
Features

Joe, whom Valerie is sure is a relation of hers, talks about the last Orthodox Jews to leave Limerick, how he closed the prayer house and brought the torahs to Dublin where they are now housed in the Irish Jewish Museum.

Farm Leader

Joe recalls an incident from The Troubles in which he claims as a youth he was accosted by a Black and Tan after curfew who demanded to know whether Joe was a republican or Free Stater. "I'm a Jew," said Joe to his mother's intense amusement when he told her of the incident.

Archive

Valerie Lapin Ganley has been producing and directing documentaries for the past 15 years and has won many important awards for her work.

Search
Archive

In her research for the documentary she was fascinated to learn that several Jews were involved in the fight for Irish freedom, including Robert Briscoe, who ran guns for the IRA and was later elected Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Feedback

Let us know what you
think

She also learned that the world renowned Jewish scholar, Isaac Herzog, was both the first Chief Rabbi of Israel and the first Chief Rabbi of Ireland, and that his son, Chaim, President of Israel, was born in Belfast and raised in Dublin.

Shalom Ireland is intended for worldwide distribution which will include RTE and Channel Four.

Home

The Jewish incidents were a practically forgotten episode of Limerick history until 1970, when the then Mayor, Stevie Coughlan, at the National Credit Union conference attempted to justify Fr Creagh's outburst.

Mr Coughlan's statement caused huge furore and the Jewish Question has been raised on a regular basis since.

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ONLINE EDITION

LIMERICK LEADER

ESTABLISHED 1889

Saturday, September 23rd, 2000

Joe 85, stars in tv slot on city's Jews

By DENIS O'SHAUGHNESSY

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A ONCE-forgotten incident in the city's history, when the Jewish community in Limerick were attacked and boycotted in 1904, has in recent years been highlighted in television documentaries, plays, magazine and newspaper articles.

And now, what at the time was described as the Jewish Question, will be again be featured, this time in an American television programme.

The hour-long documentary, which highlights attempts being made to revitalise Ireland's Jewish community, is called Shalom Ireland, and is being produced and directed by Californian, Valerie Lapin Ganley.

Her great-grandparents, Lithuanian emigrants who settled in Ireland in the last century, were the first Jews to be married in Waterford.

Valerie's interest in her family tree led her to this country and having found the history of the Jews in Ireland a fascinating subject, she decided to produce the documentary.

She wrote to the Limerick Leader for headline copies on the Limerick 1904 Jewish incidents for the documentary, which were duly supplied.

Asked how she had heard of the Limerick incidents, she replied that several people she had interviewed in this country had told her of the occurrences in which the Redemptorist, Fr Creagh's anti-semitic sermons roused the populace to harass the Jews and subsequently boycott them.

Dermot Keogh, an historian at UCC, gives the account of the Jewish incidents in the programme.

Another Limerick connection with the documentary is that the main characterisation is provided by 85-year-old Joe Morrison, born and raised in the city.

His family moved to Limerick following the 1904 incidents and when the Jewish community here was in decline.