

The Armagh Railway Disaster



By Ella Toal

Preface

In this short book I am going to recount events of The Armagh Railway Disaster which happened on 12th of June 1889. Passengers all arrived at Armagh Methodist church ready to embark on the Sunday school trip to Warrepoint. Little did they know that disaster would strike.



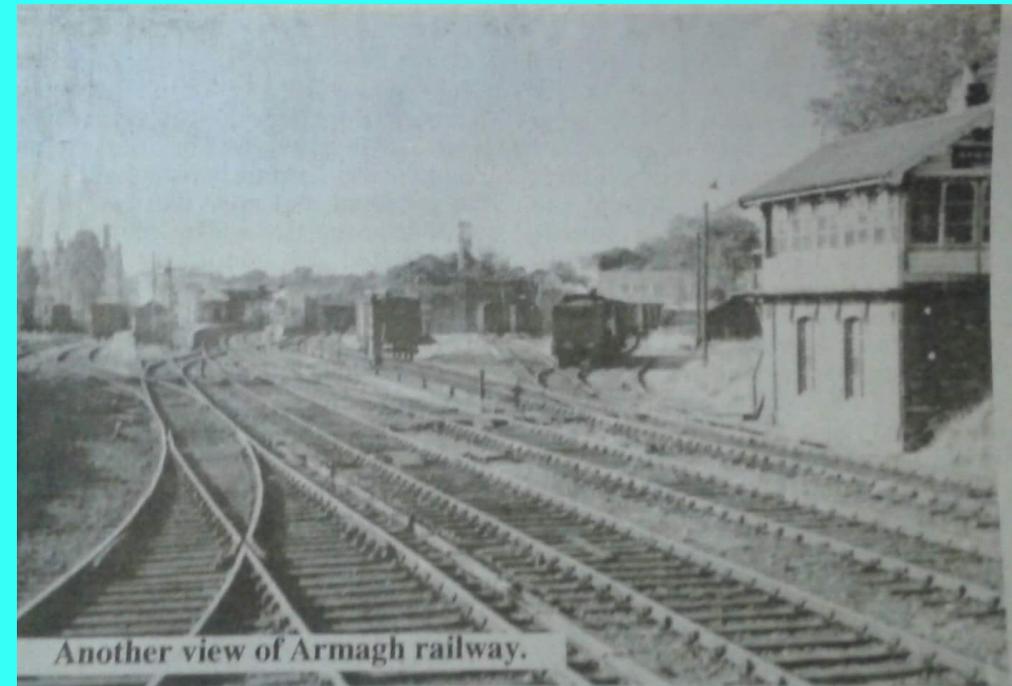
At the station

At the train station there were hundreds of passengers waiting for the train to come. The train could only fit 800 passengers but there were approximately 1200 passengers who boarded the train. The organisers then decided to shut all the doors on the train so no one else could get in.



The Journey begins

The train was due to leave at 10am but because there were so many people boarding, it left at 10:15am. When the train got to Killyrudden Hill it stopped because of the steep gradient and weight of the passengers. Thomas Mc Grath, the train driver, decided to take a couple of carriages to the next station and come back for the rest.



The Collision

Thomas Mc Grath tried to move forward with the first five carriages but the rest of the carriages suddenly started to roll backwards down the steep hill getting faster and faster. The next train was coming in the direction of the runaway carriages. The people inside the carriages started panicking and threw some of the children out the windows because at the station they locked the doors. The train and carriages collided causing carnage.



The aftermath

80 people died and 400 people were injured badly. The youngest person who died was two years old. The Armagh Railway Disaster will always be Armagh's biggest tragedy.

