

## David Sargent

### From the 1901 Census and the 1911 Census.

In 1901 David Sargent, Blacksmith, and his family lived at Watergate St. in Irish Town, Limerick City. He and his wife Mary together with their six children inhabited a small four roomed house which faced onto the Walls of Limerick. They were all Roman Catholics and the eldest daughter Mary, aged 22 (Recte 24), was already married to a Mr. Short who was absent on the night and is not enumerated with the others. Their ages are given as follows: -

Name	Age	Literate	Occupation	Born
David,	47,	could read and write.	Blacksmith.	1854
Mary,	45,	couldn't read	House keeper.	1856
Mary Short,	22,	read and write	House keeper.	1879 (Recte 1877)
Patrick,	14,	read and write	Scholar.	1887
Catherine,	10,	read and write	Scholar.	1891 (Recte 1889)
Francis,	8,	read and write,	Scholar.	1893 (Recte 1891)
David,	7,	read and write,	Scholar.	1894 (Recte 1893)
Michael,	5,	read,	Scholar.	1896

(Birth dates confirmed and corrected from Limerick Genealogy who also give a Mary Sargent marrying in 1896. A Michael Short also married in 1896). Michael Short is not listed as a head of Household in Limerick City for the 1901 or 1911 Census.

By 1911, the daughter Mary Short had left home and the son Patrick had died in 1907. The number of the house is now identified as number 23. David now states that he and Mary had been married 30 years, Recte 35 (1876) and that they had nine children of whom seven are still living. Now we can deduce that one of their children was already gone from home by 1901. They must have been married 35 years instead of 30 as given, since Mary, their daughter, was born in 1877.

(See below. Mary was born in 1877 so the marriage was in 1876 at the latest when David was 23 and Mary, his wife, was 21). (Limerick Genealogy records confirm the marriage of David and Mary was celebrated in 1876).

In 1911, Catherine (aged 22) was unemployed and both Francis (20) and David (18) were apprentice Blacksmiths. Young Michael (15) was working as a Telegraph Messenger Boy.

According to the Rates Books, David Sargent moved into 23 Watergate in 1911. The previous tenant was James Ryan and the house was one of 14 owned by the "Limerick Labourer's Dwellings Company". All 14 houses were rated at £2-15-0 David was still living at Watergate in 1918.

According to the 1923 Register of Voters, David and his wife Mary and their son Francis were living at 55 Mungret St.

Michael Sargent of 35 Mungret St. was buried in Mount St. Lawrence in 1919, aged 23. He was therefore born in 1896, which suggests that he was the son of David and Mary, as listed in 1901 Census. However, he was buried in Plot 113F, which is where a Helen Sargent, aged 76, of Athlunkard St. was buried in 1970, and a Nancy Sargent of Corbally was also buried there in 1991. Helen was born in 1894 but Nancy's age is not recorded.

**David Sargent's** name is on four Letterheads held by Limerick Museum. In 1890 and in 1891 his address was given as Upper Denmark St. but in 1896 and 1902 his address was West Watergate.

The Civic Records of Births, Deaths and Marriages kept in St. Camillus Hospital, records the births of two of David Sargent's daughters. David, the Blacksmith, was married to Mary Mulcahy, who was illiterate. David and Mary had a girl born to them on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1877. They called her Mary after her mother. Two years later, they had another daughter called Anne, born on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1879. Since Anne is not mentioned in the Census, she must be one of the children who died. Therefore, we must conclude that Mary Short is the baby who was born in 1877 and that her 1901 Census age should read 24.

The Register of Burials for Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery gives the burial of Patrick Sargent, aged 20, of 1 Watergate, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 1907. This has to be David's eldest son from the 1901 Census.

Also buried in the same grave, Plot 112E, is Mary Sargent, aged 56, who died at the Limerick City Home. Mary was buried on the 31 November 1924. She was therefore born in 1868 if her age is correct. She must have been a relative of David's but cannot have been a daughter.

The Trade Directory for 1856 gives a David Sargent, a Blacksmith, living at the corner of Broad St. and Flag Lane in Number 15. This is the Dutch gabled house, which is still standing today (2008). Given the same Christian names, the same occupation, the address area and David Jnr's date of birth, I believe the two David's are father and son. A David Sargent belonged to the Nailer's Guild in 1840 and subscribed money to Daniel O'Connell's fund for the repeal of the Act of Union.

Griffith's Valuation of 1850 gives a Thaddeus Carey as the Immediate Lessor of 15 Broad Street. The building was divided into three Units. A shop and room was held by Michael Wade, valued at £6-15-0. Another Shop and room was held by Mary McKeogh, valued at £6-5-0. The Cellar and Rooms were held by unnamed lodgers and valued at £3-10-0. Is this where David junior was born in 1854?

David and Mary's daughter Catherine Mary Sargent were married in 1912 at Limerick to John Charles Troy and emigrated to New Zealand, where she died in Wellington.

David Sargent	=	Mary Mulcahy	Thomas Troy	=	Mary Quaid
B.1854		B.1856	B.1857		B. 1869
		M.	Baker		M.
D.		D.	D.		D.
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		Catherine Mary Sargent	=	John Charles Troy	
		B. 1889 in Limerick		B. 1891 in Limerick	
		M.1912 in Limerick		Baker	
		D.		D.	
		in N.Z.			
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There was a Patrick Sargent enumerated in the 1911 Census, living with his wife Kate at number 3 Clare St. in a 2 room flat. The house had 10+ rooms with seven other families, totalling 24 people in all, living there. Given the size of the house, we must be talking of New Clare St: Patrick was 46 (B. 1865) and Kate was 32 (B. 1879). They were married over 5 years (1905) and had no children. Patrick was a Boot Maker and both of them were born in Limerick City.

Mount St. Lawrence Burial Records show a Patrick and Catherine Sargent buried in the one plot, 68Ra. Patrick's address when he died in 1924, was 1 Henry St. but Catherine's address when she died in 1937, was 4 Lower Henry St. It is possible that the same house is referred to in both addresses as the Corporation was renumbering houses to include the new houses which were being constantly added to the street. The Records give Patrick as aged 65 and Catherine as aged 77 when they died. This means that Patrick was born in 1859 and Catherine was born in 1860. Compare these ages with the implied ages on the Census Form. Patrick – 1865 and Catherine – 1879.

Patrick has knocked 6 years off his true age and Catherine has knocked a massive 19 years off her age.

Just to thicken the plot the **1901** Census gives a Margaret Sargent aged 73 living with her son Patrick, a Boot maker, aged 45 and single, at Charlotte's Quay in a single room.

Margaret was therefore born in 1828 and Patrick was born in 1856.

A Margaret Sargent died in 1901 according to Limerick Genealogy's records. There are no Margaret Sargent's buried in Mount St Lawrence. However, if Patrick is the right Patrick, he married Kate very soon after his mother died.

The Registers of Electors for Limerick in the early twentieth century shed more light on the various members of the remaining Sargent families.

Patrick and Kate were living at 4 Henry St. in 1923.

Kate Sargent was still alive in 1935 but was alone and living at number 4 Henry St. with 11 other strangers. She was there, alone in 1931/2 but she was gone in 1944/5.

Patrick and Kate/Catherine tie in neatly with the two Sargent's buried in Mount St. Lawrence in Plot 68Ra.

John and Kathleen Sargent were living at 32 WoulfeTone St. in 1923.

John Sargent and his wife were living at 36 Wolfe Tone St. in 1935 and were both still there in 1955/6. A Maria Sargent of 36 Wolfe Tone St. was buried in Mount St. Lawrence on 30 June 1933, aged 72 and married. Therefore born 1861.

John Sargent was buried in Mount St Lawrence on the 3 Feb. 1956 in Plot 114Ec. aged 74. (B. 1882). Kathleen Sargent was buried in the same plot on 29 May 1974, aged 82. (B. 1892). Maria could be John's mother Mary.

Ellen and Maureen Sargent were living at number 1 Ahern's Row in 1941/2 and in 1944/5 Michael and Ellen Sargent were living there. Ahern's Row was also just off Athlunkard St.

The British System of Primogeniture was the cause of the descent through the various social levels, of the younger sons of the once prominent families who inhabited Limerick. If and when an impoverished Protestant boy wanted to marry in these circumstances he would often find that the only female's who would be available would be themselves the daughters of poor Catholic families. From the girl's point of view, the Protestant boy might inherit something from his rich relatives somewhere down the line and this made him a better choice

than a poor Catholic boy who had zero prospects of a better future. Many Protestant families became Catholic families in this situation as the Catholic clergy applied heavy pressure on the Catholic wife to make sure the children were brought up as Catholics.

In 1950 a Sargent family lived at 5 Clancy's Lane, off Athlunkard St. Their names were Dolores, Michael, Josephine and Ellen. This could be the Michael and Ellen who had lived in Ahern's Row, just 2 streets away, a few years earlier.

Ellen might be the Helen Sargent who was buried in Mount St. Lawrence on the 12 May 1970, aged 76. (B. 1894). The address given just said Athlunkard St.