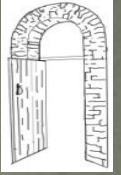


# The Workhouses of Galway and their response to An Gorta Mór



Mountbellew Conference, 21 October 2017

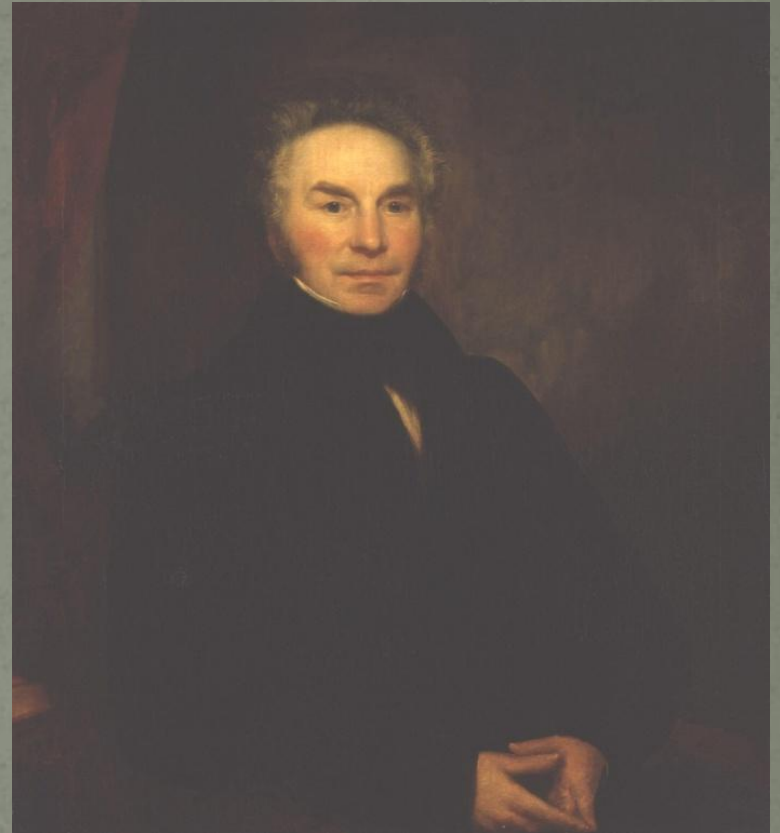
# Introduction

- Why the Workhouse system...
- **The Architect in theory... George Nicholls**
- The Architect in practice... George Wilkinson
- **The Workhouses of Co Galway – Part One**  
**Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway, Gort, Loughrea, Tuam**
- The Workhouses of Co Galway – Part Two  
Glenamaddy, Mountbellew, Oughterard, Portumna
- **Emigration from the Workhouses**
- After the Great Hunger
- **The end of matters...**



# The Architect... theory

- There was work available in England but little work available in Ireland (no industrial revolution).
- The housing in Ireland was pitiable...
- Irishmen began to flock to England in search of work and the government needed to stop this.
- They sent over George Nicholls to find a solution to Ireland's poverty.
- After six weeks he recommended the Workhouse System.
- The Irish Poor Law Act became law in 1838. It divided the country in 130 unions, with a further 33 added during the Great Hunger.



George Nicholls

# The Architect...practice



- Family of builder architects in Oxfordshire.
- Had been involved in the construction of a number of workhouses in England.
- Only 24 when appointed as architect to the Poor Law Commission in 1839.
- He was a flawed character and architect, notwithstanding level of detail.

**Galway:** Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway, Glenamaddy, Gort, Loughrea, **Mountbellew**, Oughterard, Portumna, Tuam.

**Mountbellew Electoral Divisions:** Annagh, Ballynakill, Caltra, Castleblakeney, Castlefrench, Clonbrock, Cloonkeen, Cooloo, Derryglassaun, Killeroran, Killian, Mountbellew, Mounthazel, Taghboy.

**George Wilkinson**



# What was the workhouse system about?

- If people couldn't afford to support themselves they came to the workhouse.
- In the workhouse, they had to do work in exchange for food.
- In Ireland, people had to stay and live in the workhouse.
- That is why it was called 'Indoor Relief'.
- The 163 (130+33 'plainer') workhouses were built to largely the same design.

Year	Number of workhouses in Ireland	Total number of inmates in Ireland
1844	113	105,358
1845	123	114,205
1846	130	243,933
1847	130	417,139
1848	131	610,463
1849	131	932,284
1850	163	805,705
1851	163	707,443
1852	163	504,864
1853	163	396,438



# When people were admitted in the workhouse.....

- They were bathed and disinfected.
- They were given a uniform to wear that was made out of a plain, uncomfortable material.



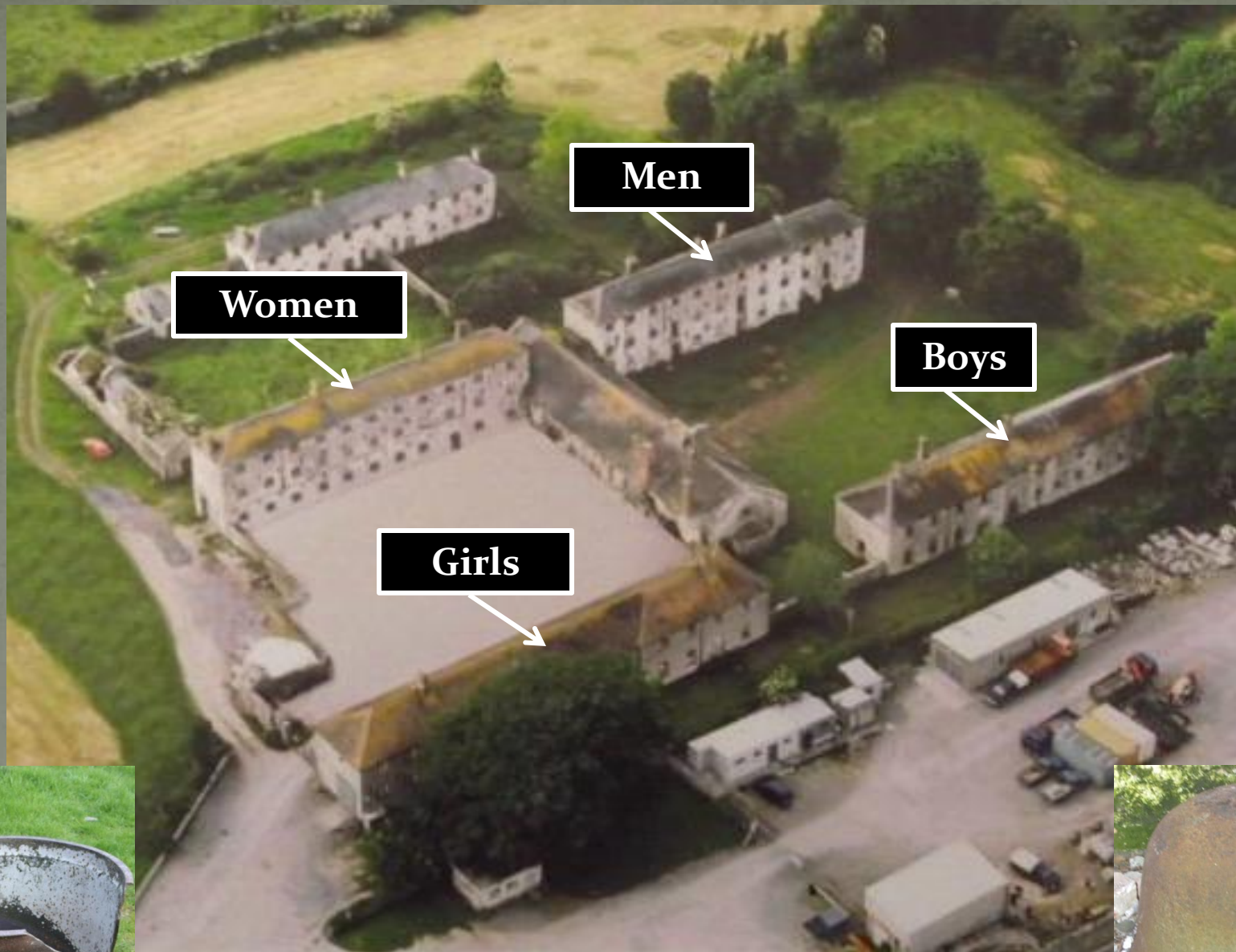


# Inside the complex....

- Girls aged between 2 and 15 years lived in the girls building.
- Boys aged between 2 and 15 years lived in the boys building.
- Women aged over 15 years lived in the women's building.
- Men over 15 years lived in the men's building.
- Children aged under 2 years stayed with their mother.

Meal	Amount – Adults
Breakfast	6-8 (noted as little as 3 in places) ounces of stir-about and half a pint of milk
Dinner	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of potatoes and one pint of skimmed milk

Meal	Amount - Children
Breakfast	3 ounces of oatmeal and half a pint of new milk
Dinner	2 ounces of potatoes and half a pint of new milk
Supper	6 ounces of bread

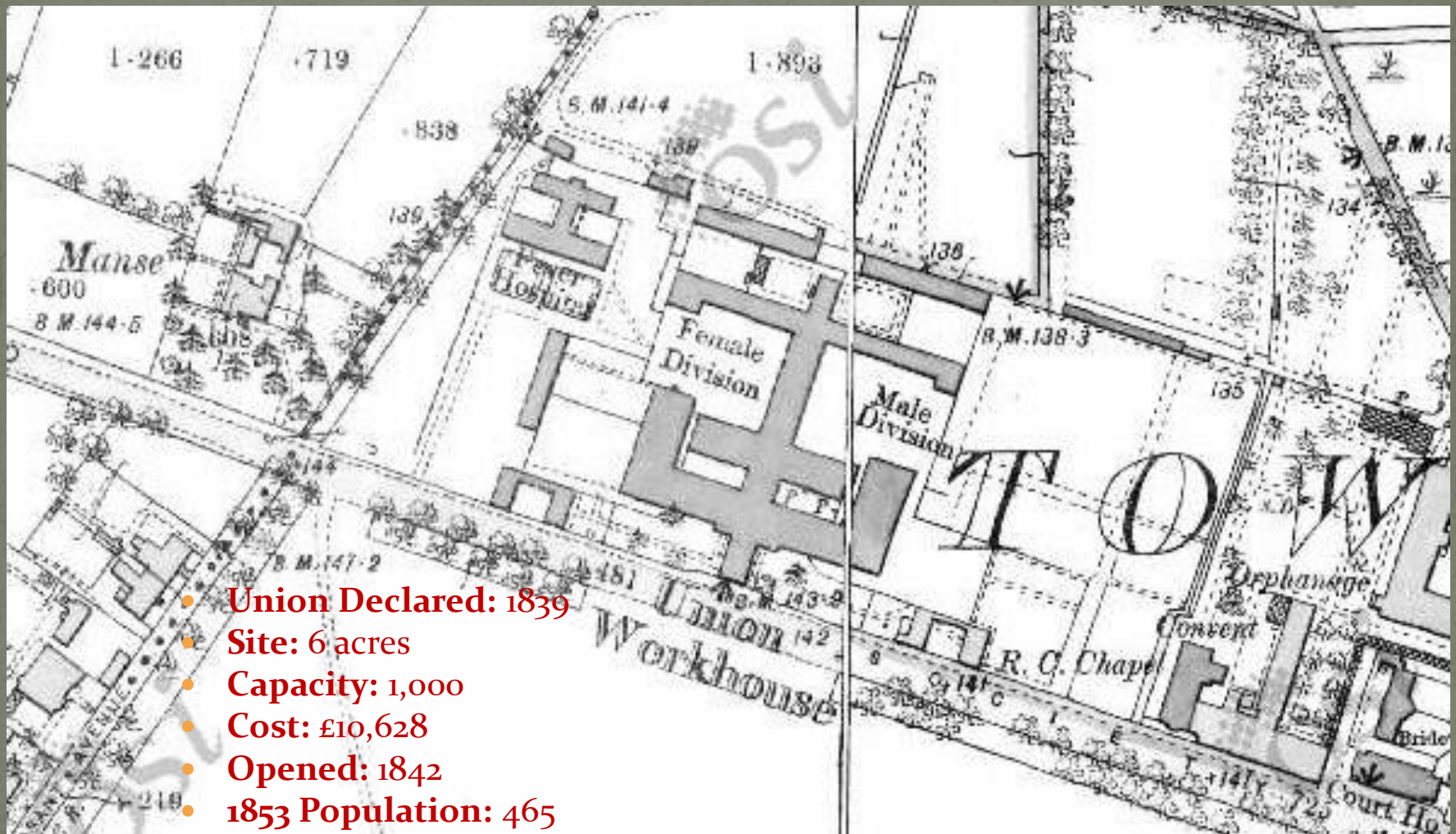




# Workhouses during the Great Hunger...

- ▣ The workhouse system was built to cater for 80,000 (1% of the population).
- ▣ **BUT... 2.3 million at near starvation level before the Great Hunger.**
- ▣ The workhouses became massively overcrowded which made disease a huge problem.
- ▣ **More than 1 million people died.**
- ▣ 10 Workhouse in Co Galway.
- ▣ **Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway, Glenamaddy, Gort, Loughrea, Mountbellew, Oughterard, Portumna, Tuam.**

# Ballinasloe Union Workhouse



- **Union Declared:** 1839
- **Site:** 6 acres
- **Capacity:** 1,000
- **Cost:** £10,628
- **Opened:** 1842
- **1853 Population:** 465

**Electoral Divisions:** Abbeygormacan, Ahascragh, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ballynakill, Ballymacward, Clonfert, Clontuskert, Eyrecourt, Kilconnell, Kilgerril, Killaan, Killasolan, Kileronan, Killian, Killimor, Kilquain, Kiltormer, Moylough; and Creagh, Moore, and Taughmaconnell in Co Roscommon.



# Ballinasloe Union Workhouse

- A capacity of 1,000 for a union the size of Ballinasloe was never likely to be sufficient, even during a mild crisis. During the depths of the great hunger it proved wholly insufficient. Indeed, even toward the end of the great hunger, the census of 1851 shows that there were still 2,487 inmates in the institution.
- On June 30th 1849, there had been 4,098 inmates while 41 had died the previous week. By the early Autumn, the numbers had dropped to 1,821. Sadly, this was not the result of a 'seasonal swing', but rather a devastating cholera epidemic with at least 860 dead by mid-May as reported by the *Galway Vindicator*.
- 952 Inmates and 250 in the fever hospital (WS, 24 Dec 1847)

*Western Star*,  
10 June 1848

## Ballinasloe Union.

**T**HE BOARD OF GUARDIANS wish to receive Tenders for supplying the Workhouse with BUTTER MILK and SWEETMILK, for Twelve Months, from the 1st day of FEBRUARY next.

Sealed Tenders stating the price per Gallon, at which it would be delivered at the Workhouse should be left with me, at or before Eleven o'Clock, A.M., on Wednesday, the 20th instant, and in which also should be stated at full length, the Names, Occupations and Addresses of Two Sureties willing to join the Contractor in a Bond for the due execution of his contract.

By Order,

JOHN GILL,

Board-room, Clerk of the Union  
Workhouse, 6th January, 1847. (9)

STATE OF THE HOUSE.				
In the house	..	..	..	1566
Discharged	..	..	..	74
Died in Fever Hospital	..	..	..	2
in Infirmary	..	..	..	12
in Workhouse	..	..	..	7
				95

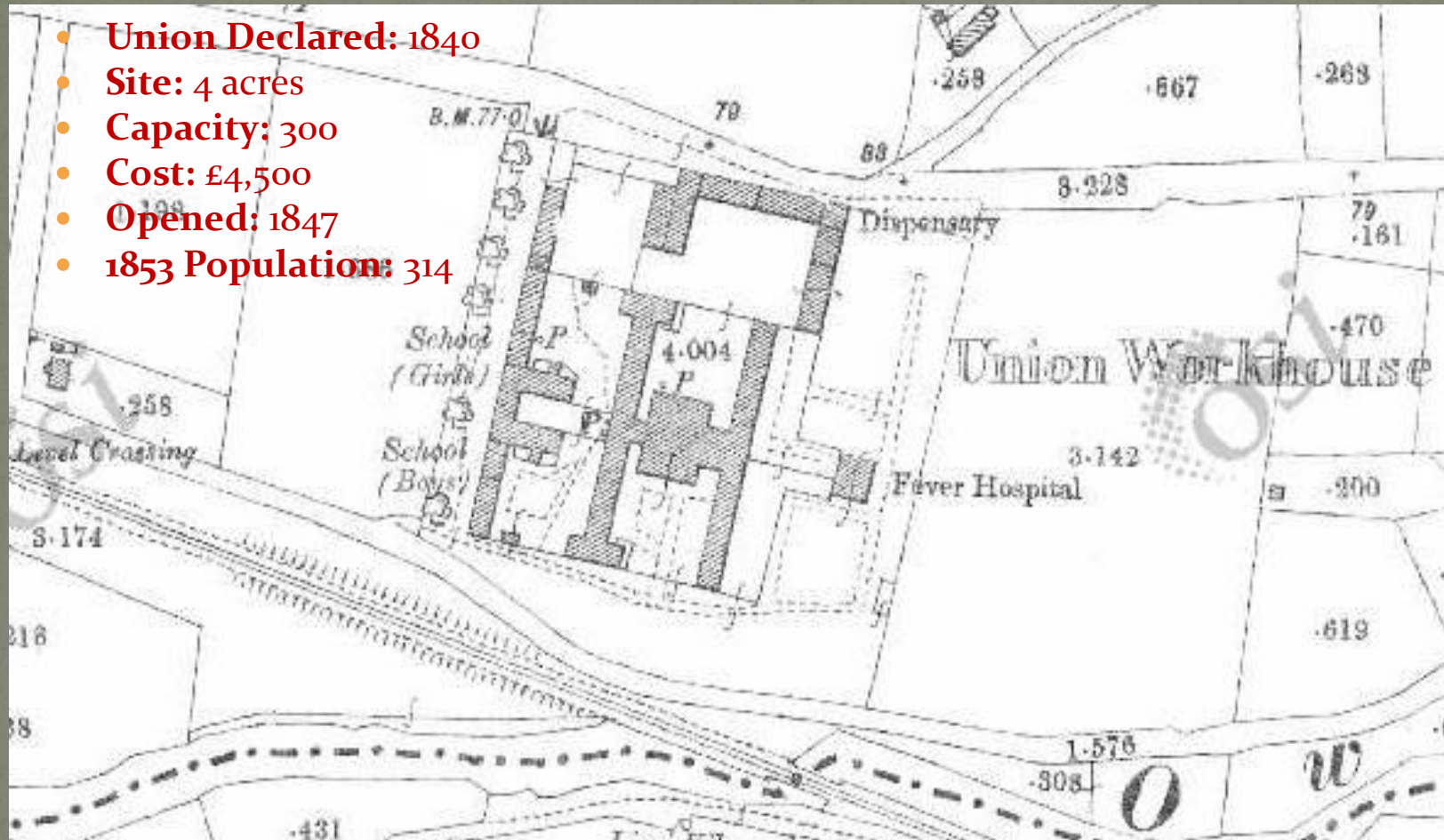
*Western Star*,  
9 Jan 1847





# Clifden Union Workhouse

- **Union Declared:** 1840
- **Site:** 4 acres
- **Capacity:** 300
- **Cost:** £4,500
- **Opened:** 1847
- **1853 Population:** 314



**Electoral Divisions:** Ballindoon, Clifden, Renvyle, Roundstone.



# Clifden Union Workhouse

- On 30 December 1847, the Commissioners wrote to the Board of Guardians authorising them to *“fit up the National Schoolhouse at Clifden, belonging to Mr. D'Arcy, as a temporary fever hospital for the Clifden Union, and...the occupation of the premises by the Board for the purpose stated”*.
- To further alleviate the chronic overcrowding, it was also agreed that the Commissioners would *“take the site of the building referred to for the erection thereon of a permanent fever-ward, if the terms upon which it is proposed to let the ground be favourable to the Union”*.



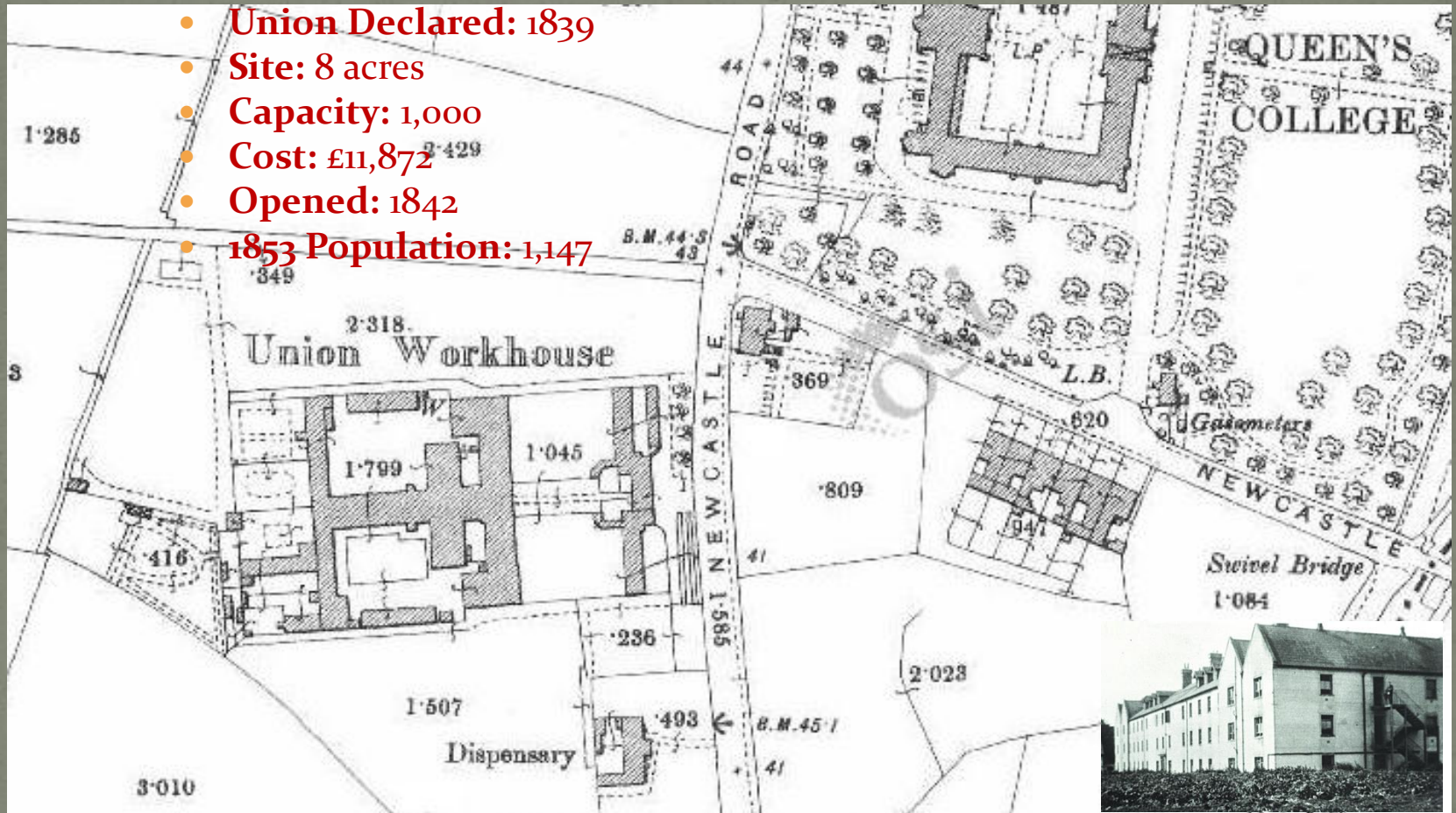
Galway Mercury, 23 Oct 1852

Clifden Board of Guardians have largely contributed to swell the ranks of the proselytizers, both by the illegal discharge of paupers from the house, when they had no earthly means of support, and their refusal to admit those in a state of absolute destitution. In June last there were about fifty females, from fourteen to twenty years old, turned out of the Clifden workhouse almost in a state of nudity. Twenty-five of these persons being discharged on a Sunday evening, took refuge in an open forge for the night.— They were ashamed to exhibit themselves in the street, so destitute were they of clothing. The Rev. E. Gibbons, C.C., upon another occasion found a young female crying in the streets, with scarcely a rag to cover her. She told him that the guardians turned her out, and told her to go home. Her home—when she had one—was about forty miles distant; but her friends were all dead, and she had no human being to look up to for the slightest support. The rev. gentleman supplied her with clothes, and folded up the rags which had been patched together in the workhouse, in order to send them to the Poor Law Commissioners, that they might have ocular demonstration of the harsh and illegal conduct of the Clifden guardians, but did not send them afterwards. He preserves them as a memorial of the *humane* treatment which the unfortunate paupers receive at the hands of the landlord guardians of the Clifden Union.



# Galway Union Workhouse

- Union Declared: 1839
- Site: 8 acres
- Capacity: 1,000
- Cost: £11,872
- Opened: 1842
- 1853 Population: 1,147



**Electoral Divisions:** Annaghdown, Aran, Athenry, Ballynacourty, Claregalway, Galway City, Killanin, Lackagh, Moycullen, Oranmore, Oughterard, Stradbally.



# Galway Union Workhouse

- Galway Union was one of the first declared in the country, on 1 June 1839, and was the earliest declared of all of those in this booklet. Inevitably perhaps, given it had such a broad geographic area to cover, the union was repeatedly under pressure including financial, and even closed for a period.

- At the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians on November 18th 1847, Captain Herald confirmed that *“there were 1202 paupers in the house, 149 applicants, but 50 only could be admitted; consequently 99 persons in a state of destitution were left un-provided for at the gates, which, of itself, at once shows the distressed state of the Union generally.”*

- There were 13 additional cases of fever that week, which the surgeon attributed *“to the imprudent removal of blankets that had been used in the fever hospital, to the body of the house, without being previously washed, thus communicating the disease to those who unfortunately used them”* and *“he forbade the admission of more than 1250 paupers until Straw Lodge was prepared to receive the hospital patients, of which there were 103.”*



## STARVATION.

An inquest was held on Thursday last, before Mr. Perrin, at the Union Workhouse, on view of the body of Mary Commins, who, it was said, died of starvation.

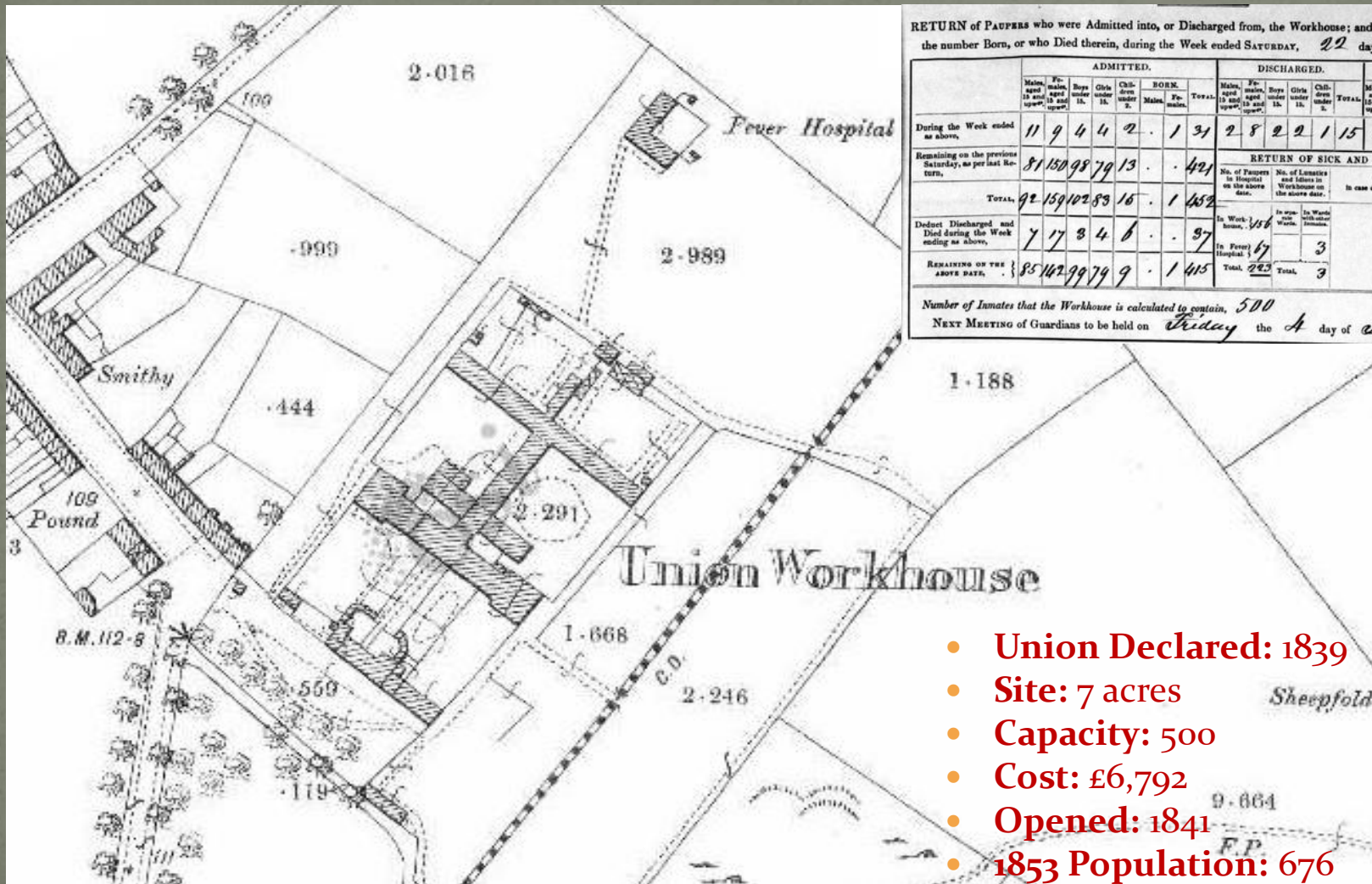
Mary Carr, examined—Is the wife of Mark Carr, and lives in the village of Ballagh, about two miles from Galway knew Mary Commins ; she was a beggar latterly, and frequently called at witness's house for a bit to eat ; deceased last called at witness's house about nine o'clock, on yesterday morning ; she called for a drink of water, and witness's husband gave deceased a small drop of milk through the water ; witness and her family are nearly as poor as deceased, so they gave deceased no food ; deceased said she was in a hurry, as she was going to the workhouse to seek admission as a pauper ; the neighbours have enough to do to feed themselves.

John Corcoran sworn—Is in the Galway Workhouse ; went to Dangan on yesterday, by Mr. Coghlan's orders, and found deceased dead on the road, about half-past 12 o'clock ; there were several women standing about deceased ; one of the women found 8d., a beads, a pipe, and 1d. worth of tobacco in the pocket of deceased ; witness brought the body to the workhouse.

Galway Mercury, 16 Jan 1847



# Gort Union Workhouse



RETURN of PAUPERS who were Admitted into, or Discharged from, the Workhouse; and of the number of Sick, and the number Born, or who Died therein, during the Week ended SATURDAY, 22 day of May 1847

	ADMITTED.						DISCHARGED.						DIED.					
	Males, aged 15 and upw.	Fe-males, aged 15 and upw.	Boys under 15.	Girls under 15.	Children under 5.	BORN.	Males, aged 15 and upw.	Fe-males, aged 15 and upw.	Boys under 15.	Girls under 15.	Children under 5.	TOTAL.	Males, aged 15 and upw.	Fe-males, aged 15 and upw.	Boys under 15.	Girls under 15.	Children under 5.	TOTAL.
During the Week ended as above,	11	9	4	4	2	1	31	2	8	2	2	15	5	9	1	2	5	22
Remaining on the previous Saturday, as per last Return,	81	150	98	79	13		421											
TOTAL.	92	159	102	83	15	1	452											
Deduct Discharged and Died during the Week ending as above,	7	17	3	4	6		97											
REMAINDERS ON THE ABOVE DATE.	85	142	99	79	9		145											

Number of Inmates that the Workhouse is calculated to contain, 500  
 NEXT MEETING of Guardians to be held on Friday the 4 day of June 1847

- Union Declared: 1839
- Site: 7 acres
- Capacity: 500
- Cost: £6,792
- Opened: 1841
- 1853 Population: 676

**Electoral Divisions:** Ardahan, Beagh, Kilbeacanty, Killeenavarra, Killeenaran, Kilmacduagh, Kiltartan, Kilthomas, Kinvara. Also Kilkeedy (Co Clare).

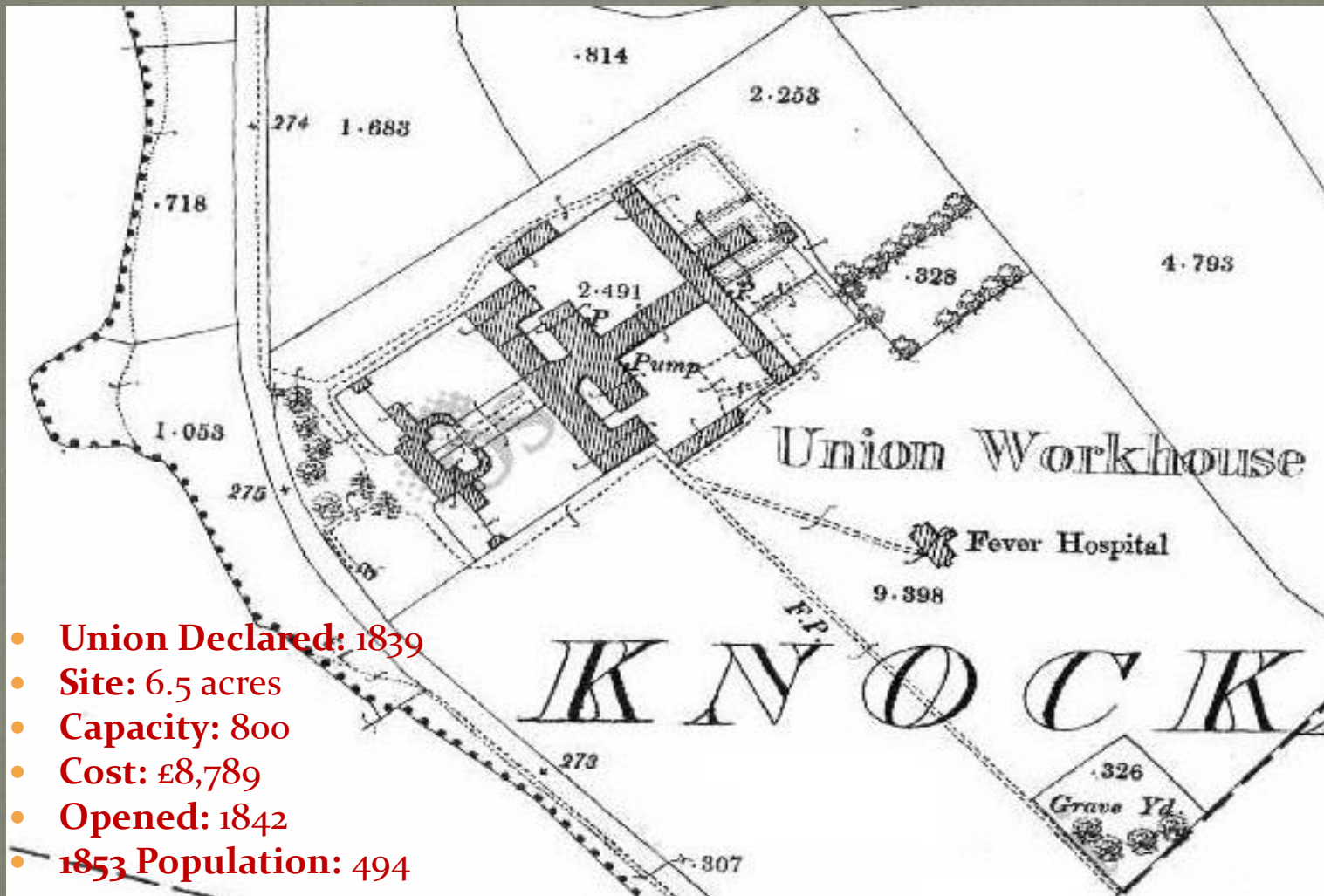


# Gort Union Workhouse

- Gort was the first of the workhouses in Co Galway to receive inmates, opening on 11 November 1841. The workhouse staggered from crisis to crisis however, both financial to administrative. On his inspection of the Workhouse in February 1848, Captain Hanley claimed that no part of the Commissioner's instructions were fairly carried out, stating *"the wards, yards, &c, present one scene of confusion, filth, and disease."*
- The mismanagement highlighted by Hanley came on a week when there were 3,157 applicants for relief. He also highlighted that *"on reference to the Committee Visiting Book, I find no note of any Guardian having visited the interior of the house since the 8th March, 1847."* Despite the Commissioner's recommendations, *"the dietaries are in the same state of neglect; books not kept up, and matters left to the discretion of the master and matron. It is hardly possible to conceive a house in a worse state, or in greater disorder."*
- Hanley recommended that *"the only hope of correcting those evils, and affording the benefit of the law to the truly destitute of the district, would be by dissolving the present Board, which I feel it my duty to recommend"*. The Commissioners supported this view and determined to dissolve the board. The situation actually got worse, as the *Limerick Chronicle* of 23 May 1849 reported that *"the goods and chattels of the Gort Workhouse were sold under execution this day by the High Sheriff of Galway, at the suit of the creditors."*
- An Englishman visiting the town in 1850 noted hundreds of women and children shivering at the grounds of the workhouse noting the adults wore only rags.



# Loughrea Union Workhouse



**Electoral Divisions:** Athenry, Ballynakill, Clonkeen, Craughwell, Duniry, Kilchreest, Kilconierin, Killeenadeema, Killimordaly, Kilmeen, Kilrickle, Kiltulla, Loughrea, Portumna, Tynagh.



# Loughrea Union Workhouse

- The 1848 'Papers relating to proceedings for relief of distress, and state of unions and workhouses in Ireland' paints a depressing picture. It was confirmed that on Saturday, February 5th, *"the number of inmates then in the house was 1136, being 236 persons more than the house was calculated to contain, and 120 fresh cases were brought forward... it is not wonderful, considering the mortality, fever and dysentery being prevalent, that persons have been found who prefer the chance of death by the road-side to that of death by disease in the workhouse, which since October last has carried off upwards of 200."*

## AWFUL DEATH FROM STARVATION. (FROM A LOUGHREA CORRESPONDENT.)

Deaths from starvation have ceased to be wonderful. The occurrence of such has become so frequent that men now look upon them as part and parcel of the transactions of the day. In accordance with the course you have pursued in your journal since its first publication, I do not wish to write politically on this subject—I do not wish to engage in a dissertation on the absurdity of that "political economy" whose chief end seems to be the destruction of our people, the populating of our churchyards, and the enrichment of a few. Even were one inclined to point out and name the exact wheel in our State machinery by whose friction and unwieldiness the entire fabric is shaken to its centre, it would be merely a loss of time. The people—even the poorest among them—know full well that that wheel is situated in Mark-Lane—is called the "Governor," and is placed much too near the native power to allow of the whole machinery's travelling smoothly. Every journal, metropolitan as well as provincial, has its column of "Deaths from starvation," and its daily instances of the wants of the starving poor, the destitution which prevails, and the widespread misery which is but too apparent among the people.

## LOUGHREA.

The state of Loughrea at present is very insecure, from the extent of disease which prevails there; and it is absolutely necessary that every precaution should be employed to prevent the spread of contagion. Instead, however, of attending to this important particular, it would appear that the police authorities have studied with peculiar admiration that portion of Roman History which describes Nero performing on the fiddle during the destruction of the city, for instead of preventing hordes of idlers from swarming by the road-side, their whole time appears to be devoted to the extinction of the degenerate followers of the bardic race. The new road is converted into an open air asylum for all the filth and wretchedness of the country, for there are no less than twenty families squatted there, at the very entrance to the town. It cannot surely be unnoticed by the Guardians on their way to the Workhouse, and we are astonished they do not take some steps for having enforced the regulation respecting vagrants. The health of the town demands the immediate correction of this dangerous indulgence, which has been allowed to go too far.





# Loughrea Union Workhouse

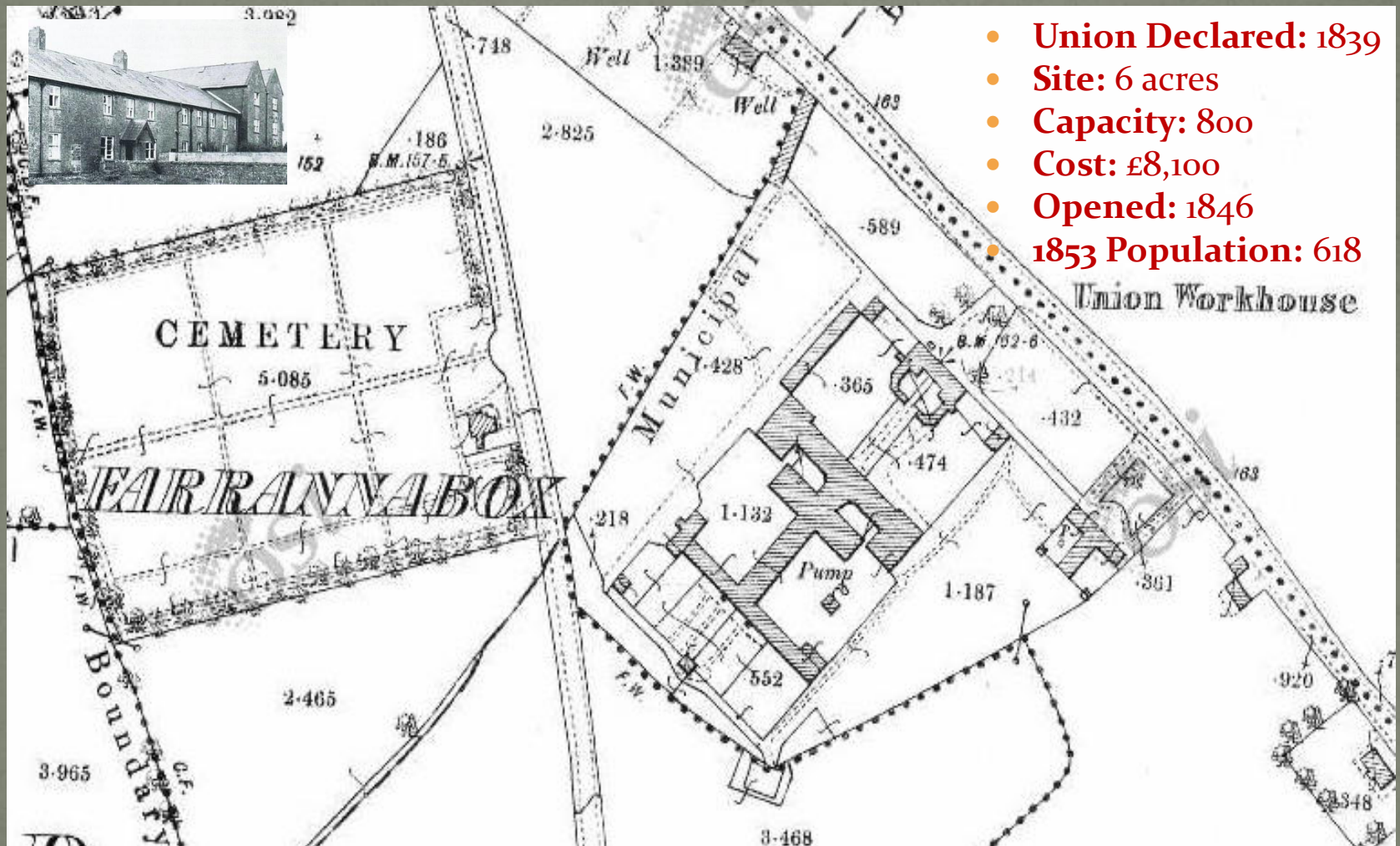
## • Loan Funds

No. 7 G.		State in this Column, No. 4.	
Whether on the dates in Column No. 3, he or she resided in the Townland? If so, what were his or her circumstances?		Whether he or she now reside there, or what has become of them? If gone, where? If deceased, when? And if the Party is in the Townland or its vicinity, what are his or her circumstances and means of livelihood?	
Schedule No.	Townland of		
1	2	3	4
4	George Clarke	27 March 1838. 19 March 1839	George Clarke did reside in Borken at the time dates as a doctor of the Church and very poor at the time. Resides dead about 9 years.
94	James Lacky	27 March 1838. 15 Dec 1846	James Lacky did reside in Borken at the time dates in independent circumstances at the time. Now dead about 9 years.
	Pat Mulhern	3 Sep. 1839	Pat Mulhern did reside in Borken at the time dates but very poor at the time. Now dead about 6 years ago.
	John Lawless	3 Sep. 1839	John Lawless did reside in Borken at the time dates but very poor at the time. Now dead about 6 years ago.
116	Thos. Burke	3 Sep. 1839. 130 April 1897	Thos. Burke did reside in Borken at the time dates. Now dead about 9 years ago.
19	Michl. McNamee	7 April 1840. 19 Jul 1840	Michl. McNamee did reside in Borken at the time dates. Now dead about 9 years ago.
	Anthony Whelan	26 June 1841	Anthony Whelan did reside in Borken at the time dates. Now dead about 9 years ago.
50	John Daly	12 April 1842. 28 Feb 1843	John Daly did reside in Borken at the time dates and now dead about 9 years ago.
73 94		16 April 1846. 15 Sep 1846. 15 Dec 1846	John Daly did reside in Borken at the time dates and now dead about 9 years ago.
67	Michael Whelan	12 July 1842. 19 May 1846	Michael Whelan did reside in Borken at the time dates. Now dead about 9 years ago.
138. 154.	Michl. Dolan	12 July 1842. 31 Aug 1847. 30 Nov 1849	Michl. Dolan did reside in Borken at the time dates but actually from 4 April 1848. 13 Jan 1848.
20. 212.			
16	Martin Coy or Cox	12 July 1842	Martin Coy did reside in Borken and now dead about 9 years ago.



# Tuam Union Workhouse

- Union Declared: 1839
- Site: 6 acres
- Capacity: 800
- Cost: £8,100
- Opened: 1846
- 1853 Population: 618



**Electoral Divisions:** Abbey, Annaghdown, Cummer, Claretuam, Clonbern, Donaghpatrick, Dunmore, Headford, Kilbannon, Killererin, Liskeevy, Monivea, Tuam.



# Tuam Union Workhouse

- Despite the union being declared in 1839, it would be seven years before Tuam Workhouse took its first inmates because of difficulties in collecting the Poor Rate.
- One of the major figures in the West of Ireland during in these years was the Roman Catholic Archbishop John McHale of Tuam Diocese. Various sources state that donations and bread & soup were distributed on his orders from his kitchen during these years of crisis.
- It is also true however that he had propagated the view that the blight was a divine punishment on his flock for their sins. And it was stated in the 1848 'proceedings for relief of distress, and state of unions and workhouses' that he was one of those in arrears in the payment of the poor rate.
- There were regular complaints in relation to the food at Tuam Workhouse. For example, in September 1851 the *Leinster Express* reported that the 'milk' supplied to the workhouse was not milk, but liquid composed of lime, chalk, and water.



Mr Davis, the master, reported that the man who accompanied a pauper, named Honoria M'Donagh, and her three children, on the day of their admission, and then represented himself as the uncle of the children, had visited them on the Sunday previous, and that he had ascertained he was the husband of Honoria M'Donagh. The woman was called up, and acknowledged that he was, and in reply to a question why she had represented herself as belonging to this Union, when, in fact, she was from Clare Galway, and not Clare Tuam. She replied that she had been refused admission in the Galway Workhouse, if her husband would not go in with her, as he expected that by providing for her and the children in the Workhouse, to be able to save his wages and release some of the things that were in the pawn office. The poor woman begged to be allowed to remain for a month.

*Tuam Herald*, 27 June 1846



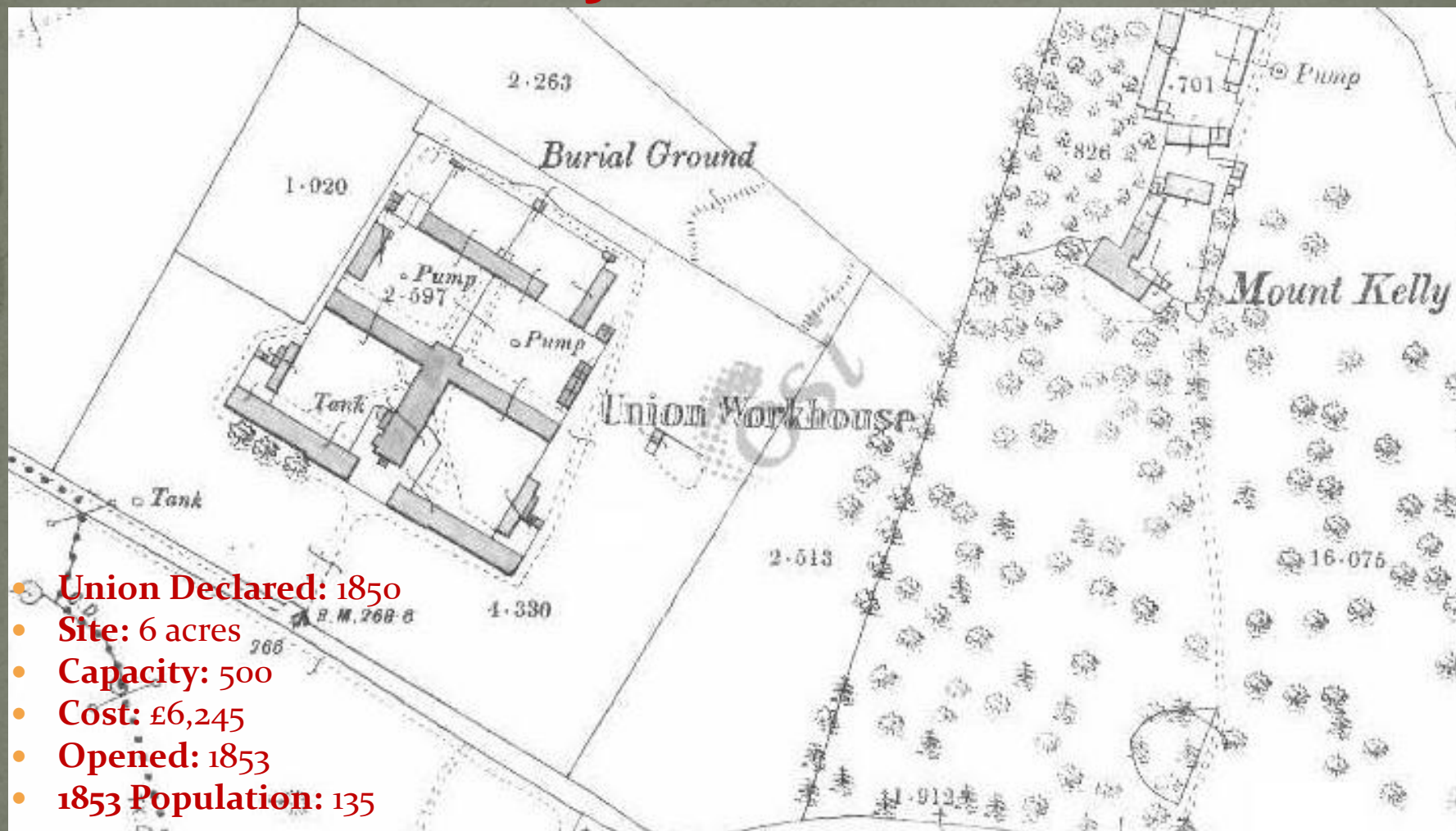
# 1848-49 Stats

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	I.—Comparative Statement of the Average Numbers Relieved during the last Month of the Quarters ended 31 December, 1848, 31 March, 1849, and 30 June, 1849.									II.—Proportion to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841, of the Average Numbers Relieved during each of the Months of Dec., 1848—March, 1849—and June, 1849 and 1848, respectively.			
		December, 1848.			March, 1849.			June, 1849.			Dec., 1848.	March, 1849.	June.	
		In Work-house.	On Out-Relief Lists.	Total.	In Work-house.	On Out-Relief Lists.	Total.	In Work-house.	On Out-Relief Lists.	1849.			1848.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Co. GALWAY :											Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ballinasloe -	99,026	2,018	22	2,040	3,935	47	3,982	3,907	4,341	8,248	2·0	4·0	8·3	11·7
Clifden <sup>a</sup> -	33,465	1,114	7,232	8,346	1,327	10,894	12,221	1,525	12,894	14,419	25·0	36·5	43·1	55·5
Galway <sup>b</sup> -	88,973	3,623	5,308	8,931	3,343	14,592	17,935	3,428	19,319	22,747	10·0	20·2	25·6	35·9
Gort <sup>c</sup> -	43,543	1,773	4,534	6,307	1,838	5,205	7,043	2,276	6,873	9,149	14·5	16·2	21·0	23·6
Loughrea <sup>d</sup> -	71,774	2,436	2,879	5,315	2,704	5,048	7,752	2,801	7,356	10,157	7·4	10·8	14·1	12·7
Tuam <sup>e</sup> -	74,974	2,592	4,377	6,969	2,368	14,130	16,498	2,506	15,804	18,310	9·3	22·0	24·4	19·6

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Workhouse Accommodation at the commencement of each Month.			In the Workhouse.			On the Out-Relief Lists.			Total.			Proportion to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841, of the Highest Average Numbers Relieved during any Month of the Quarter.
		Jan.	Feb.	March.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Co. GALWAY :														Per cent.
Ballinasloe -	99,026	2,750	3,270	3,750	2,688	3,528	3,935	41	39	47	2,729	3,567	3,982	4·0
Clifden <sup>a</sup> -	33,465	1,274	1,274	1,286	1,379	1,280	1,327	7,689	9,521	10,894	9,068	10,801	12,221	36·5
Galway <sup>b</sup> -	88,973	3,150	3,150	3,150	3,841	3,314	3,343	7,502	11,892	14,592	11,343	15,206	17,935	20·2
Gort <sup>c</sup> -	43,543	2,100	2,100	2,100	1,955	1,968	1,838	4,904	5,169	5,205	6,859	7,137	7,043	16·4
Loughrea <sup>d</sup> -	71,774	2,400	2,900	2,900	2,792	2,880	2,704	376	3,956	5,048	3,168	6,836	7,752	10·8
Tuam <sup>e</sup> -	74,974	2,170	2,170	2,170	2,071	2,389	2,368	8,068	12,179	14,130	10,139	14,568	16,498	22·0

Statistical Statement for each Poor Law Union in Ireland, 1848-49

# Glenamaddy Union Workhouse



- **Union Declared:** 1850
- **Site:** 6 acres
- **Capacity:** 500
- **Cost:** £6,245
- **Opened:** 1853
- **1853 Population:** 135

**Electoral Divisions:** Ballinastack, Ballymoe, Ballynakill, Boyounagh, Carrownagur, Clonkeen, Creggs, Curraghmore, Glenamaddy, Island, Kilcornan, Kiltullagh, Raheen, Scregg, Shankill, Templetogher, Toberdosh, Toberroe...



# Glenamaddy Union Workhouse

- In May 1848, the *Galway Vindicator* reported on 'another horrible case of destitution, resulting in the death of a wretched man, named Michael Concannon... at the village of Glenamaddy'. His body was found 'in a mangled state as if eaten away by rats and dogs'.
- Glenamaddy however would have to wait another five years for a workhouse. Though with a capacity of 500, the workhouse population never reached anywhere near same.
- On 20 Feb 1855 the Board of Guardians proposed that the union be dissolved, however the commissioners declined to do so.
- There were ad hoc issues re the treatment of inmates.
- Throughout the latter years of the century there were just under one hundred inmates, and half that in the early twentieth century.
- Mismanagement was rife at Glenamaddy, and the *Leinster Express* reported that 730lbs of bread more than ordered was received by the master and not accounted for. Also, rather shamefully, the workhouse was without a Chaplain for a period during 1858-59.
- The main building of the workhouse was burnt by the IRA to 'frustrate any attempt of military occupation', with the *Connacht Tribune* of 16 July 1921 describing the 'well-planned' operation.

## Glenamaddy Union.

### MASTER & MATRON WANTED.

THE Board of Guardians of the above Union will, on MONDAY the 19th instant, proceed to elect fit and proper persons to superintend 360 boys and girls at the Clonmore Auxiliary Workhouse.

The Master will be required to have a thorough knowledge of Garden and Field Culture, and the National System of Education. The girls are to be taught Needle Work, Cooking, Washing and the cleansing and the regulating of the entire establishment.

Salary for Master, £30—security required £100  
Salary for Matron, 15—security required 50 with the usual apartments and rations. A married couple will be preferred. Testimonials for character and competency, offering two solvent securities willing to join in a bond for the above sum, will be received up to 11 o'clock on the above date, when candidates are requested to attend.

By order

J. J. D'ARCY, Union Clerk  
31st July 1850.

*Tuam Herald*, 10 Aug 1850



# Mountbellew Union Workhouse

## MOUNTBELLEW UNION WORKHOUSE.

**B**UILDERS and others are invited to deliver Tenders for the Execution of the several Works required to be performed in the Erection of a WORKHOUSE proposed to be Built at MOUNTBELLEW, County of Galway.

The Plans and Specifications may be seen at the Poor Law Commissioners' Office, Custom House, Dublin, from the 1st to the 6th July next, inclusive; and on and after the 8th July they may be seen with the Clerk of the Union, at Mountbellew.—Sealed Tenders must be forwarded under cover, directed

“The Poor Law Commissioners,  
“Dublin.”

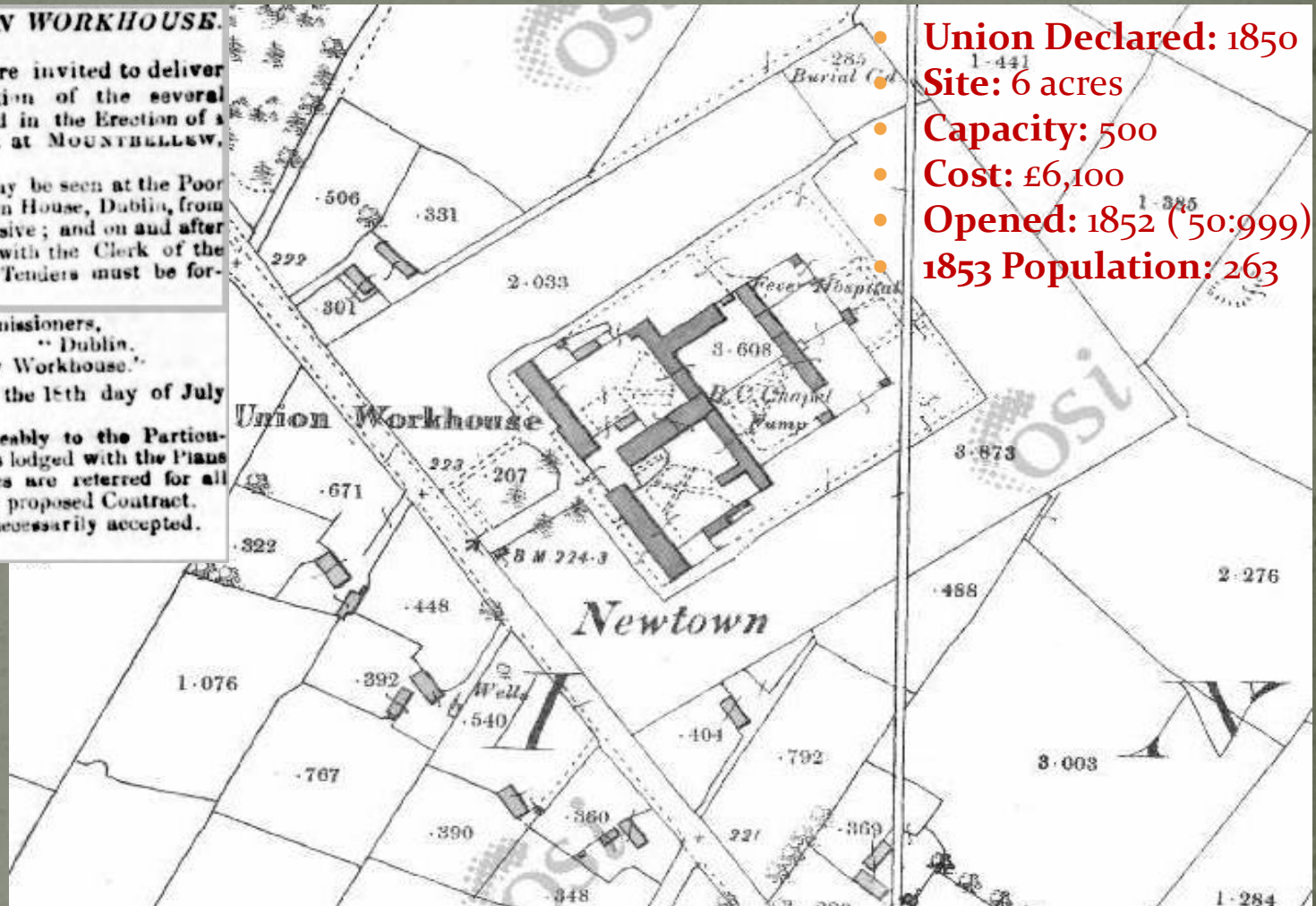
“Tender for Mountbellew Workhouse.”

And must be received on or before the 18th day of July 1850.

The Tenders must be made agreeably to the Particulars relating to Building Contracts lodged with the Plans and Specification, to which parties are referred for all further information relating to the proposed Contract.

The lowest Tender will not be necessarily accepted.

Dublin, 8th June, 1850.



• Union Declared: 1850

• Site: 6 acres

• Capacity: 500

• Cost: £6,100

• Opened: 1852 (50:999)

• 1853 Population: 263

**Electoral Divisions:** Annagh, Ballynakill, Caltra, Castleblakeney, Castlefrench, Clonbrock, Cloonkeen, Cooloo, Derryglassaun, Killeroran, Killian, Mountbellew, Mounthazel, Taghboy.



# Mountbellew Union Workhouse

No. I.—RETURN of Expenditure and Numbers Relieved in Year ended 29th September, 1856—*continued.*

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Expenditure during the Year ended as above.					Number of Persons relieved during the Year.		Valuation on 29th September, 1856.	Poundage of the Expenditure on the Valuation.
	In-Maintenance.	Out-Relief.	Salaries and Rations of Officers.	All other Expenses.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	s. d.
Macroon.	2,473 16 9	—	515 19 5	370 1 8	3,359 17 10	1,419	—	61,529 15 0	1 1
Magherafelt.	649 7 7	—	582 19 2	240 0 4	1,472 7 1	443	—	73,951 18 3	0 4
Mallow.	2,121 19 2	—	877 13 10	535 9 8	3,535 2 8	1,931	—	99,873 12 0	0 8
Manorhamilton.	795 0 3	—	456 6 1	342 13 4	1,595 19 8	349	—	45,055 0 0	0 8
Middleton.	3,813 19 2½	—	1,060 13 7	520 14 5½	5,395 7 3	3,174	—	91,579 14 10	1 2
Milford.	852 1 1	—	363 5 0	169 9 6	1,384 15 7	358	—	31,034 18 6	0 10
Millstreet.	2,292 10 3½	—	508 17 2	363 3 4	3,164 10 9½	1,601	—	24,673 5 0	2 6
Mitchelstown.	2,308 2 7½	—	608 19 3	432 10 2½	3,349 12 1	1,528	—	48,452 5 0	1 4
Mobill.	885 7 9	—	529 17 11	384 11 1	1,799 16 9	260	—	39,722 2 0	0 10
Monaghan.	918 7 2	—	507 19 5	152 8 5	1,688 15 2	600	—	98,608 15 6	0 4
Mount Bellew.	878 0 9½	—	540 17 10	347 17 10½	1,766 16 5½	380	—	31,793 15 0	1 1
Mountmelick.	2,687 18 0	—	849 18 8	489 8 8	4,035 2 2	1,512	—	98,354 14 8	0 13
Mullingar.	3,236 12 2	—	880 0 11	1,681 14 4	5,798 7 5	1,389	—	149,557 3 0	0 9
Naas.	2,791 18 11¾	95 5 7	708 17 0	537 4 10½	4,133 6 5¼	1,544	308	140,390 3 0	0 7
Navan.	2,770 14 9½	79 11 0	634 4 0½	589 10 0½	4,073 19 11	1,189	205	96,100 10 0	0 10
Nenagh.	4,373 18 3¼	0 2 10½	861 14 0½	942 1 3½	6,177 16 6	2,241	1	91,312 11 0	1 4
Newcastle.	3,873 10 11¾	5 1 0	977 5 7	628 14 11	5,484 12 5¼	2,271	10	60,401 10 0	1 9
Newport.	559 12 4½	0 9 2	362 12 1	267 18 0	1,190 11 7½	208	3	11,673 12 0	2 0
New Ross.	4,454 14 4	51 19 6	1,050 4 1	1,244 7 6	6,801 5 5	2,052	73	105,462 12 0	1 3
Newry.	2,378 15 8	60 11 4	746 4 4	550 16 8	3,736 8 0	2,015	160	123,520 0 0	0 7
Newtownards.	1,873 11 4	4 3 3	694 6 1	603 6 5	3,175 7 1	1,083	3	119,573 6 0	0 6
Newtownlimavady.	567 3 7	—	522 15 10	337 19 0	1,427 18 5	521	—	67,110 11 2	0 5
Oldcastle.	2,077 16 3	2 9 1	560 9 11	508 13 3	3,149 8 6	836	9	52,356 5 0	1 2
Omagh.	1,334 12 0	10 6 0	550 9 0	454 15 6	2,350 2 6	642	9	75,298 5 0	0 7
Oughterard.	559 7 9½	—	465 13 10¼	242 4 1¼	1,267 5 9	222	—	11,627 10 0	2 2
Parsonstown.	1,566 11 0¾	—	656 5 9½	315 14 4	2,538 11 2¼	846	—	101,396 8 0	0 6
Portlanna.	832 2 8	—	399 18 3	249 8 4	1,481 9 3	372	—	25,808 5 0	1 1
Rathdown.	3,690 4 0½	1 8 3	936 0 8	962 14 0	5,610 6 11½	2,462	19	163,331 13 0	0 8
Rathdrum.	2,773 19 4½	64 19 9	833 19 6	713 15 0	4,386 13 7½	1,782	209	126,156 7 0	0 8
Rathkeale.	1,529 7 5	3 7 3	783 19 11	487 8 7	2,804 3 2	956	1	55,196 17 0	1 0
Roscommon.	2,122 2 7¼	6 19 4	685 4 9½	539 5 0½	3,353 11 9½	893	9	41,605 19 6	1 7
Roscrea.	1,755 3 8	1 13 9½	740 6 2	1,749 14 2¼	4,246 17 9¾	1,105	12	69,111 0 0	1 2
Scariff.	1,659 7 9¼	—	560 16 7½	368 8 11	2,588 13 3¼	888	—	25,687 0 11	2 0
Swanage.	1,563 13 5½	—	601 9 3	191 7 11½	2,356 10 8	665	—	50,051 7 0	0 11

[continued.]

"The board do not wish for any alteration in the present position of this Union, although they are fully sensible of the burden of the establishment charges; they are of the opinion that any extra charge in this respect is amply compensated by the more efficient administration of affairs in a small Union than in one larger area. They also feel that the area of a Union cannot be considerably enlarged without much injustice to the poor applicants for relief, whose interests, as well as those of the ratepayers, it is equally the duty of the board to protect".



# Mountbellew Union Workhouse

Tuam Herald, 14 July 1855



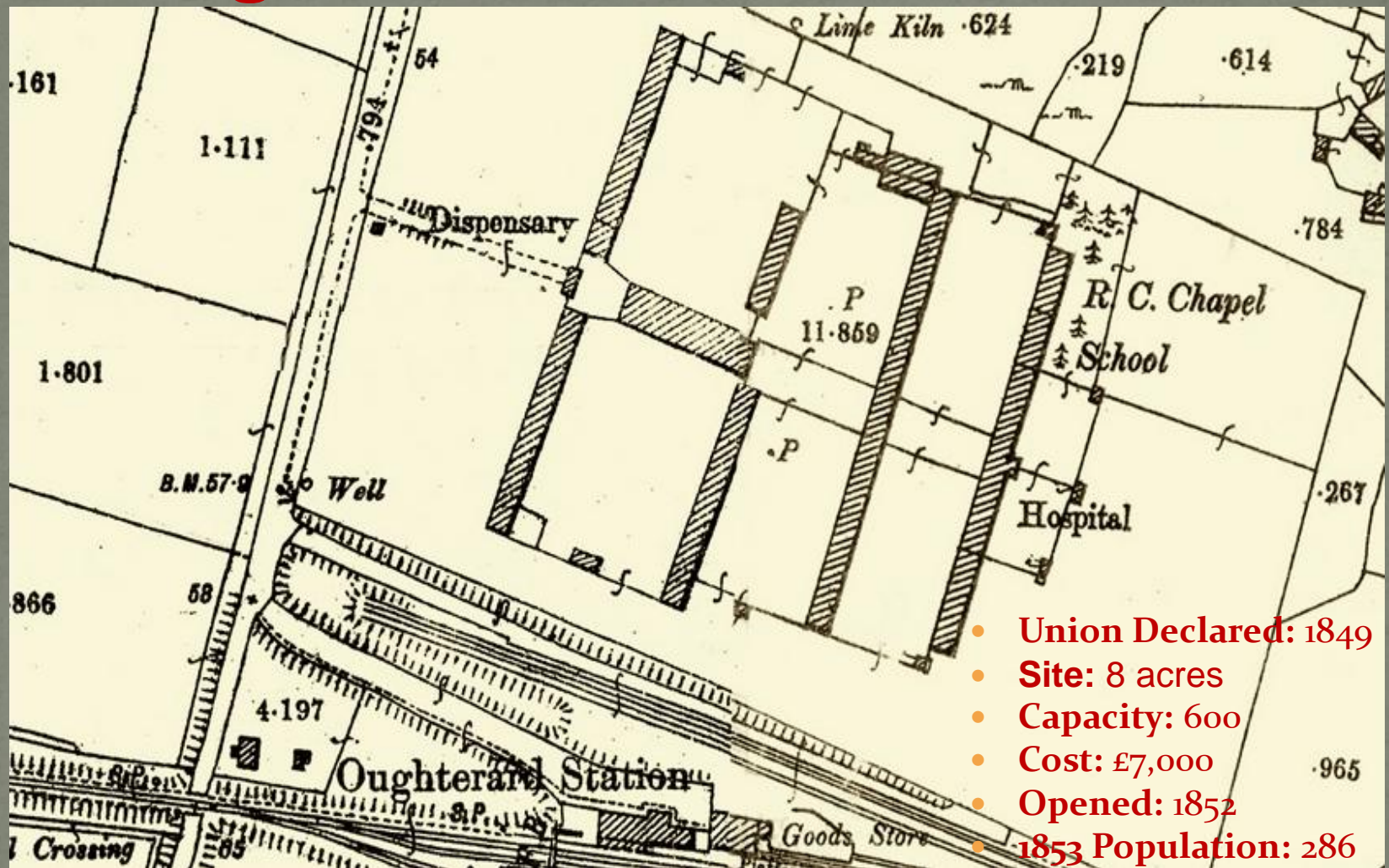
**EARLY FLAX.**—A gentleman has presented us with a specimen of the flax at present growing on the Mountbellew Workhouse farm, which it can be seen at this office. It is decidedly a superior sample, being 3 feet 6 inches in length, in full blossom and not too rank. The splendid specimen before us reflects much credit on Mr. Joyce the Workhouse Master.—*Ballinasloe Star.*

The Western News on 9 August 1884 painted a further positive picture of the Workhouse (agri):

*"I proceeded to the workhouse to ascertain some particulars about that institution. I found the master in his office working and the matron attending to her own duties. On informing the master, Mr Buren, the object of my mission, he kindly said he would be delighted to afford me every opportunity to gratify my curiosity, or rather judge for myself how the institution was managed. Before entering I was struck with the splendid crops within the walls, the best I had seen through the country on my journey, and I came to the conclusion that the place should have been intended as a Model Farm wherein to teach agriculture to the people of the district. Imagine my surprise at being told by the master that the space enclosed within the walls contained a little over four acres which were entirely farmed under his own supervision. He informed me that all the potatoes, onions, and other vegetables used in the workhouse grew on the ground I saw, and that the inmates did the work, so that it did not cost the union one penny for labour. He managed to keep all employed with the result that the potatoes, onions, mangolds turnips, cabbage plants and oats are the best in the country."*



# Oughterard Union Workhouse



**Electoral Divisions:** Camus, Clonbur, Cong, Crumpaun, Cur, Gorumna, Kilcummin, Letterbrickaun, Lettermore, Oughterard, Ross, Turlough, Wormhole.



# Oughterard Union Workhouse

Considered the second poorest union in Ireland, Oughterard struggled from the outset with 'unsatisfactory' collection of rates.

Religious disputes, over money, and sometimes over 'souls' was not uncommon as right, with the *Examiner* on 9 Aug 1852.

Proposals to dissolve or amalgamate Oughterard were considered in various reports, including in 1886.

In Feb 1906, Colm de Bhailís / Colm Wallace (1796 -1906) the Irish-language poet died within days of leaving the workhouse.

In 1922 the workhouse was burned by anti-treaty forces so that the Free State Army would not have a lodging place in the area.



In June 1899 the workhouse was visited by Inspectors who *"saw the 4 males and 3 females who are classified as of unsound mind ... I cannot consider that the conditions under which they live— -their clothing, bedding, arrangements for personal ablution, cleanliness, &c. are satisfactory or suitable for such a suffering and helpless class"*.

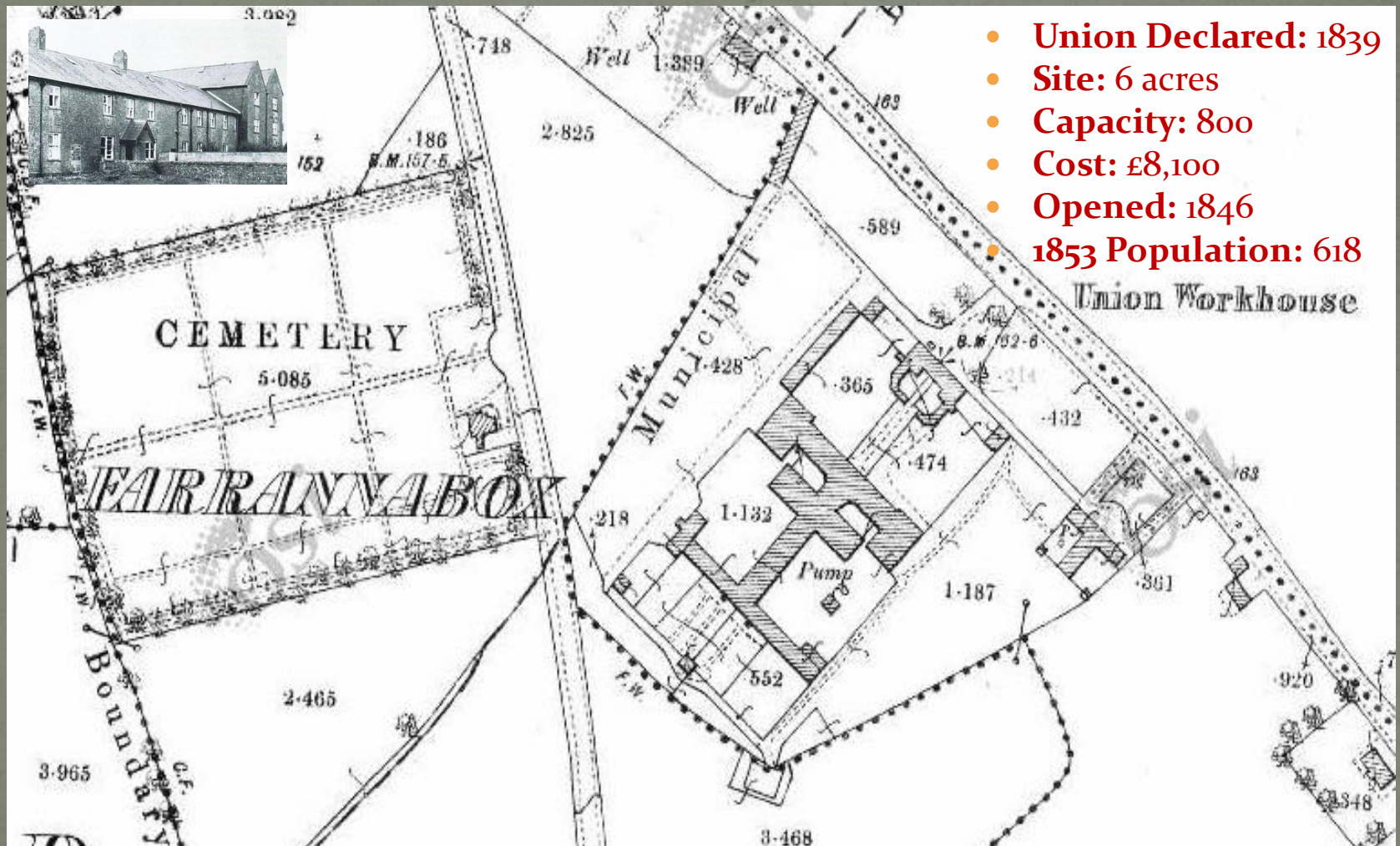
- Report on District, Local and Private Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, 1899.

The Master swore that a woman named Kelly and her children were admitted into the workhouse, and registered as Protestants ; that on the evening of the 21st July he went to her and found her weak ; he asked her did she wish to see the Rev. Mr. O'Callaghan, who is the Protestant chaplain ; she said her little boy was anxious that she should get a "gospel" from the priest, and she said she wished to see the priest herself. The Master further swore that, she being registered as a Protestant, and on referring to the rules, he considered it his duty to send for the Protestant chaplain, and bring both chaplains to the woman, and for her to make her choice ; the Protestant chaplain arrived first, accompanied by a Scripture reader of the name of Sullivan; the sick woman, Kelly, said in his presence she was glad to see the Rev. Mr. O'Callaghan; he knelt down and prayed with her, and had some religious conversation with her ; the Protestant chaplain then told the master after what he had heard from the woman's own lips not to admit the Rev. Mr. Kavanagh. The master communicated his position to the matron and porter. The latter said, "he would not be the man to keep the priest out." The porter followed the Protestant chaplain and Scripture reader into ward, and he told the former not to be "making signs at the woman;" he called him also a rascal, and asked him what brought him there. The master told the porter to leave the place, but he refused ; there were four or five women in the ward shouting ; the porter had a fire shovel in his hand ; he (the master) saw the priest on the floor, but could not say what put him there; was not present at the scuffle ; he sent for the police, but the violence ceased immediately; when they arrived they had nothing to do as all was peace then; heard the Protestant chaplain say to the Roman Catholic chaplain during the scuffle to use his influence and prevent the noise, as it would be injurious to the sick woman.

*Cork Examiner*, 9 August 1852



# Portumna Union Workhouse



**Electoral Divisions:** Abbey, Annaghdown, Cummer, Claretuam, Clonbern, Donaghpatrick, Dunmore, Headford, Kilbannon, Killererin, Liskeevy, Monivea, Tuam.

# Portumna Union Workhouse

## The Workhouse Cart

In January 1865, it was alleged that the deaths of two elderly women - Kitty Kelly and Bridget Grimes - had been hastened by exposure after the two women were brought to the workhouse on a donkey cart instead of an ambulance. This followed the death of a child in the same circumstances.

The Workhouse Guardians had opposed keeping a horse from the outset. The previous year, they had even declined the offer of one as 'it would cost too much to support a horse and groom'. This was despite the scarcity of water and men offering a horse to the guardians to draw water from the Shannon.

The original Portumna Workhouse cart has recently been uncovered within the Workhouse buildings and will form part of future exhibitions which have been added to the tour. The cart is available for viewing for visitors to the Workhouse throughout the Autumn of 2017.

## Assaults

Among three charges against Margaret Abberton at the Portumna Petty Sessions on 11 June 1866 was a charge of assaulting a fellow inmate with 'an iron tongs hot out of the fire', though that charge was dismissed. She was also charged with assaulting a Porter, Michael Carey.

That summons read that Abberton 'did assault the Complainant while in the discharge of his duty as Workhouse Porter at Portumna Workhouse on the 1st of June 1866'. Margaret was imprisoned in Galway gaol for one month with hard labour. Margaret died in 1870, aged only 20 years.

Among the visitors to the workhouse was W B Yeats, with one of his published quotes, from the 'long room' in the Workhouse Hospital at Portumna in 1905, being "*why should we make so much noise about ourselves and yet have nothing to say that was not better said in that workhouse dormitory, where a few flowers and a few coloured counterpanes and the coloured walls had made a severe and gracious beauty*".



# Emigration

- Various commissions were set up and sometimes paupers were offered money and clothes to emigrate.
- Between 1845 and 1854 around 200,000 people per year emigrated – total of 2 million.
- People emigrated mainly to Australia, Britain, Canada, and the United States.
- Many people died on the journey ('coffin ships').
- **Emigration from the Workhouses**

Union	>15 years	< 15 years	Total	Destination
Ballinasloe	9	32	41	NY, Aus, NO
Loughrea	8	5	13	NY, Aus, Que
Mountbellew	62	14	76	NY, Quebec, Balt, NO, Bos
Parsonstown	115	28	143	Que, NY, Aus, NO,
Portumna	0	0	0	0

Returns of 'Assisted Migration from various unions, 1855-1860'

# AMERICA.

## FOR NEW YORK,

TO SAIL POSITIVELY

ON THE 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY NEXT,

(Wind and Weather permitting,)


*The Splendid Fast Sailing, First-Class Copper-fastened,*

*British built Ship,*

**"UNDINE," OF LIMERICK,**

Burthen per Register, 203 Tons,

JOHN STRIBLEY, MASTER,

 **T**HIS superior Vessel is now in Port and will be dispatched at the above mentioned period.

Emigrants will do well to avail themselves of this most desirable opportunity of going direct to New York; they will be landed there in time for the Spring labour, and thereby avoid the delay of remaining here for the Spring Ships to Quebec; as well as the long and tedious passage there, and enormous expense of travelling to the States.

The "UNDINE" is well-known in the Passenger trade from this port for her extraordinary quick passages, and is commanded by a most experienced and skilful Master; she will be fitted up in such a manner as to ensure comfort and accommodation to her passengers.

An abundant supply of Fuel and Water, together with good and wholesome Provisions, agreeable to Act of Parliament, will be supplied, and as many of the Berths are already engaged, early application is necessary to Messrs. SHAW & DUFFIELD, the Owners, Mulgrave-street, Limerick; or to

W. J. SHAW, Ballinasloe,

or to any of the undermentioned:—

John Sidley, Henry-street, Limerick

George Taylor, Kilrush.

Joseph J. Bromell, Gas-works, Nenagh.

M'Namara & Son, Ennis.

Limerick, Jan 27.

(32)

# Far and Away

Western Star, 9 Jan 1847 & 21 Apr 1847

**EMIGRATION.**—Every day our docks are crowded with groups of emigrants bound for different parts of America. Persons who had scarcely an idea some weeks ago of leaving this Island, are being shipped for (as they term it), the land of liberty and plenty! Even the towns people are going in numbers: our docks have been more crowded with shipping this week than ever before.—*Galway Vindicator.*

## Liverpool to Australia.



**THE "FOX" LINE of PACKETS**

*Established a Quarter of a Century.*

The following Splendid Ships will be despatched  
FOR SYDNEY DIRECT.

Ship	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail.
FREDERICK	M'Nulty	1400	15th August.

FOR MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY.

MERLIN	Laverty	1800	25th August.
SALEM	M'Grath	1800	In September.

The above First-class Vessels are Clipper-built, sail fast, carry Surgeons and are commanded by gentlemen of great experience. Passengers and their Baggage are landed on the quay, free of charge.

For rate of Freight, and to secure berths, apply to the Owners, Messrs. P. Magee and Mr. James Levingston; or to

HENRY FOX,

2, King Street, Liverpool.

The Packet Ship "Africa" arrived at Melbourne on the 16th April, all well.

a6

Galway Mercury, 30 July 1853



# Emigration - Far and Away

## FREE EMIGRATION.

Yesterday, two hundred and eighty persons from the Crown Lands of Ballyruane within a few miles of this town, who voluntarily resigned their holdings, were despatched on cars to Galway, from whence they will obtain a passage to Canada at the expense of government. Should they remain in the British dominions on their arrival, employment will be secured to them, and to such of them as choose to seek their own fortunes in other portions of America, a certain sum of money—we believe £2 each—will be given towards enabling them to do so.

*Western Star*, 10 June 1848

**WORKHOUSE EMIGRATION.**—At a meeting of the Poor Law Guardians of the Roscommon Union, on Wednesday, the following resolution was adopted:—"That this board apply to the commissioners for their sanction to appropriate £500 to enable the certain number of female paupers to emigrate, and that said sum so applied to emigration purposes be refunded by the electoral divisions from which paupers in the workhouse shall emigrate by a poundage rate equal to the costs incurred on the estimated value of the respective divisions."—Carried.—*Roscommon Journal*.

*Tuam Herald*, 12 June 1852

**EMIGRATION FROM THE POORHOUSES.**—The *Ballinasloe Star* states:—"We are in a position to state that very many of the parties alluded to are leaving the workhouses never to return to them again, and for this very gratifying and cogent reason, they are in receipt of remittances from their relations in America to enable them to emigrate to that 'home of Irishmen,' the name now generally given to the United States by the peasantry. We have heard, and from a sure source, that within the past six weeks upwards of 20,000*l.* have been received, in sums varying from 5*l.* to 30*l.*, by persons in this country, the great majority of whom had been receiving relief in the workhouses up to the time of the money reaching them. In many cases the poor people have kept the matter secret, through a mistaken fear that if it were known to the poor law officials a portion of the money would be impounded to pay for their keep while in the workhouse, to guard against which the money is consigned to some third party—some shopkeeper, or person who could be depended upon, to have it safely conveyed to its intended destination without the knowledge of the workhouse officers."

*Ballinasloe Star* (in the *Anglo-Celt*), 25 Sept 1851



# Aftermath – Courts

Life in the Co Galway Workhouses was difficult... With penalties for refusals...

Delegates of the Poor of Mount Bellew Union Extra Sinner Master of the Workhouse	John Brennan no fixed residence	That defendant being an inmate of the workhouse in Mount Bellew Union did and unlawfully refuse to perform the work to which he had been set by the said Extra Sinner Master of the Workhouse on the 6 <sup>th</sup> of November 1888	<del>25</del> To be imprisoned in Galway Jail for two weeks with Hard Labour
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Petty Sessions, Mountbellew, 13 Nov 1888

4 PARTIES—COMPLAINANT AND DEFENDANT. (The Christian and Surname, Rank, Occupation, or other addition, and Residence, stating Parish and Townland, to be given, and the parties to be distinguished by prefixing their appellation—Complainant or Defendant.)		5 Names of Witnesses examined, and whether for Complainant or Defendant.	6 CAUSE OF COMPLAINT, as set forth in Summons.	7 PARTICULARS OF ORDER OR DISMISSAL. If Dismiss, whether with or without prejudice, and whether with or without Costs, &c. If Ejectment, when to be evicted, and from what and whose Premises, &c. If to be Whipped, whether in or out of Prison, &c., &c. (Where Money ordered to be paid by or to any Person, the amount to be written in words at full length in this Column, as well as to be entered in Figures in the Money Columns.)
Complainant.	Defendant.			
Boss Michael White R.R.	Edward Grogan of Bloomoran	Boss Michael R.R.	That on the 27 <sup>th</sup> October 1891 the Defendant allowed one cow his property to wander on the public road at Bloomoran in said County	adjudged by the Court
The Guardians of the Poor of Mountbellew Union Workhouse	Patrick Smith of Mountbellew no fixed residence	Edward Brown for Complainant	That on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> day of February 1892 the Defendant being an inmate of the Mountbellew did unlawfully refuse to perform certain work	Sentenced to one fortnight imprisonment with hard labour

Petty Sessions, Mountbellew, 23 Feb 1892



# Aftermath 1861

## Deaths in Workhouses and Workhouse Hospitals

DATE OF OPENING OF EACH WORKHOUSE.	WORKHOUSES BY COUNTIES, CITIES, &c.	ZYMOTIC OR EPIDEMIC, ENDEMIC, AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.																OF THE BRAIN AND NERVES								
		Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Whooping Cough.	Croup.	Thrush.	Pemphigus.	Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Ague.	Cholera.	Influenza.	Fever.	Erysipelas.	Syphilis.	Glanders and Farcy.	Total.	Hydrocephalus.	Inflammation of Brain.	Apoplexy.	Convulsions.	Paralysis.	Lockjaw.	Epilepsy.	Frenzy.
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	17.		18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
2 Mar. 1842,	GALWAY TOWN: Galway W. H. { M. F.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
11 Dec. 1841,	GALWAY CO.: Gort W. H. { M. F.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19	.	.	.	20	.	4	.	6	1	.	1	.
1 Jan. 1842,	Ballinasloe W. H. { M. F.	1	1	.	1	1	.	.	3	7	.	.	1	11	1	.	.	32	.	3	.	4	4	1	1	.
26 Feb. 1842,	Loughrea W. H. { M. F.	2	5	.	1	1	.	.	2	2	.	.	13	47	1	1	.	27	.	1	.	3	7	.	1	.
4 May, 1846,	Tuam W. H. { M. F.	2	.	.	3	2	.	.	24	66	.	.	30	81	2	2	.	126	.	.	.	226	.	.	.	.
8 Mar. 1847,	Clifden W. H. { M. F.	15	1	.	12	2	1	1	166	4	.	.	5	40	.	.	.	45	8	2	1	3	5	1	1	.
29 June, 1850,	Oughterard W. H. { M. F.	13	2	.	.	2	.	.	159	31	.	.	12	57	.	.	.	258	1	2	.	11	2	2	1	1
9 Nov. 1850,	Portumna W. H. { M. F.	.	1	.	1	3	.	.	32	10	.	.	4	13	.	.	.	61	.	1	.	.	3	2	4	1
26 Feb. 1853,	Glennamaddy W. H. { M. F.	1	1	.	.	3	.	.	38	12	.	.	5	9	.	1	1	67	2	.	.	2	1	.	.	.
7 Aug. 1852,	Mountbellew W. H. { M. F.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	24	4	.	.	3	22	1	1	.	57	1	.	.	5	2	1	1	.
	Total, Galway County, { M. F.	19	5	.	4	6	1	.	247	126	.	.	25	157	5	3	.	598	12	8	2	262	21	.	7	1
		18	9	2	4	7	1	1	254	151	.	.	50	235	1	4	.	737	6	10	.	260	18	1	4	.

# Aftermath 1861

SPORADIC DISEASES.																																		WORKHOUSES BY COUNTIES, CITIES, &c.
SYSTEM.		OF THE CIRCULATING ORGANS.					OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.										OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.																	
DISEASE OR STRAIN, unspecified.	TOTAL.	Disease of Heart.	Aneurism.	Vomiting of Blood.	Spitting of Blood.	Hæmorrhage, General.	TOTAL.	Cynanche.	Inflammation of Lungs.	Bronchitis.	Consumption.	Asthma.	Water on the Chest.	Emphysema.	Empyema.	Chest Affection, unspecified.	TOTAL.	Teething.	Jaundice.	Worms.	Colic.	Gastric Fever.	Dropsy.	Disease of Intes- tines.	Hernia.	Liver Complaint.	Peritonitis.	Inflammation of Bowels.	Marasmus.	Disease of Stomach.	TOTAL.			
27.		28.	29.	30.	31.	32.		33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.	41.		42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.	51.	52.	53.	54.				
.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	M.	GALWAY TOWN :	
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	F.	Galway W. H.	
.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	29	1	.	.	.	.	30	.	1	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	27	.	31	M.	GALWAY CO. :	
.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	51	1	.	.	.	.	53	.	1	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	33	.	40	F.	Gort W. H.	
.	13	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	1	.	36	12	.	.	.	.	50	.	1	.	.	.	14	.	3	.	1	24	.	43	M.	Ballinasloe W. H.		
.	12	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	8	.	34	8	.	.	.	.	50	.	1	.	.	.	11	.	2	.	1	22	.	38	F.			
.	226	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13	64	8	.	.	.	.	.	85	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	.	5	M.	Loughrea W. H.	
.	223	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	18	81	15	.	.	.	.	.	115	.	.	.	1	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	8	F.		
.	17	.	.	.	1	.	4	3	8	7	21	1	1	.	.	.	39	.	.	.	1	2	7	.	1	1	.	.	26	1	39	M.	Tuam W. H.	
.	8	3	.	.	.	.	4	3	6	5	39	4	2	.	.	.	59	.	3	.	.	1	15	1	.	.	.	.	35	2	57	F.		
.	15	.	.	.	1	1	2	1	3	12	14	2	.	.	.	.	32	.	.	2	.	.	35	1	1	1	.	.	5	2	47	M.	Clifden W. H.	
.	17	1	.	2	1	.	4	.	5	8	17	3	.	.	.	.	33	.	.	4	.	.	44	.	.	1	.	.	8	3	60	F.		
.	8	.	.	.	2	.	2	1	.	7	11	1	1	.	1	.	22	.	.	.	.	.	5	2	.	.	.	.	8	1	20	M.	Oughterard W. H.	
.	6	1	.	.	.	1	2	.	1	3	18	1	.	1	.	.	24	.	.	1	.	.	3	.	.	12	.	.	14	.	31	F.		
.	7	2	.	.	.	.	2	1	5	13	14	.	.	.	.	.	20	.	1	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	11	.	18	M.	Portumna W. H.	
.	4	3	.	.	.	.	3	.	11	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	28	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	4	.	.	1	.	8	F.		
.	9	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	2	1	.	.	1	3	9	M.	Glennamaddy W. H.
.	9	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	2	6	10	3	.	.	.	.	21	.	.	.	.	1	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	1	10	F.	
.	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	13	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	22	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	5	M.	Mountbellew W. H.
.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19	6	2	.	.	.	.	.	27	.	1	.	.	.	7	.	.	2	.	.	2	.	12	F.		
1	315	3	.	1	3	1	8	6	15	58	205	25	2	.	1	.	312	.	3	2	1	3	74	4	2	12	2	1	106	7	217	M.	Total, Galway	
.	299	9	.	3	2	1	15	3	26	71	270	37	2	1	.	.	410	.	6	5	1	2	97	2	.	20	2	1	122	6	264	F.	County.	



# Aftermath 1871

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*Appendix to Twentieth Report on District, Criminal,* [APP. B.]

## INSANE PERSONS IN UNION

No. 1.—RETURN showing the Number of Idiots in Union Workhouses,

NAMES OF UNIONS, &c.	Simple Idiots, under 14 years of age.			Epileptic Idiots, under 14 years of age.			Total of the two preceding Classes.			Simple Idiots, 14 years and under 30.			Epileptic Idiots, 14 years and under 30.			Total of the two preceding Classes.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
CONNAUGHT.																		
Co. GALWAY :																		
Bullinasloe, .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clifden, .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galway, .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glennamaddy, .	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Gort, .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Loughrea, .	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3
Mount Bellew, .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	1	—	4	4
Oughterard, .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	3	3	1	4
Portumna, .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuam, .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	3	3	1	5	6

# Aftermath 1871

APP. B.] *and Private Lunatic Asylums in Ireland.*

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WORKHOUSES, IRELAND—*continued.*

Ireland, on the 31st December, 1870, classified under the following heads:—

Simple Idiots, over 30 years.			Epileptic Idiots, over 30 years.			Total of the two preceding Classes.			Total Simple Idiots.			Total Epileptic Idiots.			GROSS TOTAL OF SIMPLE AND EPILEPTIC IDIOTS.			NAMES OF UNIONS, &c
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
1	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	CONNAUGHT.
-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	CO. GALWAY:
-	3	3	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	3	3	Ballinasloe.
1	2	3	-	3	3	1	5	6	1	2	3	1	4	5	2	6	8	Clifden.
2	1	3	-	-	-	2	1	3	2	1	3	-	-	-	2	1	3	Galway.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	-	-	-	2	3	5	Glennamaddy.
3	2	5	-	1	1	3	3	6	3	3	6	-	2	2	3	7	10	Gort.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	3	3	1	4	Loughrea.
1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	Mount Bellew.
3	3	6	-	1	1	3	4	7	4	5	9	-	4	4	4	9	13	Oughterard.
																		Portumna.
																		Tuam.



# Aftermath 1881

As late as the 1881 census there were still 2,099 Inmates in Co Galway Workhouses...

TABLE IX.—NUMBER of PERSONS in the PRINCIPAL INSTITUTIONS, viz. :—WORKHOUSES, HOSPITALS, PUBLIC LUNATIC ASYLUMS, PRISONS, REFORMATORIES, &c., in the County of GALWAY and County of the Town of GALWAY, on the Night of the 3rd of April, 1881.

\*.\* Alms-houses, Model Lodging Houses, and Police Stations are excluded.

Institutions.	Locality.		Total Number in Institutions, including Officers and their Families.			Number of Special Inmates— as Paupers, Patients, Lunatics, Prisoners, &c.		
	Poor Law Union or Superintendent Registrar's District.	Dispensary or Registrar's District.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
WORKHOUSE, . . . . . (a)	GALWAY, . . . .	GALWAY, No. 2, . . .	(l) 435	190	245	421	185	236
Do., . . . . . (b)	BALLINASLOE, . . .	BALLINASLOE, . . .	319	135	184	313	132	181
Do., . . . . . (c)	TUAM, . . . . .	TUAM, No. 1, . . .	(l) 283	146	137	260	141	128
Do., . . . . . (c)	GORT, . . . . .	GORT, . . . . .	(l) 218	91	127	210	89	121
Do., . . . . . (d)	LOUGHREA, . . . .	LOUGHREA, . . . .	179	90	89	173	88	85
Do., . . . . . (e)	PORTUMNA, . . . .	PORTUMNA, No. 1, . .	158	82	76	153	80	73
Do., . . . . . (e)	GLENNAMADDY, . . .	GLENNAMADDY, . . .	147	75	72	138	72	66
Do., . . . . . (e)	CLIFDEN, . . . . .	CLIFDEN, . . . . .	143	73	70	135	71	64
Do., . . . . . (e)	MOUNT BELLEW, . . .	MOUNT BELLEW, . . .	120	55	65	112	49	63
Do., . . . . . (c)	OUGHTERARD, . . . .	OUGHTERARD, . . . .	97	42	55	88	37	51

# Aftermath 1891

In 1891 census there were still 1,719 Inmates in Co Galway Workhouses...

Institutions.	Locality.		Total Number in Institutions, including Officers and their Families.			Number of Special Inmates— as Paupers, Patients, Lunatics, Prisoners, &c.		
	Poor Law Union or Superintendent Registrar's District.	Dispensary or Registrar's District.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
WORKHOUSE, . . . . . (a)	BALLINASLOE, . . . .	BALLINASLOE, . . . .	(k) 255	123	132	240	116	124
Do., . . . . . (b)	CLIFDEN, . . . . .	CLIFDEN, . . . . .	108	49	59	102	47	55
Do., . . . . . (c)	GALWAY, . . . . .	GALWAY, No. 2, . . . .	(k) 343	151	192	330	148	182
Do., . . . . . (b)	GLENNAMADDY, . . . .	GLENNAMADDY, . . . .	106	46	60	98	44	54
Do., . . . . . (b)	GORT, . . . . .	GORT, . . . . .	(k) 208	101	107	200	99	101
Do., . . . . . (d)	LOUGHREA, . . . . .	LOUGHREA, . . . . .	169	91	78	162	89	73
Do., . . . . . (b)	MOUNT BELLEW, . . . .	MOUNT BELLEW, . . . .	97	42	55	81	38	43
Do., . . . . . (b)	OUGHTERARD, . . . . .	OUGHTERARD, . . . . .	87	44	43	81	42	39
Do., . . . . . (b)	PORTUMNA, . . . . .	PORTUMNA, No. 1, . . . .	(k) 128	58	70	121	57	64
Do., . . . . . (b)	TUAM, . . . . .	TUAM, No. 2, . . . . .	218	105	113	209	101	108



# Aftermath 1901

In the 1901 census there were still 1,681 Inmates in Co Galway Workhouses...

## MISCELLANEOUS TABLES.

TABLE XI.—NUMBER of PERSONS in the PRINCIPAL INSTITUTIONS, viz.:—WORKHOUSES, HOSPITALS, PUBLIC LUNATIC ASYLUMS, PRISONS, &c., in the County of GALWAY on the Night of the 31st March, 1901.

\*.\* Almshouses, Model Lodging-houses, and Police Stations are excluded.

Institutions.	Locality.		Total Number in Institutions, including Officers and their Families.			Number of Special Inmates— as Paupers, Patients, Lunatics, Prisoners, &c.		
	Poor Law Union or Superintendent Registrar's District.	Dispensary or Registrar's District.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
WORKHOUSE, . . . . . (a)	BALLINASLOE, . . . .	BALLINASLOE, . . . .	(e) 241	104	137	219	96	123
Do., . . . . . (b)	CLIFDEN, . . . . .	CLIFDEN, . . . . .	107	51	56	102	49	53
Do., . . . . . (c)	GALWAY, . . . . .	GALWAY, No. 2, . . . .	(e) 376	178	198	350	173	177
Do., . . . . . (b)	GLENNAMADDY, . . . .	GLENNAMADDY, . . . .	90	47	43	82	45	37
Do., . . . . . (b)	GORT, . . . . .	GORT, . . . . .	(c) 179	84	95	162	79	83
Do., . . . . . (d)	LOUGHREA, . . . . .	LOUGHREA, . . . . .	(e) 135	74	61	116	70	46
Do., . . . . . (b)	MOUNT BELLEW, . . . .	MOUNT BELLEW, . . . .	88	46	42	81	44	37
Do., . . . . . (b)	OUGHTERARD, . . . . .	OUGHTERARD, . . . . .	88	46	42	81	44	37
Do., . . . . . (b)	PORTUMNA, . . . . .	PORTUMNA, No. 1, . . . .	(e) 132	60	72	123	58	65
Do., . . . . . (b)	TUAM, . . . . .	TUAM, No. 1, . . . . .	(e) 192	90	102	175	85	90
COUNTY INFIRMARY, . . . . . (c)	GALWAY, . . . . .	GALWAY, No. 1, . . . .	40	18	22	26	17	9
GALWAY FEVER HOSPITAL, . . . . . (c)	" . . . . .	" No. 2, . . . . .	12	4	8	8	4	4

(a) Situated in Ballinasloe Urban District.  
 (c) Situated in Galway Urban District.  
 (e) Including Sisters of a Religious Community.

(b) These Institutions are situated in rural districts.  
 (d) Situated in Loughrea Urban District.

# Aftermath 1911

In the 1911 census there were still 1,482 Inmates in Co Galway Workhouses...

TABLE XI.—NUMBER OF PERSONS in the PRINCIPAL INSTITUTIONS, viz. :—WORKHOUSES, HOSPITALS, PUBLIC LUNATIC ASYLUMS, PRISONS, &c., in the County of GALWAY on the Night of the 2nd April, 1911.

\*.\* Almshouses, Model Lodging-houses, and Police Stations are excluded.

Institutions.	Locality.		Total Number in Institutions, including Officers and their Families.			Number of Special Inmates as Paupers, Patients, Lunatics, Prisoners, &c.		
	Poor Law Union or Superintendent Registrar's District.	Dispensary or Registrar's District.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
WORKHOUSE . . . . . (a)	Ballinasloe . . . . .	Ballinasloe . . . . .	218	112	106	209	110	99
Do. . . . . (b)	Clifden . . . . .	Clifden . . . . .	83	49	34	64	40	24
Do. . . . . (c)	Galway . . . . .	Galway No. 2. . . . .	(f) 349	141	208	320	135	185
Do. . . . . (b)	Glennamaddy . . . . .	Glennamaddy . . . . .	(f) 98	50	48	82	44	38
Do. . . . . (b)	Gort . . . . .	Gort . . . . .	(f) 133	57	76	117	55	62
Do. . . . . (d)	Loughrea . . . . .	Loughrea . . . . .	(f) 111	54	57	88	47	41
Do. . . . . (b)	Mount Benew . . . . .	Mount Benew . . . . .	118	73	45	96	66	30
Do. . . . . (b)	Oughterard . . . . .	Oughterard . . . . .	79	42	37	65	37	28
Do. . . . . (b)	Portumna . . . . .	Portumna No. 1 . . . . .	(f) 110	46	64	97	43	54
Do. . . . . (b)	Tuam . . . . .	Tuam No. 1 . . . . .	(f) 183	101	82	161	98	63

Census returns for Ireland, 1911, showing area, houses, and population; also the ages, civil or conjugal condition, occupations, birthplaces, religions, and education of the people Province of Connaught



# Another Life

- **Workhouse System abolished on independence**
- Some became hospitals and homes for the elderly
- **Some had already been destroyed by the IRA (1921)**
- Most destroyed after...



*St Brendan's Nursing Home, Loughrea. Former Workhouse.*