



ALMA FITT

(1886-1980)

Limerick's history is not the preserve of any one religion or social group. The distinctive characteristics and traditions of the place and its people were not achieved by some master blueprint: they are the result of the interplay of a variety of cultures and influences on the lives of the people who came to earn their bread and make their homes by the Shannon.

We are fortunate that much of the story of Limerick has been chronicled in historical works and newspapers. But many people, who never aspired to the title of historian or journalist, made their own valuable contributions to the life and history of the city.

Such a man was Alma Fitt. He was an enthusiast in the widest sense of that word. Never a dry-as-dust academic, he was remarkable for his versatility. His range of activities spanned antiquarian, banking, sporting and many more pursuits.

He loved his native city and had a life-long interest in its history. He was a founder-member of the first Old Limerick Society and played a prominent part in its meetings and outings. He had an extensive knowledge of the history of Limerick's Quaker families, whose acts of benevolence and honesty in their dealings set standards which others failed to match.

Alma Fitt was a member of the Limerick Boat Club since his boyhood and won a gold medal for his rowing prowess in the opening decade of this century.

Having fought in the first World War, he returned home and continued to lead a full and useful life in the changed political climate.

He was associated with the Limerick Savings Bank for more than fifty years - many of them years of gloom and depression, when the grey stone building in Glentworth Street was bypassed by most people. He kept the embers of the old bank alive and passed them on to his youthful successors to be blown into a new life of prosperity and wealth beyond his wildest dreams.

Alma Fitt passed away quietly in the tranquility of Milford House. One of his last actions was to send a £5 contribution to The Old Limerick Journal to express his delight and support for the revived interest in his city's history.

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