

LEADER BRIEFS

Credit Union annual Mass

MASS for deceased members of Sarsfield Credit Union will take place on Thursday, November 4, at 7.15pm in the Redemptorist church. All are welcome

Fashion at Bunratty

MARY Moynihan of www.stylesecrets.biz will host an afternoon tea party with a stylist twist in Bunratty Manor Hotel this Sunday. From 3pm to 5pm, Mary will be giving advice on all of your fashion queries from style to shopping and how to achieve and maintain your wardrobe. She will also give tips on tailoring, colour and accessorizing. The cost per person is €40 including afternoon tea.

Feel special at Wallis

WALLIS on Cruises Street will be hosting a Feel Special night this Thursday from 6-8 pm. Food and light refreshments will be served and customers can avail of makeovers and 20 per cent off clothes on the night.

Freemen restored to roll of honour

■ Home rule leaders John Dillon and TD Sullivan were unable to sign the roll

By MIKE DWANE

TWO names are to be added to the roll of honorary freemen of Limerick after councillors approved the move last week.

But there will be none of the pomp and circumstance of conferring ceremonies as the two men have been dead for over 80 years.

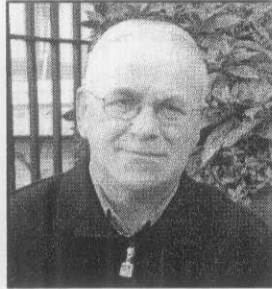
Home Rule leaders John Dillon and TD Sullivan were conferred with the honour in formal votes at Limerick Corporation in the 1880s but their names do not appear officially as they never signed the roll or attended a formal ceremony in Limerick.

But Cllr Pat Kennedy has now guided a motion through the Council adding to the roll these two names that have been "mistakenly or wrongfully omitted".

Both Dillon and



Cllr Pat Kennedy who brought the motion



Dr Tadhg Moloney, established the facts

Sullivan, composer of "God Save Ireland", had good reason not to attend, being imprisoned for political agitation at the time Nationalist-dominated Councils in Limerick made them freemen.

Dr Tadhg Moloney, Gouldavoher, has researched the period and came across a number of omissions.

Officials at City Hall said the names were not included as they had

never been conferred at a formal ceremony. But Dr Moloney found evidence that others on the roll had neither signed their names nor attended a ceremony.

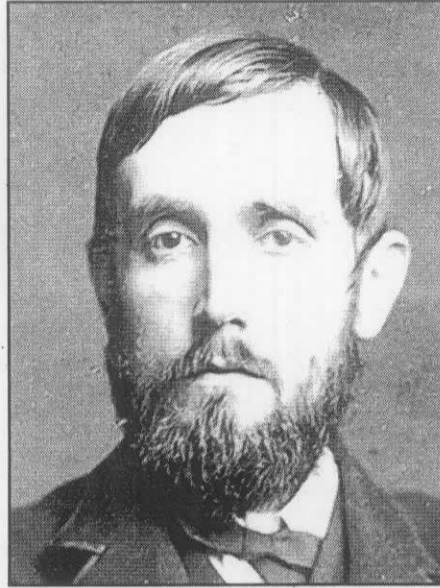
The relevant legislation, brought in by Home Rule leader Isaac Butt, did not make it a requirement to attend ceremonies. Butt himself, a former MP for Limerick, was the first man given the freedom of Limerick after the Municipal Privileges Act of 1876. His name appears on the roll but he never signed the book.

Other freemen who never attended the ceremony include William O'Brien MP and another MP, Edward O'Dwyer Grey, who was dead when he was given the honour on the same day as Michael Davitt in 1882.

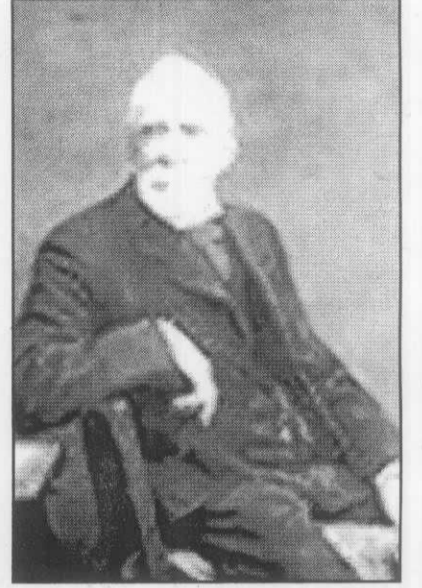
Dr Moloney earlier this year gave a talk at the City Library on these anomalies and was afterwards approached by Cllr Pat Kennedy.

And last week, Cllr Kennedy had a motion passed at City Hall to have Dillon and Sullivan added.

"I was aware that Tadhg Moloney had been writing to officials and various mayors on this matter and they all came back to him saying it couldn't be done," Cllr Kennedy said.



Home rule leaders John Dillon, above and God Save Ireland composer TD Sullivan who have been restored to the roll of Freemen of Limerick city



His motion had "considered the law" of the 1876 act and found no legitimate reason why the names couldn't be added.

The matter of adding freemen was entirely a reserved function of the elected members and not a matter for officials, Cllr Kennedy said.

Officials had been "less than magnanimous" in their dealings with Dr Moloney, Cllr Kennedy said, "and I admire him for the determination he has shown on this matter".

"John Dillon was an extraordinary man entirely deserving of the honour.

"He made a famous speech in the House of Commons in 1916 warning that if more of the (Easter Rising) leaders were executed there would be rivers of blood; and he was the father of James Dillon, a former leader of Fine Gael widely considered Ireland's

greatest political orator," Cllr Kennedy said.

Dr Moloney commented that he had been "pursuing this for a number of years and I am delighted it has been dealt with in relation to Dillon and Sullivan".

And Dr Moloney said he might not yet be finished as he believes six Boer fighters made freemen by Limerick Corporation at the turn of the 20th century have also been mistakenly left out.

Nationalist politicians in Limerick found common cause with the Boers in their fight against the British Empire.

He wrote to councillors to correct this and the only one to respond, Sinn Fein's Maurice Quinlivan, said that while councillors at the time were acting in good faith, the Boers honoured in Limerick had within a short time set up the Union of South Africa.

"This state, from its very inception, was militantly racist and segregationist and put in place the laws and practices that would eventually develop into the hated apartheid system," Cllr Quinlivan said and the historic anomaly, he told Dr Moloney, was one he was prepared to live with.

Cllr Kennedy too said he would not be eager to add the Boers, saying "I prefer to deal with Irish figures...and having studied the Home Rule movement through Isaac Butt to Parnell and Redmond, they did achieve an awful lot and showed how important the non-violent, parliamentary tradition has been for this country."

Dr Moloney, who himself campaigned against apartheid, said adding the Boers need not be interpreted as political but would simply make for an accurate historical record.



Public Meeting

Limerick Resource Centre For The Unemployed



SAY NO TO SOCIAL WELFARE CUTS

Pery's Hotel, Glentworth St. Limerick
on Wednesday, November 3rd at 8:00 pm.

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