

# Limerick looks back in pride: 35 plaques

By LEADER REPORTER

EIGHTEEN celebrated Limerick families, and 17 sites of historical interest will be remembered by special memorial plaques to be erected by Limerick Civic Trust, throughout the city in the coming weeks.

Mr. Denis Leonard, director of the trust, told the *Limerick Leader* this week that there was great historical interest in the plaques, which are being made by Mr. Thomas Ryan, who is based at the 10 + All Sorts Gallery, Ellen Street.

The specially designed plaques, in green aluminium and 14 inches in diameter, are similar to the 36 memorial plaques erected by the trust in 1986.

Because the citations on each are limited to 30 words, Mr. Leonard said that the trust were preparing a small booklet outlining all available information on each subject. "Such a booklet will no doubt be of particular interest to visitors to the city," he added.

## Locations

Plans are now at an advanced stage for the erection of the following plaques:-

● AT THE old Gerald Griffin school, in Bridge Street, it is intended to erect a plaque in memory of "The Colleen Bawn", Ellen Hanley, who was murdered in July 1819. John Scanlan was tried for her murder at the then courthouse in Bridge Street in 1820.

● THE FORTIFIED medieval residence in Mary Street of Dominic Fanning, a former Mayor of Limerick, who was executed by Cromwellian forces for his part in the 1651 siege of Limerick is also to be remembered with a plaque.

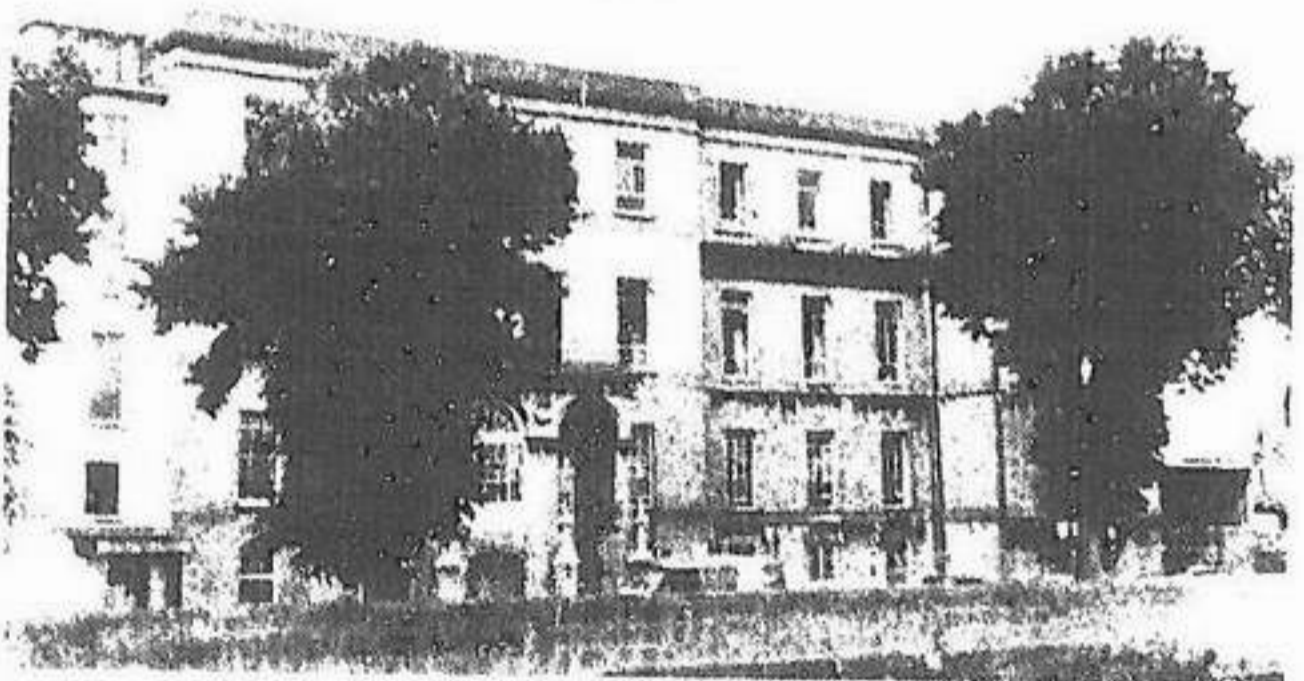
● THE ARTHUR family, who played a prominent part in the development of Limerick city, with Arthur's Quay, Francis Street, and Ellen Street named after members of their family, will be commemorated with a plaque at Arthur's Quay.

● BRUCE'S BANK, at 6, Rutland Street, will be the location of a plaque to the late George Evans Bruce, high sheriff of Limerick in 1800, who founded the bank in 1806.

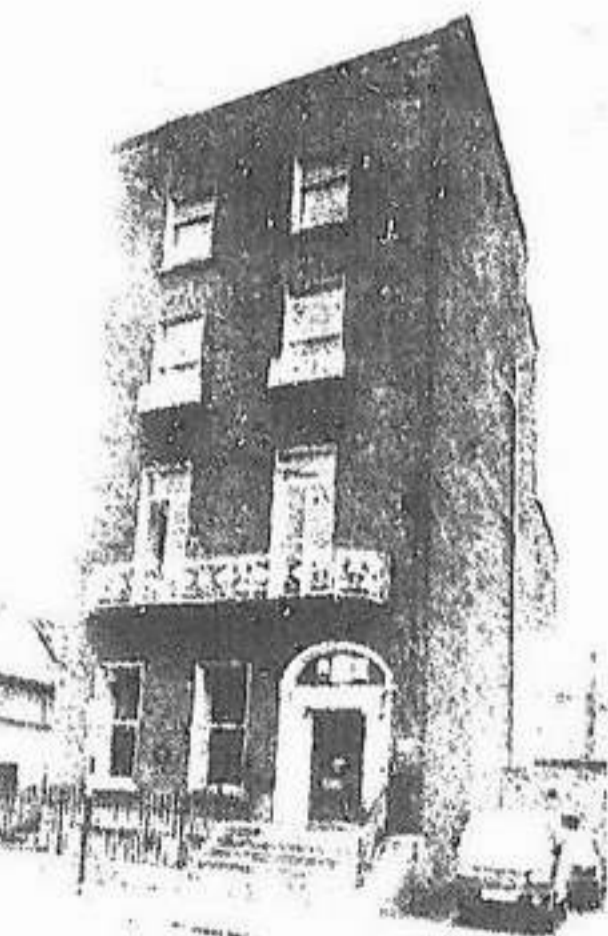
● THE "MONT de Piete" plaque will be erected at Barrington's Hospital, to commemorate the site of a charitable pawnshop founded by Sir Mathew Barrington in 1837



Preserving the aura of Edmond Sexton Pery: Pery Square.



Barrington's: Joseph's legacy.



Vincent de Paul headquarters in Hartstonge Street: memories of Joseph O'Mara.

to give low interest loans to the poor.

● IN BISHOP Street, a plaque entitled "St Peter's Cell" will be located at the site of the nunnery built by Donal Mor O'Brien in 1171 for the Canonesses of St. Augustine.

● EDMOND SEXTON Pery, a barrister and member of parliament, born in Limerick in 1719, and who played a prominent role in the development of Georgian Limerick, will be commemorated by a plaque, the location of which will be Henry Street or Pery Square.

● AT VINCENT de Paul House, a plaque will be unveiled in memory of Joseph O'Mara, the internationally famed operatic tenor, who lived there between 1866 and 1927.

● THE UNTHANK quaker family, renowned in business and medicine in the 18th and 19th centuries, will be remembered by a plaque where they lived in Mungret Street.

● THE GLENTWORTH Hotel will be the location of a plaque in memory of James Pain, a renowned architect, who together with his brother, George, designed many fine structures, between 1780-1877. Mr. Pain lived in a house which now forms part of the hotel.

● DANIEL O'CONNELL, whose demands for Catholic emancipation became law in April 1829, will be remembered with a plaque at Cruises Hotel, which he used as his base while visiting Limerick.

● DOMINIC STREET will be the location of a plaque to Terence

Albert O'Brien, former Bishop of Emly and prior of St. Saviour's, Limerick, who was executed on October 31, 1651, by the Cromwellian forces.

● FR. DAVID Woulfe, S.J., who opened Ireland's first Jesuit school, in Limerick in 1565, will be commemorated by a plaque to be erected at The Crescent.

● SURGEON, historian, antiquary, Sylvester O'Halloran will be remembered by a plaque to be located near the site of his home in Merchant's Quay.

● JOHN FERRAR, the first major historian to write the "History of Limerick", who lived between 1743 and 1802, will be remembered with a plaque to be mounted at Baalsbridge.

● O'CONNELL STREET will be the location of a plaque to Joseph Haydn, renowned journalist born in Limerick in 1786, whose works included *Dictionary of Dates* and *Dictionary of Dignities*.

● A PLAQUE in memory of Joseph Barrington, who built Barrington's Hospital in 1829 and donated it to the people of Limerick, will be erected at the hospital.

● THE FOUR world-famous McNamara brothers, who gave their name to the song "McNamara's Band", will be remembered by a plaque to be erected at Meat Market Place, Thomas Street, where the brothers lived in the 19th century.

● LADY HARTSTONGE, who was connected with the founding of St. John's Hospital, will be remembered with a plaque in Hartstonge Street.

● OTHER PLAQUES will be erected in memory of Rev. John Thayer (1755-1815); Richard Creagh (1525-1585); Charlotte O'Brien (1845-1909).

## Historical

Plaques will also be erected at the following historical sites: the Carnegie Building, John's Gate, St. John's Churchyard, the old city courthouse, Leamy school, the Walls of Limerick, the Brazen Head, and at the former sites of the Tholsel, in Nicholas Street; Trinity Church, in Catherine Street; Halls Alms House, in Nicholas Street; Bourke's Castle, in Nicholas Street, and the House of Industry, in O'Callaghan Strand.

In 1986, plaques were unveiled at locations including the Dominican Priory, the Granary, the Treaty Stone, St. John's Square, and in memory of Andrew Cherry, Canon Frederick Lanbridge, Kate O'Brien, Gerald Griffin and Michael Hogan, the Bard of Thomond.