Notes on the Unthank family of Limerick.
By Noel Murphy

My thanks to the Friends Historical Library, Dublin for permission to use material from their Archives. This material is shown in *italics* below.

It must be made clear that not all Unthanks were Quakers and many Unthanks, on being dis-united from the Society of Friends, turned to the Church of Ireland. The Unthank vault in St. John’s churchyard proves this. The burial records show that at least 2 people interred in the Upper Vault were Catholics. Those buried in the underground section must have been Protestants. A total of 4 Unthank Catholics are buried in St. John’s Churchyard.

Another thing to be aware of is the fact that only 5 Unthanks bothered to become Freemen of Limerick City. The taking of Oaths was contrary to Quaker beliefs and Freemen, Burgesses and Aldermen had to be sworn in, therefore Quakers precluded themselves from positions including serving as Sheriffs or Mayors. From reading the Quakers Book of Sufferings one can see that they were averse to paying any tax that went to supporting any other religious body and that may be one of the reasons why they stopped applying to become Freemen.

All of John Unthank’s family of Thomas Street were Catholics including his daughter Percy, (Died 1904), who became a Nun.


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Notes: -
1. Rachel married Chs. Pawlet Bolton on the 24 Nov 1772. Charles Paulet Bolton was an Excise Officer who lived in Co. Clare. He was admitted a
Freeman of Limerick on the 29/01/1784.

2. Richards above is given as Richardson in all other sources.

3. William Richardson Unthank died in 1817, not 1814.

4. John Unthank, the first entry above, is most likely the same person as the John Unthank, Dyer, of Mungret Street named on the Hoare Estate Maps of 1747. William, his brother, could be the William named in Map 6 or Map10. John was middle-aged when he died as his brother Robert outlived him by some 40 years.

5. A typewritten hand-bound booklet in Limerick City Library of earliest Quaker history in Limerick and Munster, collected by Josiah Richard Gough in 1830, tells us that Rachel Robinson nee Cherry, his second wife, married John Unthank in 1745. She was a daughter of Samuel Cherry of Tipperary and was first married to George Robinson of Garryowen, Limerick. That is the only mention of an Unthank in this booklet. Josiah Richard Gough was married in 1831 to Deborah, the eldest daughter of Benjamin Clarke Fisher and his wife Mary Unthank.

6. In 1790 Susanna Unthank the wife of Benjamin Unthank and some of her grown-up children said they wished to withdraw from the Society of Friends. Benjamin, when interviewed said he had always considered himself a member and hoped to continue so. He was however soon after dis-united for non-attendance at Meetings.

7. Dr John Unthank’s estimated year of birth was 1753 and fits neatly with the marriage of Dr Isaac and Mary Robinson in 1749 - if indeed they were his parents. The 1753 estimated date of birth does not look good when compared with the date he entered Edinburgh University, 1781. That makes him 28 years of age when he decided to study to become a doctor. There is also some evidence that his son Isaac was born before John entered Edinburgh University.

8. According to Ernest H. Bennis, himself a Quaker, Gabriel or Gabe, was the last of the Limerick Unthanks, at least the male Unthanks.

St Munchin’s Burial Register:

One of the earliest Unthank records in Limerick is of the burial of Agatha Unthank on the 08/09/1739. Her husband’s name was Joseph.

Index of Wills.

Samuel Unthank, a Tallow Chandler of Limerick, had Probate of his will granted in 1730.

A William Unthank, Gent., had Probate of his will granted in 1795.

(See Clonmel Gazette, 31 Jan 1795, below).
Quaker Records of the early Women’s Meetings,
These records give us the names of some of the early Unths such as: -
  • Sarah Unthank who flourished in 1728,
  • Ruth Unthank, for keeping bad company 1731, asked not to attend meetings.
  • Robinson Unthank who married Eliner Tomy in 1741. Eliner was admitted a Quaker in 1734.
  • Margaret Unthank who married William Davis in 1743,
  • Rachel Unthank who flourished in 1745,
  • Isaac Unthank married Mary Robinson, in 1749. Are these two the Dr. Isaac and Mary in Betham’s Will Abstract and did Dr Isaac marry his step-sister?
  • In 1767 Elinor Unthank married Thomas Sheppard, (See Ad. Dated 17 Jan 1771).
  • Rachel Unthank was still alive in 1768.
  • In 1771 Margaret Unthank married Edward Russell of Cork.
  • Quaker Records have an Eleanor Sheppard dying on the 24/04/1828 aged 83, a widow, who was buried in the Quaker Burial ground in Pump Lane. Is she the wife of Thomas Sheppard and the daughter of Joshua Unthank, the Dyer, of Mungret St? See Limerick Chronicle, Jan 1771, below.

Dated 22 Nov 1802, This magazine mentions that there were four Presidents of the Royal Physical Society elected for that year and that one of them was Isaac Unthank of Limerick. (Dr. Isaac, junior).

Later Scots – Irish Links, 1725 – 1825, Part Three. (Web site)
This tells us that Isaac Unthank from Ireland was a Medical Graduate of Edinburgh University in 1748, submitting his Thesis that year. (This was Isaac senior who was back in Limerick in 1749, See Ad. below).

Alumni or Students of Medicine, 1762 – 1826, Edinburgh University.
  John Unthank, 1781 – 1784. M.D.
  Isaac Unthank, 1800 – 1803. M.D.
  Samuel Unthank, 1812 – 1814. M.D.
From the above I can only surmise that John Unthank was the Doctor who lived in Mungret Street and died there in 1840. I would also surmise that Isaac was his son who was referred to in one place as Isaac junior and that Isaac is not well recorded because he died young on Charlotte’s Quay, Limerick, in 1810. I have found no references to a Dr Samuel Unthank in Limerick. The two Doctors William Unthank Senior and Junior in the Limerick Trade Directory for 1809 and for that year only, are not referred to in any other source that I have found to date. I have to assume that Dr Isaac Unthank Snr. who graduated in Edinburgh in 1748 entered that faculty some three years earlier, circa 1745 and if he were aged 17 years then he was born circa 1728 and was a son of John’s first wife. The Alumni records to date only start in 1762.

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The 20 Hoare Estate Maps of 1747.

Map 1 is of a site at the corner of Mungret Street and the Old Francis Street which led from Mungret Street to St John’s Square. This mentions that Joshua Unthank, a Dyer, had property in Mungret Street to the North East of the site featured. This was where Joshua Unthank had his premises as shown on Griffith’s 1850 Valuation Map.

Map 6 shows the site occupied by William Unthank, Chandler, on the corner of Prison Lane and Sheep Street. This was the corner opposite the present day Car Park which stands on the other corner of Sheep Street and Prison or Gaol Lane.

Map 10 shows the site of William Unthank on the corner of Quay Lane, now Bridge Street and Mary Street or High Street as it was called in 1747. This site is now part of St Mary’s Cathedral’s grave yard.

Freemen of Limerick

William Unthank, Chandler. 10/06/1742
Joshua Unthank, Clothier. 08/10/1753
Isaac Unthank. 07/10/1754
Benjamin Unthank son of William of Limerick, Shopkeeper. 11/05/1762
John Unthank, of Cork City, son of William of Limerick, Merc. 11/05/1762

Freeholders who voted in Limerick in 1760.

William Unthank
Joshua Unthank
Isaac Unthank M.D

No Unthanks are listed for the 1768 and 1776 Elections.

The Irish American, New York. 12 Sept 1857.

Married on August 14th 1857, at The Friends Meeting House, Eustace Street, Dublin, Gabriel Fisher Unthank, 2nd son of William Richardson Unthank of Limerick to Margaret Merrick, youngest daughter of the late John Merrick of London.


Thomas Vincent = Elizabeth Unthank
Limerick. Daughter of Benjamin Unthank.
B. 1736 B. 25/5/1756
Sheriff 1776 M. 26/8/1786.
D. 1798 L. 1801.

Kilkeedy Church Marriage Register: -

Married on the 23/07/1837, Thomas Stephens of Charleston, South Carolina to Anna Eliza Unthank, nee Ewing, of Newborough, Co. Limerick. (Was Anna Eliza another daughter of Benjamin Unthank and married from the home of her sister Margaret ?).
Limerick Chronicle of 30/11/1825.
Richard Wilson =
Ballinacurra
D. pre 1817

Charles Wilson = Miss Unthank, daughter of Benjamin
of Newborough (Margaret)
Eldest son
Fm. 1817. M. Nov. 1825 at Kilkeedy Church

Note: - Charles Wilson died on Sunday 10th Sept. 1848 at Newborough, near
Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

Irish Genealogy. Marriage.
Luke Bernard =
Benjamin Unthank =

Edward Bernard = Margaret Wilson, Nee Unthank.
Widower Widow
St Michael’s Parish 88 Lower Mount St.
Limerick M. 13/02/1855. St Peter’s, CoI, Dublin.

Limerick has been transcribed from the original Marriage Certificate as Limeruth.
Edward Bernard, a former Bank of Ireland Manager, who died at Victoria Terrace,
Limerick in 1866, aged 79. His first wife was Catherine Ann who died in Dec 1836.
Their 4 children all died young. Aged 1, 8, 16 and 17. All buried in St. John’s.
Margaret Bernard, the 2nd wife of Edward died at Newborough, Patrickswell in 1864.
Luke Bernard died in Dec 1832, his wife Elizabeth died in Jan 1813.

St. John’s Church of Ireland Graveyard, Limerick.

St John’s Burial Register shows: -
Robert Unthank buried 08/05/1814. No other comment.
Mrs Mary Unthank buried 25/09/1837, of Mungret St., age 76. R.C.
John Unthank buried 21/02/1849, of Thomas St. age 56. R.C.
Mary Unthank buried 08/01/1856, of Limerick, age 25. R.C.
Robert Unthank buried 01/04/1865 of Thomas St., age 43. R.C.

John Unthank of Thomas Street, Limerick, died 19 Feb 1849 aged 57 years.
(Therefore born circa 1792). (John’s wife is not recorded as being buried in St John’s.
She was not buried in Mount St. Lawrence either).
Robert Unthank, died in May 1814, aged 26 years. (B.c. 1788).
Mary Unthank, mother of Robert, died 22 Sept 1837, aged 75 years. (B.c.1762).
Robert’s sister, Mrs Percy Scanlan died 4 Feb 1829, aged 37 years. (B.c. 1792).
(John was not the father of this Robert or the husband of this Mary. John might have
been a brother of Robert, note their estimated birth years, and therefore a son of
Mary’s. The fact that they are all buried in the same vault must mean that they were
all closely related. The upper vault is built on top of an underground vault but there
are no inscriptions to say who is buried in the lower vault.
Rosemary ffolliott’s BDM’s

Advert: - Dr Isaac Unthank of Limerick has had a brown and white ferritting (sic) dog stolen…

Hibernian Chronicle. Monday 27 Nov 1769.
Limerick 23rd. Died last Tuesday (21st) night in Mungret Street, the widow Unthank one of the people called Quakers.

Limerick Chronicle. Thursday 17 Jan 1771.
Advert: - Thomas Sheppard has taken Pass Bleach-yard in the Co. of Clare near Limerick. His father in law Joshua Unthank, Dyer, at the Blue Hand in Mungret Lane will receive linens…..

Limerick Chronicle. Thursday 17 Jan 1771.
Married this morning, Mr John Unthank, Chandler to Miss Ann Peacock sister to the Rev Robert Peacock…..Handsome Fortune.

Limerick Chronicle, Thursday 31 Jan 1771.
Married last Tuesday sevennight at Cork, Mr Robert Unthank of this City to Miss Howell, daughter of Mr Nicholas Howell……£500.

Limerick Chronicle, Thursday 22 Aug 1771.
Married last Tuesday at the Quaker’s Meeting House, Mr Edward Russell, Merchant of Cork to Miss Margaret Unthank, daughter of Mr Jos. Unthank.

Cork Evening Post, Thursday 29 Aug 1771.
Dublin 27th Aug. Married at Limerick, Mr Samuel Russell of Cork, Grocer to Miss Peggy Unthank, daughter of Mr Joshua Unthank, Dyer, both of the people called Quakers.

Note: - I believe that these two newspaper entries refer to the same wedding and that the Cork Evening Post made a mistake with Mr Russell’s Christian name. Quaker Records confirm Edward as the Mr Russell involved and if there was a second wedding then the Quaker records would have recorded it. Jos is the short version of Joshua and Peggy is a pet name for Margaret.

Limerick Chronicle. Monday 7 May 1772.
Advert: - Benjamin Unthank, Woollen Draper, George’s Quay, Limerick.

Advert: - John Unthank has opened shop at the corner of Quay Lane…..Grocer and Chandler.

Dublin Hibernian Journal, Wednesday 2 Dec 1772.
Married at Limerick, Mr Charles Pawlet Bolton to Miss Rachel Unthank.
Advert: - Benjamin Unthank, Woollen Draper at the Ship on the New Mall, Limerick. (The New Mall is now called Charlotte’s Quay).

Hibernian Chronicle, Thursday 10 Oct 1776.
Married this morning Mr Benjamin Unthank of Limerick to Miss Foster of Blackpool. (Co. Cork). (MLB says John Unthank).

Married in Limerick, Mr Isaac Unthank, Merchant to Miss Richardson, daughter of Mr William Richardson. (Miss Deborah Richardson).

Limerick Chronicle. Monday 10 Nov 1783.
Advert: - Benjamin Unthank, Creagh Lane, Limerick, Grocer.

Limerick Chronicle. Thursday 20 April 1786
Married last Tuesday, Daniel Nihill, Attorney at law to Miss Unthank, daughter of Mr William Unthank….£1000.

Married last Saturday, Mr Thomas Vincent one of the Burgesses of this City to Miss Unthank, daughter of Mr Ben Unthank, Merchant. (Elizabeth).

Clare Journal. Thursday 3 May 1787.
Limerick 3rd. Married last Tuesday, John Unthank, M.D. to Miss Ellen Phillips Parker, daughter of Thomas Parker late of Coom, Co. Tipperary.

Limerick Chronicle, Thursday 5 Feb 1789.
Died last Thursday Mrs Unthank, wife of Mr William Unthank.

Clonmel Gazette. Saturday 16 Oct 1790.
Limerick 14th. Died last Thursday, Isaac Unthank M.D, one of the Society of Quakers.

Died yesterday, Mr Isaac Unthank, one of the people called Quakers.

**Quaker records for 1791** report that Isaac Unthank who was in financial difficulties was now deceased

**Quaker records for 1798** report that Isaac Unthank, born 26/02/1787, son of the late Isaac was admitted to be educated at the Provincial School. Also recorded was the fact that William Unthank, son of the late Isaac was now in Co. Tipperary, living with a friend as an apprentice. (This has to be William Richardson Unthank gone to serve his apprenticeship as a Shopkeeper. “living with a friend” means living with another Quaker).

**Quaker records for 1804** report that Thomas Unthank, born 11/04/1792, son of the late Isaac was admitted to the Provincial School that year.
Limerick Chronicle. Saturday 3 Aug 1793.
Advert: - Deborah Unthank having removed from the corner of Mill Lane nearly opposite the Main Guard…..Linen Draper.

Clonmel Gazette. Wednesday 5 March 1794.
Died last Monday at Mungret Street, Limerick in the 86 year of his age, Mr Joshua Unthank, Dyer. (Therefore born circa 1708). The Ennis Chronicle adds, one of the Society of Quakers. (Joshua was therefore a contemporary of the four brothers who head Betham’s List above).

Clonmel Gazette, Saturday 31 Jan 1795.
Limerick 26th: Died last Sunday at Mary’s Street at a very advanced age, Mr William Unthank one of the Society of Quakers, formerly an extensive Chandler. (This has to be the William Unthank, Chandler, from Map 6 of the Hoare Maps of 1747. His shop was on Sheep St. and faced onto the Town Wall).

Limerick Chronicle. Wednesday 6 Jan 1796.
Deborah Unthank has removed to the house lately held by James Ryan, opposite the Main Guard……Clothier.

Clare Journal. Friday 2 Aug 1799.
Limerick 31st July: Died on Friday last at Youghal, John Unthank of the City of Cork, Merchant.

Married this morning, Alexander Torrance, Merchant to Miss Unthank, daughter of Mr Benjamin Unthank, Merchant.

Limerick Chronicle. Wednesday 30 April 1800.
Married last Sunday at Kenmare Castle, the seat of James Gubbins, Mr John Torrance of this City, Merchant to Miss [Susanna] Unthank, daughter to Mr Benjamin Unthank.

Ennis Chronicle. Monday 1 Dec 1800.
Died at Patrick Street in Limerick, after a lingering illness, Mrs Unthank, wife of John Unthank. M.D.

Limerick Chronicle. Saturday 15 Aug 1801.
Married yesterday morning, Mr Joshua Unthank, Dyer, to Miss Susanna Nevitt, daughter of John Nevitt of Edenderry, both of the Society of Quakers. Quaker Records tell us that this Joshua was the son of Robert and Hannah Unthank, both deceased. (Therefore most likely the grandson of the elder Joshua who died in 1798 and who had a son called Robert).

Ennis Chronicle. Thursday 29 Dec 1803.
Died Sunday in Mungret Street, Limerick in an advanced age, Mrs Unthank relict of Isaac Unthank, M.D. (Mary Robinson).
Ennis Chronicle. Monday 17 Dec 1804.
Died on Thursday morning at his house in Munchin’s Street, Limerick, Benjamin Unthank Esq. (Munchin’s St was in front of St Munchin’s Protestant church. Benjamin was a Church Warden in St Munchin’s Parish).

Limerick Chronicle, Wednesday 29 May 1805.
Advert: - William R. Unthank. Hosier Warehouse, 25 Mary’s Street, opposite the Main Guard. (Is this William taking over his mother Deborah’s shop and business?).

St John’s Marriage Register.
Married on the 12/09/1806, Dr Isaac Unthank to the widow Harriett Fleming.

Ennis Chronicle. Wednesday 26 July 1809.
Birth. The Lady of Dr. Unthank Jnr. of a daughter.

Ennis Chronicle. Saturday 28 April 1810.
Died on Thursday morning at Charlotte Quay, Limerick after a lingering illness, Isaac Unthank, M.D. one of the Society of Friends

Limerick Evening Post. Saturday 28 Dec 1811.
Died this morning, Mrs Unthank relict of the late Dr Unthank of this City and sister to George Leake of Rathkeale Abbey. (Harriett).

Ennis Chronicle, Wednesday 23 March 1808.
Married yesterday morning at the Friends Meeting House, Limerick, Benjamin [Clarke] Fisher of Youghal to Miss Mary Unthank, daughter of Mrs Deborah Unthank of Limerick, both of the Society of Friends.

Quaker Records tell us that Mary Unthank was a daughter of Isaac, deceased, and Deborah Unthank. (Therefore Benjamin Clarke Fisher was the son-in-law of Deborah and Isaac Unthank and not Deborah and “William” Unthank so often misquoted in the papers.

Clare Journal. Thursday 16 Jan 1812.
Married at Youghal, Mr William Richardson Unthank of Rutland Street, Limerick, to Miss Margaret Fisher, daughter of Gabriel Fisher of Cherrymount, Co. Waterford. Both of the Society of Friends. (Margaret was born circa 1784 to Gabriel Fisher and his wife Mary O’Callaghan. She moved to Limerick immediately after her wedding).

Limerick Evening Post, Saturday 14 Nov 1812.
Birth. Thursday morning Mrs William Richardson Unthank of a son. (Isaac William).

Limerick Evening Post, Saturday 19 Dec 1812.
Married on Thursday morning, Thomas Newsom, Merchant, to Mary, daughter of George Unthank of this City, both of the Society of Friends.
Limerick Evening Post, Saturday 7 May 1814. 
Died yesterday in Mungret Street, in the prime of life, Mr Robert Unthank, Linen Draper. (Buried in Unthank Vault, St John’s church with his mother Mary Unthank).

Limerick Evening Post. Thursday 6 Nov 1817. 
Married on Sunday evening, Mr John Unthank of Mungret Street, Woollen Draper to Miss Ryan, daughter of Mr Thomas Ryan of this City, Architect. (Miss Mary Ryan. For Thomas Ryan, Architect, see Ryan in 1821 Census, under Ryan in Family Histories, this website. Mary is not listed as she was now married and left home).

Limerick Evening Post, Monday 22 Dec 1817. 
Died yesterday morning in George’s Street, of Typhus fever, Mr William Unthank of the firm of Unthank and Abbott and of the Society of Friends. (This is William Richardson Unthank, the first). 
Quaker Records say he was a Shopkeeper, aged 34 years).

Limerick Evening Post, Monday 26 Jan 1818. 
Birth. In George’s street, Mrs Unthank, relict of the late Mr W. Unthank, of a son. (William Richardson Unthank, the second).

Limerick Chronicle. Wednesday 26 April 1820. 
Died at her mother’s house in Rutland Street after a lingering illness, Hannah, daughter of the late Mr. W. R. Unthank. (Her burial was in St. Munchin’s).

Clare Journal, Thursday 8 June 1820. 
Died in George’s Street, Limerick, daughter of the late Mr. W. R. Unthank. (William Richardson Unthank’s only daughter. She was buried at Pump Lane with her father).

Limerick Chronicle. Wednesday 24 Jan 1821. 
Died this morning at Rutland Street, Isaac Unthank, one of the Society of Friends. (Isaac was a Linen Draper and died aged 34).
(This was the Isaac, son of Isaac, who was disunited from the Quakers in 1806 for forming an association with a lewd woman while an apprentice, she being of his master’s family). 
Quaker Records identify her as Mary Russell.

Limerick Chronicle. Wednesday 13 June 1821. 
Long account of the murder near Adare on Sunday of the wife of John Torrance, formerly of Cunnigar in the Liberties of Limerick and now of Mondella Hill near Adare. She [Susanna] was the daughter of the late Benjamin Unthank. Remains interred in the family vault at St. Munchin’s on Monday. (John Torrance died in March 1847, aged 77 and was buried with his wife, apparently in the Unthank vault.)
Limerick Chronicle. Wednesday 18 July 1821.
Died yesterday in Rutland Street, aged 76 years, Mrs Unthank relict of the late Benjamin Unthank. (Neither Benjamin or his wife are recorded as being buried in the Quaker Burial Ground at Pump Lane). (Born circa 1745)

Clare Journal. Thursday 19 July 1821.
Died in Rutland Street, Mrs Unthank relict of the late Benjamin Unthank and mother to Mrs [Susanna] Torrance whose assassination it was our melancholy task to announce.

Limerick Chronicle. 03/07/1824.
Birth in Clare Street to Mrs George Unthank a daughter.

Limerickcity.ie/localstudies/Obits.
George Unthank died in Clare St. Reported on the 25/02/1826.


George Unthank death reported 18/05/1836. Eldest son of the late George Unthank. A Quaker.

John Unthank, M.D. died at Mungret Street. Reported 16/05/1840. Aged 89. His nephew Robert Simpson Unthank was his sole legatee and heir. (B.c.1751). (John set up a trust fund in 1811/2 of £300 to be used to aid the Indians of North America after his death. When he died the fund had grown to £1000).

Joshua Unthank, died at Mungret Street. Reported 25/06/1845. Aged 75, he was a proprietor in the Cotton and Linen Trade in Limerick. (B.c.1770). (O’Donavan’s Field Books of 1840 has a Joshua Unthank as the builder of Sandville House at the North end of Killonan Townland on the road from Peafield House to Ballyclogh Mills in 1823 for a cost of £280. This house was held by a Mrs Scott in 1840. A George Scott held house 7a in Killonan in Griffith’s Valuation in 1850).

Deborah Unthank of Limerick died at the home of her son-in-law Benjamin C. Fisher of Lifford. Reported 08/03/1848. She was 95 and the widow of William [recte Isaac] Unthank of the Society of Friends. (B.c. 1753).

John Unthank of Thomas Street died on the 19/02/1849 aged 54. Reported 21/02/1849. He was buried in St. John’s. See above. (B.c. 1795). (St John’s Register says he was a R.C.).

Robert S. Unthank died of Cholera in Dublin. Late of Limerick. Reported 04/08/1849. Buried in Mt. Jerome, Dublin. (This could be Robert Simpson Unthank, the heir to Dr John above).
Sarah Unthank died on the 06/07/1854 at her sister, Mrs Wilson’s house called Newborough House near Adare. Reported 08/07/1854. They were both daughters of Benjamin Unthank of Limerick City. Sarah was the 4th Daughter. (The widow, Mrs Margaret Wilson nee Unthank, remarried in Feb 1855). (Newborough House is about halfway between Patrickswell and Adare). (Sarah was buried in St Munchin’s churchyard).

Mary Unthank died at her mother’s house in Thomas Street. Reported 09/01/1856. She was the 2nd daughter of the late John Unthank of the City. She died young. (St John’s Register, gives her as R.C. and aged 25).

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Mary Unthank died at her mother’s house in Thomas Street. Reported 13/03/1858. She was the youngest daughter of the late John Unthank and was buried in St. John’s churchyard.

Mary Unthank of 23 Thomas Street, the widow of the late John Unthank was reported as having died in the Limerick Chronicle dated 13/11/1862. (On the 30/07/1864, The Limerick Chronicle listed the 11 Catholic Charities who shared in the £800 Mary left between them in her will).

Isaac Unthank died at “Templeville” near Limerick City on the 10/03/1864. Reported 10/03/1864.

Robert John Unthank of 23 Thomas Street died on the 29/03/1865. Reported 30/03/1865. Buried at St John’s. (Familysearch, B.1822). (St John’s Register, gives him as R.C. and aged 43).

Thomas W. Unthank of Rathkeale died at the home of his brother-in-law, Dr. O’Hanlon of Limerick. Buried at St. John’s, Limerick. Reported on the 15/06/1869. (Familysearch, Thomas William Unthank was born 1838).

Margaret Unthank died in London at the home of her brother-in-law. She was the wife of Gabriel Fisher Unthank of Limerick. Reported on the 10/11/1870.

William R. Unthank died on the 11/06/1875 at his home “Kleinberg”, aged 57. He was buried in the Quaker Burial grounds in Ballinacurra. Reported 12/06/1875. (B.c. 1818). (Kleinberg was in Courtbrack Townland opposite the Redemptorist church).

Charles Unthank died on the 25/03/1875 at John’s Square aged 66. Reported on the 03/04/1875. (B.c. 1809)

Miss Susan M. Unthank died at 20 Glentworth Street. She was the youngest surviving daughter of the late John Unthank of Thomas Street. Reported 27/05/1884.

Anne M. Unthank died on Christmas day 1891 in Dublin. She was also a daughter of the late John Unthank of Limerick. Reported 31/12/1891. (Both sisters of Catherine Unthank O’Hanlon). (The Kirby Collection Catologue, Irish College Rome. An
Annie Mary Unthank wrote to Rome from Dublin in 1887, asking how she could send the Pope a donation of £50. On receiving a reply she immediately sent off a cheque for £100 to the Pope. (Anne was buried in Mount St Lawrence on the 28 Dec 1891 in Plot Vc 142 which she shares with a Sarah Unthank of 20 Glentworth St., who was buried 28 May 1884. The two ladies must have been sisters and Susan/Sarah must be therefore the same person).


**Sister Mary DePazzi Unthank**, a nun, died at the Old Presentation Convent. A member of an old Limerick family. Reported 19/04/1904. (This nun is Percy Unthank, sister of Catherine Unthank O’Hanlon and daughter of John Unthank who died in 1849. Percy was listed in the 1901 Census and her age given as 56 therefore born 1845. See above)

**Nick Reddan’s Registry of Deeds Project.**

**Deed, 163974, dated 14/01/1767**

Dr Isaac Unthank bought a house in Mungret St. formerly in the possession of John Seymore and part of the Estate of Edward Warter Wilson, deceased. The house was sold by Thomas Croker of Dublin and Henry Cole Bowen of Cork, they being creditors of the Wilson Estate.

**Deed, 260420, dated 14/12/1787.**

Joshua Unthank, Merchant of Limerick was the father of Robert Unthank, Merchant of Limerick and Eleanor Stopford, widow, of Limerick. Joshua had made a lease for three lives to a William McCarroll and in 1787 the lease was being renewed to McCarroll’s heir and new lives were being nominated.

**Discharge, 334956, dated 17/04/1798.**

Joshua Unthank is mentioned as a near neighbour to some ground behind the New Square in Irish Town, Limerick. (Since the first Joshua Unthank had died the previous month this is his grandson who was also called Joshua and succeeded his father and grandfather as a Dyer in Mungret Street in Irish Town, Limerick. An Eliza Unthank held many houses in James St. in this area as listed in Griffith’s Valuation in 1850).

**The children of Benjamin and Susanna Unthank.**

**Betham’s Will Abstracts.** Anne and Rebecca.

**Ennis Chronicle. Monday 19 Oct 1795.**

Married this morning, Alexander Torrance, Merchant to Miss Unthank, daughter of Mr Benjamin Unthank, Merchant.

**Limerick Chronicle. Wednesday 30 April 1800.**
Married last Sunday at Kenmare Castle, the seat of James Gubbins, Mr John Torrance of this City, Merchant to Miss [Susanna] Unthank, daughter to Mr Benjamin Unthank.

**Ennis Chronicle. Monday 17 Dec 1804.**
Died on Thursday morning at his house in Munchin’s Street, Limerick, Benjamin Unthank Esq.

**Limerick Chronicle. Wednesday 26 April 1820.**
Died at her mother’s house in Rutland Street after a lingering illness, Hannah, daughter of the late Benjamin Unthank of this City. (Hannah was not buried in the Quaker Burial Ground).

**Clare Journal. Thursday 19 July 1821.**
Died at her mother’s house in Rutland Street after a lingering illness, Hannah, daughter of the late Benjamin Unthank of this City. (Hannah was not buried in the Quaker Burial Ground).

**Limerick Chronicle of 30/11/1825.**
Miss (Margaret) Unthank, daughter of Benjamin married Charles Wilson of Newborough in 1825.

Sarah Unthank died on the 06/07/1854 at her sister, Mrs Wilson’s house called Newborough House near Adare. Reported 08/07/1854. They were both daughters of Benjamin Unthank of Limerick City. Sarah was the 4th Daughter.

**Irish Genealogy. Marriage.**
Margaret Wilson nee Unthank remarried Edward Bernard in Dublin in 1855. Margaret Bernard, the wife of Edward died at Newborough, Patrickswell in 1864.

Buried in the Quaker Plot at Pump Lane, English Town. Opened in 1735. These records from 1812 onwards.

**William Richardson Unthank**, Shopkeeper, died from Typhus fever on the 21/12/1817. He resided at the time of his death in George’s Street. He died aged about 34, therefore he was born circa 1783. He was the son of Isaac Unthank and Deborah Richardson who were wed in July 1780. He, whilst living in Rutland Street, married Margaret Fisher of Youghal in Jan 1812. They were the parents of -
1. Isaac William Unthank, born in Rutland Street on the 12/11/1812,
2. Gabriel Fisher Unthank who was also born in Rutland Street on the 18/07/1814
3. There was also a daughter, Mary Fisher Unthank, born on the 21/10/1816 who died in George’s Street on the 6th June 1820 aged 4 years and
4. William Richardson Unthank who was born in George’s Street on the 23/01/1818 just after his father’s death a month earlier.

**Anne Unthank** was the daughter of [Dr.] Isaac Unthank and Harriett Fleming who married in St John’s church, Limerick on the 12/09/1806, she died in Anne Street on
the 07/02/1820, aged about 13 years. (She was an orphan). The Witness was George Unthank Jnr. (A George Unthank Jnr., son of George, a Quaker, died in May 1836. Reported in the Limerick Chronicle. Could he be the same George as the George at the end of this list?).

Mary Unthank also of Anne Street and the wife of George Unthank, died there on the 25/10/1822 aged about 65 years. Therefore Mary was born about 1757. Mary was 50 years old when Anne was born, therefore too old to be her mother. Anne in fact was the orphaned daughter of Dr Isaac Unthank Jnr. see entry above). A Mr Unthank paid the rates here in 1824 but was gone by 1829. Both ladies were non-members of the Society of Friends.

Mary Fisher Unthank, 4 year old daughter of William Richardson Unthank mentioned above. A member.

Isaac Unthank, Linen Draper of Rutland Street, died on the 24/01/1821 aged about 34 years. Born circa 1787.

Mary Newsom nee Unthank, the wife of Thomas Newsom died on the 17/04/1826, aged about 36 years. The family were living in Cornmarket Row, Limerick.

George Unthank of Sexton Street died on the 13/05/1836, aged 45 years. The witness was Charles Unthank.

Buried in the Quaker Graveyard in Ballinacurra.

Dr John Unthank of Mungret Street died on the 14/05/1840, aged about 87 years. Therefore born circa 1753. He was a son of Dr Isaac Unthank who died in 1790 and his wife Mary. Dr John had a brother George and sisters Sarah and Rachel. John had only a nephew to succeed him called Robert Simpson Unthank. At a Friend’s Meeting in 1780 a George Unthank and his wife Mary Simpson are mentioned, there is also a record of them marrying on the 19 Sept 1781 at St Mary’s Cathedral. Could Mary Simpson be the Mary, wife of George who died in Anne Street in 1822, aged 65? Dr John Unthank married Ellen Phillips Parker on the 01/05/1787 she was not a Quaker and Dr. John was “disunited” from the Quaker Society for being married by a priest.

Joshua Unthank, a Dyer, of Mungret Street, died on the 23/06/1845, aged about 71, Therefore born circa 1774. Joshua married Susanna Nevitt on the 14/08/1801. She died on the 2/01/1860, aged 83 in Mungret Street. Joshua is entered in the 1824 Trade Directory as a Dyer and Linen Draper of 26 Mungret Street. In 1838 he was a Woollen Draper and in 1846 he was a Linen Draper again but had died in June 1845. The Trade Directories from 1856 onwards have no Unthanks in Mungret Street. (Not in Membership).

His grandfather also called Joshua and also a Dyer and also of Mungret Street died in 1794 aged 85. Born about 1709. He was a member of the Clothier’s Guild in 1761. In 1769 he was trading as Joshua and son, Woollen Drapers and Dyers of Mungret Street. In 1788 he was a Woollen Manufacturer but he died in 1794. The Registry of
Deeds, No. 260420, dated 14/12/1787 names two of his children as Robert, a Merchant of Limerick and Eleanor Stopford, a widow.

**Deborah Unthank**, a widow, died on the 07/03/1848, aged 92 years, therefore born about 1752. The Limerick Chronicle states she was the widow of a William Unthank and that she died at the home of her son-in-law Benjamin Clarke Fisher of Lifford near Limerick. Deborah’s daughter Mary married Benjamin Fisher in 1808. From the Newspaper ads above it looks like Deborah continued to work to support herself and her children. Her daughter Mary died in Dublin on the 18/05/1855 aged 72 so born about 1783. The Limerick Chronicle made a mistake when they said that Deborah’s husband was a “William” Unthank. Deborah’s husband was definitely called Isaac (A member).

**Susanna Unthank**, widow of the late Joshua Unthank died in Mungret Street on the 02/01/1860, aged 83, therefore born circa 1777. See under Joshua above. (Susan was insolvent shortly before she died but it was blamed on her son who was running her business because of her old age).

**Isaac William Unthank** of Templeville, Farmer, died on the 16/03/1864, aged 51 therefore born around 1813. This would appear to be the eldest son of William Richardson Unthank and Margaret Fisher. See above. (A member).

**Margaret Unthank**, widow, died at Templeville on the 13/03/1873, aged 89. She was the mother of Isaac William, the last entry. Margaret Fisher was therefore born circa 1784. At the time of her husband’s death Margaret was living in George’s Street. Could she be the Margaret and son who are listed in the 1846 and 1856 Trade Directories as Linen Drapers of 102 George’s Street. (A member).

**Charles Unthank**, widower, died in St John’s Square on the 25/03/1875, aged 66. Therefore born about 1809. He had been married to a Frances. Charles was an Accountant. There is a record of a Charles Unthank being disunited from the Quakers in 1838 because he was married by a Priest. This indicates that his wife Frances was not a Quaker. Irish Genealogy have a Charles and Frances baptising a daughter Hannah in Listowel, Co. Kerry on the 12/08/1849. A Church of Ireland ceremony. St John’s Marriage Register has a Charles Unthank marrying a Frances Fogerty on the 26/10/1837. St John’s Baptismal Register has Charles and Frances(Fogerty) baptising Susanna on the 01/09/1839, born 18/08/1839. Ellen on the 06/03/1843, born 26/02/1843 and Eliza on the 18/07/1845, born 28/06/1845. In 1839 Charles was a Woollen Draper of Mungret St. In 1843 he was a Trader of High St and in 1845 he was a Dealer of High St.
William Richardson Unthank, Jnr. died at his home, Kleinberg, Courtbrack, Limerick on the 11/06/1875, aged 57. He was born on the 23/01/1818 and worked as an Accountant. The 1875 Trade Directory has him listed under Insurance Agents and Companies at 99 George’s Street, Limerick. William and Frances were of 43 Upper Cecil Street when their daughter Eugene Constance was born on the 13/06/1857. They also had a son Herbert William Unthank born on the 15/02/1861 at Kleinberg. (Herbert William Unthank became a University Lecturer in England).

Recorded that William R. Unthank married his 1st cousin Hannah Hatton of Cork in the Established Church in London on the 24/09/1856. (He was still a resident of Limerick). Recorded, on the 16/07/1857, the birth of Eugene Constance Unthank to Wm. Richardson Unthank and Hannah. He was born on the 30/06/1857 and it was noted that the child was not in membership.

Eliza Unthank, an unmarried daughter of Charles and Fanny (Frances) Unthank who were both deceased when she died on the 30/04/1893 at “The Home” Ryves Path, aged 47. Therefore born circa 1846. Charles was entered as a Flour Merchant in 1849. (Ryves Path was located where Upper Mallow Street lies today. This was where “The Protestant Aid Home” was located).

Hannah Unthank, an unmarried daughter of Joshua and Susanna Unthank, died in Cecil Street on the 15/07/1876, aged 72 years, therefore born circa 1804. Quaker records for 1812 have a Susanna Unthank proposing her daughter Hannah (born on the 4/12/1803) for admission to the Provincial School. She also proposed her son William (born on the 16/07/1805). The Proposals were agreed. Joshua was a non-member since 1807 when he was accused of drinking to access in the company of women of bad character. Charles Unthank, son of Joshua and Susanna, born 06/08/1809 was also proposed for admission to the Provincial School in Newtown. His mother was informed that suitable clothes would be required plus a Medical Certificate of health.

Gabriel Fisher Unthank, a widower, died at Tempe Ville [sic] on the 13/04/1895, aged 80 years and 9 months. Therefore born in 1814 and the 2nd son of William Richardson Unthank and his wife Margaret Fisher. His death Cert. records him as a Market Gardener in 1895. He was named in the 1879 and 1884 Trade Directories as of Templeville but no Category of Occupation was stated. His wife Margaret Merrick whom he married in Dublin on the 14/08/1857, died in Surrey at the home of her brother-in-law Ritson Southall on the 5/11/1870, aged 56. Therefore born circa 1814. Gabriel joined the Gold Rush to Australia in 1853 but had no luck, returning home to Ireland with just enough gold to make a wedding ring for Margaret. He was the last of the male Unthanks.

Benjamin Clarke Fisher, died on the 13/07/1863, aged 81. Born in Co Cork circa 1782. The Annual Monitor has a very long eulogy on him in their 1863 edition.
Limerick City Museum.

The Museum has portraits of four Unthanks, George and his wife Elizabeth and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret. The daughter Elizabeth, 1803 – 1875, married Dr Michael McNamara of Corofin, Co. Clare. Michael and Elizabeth McNamara were the parents of Dr George Unthank McNamara 1849 – 1919 of Baunkyle House, Corafin, Co Clare.

The Connought Journal for the 22 Sept 1823.

Married in Ennis, George Unthank to Eliza, daughter of William Wheeler, late of Rosmanagher, Co.Clar.

The Unthanks of Thomas Street.

Most of this family became Catholics. John Unthank, the father died in 1849 and was buried in St John’s Church of Ireland churchyard. He was a Catholic. The Rate Books show John holding 1 house in Thomas Street in 1842 and holding 3 houses in 1844. It’s obvious that he was holding 8 houses in Thomas Street at the time of his death in 1849 because Mary, his wife, appears in Griffith’s Valuation of 1850 as the next possessor of the 8 Thomas Street houses. Mary also held 4 Houses in Glentworth Street, 2 in William Street, 1 in George’s Street and 2 in Patrick Street. In the 1854 Rates Book, Mary Unthank is shown as letting one of her 8 houses in Thomas St to a Thomas W. Sarjent. The house was valued at £25.

This John Unthank was a Woollen Draper in Mungret Street where he registered a house valued at £20 in 1817 and again in 1823. He registered a house in Glentworth Street valued at £50 in 1825 as appears in the 1829 Register of Freeholders.

John Unthank married Mary Ryan, the daughter of Thomas Ryan, Architect, on the 02/11/1817. They were the parents of Robert John Unthank, 1822 – 1865, Mary, who died in 1856, Lizzie who died in 1858, Thomas William, 1838 – 1869, Susan M. 1834 – 1884, Anne M. who died in 1891, Catherine Unthank O’Hanlon who died in 1902 and finally Percy who died 1904. Catherine Unthank O’Hanlon, the sale of whose estate in 1906 provides many of the facts and dates quoted above. Percy became a nun and died in the Presentation Convent in Sexton Street, Limerick. Catherine’s son Charles Unthank O’Hanlon was a Catholic, born in Rathkeale in 1863 and emmigrated to Australia in 1887 where he died in 1912 aged 48. Mary Ryan was a Catholic. Mary, the mother of all these children left £800 to various Catholic institutes in her will. The Catholic religion was very slick in allowing their followers to buy their way into heaven !!! Robert Unthank, the son of John and Mary erected a Stained Glass Window in honour of his parents in the West Wall of the nave of St. John’s R.C. Cathedral in Limerick. This must have been sometime between his mother’s death in 1862 and Robert’s death in 1865.

Isaac Unthank married Deborah Richardson in 1780. Isaac and Deborah lived in Rutland Street. Their son William Richardson was living here when he married in 1812. William was of George’s Street when he died in 1817.
A Mrs Unthank was living at No 8 Rutland St. in the 1814/15 Rates Book. The house was valued at £70. The Commercial Building, next door, was No 9. By 1820 No’s 7&8 were combined under the name of Unthank and Fisher. In 1835 No 8 only was held by Fisher &Co. The Fisher in question was Benjamin Clarke Fisher, 1782 – 1863, who was married to Deborah and Isaac’s daughter, Mary. From 1838 to 1844 Fisher is described as a Haberdasher. Fisher had 2 son and 11 daughters and eventually moved out to Lifford House on the South Circular Road. Lifford was where Deborah, the widow of William (recte, Isaac) Unthank died in 1848 aged 95 at the home of her son-in-law. Fisher married Mary, Deborah and Isaac’s daughter, in March 1808 and a Deborah Unthank and William, who could be her son, are in the 1809 Trade Directory as partners in the Woollen Drapery Trade. No address was given but it must have been Rutland Street. William (recte Isaac) Unthank was married in 1780 to a Deborah Richardson who was born in 1753 and who died in 1848. This is the Deborah who is buried in Ballinacurra Quaker Graveyard. In the 1901 Census, No 8 Rutland St., now a tenement, is described as an 8 roomed house shared by 5 families. The shop on the ground floor was a Barber Shop and the building was 4 stories high. Some Australian sources are saying that Lifford was in Co. Tipperary but they are wrong. Lifford House was in Ballinacurra Bowman on the South Circular Road, not far from the Quaker Burial Ground.

Isaac Unthank died in 1791 so his Deborah Richardson became a widow from that date. This Isaac is not featured in either the 1769 or 1788 Trade Directories. His son, also an Isaac who died in 1821, aged 34 was a Linen Draper.

Who was the Mrs Unthank who lived and paid rates at No. 6 Shannon Street in 1810 and who was still in occupation in 1815?

The children of Benjamin Clarke Fisher and Mary Unthank.

Deborah, born circa 1809 in Youghall. Married Josiah Richard Gough, 1831. Josiah Richard Gough died on the 22/09/1837 aged 32. He was a Draper in William St. and was buried in Ballinacurra Quaker graveyard. Deborah died in Westland Row, Dublin in 1880.


Elizabeth, born 1811, Married Thomas Grubb on the 11/09/1832. She died in Dublin 18/12/1872. He died in 1861, a Draper in George’s St. Limerick, aged 52. They had 10 children.

Margaret, born 06/05/1813.

Charlotte, born 02/01/1815.

Susanna, born 02/08/1816. She married James Webb, 1797 – 1878.

Constance, born 26/03/1818.
Rebecca, born 23/12/1819. Married Robert Ross Rowan Moore, a Dublin Barrister, on the 01/01/1845. This couple separated.

Isabella, born 10/10/1821. Married Samuel Alexander of George’s St., in 1842.

Amelia, born 22/05/1823. Married Joseph Alexander on the 18/06/1844. She died in Dublin in 1862.


Joseph Benjamin, born 08/04/1827 at Rutland St. Died 1910.

Sarah Maria, born 03/06/1832 at Lifford. Died 1850 aged 18.

Deborah and Mary were both born in Youghal before Benjamin and Mary moved to Limerick in 1810. The mother, Mary Unthank was the daughter of Isaac Unthank and Deborah Richardson. Deborah attended the births of most of her grandchildren from Margaret to Amelia for definite, who were delivered by Dr John Unthank. Deborah may be the Mrs Unthank who is listed in the 1838 Trade Directory as a Midwife, of Nelson St., Limerick.