

HOW LORD EDWARD STREET GOT ITS NAME

by W.W. Gleeson

In 1763, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, son of the 1st Duke of Leinster, was born. Little is known of his early boyhood days, but at the age of 33 years he was a full-blooded rebel. He joined the United Irishmen in 1796, and took an active part in plans for the French invasion. The plot was discovered, however, and later he was arrested by a Major Swann. In the struggle he was shot by Major Sirr and later died from this wound. The date of his death is given as June 4, 1798 – year of the United Irishmen's Rising.

As to Swann, how did he fare, after the fatal fracas? The following lines, culled from a ballad around the time, tell their own story.

*"How did Lord Edward die, like a man, without a sigh;
But he left his handy work on Major Swann.*

*We may forgive, but yet still, we never can forget,
Of the murder of Fitzgerald that is gone".*

Thus Lord Edward is remembered to this day in one of the principal streets of Limerick and also in Fitzgerald Place on the western extremity of Sarsfield Barracks, while the names of other city streets have been changed and the old names have long since disappeared into oblivion, never to return.

Who lived in Lord Edward Street over



Edward Street in the 1940s.

half-a-century ago?

The following list of people who lived in the street will bring back memories of men and women long since gone to many of our older readers. It should also be said that many of the old family names have survived and, happily, the sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of the citizens listed below still continue to live in the street.

1, McMahon, Mary K.; 2, Brennan, Mrs.; 3, vacant, Prendergast, James; 4, Ball, D.M.; 5, The X.L. Bar; 6, Ahern,

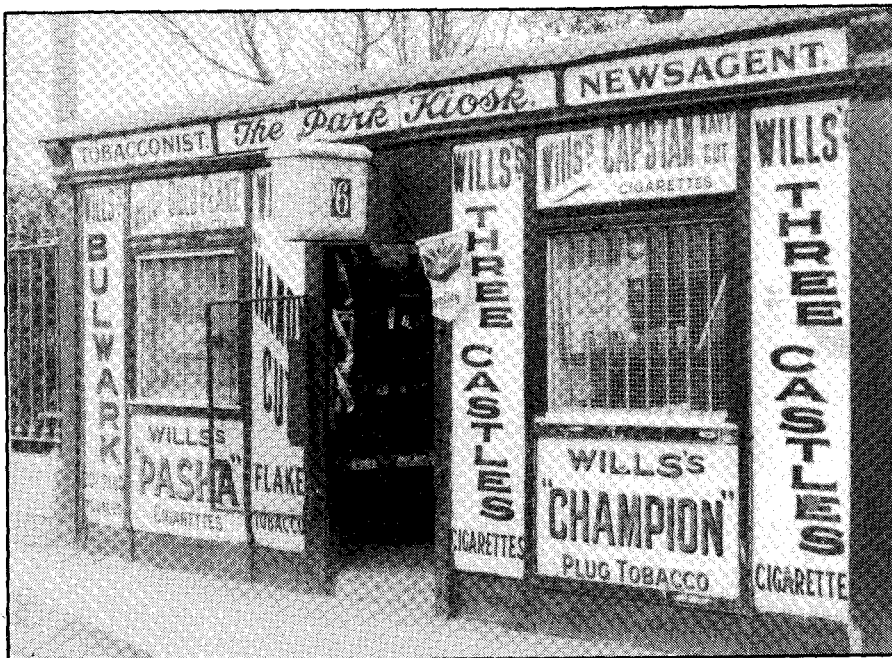
James; 7, Casey, Terence; 8, Hartley, Mary A.; 9, Kelly, Peter; 10, Prendergast, T.J.; 11, O'Dwyer, Cornelius; 12, Bannon, Nora; 13, Humphreys, P.; 14, O'Reilly, Johanna; 15, Murphy, William; 16, Mulrooney, R.; 17, Nolan, James J.; 18, Boherbuoy Band; 19, Rea, Bridget, Edward Street P.O.; 20, Howlett, Mrs.; 21, Healy, Hanora.

22, Brazier, Walter; 23, Keane, Lizzie; 24, Clancy, Joseph; 25, O'Hehir, Eliza; 26, Young, George; 27, Hickey, Patrick; 28, Limerick Clothing Factory, Defrery, J.; 29, Garda Station; 30, Sergt. Forde, Sergt. Ruane; 31, vacant; 32, Flynn, John; 33, Conway, Michael; 34, Horrigan, Christy; 35, Hanly, James; 36, Waterhouse, George; 37, Quinlan, Timothy; 38, O'Brien, John; 39, Coughlan, Maurice; 40, Quaide, Katie; 41, Green, Richard; 42, Boland, John.

43, Slattery, Anne; 44, Flannery, James; 45, Leahy, T.; 46, Butler, Patrick J.; 47, Doyle, Catherine; 48, Nealon, J.; 49, Harris, Edward; 50, Slattery, Elizabeth; 51, Sheehan, Thomas; 52, Sheehan, Cornelius; 53, McNamara, Miss; 54, Ryan, John; 55, O'Connor, John; 56, Kenny, James; 57, Ryan, James; 58, Cregan, Michael; 59, Donovan, Edward; 60, O'Brien, John; Cassidy, J.; 61, Egan, P.; O'Shaughnessy, M.; 62, McNamara's Bakery.

This list is taken from McKern's Postal Directory.

I should add that Boherbuoy, which forms part of Edward Street, gets its name from the yellow clay under the road, or perhaps from the gorse which grew beside the thoroughfare. This road ran from the city to Mungret.



O'Sullivan Park Kiosk, Edward Street.