

THE HIGH ROAD ACCOUNTS FOR BALLAUGH
(1847) *



The High Roads, as they were so-called in the Island, were maintained at a parish level by the Parochial Surveyor. Funds were raised through a duty on carriages and on dogs, bizarre though that last one now sounds. In 1847, for example, £7 10s was raised through a levy of 10s on each two-wheel carriage in the parish, and the greater sum of £11 from eighty-eight “curs” as they were described, levied at a somewhat pricey 2/6d per dog. Another source of income was fines, and eight people were fined for various misdemeanours in the parish in 1847 involving carriages. The common offence for six of them was “For Riding upon a Cart drawn by two Horses, through the Village of Ballaugh” and one needs the “judgment of High Baillif Harrison, dated Dec. 21, 1846” to make clear the gravity of that offence. Being on the cart cannot be the nature of the charge and one assumes that speeding of some nature was to blame. With a fine levied at 2/6d, the total amounted to £1. However, the accounts has the line “Deduct one-half for Information” and so there was just 10s available. There was a reward available it would appear and set at half the value of the fine (1/3d). The Parochial Surveyor in 1848 was Thomas Clark, and he gathered in the money owing, and had an incentive to do so, namely, a commission of one shilling in the pound.

The major resource available to the Parochial Surveyor was what was termed High Road Labour and this was levied on each quarterland and intack and consisted of a notional figure for days of free labour and carts on a proportional basis. For example, the Brooghjiarg in 1848, both the Brooghjiarg Mooar and Beg, were accounted at 1½ quarterlands for the purpose of assessment. The Brooghjiarg Mooar was farmed by 8 individuals though here the burden fell the heaviest on Thomas William Corlett with 12 men and 2 carts. His name was the first on the list for the Brooghjiarg Mooar and in order his immediate neighbours were John Corjeag (as Corjjege), to provide 3 men but no cart; Patrick Callister, 3 men, 1 cart; John Callister, 3 men but no cart; John Craine, 1½ men but no cart; John Craine, 3 men but no cart; Ralph Callister, 3 men but no cart; John Caine, 3 men but no cart. The Brooghjiarg Beg was farmed entirely by John Teare who was responsible then for providing 18 men and 3 carts.

The Parochial Surveyor—or the Surveyor General of Highways—had to know how to reckon the burden on each quarterland and intack, and there must have been some formula at play. Ballaugh consisted of 36½ quarterlands and the total

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The High Road Accounts for Ballaugh (1847),” *Ballaugh Heritage Trust Newsletter* 15 (2017), 23–26.

assessment of men came to 1,116 and the number of carts to 156. (169 individuals were listed under quarterlands and 63 on intack land, a grand total of 232 people assessed for High Road Labour in 1847). A formula was then applied to these numbers: "Total number of Carts multiplied by 2 is equal to 312 men. Total number of Men, 1428—divided by 12 is equal to 119 days, at 2s. 6d. per day, £14 17s. 6d." This appears on the Balance Sheet as "[Commission] on Parochial Labour" as a debit and is assumed to be the salary as such for the Parochial Surveyor. There is also a descriptive account of the work done on the roads from July 1846 to June 1847, and the number of days of labour comes exactly to 1428. With 376 men carting gravel from the shore to the Main Road in July 1846, 138 in October that year, and 219 the following month, and 101½ in March 1847, one need look no further for the cause of coastal erosion in the parish. (Men here needs to be understood as days of labour in total.) The names of the parish roads worked on are also given (here with the spelling as in the original): Ballacurn Road, Ballaterson Road, Bolley-yn-jiargey Road, Carlane Road, Church Road, Cooil-ny-Binghey [Road], Curragh Road, Ellan Reenny/ Ellan Rheaney Road, Frowd's Road, Glen Road, Hughe's Road, Main Road, Mountain Road, Orrisdale Road, Shore Road, and the "Road leading to Jurby" and the "Road leading from the Curragh to the new Church."

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What follows under is taken from the High Road Accounts for 1847 for the parish of Ballaugh published as "High Road Accounts. List and Account of Duties on Spring Carriages and Dogs for the Year ending 5th July, 1847, as imposed by an Act of Tynwald passed in 1819. Ballaugh," *Manx Sun* 22 March 1848: 6a–c. Omitted is the list of carriage and dog owners and the list of the individual assessments for Parochial High Road Labour.

(1)

LABOUR WHERE AND WHEN EXPENDED.

JULY.—Carting Gravel from the Shore to the Main Road, and in the Main Road—376 men.

AUGUST.—In the Curragh Road—52; in Ellan Reenny Road—13; and in Cooil-ny-Binghey—7 men.

SEPTEMBER.—In the Main Road—4; and in the Curragh Road—6 men.

OCTOBER.—In Orrisdale road—5; in Ballaterson Road—6; and carting Gravel from the Shore to the Main Road, and in the Main Road—138 men.

NOVEMBER.—In the Main Road—74; in the Glen Road—16; and in the new Church Road—34 men.

DECEMBER.—In the Carlane Road—16; in Hughe's Road—34; and carting Gravel from the Shore to the Main Road, and in the Main Road—129 men.

JANUARY.—In the Main Road—34; and in the Carlane Road and the Road leading to Jurby—24 men.

FEBRUARY.—In the Main Road—31; in Ballacurn Road—10; in the Carlane Road—10; in Hughe's Road—40; in Frowd's Road—6; in Ballaterson Road, and the Road leading to the new Church—15; and in the Shore Road—27 men.

MARCH.—Carting Gravel from the Shore to the Main Road, and in the Main Road—101½ men.

APRIL.—In the Main Road—72; in different Roads—3; in Ellan Rheany Road, and other Roads—9; in the Road leading from the Curragh to the new Church—8; and in the Main and Church Roads—8 men.

MAY.—In the Main and Church Roads—48 men.

JUNE.—In Ellan Rhenny and Curragh Roads—28½ in the Mountain Reads [*sic*]—32; and in Bolley-yn-jjargey Road—12 men.

(2)

List and account of Fines incurred in the Parish of Ballaugh, District of the North, for the Year 1847, as imposed by an Act of Tynwald, passed in 1819.

Thos. Crellin—For Riding upon a Cart drawn by two Horses, through the Village of Ballaugh, as per judgment of High Bailiff Harrison, dated Dec. 21, 1846.	£ 0	2	6
Charles Kaighin—Do. do. do.	0	2	6
William Kneale—Do. do. do.	0	2	6
John Stephen—For Driving a Horse and Cart on one of the Public Roads, in Ballaugh, without a sufficient rope, strap, or throng affixed to the Bridle, or head-stall of the halter, of such horse	0	2	6
John Stephen—For being at such a distance from his Cart that he could not have the direction or government of the Horse drawing the same, in the Village of Ballaugh, judgment as per above	0	2	6
Charles Daugherty—For Riding upon a Cart drawn by two Horses, through the Village of Ballaugh, judgment as above	0	2	6
William Cannell—Do. do. do.	0	2	6
	£ 1	0	0
Deduct one-half for Information	0	10	0
	£ 0	10	0

(3)

Highbroad Fund in Account Current with Thomas Clark, Parochial Surveyor of the Parish of Ballaugh, District of the North, for the year 1847.

DR.

To Cash expended on Road from to as per Order and Vouchers, No. 1	£ 15	4	8
To paid for Tools, as per Order and Vouchers, No. 2	0	5	6
To paid for repairing Tools, as per Order and Vouchers, No. 3	0	16	6
To Commission on Collecting the amount of Accounts A. and B., £19 os. od, at one shilling in the pound, as per Act of 1819	0	19	6
To Do. on Parochial Labour, as per Account C		14	17 6
		<u>£ 32</u>	<u>2 8</u>

CR.

By cash received for Dogs and Carriages, as per Account A	£ 18	10	0
By Do. for Fines, as per Account B	0	10	0
Balance	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	<u>£ 32</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>

THOS. CLARKE, Overseer.

At Castle Rushen, 28th June, 1847, Audited and Balance of £13 2s. 8d. paid to the Surveyor.

M.H. QUAYLE, C.R.,
W.W. CHRISTIAN,
JOHN BRIDSON,
THOS. MOORE.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

