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**GPL5/**

**Tuam Poor Law Union**

**Archive Collection**

**1839 - 1926**

*A Descriptive List Prepared by Galway County Council Archives*

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**GPL5/**

Tuam Poor Law Union

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

**TUAM**  
**POOR LAW UNION**  
**ARCHIVE COLLECTION**  
**1839 -1926**

**GPL5/**

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**GPL5/**

Tuam Poor Law Union

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

**Produced by**

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Text by Patria McWalter

2013 & 2024



The Market Square, Tuam, Co. Galway, c. 1880,  
From The Lawrence Photograph Collection, National Photographic Archives, L-CAB-07598

*'We know that the Irish peasant will endure every prevention and hardship even death itself by the road side, rather than become an inmate of the workhouse'.*

Letter from Rev Conway, Headford, to the Board of Guardians,  
December 1861, GPL5/23, p373-4



**GPL5/**

Tuam Poor Law Union

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

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Cartlann Chomhairle Contae na Gaillimhe '*...cuimhne dhoiciméadach Chontae na Gaillimhe a shealbhú, a chaomhnú agus a dhéanamh inrochtana*'  
Galway County Council - Archives '*...to acquire, preserve and make accessible the documentary memory of county Galway*'



## Table of Contents

|  | Page No.     |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Identity Statement</b>  | <b>ii</b>    |
| <b>Context</b>   | <b>ii</b>    |
| <b>Archival History</b>  | <b>ii</b>    |
| <b>Archivist's Note</b>  | <b>ii</b>    |
| <b>Scope and Content</b>   | <b>iii</b>   |
| Poor Law Unions  | iii          |
| Tuam Poor Law Union – Biographical Notes                                       | vii          |
| <b>Arrangement</b>   | <b>xxi</b>   |
| <b>Allied Material</b>   | <b>xxiii</b> |
| Primary Sources  | xxiii        |
| Secondary Sources  | xxiv         |
| Appendices   | xxix         |
| 1. List of Some of the Workhouse Staff   | xxxii        |
| 2. List of Some of the Members of the Board of Guardians                       | xliii        |
| 3. District Electoral Divisions covered by Tuam Poor Law Union                 | vi           |
| 4. RECORDED NUMBER OF INMATES RESIDENT AND DEATHS IN THE WORKHOUSE             | vii          |
| 5. ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS OF RELIEVING OFFICERS RELATING TO BOARDED OUT CHILDREN | xviii        |
| 6. Abbreviations   | xix          |
| <b>List of Items and Descriptions</b>  | <b>2</b>     |
| A. Minutes of Board of Guardians Meetings, 1839 - 1921                         | 2            |
| B. Tuam Burial Board Minutes, 1874 - 1896                                      | 66           |
| C. Indoor Relief Register, 1913 - 1915   | 67           |
| D. Indoor & Outdoor Relief Returns, 1861 - 1863                                | 67           |
| E. Miscellaneous Books & Documents, 1896 - 1921                                | 68           |



## Identity Statement

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Reference Code:</b>      | IE GCCA /GPL5/      |
| <b>Title:</b>               | Tuam Poor Law Union |
| <b>Dates:</b>               | 1839 – 1926         |
| <b>Level of description</b> | Fonds               |
| <b>Extent:</b>              | 60 items            |

## Context

Creator(s): Tuam Board of Guardians

## Archival History

Most of surviving records in the Tuam Board of Guardians collection were deposited with Galway County Libraries in *circa* 1977 and transferred to the Archives in 2010. The bulk of the collection was microfilmed / digitised in 2013, by DPI, Youghal, Co. Cork.

In 2018 one volume (GPL5/72) was deposited with the Archives.

In 2022 several additional volumes for the period 1843 – 1845, and 1847 – 1851 were acquired by the Archives. They received conservation treatment in 2023 and were digitised and added to the Digital Archive in 2024.

## Archivist's Note

Descriptive list prepared by Patria McWalter, Archivist, 2013, and updated in 2018 and 2024.





## Scope and Content

This collection of Tuam Poor Law Union archives consists of 47 volumes of Board of Guardian minutes, dating from 1839 to 1921, with many gaps. It also includes several other items such as a volume of Burial Board Minutes (1874-96), an Indoor Relief Register (1913-15), a Matron's Work Book (1910-21), and a Contractor's Ledger (1913-19). The collection has been assigned the archival code of GPL5/.

Several of the surviving volumes of minutes have occasional pencil marks and drawings throughout. Many blank pages have been also torn out. Pencil annotations include for instance, *'John Monaghan, Tuam Garrison, Co. Galway. A line hoping to find you well as this leave (sp) me at present in Tuam, Co. Galway. Well could not write any sooner as I was not in any garrison only a short time'* (GPL5/42, p293). Also *'Tuam Military Bks. This the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty four. Please give bearer as much whiskey as he can drink and send Bill for same to the above address. Yours truly, The Cast Man'* (GPL5/42, p380). Also *'I was on duty at Tuam....He (a soldier) refused to state whether he was sober...I arrested him and conducted him to the guard room...'* (GPL5/107, p153). Another reads *'Willie Gallagher, Military Barracks, Tuam Co. Galway'* (GPL5/98, p678). It may be presumed that these are annotations and scribbles made by troops stationed in the Workhouse during and after the Civil War.

## Poor Law Unions

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

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



Commissioners, Inspectors and Clerks, and it supervised the election and proceedings of Boards of Guardians. The Commission was abolished in 1872, and its functions were transferred to the Local Government Board. This Board was composed of the Irish Chief Secretary, the Under-Secretary, a Vice President and two Commissioners and took over responsibility for supervising the administration of the poor law system and public health legislation. The Board had a staff of regional inspectors and auditors to supervise and report on the activities of poor law guardians and other local authorities<sup>1</sup>.

A Board of Guardians, consisting of two thirds elected and one-third *ex-officio* members, had direct responsibility for the administration of the union workhouses. The Guardians were generally local magistrates, landlords and the better class of farmers. Roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Board's members ( $\frac{1}{2}$  after 1847) were appointed from among the Justices of the Peace holding land within the Union. The remaining members of the Board were elected by the ratepayers whose holding was valued at £4 or over. Every ratepayer had at least one vote, and the number of votes increased according to valuation and other conditions in a complex manner. The owners of property had similarly plural votes, the general maximum being six. The post of Guardian was unpaid.

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

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

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

For instance, in the early 1850s, under the Medical Charities Act of 1851, they were responsible for the provision and management of dispensaries to provide free medical attendance for the sick poor. The

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



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<sup>3</sup> of the country were divided into 718 dispensary districts.

While many boards of guardians had allowed the non-destitute to enter workhouse hospitals for treatment during the 1850s, the 1862 Poor Law (Amendment) Act officially opened the workhouse hospitals to the non-destitute sick. 'As a result of these developments, Ireland had one of the most advanced health services in Europe in the mid-19th century, if policy and structure are to be taken as criteria'<sup>4</sup>.

From the early 1860s they were responsible for the boarding-out of children, and from 1883 under various Labourers' Acts they were responsible for the provision of houses for agricultural labourers. The administration of the sanitary services was re-organised and codified under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts of 1874 and 1878. Under these acts the municipal corporations and town commissioners were appointed sanitary authorities for the larger urban areas and Boards of Guardians became the sanitary authorities for the rural areas and smaller towns.

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

Galway County Council discussed the amalgamation of the Unions in the county in 1903 and sporadically thereafter until 1919 when the scheme was discussed again in detail, and also in April 1921 (see for instances GPL5/106, p711 and p781), and October 1921. The Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act 1923 led to the abolition of the workhouse system, and its replacement with the formation of the County Boards of Health and Public Assistance. Some workhouses were burned during

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

<sup>3</sup> Electoral divisions were sub-divisions of Poor Law Unions. The Poor Law Relief (Ireland) Act provided for the dividing of unions into Electoral Divisions. In 1846 there were 2,049 Electoral Divisions, though this number was increased to 3,404 in 1850, and by 1851 further subdivision increased the total number to 3,439 Electoral Divisions. As some Poor Law Unions spanned county boundaries, so too did a number of Electoral Divisions. (Database of Irish Historical Statistics - Agricultural Crops Notes, p25, UK Data Service [http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/3575/mrdoc/pdf/guide\\_crops.pdf](http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/3575/mrdoc/pdf/guide_crops.pdf) (accessed 2014-03).

<sup>4</sup> Brian Donnelly, National Archives, *ARA Spring Newsletter*, 2015, p12



the War of Independence and the Civil War, while others were converted into county homes or district hospitals.

Galway County Council decided to have one central hospital in Galway city with ambulances, and to have one central home for old and infirm persons in Loughrea<sup>6</sup> and outdoor relief was replaced by home assistance. The County Children's Home remained in Tuam.

The Unions' remaining functions were transferred to county councils and administered through the Board 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. These Boards were abolished in 1942 and their functions taken over by the County Council.

There were ten workhouses in County Galway. Those at Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway, Gort, Loughrea, and Tuam were established in the 1840s. The Unions at Glenamaddy, 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<sup>7</sup>, but only one item for Portumna Union and only two volumes of minutes for Glenamaddy.

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

<sup>6</sup> GCCA, Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/3, p308

<sup>7</sup> Board of Public Health & Assistance minutes include, '*Submitted quotation from Messrs M. Duan & Co., South Prince's Street, Dublin, for the purchase of the old papers in above workhouse.*

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



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

Tuam Poor Law Union was formally declared on the 19th September 1839, and covered an area of 214 square miles. Its operation was overseen by a Board of Guardians, comprised of 31 elected members representing its 13 electoral divisions: Abbey, Annaghdown, Cummer, Clare Tuam, Clonberne, Downpatrick, Dunmore, Headford, Kilbanon, Killererin, Lisgeevy, Monivea, and Tuam, and also 10 *ex-officio* Guardians, making a total of 41. The Guardians met initially for the first few years monthly, and thereafter each week on Saturday. For much of the duration of the Famine period Vice Guardians were appointed, in place of elected Guardians; Captain James Bell and William Reardon were the Vice Guardians in early 1849. The elected Board was re-instated in November 1849, with Robert Bodkin elected Chair until March 1850 (GPL5/4E, 5 Nov 1849, p7)

The first meeting of the Board of Guardians took place on 11 November 1839 in the Courthouse in Tuam. Major Kirwan was unanimously elected Chairman, and John Browne, Vice Chairman. The Tuam Branch of the National Bank was elected Treasurer for the Tuam Poor Law Union.

The new Tuam Union workhouse was erected in 1840 on a six-acre site on the Dublin Road, half a mile to the south-east of Tuam. Designed by the Poor Law Commissioners' architect, George Wilkinson, the building was based on one of his standard plans to accommodate 800 inmates.

The Board made arrangements to take out a loan of £8,400 sterling '*...for the erecting, fitting, furnishing, and providing utensils, instruments and machinery for setting the poor to work therein together with the sum required for the purchase of said lands*' (29 June 1840, GPL5/1). At its meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> July 1840 it resolved that its Chairman, Major Kirwan, of Castlehacket, '*...be requested to lay the first stone of the workhouse of this Union on either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> day of August next...*' (27 Jul 1840, GPL5/1). However, on the appointed day Kirwan sent his apologies as he had '*....got an attack of pain and illness in my head....which I have been subjected to for some months past. I am afraid of venturing into a crowd...*' (17 August 1840). Therefore Martin J. Blake, MP (Brooklodge), was requested to lay the foundation stone of the Union workhouse; '*...a series of current coins of the realm and a temperance medal were deposited under the stone*'. Mr Shark, the building contractor, and Mark Murray, the Clerk of Works, were also present at the ceremony, together with many members of the Board and a '*...large concourse of the inhabitants of the Union*' (5 Sept 1840, GPL1/5).

Among the first tasks of the Guardians was to agree a valuation for property in the Union and thus strike a rate. The Valuation was finally agreed by June 1842, and on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1842 the Board struck a rate of '*...five pence in the pound on the valuation of property in the Union*' (GPL1/5). Another



important task for the Board was to agree on its dispensary districts, thus it declared Tuam, Dunmore, Milltown, Headford and Monivea to be dispensary districts (5 Sept 1840, GPL5/1). These districts were subsequently amended in late 1851 with the introduction of the Medical Charities Act, when four districts were agreed upon; namely Tuam, Dunmore, Monivea and Headford<sup>8</sup>.

The workhouse was declared fit for the reception of paupers on 15th August 1842; *'Resolved. That in consequence of an Order received by us this day from the Poor Law Commissioners declaring the Union workhouse fit for the reception of destitute poor, it was resolved that we adjourn in a body to view the Union workhouse'*. Following its inspection the Board stated it was *'...not satisfied that it is in a state fit for the reception of poor, and therefore we had decided not to take possession of it'* (15 Aug 1842, GPL1/5). The first meeting of the Board to be held in the Workhouse took place on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1842. However, because of difficulties in collecting the poor rate needed to operate the workhouse, it did not receive its first admissions until 4<sup>th</sup> May 1846, and only then after the Poor Law Commissioners (PLC) had issued the Guardians with a writ of mandamus<sup>9</sup> &<sup>10</sup>. In August 1844 a letter from the Commissioners advised the Board *'stating that it is not in their power to procure a Loan to enable the Guardians of the Tuam Union to discharge their present liabilities, and the Commissioners having had under mature consideration the delay which has taken place in the collection of the rates, and in the taking of other necessary steps to afford relief in the Workhouse to the destitute poor, have deemed it right to instruct their Solicitor to issue a notice to each member of the Board of Guardians, warning them of their liability to criminal proceedings, in the event of a continuance of the neglect on their part to discharge the duties of their office...'* (GPL5/ 2, 26 Aug 1844).

The workhouse was originally built to accommodate 800 inmates. It cost £8,682.6.6 to build.<sup>11</sup>

Auxiliary workhouses and sheds were provided during the famine period in various locations such as the Tierboy Barracks (leased from Charles Blake, initially for 3 years until mid-1853<sup>12&13</sup>), The Mall House leased from Mr Matthews from year to year from January 1848<sup>14</sup>) and a Galway Road premises

<sup>8</sup> See for instances GPL5/6, p470

<sup>9</sup> O'Connor, John, *The Workhouses of Ireland*, 1995, (Anvil Books).

<sup>10</sup> A writ or order that is issued from a court of superior jurisdiction that commands an inferior tribunal, corporation, or municipal corporation or individual to perform, or refrain from performing, a particular act, the performance or omission of which is required by law as an obligation. A writ or order of mandamus is an extraordinary court order because it is made without the benefit of full judicial process, or before a case has concluded. It may be issued by a court at any time that it is appropriate, but it is usually issued in a case that has already begun. (<http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/writ+of+mandamus>, accessed July 2013).

<sup>11</sup> Report of the Commissioners appointed to Inquire into the Execution of the contracts for certain Union workhouse in Ireland, Mar 1845

<sup>12</sup> GPL5/8, 4 May 1853.

<sup>13</sup> 26 Oct 1853, GPL5/9, p347, 2 Nov 1853, pp362-3, see also p374.

<sup>14</sup> GPL5/4E, 12 Dec 1849, p497



(leased from Pat Mangan<sup>15</sup>) in Tuam, and an additional fever hospital (sheds) at Ballygaddy (opened August 1848) in Tuam, and Dunmore. The latter was leased from George O'Shea<sup>16</sup>. In 1849 the Poor Law Commissioners sanctioned the Vice Guardians of the Union to erect '*sheds at Ballygaddy Fever Hospital and Dunmore Auxiliary workhouse*' (GPL5/4C, 28 Feb 1849).

In February 1849 tenders for the erection of temporary buildings in the Tuam Workhouse grounds '*according to the plan and specification of Mr Wilkinson, Poor Law commissioners Architect*', were considered. The tender of Michael Burke for £135 was accepted (GPL5/4C).

The tender of Pat Flynn, in the sum of £117, was accepted in March 1849 for the erection of fever sheds at Ballydaddy fever hospital (GPL5/4C, 7 Mar 1849).

By the end of January 1848 the Union had in addition to the Workhouse's original capacity for 800, an additional space to accommodate 250 and fever sheds to accommodate 100, giving a total capacity of 1150 (GPL5/4B, 24 Jan 1848). The capacity had increased to 2070 by March 1849 (GPL5/4C, 7 Mar 1849), and to 2,570 by 10 March 1849 (GPL5/4C, 14 Mar 1849).

By October 1849 as there were only 39 inmates in the Grange Temporary Fever hospital the Vice Guardians recommended its closures and ordered that no new admissions should be allowed, other than from the Dunmore Workhouse, and that the Relieving Officers were instructed to send 'any persons affected with fever to the Temporary Fever Hospital at Ballygaddy' (GPL5/4E, 10 Oct 1849, p368).

In December 1849 it gave notice that it would cease to lease and use the Mall House (Tuam) and the auxiliary houses on Galway Road (GPL5/4E, p485). Total capacity at that time was for 2,620, with 1,989 inmates housed by the Union at weekending 8 December 1849. However, by June 1850 the number the workhouse reached 4263, with a recorded capacity of 3499 (GPL5/5A, 3 Jul 1850). Thereafter the number in the Union accommodation gradually decreased, and down to 1916 inmates, by weekending 29 September 1850. At its meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> September, the Medical Officer reported 'that the arrangements for the transfer of the patients at Ballygaddy was in progress' (GPL5/5A, 5 Sept 1850, p361).

There were reports, with little detail, of a fire at the workhouse in March 1849. Mr Wilkinson, the PLC's architect was directed to visit Tuam to 'report on it' (GPL5/4C, 14 Mar 1849). He subsequently recommended that the chimney in the School Master's room be stopped and a 'straight flue built in its

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<sup>15</sup> GPL5/6, p455, see also p484 & p499.

<sup>16</sup> GPL5/6, p316





stead' (GPL5/4C, 21 Mar 1849). In June 1849 the Board received '*specification for the repairs of the front buildings of the workhouse destroyed by fire*', from Mr McMullen, Assistant Architect to Mr Wilkinson, and resolved '*That Andrew Egan's proposal to erect same for the sum of £254.3.6 be accepted and that he be directed to proceed with the repairs forthwith*' (GPL5/4D, p189, 20 Jun 1849).

In 1851, the Board of Guardians instructed its solicitor to '*...surrender Dunmore Auxiliary at the expiration of the tenancy*' (7 May 1851, GPL5/6). At an extraordinary meeting, held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1851, the Board resolved that all the auxiliary workhouses in the Union '*...be forthwith closed with the exception of the Tirboy Barracks, and Officers in these establishments to be discontinued on getting one month's notice or a month's salary...*' (GPL5/6, p194).

The first reference in the Tuam Town Commissioners minutes, (TTC/1) to the famine and distress at that time occurs in their minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> October 1846, when the Board appealed for a resident magistrate to be stationed in Tuam 'for the purpose of securing the safe transit of food and of affording protection to property for the want of both which Tuam is at present in a deplorable state and further that Tuam be appointed a Depot for provisions in-as-much as that the Town has been for the last 3 days and still continues without a supply of meal or flour and that in consequence cattle have been taken off the streets and slaughtered by a staving populace' (TTC/1/1, pp100-1). Further reference to the distress of the Town and its people occurs in 1848 when the Commissioners passed two further resolutions,

*'That 75 per cent of the applicants for relief understand the Irish language only, and that the Vice Guardians, the Clerk of the Union, and the Tuam Relieving Officer are ignorant of said language and are consequently incompetent to investigate the claims of applicants for relief'* (30 June 1848, TTC/1/1, p126), and '*That we form a Committee for the purpose of making enquires relative to many cases of distress existing and report to the Board on next day of meeting*' (TTC/1/1, p126).





According to some records several girls received assisted passage from the Tuam workhouse to Australia in 1848 and 1849.<sup>17</sup> The minutes include limited references to arrangements but do indicate, for instance, that in August 1848 25 females were to emigrate to Australia, via Plymouth (England). *'Resolved: That Mr Morris, Master be directed to proceed to Dublin on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> in charge of 25 emigrants and that the sum of fifty pounds be advanced to him, for which he will account upon his return to defray the expense incurred in the transport and subsistence of these emigrants'* (GPL5/4B, pp6-7, 25 Aug 1848). The Master, subsequent laid details of his expenses before the Board, *'attending to the transmission of paupers to Plymouth amounting to £45.13.9 and handed the balance amounting to £4.6.3 to Clerk, who was ordered to lodge it with the Treasurer'* (GPL5/4B, p8, 26 Sept 1848).

The collection of rates was to be an ongoing struggle for the Tuam Union. In August 1853, for instance, the Poor Law (PL) Inspector advised the Commissioners of the *'...unsatisfactory progress made in the collection of the current rate, and expresses an opinion that if proper diligence and activity had been exhibited by the collectors at an early period the state of the collection would have been more satisfactory'* (GP5/9, p197). In December 1854 a Finance Committee report advised the Board that the Union had liabilities of £1,554, and yet their Treasurer only had £500. The Committee recommended that payment of all salaries and *'...all sums say under £5.0.0 and one half of the amount of all sums under £40.0.0'*. Assurances received from Rate Collectors that they would make *'...large lodgements during the ensuing fortnight, had induced your Committee to anticipate them so far as directing the Clerk to prepare cheques in excess of the lodgments by £190, and which are not to be perfected or issued till funds are available for their payment'* (GPL5/11, p227). In June 1856 £425 remained uncollected (GPL5/12, p261).

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<sup>17</sup> To Melbourne via the *Lady Kennaway* (1848:

[https://indexes.records.nsw.gov.au/ebook/list.aspx?Page=NRS5316/4\\_4816/Lady%20Kennaway\\_6%20Dec%201848/4\\_481600125.jpg](https://indexes.records.nsw.gov.au/ebook/list.aspx?Page=NRS5316/4_4816/Lady%20Kennaway_6%20Dec%201848/4_481600125.jpg) ), and to Sydney via the *Inchinnan* (June? 1849, [www.irishfaminememorial.org/orphans/database/](http://www.irishfaminememorial.org/orphans/database/) ) Accessed Feb 2015.

Assisted Immigration (digital) shipping lists, <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/guides/assisted-immigrants-digital-shipping-lists/#1840s>, Museums of History of New South Wales. Accessed Apr 2023.



The average weekly cost of an inmate in the workhouse in 1851 was £0.0.3, and the cost of an inmate in the Fever Hospital and Infirmary was £0.1.3. In October 1859 the average cost was £0.1.7 1/8 for an inmate in the workhouse, and was £0.2.2½ for an inmate in the Infirmary and £0.3.3½ for an inmate in the Fever Hospital. In November 1862 the average cost was £0.1.10½ for an inmate in the workhouse, and was £0.2.9 ¼ in the Infirmary and £0.3.9 in the Fever Hospital. In March 1870 the average cost in the workhouse was £0.2.4, and in the Hospital was £0.3.8¼. The average cost of an inmate in the workhouse in March 1894 was £0.3.4¾, in the Infirmary it was £0.4.2, and in the Fever Hospital it was £0.6.1¼.

In late 1859 the Board resolved that the *'Sisters of Mercy take charge of the education of the girls'* (GPL5/19, p208). But the PLC requested the Board to reconsider this proposal *'...with a view to the appointment of a fit person to the office of schoolmistress'* (GPL5/19, p227). The Board, however, decided to ask the Sisters to continue *'...their valuable'* services, and to advertise for *'...an industrial female teacher'* (GPL5/19, p368). At the next meeting the minutes record that the PLC advised them that the 25<sup>th</sup> Article of the General Regulations *'...requires the Board of Guardians to appoint a fit person to the office of Schoolmistress and stating that they must insist on the appointment of a responsible officer to teach the female children in accordance with the Regulations'* (GPL5/19, p387). Following further discussion on the matter the Board appointed Miss Mary Anne Browne schoolmistress in January 1860 (GPL5/19, p446).

In October 1861 the PLC's Inspector, Dr Brodie, advised that *'...there is a likelihood that a large portion of it (the potatoe crop), will be found unfit for human food, owing to which it seems probable that there will be an increase in the demand for relief in the workhouse, and that it would be desirable that the Guardians take such steps as may be sufficient to satisfy themselves that the accommodation in the Workhouse will be available when required'* (GPL5/23, p229). By the end of November there had been no significant increase in the numbers admitted to the Workhouse, though the Parish Priest of Headford, Rev Peter Conway, St Mary's, Headford, advised the Board of Guardians (BG) of the *'...distressed state of the poor people in the locality with which he was connected'* due to the *'want of food and fuel'*. He further advised that *'owing to the almost complete failure of the potato and wheat crops, and want of fuel the people in the parish with which I am connected are at present suffering every much, and as there are at this every moment some hundreds of persons without food or fuel or the means of purchasing either, I respectfully call on you...to look after the sufferings and wants of the poor...Unless you give the Outdoor relief or sheets to shelter them, as it would be a cruelty to ask*



*starving creatures to walk a distance of ten or sixteen miles as was the case hitherto'. He further advised that '...the present state of the people indicates that they will be worse during the present winter, ensuing Spring and Summer, than they were in the years '46 and '47, unless immediate steps be taken to allay the approaching famine'. In response the Board ordered that its Relieving Officer, Peter Curran, attend Headford each Tuesday and Friday for the '...purpose of receiving applications from persons who may require relief' (GPL5/23, pp330-2). At the subsequent meeting of the Board, Robert Botterill, Guardian for the Electoral Division (ED) of Headford, Killursa and Killeany, advised that no great distress existed in Headford, as reported by Rev Conway. He advised that '...instead of hundreds mentioned by Mr Conway as requiring carts to carry them to Tuam for relief, there have been only eight applications, during the three months of September, October and November'. He also refuted the need for fuel, advising that Mr St George had supplied coal '...for gratuitous distribution to the very destitute, and to those who can pay something at a very low price....and it is impossible that any want such as represented can have existed from a period dating several days previous to the statement put before you on last Board day' (GPL5/23, p351-2).*

The minutes of a subsequent meeting, of 4<sup>th</sup> December 1861, contain a transcript of another lengthy letter from Rev Conway in answer to Botterill's contradictions of his statement on '*...the state of things*' in his parish. He asserts that reference to the (Relieving Officer's (RO) books is not a good indication of the non-existence of distress. He writes that we know by '*...a sad experience (the books) supply no proof of the non-existence of destitution. We know that the Irish peasant will endure every prevention and hardship even death itself by the road side, rather than become an inmate of the workhouse*' (GPL5/23, p373-4). To illustrate his point and the need for relief he provides details of specific individuals who were suffering. Botterill issues another letter to the Board further contradicting Conway (GPL5/23, pp379-80). The Poor Law Union ordered that a Committee be set up to receive applications for relief.

The minutes include extracts of further correspondence from Conway and others on the matter, such as from Conway on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 1861, again reiterating the '*...horror and dread the people of Headford have of the Workhouse*' (GPL5/23, pp396-8). Also that '*Widow Sheppal says she never will go to the Workhouse, some years ago, she went to the workhouse, and was promised before she went, that she and her family would be sent to America, but they were not sent and Master Roberts now owns their house and plot. She declares, solemnly, that if she was to get only one part of yellow meal in the 5 days she never would go to the workhouse again*' (GPL5/23, p398).



In April 1862 the RO, Peter Curran, advised the Board that since the establishment of the relief Headford Committee '*...there was no day that I was bound to attend but there was application. But the first days that I attended....no person applied to me for relief*' (GPL5/24, p209).

The Board shortly afterwards, following statements from some of the members of the Headford Committee, resolved that '*...the great majority of the applicants for relief in the Headford district are of that particular class which if relieved, ought only to be relieved in the workhouse. That a very small number have yet accepted the Workhouse test. That without under-rating the distress likely to be felt in the months immediately preceding the new harvest, there appears as yet no amount of work thereon upon the RO which he is incapable of performing. That this Board place confidence in the zeal of the Headford Relief Committee and feel assured that, that Committee having been organised at the request of several of its members most of whom live within the district, and are in constant communication with the RO, will not fail to discharge its duty when the proper time for prompt action shall have arrived*' (GPL5/24, p249). At the beginning of May Rev Conway reported the death of John Hession from '*...want of the necessaries of life*' (GPL5/24, p287, see also p290). At this time there were 73 persons in receipt of outdoor relief, and 315 in the workhouse.

The RO reported later in the month that there were 28 cases in receipt of outdoor relief, and 88 new cases, '*...7 of which were recommended to get outdoor relief, 1 to Workhouse, 49 refused workhouse, 25 made no appearance, 5 referred to RO to make further enquiry about them, and 1 no power to relieve not being destitute*' (GPL5/24, p328, see also p347).

There are ongoing references in the minutes, from then until at least 1865, to various other cases in the Headford district which required outdoor relief and in some instances transferred to the workhouse.

In early December 1866 Curran (RO) again writes to the Board regarding another complaint against him issued by Rev Conway, in which he states '*It is very extraordinary that during the time (near 12 months) that the Rev M Conway was lately in America, there was no complaint against me. I hoped this animosity was buried in the Atlantic, but unfortunately I now see it is as ripe as ever...*' (GPL5/32, p414, see also p388). In July 1867 Curran wrote to the Poor Law Commissioners complaining about the conduct of Rev Conway. The Commissioners advised that '*...they are fully aware of the difficulties that he, the RO, has to contend with and they have no doubt but that he will discharge his duties according to law*' (GPL5/33, p528).

In the mid to late 1860s the Master, John Smyth, and Matron, Sarah Costello, appeared to have difficulty working together and were warned on several occasions that unless the discipline of the



House improved, one or other of them, would have to be dismissed. For instance in 29 January 1868 the Board advised them that they must carry out their duties with '*...mutual kindly feeling towards each other, so essential for the good working of the Establishment*'. Also at this time an inmate, Ellen Waldron, requested clothing and money to assist her and her child to leave the workhouse to go to England as '*...no person of decency could live in the house, owing to the scandal and fighting that exists in it from morning to night*' (GPL5/34, p457). However, a Visiting Committee report of the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1868 reported that the '*...house was clean, the inmates of each Ward where asked by us whether they had any complaint to make declared that they had none...*' (GPL5/36, p67).

In the Spring of 1870 a regiment of troops were stationed in the Workhouse. Their occupation there caused ongoing tensions with the Board over various matters, such as the supply of water, the provision of a canteen for the troops, and so on. The minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> December 1870 include the following, '*Communication from Captain Simpson, commanding troops stationed in the workhouse stating that some of his men have been kept awake for two nights caused by a lunatic in a room under that occupied by the troops, and requesting that the lunatic may be removed to a remote part of the House*', and the reply being, '*The Clerk was directed to inform Captain Simpson that there shall not be a reoccurrence of the matter complained of, the person alleged to be a lunatic being now quiet. At the same time to observe to Captain Simpson, the very great disturbance caused by the troops in the night of the 26<sup>th</sup> inst., by dancing etc over the room occupied by the inmates of the male infirm ward*' (GPL5/38, p310). The troops left the workhouse in October 1872 (GPL5/42, p47). However, the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> December 1872 includes a report from the Master advising the Board that a '*Company of the 12th Infantry arrived at the workhouse and occupied that part of the Building in which the troops were before located*' (GPL5/41, p207).

The Minutes of 1894 give some detail regarding the pump at Milltown, such as a report from the Engineer, Mr Perry, advising the Board that '*...the well was 34 feet deep, the steining or lining of stonework had been carried up to the top, the concrete cover had been put on, the pump had been erected and was in good working order. The men were at work at the concrete wall but it was not completed...*

*The contract sum is £127.10.0...*' (GPL5/76, p39). Perry further advised that he could not yet certify if sufficient depth had been sunk, and it would be after the '*...dry weather of summer when the supply can be thoroughly tested*' (GPL5/76, p39). The material for the pump had been acquired from George Smith & Co, Sun Foundry, Glasgow.



The minutes of 1894 also refer to the Tuam waterworks. For instance in March 1894 there was *'1 foot 7 inches of water in the Reservoir. The Committee recommend that the additional fountain in stock be erected on Tullynadaly Road and inserted for protection from carts in McDonnell's garden wall provided he gives permission...'* (GPL5/76, p62). The estimated cost of the work was £3.7.6 (GPL5/76, p84). In May the reservoir was full, with 10 feet of water. In August 1894 the Superintendent of Tuam Waterworks reported a *'...considerable leakage in the pipes in Shop Street owing to their being badly laid. The water burst the lead out of the pipes'* (GPL5/76, p567).

In April 1894 the LGB advised the BG that it would lose the grant of £40,000 under the Labourers Acts if they did not *'...take immediate steps to put the Acts into force'*. The Board then asked if the Town Commissioners would be entitled to any share in the grant if they built cottages in the town (GPL5/76, p171).

From about 1910 onward there was intermittent discussion regarding the need to improve the workhouse sewerage scheme, with various plans and specifications submitted at various times initially by Mr Newell, Engineer, and later by Donnelly & Moore Engineers. In November 1912 the Board sent plans and estimates to the LGB for approval (GPL5/101, p101). The PL Inspector, Major Rutledge Fair<sup>18</sup> reported in November of that year that *'In the absence of lavatories in the main building and the very bad drainage system, the sanitary accommodation cannot be considered satisfactory'* (GPL5/101, p118). Following the death of the previous Inspector, the new PL Inspector, Mr Beresford, advised in April 1913 that *'The Infirmary is very clean, but the body of the house swarms with fleas...Proper lavatory accommodation is much needed in the main building'* (GPL5/101, p333). In late 1914 the scheme had not yet been finalised or approved by the LGB. The issue of new lavatories for the Infirmary was raised again in 1920. In September 1920 the LGB advised the BG *'...in connection with the sewerage scheme proposed some years ago for the Workhouse, and stating that they are advised that any claim for the work in question is barred by Section 51(7) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 and that the time cannot now be extended'* (GPL5/106, p477).

In November 1912 the Board accepted the tender of Musgrave & Co. Ltd., Belfast for a new boiler and case for the heating apparatus and fitting and re-pumping the heating system in the Dining Hall and Chapel for a total cost of £28 (GPL5/101, p110).

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<sup>18</sup> Died Dec 1912, 'who was for 21 years officially connected' with Tuam Union (GPL5/101, p156)





From about 1912 onwards the Guardians passed several political resolutions, such as in August 1912 adopting the resolution of the Castlerea Rural District Council '*...condemning the cowardly and brutal treatment Catholics and Liberal Protestants workers are subjected to in Belfast by the Orange mob incited by the speeches of Carson, Campbell and Craig & Co., etc*' (GPL5/101, p12). Though it didn't appear to pass any resolution relating to the 1916 Rising it did several months later pass the following, '*That the Board be adjourned after transacting urgent business in memory of Sir Roger Casement executed on Thursday morning*' (5 Aug 1916, GPL5/102, p984).

Also in March 1919 it adopted the '*Resolution passed by the Naas Board of Guardians protesting most emphatically against the inhuman conduct of the jailers towards the Political Prisoners in Cork Jail, who are treated like wild animals been handcuffed and chained, and obliged to lap up their food from the ground like dogs*' (GPL5/104, f295).

The workhouse was taken over by the British Military in 1920, with the Master reporting '*That the Military took over male side of the House on 12<sup>th</sup> Inst.*' (GPL5/106, p476). At which point the Clerk wrote to the Mountbellew and Glenamaddy Union asking if they could take '*...over some of the inmates, should it be found necessary to transfer them from Tuam*' (GPL5/106, p476). The BG '*...were of opinion that the Officials had done everything possible for the accommodation of the inmates under the circumstances, and so far they were fairly comfortable, but in case there were many more admissions there would be a danger of overcrowding, as the casuals wards have also been commandeered, it is impossible to make any provision for vagrants and the Guardians cannot be held responsible if they are unable to admit them*'. The Clerk also advised the Board that the Boardroom had been '*...taken over for Officers' quarters*' (GPL5/106, pp479-80).

Despite assuring the LGB in August 1920 that it had '*...no objection to submitting their accounts to audit*' in December 1920 (GPL5/106, p421), and despite a large overdraft and difficulty financing the Union, the Board resolved '*...to sever all relations with the Local Government Board, Custom House, Dublin, and have no further communication with that Board*' (GPL5/106, p605).

In June 1921 the Clerk advised the Board that the Military had informed him that it would be taking over the remaining portion of the workhouse. He then approached other Unions to ask if they could take some inmates. Glenamaddy advised it could take 45 healthy male inmates, 10 female inmates and 10 female sick patients. The Galway Union was unable to take any inmates as it was also due to be commandeered by the Military. The Loughrea Union agreed it could take all '*...healthy inmates of Tuam workhouse and some of the Hospital patients*' (GPL5/106, pp784-5). It was subsequently decided



to 'send the Inmates to Loughrea workhouse', and that all the inmates 'who were able to travel by rail be sent to Loughrea next day by the two (o'clock) train, and that the Loughrea Motor Ambulance be sent to take the remainder, and that the necessary beds, bedding, clothing etc be sent to Loughrea by Motor Lorry (23 July 1921, GPL5/106, 799). A decision had been made to send the Infirmary patients to Glenamaddy, however, as the Military had then decided it did not require that portion of the Workhouse '...the nuns and patients have not been disturbed' (GPL5/106, p801). In September 1921 the Board ordered that 'Patients be sent to Loughrea Fever Hospital when possible, but urgent cases in Glenamaddy neighbourhood may be sent there should any arise' (GPL5/106, p819).

At its meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November 1921 the Board resolved 'That the Clerk be directed to give formal notice to termination of employment of each Poor Law official in the service of the Guardians (with the exception of Dispensary Doctors and Midwives) as from the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1921' (GPL5/106, p900).

The Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1923<sup>19</sup> states:

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

Under the "County Scheme" introduced by Galway County Council (i.e. scheme prepared under or in accordance with the 1923 Act by the Council of a County for the administration of the relief of the poor in that County) which included the amalgamation of Unions, 206 officials employed in the Unions in the county were dispensed with. The Union Masters, Clerks, Matrons and other staff received pensions or gratuities<sup>20</sup>.

According to one account of the period the Free State Army took over the workhouse on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1922. 'The last of the English forces had left the Barracks about six months previously. They were the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. They had a jolly good time in Tuam, the only untoward incident during their stay was the execution of one of their Privates for disposing of parts of a gun to a party of a Headford Pub. He was court-martialled in Headford and executed in England'<sup>21</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> The electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB), [http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1923/sro/917/made/en/print?q=workhouse&years=1920-1926&search\\_type=all](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1923/sro/917/made/en/print?q=workhouse&years=1920-1926&search_type=all)

<sup>20</sup> See the Connacht Tribune 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1921 for details of the Ballinasloe employees who received payments

<sup>21</sup> GS12/10, Waldron, Notes on the Civil War.





On 11<sup>th</sup> April 1923 six anti-treaty IRA men, from the First Galway Brigade, were shot by firing squad in the Old Workhouse in Tuam by the Free State Government; five were from Galway, and one from Mayo. Four of the Galway men were from the Tuam district. Francis Cunnane, John Newell and Michael Monaghan were from Headford, and Martin Moylan was from Annaghdown. The men were captured in Corrandulla after an abortive raid on the Bank of Ireland branch in Headford. Before they were shot, they were held in Galway jail.

In March 1925 during Dáil debates Mr Davin (for Tomás O Conaill) asked the Minister for Defence if, and when, he intended to have the military forces now stationed at Tuam Workhouse withdrawn from there, as requested by the Galway County Board of Health, in order to allow the children to be removed from Glenamaddy to Tuam Workhouse, which had been sanctioned by the Department of Local Government and Public Health as the new Children's Home.

The Children's Home was run by the Bon Secours Sisters and the Sister in charge in the early days was Mother Hortense McNamara<sup>22</sup>.

The former workhouse site is now occupied by housing and nothing remains except an old wall at the northern edge of the site. A memorial plaque, inserted in the window of the wall of the Workhouse was erected in 1985, in memory of the 6 men executed on the site by the Free State in 1923.

### Tuam Burial Ground

In mid-1851 the Board was in negotiations to purchase land for a cemetery, as its Medical Officer did not agree with burying the dead in the grounds of the workhouse (see for instance, 9 July 1851, p9, GPL5/6, and GPL5/6, p227 & p262). In 1853 the Board, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer, advertised for land for a new burial ground for the Town of Tuam. However, the PL Commissioners advised the Board that they '*...cannot legally defray from the Poor Rate any expenses incurred for procuring a site for a burial ground for the general use of the locality*'<sup>23</sup>.

The subject of the '*...insufficiency and ruinous state*' of the graveyard was again raised in early 1862. The Board applied to the 'Right Honourable Lord Plunkett, Lord Bishop of Tuam'<sup>24</sup> to place land at its

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<sup>22</sup> GS12/10. Sr / Rev Mother Hortense McNamara, in charge of St Mary's Home from c. 1926-1952? (see Tuam Herald, June 21, 1952; p2) (possibly died 1967, aged 75 yrs, buried in Deansgrange, Dublin). See <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/ire/dublin/photos/tombstones/1headstones/deansgrange-st-itias05.txt>  
Perhaps a Sister M Martha, ran the Home from then until it closed in 1961 ??.

<sup>23</sup> 2 Nov 1853, GPL5/9, p361

<sup>24</sup> Thomas Span Plunket, 2nd Baron Plunket (1792–1866), was Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> son of William Plunket, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Plunket, and his wife, Catherine (née McCausland). He was educated at St John's College, Cambridge. He served as Dean of Down from 1831 to 1839 before being elevated to the episcopacy as Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry in 1839, a position he held until



disposal for a new graveyard (GPL5/24, p10). The Bishop responded positively advising that several months earlier he had been in touch with the Board's Chairman, Denis Kirwan of Castlehacket, regarding the matter, and would consider further. The minutes for 12<sup>th</sup> February 1862 include a transcript of a letter from the Bishop advising that he is willing to give one acre in trust to the Board for a graveyard '*...solely for the use of Roman Catholics*' (GPL5/24, p49). The Board requested two acres (GPL5/24, p111). Nothing further had been done regarding the matter by June 1862 (GPL5/24, p367).

In September 1862 the Board advised the PLC that three of its members, together with three members of the Tuam Town Commissioners, would meet with '*Lord Plunkett in order to arrange the quantity of land sufficient for the proposed site for a Burial Ground*' (GPL5/25, p106). The December 1862 minutes record that the matter was '*...deferred until the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in the month of January next*' (GPL5/25, p366). At that meeting it was resolved that '*...the finances of the Union are not in a position for this year to enclose it, even if we could get a sufficiency of grounds*' (GPL5/25, p466).

In April 1863 a Committee was formed to '*...confer with the Commissioners of the Town of Tuam as to the appointment of a Burial Board and procuring a site for a burial ground for Tuam and to report to the Board what site they would recommend, the probable cost and outlay on same and on what district this should be charged*' (GPL5/26, p248).

The surviving volume of minutes of proceedings of the Burial Board, which date from 1874-1896 (GPL5/107), deal with all the burial grounds in the Union, and include a minute in 1875 regarding the ongoing selection of a site for the Tuam Burial Ground (GL5/107, p45). In October 1877 the Board requested the LGB's opinion '*...as to whether the Board of Guardians, as the Burial Board, have power to levy a rate on that part of the ED of Tuam within the jurisdiction of the Town Commissioners of Tuam*' (GPL5/107, p105). In January 1879 the Burial Board established a Committee to '*...make due enquiry as to the best site for a new Burial Ground*', to deal with the proprietor of such site and to report back to the Board (GPL5/107, p140). The Committee subsequently recommended two sites, Fr Kilkenny's

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his death in 1866. He moved to live on a private estate at Tourmakeady, where he evicted many Catholic families for not sending their children to the Protestant school. In 1852 he built a Protestant church in the vicinity.

He was buried in the churchyard of his now ruined church at Tourmakeady.

Plunket purchased part of a Lynch Blossie estate in Ballyovey, barony of Carra, county Mayo in 1852. He also bought the Ballybanaun estate of the Moores of Moorehall sold in the Encumbered Estates' Court in 1854. In the late 1850s he was involved in a very public dispute with Father Lavelle, the local parish priest, concerning proselytising activities on his estate. In 1876 the Plunkets owned 1,777 acres in County Mayo. In the same year the estate was sold to the Mitchell brothers from Bradford, Yorkshire. The Bishop's sister Catherine Plunket also owned land in the parish at Cappaghduff where she built Drimbawn House. She left her property to a McCausland cousin from county Donegal. In the 1970s Drimbawn was the home of the actor Robert Shaw. At the time of Griffith's Valuation Lord Plunkett held an estate in the parish of Shandrum, barony of Orrery and Kilmore, county Cork. (NUIG Landed Estates Database, <http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/estate-show.jsp?id=487>, 2012-01-03)



(President of St Jarlath's College, Tuam) farm at Blackacre and Pat Concanon's land, but left the final decision to the Board. After several meetings it decided on Fr Kilkenny's field on Parkmore Lane (GPL5/107, p149), though further objections followed and the matter remained unresolved until June 1879 when a site at Farrannabox was decided on (GPL5/107, pp157-165). In February 1880 the Board declared that the costs for the new cemetery in Tuam would be a Union at large charge (GPL5/107, p173). The initial estimated cost of the required works, to build a boundary wall and layout the cemetery, was in the region of £500, excluding the cost of the land (GPL5/107, pp175-6). The Board's offer of £350, for the land, to Mr Robert Henry, agent to Mr Handcock the proprietor, was accepted (GPL5/107, p178). Fr Kilkenny accepted £60 '*...in compensation for the interest which the College has in the land proposed to be taken as the site for the new Grave Yard*' (GPL5/107, p180). In July 1880 the Board accepted the tender of Thomas Egan, in the sum of £1,150, for carrying out the works to the graveyard. '*Incomprehensible delays*' (GPL5/107, p215) with transferring the title of the property ensued and though not finalised the Board in February 1881 advised Egan that the works could commence and must be completed by November 1881 (GPL5/107, p204).

In July 1882 James Fahy was appointed as caretaker to the burial ground (GPL5/107, pp239-40).

## Arrangement

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

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

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



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

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

The item reference number (GPL5/?) should be used in full when citing from the records in this collection. The most appropriate form of reference is Galway County Council Archives, Reference number (GPL5/?), and page number or date.

Placenames are generally given as they appear in the records.

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

Overall, the collection is in fair condition. The minutes are recorded in bound volumes, on good quality paper. The volumes were all rebound, though not conserved, by Galway County Libraries at some point, prior to 2000. The bindings are now tight.

The volume for the period Jan-Jul 1892 (GPL5/72) was donated to Tuam branch library by the Quinn family in 2018, and subsequently transferred to the Archives in 2019.

Several additional volumes, covering the Famine period, were acquired in 2022. They had been held in safe keeping by the family of a former Galway County Council employee for over 40 years. These volumes GPL5/2, 4-4E and 5A-5B, received conservation treatment in 2022-2023, and were subsequently digitized and added to the Digital Archive in 2024.



## Allied Material

### *Primary Sources*

#### Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Tuam Rural District Council collection (G01/11)
- Mountbellew Poor Law Union minutes (GPL4/)
- Galway County Council Minutes (GC/1/)
- County Galway Board of Health and Public Assistance minutes (GC5/)

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

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

#### National Library of Ireland:

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

#### James Hardiman Library, N.U.I. Galway

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

#### Dublin City Library & Archives

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

#### Bureau of Military History, Military Archives, Dublin – see for instances

- Witness Statement No. 1413, Tadhg Kennedy, Officer IV and IRA, Kerry, 1916 – 1921, Dáil Éireann Commission of Inquiry into Local Government, 1920



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### National Archives, UK

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## Secondary Sources

Useful WWW sites

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

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# Appendices



**GPL5/**

Tuam Poor Law Union

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



## 1. List of Some of the Workhouse Staff

### Clerk of the Union

|                      |                            |  |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Blake, Charles       | Nov 1839                   | (for 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting only)                       |
| Hopkins, John        | 1839 – 1847                | (resigned Jan 1847)                                      |
| Hopkins, John Robert | 1847 -                     | (son of John)  |
| Figgis, John         | 1848 - 1858? <sup>26</sup> |  |
| Morris, Charles John | 1858? - July 1894+         | (died from 'heart disease', GPL5/76, p425) <sup>27</sup> |
| McDonagh, J          | 1894? - 1921               |  |

### Assistant Clerk

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Daly, James | 1891 - 1920 |
|-------------|-------------|

### Master

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Davis, Charles                 | 1842 <sup>28</sup> - 1848?  |
| Smith, John                    | 1848?                       |
| Morris, John                   | 1850- 1861?                 |
| Hopkins, John                  | 1861? – 1864? <sup>29</sup> |
| Loftus, James                  | 1864 - 1865 <sup>30</sup>   |
| Smith, John                    | 1865 - <sup>31</sup>        |
| O'Keefe, Patrick <sup>32</sup> | 1878? - +1880               |

<sup>26</sup> Feb 1858 (GPL5/16, p89, see also p262)

<sup>27</sup> 18 Jul 1894 *'That we the Tuam Board of Guardians desire to express to the relatives of the late Mr Charles J. Morris the expression of our deep sympathy in the same affliction which has fallen on them by his death. We at same time wish to place on record our sense of the efficient services rendered to the Union by him during the time he has acted as our Clerk and that we adjourn the Board in respect to his memory'* (GPL5/76, p427). His signature is on the 1893 Voters List, signed 7 July 1893, for Headford polling district (GC/CSO4/xx).

<sup>28</sup> Elected 28 Feb 1841 (GPL5/1).

<sup>29</sup> Complaint issued to Board by inmate, John Higgins, against the Master (GPL5/21, p91 & p208, see also GPL5/22, p468)

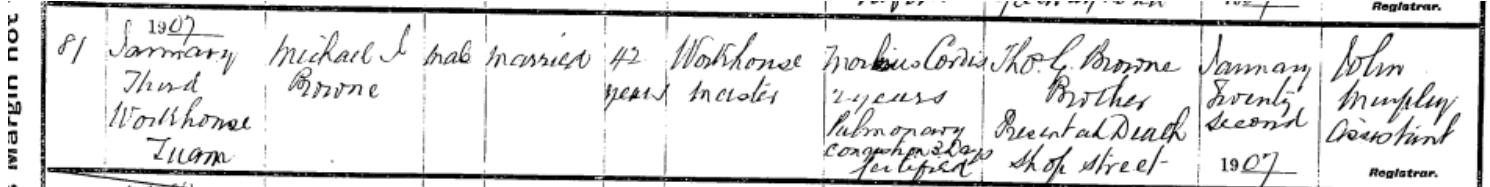
<sup>30</sup> PLC called for his resignation, 25 Jan 1865 (GPL5/30, p9, see also p28, pp48-9)

<sup>31</sup> 1 Aug 1866, called on to resign (GPL5/32, p28, see also p27 & p48), but the Board re-elected him Master on 22 Aug 1866, (GPL5/32, pp90-91), the PLC did not approve it (GPL5/32, p116), yet Smith was Master throughout 1867.

<sup>32</sup> Married to Bridget née Larkin (1856-1912: buried Tuam Cemetery, Section D, Line 6 Row 13), Tuam workhouse school mistress. She was the daughter of Thomas and Maria (nee Grace) Larkin; Thomas was Master of the Mountbellew Workhouse from 1855-1867, and Maria was Matron from 1855 to possibly 1872. Bridget and Patrick married in Tuam on 29 June 1878, witnessed by William J Mullarkey and Julia Larkin, Bridget's younger sister. Bridget is listed as aged 22. The couple had one daughter Cecily Mary (13 May 1879 - ).



|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Browne, Michael    | 1891? <sup>33</sup> - +1907 <sup>34</sup>   |
| Nohilly, Martin J. | 1907 <sup>35</sup> - 1914 <sup>36</sup> His brother, Thomas, acted as Master in 1914 when Martin was absent for 6 months (GPL5/101, p875) |
| Nohilly, Thomas    | 1914? - 1921  |



**Assistant Master**

|                 |            |  |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| Sweeney, Joseph | Apr 1848 - |  |
| Robinson,       | 184 9?     | (reprimanded for beating an inmate, 30 May 1849) |
| Connor, Thomas  | 1850s      |  |
| Duggan, Michael | 1850s -    | Tirboy Barrack auxiliary                         |

**Matron**

|                   |   |                                      |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Davis, Margaret   | 1842 <sup>37</sup> - 1848               | died of fever (GPL5/4B, 26 Dec 1848) |
| Dwyer, Ellen      | Mar 1849 -                              | Appointed to Dunmore Fever Hospital  |
| Coen, Elizabeth   | 1849 <sup>38</sup> - 1866 <sup>39</sup> |                                      |
| Costello, Sarah M | 1866 <sup>40</sup> -                    |                                      |

Patrick died in Tuam at the age of 27 (27/12/1880). Bridget married another teacher in the Workhouse, Michael J Browne (1863-1907) on 5 Apr 1885 and he in turn became Master of Tuam Workhouse. Nannie Larkin (another younger sister) and Michael Frayne witnessed the ceremony in Tuam and the bride's father was recorded as "dead". Bridget and Michael had a son Clement D in 1887. Cecilia became a nurse and was staying with her stepfather's family at the time of the 1901 Census. She later married Stephen Leonard and by the 1911 census they were living in Galway where Bridget, now listed as a widow, shared their home. Clement D is not listed in the census of 1911- it is thought that he had joined the Connaught Rangers regiment and may possibly have been out of the country by then. When Clement married his occupation was recorded as a psychiatric nurse in Portrane (information from family descendent, Apr 2023)

<sup>33</sup> GPL5/72 (p367), refers to appointment of a Master in 1891, possibly Brown or his predecessor.  
<sup>34</sup> Suffering from dyspepsia and general debility, recommended that he take 'a change of air for at least one month' (GPL5/94, p170 15 Sept 1906).  
<sup>35</sup> Appointed and immediately granted two months leave of absence to go to 'Athlone in order to acquire a good knowledge and idea of the responsible duties of Master; (Mar 1907, GPL5/94, p639).  
<sup>36</sup> Resigned from Parks, New South Wales, advising that '*his health though improved is unfit to resume the arduous duties of the position*' (GPL5/101, p910).  
<sup>37</sup> Elected (28 Mar 1842)  
<sup>38</sup> Previously Matron at Dunmore appointed as matron of Tuam workhouse at a salary of £30 pa plus rations (GPL4C, 17 Jan 1848)  
<sup>39</sup> Called on to resign (1 Aug 1866, GPL5/32, p28 & p48)



Weir, Jennie (Jane) 1890s? - 1918?<sup>41</sup>  
Cunningham, Miss D. 1919? -

### Assistant Matron

Burke, Anne ? - 1849<sup>42</sup>  
Jennings, Margaret 1849<sup>43</sup> - Apr 1850 Tuam workhouse; Resigned to take up post of Matron at Ballinrobe Union, Co. Mayo,  
Sweeney, Maria 1849<sup>44</sup> - Dunmore house  
Sandford, Margaret 1850s? - 1854 Appointed Matron at Loughrea Union (GPL5/11, p54)

### Midwife

Sheridan, ? - 1906 Dunmore District  
Burke, Eleanor ? - Headford District & transferred to Dunmore district in Aug 1906  
Mullarkey, Margaret 1906 - ? Headford District  
Burke, Mrs 1906? - ? Abbey district  
Murray, Mrs 1906? - ? Tuam district

### Fever Hospital Matron

Bell, 1849? - 1857 (1849 at the Temp Fever Hospital Ballygaddy)

### Infirmiry Nurse

Browne, Margaret 1845? - 1861? Resigned owing to ill health (GPL5/22, p288)  
Greany, Margaret Apr 1861 - ? (Her husband died in Mar 1873, GPL5/42, p448)

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<sup>40</sup> Elected, 22 Aug 1866 (GPL5/32, p91)

<sup>41</sup> Details regarding superannuation (GPL5/104, p29)

<sup>42</sup> Asked to resign, due to incompetency, (GPL5/4B, 2 Jan 1849), still working as assistant Matron up to 24 April 1850.

<sup>43</sup> Appointed assistant Matron at Tuam workhouse (GPL5/4C, 17 Jan 1849)

<sup>44</sup> Wife of Master at Dunmore, appointed assistant Matron at Dunmore at a salary of £20 pa with officers' rations (GPL5/4C, 17 Jan 1849)

**School Master**

|                             |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Commons, Thomas             | 1849 <sup>45</sup> -                              |   |
| Flynn,                      | ? – Jul 1851                                      | ]   |
| Finn, Patrick               | 185? - 1853 <sup>46</sup>                         | ]   |
| Canavan, Edward (assistant) | 1850 <sup>47</sup> - 1851 <sup>48 &amp; 49]</sup> | Served at same time to cope with large no. of children in the workhouse and its auxiliaries |
| ?                           | 1853? - 1856                                      |   |
| Langan, Joseph (Westport)   | 1856 - 1859 <sup>50</sup>                         | Had previously worked in the Westport Union   |
| Hackett, Walter             | 1859  | PLC did not approve of the proposed appointment <sup>51</sup>                               |
| Jackson, Thomas             | 1859 <sup>52 &amp; 53</sup>                       |   |
| Brennan, John               | Dec 1859 - ?                                      |   |
| Kelly, James                | 186? - May 1862                                   | Left to emigrate to Australia   |
| Hackett, Walter (Tuam)      | 1862 - 186?                                       | Had up to 1854 been school master in Clifden Union <sup>54</sup>                            |
| Courtney,                   | 186? - 1867 <sup>55</sup>                         |   |
| Molloy, James               | Jan - Mar 1867 <sup>56</sup>                      |   |
| Kelly, John                 | 1867 <sup>57</sup>                                |   |
| McDermott, Patrick          | Jun 1867 - Nov 1867 <sup>58</sup>                 |   |
| Fahy, Martin                | 1867 - ?  |   |

**Assistant School Master**

Hackett, Walter Feb 1849 –

<sup>45</sup> Appointed at a salary of £25 pa wit rations (GPL5/4C, 14 Feb 1849)

<sup>46</sup> 2 Nov 1853, teacher at Kilmallock workhouse, Co. Limerick (GPL5/9, p361, and GPL5/11, p76)

<sup>47</sup> Appointed Master of Dunmore auxiliary workhouse school, GPL5/5A, 3 Jul 1850, p246)

<sup>48</sup> Resigned, Nov 1851 (GPL5/6, p356)

<sup>49</sup> Requested testimonial, he was about to emigrate to Australia (30 Apr 1862, GPL5/24, p269)

<sup>50</sup> Following complaint, he resigned, 3 Aug 1859 (GPL5/19, pp9-10. See also GPL5/19, p188)

<sup>51</sup> Appointed, Sept 1859 (GPL5/19, p147)

<sup>52</sup> Appointed, Oct 1859 (GPL5/19, p208)

<sup>53</sup> Qualification for post not confirmed, and he resigned to emigrate to America, Nov 1859 (GPL5/19, p288)

<sup>54</sup> GPL5/24, p368

<sup>55</sup> Called to resign, 9 Jan 1867, (GPL5/32, p498, see also p578)

<sup>56</sup> Resigned advising the Board '*he could not hold office in connexion with the Master*', 27 Mar 1867 (GPL5/33, p189)

<sup>57</sup> PLC did not approve his appointment due to his 'advanced years', 1 May 1867, (GPL5/33, p288 & p307)

<sup>58</sup> Resigned, Nov 1867, (GPL5/34, p319, see also p316, & p335)



**School Mistress**

|   |                                     |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Smith, Jane   | 1848 <sup>59</sup> -                |   |
| Halfpenny, Ellen                                      | ? - Sept 1875 <sup>60</sup>         | Served at same time to cope with large no. of children in the workhouse and its auxiliaries |
| Gavin, Mary Anne <sup>-61 &amp; 62</sup>              | May 1849 - ]                        |   |
| O'Hara, Maud  | ? - ?                               | Assistant Schoolmistress at The Mall & Dunmore auxiliary workhouse <sup>63</sup>            |
| McDermott, B  | ? - 1855 <sup>64</sup> ]            |   |
| Langan, Mary Ann                                      | 1856? - 1859 <sup>65 &amp; 66</sup> | Had previously worked in the Westport Union   |
| Browne, Mary Ann                                      | 1860 <sup>67</sup> -                |   |
| O'Keefe Browne<br>(nee Larkin), Bridget <sup>68</sup> | 1878? -                             | early 1900s? (+ Mar1912)  |

**Poor Law Inspector**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Burke,           | 1849? –     |
| Brodie, Dr       |             |
| Lucas            | ? - 1851    |
| Hall             | 1851? - ?   |
| Hubbard, Captain | 1854? - ?   |
| Brodie, Dr       | 186? - 1879 |
| Clements, Dr     | 1890s? - ?  |

<sup>59</sup> Appointed Dec 1848, at a salary of £20 pa with rations (GPL5/4B, 7 Dec 1848)

<sup>60</sup> Resigned due to illness

<sup>61</sup> Applied for position of Matron at Castlerea Union, Dec 1854, (GPL5/11, p208)

<sup>62</sup> Applied for position of Matron of Loughrea Union, Feb 1857, (GPL5/14, p49)

<sup>63</sup> Requested a testimonial, Jun 1860, (GPL5/20, p428)

<sup>64</sup> GP5/11, p293

<sup>65</sup> Sick leave (GPL5/19, p29)

<sup>66</sup> Resigned, Sept 1859, (GPL5/19, 148)

<sup>67</sup> Jan 1860, (GPL5/19, p446)

<sup>68</sup> Bridget (1856-1912) married Patrick O'Keefe Workhouse master in Tuam on 29 Jun 1878. She was the daughter of Thomas and Maria (née Grace) Larkin; Thomas was Master of the Mountbellew Workhouse from 1855-1867, and Maria was Matron from 1855 to possibly 1872. The couple had one daughter Cecily Mary (13 May 1879 - ).

Patrick died in Tuam at the age of 27. Bridget married another teacher in the Workhouse, Michael J Browne (1863-1907) on 5 Apr 1885 and he in turn became Master of Tuam Workhouse. Nannie Larkin (a younger sister) and Michael Frayne witnessed the ceremony in Tuam and the bride's father was recorded as "dead". Bridget and Michael had a son Clement D in 1887.

Cecilia became a nurse and was staying with her stepfather's family at the time of the 1901 Census. She later married Stephen Leonard and by the 1911 census they were living in Galway where Bridget, now listed as a widow, shared their home. Clement D is not listed in the census of 1911- it is thought that he had joined the Connaught Rangers regiment and may possibly have been out of the country by then. When Clement married his occupation was recorded as a psychiatric nurse in Portrane (information from family descendent, Apr 2023).

**Medical Officer, Workhouse & Tuam District**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Turner, Thomas Blake     | 1842 <sup>69</sup> - <sup>70</sup>                                 |
| Greaney, Thomas W. Blake | 1851? - ?  |
| Dwyer, James             | 1858 <sup>71</sup> - ?   |
| Kelly, William           | 1860?- ?   |
| Dowling, John E          | 1890s? – +1905 <sup>72</sup> (No. 1 District)                      |
| Costello, Thomas B.      | 1890s? - 1921 (No. 2 Tuam District)                                |
| Hession,                 | 1906? - ?  |
| Walsh, Dr Teresa J       | 1916 - 1919 <sup>73</sup> Temp MO during the absence of Dr Hession |

**Medical Officer, Headford District**

|                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Little, Francis                   | 1849? - 1859 <sup>74</sup>    |
| Canavan, Martin                   | 1860? -                       |
| Irwin, Richard                    | Nov 1859 - 1864 <sup>75</sup> |
| French, Edward F                  | Jul 1864 – 1871?              |
| Blake, Charles J.                 | 1890s? –                      |
| Golding, Dr Francis <sup>76</sup> | 1898? - 1934                  |

**Medical Officer, Abbeyknockmoy (Abbey) District**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| French, Digby         | 1860? - ?   |
| Lambert, William F.   | 1890s? - +1907 (on sick leave 1906)                 |
| Hosty, Dr             | 1908? <sup>77</sup> - 1918 <sup>78</sup>            |
| Shannon, Dr Thomas P. | 1919? - 1920 <sup>79</sup> Temporary MO 19 Feb 1919 |
| Nohilly, Dr           | 1920 - ?  |

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<sup>69</sup> Elected, 28 Feb 1841, (GPL5/1)

<sup>70</sup> BG meeting adjourned due to the death of Anne Turner, daughter of Dr Turner, (20 Nov 1867, (GPL5/34, p289)

<sup>71</sup> Elected second MO to Tuam District, Mar 1858, 9GPL5/16, p220)

<sup>72</sup> Dowling was a member of Tuam Town Commissioners board for many years between 1885-1905

<sup>73</sup> Resolution of thanks, (GPL5/104, f269)

<sup>74</sup> Death reported, Oct 1859, (GPL5/19, p179)

<sup>75</sup> Enquiry into actions of Dr Irwin, '*...not sufficiently cautious in giving certificates to sick and destitute persons requiring outdoor relief...*'. He was called upon to resign, 18 May 1864, (GPL5/28, p335, see also p400 & pp419-20, p428, p440, p448, p460)

<sup>76</sup> Dr F Golding (1870-1934), Born Shrulce House, Co. Mayo. Qualified in 1892. Spend first no. of years in Turloughmore, followed by 40 years as Medical Officer for the Headford Dispensary District. He had two daughters. His brother Rev Richard Golding, SJ., was a noted Irish Scholar and an editor of the *Irish Messenger* for a period of time.

<sup>77</sup> On sick leave 1910, Dr Margaret Coghlan appointed substitute (GP5/100, p88, see also p162).

<sup>78</sup> Resigned, 7 Dec 1918, (GPL5/104, f179)

<sup>79</sup> Resigned May 1920 to take up a position at David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool (GPL5/106, p287)



**Medical Officer, Dunmore District**

|                         |                             |  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Donelan, William        | 1860?                       |  |
| McDonogh, Patrick       | 1860? - ?                   |  |
| McDonnell, Joseph       | 1870? - ?                   |  |
| O'Reilly, Richard       | 1890s? - ?                  |  |
| Walsh, Dr               | 1906? - ?                   |  |
| Costello, Dr Michael B. | 1912? - +1920 <sup>80</sup> | Brother of Dr Thomas Costello of Tuam District |

**Medical Officer, Dunmore Auxiliary Workhouse, Cholera & Fever Hospitals**

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Donnellan, Dr | 1849? - |
|---------------|---------|

**Medical Officer, Monivea District**

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| French, Digby | April 1849 - |
|---------------|--------------|

**Vaccinator (appointed 1841, prior to opening of workhouse)**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Little, Dr William  | Headford district; ill in mid-1852, took leave (GPL5/9, p45) |
| Davis, Dr Thomas M  | Milltown district  |
| Hunt, Robert DeVere | ] Monivea district (resigned after a few months)             |
| French, Dr          | ]  |
| Hunt                | Tuam district  |
| O'Reilly, Dr        | 1880s? - ? Milltown District                                 |

**Sanitary Officer**

|                 |      |                  |
|-----------------|------|------------------|
| Tierney, Thomas | 1864 | Dunmore district |
|-----------------|------|------------------|

**Chaplain, Roman Catholic**

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Conroy, Rev Patrick | 1850 <sup>81</sup> - ? |
| Coyne, Rev. Eugene  | 1851 - ?               |
| Waldron, Rev John   | 1860s? - ?             |
| McGee, Revd James   | ? - 1871               |
| Thomas, Revd Edward | 1871 - ?               |
| McDermott, Rev John | 1900? - ?              |

<sup>80</sup> Resolution of sympathy upon his death (GPL5/106, p529)

<sup>81</sup> See GPL5/5B, p270.

**Chaplain, Protestant**

|   |                               |                      |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Seymour <sup>82</sup> , Rev Charles Henry | 1850s <sup>83</sup> - 1861?   |                      |
| Henry, Charles                            | 1862 <sup>84</sup>            |                      |
| Fleury <sup>85</sup> , Rev C.W.           | 186? - 1863                   | Resigned 29 Apr 1863 |
| Treanor <sup>86</sup> , Rev Stanley       | Apr 1863 - 1868 <sup>87</sup> |                      |
| Seymour, Charles H.                       | 1868 <sup>88</sup>            |                      |
| Lubick, Rev J M                           | ? - 1902 <sup>89</sup>        |                      |
| Geddes, Rev Canon                         | 1902 -                        |                      |

<sup>82</sup> Died 14 Apr 1879 (age 66), ordained 28 Feb 1841, married Eliza De La Garde (1816? - 9 Sep 1876) (<http://www.treanor.co.uk/ancestry/fam1316.html>, 2013-01-04)

<sup>83</sup> Report on investigation into Seymour's conduct, (GPL5/11, pp88-90, & p101, p118, pp126-7, p138, see also GP5/11, p294. See also GPL5/22, p251 regarding a complaint about his 'outrageous' conduct).

<sup>84</sup> 29 Jan 1862, (GPL5/24, p9), initially Henry refused to accept the post due to the low salary, but the PLC increased it to £20 pa (GPL5/24, p28, see also GPL5/24, p49).

<sup>85</sup> Fleury (+1917), son of Rev. C. W. Fleury, Chaplain of the Old Molyneux Asylum Church, Dublin ; T.C.D., B.A. and Div. Test. 1860 ; M.A. 1871 ; ord. D. 1860 ; P. 1861 ; C. Tuam 1860-1 ; C. St. Nicholas, Galway 1865-8 ; Vic. Choral, Armagh, 1869-81 ; C. Seapatrik 1883 ; C. Christ Church, Leeson Park 1883-90; Minor Canon St. Patrick's Cathedral ; R. Molyneux, Dublin, 1890-08 ; Chaplain to Adelaide Hospital, Dublin (Armagh clergy and parishes : being an account of the clergy of the Church of Ireland in the Diocese of Armagh, from the earliest period, with historical notices of the several parishes, churches, &c (<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/james-b-leslie/armagh-clergy-and-parishes--being-an-account-of-the-clergy-of-the-church-of-ire-lse/page-11-armagh-clergy-and-parishes--being-an-account-of-the-clergy-of-the-church-of-ire-lse.shtml>, 2012-01-04). *Buried at Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, headstone inscription reads* In Loving Memory | of | Rev. CHARLES W. FLEURY | died February 18th 1917 | also of his wife | ANNIE M. FLEURY | died June 25th 1897 (<http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/ire/dublin/photos/tombstones/headstones/mt-jerome06.txt> , 2013-01-04)

<sup>86</sup> Treanor (1837-1910), Son of Rev. John. T., b 1837 in Shropshire, ent Trinity College Dublin Nov 2 1855 aged 18, B.A. 1862, M.A. 1877, Eccl. Hist. Pri. (1) & Div Test. (2) 1862; ord D. 1862, P. 1963 Tuam, C. Tuam 1962-5, Chapl. at Arcachcn 1865, R. Shrule 1870-2, R. Achill 1872-8, Chapl. Miss. to Seamen in the Downs 1874-1910. His wife Charlotte Elizabeth Evatt (1841-1865) d. at Tuam aged 24, Oct.8, 1864 (I.E.G). He d. at the Laurels, Kent, Nov 11, 1910 (I.E.G). (<http://www.treanor.co.uk/ancestry/fam84.html>, 2013-01-04).

<sup>87</sup> 29 Jan 1868, the Board called on Rev Treanor to resign, '*as they can have not confidence in him from the insults received at his hands....as well as that most unfounded of all charges, that Protestant Paupers were discharged solely because they were Protestants*' (GPL5/34, p457, see also p494).

<sup>88</sup> 9 Dec 1868, the Board advised him that his actions were an 'infringement of the Rules of the House, and in now expressing our marked disapproval of such conduct, we trust it will prevent its recurrence...' (GPL5/36, p328). Seymour resigned shortly afterwards (GPL5/36, p368, see also p388).

<sup>89</sup> Resigned, 15 Nov 1902, GPL5/90,

**Relieving Officers**

|                                    |                            |   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Greany, Peter                      | 1849?                      | Annaghdown (GPL5/4C, 24 Feb 1849)                         |
| Mackey, Thomas                     | ? - 1849                   | Headford – emigrated to America (11 Jul 1849)             |
| Blake, Walter                      | 1848, 1866 <sup>90</sup>   | ]   |
| Kelly, Patrick                     | 1851? - 1862 <sup>91</sup> | ] District no. 1 (Dunmore district)                       |
| Tierney, Thomas, Clonbern          | 1862 <sup>92</sup> - ?     | ]   |
| Walsh, Thomas                      | 19?? - ?                   | ]   |
| Healy, Thomas                      | 1866 - ?                   |   |
| Bell, A.D.                         | 18?                        | District no. 2  |
| Fox, F.                            | 1851? - ?                  | ] District no. 3 (Tuam district)                          |
| Forde, L.                          | 1900s? - ?                 | ]   |
| Canavan, B.                        | 185?                       | District no. 4  |
| Curran, Peter                      | 1848 - 1892?               | ] District no. 5 (Headford district)                      |
| Monaghan <sup>93</sup>             | 1892?                      | ]   |
| Judge, William                     | [1982]? - ?                | ]   |
| O'Brien, Charles                   | 18?                        | District no. 6  |
| Browne, Val<br>with Browne         | 1848? - 1864 <sup>94</sup> | District no. 7 <sup>95</sup> (Abbey)] areas consolidated, |
| Tully, Peter                       | 18? - 1851                 | District no. 8 ] appointed to look after the new district |
| Kelly, Charles                     | 1864 - ?                   | District no. 7 ]  |
| Hanley, John                       | 19?? - 1912 <sup>96</sup>  | Abbey district  |
| Murphy, J,<br>Kilshanvy & Milltown | 18?? - 1903 <sup>97</sup>  | Milltown district (incl ED of Foxhall, Kilbeannan,        |
| Glynn, John                        | 1903 -                     | ]   |

<sup>90</sup> 29 Aug 1866 PLC will not consider his re-election (GPL5/32, p116) (see also GPL5/32 p49 & p88).

<sup>91</sup> 18 Jun 1862, Board expressed dissatisfaction with his performance (GPL5/24, p408, see also p428)

<sup>92</sup> Sept 1862, (GPL5/25, p108)

<sup>93</sup> Jun 1892, GPL5/72, p388

<sup>94</sup> 18 May 1864, (GPL5/28, p329)

<sup>95</sup> Late 1851 District 7 & 8 amalgamated

<sup>96</sup> Resigned (Feb 1913 (GPL5/101, p223)

<sup>97</sup> Resigned, 'as he was unfit through indisposition to retain his situation' (GPL5/90, p837)

**Porter**

|                               |                                      |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Browne, Michael               | 1842 <sup>98</sup> <sup>99</sup> - ? |  |
| Tully, Marcus                 | Aug 1848                             | Porter at Ballygaddy Temp fever Hospital   |
| Walters, Pat                  | Feb 1849 -                           | Porter at Ballygaddy Temp fever Hospital   |
| Gildea, Mathew                | Mar 1849 -                           | Porters at Fever Hospital, Grange, Dunmore |
| Delap, Herbert                | Apr 1850 -                           |  |
| Canavan, Martin               | 1858 <sup>100</sup> - ?              |  |
| Delap, Hubert                 | 1850s? - +1867 <sup>101</sup>        |  |
| Delap, Thomas (son of Hubert) | 1867 <sup>102</sup> - ?              |  |
| Murphy, Martin                | May 1871 - ?                         |  |
| Glower, Cox                   | [1892] <sup>103</sup>                |  |
| Quinn, Nealf                  | 1900s? - ?                           |  |
| Griffiths, Anthony            | ? – 1921?                            |  |

**Store-Keeper**

|                  |              |   |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| Grealey, Patrick | ? – May 1849 | - dismissed for 'taking improper liberties with a female pauper' (GPL5/4D, 30 May 1849, p149) |
| Wall, John       | Nov 1851 - ? |   |

**Master Weaver**

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Coghlan, Pat | Dec 1851 - ? |
|--------------|--------------|

**Van Driver**

|                 |                  |                                   |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Loftus, John    | ? - Mar 1903     | Retired due to 'eyesight failing' |
| Carroll, Thomas | Mar 1903 - 1921? |                                   |

**Tailor**

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Gilligan, J. | 1906? – 1921? |
|--------------|---------------|

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<sup>98</sup> Elected 28 Feb 1841, (GPL5/1)

<sup>99</sup> Salary increased from £10 to £15 pa, in consideration of 'the very efficient manner' in which he had performed his duties (GPL5/4C, 24 Jan 1849)

<sup>100</sup> May 1858, (GPL5/16, p340)

<sup>101</sup> 13 Nov 1867, his son was appointed to discharge the duties of the Porter during his father's illness (GPL5/34, p274)

<sup>102</sup> Appointed Dec 1867 (GPL5/34, p339). Resigned, as he proposed to emigrate (GPL5/39, p109, and p129 & p148).

<sup>103</sup> See reference to increase in pay request, GPL5/72, p374.



**Shoe Maker**

Walsh, Peter 1876 - 1911<sup>104</sup>

Fahy, Michael, 1912 – 1921?

**Messenger**

Hogan, Pat<sup>105</sup> 1861? - 1912?

Brennan, Pat 1918? -

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<sup>104</sup> Resigned (GPL5/100, p695, see also p748).

<sup>105</sup> Received no remuneration, but the Guardians give him 'an annual suit of clothes' (GPL5/100, p676)



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

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Ansbro, Michael (190? - )   | Botterill, Robert   |
| Bane, Michael (190? - )   | Browne, James (1866?-)  |
| Birmingham, Michael Blake, Dalgan, Dunmore (Ex-officio, 1839 - )      | Browne, John, F (Vice Chairman 1984-64) <sup>106</sup>            |
| Blake, Charles, Jnr (1839- )  | Browne, Michael, Brooklodge (Ex-officio, 1839 -, Chairman 1842- ) |
| Blake Charles, Snr (1851- )   | Browne, Thomas (1840s - )   |
| Blake, Arthur   | Burke, Charles (Vice Chairman 1854)                               |
| Blake, Capt Martin Joseph, MP, Brooklodge (Ex-officio, 1839 - )       | Burke, John, (Headford) (1841- )                                  |
| Blake, Edward, Castlegrove, Tuam (Ex-officio, 1839 - )                | Burke, Ulick J. (1890s? - )                                       |
| Blake, John   | Burke, William  |
| Blake, Peter  | Cain, Mathew  |
| Blake, Robert   | Canavan, B (1890s - )   |
| Blake, Walter, Clonbern (1841 - )                                     | Canavan, Edward (1900s? - )                                       |
| Blake, Walter, Donaghpatrick (1839 - )                                | Charles, Patrick, (1900s? - )                                     |
| Blake, William, Lisgeavey (1841 - )                                   | Clarke, James   |
| Bligh, Mathew (1880s? - )   | Coleman, James (1910? - )   |
| Bodkin, Dominic (1860 - )   | Coleman, Patrick (1900s? - )                                      |
| Bodkin, John J., MP, Killooney, Tuam (Ex-officio, 1942 - )            | Colleran, William (1900s? - )                                     |
| Bodkin, Robert, Annagh, Dangan (Ex-officio, 1839 - : Chair 1849-1851) | Collins, Francis (1900? - )                                       |
| Bodkin, Thomas (1850s? - )  | Concannon, Edmond   |
| Botterill, Joseph, (Headford) [1851 - ]                               |   |

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<sup>106</sup> Resigned as Vice Chairman in June 1864 as he did 'not wish to act in future as such, matters having been referred to us, over which we seemingly have no control, as in Dr Irwin's case' (GPL5/28, p420).





Connolly, James (1912?- )  
Connolly, Patrick (1890s - )  
Connor, John (190? - )  
Cooke, J. (1854? - )  
Costello, Eileen (1918? - )  
Costello, Michael J. (1860s?- +1906)  
Costello, Patrick J (1902? - )  
Costello, Thomas (1919? - )  
Cradock, James (1900s? - ) Chairman Jun 1902 -  
Crowe, Thomas (1867?- )  
Crowe, Thomas.  
Cullinan, Michael  
Cunningham, Patrick (1890s - )  
Curley, Patrick (190? - )  
Curran, Joseph (1906? - )  
Curran, Thomas (1900s? - )  
Curry, Patrick (190? - )  
Daly, Patrick (190? - )  
Day, Marshall, Ex-officio, 1859  
Dennis, John (1860 - )  
Dermody, Patrick (1900s? - )  
Devilly, P (1890s - )  
Dolan, John (1900s? - )  
Donnelan, Dermot, (ClareTuam) (1839 - )  
Donnellan, Dominick (1839 - )  
Donnellan, Thomas  
Donohoe, Michael (1918? - )  
Dwyer, Michael (1911? - ) Chairman 1916-21  
Egan, Patrick (1841 - )  
Egan, T. A. (1880s? - )  
Ellis, Aylmer C. (1910? - )  
Farrell, Martin (1900s? - )  
Feehilly, Daniel (190? - )  
Flaherty, Henry, (1900s? - )  
Flaherty, Peter (1918? - )  
Flannery, David (1880s? - )  
Forde, William (1902?)  
Foster, Robert Blake, Abbey (1839 - )  
French, Digby, Monivea (1841 - )  
French, Robert (1839 - 1841)  
Gannon, William  
Gilmore, John  
Gleeson, Michael (1900s? - )  
Glynn, P (1890s - )  
Golding, John  
Goldwin, Terence (1918? - )  
Grant, Charles (1840? - )  
Greally, Darby (1900s? - )  
Greely, Dermot (190? - )  
Green, D, (1900s? - )  
Green, Thomas, (1918?- )  
Griffith, William (1840s? - ) [died Apr 1891 GPL5/72, p229]  
Gunning, John (1840s? - )  
Guy, Gabriel (1919? - )  
Haddigan, Michael (1890s - )  
Hanley, Murty (1900s? - )  
Hardiman, Patrick (190? - )  
Hare, A. (1856? - )



Henry, Robert, Killereran (1840? - )

Higgins, Andrew (1902? - )

Higgins, Thomas [1852 - ]

Hughes, John (1880s? - )

Hughes, Martin (190? - )

Hughes, Thomas (1902? - )

Hunt, Daniel (1839 - )

Jennings, Mathew (1866?-)

Joyce, J. A., (1880s? - )

Joyce, Thomas (1906?-)

Joynes, john (1918?-)

Kealy, Roderick, Clonbern (1841- )

Kelly, Edward, [151- ]

Kelly, James, Newtown (Ex-officio, 1839 - )

Kelly, Michael (1839 - )

Kelly, Patrick (1839 - 1841)<sup>107</sup>

Kelly, Patrick C (1880s? - )

Kelly, Richard, Dunmore (1841 - )

Kennedy, C. J. (1900s - )

Kilkelly, John (1839 - )

King, Patrick (1919? - )

Kirrane, Patrick (1919 - )

Kirwan, Denis, Tuam (1839 - ) (Chairman 1851- '62)

Kirwan, Henry (1890s - )

Kirwan, Henry (G) (Hillsbrook) resigned June 1856

Kirwan, Henry (Hillsbrook) resigned June 1851

Kirwan, James (Castletown, 1839 - )

Kirwan, James (Gardenfield, 1839 - )

Kirwan, Major John (Chairman 1839-1843+<sup>108</sup>) (Ex-officio)

Kirwan, Martin Blindwell, Tuam (Ex-officio, 1839 - )

Kirwan, Thomas S.

Kyne, Charles (1843 - )

Kyne, John (1900s? - )

Kyne, Michael (1919? - )

Laffey, J. [1951- ]

Lally, Michael (1900s? - )

Lally, Thomas (1911? - )

Larkin, Patrick (190? - )

Lawless, Thomas (1902? - )

Leonard, Dominick B

Leonard, Stephen (1840s - )

Lewin, Frederick (1866?-)

Lynch, George S., Headford (1841 - )

Lynch, James, Clonbern (1839- )

Lynch, Michael George, Killereran (1839 - )

Lynch, Patrick [1851 - ]

Lynch, Philip (1900s? - )

Lynott, Patrick (1918? - )

Lynskey, Edward (1888? - )

Lynskey, Michael (1880s? - )

Lynskey, Thaddeus (Taddy) (1890s? - )

Lynskey, Thomas (1890s? - )

Lyons, Patrick (1890s - )

Malone, Henry B (1864? - )

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<sup>107</sup> Possibly of Grove House, Tuam, see [https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/don\\_tran/fam\\_his/kelly\\_mangan.htm](https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/don_tran/fam_his/kelly_mangan.htm)

<sup>108</sup> 20 June 1843



|  |   |
|--|---|
| Mangan, Patrick (1855? - )                 | Mullin, Luke (1900s? - )  |
| Mannion, Patrick (190? - )                 | Murphy, John (1906? - )   |
| McDermott, J (1890? - )                    | Murphy, Martin (190? - )  |
| McDermott, Michael (190? - )               | Murphy, Patrick (Tuam) (1890s --1921)                           |
| McDermott, Thomas (1866? - )               | Murphy, Timothy (1900s? - )                                     |
| McDonagh, B (1902? - )                     | Nally, Martin (1900s? - )                                       |
| McDonagh, James (1900? - )                 | Naughton, John (190? - )  |
| McDonagh, Matthew (1839 - )                | Niland, Patrick (1900s? - )                                     |
| McDonagh, P. (1880s? - )                   | Nohilly, James, (1906?-)  |
| McDonagh, Stephen (1906?-)                 | Nohilly, Malachy (190? - )                                      |
| McDonagh, Thomas (1902? - +1915)           | Nohilly, P (1880s? - )  |
| McDonnell, Farrell (1890s - ) (+1912)      | Nohilly, Roderick (1902? - )                                    |
| McDonnell, M (1850s? - )                   | Nolan, Col. John Philip MP (Chairman 1889-1892?) <sup>110</sup> |
| McDonnell, M. (1890s - )                   | <sup>111</sup>  |
| McDonnell, Martin (Dunmore) <sup>109</sup> | Nolan, John (1890s - ) (Chairman 1894)                          |
| McGann, Pater (1911? - )                   | Nolan, John Jnr. (1839 - )                                      |
| McGrath, Patrick (1900s? - )               | Nolan, Michael (1866? - )                                       |
| McHugh, John (1900s? - )                   | Nolan, Sebastian  |
| McHugh, Patrick (1919? - )                 | Nolan, Thomas (1906? - )  |
| McWalter, James (1902? - )                 | O'Connor, Arthur (1906? - )                                     |
| McWalter, John (1880s? - )                 | O'Connor, Patrick (1866? - )                                    |
| McWalter, Michael (1864? - )               | O'Donelan, Thomas   |
| Miller, O. B (1890s - )                    | O'Donnell, Edward (1919? - )                                    |
| Miskell, Thomas (1907? - +1919)            | O'Donnell, Tomas (1906?-)                                       |
| Mohan, John (1911?- )                      |   |
| Monaghan, Denis (1900s? - )                |   |
| Moran, John (1880s? - )                    |   |
| Morris, Joseph, (190? - )                  |   |
| Mullarkey, Bernard W (190? - )             |   |

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<sup>109</sup> Resigned 1 Mar 1871 (GPL5/38, p490)

<sup>110</sup> (1839-1912) In 1885 Nolan was elected Chairman of Clifden Poor Law Union, and in April 1899 he was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman of Galway County Council (GC/1/1, p2) and served until 1901.

<sup>111</sup> Resolution of sympathy from BG on death of Nolan in Feb 1912, 'over 25 years MP for North Galway, and for many years Chairman of this Board, and discharged his duties of the office in an upright and conscientious manner in the interests of the sick poor of the workhouse and the ratepayers in general as was notably manifested by his exertions in getting the Government pass a Seed Supply Bill for the people of Ireland



|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| O'Dowd, James (1906?-)                              | Staunton, Richard (1907? -)        |
| O'Flaherty, John, Headford (1839- )                 | Tannian, F (1890s - )              |
| O'Flanagan, E (1900s? - ) (Chairman 1902)           | Tracey, John (1919? - )            |
| O'Kelly, Connelius                                  | Treacy, Edward                     |
| O'Kelly, Festus                                     | Treacy, Martin (1902? - )          |
| O'Kelly, Walter                                     | Tully, Dominick, Dunmore (1839 - ) |
| O'Loughlin, Patrick, Addergoole (resigned Nov 1866) | Tully, George (1870s)              |
| O'Rorke, C. D. (1890s - )                           | Tully, Jeremiah, Lisceavy (1841- ) |
| Patterson, John, (1902? - )                         | Varden, Pat (1890s - )             |
| Pettit, John (1839 - )                              | Wade, Francis, Abbey (1839 - )     |
| Philips, Charles (1911? - )                         | Waithman, Robert W.                |
| Quinn, Michael (1919? - )                           | Walsh, James J. (1902? - )         |
| Quinn, William J (1902? - +1903)                    | Walsh, M, (180s? - )               |
| Reilly, John (1890s? - )                            | Whelan, P. (1890s - )              |
| Roche, Stephen, Ryehill (1839 - )                   |                                    |
| Roche, T R (1890s - )                               |                                    |
| Ronaldson, John (1907? - ) (Chairman 1908-13)       |                                    |
| Ronaldson, William (1840s? - )                      |                                    |
| Rooney, Thomas, (190? - )                           |                                    |
| Ruttledge David, Jnr. (1867? -)                     |                                    |
| Ruttledge, David (1840s? - )                        |                                    |
| Ryan, Patrick J. (190? - )                          |                                    |
| Ryan, Peter, (1900s? - )                            |                                    |
| Savage, Richard (1842 - )                           |                                    |
| Shaughnessy, Martin (1907? - )                      |                                    |
| Sheridan, Charles (1919? - )                        |                                    |
| Sheridan, Richard (1854? - )                        |                                    |
| Smyth, Daniel H. (Annaghdown, 1841 - )              |                                    |

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*owing to the failure of the potato and oat crop in 1880....'*  
(GPL5/1912, p732).



### 3. District Electoral Divisions<sup>112</sup> covered by Tuam Poor Law Union

DEDs which at various periods came under the administration of the Union

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Abbey West    | Headford   |
| Abbey East    | Hillsbrook |
| Addergoole    | Kilbannon  |
| Annaghdown    | Kilcoona   |
| Ballinapark   | Killeany   |
| Ballinderry   | Killeen    |
| Ballinduff    | Killerenia |
| Beaghmore     | Killursa   |
| Belclare      | Killoroe   |
| Canaevagh     | Killower   |
| Carrowrevagh  | Kilmoylan  |
| Claretuam     | Kilshanvey |
| Clonberne     | Levally    |
| Cummer        | Milltown   |
| Doonbally     | Monivea    |
| Donaghpatrick | Moyne      |
| Dunmore       | Ryehill    |
| Foxhall       | Tuam       |

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<sup>112</sup> District electoral divisions originated as subdivisions of poor law unions, grouping a number of townlands together to elect one or more members to a Poor Law Board of Guardians. The boundaries of district electoral divisions were drawn by a Poor Law Boundary Commission, with the intention of producing areas of roughly equivalent "rateable value" (the total amount of rates that would be paid by all ratepayers in the DED) as well as population. This meant that while DEDs were almost always contiguous, they might bear little relation to natural community boundaries.

The Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 established a system of county councils and urban and rural district councils and the district electoral divisions were then used to elect members to the district councils, with groups of DEDs combining to elect members to county councils.



#### 4. RECORDED NUMBER OF INMATES RESIDENT AND DEATHS IN THE WORKHOUSE

Original capacity in 1841 was for 800 inmates. First admissions received on 4th May 1846.

Population in Union in:-

|      |   |         |      |   |        |
|------|---|---------|------|---|--------|
| 1841 | → | 69,326, | 1881 | → | 39,832 |
| 1851 | → | 50,847  | 1891 | → | 34,630 |
| 1861 | → | 51,196  | 1901 | → | 30,924 |
| 1871 |   |         | 1911 | → | 29,127 |

| Week Ending | No. in Workhouse | No. of Deaths | No. Receiving Out-door Relief |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Jan 1847  | 246              | 2             |                               |
| 6 Feb 1847  | 392              | 5             |                               |
| 6 Mar 1847  | 760              | 13            |                               |
| 1 May 1847  | 763              | 28            |                               |
| 4 Dec 1847  | 865              | 6             |                               |
| 22 Jan 1848 | 1152             | 11            |                               |
| 26 Feb 1848 | 1013             | 10            | 5262                          |
| 4 Mar 1848  | 1064             | 9             | 6495                          |
| 25 Mar 1848 | 1093             | 8             | 10554                         |
| 8 Apr 1848  | 1106             | 4             | 8118                          |
| 15 Apr 1848 | 1104             | 6             | 13869                         |
| 29 Apr 1848 | 1075             | 4             | 15225                         |
| 8 Jul 1848  | 1299             | 15            | 13782                         |
| 4 Nov 1848  | 1908             | 11            | 3212                          |
| 23 Dec 1848 | 2975             | 26            | 4511                          |
| 3 Feb 1849  | 2307             | 23            | 10071                         |



|                              |       |    |       |
|------------------------------|-------|----|-------|
| 24 March 1849                | 2402  | 24 | 14535 |
| 3 May 1851                   | 2,880 | 11 |       |
| 31 Mar 1849                  | 2393  | 22 | 13882 |
| 7 Apr 1849                   | 2296  | 49 | 14411 |
| 12 May 1849                  | 2463  | 58 | 15316 |
| Cholera outbreak in district |       |    |       |
| 19 May 1849                  | 2388  | 60 | 15550 |
| 23 Jun 1849                  | 2516  | 10 | 15664 |
| 11 Aug 1849                  | 1962  | 11 | 11491 |
| 18 Aug 1849                  | 1880  | -  | 9009  |
| 10 Nov 1849                  | 1736  | 9  | 516   |
| 5 January 1850               | 2077  | 9  | 431   |
| 11 Feb 1850                  | 2676  | 10 | 454   |
| 30 Mar 1850                  | 2532  | 10 | 409   |
| 11 May 1850                  | 3424  | 12 | 176   |
| 1 June 1850                  | 3895  | 15 | 459   |
| 8 Jun 1850                   | 4035  | 14 | 416   |
| 29 Jun 1850                  | 4265  | 11 | 969   |
| 2 Aug 1850                   | 3444  | 19 | 144   |
| 7 Sept 1850                  | 2137  | 11 | 3     |
| 28 Sept 1850                 | 1916  | 5  | 3     |
| 2 Nov 1850                   | 1913  | 6  | 3     |
| 11 Jan 1851                  | 2089  | 8  | -     |
| 8 Mar 1851                   | 2587  | 12 | 3     |
| 26 apr 1851                  | 2668  | 13 | -     |
| 10 May 1851                  | 3,006 | 17 |       |



|              |       |    |
|--------------|-------|----|
| 17 May 1851  | 3,130 | 17 |
| 24 May 1851  | 3,218 | 12 |
| 31 May 1851  | 3,212 | 20 |
| 14 Jun 1851  | 3,212 | 15 |
| 21 Jun 1851  | 3,227 | 11 |
| 28 Jun 1851  | 3,200 | 4  |
| 5 Jul 1851   | 3,227 | 12 |
| 12 Jul 1851  | 3,171 | 11 |
| 19 Jul 1851  | 3,051 | 9  |
| 4 Aug 1851   | 2,584 | 13 |
| 9 Aug 1851   | 2,277 | 9  |
| 13 Sept 1851 | 1,506 | 6  |
| 29 Nov 1851  | 1,301 | 5  |
| 20 Dec 1851  | 1,275 | 4  |
| 10 Jan 1852  | 1,285 | 1  |
| 7 Feb 1852   | 1,420 | 5  |
| 25 Sept 1852 | 1,036 | 2  |
| 23 Oct 1852  | 1,015 | 1  |
| 10 Dec 1852  | 1,058 | 3  |
| 29 Jan 1853  | 1,117 | 3  |
| 26 Mar 1853  | 1,073 | -  |
| 7 May 1853   | 1,049 | 1  |
| 28 May 1853  | 1,116 | 2  |
| 2 Jul 1853   | 1,124 | 5  |
| 13 Aug 1853  | 935   | -  |





|             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| 8 Oct 1853  | 611 | 1 |
| 5 Nov 1853  | 693 | 1 |
| 15 Jul 1854 | 686 | 1 |
| 9 Sept 1854 | 430 | - |
| 18 Nov 1854 | 440 | 1 |
| 30 Dec 1854 | 447 | - |
| 1 Dec 1855  | 291 | 3 |
| 29 Mar 1856 | 300 | 1 |
| 3 May 1856  | 288 | 1 |
| 7 June 1856 | 316 | 1 |
| 2 Aug 1856  | 308 | - |
| 1 Nov 1856  | 224 | - |
| 27 Dec 1856 | 240 | 1 |
| 3 Jan 1857  | 246 | 5 |
| 14 Feb 1857 | 261 | - |
| 28 Mar 1857 | 241 | 4 |
| 16 May 1857 | 226 | 2 |
| 13 Jun 1857 | 258 | 3 |
| 29 Jan 1858 | 252 | - |
| 24 Mar 1858 | 258 | 1 |
| 24 Apr 1858 | 252 | 1 |



|              |     |   |    |
|--------------|-----|---|----|
| 12 June 1858 | 225 | - |    |
| 3 Aug 1859   | 207 | - |    |
| 17 Sept 1859 | 165 | - |    |
| 7 Nov 1859   | 189 | - |    |
| 31 Dec 1859  | 199 | 1 |    |
| 128 Jan 1860 | 213 | 1 |    |
| 24 Mar 1860  | 237 | - |    |
| 25 Apr 1860  | 239 | - |    |
| 30 Jun 1860  | 228 | - |    |
| 21 Jul 1860  | 218 | - |    |
| 2 Feb 1861   | 215 | 1 |    |
| 13 Apr 1861  | 211 | - |    |
| 1 June 1861  | 206 | - |    |
| 20 Jul 1861  | 213 | 1 |    |
| 4 Sept 1861  | 190 | - |    |
| 19 Oct 1861  | 207 | 1 |    |
| 28 Dec 1861  | 222 | 2 |    |
| 18 Jan 1862  | 262 | 5 |    |
| 22 Feb 1862  | 289 | - |    |
| 22 Mar 1862  | 273 | 1 | 43 |
| 3 May 1862   | 315 | 1 | 73 |



|              |     |   |     |
|--------------|-----|---|-----|
| 7 Jun 1862   | 309 | 2 | 119 |
| 19 Jul 1862  | 298 | 1 | 316 |
| 30 Aug 1862  | 264 | 1 | 27  |
| 30 Oct 1862  | 266 | 2 | 16  |
| 20 Dec 1862  | 308 | 1 | 19  |
| 17 Jan 1863  | 346 | 1 | 38  |
| 21 Feb 1863  | 366 | 4 | 63  |
| 18 Apr 1863  | 367 | 1 | 114 |
| 30 May 1863  | 460 | 1 | 115 |
| 20 Jun 1863  | 463 | 2 | 157 |
| 4 Jul 1863   | 440 | 2 | 151 |
| 18 Jul 1863  | 408 | - | 161 |
| 8 Aug 1863   | 356 | 1 | 111 |
| 19 Sept 1863 | 314 | 1 | 59  |
| 7 Nov 1863   | 333 | 2 | 58  |
| 26 Dec 1863  | 338 | - | -   |
| 11 Jan 1864  | 353 | 1 | 63  |
| 13 Feb 1864  | 353 | 1 | 57  |
| 16 Apr 1864  | 363 | - | 67  |
| 28 May 1864  | 649 | 3 | 43  |
| 16 Jul 1864  | 341 | 1 | 36  |
| 25 Jan 1865  | 337 | 2 | 67  |



|              |     |   |     |
|--------------|-----|---|-----|
| 25 Feb 1865  | 359 | 3 | 90  |
| 1 Apr 1865   | 340 | - | 78  |
| 20 May 1865  | 353 | 1 | 74  |
| 24 Jun 1865  | 350 | - | 74  |
| 15 Jul 1865  | 346 | 2 | 83  |
| 21 Jul 1866  | 303 | - | 53  |
| 15 Sept 1866 | 282 | - | 54  |
| 24 Nov 1866  | 307 | - | 34  |
| 12 Jan 1867  | 320 | 1 | 46  |
| 2 Feb 1867   | 337 | 2 | 57  |
| 16 Mar 1867  | 337 | 1 | 77  |
| 27 Apr 1867  | 349 | - | 83  |
| 8 Jun 1867   | 397 | 1 | 118 |
| 20 Jul 1867  | 342 | 1 | 166 |
| 17 Aug 1867  | 319 | 2 | 74  |
| 12 Oct 1867  | 308 | - | 58  |
| 14 Dec 1867  | 346 | - | 73  |
| 11 Jan 1868  | 343 | 6 | 84  |
| 1 Feb 1868   | 360 | - | 88  |
| 15 Aug 1868  | 385 | - | 88  |
| 24 Oct 1868  | 272 | 1 | -   |
| 26 Dec 1868  | 316 | 2 | 77  |



|              |     |   |     |
|--------------|-----|---|-----|
| 13 Feb 1869  | 348 | - | 80  |
| 5 Mar 1870   | 372 | 1 |     |
| 7 May 1870   | 328 | - |     |
| 3 Sept 1870  | 260 | 1 |     |
| 29 Oct 1870  | 266 | - |     |
| 21 Jan 1871  | 322 | - |     |
| 11 Mar 1871  | 290 | 3 |     |
| 6 May 1871   | 269 | - |     |
| 22 Jul 1871  | 272 | - |     |
| 16 Sept 1871 | 251 | 3 |     |
| 25 Oct 1872  | 219 | 1 |     |
| 7 Dec 1872   | 248 | 2 |     |
| 25 Jan 1873  | 275 | - |     |
| 8 Mar 1873   | 262 | - |     |
| 22 Mar 1873  | 246 | 2 |     |
| 3 Nov 1888   | 189 | - | 596 |
| 15 Dec 1888  | 185 | 1 | 626 |
| 16 Jan 1892  | 200 | 2 | 529 |
| 13 July 1892 | 182 | 1 | 552 |



|              |     |   |     |
|--------------|-----|---|-----|
| 2 Mar 1889   | 195 | - | 638 |
| 4 May 1889   | 195 | 1 | 591 |
| 3 Mar 1894   | 182 | 1 | 468 |
| 21 Apr 1894  | 182 | 1 | 479 |
| 30 Jun 1894  | 171 | 1 | 545 |
| 8 Sept 1894  | 184 | - | 494 |
| 15 Mar 1902  | 179 | - | 440 |
| 31 May 1902  | 156 | 1 | 449 |
| 4 Oct 1902   | 144 | - | 460 |
| 10 Jan 1903  | 149 | 2 | 460 |
| 28 Mar 1903  | 152 | 2 | 466 |
| 7 Jul 1906   | 163 | 1 | 488 |
| 22 Sept 1906 | 176 | - | 489 |
| 26 Jan 1907  | 168 | 1 | 488 |
| 20 Apr 1907  | 184 | 4 | 476 |
| 29 Jun 1907  | 161 | - | 482 |
| 3 Aug 1907   | 171 | - | 483 |
| 19 Oct 1907  | 196 | 1 | 471 |
| 21 Dec 1907  | 179 | - | 481 |
| 15 Feb 1908  | 193 | - | 482 |
| 9 May 1908   | 191 | 1 | 474 |



|              |     |   |     |
|--------------|-----|---|-----|
| 25 Jul 1908  | 184 | 2 | 478 |
| 26 Sept 1908 | 182 | - | 439 |
| 24 Oct 1908  | 188 | 2 | 455 |
| 14 May 1910  | 184 | 1 | 376 |
| 27 Aug 1910  | 169 | - | 393 |
| 10 Sept 1910 | 177 | 4 | 399 |
| 31 Dec 1910  | 192 | - | -   |
| 18 Feb 1911  | 176 | 1 | 238 |
| 24 Jun 1911  | 167 | 2 | 228 |
| 14 Oct 1911  | 195 | 1 | 219 |
| 30 Dec 1911  | 183 | 3 | 22  |
| 10 Feb 1912  | 194 | 1 | 224 |
| 24 Aug 1912  | 160 | 1 | 221 |
| 22 Feb 1913  | 168 | - | 211 |
| 23 Aug 1913  | 150 | 1 | 207 |
| 31 Jan 1914  | 167 | 1 | 195 |
| 14 Mar 1914  | 167 | - | 162 |
| 11 Jul 1914  | 137 | - | 174 |
| 12 Dec 1914  | 181 | 1 | 188 |
| 13 Feb 1915  | 174 | 1 | 179 |



|               |  |   |     |
|---------------|--|---|-----|
| 26 Jun 1915   | 132  | 1 | 199 |
| 11 Dec 1915   | 164  | - | 170 |
| 8 Jan 1916    | 157  | - | 169 |
| 13 May 1916   | 157  | 0 | 151 |
| 12 Aug 1916   | 149  | - | 154 |
| 24 Aug 1918   | 164  | - | 164 |
| 9 Nov 1918    | 173  | 1 | 159 |
| 9 Feb 1919    | 161  | 1 | 158 |
| 12 Apr 1919   | 162  | 3 | 155 |
| 27 Dec 1919   | 159  | - | 144 |
| 10 April 1920 | 152  | - | 147 |
| 25 Sept 1920  | 138  | 1 | 155 |
| 13 Nov 1920   | 140  | - | 147 |
| 1921          | Books not written up by the Master's substitute ' <i>due to unforeseen difficulties</i> ' (GPL5/106, p566) |   |     |
| July 1921     | Inmates transferred to Loughrea workhouse – as the whole House was taken over by the Military              |   |     |





## Appendix 5

## 5. ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS OF RELIEVING OFFICERS RELATING TO BOARDED OUT CHILDREN

Details of Relieving Officers' expenditures for 'Orphans and Deserted Children boarded out' as follows:

| <b>Week ending</b>       | <b>Forde<br/>District No. 1</b> | <b>Walsh<br/>District No. 2</b> | <b>Judge<br/>(Caherlistrane)<br/>District No. 3</b> | <b>Hanley<br/>District No. 4</b> | <b>Murphy / Glynn<br/>District No. 5</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 29 Mar 1902              | £10.15.6                        | 0                               | £0.10.10  | £0.10.10                         | £0.10.10                                 |
| 5 Apr 1902               | -                               | -                               | -   | -                                | -  |
| 12 Apr 1902              | -                               | -                               | -   | -                                | -  |
| 19 Apr 1902              | -                               | -                               | -   | -                                | -  |
| 26 Apr 1902              | £11.12.6                        | 0                               | £0.10.10  | 0                                | £2.0.10                                  |
| 10 May 1902              | £0.7.10                         | -                               | -   | -                                | -  |
| 28 Jun 1902              | £11.7.6                         | 0                               | £0.10.10  | £0.10.10                         | £0.10.10                                 |
| 2 Aug 1902               | £12.17.6                        | -                               | -   | £0.10.10                         | £0.10.10                                 |
| 13 Sept 1902             | £1.10.0                         | -                               | -   | -                                | -  |
| 25 Oct 1902              | £3.00.0                         | 0                               | 0   | 0                                | £0.10.10                                 |
| 27 Dec 1902              | -                               | -                               | -   | -                                | -  |
| 2 Jan 1903               | £9.04.2                         | 0                               | £0.10.10  | £1.12.6                          | £0.10.10                                 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1903 | £8.13.4                         | -                               | £0.10.10  | £1.12.6                          | £0.10.10                                 |
| 29 Sept 1906             | £5.19.2                         | -                               | £0.10.10  | £1.12.6                          | -  |
| 2 Nov 1907               | £3.15.10                        | -                               | £0.10.10  | £1.12.6                          | -  |
| 7 Dec 1907               | £3.15.10                        | -                               | £0.10.10  | £1.12.6                          | £0.10.10                                 |
| 7 Mar 1908               | £5.13.10                        | 0                               | £0.10.10  | £2.3.4                           | £1.1.8                                   |
| 3 Sept 1910              | £3.15.10                        | £0.10.10                        | £0.10.10  | £2.14.2                          | £1.1.8                                   |
| 7 Jan 1911               | £3.15.10                        | £0.10.10.                       | £0.10.10  | £1.1.8                           | £1.1.8                                   |
| 6 May 1911               | £3.15.10                        | £0.10.10.                       | £0.10.10  | £1.1.8                           | £1.1.8                                   |
| 25 May 1912              | £4.00.0                         | -                               | -   | £5.0.0                           | -  |
| 28 Sept 1912             | £2.03.4                         | -                               | £1.1.8  | £2.3.4                           | -  |



## 6. Abbreviations

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| BG     | Board of Guardians                |
| BW     | Board of Works                    |
| CDB    | Congested Districts Board         |
| Co.Co. | County Council                    |
| DÉ     | Dáil Éireann                      |
| ED     | Electoral Division                |
| GCC    | Galway County Council             |
| GCCA   | Galway County Council Archives    |
| IPM    | Irish Plantation Measure          |
| JP     | Justice of the Peace              |
| LGB    | Local Government Board            |
| MGWR   | Midland Great Western Railway Co. |
| MO     | Medical Officer                   |
| MP     | Member of Parliament              |
| OPW    | Office of Public Works            |
| PLC    | Poor Law Commissioners            |
| PL     | Poor Law                          |
| PP     | Parish Priest                     |
| RC     | Roman Catholic                    |
| RDC    | Rural District Council            |
| RIC    | Royal Irish Constabulary          |
| RO     | Relieving Officer                 |
| SF     | Sinn Féin                         |



GPL5/

TUAM POOR LAW UNION

# **Tuam Poor Law Union**

## **1839 - 1926**

### **Archive Collection**

**GPL5/**



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TUAM POOR LAW UNION



## List of Items and Descriptions

### *A. Minutes of Board of Guardians Meetings, 1839 - 1921*

Bound volumes of manuscript and typed minutes recording details of attendance and proceedings of initially until circa 1845 monthly meetings, there after weekly meetings, and fortnightly from April 1903 onwards, relating to the maintenance, administration and financing of the workhouse, distribution of out-door relief, and the care of workhouse inmates as regards their accommodation and employment, and to medical, pastoral, educational, and dietary needs. Minutes include statistics on the number of persons accommodated in the workhouse, together with the numbers of births and deaths, and the number of people 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, 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 500pp



1. 11 November 1839 - 5 December 1842 Includes:
  - Petition to Parliament imploring it to 'issue instructions for the admission of the public and press to the meetings of the PL Guardians' (17 Feb 1840, see also 9 May 1840).
  - Extra-ordinary meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1840 to discuss borrowing '£8,400 (sterling) or thereabout for the erecting, fitting, furnishing (of a workhouse) and providing utensils, instruments and machinery for setting the poor to work therein together with the sum required for the purchase of said lands' (29 June 1840).
  - Details of elected Guardians, and appointments to various committees (29 Mar 1841, p4).
  - Details of agreed salaries for the Medical Officer, Master, Matron, Porter together with resolution instructing Clerk to advertise for same (31 January 1842).
  - Details of elected Guardians, and appointments to various committees (28 Mar 1842).
  - Details of tenders for supplies, such as blankets, sheets, rugs, and so on (28 Mar 1842).
  - Details of tenders for clothing for inmates, such as waistcoats for men, caps, woman's shifts, cotton bed gowns and so on (4 Apr & 25 Apr 1842).
  
2. 2 January 1843 – 29 December 1845 Monthly meetings held initially until circa April 1845, then held bi-monthly until December 1845, thereafter monthly. Includes
  - 'Resolved that we recommend the sum of sixty pounds sterling be paid to Mr John Griffin, in consideration of his services in having valued 56,000 acres more than the Union was advertised to contain the time he entered into his contract for its valuation' (14 Aug 1843).
  - 'Resolved that the Board do apply to the Government to take the Workhouse into their possession, and that they be requested to send Military to occupy it, in order that this locality may derive advantage from the expenditure of their pay in it' (15 Jan 1844, see also (12 Feb 1844, p4).
  - 'Resolved. That we recommend the sum of Ten pounds sterling per annum be allowed the Porter in lieu of rations, from the day his salary commenced, until the time the Workhouse will open for the reception of the destitute poor, and that the sum of five pounds sterling be allowed him for clothes etc' (12 Feb 1844, p3).



- 'The Clerk reports that he was served with a Notice of Ejectment by the Rev M Galbraith for the Rent due on the workhouse site, which notice after consulting some of the Guardians he handed to Mr Tully, the Solicitor, ...' (3 Jun 1844).
- 'Resolved That we advertise for clothing, bedding and provisions, as formerly advertised for in the next *Tuam Herald* and *General Advertiser* and to be taken into consideration this day fortnightly' (17 Nov 1845).

(3)

4. 2 January 1847 – 29 December 1847 Odd binding may incorporate draft minutes  
The MO's weekly report to the Board includes the names of the inmates who died in the workhouse up to circa March 1847, thereafter, reports the overall number. Includes:
- 'The Report of the Medical Officer was read, reporting the deaths of Pat Silk and Thomas McGrah (sic), and drawing the attention of the board to the circumstances of the Inmates of the Hospital, the infirm and the infants not having been supplied with Bread for some time, and beg to state that they are all suffering in health form the constant stirabout diet' (4 Jan 1847).
  - 'The Medical Officer reports the death of Barbara Cahill aged 99 of old age and general debility, also that there are cases in the house which cannot be removed to Hospital for want of beds and the necessary means for keeping the Hospital clean. No. in Hospital 39' (11 Jan 1847).
  - MO reported the deaths of Pat Costello, aged 70; Robert Farrell aged 60; Isabella Mitchell 80 years; Biddy Nevin aged 60; and Pat Monaghan, 25 years of Chronic dysentery (25 Jan 1847, p5).
  - The MO reported the deaths of Thomas McGraugh, aged 1 year of fever; Michael Philbin aged 60, dysentery; John Ryan, an infant of swelling (1 Feb 1847).
  - MO reported the deaths of John Joyce, 30, dysentery; James Case, 70, dysentery; John Swift, 50, dysentery; Bridget Cleary 1½ yrs; Sally Coghlan 2 days old; Mary Concannon, 40 dysentery (8 Feb 1847).



- Report of the MO indicates that the 'oatmeal diet disagrees with very many of the paupers, there are considerable number of the inmates labouring under bowel attacks of a dysentery character (8 Feb 1847, p8).
- 'Resolved that James Blake, oatmeal contractor, do get a cheque on our Treasurer for the sum of one hundred and eighty-one pounds, nineteen shillings and four pence sterling, being the amount of his contract for meal for the month ending 27<sup>th</sup> inst.' (1 Mar 1847, p7).
- 'Read letter from the PLC...stating that they received a report from Mr Handcock on the state of the Tuam workhouse in which he states he found the bedding in a very bad way, the women and girls with few exceptions wearing their own clothes, and that the whole personal appearance of the inmates was very untidy' (12 April 1847).
- Tenders for the supply for various articles of clothing were considered, and awarded to Patrick Cosgriff (127 May 1847, p9).
- 'That the present grave yard in this Town is most improperly placed, and that there is not a sufficiently of earth in said grave yard to cover the dead bodies interred therein, that Fever and pestilence proceeds from the malaria and putrid exhalations in the grave yard and the peculiarly unhealth state of the streets in the immediate neighbourhood of the grave ear fearful evidence to the trust of the above statement' (28 Jun 1847, pp9-10).
- The PLC advised the Board that the Union 'will be for the future under the superintendence of Richard Burke, Assistance Commissioner' (25 Jul 1847, p8).
- Letter from the PLC relating toe 'burial ground attached to the Workhouse and expressing their wish it should be discontinued' (23 Aug 1847), p6).
- 'Resolved: That it is the opinion of the Vice Guardians that the rations now allowed to the able-bodied and their families via 1 lb per day for each person at and over the age of 9, and ½ lb for all under 9 is sufficient, and further the Vice Guardians beg to observe that they have [no] single able bodies men at work





stone breaking, and that taking into consideration the total quantity of meal allowed to each family it is sufficient for their support (19 May 1848, p12)

4B. 3 Jan 1848 - 2 Jan 1849

Odd Binding. Includes:

- Ongoing resolutions relating to tenders for and arrangements relating to stone breaking.
- 'The Visiting Committee recommend the commencement of the Boundary wall immediately as the property of the House cannot be safe without it...' (17 Jan 1848, p5).
- PLC letter 'relative to a report they received from Mr Burke, their Inspector, stating that destitution exists to a very great extent in various part of the Union and that persons of rank and station were in arrear of their rates amongst whom Dr McHale and they see the facts deeply disclosed are discreditable to the Tuam Board of Guardians and calling on the Board to discharge their duties, and stating distinctly that unless the (sic) adopt vigorous measures in accordance with the spirit of their suggestions they are prepared to exercise their powers under the 18<sup>th</sup> Section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act and appoint a paid Board to administer Relief (17 Jan 1848, p7; there were 980 inmates in the workhouse which could accommodate 800 together with a shed to accommodate 100).
- 'Read letter from Doctor Turner, Medical Officer, informing the Board that there were more in the house than which it is calculated to hold without injuring the health of the inmates (17 Jan 1848, p7).
- 'Tender for the erection of a Fever Hospital having been opened Mr Andrew Egan's proposal was accepted of for building the Fever Hospital for the sum of six hundred and ninth six pounds and ten pence sterling, to be completed withing four months.... (24 Jan 1848, p9).
- Transcript of letter from Dr Thomas Blake Turner, Medical Officer, to the Board, advising that 'the female children have been moved to the auxiliary Workhouse on the Mall, by which me and the Schoolroom, occupied entirely by them may be made



available for further accommodation to the amount of about 100 persons, which with the 1150 on the Books, on Saturday night, will make up a number beyond which it will not be prudent to pass'

'I have to remark that if you admit any this day you have not a bed to put them on or a blanket to throw over them, and that it would risk the lives both of the present inmates and of these you admit if you mix together these [wretched] objects without, cleanliness, classification, or covering. In conclusion I have to state that the Board will have to take into their serious consideration the propriety of admitting any this day as it is well authenticated that your doors are so crowded more from the belief that coming into the workhouse is a step towards outdoor relief than from any intention of staying within its walls' (24 Jan 1848, pp13-14).

- 'The Clerk reported that he had John Gibbons, a pauper brought before the Magistrates at Petty Sessions and charge of absconding from the Workhouse in Nov last, taking with him the Union clothes, and leaving a child of his under 15 years of age in the House.  
The Court ordered that he should be committed to prison and stand his trial at next quarter Session of Galway 10 April next (31 Mar 1848, p5; subsequently sentences to 4 months imprisonment at hard labour, 14 Apr 1848).
- Letter from PLC to the Vice Guardians 'relative to emigration of female paupers to Australia' (18 Aug 1848, p6).
- Letter from PLC to the Vice Guardians 'relative to transmission of pauper emigrants', and 'Resolved: That Mr Morris, Master be directed to proceed to Dublin on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> in charge of 25 emigrants and that the sum of fifty pounds be advanced to him, for which he will account upon his return to defray the expense incurred in the transport and subsistence of these emigrants' (25 Aug 1848, pp6-7).
- 'Resolved that Malachy Hession's proposal to carry the emigrants' boxes from here to Ballinasloe be accepted for 12/1' (25 Aug 1848, p6).
- 'Resolved that the tenders of Thomas Palmer from Galway be accept for supplying the outdoor relief depots in the following Electoral Divisions with good yellow



Indian meal for 3 months at £11.13.6 per ton: Headford, Cummer, Downpatrick, Monivea, Annaghdawn (15 Sept 1848, p7) (1614 inmates in the workhouse that week, and 3,933 in receipt of outdoor relief).

- Letter from Mansergh St George, Headford 'declining to set his House in the town of #Headford as an auxiliary Workhouse, but offering to sell Headford Castle. The Clerk was directed to lay the letter before the Commissioners requesting to know should the Vice Guardians take any further steps in the matter' (26 Sept 1848).
- 'The Master having laid before the Board the expense attending to the transmission of paupers to Plymouth amounting to £45.13.9 and handed the balance amounting to £4.6.3 to Clerk who was ordered to lodge it with the Treasurer' (26 Sept 1848, p8).
- 'The Medical Officer reported that that great number of the deaths [46] during the last week was caused from the very exhausted state of the paupers when admitted to the Work House, and that they were principally among them children. He also reported that Fever was on the decrease, and that the children were becoming much more healthy...' (2 Jan 1849).
- Pat Molloy and John Cannon left the workhouse; Pat Melvin absconded (2 Jan 1849).

4C. 4 Jan 1849 - 28 Mar 1849 Includes

- Michael Leavy retained as temporary Master Baker (17 Jan 1848).
- 'Resolved that it being found necessary to divide the men employed at road making in the E division of Clare Tuam that Pat Monahan's salary be reduced to 7/- per week and that John Loftus be appointed to Superintend on of the gangs of men at half of Monahan's former salary via 8/- per week this arrangement to commend on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> inst.' (GPL5/4C, 7 Mar 1849).
- Mr A Egan's tender for the extension of the sewerage at the Tuam Workhouse was accepted but to the PLC's approval (14 Mar 1849).



- 4D. 8 March 1849 – 22 Aug 1849 Includes:
- Letter from the PLC to the Vice Guardians 'directing the children of Mary Hughes and Mary Dignan may be forwarded to Dublin by return of Post.  
Ordered that the PLC be informed that they were forwarded in charge of F W Fore, Relieving Officer, last night' (28 Mar 1849).
  - 'Ordered; That the dispensaries opened in the towns of Tuam and Monivea, for the treatment of patients affected by the premonitory symptoms of cholera, be supplied with the necessary medicines and medical appliances' (18 Apr 1849, p5).
  - 'Read letter from Dr Donnellan, MO at Oranmore on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> inst., stating that Cholera had made its appearance in that Electoral Division ((2 May 1849, 105).
  - 'In consequence of the death of Dr Hunt, Medical Assistant to the Tuam cholera dispensary from cholera on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., and the Vice Guardians having written on that day to Doctors Prendergast and Henderick to know if they would undertake the duties of cholera physician in connection with the Tuam cholera dispensary at a remuneration of one guinea per [day] the Vice Guardians only received a reply this morning from both declining to act and the vice Guardians station into consideration that there were no new cases of cholera reported in the workhouse this day ( 16 May 1849, p129).
  - 'Read a letter from Denis Kirwan Esq of Castle Hackett, proposing to hand the sum of £12.10.11 to the Vice Guardians to enable Bridget Farrell and her four children and Mary Donnellan aged 19 from the ED of ClareTuam and Margaret Down aged 19 from the ED of Annadown (sic) to emigrate to America if the vice Guardians will pay the balance.  
The above persons are all receiving relief. Or Mr Kirwan undertakes if the Vice Guardians pay him the sum of £12.10.0 per head amounting to £17.10.0 to send them out himself' (30 May 1849, p152)
  - 'The specification for the repairs of the front buildings of the workhouse destroyed by fire, having been received from Mr McMullen, Assistant Architect to Mr Wilkinson.  
Resolved that Andrew Egan's proposal to erect same for the sum of £254.3.6 be accepted and that he be directed to proceed with the repairs forthwith' (20 Jun 1849, p189).
  - Letter from the PLC to the Clerk, 'stating that the application for Emigration of the wives and children of convicts usually comes through the Emigration Commissioners' who are instructed to that effect by the Colonial Office (25 July 1849, p241).



- Tenders for supply of yellow Indian meal, oatmeal, whole four, rye meal and barley meal to the workhouse and auxiliary workhouse in Dunmore and outdoor relief depots of the Union were awarded to suppliers (8 Aug 1849).
- 4E. 29 August 1849 – 20 February 1850 (pages no. 288 - 617) Includes:-
- 'Circular To Clerk...Relative to the Emigration of Female orphans to Australia' (29 Aug 1849, p295).
  - Return of elected Guardians and Ex-Officio members of the Board listed ((5 Nov 1849, p421).
  - 'Resolved That the women at present in the Dunmore workhouse be immediately transferred to the Tuam Union owing to the great irregularities and insubordination which exist amongst the inmates of that establishment' ((5 Dec 1849, p480).
  - 'Resolved That a notice be served on the landlord of the Mall House (Tuam) that the Guardians will give up possession at the end of six months, same rule to apply to the landlords of the Auxiliary Houses, Galway Road (5 Dec 1849, p485).
  - Ordered. That each RO shall on some day in each week examine and compare the Registry of Paupers admitted during the previous week with his application and Report book so as to satisfy himself that no pauper is improperly charged to his ED, and that he shall also personally examine and identify each pauper as being the person who ought to have been so admitted...' (12 Dec 1849, p494).
  - The clerk was directed to advertise for a Master and Matron for the New Barrack, Tuam, recently taken as an auxiliary to the Tuam workhouse' 16 Jan 1850, p548).
  - 'The MO reported that having been obliged to open a fourth shed at the Workhouse Fever Hospital at Ballygaddy, he was obliged to take another nurse and had directed the Master to estimate accordingly (6 Feb 1850, p575).

Approx 380pp



- 5A. 27 February – 2 October 1850 Includes partial index. Includes
- Details of Ex-Officio and elected Guardians 27 Mar 1850, pp60-61).
  - ‘Christopher St George Esq attended the Board and entered with an explanation relative to the case of John & Thomas Mullins who were ejected from their dwellings without serving the Relieving Officer with the Notice required by law.  
The Guardians not considering Mr St George’s explanation satisfactory the further consideration of the matter was deferred to the 24<sup>th</sup> of April when Mr St George is to provide witnesses in support of his statement. The Mullins also are required to be in attendance’ (17 Apr 1850, p100).
  - ‘The MO reported the increase in the number of deaths for the past week was not from epidemic influenza but from the constitution of the patients being worn out from general disease’ (24 Apr 1850, p105 – 12 deaths recorded for week ending 20 Apr).
  - ‘The MO stated that the number on the Workhouse books on the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant exceeded the workhouse accommodation and that there was not a sufficient supply of beds, blankets or clothing for the incoming paupers’ (24 April, 1850; 2964 in in Workhouse accommodation at week ending 20 Apr).
  - ‘Resolved: That the able-bodied women be employed grinding corn at the workhouse mill’ (1 May 1850, p5; see also Notice of Motion to rescind the order on the basis that the work is ‘derogatory to the character of women and having a tendency to demoralisation’ 15 Aug 1850, p329).
  - ‘The MO again called the attention of the Board to the still increasing number, there being 847 more than the estimated accommodation’ (5 Jun 1850, p191; 3895 listed as being in in Workhouse accommodation).
  - ‘That in consequence of the removal of the pauper inmates from an auxiliary to the principal workhouse in Tuam there was a great want of accommodation for the Assistant School Master, School Master, and Baker who have no apartments either for sleeping or cooking, referred to Visiting Committee’(25 Aug 1850, p349; no. in Workhouse accommodation weekending 17 Aug 1850, was 2615; it had been 4263 at week ending 29 Jun 1850).

Approx 419pp



- 5B. 9 October 1850 - 30 April 1851 Includes partial index. Includes
- 'On the recommendation of the Finance committee it was resolved that Mr John Daly, landlord of the premises of Ballygaddy latterly used as a temporary Fever Hospital be paid all rent due him up to 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1850' (p248).
  - Board agree to let for a period of 21 years a farm of 25 acres, at the back of the workhouse, from the Bishop (p269. See also p316 and p362).
  - 'Relative to the transferring of paupers from one Union to another on the grounds that they do not belong to the Union in which relief has been applied for and stating that the Commissioners are advised by the Attorney General that an Indictment would be against a Board of Guardians for causing paupers to be so removed from their Union to another' (p286).
  - Visiting Committee report: 'That some improvement appeared in the general appearance of the Workhouse but that the classification of the Inmates still requires the most entire vigilance on the part of the respective Officers.  
The continued delicacy of both the Mater and Matron make us reluctant to be too stringent in our [demanding] on their services but it will be the duty of the Board to insist upon more general activity from all employed withing the Workhouse and if such be not speedily exhibited that several alternatives will become necessary with respect to the officers of the Establishment' (p444, 15 Apr 1851).
  - 'Ordered that the Commissioners be informed that in consequent of repeated applications from the Officers engaged that the drainage and other parties for labourers, the Board decided upon discharging all the able bodied and fit for employment, and amongst them James Murphy who is now in employment on the Dunmore Drainage Works' (p443; week commencing 19 April 1851 86 able bodies males were discharged)).

477pp

6. 9 May 1851- 11 February 1852 Includes:-
- 'The Medical Officer called the attention of the Board to the crowded state of the Workhouse, the number in which exceeded the accommodation of 500, and suggested that the Auxiliary workhouse at the Galway Road should be opened at once, by which means they would be relieved of 500 and that if the Glenamaddy paupers were reduced to the 1/16 of the accommodation as per the Reservation Order, they would also give some room.



The Master was directed to remove the School Master and school boys to the Galway Road auxiliary as soon as possible, and the Clerk was directed to write to the clerk of the Glenamaddy Board of Guardians<sup>113</sup> notifying the fact of there being more inmates in the Workhouse belonging to that Union than the numbers allowed by the Reservation Order.' (7 May 1851).

- RO advised 'man had been found dead on the lands of Cuilbeg in the ED of Levally....who it appeared was proceeding to the Tuam Workhouse for admission by an Order from Michael [Wynne], RO for Glenamaddy Union' (7 May 1851, p9).
- 'That the PLC be informed that the extent of Tuam workhouse accommodation is 3,184 of which the Glenamaddy Union is entitled to 192. That on Saturday last the number in the Tuam workhouse was 3,006, of which 255 were from Glenamaddy. The Guardians under these circumstances must most strongly protest against the proposed increase of the Reservation Order, the effect of which would be completely to fill up the Workhouse accommodation which there is strong reason to believe will not be sufficient for their own Union...' (14 May 1851, p9).
- John Faragher charged to Ryehill ED be transferred to Ballynapark or other relevant ED (14 May 1851, p11).
- Patrick Dowling be changed from Doonbally to Tuam ED (14 May 1851, p11).
- RO received 5 notices of eviction for the townland of Milltown, the property of Walter Lawrence (21 May 1851, p9)
- RO received 2 eviction notices from Thomas Miller, agent to W. F. Austin, on property in Tierboy (21 May 1851, p9).
- Chargeability of Honor Greally changed from Abbey West to Tuam ED (21 May 1851, p11).
- Chargeability of Michael Moran be altered from Belclare to Tuam ED (4 June 1851, p9).
- Michael Cahill found dead in his own house in the townland of Aillie (p146).
- Chargeability of Catherine Cooke and one child amended (p148).
- Chargeability of Ellen Gormley (p176).
- Change of religion for inmate Bridget Roache (p203).
- Details of rate to be charged in each ED (p205).
- 'The Master reported that on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst a man named William Mannion was forwarded to the Workhouse for admission, from the ClareTuam ED by Mr Canavan, RO. On Mannion being presented at the gate he was found to be dead' (p214, see also p243).
- Girl, Bridget Walsh, inmate of the Barrack auxiliary workhouse died suddenly (p242).

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<sup>113</sup> The Glenamaddy workhouse was opened in 1852. Its original capacity was for 500 inmates. See GPL1/.





- Details regarding the appointment of several rate collectors (pp269-270, & p288)
- Chargeability of Margaret Burke and her family (p314).
- Details of workhouse diet (p353).
- Case of two 'deaf and dumb' girls, Cath Glynn and Mary Cannon was discussed (p356).
- 'Resolved that twenty of the pauper inmates be employed henceforth in cleansing the streets of the Town of Tuam under the Superintendent of the Bailiff of the Town Commissioners' (p357, see also p369 & p401).
- Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the general management of the workhouse included, 'The Committee cannot separate without stating their opinion that the general condition of the Establishment indicates a want of efficiency and energy in the Officers and that unless a marked improvement takes place in the general order, regularity, cleanliness and discipline of the house a change will become necessary in the whole establishment' (p359).
- William Colleran, Headford, admitted to workhouse in 'dying state', and lived about one hour (p423).
- Mary Mannion, inmate, with 3 children changed religion (p423, see also p438 & pp 440-3).
- 'Resolved that it is the opinion of this Board that the operation of the Medical Charities Act shall commence from the date on which each financial year terminates in each District and that the Local Dispensary Committees be requested to examine the accounts and report to the Board on the state of the funds, and particular date on which their Financial year terminates' (p426).
- William Golding inmate (p522).
- Boy, Denis Griffin, absconded (p550).

(7.)

8. 23 September 1852 – 4 May 1853 Includes:-

- Discharge of orphan boy, Patrick Flynn of Killensa, 8 years old, discussed (p11).
- Details of payment of salaries (p21).
- Inmate Mrs Ann Kyle (p44, see also p57).
- Mary Hughes, an orphan (p57).
- Details of new rates made (p73).
- Mary Long, former inmate, caught stealing (p135).
- Jean McDonnell, inmate (p199).
- Details of insurance cover for the workhouse premises (p203).



- Schedule of rates and arrears declared irrecoverable by the BG (7 Mar 1853).
  - 'Resolved. That the PLC be requested to sanction the payment of the sum of £1.0.0 each to three paupers named Silk who have been in the workhouse for the last six years and are chargeable to the Clare Tuam ED to enable them to emigrate to New York where their parents reside and who have paid their passage to America and that the above £3.0.0 be charged on the Clare Tuam ED' (13 April 1853, see also 27 April and 4 May 1853).
  - PL Inspector's report wherein Hall 'estimates the resources of the Union to 29<sup>th</sup> September next at £4,385.12.11, and that he anticipated the requirements of the Union will be £8,056.3.9. The balance £3,670.10.10 is likely to be the amount of the net liability on the above date etc...  
That the collection was in a backward state in all the districts of the Union except that in which Mr Higgins is collector...' (20 April 1853).
  - Details of arrangements for 'industrial training of the juvenile inmates of the workhouse' (27 April 1853).
  - Martin Fallon arrested for stealing workhouse clothes (4 May 1853).
  - Proposal to assist two children named Mary and Catherine Shelly, inmates, to emigrate to America (11 May 1853).
9. 18 May 1853 - 9 November 1853 Includes index to main issues. Also Includes:-
- 'The Clerk called attention to the fact that potatoes were not now used in the soup, the price being excessive and requested the Board would under the advice of the Medical Officer authorise a change in the preparation of the soup as an article of diet' (p2, see also p 38).
  - Margaret Wilson admitted in 'dying state' (p20).
  - Application from Mary Connolly, 'for the clothes of her mother who died in the workhouse' (p83).
  - Thomas McCabe, orphan boy of 12 years (p87, see also pp126-7, p139, p181).
  - Mary Ellen Cavanagh, inmate (p96 & p124).
  - 'The department of the girls school under the charge of the Nuns (Sisters of Mercy) is conducted with much efficiency and presents evident marks of being in a progressive state, the answering of the children was in all cases satisfactory' (pp98-9).
  - Pauper, James Gore, advised that another pauper 'Patrick Loftus, who serves out the provisions is in the habit of selling rations for money .... That the Porter had searched Loftus and found a purse containing 2/3 on his person...' (p107).
  - Two girls, Mary Hughes and [Winnie] Naughton, absconded (p150 & p199, p212, p228, p249, see also GPL5/11, p74 & p315).
  - RO advised that 'he had been served with a notice of the eviction of two families of the townland and ED of Headford, the property of Richard James Mansergh St George' (p185).



- Chargeability of Mary McHugh to be amended (p189).
- 'The Visiting Committee recommended the sending to Galway of two girls to assist in instructing the school girls in embroidery and that Mr Hall, PL Inspector, be requested to select those girls and arrange for their transmission to Tuam...' (pp225-6).
- Medical Officers for Tuam Dispensary District advised the Guardians that the 'burying ground in the Town of Tuam is in such a state as to be injurious to the health of the occupiers of premises in the neighbourhood and in fact of the entire Town. And we certify to you that in order such proceedings may be taken by you in this behalf, as may be requisite to abate this nuisance under the powers vested in you by the Nuisances Removal and Disease Prevention Act of 1848 and its amendment Act of 1849 or any other Act tending to the same end'.  
'Resolved.....That our Chairman be requested to apply to the Lord Bishop of Tuam for a piece of ground for a cemetery' (p292, see also p328, pp345-6).
- Letter from the MO, 'In consequence of the presence of cholera in some parts of the British Isles and the almost certainty of its extending its ravages to this part also, I feel it my duty as your Medical Officer to tender such suggestions as to the course you should pursue in the emergency, as past experience has convinced me to be necessary for the prevention, mitigation, and relief of cholera should it appear in the districts to which your powers extend under the sealed order of the Commissioners....'(p299).
- Chargeability of Honor Murphy be amended (p347).

(10.)

11. 19 July 1854 - 28 March 1855 Includes:-

- Boy, Arthur Elwood, absconded (p43, see also p53).
- Two boys, John Jordan and Pat Murphy, absconded (p53).
- Three boys, Patrick Fury, William Donohoe and Michael Mullen, absconded (p74).
- Two girls, Mary Higgins and Winny Naughton, absconded (p74).
- Investigation into case of child Maria McDonnell (p76).
- Michael Fahey and William Donohoe absconded (p99).
- Meeting adjourned 'in consequence of the Fair at Ballinasloe' (p105).
- Three 'pauper boys absconded from the workhouse school' (p170).
- Boy, Sheridan, absconded (p196).
- Notice of Motion, 'I will move ...that the working of this Union be fully considered, with a view of striking off the several officers such percentage as may be warranted by the reduction of paupers and consequent decreased duties to be performed, and that such officers be dispensed with as may not be required for the present working' (p272, see also pp292-3).



12. 28 November 1855 – 11 June 1856 Includes:-
- Admission of Bridget Hynes, 12 years of age, 'inmate of the workhouse to the Roman Catholic Institute for the Deaf & Dumb' (p28).
  - Report received by Relieving Officer John Dunbar, from the police station in Dunmore regarding a pauper Anne Flaherty of Belmont, aged 26 years who was 'far advanced in pregnancy by a married man named John Moran, who had been evicted off the above townland on Saturday last by Mr Waldron...I saw this woman on yesterday in a very destitute state, alone in a hut in a bog, which her mother made to shelter her, she spent last week in a hut in a tillage field, but the owner of the field destroyed it, and she was compelled to take shelter in the bog until after her confinement, an event which she states will shortly take place.  
I consider this woman's life in danger if she be left long in the hut without provisions as the inhabitants of that neighbourhood have no compassion for her. Her parents reside near her, but they are paupers also' (p89, see also 99).
  - Application for admission of an 'illegitimate infant child named John Fox' (p90).
  - Two boys absconded (p126).
  - Margaret Gannon given assistance to emigrate to America (p199, see also p219).
  - Resolution of the Baillieborough BG was adopted, 'That this Board is of opinion that no legislation on the subject of the removal of Irish paupers from England, will be just or satisfactory, which does not place the Irish pauper in England on the same footing and with the same privileges as the English pauper at present enjoys in Ireland' (p209).
  - Tenders invited for plastering and dashing the walls of the workhouse (p239).
  - 'Dr Brodie, PL Inspector, called the attention of the Board to the fact that there was no separate ward for prostitutes, and it appearing that there was no place for a separate ward at the Women's side of the House, Dr Brodie stated that he would come to Tuam some day with a view to the selecting of a site for a separate ward' (p241, see also p251, p260).
13. 18 June 1856 - 31 December 1856 Includes:
- Pauper named Bridget Tighe 'became suddenly deranged...the MO recommended her removal to the Lunatic Asylum Ballinasloe...' (p60).
  - 'Two pauper boys named Denis Burke and Denis Mohan had absconded' (p131).
  - Cath Burke, a child, who the Board 'propose to assist in emigrating to America' (p143).
  - Regarding the proposed emigration of two children, Eliza Cullinane and Cath Cullinane (p187).
  - Denis Burke who had absconded was arrested (p231).



14. 7 January 1857 – 8 July 1857 Includes:-
- 'The Master was directed to have a poor woman named Bridget Carroll, admitted this day, a lunatic, very violent, removed to the Lunatic Asylum as soon as possible' (p35).
  - 'The Master reported that the Ladies of the Convent of Mercy, who generally attend the female school, had informed him that owing to the number of children being so much reduced, they considered that two hours a day was sufficient for instruction instead of four hours, as heretofore' (p71, see also p84).
  - Letter from the LGB regarding inaccuracies in the Primary Valuation Lists advising the Guardians that it is in the 'power of the Board of Guardians to alter the name of any occupier or immediate lessor in the final Valuation lists in case of any change of abode or possession, or of any error or omission in the name of such lessor or occupier. Also suggesting that the Guardians should communicate with Mr Griffith on the subject' (p160).
  - Chaplain's Books included report that inmate Margaret Silk had made a complaint against Protestant clergyman, Mr Seymour (pp161-2, see also GPL5/19, p7 & p27).
  - Inmate, Michael Ryan, to discharge the School Master's duties during Mr Langan's absence (p187, see also p194).
  - Inmate, Thomas Naughton, absconded (p193).
  - 'The Relieving Officer for the Tuam District brought before the Board the case of Mary Noone, who had been a resident of Warrington in England for the last six years. On investigation it appeared that she was engaged at a bleaching mill in Warrington, where she contracted sore eyes, and was brought to Tuam by the Relieving Officer for Warrington, who left her in Tuam. She was admitted by the RO to the workhouse but was unable to appear before the Board, being confined to bed' (p196).

(15.)

16. 20 January 1858 – 16 June 1858 Includes:-
- Details of salary payments (p5).
  - Catherine Connor, inmate, had been disorderly (p7).
  - Paupers, Judy Fahy and Catherine Flaherty 'disturbed the House by beating each other' (p27).
  - 'Letter from Thomas J Bodkin Esq., stating that he had been informed that his name as occupier of the townlands of... had been omitted in the tenement valuation. That he held and was rateable for over four hundred acres in those townlands, and requested his name to be inserted in the rate book as occupier of same' (p149).
  - 'A pauper named Margaret Rush struck another pauper named Gibbons' (p167, see also p187).
  - Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (p222). Includes Voting Paper for Kilcoona Electoral Division.



- Inmate Patrick O'Connor was granted pass to 'go out on business...attempted to commit suicide in his sister's house in Tuam.... O'Connor taken to the workhouse Infirmary, where he died this morning' (p389).

(17-18.)

19. 3 August 1859 – 25 January 1860 Includes index to main topics discussed, also includes:-
- Letter from the PLC on the 'subject of the inquiry held on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant by Dr Brodie regarding the complaints of excessive severity on the part of Mr Langan, Schoolmaster of the workhouse, towards boys under his charge, as well as other imputations upon him and his wife. Also referring to the conduct of the Master and Matron as to the circumstances...' (p9).
  - Death of Michael Conneely 'on his way from Headford to the Workhouse' (p28).
  - Two boys, Michael Gibbons and Peter Brennan, 'refused to work for the Master Baker and gave him every insolence, that he gave Brennan a slap on the mouth which cut him...' (p47).
  - 'The Master having brought before the Board two paupers named Bridget Malley and Mary Kelly for riotous and disorderly conduct' (p88).
  - The Master reported that an inmate, John Higgins, 'refused to milk and was insolent to the Matron, that on his taking him to the Refractory Ward he became most violent and kicked and dragged him, so much so that he was obliged to call on the Porter to assist him in placing Higgins in the Refractory Ward...' (p186, see also p307).
  - 'Letter from the Ladies of the Convent of Mercy expressing their desire to continue to instruct and educate the children of the workhouse, and if considered necessary to prolong the time but declining to have anything to do with their education if the Master has charge of them, and suggesting that the Matron could have care of the children in their absence. The clerk was directed to inform the Sisters of Mercy that the Master would not interfere with the children, that the Matron would take charge of them as she has hitherto done' (p188).
  - 'Thomas Butler with his wife and one child, having come before the Board for admission to the Workhouse, several of the Guardians considering that he could procure employment on the line of Railway now making near the Town objected to his being admitted...' (p370).



20. 1 February 1860 - 25 July 1860 Includes:-
- Two inmates, John Carroll and Thomas Butler, brought before the Petty Session for refusing to pump water (p67).
  - Mary Robinson admitted (p108).
  - Details of salaries paid (p165).
  - Inmate, Ellen Crampton, wished to change registered religion from Roman Catholic to Protestant (p187).
  - Notice of Motion regarding maintenance of Myles Gibbons (p190, see also p209).
  - Boy, Patrick Hogan absconded (p207).
  - RO reports on eviction of a family of 5 from a property in Ballyfruit, Headford by Rev David Pitcairn<sup>114</sup>, Mary Jane Pitcairn<sup>115</sup>, Benjamin Lee Guinness<sup>116</sup> and Benjamin G Darby (p269).
  - 'Letter from the Clerk of the Ballinasloe Union enclosing a cheque for £14.6.4 being the balance at foot of Tuam Union account in favour of the townlands transferred to Tuam from the Ballinasloe Union on the change of boundaries etc...' (p289, see also p349).
  - Registered religion of inmate, Hannah McKenna (p327).
  - New shoes authorised for inmate Edward Acton who was leaving the house (p369& see also p428).
  - 'The Master was ordered to place Margaret Rush, a woman of bad character, in the Separation Ward, and to leave her child (an infant) with her' (p409).
  - 'The Porter was directed to accompany Pat, Mary and Eliza Carty to Galway, and see them safe on board the Connaught Steamer, which is advertised to sail for New York on Tuesday next, and to employ a car for that purpose' (p449).
  - Inmate Bridget Ward was disorderly (p469, see also p509).

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<sup>114</sup> At the time of Griffith's Valuation Reverend David Pitcairn, son in law of Arthur Guinness of Dublin and Ashford Castle, Cong, county Mayo, held the townland of Castletown, parish of Cong, barony of Kilmaine, previously part of the D'Arcy of Houndswood estate. In 1876 he owned 704 acres in County Mayo and 364 acres in the County Galway. (<http://www.landedestates.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/family-show.jsp?id=180> Dec 2012)

<sup>115</sup> Mary Jane, daughter of Arthur Guinness of Dublin was married to Rev. David Pitcairn.

<sup>116</sup> Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness (son of Arthur Guinness), inherited Ashford Castle which had been sold to his father by Lord Oranmore and Browne. Sir Benjamin was father of Arthur Guinness (created Baron Ardilaun in 1880) began to purchase Connacht estates for sale in the Encumbered Estates' Court from 1852. He bought the Doon estate from Sir Richard O'Donel, the Cong estate from Alexander Lambert, part of the Rosshill estate from Lords Charlemont and Leitrim, parts of Connemara from Christopher St George and Kylemore from a banking consortium in 1859. Guinness acquired landed in County Kerry in the 1850s and was a principal lessor in the parish of Kilcrohane, barony of Dunkerr on South at the time of Griffith's Valuation. He bought the Elwood estate of Strandhill, just across the river from Ashford, in 1871 and Lord Kilmaine sold him Inishdoorus, islands on Lough Corrib and lands in the barony of Ross, part of Nymphsfield in 1875. William Burke of Lisloughry was his agent. Arthur Guinness (1840-1915) was granted the title Baron Ardilaun in 1880. In the 1870s Arthur Guinness owned 19,944 acres in county Galway, 3,747 acres in county Mayo and smaller acreages in Counties Wicklow and Dublin. In 1906 Lord Ardilaun's estate held over 1700 acres of untenanted demesne land at Moyode, Loughrea as well as the mansion house at Moyode. By March 1916 final offers had been accepted from the Congested Districts' Board for over 2000 acres of the Guinness estate in County Mayo and for almost 28,000 acres in County Galway. The Board paid £50,000 for the Galway acreage. An offer had also been accepted for the purchase of the Aran Islands by the Board. The Guinness and St Lawrence families had inherited the Aran Islands from the Digbys through the Barfoots. The Guinness family retained Ashford Castle and the surrounding woods until 1939 when the property was sold to the Irish Government. (<http://www.landedestates.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/family-show.jsp?id=180> Dec 2012)





(21.)

22. 6 February 1861 – 24 July 1861 Pages 292-293 torn & pieces missing, and pages 294?-303 & 332-335 missing. Includes:
- 'Letter from the PLC having reference to the application of a pauper named Sally Finnegan for her discharge from the Workhouse, while her illegitimate child who is ill in the Fever Hospital is in receipt of relief and stating that under the circumstances the Guardians would be justified in allowing the woman her discharge, leaving the child to be discharged as soon as that course could safely be adopted, after recovering from its illness' (p88).
  - Letter from Michael Burke to the Board regarding the recent election of Guardians, stating 'It is now a well ascertained fact that a large number of voting papers issued for the recent Election of Guardians for the Union Electoral Division has been falsified, not only have the names of absent parties been written for them, but false witnesses have been found, weak and rash enough, to inscribe their names on such fictitious documents, with a view to subserve unworthy interest, and make them pass for genuine, an effect which the Returning Officer states he is bound to accede, in the absence of positive proof to construct the *prima facie* evidence afforded by these spurious papers themselves' (p249, see also p289).
  - Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (3 April 1861, p262).
  - Proposed emigration of pauper inmate, Ann Martyn, and 'an offer on the part of her brother to make provision for her illegitimate child'. The PLC could not sanction 'emigration, at the cost of the Union funds in such a case, but if the brother of Ann Martyn would take charge of the child they would reconsider the matter' (p287).
  - Admittance of two children aged 9 and 7 years, the step-sons of Mary Naughton, (p388, see also p407, see also GPL5/33, p306).
  - 'The tender of Thomas Murphy of No. 19 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Rathmines, (Dublin) for inspecting the workhouse buildings, and furnishing a detailed specification of the necessary repairs, and also for inspecting the works when they shall have been executed, for the sum of nine pounds was accepted' (p448, see also p508, p549).
  - Bridget Malley admitted her illegitimate child, 'herself being desirous to remain out and earn her bread...' (p508).
  - Inmate, Margaret Jones, became violent (p565).





23. 31 July 1861 - 22 January 1862 Includes:
- Chargeability of pauper inmate Martin Griffin changed to Union-at-large (p8).
  - 'The tender of Mr William Burke was accepted by the Board, he agreeing to furnish all necessary materials and complete the several repairs (to the Workhouse), subject to the inspection of Mr Thomas Murphy of Dublin for the sum of £86. All to be completed before four months' (p30, see also p90, p110, p250, p270, p288, p290, p348).
  - Inmate Anne Carty climbed the wall of the Separation Ward and 'struck and beat a girl named Catherine Costello' (p48, see also p68).
  - 'The Clerk was directed to inform the PLC that a separate ward had been provided for persons admitted to the Workhouse of immoral character, and in order to improve the present classification, a dormitory has been set apart for the use of women having one or more illegitimate children, thereby making such arrangements as will enable married and single females of good conduct to be separated from those of blemished character' (p90).
  - Details of salaries paid (21 Oct 1861, p186).
  - 'The Master reported that Catherine Mullins, Ellen Burns and Anne Burns were so disorderly and refractory, that he was obliged to lodge information against them before Mr Day, who committed them to Bridewell until next Petty Sessions' (208).
  - Chargeability of Judy McNamara (p290, see also p330).
  - Application for assistance 'to enable John and Judith Dooley, pauper inmates of the Workhouse, charged to the ED of Tuam to emigrate to America, their Uncle Thomas Dowling having sent for them' (p290, see also p349).
  - Teresa Murray admitted to the workhouse (p370).
  - Maintenance of Michael Nally a deaf mute (p414).
  - 'Mary Coleman, aged 76, who was in receipt of out-door relief chargeable to the Headford ED died on the 30th instant' (p453).
  - '...warrants of removal of Margaret Quinn and her child and of Catherine McGiff from the Warrington Union...' (p454, see also GPL5/24, p87).
  - Chargeability of Margaret Parker (p404).
  - Letter from James McGee, Presbytery, Tuam, regarding PL authorisation to pay for coffins for 'the interment of the multitude of persons who prefer suffering hunger, sickness and death outside rather than prolong a miserable existence within the workhouse' (p514).
  - Chargeability of Bridget Kelehan (p515).



24. 29 January 1862 - 23 July 1862 Includes:-
- Violent and disorderly conduct of inmate 'Bridget Barrett in striking Mary Griffin and Annie Kenny' (p7).
  - 'That the PLC be requested to sanction the expenditure of the sum of £11, one year's maintenance and outfit at St Mary's Asylum for Industrious Blind for Winny Murray, a pauper inmate of the workhouse, who has lost her sight, and is charged on the Union at large' (p149, see also p168, p229 & p247, see also GPL5/25, p206).
  - Margaret Conlon and her three children to be sent from the Warrington Union to Tuam workhouse (p169, see also p188, p249, & p287).
  - Election of Chairman (p182).
  - 'The Visiting Committee reported the House in good order, and recommended that the able-bodied paupers - namely 15 men and 16 women - be brought before the Board, and their discharge from the Workhouse considered, employment for such being easily had outside' (p206).
  - 'A member of the Board having stated that the friends of Maria Connelly and Mary Fahy, two pauper inmates charged on the ED of Tuam, had sent money to assist in conveying them to America...' (p251, see also p268).
  - Ellen Mannion brought to the Workhouse from Warrington (p366, see also p368 & p388).
  - Mary Gunner assaulted Bridget Coghlan (p386).
  - Unknown infant from Dunmore 'deserted by its mother' and admitted to the workhouse (p406, see also p427).
  - '...case of Ellen Fahy who died while being conveyed to the workhouse...' (p468, see also pp488-89).
  - Peter Curran, RO, reported that the 'Headford Relief Committee met on yesterday. There were 102 cases in receipt of outdoor relief to be revised, there are also 11 other applicants' (p470).
  - 'Warrant signed....ordering the removal of Peter Burke from the Parish of Saint Matthew, Bethnal Green, London, to the Union of Tuam' (p490).
25. 30 July 1862 - 21 January 1863 Includes:
- Election of rate collectors (p107).
  - Bridget Ward broke several panes of glass (p144).
  - Details of several properties in Tuam exempt or being struck off the Poor Rate, for being vacant or used for charitable purposes (p146, see also p168 relating to Dunmore).
  - Bridget Toher left at the workhouse by the Removing Officer of the Rochdale Union (p164).



- Honor Deacy, Margaret McGuire, Honor Hunt, Mary Coen, Margaret Roache, Mary Higgins and Bridget Mulkerrins to be brought before the Magistrates at Petty Sessions 'in order to make the necessary information' regarding the fathers of their illegitimate children (pp225-6).
- Chargeability of Julia Connelly (p226).
- Catherine Glynn, 'dumb girl' from Tuam ED be 'forwarded to the Deaf & Dumb Institute at Cabra' (p246, see also p265).
- Two girls in the Separation Ward, Bridget Ward and Honor Flynn 'broke the base of the window, got out and stole a quantity of Union clothing together with cabbage and turnips' (p264, see also GPL5/36, p147)).
- John Hussey, his wife & child removed from Bolton Union to Tuam (p320, see also p365).
- John Shaughnessy removed from Oldham Union (p404).

26. 28 January 1863 - 22 July 1863 Includes:-

- Margaret Clancy died several hours after being admitted to the workhouse (p47).
- 'Mr John Burke, Engineer and draughtsman, having laid before the Board a map of Town and Borough of Tuam and having stated that he intended to publish the same, requested the Board to subscribe for a copy of which would be £1.10.0...' (pp69-70).
- A girl, Bridget Tully, and a woman in the Separation Ward, Mary Beatty, absconded (p107).
- Report on the death of Bridget Ryan of Clooneen, Dunmore (pp108-110, see also p128, p148, pp167-8, pp188-9, & pp250-6).
- Warrant for the removal of James Tearn from Huddersfield (p188).
- Chargeability of John Higgins (p249).
- Application for assistance to enable Mary Grimes of Killeary to emigrate to America (p250, see also p267).
- 'The Clerk to prepare the Estimate for the ensuing year on the same basis of the Estimate of last year as to numbers, and to same costs, and to summon the Board of Guardians to consider same when prepared' (p368).
- Application to have two children, Michael and Thomas Gibbons, charged to ED of Addergoole, 'whose parents are in America, to proceed to them' (p406).



27. 29 July 1863 - 20 January 1864 Includes:-
- Letter from Peter Curran, RO, Headford, regarding various individuals' applications for relief, such as Thomas Tully, who left Tuam voluntarily to seek employment, and Edward Spelman, and James Walsh, 'affected with paralysis' (pp49-52).
  - Warrant for removal of Honor Higgins and her five children from the Union of Leigh in Lancaster (p108, see also p128).
  - Application to assist Patrick Tully, Headford, and Mary Mullins, Hillsbrook, to emigrate (p149).
  - Chargeability of Mary Griffin (p149).
  - Case of Patrick Ronan and Mary Ronan, Cathill (Dunmore), and Thomas Kelly (Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> husband) (pp189-90, see also p208-9).
  - Mary Murphy absconded (p207).
  - Dr Brodie, PL Inspector, reported to the PLC and 'does not represent the financial condition of the Union to be in a satisfactory state. That the consideration of the Workhouse does not enable him to report favourably of its internal management by the Master and Matron, and having regard to the facts reported it appears to the Commissioners that the Master is unworthy of further confidence, and they recommend that he be called on to resign' (p349, see also pp373-5).
  - Case of destitute woman, Margaret Hunt (p350).
  - Transcript of a letter from Peter Curran, RO, Headford, refuting claims made against him by Rev Thomas Ronayne regarding various persons in receipt of outdoor relief, such as Mary Hynes, 'I offered a ticket and conveyance (to the workhouse) and her mother said on the occasion that she never would allow her into a Workhouse where she would remain nights and days locked up in a room without as much as a drink and one to attend her' (p409); and also Mary Casey, and Mary Higgins (pp408-412).
  - The Board expressed full confidence in Curran and also pledged 'to dis-counterence by all means in our power the unsparingly extensive system of outdoor relief, which has unfortunately crept into certain districts in this Union, owing to causes which we need not now more particularly allude, a system which we deplore as being ruinous to the ratepayers and demoralising to the people' (p413).
  - Cecily Loftus 'is a dangerous lunatic' (p447).
  - Transcript of a letter from Peter Curran, RO, Headford, regarding the case of John Glynn who refused to go to the workhouse and subsequently died (p449).
  - Michael Walsh, 2 months, child of Michael Walsh to remain the workhouse (p451).
  - Two women from the Separation Ward, Honor Tierney and Margaret Naughton, absconded (p467). They were subsequently 'sentenced by the Assistant Barrister to nine months imprisonment of hard labour' (p487, see also GPL5/33, p306, see also regarding Tierney GPL5/34, p253).



- Tender of Martin Cleran accepted for supplying yellow Indian meal at £7.9.0 per tonne (p469).
- Margaret Hession, 2 years old (father and mother in America) to be changed from the ED Claretuam to the Union at large. Ellen Berrire, infant, deserted, to be changed from the ED of Moyne to the Union at large. Margaret Hanley aged 52, to be changed from the Union at large to the ED of Tuam' (p508).

28. 27 January 1864 - 27 July 1864 Includes:-

- Resolved 'That this Board is prepared to afford every encouragement and support, both collectively and individually, to the important movement now proceeding for the promotion of the growth of flax, in this locality, as we consider that its extension, will prove of infinite advantage to the country at large, especially to the labouring population' (p9, see also p389 & p448).
- Chargeability of Mary Jackson, Mary Nolan, Mary Corcoran and Peter Maher be changed from Tuam ED to Union at large (p9).
- Registered religion of Michael Wynne to be changed from RC to Protestant (p9, see also p51).
- Anne Carter, in Separation Ward, 'cut in pieces her blanket & sheet' (p27).
- Margaret Burke 'with her illegitimate child applied for admission to the workhouse (she having taken her discharge there from on the day previous). Her admission was refused on the ground of misconduct, she having stated that she was then with child from a pauper inmate of the House, named Thomas Noone. Noone having been called before the Board admitted the improper connection but that such had not taken place in the Workhouse. The Board ordered the immediate discharge of Thomas Noone...' (p29, see also pp148-9 & p168, p471).
- Chargeability of Margaret Hession, Ellen Byrne and Margaret Hanley (p29).
- Master reported several inmates, namely Denis Mohan, Pat Hughes, Edmond Hopkins and Michael Wynne, had been gambling. 'The Master was directed to stop the breakfast milk from the parties each day for one week' (p51, see also p68 & p89).
- Warrington Removal Officer left Stephen Collins, his wife and four children, and a woman named Ellen Healy and one child in Tuam workhouse (p87).
- Chargeability of Honor Rush, John, Pat, Honoria, Sally, Catherine and Margaret Rush (p169, see also p229, p369).
- Peter Curran, RO, Headford 'laid before the Board Notice which had been served on him in the eviction of Robert Botteral and William Boyle of the house and premises in the town of Headford. Richard J. M. St. George Plaintiff' (p209).
- Chargeability of Winifred Walsh (p229).
- Death of Martin Walsh, a lunatic (p288).



- 'A Committee from the Town Commissioners Board having visited upon the Guardians, and having explained the necessity that existed for having a Fire Engine in the Town, as shown by the late calamitous fire that occurred, it was resolved that, the PLC be requested to sanction a grant of Ten pounds out of the Union funds, towards procuring a Fire Engine for the Town of Tuam in co-operation with the other public bodies and owners of house property connected with it, so as to have arrangements made for all proper precaution against damages in future to life or goods' (p389, see also p408).
- Edmund Acton applied to be admitted to the Workhouse (p409).
- Andrew Hession and Thomas Noone applied to be admitted to the workhouse (p471, see also p507).
- Anne Carty, pauper in the Separation Ward, requested her discharge, and 'on being searched before leaving the Workhouse, there was found on her person a flannel petticoat, the property of the Union...' (p507).

(29.)

30. 25 January 1865 – 19 July 1865 Includes:-

- Hasty interment of Mary Walsh, from Headford (p9, see also p28).
- Peter Curran, RO., reports on the case of Ellen Walsh (pp68-70, see also p88-9, p108)
- Chargeability of Bridget McDonogh (p108).
- Inmate Mary Maley and her two children were admitted to the workhouse, on the 'following date she became insane and commenced throwing her clothes into the fire, when the Porter attempted to prevent her, she struck him with a pint of warm soup in the face, she then attempted to burn her infant, when the Police were sent for and a Magistrate's order was had for her removal to Bridewell as a Dangerous Lunatic; that the two children have been kept in the House since... (p307).
- 'The Master reported that....Mary Creaven (who seems not sound in mind) in the Upper Infirm Ward was going down the stairs when the Wardswoman got hold of her. He suggested that doors be put to each of those wards to the male and female department' (p327).
- Mary Boyle absconded (p364).
- 'Communication signed by certain ratepayers in the ED of Headford, having reference to a blind boy named Michael Kyne, who they desire to have educated at St. Joseph's Asylum, Glasnevin (Dublin)...'(p365, see also p386).
- Removal of Bridget Morgan and her two children from Birmingham to Tuam (p365).
- John Nalty removed to the workhouse in a dying state (p384, see also p387 & pp426-9), p446-8)



- Mary Hickey, Headford, in receipt of outdoor relief was certified for removal to the workhouse but she 'said that she never would go to the workhouse (p407, see also p426, p446).

(31.)

32. 27 July 1866 - 16 January 1867 Includes:-

- 'Having taken into consideration the Commissioners' letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, the opinion of this Board is that the proper management of this Workhouse is quite impossible while the present Master and Matron retain their situations, and request the Commissioners to exercise their discretion in the matter' (p9, see also p27 & p28).
- Eliza Murphy 'her life was endangered by the violence threatened by the woman of the house, a girl named Mary Madden being especially outrageous...' (p47, see also p67 referring to threats from Catherina Mullen).
- Appointment of Rate Collectors (p49, p88 & p117).
- Patrick Hosty admitted in a dying state, a sum of £109.10.0 was found on him (p67).
- Pauper Catherine Joyce came from England (p67).
- 'Catherine Joyce complained that Ellen Waldron used abusive language towards her when cleaning the Infirm Ward and also used abusive language towards the Master' (p140, See also GPL5/34, p457).
- Pauper inmates Patrick Burke and Charles Gibbons went over the boundary wall (p215).
- Two inmates, Charles Gibbons and Patrick Hanley threw stones at the school master (p235, see also p256).
- RO, Thomas Healy reported, 'There was an illegitimate child left at Knockroe with John Burke, who is charged with being the father of the child, he came to me on Sunday morning and asked to have the child removed to the Workhouse, and have the mother, Mary Byrne, arrested. I considered it was not my duty to do so, as the child was not exposed, but left safely in his house. I now beg leave to put the case before the Board for any directions' (p237).
- Inmates William Kelly, Patrick Hare and Patrick Burke entered into punishment book (p256).
- 'The Master reported that on Tuesday last the School Master complained that Sally Hare, an Assistant Nurse in the Infirmary, shouted after him and said she would report him for offering some time ago a part of his rations for the purpose of seducing her. That the School Master totally denied the charge and that the above named Sally Hare according to the entries in the Books of the House had several bastard children...' (p272).
- Details of outstanding rates struck off (p274).
- Patrick Burke, Patrick Lynott, Charles Gibbons and Patrick Hare entered into punishment book (p293, see also p314).





- Details of a letter from the PLC 'enclosing a letter received from William Kelly, Michael Kelly and Peter Brennan, referring to alleged irregularities in the workhouse, and complaining of the conduct of the Master and the Schoolmaster' (p313).
  - Delia Murphy, Sally Hare, Eliza Murphy (see also GPL5/33, p366) entries in the punishment book (p315, see also p354), and Mary Ward (p354).
  - Admission of Martin Lynott, an illegitimate child, 16 days old from Carrarevagh ED...(p412, see also p432).
  - Edmond Thomas, C.C., advised, 'When assisting the Rev McGee in the administration of the Sacraments to the inmates of the workhouse, my attention was directed to the fact of the Rev Mr Treanor, Protestant Chaplain having visited the Workhouse School, where the scholars are exclusively Catholic, and examined them not alone in secular education, but also questioned them on matters of religion, as the scholars can testify to the satisfaction of the Board. This conduct I think deserving of very high censure, and at utter variance with every feeling of decent propriety, especially where there is question of a paid official' (p432, see also pp458-9, p497, see also GPL5/33, pp70-1 & p207, p248, see also GPL5/34, p456).
  - Inmate Sally Kearney received 'a sum of 10/- from her husband who is at present in England' (p476).
33. 23 January 1867 – 24 July 1867 Includes:-
- Inmate Patrick Shaughnessy (a pensioner) 'paid for his relief since his admission' (p47).
  - Chargeability of Patrick Tracy (p71).
  - Inmates, Ellen Waldon, Catherine Kelly and Bridget Gannon (p86, and see also p88, p109, p168, p225, p229, p366 and GPL5/34, p457 regarding Waldron's conduct).
  - 'That we are of opinion that order and discipline cannot be maintained in this House if any individual Guardian be allowed to visit or otherwise interfere with the affairs of the House, unless he be a member of the Visiting Committee or otherwise authorised by the Board to do so...(p110-111, p148).
  - Winny Concannon (pp127-8, see also p225).
  - Entry in the punishment book recorded that the 'School Master beat Arthur Kelly, and then the School Master called in the Master, the Schoolmaster beat this boy severely with a short rule. The Master requested the Schoolmaster not to beat the boy, as he gave him rather too much punishment, but he still continued beating him, and the boy lying on the ground under him, until the boy took the pointer from the Schoolmaster' (p170, see also pp188-9).
  - Protestant school child Mary Riley (p206).
  - 'The Master and Matron were then called before the Board, and cautioned as to the disagreement which appeared to exist between them, and to the insubordinate state of the inmates of the House, and informed that if there be not a marked improvement in the





- general management and order of the House within one month both should resign their respective offices' (p228, see also GPL5/34, p457).
- Peggy Martin 'removed from charge of the infirm ward' (p245).
  - Mary Rowland had 'in her possession when admitted a sum of 4/6' (p466).
  - Peter Monahan, inmate, received 'a letter containing 2/6 in stamps' (p366).
  - Inmate Margaret Regan received stamps from her husband (p286).
  - 'Two women Mary Jane Beatty and Honor Flynn who threatened the Matron' (p326, see also GPL5/36, p147 regarding Flynn).
  - 'The Master informed the Board that he received a Post Office order from Ellen Dolan an inmate of the House charged to Tuam ED for the sum of one pound sent to her by her husband who is in England' (p346).
  - Rev Conway advised the PLC of '...four persons, viz Walsh, Molloy, Laffy and Spelliman, whom he represented to be in way of relief' (p347).
  - Rev Conway advised the PLC 'respecting the case of a woman named Kelly residing at Inchiquin, whom he represented to be dying of want' (p347, see also p368, see also p408, p42, p4487, p467).
  - 'Lunatic pauper named Ellen Ward should be removed to a lunatic asylum' (p406).
  - Mary Cullinane from Tuam ED admitted... in a state of unsound mind, had become violent and dangerous...' (p426).
  - John [Banner] with a family of eight who holds 8 acres of land in this Union having no means whatever he having sold 2 acres of soil to pay his rent which left him completely penniless, applied for outdoor relief. The Workhouse would deprive him of being able to return to his land at a future time'  
Referring to the 10 Vic C31 the Guardians are powerless to act in this case of extreme difficulty notwithstanding the statement of Lord Naas that the Guardians have the power to extend relief. Alto in this case they are inclined to extend relief, they regret finding themselves powerless to act and request the Commissioners observations' (p428).
  - The PLC advised '...that the prohibition of outdoor relief in cases of persons occupying more than a quarter acre of land applies only to the occupier himself, and that his wife or any number of his family fall within any of the classes enumerated in Section 1 & 10 Vic Cap 31 as capable of receiving outdoor relief. The words 'sudden and urgent necessity' apply to every description of cases in which there is a necessity for affording relief provisionally and that it is the duty of the RO to exercise his power in such cases' (p447).
  - Chargeability of 'Mary Downey and child to be changed from the ED of Killursa to such other Division as they may appear to belong to' (p448).



34. 7 August 1867 - 5 February 1868 Includes:-
- The PLC advised 'that in consequence of the pressure upon their finances through the unusual distress the Lords of the Treasury have assented to an advance from the Parliamentary grant to Unions in Ireland for Medical and Educational purposes' (p10).
  - Bridget Clarke received Last Rights (p13, see also p31).
  - 'A pauper named Peter Brennan had been caught committing an indecent act...' (p89).
  - Details of proposed new rate (pp91-93, and pp171-2).
  - 'Copies of Warrants issued for the removal of a man named Peter Dickson and a boy named Peter Scott from the Parish of St. Mary's Rotherhithe, London (the former alleged to be from the Parish of Killereerin the latter from the Parish of Tuam) to the Tuam Union' (p231).
  - Paupers entered into the punishment book include James Madden, Michael Corless, James Gibbons and Bernard Kelly (see also p275, see also pp316-7), Margaret Kenny, Jane Joyce, Ellen Cunningham (see also GPL5/90, p838) and Honor Tierney (p231).
  - Honor Tierney was sent to the Bridewell for striking the Matron, and was 'sent to Galway Gaol for three months for the offence' (p253).
  - Michael Gannon, Bridget Coghlan, and Mary Roland entered into the punishment book (p275).
  - Honor Flynn wishes to change her register religion from Protestant to Catholic (p315 see also GPL5/36, p147).
  - 'Warrant issued for the removal of a man named Bartholomew Collins and Winifred, his wife, from Parish of St. Mary's Rotherhithe to the Tuam Workhouse (p317).
  - Peter Brennan, 'The Guardians ascertained that he was well able to work and employment been proposed to be given him, he was ordered to be discharged from the House' (p339).
  - PLC advised the Board of a communication they received from their Inspector, Dr Brodie, regarding the 'exceptional manner in which two female inmates of the Workhouse named Murphy (Eliza and her mother) are treated. That the privileges accorded to these women are calculated to cause jealousy, discontent and disorder in the Workhouse...' (p356, see also p377, p397).
  - Delia Murphy denied admission on the 'ground of her not being destitute' (p359, see also p456).
  - Entries in the punishment book relating to Delia Murphy, Jane Murtagh, Mary Walsh (p359).
  - 'That during 5 days last week inmates of the House broke the following quantities of stones, namely Thomas Noone 155 stones weight, Denis Mehan 155 stones. In 4 days John McGrath broke 60 stones weight, Pat Burke 100 stones & Peter Brennan 110 stones' (p375).
  - 'Case of an old woman named Ellen Burke who was found dead in a field near Fearagha...' (p376).



- Entries in the punishment book relating to Sarah Gray, Jane Murtagh, William Corless ('for crossing the school yard wall', '5 lashes of a rod'), Michael Gannon, Bridget Mealy, Margaret Mahon and Bridget Walsh (p379).
- Master reported that he received from 'a pauper named Michael Ryan, 6 postage stamps, and that the Matron gave him 12/ which she found on a pauper named Bridget Waldron' (p395).
- Entries in the punishment book relating to Martin Kenny ('for striking a woman in the face, and for being in the Fever Hospital ground, contrary to order', 'Whipped by the Schoolmaster in presence of the Master'), and Bridget Murphy (p416).
- Entries in the punishment book relating to Bridget Murphy and Thomas Gibbons (p437).
- 'Communication from a pauper inmate of the Workhouse named Ellen Waldron, requesting the Board to grant herself and her child some clothes and expense to carry them to England, alleging that no person of decency could live in the House, owing to the scandal and fighting that exists in it from morning until night' (p457).
- Entries in the punishment book relating to Bidy Clark, Margaret Kelly, Jane Joyce, Ellen Cunningham, Sarah Grey, Ellen Waldron, Bidy Mullery, Jean Murtagh, and Mary Connelly (p475).

(35.)

36. 19 August 1868 - 17 February 1869 Includes:

- 'Warrant for the removal of a woman named Mary [Grady] and her six children from the Union of Ashton-Under-Lyme to the Tuam Union' (p9).
- Details of rates for each ED (pp30-31).
- The Master reported he 'found Margaret Kelly, Mary Kelly and Sarah Kelly, paupers in the House, preparing tea for themselves in the Dayroom, which he had taken from them' (p67).
- Board consider dietary scale (pp69-70).
- Details of rates to be struck off (pp89-91).
- 'Copy of Warrant issued for the removal of a woman named Bridget Browne or Boyd, together with her four children from Glasgow to the Tuam Union' (p289).
- William Reynolds, a Protestant inmate in the Infirmary advised the Master that 'Rev Dean Seymour, Protestant Chaplain, gave him 12 tracts of scripture lesson, nicely framed, on Sunday evening the 6<sup>th</sup> inst and told him to hang them on a nail at the fireplace in the room he slept in with other inmates...the frame and tracks were taken by some person unknown to him...' (p327, see also p349 & p368 & p389).
- 'The Master reported that the Lavatories were finished and that there were not any men employed at the cesspool since last report' (p367).



- Board ordered that 'in future when Protestant paupers are admitted to the Workhouse Hospitals, they shall be located in separate wards, from the Roman Catholic inmates' (p368).
- Copy of a Warrant issued for the removal of a woman named Catherine O'Connor and her child from Liverpool to the Tuam Union...' (p370).
- 'The Master was directed to place Bridget Keaveney, an inmate of the Workhouse, who is the mother of three illegitimate children, in the Separation Ward' (p389).
- Chargeability 'of Mary Kelly & Mary Connelly and their illegitimate children, be changed from the ED of Moyne, to any other Division or Union they may appear chargeable to' (p429).
- July Fox, with her infant, requested admission to the Workhouse (p429).
- Michael Ryan, inmate, 'was going through the Workhouse in an almost naked manner...The Master explained, that Ryan, became at times quite insane, and was in the habit of tearing and throwing off his clothes, and that he found it almost impossible to keep him in an orderly condition...' (p457).
- 'The Master reported that on Monday last a woman named Bidy Brien came to see an old woman in the Workhouse named Bidy Silk, that when Bidy Brien was leaving the Workhouse, he suspected she was not going empty and requested the Matron to have her searched, where there were found on her person 5 loaves of bread and ¾ lbs of soap' (p487, see also p 508).

(36b.)

37. 9 March 1870 - 7 September 1870 Includes:-

- 'Copy of Warrant issued for the removal of a man named John Lally from the parish of Liverpool to the Tuam Union' (p8, see also p28).
- 'From the PLC conveying the Lord Lieutenant's request that communication be made to the Guardians with a view to the necessary accommodation being provided in the workhouse for troops now in billet in Tuam, and requesting the Guardians will take the subject into their immediate consideration, and in the event of their complying with the request, that they will be good enough to consider the arrangements to be made for the purpose in the Establishment' (pp28-9).  
The MO, Dr Thomas [Turner] advised several areas on the male side of the workhouse could be used for this purpose, '... provided there was no great increase in the number of male paupers. Formerly these rooms were occupied by 216 paupers in 108 beds as dormitories. This was in the famine time when the house was crowded, and each bed had two to occupy it...' (p29).
- The Master reported that 'Colonel Harding 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment inspected the dormitories of the workhouse relative to the accommodation of the troops now in Tuam...' (p47, see also p49, p60, p68, p88, p107, pp128-9, p148, p167, pp288-9).



- Presence of second doctor required to save the life of Margaret Monahan, Caherlistrane and Margaret Dermody of Clarcan (p58).
  - 'Mr Healy, RO, laid before the Board a Notice which had been served on him of the eviction of John Flaherty from a dwelling and part of the lands of Belmont in the ED of Foxhall' (p169).
  - 'The Master reported that Mary Daly & Bridget [Crenan] who left the workhouse a few days ago, and who got clothes for their infants, (born in the House), returned again, but that they had not the clothes they received for their infants, when they were readmitted' (p187).
  - 'The Master reported that in accordance with the Order of the Board, he had Honor Flynn, an inmate of the House, summoned before the Petty Sessions Court on Monday last, when she was sent to Galway Jail for one month for tearing a sheet, part of her bed clothing' (p247, see also p347, p387, and GPL5/38, p27, see also GPL5/36, p147).
  - Report on Bridget [Neuille], Sarah Costello, and Bridget Geraghty ('not sound in mind') (p267).
  - 'That an inmate of the workhouse, named Sarah Costello, received a sum of 10/ to enable her to leave the House' (3247).
  - Copy of a Warrant issued for the removal of a man named James Waters from the parish of Liverpool to the Tuam Union' (p369).
  - 'A woman, named Mary Sullivan, appeared before the Board and applied for admission to the workhouse...' (p369).
  - Regarding eviction of Michael Higgins from a house in the town of Headford (p469).
  - Pauper inmate, named Mary Shaughnessy, aged 23 years, 'stated to him (the Master) in the presence of the Matron that she (Shaughnessy) was pregnant by a man named Michael Ward aged 67 years, also a pauper inmate. That both persons have been in the workhouse for the last three years, and that the woman Shaughnessy is pretty idiotic at intervals from epileptic fits' (p487, see also p527, GPL5/38, p8).
  - Regarding eviction of Martin Fahy from Beagh (p488).
  - Assistance for pauper inmate Anthony Gibbons '...to emigrate to America' (p509).
38. 14 September 1870 - 15 March 1871 Includes:-
- Michael Ward applied for relief in the workhouse (p29).
  - 'That the tender of Mr Richard Kelly, Tuam Herald office, for advertising & printing, and furnishing all forms, handbills, and printed matter that may be required for the Union...be accepted' (p49).
  - 'Read: Communication from Captain Simpson, commanding detachment 98<sup>th</sup> Regiment now stationed in the workhouse, requesting to be informed if the BG would have any objection to his establishing a canteen in that portion of the Workhouse in which his men are quartered' (p110, see also p129, p230, p249).



- Eviction of James Ryan from land of Ballykeeragh, Ballinderry (p129).
- Eviction of Thomas Hanley from land of Caherpucka, Patrick Hanley and Patrick Fahy from part of the lands of Ballybane, of Abbey West, and Patrick Walsh from the land of Gortbeg in Ballinapark (p250).
- Includes printed statement from Peter Curran, R.O., relating to 'the destitute state of some of the parishioners in the village of Kilkiel (Kilkyle) of Revd P Conway, PP., Headford' (p330, see also pp349-50, p369, p370, pp389-90, pp429-30).
- 'Inquest report on the death of Pat Burke, aged 72 years, 'We find that Pat Burke died of natural causes on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1871, and death had not been accelerated by any unlawful means, and that all due attention was paid to him by the officers of the workhouse' (p348, see also p409).
- 'Report from Mr Fox, R.O., stating that three fresh cases of smallpox have occurred in Tuam...' (p380).
- Inmate John Lawless was 'sent to the Bridewell for knocking down at the dining hall door another inmate named John Nolan' (p431).
- 'Take Notice that on this day fortnight I will move that the chargeability of Martin Carty be changed from Kilshanvey to Foxhall or to whatever other Division he may appear to belong' (p450, see also p491).
- '... I will move that the chargeability of William Reynolds be changed from Levally to whatever other Division he may appear to belong' (p450, see also p491).
- Van (mule driven) sent to Dunmore for a sick woman, Catherine Cannon (p468, see also p488, p509).
- R.O. reports '...there are two fresh cases of smallpox in the Tuam ED., and in the same street and near the same house where it broke out first. Their names and ages are as follows: Carroll aged 22, and Diskin aged 20, both cases have refused hospital relief' (p479).
- Inmate, Thomas Diskin, ill during the week, and 'on yesterday he become so violent that a strait waistcoat was put on him...' (p508).
- Application to assist inmate, '...Mary Gibbons and her four children to emigrate to America' (p510, see also p529).
- Report from Medical Attendant, Dunmore, Joseph McDonnell fearing that scarlatina is 'likely to become epidemic in this District' (p519).



39. 22 March 1871 - 20 September 1871 Includes:-
- Bridget Keville and Bridget Clarke, inmates, to be summoned for throwing a loaf of bread over the boundary wall' (p27).
  - Application from Mary Hession '(whose husband is at present an inmate of the Fever Hospital, on relief by way of land, he being a pensioner at /9d per day) (p50).
  - Letter from the PLC 'relating to the children Eliza, Sara and Mary Kelly who the Guardians propose to assist to emigrate to New York, and requesting to be informed whether the Guardians have satisfied themselves that proper arrangements have been made for the care of the children during the voyage.'  
'The Guardians beg to inform the Commissioners that the Uncle of the children has consented to go with them to Queenstown, and to give them in charge to a neighbour who will care for them during the voyage' (p128, see also p148).
  - Application by Mary Kelly for the 'admission of three children named Michael, Mary and Andrew Costello, who were left in her charge, their mother having recently gone to England, and stating that Mr Kelly is not legally bound to keep and maintain the children, and that if they be destitute the Guardians should afford them relief' (p129).
  - Eviction of James Kearns from part of the lands of Joyce's Park in Donaghpatrick (p168).
  - Van sent for fever patient Pat Martin, Dunmore (p187).
  - Two cases of smallpox in Tuam Dispensary district, 'one, a girl aged 12 in the village of Clonfush, the other a girl aged 16 at the Mills of John....the first is daughter of Michael Roche of Clonfush, the second, daughter of Farwell of John Mills' (p198).
  - Mary Glynn admitted to fever hospital 'had on her person a sum of £7.2.6. That she hopes (being a servant who intends, should she recover, to emigrate to America) the Board will not charge for her maintenance' (p227).
  - 'Resolved, that this Board do not consider it necessary to appoint a Protestant Chaplain, as there are only two Protestant paupers in the house, one of whom regularly attends at Church, the third person, mentioned by Dean Seymour (Dean of Tuam), is not a pauper, but a Policeman in hospital suffering from fever' (p248, see also p331).
  - Chargeability of Bridget Geraghty to be changed from Addergoole to the Union at large (p250).
  - Details regarding milk contract, and contractors bonds (pp266-269).
  - '....on Saturday morning last, 24<sup>th</sup> instant, between 5 and 6 o'clock, he (the Medical Officer) saw the large gate at the entrance of the workhouse partly open, and two of the soldiers at the gate and a woman from Tuam, a prostitute with them, and she having a bunch of flowers, same as the flowers grown at the entrance to the workhouse'  
'The Master reported the case to the Sergeant Major and to the Commanding Officer' (p287).
  - Patrick Mack, a policeman died in the fever hospital (p307).





- 'The Master reported that a woman, named Honor Flynn, who with her two children, were admitted to the workhouse on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., and then registered as a Protestant, that she now requested to be registered as a Roman Catholic' (p367, see previous entries relating to Flynn, such as GPL5/36, p 147).
- Sewer in Headford is in 'a very filthy bad state' (p378).

(40-41.)

42. 15 October 1872 0 12 March 1873 First few pages missing, volume begins at page 21. Torn pages throughout. Includes

- LGB reference to the 'well in course of being sunk at Kilconly, and to the direction of the BG that a quantity of the water be sent to Dr Cameron for analysis, and pointing out that if the water be now submitted to Dr Cameron the result of his examination will not determine the question, sufficient time not having been allowed for impure matter to find its way into the well' (p28, see p68, p218).
- Inmate James Burke 'got over the boundary wall' (p47, see also p129).
- 'Communication from the Manager of St. Joseph's Blind Asylum requesting attention to the half year's maintenance of Timothy Monaghan due 23<sup>rd</sup> March last' (p49, see also p69, p249).
- John Tierney, Keeper of Tuam Bridewell 'requesting the Board to send one of his sons (a deaf and dumb boy) to the Asylum...' (p68, see also p88, p108, p148, p209, p248).
- 'The carpenter of the workhouse (Patrick Egan) having applied for an increase of wages, his present pay being 2/- per day when employed, it was agreed that his wages be increased to 2/6 per day' (p189).
- Report from Peter Curran, Sanitary Officer, Headford, advised regarding the 'premises of Pat Molloy, Hubert Moran and James Canavan residing in the town of Headford. From the very wet season the rere (sic) to their houses was flooded and their dwellings in a very damp state...' (p258).
- RO Kelly 'laid before the Board a notice which had been served on him of the eviction of Mr Nelly Donelon, Charles Donelan, Anthony Donelan and Thomas Feeney, from part of the lands of [Coolfower] and from the House and offices of Mount Tully in the ED of Ballinapark. Plaintiff Robert Blake, Esq.' (p308).
- Eviction of Laurence Mullins from lands of [Tobercarty] in ED of Tuam. Plaintiffs Charles Kilkelly and Christopher Charles Blake (p348).
- Eviction of James Kealy from house and premises in town of Tuam. Plaintiff Charles Kilkelly (p348).
- Proposal to increase Relieving Officers' salary from £25 to £30 p.a. (p409).





- Eviction of Patrick Shaughnessy from house and premises of Ballygaddy Road, Tuam. Plaintiff William Gannon. Also Peter Flanagan, also of Ballygaddy Road. Plaintiff Michael Cloran. (p449).

(43.-66.)

67. 7 November 1888 – 8 May 1889

Rough minute book. Includes:-

- Minutes of proceedings of BG as the Rural Sanitary Authority, 'Dr O'Reilly reported that the house of Michael Burke of [Clooneen] is in a filthy state, his daughter in typhus fever and 3 pigs kept in the corner of the only other available room in the house....(26 Dec 1888, p6).
- 'The Master reported that an inmate of the workhouse named Bridget Fahy aged 24 years was found dead in her bed about 8 o'clock yesterday morning. She went to bed [ ] in good health' (16 Jan 1889, p7).
- The BG 'congratulate Mr Parnell and the other members of his Party on the result of the Judicial Enquiry into the vile charges and allegations made by The Times Newspaper on the authority of forged letters, which were published without any adequate investigation as to their trust' (6 Mar 1889, p8).
- 'The subject of the Loan for carrying out the Tuam Water Works having been under consideration of the Sanitary Authority:-  
The Guardians request the LG Board will be so good as to again address the Commissioners of the Public Works in the subject with the view of granting the loan of £4,500, as to provide employment in the locality as early as possible (20 Mar 1889, p5, see also 10 Apr 1889, p5, see also 17<sup>th</sup> Apr).

(68-71.)

72. 20 January 1892 – 27 July 1892

Includes:

- 'The Master reported that a woman named Mary Burke was admitted to the Workhouse on 14<sup>th</sup> instant, she being in an advanced state of pregnancy and was removed to Infirmary where on Tuesday she gave birth to a female child. Her maintenance is chargeable to the Union at large (p7).
- 'Mr Curran, Relieving Officer reported that the four children (Comers) out at Nurse in his district were fairly cared. The eldest Mary was not going to school. The three others attend school. Their Uncle, Michael Glynn, with whom these children reside complains that the weekly allowance 3/- granted for their support was quite insufficient and that he (Mr Curran) believed it was' (p8, see also p28).
- 'The Master reported that an Inquest was held today (in the Girls' Schoolroom) on the body of an inmate named Walter Long, who died suddenly on Monday morning lat. An Inquest



- was also held in the case of Bridget O'Brien who died on the same morning after about 15 minutes illness' (p47, see also p87).
- An application having been made on behalf of a Deaf Mute named Michael Murphy for admission into the Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dumb...'(p48).
  - 'Dr Costello Tuam No.2 District reported that the yards of the houses occupied by Bridget Higgins, John Burke, Michael Lardner, Michael Walsh, Honor Byrne, Barely Burke and John Diskin all of Bishop St, were in a filthy condition, caused by heaps of manure and rubbish,' (p95).
  - 'The Master reported that he lodged to the Credit of the Union the sum of £9.5.0 price of pigs sold last far day and that he brought two more for £4.0.0' (p147).
  - Minutes of 6 Apr 1892 includes name of ratepayers and Wardens in each of the districts (p233).
  - Master advised, 'That the Children were taken out for recreation and exercise on one occasion during the week' (p247).
  - 'Proposed, seconded and adopted 'That the Christian Brothers get in the new cemetery three grave spaces without any charge and also that the money that they have already paid be refunded to them' (p315).
  - 'Letter from Mr John Harris C.E., Architect for Nuns building stating that the contractor had applied to him for a Certificate on account of the work done at the Nuns building but as the Contractor had only done about £120 worth of work he could not according to the contract give him a Certificate...' (p328-29).
  - 'Application having been made by an inmate named Bridget Moran for an outfit for herself and her child to enable her to go to service. It was agreed that the sum of 30/s be allowed to provide clothing' (p390).
  - 'From the LGB having reference to the Master's report respecting the materials used for the erection of the building for the Nuns to be employed as Nurses in the Workhouse and stating that it would be well if the Guardians would obtain a report from their Architect as to the manner in which the works in question are being carried out' (p428).
  - 'Communication from Mr John Harris C. E. dated the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1892 certifying that Mr Patrick McNally, Contractor has executed work including materials on the ground at the Nuns' wing of the Tuam workhouse to the total amount £200 and in accordance with the contract one hundred pounds being now due to him (less 10pr centre) viz £90.0.0' (p508).
  - 'The Board of Guardians of Tuam Union will, on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> July instant, receive and consider proposal from persons willing to construct a pipe sewer on Dublin Road, from a font commencing at gate of the Sisters' of Mercy's orphanage to and ending at the entrance to the Schools of the Christian Brothers, in all about 115 yards. Plans and specification and full particulars may be lad on application at my office' (p516).
  - Work on the Nuns' wing suspended as the 'contractor failed to bring men to work for some days. The Contractor has resumed work this day with three masons' (p529).
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(73-75.)

76. 10 March 1894 - 12 September 1894 Includes
- Andrew Fitzpatrick, an inmate, applied '*for a suit of clothes to enable [him] to earn his livelihood outside*' (p9).
  - Child, Patrick Forde, who the 'Guardians wish to have sent to that institution [Children's Hospital, Dublin] for treatment of the spine' (p9, see also p31).
  - 'That we request the Board of Works to lodge to the credit of the Guardians in the National Bank Limited, Tuam, the first instalment of the Loan for the Milltown pump, namely fifty pounds' (p17, see also p39 & p193, p237).
  - Ticket of admission granted to Mary Melia for Galway Hospital, the cost to be charged to the ED of Kilmoylan (p32).
  - 'That in appointing Officers to this Board a preference is to be given to the candidate who speaks the Irish Language' (p75).
  - Dr Blake, MO for Headford, advised he had inspected a yard belonging to Stephen Forde of Bridge Street, Headford, and 'found it torn up with pigs, an overflow of stagnant liquid manure which runs into the street causing a nuisance injurious to health and recommended that the said yard be repaired...' (p81).
  - Names of ratepayers and wardens elected Members of the Committees of Management of the Dispensary Districts (p101).
  - The Matron found 30 shillings on Mary McWalter when admitted to the workhouse (p117).
  - Bridget McHugh, inmate 'was confined of a female child on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Her mother was chargeable to Dunmore ED' (p139).
  - 'Application was made on behalf of a woman named Celia Donelan, for outdoor relief, with 4 children whose husband is in America' (p163, see also p207 & p250).
  - '...the child Michael McDonagh out at nurse...was in good health, fairly cared, had good clothing and attended school regularly' (p164).
  - Comer children 'out at nurse' in good health (p164, see also p206).
  - 'That this Board request the Board of Works for a loan of £100 for the purpose of sinking a well and erecting a pump for the use of the inhabitants of Monivea and its neighbourhood' (p171, see also p215 & p237, p303, p369).
  - Margaret Kelly confined with a female child (stillborn) (p183).
  - Letter 'From the LGB respecting the proposal to dissolve the Glenamaddy Union informing the Guardians that they have instructed their Inspector Major Ruttledge Fair to hold an Inquiry at Glenamaddy on the subject...' (p184, see also p230 & p251).
  - Names of individuals who have 'no sanitary convenience attached to their dwellings' in Headford, and that 'All New Street devoid of sanitary conveniences, 27 in number' (p191).



- Dr Lambert. MO of Abbey Dispensary District, reported on the sanitary condition of Monivea (p235).
- Dr O'Reilly, MO provided the names of individuals in the town of Dunmore who were 'without privies and ashpits...' (p237).
- 'Application having been made on behalf of a woman named May Moylan for assistance to enable her to emigrate to America, it was agreed that a sum of £2 be allowed her...' (p251).
- 'The Sisters of Mercy, Tuam, having applied to the Board for their permission to receive into their convent orphan school two orphan girl inmates named Delia Moloney and Kate Kenny, it was agreed that the two girls be allowed out to the Nuns and that a sum of £1 be allowed for an outfit for each child' (p251).
- 'An inmate named Delia Clarke had been placed in a straight waistcoat..., the woman Clarke was subject to epileptic fits...The woman was afterwards committed to Ballinasloe Asylum' (p272).
- Application for outfit for the daughter of the inmate, Bridget Flanagan, 'to enable them to leave the workhouse' (p316).
- Auditor's report, 'In the case of Kate Glynn of Ballinapark ED to which I drew attention at my late audit. She having 5 acres of lands, the relief appears to have been continued on a Medical Certificate ...the mother as a landholder is not entitled to Relief and is bound to support her children' (p336).
- Bridget Moran, an inmate, complained about another inmate, Julia Connolly, 'for using indecent language towards her and others' (p337, see also p359).
- 'That we affirm the resolution voted on January the 1<sup>st</sup> 1894 and in doing so take the opportunity of strongly protesting against the action of the Government in ignoring the almost unanimous voice of the Irish people supporting the claims of the Christian Brothers to their fair and just share of the monies voted for education purposes in Ireland' (p338).
- 'Warrant for the removal of a pauper lunatic named Daniel McHugh from Scotland to this Union (p338, see also p360, p383).
- 'Mr Shine, Superintendent Tuam Waterworks reported that according to direction he got a fountain erected on Tullinadaly Road, Mr Egan done his part of the work and should be paid. The plumber had thoroughly overhauled the fountain and repaired those which were in want of repairs. He also done some necessary repairs to the wheel at Birmingham...' (p368).
- 'Dr Costello, MO of Tuam No. 2 Dispensary District reported that a few cases of Scarlatina had lately occurred in the Town of Tuam and as the Town has been remarkably free from epidemic disease for some years past and fearing it may become epidemic he recommended that the schools be closed' (p433).
- 'That the LGB be requested to sanction eight pounds in favour of Mr Charles Kelly, now an inmate of this workhouse at 4<sup>s</sup>/0 weekly, his daughter being on out-door relief at 2/6, his wife and more of his family are about to emigrate being supplied with funds from America. The Board are strongly of opinion that he be enabled to accompany his family' (p472, see also p492).



- 'Dangerous lunatic named Bridget Murphy of Cluid' (p514).
- Child, Martin Burke, chargeable to the Tuam ED, was sent to Galway hospital (p581).
- 'That we advertise for a Contractor to sink the well at Ryehill and that the advertisement issued before be the one adopted, and that the LGB be requested to sanction a loan of £150 and that only the sum required will be drawn' (p611).

(77-89.)

90. 22 March 1902 – 4 April 1903 First 16 pages missing. Includes

- 'Letter from Mrs Mary Greely, Tuam, applied to board out a deserted child named Michael O'Donnell. Application refused' (p100).
- 'The Master reported that two lunatics were admitted during the week. There are now 8 female lunatics and idiots, and he requested that a permanent attendant be employed to take charge of them' (p152, see also p190 & p279).
- 'Letter from the Assistant Adjutant General Nesby, notifying that Patrick Lee a discharged soldier will be sent under sufficient care to the Union workhouse at Tuam on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1902' (171).
- 'Resolution passed by the Mount Meelick Board of Guardians - That this Board consider the Land Bill as a step in the right direction, and with some amendments may become a useful measure. We think our Irish MPs should not oppose the Bill, but improve it if possible.  
Order: Adopted, at the same time we leave the Irish Members [of Parliament] a free hand to accept or reject the measure' (p172).
- 'That inmate named Mary Walsh, being a dangerous lunatic was today sent to Ballinasloe asylum' (p188).
- 'Mr Judge, RO, reported that the infant Patrick Lee out at nurse in his district (Headford) is in good health, well cared and has good clothing' (14 Jun 1902, p244)
- 'Mr Murphy, RO, reported that William Ward boarded out in his district (Milltown) is in good health, well cared and has good clothing, and attended school 12 days during the month of May' (p244).
- '...Christopher O'Neill boarded out with Mrs Kennedy refuses to go to school'  
Order: O'Neill to be brought back to the workhouse' (p244, see also p261).
- 'An inmate named Bridget Patterson applied for a suit of clothes for her infant child born in the workhouse' (p244).
- That the Master ordered 'an inmate named Delia Shaughnessy to the infirmary as Pauper Attendant and she returned the same evening.  
That a woman named Anne Caffrey was confined of a male child on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, and he employed the District Nurse to attend her at the usual remuneration via £1 for nine visits' (p260, see also p261).



- 'On Certificate of Dr Lambert a man named Martin Dooley was ordered a ticket of admission to Galway Hospital' (p264)
- 'On the Certificate of Dr Lambert, tickets of admission to the Galway Hospital were granted to Michael Quinn of Ballymona and Mary Conroy of Cloonkeen (281p)
- 'Mr Forde, RO, laid before the Board notices of eviction of Ml. Fleming, John Harlow and Michael Warde from house and premises situate at Tirboy Road, Tuam, at the suit of Mrs Margaret Carroll' (p313).
- 'Mr Forde, RO, reported that the several children boarded out in his district (Tuam) were in good health, well cared, and attached teacher's certificates showing that they attended school regularly. That Mary & Brigit Shaughnessy, Mary Lawless, John Warde and Christy O'Neill require clothes and that Pat Kenny is sick from toothache' (p314).
- 'That we the Members of the Tuam BG and Rural District Council have great pleasure in testifying to the qualifications of Mr William Mangan for the post of Gaelic League organiser, he being a candidate for one of the vacancies lately advertised....' (p352).
- 'Resolution passed by the BG of Ballinasloe Union, relative to the new Landlord League or combination, and calling upon the several Boards throughout the County to redouble their energy in supporting the United Irish League and directing the attention of the English people to the system of government in Ireland and inviting them to come over and see the county for themselves' (pp371-2).
- Mr Hanley, RO, reported that 'Martin Ward boarded out....in good health...' (p387, see also p458, p551, p602).
- '...William Ward boarded out [Milltown area]...in good health, negligently cared, has good clothing and attached teacher's certificate showing that he attended school 7 days during the month of July'.  
Read: Letter from Mr Murphy, Relieving Officer, in reply to the letter of the LGB of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ulto No. 39,048 relative to Wm. Ward boarded out, and stating that the foster parent brought him one day to a fair to assist him with a beast that he had for sale, and had him the other days helping him to get some turf off the bog.  
Order: Ward to be taken back to the workhouse'. (p388, see also 16 Aug 1902, p406, p479).
- '....It was resolved that Bridget Ward, aged 10 years and Mary Lawless aged 14½ years be boarded out of the workhouse with Miss Annie Heneghan of Tuam at £0.2.6 per week each' (p424, see also p477).
- '...Michael Lee, aged 4 yrs boarded out....in good health...' (p458, see also p551, p602, p695, p766, p875, p928).
- 'That a communication be addressed to the Inspector General of the RIC calling attention to the very large increase in the number of tramps and vagrants at present travelling from one Union to another as a means of living....' (p389, see also p531).
- 'On the motion of Mr Martin Hughes, the following resolution adopted: That we the Tuam BG condemn in the most emphatic manner the conduct of the Great Southern Railway Company in not providing sufficient loading accommodation for stock at late Tuam Fair and





- we call on the Tuam Town Commissioners to take action and see it does not occur in future' (p497, see also p532).
- Letter from the LGB, 'relative to the Boarding out of Children from the workhouse in the town of Tuam, and drawing the Guardians' attention to Article 9 of the Boarding Out Regulations which prohibits the Boarding out of a child in a Town or a village without the Board's consent' (p549).
  - Mr Forde, RO, reported that the several children out at nurse in his district were in good health, well cared for, have good clothing except, Bridget Donnellan, and attached teachers certificates showing that, with the exception of John Ward, they attended school regularly'  
Order: Clothes ordered for Bridget Donnellan, and Ward to be taken back to the workhouse' (11 Oct 1902, p551)
  - 'Honor Moloney from Tuam was, on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst admitted to the workhouse, and was shortly afterwards confined of a male illegitimate child. The District Nurse is in attendance.' (p584, see also p602).
  - 'A man named Thomas Kilkelly made application to board out a boy named John Ward. It was resolved that John Ward be boarded out of the Workhouse with Mr Thomas Kilkelly at 2/6 (two shillings, 6 pence) per week' (p586).
  - 'Mr Murphy, RO, reported that Wm Ward boarded out in his district is in good health, well cared, has good clothing, and that the school was closed for vacation' (1 Nov 1902, p602, p767).
  - Honor Byrne an inmate, was in charge of the 'female imbeciles in the workhouse' (p605).
  - Letter from LGB 'stating that they consent to the Boarding out of the boy Christopher O'Neill, with Mrs Ormsby, Dublin Road, Tuam. The Board understand that Bridget Ward and Mary Lawless have returned to the workhouse' (p621, see also p659).
  - 'Ellen Cunningham was admitted to the maternity ward on Monday last, and was shortly afterwards confined of a male illegitimate child' (p638, see also p838).
  - Inmate 'Mary Collins...(has) torn a blanket and a sheet the property of the Guardians...' (p638).
  - 'That a child named Bridget Ward was brought back from nurse by RO Ford on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst' (p638).
  - 'Mr Forde, RO, reported that several children out at nurse in this district were in good health,...except Christy O'Neill and Bernard Flanagan, and attached teachers certificates showing that they attended school regularly except Bernard Flanagan'.  
Foster parents to be asked for an explanation why these children require clothes so soon again, and Mrs Kennedy to be informed that the boy Flanagan will be brought back to the workhouse if he is not sent regularly to school' (8 Nov 1902, p641).
  - 'From the LGC, stating for the information of the Guardians that they have appointed Mrs A F Fitzgerald-Kenny as a Lady Inspector of Boarded out Pauper children in Ireland' (p657).



- Resolved that 'Bridget Warde be boarded out of the Workhouse with Mr Joseph Hughes at 2/6 per week (p658).
- 'Letter from an Inmate named Honor Mallowney, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1902, "As I am told, that Martin Grady denies being father of my child, and also stated he had to turn me away for my bad conduct. I beg to refer you to discharge got by me, as also one got from himself (Martin Grady) when leaving his employment on the 16<sup>th</sup> January last'  
Order: The Guardians do not consider that they have any evidence to proceed against this man' (p659).
- 'Mary Anne Robinson, Pauper Attendant in the Infirmary refused to go to her work there' (p692).
- 'Mr Hanley, RO, reported that John Ward and Martin Ward boarded out in his district were in good health....they attended school fairly well considering that they were laid up with colds for part of the month' (6 Dec 1902, p695, see also p875).
- Mr Forde, RO, reported that the several children out at nurse in his district, were in good health (except Katie Ward, Anne Moran and Bernard Flanagan who were sick)... (pp695-6).
- 'An inmate named Pat Hogan, workhouse messenger, applied for his annual suit of clothes and boots' (p713).
- BG 'have implicit confidence in Mr John Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party, and strongly condemn the action of those who are endeavouring to cause dissension in the ranks of the Party' (p714).
- Dr Dowling, Medical Officer regarding the Visiting Committee's report, 'As to the pauper inmates who receive one bottle of porter daily for doing offensive work I do not think that the present moment I can bring the number lower than 7. I shall try and get the number reduced as occasion offers. The matter has been frequently discussed by previous Boards and invariably decided that the matter could not be mended except by making them paid attendants and this I think the board have no desire to do...(pp729-30).
- 'Mrs H. J. Concanon, The Grove, Tuam, attended at the workhouse on Tuesday evening and treated the inmates to a tea, with rich cakes, fruit, butter, jam, etc....She afterwards distributed the Xmas gifts sent by Miss Goulding. A. Concannon Esq. accompanied Mrs Concanon...' (27 Dec 1902, p746).
- A child, Sarah Roche, of Cloonmoylan 'was ordered a ticket of admission to Galway hospital' (p748).
- 'Mr Hanley, RO, 'reported that the three children boarded out in his district were in good health....and have good clothing, except Martin and John Ward....'  
Order: Clothes ordered' (3 Jan 1903, p766, see also p928).
- Mr Forde, RO, reported that the several children boarded out in his district, were in good health ....and have good clothing, except the children Field and Finnerty  
Ordered: Clothes ordered for Field and Finnerty at a cost of £1 each, and in future they are to be sent to school as they are now old enough, otherwise they will be taken from the foster parents' (3 Jan 1903, p766, see also p874).





- 'An inmate named Maria Doyle applied for clothes for herself and infant (born in the house) to enable her leave the house'.  
Order: One pound allowed for clothes' (p785).
- 'An inmate named Mrs McKeague applied for a suit of clothes to enable herself and her child to leave the workhouse' (p820).
- LGB advised BG they have decided 'upon holding an inquiry on oath into the manner in which Mr Murphy, RO., discharges his duties...  
Mr Murphy, RO, handed in his resignation as he was unfit through indisposition to retain his situation' (pp837-8).
- 'A man named John Hosty, Tuam, applied for the clothes of his wife who died in the workhouse' (p839).
- 'That the boy John Purcell is now too old to attend Convent School and he (the Master) requested to be informed where he is to be sent to school henceforth' (p884).
- Letter from Catholic priest, Rev James Kilgarriff and Rev John McDermott, Chaplain regarding attendance at burial (pp889-10).
- Lunatic named Thady Byrne 'escaped over the wall on three occasions...' (p926, see also p944).
- 'That he (the Master) requires an order for the usual St Patrick's Day dinner'.  
'Extra dinner ordered' (p926).
- 'Letter from the Rev M Diskin, PP, Milltown, dated 6<sup>th</sup> March, stating that the boy William Ward, boarded out with Francis McGough is well cared and properly looked after in every respect, he made inquiries to satisfy himself' (p928).
- 'Mr Hanley, RO, reported that the three children boarded out in his district were in good health....and attended school regularly, except John Ward who would not go at all, and left his foster parents on Wednesday last'  
'Order: Mr Hanley to make inquiries about this boy and bring him back to the workhouse' (pp928-9).
- 'Mr Forde, RO, reported that the several children boarded out in his district were in good health....and have good clothing, except Mary K Kelly (p929).'
- 'Mr Glynn [Milltown], RO, reported that William Ward boarded out in his district is in good health..... He requires a suit of clothes' (p929).
- 'That a man named Thomas McGovern was admitted as a Protestant on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., and asked him to send for Rev W J McHugh, CC, the request was complied with and he was baptised a catholic' (p944).
- 'Mr Walsh, (Dunmore) RO, laid before the Board notice served on him of the eviction of James Mullen from house and premises situate at [Quarter] at the suit of John McWalter' (p945).

(91-93.)



94. 14 July 1906 - 10 August 1907 Includes:- 1008pp
- Mary Nolan died in the workhouse (p47).
  - Ellen Dolly committed to Ballinasloe Asylum (p80).
  - Proposal to board out Michael Ward with Mr Michael Hughes in the village of Dangan (p117 and p151, p315 & p731).
  - Michael Cunningham, Lancashire advised the Guardians that 'a man named Stephen Joyce of Queensfort had part of the land used for tillage and grazing at £3 for this year together with the oat crop, which the Guardians could have for the maintenance of his father in the workhouse' (p118, p151).
  - Clothes provided for boarded-out children Bridie Melia, Patrick Burke, Michael Hosty and Michael O'Donnell (p151).
  - Two inmates Bridget Flaherty and Julia Comer, quarrelled, 'the latter struck the former on the head with her stick' (p152).
  - 'The schoolchildren will have their excursion to Galway during the coming week...' (p170).
  - '...express our profound dissatisfaction at the manner in which the Drainage Commission has collected evidence, in reference to the periodic flooding of the River Care by which thousands of acres are submerged for a considerable portion of the year, as far as this Board is aware not a single witness have been examined from any portion of the submerged areas. We therefore earnestly recommend the Commission either to visit the locality or take evidence from those qualified to suggest the best means for removing those obstacles which contribute so largely to the flooding of the river basin and that a Government grant towards drainage works be demanded' (p173).
  - Mrs Rowland of Tuam applied to have her child Kate Rowland, aged 13 years sent to the Catholic Asylum for Female Blind (p189).
  - Discussion regarding and transcription of letter from Roger Ronayne, stating 'that this man is constantly finding fault with the management of the House, and seems to think that being a paying patient he cannot be expected to comply with the rules of the Institution...' (p228).
  - Emigration costs of Michael and [Eune] Owens to Boston (p297).
  - Resolution of the Roscommon BG adopted, '...protesting against the continuous method of big bullock graziers who are grabbing the grazing farms, most on the 11 months system, and in retaining other grazing ranches to the detriment of the tenant farmers' (p370).
  - Inmate John Caffrey applied for clothes 'to enable himself and family to leave the workhouse' (p515).
  - Proposal to board out Peter Kelly with Patrick Warren (p549, & p585).
  - 'Notice of removal of a pauper named Mary Lynch chargeable to the parish of Paddington in the Co of London (p659).
  - John Ryan applied for clothes to leave the workhouse (p711).



- Maggie Ryan applied for clothes to 'enable herself and child to leave the workhouse' (p712).
  - Honor Quinn gave birth to a male illegitimate child (p764).
  - Clothes required for boarded-out children, Anne Moran and Michael Kelly (p767).
  - Mary McGowan, foster parent of boarded-out child, Michael O'Donnell and his school attendance (p7840).
  - Bridget Patterson applied for clothes for her infant child born in the workhouse (pp801-2).
  - Details relating to the case of Bridget Donnell, Knockatee, who was evicted from her property (p802).
  - Kate Madden applied for clothes for her infant child (p874).
  - '3 children (Mary, Bridie, & Peter Crosby) were admitted to the House....they were very scantily dressed...' (p908).
  - Peter Shaughnessy died in the workhouse, admitted with 'effects of extensive burns cause by accidentally falling into the fire in his own house' (p908).
  - Inmate, Maggie Byrne applied for clothes for her child to enable her to leave the workhouse. An inmate named John Foster also applied for clothes' (p964).
  - 'Letter from Mrs Delia M O'Donnell an inmate of the workhouse, whose maintenance is paid for by Mr John McGrath appointed executor by her late husband, John O'Donnell. Requesting the Guardians to allow her out about twice a week for a walk, and also that she would be grateful if they would instruct their solicitor to proceed against Mr McGrath, and compel him to provide suitable house for her outside the Workhouse' (p981).
95. 19 October 1907 – 31 October 1908                      First 6 pages missing. Includes:-
- 'Application from Mary Hussey, Belclare, to board out a child named John Toole on usual terms, as Michael Hosty is over age and she would like to get another' (p10, see also p83).
  - 'Letter from Rev J Neary, CC Belclare, stating that the child boarded out with Martin McDonagh, [Satchill], received great kindness in his house and that the child's interest would be best attended to by leaving him, as he is at present situated in a suitable home and near a first class school' (p10).
  - 'The boy Peter Kelly was before the Board and stated he would not go to his uncle and the Guardians decided to leave him to his foster parent' (p10, see also p65 & p171 below).
  - 'Letter from Pat Langan requesting that his sister's child be given to him, she died in the Infirmary. Granted' (p10).
  - 'Application from Bridget Ryan of Dalgin to board out a girl named Mary Lyons (p45, see also below p243)



- Mr Forde RO was ordered to furnish reports in the cases of Mrs Hussey, Mrs Hughes, and Mrs Nolan, who have applied for children and Mr Hanley RO in the case of John Blade' (pp45-46).
- Letter from Mrs Dr Costello stating that they did not go to the house of Mr McGough as he is not now willing to take the child applied for, and anyhow the village is so remote and inaccessible that a young child would never be able to attend school, more than half time, and requesting that correct names and addresses of all applications be furnished' (p46).
- '...a girl named Margaret Mullen (admitted on 7<sup>th</sup> inst.,) gave birth to an illegitimate child on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst' (p62).
- 'The Clerk laid before the Board the reports of the several officers on boarded out children for the month of October, and he was ordered to forward them to the LGB, together with the reports (Form A) respecting John Blade and Kate Nolan' (p64).
- 'Application from Mrs Delia Ward for the position of temporary Nursery Attendant in the Union.  
Order: Application refused as the Master did not consider her suitable for children, and the Clerk to re-advertise' (p64).
- Notice of Motion, '....the child Peter Kelly, boarded-out with Martin McDonagh at a cost of £8 a year to the rates be taken from him and handed over to his uncle as a foster parent, who undertakes to take him free of charge to the Union' (p65).
- Letter from LGB 'with reference to the particulars respecting Mr Michael Canny with whom it is proposed to board out from the workhouse a child named Mary Shaughnessy and requesting that they may (be) informed whether the Guardians intend to separate Mary Shaughnessy from her twin sister, Bridget. Report on the matter.  
Order: Mr Canny has consented to take out the two sisters' (p79).
- Letter from LGB regarding Mrs Catherine Hughes of Blackfield 'with whom it is proposed to board out from the workhouse a child Joseph O'Brien and stating they consent in pursuance of the Boarding out Regulations to the Guardians proposal in this case' (p82).
- Mrs Hussey of Belclare to board out John Toole, '...stating they consent in pursuance of the Boarding out Regulations to the Guardians' proposal in this case' (p83).
- Letter from LGB regarding report on Mrs Kate Nolan with 'whom it is proposed to board out a child named Mary Patterson and requesting that they may be informed whether the Ladies' Committee have reported upon Mr Nolan's application and if so, they would be glad to be furnished with a copy of their report.  
Order: Ladies Committee to be asked for a report' (p83, see also p244 below).
- Letter from LGB regarding report on Mr John Blade with whom it is proposed to board out a boy child Michael O'Donnell, 'and requesting that they may be informed whether there is a woman in Mr Blade's house of full age and experienced in the management of children' (p83).
- Reports from the RO regarding boarded out children in their districts, the LGB 'desired to point out that the boy, John Field, must not be kept at home from school for the purpose of



- working for his foster parent, and the foster parent should be so informed' (p84, see also p209 below and GPL5/100, p46).
- Clerk advised Michael Eagleton 'had not paid the Decree of £5 for the maintenance of his illegitimate child in the workhouse' (p117).
  - 'Letter from Mr Sheridan, Milltown, stating that he would take the child Bridget Lyons as recommended by the Lady Inspector.  
Order: Proposed by Mr Dermody, seconded by Mr Martin Nally and adopted- "That Bridget Lyons be left with Mr Pat Keane, Barnaderg' (p119, see p172).
  - 'The cost of the maintenance of the child Gilbert sent urgently to the Galway Hospital be paid by the Guardians (p137).
  - Proposal to transfer boarded-out child Peter Kelly, aged 8 ½ years, from Martin McDonagh to his uncle James Kelly (p171, see also p298).
  - 'From the LGBD with reference to the case of the child Bridget Lyons, boarded out with Mr P Keane, and stating that should the Inspector be again compelled to report unfavourably concerning the child's treatment the Foster Parent cannot be allowed to retain her' (p172).
  - 'Letter from Pat Heneghan, an inmate of the Workhouse complaining that on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst he went out to dig a grave by the Master's orders. Same evening he went out to close a grave. After doing so he went down the town and had a drink. In the late Master's time he never punished the men for going down to take a drink or two digging a grave' (p208).
  - Guardians inform the LGB that 'Joe O'Brien was handed over to his foster-parent on 27<sup>th</sup> November and John Toole on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December' (1907) (p207).
  - Sanction requested from LGB for boarding out of McDonnell with John Blade (p208).
  - Transcript of letter from Mrs Costello regarding RO Luke Forde's complaints about the care of the child boarded out with her. 'After a long discussion....& unanimously adopted – That the child John Field be taken into the House' (pp209-10, see also p246 and p281 with recommendation that John 'be restored' to Mrs Costello).
  - 'The Clerk was directed to request the LGB to be so kind as to sanction the admission of a child named Thomas Shanley, aged one month, to the workhouse, the father Sergeant Shanley, RIC Dunmore, having agreed to pay £0.2.6 a week towards his maintenance. The case is a particularly sad one and deserving of every consideration, the mother died a about a week ago, and left 8 young children and its quite impossible for the father to look after them without assistance' (pp225-6, see also p245).
  - Proposal to board out Mary Lyons with Mrs Ryan of Dalgin (p243).
  - Application from Mrs Kate Nolan 'for a nurse child named Mary Patterson' (p244, see also p279).
  - Edward Lyons boarded out (p261).
  - Master reported that a man named 'Farrington rushed out the gate on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst and in spite of the efforts of the Porter, escaped...' (p314, see also p386).
  - Proposal to board out Patrick O'Brien with Mr McDonagh, Belclare (p315).



- Bridget Shaughnessy to be boarded out with Mrs Lardner, Cloonmore and attend Belclare school (p316 & p333, p442).
- Inmate Sarah Connolly to be sent to Dublin Hospital as she is suffering from disease of the thigh bone (p332).
- William Murphy a patient in the Infirmary to be transferred to a sanatorium for treatment (p349).
- 'The Master reported that a patient of Infirmary named Christopher McNally cut his throat on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> March. There was an inquest on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> (p440, see also p495).
- Inmate Kate King died in the workhouse (p458).
- Transcript of letter from Roger Ronayne, paying patient in the Infirmary, regarding items stolen from his ward, advising that the 'Head Nurse believes in hushing up....and has turned this hospital into a dumping ground for blackguards, thieves and vagabonds, she appears to me to think that her duty here is to insult those that did not deserve it from her....' (p479, see also p495, p532, p819, pp857-8, also GPL5/94,pp226-7).
- Inmate Maggie Reilly sought her discharge, to go to her mother (p496).
- Inmate McNulty 'went out of the gate this morning with the Union clothes on him' (p530).
- Election of new Chairman (9 Jun 1908, p619).
- Patient Honor Donnellan to be sent to an ophthalmic hospital for an operation on her eyes (p656).
- Bridget Melia's foster mother Mrs Fahy died, she is to be transferred to Mrs Walsh, Garraunbaun (pp675-6).
- 'Letter from Mary McGowan, Belclare applying for Michael O'Donnell or any other boy on the boarding out system' (p676, see also p694 with request for Patrick Patterson, see also p748 & p765).
- Proposal to board out Mary Shaughnessy, 12 ½ years, with Mrs N J Higgins, Ryehill (p694, p730).
- No school attendance certificate received for Bridget Lyons (p748, and p766).
- Proposal to board-out Mary Crosby with Mrs Mary Kelly (p749).
- 'Application from Michael Dolan, Monivea, and Bridget Mary McDonnell, Cloonlusk, to board out the children Bridie Crosby and Nora Patterson respectively' (p749, and p784, see also GPL5/100, p120).
- 'An inmate named Honor Quinn applied for clothes to enable her to leave the workhouse and earn her living outside' (p749).
- Kate Hannon appointed Cook in the workhouse (p765).
- 'An inmate named Maggie Mullen applied for some clothes for herself and child as she was leaving the workhouse' (p766).



- 'Michael Moran and John Foster applied for clothes to enable them leave the workhouse (p783).
- 'Martin Redington, Garrafrauns, aged about 10 years to be sent to the Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, the Mother to pay portion of the cost to be fixed by the Guardians' (p783).
- John O'Brien a patient in the Infirmary 'climbed the infirmary wall and went to town' (p800).
- Outfit required for a child named Mary Ronaldson (p800).
- James Finnerty 'was absent from school on 10 days during the month and to request that the foster parent may be warned to send him to school more regularly in future' (p801).
- 'Mr Thomas Costello, PLG informed the Board that he was requested by the foster parent of the boy Bernard Flanagan, to have him removed, as she was not able to control him, and he proposed that he be brought back to the workhouse' (pp801-2).
- Inmate Patrick Heneghan applied for clothes to enable him leave the workhouse (p802).
- Mrs Mongan was 'on Saturday night confined of a male child' (p836).
- Petition signed by 39 ratepayers regarding relief given 'to Ellen Flanagan, Knocknagur. We the undersigned being the ratepayers in the Kilbannon ED request our representatives in the PL Boardroom, Tuam Union and also request the members of the Union Board of Guardians to forthwith withdraw the relief given to Ellen Flanagan, mother-in-law to James Molloy, because we are aware she is not a party now requiring relief. In the first place her son-in-law James Molloy who took up the herding heretofore done by her and thereby became responsible for her maintenance is able-bodied, herding 16.7 acres of which he is allowed a good freedom. In the second place the taxes for some years have grown to such amount that we poor tenant farmers living on wretched uneconomic holdings in this congested area cannot bear the burden any longer' (p839, p876).
- Letter from Summerhill Industrial School, Athlone regarding their terms and conditions and agreed to take Lizzie Purcell and Nora Patterson, 'though not exactly according to our rule for care, will however be received here, if otherwise equal to our requirements' (p875, see also GPL5/100 p 776 regarding Nora).
- 'An inmate named Mrs Kate Newell applied for clothes for her infant born in the house...' (p892).
- 'Order for removal of a woman named Mary Ann Cavanagh or Burke, from the parish of Glasgow to the Tuam Workhouse' (p927).
- 'Order for removal of a man named John McHugh from the township of Manchester to the Tuam Workhouse' (p927).
- 'Letter from Mrs Hazlett, Tuam, forwarding a list of clothing, belonging to her daughter, who died in the workhouse from consumption...' (p928).

(96.- 97.)





98. 14 May 1910 - 17 September 1910 Partial volume only, pp397-766 with gaps. Slash / cut marks throughout volume. Includes:-
- Report by Sergt J Hunt, RIC, of alleged cruelty to boarded-out child Mary Patterson, 12 years old, Castlehacket, 'The child had two very bad black eyes, and the bridge of the nose was also black and swollen. There was a large soft lump on the top of the head on the right side about the size of the palm of the hand and appears to me to have been caused by the child having being caught by the hair of the head, and violently dragged so as to have the skin separate from the scalp....When I questioned the little girl about what happened to her she said the cow hit her with her horn in the eye. Mrs Nolan (foster parent) said the same but when I began to question her about she having beaten the girl she got very nervous and said she did catch her by the hair and illustrated to me how she caught her....From enquiries I made I am of opinion that this child ought to be removed from this woman's custody, as she has a very cruel reputation...' (p398-99).
  - 'That a child named Pat Grehan was admitted to the House as his mother was arrested and sent to Galway gaol' (p422).
  - 'Two inmates named Mary Abram and Mrs Burke quarrelled yesterday morning' (p638).
  - 'Inmate Maggie Power applied for a suit of clothes for her infant born in the house' (p639).
  - Inmate Pat Farragher suffering from senile cataract 'be sent to Dublin Hospital for operation' (p656).
  - Kate Hannon gave birth to an illegitimate child (p674).
  - Margaret Brennan gave birth to an illegitimate child (p674).
  - Proposal to hire out two children named Bridget & Mary Shaughnessy with Mrs Ronaldson and Mrs Canavan, and report that Mary ran away from Mrs Canavan's and was 'very bold and disobedient' and 'Mary Shaughnessy to be kept in the workhouse for a week or a fortnight and if she still refuses to go back to Mrs Canavan steps will be taken to have her sent to a Reformatory. The Guardians were unanimously of opinion that the statements made by the girl as to Mrs Canavan's ill treating her in any way were untrue, as they have got nothing but bad reports about her from foster-parents and officials' (pp639-40).
  - Boarded-out child John Field absent from school on account of illness on 4 days out of a possible 20. John is 'a strong well grown hardy boy, but anxious to avoid attending school. In the circumstances excuses of illness for non-attendance at school should be investigated by the Relieving Officer' (p766, see also GPL5/100, p46 & p279, p821).

(99.)





100. 7 January 1911 – 17 August 1912

Meetings generally held twice monthly, rather than weekly from August 1911. Includes:-

- 'Mrs Concanon, The Grove, Tuam gave a sumptuous tea party to all the inmates on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. She also with her customary kindness walked through all the wards distributing fruit and tobacco to the inmates. The inmates always feel particularly grateful to Mrs Concanon' (p25).
- Paddy Ward, inmate, applied for a suit of clothing to leave the workhouse (p29).
- Francis Foster applied for clothes for his wife and 4 children to help them leave the house (p29).
- Bridget Lyons proposed to be hired out to Mr Patrick Keane, Barnaderg (p46).
- Query regarding the health of John Field, boarded-out child (p46, see also p64, p821).
- LGB observe in the Estimate and Demand for financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 1912 the reduction 'in view of the diminution of the cost of relief caused by the removal of the Poor Relief Disqualification for the receipt of pensions under the Old Age Pension Act, 1908, and...stating that the Guardians should reconsider their (sic) and reinstate the amount of the reduction, in view of the contribution which will probably have to be made by the Poor Law Authorities towards the cost of Pensions...' (p63, see also p119).
- Mary Fleming, inmate, applied for clothing for her and child to leave the workhouse (p65).
- Two inmates, Michael Moran and Winifred Connelly, were committed to Ballinasloe Asylum (p80).
- Margaret Hession, inmate, applied for clothes for herself and her infant born in the house (p82).
- Thomas Grehan, inmate, applied for clothes to leave the workhouse (p82).
- Proposal for Mr Fox to hire out Mary Kelly (p99).
- Report read out, not included in the minutes, from Rev McHugh PP regarding Nora Patterson, boarded-out child (p120).
- 'Resolution passed by the Kilmacthomas Board of Guardians appealing to the Chief Secretary of Ireland, to introduce and press for the repeal of Section 1 of the Pauper Children (Ireland) Act 1902, forbidding the boarding out of any but orphans and deserted children. "Adopted"' (p120).
- 'That the woman Margaret Concannon or Gannon and her child aged 3½ months arrived on Saturday night from Gavan (Scotland). She states that she is a native of Claddagh, Galway city' (p134, see also pp207-9, p315).
- Boy, Michael Maloney, absconded and was found near Ballinamore Bridge outside Mountbellew, staying with his uncle. He was brought back to the workhouse (p134, see also p152).
- Details relating to death of infant named Ward (p136).



- Patrick Ward, inmate, applied for clothes for himself and his family to leave the workhouse (p137).
- Proposal to board out Stephen Flanagan with Patrick Flanagan (p137).
- Mrs Margaret Byrne, inmate, applied for clothes to leave the workhouse (p82).
- Details regarding completion of the 1911 census form (p225).
- Details of report from Mr Newell, Engineer, relating to the 'defective state of the workhouse sewerage' (p236 & p241, p299, p333-4, p370, p442, p480, p513, p660, p676, p709, p839).
- Discussion regarding Thomas Carroll, van driver, his previous 'bad conduct' and a proposed salary increase (p245, & p279).
- Michael Kelly, boarded-out child, and school attendance (p262).
- Bridget (Mary) Patterson boarded-out with Mr McLoughlin, Strawberryhill, Dunmore (p278 & p282, p440, p443, p477, p605, p714, p730, p747).
- LGC observe that the BG 'propose to charge persons in the workhouse in receipt of pensions under the Old Age Pension Act for their maintenance therein....LGB desire to state that there does not appear to be any means of making the Old Age Pension available for payment if the recipient refuses to pay...' (p279, p568).
- 'That we the Board of Guardians of Tuam Union have heard with deep regret of the sad accident which occurred on Friday last, whereby two boys from St. Jarlath's College named Thomas Duggan and Michael H. Greally lost their lives while bathing in the Ballygaddy river, near Tuam' (p385).
- Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (12 June 1911, p403).
- 'Application from Kate Hannon for 25 shilling (money in lieu of clothes) to enable herself and child to go to her father in England. Refused' (p424).
- John Donnellan, inmate, applied for clothes to leave the workhouse (p424).
- 'Letter from Mrs Costello, Ladies' Committee viz: "I am very sorry to have to report the death of one of the boarded-out children, Mollie Shaughnessy, who was hired out for the past six months in Monivea.  
The Doctor reports also that the twin sister Bridget is also suffering from Tuberculosis. She is now in the Infirmary. I have also to report that Mary Patterson has again run away from her foster parent in Strawberryhill – as soon as I heard I reported the matter to the police and we found she had gone to Mrs Nolan in Belclare, a former foster. She came into the Workhouse next day. I have written to the Lady Inspector and when I hear from her I will again report to you as to what should be done with her"' (p443).
- 'A woman named Mary McHugh (widow) Dunmore, aged 41 years, applied to have her child Bridget, aged 7½, admitted to the workhouse, as she was destitute and unable to support the child, and was trying to procure a situation for herself' (p461 & p478).
- Proposal to have BG meetings held fortnightly rather than weekly, the LGB pointed out that 'under Article 2 of the General Regulations the Guardians are required to hold a meeting once at least in each week...' (p478).



- David Reilly '...applied for a pair of booths and trousers to enable him heave the house' (p479).
- Delegates appointed to attend the ceremony of the Unveiling of the Memorial to Charles Stewart Parnell (p542).
- Bridget Lyons, who was hired out to Patrick Keane of Barnaderg has left him. She is hired with Mrs Curran of Garra (p547).
- Verdict of inquest into death of Patrick O'Neill Tierboy found it was 'caused by Coma, the result of fracture of the base of the skull which was caused by a fall against the kerbstone' (p548).
- 'Letter from Mr O'Rorke, D.I., R.I.C, Tuam, informing the Guardians that Mrs Kate McHugh, Tierboy Road, Tuam, has an illegitimate infant, Bridget McKeigue, in her custody for the past month. Mrs McHugh has undertaken for reward the nursing and maintenance of this infant. The police found it necessary on yesterday to call in the doctor to examine the infant.  
Order: Mrs McHugh to be called upon to notify the Guardians' (2 Sept 1911, p552).
- 'The Clerk laid before the Board Notice Form A under the Childrens' Act, 1908, given by Mrs Ellen Reilly of Barrack St., Tuam, undertaking for reward the nursing and maintenance of a male infant named Patrick Mathias Raftery, who was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1909, at Tuam Workhouse' (7 Oct 1911).
- 'Mr Daniel Larkin of Brierfield signed the necessary form of contract for the boarding out of an orphan child named Martin Moloney as agreed upon the 19<sup>th</sup> August last' (p588).
- Denis Ward procured a 'house in town and requesting the Guardians would be so good as to allow himself and his family some clothes to enable them leave the workhouse' (p659).
- 'The Clerk laid before the Board, the amended plan, specification and estimate, £400, for improving the sewage from the Workhouse cesspool as prepared by Mr Michael Newell...' (p660, see also p839, p855).
- 'BG hereby express our approval of the crusade against the importation of evil literature into this country. The baneful influence which an objectionable press exercise on the moral characteristics of a populace is certain to have a demoralising effect. The movement inaugurated in Limerick against the evil is one deserving of all public bodies in Ireland of endorsement by this general expression of their action we hope the desired results will be attained' (2 Dec 1911, p660).
- Boarded-out child, John O'Toole was admitted to the workhouse (p728, p840, p892, p927, see also GPL5/101, p695, see also GPL5/15).
- 'Applications from Pat Cooke and B Kilkelly of Ryehill to board out Mary Patterson (p730, see previous entries regarding Mary above, and p747).
- RO submitted reports on boarded-out children Bridget Lyons and Mary Kelly (p730).
- Regarding report from LGB Inspector, Miss Fitzgerald Kenny, 'representing the case of boy Edward (Eddie) Lyons (13½) who is boarded out with Mr J Sheridan, National School Teacher, Milltown, and requesting that the matter would receive immediate attention of the



Guardians’.

The report stated ‘his present home is quite unsuitable, moreover his foster parents are wanting in sympathy with the child and appear to expect from him certain light work about the house which his state of health renders him quite incapable of discharging without further injury to himself. His clothes are too light to keep so delicate a child sufficiently warm, and the bed provided for his use was a chair bed too short to allow him to rest with comfort. The child’s condition of health is so serious that I send my report without delay’. (pp731-2, this report was strongly refuted by Sheridan who fostered Eddy for over 5 years, and supported by the local PP, Fr Diskin, see pp749-751. Further report received from Ms Fitzgerald Kenny p765, also a letter from Mr Brigid Sheridan p784-5, and another letter supporting Ms Kenny p803 & and another from Edward Connolly stating that the previous one was a forged letter and that Sheridan was ‘as upright, as respectable and as generous a man as I ever had dealing with...’ p819, p820).

- Mary Patterson to be sent to a certified school, such as St. Joseph’s Industrial School, Summerhill, Athlone (p747, p776)
- Notice of Motion ‘that the office of shoemaker of the workhouse be abolished and that we get boots in future by contract’ (p749).
- ‘Applications from John Foster and Michael Keeley, inmates, for boots and clothes to enable them leave the workhouse’ (776).
- Margaret Heffernan was admitted to the workhouse on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1908, and sent to the Asylum (Ballinasloe) on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 1911 (p784).
- Maggie Cawley applied for clothes for her infant born in the house (p803).
- Joseph Mooney applied for clothes (p803).
- Eddie Lyons was in the ‘workhouse Hospital’ and they (LGB) have to state that it would appear from the Inspector’s report that the child was always delicate and though suffering from no actual disease he is at the present time far from strong. Dr Bigger and the workhouse Medical Officer both agree that if a home near the seaside could be found for the boy and he were allowed a holiday from school for a few months, his health would improve and they suggested to the Guardians to act on this recommendation. They (LGB) however, do not by this mean to imply that Mr Sheridan’s house would not be a suitable home for a child possessed of a stronger constitution than Eddie Lyons’ (Eddie was returned to the Sheridans (pp819-20, p873, see also GPL5/101, p10 & p695, p786, see also GPL5/102, p64b).
- James Finnerty boarded-out with Mary Banks, Kilbannon, is now 15 years of age. Mrs Banks to hire him out at wages (p839).
- ‘Letter from a man named Pat McHugh, Tuam, stating that owing to his wife being in hospital he found it very difficult to look after his three children having no one to aid him and if the BG would kindly take them into the workhouse he would willingly pay a small sum until such time that his wife comes out. If he is compelled to go into the workhouse with his children he would lose his means of earning...’ (p856, see also p891, p927).



- 'Application from an inmate named John Kelly for an outfit to enable him leave the workhouse as he will be getting the old age pension soon and his son is willing to take him home. Refused' (p925).
- Inmate Bridget Donnellan was committed to Ballinasloe asylum (p926).
- Inquest into John Jarret's case found his death was caused 'by haemorrhage and shock the result of a self inflicted wound of the throat, and that he committed the act while insane' (p926).

101. 24 August 1912 -18 July 1914 Includes:-

- Removal of pauper Mary J Oliver from Glasgow to Tuam (p47).
- James Donnellan applied for trousers and pair of boots to enable him leave (p47).
- Death of Thomas Keary, Ryehill' who died alone & destitute' (p48, & p63, p66, p117).
- James Finnerty hired out by Mary Burke (p65).
- Joseph O'Brien to be boarded out with Mary Walsh, Sylane (p135).
- 'Letter from Mrs Curley, Garra, enclosing bill for ten shillings cost of school books and requisites in respect of Ellen Higgins boarded out with her' (p171, see also p172).
- 'That through the usual kindness of his Grace the Archbishop a dinner was given on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. (Jan) to the inmates. On the same evening a tea, with a plentiful supply of sweet cake, was given by the Misses Cleary (nieces of His Grace the Archbishop). After tea, through the instrumentality of the priests of the town and the Misses Cleary a highly successful concert was gone through. At intervals during the concert Miss K Cleary distributed tobacco, sweets, fruits and toys...' (p187),
- Patrick Killeen and John Burke applied for clothes (p911).
- The Workhouse sewerage is a bad state and flows out on the public road, this was called attention to at last inspection but nothing done (p999).

102. 18 July 1914 - 19 August 1916 Includes:-

- Mary Leonard applied for clothes to enable her leave the workhouse (p11, see also GPL4/104, f118).
- Letter 'From the LGB informing the BG that the Government have constituted a Committee of the Cabinet to advise on the measures necessary to deal with any distress that may arise in consequence of the war. They hoped the Guardians would make arrangements for supplying each Committee promptly with the name of persons receiving relief. They deemed it right to warn the Guardians that the special measures to be taken as outlined above do not remove the possibility of sudden and unforeseen demand being made on the resources of the Guardians in some localities....' (p28).



- Denis Ward applied for clothes for him and his child (p29).
- Michael Lee hired-out with Bridget Spellman, Cahergal (p30).
- 'That Ellen Higgins be hired-out to Mr Stephen Canavan at £8 a year' (p30).
- Letter 'From the LGB forwarding a copy of a memorandum with regard to the assistance available for the wives and other relatives of soldiers and sailors (including territorials) from which it will be observed that allowances of various kinds are payable to the dependants of men who have joined the colours, and that where for some cause or other the sums thus payable to the dependants of a soldier or sailor have not reached his family, or the amount is inadequate for their necessities, assistance may be obtained either from the local branches of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association or from the Local Committees to be constituted for the purpose of dealing with the prevention and relief of distress consequent upon the war' (p46, see also p56).
- Jack Trayers, an inmate, applied for clothes to 'enable himself and his family of 4 children to leave the workhouse' (p47).
- From Boilean & Brody Dublin, 'Regretting having to notify that owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of obtaining many drugs and chemicals for manufacturing purposes at reasonable prices they are unable, for the present, to supply at contract prices a considerable number of pharmaceutical preparations & chemicals, also some druggists' sundries of continental origin' (Aug 1914,p53).
- Handwritten on loose pages is the following relating to the split in the Irish Volunteers: 'That we the Tuam Board of Guardians at this our first meeting since the appearance of the manifesto issued by a section of the late Provisional Committee of the National Volunteers, join our voice in condemnation of this document and its declaration usurping a right to dictate to the nationalists of Ireland in a matter of such vital importance to the future position of our country. We take this opportunity of repudiating the claims of this minority to placate [\_\_\_\_ists] views for the control of the Volunteer organisation with the object of throwing aspersions on the glorious efforts of the Irish Party to have that movement conducted on a popularly elected basis. We therefore call on nationalist opinion in the county to express its endorsement of the re-organisation of the Provisional Committee under Mr Redmond's presidency and disassociate itself from future [whinings] of this Sinn Féin faction'. 'Proposed by J. Ronaldson, Seconded P. Dermody. Unanimously adopted' (Oct 1914, p101).
- BG called on the North Galway Executive of the United Irish League 'to take immediate steps to see that the Estate of Mrs Strachan, Tuam, is purchased by the C.D. Board for the tenants without delay...' (p56, see also p173).
- Report on 10 children boarded-out, advising that 'The foster Homes in this Union, are on the whole, very good. The children in all cases appeared to be well cared for and kindly treated.  
Their health and general physique is good. Their personal cleanliness and clothing is good. Their school attendance and general progress is satisfactory'.  
Also includes specific details on the children, namely, Michael O'Donnell (13) boarded-out with Mrs John Blade, Martin Maloney (10 4/12), with Mrs Dan Larkin, John O'Toole (10½)





with Mrs Thomas Kilkelly, Ryehill (see also GPL5/15), Mary Lyons (13 11/12) with Mrs Bridget Ryan, Julia Quin (8) with Mrs Delia Geraghty, Mary Margaret Hession (5) with Mrs Michael Philbin, Francis Patterson (8½) and Patrick Patterson (8½) with Mrs Bartley Walsh, Nora Patterson (9½) with Ellie Mannion (school mistress in Feenish Island), and Stephen Flanagan (9½) with Pat Flanagan.

Also details of children hired out, namely John Field (17½) with Mrs Mary Costello, Doogara, Ellen Higgins (16½) with Stephen Canavan of Ardskea, Edward Lyons (16) with John Sheridan (school master, Milltown), 'The boy is still attending school Mr Sheridan is anxious to adopt the boy. He would put him to some trade and treat him as his own son'; James Finnerty (17½) with Miss Mary Banks, 'This is not at all a satisfactory place. The boy is not receiving any wages from his employer. He does not appear to be a very robust boy and does not work regularly. His foster parent says she is going to leave him her place. Some agreement should be drawn up and signed to this effect. He shared the same bed and room as Miss Bank. This state of affairs should be altered at once'; Michael Lee (16)<sup>117</sup> with Mrs Bridget Spellman (Cahergal, Headford), Bridget Lyons (18) with Joseph Curran, Garra, and Michael Kelly (15½) apprenticed with Mr Fleming of Tuam, 'to learn the trade of a shoe-marker' (pp64-65).

- 'From the LGB stating that they find that of late years a very large amount of correspondence is entailed in connection with the children Boarded-out or hired-out from the Union, and this has now become so heavy that it is a serious tax on the time both of the Guardians and the Board. Much of the correspondence would be avoided if the matters which form the subjects of the letters were dealt with locally in the first instance, and they therefore requested that the Guardians would be so good as to see that this is done in future' (p136).
- The PL Inspector advised 'the Union will be nearby £500 in debt at the close of the present financial year....  
The water supply is most unsatisfactory and the Infirmary rarely has sufficient water for its requirements...  
The sanitary condition of the workhouse is most unsatisfactory owing to the lack of a sufficient water supply...' (16 Jan 1915, p226).
- 'From the Director of Recruiting, War Office, London SW with reference to Circular Letter W55/m dated 16<sup>th</sup> April last (1915) and requesting to be informed to what extent it has been possible to release eligible men from the Guardians' Establishment to join His Majesty's Forces since the receipt of the above mentioned circular.  
Order: The Guardians beg to state that they have no eligible men in their Establishment' (p568).
- Inspector Pack Beresford's report which included 'A woman named Sarah Monaghan is a permanent inmate of the institution. On the 16<sup>th</sup> inst she left the house to visit her friends for a few days, and I was surprised to find that her name had not been removed from the books. The Master is of course, solely to blame but I do not think he realised the seriousness of his omission and he promised that such neglect would not occur again' (p623).

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<sup>117</sup> Lee joined the Connaught Rangers, April 1916 (GPL5/102, p856, see also previous entry p836)



- 'From the LGB desiring to bring under the special notice the fact that a large number of Irish Medical practitioners are at present on the temporary service with the Army and Navy, and that in consequence there has been, since the outbreak of war, a marked dearth of candidates for PL Medical appointments....The LGB therefore suggested that the Guardians should defer filling up any further vacancies that may occur, and should instead make the best temporary arrangements pending the return of normal conditions on the termination of the war' (p657).
- 'Application from Mrs Bridget Smith stating that she left the deserted child Pat Hannon in the workhouse on Monday last and requesting they would kindly pay her for his maintenance for seven weeks' (p677, see also p748, p766, p857, p894, p946).
- 'Application from Mrs Kate McHugh for clothes for her infant born in the house five weeks ago, and also for herself to enable her leave the workhouse' (p709).
- Details regarding artificial leg for Patrick Mulry (p783, p838-9).
- Clothes required for boarded out children Martin Moloney, John O'Toole, James McHugh, Julia Quinn and Mary Hession (p876).
- 'Notification dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1916 from the Officer in charge of the Red Cross Military Hospital in Liverpool that Pte P Holian of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Connaught Rangers is about to be discharged from the Army with a view to his being certified for reception into Ballinasloe Lunatic Asylum' (3 Jun 1916, GPL5/102, p893).
- Proposal to board-out Richard Brennan with Mrs N Conroy of Carrakilleen (p928).
- 'Read: "Resolution from the Cork BG declaring that the only settlement of the Irish question is the immediate putting into operation of the Home Rule Act, that Irish Nationalists will not consent to any division of their country"' (1 July 1916, p945).
- Inmate John Burke applied for clothes to leave the workhouse (p947).
- Kate Leonard, Treanbaun applied to board out Tommy Byrne (p965).
- 'That the Board be adjourned after transacting urgent business, in memory of Sir Roger Casement executed on Thursday morning' (5 Aug 1916, p984).

(103.)





104. 31 August 1918 - 19 April 1919

Includes:-

- Inmate, P. Flynn, applied for clothes to 'enable him leave the workhouse' (f27).
- Medical Officer advised that a patient in the Infirmary, 'a young woman suffering from appendicitis be sent to Galway County Hospital for treatment'.  
the minutes continue, 'The girl's father informed the Guardians that he was a retired constable of the RIC and resided in Shrule, Ballinrobe Union, Co. Mayo, his daughter was admitted to the Infirmary on Friday evening 4<sup>th</sup> inst. The Chairman having explained to Mr Cawley that his daughter should have been sent to his own Union or county Infirmary, he had her removed from the Workhouse Infirmary. The MO informed the clerk that it was not an urgent case. The girl had been for about 2 years an apprentice with Messrs O'Malley Bros Drapers, Tuam, but left there some weeks ago on vacation. She was admitted to the Tuam Infirmary direct from her father's house' (f80).
- LGB informed the BG 'that the Ballinrobe Workhouse is required by the Military Authorities immediately as winter quarters for the troops, and I am to state that the Board would be obliged if arrangements were made, as soon as practicable, for the reception in Tuam workhouse of portion of the inmates of the Ballinrobe Workhouse, namely, those from the Cong Dispensary District...' (Oct 1918, f99).
- Maggie Keane, Mary Hopkins, Mary Connor (& her child), Mary Glynn, and Mary Leonard applied for clothes to enable them leave the workhouse (f118).
- Delia Lally, Shanballymore, 16 yrs to be 'sent to St Mary's Catholic Asylum for Blind at £15.12.0 per annum for her maintenance therein' (f119).
- Galway BG resolution adopted, 'Demanding the immediate release of all medical practitioners interned or imprisoned, so that their services may be availed of during the Influenza plague' (f161).
- 'At the present time when so many of our fellow country-men and women (including some of our own townsmen are unjustly imprisoned by the English Government we the members of the Tuam McHale Sinn Fein (S.F). Club protest against the holding in Tuam of a race meeting in aid of the British Red Cross and we call upon the people of Tuam and surrounding districts to abstain from going to this meeting. Further we call upon Farmers to show a practical form of protest against those arrests and imprisonments by prevent fox-hunting on their own lands' (1 Feb, 1919, f246).
- Mrs Bridget Kilkelly, Ryehill, prepared to hire-out her foster child John O'Toole now over age, and 'to pay him wages at the rate of £6 a year (f263 & f299, see also GPL5/101, p695, see also GPL5/15).
- Michael Ryan to hire out Mary Lyons at £10 a year (f263).
- Letter from Mr M. J. Nohilly, Hon. Sec. McHale S.F. Club forwarding copy of resolution which the Tuam BG adopted, 'That the general meeting of the McHale S.F. Club condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous and brutal conduct of the police on the occasion of the recent arrest of Volunteers, in three times entering the sleeping apartments of one of our most respectable townswomen, she being then in bed, and in insultingly refusing to leave when called on to do so, that we further condemn their callousness in



entering the sleeping apartments of the lady employees in the same establishment without permitting them time to dress, that in view of the fact that one of these constables admitted to the lady subsequent to the first two raids on her room that they had no warrant authority, and only then procured one, we beg to call the attention of Irish Public Bodies to the seriousness and gravity of the claim made by such action of the Police in thus violating what is a sacred place to every decent Irish mind, the privacy of our women's apartments, that we hold their conduct to be disgusting, unmanly, cowardly and brutal' (15 Feb 1919, f264).

- 'Resolution passed by the Naas Board of Guardians protesting most emphatically against the inhuman conduct of the jailers towards the Political Prisoners in Cork Jail, who are treated like wild animals been handcuffed and chained, and obliged to lap up their food from the ground like dogs. Unanimously adopted' (f295).
- John Quinn of Cortoon to board out Thomas Byrne (f352).
- Report on boarded-out child Stephen Flanagan, Keernaun, and the poor ventilation in his foster home (p3336).
- Thomas Byrne to be boarded out with Martin Ryan, Briarfield (p459).
- Transcript of address to be presented to Mr Joseph Devlin, M.P. (p583).

(105.)

106. 3 January 1920 - 31 December 1921 Includes:-

- Two inmates, Maggie Ward and Maggie Roche applied for clothes for themselves and their two children born in the house (p28).
- Stephen Mannion applied for clothes to enable him leave the workhouse (p28).
- John Kane applied to hire out Frank Patterson (p28 & p79).
- 'Application from Mrs Melvin for clothes to enable her son leave the workhouse as he is going to his uncle' (p208, see also p621).
- 'Byrne to be hired out with Martin Crow of Brierfield at £12 per annum, and if he leaves this place he will be sent to Artane Industrial School' (p280).
- Mary Flood applied for clothes for herself and her child to enable them leave the workhouse (p280).
- Details of report from Dr MacCarthy, Medical Inspector for the LGB, relating to the Workhouse Infirmary and the Fever Hospital (p335).
- 'From the LGB stating that their attention has been called to the series of resolutions passed by certain local authorities in Ireland repudiating the authority of the Imperial Parliament and declaring their intention to place every obstacle in the way of the existing administration under His Majesty's Government. In view of the effect of this policy upon the Department acting under the control of Parliament, the Government have given explicit instructions that no loans or grants from public funds for any purpose shall be made by the



LGB to any local authority without a definite assurance that they will submit their accounts to audit and be prepared to conform to the rules and orders of the Local Govt. Board, as therefore.

Order: The Guardians beg to inform the LGB that they have no objection to submitting their accounts to audit' (p421).

- Mary Higgins applied for clothes for her child to enable her leave the House (p443).
- 'Letter from the Joint War Committee stating that owing to the disturbed state of the county, they have decided not to send any more of their ambulances to outlying parts until conditions improve. They would keep the Guardians' Car in garage on their Dublin premises' (4 Sept 1920, p460).
- Applications from Maggie Reilly, Nora McHugh and Mary Patterson for clothes for 'themselves and their children to enable them leave the Workhouse' (p460).
- Letter from Galway County Council advising the BG 'that in consequence of the stoppage by the Government of grants in aid of Local taxation, the County Council are unable to pay in full the demands of the Boards of Guardians and Rural District Council for the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1921. The Union demand of £4,089/10/- and the District Council by £417. In view of the existing situation the Finance Committee impress on all local bodies the necessity for the most strict economy' (p532, see also p657-8, p675).
- 'That we the Members of Tuam Board of Guardians and Rural District Council having heard with deep regret of the death of Mr Terence McSweeney, Lord Mayor of Cork, beg to tender to his widow, Mrs McSweeney and the other members of his family, our deepest sympathy in their great bereavement. And we now adjourn all business of the Board of Guardians and the District Council as a mark of respect to his memory' (p549).
- Master reported 'That on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, a man named John Fahy was committed to the Ballinasloe Lunatic Asylum' (p566).
- Manager of the National Bank Ltd. advised the Board that its account was overdrawn by £1,949.16.8 and 'I would be glad to know what arrangements are being made to meet this liability' (p585).
- 'Circular letter from Department Local Government Board Dáil Éireann, dated 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 1920, with reference to the stoppage of the grants thereby causing a possibility of hardship to the inmates of workhouse and hospitals, and the sick poor generally as well as to the aged and helpless. At the same time pointing out that the Public Bodies must not let the nation down, but should make every effort to procure the necessary funds to tide over the present temporary financial crises, and suggesting the procedure to adopt in order to obtain a loan from the Banks for this purpose' (Dec 1920, p604).  
The Board discussed the issue and resolved 'That the Bank be asked to advance an additional sum of £500, and that the Guardians are prepared to give the necessary security for this amount'. The Board also at this time resolved to sever all communication with the LGB (p604-5, see also p621).
- 'The acting Master reported that the Porter had by order of the Military to leave his lodge, and as there was no accommodation in the House he went home' (p620).



- Delia Melvin, Cloontooa Road, required clothes for her son, Martin Melvin, 'who is leaving the workhouse on Tuesday' (p621).
- Acting Master [McDonagh, the BG Clerk] arrested by the Military on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1921 (p746).
- Denis Murphy applied for clothes (p783).
- Loughrea Union asking if the Tuam Guardians 'would approve of having some of the orphan girls sent from their Union committed to the Loughrea Industrial School in charge of the Sisters of Mercy and that he (the Clerk) presumed it was the wish of the Guardians to have all children of school going age sent out to the National School daily' (p801).
- Account from the Loughrea Union 'in respect of the Maintenance etc of the Tuam inmates in the Loughrea Workhouse up to the last week in August, amounts to £392.8.8' (p837).
- 'That we the Tuam Board of Guardians condemn in the strongest manner the action of the British Government in not releasing the Irish Political Prisoners and we desire to associate ourselves with the Resolution from other public bodies, calling for their immediate release' (15 Oct 1921, p871)
- 'The Clerk having read the notice convening the Meeting It was unanimously Resolved – That the Clerk be directed to give formal notice to termination of employment of each Poor Law Official in the service of the Guardians (with the exception of Dispensary Doctors and Midwives) as from the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1921' (p900).
- 'With reference to entry in Guardians Minutes on 19<sup>th</sup> ulto., regarding claim against the English Military Authorities for expenditure incurred in consequence of their taking possession of the workhouse the Ministry for Local Government desire to state that this matter must remain over pending the result of the present national crisis' (17 Dec 1921, p947, see also p963).

**B. Tuam Burial Board Minutes, 1874 - 1896**

107. 16 September 1874 – 5 July 1882, 26 August - 6 December 1896
- Bound volume of manuscript minutes of Tuam Burial Board recording details of attendance at and proceedings of meetings, initially held at least monthly, then held sporadically relating to the management of the burial grounds in the Union, regarding, for instance obtaining tenders for enclosing burial grounds, land acquisition, and appointment of caretakers, and in particular, from 1878 to 1882, includes discussion relating to the purchase and layout of a site for a new cemetery for the Town of Tuam.

Includes page listing the caretakers for a number of burial grounds in the Union and the dates of appointment.

Generally signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the Union.

pp256

Includes:-

- Details regarding the acquisition of land from Michael Hughes for an extension of the burial ground at Cloughanover (pp4-5).
- 'Order under Seal from the Commissioners of Church Temporalities in Ireland vesting the following Burial Grounds in the Board of Guardians as the Burial Board of the Union....' (included, for instance, Abbeyknockmoy, Abbert, Beagh, Donaghpatrick, Kilcloony, Ower and Ross) (p13).
- 'The tender of Patrick Greaney for enclosing the Grave Yard of Kilcoona having been considered too high, the Clerk was directed to advertise again.....' (p14).
- 'The Sanitary Sub-Officer having drawn the attention of the Board to the state of Temple Jarlath Grave Yard, Tuam (latterly vested by the Irish Church Temporalities Commissioners in the Board of Guardians, it being covered with nettles and other weeds. A question arose as to the right of the Guardians to enter not having yet received possession from the parties in charge or who have the power to give possession of the Grave Yard referred to...' (p78).
- 'The tender of Francis Rooney for enclosing the Burial Ground of Abbeyknockmoy, according to specifications, for a sum of £35.10.0 was accepted' (p86, see also p88, pp94-5, pp97-101, p105, p117, p127, p135-8, p167).
- Tenders for the walling-in of Donaghpatrick burial ground were considered (p243, p245, p252)
- Improvement proposed to the old burial ground in Tuam, which had been closed by Order of the LGB (p256).

**C. Indoor Relief Register, 1913 - 1915**

108. 10 June 1913 – 10 September 1915 Indoor relief register recording details such as date admitted, name of inmate, residence prior to admission (such as Claremorris, Milltown, Athenry, Gort, Mountbellew, Galway, Tuam, Headford), age, sex, status (if adult married, single, widow), (if child legitimate, illegitimate), employment (such as carpenter, none, shoemaker, baker, sweeper, jockey, labourer, tin smith, tailor and groom), observation (generally states destitute), and date discharged. Inmates appear to be casuals with very short stays of only a day or two (Outsize volume).

125ff

**D. Indoor & Outdoor Relief Returns, 1861 - 1863**

109. 25 May 1861 – 17 December 1863 Indoor and Outdoor Relief Returns recording for indoor the number of inmates in workhouse, fever hospital and sheds, distinguishing the number of able bodied, sick, fever cases and so on, and showing the average weekly cost per head. Also records the total number in the workhouse and fever hospital for the corresponding period in the two previous years. Also records the number of destitute poor persons receiving out-door relief, divided into the various classes of poor, such as widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, or persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident.

312pp

**E. Miscellaneous Books & Documents, 1896 - 1921**

110. 28 October 1896 – 25 November 1896 Poor Rate Collecting Book for the Clonbern electoral division in the Dunmore Division, recording details such as names of property (i.e. townland), names of the occupier and the immediate lessor, net annual value, amount of rates under Poor Law & Public Health Acts, arrears, and amount collected. Includes General Warrant to Collect and Levy Poor Rates issued to James D McDonogh, Dunmore (25 November 1896).  
Approx 100ff
111. 31 December 1906 – 31 December 1907 Superintendent's registration book for the districts of Abbey, Dunmore, Headford, Tuam No. 1 and Tuam No. 2 in the Union, with returns showing the number of births, deaths and marriages registered for each quarter, details include name of district, number of births, deaths and marriages, numbers of death and marriage certificate issued. In one instance signed by the Superintendent Registrar, J. P. McDonagh (p3).  
6pp
112. 28 December 1907 – 9 January 1926 Medical report book [infectious diseases] recording details such as date of receipt of notification, place where disease is notified to exist, name of person suffering from the disease and in some instances including their age, name of doctor, disease such as scarlatina, diphtheria, typhus fever, enteria, typhoid, and observations, such as Private case, Dispensary case, 'isolated patient will go to Hospital today, if ambulance can come. Nurse in attendance' (f11), 'Probably from water supply. Patient sent on to Hospital. Ordered water to be boiled' (f12).  
14ff





113. 4 November 1913 – 19 April 1919 Pre-formatted Contractors' Ledger recording name of contractor and debit and credit details, such as date, details, (for example pay order, or a description of the goods provided such as milk, rice, eggs, bread, tea, pig's cheek, sheep's head, Indian meal, shoes for inmate (f21), potatoes (f35), outfits for various named inmates, set of curtains and toilet covers (f96), sinking a well and erecting a pump at Headford (Nov 1913, f1010), and repairs to Milltown dispensary (f173)), and price. Includes partial index to contractors (J-P). (Outsize volume).  
215ff
114. 19 May 1910 – 23 July 1921 Pre-formatted Matron's Work Book recording on a weekly basis details on the quantity of various materials received, such as sheeting, woollen thread, towelling, tweed and calico and also details of the clothing and so on 'made up', recording the number of articles, scale and quantity of for example, repairs, girls' petticoats and girls frocks (f92), pillow slips (f122). Generally signed by Thomas Nohilly, Master, and at various intervals includes notation indicating that the book was examined by the Clerk of the Union.  
182ff
115. 8 June 1912 Signed and sealed Form of Contract (in pursuance of the Pauper Children (Ireland) Acts, 1898, and 1902) between the Guardians and a foster-parent, Bridget Kilkelly, Ryehill, with the latter agreeing to '*accept the charge*' of a child, John O'Toole, aged about 8 years, for the sum of ten shillings and ten pence per month paid by the Guardians. The foster-parent agrees to '*bring up the child, and to endeavour to train him (or her) in habits of truthfulness, obedience, personal cleanliness, and industry, as well as in suitable domestic and outdoor work*'. Signed by the Clerk of Union, James Daly, and with the mark of the foster-parent.  
2pp
116. 30 September 1914 – 31 March 1919 Account book, recording payments made by individuals to the National Bank in account with Tuam Union, and on the debit side entries generally indicates 'To Thomas Nohilly', Master.  
272ff





117. 14 December 1918 – 11 September 1920 Day Book with record of invoices received and the value of goods delivered or work done. Details include date, name of the person or firm supplying goods, description of the articles received, such as turf, repairs to roof, milk, ox heads, eggs, butter, tobacco, pig's cheek, boots, buttons, and combs. Also includes quantity, price and initials of officer (generally the Master) who certified for payment and totals.

Approx 120ff

118. 13 April 1920 – 23 April 1920 **Dollards:** File of invoices, with one paying order, relating to stationery and related material supplied to the Union.

4pp

119. 20 March 1920 – 27 April 1920 **Hely's Ltd.:** File with invoice for printing, together with paying order from the Union in respect of same.

2 items