Ambassador visits bridge named after ancestor

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador to Ireland Mr. Frank Milne who made an official visit to Limerick last weekend surprised many by revealing his local roots.

And he went to visit the Potato Market and cross the bridge, Limerick city council decided to call after his great-great-grandfather.

Sylvestor O’Halloran, the great Limerick surgeon, historian and antiquarian was honoured in his native city recently when the new footbridge was named after him.

What many people did not know was that he was the great-great-grandfather of the Australian Ambassador.

“He was delighted that the bridge was named after Sylvestor O’Halloran and I was surprised with his great knowledge of his great-great-grandfather,” said Mr. Denis Leonard of Limerick Civic Trust.

“All the O’Halloran family went to Australia from Limerick,” he explained. The Ambassador has a painting of his great-great-grandfather in his Dublin home. Mr. Leonard hopes to get a copy of it as it is a different illustration to the one that is available in Limerick.