

Burial register is mirror to Limerick society

Complete record of burials at Mount St Lawrence Cemetery from 1855 now online

ANOTHER first for Limerick.... City Council has become the first local authority in the country to put its burial registers online, dating back to 1855.

Burial records for the city's largest cemetery, Mount Saint Lawrence, dating back more than 150 years, will now be easily available to the public over the internet.

Council was eager to

onwards on Limerick City Council's website, /www.limerick.ie.

Each entry in the record is handwritten and records the name of the person, the date of burial, the location of the grave, the age of the deceased and the last residence. With the click of a mouse, it is possible to turn the pages of the book to view the next set of entries.

Mount St Lawrence was

has a one line entry and these persons came from every street and lane in Limerick. For many years the majority of entries on a single page are from the Limerick Union and Limerick Lunatic Asylum.

These were later known as St Joseph's Hospital and the City Home. All strata of society were buried here and the registers record the burials of many former Mayors' of

the changing life expectancy rates and death rates.

Mayor of Limerick, Cllr John Gilligan, said the burial registers are an absolutely vital record for all Limerick citizens whose relatives are buried in the city cemetery over the years.

"With the recent upsurge in popularity of family history, there is great public interest in

very patchy, as they are very vulnerable to acci-

'The burial registers are an absolutely vital record for all Limerick citizens whose relatives are buried in the city cemetery over the years- Mayor.

dental damage. It is wonderful that these records have survived and that the technology is now

Anton O'Carroll of Limerick based microfilm specialists, Medrex Systems, explained that

"All of us involved with the project in Medrex took a personal interest in it as we were dealing with the records of members of our own families as well as the public at large," said Mr O'Carroll.

"My grandfather on my mother's side, Dan O'Connor, a brother of Batt O'Connor confidante of Michael Collins, is buried there as is my other grandfather T.C.Carroll (O'Carroll) of T.C.Carroll and Sons that traded as a Stationers shop at, 122 O'Connell St, Limerick until 1968. You could say that I am a modern day stationer," Mr O'Carroll

added.

Microfilm is a proven preservation strategy in use since the Boer War, and is a much safer medium than electronic formats. In recent years it has become possible to scan microfilm to digital format.

This project took advantage of these developments to ensure that a security copy of these vital records has been created and will be preserved in the City Archives while the images themselves can be made available on any computer over the internet.



Limerick City Council has become the first local authority in the country to put its burial registers online. Burial records for the city's largest cemetery, Mount St Lawrence, dating back more than 150 years will now be easily available to the public over the internet. Pictured launching the service at Mount St Lawrence Cemetery are L-R Mayor of Limerick John Gilligan, Jacqui Hayes, Limerick City Archivist, Flan Haskett, Cemetery Superintendent and Tom Mackey, City Manager.

ensure that a preservation copy of these vital Limerick records was created and commissioned local firm Medrex Systems to microfilm the records and to convert them into digital format.

This means that it is now possible to access a copy of the original handwritten entries of burials in Mount St Lawrence cemetery, from 1855

first opened in 1849, when a new graveyard was needed in Limerick as a result of the both the 1830's cholera epidemic and the Great Famine of 1845-1850.

"The register is a mirror to Limerick society from this time, as all sections of society were buried here," said Limerick City Archivist, Jacqui Hayes.

"Every person buried

Limerick, from Michael O'Callaghan and George Clancy, who were killed during the War of Independence, to Jim Kemmy in recent times," Ms Hayes added.

The registers are also important from a demographic point of view as they provide statistics for

these records," he said.

"Nationally the survival rate of burial registers is

available to put these records on line," he added.

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