

4 were involved in numerous escape plots. The Civil War ended in May 1923. De Valera and Fianna Fail remained outside the Dail until 1927. In March 1932 Fianna Fail secured 70 seats in a general election, thus putting the men who had opposed the Treaty effectively in government.

ROCHES STORES was looted during the Troubles. One man, a prominent citizen in later life, was seen wheeling a rack of men's clothes towards his own premises, a drapery. In another incident, between the time the Republicans left a certain barracks and the Free State Army moved in, a motor car abandoned in the barracks' yard was moved into a nearby premises. Soon after the end of the Civil War this "liberated" vehicle appeared on the streets of the city as a taxi.

GARRYOWEN, *Garral* or *Gardin Eoghain*, Owen's Garden was a favourite resort of the citizens from the mid-eighteenth century until well into the nineteenth century. The original Garryowen was located outside the city walls east of the Citadel.

THE GARRYOWEN BOYS were the sons of Limerick's wealthy merchants who formed a gang of that name. They specialised in smashing street lamps, rattling door knockers and baiting the night watchmen. Their exploits were celebrated in the Bard of Thomond's *Drunken Thady and the Bishop's Lady and Garryowen in Glory* another epic work written by an unknown poet. Harry O'Brien and Johnny O'Connell were the ring-leaders of this wild bunch.

"For Johnny Connell, the dreaded man,
With his wild-raking Garryowen clan,
Cleared the streets and smashed each lamp,
And made the watchmen all decamp!"

Johnny later became a prominent member of the city's business community and donated a site at Baker Place to the Dominicans who erected their church on it. Johnny's father, John O'Connell, founded a brewery in 1780 on a site between Green Hill Road and Mulgrave Street. This was closed down in 1881. The inscribed foundation-stone from the old brewery is in the Limerick Museum but the site itself was built over, in succeeding years, with rows of houses; Grattan Villas, 1899; Garryowen Villas, 1897; Geraldine Villas, 1899; and Fairview Terrace in 1905. Soldiers from the Strand and Artillery barracks occupied these houses. The nearby Sarsfield Avenue was the first local housing venture carried out by the Irish Free State. Johnny O'Connell was buried in Donoghmore graveyard.

GARRYOWEN IN GLORY was set to music, with a rousing martial air. During the



Limerick Railway Station.

American Revolution three volunteer corps were formed under the names of the Limerick Union, the Loyal Limerick Volunteers, and the Limerick Volunteers. After the termination of the war in America the improvement and extension of the city were renewed with unexampled spirit: and although contested elections and alarms of insurrection in the neighbouring districts at times disturbed its tranquility, they never retarded its improvement. *Garryowen in Glory* was "exported" during these years. It was played by the 1st New York Regiment on the march to Quebec in 1775; became the original regimental march of the 1st Battalion (83rd Foot) Royal Ulster Rifles; and was played by the 28th Gloucestershire Regiment on the field of Waterloo. The 18th Royal Irish Rifles and the 18th Foot also adopted *Garryowen in Glory* as their regimental march, as did the 69th New York Regiment, the Fighting 69th, during the 1860s. The Sioux Indians called it *Devil's Music* because it was played by the 7th U.S. Cavalry who also had the words *Garry Owen* inscribed on their regimental shield. Several Limerick men were killed at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876 when General Custer was defeated by Chief Sitting Bull.

THE GARRYOWEN KICK was described by Des Harty as a ploy, also known as *The Up and Under*, which originated with Limerick's famous Garryowen Rugby Football Club. He also referred to their friendly city rivals, the Shannon Rugby Football Club, and said that both clubs had celebrated their centenaries only a few years ago. The Garryowen R.F.C. has played in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa as well as in interprovincial championship games, Munster Senior Cup, Musgrave Cup, Munster Shield

and Charity Cup matches. They lost their grounds, *Under the Tower* after the liquidation of the Limerick Markets and they played the last game on their home ground, a Munster Final, against University College Cork in 1937.

THE MARKETS' FIELD was the cradle of the Gaelic Athletic Association long before they moved to their main grounds on the Ennis Road. In September 1888 the first great Gaelic sports were held here under the rules of the G.A.A. and I.C.A.

GREYHOUND RACING is also held in the Markets' Field on Monday, Friday and Saturday nights. The greyhound was originally bred as a hunting dog and was known as a *milchu* to the ancient Irish. This was a term applied to all hunting hounds whether they were greyhounds, wolfhounds, or any other breed used for that purpose. A ninth-century book, *Cormac's Glossary*, mentioned how greyhounds, and coursing contests, could be found at every *aonach*, or fair. Although the ninth-century record is the earliest written account of greyhounds tradition, folklore and legend associate them with the *Fianna* and other mythical and legendary figures of an earlier time.

ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH was located near the old County Hospital on what is now Mulgrave Street. By 1827 Fitzgerald could find no vestige of it.

GARRYOWEN PORTER had to compete for business with the Guinness Brewery in the 1870's. On 15 October 1872 John Cronin proposed at a meeting of the Guardians of the Limerick Union that "the resolution ordering that Guinness's porter be supplied to the house be rescinded" as Garryowen porter could be supplied instead. His proposal was seconded by the Mayor, John Watson

Mahony, who stated that the "Garryowen porter was supplied to the lunatic asylum for a long time past and not a single complaint was made against it." Alderman Myles supported the motion and quoted a Dr. Cameron who had certified that the local product was unadulterated and good. Lord Clarina objected to this motion on the grounds that they, the guardians, "were not there to protect local trade, but to protect the poor and the rate-payers. They were aware that Guinness's was the best porter in the world and he believed that the medical officers were in favour of continuing it in the hospital". The original motion was carried at the meeting, but it is doubtful if it was ever implemented. Porter, or stout, was first brewed in 1722, by Ralph Harwood in London. Roasted barley gave it its distinctive dark colouring, and its name was derived from the London porters with whom it had soon become a popular beverage. On 1 December, 1759, Arthur Guinness entered his name on the minute book of the Brewers and Maltsters Corporation of Dublin and took out a 9,000-year-lease on a premises at St. James Gate, Dublin, at an annual rent of £45. In 1799 he brewed the last traditional Dublin ale there before switching over to the newer drink, porter.

PARNELL STREET is named after Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891) who, it was alleged, made some very uncomplimentary remarks about his parliamentary colleagues on the platform of Limerick Railway Station according to a report in the *Freeman's Journal* of 1 August 1879. These remarks were investigated by the *Limerick Reporter* and discovered to be fabrications which reflected Whig chagrin at the results of an Ennis by-election in which Parnell had ousted

Lysaght Finegan. Charles Stewart Parnell wrote to Maurice Lenihan, editor of the *Limerick Reporter* on 5 August 1879 to thank him for his "manly and common sense appreciation" of the situation. When Parnell died in 1891 his last words were; "Kiss me, sweet wife, and I will try to sleep a little"; not, "Let my love be given to my colleagues and to the Irish people".

LIMERICK CORPORATION came into existence by prescription and charter, its authority was confirmed and regulated by statute, and its first documentary grant of municipal privileges was made in 1197 — ten years before London achieved the same recognition. The Corporation's governing charter dating from 1609 was granted by James I. This constituted the city a county of itself with the exception of the king's castle, the county court-house and the jail. It conferred an exclusive admiralty jurisdiction, both civil and criminal, over so much of the Shannon as extended three miles north-east of the city to the main sea, with all its creeks, banks and rivulets within those limits; constituted the mayor, recorder and four of the aldermen annually elected, justices of the peace for the county of the city; and incorporated a society of merchants of the staple with the privileges of the merchants of the Staple of Dublin. The Corporation according to this charter, other charters had been issued in 1292, 1399, 1413, 1429, 1486, 1552, 1574 and 1582, consisted of a mayor, two sheriffs, and an indefinite number of aldermen, burgesses, and freemen, aided by a recorder, four charter justices, a town-clerk (who was also clerk of the crown and of the peace for the county of the city), chamberlain, common speaker, water-bailiff (an office abolished in

1823), sword-bearer, high constable, petty constables, sergeants-at-mace, weigh-master, crane-master, and "other inferior" officers. James II granted a new charter which was later set aside and the constitution continued unaltered until 1823. The Limerick Regulation Act of that year remodelled the powers of the Corporation. Numerous incorporated trading companies or guilds were established under various charters but by 1837, although these companies still existed, they were not recognised as component parts of the Corporation, nor did they appear to have exercised any corporate rights. The guild of merchants, incorporated by James I, became extinct but was revived in 1823. Its members never met, nor was any attempt made to enforce its charter as its objects were effectually accomplished by the Chamber of Commerce. In 1837 the Corporation revenues were derived from rents of houses and lands in the city and Liberties, the fishery of the salmon weir, tolls, customs (the most profitable source of income that year), and the cleansing of the streets in the old city. This produced a gross income of between £4,000 and £5,000 per annum in the 1830s. Between 1890 to 1931 the Corporation built a total of 297 houses. Their public housing development schemes between 1931 and 1940 led to the erection of 822 dwellings, starting with 454 houses in St. Mary's Park and the others in Janesboro, O'Dwyer Villas and Killalee. During the 1940s 1,137 houses were provided in Kileely and Prospect but even this figure was surpassed by the completion of 1,751 dwellings in Ballynanty Beg, Ballinacurra-Weston, Garryowen, Assumpta Park, Rathbane and the inner-city scheme at Carey's Road. Most of the public housing develop-

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