

## “POOR RELIEF AT BALLAUGH”

(1901) \*



The adjourned meeting of the Poor Relief Committee was held in the school-house, on the 26th ult. Only about a dozen people attended the meeting. Messrs T.S. Keig, J.T. Corlett, W. Brew, T. Quayle, and T. Keig, who had to at the last meeting been appointed to canvas the parish for subscriptions, gave an account of their work, the result of which was not satisfactory. The small amount promised would only be sufficient to pay the debt and provide for about four weeks' relief, when another canvas would be necessary. Finally, Mr T.S. Keig proposed that owing to the lack of funds the voluntary system of relief be discontinued, and a rate be adopted, the proposition being seconded by Mr J.T. Corlett. The rector and wardens will therefore report the matter to the Governor, who will take the necessary proceedings for the establishment of a rate.

“[Ramsey and District] Poor Relief at Ballaugh.” *Mona's Herald* 8 May 1901: 5f.

“In receipt of Poor Relief” was entered against six names in the 1901 census for Ballaugh: William Cowell (82), Dollagh; Thomas Craine (78), Village; Thomas Kneale (67), Ballacoraige; Margaret Quayle (80), Ballacrye; Elizabeth Teare (80), Cronkould. All bar Thomas Kneale were either widows or widowers. Sarah Cannell (53) of Ballacroasha was in a worse off situation, being recorded as a pauper. In her case, she was unmarried and lived alone. The 1891 census found her in the House of Industry at Douglas labelled (in the terminology of the time) a lunatic.

Of the five canvassers for funds for the poor of Ballaugh, four can be identified for certain, whereas with T. Quayle there are three Quayles with that initial. William Brew (31) lived on the Glen Road with his mother and step-father, Philip Mylecraine, a farmer. James Corlett (60) was a farmer at Corvalla living there with his wife and children. Thomas E. Keig (34) was a farmer's son living at Ballacain farmed by his widowed mother. Thomas S. Keig (35) farmed Ballamona with his wife and a horseman.

Young legs were needed to tramp the parish, but as can be seen here, the monies were not coming in sufficient enough to meet the demands made on the Poor Relief Committee. There was just enough in hand to cover only one month's worth of relief and that would then necessitate yet another canvas of Ballaugh. Clearly, a case

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of diminishing returns and poor relief would in the future have to be funded through a parish rate and not by charitable giving.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

NAMES

William Brew, *Census Enumerators' Book* for Ballaugh 1901, RG 13/5300, fol. 43, sch. 10; Sarah Cannell, RG 13/5300, fol. 45, sch. 38 & *Census Enumerators' Book* for Douglas 1891, RG 12/4698, fol. 138, sch. 5; James Corlett, RG 13/5300, fol. 51, sch. 24; William Cowell, RG 13/5300, fol. 52, sch. 33; Thomas Craine, RG 13/5300, fol. 37, sch. 29; Thomas E. Keig, RG 13/5300, fol. 52, sch. 30; Thomas S. Keig, RG 13/5300, fol. 59, sch. 35; Thomas Kneale, RG 13/5300, fol. 52, sch. 27; Margaret Quayle, RG 13/5300, fol. 35, sch. 3; Elizabeth Teare, RG 13/5300, fol. 36, sch. 15.

