
G01/12

Gort Poor Law Union Archive

Collection

1844 - 1921

A Descriptive List Prepared by Galway County Council Archives



G01/12

**Gort Poor Law Union
Archive Collection**

1844 - 1921

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CONTENT & STRUCTURE

	Page No.
INTRODUCTION	III
POOR LAW UNIONS	iii
Arrangement	xxiv
Disclosure Requirement	xxv
Allied Material	xxvi
<i>Primary Sources</i>	xxvi
<i>Secondary Sources</i>	xxvi
Apendices	xxx
A. <i>List of some of the members of the Board of Guardians</i>	xxxii
B. <i>Electoral Divisions covered by Gort Poor Law Union</i>	xxxv
C. <i>List of some Workhouse Officials and Staff</i>	xxxvii
D. <i>Recorded Number of inmates resident and deaths in the Workhouse</i>	xxxix
E. <i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xlvi
A. Minutes of Board of Guardian Meetings, 1844- 1921	2
B. Indoor Relief Register, 1914-1920	50
C. Indoor Relief List, 1917-1919	50
D. Incoming Letter Book, 1912-1916	50
E. Provision Receipt and Consumption Account and Provisions Check Account, 1917-1919	51
F. Rough Minutes of Board of Guardians Meetings, 1844-1859	52

Introduction

This collection of Gort Poor Law Union archives consists primarily of Board of Guardian minute books, 91 in total dating from 1844 to 1921 with some gaps. It also includes two Indoor Relief Registers, an incoming letter book, a provisions check account, and 24 volumes of rough minutes. The collection has been in the custody of Galway County Libraries for several years.

Several of the earlier volumes have suffered severe mould damage, with resultant loss of substantial qualities of text and rendering other sections illegible.

Items G01/12/16, 21, 27, 71, 75, 105 & 106 received extensive conservation in 2009, with the assistance of a Heritage Council Grant. In 2010 items G01/12/3, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 25, 30, 35, 36, 40, 43, 77, 79, 80, 87, 90 and 93 received treatment, also with the assistance of a Heritage Council grant.

For preservation and access purposes the collection was microfilmed in 2008 and 2011. To further enhance access the microfilm images were digitised in 2016, and made available on Galway County Council Archives on Digital Archive.

POOR LAW UNIONS

The poor law act for the *'more effectual Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland'* was introduced to Ireland by the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1838 and operated until 1925. The Poor Law system was originally constituted for the sole purpose of relieving paupers in workhouses, but by the 1880's had gathered to itself a great variety of powers. George Wilkinson, Architect, designed the workhouses. Under the Act the country was divided at first into 130, later increased to 163, different poor law union administrative districts, each of which had a workhouse, financed by poor rates paid mostly by landowners. The Union areas in Ireland were formed by describing an area of ten miles radius around each market town. Initially the Act did not permit outdoor relief; assistance and relief to the destitute poor was granted only in a workhouse. However, by 1847 outdoor relief was granted.

Each Union was under the close supervision and control of a central governing body. Prior to 1847 the English Poor Law Commission had responsibility for the administration of the poor law in Ireland, thereafter a separate Poor Law Commission for Ireland was established. Its membership comprised of the Irish Chief Secretary, the Under-Secretary, and the Chief Commissioner. Assistant Commissioners,

inspectors and clerks staffed it, and it supervised the election and proceedings of Board of Guardians. The Commission was abolished in 1872, and its functions were transferred to the Local Government Board. This Board was composed of the Irish Chief Secretary, the Under-Secretary, a Vice President and two commissioners 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 authorities¹.

A Board of Guardians, consisting of two thirds elected and one-third *ex-officio* members, had direct responsibility for the administration of the union workhouses. The Guardians were generally local magistrates, landlords and the better class of farmers. Roughly ¼ of the Board's members (½ 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 Slaters, Pigots, or Thoms 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; that is a property tax which funded a Union's operations. The poor law rate was until 1898 decided by the Guardians, thereafter the rate was struck by the newly established County Councils.

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

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

² Muldoon, J. & McSweeney, G., *A Guide to Irish Local Government Comprising an Account of the Law Relating to the Local Government of Counties, Cities and Districts, with a Full Explanation of the Act of 1898*, Eason & Son, Ltd., Dublin 1898

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.

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'³. The district councils were granted responsibility for the Unions' functions relating to housing and sanitary services. These functions were in turn transferred to council councils in 1925 following the dissolution of rural district councils under the Local Government Act of that year.

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'⁴. Galway County Council discussed the amalgamation of the Unions in the county in 1903 and sporadically thereafter until 1919 when the scheme was discussed again in detail and also in October 1921. It was decided by the Council to replace the existing workhouses and poor law union system and to have one central hospital in Galway with ambulances, and have one central home for old and infirm in Loughrea⁵ (GC1/3, p308).

Unions remaining functions were transferred to county councils, and administered through Boards of Health and Public Assistance. Outdoor relief was replaced by home assistance. The Poor Law was formerly abolished in 1923. When the Poor Law was abolished in 1925 the Guardians remaining functions were transferred to county councils, and administered

³ Meghen, P. J., *The Development of Irish Local Government*, in Administration Vol.8., No.4 Winter 1960, p339

⁴ *Ibid.*

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

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

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

⁵ Galway County Council minutes, (GC1/3, p308)

GORT POOR LAW UNION – BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Gort Poor Law Union was established in August 1839, and covered an area of 140 square miles. Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, 18 in number, representing its 10 electoral divisions. The Board also included 6 *ex-officio* Guardians, making a total of 24.⁶

The Gort Board of Guardians generally met weekly in the Boardroom of the workhouse. Extensive minutes were kept of their meetings together with detailed statistical information pertaining to the administration of the Union. Much of the detail that follows is extracted from the minutes of the Guardians' meetings. What follows is not intended to be a full history of the Union. Rather it is a simple and very condensed account of it from its establishment in 1841 through to its dissolution in 1925. It is also an amalgamation of the information recorded in the archive collection.

The workhouse, located on a seven-acre site in the south of the town (George Street), on lands belonging to Lord Gort⁷ was opened on 11 December 1841. It cost £5,359 to build and £1,150 for fittings. Its original capacity was for 500 inmates⁸.

In September 1844 the Board requested from the Poor Law Commissioners plans and specifications for the erection of a 50-bed hospital (G01/12/3, p169). However, this was not immediately followed up. The Board in its financially 'embarrassed' state was unable to provide funding or raise a loan of such a project.

In October 1845 the minutes include a resolution noting that the clerk was ordered to '*...summon a full Board for this day week to take into consideration the alarm of the Country caused by the disease in the potato crop*' (G01/12,109, 24 October, 1845, p9). Nevertheless the number of inmates and deaths within the workhouse remained quite low at this time, with on average less than 200 inmates and rarely more than one death per week. Indeed for most of the following six months the minutes make little reference to the distress, and the Guardians were pre-occupied by an investigation into the conduct of its Master, James Fallon.

In January 1847 a member of the Poor Law Commissioners attended a Board of Guardians meeting where they laid before him the '*lamentable*' state of the Union and the '*almost total impossibility of levying an additional Rate at this crisis of unparalleled*

⁶ Workhouses website <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/> (June 2004).

⁷ See for instances '*...on behalf of Lord Gort having applied for payment of 2 years rent of the Workhouse due ..*' (G01/12/109, 26 December 1845, p8).

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

distress'. The Board nevertheless struck an additional rate of £3,000 on which to borrow with the sanction of the Commissioners a sum sufficient to pay their debts (G01/12/5, p534).

Around this time, at the height of the Famine, the Union's Medical Officer, Dr. Martin Nolan who was often critical of the conditions in the House crusaded for improved facilities. In February 1848, he issued a strongly worded report to the Board advising that the medical department of the Workhouse was in a '*most deplorable condition*' and that '*Fever and Dysentery have ever increased to an alarming extent, and though our mortality has not been so great as in other houses, it is still considerably over, what I have no hesitation in saying it would be, under more favourable circumstances....*

In fact the whole House is one mass of disease and infection without accommodation, classification, clothing, bedding or proper attendants, and in my opinion it would be much safer and more charitable to close the house altogether than keep it open in its present state....' (G01/12/5, pp538-539).

In March 1847 the Board directed its Solicitor to write a letter to each defaulter of the Poor Rate stating that if not paid within one week he was directed to carry proceedings into the Superior Court of Exchequer in Dublin (G01/12/6, p8).

In tandem with ongoing discussions with the Poor Law Commissioners regarding financial difficulties faced by the Board it authorised a slight increase in the rate and resolved that a loan be raised though the Poor Law Commissioners from the Treasury to build '*an efficient Hospital of the plainest description and suitable to the size of the house*' (G01/12/5, p562). In the interim a shed for temporary fever wards to contain 100 beds was erected (G01/12/6, p8).

The Union had right from the beginning difficulty in repaying its building and other loans, and attributed this to '*having been urged into our Workhouse before we had any rates collected to meet the enormous expenses consequent thereon*' (G01/12/6, p177). In particular, in the 1840s it requested the Poor Law Commissioners' permission to raise a further loan and advised '*...we have no money...We beg again to draw your attention to our letter of the 2nd of October in which we required the permission of the Commissioners to borrow a sum of money at interest from our Treasurer to keep the house going as we had no provisions or fuel in the House, no clothes in the Store and no person would contract to supply us in consequence of our embarrassments. The House would have been closed long since had it not been for the generosity of a few of the Guardians, who nobly came forward upon their own responsibility, and raised*

a sum of one thousand pounds for the maintenance of the House, this sum has now been expended, and no Guardian will again come forward, more especially as they conceive it has been an ungrateful task, and has drawn upon them unfortunately the censure of the Commissioners....' (G01/12/5, p437).

The Union was in such financial difficulty, in debt of £3,000, that it had difficulty in meeting its every day bills and requirements. The baker (McInerary) contracted to supply the Workhouse wrote to the Board of Guardians in July 1847 refusing to supply any more bread for want of payment (G01/12/6, p177).

With the increased numbers entering the workhouse and the introduction of outdoor relief the Board informed the Poor Law Commissioners that *'they have not nor are they likely to have funds to place at the disposal of Relieving Officers, should the proposed appointments be made....'* (G01/12/6, p197), and *'Resolved that while we decline under present circumstances taking any steps for the appointment of Relieving Officers to administer a system of Relief which has been found too expensive to be carried on even with the aid of loans from the Government and grants and subscriptions from various quarters and to have been fraught with abuses, which no exertion on the part of the Ratepayers and Inspecting Officers have been capable of checking even with the limitations of Relief to the article of food, we yet deem it our duty to follow out the spirit of the Poor Relief Extension Act and to make as far as maybe practicable due provision for the increased numbers of the really destitute that may apply for Workhouse relief on the cessation of the Temporary Relief Act and with this view we pray the Sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners to our making a temporary arrangement for providing additional workhouse accommodation for 500 poor persons and if necessary to increase same'* (G01/12/6, p198).

The Board of Guardians was not initially in favour of Outdoor relief. However by the beginning of February 1848 there were 4,093 persons in receipt of this type of assistance, the following week (ending 12th February) 5,849 persons received relief, with the number climbing to 10,864 by April 1848 (G01/12/7, p135). In June 1848 the Board resolved that *'having had under our consideration the crowded state of the Workhouse the ever increasing destitution of the Union, and the total or partial cessation of employment on certain drainage operations in this Union, whereby many of the persons heretofore engaged in those works, will be thrown on the Poor Rate for support, we consider the giving of out relief, to the able bodied in this Union cannot be discontinued until harvest. We have therefore to request the Commissioners will be pleased to continue the order authorising the administration of out relief to the able bodied in the*

Gort Union which will expire on the 1st proximo, for two months longer' (G01/12/7, p222). At that time 8,539 (G01/12/7, p215) persons were in receipt of outdoor relief.

By January 1848 temporary fever hospitals were established in Kinvarra and Killeenavau (G01/12/7, p28). In April 1848 the Board accepted the tender of Martin Linnane *'for the erection of Fever sheds near Kinvarra for one hundred patients at one pound two shillings per foot lineal measurement...'* (G01/12/7, p122). The Board at this time also accepted the tender of Michael Nilan for the erection of fever sheds adjoining the Workhouse, costs divided as follows, Office sheds at £1.1.6 per foot, fever sheds including bedsteads at £1.3.6 per foot, finding and setting boilers at £1.6 pre gallon, and clothes stores £0.12.6 per foot (G01/12/7, p124).

As happened in many Unions across the county, the Gort Board of Guardians was disbanded and Vice guardians, who were paid officials, were appointed in February 1848 to run the Union. The Gort Board offered its assistance, resolving *'that it is with extreme satisfaction we learn through Captain Hanly, Inspector of this Union that this is our last day for assembling as a Board. The Poor Law Commissioners having conceived it necessary to appoint Vice Guardians for this Union feeling as we do that the new relief act cannot be effectually carried out without a more constant attendance and inspection than could be expected from unpaid Guardians, but that we feel it not only a duty, we owe to the Public in general as well as to our own interests to give every assistance to the Vice Guardians, to protect them from imposition, and to enable them to come to a correct decision on each case brought under their notice'* (G01/12/7, pp28-29).

The Vice Guardians held an extraordinary meeting on 29 February 1848, which included a visit of the workhouse to familiarize themselves with the current conditions and issues requiring attention throughout Union and to initiate a review of procedures and financial accounts so as to *'make arrangements for the liquidation of the debts'* (G01/12/7, p39).

By late 1849 the Board was re-convened; the services of the Vice Guardians being complete. The Guardians passed a resolution of thanks to the Vice Guardians, stating, *'That our best thanks are due and are hereby given to our late Vice Guardian John Hale Esq., and to John Dunne and Stephen O'Halloran Esquires ever present Vice Guardians for the zeal and ability which they have displayed in the management of this workhouse and for the excellent system of labour and industry which has been introduced and for the cleanliness and regularity of every Department'* (G01/12/9, p38).

In spring 1849 cholera and dysentery were widespread. In weekend 7 April there were 81 deaths, and a total of 1647 inmates, the following week there were 105 deaths and

1611 inmates.

In November 1849 the Board proposed that the debits of the Union be paid as follows *'all debts incurred previously to the 25th March 1848, to be paid at the rate of 5s. in the pound.*

All debts incurred subsequently to the 25th March 1848, to be paid at the rate of 3s.4d in the pound.

Such debts to be paid according to the date of contraction' (G01/12/9, p68).

In February 1850 the Poor Law Commissioners noted that *'there were 2,308 persons in the Workhouse on 2nd inst. although there was only accommodation provided for 2100 and calling the Guardians attention to the danger of overcrowding the house'* (G01/12/9, p196). However, the overcrowding continued for sometime thereafter.

In August 1850 the Finance Committee advised the Board that in 1849 *'The Poor Law Commissioners advanced to the paid Guardians administering the laws for the relief of the Poor in this Union from the 3 March to the 21st September inclusive the sum of £10,207.1.6, £621.1.6 of which were advanced for Cholera purposes, giving the Balance £9,586 for food alone for a period of about 6 months. The Committee in referring to the advances made this year of great distress by the Commissioners to your Board, find the a sum of only £2,262.17.5 was altogether received; that £600 of that sum were expended by order of the Commissioners for the purpose of clothing, giving a Balance of only £1,662.17.5 for food, of which sum it appears £1,162.17.5 must be paid back out of the rate going to be struck as rate in Aid – leaving only a sum of £500 actually advanced more than that to be paid back'* (G01/12/10, p9). Later that month the matter was raised again when the Committee observed that *'no matter it appears what the expense of supporting the Union last year amounted to the Poor Law Commissioners were ready to advance, and did advance the necessary funds to the Vice Guardians to administer the Law in the Union. Whereas they have not as yet advanced to this Board much more than the repayment made by this Union from the rate in Aid. Although be it remembered a Pledge had been given in the early part of the Session by the Prime Minister that the Government would give fair start to the Guardians of distressed Unions by payment off their liabilities'*

Your Finance Committee regret to have to inform you that you will be placed in a very different position on the striking of your next rate in September, and that as far from being in the position that the words of the Prime Minister would lead you to, ...they feel themselves bound to state that with that heavy debt hanging over you it is their opinion

unless you receive assistance from the Commissioners in the meantime, ...it will be utterly impossible for you to carry on the working of this Union much longer' (G01/12/10, p33-34).

Overcrowding was a constant problem in the Workhouse. By late 1850 with the acquisition of additional buildings the Union could accommodate, in its various buildings, 3,010 inmates; at this time the number availing of the accommodation was around 2,500 and rising. Accommodation capacity was further increased so that by March 1851 the total capacity was 3,456 and the numbers availing of it hovering at about 2,800.

In early 1851 the Board *'Resolved that we consider the necessity of additional workhouse accommodation of such vital importance, and not having funds to erect such we urge upon the consideration of the Commissioners the making application to the Lords of the Treasury for an advance from the rate in Aid for erecting Temporary Workhouses Accommodation'* (G01/12/10, p420). However, the Board was advised at its meeting of 31st March 1851 that the Commissioners were not prepared to make an application for a grant from the rate in Aid fund for the purpose of providing temporary workhouse accommodation. They were of the opinion that the *'temporary accommodation already provided being sufficient for the requirements of the Union'* (G01/12/11, p9).

In April 1851 the Board resolved that the Poor Law Commissioners *'be requested to apply to the Lords of the Treasury to advance a sum of money to enable this Board to purchase the Fee Simple of the workhouse Cite (sic), the cemetery, and the land lately assigned to them by the Revd. Michael O'Shaughnessy, being part of the estate of Lord Viscount Gort now advertised to be sold in the Encumber Estates Courts'* (G01/12/11, p44).

Many years later the issue was raised again when in March 1920, a letter from Mr Scott Kerr, agent for Lord Gough was read at a meeting offering to sell *'the Workhouse premises and land attached for a sum of £1,300.'* The Guardians felt the sale should take the same course as the sale to the Gort Town Tenants, and referred the letter to its Solicitor for advice (G01/12/101, p212).

In 1853, with the effects of the Famines receding, following a request from the Poor Law Commissioners for an explanation as to why they had reduced officers salaries, the Gort Board of Guardians advised that *'we have closed seven auxiliaries, our numbers are reduced to nearly one third, the Spring is now fast coming in, labour is much required and we fully expect our present number will be fully reduced $\frac{1}{3}$ of their present*

number, these and many other reasons induce us to fully believe our number will be so considerably reduced, that the duties of the officers must as a matter of course be reduced in proportion and also because the Guardians can procure a Medical Officer to perform the duties properly for the salary proposed or even less' G01/12/14, p269). The number in the workhouse at that time (26 February 1853) was 1,310.

However, the Commissioners declined to sanction the reduction for the officers, except for that of the Medical Officer (G01/12/14, p288). The matter was further discussed with the Commissioners commenting in March 1853 that they *'would be glad to cooperate with the Guardians in effecting the desirable object of financial economy; it appears to the Commissioners that it would not be advisable to reduce the salaries of the principal workhouse officers below the amount which seem to be a reasonable compensation for their services; experience has shown that it is not for the interest of a Union that efficient officers should be displaced on the ground that other persons should be obtained who would undertake the duties at less remuneration, and the Commissioners request the Guardians will again take the subject into consideration'* (G01/12/14, p 308).

By 1885 conditions had improved so much so that the Local Government Board's Inspector, Dr Woodhouse, reported in relation to the Union that the *'condition and management of the Workhouse reflect great credit on the Officers of the Establishment. The financial condition not being very satisfactory the Local Government Board think the Guardians should urge the Collectors to get in the rates'* (G01/12/76, pp250-2551). Dr Woodhouse suggested the boarding of the female workroom and that it should be converted into a sewing room instead of one of the hospital Wards now used for that purpose.

The Workhouse buildings are in a good state of repairs but the Inspector thinks that the outside of the Workhouse might with advantage be painted (G01/12/76, pp250-2551).

Prior to the establishment of the Poor Law Unions in Ireland, and the Gort Workhouse, assisted emigration was in operation through two government schemes in 1837 and 1840⁹, and again in 1847. Following its establishment the Gort Union continued the trend of assisted emigration and occasionally assisted its inmates in this way particularly in the 1850s. In March 1851 it *'Resolved that the Commissioners be requested to get*

⁹ For details of the two emigration systems, government and bounty see R.B. Madgwick *Immigration into Eastern Australia 1788-1851* Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1969.

Aid from the Treasury to Emigrate some of the unmarried females now in this workhouse to Van Dieman's land" (G01/12/11, p13)¹⁰.

In 1854 Patrick Gibson, Ennis, county Clare agreed with the Union to convey a number of emigrants [100] from the Workhouse to Quebec, Canada (G01/12/17, p57). Thereafter the Union undertook additional arrangements for the inmates departure, such as ordering the supply of clothing including '...76 shawls 1¾ [yards] wide, 80 handkerchiefs 1 yard square, 52 pairs of stockings, 24 pairs of socks, 24 pairs of men's shoes, 4 sizes, 78 pairs of women's shoes, 4 sizes...' (G01/12/17, p83). Towards the end of June the Clerk reported to the Board that the '*emigrants for Quebec which were sent under his and the Master's charge were safely conveyed to Liverpool and put on Board the ship Mary Carson with the exception of one named Winifred Kennedy who met with an accident on the way to Athenry and altho she was able to proceed to Liverpool it was ascertained there that her left leg was broken and we had her put into the Liverpool [_____] hospital where she will be taken care of without any expense to Gort Union. On berthing the emigrants in the ship it was discovered that a pauper named Winifred Kelly who was draped in the same style as the others but whose name was not on the list had accompanied them to Liverpool and considering it would incur an expense to the Union to bring her back, we allowed her to take the place of Winifred Kennedy. We also had two boys aged 14 years who were classed as adults in the Ship...*' (G01/12/17, p243).

There are many references in the Minute Books in 1866 and 1867 (see G01/12/40) relating to a disagreement between the Board of Guardians and the Poor Law Commissioners regarding its Apothecary, Mr Gill, who was dismissed for neglect of duty. The Guardians wanted to reinstate him. They were unable to get another apothecary despite many advertisements and increasing the salary. Finally in March 1867 they '*Resolved that the Salary of Mr Gill, Apothecary to the Workhouse be fixed at forty pounds per annum being the amount offered by advertisement and that Doctor Nolan be paid at the same rate for the time he was doing the duty of Apothecary in Mr Gill's absence and that the Commissioners be requested to sanction this Resolution*' (G01/12/42, p11).

¹⁰ For further details see Richard Reid and Cheryl Mongan '*a decent set of girls' The Irish Famine Orphans of the 'Thomas Arbuthnot' 1848 – 1850*, Yass Heritage Project, Yass, NSW, Australia, 1996, and Trevor McClaughlin '*Barefoot and Pregnant? Irish Famine Orphans in Australia*, Australia, 1993.

In September 1871 the Union which formerly comprised two dispensary districts was divided into three districts, the new district to be called the dispensary of Ardrahan (G01/12/50, p519), the other two being Gort and Ballindereen.

By 1885 there was discussion about reverting again to two dispensary districts. The Board of Guardians was in dispute with the Local Government Board over the division of the Union area into two rather than three Dispensary Districts. The Boards of Guardians considered that the Board was treating them with *'the greatest disrespect in not giving its sanction to the frequently expressed wish of the Board in having the union divided into two instead of three Dispensary Districts'*. Furthermore, the Guardians informed the Local Government Board that *'it is contrary to fact that the Dispensary District of the Union would be larger in area and in population than any of the Dispensary Districts in the Country. This Board consider that they are the best judges of what is necessary for the welfare of the Ratepayers and poor of the Union and will not for a moment abate one little of their authority as Guardians of the poor nor recede one step from the position they had taken on this subject, let the consequences be what they may'*, (G01/12/77, pp435-436). At a subsequent meeting of 12th December 1885 the Local Government Board informed the Board of Guardians that it had sanctioned the appointment of a Medical Officer for the Ardrahan District; the 3rd district which the Board felt was unnecessary. They considered the appointment *'invalid inasmuch as he (Medical Officer) was elected by a Committee which was illegally appointed'* (G01/12/77, p523). By October 1886 the matter was resolved with the Board of Guardians agreeing to the proposed Dispensary, and that a sum of £25 per annum was to be deducted from the salary of the Medical Officer for the Ardrahan Dispensary District as rent (G01/12/78, p323).

With the passing of the Public Health (Ireland) Acts of 1874 and 1878 there were steps to improve and monitor sanitary conditions and prevent disease. However, prior to 1874 there were reports on the sanitary condition of various areas in the Union's district. For instance, the Medical Officer for the Gort Dispensary district, A. O. Kelly Nolan, reported to the Board in September 1870 that he had inspected several villages comprising the Electoral division of Skehanagh advising that *'All the villages presented an almost entire absence of cleanliness. The sewage is very imperfect, and the great majority of the houses present no trace of lime or whitewash, while in many of them the roofs of Houses are in a sad state of repair, rain down, and leakage being very general – the absence of lime and want of cleanliness is most marked in the villages of Ballymarkahan and Coolfin, but the state of repair of the houses seems equally bad through all the villages*

of the Electoral division.

I learned that many of the houses were occupied by under tenants who had not the means of thatch or repair at their dispose. Typhoid fever which prevailed so generally and fatally in this Electoral division during the early part of the year, has again appeared....as this disease is known to originate and extend itself through the means of poluted (sic) sewerage rainfall and want of cleanliness it can be readily known how the villages whose condition I have just described have already suffered, and are likely to do so from the prevalence of this disease, until the proper steps are taken, to place the houses in the several villages in a proper state of cleanliness and repair (G01/12/49, p29).

In August 1871 Kelly Nolan reported to the Board on the sanitary condition of the town of Gort, advising that *'the condition of the Houses as far as internal and external cleanliness was concerned (with very few exceptions) in a satisfactory state. The yards of many houses are choaked (sic) up with dung heaps and stagnant sewerage, this is much apparent in some of the yards in Boland's Lane, and in the smaller lanes of Church Lane and George's Street.*

The sewerage of the town is not in a satisfactory condition, the open sewers that run in front of the houses are in bad repair and allow a constant accumulation of filth, and poluted (sic) sewerage to which the habits of the occupiers of those houses of using the sewers as receptacles for slops and refuse tends much to increase. The sources from which the drinking water of the town are obtained are in most instances highly objectionable, and now, on the expected approach of cholera this is a subject that requires your serious attention...' (G01/12/50, pp469-470).

Following an outbreak of typhoid fever in the Industrial Schools in Gort in late 1873, early 1874, an analysis of the water taken from one of the pumps revealed that it was *'contaminated largely with the products of animal decomposition and utterly unfit for human or indeed for that of the lower animals'* (G01/12/55, p389). The pump was a private one attached to the Convent of Mercy and the Industrial School, and thus the Board of Guardians advised the Local Government Board that it did *'not consider it any portion of their duty to inspect the water of private pumps, without their attention being called to it, and do not consider it right to endeavour to attribute to that source, the breaking out of an epidemic which is manifestly to be attributed to allowing nearly 100 children where they believe there is not proper accommodation for more and 30. The Board will take immediate steps for the improvement of the water and sewage of the*

town though they think it right to point out that though fever has been raging in those Schools in their midst for months now, a single case has not occurred in the town, which they consider ample proof that the Fever is not to be attributed to the pollution of the water used by the inhabitants' (G01/12/55, p389, see also p409).

Actions taken to improve sanitary conditions commenced after 1874 and progressed thereafter. For instance, a Committee was formed in June 1885 to consider the necessity of erecting a new town pump in Gort (G01/12/76, p526).

In March 1887 the Union procured a loan of £187 for Labane well (G01/12/79, p152). In June 1887 Lord Clanmorris wrote to the Guardians advising that they could have 10 foot round the well as a gift to the Ardrahan parish, *'but all damage done over and above that ten foot must be laid down with soil and grass seeds as before, also road continued to water as I told you, and single stone wall must be the same height as it is now when road is fully finished to well'* (G01/12/79, p416).

In addition, in 1897 the Guardians made an application to the Board of Works for a loan of £200 for the sinking of a well and erecting a pump in the village of Ardrahan (G01/12/85, p953).

In 1879-80 with many areas in distress schemes of issuing potato seed were commenced. During this period a complaint was issued against a Guardian and a Relieving Officer claiming they had taken money from the recipients in exchange for money. A sworn inquiry was ordered, (G01/12/66, pp425-426) which subsequently found against them with a statement issued condemning their action, *"...the facts disclosed show clearly that Mr Staunton abused the trust reposed in him by extorting money from the poor persons to whom he was empowered to supply seed and that they cannot hesitate in expressing their opinion as to the very reprehensible course he adopted on that occasion. With regard to Relieving Officer Burke they desire to state that had he not returned the money obtained by him they would at once have dismissed him by a Order under Seal and they request to know if the Guardians can place further confidence in a man who could have attempted to obtain money from the poor in such a way'* (G01/12/67, p24).

In September 1890 the Guardians announced an almost total failure of potato crop in the Union. Board of Guardians called upon the Government to take *'steps to provide work and employment for the poor in the coming winter and to make arrangements for the distribution of new Seeds in the next Spring so as to avert an impending famine'* (G01/12/82, p394). In February 1891 the Board called upon the Local Government

Board to provide relief works *'of a permanent or reproductive character. That as the Union is not to derive any relief from the scheme of railway construction introduced by the Government in several of the Unions in the West of Ireland and from the great number of small occupiers and labourers in this Union who are at present incapable of supporting themselves and to whom relief cannot be given from the rates of the Union they not being legally entitled to it, consequently, we hereby call on the Local Government Board to bring this matter before the Chief Secretary at the earliest possible moment and to have works opened such as the cutting of hills on public roads, the making of roads into large villages which are at present without any such accommodation, or arterial drainage in such districts as are most convenience to the greatest number of poor. We hereby consider the greatest responsibility rests on the Government or the Local Government Board if they allow a single able bodied labourer to suffer from hunger in this Union whilst they are willing to work but will not beg as they seek for employment but not for alms'* (G01/12/82, pp555-556).

In June 1891 the Guardians again brought the need for employment to the attention of the Local Government Board and advised that they were *'at present giving out door relief to persons not legally entitled to receive it in order to afford them the necessary means of support, and if some work is not provided they will be compelled to give it on a larger scale'* (G01/12/82, p699). At the time they were giving relief to 251 persons (G01/12/82, p691), at the same period in the previous year they were giving relief to 234 persons (G01/12/82, p273).

Under the Seed Potatoes Supply (Ireland) Act 1890 potato seeds were supplied to tenant farmers to assist during this period of distress. The Union administered the schemes and raised various loans for the purchase of the seed (G01/12/82, p618).

Another period of distress occurred in 1895. The Board of Guardians applied to the Local Government Board on several occasions to provide employment for labourers, and permission to allow them to provide outdoor relief to others. In March 1895 the Local Government Board authorised *'the Guardians to extend the outdoor relief to destitute persons, when necessary, whether in the occupation of land or not, for a period of two months from this date'* (G01/12/84, p577).

The Board of Guardians campaigned for tenant rights and redistribution of land, particularly during the period of the Land War throughout the 1880s and 1890s. For instance, in November 1886 the Guardians resolved to *'...request the attention of the Lord Chancellor to the highness of the rents charged to con-acre tenants on the Leif*

Estate near Gort, and they trust he will have the matter enquired into with a view to a reduction of the rent (G01/12/78, p425).

In January 1887 the Board placed on record its '*...abhorrence of such acts of barbarity and cruelty as were recently perpetrated at the Glenbeigh evictions, and that we appeal to the sympathy of right minded people all over the world to endorse the efforts of the two Englishmen present, who when they saw how our countrymen were so shamefully used by felonious Landlordism, protested against the system that sentenced Irishmen to death and burned their homes, and that we consider such conduct only calculated to exasperate our people to deeds of violence, and we request the Government to interpose for the peace of the country and pass such measures as will for ever stay unjust eviction – the food of crime*' (G01/12/78, p557).

The responsibility placed on the Union following the enactment of the Labourers Acts after 1883 required the Guardians to become involved in the provision of housing. The Guardians in November 1886 asked, '*...owing to the unfortunate condition of the Labourers throughout this Union*' (G01/12/78, p393) the Local Government Board to expedite its inquiry under the Labourers Ireland Act. In late December a petition for confirmation of an Improvement Scheme was signed together with application forms for loans under the Acts (G01/12/78, p503).

An Inquiry was held in 8 April 1887 into an Improvement Scheme for the proposed erection of 50 cottages. Only 10 were approved, 4 for which were to be built in Kinvarra (G01/12/79, p263). However, in July 1887 the Receiver over the Blake Forester Estate declined to give his consent to the erection of the cottages on the sites selected in Kinvarra (G01/12/79, p527). There was little progress in the matter prior to the transfer of the housing function to the newly established Rural District Councils in 1899¹¹.

Another function which involved much of the Guardians' time from the late 1890's onwards was its function and responsibility in the boarding-out of children. In 1899 a notice of motion was given stating '*That owing to the few children (8) at present in the Workhouse School we consider it both opportune and desirable to have them boarded out provided suitable persons are found willing to take charge of and send them regularly to school at cost not exceeding their present maintenance in the House. We consider that after allowing the Teacher suitable remuneration a saving of over £20 will be affected by closing the School*' (G01/12/86, p713). The Union provided clothing for the boarded out children and ensured they attended primary school.

¹¹ See Gort Rural District Council archive collection, G01/10.

At its meeting in March 1911 the Board considered the scale of allowances for the maintenance of children boarded out; *'It is believed that young children required a great deal of care and attention without making any return in the way of usefulness, whereas, with increasing years, their services are of some value and they do not need the attention of the earlier periods...*

The total cost of maintenance (exclusive of 30s each for clothing) of 19 children now boarded out in the Gort Union is about £78 a year, and if the following scale was adopted in regard to these 19 children the gross expenditure would be practically the same...' (G01/12/94, p182a). The Board adopted a scale of allowance based on the age group of the children for their annual maintenance.

Despite taking on additional responsibilities, such as those mentioned above, the Guardians primary responsibility was towards the workhouse inmates, feeding, housing and clothing them. The general average weekly cost of housing an inmate is recorded in the Minute Books. For instance, in mid 1851, when there was in the region of 2,900 paupers in the workhouse, the total weekly expenditure on provisions amounted to £116.4.5¼. The general average cost of an inmate was 9d (G01/12/11, p100). In 1887 with a mere 208 inmates in the workhouse, the general average cost of an inmate was £0.2.10½, and the total cost of provisions consumed was £33.11.9 (G01/12/79, p48). Ten years later in 1897 the average cost of an inmate was £0.2.10¾, and the total cost of provisions consumed was £29.14.3. There were 155 inmates in the workhouse at the time (G01/12/85). With 127 resident in the Workhouse in December 1910 the general average weekly cost of an inmate was £0.4.4., the total cost of provisions was £29.12.1. At this time 115 persons were also receiving outdoor relief (G01/12/94, p72). In April 1917 with 92 resident in the Workhouse the general average weekly cost of an inmate was £0.6.3½. The total cost of provisions and necessaries was £35.00 (G01/12/99, p505-506).

Always with a watchful eye on expenditure and reducing costs the Board of Guardians in 1874 began to keep its own cows for the production of milk. A report issued in March 1887 estimated the net cost of keeping the cows amounted to £2,735.14.3, and that the quantity of milk produced was 112,928 gallons at an average cost of about 5⁵/₆ per gallon (G01/12/79, p361).

From approximately 1910 until the dissolution of Poor Law Unions the numbers housed in the Gort workhouse dwindled, with on average about 100 inmates resident each week. The Indoor Relief Register (G01/12/104) and Register List (G01/12/105) that many of

the inmates listed for the period 1915-1920 only spent a short time in the workhouse, sometimes as little as one day.

The issue of amalgamation of Unions was discussed often by the Local Government Board from 1916 onwards. Indeed the issue had previously been discussed by the various authorities from as early as 1900 onward. For instance Galway County Council considered the issue at that time and suggested the amalgamation of the *Portumna Union with Ballinasloe and Loughrea, Mountbellew Union with Ballinasloe and Tuam, Gort with Loughrea, Glenamaddy with Tuam*' (GC01/1, p100)¹². The Gort Union stated, at a meeting of 14th April 1917, its desire was for complete amalgamation with the Loughrea Union provided *'that some arrangement can be made where by a Hospital is maintained in Gort under the management of the amalgamated Board, or a Committee thereof.*

They think it might even be possible, at a small cost, to convert the present Fever Hospital into a suitable General Hospital, thus setting free for any other purpose the entire of the Workhouse Buildings, as well as enabling them to dispense with the whole staff of officials, except such as are required for the converted Hospital...'(G01/12/99, pp511-512).

However, at an extraordinary meeting held on 2nd July 1917 the Board passed a resolution stating *'...whereas the vast majority of the ratepayers of the Gort Union whom we represent are opposed to amalgamation with the Loughrea Union and as public opinion is strong on the subject, we the Guardians of the Gort poor are convinced that amalgamation of Gort with Loughrea Union would be disastrous to the interests of the indigent poor resident within the Union and would prejudicially effect the ratepayers of the Union, we hereby declare that we are determinedly opposed to any amalgamation of our Union with Loughrea and we hereby rescind any resolution, order, or minute to the contrary previously made thereon'* (G01/12/100, pp60c-d).

An inquiry was held on the matter on 3rd July 1917, which found that there would be a saving of over £900 a year by the proposed amalgamation, and that the accommodation of the Loughrea Workhouse was ample for the needs of the two unions. The Local Government Board felt that the results would reassure the Gort Guardians and opposition to the proposal would *'disappear'* (G01/12/100, p108). Nonetheless, the Guardians continued to object, and adopted a resolution by 29 votes to 3, stating that it was *'wiser to retain our Union for the next few years until the general scheme of amalgamation under contemplation by the Galway County Council comes into force. We*

fear that an amalgamation now with its consequent expense may embarrass such a general scheme and not work so satisfactory for us, as amalgamation under the general schemes...' (G01/12/100, p108, p16).

The Local Government Board wrote to the Guardians noting their objections and advising that *'having regard to the understanding that in the face of any considerable opposition to the scheme, it would not, at present be proceeded with, the Local Government Board feel precluded from insisting on the amalgamation taking place, but this must not be regarded as in any way confirming the objections to amalgamation, as the Board consider that it would tend towards economy and efficiency without causing much inconvenience'* (G01/12/100, p131).

Following the enormous changes and unrest on the national political front during the 2nd decade of the 20th century, the Guardians held an extraordinary meeting on 24th August 1920 to consider the instruction from Dáil Eireann relating to a commission of inquiry into Local Government (G01/12/101, p320). It also resolved that *'The [Rural District] Council and Guardians direct that no minutes of those proceedings or future minutes in future be sent to the British Local Government Board'* (G01/12/101, p320). The Board was in effect refusing to recognise the authority of its old vanguard, the Local Government Board.

Following the amalgamation of the Unions in county Galway in 1921 the Connacht Tribune of 21 January 1922 stated that *'Clifden, Oughterard, Gort and Glenamaddy are completely closed down as workhouses, while the remaining institutions will probably be closed towards the weekend'*.

Under the newly founded Free State government Poor Law Unions were formally dissolved in 1925 and their functions assumed by local authorities.

In July 1925 following receipt of several applications for private leasing of various parts of Workhouses, in particular the Gort workhouse, the Galway County Council considered the *'piece-meal letting of portions of disused Workhouses is undesirable ...'*(GC1/4, p32). The State Lands (Workhouse) Acts 1930 transferred from County Councils to the County Board of Health liabilities for care-taking, maintenance and repair of Workhouse buildings and lands attached. Thus in April 1930 Galway County Council transferred to

¹² Galway County Council Minutes, GC1/1

the Secretary of the Board of Health all its relevant files and correspondence dealing with Workhouses and workhouse lands' (GC1/4, p16)¹³.

The Board of Health and Public Assistance minutes for 25th June 1930 record that *'Mr J. Nelly wrote under date 19/6/30 accepting the position of caretaker of Gort workhouse, at a nominal salary of £1 per annum'*¹⁴. Mr Nelly was the former Workhouse master¹⁵.

In the late 1940s the greater portion of the Gort Workhouse premises was demolished, and the material was used for public purposes. A portion of the workhouse was reconstructed for the resident caretaker, John Nelly, to whom the premises were let under Licence. In 1956 given that there were no longer any buildings to look after, and thus no duties for Nelly to perform no further payment was made to him as caretaker. Nelly died on 3 September 1957 and the Licence for the property was transferred to his widow. In 1967 Mrs. Catherine Nelly was given a lease of 99 years at an annual rent of £30 for the property. In 1958 another portion of the Workhouse grounds was leased for a term of 99 years for an annual rent of 10/- to Joseph Courtney, George's Street, and Gort¹⁶.

¹³ Galway County Council volume of minutes GC/1/4, p16.

¹⁴ County Galway Board of Health and Public Assistance minutes, GC5/9, p464.

¹⁵ John Nelly, master of Gort Workhouse, was a cultural revivalist and an Irish Volunteer. He married Katie Fahy of Templemartin, Craughwell in 1918 (+1971), who was secretary of the Craughwell branch of Cumann na mBan. Katie's Military Service Pension file, ref MSP34REF14582 is available at the Military Archives.

¹⁶ Galway County Council, General Purposes, Gort Workhouse file 58/7.

Arrangement

The collection consists of 91 volumes of handwritten minute books, together with one volume listing out-door relief recipients, and several other minor documents. The minutes are arranged chronologically, and the remaining material is arranged according to significance, concluding with the Rough Minute Books, which in some cases fill gaps where the signed minutes are missing. These should be cross referenced to the actual signed and dated Minute Book for the corresponding period.

Overall the collection is in relatively good condition. However, several items which were fragile and inaccessible received conservation treatment in 2009, these were G01/12/16, 21, 27, 71, 75, 105 & 106). Several more, two requiring extensive repair (such as G01/12/93) and others requiring rebinding and minor repair were conserved in 2010.

In addition, pages are missing from some volumes. For instance pages 284 to 428 are missing in the volume of minutes for the 1846 period (G01/12/5). The final pages of the volume of minutes for mid 1873 (G01/12/54) are also missing.

All volumes have been microfilmed.

The extracts from the various Minute books listed 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 volume 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 Gort 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 crises. It also shows the evolution of the Board's provision of health and related social services. The collection commences with records created when the authority, and country was under British rule and concludes with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Eireann.

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

The item reference number (G01/12/?) should be used in full when citing from the records in this collection. The most appropriate form of reference is Title of item: date of item:

Reference number (G01/12/?), Galway County Council Archives.

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. Lists of Guardians are often found in various contemporary directories, such as Thoms, Slaters or Pigots and in contemporary local newspapers.

Disclosure Requirement

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

Patria McWalter
Archivist, 2003
Updated 2009

Allied Material

Primary Sources

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Gort Rural District Council, (G01/10)
- Galway County Council Minutes, (GC/1/)
- County Galway Board of Health and Public Assistance, (GC5/)

Records held at the National Archives of Ireland:

- Relief Commission Papers (NAI RLFC) (Copy of the papers (1845-'47) pertaining to county Galway are available at Galway County Libraries, Island House)
- Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers (NAI, CSO) T
- Transportation Registers (NAI GPO)
- Office of Public Works, OPW
- Congested Districts Board (Baseline Reports for Co. Galway 1894 are available on microfilm at Galway County Libraries, Island House)

Records held at the National Library of Ireland:

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Appendices

[Appendix A](#)

A. List of some of the members of the Board of Guardians

Lists of members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Thoms, Slaters or Pigots, or in local contemporary newspapers.

Alexander, Arthur (Cahermore) Maryville House	Coen, J.
Allen, J.M.	Coen, Martin
Baggot, John Lloyd (Kilbeacanty)	Cohen, Martin (Castle Taylor, +1868)
Birmingham, Peter (+1885)	Connolly, John
Blackier, Henry	Connolly, Michael (+1896)
Blake, Captain L	Cooney, J.
Blaquiere, Edward	Corbett, Patrick (Chairman 1882, 1885)
Blaquire, Henry (Breagh) (Fiddane)	Corbett, Thomas (+1919)
Boyle, Michael	Corless, Thomas P.
Boblau, Andrew (Kilthomas)	Cosgrave, Anthony
Bodkin, Robert	Cosgrave, Thomas
Brady Murray, J.W., J.P.	Cowen, Martin
Brennan, Martin	Crehan, James
Broderick, John (Killeeuavarra)?	Cunniff, Thomas
Burke, John	Cunningham, James
Burke, Martin J.	Cunningham, M.
Burke, Patrick (Castle Taylor)	Cunningham, Thomas (Kilthomas)
Burke, Redmond	Curtain, James
Butler, Francis, Captain	Curtain, Michael
Butler, Nicholas	Daly, Isaac B.
Butler, William (Bonebow)	Daly, James (Castle Daly)
Cahill, John	Darcy, Isidor
Cahill, William	Deane, Thomas (Killininy)
Callanan, John	Deely, Martin
Carr, J.	Deely, T.
Carr, William	Diviny, Michael (Chairman, 1887)
Caulfield, M	Donoghue, Fergus
Clanmorris, Lord (Creggclare)	Donohue, Martin
Clasby, Michael	Donohue, John
Clayton, J.	Donohue, Thomas

Fahy, Edward
Fahy, J.
Fahy, Patrick
Fallon, M.
Feeney, Michael
Fitzpatrick, Patrick (Ballycahalan & Cappard)
Flaherty, R.P.
Flanagan, M
Flatley, Patrick J.
Feeney, Michael
Forde, Michael
Foster, Captain John (Gort)
Franks, David B. (Hunt's Cottage)
Gilbraith, James (Cappard)
Gilbraith, Major R.
Gilbraith, Thomas
Galway, John
Geoghegan, Daniel
Geoghegan, John (+1891)
Geoghegan, Patrick
Geoghan Thomas
Geraghty, J.
Gillan, John
Gill, Fergus
Glynn, John H.
Glynn, Martin
Glynn, Patrick (Gort)
Gort, The Right Honourable, Lord¹⁷
Gough, Lord George, S. (Chairman 1864)¹⁸
Grady, M
Greany, John
Greene, Thomas
Greene, William
Gregory, Robert
Gregory, Right Honourable Sir
William H.¹⁹ (Chairman 1867)
Hallinan, John
Hallinan, Pat
Hanley, P.
Hart, John
Hayes, Patrick J.
Heade, James
Higgins, Colman
Horty, John (Adramullran)
Hughes, Stephen
Hunt, Edward L.
Hynes, D.J.
Hynes, Patrick
Hynes, Terence
Joyce, James
Joyce, Thomas A (Chairman, 1853)
Kavanagh, James
Keane, James (Chairman 1889-1890)
Keane, John
Keely, Bartholomew
Keely, Mortimer
Kelly, John (+1911)
Kelly, M
Killkelly, John
Lahiff, Henry, Capt. (Breagh)
Lahiff, James (+1864)
Lahiff, James B.
Lahiff, Thomas
Lally, J
Lally, Thomas
Lambert, James (Chairman, 1844)
Lambert, John W. H.

¹⁷ [Standish Prendergast Vereker, 4th Viscount Gort, 1819-1900]

¹⁸ George Stephens Gough, 2nd Viscount Gough (1815-1895). Married 1846 Jane Arbutnot (1816-1892).

¹⁹ (1817-1892) of Coole Park, was an Anglo-Irish writer and politician, & proposer of the Gregory Clause, which under Irish Poor Law Extension Act 1847, exempted from relief anybody who owned more than a quarter of an acre of land which basically meant, give up your holding or starve. Married 1880 Lady Augusta Gregory.

Lambert, Patrick (Chairman 1910-1911)	Nolan, Thomas
Lambert, Thomas	Noone, James
Larkin, A	O'Brian, C.J.
Latley, Robert, J.	O'Brien, Marty
Lewis, Patrick	O'Dea, Daniel (Doorus)
Lopdell, Major J.J	O'Dea, John
Loughry, J	O'Donohoe, M
Linnane, Michael	O'Donnell, Laurence
Linnane, Patrick	O'Donnell, Martin
Lynch, Anthony J.	O'Donnell, Michael (+1909)
Lynch, Henry	O'Donoghue, M
Lynch, Thomas	O'Donohoe, Michael, J.P. (+1912)
Lynch, Major John Wilson	O'Flaherty, Richard P.
Mahon, James (Dooras)	O'Hara, Charles (Castle Taylor) (Raheen)
Martyn, John ²⁰	O'Neil, J
Minogue, M.	O'Neill, Thomas
Mitchell, M.	O'Shaughnessy, Patrick
Moloney, Richard	Prendergast, J. P.
Morriss, John	Quinn, Florimond L.
Morrissey, John	Quinn, Bartholomew
Moylan, M.	Quinn, John, (Corker)
McNevin, Daniel (+18460	Quinn, John (Dooras)
Mulville, William (Baunahow)	Quinn, Patrick
Murphy, John (Rahasane)	Quinn, Thomas
Murray, J. L	Rochford, John
Naughton, Michael	Rock, Bartholomew
Neilan, Thomas	Roseingrave, Jeremiah
Neilan, Walter, M	Roseingrave, L. (Kehauagh)?
Nelly, Patrick	Rosingrave, Tobias (Kiltarton)
Nestor, James	Ryan, Daniel
Newell, John	Ryan, Patrick
Nilan, Michael (Killiney)?	Ryder, Pat (Killully)?
Nilan, Patrick F	Shaughnessy, Patrick
Nolan, Andrew Bellew	Shaw Taylor, Captain (Chairman, 1846, 1852)
Nolan, John Daly (+1888)	Shaw Taylor, George (Chairman, 1870) (Castle Taylor Ardrahan)

²⁰ Tullira Castle, Ardrahan, & father of Edward Martyn, (1859–1923), political & cultural activist, & playwright.

Shaw Taylor, Walter Viscount (Chairman, 1872) (+1912)

Sheehan, Patrick

Spelman, Michael

Spelman, Patrick C

Staunton, Michael (Kinvarra)

Staunton, Edward

Stephens, Patrick H

Sweeney, John

Sweeny, Owen (Dumacoo)

St George, Charles (Tyrone House)

St George, Christopher

St. George, Matthew

Tannian, Michael

Vereker, Honourable Major S.P

Wallace, Charles

Wilson Lynch, Major

B. Electoral Divisions covered by Gort Poor Law Union

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

Ardamullivan,
Ardrahan
Ballycahalan
Beagh
Cahermore
Cappard
Castletaylor
Dorus
Drumacoo
Gort
Kilbeacanty
Killeenavarra
Killinny
Killeely
Kikeedy
Kilmacduagh
Kiltartan
Kilthomas
Kinvarra
Rahasane
Skehangh

C. List of some Workhouse Officials and Staff

Lists of most staff members are found in various contemporary directories such as Slaters or Pigots,

Vice Guardians, appointed 1848 - 1849

Hanly, Captain R (Poor Law Inspector)
O'Boyce, Captain
Hall, John
Dunne, John
O'Halleron, Stephen

Workhouse Master

- ?
- Fallon, James - 1844 - 1846 (1845 dismissed, re-instated, lengthy investigation, Mar 1846 resigned)
- Nugent, Charles - 1846 - 1851
- O'Donnell, Luke? - 1851
- O'Brien, William -
- McKeon, Michael - ? 1855 - 1857
- McNamara, Daniel - 1857- 1859?
- Birmingham, Thomas- 1859? - 1867 (resigned, see G01/12/42, p69)
- Dullea, Daniel - 1867 - 190?3
- Gibbs, C. - 1903? - 1904
- Nelly, John - 1904 - 1923

Assistant Workhouse Master

McNamara, James - 1848

Clerk of Union

- Slator, James - 1844 – c.1859
- Latly, Robert - 1860? – [temp clerk?]
- Slator, James - 1861? – 1872
- Mulville, Walter, L. - 1873 – 1874
- Spelman John R. H. - 1874 – 1880 (dismissed)
- Burke, Myles - 1879 – 1922 (retired)

Medical Officer

Nolan, Dr Martin - 1844 - ?
Nolan, Dr - ?1850's - +1890 (see G01/12/82, p265)
Geoghegan, Dr Laurence - 1890 -

Matron

Tully, Catherine	- ? - +1847
Belecar, Miss	- 1847
Robinson, Anne Miss	- 1848 - 1850
Birmingham, Barbara	- March 1850 – 1851
Keller, Mary	- ? - 1860
Clarkson, Catherine	- ?1863 – 1865, (resigned & re-instated) - 1867 (asked to resign)
Dullea, Maria	- 1867 - 1882 (wife of Master)
Mrs Doyle (aka Sr M Navier)	- 1882 ²¹ - ?

School Mistress

Fox, Margaret	- 1845
Glynn, Mary Ann	- 1861 – ?
Bourke, Elizabeth	- 1863 – ?
Langley, Mary	- ?1874 –
McInerney, Miss	- ? 1889 -

School Master

O'Neill, Michael	- 1852
?	- 1860? – asked to resign ²²

²¹ See G01/12/71, p329

²² September 1861, G01/12/30, p1007

D. Recorded Number of inmates resident and deaths in the Workhouse

Original capacity in 1841 was for 500 inmates

By 1849 the total capacity including temporary buildings, sheds and fever hospital was 2,100

WEEK ENDING	NO. IN WORKHOUSE	NO. OF DEATHS	
8 June 1844	140	1	
23 November 1844	159	-	
7 June 1845	192	1	
4 October 1845	166	-	
28 March 1846	177	-	
6 June 1846	191	-	
28 November 1846	292	3	
3 April 1847	465	20]
10 April 1847	427	16]
17 April 1847	425	26]
24 April 1847	394	26]
1 May 1847	392	21] outbreak
8 May 1847	410	15] of fever
15 May 1847	421	17]
22 May 1847	415	22]
29 May 1847	424	10]
5 June 1847	439	10]
6 October 1847	679	4	
30 October 1847	803	7	
6 November 1847	833	7	
13 November 1847	850	10	
27 November 1847	989	13	
4 December 1847	1,092	21	
11 December 1847	1,115	20	
18 December 1847	1,188	20	
25 December 1847	1,214	14	
1 January 1848	1,300	26	
8 January 1848	1,177	63	
15 January 1848	1,249	79	
22 January 1848	906	65	
29 January 1848	909	42	
5 February 1848	909	42	
12 February 1848	922	19	
19 February 1848	1,035	13	
26 February 1848	1,042	19	

WEEK ENDING	NO. IN WORKHOUSE	NO. OF DEATHS
4 March 1848	1,079	35
11 March 1848	1,174	25
18 March 1848	1,066	37
25 March 1848	906	63
1 April 1848	817	27
8 April 1848	820	37
15 April 1848	803	35
22 April 1848	792	24
29 April 1848	797	15
6 May 1848	829	14
13 May 1848	921	18
20 May 1848	1039	12
27 May 1848	1171	12
3 June 1848	1316	18
10 June 1848	1527	20
17 June 1848	1689	19
24 June 1848	1763	16
1 July 1848	1815	17
8 July 1848	1814	21
15 July 1848	1829	17
22 July 1848	1812	20
29 July 1848	1624	22
5 August 1848	1459	23
12 August 1848	1361	19
19 August 1848	1349	16
26 August 1848	1360	16
2 September 1848	1463	17
9 September 1848	1467	11
16 September 1848	1567	9
23 September 1848	1632	11
7 October 1848	1663	16
21 October 1848	1894	8
28 October 1848	1996	19
4 November 1848	1965	21
11 November 1848	2163	30
18 November 1848	2181	27
25 November 1848	2251	24
9 December 1848	1863	29
22 December 1848	1868	17
6 January 1848	1765	27
13 January 1849	1934	18
10 February 1849	1964	23
10 March 1849	1818	42

WEEK ENDING	NO. IN WORKHOUSE	NO. OF DEATHS
7 April 1849	1647	81
14 April 1849	1611	105
14 July 1849	2153	34
21 July 1849	1866	29
18 August 1849	1858	13
22 September 1849	1762	4
6 October 1849	1754	7
13 October 1849	1693	12
20 October 1849	1708	13
27 October 1849	1783	7
3 November 1849	1862	8
10 November 1849	1998	10
17 November 1849	2141	11
24 November 1849	2006	12
1 December 1849	2015	8
8 December 1849	2097	10
15 December 1849	2142	17
22 December 1849	2085	11
29 December 1849	2066	6
5 January 1850	2065	10
12 January 1850	2122	10
19 January 1850	2170	11
26 January 1850	2215	8
2 February 1850	2308	13
9 February 1850	2297	7
16 February 1850	2361	13
23 February 1850	2465	11
2 March 1850	2454	13
9 March 1850	2298	19
16 March 1850	2245	6
23 March 1850	2213	20
30 March 1850	2227	27
6 April 1850	2258	12
13 April 1850	2321	6
20 April 1850	2430	14
27 April 1850	2564	13
4 May 1850	2733	16
11 May 1850	2838	13
18 May 1850	2966	12
25 May 1850	3066	14
1 June 1850	3168	10
8 June 1850	3275	12
15 June 1850	3388	14
22 June 1850	3464	12
29 June 1850	3565	9

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WEEK ENDING	NO. IN WORKHOUSE	NO. OF DEATHS
6 July 1850	3643	11
13 July 1850	3645	10
20 July 1850	3610	13
27 July 1850	3437	11
3 August 1850	3141	10
10 August 1850	2894	18
17 August 1850	2540	13
24 August 1850	2389	17
31 August 1850	2318	9
7 September 1850	2222	11
14 September 1850	2121	17
21 September 1850	2051	15
28 September 1850	1933	14
5 October 1850	1950	10
12 October 1850	1949	6
19 October 1850	1964	4
26 October 1850	1961	9
2 November 1850	1953	5
9 November 1850	1975	6
16 November 1850	1990	6
3 November 1850	2021	3
30 November 1850	2076	5
7 December 1850	2081	1
14 December 1850	2063	2
21 December 1850	2082	3
28 December 1850	2073	6
4 January 1851	2117	5
11 January 1851	2180	10
20 January 1851	2275	3
25 January 1851	2349	3
1 February 1851	2460	8
8 February 1851	2506	8
17 February 1851	2526	12
22 February 1851	2348	5
1 March 1851	2499	18
8 March 1851	2532	10
15 March 1851	2602	11
22 March 1851	2660	4
29 March 1851	2707	9
5 April 1851	2741	19
19 April 1851	2813	11
26 April 1851	2876	12
3 May 1851	2882	13
10 May 1851	2911	16
17 May 1851	2963	14
24 May 1851	2997	14

WEEK ENDING	NO. IN WORKHOUSE	NO. OF DEATHS
7 June 1851	3084	11
14 June 1851	3137	11
21 June 1851	3212	11
28 Jun 1851	3268	16
5 July 1851	3279	10
12 July 1851	3250	17
19 July 1851	3118	16
26 July 1851	2896	14
2 August 1851	2686	16
9 August 1851	2466	14
16 August 1851	2264	11
23 August 1851	2095	12
30 August 1851	1989	6
6 September 1851	1882	6
13 September 1851	1830	5
20 September 1851	1749	8
27 September 1851	1645	5
4 October 1851	1624	7
11 October 1851	1633	2
18 October 1851	1598	4
22 May 1852	2004	-
19 June 1852	2096	3
24 July 1852	1984	1
21 August 1852	1355	2
25 September 1852	1149	-
23 October 1852	1130	1
20 November 1852	1161	-
25 December 1852	1189	1
22 January 1853	1283	4
26 February 1853	1310	2
26 March 1853	1219	5
30 April 1853	1174	1
28 May 1853	1147	6
25 June 1853	1115	2
30 July 1853	1038	-
27 August 1853	788	1
24 September 1853	683	-
22 October 1853	658	2
29 October 1853	649	1
26 November 1853	660	-
24 December 1853	650	3
15 April 1854	642	-
12 August 1854	483	-
16 December 1854	329	-
7 April 1855	329	-
11 August 1855	317	2
22 December 1855	288	-

WEEK ENDING	NO. IN WORKHOUSE	NO. OF DEATHS
27 December 1856	171	1
25 April 1857	164	1
23 April 1858	171	8
23 April 1859	139	1
21 April 1860	159	-
26 April 1862	188	2
25 April 1863	187	1
23 April 1864	183	2
22 April 1865	173	-
21 April 1866	159	-
23 April 1867	154	1
25 April 1868	170	1
24 April 1869	193	-
23 April 1870	180	1
29 April 1871	167	1
27 April 1872	162	-
26 April 1873	159	-
25 April 1874	146	-
24 April 1875	152	1
22 April 1876	149	-
27 April 1878	208	-
19 April 1879	212	3
24 April 1880	218	-
23 April 1881	220	1
22 April 1882	221	1
28 April 1883	247	2
26 April 1884	208	2 (population in 1881 - 16,612)
25 April 1885	200	2
23 April 1887	199	1
27 April 1889	186	-
26 April 1890	182	-
25 April 1891	194	3 (population in 1891 - 14,201)
23 April 1892	184	2
15 April 1893	173	2
21 April 1894	165	-
20 April 1895	175	-
18 April 1896	172	-
17 April 1897	168	1
[30 April 1898	159	3]
28 April 1900	156	-
27 April 1901	152	1 (population in 1901 - 14,201)
19 April 1902	154	1
25 April 1903	159	-
21 April 1906	163	-
20 April 1907	180	1
18 April 1908	150	-

WEEK ENDING	NO. IN WORKHOUSE	NO. OF DEATHS
16 April 1910	125	-
29 April 1911	114	1
27 April 1912	89	-
26 April 1913	93	2
25 April 1914	88	-
24 April 1915	104	-
1 April 1916	102	-
7 April 1917	92	2
5 April 1919	110	3

E. List of Abbreviations

B.G.	Board of Guardians
I.P.M.	Irish Plantation Measure
L.G.B.	Local Government Board
M.P.	Member of Parliament
P.L.C.	Poor Law Commissioners

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G01/12/3, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 25, 30, 35, 36,
40, 43, 77, 79, 80, 87, 90 & 93.



G01/12

**Gort
Poor Law Union
Archive Collection,**

1844 - 1921

A. Minutes of Board of Guardian Meetings, 1844- 1921

Bound volumes of manuscript minutes recording details of attendance and proceedings of weekly meetings relating to the maintenance, administration and financing of the workhouse, (from 1847) distribution of out-door relief, and the care of workhouse inmates relating to their accommodation and employment, and to medical, pastoral, educational, and dietary needs. Minutes 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, and details of all monies received or paid, and all orders and cheques given, such as those required for the supply of food and clothing; details of rates collected, arrears, and declared irrecoverably in each electoral division; also includes details of orders and letters received from or written to the Poor Law Commissioners and others, and details of subsequent resolutions passed and instructions issued authorising required action; details of the master's report and resolutions adopted to address any issues raised therein; and from 1854 provision is included for minutes of the proceedings of the Board under the Medical Charities Acts and Nuisances Removal and Disease Prevention Acts, and subsequently under Public Health Acts; from between 1874-1899 the proceedings of the Board as the Sanitary Authority are recorded; and between 1893-1899 the proceedings of the Board of Guardians acting as the Rural Sanitary Authority under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts are included.

The minutes are generally dated, and signed by the Clerk of the Union, and the Chairman. Many of the earlier volumes include an index to main resolutions passed and discussion topics.

Average size 400pp.

(1-2)

See also G01/12/108

3. 8 June 1844 - 5 July 1845 Pages ripped out throughout volume.

- 'Many of the paupers having entered the Boardroom, and complained that the constant use of molasses has caused a bowel complaint amongst them. And enquiry having been made of the Medical Officer, who stated that it would be well to try a change of milk for a month' (p114).

- Medical Officer reported 'there is no change of linen for the female patients in Hospital, and consequently what they wear are in a most filthy and ragged state, one pauper mentioned she had not changed her chemise for two months.
2ndly The paupers in the wash house refuse to wash the linen of the patients in fever and the medical officer thinks very properly that there should be some provision made for this purpose' (p159, see also p174, p186).
- Resolution regarding the 41st Article of Poor Law Commissioners [appointing paid Guardians] stating 'That deeming it consistent with reason and justice, that these who have the appointment and payment of their Officers, should alone exercise control over then. We consider the power claimed in the 41st article of the General regulations of the Commissioners both arbitrary and oppressive
...strongly protest against the assumption of such arbitrary power by the Commissioners, as being calculated to render the Poor Law (already unpopular) still more odious and detestable to the people of Ireland...' (pp258-259).
- 'The Medical Officer having laid before the Board the result of his Inspection of the Inmates (reported to have been infected with vermin) and suggested that a number of Racks and combs be provided for each ward, and the appointment of a pauper Inmate for each ward, to act as superintendent and to see that the inmates comb their heads, and clean their persons every morning, and also that a change of linen be supplied to the paupers twice a week' (p481).

(4.) See also G01/12/109

See also G01/12/110

5. 3 April 1846 – 26 March 1847

- Transcript of letter of the Poor Law Commissioners regarding the repayment of its outstanding building loan stating '...we have no money...We beg again to draw your attention to our letter of the 2nd of October in which we required the permission of the commissioners to borrow a sum of money at interest from our Treasurer to keep the house going as we had no provisions or fuel in the House, no clothes in the Store and no person would contract to supply us in consequence of our embarrassments. The House would have been closed long since had it not been for the generosity of a few of the Guardians, who nobly came forward upon their own responsibility, and raised a sum of one thousand pounds for the maintenance of the House, this sum has

now been expended, and no Guardian will again come forward, more especially as they conceive it has been an ungrateful task, and has drawn upon them unfortunately the censure of the Commissioners....' (p437).

- Medical Officer stating 'If some decisive step be not immediately taken to check the spread of Dysentery in the Workhouse I cannot say where it will stop. It is really melancholy to go through the wards, and to witness its extent without making an effort to check its progress or initiate its severity, it is painful to me to make those reports, seeing that those hitherto made have not been attended to, but a sense of public duty, and the responsibility that attaches to my situation, compels me once more, to draw your attention to a state of things, that ought at any risk or sacrifice to be remedied....'(pp460-461).
- Report from the Nolan, Medical Officer, stating 'In fact the whole House is one mass of disease and infection without accommodation, classification, clothing, bedding or proper attendants, and in my opinion it would be much safely and more charitable to close the house altogether than keep it open in its present state....' (G01/12/5, pp538-539).
- 'It appearing that the present state of the workhouse, from Fever, Dysentery, Smallpox etc is most lamentable and as at this moment there are in the house a total of 439 paupers, of whom 101 are sick in the wards of the house and from want of an Hospital and the crowded state of the House, this number it is feared will be awfully increased. Resolved....that a sum of money be borrowed through the Poor Law Commissioners from the Treasury to build an efficient Hospital of the plainest description, and suitable to the size of the House, and that the architect of the Board may be required to give plan and estimate accordingly' (p462).
- Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Board stating if the Board had been agreeable to an increase in the rate in September 1846 it would not now (February 1847) be in the 'deplorable state' in which it was. Where upon the Board responded stating,

'That we are not a little surprised at receiving such a letter from the Commissioners as they have regularly furnished with copies of our Minutes by which they must have seen, that we not only immediately struck the Rate (2 October 1846) after giving a fortnights notice, but lost not a moment in attempting its collection, and have actually

to this date collected about £700, of said Rate, being the most part as due from the landed proprietors, but that from the present state of the country it is almost impossible to collect even from those who had heretofore been considered as comfortable farmers but had we even the entire of this Rate collected it would not give us means to provide for the increased number recently admitted into this Union Workhouse. We must therefore in the strongest manner request the Commissioners will urge our condition on the Lords of the Treasury praying they will sanction the advance of £3,000 on the security of the Rate we have now struck and which so soon as practicable we shall collect and repay with many thanks’.

6. 2 April 1847 – 28 January 1848

- Report from Nolan, Medical Officer, stating ‘I beg again to call the attention of the Board to the state of the clothing, no supply has yet been got, and half the children are literally naked, or wearing their old filthy rages. It is quite futile to expect an improvement in the sanitary condition of the house until this matter be remedied...’ (p55).
- ‘The Lord Lieutenant’s warrant has been received authorising the levy of £58.11.4 expenses for outdoor Relief on the Union at large’ (p148).
- Report from Nolan stating ‘I would also advise that each fever nurse be supplied with two ward maids at a reasonable salary. It is quite idle to expect that laborious dangerous and disgusting duties will be performed without some remuneration, unless I am furnished with a proper staff, competent to discharge the duties entrusted to them I beg to wash my hands from all responsibility in the matter. I tell you candidly that unless your officers are paid they won’t work. I regret to say the whole house presents scenes of great confusion and insubordination arising from the want of proper superintendence and classification which calls loudly and promptly for your interference...’(p158-159).
- ‘Resolved that our Clerk be directed to write a latter to the Manager of the Provincial Bank of Ireland Galway expressing the regret of the Board at not being able to meet the Bills due tomorrow and requesting him to hold them over for a few days in the expectation that our Collectors by their renewed exertion may enable the Board to settle the debt’ (p188).

See also G01/12/112

7. 4 February 1848 – 1 December 1848

- 'Letter from the Commissioners 18 February 1848 stating causes for dissolving the Board of Guardians and intimating their intention to appoint paid officers to manage the affairs of the Union' (p36).
- 'That state of the burial ground on the workhouse premises having been taken into consideration by the Board, and the absolute necessity of providing a district cemetery for persons dying in the workhouse being apparent, and the Commissioners letters of the 8th and 21st inst. on this subject having been read it was resolved that the order of the late Board taking three acres of land for the purpose be immediately carried into effect' (p39).
- 'Resolved that to enable the Vice Guardians to ascertain the actual state of the Union funds and liabilities, and in order to enable them to place the affairs of the Union in a proper and satisfactory state that application be immediately made to all persons having dealings with the Guardians to furnish their accounts to the 29th February to enable the Guardians to make arrangements for the liquidation of the debts' (p39).
- 'The Medical Officer's report was received and read, states that no material diminution can be expected in sickness until the pressure on the Workhouse is reduced, he objects to the use of Indian Meal with rice stir-about for dinner on 3 days in the week as recommended by Doctor Phelan, and suggests the issue of rice with Indian Meal to persons on out door relief. He further states that the Master was progressing favourably but not able to resume his duties' (p106).
- 'Letter 21st April 1848 from Mr S. George of Tyrone, agreeing to let the House near Kinvarra now used as a Temporary Fever hospital and about 30 perches of land adjoining same for the purpose of erecting Fever sheds thereon, and a portion of detached land about a quarter of an acre in extent to be used as a cemetery for the Hospital at the rate of forty five pounds a year free of all charges to be taken for three years certain, and for such further period as the same may be required' (p130).
- 'The Medical Officer's report being read it appeared that the sanitary condition of the House was in a favorable state, and altho the number of sick appears large this was caused by the admission of many cases of disease into the workhouse, which could not be properly provided for by an allowance outside, several of whom are in such a state

of exhaustion at the period of their admission, the deaths in the class, occur very frequently and thereby the mortality is apparently increased' (p189).

- With regard to rate collection the Vice Guardians resolved that having 'regard to the general interests of the Union, much doubt has arisen on our minds as to the expediency of attempting to collect a new rate ground on the existing valuation of this period. We are led to believe that it would be more judicious to defer the making of the rate until September by which means an opportunity will be afforded for correcting the valuation, and as the crops will be shortly after available, a high poundage rate maybe then struck with a prospect of its being satisfactorily collected. That during the interval the valuation Books may be submitted for general inspection and objections thereto investigated by the Valuation, and that at the same time the most strenuous exertions shall be made to get in the arrears of the present rate...'(p243)
- 'A change having been made in the food of the Inmates by the use of bread baked in the house it appears desirable, that the Workhouse dietary should undergo a revision, and it was resolved, that the following shall be the ordinary house dietary in future....'(p383).
- 'Resolved, That the Commissioners be informed that the Vice Guardians having obtained a thorough and intimate acquaintance with the state of the Union, as regards the means available, for paying rate, are of opinion, from the failure of the potato crop, the injury sustained by the previously very inferior crops of wheat and other grain from the constant wet weather, together with the almost total absence of live stock, that the higher rated districts rate altogether unable to pay the rate as estimated, and that having regard to the means available in the Union for payment and to expedition in the collection they consider that it would not be judicious at present to make a higher rate in any electoral division than 7/6 in the pound, but before coming to any determination they request the Commissioners opinion with as little delay as possible so that a rate may be made with all possible dispatch' (p412).

(8). See also G01/12/113

See also G01/12/114

9. 19 October 1849 – 30 July 1850

- 'Ordered that the Clerk do communicate with the commissioners regarding the arrangement entered into with the Rev. M O'Shaughnessy, for taking over assignment of the lease of his land upon part of which the Hospital sheds are now erected, and to request the Commissioners to sanction the payment of the rent now claimed thereon and the completion of the agreement, which the Guardians are of opinion [will be] of great advantage and benefit to the Union' (p46).
- 'Ordered that our Clerk do write to the Boundary Commissioners stating that it is the opinion of this Board that the loss of the Townlands in this Union marked in the Schedule Nos. 3 & 4 will be highly injurious to the Union' (p59).
- 'The Medical Officer reports that having so recently reported on the amount of sickness, I have nothing particular to add this day, but I have particularly to call the attention of the Guardians to the very insufficient supply of linen in the auxiliary Houses, this is a matter that calls for your prompt attention exercising as it does, so important an effect in the General health of the inmates, the body linen should be changed once a week' (p65)
- 'Letter from Central Board of Health 15th December stating that they will take the necessary steps for closing the Kinvarra hospital and Ardrahan Dispensary and they are gratified to find their views have meet the wishes of the Board of Guardians' (p106).
- The Medical Officer reports an increase of Fever, and dysentery and recommends the soup to be thickened with turnips, parsnips and carrots. He states that the necessary repairs of the Hospital sheds have not been executed yet; he further states that the new Fever Hospital is now occupied by patients, and he required a nurse, and two wardmaids' (p175).
- 'Resolved that we fully agreed with the Commissioners in refusing to appoint a Protestant Chaplain for the workhouse, and the Board will make arrangements that the few protestant inmates of the Workhouse shall be enabled to attend the Gort Church on Sunday and Holidays' (p228).
- 'The Visiting Committee report that the body of the House does not appear as clean as it should be, and whitewashing is very desirable; the dormitories on the female side are very clean, but not so clean as the male side. There appears to be complaints of the milk of which there was no sample. The Committee saw the Sugar, and found it bad...In the spinning department weak, and delicate females were chiefly employed while stout young women appeared to be idling about the yard, and the Committee are informed that these young women refuse to work' (p275).

- 'Letter from Poor Law Commissioners 1st June regarding the expenditure chargeable to the several new Unions which formerly constituted part of the Gort Union for the maintenance of workhouse paupers' (p346).
- 'The Medical Officer reports 9 deaths in the Workhouse Hospital, and 2 in the Fever Hospital for the past week; this low amount of mortality is extremely gratifying during a period of such unexampled pressure and he trusts that when the new auxiliary /houses shall become occupied, and the new clothing given out, he shall be enabled to record a still more favourable rate of mortality' (p385).

See also G01/12/115

10. 6 August 1850 - 24 March 1851

- 'The Medical Officer (Martin D Nolan, MD) reports the number in Workhouse Hospital this morning 207, and in the Fever Hospital 88 deaths in the former last week including workhouse portion of Fever Hospital 10 and in the Temporary Fever Hospital none' (p5).
- 'Resolved that a wall 12 feet high be built round the workhouse ground, tenders to be received at per perch on the 14th October' (p104).
- The Medical Officer gave an estimate of the workhouse accommodation without reference to auxiliaries and stated that the numbers may be '*safely accommodated in the respective buildings provided some additional day room accommodation were provided; Judging from past experience, and the very superior ventilation of the several buildings, I should have on hesitation in saying the whole accommodation above referred to might with the addition of extra day room be made capable of accommodating without any injury to the inmates 2000. If the day room accommodation were considerable increased, it would of course still further add to the general accommodation of the whole establishment, by allowing the present day rooms to be converted into dormitories; there is now ample accommodation for the sick in the Infirmary Buildings, and as it would considerably add to the comfort of this Class to have them removed to the place originally intended for them, whilst by so doing you will greatly increase the general workhouse accommodation...*' (pp125-156).

- 'Resolved that all the able bodied male paupers over 15 years of age be put entirely under the control of the Stewart whether from auxiliaries or parent House, and that the Infirm be employed as far as practicable to do the duty Inside doors, and as watchmen at the Auxiliaries, and that the female paupers be changed weekly from one occupation to another by one third of the number employed in each department at a time' (p177).
- Medical Officer requested *'for each Bed a pair of sheets, a pair of blankets, rug and pillow case, and that there should be a sufficient number of each of those articles for a change'* (p281)
- 'Resolved that for facilitating the examination of applicants for relief and to guard against contagion, a wooden gallery be erected at the back of the Board Room, with doors into it from the probationary wards, with an open with folding doors from the Board Room, and that our Visiting Committee be requested to carry this into immediate effect, and build up the present door into the Probationary ward' (p297, see also p318, p357).
- 'Resolved that six acres, two roods, and two perches adjoining to the workhouse grounds according to a map made by Patrick Mahon be purchased when sold under the encumbered Estates Court, and that application be made to have such put up in a separate lot' (p333).
- 'Resolved that a refractory table be established in the dinning Hall, and that those condemned to that table for disobedience, or otherwise be deprived of their liquor at meals from one to two days according to the discretion of the Board' (p357).
- 'Resolved that the Commissioners be requested to obtain the recommendation of their Architect as to the most effectual way of obtaining water for the workhouse; the distance from the River to the site of the intended capstain mill being 400 yards' (p369).
- 'Resolved that we appoint Storekeeper, and General Wardsman on this day week at a salary of £20 and rations also...' (p369).
- 'Resolved that all paupers either male, or female who are in future found with pockets shall be dismissed from the House without further Notice...' (p393, see also p416).

See also G01/12/116

11. 31 March 1851 - 20 October 1851

- 'Resolved that the Commissioners be requested to get Aid from the Treasury to Emigrate some of the unmarried females now in this workhouse to Van Dieman's land' (p13).
- The Medical Officer's report 'The mortality he regrets was heavier than usual last week there being 12 deaths in the Infirmary, 3 in the nursery, and 3 in the Fever Hospital; the majority being children whose previous constitutional debility, and general decline rendered them unable to bear up against the effects of disease' (p23).
- The Medical Officer's reported '*that the coffins supplied are of a most shameful description, and the shrouding a mere delusion*' (p39).
- 'Ordered that the Master get eighteen iron rakes for the purpose of making the land fine for sowing flax' (p43).
- Tenders requested for 'Plans and estimates for providing, and erecting steaming apparatus capable of cooking for 3,500 persons on the Workhouse premises' (p91).
- 'Resolved that the Commissioners be informed....on the chargeability of a foundling found in the Gort electoral Division that the majority of the Board were of opinion that said foundling should be charged to Gort...' (p137).
- 'Resolved that arrangements be entered into with as little delay as possible to remove the weaving establishment and all others in which the males are employed to Fairy Hill, and that the departments of the House at present occupied by these be fitted up for the reception of females while the pressure is on the House' (p219).

(12.) See also G01/12/117

See also G01/12/118

13. 25 May 1852 – 22 November 1852

- 'Resolved unanimously that we view with unfeigned regret the separation likely to occur from this Board of one of its most worthy and influential members, Lord Viscount Gort, whose active and human cooperation has ever been afforded with equal anxiety for the interest of the rate payers and the exigencies of those requiring relief, and that our Chairman be requested to convey to his Lordship a copy of this resolution with our

several good wishes for the welfare and prosperity of his Lordship and his very amiable family with a hope that although he has changed his residence still we shall not altogether lose his very valuable assistance' (p59, see also p75).

- 'The Medical Officer reports that he is happy to be able to state a steady decline in the number of ophthalmia cases and that the house is in other respects remarkably healthy and free from the forms of epidemic disease' (p235).
- Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners advising that the 'Guardians have not acted in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioners as to making a more sufficient rate and the Commissioners point out that it will be necessary that a further rate should be struck at an early period if the present insufficient scale of rates be adhered to' (p284).
- Following a query from Mr Perrott of Cork regarding a previous proposal to erect a mill the Board resolved that 'the character of their invention is not in any way involved as the Board have a high opinion of the Mill, but from the reduced number of paupers at present in the house the Board consider it inadvisable to go to any further expense in the erection of a labour test' (p397).

See also G01/12/119

14. [] November 1852 – 9 May 1853

- Letter from John Daly Nolan, Solicitor, regarding the case against Thomas Quin former rate collector charged with embezzlement, advising the Board that 'upon my applying to the Crown Solicitor and to the Clerk of the Peace, they both respectively refused to prepare Bills of Indictment and as the case was one always very difficult to sustain they advised me to employ Counsel on behalf of the Guardians, I accordingly called upon Mr Galbraith the Barrister to prepare the Bill and to attend as Counsel in the prosecution for which I am indebted to him in the sum of two Guineas.... I have to state that although the charges were clearly proved against Quin the Jury chiefly I believe owing to the character he received were of opinion he was not guilty' (p109).
- 'Mr Hall (Poor Rate Inspector) having drawing the attention of the Board to the consideration of the arrears of rates up to 1849 with a view to a revision of them. It was ordered that all Poor Rate Collectors do furnish lists of all Poor Rates due up to and for 1849 ...'(p131).

- The Master called the Board's attention to the necessity of covering the well; a serious accident had like to take place last week while one of the pauper women was in the act of taking water she slipt (sic), and fell in, and had it not been for the timely interference of a Country woman who called for assistance most likely she would have been drowned' (p247).
- 'Letter from the Roman Catholic Chaplain stating that the few pounds ordered by the Board to provide Altar requisites is entirely inadequate, and requesting it will be increased to twenty pounds to purchase suitable requisite's for the due administration of divine worship' (p309).
- 'Resolved that the Board considering the Industrial training of the Juvenile inmates of the workhouse to be a matter of the first importance in Order that they may be accustomed to manual labour at an early age, and that they may hereafter become useful members of Society; direct that the schoolboys between the ages of 12 and 15 be employed in cultivating the workhouse land, under the superintendence of the Labour Master, and that the school Girls between the ages of 12 and 15 years be employed in the industrial occupations carried out in the Workhouse namely in the workhouse kitchen, and bakery, under the superintendence of the Matron, and that they be also taught spinning, knitting, and plain needle work in mending, and making their own clothing' (p311).
- '...We cannot conceive on what grounds of Justice the Commissioners act in stating the salaries of this Union are only equal to those of others when the Clerk of Loughrea Union, a second class house, has but £80 a year and the Clerk of this Union a third class house has £100 a year. We are still of opinion this salary should be reduced to same as Loughrea, with respect to the other salaries we are also of same opinion they should be reduced as proposed.

If it was deemed prudent to increase the salaries when the work and the numbers increased to about 3,400 is it not equally just and prudent to lessen the expense when the numbers have decreased to fully a $\frac{1}{3}$ or 1235, also considering those officers have no capital engaged, no risk to run, no anxiety of mind and that their salaries are except from Poor Rates, Public cess, Tithes, quit and Crown rent or any deductions whatever while hundreds who contribute by their toil and industry to those salaries can scarcely procure a sufficiently of the necessaries of life and are daily obliged to see in foreign

lands that protection for their industry which excessive taxation denies them in this' (p329).

- Letter from the Roman Catholic Chaplain Rev. Patrick Tully to the Board calling to their attention the 'unwarrantable conduct of the Protestant Clergyman who gave prayers at the Gort workhouse on Sunday the 10th inst. Not content with confining himself to the duties he had come to discharge, the Rev. Gentleman took the liberty while mass was being read and in sight of the Altar to make most gross and insulting remarks on the mysteries of our holy religion to the Porter who is a Catholic. I respectfully request Gentlemen that you will prevent the ubiquitous feelings of the Catholic inmates of this House from being thus outraged in future...' (p409).

See also G01/12/120

15. 16 May 1853 – 24 October 1853

- 'Resolved that a sum of one pound be given to Ellen Cloonan and Alice Cloonan to assist them in emigrating to Bangor in America, the son of Ellen having sent them a sum of money which is not sufficient to take them out, they are at present inmates of the Workhouse and chargeable to Killeely E. Division' (p51).
- 'The Board accepted the tender of Matthew St George, to revise and correct the present valuation of the Union, and to attend all Appeals that may be upon the Revised Valuation at his own expense and to supply the Board with a correct and complete Book of his revision of each Electoral Division, all to be finished on or before the twentieth day of August next for the sum of Twenty pounds...' (p71) .
- 'The Master reports the milk continues to be sent in bad; he returned large quantities to the contractors last week, and purchased a supply in the Market' (p266).
- Medical Officer reported that 'general health of the inmates continues satisfactory. He begs to refer the Board to the observation he felt it his duty to make in his last report in connection with the sanitary condition of the Establishment. It is of the first importance at this particular crises to attend to the cleanliness, ventilation, diet, clothing and sewerage of the Workhouse and its inmates, with a view of maintaining them in a sound healthy state and rendering them less susceptible to the spread of epidemic disease' (p386).

See also G01/12/121

16. 31 October 1853 – 3 April 1954 Originally in poor condition, repaired in 2009
- 'Letter from the Poor Law Commissionersin reference to the preceding of the Board of Guardians on the 19th ultimo, stating that they have again had under their consideration the financial condition of the Kinvarra Electoral division together with the representations which have been made on behalf of the rate payers and stating that they are willing to recommend assistance from the Rate in Aid Fund to the extent of £200 in emigrating females of the workhouse chargeable to Kinvarra Electoral Division if eligible persons can be selected' (p228).
 - 'Resolved that the Resolution of the Board of Guardians of the Gort Union on the 9th January ordering that the Solicitor take proceedings against the Milk Contractors, and their Sureties for breach of contract be rescinded; as they have supplied a good quality of milk since' (p231).

See also G01/12/122

17. 17 April 1854 – 9 October 1854
- 'The Guardians entered into the following Agreement with Mr Gibson of Ennis. I do hereby propose, and engage to convey any number of Emigrants from the Gort workhouse to the Port of Quebec at the rate of £5.6.0 per Adult, and Children under 14 years of age at the rate of £2.15.0 per head; I further agree to give two stone of best oatmeal to each Adult, and two stone to each child, in addition to the Government Parliamentary Scale as per annexed list, and also supply them with new beds, and bedding, and cooking utensils, and I will undertake to forward them before the end of May 1854, or be subject to a penalty for every week they are not removed from the Workhouse after that month....; reserving to myself the option of sending them from Galway, Dublin, Cork or Limerick my paying all expenses of their transit from the Workhouse to the place of embarkation....' (1 May 1854, p57).
 - 'Resolved that the surplus materials for clothing in the Workhouse stores be applied for clothing the paupers about to be emigrated to Quebec after receiving a proper stock and that the Master have the same made up forthwith' (p83).
 - 'The Master reports that at this season of the year the practice of absconding becomes very frequent particularly among the Schoolboys. He begs to suggest to

the Board the necessity of cautioning the Schoolmaster to be more vigilant in his department after School hours to see that the Boys who are at [] are kept at work and not to be allowed to idle, and to impart instructions in agriculture as far as practicable to the Boys in that class and duly enter their names and nature of work in the Labour Work' (p367).

See also G01/12/123

18. 16 October 1854 – 9 April 1855

- 'Resolved that this Board continues to be unanimously of opinion that the salary of the Protestant chaplain to the Gort Workhouse ought to be altogether discontinued especially as at present there is no occasion for his services. The two Protestant paupers now in the House being well able to attend Church on all Sundays, Holidays and other occasions set apart for religious exercises....'(p81).
- 'Resolved that our Clerk be requested to communicate with the Corrofin and Ballyvaughan (Co. Clare) Boards of Guardians with a view to ascertain their opinion how far an amalgamation might be effected of the said Unions with the Gort Union, with a view to save the large expenses of the different Workhouses and staff as has been done in the case of the Portumna Union...' (p347).
- 'Resolved that the Clerk be directed to write to the Poor Law Commissioners requesting that the opinion of the Counsel be procured for the use of the Gort Poor Law Guardians as to whether the Fairy Hill Temporary sheds not on workhouse land but held under a lease for the life of the Revd. Michael O'Shaughnessy which was assigned by him to the Poor Law Commissioners can be taken down and materials sold for the benefit of the Union' (p491).

See also G01/12/124

19. 16 April 1855 - 4 October 1855

- 'Ordered that the Master make arrangements for the permanent separation of Prostitutes both Infirm and Convalescent from the rest of the inmates' (p111).

See also G01/12/125

20. 18 October 1855 - 27 March 1856

21. 29 March 1856 - 7 August 1856 Originally in poor condition, repair in 2009

See also G01/12/127

22. 2 October 1856 – 21 March 1857

See also G01/12/128

23. 2 April 1857 – 24 September 1857

- 'Resolved that applications for payment of liabilities amounting to over £150 being laid before the Board this day and the Guardians not having funds available nor any respect of funds, until a rate is made and a long having been offered to the Board to enable it to get out of the present difficulty. That the Commissioners be requested to sanction a long of £300 to pay present demands and current expenses until a rate is in course of collection, the interest of which to be paid out of the sale of hay and timber sheds, now on the Workhouse land and cemetery and the principal to be paid out of the new rate' (p311).
- 'The Honourable. Capt. Gough having attended the Board on this day and having agreed on behalf of Lord Gough to re-let to the Board of Guardians the land lately given up by them to him, and to give a lease of the same at the original rent £20.5.0 per annum, for the term as the lease of the Workhouse premises, with a [terminal] clause of surrender after the expiration of the first seven years commencing from the 25th March last' (p350).

See also G01/12/130

24. 8 October 1857 – 1 March 1858

- 'Resolved That we have investigated the matter relative to the Master (McNamara) contained in the letter of the Commissioners No. 1478, 18th January 1858, and altho' we perceive a certain general laxity of discipline in the arrangements of the Workhouse, we cannot attribute it to the present Master, who has been so short a time in charge, and who now appears by his exertions to restore the House to its proper character' (p351).

See also G01/2/131

25. 6 April 1858 – 28 September 1858

See also G01/12/132

26. 2 October 1858 – 29 March 1859

- 'Resolved in reference to the Commissioners letter of 28th December No. 263 M/58 regarding the arrears of the Rates of the old union that those arrears amounting to the sum of £816.0.7 being now irrecoverable be cancelled' (p291).
- 'The Roman Catholic Chaplain having applied that to enlarge that part of the dining hall used as a chapel, the partition be removed from the Altar to its former position in the Hall. A railing be placed in front of the Altar, a small addition to the platform. The ventilators to be secured so as to prevent the rain from coming in and a confessional to be provided'.

Order, a contract to be taken when the Commissioners sanction is received. (p391).

See also G01/12/133

27. 5 April 1859 – 17 September 1859

Originally in poor condition, repaired in 2009

(28). See also G01/12/134

29. 27 March 1860 – 25 September 1860

- 'The Board accepted the tender of James Broderick for supply coffins with full shrouds for twelve months at an average of five shilling per for all sizes' (p111).
- An allegation regarding irregular voting procedures relating to the election of John Rochford as Guardian for the Electoral division of Ardamullivan included '....there is every reason to infer at present, that votes have been improperly allowed, and of votes which ought to have been allowed and were not, and an investigation is particularly required into the circumstances under which several of the voting papers have been doubly initialled and so made void.....'(p129, see also p189) .
- 'Order that the Schoolmaster be directed to superintend the weeding and picking the stones on the Workhouse ground, and give any other necessary assistance the Master requires, the ground to be prepared immediately and planted with turnips' (p251).

- 'The Board accepted the tender of Edmond Corbet to supply a room for a surgery and waiting room in a house in the village of Killeeneen for a Dispensary Depot in Ballinderreen Dispensary District at the rate of six pounds per annum and to supply fires when required' (p400).
30. 2 October 1860 – 24 September 1861 *Received conservation treatment in 2010. Includes:*
- 'Resolved that the Commissioners be requested to sanction the expenditure of three pounds to assist the emigration of Martin Caulfield chargeable to the Electoral Division of Ardaumullivan' (15 January 1862).
 - Election of Chairman and appointment of committees (26 March 1861).
 - Letter from same (Poor Law Commissioners)...in reference to the chargability of John Tobin and wife and in reply the commissioners state that the parties not having been resident in the Union for the whole of the three years previous to their application for admission and not having been resident in an Electoral Division for 30 months of that time are chargeable to the Union at large' (28 May 1861).
 - 'Resolved that it be represented to the Committee on Poor Law, that this board consider it a great hardship [that a] discharged soldier named Thomas Deely from the 86th [] having serviced 13 years in her Majesty's service and becoming insane was sent from the military Asylum in London to this Union to be relived thereby, there being no provision for insane persons in the workhouse, but being destitute we are coerced to receive him' (2 July 1861).
 - 'Resoled that the Commissioners be informed that the numbers of boys at present in the Gort Union is twelve in the workhouse, and three in the Infirmary, of the twelve four are about the age of fourteen, the remaining eight from ten to twelve. These children are employed in weeding, but are not strong enough to be employed in agricultural labour. the Guardians are of opinion that as regards the boys the Workhouse Articles 22, 23 & 66 have been complied with. As regards the girls they are five in number, the eldest about eleven years of age, it is clear that they cannot comply with the recommendations of the Inspect of National Education as regards making and cutting out their own clothes, they are taught to sew and was, and the Board is of opinion the articles 22, 23 & 66 are complied with in their case' (p907).

- 'Resolved that the board having heard that two paupers late of the workhouse have been sentenced to imprisonment in Galway goal at hard labour by the Magistrates at the last Petty Sessions of Gort, for their cruel conduct to Michael Cormican at the time he was a pauper inmate of this workhouse, during the present year.

That they have heard with astonishment and regret that this pauper was subjected to the following treatment in this workhouse, as he proved on oath before the Magistrates, via

That he was scrounged and blistered with nettles, had dirt and offensive matter put into his milk when given to him to drink, had blazing paper held under his beard until it was burned and was violently thrust down into the workhouse privy.

That the said Pauper charged the Master with a full knowledge of the foregoing facts, and this board charges that the Master never made any report to them thereof. That the said Michael Cormican complains that he was prevented by force from coming into the Board room to complain to the Guardians and the Guardians request the Poor Law Commissioners will have all the circumstances connected with his case investigated by one of their inspectors at the Gort Workhouse, ad that due notice be given to all parties interested of the time and place of holding said investigation' (p929, see also p1026).

31. 1 October 1861 – 25 March 1862

- 'Resolved that the pauper inmates of the Workhouse be provided with a breakfast of bread and tea, on Xmas morning and a dinner of good tub pork, each adult to get one lb weight and class under 15 ¾lb each' (p231).
- 'The Committee for relief of the Poor of the town of Gort having applied to the Board of Guardians for storage for food and fuel for temporary relief for about two months: Resolved that the male probationary and yard be given to the Committee for the purpose of storage, and the issue of food and fuel for distressed people, who will not avail themselves of relief under the Poor Laws, and that as immediate relief is so urgent the Commissioners be requested to sanction the temporary appropriation of this apartment for the use intended, and that our Clerk do communicate with the Commissioners on the subject in order to have an answer as soon as possible, the probationary being only required for one day in each week' (p291).

- 'Letter from Dean Bermingham, Chairman of the Gort Relief Committee dated 13th March 1862, applying to the Board of Guardians to administer outdoor relief to the numerous Poor who have been dependant upon their now expended funds during the last tow months.
Ordered that Dean Bermingham be informed, the Board of Guardians are of opinion that so long as the workhouse accommodation is available the Board would not be justified in giving outdoor relief' (p489).
 - 'The Master reports that Michael Kelly reported on this day week for scaling the walls was convicted before the Magistrate for that offence. He was also convicted for a subsequent offence, an assault on a pauper inmate and was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment for each offence' (p507).
32. 1 April 1862 – 23 September 1862
- 'The Punishment book was produced by which it appeared that several paupers were punished by confinement in Refractory Ward from one to four hours, for small offences since last meeting of the Guardians' (267).
 - 'Resolved that a sum of ten pounds be allocated to assist the emigration of Bridget Anne and Sabrina Keane to Philadelphia, their Mother who resides there having sent three pounds to assist, the said ten pounds to be charged to the Electoral Division of Killinny, and the Commissioners sanction be requested thereon' (p331).
33. 30 September 1862 – 24 March 1863
34. 31 March 1863 – 22 September 1863
35. 29 September 1863 – 22 March 1864
- 'Ordered that the Commissioners be informed that in consequence of the remunerative employment about being given to labourers in the Gort Union, owing to the construction of a line of Railway through nearly the entire extent of it, and in consequence of the present abundant harvest so favourably contrasting with the deficient ones of the last three years, the Guardians are of opinion that it would be strange if a sum of more than £1000 should be required this year over last year, the estimated expenditure for last year was £2,322.17.0 and that for this year no

less a sum than £2,484 and therefore the Guardians are clearly of opinion, that in the estimate sanctioned by them this month they have made complete provision for the requirements of the Union' (p9).

36. 29 March 1864 –17 September 1864

(37.)

38. 28 March 1865 – 19 September 1865

39. 26 September 1865 - 20 March 1866

40. 27 March 1866 - 18 September 1866

- 'The Master reports that some of the pauper Inmates refused to use the soup for five days, in consequence of Potatoes being put on it, some of them protested against it before they saw it, but since Friday (23rd) they are using it' (p7).

41. 25 September 1866 –19 March 1867

- 'Resolved that Michael McDonough being pauper inmate of this workhouse for ten years and having conducted himself very property we agree to grant him a sum of six pounds to provide an outfit of clothing to enable him to avail himself of a respectable employment which has been provided for him' (p31).
- 'Letter from (Poor Law Commissioners) ...in reference to the resolution enquiring whether the Commissioners would sanction the reappointment of Mr Gill to the vacant office of Apothecary and stating that they cannot entertain the proposal and suggesting to the Guardians to renew the advertisement at a higher rate of salary, the present amount being below the average' (p109).
- 'In reference to the above, and talking into consideration the serious want of an Apothecary for the workhouse and altho' having complied with all the orders of the Commissioners by an increase of salary to £35 per annum and advertising several times no Tender has been received. The Guardians are desirous that the workhouse should not be left without one, and that the duties of Medical Officer and Apothecary should not be imposed upon one person whose other duties are more than sufficient for him to attend to, there was no charge [of] incompetency

brought against Mr Gill, and he is still considered competent to perform the duty for a very numerous class of Dispensary patients, the charge against him being a partial neglect of duty for which he has been severally punished.

The Guardians seeing by the last General advertiser six separate advertisements for Apothecaries for Medical Establishments, one of which offers £50 a year and Board, leads them to believe that there is very little chance of a tender for this Workhouse. Under all the circumstances the Guardians hope the Commissioners will reconsider the subject, and they earnestly request it in the interests of the sick poor and of the Union' (pp248-49).

42. 26 March 1867 – 17 September 1867

- Report from Rev. John MacEvily, Bishop of Galway and Apostolical Administrator of Kilmacudagh following a visit to the Workhouse stating 'However irksome the duty may be to be faulty finding we owe it to truly to say that whether as regards its material, external appearance, or spiritual religious condition, we cannot speak in terms of commendation of this Workhouse, and from our personal knowledge of, and profound respect for the leading Guardians, we feel assured it only needs to have matters duly represented to them to have matters remedied so far as they are concerned. The bedding in the Hospital is in a very filthy condition, the amount of covering apparently utterly unsuited for this severe season. As regards the religious state in this house we regret to say that having examined the children, male and female, in the Christian Doctrine, they were all utterly ignorant of the first principles of Religion, the inference is that they are not taught in schools this most important branch of knowledge....' (p29, see also p49).
- Letter from the Chaplain, Rev. John Barry referring to the class of a woman removed from the Magdalen Asylum in Galway to the Workhouse in Gort stating "...A woman..., a native of Gort had been admitted to the Magdalen Asylum at Galway during the latter part of the year 1866, she continued there until the middle of January of this year 1867, when she left under circumstances which form the subject of the present communication. It is hardly necessary for me to inform you that the Magdalen Asylum at Galway (indeed the same is true of all similar institutions) is instituted for the purpose of affording refuge to the pitiable class of females who unhappily fall away from virtue, in these institutions they are well

cared and supported, and it is not infrequently happens that becoming thoroughly reformed, they become deserving members of Society as honest servants etc...' (p29-30, see also p69).

- 'Resolved that James Fahey be appointed caretaker of the burial ground of this Workhouse at a Salary of £1 per annum, he repairing and keeping in repair the walls around same, and preserving it from all trespass, the Guardians reserving to themselves all grass growing thereon from the first of April in each year until cut' (p391).
- 'Ordered that advertisements be posted at the Gate and different Chapels, that proposals will be received and considered on each board day, from parties willing to nurse and rear deserted and motherless children now in this Workhouse at a remuneration of £5 per annum. Parties applying must be recommended by their Landlord and Parish Clergyman, and be under inspection of the relieving officers, and the children to be brought for inspection before the Board of Guardians when required' (p411).

43. 21 September 1867 – 14 March 1868

44. 21 March 1868 – 12 September 1868

- 'Circular from (Poor Law Commissioners) ...in reference to the Industrial Schools Act now extended to Ireland, under which a Magistrate can send a child to a workhouse for seven days, while enquiry is made about such child, or the School to which he may be sent' (p248).
- 'A small part of the Workhouse grounds having always been set apart for the horses of the Guardians from the County attending the Board during the Summer months, it is resolved that a few hundred of hay be retained for the use of their Horses in the Workhouse stables for the Winter months during their hours of attendance at the Board' (p391).

45. 19 September 1868 – 13 March 1869

46. 28 March 1869 – 11 September 1869

- 'Resolved that John Shannon and family of six be emigrated to American, that proposals be received from emigration agents as to the cost, and the Commissioners be requested to sanction the same, to be charged to the Electoral division of Ballycahalan' (p71, see also p228).
 - 'I give notice on this day fortnight I will move that the resolution requiring two years residence in the house previous to getting clothing be rescinded, and the period of six months be substituted or such other time as the Board may think fit, and that any pauper requiring clothing must give at least one days notice to the Master and come before the Board in his own clothes if he has any. I also give notice that John Brogan, John, Learn and Mat Tracy are to get clothes on this day week. Walter Shawe Taylor' (p91).
 - 'Letter from (Poor Law Commissioners)...in reference to the emigration of 4 women with their illegitimate children to New York, the Commissioners have no information as to the probability of these women being able to obtain means of support for themselves and their offspring, and are of opinion it would not be a proper course to cast upon the Institutions in New York the maintenance of these persons, and the Commissioners are not prepared to issue their consent' (p208, see also p228).
 - 'Resolved that the Commissioners be requested to inform the Guardians whether under the altered circumstances of the premises occupied by the nuns in Gort they are liable for the rates and arrears now due, and if so, in what manner they can be recovered, the case was tried by the Board at Gort Quarter Sessions some years ago, and the Chairman refused to entertain the case of any Nunnery being liable. Up to 1864 the new annual value of the premises in the Valuation book was set down at £15, exactly half the amount of rent payable to the landlord, in 1864 the annual value was increased to £20, a new building was erected on the premises valued at £10 annually but was exempt from rating being occupied as a schoolhouse for the poor, this year the School has been removed to other houses outside the convent premises, and the Convent now solely occupied as a residence for the Nuns, and is set down at the annual value of £30, including the new building mentioned above' (p431, see also p508).
47. 18 September 1869 – 26 February 1870 (with gaps)
48. 19 March 1870 – 10 September 1870

49. 17 September 1870 – 11 March 1871

- 'Letter from Poor Law Commissionersforwarding extracts from the report of their Inspector Dr Brodie on his recent Inspection of the Workhouse, and on the affairs of the Union. As regards the finances it does not appear satisfactory, the liabilities being £352 while the assets assuming the whole to be available do not amount to more than half that sum. It further appears that there still remains nearly £100 uncollected which would not be the case had the collectors been urged to a more active discharge of their duties, or used ordinary diligence in the collection. As regards the workhouse Dr Brodie reports that the wards, dayrooms and dormitories are clean and orderly, the School appeared to be fairly conducted, and the children clean and health...

The liabilities referred to have been caused by expenditure not contemplated at the time of making the last rates, viz emigration, painting and furniture amounting to £116....' (p128).

- 'Letter from Thomas Browne, Esq. Receiver in the cause of Martyn's Minors forwarding a ruling made by the Master in this matter on the report [see G01/12/49, p29] of the Guardians as to the state of some tenants on the Martyn Estate as follows viz:

"Let the Receiver call on the Guardians to state precisely what they require him to do, and state also the Act of Parliament under which they claim authority to interfere with the property of the Minors in this matter and with the Receiver acting under the Court'" (p169, see also p189).

- 'Letter from Gerald Fitzgibbon Esq. Master in Chancery....acknowledging the Guardians reply to his letter in the matter of Martyn's Minors, he says that he did not state he regarded the Guardians application made to him in the interest of the suffering poor as impertinent, but that the Guardians insinuation that he could not be influenced by the feelings of humanity which had prompted the Board to appeal to the Receiver and to him, was impertinent, this gratuitous insinuation being the only discoverable object of the Guardians communication to him' (p208, see also G01/12/50, p111).

50. 18 March 1871 – 9 September 1871

- 'The Board of Guardians of this Union have had before them Mr Browne's letter...requesting the attendance of the Sanitary Officer of Tullyra on the 20th instant.

A period of eight months having now lapsed without any active or practical steps being taken on the part of the Master of Chancery or the Receiver in Martyn's Minors to mitigate the very disgraceful state of things then existing in the village of Skehanagh, this Board do not feel themselves called upon to direct their Sanitary Officer to wait upon him, where his and the Medical Officers reports to which (it begs to refer him) have been so long disregarded and they apprehend that as very person with the smallest quantity of land has at this period of the year all nuisance and every particle of refuse removed for the purpose of manure there cannot be at the present time much to offend in this respect, as regards the state of the houses this Board is not aware what effort the poor people who reside in some of them have since made out of their own resources to improve them, but it has no doubt from the kind expression of his feelings and intentions on the subject, and as a humane landlord himself, Mr Browne will be able to satisfy himself what is requisite for the improvement of the houses and sanitary condition of those people' (pp208-209).

- Letter from the Chaplain, Rev. Michael Connolly to the Board stating '...The opportunity for making this enquiry presented itself to me on Sunday last, when one of the inmates the mother of an illegitimate child asked to be churched, when questioned as to who the father of the child was, she positively stated that one of the Guardians was, and I believed her, led to do so by the consideration of the place (the Chapel) in which she made the statement, her manner of making it, and the absence (so far as I could see) of any motive for deceiving me, or wronging the Guardian whose name she mentioned. This then is the matter to which I have alluded, and to which my attention had been called the circumstance that among the inmates of the Workhouse over whom the Guardians exercises some control, here should be the victim of his seduction, if the woman's statement be true, I would say that every man who thinks rightly would agree with me in holding that the position of the Guardian is anomalous, and his name of Guardian a misnomer...' (p329, see also p351).
- 'Resolved that in compliance with the intimation of the Commissioners and the unanimous feeling of the Board, the Gort Union be divided into three districts for Dispensary purposes, that the new Division be called the Dispensary of Ardrahan and comprise the Electoral Divisions of Ardrahan, Ballycahalan, and Cappard, Castle Taylor, Killeely, Kiltomas, Rahasane and Skehanagh' (p519).

51. 11 November 1871 – 9 March 1872
52. 16 March 1872 – 7 September 1872
53. 14 September 1872 – 8 March 1873
54. 15 March 1873 – 26 July 1873
55. 6 September 1873 – 7 March 1874
 - 'The Board of Guardians having resolved itself into a Burial Board gave directions that the R. (Relieving) Officers should visit the several Burial Grounds in their respective district report as to their condition and give an estimate on this day three weeks as to the probable cost of putting same in decent order' (p49).
 - 'Circular letter L.G.B..... stating that in one or two instance the Clerk of Unions have introduced as part of the business of the Board a letter from the house Rule Association which is in plain terms addressed to himself asking for his signature and not for any expression of opinion by the Board of Guardians on the subject. The Local G. Board must require any Clerk who is in receipt of the circular in question to deal with it as addressed personally to himself and not introduce the matter in the Board Room' (p148).
 - 'There being at present 23 typhoid fever patients in the hospital here from the Industrial Schools and eleven having been discharged cured and one died. The Guardians beg to call attention to the Local G. Board to so serious an amount of illness with a view to those schools being inspected and reported on as to their capacity to accommodate the large number of children lately Boarded and taught in them...' (p329, see also pp388-389).
 - 'Read letter from Local Government Board ... The L.G. Board trust that the attention of the Guardians having been again called to the sewerage and water supply of the town that they will take effectual steps to remedy defects report[ed] on by County Surveyors so far back as 1871' (p409).

56. 14 March 1874 – 19 September 1874

57. 26 September 1874 – 3 April 1875

58. 10 April 1875 – 11 October 1875

- 'The Visitors' Book being produced the following was read from the Right Revd. J. McEvelly, Bishop of Galway

"Visited this Workhouse. It gives me the greatest possible pleasure to say that in my opinion nothing could surpass the neatness, cleanliness, and order that prevails in every department of this Establishment. The condition of the Workhouse reflects the greatest credit on all parties concerned" (p69).

- 'In reference to an application from the Lady Superioress of the Convent of Mercy, Gort the Board ordered the following to be done for accommodation of the two Nurses lately elected.

Two seats either side of the Altar, the arch at back of Altar to be plastered, the other matter asked for Chapel to be applied for by Father Connolly if required – A new window sash to hand on hinges to be got small room leading to chapel also a small American cooking stove...'(p195).

59. 23 October 1875 – 6 May 1876

- 'Mr Nolan gave notice that he would move on this day fortnight the following resolution:

"The Poor Houses in Ireland having been originally constructed to meet the requirements of a population nearly double that at present in this country and when pauperism existed in a very much larger proportion, it is resolved that the Government be requested to inquire into the accommodation afforded by the present numerous Houses, which this Board considers quite unnecessary with a view to the amalgamation of unions as far as possible and thus reduce the heavy and constantly increasing Establishment charges" (p21).

(60.)

61. 26 November 1876 – 2 June 1877

62. 2 June 1877 – 29 December 1877
63. 5 January 1878 – 13 July 1878
64. 20 July 1878 – 8 February 1879
- The Poor Law Commissioners advised the Board of the findings of their Inspector's Dr Brodie, periodical report, stating 'that the general condition of the Establishment (Gort Union) is most satisfactory and that it is properly conducted by the several Officers in charge. The provisions which he inspected appeared to be of good quality, the stock of clothing sufficient, and the school well conducted. The children appearing to have made considerable progress since the appointment of the present Schoolmistress....The Infirmary and Fever Hospital are reported to be satisfactorily conducted and kept clean and orderly.
With respect to the state of repair of the Workhouse Buildings Dr Brodie remarks that many improvements have been recently effected in the Chapel and that the painting of the Establishment inside and outside should receive the Guardians attention early in the ensuing year' (f92).
 - 'Letter from Mr Galbaith, Cess Collector, dated 26th October 1878 stating that Lord Gough objects to pay the Co. Cess on the half annual rent of the Workhouse and land attached thereto and also the Workhouse Cemetery on the grounds that the Guardians hold possession of said premises and lands under a lease which binds them to pay all taxes' (f116).
 - 'Resolved that the new small-pox Hospital at Carrowgarriff be used and occupied as a Union Hospital for small-pox cases only and that six beds, bedding, utensils, furniture and fuel be sent there at once and that notice be given to the Relieving Officers to send all small-pox patients there' (f96).
65. 15 February 1879- 6 September 1879
66. 13 September 1879 – 20 March 1880

- 'Resolved that woefully impressed with the impending destitution likely to occur in the coming Winter through the inability of the Farmers to give the usual employment to labourers and aware of their inabilities to pay the present rents and meet their other engagements we call on the Landlords of this Union to kindly come forward now and make such temporary reduction of rents as will enable the Farmers to employ the destitute and poor who are unwilling to report to the workhouse. A special meeting to be summoned for this day fortnight to consider the matter' (p7).
- 'That in view of the prevalent distress, the Board of Guardians earnestly call on the different landlords of the Union to avail themselves of the conditions recently offered by the Government to lend money for the improvement of their estates with the view of giving employment' (p251).
- 'That £15 be applied for to construct a well at Cahermore; and that the cost of construction be paid for by the townlands using the well' (p384).
- 'Resolved That the Guardians of each Electoral Division be and is hereby authorised to give to each person in his division whose name is entered on the Rate Books, by order to the Master of the Workhouse one sack (2 cwt) of Champion seed potatoes' (p409).
- 'Resolved The Local Government Board is requested to cause a sworn inquiry into the statement made as to the receiving of money by Mr Staunton one of the Guardians of the Union and any other questions that may arise out of such inquiry, and also as to the statement made by Mr Burke, Relieving Officer receiving money in connection therewith' (p426).

67. 27 March 1880 – 2 October 1880
- 'A Resolution of the Belfast Board of Guardians to endeavour to get a change in the law which permits the Authorities in England to send back to Ireland natives of Ireland and [who spent] their best years and strength out of Ireland and in those Kingdoms, was adapted by this Board and the Clerk ordered to communicate with the Belfast Board' (pp279-280).
68. 9 October 1880 – 9 April 1881
69. 16 April 1881 – 22 October 1881
70. 29 October 1881 – 6 May 1882
71. 13 May 1882 – 18 November 1882 Originally in poor condition, repaired in 2009.
- 'That we the Board of Guardians of the Gort Union hereby place on record the sentiments of our most profound horror and detestation of the brutal and savage murder of the Chief and Under secretaries recently committed in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. We fervently hope that the perpetrators of the foul deed will be speedily brought to retributive justice, and in profound sorrow we sympathise with those who have been plunged into grief by the fearful tragedy' (p9).
- 'That two pounds be granted to Mary Glynn to assist her emigration and that the consent of LGB be requested' (264p).
- 'That Mrs Dullea the late Matron be allowed £40 per annum superannuation allowance, this being ½ the amount of her salary and emoluments she having spent 30 years in the Poor Law Service and gave the Board every satisfaction in the discharge of her duties and that the LGB sanctions be requested' (p329, see also p344).
 - 'Letter from the Archdecon Daly requesting the Guardians to hand over a Protestant child named Rose Garden to the charge of the Rev B J Roberts of Galway, he providing a suitable nurse and placing her at school.
- Ordered:- Archdeacon Daly's request to be complied with and £6 per annum to be allowed. The child to be produced once in six months for the Guardians inspection without any expenses to them a suit of clothes to be provided' (p409).

72. 25 November 1882 – 2 June 1883
73. 9 June 1883 – 8 December 1883
74. 15 December 1883 – 14 June 1884
75. 21 June 1884 – 20 December 1884 Originally in poor condition, repaired in 2009.
- The Guardians considered the 'Local Government Board's letter of 27th ulto, declining to consent to the abolition of Protestant Chaplain in Gort Union...' (p30).
 - 'Letter from the LGB...adhering to their decision of 4th ulto not to sanction the proposed reduction of the Officers salaries' (f70, see also f90).
 - A report from the Master regarding the children's visit to Coole Park where Lady Gregory gave them fruit, sweets and *'on leaving present them with a lot of nice toys. The children spent a very pleasant evening and will long remember the kindness of Sir William & Lady Gregory'* (f109).
 - The LGB advised that Dr Woodhouse's annual report on the workhouse stated *'that he cannot speak too highly as regard the cleanliness and order of the establishment and the comfort of the Inmates. He reports that the financial condition is not satisfactory, and he states the Relieving Officers do not make written reports as to the condition of children out at nurse. The Workhouse buildings are in a faire state of repair and Dr Woodhouse suggests that it would be a great improvement if even a central passage of the dining Hall was tiled...'* (f150).
 - *'Letter from LGB...stating with reference to the proposal to increase the roman Catholic Chaplain's salary from £50 to £70 per annum for giving daily Mass for the accommodation of the Nuns, that this is not a duty imposed by the LGB or by any of their rules or regulations, but as the proposed salary is not very much in excess of that granted in similar circumstances [Union] they sanction the increase to £70 per annum.* (f209).
76. 2 January 1885 – 4 July 1885

- 'Resolved: "That we the Guardians of the Gort Poor Law Board in union with the wishes of the ratepayers we represented and in concert with nine-tenths of our fellow countrymen and following the prudent counsel of Mr Charles Stewart Parnell, the acknowledged leader of the Irish people do hereby declare that we shall pay no mark of welcome, or respect of any kind to the Prince of Wales on his approached visit to this Country"' (p273).
 - 'Resolved: "That we condemn with unqualified contempt and disgust the cowardly and inhuman conduct of the French Government in expelling from her shores, at the bidding of their hereditary enemy, our distinguished countryman, Mr James Stephens, who did so much to infuse a national vitality into the people of this Island and to demolish foreign misrule in this country"' (p273).
 - 'A sum not exceeding £4 was granted to purchase suite of clothes for William Crowe and to pay his fare to Liverpool, his friends being about to pay his passage to Australia' (p296, see also p360).
 - 'The Guardians also passed a resolution of the Tuam Board calling attention to the great want of employment and the great number of evictions taking place' (p427).
77. 11 July 1885 – 2 January 1886
- 'Letter from Lord Gough stating in reply to the Guardians inquiry that he will give them every facility in his power to sink a pump in the Market Square of Gort, on condition they will employ a proper pump sinker and advertise the work. He thinks that as the Square has for many years been repaired by the County it will be necessary to get the consent of the proper authorities (the Grand Jury)' (p504).
78. 17 July 1886 – 22 January 1887
- 'That we the Guardians of the Gort Union feel alarm at the present embarrassed condition of the tenantry of this and adjoining counties owing to the unprecedented depression in stock and all kinds of agricultural produce, and we are of opinion that these tenantry will not be able to pay judicial rents or rents fixed on a similar basis; and we strongly urged upon the Government the necessity of stopping evictions during the winter' (p140).

- 'The loan of £150 for Gort Pump to be repaid by 40 half yearly instalments at the rate of £2.10.0 per cent with interest on the principal from time to time remaining due at the rate of £3.10.0 per cent per annum' (p327).
- 'Resolved – that the attention of the Co. Surveyor be called to the filthy condition of the streets of the towns of Gort and Kinvarra, and to the fact that the Road Contractors do not properly discharge their duties. The Guardians feel surprised that after the recent visit of the co. Surveyor there is no improvement. They particularly request attention to the condition of the street between Kinvarra Quay and John Holland's house' (p415).

79. 5 February 1887 – 6 August 1887

- '...having heard that the Grand Jury of the County of Galway included the Barony of Kiltartan in the Baronial charge for the construction of the Tuam and Claremorris Railway, we hereby protest against such charge and request the Privy Council to exclude said Barony, as the nearest portions of said line of Railway to anyone residing in said barony is at least 30 miles, and will be of no service whatever, and that the people in said Barony are considerably overtaxed already..' (p31).
- 'The Gort Board of Guardians condemn the Jury packing system practiced by the Crown in the trials of John Dillon and his fellow Traversers, and the action of the Crown in ordering Catholic Jurors to stand aside practically amounts to a refusal of the "Emancipation Act" and tends to make the Irish people abandon all respect for and confidence in the administration of the law. We believe the intention of the Crown to be to endeavour to obtain by hook or crook the conviction of the Traversers whose offence and their manley (sic) and noble efforts to save the Irish Tenant from the merciless oppression of their hard-hearted and rack-renting Landlords. We believe John Dillon was justified in preaching the "Plan of Campaign" for no other remedy could have saved the Irish People...' (p53).
- 'That ^s30/= be allowed to assist Patrick Kildea's emigration. Amount to be charged to Gort Division' (p228).
- 'That ^s50/= be allowed to Honoria Wallace and her 2 children to assist their emigration. Amount to be charged to Ardrahan Division' (p228).

- Half yearly report by Mr Burke, Inspector to Local Government Board stated the ‘...financial condition of the Union is not satisfactory, the debts due by the Guardians amounting to £939 which there is a balance due to the Treasure of £500...’ (p251).
- ‘That we the Guardians of the Poor of the Gort Union ...express our indignation and astonishment at the introduction into the House of Commons of an Irish Owners Bill of such a despotic character that if passed into law will annihilate civil liberty in Ireland.
We protest against the conduct of the Government of England in now endeavouring to pass this atrocious penal law for the purpose of suppressing the rights and liberties of the people of Ireland. That our people are now threatened to be persecuted with a penal law as bad the worst of those passed during the eighteenth century. Against such a system we again solemnly protest’ (p252).
- ‘Letter from Lady Gregory asking permission for the children to spend either Monday or Tuesday afternoon at Coole Park.
Ordered – The Guardians thank Lady Gregory for her kind invitation but they are sorry they cannot let the children go for about a fortnight as the Matron is absent on leave and the Master cannot leave the House’ (p449).

80. 13 August 1887 – 3 March 1888

- ‘We the Guardians of the Gort Union at our meeting assembled...condemn in the strongest possible terms the inhuman action of the Government in imprisoning one of Ireland’s most illustrious sons and greatest Patriots, Mr William O’Brien M.P., and we hereby tender him our greatest sympathy in his lonely prison cell’ (p252).
- Auditors observation for half year ended 29 September 1887 stated the ‘financial state of the Union is unsatisfactory. At close of the half year Treasurers Account shows a debit balance of £740, unpaid bills £444 while the poor Rate at same date uncollected amounted to £575’ (p317).

81. 22 September 1888 – 5 October 1889
- ‘...strongly condemn the systems of Jury packing in Ireland whose principal champion is “Peter the Packer”’; for in every case innocent victims are sacrificed to long terms of imprisonment. That we sincerely sympathise with the four young men who were convicted at the late Wicklow Assizes ...of charges of which we believe them to be innocent’ (p119).
 - ‘The Medical Officer of Kinvarra District reported that the town of Kinvarra is at present in a filthy state, owing to heaps of manure being allowed to remain in several parts of the town which polute (sic) the air and are highly dangerous to the health of the inhabitants’ (p157).
 - ‘...place on record our indignant protest against the savage and inhuman treatment the high souled and patriotic William O’Brien, the idol of the Irish race at home and abroad is subjected to in Clonmel Goal at the hands of the mendacious Balfour and his vile and brutal jailers. We emphatically assert that in no other civilised nation could a political opponent of William O’Brien position amongst his county-men be so spitefully and barbarously treated...’ (p167).
82. 19 October 1889 – 31 October 1891
- ‘That we the Board of Guardians of Gort Union in meeting assembled this day, in union with all members of the Irish race all the world over professing every aspiration of National feeling renew our confidence in our trusted and faithful Leader, Charles Stewart Parnell. We deplore the villainous and spiteful conduct of his political enemies in their latest attempt to infuse his unsullied character and regret that any rational being could be so depraved as to sink himself to such a depth of shame and degradation as to strike at an honourable opponent’ (p106).
 - ‘That we deeply deplore the loss our county has sustained in the death of Mr Joseph G Bigger, M.P., one of Ireland’s tried and trusted sons...’ (p152).
 - ‘Request the Local Government Board to state whether the Sisters of Mercy at Kinvarra are liable for Poor Rates and arrears amounting to £1.12.9 due off their Convent, the valuation of which is £2.12’ (p298).

- 'Letter from Local Government Boardinforming the Guardians that they have received Dr. Clement's report relating to the several Dispensary Districts, in which he states that the Kinvarra Dispensary is not kept clean and requires painting and limes-washing. They request the Guardians will be so good as to urge the members of the several Dispensary Committees to meet regularly in future. The ½ yearly accounts of the Dispensary Districts have not been forwarded to the Committees and notices Form N. have not been posted. The poison press at Kinvarra Dispensary is out of order and Vaccination is reported to be delayed beyond the prescribed period throughout the Union' (p317).
 - 'That we ... enter our strongest protest against the action of the Government in arresting Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien on the eve of their departure to America to assist the Irish tenants who are now threatened with want' (p410).
 - 'That in future all the advertisements of our Union be published in the Irish language side by side with the same in the English language. We are for Home Rule – for having Ireland a nation once again, therefore to be consistent we must not fail to aid in preserving our nation's language which, notwithstanding the efforts of the British Government to destroy it, is still, as in the days of Duach and Guaire spoken and understood all over our district' (p459).
 - 'We...renew our confidence in our tried and trusted leader, Charles Stewart Parnell.
In doing so we are contented with the fact that no political act of his left contains a stain that should condemn him in the eyes of his fellow countrymen.' (p508).
 - 'Dr Mullins reported that six cases of Typhoid Fever had recently occurred in the village of Shanbally and he recommended that the villagers be got to lime wash their houses, that necessary caution be taken in use of water, proper attention to manure pits and disinfectants used' (p609, see also p705).
83. 14 November 1891 – 9 December 1893
- 'The Guardians thinking it unnecessary are unwilling to incur the expense of an accurate measurement of the various buildings. They think it will suffice to inform the Local Government Board that at present there are less than 200 inmates in the Workhouse and that it will accommodate more than twice that number if

necessary, but which necessity they do not think will arise. The same remarks apply to the Fever Hospital in which there are just now 23 patients but it will accommodate more than twice that number' (p392).

- 'Notices of eviction of 17 tenants in the townland of Killeeneenmore were laid before the Board' (p633).
- Letter from Local Government Board 'requesting that they may be informed under what circumstances the boy referred to in the Minutes of 13th inst. was sent from the Workhouse to Letterfrack Industrial School.
Ordered: The Boy's Grandmother (who was also an inmate) took him out of the Workhouse and he having been afterwards found begging was committed to the Industrial School. Having very bad clothes the Guardians provided him with a suite. The mother is in America' (p650, see also p664).
- 'Mr Persse reported that he had valued the land to be added to Kilbeacanty Graveyard. The area is 20 perches IPM. He awards to the owner (Viscount Gough) £5 and to the tenant (James Fallon) £4 being equal to 20 years and 16 years purchase respectively.
Viscount Gough, who was present expressed his agreement with the award...He will give the amount awarded to him in aid of the building of Kilbeacanty new School' (p752).
- 'That the Master be directed order the prosecution of any tramp who shall refuse to leave the Workhouse after getting a nights lodging in compliance with the order of the Board of 30 September last, or who shall pretend sickness or refuse or neglect to work when the Medical Officer considers him able to work, or who shall disobey any other lawful order of the Master or Porter of the Workhouse...' (p826).
- 'That we again urge the Local Government Board to sanction the grant of 1^d in the £ to the Gort Technical Classes, as those classes have now been associated with the Department of Science and Art, and have been going on for some time past. That we fail to see why this Union should be treated on a different footing from Galway Union where a similar grant was sanctioned and paid over last January though the School has not yet been opened. That the Local Government Board has placed every obstacle in the way of this grant to a most deserving industry....' (p857, see also p872).

- '...The Guardians think that having regard to the difficulty of collecting rates owing to the poverty of the greater number of the persons now in arrears the Collectors have made an average collection. The total amounts of Poor and Seed Rate now outstanding are £417 and £183 respectively, while the amounts for the corresponding week of last year were £4632 and £139, and the Seed Rate now includes £100 arrears of the 1st instalment....' (p873).
84. 6 January 1894 – 18 January 1896
- 'We the Board of Guardians of the Gort Union do hereby resolve that we consider that the occupiers of loan in all the electoral Divisions are generally unable, through poverty, and the extent of the failure of the potato crop, to procure an adequate supply of Seed potatoes, and that we shall at a meeting to be held on this day fortnight apply to the Local Government Board for Ireland for a loan to purchase seed potatoes for the use of the said Electoral Divisions ; the amount of the loan to be applied for to be such as we shall determine at that meeting' (p487).
 - 'That in the opinion of this Board the labouring population of the Union are in a very destitute state for want of work, and we respectfully call on the government to provide them with employment' (p506).
 - 'The Board of Guardians have read with satisfaction the announcement made by the Chief Secretary of the intention of the Government to take immediate steps for providing employment for the small farmers and labouring population of the West of Ireland. The Board desire to draw attention to their resolution of 19th January last on this subject, the absolute necessity which exists for providing employment for the labourers and small farmers in the town and district of Gort, who are now in great distress owing to the want of work and the inability which the Guardians fear is likely to continue of the farmers to provide it, through the fall in the price of agricultural produce.
A large number of such persons living in the town and neighbourhood of Gort are now quite idle and a considerable proportion unable to provide the barest necessities of life without the outdoor relief which the Guardians have been obliged to afford, together with the contributions of the inhabitants of the Town who have generously formed a relief committee to provide fuel etc....' (p541, see also p559).

- 'Read letter from the Local Government Board...stating that they "authorise the Guardians to extend the outdoor relief to destitute persons, when necessary, whether in the occupation of land or not, for a period of two months from this date" (p577).
 - '...believe the construction of a Railway from Oranmore to Ballyvaughan would go far to develop the resources of the district and would afford much needed employment...' (p866).
85. 1 February 1896 – 26 February 1898
- The LGB observe from their Inspector, Major Ruttledge Fair's report on the workhouse that 'the rate agreed to by the Guardians is inadequate to meet the ordinary expenditure of the Union especially as the numbers on outdoor and indoor relief show a considerable increase. The inspector estimates that a sum of £3,550 will be required to meet liability for the remainder of the year to 29 Sept., while the assets will only make about £3,095 and of this sum it is feared at least £300 will prove to be uncollectable...' (p75).
 - Letter from the LGB 'requesting to be informed as to the nature of the old books ordered to be sold by the Master and also pointing out that if they were official records they should be retained and that the Clerk was responsible for their safe custody' (p315).
 - 'That in common with our fellow countrymen we strongly protest against the injustices under which the Catholics of Ireland still labour in the matter of University Education.
That as the act of Emancipation should have removed all the disabilities under which Irish Catholics had so long suffered we demand equality with our Protestant fellow countrymen as regard Education Endowment.
That as the justices of our demand is admitted by representative and enlightened Irish Protestants such as Mr Lackey and Lord Powerscourt, by the most influential section of the English press, by ex-Cabinet members as well as by members of the present Ministry, it is the imperative duty of the Executive to remedy this great national grievance by immediate legislation and concede to the united demands of Ireland's Catholic laity and Hierarchy, a measure of justice too long withheld' (p1121).

- Letter from the LGB stating that ‘they consider the Guardians are trifling with them in submitting Mr Thomas Corbett’s name as a suitable person to fill the vacant office of Rate Collector. The Guardians must be well aware that an Officer who has been dismissed for habitual negligence is not eligible for re-re-election to the same position.

The Guardian’s act is calculated to place the Union in a seriously embarrassed position and they must call upon them without further delay to appoint a Collector or the matter will be taken out of their hands forthwith’ (p1186).

86. 12 March 1898 – 29 July 1889

*Incorporates minutes of Gort Rural
District Council 15 April – 29 July 1899*

Includes:-

- ‘...letter from the Local Government Board...authorising the Guardians to administer relief out of the Workhouse in food or fuel to such destitute persons as they may consider require it whether in the occupation of land or not, for a period of two months ..’(p29)
- Report of the Local Government Board’s Inspector, Major Ruttledge Fair on the Union ‘which is satisfactory as regards its financial condition’, in addition it states that ‘The floor of the men’s day room is very defective and should be relaid with concrete.
Many of the windows let in the rain, and are defective and the Infirmary windows should be replaced as soon as possible
External and internal painting is much needed
It seems the visiting committee never meet...’ (p227).
- ‘That as there are many districts in this Union congested and over-populated and the people in these districts are in dire poverty and distress we are of opinion that it would be most desirable and advantageous to the people to have the Gort Union district scheduled under the Congested Districts Board and we call upon the Government to affect such alterations in the law as would enable and (sic) Union and other districts similarly situated to be brought under that Act’, (p669).

87. 2 September 1899 – 15 June 1901

- Letter from the Local Government Board regarding improvements to Workhouse recommended by their Inspector, Major Rutledge Fair, stating ‘...that regarded from a sanitary point of view the Gort Workhouse instead of being one of the best as asserted by the Guardians in now actually one of the very worst in the county. In all the other Unions the improvements advocated have either been provided or are being carried out. The general appearances of the infirmary and the state of the sick wards would be in the last degree unsatisfactory had it not been for the individual exertions of the Sisters of Mercy, who act as nurses in the infirmary, and who at their own expense provided the improvements necessary to place the wards in their present condition. The Guardians for many years having done very little to bring the Infirmary to a state even somewhat approaching modern medical and sanitary requirements....’ (p333).
- ‘That we the members of the Gort Board of Guardians humbly and respectfully request the Most Revd. Dr Healy, Bishop of Clonfert, to divide the grass farm known as Carragh, in the vicinity of Gort into suitable holdings and to sell them out to the people of the locality that in so doing he would set a good precedent to the Landlords in this Union, and confer a lasting benefit on the people of this district and greatly improve the markets and town of Gort, by reason of the large amount of land now under grass that would in the future be converted into tillage land...’(p658).

88. 24 August 1901 – 22 August 1903

- ‘The Matron reported that there were in the Workhouse about 7 deserted children, most of them infants and that she finds it difficult to get these properly cared for. She recommends if the Guardians so their way to increasing the annual allowance for Boarding out children from £6 to £8 or £9 per annum to induce outside persons to apply for them’ (872).
- ‘That we the members of the Gort Board of Guardians condemn in the strongest language the action of Mr Edward Martyn of Tullyra Castle and his supporters at the Rotunda meeting in their attempt to create dissension in the National Ranks at such a very crucial moment in the history of our long suffering county at the very moment when its hopes seems highest.
That we hereby express our unabated confidence in Mr John Redmond the able

and eloquent leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party and his distinguished colleague, the right hon. The Lord Mayor of Dublin whose record is known and proven in Irish politics for the last 30 years...' (p970).

- 'The Mast reported that he would thank the Board to fix a substitute for sheep's heads whenever the Contractor fails to supply the number required. Ordered: Mr McNamara must comply with his contract. Failing this the Master to use 2½ lbs beef in lieu of each sheep's head and charge him with the cost' (p,011).
- 'That application be made to the Local Government Board for their consent to increasing from £700 to £730 the amount of Loan required to provide a dispensary residences for Kinvarra District...' (p1,039).

(89.)

90. 28 October 1905 – 9 November 1907

- 'That we...desire to place on record our sincere and heartfelt regret at the untimely death of Mr Thomas Higgins, M.P. for North Galway, who had prominently identified himself for over a quarter of a century with the National movement, and had been instrumental in securing the division of several grazing farms, as well as effecting sales to the tenant farmers in the constituency he had been returned for by such an overwhelming majority, and his death at this inopportune time will be more keenly felt when his valuable services in the British Parliament will be lost to the people of all Galway, whom he had served so faithfully, and so well, at our local Boards' (p151).
- 'The L.G.B. desire to add that the wages of all children hired out should be deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank in the joint names of the child and Guardians, and they also request that the Relieving Officers be directed to visit and report on hired out children at least once every three month' (p169).
- 'That we...desire to place on record our deep and heartfelt regret at the death of Ireland's most illustrious son, the pure souled and unselfish Michael Davitt, and that we look upon his early death as an irreparable loss to the Irish people' (p329).

91. 23 November 1907 - 7 November 1908

- 'That we the members of the Gort Board of Guardians rejoice to see that unity amongst all Irish Nationalists has been practically established, and we call upon the Party during the coming Session to press forward the claims of the evicted tenants for re-instatement and to insist that a professedly friendly government shall lose no time in dividing up the ranches' (p91).
 - Letter from the Local Government Board 'requesting the Guardians to board out a number of children presently in the Workhouse ...
The Guardians consider the children too young to board out, and believe they are better off in the Workhouse until they are of an age to hire out...' (p409).
92. 21 November 1908 – 23 October 1909
- 'That we the Gort Board of Guardians respectfully request the Galway County Council to cancel the irrecoverable rates furnished by our Collectors for years 1907 and 1908 and due by parties in occupation of buildings in the towns of Gort and Kinvara, who have no means and some of whom are in receipt of outdoor relief and old age pensions' (p331).
93. 6 November 1909 – 8 October 1910 (Repaired in 2010)
- 'The Visiting Committee reported that they inspected the Workhouse and recommended that a new corrugated roof be put on the shed adjoining the Greenhouse, also new flue pipes be provided for the bath house in the male side of the infirmary' (12 February 1910).
 - 'Read letter from Local Government board dated 7th inst, requesting to be informed of the Guardians reasons for adjourning their letter of 11th ulto relative to the manner in which wages of hired out children of the Union are dealt with. The Guardians are of opinion the existing arrangement is satisfactory, and they do not see their way to change it until the year terminates in July next' (12 March 1910).
 - 'Read letter from Local Government Board...forwarding a communication from the office of Lunatic Asylum's relative to the admission to Ballinasloe Lunatic Asylum, of M. B. from Gort Workhouse and requesting an explanation from the Medical

Officer, and officers in charge of the ward in which the patient was placed.

The Medical Officer of Ballinasloe Asylum reported that M.B. was admitted on the 25th March, in poor health, and in senile insanity, very verminous (clothing) on admission.

Dr Moran, Medical Officer and the Matron submitted reports on the matter which the Guardians considered satisfactory and directed that same be submitted to the Local Government Board' (9 April 1910).

94. 22 October 1910 – 23 September 1911

- 'We ... desire to protest against the manner in which the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland are at present being inquired into by a secret Commission appointed by the present Government, five Englishmen against one Irishman; and we call upon the Most Revd. Dr Kelly to withdraw from this body as his great financial abilities must prove useless against such an overwhelming majority of English experts appointed in the sole interests of the English Government; and we further call upon the Irish Party to dissociate themselves from responsibility for their findings, and insist on receiving the findings of the 1904 Commission as the basis of the relations' (p266).
- 'Resolved – That ___ ____ be allowed a child named _____ to be boarded out with him on the usual conditions' (p267).
- 'Resolved – The Guardians agreed that it is not advisable to use the Fever Hospital for consumptive patients and they request Engineer to furnish estimate of cost of converting and fitting up two rooms on the Female side, and the Coal store on the male side, as Consumptive Wards' (p350, see also p435).
- Extract from the Local Government Board's Inspector's report 'The condition of the insane in the Workhouse is anything but satisfactory.
Five women and one man are classified as insane. The females are scattered through the institution in various dormitories, which were untidy, and badly kept, and cobwebs abound everywhere. The sheets and bed-clothing were clean, but the palliasses and straw ticks were dirty, and many only fit for burning. The straw in the ticks is only changed once a year and under such conditions, it was natural to find them in a dirty state. There is no bathroom on the female side of the institution consequently the women are not bathed. The male patient gets a bath about twice in the year. The five female patients should sleep in one dormitory

and the Matron should insist on each patient occupying a separate bed, and not allow a mother and her daughter to sleep in the same small bed. The diet scale appears poor and should be improved' (p400, see also p415).

95. 7 October 1911 - 21 September 1912
96. 5 October 1912 – 6 September 1913
97. 6 September 1913 - 25 July 1914
98. 8 August 1914 – 24 July 1915
99. 7 August 1915 – 14 April 1917
- 'We, the members of the Gort Board of Guardians in common with the great majority of our fellow countrymen deeply deplore the recent occurrence in Dublin and other parts of the country.
We also desire to convey to Mr John Redmond and the Irish Party our strongest support, and we assure him that at no time in his leadership had we greater confidence in his ability than at present.
We request Mr Redmond, and the Irish Party to have Martial Law withdrawn'
Annotation: Rescinded 10/7/1920, (p290).
 - 'The Clerk reported that the Master was arrested on the 4th inst. for alleged connection with the Sinn Fein organisation. He requested the Matron with the assistance of the Porter to take charge until the Guardians' meeting today' (p291).
 - 'We, the Guardians of Gort Union, respectfully request the Lord Lieutenant, Mr John J Redmond, and Mr W.J. Duffy, MPs to ask the Government to at once deal with Mr John Kelly's case, who was for the past twelve years our Master of the Union, and was an exceptionally capable man, while not saying the authorities were right in their prompt action in arresting several young men in this district, who were suspected to be implicated in the sad movement. We as a loyal body

wish to state that even through Mr Kelly was arrested on suspicion we think, he did not suspect or know of the dangerous move that was taking place, and ask to have him released' (p292).

- 'A motion to be considered by the Loughrea Guardians suggesting the amalgamation of the Unions of Gort and Loughrea was submitted- Ordered-
The Guardians have already expressed their approval of the principle of amalgamation, but they insist on retaining an Hospital in Gort, and they think all details should be left for settlement at a Local Government Inquiry to be held later' (p472).
- 'Circular letter from the Local Government Board dated 31st ulto. Respecting the disposal of wastepaper etc, and submitting detailed list of Books and records which should not be disposed of, but should be carefully preserved, as well as all Deeds, Assignments, Mortgages or documents of a legal nature, relating to the purchase or acquisition of property' (p511).

100. 12 May 1917 – 12 April 1919

- Includes attached report on the inquiry into amalgamation of the Unions of Gort and Loughrea (p107), includes statement from Lady Gregory wherein she said '*she took a deep interest in the Gort Workhouse, she was impressed by the sympathetic manner in which the hospital was conducted by the Guardians, the Medical Officer and the nuns. Patients had no feeling of repugnance in going into it, and she hoped that whatever happened the Hospital would be retained in Gort*' (p108, p8).
- 'That we, the Gort Board of Guardians desire to tender to the relatives of the late Thomas Ashe, our sincere sympathy in the great loss they have sustained by the death of one of Ireland's noblest sons, who showed to the world that Irishmen are not to be branded as criminals for love of county, by any from of English Government'
And we call upon those responsible for Martial Law in Ireland to have it at once withdrawn, as we consider it an act calculated to further exasperate a people already ground by the tyranny of English misrule...' (p132).

101. 10 May 1919 – 14 May 1921
- Letter from the Local Government Board stating that the '19th [July] *inst. has been fixed as the date for the public celebration of the Declaration of Peace* [end of World War I]. *They will not object to the day being observed as a holiday, modifications being made in the dietary of the inmates and a reasonable addition to the out door poor'* (p51).
 - 'That we the members of the Gort Board of Guardians desire to place on record an expression of our sincere sympathy with Mrs Loughnane, Shanaglish, in the great loss she has sustained by the death of her two sons whose noble lives were given for their country' (8 Jan 1921, p431)²³.
 - 'Owing to the financial position the Gort Union and District Council, and following the example set by our County Council, we hereby (subject to the approval of Dáil Eireann, which is now requested) re-appoint the National Bank, Gort Branch, as, Treasurers of the Guardians and District Council' (p440).

(102.-103.)

²³ Patrick and Harry Loughnan, two IRA Volunteers were killed by members of D Company of the RIC's Auxiliary Division in November 1920. The Loughnane brothers were arrested in daylight at their family home at Shanaglish, Co. Galway on the 26th November 1920. Their partially burned and mutilated bodies were discovered in a pond near Ardahan on 5th December. (<http://www.theirishstory.com/2012/09/03/ric-memorial/#.WA4WD1ROOY0>, 2016)

B. Indoor Relief Register, 1914-1920

Restricted Access / Closed until 2020

104. 24 August 1914 - Volume recording details such as date admitted to, or born in
11 August 1920 workhouse, inmate's name, residence previous to admission, sex, age, marital status if an adult, or if a child orphan legitimate or, illegitimate, and employment. Employment of inmates includes labourer, mason, carpenter, tailor, shoemaker, butcher, baker, drover, servant, and fiddler.

125ff

C. Indoor Relief List, 1917-1919

105. March 1917 - Volume maintained for each ½ year recording details such as
30 September 1919 number of inmates by class, such as adult male, children under 2 years, also age sex and name of inmates, and number of days in the house in each week.

Originally in poor condition, repaired in 2009.

110ff

D. Incoming Letter Book, 1912-1916

Restricted Access

106. 11 March 1912 - Volume of incoming letters from the Local Government Board to
25 March 1916 the Board of Guardians relating to the administration of the Union, such as the Cost of Relief of Old Age Pensioners in the workhouse (4th April 1912), salaries for the Dispensary Medical Officers (19 April 1912), copy detailed report on boarded out children (6 October 1913), copy of report following inspection of the Workhouse (6 July 1914), erection of new windows in the workhouse (18th December 1914), and circular letter regarding assistance to Destitute Aliens (14 April 1915).

Originally in poor condition, repaired in 2009

c.300pp

E. Provision Receipt and Consumption Account and Provisions Check Account, 1917-1919

107. 29 September 1917 Volume recording details, following a pre-printed form. The
30 November 1919 Provision Check Account, maintained on a weekly basis,
 lists the number of the three daily meals provided to meet
the dietary requirements of the various classes of inmate (such as able-bodied male, nursing mothers, children under 2 years), and details the quantity of provisions consumed, such as white bread, oatmeal, potato, bacon or pork, eggs, butter, flour, tea and whiskey. Includes the total of provisions and necessaries consumed by inmates and the number of inmates in the workhouse during the week, and details the general average cost of inmates in the workhouse, the infirmary and the fever hospital. Also includes details of the quantity and cost of the Officers' (such as the Master, Nuns, Schoolmistress, and Porter) weekly rations of various commodities.
- The Provision Receipt and Consumption Account records details of the quantity and cost of articles and necessaries on hand, the name of Contract, quantity and cost of articles and necessaries received, together with details of the quantity and cost of articles and necessaries consumed and remaining. Articles are described as provisions such as white bread, beef, oatmeal, tea, eggs, sheep heads, tobacco, snuff, and cheese. Necessaries are items such as description coal, candles, starch and paraffin oil.

138ff

F. Rough Minutes of Board of Guardians Meetings, 1844-1859

Bound volumes recording in rough format details found in Minute books (see section A). Includes details of attendance and proceedings of weekly meetings relating to the maintenance, administration and financing of the workhouse, (from 1847) distribution of out-door relief, and the care of workhouse inmates relating to their accommodation and employment, and to medical, pastoral, educational, and dietary needs. Minutes include statistics on the number of persons accommodated in the workhouse, and the number receiving outdoor relief ; confirmation that various reports, financial and other records, such as the Workhouse Register, Provision Check Accounts, Out-door Relief Lists, Medical Officers' books, and reports of the Visiting Committee, the workhouse Master and other Officers' were produced, examined and approved together with details of required action relating to the information provided therein, and details of all monies received or paid, and all orders and cheques given, such as those required for the supply of food and clothing; details of rates collected, arrears, and declared irrecoverably in each electoral division ; also includes details of orders and letters received from or written to the Poor Law Commissioners and others, and details of subsequent resolutions passed and instructions issued authorising required action; details of the master's report and resolutions adopted to address any issues raised therein ; and from 1854 provision is included for minutes of the proceedings of the Board under the Medical Charities Acts and Nuisances Removal and Disease Prevention Acts.

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.

108. 14 June 1844 – 18 July 1845

109. 25 July 1845 – 17 April 1846 Includes:

- 'Read letter from the Poor Law Commissioners 23 October 1845 stating that they do not consider Mr Fallon, the Master, a fit person to remain in charge of the workhouse and calling upon Mr Fallon to resign otherwise the commissioners will dismiss him...' (24 October, 1845, p6, see also 14 November 1845, pp8-9, 21 November 1845, pp6-7, 28 November, 1845, p6, 12 December 1845, pp6-7, 9 January 1846, pp8-9, 23 January 1846, pp8-10).

- 'Ordered that the clerk do summon a full Board for this day week to take into consideration the alarm of the Country caused by the disease in the potato crop' (24 October, 1845, p9).
 - 'Letter from Poor Law Commissioners 3 November authorising the Guardians to depart from established dietary by substituting Oatmeal etc in lieu of potatoes (14 November 1845, p6).
 - 'That we approve of Lord Clancarty's plan of introducing a Law to place Infirmaries and Dispensaries under the control of the Board of Guardians and chargeable to the Union Rate (27 February 1846, p9).
 - Report from the Medical Officer, Dr Nolan, to the Board stating, 'I have so often called the attention of the Board to the necessity of procuring convalescent wards and adopting other precautionary measures to prevent the spread of fever in the Workhouse, that nothing but a paramount sense of duty compels me to trouble you on the present occasion on this head' (13 March 1846, p5).
110. 24 April 1846 – 19 March 1847
- (111.)
112. 18 February 1848 – 1 December 1848
113. 8 December 1848 – 21 September 1849 Includes
- 'The Medical Officer reports 37 deaths since last Sunday morning, 31 of which are from dysentery and measles, chiefly children, several of whom were admitted in measles and took dysentery and at once fell victims to it, the lungs of those dysenteries patients are for the most part seriously engaged so that they may be said to die of pulmonary disease combined with dysentery' (2 March 1849, p5).
 - 'As much irregularity and misconception has arisen from the practice of persons sent to the Temporary Fever shed at Gort being inserted in Books of the Union, it was ordered that all persons now in the Hospital be discharged from the workhouse Books, and that in future persons sent to the Hospital be not included in the workhouse inmates or inserted on the workhouse books so long as they remain therein, But that the provisions and necessaries consumed and expended in the Temporary Fever shed be accounted for in the Workhouse provisions Books as heretofore' (19 January 1849, p9).

- 'The Vice Guardians regret to observe by an entry in the Visitors' Book as well as by a report from Dr Nolan that the Revd Michael Kelly, PP of Kiltarton revisited the hospital on Fairy Hill at the late hour on the evening of Thursday last the 31st ultimo, and are also sorry to learn that the made use of abusive and un-gentlemanly language towards the Porter of the Workhouse; who very properly refused him access to the body of the House. The Vice Guardians are desirous at all times of throwing open the workhouse to the inspection of respectable visitors at proper hours, but they cannot permit any person (however respectable he may be to visit the House at unreasonable hours. Nor will they allow the officers of the Workhouse to be unwarrantably interfered with in the discharge of their duties...' (1 June 1849, p9).

114. 17 October 1849 – 30 July 1850
115. 6 August 1850 – 24 March 1851
116. 31 March 1851 – 20 October 1851
117. 25 October 1851 – 18 May 1852
118. 25 May 1852 - 29 November 1852
119. 6 December 1852 - 9 May 1853
120. 16 May 1853 – 24 October 1853
121. 31 October 1853 – 10 April 1854
122. 17 April 1854 – 9 October 1854 - Fragile
123. 16 October 1854 – 9 April 1855
124. 16 April 1855 – 11 October 1855
125. 25 October 1855 – 27 March 1856
- (126.)
127. 16 October 1856 – 12 March 1857
128. 7 April 1857 – 30 April 1857

(129.)

- 130. 8 October 1857 – 20 March 1858
- 131. 6 April 1858 – 28 September 1858 – Fragile in poor condition
- 132. 2 October 1858 – 29 March 1859
- 133. 13 April 1859 – 17 September 1859
- 134. 27 September 1859 – 22 November 1859