 1860 Includes:

- 'The grandmother and mother of John Grehan having applied for his discharge, it was Proposed that this boy John Grehan be allowed to remain in the house till the Relieving Officer will make inquiry as to whether the grandmother will and is able to support the boy, and report on next Board day' (2 May 1860, p9; see subsequent entries including 23 May 1860, p8).
- 'That the situation of Matron and Schoolmistress be amalgamated and that Matron be appointed to take charge of the school from this date subject to the approval of Doctor Brodie' (9 May 1860, p9).
- 'Ordered That Mary Carroll being taking her discharge and she being in the House several years she get a suit of clothes not to exceed 5/10' (6 Jun 1860, p11).

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<sup>110</sup> At that time there were 8 girls aged between 9-15 in the workhouse, 4 children between 5-9 and 10 between 2-5, and also 25 infants under 2 years.



- 'Ordered that Peter West having applied for his discharge to go to service to John [Hemie] having a proper person to take him into service the boy be discharged and John [Hemie] be directed to take proper care of him' (27 Jun 1860, p10).
- 'Ordered that Bridget Conneely wishing to take her discharge to go to service and she being living in the Workhouse since a child and having no clothes of her own she get a suit of clothes not to exceed 4/10' (1 Aug 1860, p11).
- 'Medical Officer reports that Robert Kane a Lunatic in the workhouse for sometime is now in a position to be forwarded to the Ballinasloe Lunatic Asylum, and thinks it would be desirable to have him removed as soon as possible. If the Board approve he will furnish the necessary forms etc' (5 Sept 1860, p7).
- 'Notice of Motion That the Collection of rates in Clifden Union be equalised among the present three collectors as is the case generally in other Unions. One collector having only four Electoral Divisions while the other two have fifteen between them was proposed...' (5 Sept 1860, p9).
- 'PLC letter '...Relative to Board's resolution directing that the Mothers of illegitimate children be sent to a separate ward and stating that the Guardians should not place any woman in a ward apart from the other female inmates of the workhouse unless for impropriety of language or demeanour on her part etc' (24 Oct 1860, p9) (See also GPL3/30, f115).

26. 7 November 1860 – 5 June 1861 Includes

- 'The clothing of the Paupers is very deficient and as the weather is cold and severe the Board's attention is called, if not the health of the paupers will suffer. The quantity of turf should also be increased' (19 Dec 1860, f43).
- 'Resolved that the paupers be supplied with the usual meat dinner on Christmas day not to exceed £4.0.0 and that the Clerk be directed to attend at same' (19 Dec 1860, f44).
- 'The attention of the Board of Guardians is requested to a lunatic of the name of Michael Kilmartin admitted on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. He exhibits a tendency to do violence and it is unsafe to have him at large, there is no proper way to confine a lunatic in the workhouse or submit him to treatment likely to be beneficial. Immediate steps should be taken to have him removed to Ballinasloe lunatic asylum' (f103).
- 'Matron reports from the increase of inmates in the House which adds to my duty in every respect the quantity of clothing I am obliged to cut out and get made together with the repairing of old clothes (with little or no assistance) occupies the greater part of my time, when I took charge of the school at the request of the Guardians there were only 13 children, there are now 21 on rolls and other children which should be classed. I must respectfully beg to inform the Board that I cannot discharge the entire duties as Matron and Teacher' (21 February 1862, f113).
- 'Ordered That the Clerk take steps to have the Deaf and Dumb girl Mary McDonagh forwarded to the Roman Catholic Institution for Deaf and Dumb mutes with as much despatch as he can' (f114, see also f144).

- 'Master reports there was a woman named Mary Williams admitted to the Workhouse on Saturday night last who was completely out of her mind, from her violence she had to be tied, put into the probationary ward, and two able bodied women kept night and day in close attendance on her. He also begs leave to state he went to the Courthouse on yesterday in order to have her committed to jail but there being but one magistrate present no committal could be got. Begs Board's directions in the matter. Ordered That the Master hold over this woman until a warrant can be obtained the best way he can' (p133).
- 'Notice of Motion: I shall on this day three weeks move that the Doctor be directed to visit the Island of Bofin periodically, say at least once a month or to make such other arrangements as may secure proper medical attendance to the people of the island' (3 Apr 1861, f165, see also ff194-195).
- 'The Medical Officer reports that there was an entire family of 8 persons admitted from Clifden, six of them suffering from fever who were at once admitted to Hospital as there seems a tendency for fever to increase both in Clifden and the country part and as there may be many more applicants for admission to Hospital by parties suffering from fever it is necessary to use the utmost precaution to prevent the spread of the disease and to make the necessary preparations for treating such cases as may be admitted...' (5 Jun 1861, f253).

27. 1 January 1862 – 2 July 1862 Includes:

- 'Ordered - That from this day forth we strictly order that any woman within the walls of this house having a bastard child shall not be placed in any office, or hold any supervision in any department whatsoever under suspension of the Officer who shall so place her' (f15).
- 'In consequence of the fearful increase of applications for admission into this workhouse of women with illegitimate children and the fact of such women in many cases having more than 2 illegitimate children, I will on this day fortnight propose a Resolution that our county members be called on to bring such facts before parliament with a view to amend the Laws relative to the support of illegitimate children' (15 Jan 1862, f25).
- 'Master begs leave to state there is neither turf nor coal in the House for the coming week...' (f34).
- 'Order. That a temporary shed be erected in [\_\_\_] yard to be used as a privy and the Master cautioned to see to the sanitary condition of the House in future...' (f55).
- Letter from the Relieving Officer, Con King, to the Board relating to the administering of 'outdoor relief to parties in the Island of Bofin. I regret that any answer I might have given to Dr Brodie on this subject should have led the Commissioners to consider that I was not cognisant of the powers I possessed as Relieving Officer. I was aware of the [length] to which I might go but it is so long since outdoor relief was been administered in this Union and there being plenty of room in the Workhouse I offered it in the first instance but I would by no means take a person to the Workhouse that I considered would be injured by the removal or required immediate assistance and I will take care in future to attend to this matter strictly' (f115).





- 'Ordered that the Workhouse rules with regard to mothers and their children be strictly carried out from this forth. That any child two years and upwards to be kept entirely apart from their mothers under pain of dismissal of the Officer whose duty it will be to attend to this order' (f145).
  - Complaint about the neglect of the Relieving Officer, P Joyce, of the Cleggan and Letterfrack districts, relating to the case of 'Thomas Coneys deceased and that of Myles King, Cleggan'. In the case of Coneys it was reported that Joyce 'admitted the deceased to be so weak that he could not be safely removed and still refused to give him any nourishment whatsoever saying he had no power to do so until he would first represent the case to the Board. I have heard with regret that on being pressed for some relief for the sick man he remarked that he was so weak that it was useless to give him anything'.  
Following enquiry the Board found that the RO had 'acted rightly' (ff146-147).
  - 'Master reports that two boys, John Grehan and Peter West both, deserted from Workhouse through the boys' dayroom windows between 8 and 9 o'clock am on yesterday....This morning the Head Constable sent for him (Master) to accompany him to the Rev. M. D'arcy (of the Mission schoolhouse) where the boys were and given up to the police' (f183).
  - 'Resolved that finding the cost of paupers in this House being considerably more than it is in other Unions around us and also finding that the rates are equally high we request the Commissioners will send us a competent officer to go over the accounts of the Union and inform the Board as to how the cost of paupers as well as the rates can be so high the Board consent to pay a reasonable sum for so doing' (f215).
  - Discharge of Bridget Mullen and her child (f224).
  - Discharge of Anne Toole (f224).
28. 9 July 1862 – 25 March 1863 (Conserved in 2014) Includes:
- 'Mary Finnegan a violent and dangerous lunatic was admitted into the workhouse on the 1<sup>st</sup>. As there is no ward in the workhouse for properly securing and treating lunatics, I would recommend that information be taken against the woman and have her committed to jail, in the meantime I have confined in the female probationary ward in charge of two women' (p107).
  - 'Seven women with illegitimate children are directed to be discharged on next Petty Session day with a view to their appearing before the Magistrate and making affirmation as to the Fathers of their children' (p151).
  - 'Resolved: In accepting Dr Jordan's resignation of his situation of assistant Medical Attendant for the islands of Inishbofin and Shark we have much pleasure in bearing our testimony to the very efficient and successful manner in which he had discharged his duties, to the unanimous (blank) and the great satisfaction which he has given to the Board and the ratepayers in general. We are gratified to find that he has obtained a highly respectable, and we trust a remunerative appointment elsewhere' (p169).
  - Resolution from the Clifden Dispensary Committee stating 'That we are of opinion that a resident Medical Officer is necessary in the islands of Inishbofin and Shark at a moderate salary' (p289).
  - 'Read letter from Mr Con King, Relieving Officer, stating that in accordance with the directions of the Board he visited the island Inishbofin on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst, went carefully through the island



visiting all the families likely to be in want of food, 8 families were supplied with provisional relief and several others to whom he gave provisional tickets of admission to the workhouse, all of whom refused to avail themselves of such relief.

The state of the Island is healthy and he learned from the Medical Officer that there is no epidemic disease. It is probably the distress will be much felt from the next few months and will require a resident Relieving Officer on the island, there is nothing in the way of bread, rice or necessaries for the sick on the island' (p429).

- 'There are at present 23 cases of fever in the workhouse fever hospital, the greater number of these have been admitted from the Town of Clifden and neighbourhood and as fever seems disposed to spread no doubt there will be many new cases seeking admission. It will be therefore necessary for the proper treatment of the pauper patients to have the hospital in the most efficient state possible. It will be necessary to procure a proper supply of sheeting of which there is a short supply, also all other necessaries such as straw bedding etc. The fever is as yet of a mild type and there have been no deaths but it is impossible to say how long this may continue but to ensure it as much as possible no means within our reach should be omitted' (18 Mar 1863, pp487-488).

(29.)

30. 4 November 1863 – 6 April 1864 Includes:-

- 'That from this day forth no pauper shall leave the House without a written pass from the Master who will make his report on next Board day after issuing such pass to the Board, except Michael Conneely and James Mullen who are now named as messengers and none else...' (f5).
- 'Master reports that Mary Vaughan was recommended by the Magistrate to be turned out of workhouse.  
Order To be discharged' (f114).
- 'Read letter from Mr Geo Brennan relative to cultivation of flax in the Union. Resolved that Mr Brennan's letter relative to the encouragement of the growth of flax in this Union in which the poor are struggling under an over taxation and high rents without public employment of any kind and very little private [\_\_\_] [\_\_\_\_] wages be considered on this day fortnight...' (f135).
- 'Resolved that we consider the Resolution of the Board on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February relative to the abolition of the Church establishment as entirely out of place and calculated to create a religious discord in this Board and not to promote the due and important fulfilment of the several duties of each individual forming this Board....' (f148).
- Notice of motion proposing the reduction in the salaries of the Officers (f148, see also f166, f195, f217).

31. 13 April 1864 – 12 October 1864 Includes:
- 'Ordered That a Return be laid before the Board on this day fortnight of all the parties ordered to be prosecuted as putative fathers of illegitimate children for the last 12 months and what steps have been taken in each case the name of the other to be given in every instance' (f25).
  - 'Resolved That Peter Lynch having stated before the Board on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst that the Master was drunk on a certain day that the Master be required to give a full explanation to this Board on this day week' (f125, see also ff246-248).
  - 'Resolved That the hospital nurse be at once dismissed in consequence of impertinence to the Chairman and Board and also stating that she knew of bad things being done in the House but refusing to tell the Board what these things were' (p176, see also ff186-187, f195).
32. 19 October 1864 – 19 April 1865 Includes:
- 'In accordance with the directions of the Board I have looked through the females of the workhouse and I find none suitable as ward maids for the Hospital except some who have had illegitimate children. The master informs me there is an order against them being employed and the medical officer desires to bring the matter under the notice of the Board as very serious inconvenience is felt by the want of proper hospital attendants' (f4).
  - 'Master reports that Ellen Herman was sentenced to one month's imprisonment in Galway Jail for breach of Workhouse rules' (f124).
  - 'Ordered that Catherine Melody having refused to swear information against the putative father of her child be discharged' (f146).
  - 'Mary King, John Flaherty & Mary Mullen who were lately admitted, the two former had each /10, the later 11 /1/3d. We had them searched before reaching their respective places. Ordered to be placed to the credit of the Union for their support' (f154).
  - 'Ordered that Michael Walsh have 7/6 spent on clothing on his going to service with Mr Coyne of [Currywongaun] and that John Nally have same on going to service with Michael King of Errislannon' (f155).
  - 'Ordered that John Flaherty be refunded the 3/0 found in his possession on entering the workhouse after deducting the expense of his support while in the House' (f165).
33. 3 May 1865 – 10 January 1866 Includes:
- Letter from the Secretaries of Education forwarding extracts from District Inspector's report which included '...The teacher, Miss Reilly entered the current course of training in the Marlboro Street establishment but has not been permitted to complete the term which is much to be regretted. School on the whole taken progressively' (f25).
  - Extract of letter from the Protestant Chaplain, Rev. Campbell regarding a little boy entered in the Register as Protestant but who informs him "*I would like to be a Catholic*" and asking 'Am I to be watched lest I should unsettle the faith of a Roman Catholic with full reasoning powers and yet be unable to guard little children in the Protestant faith...' (f46).



- Various entries relating to the administration of vaccines under the compulsory vaccine scheme, such as f55.
- 'The Medical Officer desires to bring under the notice of the Board the state of the sewage of the workhouse. Some of drains have become choked and would require to be opened and cleaned out. This is necessary for the sanitary state of the House and should be immediately attended to' (f124).
- 'Pat Conneely<sup>111</sup> who was taken here by the Mission agents wishes to become a R Catholic. He refused to go out with the parties who took him here. His father called here on yesterday and desired to have the boy's religious denomination changed from Protestant to Roman Catholic. Ordered. That the putative father be prosecuted' (f134, see also f145 & f155).

34. 24 January 1866 – 5 September 1866 Includes:-

- Notice of Motion to '...request that the Commissioners be requested to remove from the Clifden Dispensary District the Island of Bofin and have it formed into a separate district or otherwise have it annexed to the Renvyle Dispensary District. the said Island of Bofin having no claim whatever on the Clifden District, it being a portion of the County of Mayo' (f165).
- 'An illegitimate child named Peter Jennings born in the workhouse (now three and a half years old) and then charged to the Electoral Division to which the mother belonged, the mother and child frequently left the House and returned again, but are said to be 30 months in the House out of the three and a half years.  
The child has been now admitted on its own account as deserted. It was never in the Division to which the mother belonged.  
The Board requests the Commissioners will be good enough to say whether the child is now chargeable to the Union at large or to the electoral division to which the mother was chargeable when in the house' (f175, see also f185).
- 'Ordered That Honor Conneely be discharged for refusing to swear information against the father of her illegitimate child and prosecuted for destroying the Union property' (f176).
- Minutes relating to the absence of the inmate Margaret Mulkerrins (f236).

35. 26 September 1866 – 15 May 1867 Includes:

- 'Ordered That Rose Martin, being able-bodied and plenty of work going on outside the workhouse at present, be discharged' (f114, see also f214).
- Transcript of letter from Dr Browne MD, County Infirmary, Surgeon, Professor Queen's College, Galway, regarding the medical condition of Dr Suffield, Medical Officer for Clifden Dispensary District (f126, see also ff196-197, see also ff256-257 and GPL3/36, f5, f15, f75, f85, and GPL3/37, f195 & f225, GPL3/38, ff65-67).

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<sup>111</sup> Born in the workhouse to Kate Davin on 11 Jan 1858, baptized a RC.



- Query regarding the chargeability of Peter Nee, his wife and family (f198, see also f215).
  - Minute regarding the registered religion of inmate Michael Walsh [aged 12 years] (f215, see also ff225-226 and f235).
  - 'Resolved that the Board of Guardians of this Union respectfully call the attention of the Commissioners to the present distress now prevailing in this Union, almost bordering on famine, with a view that the Government would take some steps to alleviate it as the Guardians feel they will not be able to cope with the distress now existing' (f236).
  - Minute regarding chargeability of inmate Bartley Walsh (f247, see also GPL£/36, f5).
  - 'Resolved that the attention of Government be called to the great benefit that would be derived from making a tramway from Galway to Clifden by which considerable employment could now be given to the poor labouring classes who are in a most wretchedly distressed state as the government is now aware...' (f256).
36. 22 May 1867 – 11 December 1867 Includes:
- 'Ellen Kirwan, 2 yrs of age, went through the window of the girls' schoolroom. Master sent after her and brought her back' (f4).
  - 'John Joyce, 11 yrs, and Pat Conneely, 12 yrs, went through the windows...' (f4).
  - 'Rose Martin burned form on the 18<sup>th</sup> last. Master had her taken down and would have her locked up but she took a fit' (f4).
  - 'May Glinne and Anne Conneely were fighting on the 18<sup>th</sup>...' (f4).
  - Includes report from the Relieving Officer on Inishbofin (ff6-7) and subsequent reports on Bofin & Shark which advised, 'I have also visited the island of Shark and found no cases of sickness in it. There were a good many able-bodied people applied to me for relief. I gave them provisional tickets of admission to the workhouse and offered them a conveyance which they also refused to avail themselves of' (f26).
  - Catherine Finnegan and Kitty Lydon town inmates... (f154).
  - Includes the names of able-bodied inmates discharged, Mary O'Loughin, Kitty O'Brien, Joseph O'Donnell and Thomas King (f196).
  - Query regarding the chargeability of inmate James Murray, his wife Mary aged 30 and children, Mary, Anne and Catherine aged 7, 4 and 11 years (f215), who had been in Scotland for a period of time.



37. 18 December 1867– 22 July 1868 Includes:
- 'Ordered That the interior of the entire workhouse be painted and that tenders for painting be advertised for....' (f128, see also GPL3/38, f96).
  - Minutes relating to the proposed increase in salaries for the Medical Officers ff126127, 146, 165.
  - Anne Clancy, deaf & dumb child transferred to Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Cabra, Dublin, (f226, see also GPL3/41, f184)).
38. 29 July 1868 – 3 March 1869 (Conserved in 2014) Includes:-
- 'Resolved That in consequence of the very great expenditure caused to this Union by means of the number of illegitimate children, that we order that immediate proceedings be taken against the putative fathers of such, as is deemed judicious with the view of putting a stop to such conduct' (f25).
  - Minutes relating to request for sworn inquiry relating to charges of negligence against Dr Painter of Inishbofin for his negligence in attending to named urgent cases, such as 'Case 10 Margaret Murray, Inishark 16 August 1868 a most urgent case childbirth. Dr Painter refused to attend' (f26, also f36).
  - Notice of Motion that the 'Commissioners be respectfully requested to have the qualification for the office of Poor Law Guardian in their Union reduced from £30 a year to £15 pa yr, there being several electoral divisions in this Union in which a person rated 30 pounds per year cannot be had in qualified to represent the division as Guardian of the poor' (f97).
  - Details of repairs to be carried out to the workhouse (f154).
  - Report on the school (f195).
  - Report from the Clerk, John Burke, and Dr Roughan's report for 'an idea of the state of matters existing [in the] establishment' and for the 'enforcement of proper classification of the inmates... and the introduction of cleanliness and discipline, over 3 persons voluntary took their discharge from the workhouse in two days rather than part with their grown children or confirm themselves to their respective departments' (f265).
  - 'Resolved: That in consequence of many irregularities having occurred in the Clifden Union up to this date, and in order to correct the same that it be required of three of the Guardians who shall chance to be in the House once a week to visit the entire House and report any errors that may have occurred during the lapse of a week and also to take stock as of as it maybe be considered necessary at least 4 times a year' (f266).
39. 12 March 1869 – 20 October 1869 (Conserved in 2014)



40. 3 November 1869 – 22 June 1870 Includes:-
- ‘...the Board resolved to allocate £5 towards the maintenance of the Deaf Mute Anne Clancy the parents having undertaken to pay £2.10.0 towards the expense for current half year at the Cabra Institution’ (f85).
  - ‘That Matthew [Shanley] be discharged from the workhouse, Martin Coyne having taken him to his service and that he get a suit of clothing having out-grown his own’ (f94).
  - Extract of letter regarding the ‘deplorable conditions of the population of these Islands, namely Bofin and Shark’ (f165).
41. 6 July 1870 – 22 March 1871 Includes:
- ‘Resolved that in reply to the Commissioners’ letter of 17<sup>th</sup> inst No. 250 on the subject of the appointment of a “Poor Law Union apothecary” for all Ireland we reiterate the views held by the Board on this day week via that the course pursued by the PLC on the appointment of such an officer will be of the deepest importance and is calculated to do invaluable services both to the sick poor and the ratepayer generally and we sincerely hope the PLC will by all means carry out the project and give it a fair trial’ (f164).
42. 5 April 1871 – 27 December 1871
43. 3 January 1872 – 2 October 1872
44. 30 October 1872 – 9 July 1873 Includes:
- ‘That deep distress, arising from want of fuel and food, prevails at present throughout the district of Connemara, that as residents we can state without the slightest fear of contradiction, we have no hesitation in stating that there, is not one tenth the quantity of potatoes to be found that was last year, and that even this small portion from its not having come the maturity, is believed to be unfit for seed.  
That the corn, from the long continued rains, is utterly useless for seed or food, and that from a like reason there is an utter dearth of fuel.  
That we therefore deem it our duty to earnestly call the attention of the Government to the serious state of things, with the view of them devising some adequate means of relief for the people by opening some source of employment, as all local efforts would be ineffectual’ (pp149-150).
  - ‘Resolved that Dr Brodie having drawn the Board’s attention to the Local Government Board’s letter no. 7294 “relative to the destitution arising from want of fuel”, the Board beg to state that no local effort has been made by the gentry in this country for the alleviation of the distress now existing here as stated in the resolution of 29<sup>th</sup> January 1873’ (p189).

45. 30 July 1873 – 1 July 1874 Includes:
- 'The Chairman and other Guardians having visited Ardbear grave yard, decided on taking a portion of the field at £4 per statute acre' (p109, see also p149).
  - 'The Clerk submitted five applications from women with illegitimate children. Ordered that the Relieving Officers serve the putative fathers of the illegitimate children at present in the workhouse with an account of the cost of said children and require them to pay up same' (pp168-9).
  - Letter from Dr Brodie stating '...that he attended a woman in labour on the island of Bofin who if he had not gone would have died as it was only by performing an operation he saved her life' (pp209-10).
  - 'Order that in the event of all future deaths of paupers in the House whose remains are not claimed by their friends be interred in the cemetery attached to the Union for that purpose' (p228).
  - 'Ordered: That we advertise for a Doctor for the Islands at Inishbofin and Shark for this day month at a salary of £60 pa exclusive of registration and vaccination fees. Meanwhile that the Relieving Officer be directed to attend to any urgent cases requiring medical relief' (p248).
  - 'Ordered that we accept Mr Eyre's proposal to sell the land required for the graveyard at Ardbear for £250 and that the Local Government Board be requested for permission to raise the funds necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Burial Acts in reference to the new cemetery' (pp248-249, see also GPL3/48, f166).
  - 'In addition to the £250 for the purchase of the land a further sum of £250 will be required for buildings and enclosing this and other cemeteries. Sum required £500' (p288, see also p329).
  - 'Ordered that Mrs King [Matron] (who assaulted another workhouse inmate) be sent before the Magistrates with a request that information be taken against her' (p430).
  - A report from Dr Brodie (LG Inspector) relating to an outbreak of fever in Bofin (May 1784, p451).
  - 'Having heard from Mr J McDonnell, PLG, on Saturday evening last that Dr Brodie of Letterfrack was lying ill of fever caught in the discharge of his duties at Inishbofin and that he was attended by a clergyman on the previous evening. I considered it desirable to procure medical relief for the 8 cases of Fever in Bofin. I asked Dr Payne to proceed with me to the island ....we proceeded to sea in the Coast Guard boat and after spending nearly five hours without getting more than half way to the Island we were reluctantly obliged to return. Same evening, to my surprise, Dr Brodie called to say that his illness was merely temporary, that he had been in Bofin on Thursday previous and that seven out of the 8 cases of fever were convalescent...' (p469).



46. 8 July 1874 – 5 May 1875 Includes:
- 'Ordered that Mary Conneely and her 3 children be discharged from the workhouse, her husband and two sons being in receipt of wages outside' (p209).
  - 'Ordered that the Clerk get the usual meat dinner etc on Xmas day for the inmates not to exceed £5.0.0' (p271).
  - 'Ordered that Bridget Brennan and Bridget Folan being able-bodied paupers be discharged with their families, their husbands being outside' (p369).
  - 'Master reports that two women named Kate Finegan and Biddy Faherty were fighting in the dining hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst' (p387).
  - 'Master reports that a man named Michael King, of Aughrisbeg, offered a girl, Jan Irwin, eight shillings a quarter and she refused to go.  
The applicant to come before the Board before the girl is sent out' (p447).

[47].

48. 5 April 1876 – 10 January 1877 Includes:
- 'Master reports that Pat Walsh of [ Lane] offered service to a boy named Thomas Kerrigan at 7 shillings per quarter.  
To be allowed 8 shillings to buy clothes' (f44).
  - 'An inmate named Stephen Laffey absconded from workhouse on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst., he being clad in a suit of Union clothes.  
Information to be made before a Magistrate if Laffey does not return' (f44).
  - 'Read letter from Michael Mellet an able-bodied inmate of the workhouse stating that if given a trousers, shirt and vest, his own being mere rags previous to his admission he would endeavour to earn a livelihood in future...' (f45).
  - 'The general population of the poorer classes do not usually wear shoes and the Medical Officer has not made any representation to the effect that the absence of shoes interferes in any way with the health of the inmates'  
The Master has no doubt been somewhat inaccurate in his manner of keeping the Provisions account but the Board are glad to say that they have noticed an evident improvement in this respect, they have reprimanded him in reference to his want of supervision of the privies and he has promised increased attention in this respect as well as to his general discharge of duty' (f66).
  - 'Read draft deed for £1,200 for Burial purposes, which was duly signed by the Chairman and two Guardians, counter signed by the Clerk and Seal of the Union affixed' (f85).
  - 'Ordered that a sum of £80 be expended in painting the House inside and out with two coats of paint. The outside with mineral patent paint, the inside with best oil paint in conformity with the specification in Mr Burke's (Clerk) possession' (f105, see also f155).

- 'The Master was directed to look after the workhouse cemetery and a letter was read from Mr Beauchamp, Solicitor, relative to the transfer of Ardbear grave yard and Mr Edwin J. Eyre undertook to have it completed in a few days' (f166, see also f245).
- Letter to the LGB advised 'It is true that there has not been any neglect by the Clerk reported as that officer is most efficient and attentive to the discharge of his duties and in reference to the failure of the Guardians to form a quorum for the discharge of business so frequently . The LGB should be reminded of the peculiar nature of the district, the great distances between the workhouse and the residences of the Guardians and the difficulty of travelling long distances in the country in tempestuous weather. The Visiting Committee's report forms no accurate data of the amount of visiting work discharged by the Guardians inasmuch as many visits are made through the House by the Guardians and suggestions and directions given to the Master and other officers in reference to the comfort and health of the poor inmates, but of which no record is made. The reference to the paragraph which comments upon the inmates not being provided with shoes. The Guardians beg to say that persons of a similar class to those referred to who are maintaining themselves outside the workhouse do not wear shoes and the Guardians consider it inexpedient to supply shoes to such as never have worn shoes when maintaining themselves, but in every case of an infirm or delicate person being recommended shoes by the Medical Officer, shoes are at once supplied....' (ff215-216).
- 'The position of the intended sewer pipes is the present bed of the open drain which takes the sewage of a portion of the Town of Clifden to the low water mark of the Owenglen River, which at that part of its course is an estuary of the sea and not therefore a stream or watercourse within the meaning of Sec. 11 of the Sewage Utilization Act 1865, but on the contrary, as the same has been always used for the conveyance of sewage from the town of Clifden it is of the character comprised in the description contained in Sec. 22 of the Nuisance Removal Act 1855 (f245).

(49.)

50. 22 May 1878 – 9 April 1879 Includes:

- 'Ordered that in reply to LGB in reference to the evictions at Inishbofin the Board of Guardians have to say that as Mr Allies is the owner of the whole Electoral Division and pays about "five sixths" of its rates they hardly think there would be any very great advantage to the Electoral Division by recovering the price of £20 or whatever portion might be ordered of this sum from Mr Allies in the first instance and then relieving him in his rate, however if the LGB think it desirable the Guardians will give instructions to their Solicitor to proceed under the Act for recovering same' (p29, see also p48).
- LGB letter '...relative to the case of Mary McDonagh and stating that unless the Master, Matron and Hospital Nurse tender their resignations at next meeting a sealed order will issue for their dismissal' (p30 & p35).
- 'Ordered that tenders advertised for the drainage works and pump for Roundstone be made for this day month' (p69).
- Details of salaries paid to staff members (p165).

- 'Mr Conry has offered a boy named Bartley McDona (McDonagh) 7 shillings per quarter, should the Board grant him a suit of clothes' (p287).
- Letter from the Sanitary Sub-Officer [Geoghegan] advising that 'Festy McDonnell...was fined at Letterfrack on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst for refusing to comply with a Justice's Order to remove his child to hospital who was suffering from infectious disease...' (p319).
- 'Inishbofin Medical Officer [Fox] advised the Board that '...Honor Cunnane a homeless destitute un-befriended creature met her death on Nov 27<sup>th</sup> from the indirect cause of actual want and deprivation. There being no one to take her to the Infirmary, no one to get her relief, she lay on the cold ground for weeks and died the subject of unprotected inhumanity and sheer neglect...' (pp328-329).
- 'Inishbofin Medical Officer (Fox) advised the Board that '...There are destitute persons on the Island at present, a creature named Bridget Cunnane has for some time back been suffering from lunacy, and it is necessary to have her removed to an asylum. There is a very urgent want of main sewers in all the villages here, there are 14 families at present suffering from Marsh fever, at the time I applied for the appointment which I now hold it was advertised that the appointment was worth £100 per annum as medical officer and £10 per annum as Sanitary Officer. I was paid last quarter only at the rate of £100 a year and a remittance for the remainder will much oblige' (p449, see also pp469-470).
- 'Master reports that hospital Nurse informed him that William Conneely, a patient in hospital registered as a Protestant, requested the services of R.C. Chaplain, he being very weak Master had his request complied with. William Conneely died on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.' (2 Apr 1879, p487).

51. 23 April 1879 – 4 February 1880 (Conserved in 2014) Includes:

- 'That the Board are satisfied that great distress prevails in this Union owing to a succession of bad harvests, the depreciated value of stock and of all agricultural and pastoral produce as well as every other class of industry but more especially to the almost entire loss of this year's crop and fear from the long continued rains and fearing that many of the small farmers and working classes may be reduced to a state of absolute want during the winter, feel it their bounden duty to bring the state or condition of the country under the notice of the Government' and call on it to introduce some form of public works programme. Writing that 'We think, moreover, there is a wide field of operations in Connemara in the direction we have pointed out. Its trackless waste of mountain and bog....the harbours and the construction of a cheap line of railway between Galway and Clifden beside the unfinished relief road of 1847 all of which are works of public utility and we think the time is most favourable for giving effect to a scheme which would be found to prove beneficial to the county and the state...' (pp315-17).

52. 11 February 1880 – 11 August 1880

Includes:

- 'That we consider a tramway from Galway to Clifden would supply neither speed nor power and that its cost would be a mere waste of money. We are further of opinion that a well considered light railway would alone be adequate to the present traffic and the increasing requirements of the District, we have every confidence in Captain Alfred Ernest Acheson through whose energies the Galway and Salt Hill tramway has been constructed and we pledge ourselves to assist him in his endeavours to get a Railway construction from Galway to Clifden.  
We believe that without such a work distress and partial famine will be of periodical occurrence here and we are convinced that compared with the benefits which would accrue to this District from a Railway all other measures are mere palliatives and we confirm the Resolution passed at the two meetings held at Clifden on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> inst in support of a Railway from Galway to Clifden' (ff5-6).
- 'The Relieving Officer got a supply of Indian and oatmeal and rice in December last and made no application for a further supply until yesterday there are two shops on the Island to supply on his order, he is not expected to do more than look after the supply on its way to the island' (f25).
- '...they have purchased the seed at as cheap a rate in accordance with the terms of the account as possible but in as much as the numbers in column 3 of it considered considerably below the actual number of occupiers the Guardians are inclined to consider that the amount allocated to each electoral division is not excessive' (f115).
- 'Ordered that half the passage money be given to Martin Conneely's wife and 3 children (amounting to six pounds) to America the other half being guaranteed by Mr A J. Morris, subject to the LGB's approval' (ff135-136).
- 'Ordered that half of the passage money be given to Mr Henry Murray and seven children (amount to £14.14.0) to America, the other half being guaranteed by Mr Edward Kendall, subject to LG approval' (f178, see also f186).
- The Board advised the LGB 'That there is a great and continued want of employment in the said Union and consequent distress....  
And the Board do hereby recommend to the Government Board to recommend to the Lord Lieutenant to convene an Extraordinary Meeting of Baronial Sessions to present for the works specified in the aforesaid statement for the employment of the poor ...' (f185, see also f235).
- 'That half the passage money be given to Mrs Pat Folan and five children...and half the passage money be given to Mrs Sally Keady and also one child...' (ff206-8, see also f215 & f235).

53. 18 August 1880 – 11 May 1881 Minutes for last two weeks are detached. Includes:
- 'Resolved That the LGB be requested to grant a loan of £3,000 for the purpose of emigration that owing to the destitute state of the Union and the numerous applications before us for assistance in this direction and having regard to the impoverished state of many landowners whose valuation does not exceed £3 and who are anxious to emigrate the Board beg leave respectfully to represent that if such loan be allocated for such purpose it would help materially to mitigate distress throughout the Union and better the condition of the poor people to which we refer if provided with means to emigrate' (f6).
  - 'Resolved That the heartfelt thanks of the Board of Guardians of this Union be given to Major Gaskill for the kind and efficient manner in which he (as the representative of the Duchess of Marlboro Fund) has relieved the poor of this Union' (f24).
  - 'Resolved that the LGB be asked to give the Board a loan of £2,000 under Relief of Distress Act, 1880<sup>112</sup> to meet the liability of the Union and to carry us on until the collection of new rate which we fear will be most difficult to collect' (f53).
  - 'Resolved That we respectfully call the attention of the Government to the great distress prevailing amongst the labouring classes, artisans and small tenant farmers of this Union and strongly urge the immediate necessity of forthwith opening all the public works passed in last session under the Relief Act and that the erection of a Railway line from Galway to Clifden would give useful and necessary employment ...' (f133, see also f157).
  - 'Resolved that we agreed with Mr Blake, C.E., as to the necessity of opening the sewerage of Clifden and advertisements for contractors should be issued at once to complete said works and that the sanction of the LGB in asking a loan of £300 for said works be requested' (f134, see also f157).

54. 18 May 1881 – 21 December 1881 Includes:
- 'Resolved that the collection is in a very backward state and that the collectors do not appear to have used due diligence and that more energy on their part should have been used and that they have not complied with the Board's order of 11<sup>th</sup> inst. and that the Local Government's attention be called to the matter' (f5).
  - 'Resolved. That this Board of Guardians hail with great satisfaction the proposal of a Steam tramway between Galway outward and to Clifden and give their unanimous approval of the undertaking and further feel it their duty to urge upon the Grand Juries of the county of Galway, of the Town of Galway and on the Town Commissioners the great necessity existing for the carrying out such a project' (f68).

(55.)

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<sup>112</sup> Relief of Distress (Ireland) Act was passed in March 1880 (43 Vict. c.4).

56. 6 September 1882 – 25 April 1883 (Pages 423-446 missing) Includes:
- 'Pursuant to the Notice of Motion handed in by me I have to request the Clerk to lay before this Board the Law relating to the qualification for Guardian, and to ask him if he is aware on what grounds said qualification was raised from £10 to £30 and I beg to move that as this is one of the poorest Unions in Ireland and that so few are qualified and willing to act in the capacity of Guardian. We hereby respectfully request the LGB to reduce forever hereafter the necessary qualification for that office in this Union to what it originally was namely a valuation of £10' (p70, see also p109 & 112).
  - 'Whereas in this Union there are only 90 men qualified to act as Guardians and of this number 6 are Protestant and 1 Catholic resident landlords and of the others 7 in Holy Orders, 1 Resident Magistrate, 1 Dispensary M.D., and 1 Clerk of Union and the Board at present constituted consists of 19 ex-officos of whom only 2 are Catholics and the remainder consists of men elected but some of those elected Guardians never attend a meeting of the Board but they are elected because there are not a sufficient number to be found qualified and willing to act, and at this moment there is one Division unrepresented in consequent of the Member elected he not being found to possess the £30 qualification after being returned.  
Be it resolved - that as there are not a sufficient number of men for rate payers to select from that the LGB be and are hereby respectfully requested to reduce the qualification to what it originally stood at namely £10' (pp169-170, see also p208).
  - 'Resolved: That the Board of Guardians of this Union decline to become contributor to the National School Teachers Act' (p229).
  - 'Resolved: That the LGB be requested to ask Mr Tuke's<sup>113</sup> committee to add the following Electoral Divisions of this Union for assisted emigration inasmuch as they are over populated and a great number of the people are very poor etc:  
Ballinakill, Bencor, Cleggan, Clifden, Cushkillen, Derrycuala, Derrylea, Doonloughan, Illion, Moyrus and Roundstone' (p230).
  - 'Resolved: That the Clerk be requested to Summon a full meeting of the Board for this day fortnight with a view of asking the LGB to use their influence with the Government to commence at once either a Tramway or Railway between Galway and Clifden which would give sufficient employment to all able-bodied people in three Unions and is sure to be remunerative' (p231).
  - 'It having come to our knowledge the Relieving Officers of the Union are in the habit of absenting themselves from their districts going in charge of emigrants to Galway which will cause them at least to be three days absent in the week and this having occurred on several occasions which must have caused the wants of the destitute poor to be greatly neglected in their trying season and further as we were recently obliged to appoint a temporary assistant Relieving Officer.  
Resolved that we now direct that all the Relieving Officers in the Union discontinue from this day forth leaving their districts without Board's permission' (p449).

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<sup>113</sup> Mr Tuke's fund was established in March 1882 to assist emigration from the Unions of Clifden, Oughterard and the Aran Islands in Co. Galway, and Belmullet, Newport & Swinford in Co. Mayo to America. 9,482 people were assisted by this fund up to 1885. A book [Mr. Tuke's Fund for Assisted Emigration 1882-5](#) gives a full list of emigrants' names and the townlands they came from. There is a vast amount of information including an analysis of what happened to their small-holdings in Ireland after they left and letters home from the emigrants on arrival.

## 57. 9 May 1883 – 2 January 1884 Includes:

- 'Resolved. That as the Resolution said to be passed at the Board meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> April was neither proposed, seconded nor put from the Chair that it be expunged from the Minutes of said meeting and that we the Guardians of Clifden Union now bind ourselves not to borrow any money for which interest would have to be paid and furthermore we call upon the collectors to use more exertion in the collection of the Rates in their respective districts so that money may be forthcoming to meet outstanding debt' (f4).
- Mrs C. I. Blake having attended before the Board and explained that her tenants have not paid any rent since the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1881. It is resolved she be allowed time to pay the arrears of Poor Rate provided she pays it on instalment of £50 at a time on certain townlands or numbers the rate in the Division being exceedingly high 5/3d in the £ (f24).
- LGB forwarding letter '...from Michael Laffey an inmate of the workhouse proferring complaint against Dr Payne, Medical Officers of workhouse...' (f44, see also f53).
- 'Resolved: That the Burial Ground of Ballyconneely in the Bunowen Electoral Division be enlarged by adding thereto an additional piece of land, as owing to the overcrowded state of the graveyard there is not at present space left to open new graves consequently they have to lay coffins one over another without sufficient covering' (f85, see also GPL3/58, f14).
- 'Take Notice that I will this day fortnight move that some of the Relieving Officers be discontinued as we have a good harvest now and no sickness in the county and the Union being so much in debt' (f185).

## 58. 9 January 1884 – 3 September 1884 Includes:

- Details of the election of a Chairman for the ensuing year (9 Apr 1884, f91).
- Details of tenders for coffins for the workhouse and outdoor relief, coffins for a 12 month period, and supplies, such as tea, sugar, starch, candles, sherry, paraffin oil, Indian meal, oatmeal and coal, to workhouse for next six months (23 Apr 1884, f105).
- Details of the Board's case to the LGB for reducing the qualification of Guardians from £30 to £7 (ff116-117, see also f135).
- 'Master reports that Hanna Hughes, aged 90, a Protestant, notified on yesterday the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. that she desired to see the Roman Catholic Chaplain and requested to have her religious denomination changed to Roman Catholic' (f134).
- 'The Master reports that Michael Laffey, workhouse inmate, desires to have his religious denomination changed from Protestant to Roman Catholic' (f144).
- 'Resolved: That in the opinion of this Board there is great want of employment for the people in the Cleggan district and as the money has been granted for the erection of a Pier at Cleggan, this Board respectfully requests the Board of Works to push forward the

- erection of the Pier at Cleggan so as to give employment to the people and prevent a great number of them becoming a burthen (burden) on the ratepayers' (f166)<sup>114</sup>.
- Letter from Mary Flaherty, Roundstone, a 'poor blind woman' seeking outdoor relief (17 June 1884), f176).
  - 'Resolved: That any persons getting outdoor relief in this Union their names be drawn out in lists and said lists to be posted in the most conspicuous place in the town of Clifden, on the Chapel gate, at Ballyconneely on the Chapel, at Claddaghduff, Renvyle, Roundstone, Carna and all other chapels in the Union, and that each Relieving Officer be ordered draw out these lists and have them posted in the proper places in their District when the ratepayers will have a chance of seeing for themselves in what manner this money is expended and that the amount each person receives be placed after his or her name' (f186).
  - Report from His Grace, the Archbishop of Tuam, following a visit to the workhouse (f216).
  - 'Master reports that on Monday night the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. at about 11.40 pm an alarm of Fire was raised in the house and on my getting up discovered that the Temporary buildings in which was stored a quantity of turf were on fire....  
....by the exertions of the constabulary and people the fire was kept from spreading to the main building and other portions of the Establishment' (f224).
  - LGB letter relating to a letter it received from Joseph Mangan (Relieving Officer) regarding the administration of outdoor relief in the district, the Board advised '...the death, of alleged starvation, of William Fleming, on enquiries it is ascertained that he died of old age and debility and not of want (having lived with his son, who is well to do and who supplied him with all he required) any persons discharged by the Board were considered not fit objects for indoor relief and were left in the hands of the Relieving Officer' (f245).

59. 10 September 1884 – 1 April 1885

Includes:

- 'Resolved. That we are of opinion that owing to the present state of the Union and the absence of any distress we are of opinion that Relieving Officers Lydon<sup>115</sup> and Joyce should be reduced. Lydon from £40 to £30 and Joyce from £25 to £20 per annum and we hope that LGB will give this matter their best attention' (p9, see also p28).
- 'Resolved: That we strongly recommend for the consideration of the Board of Public Works that Mr Martin R Hart be appointed pay clerk over the piers now proposed to be erected in this District..' (p49).

<sup>114</sup> The National Archives, Office of Public works (OPW) collection contains a file on Cleggan Pier (OPW8/83) dating from 1822-1884. It includes Reports of Alexander Nimmo (including Roundstone Pier) and F. O'Donnell, plans and specifications, acceptance of tender to carry out improvements, draft bond and contract, engineer's reports on the works, memorials (1847), specification (1884), and petition. (<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/search-the-archives/>, Apr 2012)

<sup>115</sup> Lydon died in September 1911 (13 Sept 1911, GPL3/98, p106). He had resigned a short time before his death.





- 'Very Rev. P. Lynskey, R.C. Chaplain, reports "Visited hospital, I have to express my regret that I found a disreputable woman in the male ward. I desire to call the attention of the Board of Guardians to this ugly fact".

The Master explained that the woman referred to was employed as an assistant in the Hospital, that she is the mother of one illegitimate child and an inmate of the workhouse for the past two years.

Ordered: The Board consider it highly objectionable to have the woman referred to in the Chaplain's report found in the male ward. The Board order the discontinuance of the employment of such woman in connection with the male ward and as far as is practicable that male attendants should be employed' (p127).

60. 8 April 1885 – 14 October 1885 Includes:

- 'Resolved. That we the Guardians of the Clifden Union have heard that Mrs Caroline Blake, guardian to the Blake minors has carried on some evictions on the Renvyle Estate without giving the Relieving Officer notice of said evictions<sup>116</sup>, that we the Board express our disapproval of such proceedings and that we require an explanation on this day week from Mrs Blake as to such proceedings, otherwise we shall order our Solicitor to include proceedings against her in this matter and that Mrs Blake be sent a copy of this Resolution' (p51, see also p68 & p149).
- Transcript of letter from John P Nolan, M.P., regarding his election as Chairman of the Board, and advising that 'I greatly regret that the fact of my residence being in another part of the county will preclude me from attending the Board as often as I would desire, but I feel that the Board is quite safe in the hands of the able Vice Chairman & Deputy Vice Chairman whom the Board have selected. I need hardly say that any service which it may be possible in the House of Commons to render the Union I shall be most happy to discharge as it will be now doubly my duty to do anything in my power for the Clifden Union' (p52, see also p90).
- 'Resolved: That this Board is of opinion that it is desirable in the public interest and on economical grounds that the Oughterard Union continues to exist as a separate and distinct Union' (p189, see also p408, & GPL3/61, p368).
- 'Ordered that the chargeability of Michael Lydon an inmate be changed from Union at large to Renvyle Electoral Division' (p350).
- 'Ordered that Michael Lydon be discharged from the House he being offered one pound per quarter wages' (p350).
- LG Inspector '....reports the financial condition of the Union as most unsatisfactory and requesting the Guardians to take immediate action to relieve the Union from its embarrassed financial condition' (p508).

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<sup>116</sup> Eviction of John Joyce & J. Malley (GPL3/60, p149)

61. 21 October 1885 – 5 May 1886 Includes
- 'Resolved that owing to the very few persons who are qualified to fill the position of Guardian in this Union the qualification being £30 that the LGB be requested to reduce the qualification from £30 to £10 in Clifden Electoral Division and seven pounds £7, in the other Divisions' (pp50-51, see also p68).
  - 'LGB Letter no. 40607 dated 29 Dec 1885 stating that they are willing to reduce the qualification for the office of Guardian to £12 for each Electoral Division of the Union (p188).
  - 'The little girl Toole is ordered to be admitted by way of loan, her father becoming contributor for her support to the extent of one shilling per week' (p189).
  - 'Resolved: That in consequence of the general reduction in rents throughout Ireland, owing to the depression of all kinds of agricultural produce and the low price of stock we the Guardians of the Glenamaddy Union, hereby place on record our opinion that all mortgagees should give a substantial reduction on the interest of their mortgages so as to enable the landlords to grant a reduction now sought and needed throughout Ireland. Passed unanimously' (p191).
  - 'Resolved that consequent on the great distress at present prevailing among the people in many parts of this Union and which distress might be averted by giving the people some employment and some earnings and that the Government should be at once called on to render the required assistance to such measures as may be decided on. We also appeal to the landlords and shopkeepers within the Union to act leniently and indulgently towards the people during the time of their present trying ordeal' (pp209-210).
  - 'Resolved. That we the Guardians... are quite certain that if the landlords of this Union, also the agents of absentee landlords, press the tenants for rents due at present they must surely want the unfortunate people out of the country and we think it advisable that the landlords should at present refrain from enforcing these rents by ejection or otherwise until we meet with better times and that the landlords should accept outstanding rents by instalments, as at present since forty seven and forty eight (1847 & 1848) we never had a worse prospect of the times nor the people in a worse condition and we also think that the present rents fixed by the Land Commission are fifty per cent too high' (p211).
  - 'That we the Board of Guardians of the Clifden Union are of opinion that in view of the result of the late Parliamentary Election a large measure of Local self government for Ireland should now be granted subject however to the following indispensable conditions  
1<sup>st</sup>. The maintenance of the supremacy of the Imperial government  
2<sup>nd</sup>. The due representation of all classes and interests in the Irish legislature and  
3<sup>rd</sup>. The conversion of fair terms of all agricultural tenants into freeholds' (p391).
  - 'Resolved: That we beg to call the attention of the LGB to the very great distress and wide-spread poverty existing in this Union. And we would urge upon the LGB the necessity of getting the Government to open up works of public utility immediately...' (p409).
  - 'Resolved: That the Board of Guardians have sufficient facts before them that widespread and dire distress exists throughout the entire Union, and the Board beg to affirm that if exceptional powers are not permitted to the Board, to relieve distressed occupiers of land and sufficient funds placed at their disposal as indicated under Relief of Distress Act, now passing through the House of Commons, hundreds of families will starve. The clause in the Act referring to the repairs and making of roads, and boat slips and piers may be carried out

here with the greatest advantage for the convenience as well as relief of the distressed districts. We earnestly request the LGB to come to our assistance at once. We respectfully point out the embarrassed financial position of our Union renders it impossible for us to meet the great demands made upon us and again we appeal to the LGB in the deplorable circumstances' (p452).

(62.)

63. 24 November 1886 – 15 June 1887 Includes:

- 'Master reports that some of the inmates amongst the class privileged to wear boots, are doing considerable damage to the sheets, shirts and bedding of the house generally, by tearing portions of these articles and using them as stockings on their feet, those very necessary requisitions not being supplied them. I would respectfully suggest, in order to put a stop to this practice that some ten or twelve pounds of woollen yarn and some knitting needles be ordered and that the old women be employed at stocking making, thereby encouraging some little industry amongst this class and with some advantage to the Union' (p87).
- 'Ordered that the sum of two pounds be allowed to the child Patrick Berry for travelling expenses to a Dublin Hospital and back for treatment to the eye, he being a destitute poor person' (p170).
- 'Resolved: That the names of the families residing in Inishlackan (Roundstone) and who are anxious to go to America be submitted to Father Maloney, together with a copy of Sir Arthur Hayton's letter...' (p289).
- Report from Chaplain's Book regarding a call to attend Mary Keane from Rusheennamanagh, Skannive who arrived at the workhouse at 4.45, when he got there at 9 pm the woman was dead and "...evidently the Relieving Officer has neglected to do his duty, her appearance after death was most deplorable. I request that the Guardians will make most particular inquiries in reference to this shocking case of manifest neglect and put an end to the inhuman system of hastening or causing the death of persons unfit to be removed"' (pp427-428, see also p449 & p469 & p508).

64. 22 June 1887 – 18 January 1888 Includes:

- 'Master reports...Bridget Corbet of Barnahallia (Selerna) came to the workhouse with an infant and stated that it was found in a cock of hay in her husband's land and that the Police Sergeant at Cleggan told her to bring it here...if she had any suspicion as to who was the mother, she replied she had. He took her to the Police Barracks where she stated that a girl named Margaret Courcsey of Barnahallia was the mother...' (p127).
- Details of estimates for the coming year (p211).
- 'Resolved. That the services of a Medical Officer and Relieving Officer for Inishbofin be dispensed with, subject to approval of LGB, as we consider that a people who refuse to pay rates or taxes are not entitled to such accommodation and it is very hard on the impoverished rate payers of the Clifden Dispensary District to meet such expenditure' (p449).



65. 25 January 1888 – 25 July 1888 (Conserved in 2014) Includes:
- Transcript of letter of complaint from Patrick Lynskey, P.P. to the Board regarding the Protestant Chaplain stating that ‘...as a consequence of his visit he succeeded in inducing her (Bridget Folan or Taylor) to hand over two of her children to a Proselytizing institution. In order to secure a full investigation into the criminal and cowardly conduct of your Protestant Chaplain who makes use of his position, as your official to deprive the poor committed to your charge of their faith their last consolation’ (p14).
66. 1 August 1888 – 20 February 1889 Includes:
- ‘Resolved: We the Clifden BG representing the inhabitants of the Western district of Galway finding that the Irish Drainage Bills have been withdrawn for the present, most earnestly and respectfully call upon the Government to proceed with the second portion of the report of the Royal Commission on the construction of Irish Railways and Fishery Harbours so far at least as to allow for the immediate construction of the line of rail from Galway to Clifden so strongly recommended by their report...’ (p29).
  - Details of rate struck for each electoral division within Union (pp48-49).
  - ‘In connection with the half yearly report of their Inspector Mr Arthur Bourke on the Union which was inspected on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult., to the effect  
“That a sum of over £1,000 of old rate is still uncollected while the debt of the Union amt to £4,846 and having regard to the very unsatisfactory financial condition of the Union the Board think the Guardians should press their collectors to make a determined effort to close their accounts. That cleanliness is observed in the workhouse and that the officers with the exception of the collectors discharge their duties efficiently...”’ (p89).
  - Details of various articles to be supplied by Joseph Gorham and cost of same, such as bread at 5d per 4lf loaf, port wine at 1/4½ per bottle, rice at 2½d per lb (p129).
  - ‘LGB Letter...acknowledging the receipt of a communication from the Clerk of the Union enclosing a copy of a warrant of removal of James Prendergast from England to Clifden Workhouse, and suggesting that the Guardians should ask for a copy of the Depositions taken in the case under the provisions of Sec. 3 of the Removal of the Poor Amendment Act 1861...’ (p249).
  - Transcript of letter from George E O’Flaherty, The Lodge, Ballyconneely regarding a proposed extension to Ballyconneely graveyard (pp369-70).



67. 27 February 1889 - 4 September 1889 Includes:
- Details of tenders accepted for the supply of various articles and services from local businesses to the Union, together with details of the cost of same, such as from Mrs King, calico at 3 ½d per yard, and from Pat Flaherty coffins at 1 shilling each (p105).
  - '...report from their Inspector Doctor Power in which he states that the pump in the village of Roundstone is out of order and that the well is exposed to pollution from surface water' (p120).
  - 'Pursuant to notice of motion, that three pumps be erected in the Town of Clifden, the area of taxation to be Clifden Dispensary District, plans and specifications to be prepared and forward to LGB for approval with a request that they sanction a loan from the Board of Public Works for amount of estimated cost' (pp153-154, see also p185).
  - LGB advising that they had 'referred to them from the Chief Secretary's Office communications respecting two children named Peter Little and Peter Joyce<sup>117</sup> who had been inmates of the workhouse and who were on the 16<sup>th</sup> ult. brought before the magistrates and committed to the Letterfrack Industrial School for having been found begging, and requesting the Guardians to cause careful inquiry to be made into the circumstances of each case and furnish the Board with their observations thereon' (p185, see also pp201-202, p264, pp280-81 & p297).
  - Minutes of first meeting of Clifden Dispensary Committee (p192).
  - 'Resolved...beg to tender our most grateful thanks to the Right Honourable Sir Michael Hicks Beach<sup>118</sup> for the active part he has taken in having the Railway Bill passed through Committee of the House of Commons...' (p425).

(68.)

69. 30 April 1890 – 26 January 1891 Includes:
- 'That it is most essential to the public health to construct waterworks in the town of Clifden.... That an experienced Engineer be employed to prepare an estimate for the Guardians of the total cost of reservoirs, of channel, of pipes, of laying down same, of fencing, of damage or injury to land or of acquiring land, the cost of four fountains in the Town, etc...' (30 Apr 1890).
  - 'Resolved in pursuance of notice of motion that taking into consideration the long and faithful services of our efficient Clerk (Mr Burke) for over 30 years, and the fact that he has paid an assistant out of his salary for the past 15 years, and that the duties of his office are fairly increasing we consider it would be materially to the interest of the Union to have a permanent assistant appointed at a remuneration of £1 per week, by so doing we will be securing the services of Mr Burke for more years to come as our Clerk, and the further consideration that it is absolutely necessary that an assistant should be appointed in connection with the Seed Rate, a matter of vital importance to the Union, otherwise that Mr Burke's salary be increased

<sup>117</sup> Reported to be the 'illegitimate son of a woman named Margaret Griffin', both were admitted to the workhouse in 1884 (GPL3/67, pp280-281).

<sup>118</sup> Michael Edward Hicks Beach, 1st Earl St Aldwyn PC, PC (Ire) (23 October 1837 – 30 April 1916), known as Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bt, from 1854 to 1906 and subsequently as The Viscount St Aldwyn to 1915, was a British Conservative politician. Known as "Black Michael", he notably served as Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1885 to 1886 and again from 1895 to 1902.

- to such an extent as that proposed for a permanent assistant viz £1 per week. That Festy King be appointed a permanent assistant Clerk at £1 per week' (pp121-122, see also p312).
- 'That we the Guardians.....having carefully examined into the state of the potato crop in our several Electoral Divisions find it so seriously damaged by the blight that we consider scarcely a third of the expected crop will be available as food for the people. We therefore feel it our regretful but imperative duty to bring the matter under the notice of the Government, trusting means will be taken to provide against any emergency by at once commencing the constructions of the Galway and Clifden Railway thereby affording honest remunerative employment for the people' (p154b, 20 Aug 1890).
  - Details of salaries paid (pp197-198 and p325).
  - 'The Clerk submitted estimates of repairs required to be made in workhouse buildings and stated that they would amount to £300 or £400.  
The Board having had under consideration the estimate for the repairs of the workhouse amounting to the sum of £400, are of opinion that although the repairs are required they feel that in the present financial state of the Union they could not undertake so large an outlay but the Board earnestly request the LGB to come to their aid out of any available funds in their control' (p202, see also p217).
  - 'LGB letter no. 39633 dated 14 October 1890 forwarding letter from Eliza Burke, an inmate of workhouse...' (p217, see also p249).
  - 'Resolved: That owing to the distress that is likely to prevail and is now actually prevailing in this Union the Board consider that the Railway work, grateful as we are for it, will not meet the wants of the poor in the remote districts of this Union and that we respectfully ask the Government to open some other useful public works in the parts too remote from the railway works, and we would suggest that the people in the remote places get employment in repairing or making piers or harbours, or making roads or any other works the Government would consider useful and knowing how demoralising any system of gratuitous relief is we would respectfully submit that it would be better give the people employment on their own holdings than any such relief. Knowing that the hands of the Chief Secretary are full of other important business a copy of this be sent for expediency to the Under Secretary...' (p282).
  - Tributes to John Burke, deceased, Clerk of the Union, including one from James H. Tuke, who established the assisted emigration scheme in the early 1880s (pp330-31).
  - 'Resolved that observing the widespread distress which now exists in the several electoral divisions of this Union, and that the construction of the Railway from Galway to Clifden has not so far given employment to one fourth of the applicants for work thereon, we consider it our duty to call the attention of the Chief Secretary to the wants of the poor as here exist with the view of opening up relief works to give employment to the many applications for work and that part of the charitable funds now in possession of the Chief Secretary may be applied to this District with a view of, as early as possible, relieving the distressful poor' (p410c).



70. 28 January 1891 – 22 July 1891 Includes details relating to the purchase, shipping, inspection & distribution of seed potatoes, also to relief works and the out-door relief, and also:-
- Details and reference to relief works (p32c) including transcript of a letter from R. Atterson Blake to the BG regarding relief works in Selerna advising that 'A considerable number gathered on the occasion of the intended opening of the works to manifest their destitution and want. They clamoured for food and because they felt the [pang] of hunger as much as those who were directed to put on the works there were no relief works at all engaged in, and thus that time there was no effort to relieve the famine of the people who were then recognised by the Government to be in want, nor to bring relief to those who then complained so bitterly and so loudly. This Electoral Division is undoubtedly the poorest in the Clifden Union. It is rated higher than any other Electoral Division in said Union. There are only 29 ratepayers in the Division while at this moment there are 251 persons on out-door-relief' (p410d).
  - 'Resolved: That in consequence of no boats being on the Island of Omev the poor people employed on the Relief Works now opened in Silerna Division suffer much having to wade their way through the tide sometimes at the risk of their lives and sometimes will be altogether unable to attend owing to the fact that there is not a boat on the Island, in which there are 29 families. The best way that these poor miserable people can be relieved is to supply them with a few boats and open some works on the Island' (p72).
  - 'We the Guardians...entering on our duties for the years 1891 & 1892 find the monetary affairs of the Union in such an embarrassed state with such extreme distress existing in the Union all classes more or less affected by it that we feel it our bounden duty to bring the matter under the notice of the Government and seek its assistance to enable us to extricate the Union from its financial difficulties...' (p290).

(71.)

72. 3 February 1892 – 23 March 1892, Rough Minute book. Includes:  
1 October 1892 – 8 February 1893
- Master reports that 'Anne Fox aged 28 years married with four children were brought to the workhouse in the ambulance car on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. She presented an order for admission from Relieving Officer Canavan. This woman states she is a native of the County of Donegal and wife of a stone mason, working at Cashel who has deserted herself and children' Ordered: that Francis Fox, the husband, be prosecuted' (p27).
  - 'I have had the honour to lay before the Queen the loyal and dutiful Resolution which has been adopted by the Board of Guardians of Clifden Union on the occasion of the death of his Royal Highness The Duke of Clarence and Avondale K.G and I have to inform you that Her Majesty was pleased to receive the Resolution very graciously.  
I have the honour to be Sirs,  
Your obedient servant  
Henry Mathews' (p49).



73. 30 March 1892 – 28 September 1892 Includes:-
- Transcript of letter from J McDonnell advising that ‘...yesterday evening I visited a family named Faherty living in Davis’s (one of the daughters having married two years ago a son of Davis of Gurteen, whose family had recently typhus fever) and found five of them suffering from typhus....’ (p19).
  - ‘The Board beg to refer to the Local Government Board inquiry held 24<sup>th</sup> May 1888 and request them to give an opinion as to the suitability of the land purchased by Guardians as an extension to the old graveyard at Ballyconneely as it appears from the minutes of the evidence taken (which are sent herewith) that there were some objections to it and that their inspector Dr J Hamilton Burke visited the place and the landlord refuses to give a piece of land in exchange on the grounds that it would be too close to his residence’ (p39, see also p158).
  - Details of a letter from James Perry, County Surveyor ‘Forwarding published map, plan, section of pipelines, specification & estimate in connection with the proposed water-works for the Town of Clifden and stating that he would be in Clifden on Wednesday and would be glad to afford any information they might require...’ (p136).
  - ‘Ordered: That the plans for the waterworks for the town of Clifden be forwarded as soon as possible to the Local Government Board’ (p157, see also p199).
  - ‘Resolved: That the well at Church Street, Clifden, be enclosed’ (p157, see also p176 & p217).
  - ‘Read memorial from the inhabitants of Claddaghduff, Selerna Electoral Division, requesting that a pump be erected or to find some other means of procuring for the inhabitants of the townland with a constant supply of pure water.  
Order that Father Conroy be requested to get an estimate of what the pump will cost’ (p197).
  - ‘Ordered: That Clerk telegraph the LGB to suspend the sealed order closing the Ballyconneely graveyard for one month.  
The piece of ground already bought by the Guardians has been considered quite unsuitable by the Priests of the District. It has been arranged that the money paid will be handed back and the Guardians are taking immediate steps to secure a more suitable place’ (p198).
  - ‘Relieving Officer, Thomas Lydon, reported that he had been served with six eviction notices, four at the suit of Alexius Mills and Mary Anne Rickham against John Casey, James [Gannon] and Pat King of Boolard, Clifden Electoral Division, and Martin Connelly Cushatrough, Selerna Electoral Division and one at the suit of Ellen Suffield against Pat Conneely and one against Festy Murray and Ellen Toole...’ (pp292-3).
  - Details regarding members of the Board of Management of the Galway Hospital, under the Galway Hospital Act 1892 (p329, see also p469).



- '...extract from "The Galway Observer" of (death of) a woman named Julia Faherty alleged to have been caused by starvation' (p329, see also p371).
- Master reported that a 'boy inmate Patrick Neary (aged 10 years), engaged for some time conveying the letters and other messages from the Clerk's office to the Post after bringing the post stole out and, with other boys from Town went to bathe in the River adjacent to the House. Soon after one of the boys with whom he had been bathing came and reported that he was drowned, help was immediately sent, and he was taken out of the water by a blind man named Coyne, efforts were made to restore animation, which after a time proved successful and he is now all right...' (p347).
- Read Order signed by Robert Blaire, Esq., Sheriff Substitute, Stirling, Dumbarton, for removal to Ireland of Bridget Regan or Mannion, Margaret Mannion and Mary Mannion, born in the parish of Ballinakill within the Union of Clifden' (p449).

74. 15 February 1893 - 30 August 1893 Includes:

- Master reports that 'Ellen Connolly, an inmate, gave birth to a child on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. She states that the putative father is a married man and resides in the Errismore District...' (p7).
- 'Resolved: That in view of the distress existing in and around Clifden, this Board wish to draw the attention of the Congested Districts Board to this fact, and request that the Board will come to the assistance of the poor in the way of employment such as the repairing of old roads leading into bogs, etc. It may be stated that the Railway in course of construction can afford ample employment (but) such is not the case as very few are employed and these are select men. In the opinion of the Guardians employment is much needed in the District' (p171).

75. 13 September 1893 – 10 March 1894 Includes:

- Report from P. Gorham, Medical Officer of Health, advising 'I have frequently called your attention to the very imperfect condition of the Public Sewer extending from Mullarkey's Hotel to the river at Powladulla. The abominable stench arising from this sewer is of course most injurious to health and has been a frequent cause of complaint. I called the attention of Dr Clements, LGB Inspector, to the defective condition of this sewer, he agreed with me that the entire gully to be ripped up, cleaned and reconstructed. I would suggest that a new sewer be constructed of the best Portland cement properly trapped and ventilated...' (p77).
- Observations of Colonel J. O'Hara, D.L., PGB Inspector, stating 'There has been a considerable improvements in the collection of the poor Rates but the Seed instalment due last August is still considerably in arrears and I fear if not collected and paid to the Board of Works will be impressed from the ordinary Rates and put the Union, which was recovering a little, to much inconvenience in payment of its current arrangement' (p469).

76. 21 March 1894 – 12 September 1894 Includes:
- LGB requesting ‘...return showing for each of the five years preceding the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1893 the number of paupers removed from England and Scotland to the Union’ (p34).
  - Tenders for the supply of outdoor relief (pp37-8).
  - Tender for ‘coffins made out of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch deal board, planed with trunk lids...’ (p51).
  - ‘Resolved: That in consequence of the large number of tramps seeking the shelter of the workhouse by ticket from Relieving Officers, the Guardians direct the particular attention of the R.O. to the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> sections of the 10 & 11 Vic., Cap. 84 and, in future when tramp seeks or applies for relief by ticket of admission to the House a second time, the R.O. will hand such person over to the Constabulary and have him prosecuted, and that the Master of the Workhouse will in future cause each tramp to get a cold bath, night and morning, and in all other respects to carry out the law in accordance with Article 24 of the Workhouse rules’ (p61, see also p164, see also p425).
  - ‘Read letter from Mr Mullarkey, Clifden complaining of the unsanitary state of the public drain or gullet opposite his hotel’ (p177).
  - LGB letter ‘stating that unless the Guardian take immediate steps to put the Labourers Acts into force in their Union they will be liable to lose the benefit of the Parliamentary Grant £183.11.3 (p179).
  - The Master advised that ‘there were no potatoes in the store for the inmates’ dinner on last Thursday. Bread had to be substituted. I attended the market on last Saturday for the purpose of getting some. All the potatoes were then bought up at 5<sup>d</sup> per stone. In the absence of any orders I did not consider I was justified in giving that price even though any were for sale’ (p215, see also p241).
  - ‘Resolved: We the merchants and traders of Clifden and Guardians of the Union having heard with great regret that your honourable Board are about to stop the very beneficial works you have been getting executed in the harbour of Clifden, we felt deeply grateful to your Board for having initiated those works so absolutely necessary and giving employment to a number of people. If the works should be stopped in their present unfinished state they must under the action of the tidal wave be washed away. We would call your attention to the labourers thrown out of employment at this idle season of the year. For these reasons we trust your honourable Board will order the continuation of those very necessary works. Adopted unanimously and a copy to be forwarded to the Congested Districts Board’ (p243).
  - ‘Resolved: That we tender to the people of Achill our deepest sympathy on the awful calamity which has recently occurred in Westport Harbour<sup>119</sup>, brought death and desolation to so many families in that improvised island, and further that we call the attention of the

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<sup>119</sup> In June 1894, the first train on the Achill railway carried the bodies of victims of the Clew Bay Drowning. A boat, carrying harvesters overturned in Clew Bay, drowning thirty-two young people. They had been going to meet the steamer which would take them to Scotland for potato picking.

CDB to the evident necessity of establishing industries which will keep the people at home' (p347).

- Inspector, Major Rutledge-Fair, reported that it appeared 'that considerable improvement has been effected in the financial state of the Union for the past twelve months. That the hospital nurse was too old and feeble to undertake the care of the sick, and that the general condition of the Union was far from satisfactory, etc, and referring the Guardians to their letter of 12<sup>th</sup> September last on the subject...' (p554).
- 'The Master desired to draw attention to the state of the graveyard of Tullyvoheen in which the deceased inmates of the workhouse were formerly buried. ...' (p631)
- 'The Master reports – That John Burke, aged 24 years, a native of Murvey was, on the 11<sup>th</sup> February last, admitted into the workhouse, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of same month he was transferred to Hospital in an advanced stage of phthisis,<sup>120</sup> at 6.40 am on yesterday the 4<sup>th</sup> inst he was notified of his death in a few hours. After death when about to be washed and coffined, a large gash was found on the left arm on the wrist. The Medical Officer was immediately notified. He attended and the Police authorities were notified of the fact. The Master understands that the Coroner has been communicated with<sup>121</sup> (p631).

77. 19 September 1894 - 20 March 1895                      Extensive minutes relating to the provision of seed potato. Also includes:

- 'We propose that, owing to the partial failure of the potato crop, that some public works should be at once opened and we urge upon the CDB to complete the part of the road left undone leading from Letterfrack to Ballinahinch, as being a most useful and important work' (p11, see also p35).
- 'Resolved: That attention of the Auditor be drawn to the Relief given to the tenants and under tenants who were recently evicted from the Renvyle Estate, as we are informed that they have been, or are, digging their potatoes, and, in fact have had, or are having, the benefit of this year's crop, and therefore cannot be destitute' (p166).
- 'Resolved: That considering the great failure of the potato crop this year we earnestly call upon the landlords in this Union to grant substantial reductions in their rents and considering the very substantial reductions given by the landlords in the Co. Roscommon and elsewhere it is to be hoped that the landlords of this Union will assist their tenants by a substantial reduction in their rents in this year of unusual distress' (p321).
- 'Resolved: That the necessity of Relief Works to save the people from starvation forces this Board to again call upon the Government to at once start works at least in those districts most thickly populated...' (p476).

<sup>120</sup> A progressive wasting or consumptive condition; especially pulmonary tuberculosis.

<sup>121</sup> The Medical Officer stated Burke was suffered from Laryngeal phthisis. The Coroner advised no inquest was required.



- 'Letter from Messrs Bennett Bros. ...relative to the Guardians' inquiry as to freight for delivery of the Seed potatoes at three ports viz, Kilkerrin, Roundstone and Clifden, asking for particulars as to the depth of water at each port and distance between each, and requesting to be informed when the potatoes would be required to be shipped and if the inspection would be in bulk or in bags....' (p504b).
- Medical Officer reported two Lydon brothers from Lettergesh are suffering from typhus fever (p563).

78. 27 March 1895 – 18 September 1895 Includes:

- Chaplain advised, 'Having administered the last sacrament to Kate Hearne, a Mary Gorham who happened to be lying in the same ward called me to her bedside and expressed a wish to become a Catholic. Having asked her what she was she said she was a Protestant 40 years and said she now wished to be Catholic. I called in the Hospital nurse and she expressed the same wish in her presence, she also said yesterday she wished to see the priest. I accordingly received her back and administered the last sacrament to her' (pp7-8).
- Report from P. C. Gorham, Medical Officer, regarding the family in Derryqinla '...who have been suffering for many weeks from a very malignant form of influenza and I am happy to say they are now in a convalescent state, but still continue very weak. I have altogether visited these families upward of 40 times.  
I much regret to state that the nurse employed to attend them contracted the disease, which developed into a most dangerous attack of typhus fever. She died at her residence, Clifden, on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> April, and was interred next day.  
Her two daughters are now struck down with typhus and are in a most dangerous condition...' (p33).
- 'In consideration of the distress in this Union caused by the potato blight and the heavy expenses which the ratepayers are put to for seed potatoes it is resolved that the Guardians take the necessary steps to encourage the spraying of crops with "strawsonite" in order to check the blight and produce an increased yield, and that the LGB be asked to facilitate without delay the purchase of the necessary sprayers and material by advancing the funds required' (p141-2).
- 'Resolved: That we the Guardians...request the LGB will have John Higgins of Ballynew and Mark McDonnell of Knockbrack both in the Cleggan Division put on the Relief Works, as they are both very poor men with large families and have no ways of support' (p143).
- Resolved: That having regard to the frequent warnings of the LGB from the reports of their Inspectors as to the deplorable condition of our workhouse buildings, we, the Guardians most respectfully request the Government will come to our assistance by making it a suitable habitation for the destitute poor of those whose misfortune drives them under the shelter of its miserable roof.  
Owing to the great distress that exists in this Union the ratepayers (who suffered alike with

the non-ratepayers) will not be able to meet the wide-spread poverty out of the ordinary rates which will be so excessively high as that we fear there will be a difficulty in the collection thereof as we are already aware of the straightened condition of ratepayers...' (p144b).

- 'Resolved: That the Sisters of Mercy be allowed to connect their pipes for the Waterworks with the Waterworks pipes at the most convenient place for them to do so, and that they be free from taxation whatever if we can legally do so in connection with the waterworks. First, on the grounds of their being a charitable institution, secondly, they assist in keeping down the rates, having an Industrial School, and, thirdly they could insist on having a free fountain erected for the convenience of the Convent schools' (pp329-30, see also p395 & p527).
- 'Resolved: We the Guardians of the Clifden Union having a deep sense of the inestimable benefits bestowed on our poor county by Mr Arthur Balfour during the period he so ably filled the highly responsible position of Secretary for Ireland, in making a free grant of £276,000 for the construction of the great Balfour line of rail, feel great pleasure in knowing that a Balfour now holds the same position. We feel no hesitation in bringing the wants and requirements of our people to his notice.  
The so called public works carried on in this county lately have not only been useless but mischievous and waste of public money. The great Balfour line of rail has considerably improved the commercial position of Clifden.  
We now would ask the Secretary to make a grant of £30,000 for the improvement of our Harbour...' (p385).

79. 25 September 1895 – 1 April 1896 Includes:

- 'Resolved: that this Board having heard of the death of Mr James H. Tuke who was associated with this Union at a time when widely spread distress existed and who conferred so great a benefit on many hundreds of our people desire to place on record our sincere regret for the death of such a really true philanthropist...' (p339)
- Report from the Acting Master referring to an invitation from the 'Chief Officer of Coast Guard in this district for boys to join the Royal Navy. I have four inmates at present who are desirous of joining. I have not the least doubt but they would suit very well as they are quite healthy...' (p557, see also p573).

80. 8 April 1896 – 7 October 1896 Includes:
- 'The Master reported that Michael Laffey an inmate refuses to comply with the workhouse rules and persists in disobeying his orders' (p51, see also p95-7, p249, p405, p469, see also GPL3/81, such as p229, p245, p283).
  - 'On report of the Acting Master (Cloonan) it was resolved that the Relieving Officer prosecute Daniel Burke, a stonemason, for deserting his two sons, now inmates of the workhouse' (p73).
  - 'Mr Cloonan (Acting Master) having been called before the Board states that he can produce no certificate of his age but what he has already produced which, Canon Lynskey states is not a true copy of the entry in the Baptismal Register; that the entry is the record of a different person and that Canon Lynskey withdrew that Certificate by direct observation on the 19<sup>th</sup> April to Mr Cloonan and further by letter to LGB dated 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1896' (p119, see also p163).
  - 'Read notice of eviction at the suit of John J Eyre against Francis Davis and Tom Faherty of Aughrismore (Aughrus More), also at the suit of Anthony John Norris and Le Baron Henri D'Ivaley against John Davis, Michael Davis and Joseph Davis of Aughrismore, also Morton [Frivan] against Judy Laffey' (p164).
  - 'That the Clerk pay Dr Gorham the sum of £1.14.0 for the conveyance of Mary Scuffle of Inishbofin, an inmate of the House, to St Mark's Hospital, Dublin and back' (p168).
  - 'Resolved: That having read the comments of the Editor of the "Galway Observer" relative to the members of this Board at their meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant. It is resolved that in future none of the printing business of this Board be given to the Observer paper' (p229).
  - 'From the Master: With reference to the order made by the Guardians on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant discharging an inmate named Pat Little, etc' (p249, see also p250).
  - 'Instructions to be given to Mr Perry, C.S. (County Surveyor), Galway to prepare an estimate of the probable cost of having all the defective sewers in the town made perfect' (p259).
  - Ardbear Cemetery: 'That tenders be invited from competent persons for the purpose of laying out the entire cemetery in proper sections with five or more walls leading at right angles from the old avenue; and preparing a reference map showing the grave spaces numbered consecutively in sections for the information of the Guardians and also for the supplying an estimate of the cost of repairing the existing boundary wall of the cemetery' (p281, see also p325).
  - Inmate Michael Nee, classed as a lunatic, 'assaulted another inmate by striking him with a spade this morning...' (p293).
  - Report following death of July Folan who was 'suffering from "persistent anaemia" and died from exhaustion caused by that disease. In my (Gorham, Medical Officer) opinion her death was not due or accelerated by want of sufficient nourishment' (p316).



- Archbishop of Tuam visited that workhouse and found the conduct of the inmates to be 'satisfactory' but the bedding in the infirm wards was in 'exceedingly bad condition' (p337, see also p381).
- 'Resolved: That Anne O'Donnell of Bunowen E.D., Ellen Ward of Sellerna (Silerna) E.D. and Anne Conneely and child, of Clifden E.D., be discharged and that the Relieving Officer Mr T. Lydon take charge of them for the purpose of handing them over to their respective husbands, and report to the Board on this day week that he has done so' (p360).
- Details of the estimate of rate to be applied to each E.D. (p383).
- 'The Master reported that James Noone, an inmate, absconded, leaving his three children after him in the house' (p403, see also p537, see also GPL3/81, p209).
- 'Resolved: That having learned that Mr Stephen Joyce who held the position of Relieving Officer under this Board for over 15 years has for the purpose of bettering his position emigrated to America, we beg to express our regret at the departure of this Officer whom we always found most courteous and agreeable in the discharge of his duties' (p471).
- 'Stating that they have been informed that the Medical Officer of the workhouse has been convicted at Petty Sessions of an assault on a workhouse inmate named Laffey and fined, etc' (p492, see also p558).
- 'Resolved: We the Guardians of the Clifden Union desire to call the attention of the Government to lawless state of Turbot and Turk islands, the collector of rates being unable to effect a landing there for the purpose of collecting the rates, being apprehensive of damage to his life and the Guardians would respectfully suggest the erection of a police protection hut there. The present arrears of rates due by the Islanders amount to £111.1.6, £101.12.6 being for seed rate under the Seed Supply Acts. This sum includes the second instalment of £6 due under the Seed Supply Act, 1895, and not more than £1 of this arrears will be ever collected unless a police hut is erected. The inhabitants of the Islands are at present well able to pay' (pp493-4).
- 'For assisting Dr McDonnell in a serious midwifery operation in case of Mrs John Wallace, a dispensary patient in the Renvyle Dispensary district £2.2.00' (p564).

81. 10 October 1896 – 12 May 1897 Includes:

- 'That for the purpose of assisting the poor and labouring population of the Clifden District we....strongly urge upon the Government the necessity of an extension of the Clifden Pier or the erection of a suitable one at Doughbeg, Clifden Bay, as the fishing industry cannot be developed owing to this great want' (p48, see also p292).
- 'Read copy of a resolution passed by the Athlone Guardians relating to the deportation of paupers from Gt. Britain to Ireland' (p66).

- 'Read letter from Miss Goulding of Warwick Sq., London, requesting permission to send toys, sweets, tea, tobacco, etc. to the children, invalids and old people in the workhouse at the coming Xmas tide' (p84, see also p191).
- 'Read letter from Mr Baird, Waterworks Contactor, relative to the keys of the waterworks which he had left in charge of a man named Mullen, and stating that it would only half cure matters if he were to send duplicate keys as there would be always the danger of interference with the others...' (p147)
- Details of notice of eviction of Anne Cunningham, Aughrismore, Silerna ED. and Michael Halloran (p229).
- Master advised the Guardians of the 'great want of cooking arrangements in the kitchen of this House. Now as the new dietary is in force I cannot bring it into operation until such time as you erect a better mode of cooking. I consider it out of place to have potatoes, fish, tea etc cooked in the different wards of the house...' (p245).
- John Conroy aged 9 years admitted provisionally, deaf and dumb (p339, see also p360).
- Bridget Conneely, Roundstone arrived 'here per workhouse van, dead...' (p375, see also pp394-5, p417).
- Pat Wallace, Protestant, inmate, changed religion (p415).
- Patrick Mullen, query over chargeability (p434, see also p489).

82. 9 May 1897 - 1 December 1897 Includes:

- 'That in future, at all future Fairs to be holden in the town of Clifden persons offering pigs for sale on any day except the one next preceding the day upon which the Ordinary Fair is held will be prosecuted. Provided however that when such Fair day falls on Sunday and is holden on the Monday following, persons will be at liberty to offer pigs for sale on the Saturday previous' (pp62-3, see also p139).
- 'That Bridget Coyne and her two children, inmates of the workhouse, be allowed £1 worth of clothing provided she takes her discharge' (p88).
- Master reported that 'Michael Laffey, an inmate, alleged that he was assaulted by another inmate named Michael Conroy...' (p111, see also p163, p217, p372).
- 'There are two tenders for the repair of the avenues, etc. at Ardbear Cemetery ...' (p139).
- Master reported on the conduct of 'three of the inmates, Sally O'Donnell, Mary Lavery and Mary Walsh, whose conduct by the use of dirty, filthy language towards one another was so bad as could not be described...' (p163, see also p189).
- Margaret Davis was admitted, suffering from typhoid fever (p189, see also p192).





- Transcript of letter from George E. O'Flaherty, The Lodge, Ballyconneely regarding the site of the Ballyconneely graveyard, stating 'it is most objectionable for very many reasons to have such in close proximity to a private residence' (pp203-4, see also p229).
  - Michael Cloherty, 13 years, who had absconded, was arrested (p214).
  - John Nearey also absconded (p241).
  - Female inmate, Mahoney, 'has become deranged' (p347).
  - Mathias Connolly, Clifden, James Sullivan, Racecourse, John Davin, Clifden, Bartley Burke, Clifden, and Patrick Mannion, parents of several children, who refused to have them vaccinated (p381).
  - Bridget Mannion assaulted a boy (p397).
  - Letter from Dr Coney, 'The CDB are about to divide the Carna Estate (Leonard estate) among the tenants, before making the division they have expressed a willingness to give a plot of land as a site for a Doctor's residence. I am most anxious that the Guardians should build me a house and Dispensary under a Board of Works loan... (p537, see also p615 & p667).
  - '...list of assessments proposed to be made on traders, etc, in the town of Clifden, for a 'supply of water for ensuing year...' (includes list of names).
  - 'Respecting the child of a deceased woman named Mullen, stating that it is now open to the Guardians to board it out under the provisions of the Act, 38 & 39 Vic, cap 38...' (p606).
83. 8 December 1897 – 30 May 1898 Includes details relating to relief works, with names of supervisors, gangers, timekeepers and in many cases names of individuals, to work on the systems in the various electoral divisions, also includes:
- 'Copy of telegram sent by Clerk.  
Bennett Bros, Newry  
Guardians will accept 200 tons of Champion seed potatoes at £4 per ton on same terms as seed supply contract 1895...' (p9, see also pp36-7, p89).
  - LGB Letter 'relating to the structural improvements required in the workhouse stating that they learn from their Inspector that the workhouse premises are becoming dilapidated...' (p11, see also p190, see also 28 November 1898, GPL3/84, p555).
  - 'Resolved : Having heard the proposals of the LGB as to the desirability of establishing a labour test as to the relief to be given to the destitute poor, we decline to take the serious responsibility until we know what the Government is disposed to do to aid the already over burdened ratepayers of this Union.

From our knowledge of the extent of the destitution already existing in the Union we estimate that £20,000...will be required to enable the people to tide over the distress for the next six months' (p87, see also p139).

- Report from Dr Gorham regarding the hospital conditions and also recommends a complete system of drainage for the workhouse (pp141-2).
- 'Resolved: The Guardians desire to say in reply to the LGB that they have already held meetings of the several Dispensary Committees and suggested works in the several electoral divisions, gangers, supervisors and the probable numbers in each Dispensary District that would be entitled to the labour test...' (pp164-5).
- List of names of people approved of 'as entitled to receive relief on the works now opened...' (p269)
- Inmate William Davis, 26 years, absconded (p423).
- LGB 'Authorising the Guardians to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute persons as they may consider require it whether in occupation of land or not, for a further period of two months from the 29<sup>th</sup> inst' (p659).
- 'Resolved: That the Clerk of the Union be directed to write to Mr Perry, County Surveyor, for all bills in connection with the making of a sewer in the town of Clifden, the items of material, etc. to be got and from who supplied' (p671).

84. 8 June 1898 – 2 January 1899 Includes:

- 'That in families where there is long continued sickness and that have one employed on the Relief Works, the privilege of having wages extended from <sup>s</sup>5/- to <sup>s</sup>8/- a week be extended also, in the case of long continued sickness, even though the family have not the numbers required in all other cases' (p9).
- 'That the two deaf mutes Mary Conneely, aged 14, Errislanan ED, and John Conroy, aged 10 years, chargeable to Knockboy E.D. now inmates of the workhouse be sent to Cabra Institution, Dublin, and that the schoolmistress go in charge of the children, her expenses to be paid' (p64).
- 'Miss King, Schoolmistress. reported Bridget Mannion, wards woman for abusive language...' (p137).
- 'Referring to the price of <sup>s</sup>2/10 per stone proposed to be charged for the spraying mixture (for potatoes) stating that they understand that the Midland G. Western Railway are carrying the spraying machine and materials free of charge this year.  
The LGB must be under a mistake, as this Board has already paid the MGWR Co. the sum of £7.5.9 for the carriage of the mixture and there is a further sum still due' (p147, see also p204 & p560).



- 'Approving of the proposed payment of a sum of seventy pounds to the Clerk of the Union in consideration of the extra duties devolving on him in connection with the Relief Works' (p242).
- Due to the financial condition of the Union, the LGB decided to 'make a further grant of £500 to the distressed divisions of the Union to be apportioned among the highly rated divisions in the following manner...' (p243).
- 'That an inmate named Martin Coyne against whom Mr O'Hara, PLG made some complaints a few Board meetings ago be allowed out while he conducts himself as a messenger, there being no other inmate in the House found suitable for this post' (p449).
- Letter from Dr Loftus, Roundstone, advising of the 'absolute necessity' for a Dispensary House (p459).
- There are several tenders in connection with the repairs and improvements of the workhouse buildings submitted, which were referred to Mr Perry, the Guardians' Engineer, who was specially in attendance...  
Resolved: That Thomas W Little of 12 Harcourt St., Dublin, be declared Contractor for the Drainage of £188.19.10 and for the Sanitary plumbing and cooking at £356.4.0. Total amount of Mr Little's contract £545.3.10' (p555).
- 'Resolved that Mr Thomas Mc Williams of Clifden be declared contractor for the improvements in the Infirmary Dining Hall and structural improvements of the laundry and other parts of the workhouse building for the sum of £495' (p555).

85. 9 January 1899 – 30 August 1899 Incorporates the minutes of Clifden Rural District Council from its first meeting on 15 April 1899 to 16 August 1899. Also includes Alex Thom & Co. Ltd. Catalogues of Stationery for Poor Law Unions & Rural District Councils, details type of forms and volumes available and cost, such as '*Blank Minute Book, with index, 9 inches by 13, 5 quire, cloth, leather back, lettered 30.4.0*'.

Includes details relating to the establishment of the Clifden Rural District Council and procedures for the transfer of some functions to it<sup>122</sup>. Also includes:-

- 'That the storm of the past week has done very much damage to the House, about 20 feet of the eave-slates of the main building being swept away, etc.' (p29, see also p207).
- LGB letter stating 'that they expect the Clerks of Unions, Poor Rate collectors, and other officers to give every assistance and information in their power to Returning Officers, etc. in connection with the forthcoming elections of County and Rural District Councillors' (p96).

<sup>122</sup> See for example pp140-1 & pp162-4

- 'That inasmuch as that there were two elected Guardians for the Clifden E.D. and two ex-officios we consider it would be necessary to have four District Councillors for the said Clifden Division' (p119).
  - 'A memorial addressed to the Commissioners of Public Works was submitted by the Clerk, which was duly signed, praying a loan of £800 for the erection of a Doctor's Residence and Dispensary at Roundstone No. 2 Dispensary District' (p171).
  - 'We, the Chairman and BG, desire to bring under the notice of the new Councils, the officials of this Board, from the Clerk of the Union to the humblest official, and to say that they have at all times discharged their duties satisfactorily, and we take this opportunity of recommending their continuance in office to the new Councils' (p209).
  - 'That Pat Joyce, an inmate, in the Infirmary who is suffering from lead poisoning, be sent to the Galway Hospital for treatment...' (p216).
  - Following the election of the new BG and the newly established Galway County Council the LGB reminded the Board that it 'will be necessary for them at their first meeting to make a demand on the Co. Co. for funds to meet the immediate requirements of their Union, etc. (p250).
  - 'Resolved: That with the approval of the LGB the Board now order that a horse be purchased to be used for the conveyance of paupers and for the purpose of drawing stones, so that the able-bodied inmates may be employed breaking them under proper supervision and care taken that all "tramps" seeking the shelter of the house be employed breaking stones for at least one hour before getting breakfast and leaving the Institution' (p273).
  - 'That tenders be invited for the erection of a Dispensary and Medical Officer's Residence at Roundstone No. 1 (Dispensary District) in accordance with plans and specifications proposed by Mr Hamilton and approved by the LGB' (p369, see also p501 & p545).
  - 'Resolved: That whereas no amicable settlement can be made with Mr George O'Flaherty about the purchase of an acre of ground adjoining the Ballyconneely Graveyard, so sadly, so long and so admittedly required, we instruct our solicitor to take necessary steps for having a Provisional Order made for the Compulsory sale of an acre of ground adjacent to the present graveyard at Ballyconneely...' (p436).
86. 17 June 1899 – 20 February 1901 Meetings generally only held once a month.  
Includes:
- 'Resolved: That we require Mr King, Clerk of Union, to refund the £50 he received for alleged services tendered during progress of Clifden Waterworks, as we consider Mr King has acted illegally in issuing cheque for said £50 without first having obtained the sanction of the LGB...' (p20).
  - Copy of report from Roman Catholic Chaplain's book advising that he had baptized the 'illegitimate child of an inmate of the House named Bridget Larkin...' (p32).



- 'The Clerk stated that the arrears uncollected by the former Board of Guardians amounted to £263.10.0 and that these arrears were transferred to the County Council, and included in the recent collection of rates under the warrants issued by them, and that a sum of £289.6.8 was lodged to the credit of the Co. Co. under the head of a "Suspense A/C" in the National Bank, Clifden, but as against these sums a sum of £73.1.10 was required to square the balance of unpaid bills due by the former Board to and 25<sup>th</sup> March last....' (p194).
- 'Resolved: That Home Rule should now be the order of the day...' (p195).
- Tenders for supplies to the workhouse, detailing name of supplier, item and price (p276b).
- Thomas Lydon, R.O., advised that the 'expenditure for the outdoor relief in my district is £17.7.0...' (p362).
- Letter from Bridget Riely, of Church Street, Clifden, wife of John, regarding her 'hardship', both her husband and daughter Molly are 'suffering in addition to their disease from extreme want of nourishment & want of attendance...' (p364b-c).
- 'Transcript of letter from Mary Walsh, 'There is a little girl, Ellen Burke (daughter of the late Michael Burke), in the Workhouse. I take an interest in the child as a sister of hers now in America was a long time in my service and gave entire satisfaction. If you let me have the child I will undertake to support her and have her sent to school in accordance with the wish of her sister' (p422).
- '...James Joyce of Emlaghdauroe has a child 3 years old who suffers from infantile paralysis and dumbness which requires special treatment in a children's hospital...' (p423).
- 'On the recommendation of the Medical Officer that an inmate named Michael Conneely be sent to the Galway Hospital...' (p468).
- M.O. recommended that 'Bridget O'Brien, aged 10 years, a very serious case of Pott's spinal curvature...be sent for special surgical treatment...' (p469).
- Pat Molloy entered workhouse 'in a dying state...' (p490).
- Report on death of inmate, Michael Toole, aged 70 years (p578).
- Report of death of inmate Thomas Somers (p583).



**CENSUS IRELAND**

**FORM C. COLLEGE AND BOARDING SCHOOL RETURN.**

No. on Form B.

Parliamentary Borough, Galway Division, Clifden Poor Law Union, Clifden District Electoral Division, Clifden Townland, Tullyvoheen Barony, Belincheen Parish, Clifden City, Clifden Urban District, Clifden Town, Clifden Street.

RETURN of the Masters (except the Principals or Proprietors), Teachers, and Students or Pupils who slept or abode in the College of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ or the Boarding School of Workhouse School at Tullyvoheen on the Night of Sunday, the 31st of March, 1901, and of those who arrived on Monday, the 1st of April, who were not enumerated elsewhere.

In filling these Returns, pray observe the instructions given on "Form A"—The Family Return.  
 Note—The Principals or Proprietors of Colleges and Boarding Schools are, with their Families and Servants, to be returned not on this Form, but on "Form A."

Number	Name and Surname.		Religious Profession. <small>State here the particular Religion, or Religious Denomination, to which each person belongs. (Members of Protestant Denominations should not be described by the vague term "Protestant," but by the name of the particular Church, Denomination, or Body, to which they belong should be entered.)</small>	Education. <small>State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," can "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."</small>	Age. <small>Years, on last Birthday.</small>	Sex. <small>Write "M" for Males and "F" for Females.</small>	Rank, Profession or standing. <small>State Rank in the Institution—whether Fellow, Professor, Teacher, or Student or Pupil.</small>	Marriage. <small>Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "not Married."</small>	Where Born. <small>If in Ireland, state in what County or City; if elsewhere, state the name of the Country.</small>	Irish Language. <small>Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish only, and the words "Irish and English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.</small>	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic. <small>Write the respective infirmities opposite the name of the afflicted person.</small>
	Christian Name.	Surname.									
1	Barbara	Connolly	Roman catholic	Read & write	15	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	Irish English	
2	Maggie	Hannion	Roman catholic	Read & write	12	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
3	Park	Hannion	Roman catholic	Read & write	10	M	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
4	Nickl	Hearne	Roman catholic	Read & write	9	M	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
5	Annie	Hahony	Roman catholic	Read & write	8	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
6	Mary	Cunnar	Roman catholic	Read & write	8	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
7	Mary	Hannion	Roman catholic	Read & write	8	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
8	McDara	McDonogh	Roman catholic	Read & write	8	M	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
9	Ellen	Burke	Roman catholic	Read & write	8	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
10	Mary	Connolly	Roman catholic	Read & write	6	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
11	Mary	Durkin	Roman catholic	Read & write	6	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway		Deaf & Dumb
12	Joe	Hannion	Roman catholic	Read & write	6	M	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
13	Joseph	Burke	Roman catholic	Read & write	6	M	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	
14	Annie	Connolly	Roman catholic	Read & write	5	F	Scholar	not married	Co. Galway	English	

1901 Census record for Workhouse School, Townland of Tullyvoheen, DED of Clifden with names of children on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1901, includes Ellen Burke, perhaps the same referred to in the minutes 12 Sept 1900, GPL3/86, p422, (<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Galway/Clifden/Tullyvoheen/1369629/>, Apr 2012)



# CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

## FORM A.

No. on Form B. 18

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

Number.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or idiot; or Lame.
	Christian Name.	Surname.										
1	Bernard	Bodkin	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Reads & Writes	50	m	Workhouse Porter	Widower	Co Galway	Irish & English	
2	Patrick	Bodkin	Son	Roman Catholic	Reads & Writes	21	m	Whiting Clerk	not married	Co Galway	Irish & English	
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												

1901 Census record for Bernard Bodkin, workhouse porter, Tullyvoheen, Clifden (<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Galway/Clifden/Tullyvoheen/1369624/>, Apr 2012)

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*W. J. Keane* (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

*Bernard Bodkin* (Signature of Head of Family).



(87.)

88. 27 November 1901 – 23 December 1902 Includes

- ‘...affidavits taken in the case of Ellen Conneely, Hanna Cloherty, & Mary Conneely relative to the alleged fathers of their respective illegitimate children which were born in the workhouse...’ (p52).
- ‘The fact that Kate Lydon, an inmate of the house for years, having given birth to an illegitimate child, shows a laxity of discipline and a looseness of morals that ought not be allowed to prevail for a moment in any workhouse or well managed institution...’ (p95).
- ‘That on the 1<sup>st</sup> instant an inmate named Bridget McConville admitted to the House on the 20<sup>th</sup> January last gave birth to a child...’ (p96).
- ‘...two families named John Coyne and Owen King, residing at Lettergesh East, and found them to be suffering from typhus fever...’ (p241).
- ‘...Mrs Elizabeth Bedlow a midwife belonging to your Board, was admitted to the Hospital here on the 6<sup>th</sup> Apr inst. and died on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April’ (p249).
- ‘On Saturday, May the 17<sup>th</sup>, an inmate of the Clifden Convent Industrial School was admitted to the Infirmary of the workhouse upon a ticket of admission issued by the R.O..... Mary Flaherty died on 22<sup>nd</sup> inst of cerebra spinal (meningitis) disease’ (p271).
- ‘Resolved....That an application be made to the LGB for sanction to a loan for £1250 viz - £1,200 for alterations and repairs, which is to include a new addition to the Fever Hospital, and £50 for the building of a new ambulance’ (p361, see also p405).
- Nurse Annie Fennell elected midwife for Renvyle dispensary district (p461).
- ‘...ticket of admission for the deaf mute Mary Durkin (inmate) aged 10 years to St. Mary’s Convent Cabra’ (p471).
- List of Wardens appointed for the E.D.s of each Dispensary District (p547).
- Letter from CDB regarding the ‘site for the erection of a Dispensary and Doctor’s residence at Carna, stating that if there is no immediate intention of carrying out the work the Board would wish to dispose of the land in another way’ (p594).





# CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.

Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

## FORM A.

No. on Form B. *80*

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 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.	
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.		Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "Single."	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.	Total Children born alive.	Children still living.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	
1	Peter	Carroll	Head	R. Catholic	Read & write	68	-	Farmer	Married	21	5	-	Co Galway	Irish & English	-
2	Mary	Carroll	Wife	DO	DO	-	69	-	DO	27	8	8	DO	DO	✓
3	Michael	Carroll	Son	DO	DO	45	-	-	Single	-	-	-	DO	DO	✓
4	Martin	Carroll	Son	DO	DO	40	-	-	Single	-	-	-	DO	DO	✓
5	Aunnie	Carroll	Daughter	DO	DO	-	25	-	Single	-	-	-	DO	DO	✓
6	Bridget	Conneely	Niece	DO	DO	-	19	-	Single	-	-	-	DO	DO	✓
7	Annie	Conneely	Niece	DO	DO	-	16	-	Single	-	-	-	DO	DO	✓
8															
9															
10															
11															
12	1911 census report for Carrolls, Mannin More (Dooloughan, Galway), showing that a niece, Anne, resides with the family, referred to in the Minutes of 4 Feb 1903, p55, and also 8 Feb 1903, p75, GPL3/89														
13	(National Archives of Ireland, <a href="http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Galway/Dooloughan/Mannin_More/451100/">http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Galway/Dooloughan/Mannin_More/451100/</a> , Apr 2012)														
14															
15															

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Michael Rooney* *6/3/11* Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

*Peter Carroll* Signature of Head of Family.

89. 7 January 1903 – 3 February 1904 Includes:
- 'Mrs Mary Carroll, aunt of a child named Anne Conneely aged 7 yrs, an inmate, requested the Guardians to allow her to adopt her, the child being an orphan...' (p55, see also p75 & p471, p494, p515).
  - Details of works to be carried out to workhouse, such as 'kitchen – requires whitening', milk store – requires repairs to roof' (pp141-2).
  - Major Rutledge Fair's report recommending the 'sending out of the workhouse children to extern schools...' (p143, see also p163, p251, p317).
  - 'That having observed with much pleasure the noble exertions of Lady Dudley in providing nurses for the poor districts in Ireland, we feel that in no part would the assistance of a trained nurse be more beneficial than on the Island of Bofin, and we respectfully beg to bring the matter under the notice of Her Ladyship' (pp285-6).
  - 'That the office of schoolmistress be abolished and that the teacher be allowed yearly superannuation of £31.8.10....' (p317, see also p383, p471, p493, p495)
  - 'Read a communication from the President and Secretaries of the Irish Workhouse Association requesting the attendance of six delegates from the Board at a PL Conference at Loughrea on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant' (p383).
  - 'There are no Protestant children in the workhouse nor has there been for over 20 years, should any come in who are not eligible to be boarded out Canon Fleming writes consenting to their being sent to his schools' (p471).
  - 'Resolved: That as representatives of the Farmers of this Union we the Clifden BG are anxious to see the Land Question settled in accordance with the Land Purchase Act...' (p473).
  - 'On recommendation of Dr Gorham, M.O. of the Workhouse two patients in the Infirmary were ordered to be sent to Dublin Hospital for special surgical treatment, viz Michael Gibbons and Michael Conneely' (p492).
  - 'Read letter received from Her Excellency Lady Dudley...forwarding cheque £18 being a proportion of a gift made by Her Majesty Queen Alexandra on the occasion of her recent visit to Ireland, to be distributed for the benefit of the aged and infirm and the school children in some of the workhouses in the poorest parts of Ireland' (p494).
  - 'Miss King, late schoolmistress in the workhouse offered to board out Annie Mahony aged 13 years, next February and send her to the Clifden Convent National School, provided the Guardians allowed yearly what sum they considered fair for clothing, she would ask nothing for maintenance' (p519).
  - '....Catherine Joyce of Lissoughter, aged 75 years, married, arrived here at 5¾ pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant apparently in good health and died suddenly at 8¾ am on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant...' (p557).



1911 Census House & Building Return from, with details relating to the Workhouse (no. 12 below)

**CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.**  
**FORM B. 1.—HOUSE AND BUILDING RETURN.**

County, Galway, Parliamentary Division, Gannemara, Poor Law Union, Clifden, District Electoral Division, Clifden, Townland, Tullywokeon  
Parliamentary Borough, City, Urban District, Town or Village, Street, Barony, Ballynahinch Parish, Coney

NOTE A.—When a Townland or Street is situated in two Parliamentary Divisions, or in more than one District Electoral Division or Parish, or is partly within and partly without a Parliamentary Borough, City, Urban District, Town, or Village, a separate Return should be made for each portion.

HOUSES.										FAMILIES, &c.								
No. of House or Building	Whether Built	State whether Private Dwelling, Public Building, School, Manufactory, Hotel, Police-station, Lodge-house, or Shop, &c.	Number of Occupiers and Persons sleeping as returned on Form B. 1.	Is House inhabited?	PARTICULARS OF INHABITED HOUSES.					CLASS OF HOUSE.	No. of Cottages in each House.	Name of the Head of each Family residing in the House.	No. of Rooms occupied by each Family.	Total Number of Persons in each Family as returned.	Date on which Family was ascertained.	Number of Persons in each Family who were on 24th April 1911.	Name of the Landholder (if any) on whose Holding the House is situated, whether that name appears in return B or not.	No. of Persons in the Holding of a Cottager.
					WALLS.	ROOF.	ROOMS.	Windows in Front.	Yard or Space in Back.									
(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	(Col. 4)	(Col. 5)	(Col. 6)	(Col. 7)	(Col. 8)	(Col. 9)	(Col. 10)	(Col. 11)	(Col. 12)	(Col. 13)	(Col. 14)	(Col. 15)	(Col. 16)	(Col. 17)	(Col. 18)	
1	Built	Private	—	Yes	1	1	3	3	8	2nd	1	John O'Connell	53rd	6	20th	Path O'Connell	7	
2	do	do	4	do	1	1	3	3	8	2nd	1	Boney Stringer	53rd	4	do	Boney Stringer	2	
3	do	do	3	do	1	0	3	3	7	2nd	1	John Faherty	53rd	1	do	John Faherty	1	
4	do	do	2	do	1	0	3	3	7	2nd	1	Michl Connelley	53rd	9	do	Michl Connelley	4	
5	do	do	2	do	1	0	2	3	6	2nd	1	Michl Lynch	32nd	2	do	Michl Lynch	5	
6	do	do	3	do	1	0	2	2	5	3rd	1	John Nee	32nd	5	do	John Nee	9	
7	do	do	—	No												Thos McWoliam	13	
8	do	do	3	Yes	1	0	3	3	7	2nd	1	Path Joyce	53rd	9	do	Path Joyce	6	
9	do	do	5	Yes	1	0	3	3	7	2nd	1	Mr Boyne	53rd	2	do	Mr Boyne	8	
10	do	do	1	do	1	0	2	3	5	3rd	1	John Nee	32nd	1	do	Michl Nee	10	
11	do	do	1	do	1	1		3	5	3rd	1	James Lacey	33rd	5	do	Jas Lacey	12	
12	do	Workhouse	10	do	1	1	6	85	93	1st	4	Michl Lavells	48		do	Board of Guardians	13	
													3					
													4					
													5					
													5					

90. 17 February 1904 – 18 January 1905

Includes:

- ‘Resolved: We, the Clifden BG, have pleasure in bearing testimony to the heroism, the devotion to duty, and the skill shown by Dr O’Hanlon whilst acting as locum-tenens of Carna Dispensary District.  
When he came there an epidemic of typhus fever of a malignant and treacherous kind prevailed. His predecessor, Dr Coney, had contracted and after 10 days illness fell, a victim to the disease, but he heroically stepped into the breach with the result that no fresh case has arisen since his arrival and the old patients are all completely convalescent.  
We greatly regret, from a knowledge of Dr O’Hanlon’s worth, that he could not be prevailed upon to accept the permanent appointment of M.O. of Carna Dispensary District. He leaves, however, with the best thanks and best wishes both of ourselves and of every person in the Carna District for his future success’ (p43).
- ‘LGB letter...requesting to be furnished with plans, specifications and estimates of the works of erecting the proposed Fever Hospital at workhouse, etc.’ (p119, see also p229).
- ‘...a woman named Sarah Conneely was admitted to the house on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March last from [ ] Ballyconneely. She is 26 years of age and single, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Apr she gave birth to a female child which was christened on the 11<sup>th</sup> instant and called ‘Mary Early...’ (p140).
- Condition of patient named Patrick Connolly on his admission to the Ballinasloe District ‘Lunatic Asylum from the workhouse...’ (p208, see also p229).
- ‘...there is only one wards-woman in the body of the house who has to take charge, wash & scrub for 33 infirm old women, some of them bed-ridden. Along with that she does the washing of the male infirm ward. It is very sad as well as dangerous to see 16 or 17 old women by themselves at night, should any of them fall out of bed there is no one to put them back...’ (p250, see also p339, see also pp579-80).
- ‘In reply to the Guardians order “That unless the Carna Dispensary is put into proper repair the Guardians will surrender it”; I beg to state for the information of the Board that the building is now in thorough repair and everything has been done as required by Sir Acheson MacCullagh...’ (p373).
- Replies to queries from the Poor Law Reform Commission ‘...Yes, we consider from the decreased population and the economic condition of the county of Galway that it would be advisable to dissolve wholly some of the Unions therein by amalgamation, and we consider where a workhouse is dissolved that the Hospitals attached to such should also disappear if a saving of rates is to be effected....’ (p383).
- ‘...that the potato crop in this Union is a total failure, (we) beg to place before the Government the sad state of affairs and we give this timely notice and warning that we apprehend distress in the coming Winter and spring...’ (p407, see also pp47102, p537).
- ‘Read letter from Mrs Hall, Knockbrack, Athenry, stating that she in conjunction with Mrs Lambert of Castle Ellen and Mrs Hazel of Cashel intended giving their annual Xmas treat to the workhouse inmates and requesting lists, etc.’ (p473).
- Details of the quantities of seed potato required (pp515-8).



91. 1 February 1905 – 27 September 1905 Minutes include details relating to relief schemes, in some instances giving names of participants. Also includes detached lists from various Relieving Officers naming individuals in their Electoral Districts who are in need of relief (Mar 1905), and includes:
- LGB letter enclosing 'Sealed Order dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 1905 as to the scheme proposed by the Government to cope with exceptional distress existing in the several EDs comprised in the Union which was unanimously rejected at last meeting' (p4).
  - LGB 'approved of Relief Scheme for Inishbofin District Electoral Division and that they have authorised the employment from the 20<sup>th</sup> instant of 34 workers on the North Beach Road to Bofin Island and of the appointment of one ganger and one supervisor to act as paymaster' (p102b).
  - Medical Officer reported 'relative to the caring of a child named Thomas Geary. This child was born in the House. He is illegitimate and his mother died in Hospital...' (p196).
  - 'The following persons on the recommendation of the Relieving Officers were approved of for employment on relief works...' (p198-199, see also p212).
  - 'On the recommendation of Medical Officers Gorham & Loftus two patients viz :- Mary Geary who appears to be suffering from many symptoms of \_\_\_\_\_ and Edward Geary who suffers from \_\_\_\_\_ were ordered to be sent for special treatment to Dublin Hospital' (p230c).

(92.)

93. 2 May 1906 – 9 January 1907 Includes:
- 'There are three patients in the Infirmary all young children viz:- Bridget Davin, Annie Conroy and John Barrett....recommend you send these children to the Children's Hospital, Dublin...' (p52).
  - '....an inmate Ellen Conneely gave birth to a male child this morning. She is a native of this Union and unmarried and was admitted on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1906' (p116).
  - 'an inmate named Patrick Cummins assaulted another inmate named John McDonogh on the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant...' (p116, see also p164).
  - 'A patient in the Infirmary named Michael Collins, Wheelright, was brought to the Infirmary last evening... another patient in the Hospital named Mrs Corrington....' (p132).
  - 'Read copy of a resolution passed by the Oughterard Guardians requesting that a spoken and literary knowledge of the Irish language be a necessary qualification of all officials to be appointed in future to positions in the [gift] of the BG District Councils and County Councils' (p133).
  - 'Read copy of a resolution passed by the Athlone Board of Guardians drawing attention of the Government to the dangerous and widespread practice of employment of unqualified women in attendance on midwifery case and requesting statutory powers may be obtained through the LGB to put an immediate and effectual stop to such a highly dangerous, and in many cases fatal, custom' (p207).

94. 9 January 1907 – 28 August 1907 Includes:
- 'Resolved: Observing the increased number of applications for outdoor relief and though the Board see the necessity for same owing to the want of employment in the District together with the failure of the potato crop. The high rating prevents us from relieving the poor as we should like to.  
We therefore request the Government will come to our assistance by starting relief works in the District or to proceed with the erection of the pier at Doughbeg so long promised' (pp111-112).
  - Report from the Medical Officer advised that 'Michael Mulkern died on yesterday as the result of dangerous injuries received at Marconi's works. The funeral expenses, coffin etc are I understand to be borne by the Company. I would strongly recommend that a few coffins be always kept in stock, so as to avoid the necessity of keeping a deceased patient longer than absolutely necessary in the wards where patients are treated...' (p250)
  - "I have visited the whole place in company of the Master. I am astonished to see the house clean, tidy etc, comfortable. Thousand thanks for the kindness of the Master", A Charpentier, Paris.  
The Guardians are much pleased with this report' (p529).
95. 11 September 1907 – 24 June 1908 Includes:
- 'Resolved: That we propose a vote of thanks to the Right Rev Monsignor W Alpine P.P. V.G nominee of His Grace the Archbishop, and Rev Father Kelly as the nominated witness of our Board, at the Royal Commission on congestion for the very brilliant and judicious evidence given by them before that Body in the interest of all classes in Connemara and Connaught generally, and we hope that full weight will be given to the proposed solution in the finding of the Commission' (p22, see also p38 which includes letter of thanks from J. Healy, Archbishop of Tuam).
  - 'Resolved: That the attention of the Galway County Council be again called to the fact that exceptional distress exists in this Union and that the said County Council be requested to take the necessary steps to apply to the LGB to have the 13<sup>th</sup> Section (of Local Government Act) put in force' (p262b).
  - LGB '....letter received from an inmate of the Workhouse named Patrick Toole, relative to the conduct of the Master and requesting the Guardians to be so good as to inquire into the matter and furnish the Board with their observations' (p277, see also p293).
  - LGB 'In reply to the Guardians' resolution of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst., in regard to the existence of exceptional distress in the Union, stating that the Unemployed Fund is not available for the relief of distress among occupiers of land in Rural Districts. Moreover the portion of this Fund which was at the Board's disposal has now been distributed' (p277).
  - Medical Officer recommended that two patients, Colman Lydon and Pat Cannon, be sent to Galway Hospital for treatment' (p310b).
  - 'Resolved: That in consideration of poor in our workhouse, aged 70 years & over, and having fully considered how Mr Asquith's old age pension scheme affects [ ] to the fact that they are in receipt of Poor Law relief, and knowing as we do the deep rooted prejudice existing amongst the poor against the workhouse, and that they would rather live in their own

homes on five shillings a week than spend their declining years in a paupers' home, we strongly urge upon our representatives in Parliament to exert themselves, so that our aged poor in receipt of Poor Law relief may be included in the Pension fund provided by the State. The matter of pressing urgency is the removal of the poor of 70 years & over from the workhouse and this can be accomplished by the removal of the limitation which Mr Asquith proposes. If the PL Boards make an average estimate of the amount they have been spending on the poor over 70, both in the workhouse as well as in outdoor relief for some years past, and hand it over to the Government as a contribution to the fund, every poor person over 70 may receive the promised pension of 5/ per week. The Poor Law system is bad and vicious. It is costly and demoralising, wherever therefore a better system can be [adopted] its sphere should be curtailed and give relief to the poor in a form that will be more acceptable and beneficial' (p39b, see also GPL3/96, p223).

- '...inmate named John Conneely summoned another inmate, named Michael King, for assaulting him...' (p404).

96. 8 July 1908 – 23 June 1909 Includes:

- Medical Officer's report, 'All the fever patients are prepared to proceed home at any time. They had practically no clothing when brought to the Hospital. They will leave this day if you provide suitable clothing for them. They were literally in rags on arrival. The longer these people are retained here the more expense will be incurred. I have discharged the Fever Nurse. As the children, 3 in number, are unable to walk the long distance, 10 miles, I would recommend that a car be employed to convey the 3 children and the mother...' (p4).
- Inmate Pat Folan 'complained that he had been assaulted by the Wardsman, Pat Conneely...' (p40).
- Visiting Committee reported that they inspected 'the work done by Messrs Emerson Contractors and found that it was done to our satisfaction with the exception of a little lime-washing which the Contractors undertook to complete at once. We recommend that they be paid the balance of their contract. We recommend that the Matron's (room) be put in proper repair similar to the Master's...' (p57, see also p78 & p201-203).
- '...John Geary was admitted on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst without his wife and children on ticket from the R.O. and is still in the house...' (p202)
- 'Relieving Officer Lydon submitted his report for the month of November together with Teacher's Certificate in respect of the boarded out child Annie Conneely' (p223, see also GPL3/97, p66 & p106c)
- LGB letter '...relative to a report received from the Office of the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, transmitted by the Constabulary authorities, in which it is stated that Patrick King, John and Bridget Moran (Mongan) in the Silerna E.D. of the Clifden Union, were evicted for non-payment of rent by the Trustees of the late J.J. Eyre etc, and that due notice was not served on the Relieving Officers' (p257, see also 258b).
- 'The condition of the female infirm wards is and has been for more than a week practically uninhabitable owing to the chimney being choked apparently at the top. The poor old inmates of this ward can scarcely breathe owing to the volumes of smoke which apparently

has no outlet. I myself have had experience of this nuisance and I can defy anyone to remain more than 10 to 15 minutes in the ward...' (p274).

- '...patient in the infirmary named Powel from Bofin Island who has been under treatment for many months...' (p274).
- 'Resolved: That as this our first meeting since the sad boating disaster at Inishbofin resulting in the death by drowning of three young men we desire to place on record our deepest sympathies with their bereaved relatives and friends...' (p276).
- 'I beg to inform you that a woman named Fanny Dowd with two children was admitted to the house on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst owing to being deserted by her husband' (p346, see also GPL3/97, p765).
- '...woman named Bridget Ridge was admitted to the house on the 27<sup>th</sup> March....' (p346).
- 'Resolved: That Guardians desire to convey to the LGB the fact that best beef and mutton could not be purchased on foot at the price tendered for by Miss Lydon and had the Guardians accept her tender it would be only repeating the irregularities disclosed at the recent inquiry viz:- a shortage of weight, Miss Lydon has not entered into a bond for the fulfilment of her contract in respect of the items she was declared contractor for on the 24<sup>th</sup> ultimo and, as a result the workhouse Master has to purchase these articles elsewhere at a higher price' (pp365-6, see also p419).
- 'A patient named Bridget Greene arrived at the Infirmary on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst...' (p431).
- 'Referring to the Guardians minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> instance as to the state of mind of Private Joseph Feeney who was discharged from the service as a harmless lunatic...' (p476).

97. 14 July 1909 – 14 June 1911

Includes Rural District Council A4 poster relating to Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1906), also includes:

- '...inmate named John Faherty or Neary latterly admitted to the house...' (p3).
- 'A patient in the hospital named Pat Davin scaled the walls and left without permission. To be prosecuted' (p84).
- '...an old woman named Mrs McDonagh died in the house on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst...' (p204).
- 'An imbecile child 11 years of age or thereabouts was admitted to the Workhouse this day. This child was sent to Cabra institution some few years ago by the BG and rejected by the Authorities of that institution as being unfit for treatment. The poor child is now in our hands and we are in charity bound to look after him. I therefore request you will be good enough to secure the services of a proper attendant to care for the child' (p305).
- Inmate Delia McDonagh assaulted the Matron (p323, see also p704).
- Inmate Mrs Elwood and two children admitted (p323).
- Medical Officer reported that 'We have two paying and 26 ordinary patients at present in the Hospital. Most of these are very old and infirm and have been transferred by your directions



from the male and female infirm wards in order to relieve congestion in these wards...'  
(p363).

- 'Resolved: That in future old aged pensioners seeking admission to the workhouse infirmary be not admitted unless they agree to pay the sum they receive weekly, for their maintenance and treatment whilst in the house' (p386).
- 'Resolved: That at this our first meeting since the death of our most Gracious Sovereign Edward VII desire to record our profound sorrow and beg respectfully to tender through his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant our heartfelt sympathy to King George V and Queen Mary and the Dowager Queen Alexandra in their great affliction, and out of respect to the memory of his late Majesty this meeting stands adjourned for a fortnight' (p425).
- '...14 inmates who will avail themselves of the old age pension on the 5<sup>th</sup> January (1911) will require clothing on taking their discharge from the House' (p764).
- '...I regret to report the death of Mary McDonagh, age 16, of Inishlacken Island, from typhoid fever. Her sister Annie, a child of seven or eight years, is now in hospital suffering from the same disease....The other children brought up in from Inishlacken are now I think out of danger, certainly those admitted on Dec 30<sup>th</sup>' (p804, see also p865).
- 'Ordered: On the recommendation of the Medical Officer, That a deaf mute, Patrick Cannon, be sent to Cabra Institution...' (p950).
- Two patients, Bridget Lavelle, of Knock, Inishbofin, and Bridget Lydon (p986b).

98. 28 June 1911 22 May 1912 Includes:

- '...a man named Michael Mannion aged 20 years was admitted to the House on the 15<sup>th</sup> June...' (p24, see also p46).
- '...inmate named John Malley came into the bread store...' (p104).
- 'The case of the admission of the infant named Mary Heaney, from Letterfrack on August is in my opinion, one that calls not only for inquiry but for severe censure on the parties concerned...' (p124).
- '...Alfred Sherwood, admitted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst from Letterfrack, scaled the garden wall on yesterday and has not since returned...' (p184).
- Master advised that 'relative to the Lunatics in the workhouse, I beg to state that they are now bathed once a week and are clean and tidy...' (p185).
- Joseph and Colman Green, aged 16 and 14 years, 'deaf-mutes' to be sent to Cabra (p186c, see also p205).
- 'I propose to execute the works at Roundstone Dispensary in accordance with specification for the sum of £22' (p200b).
- Medical Officer called 'attention to the condition of the Infirmary wards and would respectfully urge the visiting committee to inspect these wards and see for themselves the sad and dilapidated condition of affairs, with the least possible delay...' (p204).
- 'It is with regret I have once again to call the attention of the Guardians to the gross abuse attending inmates being frequently allowed out to town, staying there hours, going from

public house to public house to the scandal of the people, and to the discredit of a public institution, should this continue....' (p344).

- 'That we, the members of the Clifden District Council and Board of Guardians welcome the Home Rule Bill and congratulate Mr John E. Redmond and the Irish Party on their success in having a measure introduced acceptable to the Irish race at home and abroad' (p466).

99. 12 June 1912 – 28 May 1913 Includes:

- LGB letter 'relative to the proposal to board-out a child named Samuel McDonagh, etc. Certificate of the Chaplain sent herewith. The child was admitted to the Workhouse on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 1910' (p265, see also p286).
- 'On the recommendation and certificate of the M.O a patient named Winifred Heavey who has been in the Hospital for nearly two weeks, suffering from an enormously enlarged tonsils, was sent to Galway Hospital for treatment' (pp265-6).
- 'Ordered: That a deaf and dumb mute named Annie Coyne, 8 yrs, be sent to Cabra Institution, Dublin, on the usual terms, £15 a year, and £1 for an outfit' (p266).
- 'Resolved: That this our first meeting since the death of Major Robert Ruttleledge Fair, LG Inspector who was permanently in charge of this Union for over 22 years desire to place on record our sincere regret....' (pp285-6).
- 'Resolved: That in consequence of the death and burial this day of Dr Anthony Gorham, Glen [Trasna] Clifden, Deputy Inspector General Royal Navy, and as a token of respect to his memory no business be transacted and that we desire to convey to the families of the deceased our sincere sympathy and condolence in this sad bereavement' (p325).
- 'Re: Overcrowding at Ballinasloe Asylum....the (Visiting) Committee after visiting the several wards in the Workhouse have come to the conclusion that about 150 of the harmless inmates at the Asylum could be accommodated in the main building at present occupied by 50 old but healthy inmates who could easily be transferred to the front range of the (Clifden) workhouse now unoccupied...' (p383).

100. 11 June 1913 – 10 June 1914 Includes:

- 'Read letter received from the Department of State Washington replying to the resolution of the Guardians on the 28<sup>th</sup> May last, relative to the deportation of Michael Faherty by the Immigration Officials of the Country, which has been referred to the Department of Labour' (p25).
- LGB letter 'Respecting the proposed employment of Dr F Norman Hitchcock as temporary MO of the Renvyle Dispensary district during the absence of Mr MacDonnell on vacation etc approving of the arrangements' (p179).
- 'That Doctor Loftus, who has resigned the Medical Officership of the Roundstone No. 1 Dispensary District, be now appointed temporary M.O. of the Clifden No. 2 (Inishbofin)

Dispensary District pending the permanent appointment, and that he be paid rate of £4.4.0 per week for his services' (p259).

- 'That we respectfully request the consent of the LGB to be allowed divide the Clifden No. 1 Dispensary District into two Districts with the object of appointing two doctors instead of one, as in the past, as we consider it utterly impossible for any one doctor to conscientiously attend the numerous calls from such a wide area extending over the two parishes of Omey and Ballindoon' (pp298-9). The resolution for lost 19 /11.
- 'The position of Dispensary Doctor for Roundstone No. 1 being so long vacant and no application being received for same we propose that the salary be increased from £120 to £140 per annum to induce a Doctor to apply for the position' (p378).
- 'That a sum of eight pounds thirteen shillings and three (pence) be paid to the Sisters of Mercy, Clifden, in respect of services performed by substitutes employed on behalf of Sister Mary of Mercy Byron to discharge the duties of night nurse from the 14<sup>th</sup> January, being the date upon which Sister M Ligouri resigned, and the 11<sup>th</sup> March, being the date upon which the Guardians appointed Miss Maud McVeigh as temporary night nurse...' (p465).
- 'The Master reports that an inmate, named Michael King, was committed as a lunatic to Ballinasloe Asylum on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant for having assaulted another inmate named Joseph Kelly. He was deported from America some time ago as a harmless lunatic; on several occasions he scaled the walls and refused to have a change of clothing' (p524).

101. 24 June 1914 – 23 June 1915 Includes:

- 'The Master reports:- that a man named James Fox, deported from America as a harmless lunatic, was admitted to the house on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. on a ticket issued by the Relieving Officer' (p4, see also p65, p106).
- 'That patients treated in the Hospital at present and for some time past, and who are able to pay, be made pay for their maintenance at the rate of seven shillings a week, and that the names of such patients be furnished' (p27).
- Dr Casey, M.O. advised 'With the approval and sanction of the LGB I propose to use one of the hospital wards for the purpose of teaching first aid work to a section of the local National Volunteers which in co-operation with the Ladies' National Health Association will form a local "Red Cross" Corps. The wards would be only used for one hour daily and would not cause any inconvenience to patients or others' (p64).
- 'Ordered: That the "Irish Volunteers" newspaper be included in the list of papers to receive advertisements' (p108).
- 'Mrs Greene midwife for the Clifden No. 1 Dispensary District forward a medical certificate dated 26<sup>th</sup> Oct signed by Dr O'Dea, Galway, to the effect that she was suffering from neuritis and would be unfit for duty for a month' (p199).
- LGB letter re 'proposal to board-out from the workhouse a child named John Joyce with Mrs Honoria Coyne of Sheeauns' (p245, see also p307).
- 'Mr Emerson, Architect, again applied for payment of £25.10.6, in respect of his services in preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates relative to the proposed dispensaries and Medical Officers' residences at Carna and Inishbofin, particulars sent herewith' (p259).



- '...complaint made by an inmate of the institution named John Reilly, as to the management of the workhouse...' (p286, see also p327 & p345).
- Master's report, '.... Bill received from Mr Leonard for a special coffin, £2.5.0, supplied for John Conroy a patient who died in the Hospital...' (p454, see also 23 June 1915, p5, & GPL3/102, p27).
- Letter from Ellen Schley, Matron, relating to a letter from the LGB 'relative to me keeping my two children in the house. As you are aware the Guardians were good enough to give me permission to do so, and I trust you will be kind enough to allow me to keep them for sometime longer until I get a place for them outside' (p506).

102. 5 July 1915 – 12 July 1916 Includes:

- Letter from the Master, M. Lavelle, to the BG, advising 'Having offered my services to the defence of our Country during the War, which the War Office have accepted, granting me a Commission, I trust you will allow me the necessary leave, and I beg to recommend to you Mr John Lydon of Streamstown as my substitute. He will undertake to discharge the duties for a salary at the rate of £50 a year with rations' (p6).
- 'Read circular letter received from the War Office, dated 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 1915, requesting to be informed to what extent it has been possible to release eligible men from the Establishment to join His Majesty's Forces since the LGB Cir Letter No. 55/M/1915 dated 16<sup>th</sup> April last. The only officer who applied was the workhouse master who was released on the 5/7/1915. (p145).
- 'Resolved: That, subject to the sanction of the LGB, the Clifden No. 2 Dispensary District be amalgamated with the Clifden No. 1 D.D. and that the fixed salaries attached to the latter district viz £170 for the office of M.O. and £10 as Medical [Examiner] of Health be added to Dr Casey's salary as M.O. of the combined districts. Dr Casey to contribute a sum of £30 annually for the upkeep of a nurse on the island of Inishbofin whom the Guardians propose to appoint at a salary of £20 a year' (p338, see also p378, with notice of motion to rescind, & p399, p419, p438).
- Boarding out of Joseph Baker, aged 14 months (p405, see also p487).
- 'Resolved: That we condemn the misguided action of those responsible for the recent rebellion in Ireland and that we tender to Mr Redmond and his Party our confidence' (p425, see also p505).
- 'That a scheme of amalgamation of the PL Unions and workhouses of the county is required, provided it be properly carried out and is a saving to the ratepayers, due attention being paid to the efficient administration of the Medical Charities Act in any scheme of amalgamation' (p466).

103. 22 July 1916 – 11 July 1917

104. 25 July 1917 – 11 September 1918 Includes:
- 'The Master reports that an inmate, named Bridget O'Connor, for refusing to obey orders. She acts in the capacity of an Auxiliary Matron, saying she will do what she likes....' (p70).
  - Letter of complaint from the Matron regarding the conduct of female inmates, Annie Fox, Honor Kelly, and Annie Hart who assaulted another inmate, named Sarah Gorham (p224).
  - 'That we hereby warn the Government that any attempt to force conscription in this Country will be accompanied with disastrous consequences and we further warn them, if such measure be enforced, it will be forcibly resisted' (p359).
  - 'That the maintenance allowances for boarded-out children be increased, from three shillings a week to five shillings, during the war, and that the clothing allowance be increased from thirty shilling a year to forty shillings' (p365).
105. 18 September 1918 – 26 November 1919 Includes:
- Lord Killanin of Spiddal, HM L Co. Galway, County Director Red Cross Committee, notified that his Committee had a surplus stock of medical and surgical appliances and that they would be pleased to give a supply of those articles not exceeding one year's requirement, to hospitals in the County of 25 beds and upwards, which was referred to Dr Casey, M.O., who filled in the necessary form of application and forwarded it to him, at the same time pointing out the difficulty the Guardians experience from time to time in the conveyance of sick persons to the Hospital by horse ambulance, particularly that of last year in connection with the \_\_\_\_ typhus cases, with a request that his Lordship would kindly use his influence in getting the Guardians a motor ambulance, to which Lord Killanin, replied saying the request met with his approval and he would have much pleasure in recommending the application to the Red Cross authorities in Dublin (pp291-2. See also p511 & GPL3/106, p6, p60).
  - 'Read letter received from Mr James McDonnell of Letterfrack, rural postman, who is the father of a deaf and dumb child, 6½ yrs old, offering to contribute 5/- a week towards the maintenance of the child in Cabra Institution provided the Guardians got him admitted thereto and pay the balance. His contribution to continue whilst in receipt of war bonus' (p490, see also p533).
106. 10 December 1919 – 28 July 1920 Includes some loose correspondence, such as notice regarding annual meeting June 1920.
- Master reports 'there is great difficulty in keeping an inmate named John Reilly from the female side of the house' (p40).
  - LGB letter 'regarding the correspondence which has taken place between them and the BG of the Ballinasloe Union and the Boards of Guardians of other Unions in the County Galway on the subject of the proposed scheme for amalgamation of Unions in the county' (p41, see also p58).
  - 'Read an application for a little boy named Martin Nee, age 7 years, received from Mr J.J. King of Leagaun, Clifden under the boarded-out system...' (p61).

- 'Mr Emerson, Architect, furnished a claim for payment of £6.0.0 for preparing plans, specification and estimate for converting the Fever Hospital into a hospital for consumptives and furnishing same. Estimate £119. Fee at 5%. To be paid. The works have not been carried out' (p78).
- Proposal to board-out a child named Patrick Nee (p223, see also GPL3/107, p111 & p143).

107. 11 August 1920 – 28 December 1921                      During this period the minutes include details of correspondence from both the LGB and Dáil Éireann and instructions from Dáil Éireann to sever all future communication with the LGB. Also includes:

- 'LGB mis letter mp 122/1920M  
Calling attention to the series of resolutions passed by certain local authorities in Ireland repudiating the authority of the Imperial Parliament and disclosing their intention to place every obstacle in the way of existing administration under His Majesty's Government. Marked "Read"' (p5).
- 'Read letter received from Dáil Éireann, dated August 1920, Labour Department relative to forming a permanent Conciliation Board for the purpose of arriving at a settlement of such questions as advance of wages, length of working hours and other questions that may arise...' (p22b).
- Master advised the Board that a 'troop of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guard commandeered the straw-house and coffin-house from Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. till Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup>. The horses were stabled in the straw-house and the men in the coffin-house. They were supplied with turf for cooking purposes during the time they were here' (p68).
- 'Read letter received DÉ dated 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1920. Following the instruction ordering a complete severance of relations with the English LGB, all Dispensary M.O.s be notified that the half yearly returns hitherto sent to that institution must be henceforth forward to this Department, and to no other body' (p79).
- 'Read letter received from the Secretary of the Galway County Council....stating that in consequence of the stoppage by the government of the grants in aid of local taxation the County Council are unable to pay in full the demands of the BG and Rural District Council for the year ending March 1921...' (p80).
- Letter from DÉ which confirmed a 'report of the Commission which has sat to consider the relations between Public Bodies and the English LGB in Ireland and ordered, as from 1<sup>st</sup> October, the authority and supervision of the LG Department of DÉ be substituted for that of the English LGB.  
Obedience to this Decree involves a complete severance of relations and a complete stoppage of communications with the Custom House on the part of Irish Public Bodies and the furnishing of this Department of all minutes and returns that were hitherto forwarded to the Custom House...' (p118).
- Letter from DÉ advising that 'Definite information has reached this Department that minutes of the proceedings of your Board and its constituent RDCs are still being forwarded to the English LGB in contravention of the Dáil Decree of the 17<sup>th</sup> of September which ordered a



complete severance of relations between Irish Public Bodies and that Department of the English Government.

You are requested to write immediately to the "Chairman of the Estates and Finance Committee, Dublin Corporation" stating whether minutes are being forwarded to the enemy institution by direction of your Board and its constituent Councils....' (p133, see also p175, p213).

- Inmate Mrs Annie Hart (p197, see also p211).
- '...the inmate, Kate Faherty, who gave birth to an illegitimate child....' (p197, see also p211).
- Artificial limb for Mary Connelly (aged 18) (p212).
- Clerks advises Board of search of his office by 'RIC and two of his men (armed)...they made a thorough search and scrutiny of all the documents, minute books, etc., carrying away with them recent correspondence, circular letters, etc., received from Dáil Éireann, and two letters, one addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and the other to the Chairman of the District Council' (p243).
- Inmate Peggy Gorham left the '...house, leaving her child behind her' (p276).
- 'Proposed by Mrs Gordon  
Seconded by Mr Vaughan, & unanimously agreed to  
"That from today we, Sinn Féin Guardians sever our connection with the English Local Government Board and adopt Dáil Éireann instead' (p278).
- '...call on Dr.s Casey of Clifden & MacDonnell of Letterfrack to resign their positions as Medical Officers of the district. We do so because of the neglect of duty, on Dr Casey's part, in connection with the fever outbreak last May. In Dr MacDonnell's case for leaving his district without leave' (p358, see also p406).
- Canon McAlpine, '...I feel bound, in the interests of the sick poor of the Clifden Union, to express the opinion that the proposed closing of the Hospital, necessitating the removal of the sick to Galway, will be a grievance and a hardship of the first order, while it will [do] anything but tend to effect economy' (p437).
- Summary of superannuation allowance and gratuities awarded to 'dis-employed officers' of the Clifden Union (p438b).
- '11 inmates viz:- Martin Coyne, John Wallace, Wm McDermot, Stephen Kearney, Martin Connolly, John Connolly, Austin Downey, Mrs Lydon, Mrs Mullen, Annie Hart and Mrs Fox were allowed clothing and bedding to the value of three pounds each (£3)...' (p558).
- 'That clothing & bedding to the value of £3 each be allowed to Jack Conroy and Mary Conneely, on their taking their discharge' (28 Dec 1921).
- 'That the workhouse Porter, Mr Joyce, be allowed to remain in the workhouse for the winter as he has no home to go to' (28 Dec 1921).





## B. Incoming Letter Books, 1849

Volumes with printed and handwritten letters and circular letters, primarily from the Poor Law Commission, often signed by or on behalf of Secretary W Stanley, to the Board regarding the running of the Union, in particular requesting various returns, such as on the number of deaths in the workhouse and on expenditure, repayment of loans, surrender of premises used for Kylemore auxiliary wards, the size of the Bunowen auxiliary house and the number of inmates to be accommodated there, and upcoming election of Guardians.

Average size 250pp

108. 26 May 1849 - 4 August 1849

Includes:

- From the PLC '...that the building at Bunowen taken for the purpose of an auxiliary workhouse will be ready for the reception of poor persons on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, and in reference thereto, I am to state that the occupation of this building will afford you an opportunity of offering relief, on the condition of entering the workhouse, to cases on the outdoor relief lists, which may be considered to be doubtful' (4 Jun 1849).
- From the PLC '...in some cases the Meal given to persons receiving Out-door Relief is not of the same quality as the sample on which the supplies were contracted for, and they desire me to request the particular attention of the Guardians to the matter...' (11 Jun 1849).
- From Matthew Coney, Hermitage, Ballindoon, suspended Relieving Officer, seeking payment of a 'small instalment thereof to assist me on towards the support of my helpless family during a [\_\_\_] of unparalleled wretchedness in this afflicted county fraught with famine, pestilence and but alas, Job's comforters were more consoling than personage whom the Ruler of Rulers has been in his mercy pleased to place over his creatures to manage for and succour them in their trials...' (p7), and 'I having also witnessed so much money laying out for other purposes, such as embellishing auxiliary workhouse, etc., while thousands of our fellow creatures are perishing through the country. I was impressed with the hope my humble application might be listened to, but I believe the mighty of the day would as soon their humble fellow beings were all annihilated; it is not to be wondered at that discontent from such treatment should be deeply mis-planted in their throbbing bosoms' (pp9-10) (28 May 1849).
- Copy letter from George Wilkinson, Architect, regarding employment of a Clerk of Works to oversee some works at the workhouse (25 Jun 1849).
- From PLC '...The Commissioners are satisfied that exclusive of the saving it would be to the Union, there is not anything which tends more to improve the morals and habits of the poor who are compelled to become inmates of workhouses than a regular system of industrial employment, and they have therefore directed me again to request your attention to this



subject, with a view to such at once being taken as may be in your power to provide the proper implements and materials for the employment of the workhouse inmates' (17 Jul 1849).

109. 4 August – 26 October 1849 Includes:

- From PLC regarding the size of the Bunowen Castle auxiliary workhouse, advising that they do not consider the stated dimensions of the principle day room is sufficient, 'nor do they think that 54 tables can be placed in this apartment without much overcrowding' (4 Aug 1849).
- From PLC 'The Commissioners think that accommodation might be provided in the workhouse for testing the destitution of the persons now on the outdoor relief lists, in all soulful cases, by discharging from the Workhouse some of the present inmates who are not now in a destitute condition only affording some of the inmates relief out of the workhouse...' (15 Aug 1849, p2).
- From PLC noting the number which left the workhouse in the previous week and that 'the number of persons relieved out of the workhouse who do not come under the 1<sup>st</sup> Sect. of the Irish Poor Relief extension Act is only 674 and I am directed to state, that with these facts before them the Commissioners do not feel warranted in renewing the Order authorising you to afford outdoor relief under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sec of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act' (28 Aug 1849, p2).
- From Westport Poor Law Union 'The island of Inishbofin having by a Sealed Order of the PLC dated 8<sup>th</sup> inst, been separated from the Westport and attached to the Clifden Union, I am directed by the Vice Guardians of this Union to forward to you the enclosed list of the names of persons who are now in receipt of Outdoor relief in that island....', and 'The paupers in the workhouse will be forwarded to Clifden by hooker, weather permitting' (19 Oct 1849).



### C. Diet Book for Healthy Inmates, 1856 - 1857

110. 17 March 1856 – 28 Feb 1857      Pre-printed volume recording quantities of prepared food, such as milk, Indian meal, oatmeal, white bread, soup, required in pints, ounces, etc., for each class of inmate for breakfast, dinner and supper.  
Approx. 500pp

### D. Damp Press Copy Letter Book, 1903 - 1907

111. 13 October 1903 – 3 June 1907      Outgoing letters from both the Clifden Poor Law Union and Clifden Rural District Council to various individuals and organisations, such as the LGB, Congested Districts Board (CDB), and Office of Public Works (OPW), regarding general administration issues, such as payment of loans, appointment of staff such as graveyard caretakers and medical officers, operation and names of people working on relief works. Includes subject index.

Includes for instance letters regarding

- The abolition of the post of school mistress at the workhouse (p13).
- Boarded-out child Anne Conneely (p40)
- Roundstone waterworks (from Rural District Council) (p60)
- The distribution of seed potato (p462)
- Persons for employment on relief works (p494, p507-8)

1,000pp

