

A Rent Roll of the Estate of the City of Limerick, 1744-5

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This list gives the names of Limerick people living in the city and surrounding liberties in the year from 29 September 1744 to 29 September 1745. Signed by Henry Long, Mayor and John Vincent, Chamberlain it survives in Limerick Archives (L/FR/PM/1/1/1).

This file also has the Rent Rolls for the years 1754-5, 1755-6, 1756-7 and 1757-8. There are very few changes between 1744/5 and 1757/8. There are also lists for the same years, giving the monies paid out by the Corporation in salaries and widows' pensions. The latter can be identified by looking out for payments of £2-10-0 or £4, half yearly payments or £5 or £8, the yearly payment for the widow of a Burgess or an Alderman. A Burgess would have been a Sheriff about 90% of the time while an Alderman would have been a Mayor about 99% of the time. A Sheriff was on average about 30 years of age and a Mayor about 50 years of age when in office.

The list also gives the yearly rent they paid the Corporation for their holdings and the amount by which some of them were in arrears. Some of the people listed are to be found in the 1760 List of Voters which is available on microfilm in the City Library. Nearly all the names given below can be found in the Limerick Corporation Index of 1843, published by Brian Hodkinson, in *NMAJ*, vol. 39, 1998-9 and also available on the Limerick Museum website. It is based on Robert Potter's Report as to who was holding the Corporation's lands and house sites since the 1650s. A careful check reveals that most of these leases were granted to ex Sheriffs and ex Mayors at low rents and can only be seen as part of the political corruption festering in Limerick in those days.

Thomas Dixon	House, West Water Gate	£01-10-00	6 years in arrears
George Stamer	House, North end of Quay	£05-00-00	Paid
Sir William King	Some Houses on Quay	£13-06-06	Paid
Sam Chester	House, Emlin Lane	£04-00-00	Paid
Nath. Webb	North Gortnamanagh	£20-00-00	£110 in arrears
Isaac Clampet	Gurtacklins & Culerboy	£15-00-00	£25 in arrears
Mrs Burn	House, Quay Lane	£05-00-00	Paid
H. Holland. Ald	A Plot in John St	£00-10-00	£2-15 in arrears
Lord Southwell	Clui Boy	£02-10-00	Paid
Steph. Husband	Some ground, Baals Bridge	£00-12-00	Paid
Ed. Sex. Pery	Portnalindra	£00-05-00	Paid
Wm. Bryan	Plot by Quay Gate	£01-00-00	Paid
Mrs Sexton	A small garden	£00-10-00	6 years in arrears
Simon Vokes	Plot by Thomond Gate	£05-10-00	Paid
Mr Griffith	Corconree	£10-00-00	Paid
T. Wilson	Plot by East Water Gate	£01-00-00	Paid
Chs. Smyth	Plot by Island Gate	£00-05-00	Paid

Tox. Roche. Ald	Quarry, Thomond Gate	£00-10-00	Paid
H. Holland Ald	Part of Spittleland	£11-00-00	6 years in arrears
D. Bindon	A House, Quay Lane	£09-12-00	6 years in arrears
Vincent. Ald	Plot by the Tholsel	£01-08-00	£60 in arrears
F. Sargent. Ald	Plot by Pennywell	£09-00-00	Paid
W. Franklin. Ald	Lime Kilns	£15-10-00	Paid
W. Franklin. Ald	Part of Cloone	£05-00-00	Paid
Wight. Ald	Monibraher	£21-00-00	6 years in arrears
Tox Roche, Ald	Plot near Castle	£01-00-00	Paid
Craven, Ald	House, John St	£02-00-00	Paid
H. Holland, Ald	Clino Bog	£05-00-00	6 years in arrears
Sargent, Ald.	Part of Cloone	£05-00-00	Paid
Paul Farree	Plot, Thomond Gate	£01-10-00	Paid
Rev. F. Higgins	Reboge Island	£08-00-00	Paid
Wm. Vokes	Houses, Thomond Gate	£14-10-00	6 years in arrears
John Clansey	Part Spittlelands	£14-00-00	£42 in arrears
Long, Ald	House on Baal's Bridge	£00-05-00	Paid
William Vokes	Curragower Mills	£05-00-00	6 years in arrears
John Minden	Plot at West Water Gate	£00-10-00	£2-15-0-in arrears
John Pudnor	House, Mungret Lane	£01-10-00	Paid
Col. Maunsell	Joy's Mills	£03-10-00	Paid
T. Phibbs	Plot on Baal's Bridge	£00-16-00	Paid
R. Holland, Ald	Scatery Island	£34-00-00	Paid
Vincent, Ald	Bohernog	£03-00-00	Paid
H. Holland, Ald	House, John St	£01-00-00	£5-10 in arrears
P. Sargent, Ald	Monimuckey	£07-00-00	Paid
James Berkeley	House at East Water Gate	£00-10-00	Paid
Pope, Ald	Land, Thomond Gate	£06-00-00	Paid
R. Holland, Ald	Passage under Court House	£00-02-06	Paid
Mrs Arthur	Little Island	£01-02-09	£5-13-9 in arrears
Sargent, Ald	Salmon Weir	£352-00-00	£989-13-0 in arrears
Sam Piercie	Coughlin's Legacy	£21-04-06	£79-9-3 in arrears
Richard Harrold	House near Pennywell	£01-00-00	Paid

Leases were granted for a specific number of years and would pass to heirs until the lease expired. That is why the name of the grantee was not changed to that of the actual holder of the lease after the original grantee had died. Therefore the people named above can not be presumed to be the names of living persons. From 1657 to 1717 leases were mainly for 51 years then this was increased to 99 years until 1747 after that, 999 year leases were the norm. Until the 1830s the rents remained the same.

I think it's safe to assume that **Mrs Burn**, **Mrs Sexton** and **Mrs Arthur** are three widows. None of these three ladies is named in the 1744-5 pension list of Burgesses or Aldermen widows. **Mrs Burn** was, most likely, **Mrs Jane Bourne**, nee Gardiner who was paying £2-0-0 per year for her site. See item 52 in the "Index. When the same site was re-leased to Richard Roche in 1725 the rent was increased to £5-0-0 per year. See item 112. Item 8 also deals with this site when it was leased to Alderman John Comyn in 1659 for £4-0-0 per year.

- Thomas Dixon's** house and site are better described in the Corporation Index of 1843 and Thomas seems to have died by 1749. The Rent Roll for 1758 says his rent was 19 years in arrears. This name can be spelt Dixson or most frequently as Dickson.
- George Stamer**, the son of William Stamer who also held this Lease, was granted a new Lease on the 4th March 1748. He had no arrears outstanding in 1758. His great grandfather William York built the Exchange in Nicholas St.
- Sir William King** who was paid up to date in 1745 was £41-7-0 in arrears in 1758. Sir William King died in 1706.
- Samuel Chester**, Merchant, was leased a House in Emlin/Emblem Lane, i.e. Fish Lane in October 1733. He was paid up to date in 1744 but his name is crossed out in the 1758 Rent Roll and 11 years arrears had accumulated by 1758. A Samuel Chester married an Ann Parker in St. Mary's Cathedral on the 11th Aug. 1729. Their son Samuel was baptised on the 4th of November 1733. Two other sons, Richard and Walter were admitted Freeman on the 7th May 1747.
- Nathaniel Webb's** holdings in North Gortnamanagh were leased to a Mr Mathew McNamara on the 18 March 1752.
- Isaac Clampet**, Alderman was deceased by 1747. He was Mayor in 1739 after being Sheriff in 1720.
- Hezekiah Holland**, Alderman and Merchant. Mayor in 1713, Sheriff in 1699. His name appears 4 times in the Rent Roll. He was deceased by 1747. In the list of Mayors and Sheriffs of Limerick his name is spelt as Ezechias Holland.
- Stephen Husband** paid his rent up to 1757 but whatever stood on his plot on Baal's Bridge was pulled down by 1758. Stephen held this lease from 22 June 1698. Stephen Husbunds, Cutler, was dead by 1742.
- William Bryant Senior** received his lease for this plot of ground on the 20 Sept. 1696. Whatever he built on it was also pulled down by 1758. William Bryant Junior got the lease in Oct. 1724, he was a Blacksmith. The original lease from 1696 can be seen at Limerick Museum.
- Mrs Sexton must be the Sarah Sexton**, Widow who was given the lease for this garden on 30 June 1701. The rent was never paid and was 19 years in arrears in 1758.
- Simon Vokes**. This is likely to be Simon Vokes who died in 1741 followed by the death of his wife Angel a few months later. The Plot he held by Thomond Gate was originally leased to his father on the 28th Sept. 1734. This same plot was leased to a Margaret Marsh, widow, on the 14th July 1703 at which time it was stated to be adjoining Edward Vokes' house. Edward died in 1749. Edward Vokes' son and heir Thomas was born in Limerick in 1710 so Simon (born after that date) was c.28 years of age when he died. The Freeman List has a George Vokes, admitted in 1758 and a Thomas Vokes, admitted in 1760; both are given as sons of a Simon Vokes, Gentleman. Simon and Angel buried their baby son Edward (named after his grandfather?) on the 16th of August 1739. The 1812 Rent Roll has a Thomas Vokes paying £5-10-0 for houses in Thomond Gate. The Vokes holdings were taken from an Edward Vokes and re-leased to Lord Gort in 1823.
- Mr Richard Griffith** leased the 55 acres of Corkanree in 1706. A new lease was made out to a Thomas Griffith in 1736. There were no arrears in 1758.
- T. Wilson's** lease was originally granted to Joseph Wilson, a Butcher. Joseph was Mayor in 1722 and was regranted this ground on which he had built a house. The new lease

bears the date, 23 August 1739. T. Wilson must be Joseph's heir. The Wilsons paid their rent on time. *Alumni Dublinenses* identifies a Timothy Wilson who ran a school for young gentlemen in Limerick around 1679. Many of his pupils were admitted to Trinity College Dublin. In 1744-5 there was a Mrs Wilson, an Alderman's widow, who was in receipt of a pension up to 1756-7.

Charles Smyth cannot be the same man who was Mayor in 1732 as he is styled Esq. and not Alderman in the rent roll. This Charles was also up-to-date with his rent.

Tox Roche, Alderman or Foxteth Roche got this lease on the 25 June 1707 and the rent was always paid on time. He held land close to King John's Castle as well and paid that rent on time too. Tock Roche was Mayor in 1705 and later for two years running, in 1723 and 1724. He was Sheriff in 1698.

David Bindon, Burgess, got a lease for a large brick house in Quay Lane (Bridge St.) on 22 Aug. 1747. This Lease was for the house that David had formerly lived in but which was now the home of George Sexton, Alderman, obviously as David's tenant. This could be the same ground that Henry Bindon was leased on 5 Sept. 1659. There was a Henry Bindon who was Mayor of Limerick in 1662 but he died in 1664, Will dated 14 Jan. 1664, proved March same year. He left a son called David who also had a son, David. The Bindons never paid any rent for this house in Quay Lane.

Thomas Vincent, Burgess got this lease on the 25 Sept 1736. In 1744 he was £60 in arrears but by 1758 the arrears had been paid off. Thomas was Mayor in 1736-7 having been Sheriff in 1724. He was the son of John Vincent the 1727 Mayor. Thomas, born in 1697, died in 1744. When Joseph Roche died in office in 1740-1 Thomas was appointed Mayor for the rest of the term. Two of his sons, George and Exham went on to be Mayors in 1761 and 1770. His son John was leased the lands of the "Mardyke" where the Custom House stands and on which Rutland Street was built. Limerick City Library has a map of the Vincent holdings in this area.

Francis Sargent, Alderman. A Tanner was Sheriff in 1708 and Mayor in 1716 and he was also the founder of a dynasty which provided four more Mayors of Limerick and eight Sheriffs for which they rewarded themselves royally with leases of some very prime real estate. "**Sargent, Ald.**" Given further down on the List holding part of Cloone is the same Francis Sargent above. Even though he is given again at the bottom of the list holding the lease for the Salmon [Lax] Weir and owing £3389-16-0 in arrears in 1758, he was in truth only one of a syndicate holding that lease.

In 1719, The Lax Weir was leased to a consortium of Protestant Burgesses and Aldermen for an enormous rent of £352 p.a. as follows:

George Roche	_____	Mayor, 1702
John Vincent	Sheriff, 1696	Mayor, 1703 and 1727
John Higgins	_____	_____
Rawley Colpys	Sheriff, 1701	Mayor, 1709
Francis Sargent*	Sheriff, 1708	Mayor, 1716
David Davis	Sheriff, 1709	_____
David Bindon	_____	_____

(*Peter Sargent, son of Francis, was holding a share of the Lax Weir in 1783.)

The Sargent Sheriffs and Mayors

Name	Born	Sheriff	Mayor	Died
Francis	c.1675	1708	1716	1758
Peter	1711	1734	1753	1785
James	1709	1735	—	1747
Francis, son of William	1721	1747	1759	1798
Francis, son of James	1732	1761	1780	1820
Francis, son of Peter	c.1732	1765	—	1812
Charles	c.1747	1777	—	1812
Joseph	c.1750	1785	1802	1804
George	c.1757	1791	—	1798

Seventeen men with this surname were admitted Freemen of Limerick. Mayor Joseph Sargent's brother Henry was Mayor of Waterford in 1813. James died before he could be elected Mayor. Francis, son of Peter produced a forged will on the death of his father and his brothers had to take him to court to protect their inheritance. The loss of this case no doubt explains why Francis never became Mayor. Francis did however get his hands on a piece of land running along the North Strand from Mass Lane to the Curragower Pub. Charles son, John FitzGibbon Sargent moved to Dublin where he was twice caught trying to embezzle money. The first time he was sentenced to two years in jail, 1821-23. The second time, 1846, he was sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia. However a warrant was issued for his release from prison on medical grounds before he could be transported. The fact that he was a nephew of the Earl of Clare (his mother was a Fitz-Gibbon) then Lord Chancellor of Ireland and that his wife was the daughter of a Judge Crookshank may explain this.

William Franklin, Alderman. A Tanner. William was Sheriff in 1707 and Mayor in 1714.

William's lease of the Lime Kilns outside West Water Gate dates from 19 Sept. 1717. The rent of £15-10-0 suggests that the sale of lime was a profitable business. Two weeks later on 1 Oct. 1717 he was leased two acres which were part of the lands of Cloon or old Gallows Green. William was dead by 1747. William had a son also called William who was born in 1700 and entered Trinity College in 1716. Mrs Franklin, an Alderman's widow was in receipt of a pension in 1744-5. Her name does not appear again suggesting that she died before 1754-5, the date of next surviving rent roll.

Alderman Wight. This is a curious entry which may be accounted for by the fact that this ledger is only a later copy constructed from papers used by John Vincent to keep account of rents received by him. At his examination John Vincent was deemed to be a confused witness in bad health. (He was an opium user). The "Index" mentions Alderman John Wight having a lease of Monabraher from the 28 Sept. 1747. The Rent Roll for 1744 must refer to another, earlier, Alderman Wight. At the end of item 135 in the "Index" an Edward Wight is identified as the previous holder of this lease and the List of Mayors and Sheriffs of Limerick City show that Edward Waight [sic] was Sheriff in 1676 and Mayor in 1694 and in 1711. By 1744 the rent of £21-0-0 was six years in arrears but in 1758 the rent was only £52-10-0 in arrears so some part pay-

ment must have been made. A Mrs Wight, an Alderman's widow was in receipt of a pension in 1744-5. She continued to draw her pension until 1755-6 but her name is not listed the following year.

Alderman Craven. John Key leased this property on 20 Dec. 1663. John Craven, Burgess, leased it on 8 April 1685. Alderman Richard Craven got the lease on 19 Sept. 1717, succeeding Alderman John Craven. Richard Craven was Mayor in 1708 and Sheriff in 1699. Richard is the Alderman being referred to here.

Paul Farrie, Burgess. This man got his plot on the North Strand close to the Thomond Gate on 19 Sept. 1717. He paid his rent on time and never fell into arrears. His plot was next to Henry Marsh, Yeoman, who was leased his plot in 1671 for 31 years. So Henry Marsh's lease expired in 1702. Henry got a new lease of a plot adjoining his old holdings on 4 October 1675. Margaret Marsh, widow, who was given a lease in 1703 in this same area, could very well be the mother or widow of Henry. See under Simon Vokes above. Simon's father Edward Vokes was the new leasee of Margaret Marsh's plot, perhaps on her death. An abstract from the will of Elizabeth Gibson, of Limerick City, written on 4 Feb. 1727 and proved on 4 Feb. 1728, says she was leasing a front house with a linny behind, from a Paul Faryes, deceased. If this is the same Paul Farrie then we know that he was dead by 1727. (A linny means a lean-to building attached to the house much like a carport nowadays. A front house means a house fronting on to a main street rather than a back lane.)

Rev. F. Higgins. Francis Higgins, clerk, was leased the two Islands of Rheboge on 7 Oct. 1717 for £8-0-0 per annum. This lease had been granted in 1657 to Alderman Thomas Miller at a rent of £12-4-0 for 51 years or until 1708. The plot amounted to 40 acres plus. Alderman John Higgins, Mayor in 1706, Sheriff in 1697 may have been a relative. John Higgins was also one of the Salmon Weir syndicate.

Wm. Vokes. William Vokes was the son of Edward Vokes and brother of Simon Vokes mentioned above. William was Sheriff in 1741 but died in 1750 before getting a chance of serving as Mayor. The rent of £14-10-0 for houses could be for a group of houses other than the houses and plots held by his father Edward or they could be a reference to all the houses his father and brother had got leases for and which the father passed on to his son William. The "Index" shows no earlier lease of houses in Thomond Gate for that high a rent. William is also given as having a lease on the Curragower Mills for £5 per year. A William Joynt, Burgess held this lease from 1684 for 61 years at £5 per year. This lease was granted to Edward Vokes in 1730 for 99 years at £5 per year so at some time after that Edward must have passed the Mill to William. The transfer would most likely have occurred after William served as Sheriff. By 1758 William and his heirs were 19 years in arrears with both rents. William had a son Robert born in 1744. His eldest known daughter Margaret could be the Vokes girl who married Francis Sargent, son of Peter on the 20 May 1761. Francis was the 1765-6 Sheriff. The Vokes lease of land from Mass Lane to the Curragower Pub passed into Francis Sargent's hands in 1769.

John Clansey. There is no mention of this man in the "Index" so there's no way of telling when he got his lease. He was however £42 in arrears in Sept 1745. A Mr McNamara held the lease from 18 March 1752 and had no arrears in 1758. The "Index" identifies him as Matthew McNamara, Counsel at Law. His lease names John Hull, Shoemaker as a former holder followed by John Mungane who held under Alderman Francis Sargent. This part of the Spittle land was c. 14 acres in size.

Alderman Long. Henry Long was Sheriff in 1736 and Mayor in 1744. He was born in 1705 and married Mary Vokes, the daughter of Edward Vokes and the sister of William Vokes mentioned above. The marriage took place on 23 Feb. 1736. By the time he was Mayor his wife was Anne Hodges, the widow of Henry Griffin who had died in 1741. Henry's death was reported in the *Ennis Chronicle* of Thursday 20 Nov. 1794. 'Died in Dominick St. Limerick, in an advanced age, Henry Long, Esq. one of the Aldermen of the City.' His house on Baal's bridge was pulled down in 1757-8.

John Minden. He may have held the same plot that was leased to Peter Ash, Burgess, outside the Water Gate leading to the Prior's Mills. The Water Gate referred to has to be West Water Gate and the Rent of 10/- shillings per annum was the same. Peter Ash's lease ran from 1664 to 1715.

John Pudnor. John got his lease for his House stead in Mungret Lane, (the "Index" says Mungret Street) on 21 Dec. 1694 at a rent of £1-10-0. The previous tenant was William Joynt, who actually lived there but after his death his son surrendered the lease. Pudnor did not run up any arrears. John Pudnor, Carpenter, got a lease for a larger site which still included Joynt's dwelling, on 6 Oct. 1735. The new rent was £6-5-0. This new rent is in the Rent Roll from 1754 onwards. A John Pudnor voted in the 1760 Election in Limerick City and a John Pudnor, Wheelwright, of Mungret Street, is in Ferrar's 1769 Trade Directory.

Col. Maunsell. He is in the 1744/5 Rent Roll holding Joy's Mills for £3-10-0 a year rent. The "Index" has a Thomas Maunsell holding a small house near Maurice Joy's Mills for £3-10-0 a year from 9 April 1715 for 51 years. In 1747 this lease was re-granted to Alderman Henry Long and others, still at £3-10-0 a year. Henry Long is named as the tenant in the Rent Roll of 1757-8 but with £42 or 12 years arrears due. Therefore he may have secured the lease in 1746. There was a Thomas Maunsell who married a Dorothea Waller in Limerick c.1730. He was born in Kilmallock c.1705, the son of a Richard Maunsell. A Thomas Maunsell was Sheriff in 1743. **Col. Thomas Maunsell** was married to Anne Eaton and their son Richard was Mayor of Limerick in 1734 and M.P. for Limerick City from 1740 to 1761. It was Richard's son Thomas who married Dorothea Waller and they had a son Richard, born 1734.

T. Phibbs. He is not named in the "Index" and his holding on Baal's Bridge was pulled down in 1757. The surname is not in the Voters List for 1760.

R. Holland, Alderman. Randel Holland was Mayor in 1707 having been Sheriff in 1698. He got a lease of Scatterry Island on the 19 Sept. 1717 for 99 years at a rent of £34 per year. This gave him a monopoly on the Pilotage and associated fees on the River Shannon, to and from Limerick City. The Rev. Randal Holland had a son Zacharias, born 1624 at Dundaniel, Co. Cork, who in turn had a son Randal born in Limerick in 1657 and who entered T.C.D. in 1678. The rent for the island was in arrears in 1758 to the amount of £276-0-6.

Peter Sargent, Born 1711, Sheriff 1734, Mayor 1753, died in 1785. He was the son of Alderman Francis Sargent above. He was married to Elizabeth Gubbins in 1731. He was admitted a Freeman at the age of fourteen years. He got a lease of the whole Townland of Monamucky. His first lease was in 1739 when he got 6 acres of Cloon plus another part of Cloon containing 1 acre, 3 roods with the bog of Labinamucky thrown in, for a rent of £7-0-0. This bog was the land through which the canal was made and through which the new Clare Street was laid out. The Magdalene Convent was also built on Sargent land. In 1748 a new lease was made out for a term of 999

years at a rent of £12-0-0 per annum for 24 acres 34 perches plantation measure. The Sargents were referred to as great house builders and when their lands and houses were leased to a James O'Sullivan in 1795 for £90-1-4 per annum, O'Sullivan was collecting the rents on the houses the Sargents had built. (See O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters.)

James Berkeley. James was a Glazier who received a lease for a small plot of land just outside East Water Gate on 16 Sept. 1700 at a rent of only 10/- per year. His name was still in the Rent Roll in 1757-8 but he was then three years in arrears.

Alderman Pope. This may be Richard Pope who was Mayor in 1700. According to the "Index" a William Pope was leased land outside Thomond Gate on 27 Nov. 1657 for £10 per year till 1708. Alderman Pope's lease of land outside Thomond Gate was at a rent of £6 per year. Since Pope is an unusual name there may or may not be a connection. Alderman Pope paid £28 in 1757-8 in an attempt to reduce his arrears but he still remained in arrears for £32.

Sam Piercie. Named in 1744-5 with a lease for a holding called Coughlin's Legacy at a rent of £21-4-6. There is no further mention of the man or the holding in the Rent Roll.

Richard Harrold. He is mentioned in passing as having a holding in Pennywell in 1708.