Table of Contents
Identity Statement.................................................................................................................. 2
Context.................................................................................................................................. 2
    Creator(s): ....................................................................................................................... 2
    Archival History ............................................................................................................... 2
    Administrative & Biographical History ............................................................................ 2
Content & Structure ............................................................................................................. 4
    Scope & Content ............................................................................................................... 4
    Arrangement .................................................................................................................... 5
Conditions of Access & Use .................................................................................................. 5
Allied Materials: .................................................................................................................. 5
Archivist’s Note: .................................................................................................................. 5
List of Items and Descriptions ............................................................................................... 6
    1. Minute Books .............................................................................................................. 6
        BG/83/A    Dunmanway Board of Guardians Minute Books ........................................ 6
        BG/83/AA   Dunmanway Board of Guardians Rough Minute Book ...................... 28
Identity Statement

Reference Code: IE CCCA/BG/83
Title: Dunmanway Board of Guardians
Dates: 1840 – 1920
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 108 items

Context

Creator(s):
Dunmanway Board of Guardians

Archival History
The surviving records of the Dunmanway Board of Guardians were deposited in the Archives in the early 1980s.

Administrative & Biographical History
The Dunmanway Board of Guardians was the governing body of Dunmanway workhouse and poor law union. Dunmanway Poor Law Union was established under the Poor Law (Ireland) Act, 1838. It was one of 16 unions in the overall County Cork area. Each union was centred on a city or market town and its hinterland, and this union area sometimes ignored existing parish or county boundaries. In this central town was situated the union workhouse (usually built between 1838 and 1852) which provided relief for the unemployed and the destitute.

The first meeting of Dunmanway Board of Guardians took place on 1 February 1840, the union having been declared on 18 December 1839. The Union Workhouse was declared fit to receive inmates on 16 September 1841 and took its first admissions on 2 October of that year. An Order of 3 October 1849 altered the union, with parts of Dunmanway Union being given to the newly-created Clonakilty Union, and part of Bandon Union being added to Dunmanway. A Reservation Order of 5 December 1849 reserved a portion of the accommodation in Dunmanway Workhouse for inmates from Clonakilty Union, pending the completion of that Union’s own workhouse (opened 5 December 1851).

Unions were divided into electoral divisions (EDs) for electoral and rate collection purposes. Over time, larger dispensary districts and relief districts, consisting of several EDs, came into being. The Dunmanway Union consisted of the Dispensary Districts of Dunmanway, Ballineen, and Coolmountain. Each district had a medical officer and dispensary. The workhouse also had a medical officer.
Each workhouse was managed by a staff and officers under the charge of a workhouse master, who reported to the board. Overall responsibility rested with the union’s board of guardians, some of whom were elected, and some of whom were ex-officio members appointed usually from amongst local magistrates. The board appointed its own inhouse committees, and received reports from workhouse officers and from dispensary district committees and district medical officers. It also made resolutions on internal and poor law matters and, sometimes, on wider political or social issues. Poor law services were principally financed by a poor rate levied on property owners in the union’s districts, and collected by rate collectors appointed by the board. Central government also provided loans. From 1899 on, the newly-created Cork County Council collected rates and funded Cork boards of guardians based on an annual estimate and demand.

Each union was under the central supervision of the Poor Law Commissioners up to 1874 and thereafter of the Local Government Board (later Local Government Board for Ireland). These government-appointed bodies received reports from the board and its officers, appointed inspectors and auditors, sanctioned or rejected proposed expenditure, appointments, and policies, and made the final decision on major administrative issues. On 15 June 1920 the board resolved to pledge allegiance to Dail Eireann, and not to submit minutes to the LGB.

The responsibilities of the guardians increasingly encompassed public health, and to medical relief for the destitute at the workhouse and ‘outdoor’ relief though a system of dispensary districts were added other functions including overseeing smallpox vaccinations, the boarding-out of orphan and deserted children, monitoring contagious diseases in animals, and providing labourers’ cottages and improved sanitation. The workhouse buildings included an infirmary and a fever hospital. The workhouse also provided nursery care and education to child inmates, and employed school teachers. Hospital and other medical services were available to all, not just the poor, although the latter received free treatment when inmates, or through the system of tickets issued by relieving officers and medical officers.

The guardians’ changing responsibilities were governed by legislation, including the Public Health (Ireland) Acts 1874 and 1878, Medical Charities Acts, Vaccination Acts, Dispensary Houses Act, the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts (1848-49), Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act 1878, and Labourers’ Acts (1883-86). While these acts tended to increase the role of the board, the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 saw rate collection and many of its public health functions taken over by the newly-created Cork County Council and the Dunmanway Rural District Council. The board continued to administer the workhouse and its hospital, and to supervise dispensary services, outdoor relief, and the boarding out of children.

In 1895, the British Medical Journal reported on Dunmanway workhouse, following an inspection: ‘When we see such a travesty of sick nursing as prevails in this Union we wonder why the guardians go through the form of providing the medical officer with drugs and an official called the "nurse." His only essential equipment is surely a book of death certificates and a pen with which to write them. In our opinion the sick department requires complete reorganisation; the wards are quite unsuitable, and the responsible officer, whatever work she may have done in the past, is now quite unfit for her duties, and should be superannuated. A suitable infirmary and a staff of two trained nurses is our recommendation. Once more we plead for comforts for the aged, armchairs, better heating and lighting in the wards, a responsible attendant, and sanitary appliances which conduce to health and decency. There was a touch of humanity about the administration which we were pleased to note; the defects are those of an evil system more than of those who work it.’ ([http://www.workhouses.org.uk/BMJ/Dunmanway.shtml](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/BMJ/Dunmanway.shtml))
On 25 May 1920 the workhouse infirmary was occupied by the military. Several meetings were subsequently adjourned owing to the military presence and the difficulty of securing a quorum. At the last meeting recorded in extant minutes, held on 20 November 1920, the clerk is asked to produce union books ‘at certain places as we shall specify’, meetings no longer being held at the workhouse. While the workhouse was not burned, unlike several other west Cork workhouses, patients and inmates were transferred elsewhere owing to the military occupation. For example, a letter dated 12 May 1921 noted in the minutes of Bandon Board of Guardians records the transfer of fever patients from Dunmanway to Bandon (BG/42/A/110).

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. The workhouse fever hospital was designated a district hospital under the new system.

**Content & Structure**

**Scope & Content**

The surviving records of Dunmanway Board of Guardians consist of minute books, forming a practically unbroken set from its first meeting in 1840 to 1920, although minutes for the final years of its existence have seemingly been lost. The minutes for the period of the Great Famine (1845-49) document its devastating effects on this part of West Cork. The West Cork region was one of the worst affected in Ireland, and although the Famine’s impact was less severe in Dunmanway union than in others, the minutes provide a vivid picture of the hardships of the time. Death, disease, emigration, and the financial difficulties of the union and the local population are the recurrent subjects. The minutes also document the relationship between the various West Cork Unions, and the rearrangements which occurred in 1849-50, as Clonakilty Union and other unions came into being.

Later records document the increasing public health role of the board of guardians, with dispensary committees of management being created, dispensary services being provided throughout the union area, and services such as compulsory smallpox vaccination and local midwives being provided. Much information about the conditions of workhouse life, and of life for the poor of the area generally, may be gleaned from the minutes. The British Medical Journal report of 1895 (referred to in the Administrative History) reveals the grim realities of maintaining workhouse and hospital services on severely limited means. There is much reference in later minutes to providing for destitute and deserted children. Political and nationalist resolutions occur more frequently in the final surviving records of the union, culminating in the decision to pledge allegiance to Dail Eireann in 1920. The difficulties arising out of the occupation of much of the workhouse by British military from 1920 probably contributed to the loss of some union records. Nonetheless, the extant volumes, with the three pre-1920 gaps in the main series filled by rough minute books, provide a comprehensive record of the poor law, and valuable insights into social history, in this small but interesting union.
**Arrangement**

The collection consists of a series of minutes of meetings of the board of guardians, and three rough minute books, which supply gaps in the main series of minutes. The arrangement of Board of Guardian records is based on that devised for Poor Law records nationally by Sean McMenamin of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (see Appendix 2 to McMenamin’s article in *Irish Archives Bulletin* Vol 1, No 2, October 1971).

**Headings**

1. Minute Books

   A1-108 Board of Guardian Minute Books 1839-1924 (105 items)
   AA1-3 Rough Minute Books 1865-1879 (3 items)

**Conditions of Access & Use**

**Access**: Open by appointment to those holding a current reader’s ticket.

**Language**: English

**Finding Aids**: Summary descriptive list.

**Allied Materials:**

**Related Material**

**CCCA:**

Board of Guardian records for other poor law unions in West Cork (BG/42 Bandon; BG/43 Bantry; BG/59 Castletown; BG/65 Clonakilty; BG/115 Macroom; BG/145 Schull)
Cork County Boards of Health and Public Assistance records, 1921-66
Dunmanway Rural District Council records, 1899-1920 (RDC/83)
Cork County Council records, 1899- (including rates valuation books)

Elsewhere:

National Archives of Ireland:

Archives of the Poor Law Commissioners
Archives of the Local Government Board for Ireland
Archives of the Department of Local Government

**Archivist’s Note:**

Timmy O Connor
Local Government Archivist, CCCA
October 2011
List of Items and Descriptions

1. Minute Books

BG/83/A Dunmanway Board of Guardians Minute Books

Scope and Content:
A record of meetings and decisions made by the board of guardians in administering the workhouse and poor relief generally. At meetings, officers’ reports and committee findings were heard, correspondence read and considered, and applications decided on. Matters arising with regard to the workhouse, staff, provisions, bills, finance, the Poor Law, the Poor Law Commissioners, the Local Government Board and the Local Government Department, and other issues, were also discussed. The minutes also include weekly statistics of admissions, discharges, and deaths in the workhouse, and of outdoor relief.

Date: 1 Feb 1840 – 27 Nov 1920

Level: Series

Extent: 105 volumes

1. 1 Feb 1840 – 29 Mar 1845

Indexed. Includes:

1 Feb 1840 First meeting, resolved that Daniel Conner be appointed chairman.

13 Feb 1840 Tender of Messrs Gillman, Welply, and Pattison to effect the valuation of the union accepted, to be completed by 1 Jan 1841.

25 Apr 1840 ‘Resolved, that the guardians having viewed the intended site for the Dunmanway Poor House fully approve thereof’ [30 May: resolved to seek loan of £6500 from the Exchequer Loan Commissioners]

7 Nov 1840 Resolved, that medical practitioners be informed that the board will ‘receive tenders for the vaccination purposes of the entire union’ [14 Nov: Dr Holmes’s tender ‘to vaccinate the intern union gratuitously’ accepted].

27 Feb 1841 Master, matron, physician, and porter of workhouse appointed. Resolution calling for an act against mendicancy, expressing the view that the poor law will remain ineffective ‘while strolling beggars are allowed exercise the trade of begging and imposing upon the small farmers and industrious who are very little better situated than themselves’.

24 Apr 1841Charges preferred against returning office John Welply by John Barter, in connection with the recent board of guardians election. He claims
Welply 'was in concert with certain individuals... to promote their views in the formation of this board'. Welply's explanations found 'most satisfactory'.

21 Sep 1841 Resolved, 'agreeably to the order of the commissioners', to take up the workhouse from the contractor. [PLC order declaring the workhouse fit to receive paupers issued 16 Sep 1841 (www.workhouses.org.uk)]

2 Oct 1841 Resolved, to report 'the bad and unfinished state of the workhouse and yards'. [Paupers admitted from this date (www.workhouses.org.uk)]

16 Oct 1841 Resolved, that an elderly married couple, paupers, be allowed lodge together.

27 Nov 1841 Resolved, that the stated dietary be adopted, it being borne in mind 'that the quantity and quality supplied to the paupers shall not be superior to that partaken of by the independent labourers of the district and their families'.

2 Apr 1842 Resolved, that the guardians act as parish wardens in their own electoral divisions, ‘and to be most particular in their enquiries into the destitution of the paupers admitted by them’.
Resolved, that proceedings be taken against two men for deserting their wives and children.

9 Apr 1842 Finance Committee report on the contractor's bill for extra work on the workhouse. The board adopt the report and draw PLC’s attention ‘to the very negligent and extraordinary conduct of their officer, Mr Wilkinson’. Resolution recommending that inmates be allowed to go out to their places of worship on Sunday 'in consequence of the non-acceptance of the situation of chaplain by the respective clergymen'.

5 Nov 1842 Report by James Gillman, guardian, on an inspection of the workhouse by a Poor Law Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, and the architect, in which it was found to be in a ‘shameful state’, despite the master having been made aware of the forthcoming inspection. The board severely reprimands the master and matron.

19 Nov 1842 Resolution explaining to the PLC why the board declines to execute a bond for £300 to meet additional workhouse costs. Reference is made to ‘the greatest dissatisfaction’ expressed by ratepayers in the adjoining unions of Bandon and Skibbereen ‘accompanied by overt acts of violence to resist the payment of the rate. And we should very much regret that any circumstance should arise to produce a similar feeling in this union'.

25 Feb 1843 School master and school mistress appointed.

10 Jun 1843 Memorial to the PLC regarding the ‘pecuniary grievance’ the union is labouring under, owing to its small size in comparison to its neighbours. A table showing the comparative size and valuation of Bandon, Skibbereen, and Macroom unions is given, and 'an equitable extension' of the union is sought. [See also 3 Jun]
30 Sep 1843 Resolved that committees be appointed to draft resolutions, to express regret at the PLC’s decision to dismiss Assistant Commissioner Voules, and to express approbation of his ability and zeal. [See also 14 Oct]

3 Feb 1844 Resolution expressing the view that the board’s arrangement for Catholic and Protestant chaplains ‘is the only feasible one which this small and poor union could adopt’ (chaplains to be paid £25 salary, inmates to attend local places of worship on Sundays and holy days).

30 Mar 1844 Clerk directed to advertise a notice to farmers ‘that the guardians are desirous to place in their service, on advantageous terms to the farmers, both boys and girls of different ages, thus relieving the union of a burden, and benefitting all parties’.

8 Jun 1844 Resolved, that the rate collector be prosecuted for failing to fulfil the conditions of his bond.

5 Jul 1844 Master’s report noting that attendance at places of worship on the previous Sunday by inmates was at church: 7, at chapel: 137. [Recurring item]

31 Aug 1844 Committee appointed ‘to provide some system of labour for the employment of the paupers and in particular to try the manufacture of flax’. [See also, eg, 18 Jan 1845]

12 Oct 1844 Resolution approving of a resolution of the Limerick Board of Guardians protesting at ‘the unconstitutional interference and undue controlling power sought to be exercised by the Poor Law Commissioners over the office and services of the clerks of unions generally throughout Ireland’. [See also 2 Nov.]

1 Feb 1845 Resolved, that the clerk advertise to offer a reward of one guinea ‘to such person or persons as shall give such information as will lead to conviction of certain individuals who have deserted their wives and children’.

15 Feb 1845 Master’s report noting that he prevented, as directed, the attendance of inmates at worship, ‘on account of the prevalence of fever in the workhouse’.

15 Mar 1845 Reply to PLC letter, explaining that since 27 Jan 1844 all paupers have been charged to the union at large, as ‘the most equitable arrangement’.

29 Mar 1845 Return of guardians elected for the following year.
2. 5 Apr 1845 – 24 Jan 1846

A return of paupers admitted and discharged precedes the ordinary minutes. The volume is not indexed. Includes:

5 Apr 1845 Total inmates: 212 (capacity: 400)

14 Jun 1845 Doctor reports that ‘some of the inmates laboured under Dysentery from the use of porridge during the warm weather’.

16 Aug 1845 Report by Dr Crook, vaccinator, that there were no cases of smallpox in his northern district in the past year ‘and that he had succeeded in putting down the itinerant vaccinators’.

27 Sep 1845 Resolved, ‘that a five penny rate be struck for the purposes of paying the instalments due of the workhouse loan’.

1 Nov 1845 Resolution reporting to government that ‘the destruction of the potato crop through the rot’ has extended to a third of the crop, and is likely to extend to the remainder. They express satisfaction that ‘the government will take the most prompt and immediate steps to mitigate so fearful a calamity’.

Resolved, following the resignation of one vaccinator, that the services of the other be discontinued ‘as the several dispensary physicians are ready and willing to vaccinate in their several districts’.

13 Dec 1845 Resolution regarding the PLC’s determination to reduce the salary of the Protestant chaplain to less than that of the Catholic chaplain. It is noted that the Protestant chaplain attends the workhouse more often, and that the Catholic chaplain is ‘materially assisted’ by the school teachers, who are both Catholic ‘and in fact were selected on that very account’. The board ‘deem it our duty’ to lay the case before parliament, and to bring the case and other examples of the PLC acting ‘in defiance of the unanimous wishes of the board’ before the proposed committee on the Irish Poor Law.

Resolved, that the hospital be used for the increasing number of fever cases.

3 Jan 1846 Report by EW Shuldham [visiting committee], stating that he found the house ‘in excellent order’, and referring to the moving of female patients downstairs owing to the storm, to the employment of school boys in turning potatoes, and to ‘great damp admitted under both towers’.

24 Jan 1846 Total inmates: 159

Letter received from the PLC architect’s office forwarding plan and specification for a fever hospital. [See also, eg, 2 May and 27 Jun 1846]
3. 31 Jan 1846 – 28 Nov 1846

Includes:

7 Feb 1846 Resolution protesting ‘in the strongest manner’ at the PLC fixing a salary of £45 for the Catholic chaplain, noting that this imposes an expense of £90 ‘as the Protestant chaplain declines to accept a less salary than his brother clergyman’. The board feels the PLC is using its powers ‘unreasonably and capriciously’, and resolves not to pay such a salary ‘until we are compelled to do so by the Court of Queen’s Bench’.

28 Feb 1848 Guardians selected to give evidence to a House of Lords committee on the operation of the poor law and medical charities. Points to be raised include ‘excessive powers’ vested in the PLC, the necessity of a mendicancy act, the equalising of the size of unions, effective punishment for desertion, salaries of officers, and placing medical charities ‘under competent medical supervision, and under the control of boards of guardians’.

21 Mar 1846 Report by EW Shuldhams [visiting committee] regarding the workhouse, referring to ‘the holiday (St Patricks day) given to every body’, and noting ‘some improvement in the paupers as to the Indian Meal which they continue however to protest against at breakfast’. [See also, eg, 9 May]

28 Mar 1846 Resolution stating that ‘the potato disease has increased in this district to such an alarming extent that we are of opinion that some decided step must be taken to afford employment to the labouring classes’.

18 Apr 1846 Order, in response to PLC circular, noting that the board ‘find it impossible to get persons to act as wardens in the E[ast] Division of the union gratuitously’, and that guardians be requested to act as wardens, as heretofore.

18 Jul 1846 Report of Building and House Committee regarding ‘the mode of emptying the cess pools of the house by means of shieves and buckets, worked by the paupers’, which they consider ‘highly objectionable’, noting ‘the disagreeable and degrading duty which the unfortunate paupers are called on to execute’.

1 Aug 1846 [Medical officer’s] report expressing the view that ‘the removal of the old men to the potato store room consequent on the pro tempore medical arrangements’ is ‘highly objectionable’.

Resolution directed to the Lord Lieutenant regarding ‘alarming’ reports of the early manifestation of blight in the potato crop and ‘the distress too evidently impending over the classes of our community which have been in the habit of looking to the potato for their chief support’.

Resolution noting ‘that the want of their usual occupations after the approaching harvest will have a tendency to the discharge of labourers by farmers’, with ‘evil results’, and that ‘consequently we must look to the Board of Works for continued employment on an extensive scale’.

8 Aug 1846 Letter from the Education Office quoting the superintendent’s
15 Aug 1846 Resolution received from a meeting of ‘the parishioners, farmers, rate payers and labourers of the parish of Kilmeen’, requesting, in the context of ‘the appalling distress’ and ‘the total loss of the entire potato crop’, a reduction in union salaries and expenses, and ‘some means for the immediate relief of the labouring class... who are in the most destitute condition’.

22 Aug 1846 Resolution appointing a committee to have workhouse land cropped with corn and vegetable crops, to substitute for potatoes in the dietary ‘and at the same time tend to the introduction of their culture amongst the general population of the union’.

12 Sep 1846 Ordered, that the PLC be informed that while the board is anxious to have a fever hospital ‘under the present circumstances of the country they do not conceive themselves justified in levying a rate for that purpose’. [Orders also made respecting the saving to be made by erecting an oven in the house, and the manufacture of wool products in the house].

Resolved, that the case against the master is ‘fully proved’, but that he be fined rather than dismissed, as the guardians who brought forward the charge ‘humanely interfered on his behalf’. [Further resolved to appoint a committee to inspect the quality of provisions with the master].

3 Oct 1846 Resolved, ‘that we are of opinion that all founding children aged 12 months be received as paupers into this house’.

21 Nov 1846 Total inmates: 423 [capacity: 400 (first total to exceed capacity)]

Includes:

5 Dec 1846 Resolved, not to reject applicants ‘however numerous, who from age and infirmity are peculiarly the fit objects for a poor house’. [Total: 534]

19 Dec 1846 Visiting committee report referring to the attempted theft of at least 4lb of bread by a girl admitted to visit her sick uncle, which is thought ‘convincing proof that the sick are not scantily supplied’.

2 Jan 1847 Report following meeting of the medical officer and visiting committee, ordering a new dietary, in consequence of the deaths of several children and the prevalence of dysentery. [Total inmates: 712 (deaths: 16)].

9 Jan 1847 Resolution appointing a committee to make strict enquiry into whether the husbands of women in the house are employed on public works. House committee report clearing Dr Holmes, vaccinator, of charges made by Dr Crooke. [Total inmates: 839 (deaths: 21)]

16 Jan 1847 Report by Assistant Commissioner Burke, noting the dirtiness of the house, the disregard of classification of inmates, gates left open, disorder...
in the fever ward, the incompetence of the school master to assist the master, and the state of the sewers.

23 Jan 1847 Resolution expressing satisfaction that the chairman’s application to Lord Russell met with success (empowering the Lord Lieutenant to act in ‘urgent cases’). It is noted that the board’s resources were exhausted on Wednesday, and meal procured on the guarantee of two guardians. Without ‘immediate Pecuniary Aid more than half the inmates must perish by Starvation in the House as they could not be removed and the remainder will die by the road side’. [See also 30 Jan, when a proposal to bury bodies without a coffin is to be considered, if state funds are not forthcoming].

20 Feb 1847 Medical officer and RC chaplain report that fever is spreading ‘to an alarming extent throughout the union’. [Resolved, to convert the dining hall into a fever hospital, instead of erecting fever sheds as proposed by PLC].

5 Mar 1847 Resolved, in view of ‘the absolute necessity of hiring additional accommodation’, to offer Mr Burke £20 annually for use of his house and offices. [Total inmates: 858 (deaths: 58)].

13 Mar 1847 Resolutions referring to (1) electoral irregularities in Kilmichael Electoral Division; (2) ‘grave’ allegations against members of the board ‘but also involving generally the integrity of the management of the affairs of the union’. It is noted that the only case of a member being a contractor was during the recent financial emergency, when ‘in such a literal case of life and death’, Mr Norwood provided flour on credit at a reduced price, ‘which if he had not so done, the entire number of inmates of this house should have been left inevitably to perish’. [See note below re chaplain, & eg, 1 May & 5 Jun]

3 Apr 1847 Medical officer’s report noting ‘fever much on the increase and becoming more fatal being attended with Dysentery’ and other diseases. He states requirements such as furniture, dietary, and staff, and advises that the board ‘ought not to admit more’. [A PLC Order imposes a limit of 500. See also 7 Apr, referring to Temporary Relief Act, and later minutes].

Reply to PLC letter regarding charges against the RC chaplain, stating that Fr Doheny excited his congregation ‘to a contest for the election of guardians and calling upon them to support the candidate of his choice’. It is also noted that he used ‘certain expressions to injure the character of some of the present guardians’. The board consider him unfit to continue as chaplain. [See 10 Apr]

24 Apr 1847 Resolution accepting the offer of tents (for fever patients) pending the building of a fever hospital, for which a tender has been accepted, and advising that Thomas Holmes be appointed union medical officer. Resolution recommending that the master and his assistant be dismissed, owing to ‘a very serious mistake’ in returning the number of inmates as 678, when it appears to have been 519, rations having been drawn for the larger number. Reference is made, in defence of the board, to ‘the state of disease in the house, and the very great press of public business at relief committees’.

5 Jun 1847 Resolutions in reply to Mr Phelan’s report to the PLC, referring to numbers, bedding, dietary, and ‘unjust’ remarks respecting the medical officer.
19 Jun 1847 Resolution, in response to warrants from Dublin Castle ordering the collection of £6631, to be paid to electoral divisions under the 'Temporary Relief Act, stating ‘that any attempt to enforcement of much larger sums [ie, larger than poor rates] would at the present juncture be utterly hopeless’.

3 Jul 1847 Reply to PLC letter regarding the dietary for the sick, expressing the view that the best course would be for the board ‘to relinquish all discretion... by order from Superior Authority’ and purchase all the expensive foodstuffs contemplated by the PLC, even though the cost would ‘materially abridge the probably short period during which it will be possible to keep open the doors of their union’.

14 Aug 1847 Letter from the medical officer regarding the ‘immediate necessity’ of reconsidering the present dietary. He notes ‘the numbers in hospital some time since with dysentery & co were over 200 and their reduction this week to 90 will at once prove that change of food is of paramount importance’. He adds that dietary supplied ‘in a season of distress ought now to be changed to a more grateful and cooling one’.

18 Sep 1847 Resolution proposing that paupers in future be charged to each electoral division, not to the union at large. [See 15 Mar 1845, 25 Mar 1848] Resolution expressing regret that Rev James Burke has been appointed curate in Dunmanway, and has been found to have acted as workhouse chaplain, despite having been convicted in 1838 ‘for conspiracy to swear away the life of an innocent man’. They have directed that he no longer be admitted.

5. 2 Oct 1847 – 19 Feb 1848

Includes:

16 Oct 1847 Reply to PLC letter, explaining why 6 children were transmitted by cart from Dunmanway to Bandon union. [Total inmates: 301]

13 Nov 1847 Resolved, that a special meeting be held to consider the ‘urgent necessity’ for increased accommodation and the propriety of giving out door relief. It is further resolved that the three relieving officers attend at stated villages on stated days. It is noted ‘a number of able-bodied persons assembled during the time of the meeting... and wanted admission’. They were asked to attend on Monday with their wives and children. (At the adjourned meeting, men again presented themselves without families and were rejected. Three single men admitted ‘immediately became refractory and disobedient’ and were put before magistrates and sentenced to a month’s hard labour).

20 Nov 1847 Resolutions (1) asking that the rate be collected in two parts, now and in February, to mitigate ‘a heavy pressure’ on ratepayers which may ‘extinguish, all agricultural exertion’; (2) asking for prompter payment of advances under the Land Improvement Act, work under which is regarded as the main check on destitution following the cessation of relief funds.

27 Nov 1847 Resolution thanking the Lord Lieutenant for the sending of an agricultural instructor to the west riding of Cork, but noting that owing to the
'incapacity' of the Board of Works in managing applications under the Land Improvement Act, intended employment has not occurred, and the board 'must have recourse to out-door relief which would plague the union with all the miseries experienced last year'. [See special meeting, 10 Jan 1848]

11 Dec 1847 Resolution noting that as the workhouse is full [566 inmates], a house which will accommodate 200 children has been taken nearby, and it is asked how much of the 34 acres of land available should be taken, the board being anxious to provide employment to the able-bodied, to prevent 'the entire property of this union from being eaten up by out-door relief'.

24 Dec 1847 Reply to a PLC letter regarding a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant from the parishes of Kilmichael and Macloneigh, denying that workhouse relief was refused to any applicant from Kilmichael, and referring to the attendance of relieving officers and present exertions to collect rates.

8 Jan 1848 PLC order limiting numbers in the workhouse to 500, in the additional workhouse to 60, and in the fever ward to 55.

22 Jan 1848 Resolutions (1) calling a meeting of all land and property holders to discuss destitution, employment, and relief in each ED; (2) explaining the taking of houses in the town to be boys dormitories; (3) Out-door relief to 'about 130 persons' to begin on Monday (depots at Dunmanway, Inchageela, Ballygurteen, Balnacarriga, and Inchacurkey); (3) that such relief be ¾ lbs per adult and ½ lb per child per day of Indian meal; (4) that the PLC sanction out-door relief 'to widows with one child and to married women whose husbands have gone to England and to America'; (5) that additional accommodation be taken; (6) that PLC assent 'to making taxation an electoral charge, as... an additional stimulus to land-holders to avail themselves of the provisions of the Land Improvement Act'. [See, eg, 29 Jan, 7 Feb]

12 Feb 1848 Total inmates: 757. Resolution, referring to 'the partial success of the very limited portion of potatoes planted last season', explaining that unless seed potatoes are provided gratuitously or at a price affordable to the labouring classes, it will not be possible for them 'to emerge from the deplorable position in which they have been placed by the late disastrous visitation of Providence'.
6. 26 Feb 1848 – 23 Dec 1848

Partially indexed. This and subsequent volumes include a table to record out
door relief, in addition to the usual State of the Workhouse table. Includes:

26 Feb 1848 Total inmates: 820 (12 deaths); Out door relief: 2118 persons
Resolution expressing ‘great regret’ at a letter from the board’s chairman,
Daniel Conner, stating that he is obliged to put 250 men out of work, owing
to ‘the repeated blunders of the board of works, and the obstinacy of the
paymaster of civil services’, and that it will be the board’s ‘painful duty’ to
provide relief for the men and their families (about 1000 persons). Conner
notes that Under Secretary Redington ‘appears to think the starvation of so
many unfortunate persons a subject quite beneath his notice, as he has not
condescended to attend to my last two communications’.

25 Mar 1848 Resolution calling on Mr Griffith to dismiss Mr Irwin, rates
inspector, or move him from the locality, owing to his ‘intermeddling’ in
matters outside his sphere, and ‘unprovoked hostility’ to board members.

15 Apr 1848 Total inmates: 853 (27 deaths); Out door relief: 3326 pe
rsons
PLC order authorising relief to able-bodied men, excepting unmarried men
and those with no more than two dependent children.

22 Apr 1848 Resolved, that PLC authority be sought for funds to outfit the 44
female orphan volunteers for emigration to Australia. [See 17 Jun]
Resolution informing Inchageela Relief Committee that the soup house will
be discontinued, owing to ‘the expenses attending cooked food’.
Resolved, that observations on the state of the workhouse by Major Stewart,
temporary inspector, be inserted on the minutes.

20 May 1848 Resolutions regarding charges of intoxication against the master,
and a charge of suppressing a resolution against the clerk [‘the whole subject’
of the clerk’s conduct being under investigation. 27 May: clerk dismissed].

Master reports that a woman found to have a child’s frock in her pocket was
confined to the black hole. Ordered to be turned out of the house. Further
ordered that boys reported for misconduct be whipped by the master.

8 Jul 1848 Replies to queries from the Poor Law Boundary Commissioners.
The board do not think the union should be altered at present, but that ‘grave
consideration’ may be required if Clonakilty is separated from Bandon.

Resolved, that out door relief is to cease from this date, paupers to be
admitted to the workhouse and remaining meal delivered to the master.

19 Aug 1848 Medical officer’s report stating that the sick have been moved to
the new fever ward and ‘that the change had been of great service’.
Reply to PLC circular, noting that about ¼ of the potato crop is gone, that
acres under wheat are down 1/3\textsuperscript{rd}, with a further 1/3\textsuperscript{rd} deficient, the oat crop appears favourable, but there is hardly any barley in the area, and the present unfavourable weather threatens the entire grain crop.
Resolution expressing alarm at striking another three shilling rate, noting the depressive effect on farmers and employment. Reference is made to the poorness of the union and the report of the inspector under the Ration Act. It is noted that the union was not among the 22 unions ‘to whom relief was afforded so liberally during the last 10 months by the British Association’.

9 Sep 1848 Reports (1) of the manufacture committee regarding the employment of female paupers in the manufacture of wool [Commenced. See, eg, visiting committee report, 30 Sep]; (2) of the PLC inspector, noting the house is ‘generally in good order’, and referring to the girls’ school [see 16 Sep], kitchen steam apparatus, poor quality bread, and the ‘irregularity’ of male and female paupers working together digging potatoes.

16 Sep 1848 Resolution regarding the dismissal of the rate revisor, stating that he ‘has been guilty of defalcations as paymaster under the board of works’, and rejecting charges by him of ‘malice and spite’ on the board’s part.

30 Sep 1848 Old Brewery taken as a temporary workhouse for one year.

2 Dec 1848 Resolution regarding the proposal of the Poor Law Boundary Commissioners to take of ploughlands in Kilmeen ED and add them to the new Clonakilty Union. The board protests ‘against the immediate erection of any additional workhouses’, noting that no new house could be completed within two years, by which time ‘existing pressures’ will have subsided. They believe the workhouse and auxiliary houses will meet this year’s requirements ‘so reduced in number is the population by death and emigration’. They refer to likely changes in EDs and areas of taxation, noting ‘few persons are so ignorant or infatuated as to prefer supporting persons in idleness in the workhouse to employing them profitably on their properties when the law leaves them no alternative’.

16 Dec 1848 Master reports ‘that the men employed at the quarry are not doing a fair proportion of work’. Ordered to break stones at a rate per day.

23 Dec 1848 Total inmates: 1045 (Deaths: 7) [accommodation: workhouse: 600, additional workhouses: 900; fever hospital: 60 (total:1560)] Establishment account [quarterly], and other accounts, recorded.
7. 30 Dec 1848 – 13 Oct 1849

Includes:

6 Jan 1849 Report of committee to arrange additional accommodation, recommending that a house which could take 200 boys and a hall which could serve as a school room be taken. ‘The committee are apprehensive that even this additional accommodation will not suffice for the increased demand’, and recommend the building of wooden sheds, to serve as work rooms.

20 Jan 1849 Resolution regarding repayment of advances from the relief commissioners, asking that it be deferred while ‘the present crisis’ and expenditure on accommodation make early compliance impracticable. [See 10 Feb, explaining the impossibility of repaying loans under the Labour Rate Act to the Western Division of East Carbery (including this union and part of Skibbereen), owing to ‘the continued failure of the potato crop’. See also 24 Mar: ‘the mere fact of striking [a further rate] would cause half the farmers to desert their farms and the other half to dismiss the few labourers they at present employ’].

Remarks adopted in response to 11 propositions received from the PLC, regarding local taxation, rates, electoral divisions, and national funding. It is thought that the cost of building workhouses ‘should be defrayed nationally as a trifling remuneration for the injury which Ireland as an agricultural country has sustained by a repeal of the Corn Laws’, but it is added ‘we deprecate any dependence on national sources for the support of the poor as such an arrangement would make the local boards reckless of expenditure’.

27 Jan 1849 Total inmates: 1640. Deaths: 23. The medical officer reports outbreaks of measles and dysentery, with ‘the great majority [of deaths] from dysentery among the class of persons very recently admitted’. [See 3 Mar, (deaths: 45), when the guardians note ‘the mortality was principally amongst those who have recently come into the house in such an exhausted state as to render all food and medicine useless’].

3 Mar 1849 Resolution regarding consumption of milk in the dietary, it being ‘impossible to procure a sufficient quantity until May’. Resolution stating, with regard to contributing towards an agricultural instructor, that it will be ‘useless’ to attempt such work ‘as long as we are threatened with a sixpenny rate (miscalled a national rate)’. [Struck on 2 Jun]

24 Mar 1849 Visiting committee report noting ‘some confusion from the failure of water’ [an ongoing problem].

Resolution regarding the difficulty of repaying ‘ration money’ [loans under the Labour Rate Act; see note on 20 Jan above], noting that the union could not afford to send 42 female paupers as emigrants to Australia if also required to make a loan repayment out of present funds. [Emigrants: see 8 Sep]

7 Apr 1849 Resolution, in reply to PLC letter, stating ‘it is the bounden duty of this board to discountenance all idea of administering [out-door] relief’. [See 28 Apr, referring to the ‘evils and imposition’ experienced in the past,
and stating the board’s preference for securing accommodation].

14 Apr 1849 Medical officer’s report noting ‘that fever was considerably on the increase particularly amongst the persons seeking admission to the house, dysentery very prevalent and generally terminating fatally’. [Deaths: 41; see 21 Apr: resolution explaining ‘the fearful mortality’, noting ‘the wretched and emaciated condition’ of new admissions, and the ‘very large’ numbers of persons dying outside].

Resolved, that the sum of £8 6s 0d be paid to Dunmanway board of health to assist them in street cleaning and whitewashing under the Nuisances Removal and Disease Prevention Act. [Cholera prevention. 6 Oct: no cases occurred].

9 Jun 1849 Visiting committee report by Daniel Conner stating that he ‘found the classification most disgraceful, children of seven years old had been among the infirm men for several days’. [Total inmates: 2132. Deaths: 30 (Capacity: 2180)]. [Reports generally positive: see, eg, 14 Jul, 8 Sep].

14 Jul 1849 Reply to PLC giving particulars of the case of a woman, from the union area but resident 21 years in London, and her son born in London, who were sent to Dunmanway ‘against their will and consent, and at a few hours’ notice’. [Total: 1842. Deaths: 13 (Capacity: 1980)].

1 Sep 1849 Resolution in reply to the Commissioners of National Education, expressing satisfaction at the fitness of the school master and mistress, and stating that if the commissioners ‘are not satisfied with the above officers the board have no alternative but to disconnect their establishment from the National Education Board’. [Total inmates: 828. Deaths: 3 (Capacity: 1920)].

8 Sep 1848 Resolution signed by most guardians expressing themselves ‘perfectly satisfied’ with the arrangement of EDs proposed by the Poor Law Boundary Commissioners. A dissentient resolution by a guardian for Dunmanway ED states ‘the area is too small for a town district, which has always been a focus of destitution and mendicancy’. [See later minutes]

15 Sep 1849 Master reports an inmate has absconded in union clothes [a recurring item]

Resolved, in striking ‘a new and heavy rate’ including assistance to distressed unions, ‘to protest against the mismanagement of the adjoining union of Bantry, at present under the direct control of the Poor Law Commissioners’.


PLC order of 3 Oct regarding administration of the poor law ‘with the newly arranged electoral divisions of the altered union of Dunmanway’.

13 Oct 1849 Resolution regarding matters arising ‘which the ex officio guardians now carrying on the duties of the board would prefer submitting to all the guardians collectively’. PLC is asked ‘how soon is it likely that the board will be completed’.
8. 20 Oct 1849 – 17 Aug 1850
9. 24 Aug 1850 – 5 Apr 1851
10. 12 Apr 1851 – 1 Nov 1851
11. 8 Nov 1851 – 22 May 1852
12. 29 May 1852 – 11 Dec 1852
13. 18 Dec 1852 – 4 Jun 1853
14. 11 Jun 1853 – 19 Nov 1853
15. 26 Nov 1853 – 3 May 1854
16. 10 May 1854 – 25 Oct 1854
17. 1 Nov 1854 – 10 Apr 1855
18. 25 Apr 1855 – 17 Oct 1855
19. 24 Oct 1855 – 7 May 1856
20. 14 May 1856 – 5 Nov 1856
21. 12 Nov 1856 – 20 May 1857
22. 27 May 1857 – 19 Nov 1857
23. 25 Nov 1857 – 19 May 1858
24. 26 May 1858 – 24 Nov 1858
25. 1 Dec 1858 – 25 May 1859
26. 1 Jun 1859 – 23 Nov 1859
27. 30 Nov 1859 – 23 May 1860
28. 30 May 1860 – 21 Nov 1860
29. 5 Dec 1860 – 29 May 1861
30. 5 Jun 1861 – 4 Dec 1861
31. 11 Dec 1861 – 4 Jun 1862
32. 11 Jun 1862 – 3 Dec 1862
33. 10 Dec 1862 – 3 Jun 1863
34. 10 Jun 1863 – 2 Dec 1863
35. 9 Dec 1863 – 1 Jun 1864
36. 7 Dec 1864 – 31 May 1865
37. Missing [see BG/83/AA/1 below]
38. 6 Dec 1865 – 5 Dec 1866
39. 12 Dec 1866 – 4 Dec 1867
40. 11 Dec 1867 – 2 Dec 1868
41. 9 Dec 1868 – 30 Nov 1869
42. 7 Dec 1869 – 29 Nov 1870
43. 6 Dec 1870 – 20 Nov 1871
44. 5 Dec 1871 – 20 Nov 1872
45. 27 Nov 1872 – 19 Nov 1873
46. 26 Nov 1873 – 18 Nov 1874
47. 25 Nov 1874 – 19 May 1875
48. 26 May 1875 – 8 Dec 1875
49. 15 Dec 1875 – 7 Jun 1876
50. 14 Jun 1876 – 6 Dec 1876
51. Missing [see BG/83/AA/2 below]
52. 13 Jun 1877 – 26 Dec 1877
53. 2 Jan 1878 – 11 Oct 1878
54. Missing [see BG/83/AA/3 below]
55. 9 Apr 1879 – 1 Oct 1879
56. 8 Oct 1879 – 7 Apr 1880
57. 14 Apr 1880 – 22 Sep 1880
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58.</td>
<td>29 Sep 1880 – 12 Oct 1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.</td>
<td>10 Oct 1881 – 26 Apr 1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.</td>
<td>3 May 1882 – 25 Oct 1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.</td>
<td>1 Nov 1882 – 25 Apr 1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.</td>
<td>2 May 1883 – 26 Oct 1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.</td>
<td>2 Nov 1883 – 9 May 1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.</td>
<td>16 May 1884 – 31 Oct 1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.</td>
<td>7 Nov 1884 – 24 Apr 1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.</td>
<td>1 May 1885 – 30 Oct 1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.</td>
<td>6 Nov 1885 – 30 Apr 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.</td>
<td>7 May 1886 – 29 Oct 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>5 Nov 1886 – 22 Apr 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>29 Apr 1887 – 22 Oct 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>29 Oct 1887 – 7 Apr 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.</td>
<td>11 Apr 1888 – 29 Sep 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.</td>
<td>6 Oct 1888 – 30 Mar 1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.</td>
<td>6 Apr 1889 – 28 Sep 1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.</td>
<td>5 Oct 1889 – 29 Mar 1890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ordinary minutes are followed by supplemental sheets for proceedings under the Medical Charities Act and the Public Health Acts, and for proceedings of the board as a Rural Sanitary Authority under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts. Includes:

- Resolution, ‘that we, the guardians of Dunmanway Union, consider that Mr Goschen’s, Chancellor of the Exchequer, arrival in Bandon stimulates evictions as is instanced by the evictions of the property of Col Shuldham at Coolkelure on yesterday’.
- Rate books signed for each ED (poundage and breakdown of rate noted).
- Clerk reports that he attended petty sessions for prosecution of labourers who refused to pay rent for cottages occupied by them. [See also, eg, 2 Nov]

- 12 Oct 1889 Report by the Cattle Inspector. He states ‘I have not seen during my life so many calves dying with blue quarter as I have seen this year’. He assures the board he has been looking after the milk market, but thinks it is impossible to keep it clean where it is. [Re inspector, see, eg, 1 Mar 1890]

- 26 Oct 1889 Reports by relieving officers on visits to children at nurse.

- 30 Nov 1889 Resolution appointing committees to oversee work on the Dunmanway and Ballineen water works.
- LGB letter stating that the duty of providing supervision of completion of work on labourers’ cottages ‘rests entirely with the sanitary authority’.

- 7 Dec 1889 Report by Medical Officer, Ballineen Dispensary District, regarding a case of typhus in a house where pigs are kept.

- 14 Dec 1889 List of seed rate uncollectable, with ‘cause of non-payment’ noted (‘evicted’, ‘destitute’, ‘denial of receiving’).
28 Dec 1889 Order reprimanding an inmate for getting drunk and returning late when sent with the workhouse horse and van to collect a patient. Resolved, to pay £40 to the engineer on the labourers’ cottages for additional services. [Engineer had begun legal proceedings (30 Nov)].

25 Jan 1890 Resolution protesting at the LGB’s ‘arbitrary action... in dissolving the Cork Board of Guardians, as a ridiculous attempt to stifle the expressions of opinion on matters concerning our most vital interests’. [See also 8 Feb: ‘several patriotic resolutions’ from Limerick union adopted].

15 Feb 1890 Sanitary officer’s report of a dwelling unfit for human habitation in Coolmountain district. Labourer’s cottage offered to the occupant.

15 Mar 1890 LGB letter seeking details of a defalcation by a relieving officer. Resolution instructing that labourers’ cottages contractors be given 24 hours notice to commence finishing work, and six days to complete it.

29 Mar 1890 Resolved, that the inmates get eggs for breakfast and fish for dinner on Easter Sunday.

Medical officer, Dunmanway district, reports that all persons reported as unvaccinated on 18 Jan have since complied with the law.

76. 5 Apr 1890 – 27 Sep 1890
77. 4 Oct 1890 – 28 Mar 1891
78. 4 Apr 1891 – 26 Sep 1891
79. 3 Oct 1891 – 2 Apr 1892
80. 9 Apr 1892 – 24 Sep 1892
81. 1 Oct 1892 – 25 Mar 1893
82. 1 Apr 1893 – 24 Mar 1894
83. 31 Mar 1894 – 22 Sep 1894
84. 29 Sep 1894 – 5 Jan 1895
85. 12 Jan 1895 – 23 Nov 1895
86. 10 Dec 1895 – 1 Jan 1897
87. 8 Jan 1897 – 18 Dec 1897
88. 7 Jan 1898 – 10 Dec 1898
89. 24 Dec 1898 – 1 Jun 1899
90. 15 Jun 1899 – 31 May 1900
91. 14 Jun 1900 – 13 Jun 1901
92. 27 Jun 1901 – 12 Jun 1902
93. 26 Jun 1902 – 2 Jun 1903
94. 16 Jun 1903 – 7 Jun 1904
95. 14 Jun 1904 – 11 Jul 1905
96. 25 Jul 1905 – 18 Sep 1906
2 Oct 1906 – 26 Nov 1907

An attendance and voting record, and sheets for statistical and financial minutes, precede minutes of ordinary proceedings. These are followed by sheets for proceedings under the Medical Charities Act. Newscuttings with reports of board and Rural District Council meetings have been pasted in on the last page of most sets of minutes. Reports of analyses of drugs submitted by dispensaries (by Analytical Laboratory, Limerick) have also been inserted. Includes:

2 Oct 1906 Total inmates; 72. Out door relief: 211 persons.
Master’s journal extract noting the children were taken out for exercise eight times in the fortnight [a recurring item].
Stated tenders for yearly supplies accepted.

16 Oct 1906 Resolved, to build a new dispensary at Ballineen.
Midwife appointed to Dunmanway district, following a vote [see newscutting].

30 Oct 1906 Ordered, on foot of master’s report, that two women deserted by their husbands be discharged, as their husbands are earning money.
The board decided to withdraw their appeal in a case for recovery of out door relief granted to a family.

13 Nov 1906 Master’s journal extract reporting a mother and daughter assaulting each other, one taking a knife to the other.
Letter from inspector of national schools, reporting ‘the proficiency this year is fair generally’. He thinks the school room ‘rather cold’.
Two board members appointed to attend a meeting on university education in Munster and the re-constitution of Queen’s College, Cork.

11 Dec 1906 Master’s journal extract acknowledging that an inmate who gave birth to an illegitimate child must give a sworn information at petty sessions.
Scale of meat and fish allowances to officers and inmates for Christmas stated.

8 Jan 1907 Master’s journal extract noting that the Sisters of Charity presented hospital patients and children with ‘a liberal supply’ of treats.

15 Jan 1907 Special meeting adopts annual estimate of £3791 3s 7d.

19 Feb 1907 Master’s journal extract reporting a woman, with five children, admitted ‘under the influence of drink’ and who ‘called the matron filthy names’. She and her daughter have refused to work on several occasions.

19 Mar 1907 LGB letter explaining that LBG sanction to boarding out a child is not necessary ‘except when the boarding out is in a town or village’.

16 Apr 1907 Meeting adjourned to mark the death of Canon Lane P.P.

30 Apr 1907 Newscutting reports a clerk’s return of out door relief, recording an increase of £188 since September 1897.
14 May 1907 Order dividing the District Electoral Division (DED) of Dunmanway into two DEDs, Dunmanway North and Dunmanway South.

11 Jun 1907 Resolution condemning the ‘boycott recently placed on our brother farmers and countrymen in the Drimoleague district by withdrawing from them the long established privilege of market tickets to Dunmanway on market days’. To be forwarded to Cork and Bandon Railway Company. Clerk directed to bring the railway manager’s attention a report that an inmate was left at Dunmanway station while travelling to Cork with her child.

9 Jul 1907 Resolution condemning Stephen Grehan’s action in serving writs on tenants in Ballingeary and Inchigeela districts, tenants having agreed to abide by prices fixed by the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board. ‘As the management of this estate is a menace to the peace of mid-Cork’, they call on the Chief Secretary to move a bill to expropriate Grehan.


3 Sep 1907 Master’s journal extract noting ‘something must be done to prevent those inmates who are the assistants in the laundry taking their discharge so often, especially on fair and market days’.

15 Oct 1907 Resolution calling for a sworn inquiry ‘into the entire circumstances connected with the alleged outrage at Lord Ashtown’s lodge in Glenaheiry’.

98. 10 Dec 1907 – 2 Feb 1909
99. 16 Feb 1909 – 29 Mar 1910
100. 12 Apr 1910 – 23 May 1911
101. 20 Jun 1911 – 4 Jun 1912
102. 18 Jun 1912 – 3 Jun 1913
103. 17 Jun 1913 – 28 Jul 1914
104. 11 Aug 1914 – 21 Sep 1915
105. 5 Oct 1915 – 9 Jan 1917
106. 23 Jan 1917 – 14 May 1918

Following ordinary, financial, and statistical minutes, and before proceedings under the medical charities act, there is a sheet for proceedings under children’s acts (Pauper Children (Ireland) Acts, 1898, 1902; Poor Law Act 1899; Poor Relief (Ireland) Act 1900; Infant Life Protection Act 1897; and the Employment of Children Act 1903). Entries are generally brief, noting relieving officer’s reports and school attendance certificates submitted and sent to LGB (reports and certificates not present on minutes). Includes:


6 Mar 1917 Ordered, reductions in dietary for officers and inmates, on foot of LGB letter regarding Lord Devonport’s appeal to the public. [See, eg, 15 May] Eviction notice submitted at the suit of Lord Bandon.

20 Mar 1917 Resolution expressing ‘great disappointment’ at the LGB’s refusal to sanction Mrs Crowley as nurse ‘owing to her being married’. They note ‘married women have been found to be most assiduous and attentive to the patients entrusted to their care and are now successfully nursing in many big hospitals in the Empire’. [See also 12 Nov 1918] Letter from supplier seeking a refund of loss sustained by supplying bacon and flour [under contract] at a price well below present costs.

1 May 1917 LGB letter stating that its inspector’s report ‘is of a generally satisfactory character’, but that it notes ‘the absence of modern sanitary accommodation in the boys’ and girls’ yards’. LGB letter sanctioning an additional payment for maintenance of a boy in the Catholic Institute for the Deaf and Dumb for the remainder of the war.

15 May 1917 Reply to circular from the County Cork Committee of Agriculture, stating that turf is cut throughout the union, but some large bogs in the western portion are not available ‘owing to the actions of the landlords refusing to let the bogs to the people of the district’. Letter to LGB asking whether three children may legally be admitted, their mother having died and their father, a railway worker, unable to care for them but willing to contribute to their upkeep. [See 12 Jun. See also 21 Aug]

24 Jul 1917 Medical officer’s letter approving of a nurse sleeping outside the house when on night duty. Letter from a nurse seeking expenses owing to no nurse from the North Infirmary or elsewhere being available to cover for her when on leave, obliging her to return early. Request declined. Reply to circular regarding woollen and leather goods, stating quantities of goods and prices paid. All goods of Irish manufacture.

21 Aug 1917 Medical officer’s letter recommending that a man who had a leg amputated ‘be supplied with a useful artificial leg of modern make – not one of the peg shaped pattern’. This, he thinks, would allow him to do light work.
2 Oct 1917 Resolution expressing sympathy on the death of Thomas Ashe ‘another of Ireland’s finest sons who was foully murdered in an Irish prison and we strongly condemn the manner in which the young manhood of the country are being treated’. [19 Mar 1918: regrets on death of John Redmond]

30 Oct 1917 Medical officer’s report of two cases of typhoid fever ‘caused by contamination by surface water of the wells from which drinking water is obtained. I have advised discontinuance of the use of these wells in each case.’

27 Nov 1917 LGB letter noting numbers of vaccination defaulters reported in each district: Ballineen: 34; Coolmountain:50; Dunmanway: 42. [See 14 May]

5 Feb 1918 Master’s journal extract regarding transfer of five imbeciles from Cork District Lunatic Asylum to Youghal Auxiliary Asylum [see 19 Feb]. Medical officer submits revised dietary for remainder of the war.

5 Mar 1918 Resolution calling for trial of those involved in ‘the Portobello Murders, Easter 1916’, ‘to have Colthurst tried for the murder of Coade and other crimes’, ‘to have justice done to Sir Francis Vane’, and to publish evidence taken at the inquiry by Sir J Simon.

2 Apr 1918 Resolution protesting against efforts ‘by the anti-Irish press of Great Britain to induce the government to apply conscription to Ireland’, and warning that any attempt would be resisted, and would ‘lead to disastrous results and constitute a new and menacing front in Ireland’. Resolution passed giving union advertisements to the Star and Nationality [instead of the Eagle].

Tenders for supply of medicines and appliances considered.

Letter by the four medical officers refusing the offered salary increase of £15 and asking the board to reconsider their case. [See 30 Apr. See 3 Sep 1918]

14 May 1918 Master’s journal extract advising that two tonnes of potatoes be bought, as new potatoes will not be available until 1 Aug, ‘and bread cannot be substituted as heretofore for the potatoes’.

Includes:


23 Jul 1918 LGB letter querying a war bonus to the late school mistress. Extract from auditor’s report disallowing a payment made to the master to recoup him for a surcharge made by the auditor in 1917 in respect of a deficiency of 100lbs sugar.

Letter from supplier regarding the impossibility of supplying eggs per tender.

20 Aug 1918 LGB letter calling attention to the matters raised in their medical inspector’s report on the infirmary, fever hospital, and children’s ward. Tender for turf at 16/6 per crib accepted [Recurring item. See 6 Aug, 3 Sep]

17 Sep 1918 Master reports that an inmate who went out on message failed to
return, leaving her child behind. It is thought she went to service. He also reports a case of diphtheria admitted [a recurring item].

Stated tenders accepted for goods and foodstuffs.

15 Oct 1918 Master reports the military authorities asked permission to use hospital baths to bathe soldiers three times a week.

29 Oct 1918 Master, matron, and porter apply for increased salary/war bonus to meet rising cost of living and reduced rations.

24 Dec 1918 Auditor’s report extract making surcharges in respect of payments made for hospital treatment of two women, neither of whom was “an inmate of the workhouse” under the definition laid down by the High Court in the case of the King (Kineally & others) V Browne, 14 Dec 1917.

7 Jan 1919 Letters by the matron and porter regarding fowl and goats kept by them respectively, in response to the LG inspector’s report.
Clerk reports writing to the Food Control Committee regarding milk prices.
Letter from temporary medical officer, Coolmountain District, applying for car hire expenses, owing to his inability to secure lodgings in the Johnstown area and the extra work arising from the Influenza epidemic.

18 Mar 1919 Master reports a baby born in the maternity ward on 15 Mar.
Letter from Sisters of Charity, Montenotte, requesting permission to transfer an inmate from St Raphael’s Asylum to the Blind Asylum, Cork, as St Raphael’s is being amalgamated with the Blind Asylum, Merrion, Dublin.
Meeting adjourned in tribute to a guardian ‘who died a victim to the Influenza’.

1 Apr 1919 Letter from petroleum contractor explaining why he had to charge more than the maximum price prior to 1 Mar.

10 Jun 1919 Letter from solicitor stating he has received no reply from two women who deserted their children in the workhouse. The board direct they be threatened with proceedings, but call attention to the expense and ask the LGB ‘whether any other means could be adopted to comply with the law’.
Letter from solicitor stating he has not heard from the foster mother of a boarded out child [who has been missing school]. He adds that the woman’s husband states she ‘is prepared to keep the child without any payment’.
Sealed order regarding appointment of midwives under the Midwives Ireland Act 1919 [midwives to be certified and over 21 years of age].

8 Jul 1919 LGB letter noting the board ‘should be prepared to justify their inaction’ to the auditor in the case of women who deserted their children. The board direct their solicitor to take proceedings. [Ongoing: see 9 Dec 1919]
LGB circular stating 19 July has been fixed ‘for the public celebration of the declaration of peace’. The board grant officials a holiday. Dietary not changed.

22 Jul 1919 Reply to LGB letter regarding appointment of a midwife to Coolmountain Dispensary District, noting the midwife was first appointed to the Bealangeary District of Macroom Union, and was then appointed to act
‘in the Bealangeary Division of Dunmanway Union’, the board not thinking it necessary to advertise separately. They ask if this is now required.

19 Aug 1919 Report of LG Inspector on boarded out children considered [reference is made to a child being instructed in dressmaking, another being apprenticed to a tailor]
Resolution adopting a new dietary with increased rations [LGB letter, same date, notes ‘1lb of bread is the equivalent in food value to 4lbs potatoes’.]

108.

16 Sep 1919 – 27 Nov 1920

Includes:

16 Sep 1919 Total inmates: 42. Out door relief: 244 persons
Letter from Secretary, Irish Transport and General Workers Union, requesting a wage increase for the messenger. Application refused. [29 Jun]
Tenders accepted for food, goods, and labour.
Scale of salaries for medical officers used in Bandon Union adopted.

30 Sep 1919 Resolution condemning the keeping of political prisoners in Cork prison in solitary confinement ‘which is a means of forcing them to hunger strike... we call on the public at large to watch the treatment meted out to John Murphy, Ardeahan, Dunmanway, and his brave comrades’.

14 Oct 1919 Tender accepted for conveying patients from Dunmanway to the workhouse, and burying bodies in Fanlobus.
Resolved, ‘that on Arbour Day, 16 young trees be planted on Workhouse grounds’.

11 Nov 1919 LGB letter, referring to an ongoing case, noting that a child ‘if deserted when boarded out... cannot now be claimed by her mother, unless the latter shows she is a fit person to take charge of her’. The relieving officer reports that the child’s present foster mother refuses to give her up. [23 Dec]

9 Dec 1919 Master reports accidental death of a child [post mortem held]. Letter from the board’s solicitor reporting that the defendant did not appear in a case for maintenance of her two illegitimate children, but that her employer stated he was prepared to pay for them while in the workhouse.
Resolved, ‘after a very heated argument’, to appeal a maintenance case to the Cork Assizes. [See note 8 Jul above 2 Oct 1920: directed to Sinn Fein court]

2 Mar 1920 Master reports a family of seven admitted casually, twice some weeks, ‘especially before the fair days in town’. He notes the children ought to be sent to school, and refers to the School Inspection Committee.

30 Mar 1920 Resolution of adjournment and sympathy on the death of the Lord Mayor of Cork. [See 15 Jun]

25 May 1920 master reports that the military visited on 16 May ‘to select accommodation for the troops’ and occupied part of the male side of the house that evening.
15 Jun 1920 Resolution, ‘That we pledge our allegiance to the Dail Eireann, and that we abide by the decree of that body. That we direct our clerk not to send any copy of minutes to the LG Board’. [10 Aug: LGB circular]

29 Jun 1920 Resolution condemning English Government forces ‘in brutally murdering a poor deformed young man named Cornelius Crowley in Bantry’.

13 Jul 1920 Master reports that the military at the workhouse raided the porter’s premises, found two old revolver cartridges, and arrested him.

29 Jul 1920 Letter from clerk to LGB reporting that a meeting to be held on 27 Jul was adjourned in protest owing to the presence of the military.

18 Sep 1920 Letters from Dail Eireann, including one regarding RIC members who have resigned from the force, one on the boycott of Belfast traders, and one on establishing arbitration courts.

2 Oct 1920 Resolution requesting ‘Nuns, teachers and others to give every help and assistance to establish a system in the schools for the furtherance of the Irish language’. [Details of system recommended].

13 Nov 1920 Resolved, to direct officials not to produce books for [LGB] audit, or assist it in any way. Resolution of Navan Town Council adopted, protesting at 4d being stopped from wages under the National health Insurance Act. Relieving officer reports that medical officer of Ballineen District was taken into custody by military on 27 Oct, for two weeks.

27 Nov 1920 Total inmates: 42. Out door relief: 181 persons. Three guardians appointed to attend meeting to consider amalgamation of west Cork unions. Clerk requested to attend with books and other documents ‘at certain places as we shall specify’ [the military occupation of the workhouse making attendance difficult, leading to several adjournments. Last recorded meeting.]

**BG/83/AA** Dunmanway Board of Guardians Rough Minute Book

**Scope and Content:**
Draft record of meetings and decisions made by the board of guardians. The volumes present include draft minutes for periods which supply gaps in the set of official minutes.

**Date:** 7 Jun 1865 – 2 Apr 1879 (Gaps)

**Level:** Series

**Extent:** 3 volumes
1. 7 Jun 1865 – 29 Nov 1865
2. 13 Dec 1876 – 6 Jun 1877
3. 16 Oct 1878 – 2 Apr 1879