



Drogheda Steam Packet Company

The Drogheda Steam Packet Company was founded in 1826 as the Drogheda Paddle Steamship Co. It provided shipping services between Drogheda and Liverpool from 1825 to 1902, in which year it was taken over by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

History

The company was founded in July 1825 with the issue of 300 shares at £50 each. It was founded as the Drogheda Paddle Steamship Co.

The board of directors included Robert Pentland, mayor of Drogheda, John Leslie Foster, the MP for County Louth, Blayney T. Balfour, St. George Smith, James McCann, Patrick Ternan, Nathaniel Hill, Patrick Boylan, John Woolsey and William Rodger.^[4]

On 13 November 1826, *PS Town of Drogheda* arrived from Scotland. She made her maiden voyage to Liverpool on 26 November in 14 hours. Until 1829 a weekly service was operated sailing from Drogheda on Fridays and returning on Tuesdays under its master, Captain M. Ownes. She was employed until 1846, when she was sold.

In 1829, the company temporarily chartered the *PS Liffey* and *PS Mersey* from the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company to increase the sailings to three per week. These were sent back when the new ship, *PS Fair Trader* was delivered at the end of the year.

Further expansion in the 1830s saw the arrival of *PS Green Isle* the *PS Irishman* and *PS Grainne Ueile*.

PS Faugh-a-Ballagh was acquired in 1844, the first iron hulled vessel. This was followed by *PS Brian Boroimhe* and *PS St. Patrick* in 1846.

Closure

In 1902 the assets of the company were taken over by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway for the sum of £80,000 (equivalent to £7,832,684 in 2015).

Vessels

The company steamers had black funnels, the flag was green with a white five-pointed star between the horns.

Ship	Launched	Tonnage (GRT)	Notes
<i>Black Eagle</i>	1851		Built in South Shields. Acquired in 1858. Disposed of in 1896
<i>Brian</i>	1846	649	Built by Robert Napier, Port Glasgow. Scrapped in 1880
<i>Boroimhe</i>			
<i>Colleen Bawn</i>	1862	609 or 679	Built by Randolph, Elder & Co Ltd, Govan in 1862. Scrapped at Preston, Lancashire in 1901.
<i>Fair Trader</i>	1829	200	Built by John Scott & Sons Ltd, Greenock. Bought new in 1829.
<i>Faugh-a-Ballagh</i>	1844		Sold in 1879.
<i>Grainne Ueile</i>	1835	245	Built by John Scott & Sons, Greenock. Caught fire on 14 April 1847 north of Lambay Island. A total of 22 people killed, 68 rescued by fishing smack <i>Bessy</i> of Ringsend.
<i>Green Isle</i>	1833	213	Built by John Scott & Sons, Greenock. Sold in 1845, scrapped in 1853.
<i>Irishman</i>	1834		Built by John Scott & Sons, Greenock.
<i>Iverna</i>	1895	995	Taken over by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in 1902. Scrapped in 1912 by Messrs Thos W Ward.
<i>Kathleen Mavourneen</i>	1885	988	Taken over by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in 1902. Scrapped in 1903 in the Netherlands.
<i>Leinster Lass</i>	1849		Built by Robert Napier, Port Glasgow.
<i>Liffey</i>			Chartered from City of Dublin Steam Packet Company during 1829.
<i>Lord Athlumney</i>	1871	803	Built by A. & J. Inglis, Port Glasgow. Wrecked in 1888.
<i>Mersey</i>			Chartered from City of Dublin Steam Packet Company during 1829.
<i>Norah Creina</i>	1878	894	Taken over by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in 1902. Scrapped in April 1912 in France.
<i>St Patrick</i>	1846		Used as a French troopship during the Crimean War.
<i>Town of Drogheda</i>	1826	185 (as built)	Built by William Simons & Co Ltd, Greenock. Rebuilt in 1835. Lengthened and increased in tonnage to 234 GRT. Sold in 1848, converted to sail. Foundered some 100 nautical miles (190 km) east of Gibraltar in 1849.
<i>Tredagh</i>	1876	901	Entered service June 1876. Taken over by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in 1902. Scrapped in 1904.

Ships Operated by the Drogheda Steam Packet Company

1. *Black Eagle*
2. *Brian Boroimhe*
3. *Colleen Bawn*
4. *Fair Trader*
5. *Faugh-a-Ballagh*
6. *Grainne Uiele*
7. *Green Isle*
8. *Irishman*
9. *Iverna*
10. *Kathleen Mavourneen*
11. *Leinster Lass*
12. *Liffey*
13. *Lord Athlumney*
14. *Mersey*
15. *Norah Creina*
16. *St Patrick*
17. *Town of Drogheda*
18. *Tredeagj*

Shipwrecked Ships Operated by the Drogheda Steam Packet Company

Ship	Country	Description
<i>Grana Uile</i>	United Kingdom	The paddle steamer, <i>Liverpool</i> for Drogheda caught fire 30 miles east of Lambay Island and north west of Anglesey and sank. 69 passengers and crew saved by fishing smack <i>Bessey</i> ; about thirty lives lost (maybe more as not all passengers were counted), included Captain Rawden.