

Chapter 1 : County Armagh - Wikipedia

*The famine in Lurgan/Portadown. [Gerard MacAtasney] -- The Poor Law Union of Lurgan comprises parts of counties Armagh, Down and Antrim. The workhouse was located in the town of Lurgan, parish of Shankill, County Armagh.*

A fairly accurate population count can be found by combining the data of the electoral wards that make up the Lurgan urban area. The Goodyear factory closed in after failing to make a profit, resulting in the loss of jobs. Silverwood Industrial Estate continues to host other manufacturing and light engineering firms. Other industrial areas in the town are Annesborough and Halfpenny Valley Portadown Road industrial estates; areas in which growth has been limited compared to other industrial estates in the Craigavon Borough. In the s, the shopping centre was significantly expanded to form what is now Rushmere Retail Park, containing many major retail stores. This has had a detrimental effect on the retail trade in Lurgan in the same way that out-of-town shopping developments in other parts of Northern Ireland have damaged other traditional town centres. One theory is that a "Lurgan spade" was an under-paid workman digging what is now the Lurgan Park lake. The ballad Master McGrath concerns a greyhound of that name from Lurgan which became an Irish sporting hero. The dog was bought in Lurgan by the Brownlow family, and the song also mentions his owner Charles Brownlow , referred to in the lyrics as Lord Lurgan. Master McGrath won the Waterloo Cup hare coursing competition three times in , and at a time when this was a high-profile sport. A post mortem found that he had a heart twice the size of what is normal for a dog of his size. The dog was named McGrath after the kennel boy responsible for its care. A statue of him was unveiled at Craigavon Civic Centre in , over years after his last glory in The statue was relocated to Lurgan town centre in A festival is also held yearly in his honour. A Lurgan pub was also named after Master McGrath, although it has been renamed in recent years. It used to be part of the estate of Brownlow House, a 19th-century Elizabethan-style manor house. Today the park is home to annual summer events such as the Lurgan Agricultural Show, and the Lurgan Park Rally, noted as the largest annual motor sport event in Northern Ireland and a stage in the Circuit of Ireland rally. A grey granite hexagonal temple-shaped war memorial sits at the entrance to Church Place, topped by a bronze-winged statue representing the spirit of Victorious Peace. A marble pillar at the centre displays the names of over men from the town who lost their lives in the First World War. The adjacent Lurgan Park, now a public park owned by Craigavon Borough Council, used to be part of the same estate. For the cemetery in Belfast, see Shankill Graveyard. Built in The site of what is now Shankill cemetery served as a place of worship over the centuries. Dougher cemetery is another old graveyard that was donated to the Catholic people by the Brownlows following passage of the Catholic Relief Act. The original church was established at Oxford Island on the shore of Lough Neagh in , but a new church was built in Lurgan on the site of what is now Shankill Cemetery in as the town became the main centre of settlement in the area. It is believed to be the largest parish church in Ireland. This was a radical departure from traditional church architecture with its grey plaster finish, copper roof, slim spire, hexagonal angles and modern design throughout. It was designed to cope with the extra demand for worship space following the growth of the surrounding Taghnevan and Shankill housing estates. The Museum has many photographs and artefacts connected with Lurgan life over the past years. It houses an extensive collection relating to the periods known as "The Troubles", "Operation Harvest" , and "The Easter Rising". This collection also has a popular section covering the social history of the area. It was found to be too small and a new church was built on High Street in , and replaced by a newer building in front of it in This was extensively renovated in and stands to this day sporting a simple facade. Pupils can get promoted to or demoted from the grammar stream during their time in those schools depending on the development of their academic performance, and at age 14 can take subject-based exams across the syllabus to qualify for entry into a dedicated grammar school to pursue GCSEs and A-levels. Directly-controlled state schools generally have a predominantly Protestant intake. The Model School was part of the national schools programme proposed in in which each county in Ireland would have at least one school that would serve as an example to other national schools in the area and as a teacher training establishment although teacher training did not take place at this particular school. Initially it had a multi-denominational

intake, offered such services as night classes and industry-relevant vocational courses, and was enthusiastically supported by William Brownlow who is thought to have brought the school to the town. It was undermined, however, by church interests, which were opposed to its lack of ecclesiastical control, and criticism of the efficiency of its management, hence losing much of its earlier prestige as the premier educational establishment in the town. Its initial charter included a provision that "no person being in Holy Orders, or a minister of any religious denomination shall at any time interfere in the management of the said school, or be appointed to serve as master" and that no religious instruction was to take place during school hours. A significant number of people from Lurgan also attend the Catholic maintained Lismore Comprehensive School in Craigavon. Further education in the region was consolidated further when this institution was merged with other FE colleges in Armagh, Newry and Kilkeel to form the Southern Regional College. The Lurgan campus is one of the few educational institutions in the area with a mixed denominational intake. It offers vocational courses as an alternative to A-Levels, and adult education services. Special needs education[ edit ] Ceara School provides education for pupils aged 3 through 19 who have severe learning difficulties. This includes a swimming pool, squash courts, a gym, and offers such activities as pilates, circuit training, and spinning classes. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. There are another thirteen clubs that play in the Mid Ulster Football Leagues. Loughgrove and Sheffield Thursday F. Glenavon is the most prominent of these, playing in the IFA Premiership. Rugby union is played by Lurgan RFC. Lurgan Golf Club is an hole challenging parkland course bordering on Lurgan lake.

**Chapter 2 : Portadown Genealogy Resources & Parish Registers | Armagh**

*This article is the result of ongoing research work into the effects of the Great Famine in the Lurgan/Portadown area and concentrates on the major events either side of Christmas*

The adjoining lands were, under the name of the manor of Ballyoran, granted by Jas. Of the ancient mansion there is scarcely a vestige, except the gardens, and the avenue, which is still tolerably perfect. The town, which has been greatly extended, and the manor, are now the property of Viscount Mandeville. The former is very advantageously situated on the river Bann, over which is a stone bridge of seven arches, connecting it with the small suburb of Edenderry, in the parish of Seagoe. It consists of one spacious and handsome street, with several smaller streets branching from it in various directions; and contains houses, of which those in the principal street are large and well built. The town has been greatly improved within the last 40 years, previously to which it was comparatively of little importance; it is paved and cleansed by a committee appointed under the act of the 9th of Geo. The chief trade is in corn, pork, cattle, and agricultural produce, and is greatly promoted by the situation of the place in the centre of an extensive and fertile district. The manufacture of linen, lawn, cambric and sheeting is extensively carried on, chiefly for the bleachers and factors of Banbridge; and the weaving of cotton goods for the merchants of Belfast also affords employment to a great number of persons. A very large distillery has been established, consuming annually more than tons of malt, bere, and oats; there is also a very extensive porter brewery; and since the Tyrone collieries were opened, brickmaking has been extensively carried on. The market is on Saturday, and is abundantly supplied with provisions of all kinds, and with linen yarn, which is sold in great quantities. Fairs are held on the third Saturday in every month, and also on Easter-Monday and Whit-Monday, for cattle, pigs, and pedlery, and during the winter great quantities of pork are sold. A large and commodious market-place, with shambles and every requisite, has been recently erected by subscription, and is under the regulation of a committee. A chief constabulary police force is stationed in the town; petty sessions are held every Saturday; and courts for the manors of Ballyoran and Richmount, at which debts to the amount of 40s. The district parish comprises statute acres, mostly in a profitable state of cultivation; the demesne attached to the ancient mansion of the Obyns family, with the exception of a tract of woodland, has been parcelled out into farms. The principal seats are Ballyworkan, the residence of G. Blacker, a fine old mansion, embellished with some stately timber; Clowna, of J. There are two places of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. About children are taught in seven public schools, of which two are supported by the rector, four by Lord and Lady Mandeville, and one partly by Mrs. Henry; there are also five private schools, in which are about children, and two Sunday schools. A dispensary for the tenants of the Portadown estate is wholly supported by Lord Mandeville, by whom also a lendinglibrary and a loan fund have been established.

**Chapter 3 : GENUKI: Portadown, Armagh**

*The great Irish famine: words and images from the Famine Museum, Strokestown Park, County Roscommon / by: Campbell, Stephen J. Published: () The dead buried by the dying: the great famine in Leitrim / by: MacAtasney, Gerard.*

Indeed, it proved to be rather localised in nature and the only reference to it was that potatoes supplied to the workhouse by Joseph Berry of Moira had been found to be "very insufficient, there being a great number of rotten and of very small size. However the second successive and much more sudden failure of the potato crop in July-August proved to be much more widespread and devastating in its effects. By November the numbers in the workhouse totalled over five hundred and, given the condition of those therein, it is hardly surprising that serious fever outbreaks resulted. On 11 November the workhouse Master, Meason, died and in the three weeks that it took to appoint a replacement, numbers increased dramatically so that by the end of December the workhouse was filled to capacity with inmates - a point made by John Hancock, agent to Charles Brownlow, who in a letter to the Board of Works in Dublin commented: Indeed by Christmas over half of the workhouses were full. With the Poor Law now stretched to its limits, the burden of relief fell on local relief committees. Such groups had emerged in other parts of Ireland in but now that the north-east was experiencing problems similar to those in the south and west, people felt the need to establish committees which could help alleviate widespread destitution at a local level. Destitute condition of the labouring classes The papers relating to these committees offer us an insight into the terrible conditions in which many people found themselves in the midst of famine. From Moira came reports of the "destitute condition of the labouring classes"; in Donacloney there existed an "awful want and destitution on the part of those applying for relief," whilst in Drumcree the condition of the poor was described as being one of "extreme deprivation and distress. Their major role was the purchase and distribution of food - usually meal and soup. This was financed by public subscription to each fund complemented with an equal amount from government funds in Dublin. Most of those subscribing were local clergy, farmers and gentry, although money was donated by many outside relief agencies. As a result of such subscriptions the Lurgan committee was able to sell "good substantial nourishing broth"<sup>5</sup> at one penny per quart. In Ballinderry and Donacloney Indian meal was being sold at half price while the committees of Moira and Drumcree were catering for three hundred and two thousand five hundred people respectively. One of the worst affected areas was Tartaraghan where soup and meal were being given to over 1, people, a number, according to Rev. Clements, which was "expected daily to increase. Numbers are subsisting on less than one meal per diem and upon raw turnips and any herbs they can gather. Already one case of death from starvation has occurred The first week of January saw 18 deaths in the workhouse and in the following weeks mortalities totalled 36, 55, 58 and 68 until 6th February when 95 died. Such a large number of deaths had not gone unnoticed by the Poor Law Commissioners and they sent a letter to Dr. Bell demanding an explanation of the situation. Bell stated the majority of deaths occurred because many people in a very sick condition, were admitted to the workhouse and died very shortly afterwards. Hence, in his view, "mortality in the workhouse is much greater than under ordinary circumstances and it is a well-known fact that many dying persons are sent for admission merely that coffins may be thereby obtained for them at the expense of the Union" <sup>8</sup> As regards sanitary conditions, the doctor reported that as there were four times the usual number of inmates, the building was now overcrowded and as a consequence it had been impossible to provide dry beds: By late January the porter had dysentery while the assistant ward master and schoolmaster were ill with fever. In early February the assistant ward master died and the clerk was reported to be suffering from the "high symptoms of dysentery". The fact that Dr Smith only visited two other workhouses, Bantry and Cork, both of which were suffering severely, and then travelled almost miles to Lurgan, demonstrates how seriously they regarded the situation here and their determination to effect a remedy as soon as possible. A picture of neglect and discomfort In a long and detailed report, Smith described "a picture of neglect and discomfort such as I have never seen in any other charitable institution". The walls had not been whitewashed for a long time; buckets, used as lavatories, were allowed to sit for hours without being emptied and medicines and drink were served out on the floor which was in a filthy state. As regards

burials, it was found that many had taken place close to the fever hospital - in some cases less than four yards from it. The centre of the burial ground was a well which was used to supply the hospital with water - the graves had been dug so close to it that the water had become muddy and unfit for usage. Smith concluded that the problems in the workhouse had developed when the master had died in November; a three week period elapsed before the appointment of a successor and in the meantime overcrowding emerged and was allowed to continue until the end of January. Thus "ventilation, whitewashing and cleanliness appear to have been neglected at the very time when the strictest attention to these important means of arresting the spread of disease were most imperatively called for. In a long letter Oulton complained bitterly of the quality of food being served in the workhouse: Coupled with this, the broth was so bad that many paupers could not use it. Indeed the master had reported that cutting the meat for broth the smell was so offensive that he could hardly stand over it. Oulton himself described the meat as being "of the worst description that could be got in Lurgan Street - more like the flesh of an animal that had died of disease than being killed for food. Unfit for human food The ward master considered the bread in use to be "unfit for human food"<sup>20</sup> while Dr Bell concluded "the disease in the house would not have been so bad if we had sufficient supply of wholesome bread and good beef such as was contracted for". However, and more significantly, in light of the evidence produced by both investigations, the doctor, Bell, and the master, Mr Easton, resigned. The fact that Lurgan workhouse had been portrayed as an institution where neglect, incompetence and negligence were rife had left it open to scrutiny by both the Poor Law Commissioners and the general public. Consequently the Board of Guardians emerged in a very bad light and they immediately sought to improve matters. From now on he had to attend each Board Meeting and present weekly reports of sickness, mortality, medical requirements and dietaries. The master was now required to have his books written up and given to the clerk each Tuesday; he also had to attend each Board meeting "with all the necessary books of the establishment under his control for the information of the Board. All ventilators had to be cleaned and improved; lids with hinges placed on all night stools; the porter was ordered to burn the clothes of deceased paupers and to fumigate with brimstone and sulphur the clothes of those still alive. As a consequence of these changes in sanitation and administration the succeeding months witnessed both a marked decrease in the number of workhouse mortalities and a general improvement in the conditions therein. Although this account offers only a glimpse of life during the famine it is very revealing in that it illustrates that many of the recorded deaths could have been avoided if the Lurgan workhouse had been effectively administered in the vital months either side of Christmas Without the work of the various relief committees Lurgan could have suffered mortality levels as great as anywhere else in Ireland, Consequently we owe a great debt to the work carried out by clergymen of all denominations who ensured that this area did not become, like Skibbereen, a byword for destitution, poverty and hunger.

Chapter 4 : Craigavon Museum Services | Culture Northern Ireland

*The Great Famine During the first forty years of the Nineteenth Century the population in Ireland was rising faster than in any other country in Europe. It had risen from about 2 million in to over 5 million in and the first proper census in recorded a population of 8,,*

Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, 25 in number, representing its 19 electoral divisions as listed below figures in brackets indicate numbers of Guardians if more than one: The Board also included 4 ex officio Guardians, making a total of The Guardians met each week at 11am on Thursday. The population falling within the union at the census had been 62, with divisions ranging in size from Aghalee population 1, to Lurgan itself 5, The new workhouse, built in , was designed by George Wilkinson. It occupied a six-acre site to the south-west of Lurgan and could accommodate inmates. It was declared fit for the admission of paupers on 1st January , and admitted its first inmates seven weeks later on the 22nd February The site location and layout are shown on the map below. Lurgan workhouse site, Lurgan much altered entrance block from the north, Lurgan rear of entrance block from the west, Lurgan main block from the north, Lurgan rear of main block from the west, During the famine in the mids, sheds were enclosed and new ones erected to accommodate an additional inmates. A bed fever hospital was erected at the south of the workhouse. A bed extension was soon added, with temporary sheds erected for a further fever patients. The dead were buried in an adjacent graveyard near to the well that supplied the workhouse water. At the census, the population of the Union was 53, with 18 officials and inmates in the workhouse. Much of the original buildings have now been demolished. The main and chapel blocks survive, with parts of the entrance block incorporated into the present hospital frontage. Some images of this moving work are shown below. Lurgan workhouse mural,

## Chapter 5 : Some aspects of the Great Famine in Lurgan Poor Law Union

*Includes bibliographical references (pages ) and index The Poor Law Union of Lurgan comprises parts of counties Armagh, Down and Antrim. The workhouse was located in the town of Lurgan, parish of Shankill, County Armagh.*

Contact Us History from Headstones As part of a series of special features on how the history of a community can be read through its gravestones, Mary Ferris visits the Shankill graveyard in Lurgan. This Church Of Ireland, gothic building is situated in Church Place, in the centre of Lurgan and can be seen miles away from the town. The original church was sited in Shankill Graveyard, which is half a mile from the present building. The old church became too small for the congregation and had fell into dilapidation. So in the early 18th century a new church was built in "The Green" in Lurgan. The site of Shankill graveyard itself and the old church has historic importance dating to pre-Christian times. It is also known that there was a Mediaeval church here which was probably destroyed in the "Nine years War" at the end of the 16th Century. They restored the church as a place of worship for the influx of English settlers during the plantation. The most dominant feature in the churchyard is the Brownlow Mausoleum where "the most noble family of Abercorn" are buried. Not surprisingly, the graveyard has changed several times and the earliest legible headstone today dates back to April Kieran Glendinning has written a considerable number of documents about this graveyard and he talks to Mary Ferris about the Brownlows and some of the other families who are buried here. Mary spoke next to Mrs Greer. The Greers, who were formerly the McGregors, were proscribed in their native Scotland and settled in Cumbria. They came to Northern Ireland during the plantation - originally to Dungannon and Moy - and then to Lurgan in where they bought the family home at Woodville which still stands today. Mrs Greer who continues to live in the family home has plotted the family tree which is so complex she used a roll of wallpaper to write it on! She tells Mary Ferris of how her recent ancestors were involved in both Whiskey and Linen Woolsey Gracey is the archivist at the Church of Ireland and has a great understanding of local history and heritage. The archived records go back to He shows us the minutes of a vestry meeting just after the first church on the site was built in Many of those whose signatures appear on the document are buried outside in the churchyard. One of them is Rev Arthur Ford who was rector in the parish for twenty years. Particularly interesting are the records Woolsey holds of the deaths and burials during the period of the famine, which was at its worst in Charles Brownlow, first Baron of Lurgan died of Typhus whilst helping the poor and needy of the town. John Neill, a member of the congregation is a solicitor for the firm which is responsible for the Brownlow estate. He tells how his recent ancestors raised funds to buy new bells for the church. Gerard McAtasney is the author of the book "This dreadful visitation" which recounts stories surrounding the famine in the Lurgan and Portadown area. He tells us how the Shankill graveyard had more burials than any other graveyard in Ireland at that time. Conditions in the workhouses were appalling and many new recruits were brought in and given clothing left behind by those who had died of disease. The survival rate was dismally low. The workhouse graveyard was bursting. Often there were 5 bodies to one coffin and up to 30 bodies to a grave. These would have been unmarked graves. Today no-one really knows whereabouts in the Shankill graveyard the workhouse bodies are buried.

## Chapter 6 : Visit Armagh - Barn Museum & Tannaghmore Gardens

*Lurgan (from Irish: An Lorgain, meaning "the shin-shaped hill") is a town in County Armagh, Northern calendrierdelascience.com town is near the southern shore of Lough Neagh and is in the north-eastern corner of County Armagh.*

## Chapter 7 : Your Place And Mine - Armagh - The Shankill Graveyard

*This is a thoroughly researched, scholarly investigation of the impact of the Potato Famine in Ulster which disproves the commonly held notion that the famine's impact in the north was minimal. Read more.*

**Chapter 8 : Irish Famine: How Ulster was devastated by its impact - BBC News**

*Fringing the southern shore of Lough Neagh and taking in the towns and surrounding landscape of Lurgan, Portadown and Craigavon, this north Co. Armagh region offers a fine selection of activities, attractions and overnight options. And its central location also makes it a handy base for exploring.*

**Chapter 9 : Irish famine “ Armagh I**

*Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.*