

The National Schools of Derrylossary Civil Parish, Co. Wicklow, 1831-c.1900

In the early 1830s the UK government introduced the National School system to Ireland. This scheme was innovative, as nothing similar existed elsewhere in the kingdom; mostly served by parochial schools. In its early days it was intended to be non-denominational but this failed due to the insistence for denominational education.

The Board of National Education bowed to this pressure and single denominational schools became standard, a situation that has only begun to change in the last thirty years. The two earliest National Schools were St. Kevin's, Glendalough, 1832, and Trooperstown, 1833; some other National Schools had previously been private

The general procedure was that a school was built from local resources and that building, furnishing grants and school supplies were then applied for on the basis of receipts. This was followed by grant for a teacher's salary but the Manager was responsible, as employer, for the hiring. The Board would ensure that the teacher was trained and in the latter part of the century this involved serving four years as a Monitor followed by training in a Model School that specialised in teacher training complimented by in-school training under a Principal. In earlier years experience was the most important factor.

The Board kept an eye on the schools through annual visits by inspectors who would assess the proficiency of the students and accuracy in school accounts and could penalise a teacher for inefficiency or inaccurate accounts. The latter was important as student numbers determined the number of teachers and salary grants.

While the Manager employed the teachers the Board had the right to punish them, which, in order of severity, was to admonish, to reprimand, severely reprimand, fine (usually £2), or depress (demote). The Board never dismissed teachers but could withdraw the salary grant forcing the Manager to do it though of he had the right to do this anyway without reference to the Board who took no interest.

The usual reasons were bad relationships between managers and teachers or, if the teaching was poor, a loss of confidence among the parents who would send their children elsewhere. Sometimes the manager was reluctant to dismiss a teacher, especially with a dependent family, until actually forced to do so. Of course teachers could also resign and many did, the turnover in some schools at certain times was high, reasons could include a dislike of the area or manager, lack of proper accommodation, a badly run school or promotion.

Records of National Schools are held in the National Archives and usually have the initial application (successful and unsuccessful, they give details on the school at the time), registers (they detail changes over time with comments about annual inspections and other issues) and miscellaneous files dealing with specific issues referred to in the registers. Recently files (not included here) relating to the early 20th century have been made available for research. Information on private schools is sparse and scattered but see earlier journals, Fr. Nevin's excellent Parish History and government inquiries into education held by the National Library.

Parts have been published by the Roundwood and District History and Folklore Society in their annual journal. However, as journal space is at a premium I decided to make the full set of notes available here. The case of Katherine Byrne, assistant teacher at St. Kevin's Female is separate.

The sections include references to additional material published in previous journals. An appendix covers schools up to the 1830s.

The schools covered are

[Annacarter](#)

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[Roundwood](#)

[Glendalough](#)

[Laragh](#)

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[St. Kevin's \(Male from 1866\)](#)

[St. Kevin's Female \(Male & Female from 1890\)](#)

[Katherine Byrne \(St. Kevin's Female\)](#)

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[Appendix: Education to the 1830s](#)

Annacarter

An application for salary and books was made by Rev. Coleman in October 1854. The school was founded in 1840 by Andrew Bourne Esq. who built, furnished and gave it gratis with three acres for his tenant's children. He had since moved to Paris and passed on the management to the Parish Priest. It was a one storey thatched building with one room (26' by 13'), two desks and large table.

The teacher was Thomas Kavanagh, aged 43, with 17 boys and 20 girls. There were three reading, three writing, two spelling, grammar and arithmetic and one geography and algebra classes per week. Religious education lasted a half-hour per day and used Christian Brother texts. The teacher was resident but was to move out; he supplemented his income by tuition and received c. £8 pa out of local funds. Local opinion was that it would be best to become "National". The Board allowed £11 salary pa.

A further application, July 1872, was made for a teacher's salary for agricultural instruction for a school formed in 1871. The adjacent farm had four arable acres, out of 5.2.20; the soil was part black rich loam, clay and cut away bog, and had been partially drained and cleaned of stone but needed additional drainage and levelling. It had a byre and piggery, erected by the teacher Danl. O'Connor aged 35, with a milch cow, goat and twenty poultry and grew oats, potatoes and grass.

It averaged 12 students from III and IV classes and had class books, farm account book, Hodge's first lessons in Agricultural Chemistry, 18 copies of Johnston's Catechism of Agricultural Chemistry, Stephen's Catechism of Practical Agriculture,

18 copies of Campbell's Farmer's and Cottager's guide, Agricultural Inspector's Observation Book, totalling £1/10/-. Next nearest such schools were in Delgany and Bray. The Board allowed £5 salary and £1/10/- for books pa. In 1880 the Board ordered

"Strike off school as an agricultural school and cancel all grants as instruction is worthless".

An application was made by Rev. O'Donnell in January 1884 for a workmistress's salary for Mary Martin, aged 25. Students were to

"learn cut out or making any article of dress and be proficient in stitching, working button holes and knitting and various kinds of plain and fancy needlework"

for two hours a day. The average attendance was 43 boys and 32 girls, 22 did needlework.

In September 1863 Rev. White made an application for an additional salary for teacher and books for an evening school. The average attendance of 18 was mostly farm labourers, with an average age of 19, who paid 4d per week. Edmund Day, aged 32, taught reading, writing, dictation, arithmetic and mensuration from 6-9pm. The school was open eight months a year but closed during harvests, etc. Board rejected because of insufficient attendance.

The teachers were Thomas Kavanagh until 1859, Edmund Day 1860-70 (removed), James Kean 1871, Daniel O'Connor, 1871-82, James O'Gara 1883 (retired), John Martin 1884-90, James Brady 1890-5, Mrs. Anne O'Rourke, nee Keane, (removed) 1895-8 and Michael O'Donohoe 1898 onwards. Senior monitors were Owen Kavanagh 1860-65, Esther Connolly 1865 and P. Lloyd 1879. Between 1855 and 1875 the school received grants for a book press, teacher's desk, whitewash and maps of the world.

In 1865 the Board wrote

"Manager informed that the reports on the discipline and economy are very unsatisfactory notwithstanding that the school has been recently organized".

The Inspector attributed the existing defects to "sluggishness and indifference" on the part of the teacher,

"who seems not to regard the suggestions of the Board's officer. Should another unfavourable report be received Day will be fined or depressed."

He was dismissed in 1868 but continued until 1870 when he claimed that the inspector had been drunk (see below). He was dismissed again and refused employment in Co. Wicklow.

In 1872 O'Connor was admonished for permitting needlework during religious instruction, failure to keep to the timetable and neglect of order and cleanliness; "Teacher to adhere to the truth". In 1873, 1874 and 1876 he was again in trouble for

bad record keeping when he was threatened with withdrawal of salary. In 1878 L. Coleman, postmistress Annamoe, preferred a charge of abuse; the Board refused to make further inquiries but ordered that a record be kept of his conduct, (see below). In 1882 Rev. O'Donnell finally gave him notice to the satisfaction of the Board who hoped that he "will adhere firmly to his determination".

In 1883 the Board said they had no responsibility for the private debts of O'Gara as claimed by Mrs. M and E Murphy and informed the Manager that the minimum for needlework class is 20 girls. In 1891 the Manager was informed that his plan to change from male to female teachers can be sanctioned but an application for a male senior monitor must then be dropped. Around 1893-1900 the Board asked the manager to provide an out-office.

In the mid 1890s O'Rourke was admonished for lack of judgment in treatment of James Walsh and for beating Mrs. McDonald's children for theft when it had not been proved. She was also severely reprimanded and fined £2 for falsification of records. In 1898 her salary was withdrawn, as

"She is incapable of providing efficient instruction to seniors and has lost the confidence of the parents".

An appeal by the manager was rejected in the interests of the locality who had stopped sending their children there. As she was under 50 she was ineligible for voluntary retirement but could have her pension premiums refunded. After 1898 O'Donohoe was reprimanded for inefficiency and the manager was requested to use his influence to secure a more regular attendance.

In 1870 an inquiry was held by John Sheridan into Edmond Day's allegation that Mr. MacSheehy, schools inspector, was drunk in Roundwood some years previously. Day said he heard it from Christopher Murphy, Mullinaveigue, aged 30, and William Heavy, late of Roundwood but now of Lowpark NS Co. Mayo. The latter denied it but said he may have heard something from John Sally but that he never said anything about it to Day, who had lodged in his father's house some years previously. Heavy said it was a "wicked charge" and gave it "the most emphatic contradiction". At the inquiry Day had two witnesses, Charles and Christopher Nolan, and Rev. Edward Rowan was also briefly examined.

The inquiry had three questions: 1) Did Day receive the information? 2) Was MacSheehy drunk as alleged? 3) Did Day use the information as a "menace to intimidate" MacSheehy?

On the first point it was established that there was a vague rumour which probably derived from Tom Sally, 'the idiot', who may have got his notions from the Nolans who helped MacSheehy when his pony and cart got stuck in a ditch at Stoney Pass while on an inspection. The Nolans said that they had helped and noticed a smell of drink from the car but never said he was drunk. Secondly there was no evidence for drunkenness. Thirdly Day was found to have attempted to intimidate MacSheehy in writing by alluding to and then specifically referring to the incident and for this he was dismissed.

A petition as to his good character came from Rev. John Edge, John Sheil, Thomas Fiddler, William Garrason, Robert Taylor, James Pharr, Patrick Nolan, James Clancy, Patrick Kelly, Edward Somers (B), James Kavanagh, (G) Michael Ward, (K) Thomas Cooley, (B) John McCaul, (C) John Roberts, Thomas Sutton, (G) Robert McGee, James Kearns, Thomas Kearns, Darby Kearns, John McCaul, (C) Thomas McDonnell, (B) Edward ..., James McCaul, Christopher Roche, John Roche, William Ireland, Owen Fisher, Joseph Fisher, James Magee, Charles Ward, Laurence Ward, Patrick Neale (C). The Board rejected it saying that Day had employment elsewhere unconnected with National Schools.

A complaint, backed up by an official letter from the GPO, by L. G. Coleman, Annamoe postmistresses, in October 1878 relating to Daniel O'Connor's rudeness at the PO. She said that on receiving a £10 note he asked for small change but there was none; he then refused to leave the room while other teachers were having private business transacted.

He stood outside and used abusive and nasty language and insulted her sister, "who is very delicate and grew quite hysterical", in the sitting room. He was the worse for drink and she requested that he be paid some other way. He later returned and apologised, which her sister accepted, so Coleman withdrew the complaint but suggested that Newownmountkennedy was nearer than Annamoe.

A letter from Rev. Fagan repeated that an apology had been made and that other teachers said that while he may have been under the influence, he was not drunk. Fagan added that he will cooperate with any further inquiry and that this was the first such complaint against O'Connor.

Another file has various letters starting with one from O'Connor, October 1882, to Lord Powerscourt regarding his dismissal. He stated that he refused to join the Irish Land League, to let his wife join the Lady's Land League, and son (aged 10³/₄) join the Boy's League even when threatened with boycotting. There is also reference to complicated disputes about a boy who would not learn and an anonymous letter that the daughter of a grand juror thought he wrote.

He complained of the Board's ingratitude and said he successfully prepared children for exams. The Board replied that he was admonished for neglect and non-observance of timetable in 1871, reprimanded for allowing girls to do needlework during Religious Instruction and for setting aside the timetable for vacation in 1872, reprimanded severely for erasures in Roll Book and inaccuracies in the Exam Roll in 1873, reprimanded severely for irregularities in accounts in 1874 and admonished on lack of punctuality on exam results and neglect of records.

In 1882 Rev. O'Donnell wrote that it was "my anxious desire to get rid of O'Connor" for being inefficient and unsatisfactory and rejected that he was threatened over his refusal to join the Land League. Samuel Brown, District Inspector, wrote in November 1882 that he suspected that

"O'Connor is insane and wanting in common sense; his school was always the worst in the parish"

and quoted the manager as saying it was painful to visit the school and also because of the bad relationship between the two.

O'Connor wrote to the Board in December 1882 apologising for the inconvenience and offence he had caused. He described his career of 24 years, his wife Julia Moynihan (also a teacher) of Kilcorney Co. Cork where he had taught, and his six children between one and eleven. Rev. O'Donnell added that while he still wanted to be rid of him he thought he should not be struck off the rolls as he is strictly sober, his conduct is exemplary, school attendance constant; he may be a bit unbalanced but the letter "was like a drowning man clutching at a straw". The Board replied that they were willing to give him another trial if he got another position.

File on James O'Gara who was compulsory retired in 1883 due to deafness caused by tinnitus. He was born 14/5/1827, strong and healthy with nine children. He taught in Rathmullen, Co. Sligo, Ross, Co. Sligo, Ballaghderreen, Co. Mayo, Park, Co. Wexford, Gort, Co. Galway, Elphin, Co. Roscommon, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo and Annacarter totalling 33 years. He was granted a pension of £196/10/-, his average annual income was £60.

A memorial, October 1891, against the substitution, by the manager, of a 3rd class female for male teacher, in whom they had confidence, from Michael Kearns, (M) Patrick Nolan (B), John Keenan (S), William Murphy (M) Richard Pierce (M), James Brady (S) and Laurence Smyth (S). An inquiry in 1892 gives the school's history, the schoolhouse and residence were built by public subscription and it received an £10 annually from Lord Powerscourt.

It was described as "tolerably comfortable and fairly furnished". The attached field was let to John Keenan for £6/5/- pa. Boys outnumbered girls 3:1, which is the reason for the complaint. The previous summer the manager dismissed James Brady for "good and sufficient reasons" and appointed Mrs. Anne O'Rourke, a respectable widow, due to her competence in needlework instruction.

She had been an assistant and workmistress in Roundwood and assistant in St. Kevin's female school. The writers had no objection to her but to her sex as they believed she cannot control the boys, but they admired a previous teacher who was so severe that 'miching' was very common. They also claimed that the land had been granted on the basis that a 1st class teacher would be provided but no evidence was found in the Archbishop's archives and the published schedule of the Bourne estate showed the land was granted without restrictions.

The inspector also noted that a NS board did not exist and "is a myth". The Manager said that Lord Powerscourt withdrew his grant last year and now the teacher's post is less attractive. The inspector recommended she study for 2nd class as this was acceptable to the petitioners. In a postscript he added that he was informed privately that the difference between the manager and petitioners was political.

File on Anne O'Rourke who was dismissed in 1898 for falsification of school rolls by including Mary F. Keenan, 7 years, when she was with her uncle in Tomdarragh, and her own two children, Ellen and Patrick, when they were marked absent in the rolls. She was seen as misleading her manager with confusing and contradictory statements.

The inspector concluded that there was falsification and recommended severe censure and a fine. The Board notified the manager that she was fined £2 and severely reprimanded and that if it happened again she is to be dismissed.

In another document the Board queried what the manager means when he said that the rules are complied with "in a sort of a way" and that the teacher's character is "middling". He replied that she has no discipline, tells him untruths and he wants her dismissed, the Board saw this as due to friction. A further letter said she had lost the confidence of the parents even though they acknowledged she had attempted to improve; they claimed that she was sometimes "under the influence of drink" but were unwilling to complain about it. The result was that her salary was withdrawn from March 1898 for being incapable of giving effective instruction.

She finally wrote to the Board and asked how is she to teach

"when the manager comes in a furious temper and is always threatening dismissal and disparaging the school from the pulpit".

Memorial of 1898 from James Pharr (B), Mary Harrison (B), Thomas McDonnell (B), Marianne Somers (B), Sarah Anne Ferguson (B), Frank Hendy (B), Peter Doyle (B), Catherine Sally (M), William Keenan (M), Laurence Mitten (S), Richard Pierce (M), Michael Kearns (M), Catherine Smyth (S), Michael Neil (S), George Murphy (M), Charles O'Toole (M), John Kearney (M), Luke Kelly (M) who protest against her harsh and unexpected dismissal and said that she was entitled to three months notice; she is now destitute and homeless.

"In unity with the rest of the parishioners we petition that Mrs. O'Rourke and her family be retained and request His Grace and the National Board that any little difference between Rev. Manager and her be rectified".

Fr. Manning replied that many did not sign it and said he had put the repairs to the school and teacher's residence in the hands of tradesmen but needed vacant possession, but she refused to leave; but if the Board wish to re-instate her he will concur. She wrote again saying the repairs were complete but school was not yet open; she asked the reason why and requested that her salary be not influenced by this, but to no avail. There were problems in finding a replacement and Wm. C. Owens was appointed in beginning 1899, though his salary was delayed due to 'misapprehension' of his certificate as senior monitor.

A file concerning local government election meetings held in the school in February 1899. The Board were notified that political parties were holding public meetings in Annacarter, Lough Dan, Roundwood and Moneystown schools; a copy of the Wicklow Star, 18th Feb 1899, was enclosed. The article said that Rev. Manning had fallen foul of a meeting to appoint Nationalist candidates organized by the Roundwood Federation and Roundwood Independent League.

He had refused the chair but subscribed to the advertisements and requested that his presence be kept private. Even though the area was "rent for years by political disunion" his meeting united the factions. However, this détente collapsed and in next meeting he made attacks on several leading men and denounced various meetings from the altar. Manning's reply to the Board was that it was not a political meeting

but purely for choosing candidates and therefore not against the rules. The Board disagreed and he wrote confirming that no such meetings will be held in the schools in future.

A 1903 loan application made for a teacher's residence; £250 was granted in 1907. The previous house was dilapidated and "twice lately the straw roof was carried away in a storm".

A 1923 file on the retirement of James and Sarah Brady, from Monamolin, Co. Wexford, principal and assistant teachers. He (born 1864) served from 1886-90 in St. Kevin's male and Annacarter, 1890-1, before going to Rathdrum for 1894-6 and Court 1896-1921; total 33 years. She (born 1866) served in Rathdrum, 1894-6 etc. for 27 years. They have seven children aged 10 to 27; she is permanently incapacitated with a floating kidney and he is no longer fit for active work. He was reprimanded for removing children from school to work on his farm and fined for corporal punishment irregularities, i.e. too much and unrecorded. His pension was £228/6/10 and hers £159/3/6.

Townland abbreviations from above petitions: B = Ballinastoe, C = Carrigower, G = Glasnamullen, K = Knockraheen, M = Mullinaveigue, S = Slemaine

See *Journal* no. 22 for additional notes by Arthur Hall

Ballinastoe

In July 1866 an application for salary and requisites for Ballinastoe School was made by Lady Powerscourt. It was established c. 50 years ago and received occasional grants for books from the Christian Education Society but no other aid; the teacher's salary fund was now exhausted. The sole patron was Lord Powerscourt and former patrons were the Bishop of Cashel and Mr. Synge of Glenmore who no longer had any control. Mr. Edge was to be manager.

The house was built of stone with a slate roof and measured 27' by 15' by 10'; it was in bad repair and had no suitable out-office. It was sometimes used as a meeting house for prayer by the Christian Brethren, "said to be Dissenters". The teacher was George Hunter, aged 27, employed for seven years; he was born locally and educated at the school. He was well qualified as a probationer except for grammar which he did not teach; his income was £21/5/-. The School was exclusively Church of Ireland with 21 boys and 8 girls who paid c. 6/- per quarter. Rev. Coleman PP had no objection.

The Inspector had an open mind but the Board rejected it as the teacher was not suitably qualified. Later in the year it was given a modified grant as the average was insufficient and teacher not qualified but by the end of the year it had been struck off the rolls.

Carrigower

In 1848 an application by Rev. Fagan of Newtownmountkennedy was made for a school founded in July 1846. It was stone built with a thatch roof, 32' by 10½' by 6', and was constructed with private funds. The teacher was Christopher Campbell who was untrained but had good literacy and character. There were 23 boys and 29 girls when inspected; they paid 1s-3s per quarter with one-third free. It was highly

recommended due to the school in Glasnamullen not going ahead. The nearest school was Calary Church School. The Board granted a salary of £10 pa.

Campbell was replaced by Andrew Byrne in 1849 and Eliza Prendergast in 1853 but she resigned later in the year. The school closed the following year but reopened when James Davis was appointed. He left in 1857 and was followed by James Boland 1857-8, Simon Nolan 1858-61, John Doyle 1861-2 and John Henley 1862-4.

In 1856 Davis was admonished for neglect of a map hung on a damp wall disfigured with dust, for low exam results and missing oral exams. In 1859 Nolan's salary was to be restored on condition that he discharged his duties. In 1860 the manager was informed that a new house must be built as the current one is in bad repair. Henly absconded without paying his debts and the salary was withdrawn. In 1863 the Board said that the school-house was tolerated due to the manager's illness but gave an ultimatum that a new house must be built by 1864 or all grants would be cancelled. It was struck off the rolls in 1865.

Glasnamullen

In 1847 an application, with map, was lodged by Rev. Clarke for a school to be built on a 1/8 acre plot to be held on a 60 year lease from Michael Carew. The nearest schools were Ballinastoe Church School, Trooperstown NS and Cutlerstown NS. The application was strongly recommended by the inspector; it would cost £66/13/4 to build and £7/10/- to furnish.

There was also letter from Carew, a Protestant

"I have no profession but am residing in this healthy neighbourhood for the benefit of my health and I trust for those around me"

giving the lease details and also noting that Rev. Marshall "is not disposed to cooperate with Clarke and me". He strongly recommended the school and a Protestant teacher; he was to inform the Board of the school's name later.

The Board approved a grant for a school for 100 children in 1848 but in Jan 1851 the manager wrote that he cannot take the grant due to "the circumstances of the country". What these were was not explained.

Lough Dan

In July 1869 an application was made for grant of salary and requisites by Rev. Clarke for a new school built with local funds, with one room 26' by 18' by 13', four windows, two lights, master's desk and seat, fireplace, two doors, wall press and six desks; it had three acres attached with potential for a model farm. The teacher was James Merriman, aged 31, trained at Marlboro and previously at Grangecon for 17 years.

After one week there were 32 boys and 48 girls; of the 96 present, 64 had never been in school before. They paid 1/- to 4/- per quarter. The inspector was very impressed and wrote that the area was made up of smallholders with mountain runs but no poverty. Their children were

"much better grown than is now usual and afford fine material"

they were

"naturally intelligent and of kindly manner, their simplicity and substantial growth recalls the early days of the NS system".

He recommended the application saying it

"is a creditable provision for the educational wants hitherto urgent of a primitive and interesting district".

The Board granted a £32 salary.

In September 1870 a further application was made for a salary grant for an assistant teacher, Kate Ussher aged 20. She had been a monitor for five years and was seven months assistant in Roundwood. The average attendance was 39 boys and 46 girls but was lower on inspection due to an epidemic and pressure of farm work. The Board granted £14.

Merriman continued to 1871 and was followed by James Fleming 1871-2, T. Hughes 1873-6, Jeremiah Meehan 1876-9, Martin Griffith 1880-1, Mary Windsor 1882-4, Winifred ~~Kirwan~~ Doyle 1884-1910. Kate Usher was assistant teacher for 1870-80 but her salary was then cancelled as numbers were insufficient.

In 1874 Hughes was severely admonished for the unsatisfactory state of proficiency and account inaccuracies; the manager was informed of the need for increased accommodation. In 1891 an alternative scheme of industrial instruction for 6th class girls was dispensed with. Complaints about the state of the building and out-offices continued to 1900 and repairs were carried out in 1901.

The proficiency of Doyle became a cause for concern and her annual salary was dropped to £44 due to low average attendance; Rev. Butler wrote in 1910 that she will resign at end of the year. The Board replied that he should not appoint a new teacher subject to an inspector's report on the small attendance, including use of 6" OS Maps. The inspector concluded that the

"efficiency of school has been for a considerable time adversely affected to a considerable degree by the inefficiency of the late teacher. It now appears that she was managing a hotel for her husband for the last three years"

He recommended that, with a good teacher, the average attendance should be over twenty and said the school should not be suppressed.

He added a list of potential students (with their ages): P & J Keenan (11 & 5), R, P & J Doyle (13, 10 & 8), J, P & B Kinlen (9, 7 & 5), M & S Murphy (8 & 6), J & M Heffernan (7 & 5), P, B & J Fanning (12, 10 & 9), J & M Cullen (12 & 9), P Byrne (12), P, M & K Brady (9, 8 & 6), K Doyle (11), P Brien (11½), M Keenan (11), J, M, S, K & P Plunkett (10, 8, 7, 14 & 8), J Heatley (5), J Langrell (11), J, M & P Malone (12½, 10½ & 8), J Healy (7), P & S Hawkins (10 & 8).

All lived within 2¼ miles of Lough Dan and 1½-5 miles from Roundwood; a note in the margin says Roundwood has not enough accommodation. The Board concluded that there was a possible 37 pupils, there is no local aid and that the Compulsory Attendance Act was not in force in the district. Even though Roundwood is within three miles it is too small, too far and a covered van system is impractical. They recommended a trial continuation and instructed a new teacher be appointed.

Roundwood

In August 1862 an application for a teacher's salary was made by Rev. White CC, manager. The school was lately built by public subscription in Oldtown with one room 30' by 18' by 15', boarded to the ceiling, five windows, porch 7' square, seven 10' long desks, table, chair and press (Other schools in Roundwood were run by the Church Education Society and Derrylossary Parochial Church).

The teachers were Mary McCarthy aged 19 (Principal in Commissioner's Training School) and her brother Denis aged 17½. The average attendance was 35 boys and 67 girls, which was expected to increase by 20 each when the harvest was finished; they paid 1/- to 5/- a quarter with one-quarter free, there were 33 boys and 44 girls during the inspector's visit. School hours were 10-3pm. The application was supported by the Church of Ireland Rector though White "did not think it necessary to consult him". The Board granted an annual £16 salary.

Other salary applications were made in November 1862 for Daniel McCarthy to teach evening school; he was granted £5 pa; it was withdrawn in 1865. The following Spring an application was made for assistant teacher, Lucy Byrne aged 17. Average attendance was 22 boys and 37 girls, but there were only 30 at time of visit; reduced because of sickness and Spring work. She was granted £14 pa. This had been originally rejected because of insufficient numbers and was cancelled in 1869 due to low average.

In January 1884 one made for workmistress, Anne O'Rourke aged 29, for two hours a day, "There is a large attendance of girls as the female assistant has been discontinued". Average attendance was 28 boys and 44 girls; 20 attended needlework. In 1886 an application for Mrs. O'Rourke as temporary assistant was refused as she was already workmistress.

Mary and Daniel McCarthy left in 1863 and were followed by Pat J. and Bridget Heavy 1864-9, Thomas McDonald, 1869-70, James Keane 1870-1, Thomas Hughes 1872-3, Christopher Muldoon 1873-4, Laurence Phillips 1874-87, John Quirke 1887-8, Charles Cullen 1888-?, Mr. P. McHenry to 1897 and Morgan J. Curran from 1898. Workmistresses were Anne O'Rourke to 1888, Maria Fitzwilliam 1888-98 and Mary Redmond from 1899. Senior monitors were Mary Byrne 1863-9, Anne Keane 1870 and Margaret Nolan 1870; she transferred to Lough Dan NS and returned as assistant teacher in 1873, replacing Lucy Byrne 1871-3, and left in 1878. Another monitor was Mary Phillips in 1884.

In 1865 Bridget Heavy was admonished for lack of responsibility. Muldoon was fined £2 for falsification of accounts in 1873, but this was rescinded with a strong warning to the manager. In 1875 the manager was informed of a "window wanting", that repainting was needed and there was no supply of books. In 1881 there was a report

on Phillip's intemperate habits but was reported later as teetotal. In 1883 he was informed that an average of 70 was needed for an assistant. In 1884 Miss Helena Parr became assistant teacher, transferring from Moneystown, which had burnt down.

In 1887/8 there was a problem concerning J. B. Quirke, who had been lodging in a Tom Murphy's Public House contrary to Rule 132(b) leading to the possible cancellation of the salary grant; on notification he left immediately. He wrote

"I came here on the 31st May (1887) to take charge of Roundwood. It is a small village containing 38 houses, half of which are small filthy cabins. It has two hotels and four ordinary public houses and a population of 110. Before I came to Roundwood the manager (Rev. O'Donnell PP) wrote me that there was a residence attached to the school in which I could live. On my arrival here the aforementioned residence I found to consist of two small rooms, each only 12' by 10' and only 10' high to the eaves.

The Manager almost as soon as I came was the first to admit that the so-called residence was, in its present condition, uninhabitable. After going to no less than four places in which I was almost certain I could obtain respectable lodgings I was forced to take up residence in a Public House, which I have now left. It is but fair to add that the Manager got a contractor to see for what sum suitable repairs could be made upon the house but the latter's estimate (£35) was considered to be too high and the repairs have been deferred for 12 months".

As a result Quirke found himself in "miserable wretched lodgings".

A letter from Rev. O'Donnell agreed and added that the parishioners "obstinately oppose improvements" after two meetings and the title deeds didn't support other funding. He was remorseful but said there were extenuating circumstances and Quirke should not be punished, as some of the blame is his. Another letter said he is a young enthusiastic respectable young man and that he, the manager, will get greater relief from a positive decision than the teacher, as he had become "mixed up with it in public"; student progress was mostly fair and needlework was carefully taught. His salary of £21/13/4 per quarter was reinstated.

A file, 1888-9, on the workmistress examination of Mary Redmond, born 5th April 1871 in Ashford Parish, with a medical certificate saying she is healthy, "a vigorous and strong girl". It includes samples of her sewing, knitting, and cutting out that were sent to the Directress of Needlework so that her qualification may be settled. This lady assessed the work as "fair and sufficiently corrected" and passed Redmond. There was some bureaucratic confusion regarding the organization of the test between Fr. Manning, who wished to appoint her, the inspector, who called Manning's behaviour "peculiar" and the Board.

In 1910 the manager requested that the school be vested with a view of obtaining an improvements grant. The Inspector reported that roof was sound but part of the ceiling had fallen in and the schoolroom was too small. The manager proposed that the north wall be removed and the building extended by 12', a partition be erected dividing the school into two, erection of new out-offices and removing the old, a porch and levelling the playground. The inspector added that repairs to the floor and external rough casting were also needed.

In 1911 the OPW wrote that

"premises are in dilapidated condition. The walls are unsound, roof timbers have sunk, and windows not provided with stone sills, are in bad repair. The old privies are in ruins and have been substituted by privies of detached timber and corrugated iron sheds. In addition the floor is laid on the clay and only 4" above ground level. There are no drains or damp proof courses and south gable is damp. The plaster here is defective and some ceiling plaster has fallen or been removed as dangerous".

They don't recommend the proposal so Board rejected it.

See also *Journal*, no.1 for article by Michael Larkin.

Glendalough

An application to build a school house made by Captain Clemes, Mining Company of Ireland (MCI) in April 1864; the plot at Derrybawn was made available by the MCI who would contribute one-third of the building costs. The number of probable students, miners' children, was 142 but would probably increase. It was argued that St. Kevin's was too far away and the only other was Laragh school run by the Church Education Society. Rev. Abelhauser was to provide religious education for Church of Ireland students though he preferred a different site.

Rev. Coleman was against the proposal;

"and if they persevere in erecting the school he will feel it is his duty to make use of every lawful means in his power to prevent the children of his flock from attending it; and he has entire confidence in their obedience and docility".

There was a long explanation from Clemes as to its relative merits and why it did not conflict with St. Kevin's. The Board granted £204 out of £306 total construction costs and salary for Martin Quinn aged 28, from Galway Model School.

Quinn taught until the school closed and struck of the rolls in 1872 due to serious problems with student numbers with an average of 20-25. In 1872 the MCI refunded the Board of Works £327/10/- and they handed over the lease. In 1864 Rev Coleman asked about the Quinn's character and was told he is a first class teacher, though the Board did not like such queries.

Laragh

Rev. Moore made an application for a salary and books grant in October 1880. The school was established 30 years ago by private funds and was funded by the Church Education Society but they had discontinued for a "considerable time". Average attendance was six boys and eight girls but was likely to increase as it was non-vested. The current location was in the miller's residence (five roomed house) owned by Mr. Comerford; the rent was £8 for a room 23' by 14½' by 9'. The teacher was Victoria Elizabeth Wilson, aged 46, trained in 1862 and previously in Glenalla, Co. Donegal. The application was supported by local gentry and there were no objections from St. Kevin's. Board approved a salary of £40 pa.

In 1881 the Board reminded the manager

"that it is only in extreme and occasional cases that teacher is warranted in excluding from account the attendance on any day in which four hours are devoted to secular instruction".

In 1883 he was told that the minimum average attendance is 15 for a modified grant. In 1885 the salary was withdrawn as Wilson had reached the age of voluntary retirement (50 years) and wished to take it up. She was referred to the pensions department and awarded £16 pa; though there was an interdepartmental problem as to when her salary ended and pension should begin. In 1887

"School struck off from end 1884 as recognized manager, who has left the locality, believes it is no longer a NS".

It reopened in 1894 under a different roll number but there is no application or register, only correspondence files. Attendance was 19 in 1896 but only 12 in 1897, due to bad weather and "sanitary reasons". In 1898 there was a dispute as to whether Results Fees can be allowed for Needlework; teacher was Miss Annie Archer. The Board requested the name of previous needlework teacher, Mrs. E. Airey, wife of the ex-principal.

In 1898 Archer requested remission of the Industrial Programme of Needlework as it is a small mixed school and parents wished more literary instruction. A schedule of letters concerned supplies to the school that have gone missing and errors in sending the wrong supplies. While the Board tried to find them the rector, Rev. Stokes, complained that his letters were treated with "contemptuous silence".

In 1918 Board wrote to the manager, Rev. Halligan that the teacher, Mrs. Millar, had changed figures in the report book, there were no notes on the teaching of History or Nature Study and errors were not written out on corrected written exercises. Her excuses were rejected by the inspector as she had so few pupils, often diminished by epidemic, i.e. influenza in 1910, or farm work; she was told that if it happened again "serious action may have to be taken". She died in 1919.

Moneystown (Monicetown)

There is confusion regarding this school as the initial application, February 1883, was under Monicetown but from 1884 it is correctly called Moneystown but with a different role number. The original application for a salary and requisites grant was made by Rev. O'Donnell, who misspelled the name. The "need was felt for many years" but no site could be obtained until a thatched house 35' by 12' by 9' high was offered for use. £30 was spent on refurbishment and furniture and parents were to pay for further expenses. It had one room and adjoined a grocery, which may have been a public house according to the inspector.

The school opened on the 21st February with an attendance of 52 that was to increase; the average attendance was 20 boys and 24 girls paying between 1/- to 4/-; some were free. The teacher was Helena Parr aged 24, previously in Roundwood. The Board refused until suitable premises were built and local aid should be at least £12 pa but later changed their mind.

On the 29th June 1884 the school burnt down and was struck off in 1885. The inspector said nothing was left but bare walls and all furniture and stock had been destroyed; he thought the fire was possibly mischievous as the house adjoining was vacant and locked. Attendance was 40-45.

In 1886 it was re-founded under the trusteeship of the Parish Priests of Wicklow, Rathdrum, Ashford, Kilquade and Laurence Byrne of Cronybyrne. It received a £150 grant towards £225 building costs with a plan to accommodate 60 pupils and, in 1887, a £200 loan to build a teacher's residence. In 1891 an alternative scheme of industrial instruction was dispensed with and Rev. Manning became manager in 1892. Teachers were Mary Kennedy 1886-8 and Rose Madden from 1888.

In 1889 Madden's admission to Our Lady of Mercy Training College for one year was ratified and her classification recognized. An inquiry whether she acted as Principal Teacher, the answer was yes, between September 1885 and July 1886, during the training of Miss Heenan, present teacher. A medical certificate, 1888, stated that Madden was healthy. Another query in 1889 as to her employment between the time she was senior monitor in Portumna in 1883 and teacher in Ballinasloe in 1886; she had been in Loughrea Convent School.

In 1898 she was cautioned as to the unsatisfactory state of discipline and insufficient preparation of seniors; "if there was no improvement her rank will be re-considered". In 1900 she was cautioned as the school was closed for six days. In 1901 the clock was 25 minutes slow, the roll call late, the number of previous day not on the blackboard and written exercises were not carefully enough corrected.

See *Journal* no. 3 for article by Frank McGillick about her dismissal and no. 2 for a poem.

An 1890 file on the recognition of Rev. Manning as Manager by nomination of the trustees, to whom the school was vested for 61 years from 1886, with a letter of resignation from Rev. O'Donnell who transferred to Barndarrig, when Manning became PP.

St. Kevin's

St. Kevin's School, the earliest NS in the area, was founded in 1831 in Brockagh and built with donations from the poor of the area plus £1/10/- from Henry Grattan and £1 each from Laurence Byrne, Cronybyrne and Richard Purdy of the MCI. Its dimensions were 40' by 16' with three windows; it was entirely roofed but thatching was not complete as the walls needed plastering.

A tender by E. C. O'Connor to complete the construction was £19/8/6; though a proper job was estimated at £45. An application for a building grant was also made for £50, consisting of fitting up £12, requisites £5/8/-; local contributions were £46/14/7 to building and £7/18/6 to fitting up. In 1835 an application was made for new windows at £7/16/-.

Thomas Hanlon was the "underpaid" Master. Elementary books with Catholic and Protestant Catechisms were supplied by the parents. The hours were 9am-4pm, six days a week. Attendance was 40 boys and 40 girls in the winter and 30 boys and 20

girls in the summer; 90 could be accommodated. Two other schools "patronized by Catholic Clergy" were nearby.

Signatories from Church of Ireland parishioners to the June 1832 application were: James Dolan, Henry Harding, John Richardson, Thomas Miller, Samuel Dolan, Abraham McCan, William Mahan, Richard Mahan, George Mahan, Roger Mahan, Owen Byrne, Robert Mahan, Michael Byrne, William Richardson, Henry Byrne, John Moorehead, Abraham Halman, John Andrewartha, Ralph Woodward, Christopher Coulter, William McGinn, Richard Mahan, Richard Dolan, Widow Mahan and George Dolan. Catholic signatories were Rev. George O'Connor, Andrew Lyons, John Byrne, John Kavanagh, Patrick Doyle, Richard Kavanagh, James Moarn, James Flin, John Fitzwilliam, James Ke. . . , Denis Kavanagh, Phelam Tool, Peter Redmond, James Byrne, John Byrne, James Jones, Hugh Keev. . . , Peter Byrne, Christopher . . . , Patrick Byrne, Thomas Byrne, Roger Ma. . . , James Da. . . , and Edward Y. . . (page obscured by binding).

A second application for £20 for desks and seats was signed by Church of Ireland Henry Harding, Samuel Dolan, William Richardson, John Richardson, Roger Mahon, James Dolan, Ogy Byrne and Catholics Rev. George O'Connor, Andrew Lyons, James Byrne (the trustees) Thomas Byrne, Patrick Byrne, Phelim Tool, Dennis Kavanagh, James Redmond and Robert Harmon. This stated the school is 40' by 26' but had no desks or chairs. There are 80 boys and 50 girls in the winter and 60 boys and 40 girls in the summer, paying 1-2s per quarter; the teacher was Christopher Byrne.

A teacher's salary application, August 1840, for Michael Byrne aged 21. No local funds but children paid 1-1/5 per week. There were 19 boys and 21 girls but was expected to increase now that schoolroom was made more comfortable. The Board granted £8 pa. An 1858 application for salary of workmistress, Eliza O'Rourke aged 25, made by Rev. Coleman. The nearest school was Rathdrum and "a very large number of young females can get no instruction". There were 40 boys and 28 girls; allowed.

An assistant teacher's salary application, October 1862, for Patrick Farrell 17 years; he was monitor at the school 1858-62. The question arose as to whether the extra teacher was justified but O'Rourke was of long service, diligent, and desired any legitimate help; allowed. Attendance was 78 boys and 57 girls, averaging 32.8 boys and 24.1 girls over the previous six months. Inspector's report had 80 boys and 58 girls, averaging 41 boys and 29 girls, on the day there were 31 boys and 21 girls.

An assistant teacher's salary application, January 1881 for Edward Balfe, aged 21, by Rev. O'Donnell. This was his first engagement; he had been monitor at Carnew NS but was untrained. Average attendance was 80 students so an assistant was needed; allowed.

During 1835-37 James and Mary Ellis were teachers at £16 pa. They were succeeded by Mathew and Mary Ryan. In November 1837 Rev. Hepenstall preferred a charge of drunkenness against Mathew Ryan and called for his dismissal. According to the inspector, Rev. Spencer (curate) taxed the teacher for improper conduct and while he admitted it he claimed that Spencer forgave him. Spencer denied this and said he

feared for his safety and enclosed a certificate from the RIC as to Ryan's conduct. The Board fired him but Spencer asked for his reinstatement as he did not think Ryan would be dismissed and said he was an excellent teacher, but the Board refused. A similar memorial from Ryan is refused but Mary Ryan continued teaching at £6 pa.

She was replaced in April 1840 by Michael Byrne (at £8pa) but the Board cancelled the salary for two years to 31st March 1842 as it was closed. In 1842 Christopher Byrne was dismissed and replaced by Terence Keegan who died soon after. The school was again closed and described as "out of repair" till Daniel Folis was hired at the end of 1843. He resigned in early 1847 and was followed by John Johnston, 1847-51 and Christopher O'Rourke, 1851-70.

In 1854 trustee, James Byrne, wrote that co-trustees, Rev. O'Connor and Andrew Lyons, were dead and nominated Rev. Coleman. In 1856 Board recommended that a new lease be made rather than new trustees appointed; accepted. It became a male only school from 1866.

O'Rourke was admonished for the low proficiency of pupils in Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic, writing and for neglecting to instruct the monitor, Michael Healy, in 1855. Patrick Farrell was appointed senior monitor 1856, and Eliza O'Rourke workmistress in 1857. O'Rourke was granted £12 as good service salary (a further £6 in 1865), a premium of £1, and 30/- for instructing Farrell in 1861.

In 1863 an application for a salary for evening school was rejected because 19 students were not enough. John Farrell was appointed junior monitor 1863, promoted to senior in 1864 and became assistant teacher in 1865. James Gaffney was senior monitor in 1866 and replaced by Michael Cullen for 1868-72 but his exam results were "so discreditable" he was then replaced by John Ruth in 1871. A Peter Doyle is mentioned in 1881.

O'Rourke left in 1870 and was followed by Pat Butler, 1870-1, Malachy Barry 1871-3, James Kenna 1873-7, James Connorton 1877-82, Patrick O'Callaghan 1883-4, William Breen 1884-90. Others were Eliza Nolan 1871-2 and Edward Balfe 1881-84.

In 1872 the Board queried missing articles of music, tuning fork and manuals. In 1873 the Board reported that accounts, order and proficiency were unsatisfactory and that Barry "will be severely dealt with if there is no improvement". In 1875 Manager recommended a new building but in the meantime emergency repairs were needed for the windows. In 1884 Agricultural instruction was neglected. In 1890 the school was permanently closed and amalgamated with St. Kevin's Female NS due to the closure of the lead mines and subsequent migration of miners and their families.

St. Kevin's Female

Rev. Rowan made a salary and book grant application in March 1866. The school had been built in the last 12 months at over £200 "to the most approved models"; it was a large building with two rooms 28' by 20' and 12' by 20'. The school was on a slope and part of the building had two storeys; the teachers lived underneath. The average attendance was 64 "notwithstanding inclement weather". Sarah Duffy, 26 years was head teacher, trained in the Central Model School in 1860, previously at Ballintra, Co. Donegal, and Cecilia Shannon, 19½ years, assistant teacher, then a 4th year monitor in

Balladereen, Co. Mayo. Sarah Pitts was to be workmistress. An extra £5 was sought for teaching a choir. The MCI, managers of Glendalough NS, offered no objection. The Board allowed £26 for Duffy and £14 for Shannon.

Head teachers were Sarah Duffy 1866-7, Bridget Marrison 1867-70, Eliza Sheenan 1870, Mary A. Johnston 1870, Catherine Carton 1870-76, Anne (Annie) McCarthy, 1877-82, Marianne Gallagher 1882-89, Ellie Hourihan 1889-92 and James Larkin 1892-1907 (went to Sonnagh NS, Co. Galway). Assistants were Eliza Sheenan 1867-70, Kate Doyle, 1870-74, Kate Byrne 1877-81 Elizabeth (Bessie) Brennan 1881-84 (aged 21, previously monitor in Rathdrum), Kate Usher, 1881-83, Margaret Jones 1884-6, Eliza Prees 1886, Anne O'Rourke 1888-9. Senior monitors included Kate Doyle and Eliza Nolan, 1866-70, Mary Farrell 1870, Kate Pitts from 1872, and Sarah Bowen and Dora Hatton in 1881. An 1881 application for salary grant by Rev. Pierce O'Donnell for Brennan said the average was 9-21 boys and 90 girls but was affected by a great storm.

In 1867 Duffy was decreed not to be eligible for a retirement grant as she was 27 and of limited service, but one year's salary was allowed. In 1869 Sheenan was declared competent for voice music but not harmonium. In 1870 Doyle was admonished for poor teaching and though the manager complained, the Board don't change their mind. In 1876 Carton was severely admonished for arrears and omissions on accounts;

"if there is no improvement she will be depressed and declared ineligible for service, except as assistant"

she was given three months notice. In 1884 Jones was complimented on attention to duty and intelligence.

In 1883 one senior monitor's salary was cancelled. In 1884 instruction of music was ordered to be in normal school hours. In 1890 Anne O'Rourke's salary grant was cancelled. In 1891 Denis Darcy complained that his daughter, Ellen, was not appointed as monitor; the Board took no action. In 1897 Kate Cullen was not recognized as Workmistress as she had failed sewing but considerable improvement was recorded. In 1899 the Board wrote that political meetings cannot be held in schools. In 1903 the out-office was in bad repair. In 1904 Miss Winifred Larkin was appointed Manuel Instructress.

An Inspector's report of a complaint by M. Kavanagh for cruelty to her son George aged 13 by James Larkin. In October 1892 the previous teacher was dismissed and replaced by inexperienced ex-monitor who was then replaced by Larkin, aged 22, and trained in Drumcondra.

"He is well meaning, active energetic and intelligent but held erroneous views on means of maintaining discipline and has produced good results".

Kavanagh got leave to go out but did not come back, allegedly to avoid being kept in since he had arrived late.

Five days later he returned with bandaged finger from a dog bite and was sentenced to 23 slaps. Two were on the injured hand and 17 on the other when he refused to hold

out his hand for the rest, because of the pain, Larkin allegedly thrashed his naked feet, back, neck and head, and locked him in the classroom. He opened the window, cried out and was seen by his aunt who collected him otherwise he was going to jump out.

Complaints were made and Larkin then allegedly refused to teach the boy without consulting with the manager. The case was tried at Rathdrum Petty Sessions and extensively covered in the Wicklow People, June 3rd 1893, which included the boy being cross-examined by Larkin and disagreement of evidence from Kavanagh's family in court. He was only fined 5/-, plus costs, for hitting him on the head, as the case was not as serious as it first appeared.

The inspector recommended that Larkin be severely reprimanded. His defence was that the school was in a hopeless state of indiscipline and difficult to eradicate in older boys, particularly George Kavanagh who showed contempt. Administering the punishment was not easy and he gave him a few blows of the rod towards the feet to frighten him into holding out his hand but this was unsuccessful and as a result hit him on the head unintentionally. He said he did not refuse to teach the boy but he had again absented himself without permission and Larkin told his sister to see Fr. Manning following the latter's order that instead of punishing difficult cases he was to be informed first.

The Board expressed

"Extreme displeasure at the undue harshness and severity exhibited by James Larkin in the punishment of George Kavanagh".

The teacher's attention was directed to the 9th Practical Rule, both the spirit and letter, "which was singularly violated on the occasion". Owing to his youth and short experience official action was confined to a fine of £2 but "Serious penalties were threatened".

In 1899 a dispute arose between Rev. Manning and Larkin as to a week's vacation that he took without informing the manager but stemmed from the sending of quarterly returns. An in-house note added that in 1895 Larkin was reprimanded on low proficiency, after which there was considerable improvement, and for allowing meetings in connection with Local Government elections in schoolhouse, now discontinued. A delay was caused by the Board using the incorrect address, Annamoe Roundwood instead of Glendalough Rathdrum. The inspector recommended a caution and added that relations between the two were strained

"as the manager is exacting and the teacher resents his method of doing business".

Larkin was not paid for five days and queried it; the Board said it was due to the unauthorized vacation, to which he replied, in a long letter, that he took the vacation on the written instructions of the manager, via the curate since transferred, and added that he receives four weeks holiday a year, half of the normal practice in Ireland and complained that the lack of proper notice and conflicting instructions were very inconvenient.

He also objected to the unfounded attacks and hostile hints from the pulpit and requested that Manning discontinue addressing him in the 3rd person. The Board replied that he should address his complaints to the Inspectorate and not the Education Office who later replied that since Rev. Manning had died a report was unnecessary.

The Board's recognized Miss Winifred Larkin as Manual Instructress from June 1903. Born 28/11/1876 at Carrowmoreheeney, Co. Roscommon; she was sister of James. A report in December says she has no adequate instructions in hand or eye work, her knowledge of kindergarten is slight, has little quickness or adaptability and was not likely to make a good teacher though her appearance and address was above average; the Board, with hesitation, sanctioned her appointment. The Directress of Needlework had no opinion due to the incomplete set of specimens and they were still looking for specimens of the cutting out of a man's shirt and girl's chemise the following March. The Directress later said the candidate is "pretty fairly qualified".

In 1906 The Board granted a disablement pension to Miss Ellen Harnett. She had started in St. Kevin's and served 1889-91 before moving to Mayo ending up in Achill Island. She suffered from partial sub involution and chronic metritis.

The Case of Katherine Byrne

There is a very large file relating to Katherine Byrne (KB), assistant teacher who died 11th October 1881 that involved her father, Francis Joseph Byrne (FB), manager, Rev. Pierce O'Donnell (OD), head teacher Anne McCarthy (MC), the Board and GPO (Annamoe PO). Katherine and sister, Julia, were raised in an orphanage as her mother was dead, their father lived in 138 Upper Dorset St (a tenement); she started work in St. Kevin's in 1877. The dispute arose out of, firstly, FB not being notified of his daughter's death, secondly, the arrears of her salary as MC had cashed KB's last salary cheque to pay for medical, funeral and other expenses, this was against the rules of the Board and the GPO, and thirdly the funeral expenses.

Letter from Julia Byrne, 1st November 1881, to her father

"Dear Father, When I came down here to my greatest horror to find my dear Katie no more, ten days dead and buried when I came here. I understand from you that you had received the telegraph that morning from Father O'Donnell. Her suffering was most intense dying for three weeks she was tearing her face and hair to pieces and calling out for Mama, Son and Bobby and in fact everyone belonging to us. God knows what agony she must have died with. All the comfort here is her grave and grass grown over it in a cold cheerless place without fire without food. For the love and honour send me the money to take me home or I will die with the cold and God forbid I'll die here among savages for I am perfectly sure Katie's death was hurried on by cruelty. O God help her. I can well feel for her when I see the life she had to bear with. For God's sake send me what will bring me back to Dublin. (page obscured) bring one belong to her, she was dying. I need tell you the reception I got here when there was no sister to greet me. I parked with anything I had to make money to come here and whence I came here I either lose the Sovereign or it was stolen from me. I am here now very unwelcome and would not God knows stop half an hour if I had the money to take me back I would not stop here half an hour when there is no Katie to stop there and a penny on ... and five shillings the lea... of a car and if you possibly give me one shilling more to get me a pound of chops at the hotel to keep me from dying. I ask you for the love you bear for Katie in the cold grave to get it for me. I am famished with pure weakness in the chapel on Sunday and Father O'Donnell objected to Miss Maccarthy before me allowing to stop here he said he

got enough trouble with my sister and that he wanted no more and that he hoped I would soon go back to Dublin. He brought the poor house car to send Katie to die in the poor house hospital and the Dr wouldnt allow her to be removed. You have never refused me anything I asked of you yet and I know you will not now when I asked you for Katie's sake whom you loved so much that is lying in the grave. Yours affectionately daughter, Julia".

Letter from Dr. Burgess to FB, 4th Nov.

"I attended your daughter on and off for the last year. Dr. Eaton informed me that she had suffered from Rheumatic Fever. When I last saw her I found she had what Rheumatic Fever leaves after it, disease of the heart. She had several attacks while I was here. The heart was getting weaker after each until finally during the last attack from failure of the heart. General dropsy set in and congestion of the lungs, which carried her off."

28th Jan 1882 FB to OD

"Take notice that inasmuch you have no legitimate control whatever over the salary of my daughter Kate Byrne late teacher of St Kevin's NS amount £6/15/- which was transmitted through you from the National Board of Education in October for my said daughter then insensible on her death bed and 3 or 4 days before she expired and further take notice Rev. Sir that I object to making payment of any kind whatsoever which have been or may be made on my said deceased daughter out of said sum of £6/15/- as salary save only the coffin, stockings and gloves in which she was interred the bell for which is in my possession which alone you are at liberty to pay if you think fit. And furthermore take notice Rev. Sir if any such sums have been or will be paid by you for which you have no authority whatsoever and which I shall disallow and with the view of guarding agreement, back dating documents, you will be required if necessary to prove on oath the exact date or dates of such payments if any such have be or will be made by you. I having written to you the 29th Nov 1881 with reference to this matter but up to the present have not received a reply and I shall make the necessary use of this notice on a future day if required".

A covering letter, from OD, enclosing this letter and vouchers, said "the girl's father who must be a lunatic".

On the 30th OD wrote

"He never did anything for his daughter would not visit her when she was dying or attend her funeral. She came from an orphanage I kept her out of pure charity as a dead weight at the school for six years and paid her £6 a year for training a choir a duty she never even attempted to discharge and such is the result".

Board said, 20th Feb, that balance of the salary was £1/6/5 owed to KB and that no further claim can be made. This was revised in 7th March to £5/6/5 for result fees and they can pay balance to MC, subject to a letter of indemnity. They added that if the father took out an Administration he would receive the salary but then would also be liable for the debts (£11/9/9) and this was thought unlikely. However FB sent a Declaration on the 29th May as representative.

FB wrote to Archbishop McCabe, 6th March 1882, and said that KB transferred from Presentation Convent, George's Hill, and taught vocal and instrumental music. In early October he got telegram from OD "Your daughter is dying come and take charge of remains" he replied by letter saying

"that I am a poor man, that Glendalough was a very expensive place, which my circumstances would not afford me to meet without involving myself".

Two more telegrams from MC, "she would not pass the night, come at once" and "I will have her interred with members of my family in Glasnevin".

He then heard nothing more and sent his younger daughter, Julia, who had been sick in St. Vincent's, to nurse her sister but found that when she arrived "that abode of misery, woe and drunkenness, that the sister was dead and buried for 10 days of which I had no notion whatsoever". He then wrote to OD requesting date of death, cost of burial, amount of salary and date of last payment from Board and salary owed for teaching music, which was ignored.

The Board told him that she was paid £6/15/- two days before she died and said that he was requested to take her remains only and not her salary, which, he said, was already paid to OD. He claimed he was informed that OD had said that his daughter taught for four years and was an imposter; but only did this when she was dead.

He again wrote to OD saying he wanted her harmonium and effects within six days or he will put the matter with a solicitor. He accused OD of defrauding him of his rights and money. He said the Board said the manager had no control over KB's money and added that her letters were opened, suppressed and withheld from her sister; one containing two medals and another with a money order. McCabe sent the letter to OD who sent it to the Board.

On the 16th March 1882 the Board sent OD a blank form of indemnification covering £1/5/6 so that the salary due on day of KB's death can be paid to MC to be signed by her and manager. He replied that he will not sign as he does not want to be included in a possible law suit but will guarantee the £1/5/6 which is entitled. "The deceased was always in debt I kept her in the school through charity". He denied calling her an imposter and says he paid her £5 a year for choir and harmonium duties which she never attempted to fulfil, as a year after arrival she became 2nd assistant teacher.

The Board gave the file to the inspector, March 1882, who said he knew nothing of the matter. A note says that KB's September salary was not signed by her. FB applied, 25th March, for her salary before and the balance after her death and enclosed a copy of letter to FB from McCabe, 16th March, saying that OD never received any salary and that he had no responsibility for her funeral expenses. A letter from OD, Jan 1882, said the cashing of KB's September money order was in order but was overwritten with a number of notes in miniscule, the last that it was in the hands of the Law Advisor.

On April 5th the Board wrote saying this must be refunded but added that the Treasury will be asked to sanction payment to MC. OD wrote, 6th April, asking why he is responsible for making this refund and added that KB had verbally sanctioned MC, who is already out of pocket over expenses, to collect. On the 7th he wrote that KB seldom signed money orders and authorized someone else.

MC wrote on the 14th saying that they lived together in the teacher's residence and the agreement was that KB would pass on 50% of salary for house expenses, said that KB

told her to collect the salary and pay debts; she argued that she was justified in cashing the money order and is surprised to find her salary has been stopped and that she must now refund KB's salary before being paid her own. She refunded it by 4th May.

The Board noted the troublesome and vexatious correspondence with local parties and conducted an internal inquiry with the GPO over the matter. Postmistress, E Coleman, wrote that she did not know she should refuse payment when the orders were signed correctly and the GPO added the person was known and there was no attempt to defraud and therefore the amount should not be disallowed.

Meanwhile MC's salary was stopped by order of the financial assistant secretary until the case was decided. OD wrote, 21st May, asking why MC has not yet been paid and internal note on 15th says "Pay amounts due at once". FB wrote 26th May asking for standard Declaration form as promised by the Board on the 26th March and threatened to write to the Cardinal to look into the matter; on 29th he wrote again asking for date of KB's last payment.

In June the Board wrote that the salary of £6/15/- and £1/6/5 has been sent to FB for signature, but he had to make a declaration that funeral expenses had been paid; OD disputed this. FB wrote that he sent the forms with sae to OD, 6th June, requesting a claim for the amount of the funeral expenses, but he did not reply. He wrote again saying that if the forms were not sent back to him or the Board he will write again to Archbishop McCabe.

15th June FB wrote that MC had not made any claim against him. He said that when he sent 10/- to get Julia home he instructed her to ask MC if anything was due by KB who replied there was not. He enclosed a November letter from Dr. Burgess adding that he made no charge for attendance. He claimed he wrote to OD 3rd Feb asking him to pay for coffin out of the salary and other claims provided he was "furnished with them for adjustment" but got no reply.

FB wrote again requesting salary details, including instrumental and vocal music, but received no reply. He said it was strange that the manager held her salary for eight months but did not discover there was anything due to her and that he called her an imposter yet employed her for four years.

He claimed that MC kept KB's harmonium, clothes and Ulster coat bought before she died and claimed their servant (B. Kavanagh) was wearing it but refused to give it back to Julia saying "By J...S C...T I'd see you d...d before I'd give it to you" at which MC laughed heartily. He believed that her death was accelerated by cold and want although MC said to Julia that "Dr. Burgess murdered her". He recounted a visit he made to the residence, when she was alive, where there was no fire or food but whiskey, porter and ale.

On the 14th August FB wrote to say he received a rambling reply from MC and quoted from her letter

"I do not (...) payment nor never spoke of it", and "the quarter salary for November was signed by Post Office in order to bury her ... unless you wanted her buried in unconsecrated ground"

and that KB returned from Blackrock on 18th September and from then to 18th October two women were minding her.

FB, being unsatisfied with her "machivellian" reply, wrote again requesting particulars of expenses but received no reply until beginning August with the details that she had already supplied to the Board but she gave him a copy adding

"that other claims will be sent to you that is if you are able to pay you say you will decline paying for whiskey you are not asked to do so luckily ... these claims can be sworn by the parties mentioned".

He said that the claim is "more ingenious than ingenious" and believed there is collusion between her and OD and said he would not believe her uncorroborated oath.

Firstly he asked how expenses for a six week illness last from 16th September to 16th October. He enclosed a telegram from OD "Daughter dying state by telegram whether you will take charge of the remains no room in country reply immediately" sent 17th October to the wrong address and therefore did not reach him until 21st; she was buried on the 20th but he was ignorant of her death until her sister came to nurse her.

He quoted MC as saying his daughter was "murdered" but she was badly treated by MC and starved to death, he has evidence that one item of expense is a fraud and sanctioned by OD as correct; therefore the whole claim is fraudulent. He threatened them both with the Wicklow Quarter Sessions and said he only wants his legitimate rights.

MC's vouchers were: Wm Mahon grocer £4, Mrs. O'Hara butcher 12/-, Mrs. Bailey for milk 10/-, B. Kavanagh servant 7/6, Shoemaker 5/-, Mrs. Fitzpatrick grocer 1/6, sundry £2. Coffin, James Manning Rathdrum, £1/4/-, Habit, Mary Wilson, 4/6, Wake, 19/5, Washing, Eliza Mooney, 13/-, Car hire, Richard Dolan, 6/-, Grave Digging 6/-; and a further sum of £2/11/- for which she had no vouchers. Various education officials said, in September 1881, that repayment to MC of £3/13/9 for funeral expenses and £7/16/- for KB's debts was reasonable.

On 20th August OD wrote to the Board

"I forwarded today your letter to Miss McCarthy who still resides in the school residence, she however, ceased to be in charge of the school on last Wednesday".

No reason was given for her resignation and the Board just noted it without comment.

On 23rd August MC wrote to the Board recapitulating expenses and vouchers and requested the £11/-/9 "as my due ... the father of the deceased knows full well his lawful debts to me". Again on the 28th she acknowledged receipt of £3/13/9 for the funeral but what about the £6/15/-, which she refunded, but had been used to clear KB's debts, which was due to the sharing of household expense?

"I am sure the Commissioners will not see me deprived of my just due. She was a perfect stranger to me, only showed too much of my kindness towards her and lost more with her than could be repaid."

Board replied that they can take no cognizance of debts other than death bed or funeral expenses; others are between her and FB.

FB wrote to the Board, 15th September, with enclosure of letter 9th Sept of MC to him, which said that the Office have told her she made no claim but she says she had and the originals are in the office, "The Commissioners are upset by the long standing of the matter and want it decided at once". If he did not pay she will go to court. She asks "what did he think, he did not come to funeral", KB had requested her to pay her debts and said she would write to her father if there was not enough and can corroborate this on oath. In the meantime her brothers were preparing to put the matter with a solicitor.

FB's response is that she first claimed £11/-/9, then £12/3/1 and now £6/17/-. Other changes were coffin £1/5/10 to £1/4/10, candles and shrouds 19/5 to candles and snuff 19/5 and habit 4/6, two women to mind her for six weeks from 18th Sep to 18th Oct to one woman for 14 nights by which she added £1/3/4 to her former claims but reduced the total from £11/-/9 to £6/17/1.

He said he would have gone to Glendalough to sort it out but circumstances prevented it but will go next week. He said he will pay just debts but will not be defrauded; the declaration that he made about expenses was made in good faith. He quoted her letter "you are pressing them every day for money" but asks how does she know? Again "As you speak of drink its well that none of the vouchers are from a Public House" and pointed out that Miss Murphy's, where the candles and snuff were bought, is Public House and as candles are 1/- per lb that means that 18lb of candles were burned over two nights plus 8½d for snuff. And

"Again you have written to the office, I gave her cruel treatment. A diabolical lie as every one can prove but your fertile brained Julia Anne".

He rejected her claim totally and repeated the story of the Ulster coat and his visit

"during those three days not a particle of fire or food of any sort was in that abode of misery and woe; nothing but whiskey and porter, and nothing but drunkenness, and when on Monday night Mrs. Gaffney gave my poor child a little meat Miss McCarthy reached across the table in her drunken bravado and snatched the meat off my poor child and devoured it like a ravenous wolf".

An undated letter from MC, 25 St. Kevin's Parade, to the Board requesting if she can get the balance of her salary without the claim being signed by the manager.

"I came to an agreement with Mr. Byrne but have not been paid yet, as he has not got the money from the Office, he says".

Enclosed is a copy of a receipt from MC to FB, 2nd Oct, of

"the full amount of my claims for her deathbed and funeral expenses".

The Board returned a form to FB, 7th Oct, and said it had not been executed before a magistrate or clergyman. On the 20th Oct his claim for her outstanding salary was passed and with the final agreement between FB and MC the matter ended with a letter from him, 9th Oct, thanking the Board.

Katherine was buried by John Kenny, her fiancé, in their family plot in Glendalough. According to her FB, Kenny claimed that Revs. O'Donnell and Anderson (curate) opposed this but that he replied

"He did not care for either of them but would fulfil his promise to her, which he made to her during life".

Trooperstown

This was the second earliest school in the area with an application for a grant of £60 made in September 1833 by Henry Grattan and signed by his wife (a Catholic), Thomas Collen, James, Peter and John Murphy, Denis and Patrick Lalor, Hugh and Andrew Pluck, George and Francis Byrne, John and William Johnson and James Grumly.

The construction of the school house and part residence, 50' by 20' by 10', was estimated at £140, including £20 mason, £15 carpenter, £5 slater, £5 plasterer, £8 lime and 'drowing', £25 timber, £3/10/- sand, £15 slates, £15 stone, brick and blocks, £3 ridge tiles, labourers £10, transport £8, extras £10. The chimney was repaired in 1856 but repairs continued to be a problem throughout the century, i.e. out-offices in 1871, slates, floors and plaster in 1873. In 1905 a grant for a new building was awaiting plans.

The grant was approved and the school opened in 1836 with 72 students; it had nine desks and 14 forms. The hours were 9am-3pm, five days a week. Managers after George Byrne of Trooperstown were the PPs of Rathdrum from 1857. New Trustees were appointed in 1878.

The teachers were Terence Smyth 1836-49, George Byrne 1849-53, Gerald Byrne 1853-58, James Davis 1858, Laurence Ryan 1858-9 who was severely admonished for behaviour prior to entering the Model School and his appointment was made in "ignorance of facts concerning him". Wm Byrne is next (previously senior monitor) but as he was grandson of George Byrne, the manager, the Board delicately explained that he was not experienced enough but in 1861 he was recognized as competent.

James Ryan succeeded by 1866 when there problems with the attendance. He was reprimanded for minor rule breaches in 1866-7, admonished for irregularities in accounts from 1874-6 onwards and was excluded from the Pension Scheme in 1881 due to the unsatisfactory condition of school; he was also refused entry to a promotion exam. In 1886 he was admonished for advising pupils not to speak with the RIC. In 1901 his salary was withdrawn (see below).

Robert O'Beirne was appointed even though grants were withdrawn for unsatisfactory conduct in his previous school in Newtownmountkennedy. In 1904 Thomas Hunt was

teacher but his Training Diploma was disallowed in the same year as he had not performed two years of satisfactory service (see below).

In October 1874 an application for a workmistress's salary made by George Byrne for Catherine (Kate) Byrne, his granddaughter aged 18. The average attendance was 26 boys and 22 girls, with the latter rising since she began to teach. The Board believed that the school needed an assistant and asked if Catherine was qualified; if not then a suitable candidate should be found. Her salary grant was cancelled in 1876 because of insufficient numbers.

Ryan was reported for having directed the children not to speak to the RIC in 1885. Constables James Doran and George Atkinson passed by the school on day patrol to Moneystown and Parkmore and bid the students "Fine day", which was replied. Ryan came out and said "Don't speak to them fellows" in a rough and determined manner. Sgt. Hanrahan said that the patrol is due to a dispute by where an organized system of boycotting had been set up against a farmer who took over from an evicted tenant. Ryan was severely reprimanded.

A 1901 file concerning Ryan's awards and retirement gratuity; he was born 31/12/1846 and did not join the Pension scheme but applied for a gratuity under the old system; he was suffering from general debility, weak action of the heart and insomnia. He had been seen as unsatisfactory since 1897 for falsifying accounts to maintain class salary as numbers were dropping and his retirement was insisted on. He served for 38 years but was untrained and received c. £60 pa in the three years prior to resignation; he was previously in Rathvilly and Clara. He was awarded a retirement gratuity of £154/18/11, which included a 5% deduction for unsatisfactory service.

Problems continued with the withdrawal of Thomas Hunt's (born 28/3/1874 in Clara) salary for gross inefficiency in 1908. The school was described as altogether unsuitable as floors, windows and desks were broken. The second room was used as an entrance and was so deep in mire and water that stepping-stones were needed. The proficiency displayed by pupils was unsatisfactory in every branch of instruction and records were kept badly; the school was so cold and fires unlit it was difficult for the inspector to judge the children's proficiency.

Hunt started in 1903 (he began in Wicklow in 1897) but inspector's reports were bad since then. By December the school had been rebuilt and complemented however, according to the inspector, Hunt

"has very little aptitude for teaching ... his work is crude and amateurish, he is heavy and dull in manner... quite unaware of the necessity of training his pupils ... they go on in the old way quite uninfluenced by anything he has said or done".

However the great disadvantages he worked under were also recognized. It was decided to defer action till annual inspection but this was also not good.

In a cogent response Hunt said he had improved, that different inspectors had different viewpoints, the previous building was the "worst in Ireland", desks kept collapsing, cold was a factor, which drove him to despair and made his teaching

"mechanical". As the new school was just built (it had been closed for two months) and supplies were late he would like a chance to improve. Of his 13 pupils three had poor eyesight, he had got rid of the "monotonous drawl, which seemed almost impossible to eradicate". Attendance had fluctuated over the previous year, between 73 and 149, so proficiency was impossible for some.

However Board ordered a stop of salary from end 1909 and declared him ineligible as principal teacher. Rev O'Donnell, PP Rathdrum, requested a year's further trial; he blamed the school for the teacher's lack of progress and argued he needed more time, but the Board refused. O'Donnell wrote again to say that the teacher had not a fair opportunity as the school was not equipped until April giving only until to June for the new assessment. Board again said no but added that he is eligible to work as an assistant teacher. Hunt then appealed to the Lord Lieutenant in June 1911 but without success.

Correspondence in 1917 concerning the recognition of Miss Mary Kilbride, aged 21, from Ferrybank Arklow where she was monitor; she was appointed provisional teacher pending an exam, which she failed. Her recognition was withdrawn and she was ineligible to be principal; she had replaced Miss Kathleen Healy who left May 1916. She received 65½% overall but only 25% in Practice of Teaching in 1914-6.

O'Donnell asked if she can continue to teach, the Board replied yes subject to a second sitting in 1917. She failed again and the manager was instructed to appoint a fully qualified teacher adding she was eligible for appointment as an assistant teacher. She continued to make appeals from December 1917 to March 1918, with her mother who wrote in March 1918, but the Board rejected them.

The appointment of Rev J. O'Callaghan as manager in 1917 with his nomination papers from the trustees.

Education before the 1830s

Up to the end of the 18th century formal schools in Ireland were private and confined to well-off gentry and merchant classes with the exception of scholarships made by wealthy patrons to bright students. For the vast majority basic learning came from within the community and paid schoolmasters, sometimes itinerant, who ran 'hedge' schools, mostly from their homes, and were paid in pennies.

An alternative was the Church of Ireland who sponsored educational schemes through the Charter School system, education societies via local landlords and Parochial schools, which tended to be limited to Protestant children. There were also Catholic Parochial schools, though they are mostly unrecorded, but it is likely that urban-based lay sodality organizations played a role from the 1830s when they spread to rural areas.

The first organized school known in the area was the Charter School of Raheen, 1737-c.1776. This was founded by the Incorporated Society in Dublin for Promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland, founded three years earlier. Their ideal was to educate and convert the rural poor and create self-sufficiency with modern agricultural and manufacturing skills in the farm and home husbandry. It appears to have had limited success.

By the 1820s education in Co. Wicklow was well established through locally funded schools who received grants from a variety of church and auxiliary organizations. One of the most important was the Wicklow Education Society who sponsored teacher-training, school buildings and books, etc. In 1819, according to their reports, there were six schools all of which were Catholic. Rev Johnston PP said

"That the increase of the number of scholars in attendance in this parish is greatly owing to the encouragement given by distributing books gratuitously".

Rev. Hepenstal, Church of Ireland Rector, reported that a new school had been built in Roundwood for 30 and religion is taught in both with currently 300-400 pupils in the other six, as well as two Catholic and Protestant Sunday schools. Scripture reading was approved but catechisms and books of religious controversy were excluded.

There were also Church of Ireland Parochial schools in Ballinastoe, founded c. 1815, and Calary, founded c. 1823 with the formation of the Parish. In the latter, William Smith aged 19, had attended teacher training at the Model School in Dublin. One school in Roundwood was reported as being open three days a week in summer and one in winter, which was probably typical.

John Synge's school in Roundwood was perhaps the most interesting since he introduced the methods and philosophy of Pestalozzi (he visited him in 1815), an Italian educationalist, who was the forerunner of the child-centered philosophy of Montessori. In 1819 it had 78 children but declined thereafter as, according to the 1821 census, it had only nine. Its subsequent closure may have been due to the Synge's move from Roundwood to Glanmore Castle.

In addition there were various private teachers who ran schools at home, though their numbers fluctuated. For instance, in 1819, there were nine schools in Derrylossary Parish with new ones at Tomriland, Castlekevin and Knockfin. Others had been in Annamoe, Glenmacnass and Ballinastoe but had closed by 1822; the last was run by Philip McKeon with four students. Around the same time Christopher Byrne had a school house in Carrigeenshinnagh, Mr. Redmond had 50 pupils in Knockraheen and James Nangle 24 pupils in Knockadreet,

According to the 2nd report on Irish Education, 1826-7, private teachers were: John and Elizabeth Bates, Raheen, Christopher Byrne, Annamoe, Michael Byrne, Carrigeenasheena, James Fanall, Togher, John O'Brien, Roundwood, Thomas Prendegast, Moneystown, Pierce Ryan, Brocha, Stephen Stretch, Glasnamullen, Catherine Clark, Castlekevin, Patrick McMullen, Balinasta, William Johnston, Trooperstown, and Mary Kerfoot, Ballard. Of these the Bates and John O'Brien were Protestant and the rest Catholic.

The 1821 census recorded c. 250 children of school age in Derrylossary and Glendalough Parishes, which gives one teacher for every 23 children. In the county there were 284 teachers for 8,705 pupils, a ratio of one to thirty.

An 1835 Inquiry on Education in the parish stated that the Parochial School had 15 males and 15 females with an average attendance of 17 and increasing. The

curriculum was mainly the 3R. It received a grant of £8 per annum from the Society for Discounting Vice and the students paid 1½d to 3d per quarter. Mary Byrne's school had six males and 17 females with an average attendance of 15, but was diminishing. She taught mainly spelling and reading; fees were 1/6 per quarter. Thomas Prendergast's school had an average attendance of between 15 and 70. He taught the 3R and fees were 2-4s per quarter. There were also two schools patronized by the Catholic Clergy in Glendalough around 1830.