

UM 1 - 96

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE

MERTHYR TYDFIL POOR LAW UNION

1836 - 1930

AND

POOR LAW (LATER LOCAL AUTHORITY) INSTITUTIONS,

1857 - 1970

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

Reference code : **GB 214 UM**

Title : **RECORDS OF MERTHYR TYDFIL POOR LAW UNION
AND OF THE WORKHOUSE/ PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
INSTITUTIONS AND COTTAGE [CHILDREN'S]
HOMES**

Dates of creation : **1836 - 1970**

Level of description: **Fonds**

Extent : **217 vols., 4 boxfiles, 6 boxes, 1 large box and 1 outsize box;
2.5 cubic metres**

Name of creator

Board of Guardians and officers of the Merthyr Tydfil Poor Law Union (1836 - 1930); officers of the Glamorgan County Council in charge of public assistance institutions (1930 - 1949) and children's homes (1930 - 1970).

Administrative history

Poor law unions were established by the Poor Law (Amendment) Act of 1834, which provided for parishes (which until then had each individually provided poor relief for their own inhabitants) to be grouped together into unions. In each union a board of guardians was to be elected to be responsible for the administration of poor relief, with paid officials appointed to carry out the day to day work. Funding of relief was to continue on the same basis as before the Act, i.e. by means of poor rates, paid by all householders, and collected by the parish overseers. Relief to able-bodied applicants, and some non-able bodied, was to be available only in the workhouse, where conditions were to be such as to deter all but the genuinely destitute; however, outdoor relief (payment in money or in kind to individuals in their own homes) was allowed for the non-able bodied in certain circumstances. Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the workhouse remained central to poor law provision, but outdoor relief came to play a more important part in the relief of poverty than was originally envisaged in the 1834 Act. Furthermore, over time, different types of institution developed in response to different needs: in particular, infirmaries were built for the sick, either as part of the workhouse or as a separate institutions, and industrial schools or cottage homes were built to accommodate and educate children separately from the adults in the workhouse. Provision of care for the sick (both those in need of medical attention and those in need of nursing care) and for children became important functions of the boards of guardians, a trend that was increased by measures such as the the introduction of old age pensions in 1908 and a limited form of unemployment and health insurance in 1911, both of which which reduced the numbers of those who had to turn to the boards of guardians for poor relief. The Local Government Acts of 1929 and 1930 abolished the boards of guardians, but left the 1834 Poor Law Act in place; the remaining responsibilities of the guardians were transferred to county and county borough councils, which carried them out until the abolition of the Poor Law Acts and introduction of the Welfare State and National Health Service in 1948.

Poor law unions were a useful unit of local administration, particularly in the late nineteenth century, and boards of guardians were given a range of additional duties unrelated to their poor law functions:

- From 1840 the guardians were responsible for arranging the **vaccination** of all children, not only those in receipt of poor relief; this responsibility passed to the county and county borough councils on the abolition of the guardians in 1930.
- Duties relating to **rating assessment** were given to the guardians by the Union Assessment Committee Act of 1862, under which guardians were made responsible for approving the parish rating valuation lists prepared by parish overseers, and dealing with appeals against valuation. These duties were ended by the Rating and Valuation Act of 1925, which made urban and rural district councils responsible for assessing and collecting rates, and transferred the guardians' duties of supervision and appeal to area assessment committees, advised and coordinated by the county councils. In county boroughs, rating valuation was dealt with solely by the county borough council.
- Responsibility for **public health** (and in particular sanitation) was acquired by the boards of guardians under the 1872 Public Health Act, which made them responsible, as rural sanitary authorities, for matters relating to public health in all those parts of the union which were not included in an urban sanitary authority. In 1895, this responsibility passed to the rural district councils created by the Local Government Act of 1894.
- From 1876, the guardians were responsible for appointing **school attendance** committees and school attendance officers for those areas of the union not included in school boards; in 1903, under the Education Act of 1902, this responsibility passed to the county and county borough councils.
- Under the **Infant Life Protection** Act, 1897, boards of guardians were required to keep registers of persons receiving infants 'for hire or reward'. This duty was transferred to the county councils by the 1929 Local Government Act.

In 1836, the County of Glamorgan was divided into five poor law unions: Bridgend and Cowbridge, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath, and Swansea. The Merthyr Tydfil Union in 1836 covered the parishes of Aberdare, Gelligaer, Llanfabon, Llanwonno, Merthyr Tydfil and Ystradyfodwg in Glamorgan, together with the parishes of Rhigos, Penderyn and Vaynor in Breconshire. In 1863, the parishes of Llanfabon, Llanwonno and Ystradyfodwg were removed from the Merthyr Tydfil Union and joined with three parishes from the Cardiff Union to form the new Pontypridd Union.

The Board of Guardians of the Merthyr Tydfil Union consisted of a number of members for each of its constituent parishes; the total number of Guardians varied over time, but was about 50 at the turn of the nineteenth century. Most poor relief matters in the early years were dealt with in the main meetings of the Guardians, but separate committees later set up to deal with specific aspects of their work. Separate committees also dealt with the Board's non-poor law functions of vaccination, rating assessment, school attendance, and its responsibilities as rural sanitary authority.

A Union workhouse was built at Thomastown, Merthyr Tydfil, in 1853; it was improved and enlarged in the 1870s and again in the early twentieth century, and a new infirmary was added in 1899. By 1920, it had accommodation for 450 inmates in the workhouse itself, and for a further 126 in the infirmary. In the early 1920s the name changed from 'workhouse' to 'poor

law institution' and later to 'public assistance institution'; by the late 1930s it was known as Tydfil Lodge.

An Industrial School for children opened at Trecynon, Aberdare, in 1877, in a building which had originally been intended as a hospital for the Union, but which had proved to be unsatisfactory. The school became known as the 'Training' rather than 'Industrial' School about 1895. About 1904, four cottage homes were built opposite the Training School, and between 1909 and 1913 scattered cottage homes, each with a foster mother looking after a small group of children, were established at Cwmbach, Hirwaun, Abercwmboi, Bargoed, and Glannant Street, Aberdare. A receiving home for children was built in Llewellyn Street, adjacent to the Training School, in 1909. Between 1912 and 1919 a new site at Llwydcoed, Aberdare, was developed as cottage homes for children, with an administrative block and receiving home. The Training School was converted for use as a subsidiary workhouse for adults.

Two institutions for the elderly were provided in the second decade of the twentieth century: Pantyscallog House, Dowlais, accommodated elderly and infirm women from 1912/13 and in 1920 Windsor House, Aberdare opened on part of the subsidiary workhouse site to accommodate elderly and infirm men. Although physically separate, both these institutions were administered as part of the workhouse.

A sanatorium was also built at Ponsarn, in the parish of Vaynor, several miles to the north of Merthyr Tydfil. It opened in 1913.

Outdoor relief was administered by local relieving officers, each responsible for a relief district.

In 1930, the poor relief responsibilities of the Merthyr Tydfil Board of Guardians were taken over by the Public Assistance Committee of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (for that part of the Union which lay within the Borough), by the Public Assistance Committee of the Glamorgan County Council (for that part of the Union which lay outside the Borough and within the County of Glamorgan), and by the Public Assistance Committee of Breconshire County Council (for that part of the Union which lay outside the Borough and within the County of Breconshire). The workhouse became the responsibility of the Borough Council and in 1948 became a National Health Service Hospital under the name St. Tydfil's Hospital (the building still stands as a hospital, catering for geriatric patients). Responsibility for the children's homes passed to Glamorgan County Council; the homes continued in use until 1970.

As far as non-poor law functions of the Merthyr Tydfil Board of Guardians were concerned:

- From 1840 until 1930 they were responsible for vaccination in the whole of the Union. Responsibility for this function passed to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, for areas within the Borough, and to the Glamorgan and Breconshire County Councils for areas outside the Borough.
- They were responsible supervision of rating valuation throughout the Union from 1862 until 1925, when this duty passed to the Pontypridd Assessment Committee (for Aberdare and Mountain Ash), Caerphilly Assessment Committee (for Gelligaer) and Assessment Committees in Breconshire (for the Breconshire parishes), advised by the Glamorgan and Breconshire County Councils respectively. Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council became solely responsible for valuation within the borough.

- In 1872 the Guardians became responsible, as the rural sanitary authority, for matters relating to public health in those parts of the Union not included in the Merthyr Tydfil, Aberdare, and Mountain Ash Local Boards of Health; two further areas were subsequently made urban sanitary authorities and excluded from the rural sanitary area: Pontypridd Local Board set up in 1873, and Caerphilly Local Board in 1893. The Guardians' responsibility for public health in the remaining areas of the Union passed to the newly-created Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council and Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council.
- From 1876 until 1903 they were responsible for school attendance in those areas of the Union not included in school boards.

For more details on Poor Law Unions and a short bibliography, *see* the Glamorgan Record Office Guide to Research no.3, *Records of Poor relief in the Glamorgan Record Office*.

Dates of accumulation

1836 - 1970

Custodial history

The custodial history of this collection has not been documented, but it seems that the records for the workhouse/public assistance institution remained in the institution until several years after it had become a National Health Service hospital. The records for the children's homes similarly appear to have remained in the homes until their closure in 1970. It is not clear who had custody of the Guardians' minutes, although some stray volumes appear to have been transferred at some stage to Merthyr Central Library. On deposit in the Record Office, the records were re-united to form one collection.

Immediate source of acquisition

Minutes of the Board of Guardians and of the Assessment Committee, and Abstracts of Accounts and Lists of Paupers, were deposited in 1955 by the Director of Welfare, Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council (acc. nos. 856 and 871). Records of the workhouse/public assistance institution and Lists of Paupers were deposited by the Group Secretary, St.Tydfil's Hospital in 1955 (acc. nos. 857 and 858). four volumes of minutes were deposited by the Chief Librarian, Merthyr Tydfil Central Library, in 1955 (acc. no. 860). Records of the children's homes were deposited by the Glamorgan County Council Children's Officer in 1970 (acc. no. 2718).

Content of collection

The collection contains the records of the Board of Guardians (1836 - 1930) relating mainly to their poor law functions, including an incomplete series of minutes but no ledgers. Apart from the records of the Assessment Committee, it contains no records relating to their non-poor law functions; in particular, there are no records for the Rural Sanitary Authority. The collection also contains records of the workhouse (1853 - 1939) and the children's homes (1877 - 1970). These institutions were established by the Guardians but taken over by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the Glamorgan County Council respectively when the Guardians were abolished in 1930. Many of the records for both institutions continue in unbroken series - the same register being used for example before and after the 'appointed day' for the takeover by the County Borough or County Council - and they are

therefore all included as part of this collection, although after 1930 they are not records of the Board of Guardians.

The records include:

Board of Guardians minutes (including committee minutes), 1836 - 1930; salaries register, 1919 - 1930; registers of pauper lunatics, 1869 - 1948, records relating to the purchase, building and alteration of institutions, 1849 - 1930; printed Abstracts of Accounts and Lists of Paupers, 1850 - 1913.

Workhouse and related institutions: admission and discharge and creed registers, 1857 - 1934; miscellaneous registers and lists, 1875 - 1940; masters' reports and journals, 1912 - 1928, account books and inventories, 1891 - 1942; notices displayed in the workhouse, c.1900 - 1910.

Pontsarn Sanatorium, creed register, 1913 - 1914

Industrial School/Cottage Homes: admission and discharge and creed registers, 1877 - 1970; children's case papers and history books, 1906 - 1950; report and diet books, 1929 - 1941 and 1967 - 1970; account and inventory books, 1934 - 1970; photographs, late C19 - 1920s.

Relieving officers' Abstracts of Outdoor relief lists, Aberdare, 1923 - 1943.

[Rating] Assessment Committee minutes, 1862 - 1880.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records offered have been accepted and listed.

Accruals

None expected.

System of arrangement

Since the original order of the records had been lost, they were arranged according to the function of the Board of Guardians to which they relate, and within each function according to the officer who created the records. The arrangement is as follows:

Poor Law functions

Records of the Clerk to the Boards of Guardians
Records of the workhouse and related institutions
Records of Pontsarn Sanatorium
Records of the Industrial Schools and Cottage Homes
Records of the Relieving Officers

Non-Poor Law functions

Records of the Rating Assessment Committee

Legal status

Non-public records

Access conditions

Most of the records are open. However, some of the records (particularly but not exclusively records relating to the workhouse and the cottage homes) contain material of a sensitive nature relating to named individuals. These records (marked with an asterisk in the detailed list) are closed to the public for 75 or 100 years at the discretion of the Glamorgan Archivist.

Copyright/Conditions governing reproduction

Usual Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language of material

English

Physical characteristics (condition)

Most items in good condition, but some registers in poor condition. All items fit for production.

Finding aids

A detailed list to item level is available.

Location of originals

Not applicable.

Existence of copies

None known.

Related material in the Glamorgan Record Office

GC/PA	Records of Glamorgan County Council, Public Assistance/Social Welfare Committee
GC/CH	Records of Glamorgan County Council, Children's Committee
GD/S	Records of Glamorgan County Council, Public Assistance Department
B/MT	Records of Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council
RD/GR	Records of Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council
GC/RA	Records of Glamorgan County Council, County Rate Assessment Committee
GC/CV	Records of Glamorgan County Council, County Valuation Committee
AS/PP	Records of the Pontypridd Assessment Committee

Associated material held in other repositories

Records of Breconshire County Council and Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council are held by the Powys Record Office.

Publication note

This collection was used by Tydfil Thomas in *Poor Relief in Merthyr Tydfil in Victorian Times* (Glamorgan Record Office, 1992) (Record Office library reference 4/58) and by J.

Gross in the chapter on 'Health' in *Merthyr Tydfil. A Valley Community* published by the Merthyr Teachers Centre Group (1981) (Record Office library reference 4/38).

Note

These records are stored in an outside repository. They should be ordered at least a week in advance of an intended visit so that they can be brought into the Record Office for consultation in the search room.

Description compiled in the Glamorgan Record Office in November 1999.

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- UM 93** **Records of the Relieving Officers**
- UM 94 - 96** **Records of the [Rating] Assessment Committee**

RECORDS OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS

Minutes

1/1-56. Minutes of the Board of Guardians, 1836-1930 [with gaps]

1. Nov. 1836 - June 1840
2. June 1840 - Aug. 1843
3. Sep. 1843 - Jan. 1845
4. Jan. - Nov. 1845
5. Nov. 1845 - Aug. 1846
6. Sep. 1846 - July 1847
7. July 1847 - Dec. 1848
8. Dec. 1848 - Aug. 1849
9. Aug. 1849 - Oct. 1851
10. Oct. 1851 - Jan, 1854
11. Jan. 1854 - Apr. 1858
12. May 1858 - Dec. 1860
13. Dec. 1860 - June 1863
14. June 1863 - Feb. 1866
15. Feb. 1866 - Dec. 1868
16. Dec. 1868 - Mar. 1871
17. Mar. 1871 - June 1873
18. June 1873 - Oct. 1876
19. Oct. 1879 - Sep. 1882
20. Sep. 1882 - Oct. 1884
21. Aug. 1886 - Nov. 1888
22. Dec. 1888 - Feb. 1891
23. Apr. 1893 - Apr. 1895
24. Apr. 1895 - Apr. 1897
25. Apr. 1897 - Jan. 1899

UM 1/26-54

1/26. Jan. 1899 - Oct. 1900

27. Nov. 1900 - Oct. 1901
28. Nov. 1901 - Nov. 1902
29. Nov. 1902 - Dec. 1903
30. Jan. 1904 - Jan. 1905
31. Feb. 1905 - Feb. 1906
32. Feb. - Dec. 1906
33. Dec. 1906 - Apr. 1907
34. Apr. 1907 - Apr. 1908
35. Apr. 1908 - Apr. 1909
36. Apr. 1909 - Apr. 1910
37. Apr. 1910 - Apr. 1911
38. Apr. 1911 - Apr. 1912
39. Apr. 1912 - Apr. 1913
40. Apr. 1913 - Apr. 1914
41. Apr. 1914 - Apr. 1915
42. Apr. 1915 - Apr. 1916
43. Apr. 1916 - Apr. 1917
44. Apr. 1917 - Apr. 1918
45. Apr. 1918 - Apr. 1919
46. Apr. 1919 - Apr. 1920
47. Apr. 1920 - Apr. 1921
48. Apr. 1921 - Apr. 1922
49. Apr. 1922 - Apr. 1923
50. Apr. 1923 - Apr. 1924
51. Apr. 1924 - Apr. 1925
52. Apr. 1925 - Apr. 1926
53. Apr. 1926 - Apr. 1927
54. Apr. 1927 - Apr. 1928

UM 1/55-5

55. Apr. 1928 - May 1929
56. May 1929 - Mar. 1930

[56 vols.]

2/1-2. Minutes of the Board of Guardians, 1909-1910

1. 3 Apr. - 4 Sep. 1909
2. 2 Oct. 1909 - 19 Mar. 1910

[2 files, printed; duplicates of UM 1/35 and 1/36]

3. Cholera [sub] committee. Minutes, Aug. - Nov. 1866

[includes copy of Privy Council Order for actions to be taken by Boards of Guardians in areas affected by outbreaks of cholera, Jan. 1867]

[1 vol.]

4/1-2. Industrial/Training School [sub] Committee. Minutes, 1876-83, 1895-1900

1. June 1876 - Aug. 1883
[also contains Hospital Committee Minutes, Nov. 1874 - June 1876]
2. Dec. 1895 - Aug. 1900

[2 vols.]

5/1-2. Lady Visitors [sub] Committee. Minutes, 1922-38

1. Minutes, Oct. 1922 - Jan. 1938
2. Correspondence found loose in minute book

[1 vol. 1 bdl.]

UM 6-10

Records relating to officers

6. **Officers' gaurantee bonds, 1886-1926**
 [certain officers were required to give security for the faithful discharge of their duty. These bonds give the names of two sureties, as well as the name of the officer and the amount of the bond.]
 [1 bdle.]
7. Collective insurance policy providing security for named officers, taken out by the Guardians Feb. 1923, with additions and amendments to Jan. 1931
 [1 file]
8. **Salaries Register, compiled c.1919-30**
 [gives date of first appointment and details of salaries of employees; earliest date of appointment recorded is 1885]
 [1 vol.]
9. **Salaries Memorandum books, 1924-29**
 [records payment of salaries (fortnightly, monthly or quarterly) to all employees)
 [1 vol.]

Records relating to lunatics

- *10/1-3. **Registers of paupers removed to asylum, c.1869-1948**
 [These registers record the names and addresses and details of friends or relatives of paupers removed to the Bridgend asylum, together with dates of admission and discharge or death. The first register was compiled c.1869, but records names of inmates already in the asylum at that date; the earliest date of admission recorded is 1846. Arranged by parish of origin, then chronologically]
1. C.1869-1911

UM 10/2-14

- 10/2. 1911-23
 3. 1923-48

[3 vols.]

- *11. Register of Pauper Lunatics in County Mental Asylum, c.1930-36**
[Gives name, address and dates of admission and discharge; earliest date of admission and discharge; earliest date of admission recorded is 1884. Arranged alphabetically.]

[1 vol.]

Records relating to children

- *12/1-2. Registers of children in certified institutions, 1923-45**
[Poor Law Unions did not accommodate all of the children for which they were responsible in their own institutions; for various reasons, some were sent to other institutions, outside the Union. These registers record the names of the children, the institutions they were in, how long they stayed there, and the weekly cost. They are arranged and indexed by the names of institution, not the children]

1. Jan. 1923 - June 1925
2. Sep. 1925 - June 1930

[2 vols.]

- *13. Register of children in homes and schools, 1925-48**
[contains similar information to UM 12 above; arranged and indexed by name of institution]

[1 vol.]

Statistical Returns

- 14. Pauper Classification Book, 1862-70**
[records numbers of each category of paupers relieved per half-year]

[1 vol.]

UM 15-21

Records relating to purchase, building and alterations of institutions

15. **Agreement, abstracts of title, and correspondence relating to purchase of land for workhouse, 1849-50**
[1 bdle.]

16. **Deeds, agreements and associated papers relating to lease and purchase of various properties, 1872-1920**
[includes deeds relating to Pantyscallog House, 1872-1911, and sale particulars for the Court Estate, 1920]
[1 bdle.]

17. **Mortgage deeds, loan agreements and related papers, 1894-1929**
[1 box]

18. **Contracts and specifications for alterations and additions to workhouse, 1894-1927**
[includes plans of proposed temporary dormitories, 1910]
[1 bdle. and 1 booklet]

19. **Agreement and correspondence *re.* supply of electricity to workhouse, 1925-40**
[1 bdle.]

20. **Contracts for additions, repairs and alterations at the Training School, the Llwydcoed Homes, Pantyscallog House and Pontsarn Sanatorium, 1905-13**
[1 bdle.]

21. **Fire Insurance Policies relating to institutions, 1893-1930**
[1 bdle.]

UM 22-26/6

Miscellaneous

22. **Letter Book, outgoing, 1853-55**
[1 vol.]
23. **Agreements with Merthyr Tydfil Local Board of Health, Aberdare Local Board of Health, and Merthyr Tydfil Rural Sanitary Authority *re.* hospital accommodation, 1877 and 1888**
[1 bdle.]
24. **Agreements with other Poor Law Unions *re.* maintenance of inmates, 1915-24**
[1 bdle.]
25. **Glamorganshire Joint Poor Law Establishment Committee. Draft deeds and related papers *re.* purchase of Drymma Estate Neath, 1914-15 [includes plan]**
[1 bdle.]
- 26/1-40. **Lists of Paupers and Abstracts of Accounts, 1850-1913 [with gaps]**
[These printed volumes list all the paupers receiving outdoor relief, as well as all the inmates of the workhouse and the Industrial School / Cottage Homes. They also list the members of the Board of Guardians, and the officers of the Union. They include workhouse dietaries]
- Half-years ending:
1. Sep. 1850 - Sep. 1859
 2. Mar. 1860 - Sep. 1861
 3. Mar. 1862 - Mar. 1863
 4. Sep. 1863 - Mar. 1865
 5. Mar. 1865 - Sep. 1866
 6. Mar. 1867 - Sep. 1867
- UM 26/7-36**
- 26/7. Mar. 1868 - Mar. 1869
 8. Mar. 1870 - Mar. 1872

9. Mar. 1872 - Sep. 1873
10. Mar. 1875 - Sep. 1877
11. Sep. 1877 - Sep. 1879
12. Mar. 1878 - Sep. 1880
13. Mar. 1881 - Sep. 1882
14. Sep. 1881 - Sep. 1882
15. Mar. 1883 - Sep. 1884
16. Mar. 1885 - Oct. 1886
17. Mar. 1887 - Oct. 1888
18. Mar. 1889 - Oct. 1890
19. Mar. 1891 - Sep. 1892
20. Mar. 1892
21. Mar. 1893 - Oct. 1894
22. Oct. 1896
23. Mar. 1897
24. Mar. 1898
25. Sep. 1898
26. Mar. 1900
27. Oct. 1900
28. Mar. 1901
29. Sep. 1901
30. Mar. 1902
31. Oct. 1903
32. Sep. 1904
33. Oct. 1906
34. Mar. 1907
35. Oct. 1907
36. Oct. 1908

UM 26/37-27

- 26/37. Mar. 1911
38. Sep. 1911

39. Mar. 1912

40. Mar. 1913

[40 vols; printed]

27. Strike Relief, 1912. Verbatim report of an interview between the Board of Guardians and the Auditor, 27 Feb. 1917

[1 booklet, printed]

UM 28-61

**RECORDS OF THE WORKHOUSE AND RELATED
INSTITUTIONS 1853 - 1939**

The **Union Workhouse** was built at Thomastown, Merthyr Tydfil, in 1853; it was improved and enlarged in the 1870s and again in the early twentieth century, and a new infirmary was added in 1899. By 1920, it had accommodation for 450 inmates in the workhouse itself, and for a further 126 in the infirmary. In the early 1920s the name changed from 'workhouse' to 'poor law institution', and later to 'public assistance institution'; by the late 1930s it was known as 'Tydfil Lodge'. The institution became the responsibility of Merthyr Borough Council in 1930, and in 1948 became a National Health Service hospital under the name St. Tydfil's Hospital. The building still stands as a hospital, catering for geriatric patients.

There were several additional institutions: **Pantyscallog House**, Dowlais, accommodated elderly and infirm women from 1912/13; between 1915 and 1919 the Training School at Trecynon, Aberdare was adapted to become a subsidiary workhouse for adults and in 1920 **Windsor House**, Aberdare, opened to accommodate elderly and infirm men. Windsor House was situated in Llewellyn Street, Aberdare, on part of the subsidiary workhouse site.

***28/1-12. Admission and Discharge Registers, 1857-1924** [with substantial gaps]

[Arranged chronologically; record names of inmates, date of admission, parish from which admitted, occupation, and destination on discharge]

1. Sep. 1857 - Mar. 1865
2. Mar. 1865 - Feb. 1870
3. Feb. 1870 - June 1876
4. Feb. 1878- Mar. 1881
5. Oct. 1883 - Mar. 1886
6. Sep. 1899 - Dec. 1900
7. Dec. 1900 - Mar. 1901

UM 28/8-29

- 28/8. Mar. 1902 - Mar. 1903
9. Mar. 1903 - June 1904

10. Feb. - Dec. 1909
11. June 1910 - Aug. 1911
12. Sep. 1922 - July 1924

[12 vols.]

***29/1-15. Creed Registers, 1869-1932 [with gaps]**

[These registers record the religious creed of inmates. The first three registers are arranged chronologically, the first register beginning with a list of all the inmates of the workhouse on 1 Jan. 1869. From 1886, when the fourth register was started, the registers are arranged alphabetically by surname. Sometimes when a new book was started, entries from previous books were transferred; at other times they were not, so that several registers would have been in use concurrently.]

1. 1869-72
2. 1872-77
3. 1877-79
4. 1886-88
5. 1888-90
6. 1894-96
7. 1896-99
8. 1900-1903
9. 1903-1907
10. 1907-1909
11. 1910-13
12. 1914-19
13. 1919-24
14. 1924-28
15. 1929-32

[15 vols.]

UM 30-31

***30/1-16. Admission Registers, 1878-1931**

[These registers, which were originally kept by the workhouse porter, record the date and time of admission, name and address of pauper,

and cause of admission. Until Jan. 1890, they also give details of the pauper's clothing handed to the porter. From Feb. 1921 they also record date of discharge]

1. Aug. 1878 - Dec. 1886
2. Jan. 1887 - Dec. 1893
3. Jan. 1894 - Jan. 1897
4. Jan. 1897 - Aug. 1899
5. Apr. 1899 - Sep. 1901
6. Sep. 1901 - Sep. 1903
7. Sep. 1903 - Jan. 1906
8. Jan. 1906 - Mar. 1908
9. Mar. 1908 - May 1910
10. June 1910 - Dec. 1912
11. Jan. 1913 - Mar. 1916
12. Mar. 1916 - Jan. 1921
13. Feb. 1921 - June 1921
14. July 1923 - Oct. 1925
15. Nov. 1925 - June 1928
16. June 1928 - Mar. 1931

[16 vols.]

***31/1-8. Discharge Registers, 1881-1934 (with gaps)**

[These registers, which were originally kept by the workhouse porter, record the date and time of discharge of inmates, and the reason for leaving. They also record temporary absences of inmates, some of very short duration]

1. Mar. 1881 - Sep. 1884

UM 31-34

- 31/2. Mar. 1888 - Dec. 1893
3. Jan. 1894 - May 1899
4. May 1899 - Mar. 1905
5. Mar. 1905 - Aug. 1910

6. Aug. 1910 - Aug. 1917
7. Sep. 1917 - May 1926
8. May 1926 - Sep. 1934

[8 vols.]

32/1-2. Indoor Relief Lists, 1875-77

[Half-yearly summaries which list inmates, giving occupation or reason for being in the workhouse, date of birth, and number of weeks in the workhouse. Also contains statistical summaries by parish]

1. Apr. 1875 - Sep. 1876
2. Sep. 1876 - Sep. 1877

[2 vols.]

33. Numbers of Paupers Relieved, 1883-1903

[1 vol.]

***34. Register of inmates in Pantyscallog and Windsor Houses, 1912-32**

[This register seems to have been kept in the workhouse to record those inmates transferred to Pantyscallog and Windsor Houses. It records name, address, occupation, date of birth, and date of admission to workhouse]

[1 vol.]

UM 35-40

***35. Register of inmates, Pantyscallog House, 1912-40**

[Pantyscallog House, although situated at some distance from the workhouse, seems to have been under the responsibility of the workhouse master. This register records name, address, occupation, date of birth and date of admission.]

[1 vol.]

- 36. Addresses of Paupers' Friends, 1900-1908**
[Arranged alphabetically, gives name, age and occupation of paupers, and name and address of nearest relative or friend]

[1 vol.]

- *37. Register of persons refused admission, 1914-22**
[Gives name, address, age and reasons for refusal of admission]

[1 vol.]

- *38. Register of inmates' property, 1914-27**
[Indexed. Gives date of admission, name of inmate, description of property, and signature or mark of inmate]

[1 vol.]

- *39. Register of applications and complaints made to the [workhouse] Committee, 1915-40**
[Gives name, details of application or complaint, and order of the Committee]

[1 vol.]

- *40. Register of lunatics in the workhouse, 1890-1930**
[Gives name, brief description of nature of illness, date of admission and date of discharge]

[1 vol.]

UM 41-45

- 41. Certificates of lunatics in the workhouse, 1882-88**
[Certificates signed by the medical officer that the person named is a 'pauper lunatic' and a 'proper person to be detained in the workhouse'. Gives only name and date of admission.]

[1 vol.]

- *42. Certificates to detain lunatics in the workhouse, 1908-30**
[Applications to Justice of the Peace to detain pauper lunatics in the workhouse, supported by certificate signed by workhouse medical officer. Gives name, date of application, and brief details of grounds for application]

[1 vol.]

- *43. Reports of medical officer on deaths of lunatics, 1915-34**
[Gives name, date of death, and brief details of cause of death]

[1 vol.]

- 44/1-2. Master's Report and Journal, 1912-15, 1925-28**
[Gives details of number of inmates in workhouse each week, and of admissions and discharges.]

1. Mar. 1912 - Mar. 1915
2. Dec. 1925 - Feb. 1928

[2 vols.]

- 45/1-2. Master's Report Books, 1915-32**
[Fortnightly reports to the workhouse committee on routine and events in the workhouse]

1. Apr. 1915 - Dec. 1924
2. Jan. 1925 - Apr. 1932

[2 vols.]

UM 46-50

- 46. Lady Visitors' Report Book, 1893 - 1949**
[Contains very brief reports of committee of lady visitors on their visits to workhouse and hospital]

[1 vol.]

- 47/1-2. Fire Watchers' Report Books, 1941-43**
[Brief daily reports of firewatchers at the workhouse]
1. Apr. 1941 - July 1943
 2. July 1943 - Sep. 1944
- [2 vols.]
- 48. Master's Day Book, July 1924 - Feb. 1927**
[Daily record of invoices received from tradesmen]
- [1 vol.]
- 49/1-3. Summary of Master's Day Book, 1913-33**
[Weekly record of invoices received from tradesmen, with quarterly summaries]
1. Jan. 1913 - Dec. 1919
 2. Jan. 1920 - Dec. 1927
 3. Jan. 1927 - Mar. 1933
- [3 vols.]
- 50. Master's Account book, 1908-25**
[Quarterly analysis of expenditure on invoice account, analysis of coal consumption, and weekly costs per head]
- [1 vol.]
- UM 51-55**
- 51/1-5. Receipt and Payment books, 1910-34**
[Record receipts and payments made by master of the workhouse, distinguishing the different accounts on which the payments are drawn]
1. Jan. 1910 - Dec. 1913

2. Jan. 1914 - Mar. 1918
3. Apr. 1918 - July 1922
4. Aug. 1922 - May 1928
5. June 1928 - Aug. 1934

[5 vols.]

52. Farm Account Book, 1890-1936

[The workhouse had a farm which provided produce for the inmates and for sale. This book records purchases, sales and profit on the farm account.]

[1 vol.]

53. Stone Stock / Firewood Account Book, 1902-42

[Stone was bought for breaking by workhouse inmates. This book records the cost of stone bought, but no stone was sold - it was all used on the workhouse paths. In 1922, a change was made: instead of stone, wood was bought and chopped into firewood and sold.]

[1 vol.]

54. Salaries book, 1911-20

[Quarterly list of all staff in workhouse and salary paid. Includes staff at Pantyscallog.]

[1 vol.]

55. Inventory, 1891-1907

[Inventories of the contents of each room in the workhouse were taken at intervals.]

[1 vol.]

UM 56-60/3

56/1-2. Supplement to Inventory, 1922-39

[Records items received and given out]

1. Bedding and house linen, 1922-39
2. Crockery and utensils, 1923-34

[2 vols.]

57. Clothing Receipt and Expenditure Account, 1913-39

[Lists clothing purchased and issued]

[1 vol.]

***58. Tobacco and snuff account, 1923-28**

[Records allowances of tobacco and snuff given to certain inmates]

[1 vol.]

59. Photograph of staff of workhouse

[possibly taken on retirement of the Master, P. Pearcey]
c.1907-1908

[1 photograph]

60/1-15. Notices displayed in the Workhouse, c.1900-1910

1/1-2. Dieteries of children under 3 years of age, 1901 and 1911

1/1a,b. Jan. 1901

1/2a,b. Mar. 1911

[2 cards; 2 duplicates]

2a,b. Notice for sick dietary table, Mar. 1908

[1 card; 1 duplicate]

3a,b. Time table for meals at new infirmary, Jan. 1911

[1 card; 1 duplicate]

UM 60/4-15

60/4. Prayers to be said at mealtimes, n.d.

[1 card]

5. Ingredient table, n.d.

[Shows amounts to be used in making various dishes]

[1 card]

6. Regulations for inmates concerning intoxicating liquors, n.d.,
*c.*1900-1910

[1 card]

7. Bath regulations for inmates, n.d., *c.*1900-1910

[1 card]

8. Rules for casual paupers, n.d., *c.*1900-1910

[1 paper]

9. Daily timetable, n.d., *c.*1900-1910

[1 card]

10. Infirmary nurses' hours of duty, n.d., *c.*1911

[1 paper]

11. Rota of officers' leave of absence, Mar. 1911

[1 card]

12. Duties of storekeeper and master's assistant clerk, Oct. 1911

[1 paper]

13. Duties of Head Attendant at Pantyscallog House, Mar. 1912

[1 paper]

14. Duties of dispenser [in infirmary], Dec. 1912

[1 paper]

15. Duties of night porter, Nov. 1919

[1 paper]

UM 61

- 61/1-9. Blank contract forms for the supply to the workhouse of food,
drugs, clothing and coal n.d. *c.*1930-45**

[9 papers]

UM 62

RECORDS RELATING TO PONTSARN SANATORIUM

Pontsarn Sanatorium was built at Pontsarn, in the parish of Vaynor, several miles to the north of Merthyr Tydfil. It opened in 1913.

62. Creed Register, 1913-14

[1 vol.]

UM 63-92

**RECORDS RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/TRAINING
SCHOOL AND LLWYDCOED COTTAGE HOMES, 1877 - 1970**

The Industrial School was opened in 1877 in Trecynon, Aberdare in a building which had originally been intended as a hospital for the Union, but had proved to be unsatisfactory; the school was intended as

an institution where pauper children could live apart from adult paupers and receive training in certain trades. A farm was attached to the school to provide produce for the school as well as training in gardening and farming for the pupils. The school became known as the Training, rather than Industrial, School about 1895. About 1904, four cottage homes were built opposite the Training School, and between 1909 and 1913 scattered cottage homes, each with a foster mother looking after a small group of children, were established at Cwmbach, Hirwaun, Abercwmboi, Bargoed, and Glannant Street, Aberdare. A receiving home for children was built in Llewellyn Street, adjacent to the Training School, in 1909. Between 1912 and 1919 a new site at Llwydcoed, Aberdare, was developed as cottage homes for children, with an administrative block and receiving home. The Training School was converted for use as a subsidiary workhouse for adults.

Responsibility for the Children's Homes passed to Glamorgan County Council in 1930. Between February 1941 and November 1944, the children in the Llwydcoed Homes were dispersed to the Cottage Homes at Bridgend and Church Village, Pontypridd, and the Llwydcoed Homes were used to accommodate adult evacuees from institutions in London, Plymouth and Southampton.

The Homes at Llwydcoed continued in use until 1970.

***63/1-16. Admission and Discharge Registers, 1877-1970**

[Registers of children admitted and discharged, arranged chronologically, record names, date of birth, parish from which admitted, and destination on discharge]

1. Apr. 1877 - Dec. 1881
2. Jan. 1882 - Mar. 1886
3. Apr. 1886 - Sep. 1890
4. Oct. 1890 - Mar. 1895
5. Apr. 1895 - Sep. 1899
6. Oct. 1899 - May 1903

UM 63/7-65/3

- 63/7. May 1903 - Mar. 1909
8. Apr. 1907 - Mar. 1914
9. Apr. 1914 - Sep. 1922
10. Oct. 1922 - Sep. 1931

11. Oct. 1931 - Mar. 1937
12. Apr. 1937 - Aug. 1940
13. Aug. 1940 - May 1949 [contains names of evacuees]
14. May 1949 - June 1956
15. July 1956 - Sep. 1962
16. Oct. 1962 - Apr. 1970

[16 vols.]

***64/1-4. Creed Registers, 1877-1964**

register
children
these dates]

[These registers record the religious creed of inmates. The first is arranged in chronological order; the others are arranged alphabetically by surname. The dates given are the *dates of compilation* of the registers; they may contain entries for admitted or discharged from the Homes before or after these dates]

1. 1877-1913 (with additions to 1924)
2. 1914-1925
3. 1925-1942
4. 1941-64 [includes names of evacuees]

[4 vols.]

***65/1-4. Indoor Relief Lists, 1877-79, 1922-56**

[Record names of inmates, date of birth, how many weeks in institution, and to which parish chargeable.]

1. Apr. 1877 - Sep. 1879
2. Apr. 1922 - Mar. 1932
3. Apr. 1932 - Sep. 1944 [includes evacuees and information on local authority to which they are chargeable]

UM 65/4-67

- 65/4. Oct. 1944 - Sep. 1956

[4 vols.]

***66/1-7. Children's History Books**

[Give names, ages and addresses of children in care of the Guardians, together with details of admission, discharge and events while in the Homes. Also give case paper numbers which can sometimes be cross-referenced to UM 67/1-5. Indexed]

1. 1906-1908
2. 1908-11
3. 1911-15
4. 1915-19
5. 1919-25
6. 1925-33
7. 1933-50

[7 vols.]

***67/1-5. Children's Case Papers**

[Give brief details of children in care of the Guardians. Case Paper numbers can sometimes be discovered from History Books, UM 66/1-7]

1. 1916-20
2. 1920-23
3. 1924-38
4. 1943-51
5. Index to case papers, c.1912-32

[4 boxfiles and 1 vol.]

UM 68-70/1

***68/1-2. Register and Report Books, 1929-41**

[Records names of children in cottage, and gives details of food consumed at all meals]

- 1/1-3. Cottage Number 3, 1929-41

1. 1929-35
2. 1935-38
3. 1938-41

2. Cottage Number 2, 1937-40

[4 vols.]

69/1-4. Diet Books, 1967-70

[Daily record of food given to children at all meals]

- 1/1-2. Home 5, 1967-70

1. June 1967 - July 1969
2. July 1969 - Mar. 1970

- 2/1-2. Home 7, 1967-70

1. June 1967 - Jan. 1970
2. Jan. - Mar. 1970

3. Home 8, Jan. 1969 - Jan. 1970

- 4/1-3. Home [number not given], 1968-69

1. Apr. - Oct. 1968
2. Oct. 1968 - Apr. 1969
3. Apr. - Sep. 1969

[8 vols.]

***70/1-2. Registers of Daily Attendance, 1964-70**

1. July 1964 - Aug. 1969

UM 70/2-75

- 70/2. Sep. 1969 - Mar. 1970

[2 vols.]

- *71. Record of Monies Issued for Good Conduct,
Mar. 1948 - Mar. 1952**
- [1 vol.]
- *72. Punishment Book, 1950-69**
- [1 vol.]
- 73. Visitors' Book, 1951-64**
[Records comments made by official and other visitors to the Homes]
- [1 vol.]
- 74/1-3. Log Book and Record of Visits, 1951-70**
1. Log Book and Record of Visits, Dec. 1951 - Feb. 1970
[Log book giving details of events at the Homes,
Dec. 1951 - Dec. 1967; record of official and other visits,
July 1965 - Feb. 1970. Also contains newscuttings concerning the
Homes.]
- [1 vol.]
2. Photograph of children attending pantomime at Llanelli, 1958
- [1 photograph; found in log book]
3. Photograph of Children at Park Lane School, showing Harvest Festival
display, 1965; children from Homes named on reverse of photograph
- [1 photograph; found in log book]
- 75. Deputy Superintendent's Duty Book, 1966-69**
[concerned only with daily routine at the Homes]
- [1 vol.]
- UM 76-81**
- 76/1-2. Staff diaries, 1965-69**
[Details of routine and appointments]
1. Oct. 1965 - Nov. 1966
 2. Feb. 1968 - Oct. 1969

[2 vols.]

77. **Fire Book, 1951-70**
[Record of fire drills and maintenance of fire alarm systems; report of a fire at the Homes]

[1 vol.]

78. **Day Book, May 1943 - June 1946**
[daily record of invoices received from tradesmen]

[1 vol.]

79. **Garden Account Book, Sep. 1943 - Mar. 1969**
[account of amount spent on supplies for garden, and of proceeds of sale of garden produce]

[1 vol.]

- 80/1-2. **Inventory Books, 1934-66**
[list of all furniture, linen, crockery and hardware in the Homes]

1. c.1934-46
2. c.1953-66

[2 vols.]

81. **Supplement to Inventory Book, April 1961 - Mar. 1970**
[Lists all crockery and hardware received and issued.]

[1 vol.]

UM 82-86

- 82/1-2. **Clothing Materials Receipt & Conversion Account, 1948-70**
[account of materials received and what clothes they were made into]

1. Apr. 1948 - Mar. 1958
2. Apr. 1958 - Mar. 1970

[2 vols.]

83. **Clothing Receipt & Expenditure Book, Oct. 1963 - Mar. 1970**
[records clothes received and issued]

[1 vol.]
84. **Balance of Clothing Account, 1948-58**
[Half-yearly record of stocks in store, amount received and amount issued]

[1 vol.]
- *85. **Weekly Provisions Issued from Stores Account, and Daily Register of Children, 1936 and 1954-5**
[First part of book records amounts of food issued weekly to the different Homes, Jan. - Apr. 1936. The book was then adapted by cutting and stapling pages for use as a daily register, April 1954 - Jan. 1955]

[1 vol.]
86. **Provisions Receipt and Consumption Account, April 1969 - April 1970**
[records weekly totals of provisions received and issued]

[1 vol.]
- UM 87-90**
87. **Weekly Necessaries and Miscellaneous Account, Sep. 1942 - June 1948**
[Records amounts of cleaning and heating materials received and issued]

[1 vol.]

- 88. Quarterly Necessaries and Miscellaneous Account,
Apr. 1963 - Mar. 1970**
[Records cleaning and heating materials received, with quarterly
balances of items remaining in stock]

[1 vol.]

89/1-3. Regulations, 1903 and n.d.

1. Maximum Table for Stores, 1903
2. General Regulations, n.d., early C20
3. Bath Regulations, n.d., early C20

[3 vols.]

90/1-7. Photographs, 1925 and n.d.

1. Cottage Homes, probably at Llwydcoed, n.d.
2. Members of staff of Training School or Cottage Homes, n.d., late C19
3. Staff and children, n.d., late C19
4. Staff and children with tools for tailoring, boot making and gardening,
n.d., late C19 - early C20
5. Staff and children with boot-making tools, n.d., late C19 - early C20
6. Staff and children; some children dressed in band uniform and holding
musical instruments, n.d., c.1920s
7. Opening of recreation hall at Cottage Homes at Llwydcoed by Tudor
Davies, 31 Jan. 1925

[7 photographs]

[For other photographs of children *see* UM 74/2-3]

UM 91-92

- 91. Roll of Honour, 1914-18 War**
[list of ex-inmates who served in the armed forces]

[1 board]

***92. Central Welsh Board School Certificate for inmate of Cottage Homes, 1933**

[1 paper]

UM 93

RECORDS RELATING TO THE RELIEVING OFFICERS

Relieving officers, each with responsibility for a particular district, had a number of functions, including the administration of outdoor relief. After the abolition of the Boards of Guardians in 1930, the relieving officers continued to carry out their functions under the responsibility of the Public Assistance Committee of Merthyr Tydfil Borough

Council (for the area of the Union which lay within the County Borough) and of Glamorgan County Council (for those areas outside the County Borough).

93/1-7. Abstracts of Outdoor Relief List, 1923-43

[These volumes record the weekly totals expended in outdoor relief in each district. No names of individuals in receipt of relief are given.]

1. 'No. 1' [Aberdare] District 2 [District 4 from Oct. 1924], Oct. 1923 - Mar. 1941
2. 'No. 2' [Aberdare] District B, Apr. 1929 - Sep. 1941
3. 'No. 3' [Aberdare] District 2, Oct. 1924 - Sep. 1941
4. 'No. 4' [Aberdare] District 1, Apr. 1929 - Sep. 1942
5. 'No. 5' [?Aberdare] District 5, Jan. 1937 - June 1943
6. 'No. 7' [?Aberdare] District 2, Jan. 1932 - [Sep. 1942]
7. 'No. 9' [? Aberdare] District 9, Oct. 1936 - June 1941

[7 vols.]

UM 94 - 96

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

By the Union Assessment Committee Act of 1862, Boards of Guardians were responsible for the valuation of assessable properties for the purposes of rating. the assessment committee dealt in particular with appeals against valuation.

- 94. Assessment Committee Minute Book, 1862-80**
[indexed]

[1 vol.]
- 95. Draft contract with Messrs. Faraday and Rodgers of London, Surveyors and Valuers, for the valuation of Dowlais Steel Works, 1909**

[1 file]
- 96. Agreement of Guardians of Pontypridd Union with Guardians of other Unions in Glamorgan as to payment of costs in connection with appeal to Quarter Sessions of the Lewis Merthyr consolidated Collieries Ltd., 31 Mar. 1925**

[1 file]