

Limerick Regional Archives

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Irish Labour History Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Saothar*

Thomas MacPartlin

Eight photographs of an ITGWU summer outing to Wicklow, 1932, formerly in the possession of his mother, Margaret [Maguire] MacPartlin, an ITGWU branch organizer.

Irish Citizen Army, Army Council Bulletin, April-June 1935, three issues; manifesto and polling card for Thomas Lawlor and John McCabe, Labour Party South Dublin Constituency candidates, Dail election, 1937.

Theresa Moriarty

Limerick Regional Archives

The Granary, Michael St, Limerick. Tel: 061 410777. Open 9.30-1pm, 2-5pm, Monday-Friday. Access by prior consultation with the archivist, because of off-site storage.

Sources for labour history in the Limerick Regional Archives are to be found within a number of local administrative and estate collections. Some data on the cost of living can be found in the *Vere Hunt Papers*, dating from the late eighteenth century. The *Monteagle Papers*, though not directly labour-related, give considerable insight into the working of a nineteenth century estate and especially to the complex relationship between landlord and various grades of tenant.

For urban labour, Corporation and Poor Law sources are of interest. Their labour-related data, while limited, throw some light on living and employment conditions. Records of Limerick Corporation which contain information on wages, hours and conditions are the Corporation Wages Book for the 1890s; the Waterworks Committee Papers, 1883-87; the Corporation Paybook, 1900-8; and the papers of the Cleansing Works which cover the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Two sources related to, but separate from, the Corporation papers, are the Night Watch reports (1833-49), and the minutes of the Commissioners for Improvement of the Parish of St Michael, which cover 1819 to 1844 when the functions of the latter body were taken up by the reformed corporation. The Night Watch reports comprise very brief nightly reports, which give some insight into the maintenance of order and the difficulties of organising a disciplined night watch. The minutes of the St Michael's Parish Commissioners contain miscellaneous information on city improvements, maintenance of order, and - mostly by inference - living conditions.

Other urban sources which can serve as supplementary for employment conditions are the minutes of the Chamber of Commerce (1807 onwards), and the minute books and pilot books of the Harbour Commissioners (1823 onwards).

Official documentation touching on employment and housing in rural areas is available in Limerick County Council minute books (1898 onwards), and in the Rural District Council minute books for Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, available for 1899-1925. Considerable data on housing and health can be got from the County Council Board of Health minutes for 1923-44.

Limerick Regional Archives is rich in Poor Law papers which give considerable information on destitution in Limerick city and a number of outlying Poor Law Unions. The county Poor Law Union records are particularly interesting as sources on the day-to-day running of the workhouses, listing local suppliers of provisions, and outlining duties and performance of workhouse staff.

Maura Cronin

Ulster Museum Collections Relating To Trade Union And Labour History

Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB, tel: 01232 383000; fax: 383003. Open Monday-Friday, 10-5.00; Saturday, 1-5.00; Sunday, 2-5.00.

In general, Belinda Loftus's finding that 'almost no emblems of trade union membership have survived from the period before the repeal of the combination laws in 1824' is echoed in the material the Ulster Museum has