

The Armagh Railway Disaster



By Eimear Cox

Preface

In this short book I will be describing the dreadful catastrophe of the Armagh Railway Disaster which happened on the 12th of June 1889. Adults, children and babies were all aboard the train having no idea what was going to happen.



At the station

At the station there was an enormous amount of passengers waiting for the train to arrive. When it did arrive it was only fit to carry 800 passengers but the number of passenger's determined to travel on the Sunday school expedition was 1200.



The Journey Begins

The train was due to leave at 10am but because of the misunderstanding it only left at 10:15am. The train made slow progress out of Armagh but when it reached Killyrudden Hill it had to come to a stop because of its heavy load. Thomas McGrath (the train driver) decided to spilt the carriage's in half with a plan to take half of the carriage's to Hamiltonbawn and return for the other four carriage's after he was done with the first four.



The Collision

Unexpectedly when the driver tried to move off the last four carriage's began to roll backwards down the hill. Back at the station engine no.9 had departed and was heading towards the runaway carriage's. The driver of engine in.9 spotted the runaway carriage's and managed to slow his train to 5 miles per hour but the runaway carriage's were still coming at full speed. The carriage's collided and smashed into tiny pieces.



Here is a short clip of where the carriage's collided. As you can see the tracks have been removed.



The Aftermath

There were 80 deaths and 40 injuries on the day of the Disaster. It will live long in the memory of people from Armagh. We remember those who died on that day with the statue in Armagh.

