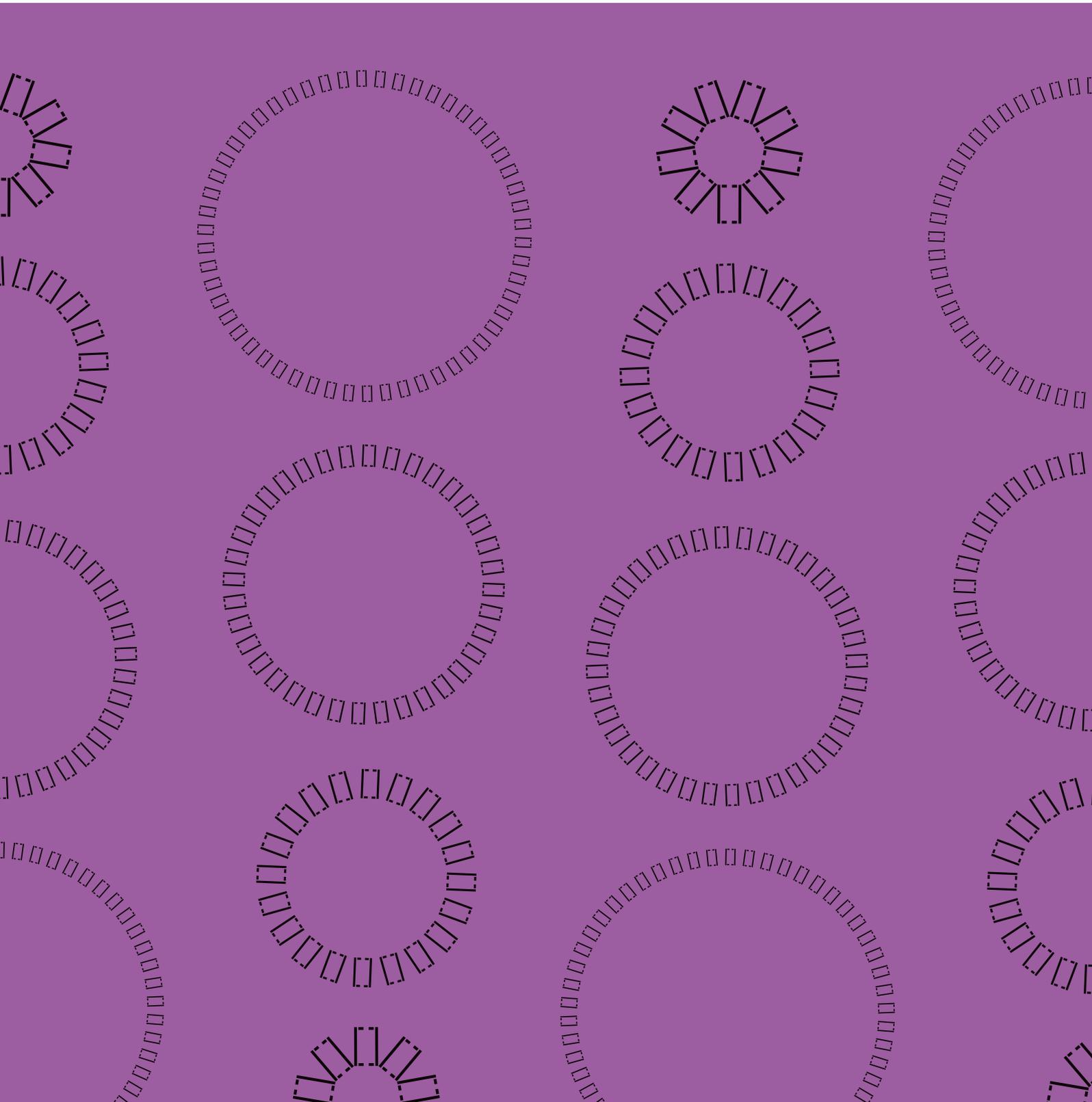


GRANGEGORMAN HISTORIES

Resources for further study



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INTRODUCTION

Grangegorman Histories is a public history project of Dublin City Council, Grangegorman Development Agency, the HSE, local communities, the National Archives, the Royal Irish Academy and TU Dublin. The project contributes to the important work of uncovering, cataloguing and commemorating the eventful history of Grangegorman.

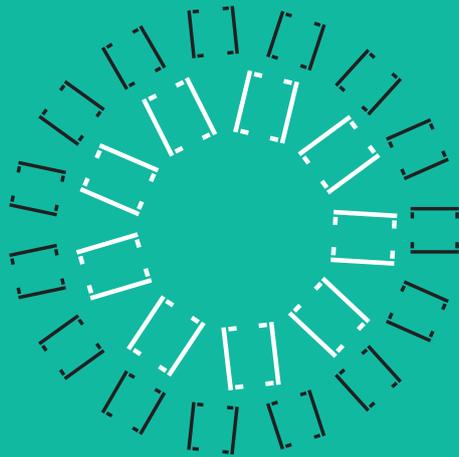
Over the past 250 years, Grangegorman has been the site of a workhouse, a hospital and a prison and it is currently being redeveloped as a health and education campus for the HSE, TU Dublin and the local community. The activities of the three key institutions at Grangegorman—the prison, the workhouse and the significant psychiatric facility that was closed in 2013—have been the subject of a range of historical and contemporary record and study. One of the key values of Grangegorman Histories is to ... *stimulate active research and open minds through education*. To this end, in 2022, researcher and historian, Dr Grace O’Keeffe, undertook a comprehensive review of all published and unpublished material (including multi-media and online materials) relating to Grangegorman.

The purpose of the review was to compile and create a comprehensive—but not exhaustive—guide to all of the known material relating to the history of Grangegorman, along with the topics covered in that material and the source locations. The guide includes a section towards the end that gives practical advice on how to use some of the large databases mentioned.

This is a working document, an evolving catalogue of sources and resources; it is anticipated that this catalogue will continue to develop. Grangegorman Histories invites anyone interested in learning more about the history of Grangegorman to explore this listing for use in current research, or, indeed, to identify areas of research not yet explored.

Throughout this document original language and terminology from the past and from various archives and sources are maintained, except where explicitly indicated otherwise. This reflects an attempt to remain faithful to historical sources and does not represent an endorsement of the broader use of such terminology in contemporary settings.

PRIMARY SOURCES



Source: National Archives of Ireland

Short guide to the records of Grangegorman Mental Hospital*

Please note that access to these collections is restricted and will only be granted when permission is received directly from the institution in question. For details of whom to direct access requests to, please email query@nationalarchives.ie

The eighteenth century saw the origins of present-day mental hospital infrastructure. The new Dublin House of Industry, which was founded in 1772, played a major role in establishing the first and largest of the public lunatic asylums—the *Richmond Lunatic Asylum*—which opened for patients in 1814. The records of the Richmond asylum, later *Grangegorman Mental Hospital*, constitute the largest surviving collection of mental hospital records in Ireland. Grangegorman was the pre-eminent asylum in Ireland, producing medical staff of international repute and developing innovative treatments. Extensive runs of key records survive from the foundation of the hospital. Records such as minute books and printed reports can be used to examine the administration, organisation and operation of the institution. The patient records are particularly extensive and include registers of admission, committal forms, death and discharge registers and case books. There is a record of virtually every individual who entered the hospital from its establishment. Following the transfer of the Grangegorman archives to the National Archives, the records were listed with the assistance of a generous grant from the Wellcome Trust. The collection was given the reference number PRIV 1223. This short guide also includes references to other records in the National Archives that could usefully be used in conjunction with the records of the hospital itself.

Minute Books (PRIV 1223/1)

The records of meetings of the Board of Governors/Joint Committee of Management contain minutes of the hospital proceedings and begin on 15 September 1815. On its establishment the institution was titled the *Richmond Lunatic Asylum* and admitted patients from the entire country. In 1830 it was incorporated into the District Asylum system and was renamed the *Richmond District Lunatic Asylum*. Its catchment area included the city and county of Dublin; the counties of Wicklow, Louth and Meath; and the city of Drogheda. In 1855 Meath withdrew from the catchment area, and Louth in 1930. The word ‘lunatic’ was dropped from the title in 1918, when the institution became the *Richmond District Asylum*. From 1921 the title of the institution became the *Grangegorman Mental Hospital*. This title was in use until the late 1950s, when the hospital was renamed *St Brendan’s Mental Hospital*.

The institution was administered by a board of governors until 1898, when, under the Local Government (Ireland) Act of that year, the nomination of governors ceased and the asylum came under the management of a joint committee, composed of 58 representatives of the contributing bodies: the Corporation of Dublin and the relevant County Councils. Minutes were handwritten until 1892; after that they were printed and pasted onto the pages of the minute books. Most of the books contain indexes. Apart from important administrative and operational details, staff and patients are frequently mentioned. The minutes are virtually complete. A list of the minute books is available in the National Archives.

Registers of Admissions (PRIV 1223/4)

The registers of admission begin with the entry for the first patient, on 28 February 1814. The details recorded for patients varied over time but generally included the following: the running registration number applied to the patient (this number links in with a committal form, if extant), name, age, date of admission, religion, place of abode before admission, occupation or trade, by whom the admission was

*With thanks to Brian Donnelly, National Archives, for permission to use this introductory text here.

recommended, probable cause of illness, how long ill before admission, area of chargeability, and date of discharge or death; there was also an observations column. Often, when a register was first opened, the names of all patients then in the institution were entered chronologically by date of admission, and then continued forward until the date of the opening of the next register. The registers of admissions are virtually complete (there is only one entry in the volume for 1828). Patients who were later transferred to the auxiliary asylum in Portrane are recorded in the registers of admission for Grangeegorman.

A series of indexes survives for the period 1828–32 and from 1852 onwards. The earlier indexes include only an alphabetical name index of male and female patients, together with their registration numbers. Later indexes include the date of admission, county of origin of the patient, and date of discharge or death. Many of the indexes are specific and relate to male or female patients.

Death and Discharge Books (PRIV 1223/6)

These registers begin in 1846 and contain details of a patient's name and registration number, date of death or discharge, and reason for discharge. They are arranged chronologically. They should not be confused with a later series of books of clinical notes beginning in 1909, which are also called death and discharge books.

Committal Forms (PRIV 1223/4)

These forms date from 1816. As time progressed, more committal forms survived. By 1900 there were 14,000 such records. The early committal documents generally contain a sworn affidavit by a family member stating that the subject suffers from a mental 'derangement' and that the individual making the affidavit could no longer support them. A second document provided by a medical practitioner, stating that he has examined the subject and that he or she is suffering from a mental 'derangement' and is a fit subject for the asylum, also formed part of these forms. The date of discharge or death of the patient is inserted at a later date. From the early 1830s the committal form/affidavit is printed and includes a doctor's certificate and the signature of a magistrate, clergyman or gentleman; later that of a justice of the peace. The form also gives details of the patient's age, religion, place of birth, occupation or trade, place of residence before admission, probable cause of 'derangement', length of illness, and 'species of insanity'. In addition, it includes the name, residence, occupation and degree of relationship of two relatives, where these exist. Affidavits also exist among the committal forms for patients transferred from district prisons up to the late 1860s. From the 1870s the committal forms contain more information regarding the patient's level of education; if female, whether she has had any children; whether any relative has been 'insane'; whether the patient is affected with bodily disease; whether 'idiotic' or epileptic; whether temperate or intemperate; or facts indicating that the patient is a 'dangerous lunatic'.

Often, additional papers are included with the admission forms, varying from a pass from the asylum for a recovered patient or a note recording the time of death and the name of the nurse present at death. There are frequently letters from patients' families inquiring into their health or seeking a pass to visit or, more poignantly, telegrams or letters informing the family of the serious illness or death of the patient. Access to the committal forms is through a searchable database.

Case Books/Death and Discharge Books (PRIV 1223/5)

One series of case books starts around 1880. The books in this series include details of interviews of patients by medical staff. From the early 1890s they often contain photographs of patients. There are separate runs of books for males and females. The first case books contain information on some patients admitted as early as 1852. Between 1880 and 1909 the two series (males and females) are arranged chronologically by the admission number of the patient. In 1909 the system of keeping clinical notes changed. From then on, clinical notes relating to patients who had died or were discharged were bound alphabetically into death and discharge books, each of which covered a number of years; again there are separate series for males and females.

Richmond War Hospital records (PRIV 1223/30)

The *Richmond War Hospital* was opened within the Grangegorman hospital complex in 1916, for the treatment of military patients with mental disorders associated with combat. It was in operation until 1919. The patients were not certified as insane and were admitted as temporary patients. Surviving records include an admission and discharge book, covering June 1916 to December 1919 and giving details such as name; regiment or other unit; regimental number; rank; age; religion; completed years of service; dates of admission, discharge or transfer; and observations, if any. A case book for October 1918 to November 1919 gives patient details such as name, age, previous residence, marital status, number and rank, personal history, medical condition on admission and case notes compiled during the course of the patient's stay at the hospital. A series of admission forms also survives relating to each patient.

Printed Reports (PRIV 1223/28)

Reports of the Inspector General of Asylums/Inspector of Lunatics/Inspector of Mental Hospitals

This collection includes a reasonably complete run of printed reports on mental hospitals, including Grangegorman, from 1844. These reports came out on an annual basis, and the observations of the inspector give an interesting insight into the operation of the institution and the treatment of patients.

Reports of the Resident Medical Superintendent, Richmond District Asylum

There is a reasonably complete run of these printed annual reports from 1868, and they provide a very important and valuable source of information on the operation and administration of the hospital from the viewpoint of its resident medical superintendent, the chief officer of the institution.

Other sources in the National Archives relating to Grangegorman Mental Hospital

Dublin House of Industry records

This institution was in many ways the precursor of the Richmond Lunatic Asylum and played a major role in its eventual establishment. The National Archives holds a run of minutes relating to the House of Industry from its inception in 1772.

Chief Secretary's Office registered papers

These records consist of official government correspondence together with unofficial correspondence from private citizens. The main series of the Chief Secretary's Office papers runs from 1818 to 1922. These contain many references to the operation of asylums in Ireland, including Grangegorman. A list of these records for the period 1818–33 is searchable on the National Archives website, at: [csorp.nationalarchives.ie](https://www.nationalarchives.ie). For the period 1833–1922, access to the records is through a series of bound volumes in the reading room, the use of which will be explained by staff in the reading room.

Convict Reference Files

The Convict Reference Files in the National Archives are a series of files containing memorials and appeals for mitigation of sentences relating to convicted prisoners. Up to the late 1860s many mentally ill people were incarcerated in the prison system. There is a sub-series within the convict reference files that relates to the transfer of people from the prisons to the district mental hospitals during the period 1836–69. Access to the records is through a series of finding aids known as Convict Reference Books.

Prison Registers

The National Archives holds registers of prisons, which provide additional information on those mentioned in the Convict Reference Files.

Penal Files

Sentences of penal servitude were introduced in the 1850s to replace transportation. The National Archives holds a series of penal files relating to those sentenced to penal servitude. From around 1880 these files include photographs of prisoners. A sub-series of these files relates to convicts whose mental health deteriorated while in prison and were subsequently transferred to asylums; mainly the criminal lunatic asylum in Dundrum, but also to other asylums, such as Grangegorman.

Census Returns 1901/1911

Asylums, including Grangegorman, were included in the 1901 and 1911 census returns. Form L relates to the mentally ill and intellectually disabled in institutions. While patients are identified by their initials rather than their full names, the returns include much information about individuals, including age, sex, birthplace, occupation, religion, literacy, etc. These records have been digitised and are searchable online at: census.nationalarchives.ie

Poor Law Records

A substantial number of patients in Grangegorman were originally inmates of the adjoining North Dublin Union workhouse. The National Archives holds extensive records relating to this workhouse, including minute books and registers of admission. The latter give details regarding inmates such as name, religion, age, occupation, address, etc.

Examples include:

- PRIV 1223 Grangegorman Archive: *Male and Female Casebooks, Richmond War Hospital Archives.*
- PRIV 1223/22/4 Grangegorman Mental Hospital 1916: *'Vegetables Issued' Book.*
- Norman, C. 1907 'Report of Dr Norman', in *Richmond Asylum Joint Committee Minutes.* Dublin. Richmond Asylum.
- Richmond Asylum Joint Committee 1907 *Richmond Asylum Joint Committee Minutes.* Dublin. Richmond Asylum.

See also:

Rena Lohan, 'Sources in the National Archives for research into the transportation of Irish convicts to Australia (1791–1853)', *Journal of the Irish Society for Archives* Spring 1996; available online:

<https://www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/transportation/transp1.html>

National Archives 'Transportation database; containing penal transportation records between Ireland and Australia; available online:

<https://www.nationalarchives.ie/article/penal-transportation-records-ireland-australia-1788-1868-2/>

Source: National Library of Ireland

Search term 'Grangegorman' yields 58 results

Examples include:

- NLI MS 26887.
- NLI MS 26899, ff 1–5, University of Southampton Library, Broadlands papers, BR 137/23, 24; BR 151/1–5.
- Correspondence concerning Grangegorman Mental Hospital
~ *Concerns inspections and committees. Contains news cuttings concerning complaints about the Grangegorman facility. Correspondents include Archbishop John Charles McQuaid.*

MS 26,621 (68 Items)

- Handbill denouncing Labour candidate Denis Cullen for voting for a reduction of wages at the meeting of the Wages Committee, Grangegorman Mental Hospital Board.

LO P113 (58) (Manuscripts Reading Room)

- Report of the Board of Superintendence of the City of Dublin Prisons to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Dublin.

A25615 (Main Reading Room)

- Table titled 'Grangegorman Mental Hospital. / Proposed Estimates for 1942/43'
- MS 17,262/2/2/13 (1 item).

Search term 'Richmond District Lunatic Asylum' yields 14 results.

Examples include:

MS 24,392/17 (Manuscripts Reading Room)

- Declaration of trust between the Irish National Aid and Volunteers' Dependents' Fund (INAAVD) and trustees to provide assistance to Margaret Halpin, mother of William Halpin, Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin City, County Dublin, who was injured during the Easter Rising.

Ir 3622 r1

- Resident Medical Superintendent 1863 *Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin: Report of the Resident Medical Superintendent for the Year 1862.*
- Resident Medical Superintendent 1863–78 *Annual Reports of the Superintendent of the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, 1862-1877.*

BB4120

- Richmond District Asylum 1903 *Regulations for the Management of the Richmond District Asylum under the Act 60 & 61 Victoria, Cap. 37.*

Source: Oireachtas Library Digital Collections

Search term 'Grangegorman' in 'Title' yields 11 results.

Example:

Local government bill 1931, as amended in committee; includes section on Special Provision for Grangegorman Mental Hospital Committee

<https://tinyurl.com/43kmppj5>

Source: Representative Church Body Library

MS C6/1/26/1 no. 2

MS C6/1/26/1 no. 3

P.0511.28.02 Destitute Girls Minute Book

Direct reference example: *Edith or Ellen ... born in 1881 was the illegitimate child of a convict in Grangegorman Prison received into the house. Died of [scarlet fever?] at the Cork St Fever Hospital in March 1889.*

Possible reference: 5 March 1886 *A child whose mother has been in prison for 5 or 6 years, and is soon going to be sent to the colonies to begin a new life, was proposed as a case for the Home, and it was decided to admit her.*

Source: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Archive

Search term 'Grangegorman' yields 2 results; only one of which is relevant:

LMH/10

Transcript of an interview conducted by Ida Milne with Dr James Slein, a retired general practitioner. (Includes discussion of experiences in St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman.)

Archives home page in Collections List has the following:

ACC/2017/2 Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Heritage Centre

NORMAN, C., *Conolly Norman Lectures, Grangegorman* (1905–7).

Available to download at:

<https://rcpi-live-cdn.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Conolly-Norman-Lectures.pdf>

Primary printed

Source: Bureau of Military History

1913–21 Collection Witness Statements

Sample of references

WS Ref #: 250, Witness: William P. Corrigan, member of South Dublin Union Garrison, 1916; brother of Michael Corrigan, Chief State Solicitor, 1922

<https://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0250.pdf#page=1>

Sometime afterwards towards the end of 1920 the British Local Government Board had made demands on the Joint Committee of the Grangegorman Mental Hospital, then known as the Richmond and Portrane Asylum, for their books for audit purposes which the Joint Committee refused having previously sworn allegiance to Dáil Eireann. The Local Government Board then refused to grant aid. My firm acted as legal advisers to the Asylum Joint committee and having been consulted by the chairman (the late Mrs. Jennie Wyse Power) of the Committee regarding the raising of money on the deeds of the property of the Asylum.

WS Ref #: 336, Witness: Garry Holohan, Senior Officer, Fianna Eireann, 1914–1921

<https://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0336.pdf#page=6>

Murray went on the run and was sheltered by the Countess Markiewicz and her friends until he was smuggled out to America. He came home after the Truce and fought with us during the Civil War. He later joined the Civic Guards but lost his reason and is now a patient in Grangegorman Hospital.

WS Ref #: 682, Witness: Vincent Ellis, rendered medical aid to IRA, 1921; Medical Officer, Garda Síochana, 1923–1957

Medical Officer at Grangegorman Mental Hospital

<https://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0682.pdf#page=1>

Includes information about a raid on Grangegorman Mental Hospital by British military personnel.

WS Ref #: 821, Witness: Frank Henderson, Captain IV, Dublin, 1916; Commandant IRA, 1917–1921

<https://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0821.pdf#page=40>

... the co-operation of attendants and nurses in Grangegorman Mental Hospital and in Richmond Hospital, the grounds of which adjoined the British position.

WS Ref #: 1511, Witness: Gerald Doyle, Member IRA, Dublin, 1921

<https://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921/reels/bmh/BMH.WS1511.pdf#page=19>

It seems that a man named James Connor from Slade, Saggart, was released from Grangegorman Mental Hospital on Easter Monday and declared cured. He was in O'Connell Street when the Volunteers had taken over the G.P.O. and the excitement had again made him as bad as ever. He was captured and brought to Kilmainham where he was locked in a padded cell.

Source: Irish Newspaper Archive

Using the names of all the institutions as search terms yields results. The following is a sample of the results produced:

Carlow Morning Post

16 October 1869: Fire at Richmond Lunatic Asylum

Evening Herald

20 June 1893: Assault on a 16-year-old girl who is a patient in Richmond Lunatic Asylum

2 Sept 1897: North Dublin Union Workhouse overcrowding; suggestion to house people (*unfortunates*) in the vacant Grangegorman prison

3 December 1932: Boilers formerly used in laundry of North Dublin Union Workhouse

Freemans Journal

26 April 1838 Details regarding the infirm and poor in the Dublin House of Industry

Drogheda Conservative

(23 September 1871: Extract from an *Irish Times* report on Richmond Lunatic Asylum

Drogheda Independent

25 February 1928: Includes discussion regarding isolated wards for Tuberculosis (TB) patients

7 September 1929: Call for tenders for food suppliers

28th April 1934: Meeting of joint committee of Grangegorman and Portrane mental hospital

Irish Independent

16 March 1933: Overcrowded mental hospital

21 October 1938: Grangegorman only mental hospital in Ireland with insulin

10 February 1951: Cost of fuel for Grangegorman Mental Hospital

Irish Press

22 December 1933: Recommendation that buildings in Grangegorman be replaced, and discussion regarding the desirability of moving the hospital outside the city and freeing the site for civic needs

15 November 1944: Various job vacancies

9 January 1945: Estimate of costs for mental hospital

19 December 1964: Advertisement for domestic staff in St Brendan's Hospital

Source: Administrative Records

James Mills (ed.), *Account roll of the priory of Holy Trinity, Dublin, 1337–1346* (Dublin, 1891).

J.T. and Lady Gilbert (eds), *Calendar of the ancient records of Dublin*. (19 vols, Dublin, 1889–1944).

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H.J. Lawlor (ed.), 'Calendar of the *Liber Niger* and *Liber Albus* of Christ Church, Dublin', *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 27, Section C, (1908–9), pp 1–93.

James Morrin (ed.), *Calendar of the patent and close rolls of chancery in Ireland: Henry VIII to 18th Elizabeth* (Dublin, 1861).

M.J. McEnery and Raymond Refaussé (eds), *Christ Church Deeds* (Dublin, 2001).

R.C. Simington (ed.), *The Civil Survey, vol. vii, county of Dublin* (Dublin, 1945).

Reports of the inspectors-general on the general state of the prisons of Ireland

Report from the select committee of the House of Lords appointed to consider the state of the lunatic poor in Ireland, and to report thereon to the house. With the minutes of evidence, appendix, and index, H.L. 1843.

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Court case

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<https://ie.vlex.com/vid/richmond-district-asylum-board-839142077>

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WARE, James, *The antiquities and history of Ireland* (Dublin, 1705).

Source: Wellcome Collection

Report of the resident medical superintendent for the year 1862, Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin. Richmond District Lunatic Asylum (Dublin, Ireland), 1863

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f2baerhu>

Report of the resident medical superintendent for the year 1868, Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin. (Dublin, 1869)

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f6w6h37u>

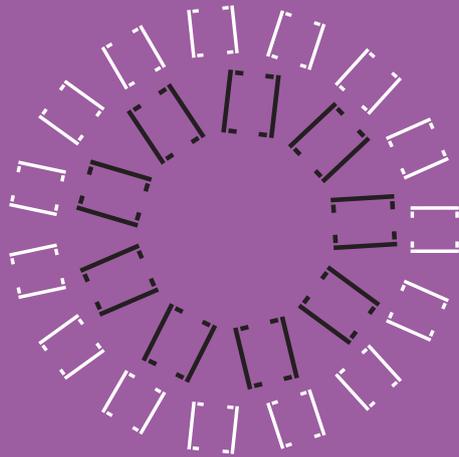
Report of the resident medical superintendent for the year 1871, Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin. (Dublin, 1872)

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/q9pv6z43>

Report of the resident medical superintendent for the year 1870, Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin. Richmond District Lunatic Asylum (Dublin, 1871)

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ubdn5smf>

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BURTON, Nathaniel, *Oxmantown and its environs* (Dublin, 1845).

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[https://www.academia.edu/32709118/The Richmond District Asylum and the 1916 Easter Rising](https://www.academia.edu/32709118/The_Richmond_District_Asylum_and_the_1916_Easter_Rising)

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<http://www.eoinobrien.org/history-of-medical-institutions/the-richmond-hospital/>

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REDINGTON, J.M. and DWYER, P.J., 'Maniacal-depressive insanity amongst the male admissions to the Richmond District Asylum in the year 1907', *Journal of Mental Science* 55 (228) (1909), pp 56–8.

REYNOLDS, Joseph, *Grangegorman: psychiatric care in Dublin since 1815* (Dublin, 1992).

SMITH, Beverly A., 'The female prisoner in Ireland, 1855–1878', *Federal Probation* 54 (4) (1990), 69–81. Also available to download:

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/female-prisoner-ireland-1855-1878>

STOKES, William, *Richmond Hospital Records* (Dublin, 1879).

Also available to download:

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vevkbhx3>

TUKE, Daniel Hack, 'On the Richmond Asylum schools', *Journal of Mental Science* 21 (1875), pp 467–74. Also available to download:

<https://digital.ucd.ie/view/ivrla:47373>

WRIGHT, G.N., *A historical guide to the city of Dublin* (2nd edn; Dublin, 1825).

Source: Irish Film Archive

Confinement, by Trish McAdam

Using motion graphics, live footage and charcoal drawings of patients from rarely-seen 19th century photographs from the National Archives, *Confinement* explores changes in social control, mental asylums and rehabilitation, from Henrietta Street to Grangegorman. Narrated by the imagined words of late artist Tony Rudenko (voiced by Aidan Gillen); the film includes music composed by Roger Doyle.

Film Info: 34 mins, Ireland, 2019, Digital. See <https://ifi.ie/trish-mcadam-season-at-the-ifi-this-may/>

Unpublished Theses

LAWLOR, Rebecca Sharon. Crime in nineteenth-century Ireland: Grangegorman female penitentiary and Richmond male penitentiary, with reference to juveniles and women, 1836–60 (MLitt, NUI Maynooth, 2012).

Also available to download:

https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/4010/1/Rebecca_Lawlor_-_MLitt_History_NUIM.pdf

GRIMSLEY-SMITH, Melinda D. Politics, professionalism, and poverty: lunatic asylums for the poor in Ireland, 1817–1920. (PhD, University of Notre-Dame, 2011).

Also available to download:

<https://curate.nd.edu/downloads/1831cj84d4c>

Websites and Databases

Archiseek

<https://www.archiseek.com/2010/1895-former-hospital-north-brunswick-street-dublin/>

Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720–1940

Charles Ashworth (architect to the Board of Richmond Hospital):

<https://www.dia.ie/architects/view/75/ASHWORTH%2C+CHARLES+HERBERT>

Female Convicts Research Centre

<https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/>

Register for free to search the site, many references to Grangegorman/Richmond

Find My Past

findmypast.ie

A search yields results, but a subscription is required to see them.

Friends of the Orphan Schools

https://www.orphanschool.org.au/records_source.php#

The Workhouse: the story of an institution

<https://www.workhouses.org.uk/DublinNorth/>

Irish Medical Times

9 November 2016, Lobotomy in Ireland: the single greatest mistake in the history of psychiatry

<https://www.imt.ie/features-opinion/lobotomy-in-ireland-the-single-greatest-mistake-in-the-history-of-psychiatry-09-11-2016/>

Source: Lenus: The Irish Health Repository

300 + entries for ‘Grangegorman’

Examples include:

- Grangegorman Mental Hospital Joint Committee minutes for several years, e.g. 1926, available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/121527>
- Report of the Inspector of mental hospitals for the year 1960. Available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/249860>
- Draft proposal for the future of St Brendan’s Hospital, Grangegorman (1998). Available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/45701>
- HSE capital plan 2011–2016. Available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/212932>

400 + entries for ‘Richmond’ (but many are NOT about *Richmond District Lunatic Asylum*)

Positive examples include:

- Commission on Relief of the Sick and Destitute Poor including the Insane Poor appointed on the 19

March 1925. Available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/238535>

- Research and training in community psychiatry: an inter-disciplinary approach. Available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/45663>

2,000+ entries for 'Brendan's' (but not all are related to the Hospital)

Positive examples include:

- Special hospital care programme: St Brendan's Hospital: future development of community psychiatric service 1988. Available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/333683>

Source: RTÉ Archives

Search option available

General results for 'Grangegorman' as search term include the following:

<https://www.rte.ie/archives/collections/news/21376245-last-patients-leave-grangegorman/>

<https://www.rte.ie/archives/2015/0907/726225-michael-collins-set/?q=Grangegorman&page=1>

Use as a set for *Michael Collins* film

<https://www.rte.ie/archives/2015/0907/726225-michael-collins-set/>

Literature

CARLETON, William, *The Black Baronet, or The chronicles of Ballytrain* (New York, 1858).

CROKER, Bithia Mary, *Johanna* (London, 1903).

DONLEAVY, J.P., *The Ginger Man* (Paris, 1955).

ENRIGHT, Anne, *Yesterday's weather* (London, 2008).

JOYCE, James, *Ulysses* (Paris, 1922).

Finnegans Wake (London, 1939).

RIVLAN, Ray, *Shalom Ireland* (Dublin, 2003).

(re. Joseph Edelstein: 'when the mental hospital in Grangegorman, Dublin, certified him as sane, he took great pleasure in brandishing his certificate of mental competence and boasting he was the only man in Ireland who could prove his sanity', p. 190.

See also: <https://www.historyireland.com/joseph-edelstein/>

SYNGE, John Millington, *In the shadow of the glen* (Boston, 1904).

Set in/or mention Irish asylums

BARRY, Sebastian, *The secret scripture* (London, 2008).

BRODERICK, John, *The waking of Willie Ryan* (London, 1965).

GILLIGAN, Ruth, *Nine folds make a paper swan* (London, 2016).

GREALLY, Hanna, *Bird's nest soup* (Dublin, 1971).

HEALY, Dermot, *The bend for home* (London, 1996).

JOHNSTON, Jennifer, *This is not a novel* (London, 2002).

O'FAOLAIN, Julia, *Adam Gould* (London, 2009).

Possible references

BURKE, Helen, *The people and the Poor Law in 19th-century Ireland* (Dublin, 1987).

CROSSMAN, Virginia, *Politics, pauperism and power in late nineteenth-century Ireland* (Manchester, 2017).

O'DONNELL, Ian and O'SULLIVAN, Eoin, 'Coercive confinement in the republic of Ireland: the waning of a culture of control', in *Punishment and Society* 9 (1) (2007), pp 27–48.

RATTIGAN, Cliona, *What else could I do?: single mothers and infanticide, Ireland 1900–1950* (Dublin, 2012).

Irish Convicts Database; specifically:

Irish Convicts to NSW 1788–1849:

<http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/convicts.htm>

No direct reference

IRISH PRISON SERVICE

Responded to query to say that all records are in the National Archives.

McCLAUGHLIN, Trevor, JAMES, Stephanie, and O'REILLEY, Simon, 'Migration to Australia mid-nineteenth century; emigration from the Shirley Estate at the time of the Famine.' *Clogher Record* 20 (2) (2010), pp 287–334.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/41224136>

WILLIAMS, John, 'Irish female convicts and Tasmania', *Labour History*, 44 (1983), pp 1–17.

Available via JSTOR: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27508570?read-now=1&seq=1>

Advice on using large databases

The list of large databases presented here is not conclusive; it is a general guide to the range of online sites containing material related to Grangegorman and the various institutions in the area.

When searching these databases preparation is very important, and knowing exactly what you are hoping to find is the first step. A sample checklist of questions will help decide where to look, and hopefully reduce irrelevant results.

Checklist:

- Are you looking for primary or secondary sources?
- Are you searching for one institution in particular?
- Was the name changed at any point?
- If you search for a particular year, does the name you use match the year?
- Is there more than one way of spelling the institution's name?

Most databases will provide a specialised guide to their own material. For the large databases it is a good idea to consult these guides, especially in instances where a user might be uncertain about the correct search term to use.

Be aware of the restrictions on accessing the material

Material held by universities is generally only available for consultation by students and staff, or by visiting students/staff who have a letter from their home university.

Be aware of incomplete digitised records

Some search results might indicate that an item is digitised, but occasionally only a section of the material is complete (every second page for instance). Open an item to ensure that the information required is available.

Archive.org

<https://archive.org/>

Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites and more.

A search of this database is possible under the following options:

- Search metadata
- Search text contents
- Search TV news captions
- Search radio transcripts
- Search archived web sites

A metadata search for 'Grangegorman' yields 8 results.

Example:

- *Return of Hours of Attendance of Visiting Medical Officers of Grangegorman Prison and Richmond Bridewell, Dublin* (British Parliamentary Publications, 1887) <https://archive.org/details/op1252126-1001>

A text content search for 'Grangegorman' yields 2,581 results.

Example:

- *General Prisons Board (Ireland): eleventh report, 1888–89, with appendix* (British Parliamentary Publications, 1889).
<https://archive.org/details/op1252458-1001/page/n5/mode/2up?q=Grangegorman>
- Economic Development and Enterprise SPC 11/02/2020 3.30 pm Council Chamber, City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2
https://archive.org/details/publici_cast_dublincity_472786/files%2FDraft_Social_Enterprise_Summit_Outcomes_Report?q=Grangegorman

Lenus: The Irish Health Repository

<https://www.lenus.ie/>

As a source for health-related material, Lenus is organised by different criteria from other 'academic' databases.

It is possible to refine searches by *Community* (these are defined categories, which include Cancer, HSE, Children and Young People, Hospitals and Acute Services).

Under this database's *Special Collections* sits a sub-category called the *Grangegorman Mental Hospital Collection*. This contains several collections of minutes from Board and Committee meetings. It directs users on how to conduct further research with the following advice:

Historic reports and documents relating to St. Brendan's Hospital, psychiatric facility located in Grangegorman, North Dublin which closed in 2013.

Please note: this collection contains scanned historic reports and documents only. Not patient record information.

The archives are housed in the National Archives.

However, a free search yields other results, including: 300 + entries for 'Grangegorman'

Examples include:

- Grangegorman Mental Hospital Joint Committee minutes for several years, e.g. 1926; available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/121527>
- Report of the Inspector of mental hospitals for the year 1960; available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/249860>
- Draft proposal for the future of St Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman (1998); available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/45701>
- HSE capital plan 2011–2016; available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/212932>

400 + entries for 'Richmond' (but be aware that many are NOT referring to Richmond District Lunatic Asylum)

Relevant examples include:

- Commission on Relief of the Sick and Destitute Poor including the Insane Poor appointed on the 19th March 1925; available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/238535>
- 'Research and training in community psychiatry: an inter-disciplinary approach'; available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/45663>

2000+ entries for 'Brendan's' (but again, not all are referring to the Hospital)

Relevant examples include:

- 'Special hospital care programme: St Brendan's Hospital: future development of community psychiatric service 1988'; available to download: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/333683>

National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland catalogue is easy to navigate and gives good, detailed examples of each entry; it also has the option to email records—a good option when you are searching for lists, allowing you to return to individual records.

Use the Main Catalogue/Keyword/All Fields. Note, however, that the number given for search results may not be accurate (especially in a search using more than one word), as some search returns included might have picked up on individual words, rather than the search term. For example, 'Richmond Asylum' might pick up results for Richmond Asylum, but may occasionally also return results for 'Richmond', or for 'Asylum' which might not relate to the Richmond Asylum.

Examples:

Search term 'Grangegorman' yields 58 results. These are a range of books, journals, photos and manuscripts.

Book

- *Grangegorman: an urban quarter with an open future : the Grangegorman masterplan for the Health Service Executive, Dublin Institute of Technology and the local community* (2014).
<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000649516>

Journal

- Grangegorman newsletter / Grangegorman Development Agency (2007–)
<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000262499>

Photo

- Saint Bricin's Military Hospital, Grangegorman <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000299134>

Manuscript

- 'Correspondence concerning Grangegorman Mental Hospital', Robert Briscoe Papers, 1799–1981. Concerns inspections and committees. Contains news cuttings concerning complaints about the Grangegorman facility. Correspondents include Archbishop John Charles McQuaid. (68 items)
<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000649936>

Search term 'Richmond District Lunatic Asylum' yields 14 results

Examples:

Book

- *Regulations for the management of the Richmond District Asylum under the act 60 & 61 Victoria, Cap. 37* (1903) <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000141983>

Manuscript

- Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin. Reports by the resident physician to the Board of Governors (1861–1864) <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000829540>
- Declaration of trust between the Irish National Aid and Volunteers' Dependents' Fund (INAAVD) and trustees to provide assistance to Margaret Halpin, mother of William Halpin, Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin City, County Dublin, who was injured during the Easter Rising (1918) <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000783640>

There are anomalies:

Examples:

- *John Redmond Papers, 1878-1918*

<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Collection/vtls000247810/HierarchyTree#tabnav>

This includes the term 'Richmond' but refers to Richmond Barracks. But if you search the main catalogue for 'Richmond Asylum' it includes this: *Letter from William Buckley to John Redmond regarding his candidature for solicitorship at the Richmond Asylum (1904)*, which is part of the John Redmond Papers.

<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000819003>

Search term 'Richmond Asylum' yields 31 results (but note that some of these are the same as the 'Richmond District Lunatic Asylum' search will return)

Examples unique to a 'Richmond Asylum' search:

Manuscript

- Newspaper cuttings concerning the tailoring trade in Ireland, 1900–1908.

<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000617324>.

However, some pick up the word 'asylum' and don't relate to Richmond, for example <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Collection/vtls000260100>

Search term 'Richmond Penitentiary' yields 24 results. This will also yield some repeat results from other Richmond searches)

Results unique to this search:

Prints and Drawings

- 'The Governor of the Richmond Penitentiary' (1844)

Description: Two illustrations, one framed by the other, which was originally published in the *Illustrated London News*, 7 September 1844. The centre illustration is of Thomas Purdon, Governor of Richmond Penitentiary, Dublin, Ireland while the illustration in the frame depicts Daniel O'Connell, M.P., (1775–1847), apparently having a good time within the prison walls of Richmond Penitentiary. The article accompanying the illustration of Purdon, condemns him for being too lenient towards O'Connell and the other prisoners. <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000171241>

Manuscript

- Sketch map showing location of principal institutions mentioned in paper 'Vagabonds and sturdy beggars' (1937) Description: Map shows major hospitals in the Dublin area including Grangegorman, Bedford, North Dublin Union Workhouse, Whitworth Hospital, New Richmond Surgical Hospital, Hardwicke Fever Hospital and the Smithfield Female Penitentiary.

<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000608858>

Oireachtas Library Digital Collections

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/how-parliament-is-run/houses-of-the-oireachtas-service/library-and-research-service/>

There are a large number of search options available; please read the [Online guide to searching the catalogue](#). Essentially, how you use this collection will depend on how much information you have available; for example, do you have a date, does your search relate to a Bill, etc.?

If you have a very specific search, choose 'Advanced' and tick the categories that best cover your search (this is particularly applicable if it relates to legislation).

In the ‘simple search’, using search term ‘Grangegorman’ in ‘Title’ yields 11 results.

Example:

- Local Government Bill, 1931: as amended in committee—includes section on Special Provision for Grangegorman Mental Hospital Committee. <https://tinyurl.com/43kmpj5>

In the ‘simple search’, using search term ‘Grangegorman’ in ‘Creator’ yields 21 results.

Example:

- Grangegorman Development Agency, Annual Report 2008. <https://tinyurl.com/2pvj8vh5>

Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

<https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/library/collections/heritage-collections/catalogues-and-collections>

Search for ‘Grangegorman’ in free search bar

- No results

Search for ‘Brendan’ in free search bar yields 3 results

Example:

- RCSI/FoN/03/54 St Brendan’s Hospital badge Silver and blue in colour <http://heritage.rcsi.ie/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=RCSI%2fFoN%2f03%2f54&pos=2>

Search for ‘Richmond Asylum’ in free search bar:

- RCSI/Cert/A/1 Richmond District Asylum Cert 13 April, 1897. Richmond District Asylum Cert for J.M. Aherne, Esquire for attending three months of clinical instruction in Mental Diseases during the summer session 1896. Signed: [?] F.R.C.P.I – medical superintendent. <http://heritage.rcsi.ie/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=RCSI%2fCert%2fA%2f1&pos=1>

Royal Irish Academy Library

<https://catalogues.ria.ie/Presto/home/home.aspx>

Pamphlets; Haliday Collection

General house of refuge for unprotected females. A correct and accurate report, addressed to the people of Ireland, on the interesting proceedings connected with the great movement in favor of the monument to the honor and glory of the Good Samaritan (1843).

<https://tinyurl.com/4mw7xm3s>

University Library Catalogue Searches

Many of the same rules apply to the library search engines of universities/colleges/third level institutions.

Generally, they allow for a publication-type search, for a journal/book, etc. While a non-affiliated user can search these databases, the materials are usually only accessible—in person or online—with an approved log-in provided by the university.

The rules for acquiring log-in credentials vary between institutions and can be found on the individual library homepages.

University-affiliated users (in Ireland) can often request inter-Library loans.

Two university libraries are sampled here.

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

<https://www.tcd.ie/library/>

Access to this catalogue requires student/staff/alumni/visiting researcher login.

Stella Search

Search term 'Grangegorman' yields 1,438 results.

- On the left of the results screen you can then refine your search: for instance, you can select an option to allow you to view results that can be accessed online.
- Eleven results can only be accessed in the library (some need to be requested from off-site storage).
- The range of material held is extensive; for instance it includes links to newspaper articles about Grangegorman.

Book

- *By the Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland. [A proclamation]: [All insane males in Newgate gaol, Dublin, will be removed to the Richmond Bridewell; and all insane females in Newgate will be removed to the Richmond Penitentiary, Grangegorman Lane]* (1844) [Early Printed Books Stacks (use call slip) (OLS Papyrus Case 67 no.26)] <https://tinyurl.com/s2th5aen>

Electronic resources (require a Trinity College Dublin login (or you must be a registered research guest))

- *The invisible plague* [electronic resource]: *the rise of mental illness from 1750 to the present* by E. Fuller Torrey, Judy Miller. Includes: chapter 7. *The road to Grangegorman: Ireland, 1700–1990* <https://tinyurl.com/3eve2k8y>

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

<https://www.ucd.ie/library/>

Access to this catalogue requires student/staff/alumni/visiting researcher login

Search term 'Grangegorman' yields 1,403 results.

- On the left of the results screen you can then refine your search: for instance, you can specify if you are only interested in peer-reviewed articles/newspaper articles, etc.

Book

- CAMPBELL, Ernest Henry Fitzgerald and O'KELLEY, Francis J., *A hundred years of life at Grangegorman* (Dublin, 1928). <https://tinyurl.com/5b9dn24z>

grangegormanhistories.ie