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

1839 – 1922

Archive Collection

GPL2/

DRAFT

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

ARCHIVE COLLECTION

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

(4 December 1847, GPL2/4, p70)

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Scope and Content

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

Poor Law Unions

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Board was also responsible for the erection, maintenance and administration of a workhouse. In addition to providing directly for the poor and the day to day administration of the workhouse, the poor law guardians gradually accumulated further responsibilities. The Guardians became overtime 'the public sewer-makers, 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.

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

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.

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

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

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

Loughrea Poor Law Union – Biographical Notes

The Lough Board of Guardians held its first meeting in the Court House in Loughrea on 11 October 1839. It admitted its first inmates on 25th February 1842.⁴

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

Its original capacity was for 800 inmates⁵. But by early 1849 the Union had accommodation in its various additional workhouses, fever hospital and so on for 2,900 paupers.

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

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

⁴ 25 Feb 1842, GPL2/1,

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁵ O'Connor, John *The Workhouses of Ireland The Fate of Ireland's Poor*, Anvil Books, Dublin, 1995

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

Distress

The number of inmates in the workhouse at the end of weekending 7 November 1846 was 308, with no deaths. However, later that month, the minutes for 28 November 1846 record that *'There being a hundred applications today from the several Electoral Divisions and a pressure on the house to the number of 500, it would be advisable for the Guardians to attend early and punctually every day for sake of all the interests involved'* (GPL2/4, 28 Nov 1846, p8). By weekending 5th December 1846 the number in the workhouse was 434, with two deaths. The Medical Officer reported the death of a child of 3 months from 'marasmus'⁶ (GPL2/4, 12 Dec 1846, p5). On 2nd January 1846 he reported the death of 5 young children from marasmus.

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

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

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

The third person, James Mannion, held a mountain farm at £2.4.4., which he abandoned and appeared in great destitution, the Guardians regret to say that at the instance of the Poor Law Inspector (William Burke) they discharged this family, who are since in Fever and in a state of awful destitution' (4 Dec 1847, GPL2/4, p70).

⁶ Marasmus is caused by a severe deficiency of nearly all nutrients, especially protein and carbohydrates

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

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

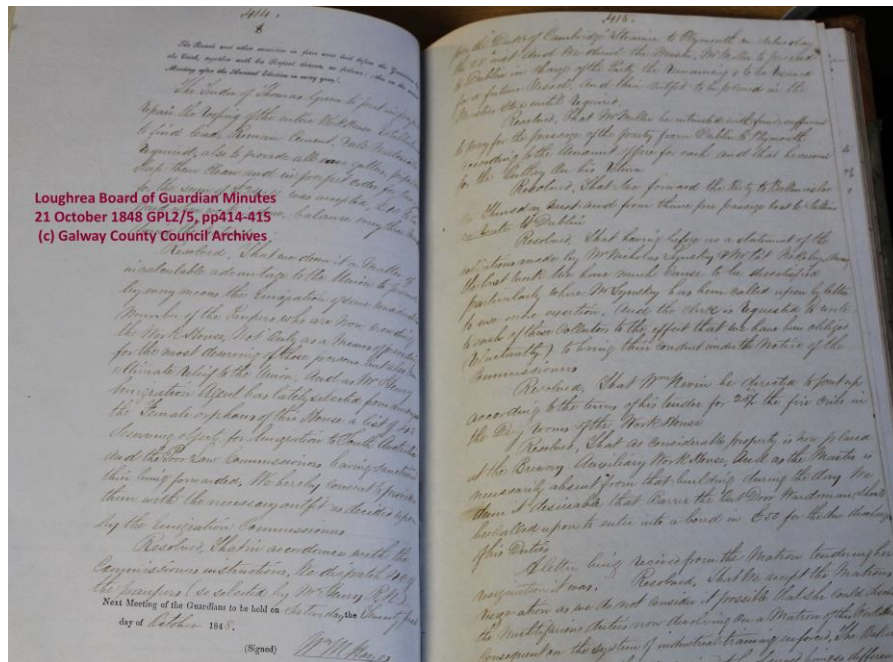
Assisted emigration

Loughrea Union participated in various schemes of assisted emigration, on a number of occasions, of orphan girls, generally to Australia.

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

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

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



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

Disease

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

In April the Guardians issued a strongly worded resolution condemning the action of its Athenry Dispensary doctor, Dr Leonard in sending a small pox case to Loughrea Workhouse without prior warning, it stated *'We the Board of Guardians assembled this day, at the Loughrea Workhouse cannot separate without expressing our strong disapprobation of the conduct of the Athenry Dispensary Doctor, Dr Leonard, in forwarding without any previous intimation, a small pox case in the day time from Athenry to Loughrea a district of nine miles, the van in which the patient was borne arriving in the town of Loughrea a little after 5. o'clock pm. When the stall street were crowded, being Market day, which caused great consternation and dismay to the inhabitants of the District hitherto perfectly free from such disease'* (17 April 1875, p125).

At the time Dr Leonard asked the Board, due to the prevalence of the disease in the town, to provide Hospital accommodation in Athenry (17 April 1875, p127), following on from

which the Board the ordered that a temporary Hospital be set up in Athenry (17 April 1875, p128).

Following the death of a man from the disease in the Coolaugh district, the Lally reported in September that year that '*...a good number of the Houses there are lime-washed and any that were not be warned, the occupiers to do so at once, which they accordingly promised. The widow and children of the deceased have been supplied with plenty of new clothes and bedding, the clothing in the House having been burned as a precaution against the spread of the disease. He did not relieve the parties as the widow stated she required no assistance from him...*' (GPL2/??, 11 September 1875, p55). Dr Leonard the Medical Officer, reported to the Board of Guardians on 18th September advising that '*he is glad to observe that Athenry is now more free from sickness that it had been in his experience and that as all have passed thro a long and terrible trial, he trusts the Guardians are satisfied with the manner in which he has discharged his duties during the trying ordeal, that he has taken stock of the Articles in the Hospital a list of which he would be to enclose*' (GPL2/??, 18 September 1875, p66).

Arrangement

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

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

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

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

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

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

Several volumes received extension conservation treatment in 2019. Two volumes are so badly damaged that it was deemed uneconomical to repair them at that time.

In 2020 the first 13 volumes of the collection dating from 1839-1852, were digitised by Mallon Technology, Co. Tyone.

Patria McWalter
Archivist

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Related Collections

Records held by James Hardiman Library Archives:

- Broderick, Prison Diary of Peter⁷, 1881 -1882, POL21

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/
- Loughrea Rural District Council, G01/8

Further Reference

Useful WWW sites

www.workhouses.org.uk

http://www.askaboutireland.ie/show_narrative_page.do?page_id=1900 Ask About Ireland site, with section on the Poor Law Union

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

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

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

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Nicholson, Asenath, | <i>Annals of the Famine in Ireland</i>
Ed. by Maureen Murphy, The Lulliput Press Ltd., Dublin, 1998 |
| Barrington, T J | <i>The Irish Administrative System</i>
Dublin, 1980 |
| Burke, Helen | <i>The People and the Poor Laws in Nineteenth Century Ireland</i>
Dublin, 1987 |
| Campbell, Stephen, J. | <i>The Great Famine. Words and Images from the Famine Museum Strokestown Park, County Roscommon.</i>
1994 |

⁷ A member of the BG, from Athenry. He was arrested under the 'Inciting to Boycotting' Act and placed in Galway Jail.

- Cunningham, John *'A town tormented by the sea'; Galway, 1790-1914*
Geography Publication, Dublin, 2004
- Daly, Mary The Famine in Ireland, Dundalk, 1989
- Edwards, R Dudley, &
Williams, T.D. (eds.) *The Great Famine: studies in Irish History 1845-52*
Dublin, 1956
- Feingold, W.L. *Transformation of Local Government in Ireland 1782-1886,*
Boston, 1984
- Ferriter, Diarmaid, *'Lovers of Liberty'? Local Government in 20th century Ireland*
Dublin 2001

Loughrea Arts & Historical Society Journal Vol. III, 2001
(articles on The Famine 1845-1850 / Poor Law Union and
Workhouse)
- Glazier, I., ed. *The Famine Immigrants. List of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the*
Port of New York 1846-1851
1985
- Glazier, I., ed. *The Famine Immigrants. List of Irish Immigrants Arriving*
at the Port of New York 1846-1851, 1985
- Kavangh, M. *Galway – Gaillimh A Bibliography of the City and County*
Galway County Council, Galway 2000
- Kinealy, Christine *'The Response of the Poor Law to the Great Famine in*
County Galway' in *Galway History & Society*, ed. Moran,
G. & Gillespie, R., Geography Publications, Dublin, 1996
- Lohan, Rena *Guide to the Archives of the Office of the Public Works*
The Stationery Office, Dublin, 1994
- McCloughlin, Trevor* *Barefoot and Pregnant? Irish Famine Orphans in Australia*
Australia, 1993
- Meghen, P J *The Development of Irish Local Government*
in Administration Vol.8., No.4, Winter 1960
- Moran, Gerard &
Raymond Gillespie, ed. *Galway History and Society,*
Geography Publications, Dublin 1996
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Kenny's Bookshop & Art Galleries Ltd., Galway, c 1996
- Muldoon, John
& McSweeney, George *A Guide to Irish Local Government Comprising an Account of*
the Law Relating to the Local Government of Counties, Cities
and Districts, with a Full Explanation of the Act of 1898
Eason & Son, Ltd., Dublin 1898

- Nicholls, George *History of the Poor Laws in Ireland*, London, 1856
- O'Connor, Gabriel *A History of Galway County Council*
Galway County Council, 1999
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Anvil Books, Dublin, 1995
- O'Keefe, B E, ed. *The Search for Missing Friends, Irish Immigrant*
Advertisements Placed in the Boston Pilot, Vol. I–VIII
New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, 1996
- O'Neill, Timothy P "Minor Famines and Relief in Galway 1815 –1925"
In *Galway History & Society*, ed. Gerard Moran and Raymond
Gillespie, Geography Publications, Dublin, 1996
- Reid, Richard &
Johnson, Keith eds. *The Irish Australians, The Irish Emigrant, Selected Articles for*
Australian and Irish Family Historians
Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney, Australia, 1984
- Reid, Richard
Mongan, Cheryl 'a decent set of girls' *The Irish Famine Orphans of the 'Thomas*
Arbuthnot' 1848 – 1850
Yass Heritage Project, Yass, NSW, Australia, 1996
- Roche, Desmond *Local Government in Ireland*
Institute of Public Administration, Dublin 1982
- Smith, Cecil Woodham '*The Great Hunger*', London, 1962
- Spellissy, Sean *History of Galway*, Celtic Bookshop, Limerick (c.1999)

Appendices

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Appendix 1

1. List of Some of the Workhouse Staff

Clerk of the Union

Smyth, John	1839 ⁸	
Moloney, Michael	1845? -1847	(resigned, 'being about to leave this country' 20 Nov 1847, p49)
Coffey, Ferdinand	Dec 1847 -	
Hayes, William	1848 ⁹ -	
Newman, Philip	1859?	
Egan, Patrick	1871 - 1882 at least?	

Assistant Master

Barren, William	1848 ¹⁰ -
Hood, Martin	1849?

Master

Gilhooley, James	1841- April 1846	(resigned GPL2/2, p 330)
O'Brien, Patrick	1846 ¹¹ – 1848	(<i>'...duties were at present too arduous for one person he begged to tender his resignation'. 28 Feb 1848</i>)
Miller, John	1848? –	
O'Donnell, John	1849?	
Hood, Martin	[1850] -	
Spelman, Patrick	1859?	
McKeigue, Timothy	1871? –	
John Kearney	? 1881? – 1883 (April)	
James [Frederick] McKenna	May 1883 ¹² – Nov 1889 ¹³	
Keary, Patrick	Nov 1889 ¹⁴ -	
Monaghan, Edward	1894? - +1898 ¹⁵	
Killeen, T.B	? - + 1919 (as per LTC1/4, 17 November 1919)	

⁸ Elected at Guardian's first meeting Oct 1839, GPL2/1, p4

⁹ 15 Jul 1848, GPL2/5, p271

¹⁰ Appointed at a salary of £25 pa, officer's rations and apartments (GPL2/5, 4 Mar 1848, p15)

¹¹ Elected Master Ma 1846, GPL2/2, p336

¹² See minutes 12/05/1883 regarding appointment

¹³ See minutes 02/11/1889 & 14/12/1889 regarding resignation

¹⁴ See 30/11/1889 and 14 December 1889 regarding his appointment

¹⁵ See 2 July 1898, p9

Assistant Master

McKeon, Michael

Matron

Gilhooley, Mrs Honoria	1841 ¹⁶ -	(wife of Master)
Nelson, Eleanor	1846 ¹⁷ - Apr 1846	(died of fever, GPL2/2, p330)
Murphy, Mrs Anne	1846 ¹⁸ - 1848	(Resigned, 21 Oct 1848, p413)
Miller, Anne,	Feb 1849 - ?	(Master's wife)
Moran, C		(there in 1850?, see GPL2/9, p118)
Young, Mary A	1871?	
Killeen, Mrs M J	?- 1925?	

Assistant Matron

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

School Mistress

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

School Master

McDavitt, Neil	1846 ¹⁹	
Larkin, Thomas	1847 ²⁰	
Reynolds, John	Jul 1848 ²¹ - 1851??	
Whyte, Peter	Feb 1848	(assistant School Master)

¹⁶ Elected Matron at meeting of 12 Oct 1841 (GPL2/1)

¹⁷ Appointed in Jan 1846 at a salary of £25 pa, GPL2/2, 3 Jan 1846, p297

¹⁸ Elected 2 May 1846, GPL2/2, p336

¹⁹ Appointed 2 May 1846, GPL2/2, p336

²⁰ 11 Nov 1847, GPL2/4, p6

²¹ 29 Jul 1848, appointed at salary of £25 per annum, GPL2/8, p88

Relieving Officers

No. 1 Relieving District (Loughrea, Kilmeen, Kilchrest

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

No. 2 District (Athenry, Craughwell, Kilconian)

Proctor, William Dec 1848

No. 3 District (Cloonkeen, Killimoredaly and Kiltulla)

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

No. 4 District (Dooniry, Ieenor & Portuma)

Head, Patrick Dec 1848

No. 5 district (Ballinakill)

Haynes, Michael Dec 1848

No. 6 District (Kilchrest and Killeenadeen)

Dillon, James Dec 1848

Flynn

Wards Woman

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

Wards Man

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

Appendix 2

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

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

Blake, John A,	Dolphin, Oliver
Blake, Peter	Dolphin, Peter H
Bateman, N.	Dunsandle, Lord [James Daly] (Chairman 1847) ²⁸
Brodie, Terence (Vice Guardian 1848)	Dunsandle, Lord [Denis St George] (Chairman 1949, 1871)
Broderick, Peter (1880s) ²⁷	Egan, James, J
Burke, Sir John, Bart.	Egan, L.M.
Burke, Thomas J.	Glynn, Thomas
Burke, Thomas	Holland, John
Burke, John A.	Hayes, Patrick
Burke, Patrick	Hennelly, Michael
Burke, Robert	Kinneen, Tim
Burke, Sir Thomas Barton, MP (Chairman 1849)	Lambert, John W. H.
Caroll, James	Lewis, Captain
Carr, Patrick	Mitchel Patrick
Clarke, James	Mitchall, Edward
Comyn, A	O'Grady, J.
Conway, T	O'Farrell, Charles
Cavanagh, Edward	
Daly, Major	
Darcy, Thomas	
Diamond, John	

²⁷ Ivymount House, Athenry. Broderick was arrested in Nov 1881 on suspicion of promoting boycotting. (Galway Advertiser, Jan 3, 1997)

²⁸ Minutes of 21 Aug 1847 include 'Proposed by Thomas J Tully, Esq., seconded by Patrick Skerrett Esq., That in consequence of the death of the late Rt. Honourable Lord Dunsandle, Chairman of this Board, that the present Vice Chairman, Captain Thomas, J Burke, M.P., be elected and Robert Henry Persee Esq., Vice Chairman. Carried unanimously' (GPL2/3, p419).

Persse, Robert Henry (1840s)

Raftery, William

Richards, George R (Vice Guardian 1848)

Rogers, Captain

Rogers, William

Ryan, Bryan

Seymour, Colonel

Skerret, Patrick

Smyth, Captain

Taylor, Benjamin

Toole, John

Tully, Lawrence

Villieis, E?

Westmeath, Earl

Wallace, James

DRAFT

Appendix 3

3. Electoral Divisions covered by Loughrea Poor Law Union

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

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

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

Population 1871 26,402

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

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

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

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

4 Jan 1851	1886	6	-
18 Jan 1851	2174	7	-
25 Jan 1851	2290	7	-
15 Feb 1851	2451	11	-
19 Apr 1851	2611	20	
19 Jul 1851	2859	14	-
23 Aug 1851	1891	8	-
25 Oct	1559	1	-
27 Dec 1851	1628	1	
31 Jan 1852	1818	4	-
27 Mar 1852	1827	4	-
18 April 1852	1812	7	-
5 Jun 1852	1895	9	
24 July 1852	1695	5	-
23 Oct 1852	026	1	-
11 June 1870	154	--	
16 January 1875	145	1	
5 June 1875	130	-	
8 January 1876	115	3	
3 June 1876	123	4	
13 January 1877	119	1	
2 June 1877	107	-	

5 January 1878	126	1	
1 June 1878	128	-	
4 January 1879	154	1	
9 January 1875	141	-	
5 June 1875	130	-	
3 June 1876	123	4	
2 June 1877	107		
5 January 1878	126	1	
4 January 1879	154	1	
7 June 1879	136	3	
3 January 1880	151	-	
5 June 1880	164	-	
1 January 1881	149	-	
4 June 1881	157	1	

5. Abbreviations

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

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

1839 - 1922

Archive Collection

GPL2/

MINUTES OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS MEETINGS, 1839-1922

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

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

Average size 400pp

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

GPL2/

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

3 24 Oct 1846 - 16 Oct 1847 Includes

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

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

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

- 'The M.O. reports the following deaths during the week viz: James Day, aged 73 yrs, of general debility and old age; John Marty, aged 3 months of marasmus²⁹; Margaret Kelly, 35 yrs, of chronic diarrhoea and fever; and Mary Martin, aged 8 years of Fever' (12 Dec 1846, p5).
- '...Catherine Mahony has unmercifully beaten an infant child and refused to take care of same, and stated to the Matron that if she was compelled to do so, she would have him dead before the end of a week' (12 Dec 1846, p7).
- The MO reports the deaths of the following, 'Honor Fahy, James Moore, Andrew [Farrigan], and Bridget Kenny of old age and infirmity. Catherine Mooney aged 4 months, of marasmus, John Wall of disease in the heart and Catherine Grealy of fever' (p519 Dec 1846).
- The MO reports the deaths of the following: Margaret Coffey, Fever, Mary Mahon of general debility, Michael Kelly of old age, Matthias Fallon of chronic diarrhoea and old age, and Catherine Cahalan of old age (26 Dec 1846, p5).
- The MO reports the deaths of the following: Bridget Whelan aged 5 yrs, Thomas Keely, aged 9, Thomas Fahy, aged 1½ yrs, Ellen Fahy, aged 3 months and Mary Coin aged 4 months died of marasmus. Mary Murray, aged 70 yrs, Catherine Craughwell aged 60, and Bridget Connell aged 55 years of age of old age etc., Thomas Crawford aged 50, of effusion in the chest, and Bridget Gough aged 70 of chronic diarrhoea (2 Jan 1847, p5)
- Inmates Ellen Henry got a pass for an hour to go to Loughrea (2 Jan 1847, p5).
- The MO reports the deaths of the following: Mary Grealy aged 1½ yrs and Anne Loughane aged 2½ yrs of marasmus. Pat Hardiman aged 50 years of [homotria], debility etc., Ulick Loughnane (Ballynakill ED) aged 70 yrs of effusion in the chest; Thomas Vesey aged 72 yrs of Chronic diarrhoea and old age; Winifred Cunane aged 65 yrs of general debility and old age; Pat Connor aged 60 of chronic diarrhoea ad old age (2 Jan 1847, p5)
- PLC letter 'suggesting the propriety of enlarging the Workhouse, so as to afford more extensive accommodation and pointing out to the BG the manner in which same may be carried into effect (16 Jan 1847, p6).
- 'Resolved: That the following persons be summoned before the Magistrates at Petty Sessions on Thursday next the 21st inst., viz Sally Lynch, Sally Coy and Mary Ford for assaulting Catherine no one and rioting in workhouse (16 Jan 1847, p7, see also 23 Jan 1847, p1).
- Thomas Burke, inmate, stole a loaf of bread from the Dining Hall (23 Jan 1847, p5).
- Inmate, Martin Winter, robbed while asleep by John Fallon (23 Jan 1847, p5).

²⁹ The malnutrition associated with marasmus leads to extensive tissue and muscle wasting.

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

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

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

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

4b Missing

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

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

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

- 'The Master reports that John Henry, aged about 18 years, who was charged on the Athenry Electoral Division, absconded from the Workhouse on the 3rd inst., ... Also a boy named Owen [__by], aged about 16 years, who was charged as the same division arrested and Committed by R. D'arcy' (p11).
- 'The Board sat each day this week except Tuesday when the Guardians visited the Divisions of [Clonkeen], Kiltulla and Killimor Daly, and made minute enquiries into the destination of these districts.
On Thursday the Guardian held their meeting in the Board room, R.O., Rochfort being in attendance, a considerable degree of dissatisfaction appeared to prevail amongst a crowd of applicants at relief not being afforded, and the Rev. Cahillan, appeared to complain that Mr Rochfort held no office in Killtulla, but that he forced the poor people to visit him at his own house, a distance of several miles and that he neglected to see the applicants in their own houses...' (p25).
- 'A serious disposition to riot, amongst some of the male paupers, having manifested itself on the night of Thursday, at being searched on coming into the Auxiliary workhouse, which was followed up on Friday the 14th, when the ring-leaders were admonished by the vice-Guardians, and the Porter having reported that he apprehended personal injury and a breach of the peace from Joshua Glynn & others, who were armed as he stated with a pitchfork & stone hammers, determined to commit murder, and having offered to swear information of the peace against Glynn, which were prepared for him by one of the Vice Guardians, and for the purpose of swearing which the Porter, went to the residences of several Magistrates on last evening. And having this day entered the Board Room in a very insulting manner and refused to swear any information, and having used abusive language to the Vice Guardians, and otherwise having conducted himself in a highly improper manner. It was resolved to suspend Peter Whyte, the Porter from his office until the pleasure of the Commissioners be known....' (p273).
- Pauper inmate, Mrs Ford (wards-woman over Brewery Auxiliary), applied to be sent to 'the American Colonies' (p274).
- Tenders of 'several traders willing to contract for the clothing required for Emigrants were considered...' (p384)
- Report of the Visiting Committee ' The General management of the workhouse is much improved, but there is much required still to be done to reduce it to perfect order, and

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

- Report of the Visiting Committee, 'We are much surprised an going through the Establishment this morning to find that gross negligence on the part of some of the Female officers is again manifesting itself. The scullery yard presented a disgraceful appearance, several human facies having been deposited continuously round the walls, the like appeared outside the door of the Female workroom, and in other parts of the House years. The floors of some of the Dormitories – all of the passages and the stairs were filthy, and appeared as if purposely left so. They have not been washed with one or two exceptions for some time. We cannot but feel that the conduct of the Matron and assistance Matron is highly to be censured, betokening³⁰ as it does an anxiety to return to the former discreditable state of things, and we hereby inform them that this is the last time we will direct their attention to such matters' (p401)
- 'Letter No.55/256 dated 9th October respecting Lieut. Henry's report of girls selected for emigration to Australia (p402)
- 'Resolved: That we deem it a matter of incalculable advantage to the Union to promote by every means the Emigration of some considerable number of the paupers who are now crowding the Workhouse, not only as a means of providing for the most deserving of those persons but also an ultimate relief to the Union, and as Mr Henry, Emigration Agent, has lately selected from amongst the female orphans of this House a list of 48 deserving objects for emigration to South Australia, and the PLC having sanctioned their being forwarded, do hereby consent to provide them with the necessary outfit as decided upon by the Emigration Commissioners' (p414).
- 'Resolved: That in accordance with the Commissioners instructions we dispatch 40 of the paupers (so selected by Mr Henry R. N.) per the "Duke of Cambridge" stream to Plymouth on Saturday the 28th inst., and we direct the Master, Mr Miller, to proceed to Dublin in charge of the party, the remaining 8 to be reserved for a future vessel and their outfit to be placed in the Master's store until required' (p415, 21 Oct 1848).
- Resolved, That Mr Miller be entrusted with funds sufficient to pay for the passage of the party from Dublin to Plymouth according to the Amount of fare for each and that he account for the outlay on his return' (p415).

³⁰ To mean something or be a sign of something; *verb* to indicate.

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

6. 1 July 1848 – 21 March 1849

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

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

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

- Dietary of Loughrea Union, detail quantity of food to be distributed to various classes of inmates, such as male and female adults, and children between 5-9 years, for breakfast, dinner and supper. (p410).

7. 28 March 1849 – 7 November 1849

(8.) Missing

9. 15 June 1850 – 1 February 1851 Includes:- 339pp

- 'Letter No 42,443 dated 1st August intimating the receipt of a Communication from the Chief Secretary's Office, respecting the transmission and safe arrival of 25 emigrant pauper girls from the Loughrea workhouse to Sydney' (pp76-77, 3 Aug 1850).
- 'Resolved that the Clerk be directed to write to Messrs Grace & Co., Mr A Ireland, Mr Commerford and Messrs Evans (emigration agents) to ascertain the lowest average cost of emigration for each pauper to British America or United States' (p87).
- Resolved: That Dr Lynch be the medical officer of the Fever Hospital at Mount Pleasant proposed to be maintained under the 16th Section of the Act 6 & 7 Vic, Cap 92 and that his salary for attending that Hospital and the workhouse be £120 per year' (p107).
- 'Letter 30th August from the clerk of the Portumna Union, requesting to get a boiler at Tynagh for the use of a temporary Workhouse in Portumna and also to get one now at Monivea for the same purpose' (p117).
- Details of Medical Officer's recommendation for dietary needs for inmates (p180).
- 'The Board of Guardians of Portumna Union having proposed to withdraw about 160 paupers of certain classes belong to their Union, from this Workhouse and not having clothing for them have requested a supply of suits for the above number' (p217).
- 'Resolved: That having considered the Commissioners letter no. 63,816 dated 6 December in relation to the Portumna Union, and desiring as much as possible to accommodate them, this Board do agree to increase the accommodation afforded to the paupers of that Union from 1/5 to ¼, the Reservation Order being changed accordingly by the Commissioners, provided that it is guaranteed by the Commissioners that out of the large sum now due to the Loughrea Union the Portumna Board pay at present £500, and pay punctually in future the amount of the monthly estimate as prescribed by the Reservation Order, till the accounts of the Unions are finally made up, and provided also that the

Portumna Union shall be liable to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the rent of the Auxiliary Houses, which this Board are now obliged to retain for their accommodation, till such periods as the Loughrea Guardians may be at liberty according to law to surrender or give up such houses' (GPL2/9, p277, see also p267).

- Discussion regarding the amount due to the Loughrea Union by the Portumna Union for maintenance of its paupers in the Loughrea workhouse, which amounted to €883.6.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ (p287).
- 'The Master states that a man named James Bohan no. 1773 desires to have his registration altered to Roman Catholic' (p335).

10. 8 Feb 1851 – 30 Aug 1851
11. 10 Sept 1851 - 3 Apr 1852
12. 10 Apr 1852 – 30 Oct 1852
13. 1852-11-06 - 1853-04-30
14. 1853-05-07 - 1853-10-15
15. 1853-10-22 - 1854-04-01
16. 1854-04-08 - 1854-09-16
17. 1854-09-23 - 1855-03-03
18. Missing
19. 1855-09-22 - 1856-04-05
20. 1856-04-12 - 1856-11-08 – closed condition fair
21. 1856-11-15 - 1857-05-30
22. 1857-06-20 - 1858-03-06
23. 1858-03-27 - 1859-01-15
24. 1859-01-22 - 1859-12-03
25. 1859-12-17 - 1860-11-03
26. 1860-11-17 - 1861-07-27
27. 1861-08-02 - 1862-06-07
28. 1862-06-14 - 1863-01-24

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29. 1863-02-14 - 1864-01-02
30. 1864-01-16 - 1864-10-13
31. 1864-10-29 - 1865-08-26
32. 1865-09-02 - 1866-05-05
33. 1866-06-02 – 1867-03-02
34. 1867-03-16 - 1867-11-23
35. 1867-11-30 - 1868-09-12
36. 1868-09-26 - 1869-06-05
37. 1869-06-19 - 1870-02-19
38. 26 February 1870 – 14 - January 1871 Includes:
 - Master reported 'That the separate ward for lunatics in Hospital having been discontinued since the 12th inst, and the weather getting mild, the supply of fuel for Hospital has been considerably diminished. The services of one of the assistant nurses has been also dispensed with' (p42).
 - Report from the Secretary, Education Office transmitting extracts from the District Inspector's Report on the Workhouse School, 'The course of training and instruction given in this School is of an elementary character, but on the whole fairly adapted to the ages and capacities of the children. The results of my examination indicate that they have made good progress for their years in Reading, Writing and Writing from Dictation. The proficiency in Arithmetic was only moderate. I consider the School to be in a fairly progressive and efficient state especially in regard the younger children, but there are two or three Boys of eleven years old and above who seem to make no progress during the intervals between inspections. It happens their time is taken up in doing work of various kinds about the establishment and acting as messengers' (pp92-83).
 - 'Letter from the Rev Sellars, C. A. dated 4th June 1870 stating that a school girl, named _____ aged 13 years has had her passage paid by her mother in America, and that she will be sent out in charge of some parties who are going from the neighbourhood, requesting that the Board would allow her some money for clothes which she requires' (p103).
 - 'Relieving Officer Rickham reported:
"That he is obliged to bring under the notice of the Board the constant annoyance he is receiving from the large umber of Night Lodgers seeking admission to the Workhouse. When refused tickets after questioning them as to their cases and circumstances he is sure to be abused; crowds gather about his House, and in many instances his windows are broken (such

has been the case this week) and that he has no redress owing to the absence of a Magistrate, and from the peculiar position in which he is placed, he will be obliged to give up his situation unless the Police in Town – Sergeant be called on to prevent such characters from crowding into town; Since last Board day not less that 46 strangers annoyed him in this manner; the names of the few relieved will appear on his application and Report Book, as he considered them destitute’ (p184).

39. 1871-01-21 - 1871-12-09

40. 1871-12-30 - 1872-10-26

41. 1872-11-09 - 1873-06-28

42. 1873-07-05 - 1874-04-04

43. 1874-04-11 - 1874-12-19

44. 2 January 1875 – 31 July 1875 Includes:

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

- 'Letter from Dr O'Donoghoe, Loughrea, dated 1st May 1875, stating that in company with the Sanitary Sub-Officer, he proceeded to Athenry on the 20th ulto but was unable to procure a site for the [] Hospital in that neighbourhood, and that Dr Leonard refused to co-operate with him, also suggesting that in the appointment of Nurses for attending on Small Pox patients, no persons from Loughrea be selected, lest they might by themselves, or their friends bring the disease into this locality' (p149).
- 'Letter from the Local Government Boardreturning back the Plans and Specification of the proposed sewage works for Loughrea and drawing attention to certain observations made by Mr Barney as to the advisability of having a cover sewer by Dolphin street and The Walks, and defining the locality for forming an Outfall for the sewage and the way in which it is to be collected and utilised' (p207).

45? 14 August 1875 – 8 April 1876

46? 15 April 1876 – 10 February 1877

47? 17 February 1877 – 1 December 1877

48? 15 December 1877 - 20 July 1878

49? 3 August 1878 –15 March 1879

50. 1879-03-22 - 1879-11-15

51. 1879-11-22 - 1880-05-22

52. 1880-05-29 - 1880-12-18

53. 1881-01-01 - 1881-07-02

54. 1881-07-09 - 1882-01-09

55. 1882-01-14 - 1882-07-22

56. 1882-08-05 - 1883-02-10

57. 1883-02-17 - 1883-08-18

58. 1883-08-25 - 1884-02-23
59. 1884-03-01 - 1884-08-30
60. 1884-09-06 - 1885-03-14 (no. 59)
61. 1885-03-21 - 1885-09-12
62. 1885-09-26 - 1886-04-10 No. 61)
63. 1886-04-17 - 1886-10-30 (no. 62)
63. 1886-11-13 - 1887-06-04
64. 1887-06-11 - 1887-12-24 no. 64)
65. 1887-12-31 - 1888-07-07
66. Missing
67. 1889-02-16 - 1889-08-24
68. 1889-08-31 - 1890-03-08
69. 1890-03-15 - 1890-09-20 (no.69)
70. 1890-09-27 - 1891-03-28
71. 1891-04-04 - 1891-10-17
72. 1891-10-24 - 1892-05-21
73. 1892-05-21 - 1892-12-10 (no. 73)
74. 1892-12-17 - 1893-07-13
75. 1893-07-22 - 1894-01-27 (no. 75)³¹
76. 1894-02-10 - 1894-08-18 : Closed – fragile
77. 1894-09-10 - 1895-03-18 : Closed – fragile

³¹ Underwent conservation treatment in 2019

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78. 1895-05-01 - 1895-10-01 : Closed – fragile
79. 1895-11-01 - 1896-04-01³²
80. Missing
81. 14 November 1896 – 29 May 1897
82. 5 June 1897 – 18 December 1897
‘The Master being ill and confirmed to his bed since the 21st inst. She (the Matron) and the Porter are discharging the duties’ (27 November 1897, p491).
83. 1 January 1898 – 25 June 1898 Includes
- ‘Letter from Mr E Monaghan, Master dated 2nd April 1898 enclosing Certificate from Dr O’Donoghue stating that he has been in professional attendance for four months for low fever evidently contacted from the infection of epidemic fever patients removed last Autumn from the outer parts of the Union to the Workhouse. That the fever has recently disappeared, his health is becoming restored and that in all probability he will shortly be perfectly recovered’ (2 April 1898, p284).
 - ‘In reference to the long illness of the Master the Board direct that he be communicated with and request his attendance before the Board at next meeting in order to ascertain whether he is competent to discharge his duties’ (16th April 1898, p340).
 - ‘That this Board have heard with much regret the recent death of Mrs Martyn, Tullyra Castle and having regard to the long connection of her family with this Union, namely her lamented father Mr James J. Smyth, who had been for so many years Deputy Vice-Chairman of this Board, her brother Capt John Smyth, and Mr J.J. Smyth, also members, that as a mark of respect to her memory we do now adjourn, and direct our Clerk to convey to her son, Mr Edward J Martyn, our sympathy and condolence in his affliction and that his resolution be placed on the minutes of our days proceedings’ (p427).
 - ‘An inmate Bridget Daly gave birth to an illegitimate child on the 18th inst’ (p447, see also p493

³² Underwent conservation treatment in 2019

- 'Letter from the Workhouse Master dated 18th June 1898 requesting leave of absence for one month in order to recruit his health after his late illness, and enclosing Certificate from the medical Officer to the effect that he considers a change of air in his case most necessary' (p537).

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| 84. | 2 July 1898 – 31 December 1898 | Includes |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------|
- 'In consequence of the death of the Master, The Clerk was directed to advertise for the election of a workhouse Master on the 30th July inst. at the usual salary & ration. In the meantime the Porter, T. B. Killeen, be appointed Master pro term' (p9).
 - 'That this Board desire to express their deep sympathy and regret with the loss sustained by Mrs Monaghan by the death of our late Master (and her husband). That our Clerk be directed to convey this to the family and copy be inserted on the minutes' (pp8-9).
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|------|-----------------------------------|
| 85. | 1899-01-07 - 1899-06-29 |
| 86. | 1899-07-06 - 1899-12-21 |
| 87. | 1900-01-04 - 1900-06-16 |
| 88. | 1900-06-23 - 1900-12-15 |
| 89. | 1900-12-22 - 1901-06-22 |
| 90. | 1901-07-06 - 1902-01-11 |
| 91. | 1902-02-18 - 1902-07-12 (no. 91) |
| 92. | 1902-07-19 - 1903-01-24 (no.92) |
| 93. | 1903-02-07 - 1904-04-02 |
| 94. | 1904-04-09 - 1905-06-03 |
| 95. | 1905-06-17 - 1906-07-07 |
| 96. | 1906-07-14 - 1907-07-13 |
| 97. | 1907-07-20 - 1908-12-12 |
| 98. | 1909-01-02 - 1910-12-24 |
| 99. | 1911-01-07 - 1912-12-14 |
| 100. | 1913-01-04 - 1914-12-26 (no. 100) |
| 101. | 1914-12-26 - 1916-12-30 |

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- 102. 1917-01-06 - 1918-12-28 (no. 102)
- 103. 1919-01-04 - 1920-12-09
- 104. 1921-01-13 - 1922-01-05

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