



Princess 1841

# Irish Railway Record Society

Established 1946

Library & Headquarters

Heuston Railway Station

Dublin 8

Please Reply To

The Rectory,  
Church Road,  
Malahide,  
Co Dublin.

Mr Michael O'Donoghue,  
11 Barrack Street,  
Castleisland,  
County Kerry

7 June 1995

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

Mr Paddy O'Brien has forwarded your letter of 20th ult to me for answer, and has given me the following details:

Castleisland station: Mr Peter Rossney was the first stationmaster. He resigned on 15 Nov 1903. Michael Ambrose was appointed next day, but died on 3 April 1904. Thomas Rosney was appointed on 22 April, and moved on 1 July 1907, being replaced the same day by Thomas Carty. On 22 Nov 1909 he was replaced by Thomas Rosney, who moved again on 9 Jan 1912, when Denis O'Brien was appointed. He resigned on 4 June 1924. He was replaced by Thomas O'Connor, who had formerly worked with the Waterford Limerick & Western railway (as amalgamated with Gs&wr in 1900).

By the late 1920s Castleisland became a Class 4 station (effectively a halt without losing its name!); it had previously been a Class 2 station. Gortatlea became a halt under Castleisland on 15 Jan 1939, and subsequently came under Tralee. No date for this is extant, but 1947 might be a suitable guess as the branch lost its regular service then.

Closure date is given variously as 27 Jan 1947 and 10 Mar 1947. The former is probably the date on which passenger services were suspended due to the fuel crisis, the latter the date on which the suspension was made permanent. After this time only monthly cattle specials ran for Castleisland Fair until 7 Jan 1957 when a regular daily goods was instituted experimentally using a G class locomotive specially designed for light duties. Others found their way to Kanturk and later to Loughrea. The service outlasted the G class locomotive, and the branch was not finally closed until October 1975, with a ten year moratorium on lifting, although operation has become very spasmodic in the mid-1970s.

I hope this information is of use,

Yours sincerely,

*Norman E Gamble*

(Rev Dr Norman E Gamble, Hon Asst Librarian)