“Every True Friend and Lover of his Country”: Philanthropy and Soldier’s Children in Eighteenth-Century Ireland

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Assistant Professor of History
Siena College
CHARITY MOVEMENTS IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY IRELAND

Philanthropy and Improvement

KAREN SORREL-LITTLER

The philanthropic impulse to engage in charitable work and to encourage economic “improvement” was sharpened in eighteenth-century Ireland as Irish Protestants became increasingly aware of the threat that social problems, such as poverty, disease, and criminality, posed to their rule. One response to this threat was the establishment of a number of voluntary societies which sought to address the different problems plaguing Ireland. This book examines a number of these voluntary societies, including those concerned with promoting education, supporting hospitals, and improving agriculture and manufacturing. It shows how these movements differed from earlier efforts in organization, methods, and aims and demonstrates the connection between religiously motivated charities, Enlightenment-influenced scientific societies, and the Irish government. It pays particular attention to the role of women both as supporters of and objects of charity. It argues that, together, these movements spurred Ireland to what they saw as admirable facets that weakened the Anglo-Irish state. Impoverished Enlightenment-era opinion about the possibility of society and saw themselves as serving the interests and aspirations of the nation.

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THE SOLDIER'S WIFE.

A lucky day last Whitsuntide. Her tent which stands near yonder tree: When my faithful Soldier died, 'tis affords no shelter now for me.

Published Aug 28, 1764, by J. Walker at No. 25, Cockspur Street, London.
• Ages of 7-12, children of non-commissioned officers, soldiers of the line, deceased soldiers, reduced soldiers, soldiers on foreign service.

• Required certificate from an officer that they were lawful children of soldiers.

Preference given to:
• Orphans and children of deceased soldiers.
• Children with deceased mothers whose fathers were serving abroad.
• Children whose fathers were abroad and whose mothers had other children to maintain.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Parliamentary Grants</th>
<th>Casual Income</th>
<th>Total Income</th>
<th>Expended on Buildings/Repairs</th>
<th>Expended on Support of Institution</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
<th>Average Number of Children</th>
<th>Avg. Expense of one child per annum</th>
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<tr>
<td>1802</td>
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<td>4605,16,9</td>
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Dublin, c. 1800

- Built up area, c. 1585
- Built up area, c. 1800
- Notable buildings
THE SOLDIER'S WIFE.

A look up day last Whitsuntide, 'Tis now a part which stands near yonder tree. When my faithful Soldier died, He offered no shelter now for me.


THE SAILOR'S WIFE.

Farewell! farewell! my soul delight! Those swelling sails that waft the from my gaze on the till out of sight, 'Till soon bring the back to faithful Nan.