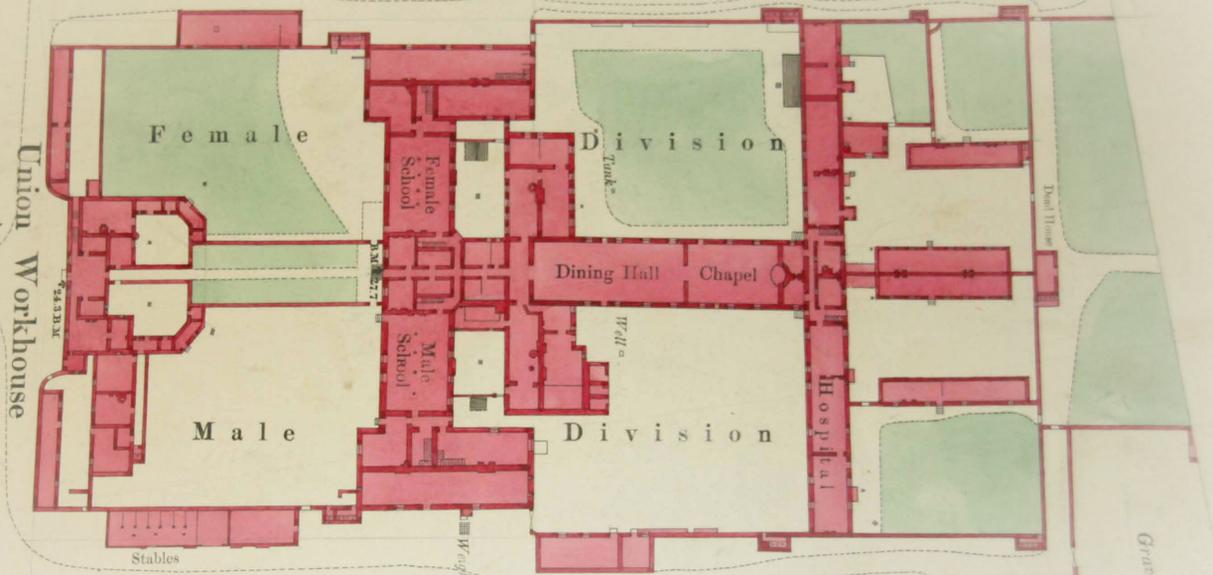


DISEASE AND FAMINE



Plan of The Workhouse from the Ordnance Survey of 1875

Cholera

Cholera struck Sligo town in 1832 and over 10,000 of the population left town, leaving only one third in the Borough. The Fever Hospital (built in 1822) received 470 patients with 317 deaths in August. This building no longer stands and it was located at the top of the hill behind the current hospital, close to the helicopter pad. People were buried in the "cholera fields" behind the fever hospital.



Workhouse Register of 1848

Form 6.—REGISTRY of Persons Admitted into, and Discharged from the Workhouse								Union.—(See 1st and 2nd Victoria, Chap. 56, Sec. 42.)					
1. Number	2. Name and Surname of Pauper	3. Sex	4. Age	5. If Adult, whether Single, Married, Widowed, or Parent, if Child, whether Orphan, Destitute, or Pauper	6. Employment or Calling	7. Religious denomination	8. If disabled, the description of disability	9. Name of Wife or Husband	10. Number of Children	11. Observations on condition of Pauper when admitted	12. District Division and Tithing in which resident	13. Date when Admitted, or when first in the Workhouse	14. Date when Discharged, or when last in the Workhouse
1	Mary Gillaspie	F	9	chil	None	R.C.					Ballinacorney	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
2	Mary Gillaspie	F	5			R.C.					Ballinacorney	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
3	Mary Whiffey	F	37		do	R.C.					Ballinacorney	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
4	John Keedy	M	50	Married	do	R.C.					Ballinacorney	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
5	Brady Keedy	F	30	Wife	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
6	Mary Keedy	F	14	C	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
7	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.	deaf				Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
8	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
9	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
10	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
11	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
12	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
13	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
14	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
15	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
16	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
17	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
18	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
19	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
20	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
21	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
22	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
23	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
24	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
25	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
26	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
27	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
28	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
29	John Conolly	M	18	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49
30	John Conolly	M	16	Single	do	R.C.					Sligo	6 Dec 48	25 Jan 49

The Workhouse

Sligo's poor had suffered a number of fevers and famines in the early part of the 19th century. In 1841 the Workhouse was built to accommodate 772 inmates, but during the potato famine of 1845-1850 over 4,175 were in residence. Three auxiliary houses had to be opened; whole families, old people and young children are recorded in its register. Between November 1841 and December 1850 a total of 31,021 inmates were admitted to the work house at Ballytivnan, 25,321 were discharged and 2530 died. Most of the dead were buried in the small famine graveyard, which is now appropriately marked by the "Faoin Sceach" memorial and the gates that lead from St. Joseph's church car park.



Gates commemorating the Famine at the site of the former Workhouse

Emigration

At Sligo port you had the contradiction of starving people emigrating because of famine and other ships exporting food to England.

Between 1841 and 1851 an estimated 34,190 emigrants sailed from Sligo. 1847 had the biggest number of 13,050 with 11,904 going to Canada and 1,146 to the USA. Grosse Ile on the St. Laurence River, just below the port of Quebec, Canada, was the landing place of these Sligo passengers. The trip took between 27-56 days in very poor conditions and 1 in ten died on the trip. The sailing which had the biggest loss of life was the "Larch" with 196 passengers dead out of a total 440. The "Carricks" from Sligo was lost at Cape Rozier with 139 lost and where there are still descendants alive today of Patrick Kavanagh and Sara McDonald both saved from the wreck.

The descriptions of the poor people from Sligo when they arrived in Canada were of people who were practically naked, starved and very ill. Grosse Ile became a quarantine station for all Irish ships and in 1847 the Chaplin on the Island was a Sligo man Fr. Bernard McGauran. He was born in Ballisadare Co. Sligo on the 14th of August 1821, the son of George McGauran, merchant, and Bridget Colley.

Niall Bruton's sculpture of the Famine family on Sligo Quayside reminds us of all our people that suffered during the period of the town's history.

