



The Principal Mayoral Chain
of Limerick City

From 1820 to the present day

The Principal Mayoral Chain *of Limerick City*

Mayoral chains were uncommon in Britain and Ireland before the eighteenth century and there is no reference to the wearing of ceremonial chains by the Mayor and sheriffs of Limerick Corporation before 1820, which would seem to indicate that the custom only commenced in that year. In 1820 four gold chains of office were purchased. Two were for the Mayor and the other two were for each of the sheriffs. After the establishment of the Reformed Corporation in 1841, the two sheriffs' chains were worn by the town clerk and the city treasurer. Nowadays, the two Mayoral chains continue to be used but the two sheriffs' chains are no longer worn. The Mayor's principal chain is only worn on major ceremonial occasions due to its great weight. Instead, the Mayor generally used the second chain, which consists of fifty-one plain links and was much easier to wear.

From 1822 onwards many of the Mayors added extra roundels or links to the principal chain inscribed with their name, year of office and (after 1841) details of the events of their Mayoralty. The last such link was added by Mayor Joe Leddin in 2007, to make a total of seventy-six. The following is a full listing of the roundels on the principal Mayoral chain.

| Medal | Inscription |
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| 1 | D.G.F. Mahony. Esqr. Mayor, Year 1822. |
| 2 | Henry Watson, Esq., Mayor. Years 1823, 1824, 1825. |
| 3 | Nichs. (Nicholas) Mahon. Esqr. Mayor, Year 1826. |
| 4 | Thomas Jervis, Mayor of Limerick, 1st October, 1827. |
| 5 | Vere Hunt. Mayor of Limerick, October 1st 1828. |
| 6 | Henry Rose, Esq., Mayor of Limerick, Year 1829. |
| 7 | John Crips, Esq. Mayor of Limerick, 1831. |
| 8 | The Honble (Honourable) J.P. Vereker, 1832-1833. |
| 9 | Alderman John Vereker 1833. |
| 10 | Alderman John J. Piercy 1834. |
| 11 | Garrett Hugh Fitzgerald, Esqr. Mayor of Limerick, Octr. 1t. 1838. |
| 12 | Sir Richard Franklin, M.D., Mayor of Limerick, 30th September, 1839. |
| 13 | Honble (Honourable) Charles Smyth Vereker - Mayor 1841. |
| 14 | Martin Honan, Mayor for the years 1842-1843. The Municipal Reform Act became Law in Limerick, Nov. 9th, 1841. |
| 15 | Pierce Shannon, Corbally House, Mayor. Jany. 1st 1844. Died in his Mayoralty June 6th. 1844. |
| 16 | William J. Geary, M.D. Mayor of Limerick, 1844-45. First arch stone of the Abbey River Bridge laid 29th Nov., 1845. |

| Medal | Inscription |
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| 17 | Edmd. F- G Ryan. Mayor 1846. Floating Docks commenced. Total failure of potatoe (sic) crop. £5,000 collected in the city for the poor. |
| 18 | Thomas Wallnutt, Esq., Mayor of Limerick, 1847. The Liberator died at Genoa 15th May. Genl. Election, John O'Brien and John O'Connell, the son of the Liberator, returned. |
| 19 | Michael Quin, Mayor. 1848. Got possession of the Island Bank for the citizens. Railway communication opened 9th May between Dublin and Limerick. |
| 20 | Alderman John Boyse, J.P., Mayor of Limerick, 1849. Presented the Corporation Address to Her Majesty at Levee, Dublin. Laid the foundation stone of the Floating Docks, on which occasion he was presented with a silver trowel. |
| 21 | Laurence Quinlan, (Quinlivan) Esqr. Mayor. 1850. Presided at banquet of the citizens to Genl. Lord Gough on his Lordship's return from India 16th May. Attended Lord Mayor of London's Banquet to Prince Albert and the Mayors of the United Kingdom in furtherance of the Great Industrial Exhibition of all nations. |
| 22 | Thaddeus McDonnell, Esq., J.P. Mayor 1851. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey elected M.P. for the City. |
| 23 | William Henry Hall Mayor of Limerick, 1853. Great Munster Fair, new Corn Market, Floating Dock opened by Earl St. Germain's. |
| 24 | Henry Watson, Esq. Mayor. 1823. 1824. 1825. 1854. War against Russia declared. Irish Militia embodied. The Mayor this year traversed land and water boundaries of the Corporation Municipality. |
| 25 | Henry O'Shea, Esq., Mayor 1855. Public fountains erected for the poor of the City. |

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| 26 | James Spaight, Esq. Mayor 1856. Visit and entertainment of the Earl of Carlisle, Lord Lieutenant. Laid foundation stones of St. John's Cathedral and Sailor's Home. Peace with Russia. 1877 Opened People's Park. Reformed Night Watch. |
| 27 | Thomas Kane, J.P., M.D. mayor of Limerick 1852/57. General Election: Robert Potter & Francis William Russell Esqrs. Returned members for Limerick. The O'Connell statue inaugurated 15th August. General Election: Francis William Russell and Sergeant O'Brien elected 1857. |
| 28 | Edmond Gabbett, Esq. Mayor 1858. Visit of H.R.H. Prince Alfred, 26 June. James Spaight, Esq. returned M.P. For Limerick. Russian guns placed on Wellesley Bridge. |
| 29 | Michael Robert Ryan, J.P., Mayor of Limerick, 1859. General Election 4th May. F.W. Russell elected third time, Major Gavin elected second time Members of Parliament for the City. Silver cradle presented to Mrs. Ryan by Town Council and Corporation Officers in accordance with ancient custom of the city, to commemorate the birth of a son and heir, on 30th January in year of Mayoralty. |
| 30 | Alderman William Fitzgerald, Mayor. 1860. Died during his Mayoralty, 26 October, aged 34 years. |
| 31 | John Thomas MacSheehy Esq., J.P. Shannon Lawn, Mayor of Limerick for the year 1861. Presented by the citizens with a valuable silver testimonial on leaving office. Civil War broke out this year in the hitherto United States of America. Prince Consort died 14th December in this year. £1,100 collected for the purchase of fuel for the poor of the City. |
| 32 | Alderman William Lane Joynt, Mayor 1862. Appointed Clerk of the Crown for County Limerick. Great distress in Lancashire consequent on the Civil War in America. |

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| 33 | Robert McMahon, J.P., unanimously elected Mayor of Limerick, 1st December, 1862 for year 1863. New Church of St. Alphonsus dedicated 7th same month. Prince of Wales married 10th March and address of congratulation presented by Mayor at Marlboro' House. Mayor presented at Queen's Levee, St. James Palace, 8 June. Slob lands at Corkanree transferred by the Crown to Corporation on 20th November. |
| 34 | Eugene O'Callaghan, J.P. Mayor of Limerick 1861 (actually he was Mayor in 1864). Presented address to Lord Wodehouse on his assuming Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland. Birth of a son to Prince of Wales. The Corporation Gas Works renovated. Bill for Corkanree Embankment promoted by the Corporation. |
| 35 | Alderman John R. Tinsley, J.P. Mayor of Limerick, 1865. General Election, Russell and Gavin re-elected for the City. £3,000 expended on sewerage. Distress among working classes and outdoor relief obtained. £500 expended on City Gaol. £500 obtained for Corkanree Embankment and work began. Ancient Treaty Stone raised on pedestal. Jubilee Fountain erected in St. John's Parish. Tait Testimonial Tower begun. |
| 36 | Thomas Boyse, J.P. Mayor of Limerick, 1869. The judges of Assises attended Mass in state at the Cathedral with the Mayor and Corporation in their robes, being the first occasion of the kind since the Reformation. Election petition against City members defeated. The Protestant Church disestablished in Ireland. |
| 37 | William Spillane, Esq., J.P. Mayor 1870. President of the Limerick Athenaeum and School of Art, Public Free Library and Limerick Boat Club, unanimously elected to each office. Declaration of war between France and Prussia, July 15th. Irish Land Act became law, Aug. 1st. Corcanree Embankment opened Oct 14. First Public Free Library in Limerick opened December 15. |

Medal Inscription

- 38 Robert MacDonnell Esq. J.P. mayor OF Limerick, 1871. Siege and surrender of Paris and termination of Franco-Prussian War. Visit of His Excellency Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant 10th June and presentation of address at Town Hall. Presentation of Address by Mayor and Corporation to Colonel W. Monsell M.P. for County Limerick, at Tervoe, Jan. on his appointment as Postmaster-General. John McDonnell, J.P. Father of Mayor High Sheriff, City of Limerick 1870-1871.
- 39 J.J. Cleary, Mayor of Limerick, 1872. Visit of Earl and Countess Spencer, Lord Lieutenant. Address presented from the Corporation. Resignation of Ministry. Formation of Conservative Government by Mr. Disraeli.
- 40 J.J. Cleary. Unanimously re-elected Mayor 1873. Vote by Ballot Act becomes law in Ireland. Opening of Graving Dock by Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant May 14th. Over 300 citizens invited by Mayor to accompany his Excellency and Countess Spencer to Scattery Island de jeuner on board steamer. Ashantee war broke out. Irish Eight won shield at Wimbledon.
- 41 J. J. Cleary, Mayor of Limerick. Re-elected for the third time, 1874. Mayor attended the banquet, June 3rd of the Lord Mayor of London. Gladstone Ministry resigned. First Parliamentary election under the Ballot Act. Isaac Butt, Q.C., Richard O'Shaughnessy returned Feb. 8th. Address of congratulation to his Grace the Duke of Abercorn presented by the Mayor and Deputation for the Corporation at the Viceregal Lodge. First sod of the People's Park raised by Mayor Oct. 26. Silver spade and trowel presented. Silver cradle presented to Mayoress by the Corporation and citizens, value 250 guineas.
- 42 Ambrose Hall declared Mayor for the year 1875 by Right Hon. Justice Keogh after trial on petition in Court of Queen's Bench. International rifle match between America and Ireland. Frightful inundations in France, Hungary, England, Ireland, &c. International Municipal Festivities in London. O'Connell centenary celebration. Fancy charity ball organised by Mayor, by which £120 was realised for the poor.

Medal Inscription

- 43 John Francis Walker, Mayor 1876. Thomas E. O'Brien Esqr. South Hill, First Catholic High Sheriff elected by the Reformed Corporation. Opening of Catholic Institute. The laying of the foundation stone of the Tower and Spire of the Redemptorist Church, Mount St. Alphonsus with a grand peal of bells. All being the gift of Alderman John Quin, ex High Sheriff.
- 44 Stephen Hastings, Mayor 1878. Elected unanimously 1st Dec. 1877. Death of His Holiness Pius IX in the 32nd year of his Pontificate. Congratulatory address to Leo XIII on his accession. Treaty of Berlin signed July 13th. Invasion of Afghanistan.
- 45 Michael O'Gorman, Mayor 1879 and re-elected 1880. 1879 St. Alphonsus Tower completed & bells blessed. Mayor and Corporation attending ceremony. Isaac Butt, M.P. for the City died. Prince Imperial of France killed in Zulu War. Water arbitration held in Limerick. 1880, Limerick Gas Company's works acquired by Corporation. General Election. Resignation of Lord Beaconsfield. Gladstone appointed Prime Minister. Address of welcome to His Excellency, Earl Cowper, Lord Lieutenant presented by the Mayor & deputation of the Corporation. Foundation stone of Clock tower at Dock laid by Miss O'Gorman, daughter of Mayor. Great agitation for Reform of Land Laws through Ireland.
- 46 Alderman Jerome Counihan, Mayor, 1882-1883. Address of welcome presented by Mayor and Corporation in Dublin to Earl Spencer on appointment as Lord Lieutenant. Opening of Dublin Exhibition attended by Mayor and Mace Bearers. New Church of St. Michael's built and St. John's Cathedral Spire finished. Most Rev. Dr. Butler, Lord Bishop. First tree of Military Road planted by Mayor. Wellesley Bridge opened free of toll. Gold key presented to Mayor by Harbour Board. Royal Agricultural Society Show and Art Exhibition opened during visit of Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer. Bill passed to free Athlunkard Bridge from toll. Water works purchased and taken over by the Mayor.

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| 47 | S. O'Mara, Mayor of Limerick, 1885. Failure of Munster Bank. Visit of Prince of Wales to Railway Station. Not received in City by Mayor or citizens. Resistance to Police Tax brought to a successful issue. First Mayor elected as Nationalist. | 54 | Seaghan O Dalaigh do daoradh than ceann treasuin cumh braigdeanas pionuis le linn a saoghail, 1884. Do sgaoileadh soar as carcar Phortland 1896. Do toghad d'eanguth na Meire e 1899 agus 1900. Do bhuadhuigh ar an d-teoruidhe an Ridire Tomas de Cliobh 1901. |
| 48 | S. O' Mara, Mayor of Limerick. (1886). Elected M.P. Queens County Ossory Division. Home Rule Bill introduced by W.E. Gladstone. Right Rev. Dr. G. Butler, Bishop, died. Rev. Dr. E.T. O'Dwyer consecrated Bishop. | 55 | James F. Barry 1902. Seamus F. de Barra, I. Na S. abhi 'na Ard Sirram Meire Luimnighe 1902. |
| 49 | Francis A. O'Keeffe, Solicitor, Mayor of Limerick for three years 1887, 1888, 1889. Elected Member of Parliament for the City of Limerick, 18th April, 1888. Introduced Public Libraries Act into Limerick. Turned first sod of New Waterworks, 5 Sept 1888. Corporation Artisans dwellings first erected. Re-elected M.P. for the City at contested elections 1892, 1892. | 56 | John Kerr. 1907. Opened All Ireland Industrial Conference in the Town Hall. November 28. Opened the Tuberculosis Exhibition in the Athenauem, November 30. Attended the consecration of the Most Rev. Dr. Boylan as Bishop of Kilmore in Cavan Cathedral with sword and mace bearers, also Alderman McNiece & J.H.Roche Esq, J.P. |
| 50 | William J. O'Donnell, J.P., Mayor 1890. Sheriff 1889. The youngest Mayor of Limerick on record. 1890. | 57 | Alphonsus O'Mara, Mayor of Limerick, First Sinn Fein Mayor in Ireland. Refused Oath of Allegiance to the British Crown in 1918-19. Freedom of the City conferred on American delegates – Michael P. Ryan, Edward S. Dunne, Frank P. Walsh, 7th May, 1919. |
| 51 | Alderman P. Riordan, Mayor, 1891. The Leader of the Irish People, Chas. S. Parnell died Oct. 6th 1891. | 58 | Miceal O'Ceallachain, Meire, 1920. Go stuama calma stiuraigh se gnothai na cathrach bliain ba deine comhrach agus ba mho uafas i gCogadh na Saoirse, bliain glormhara a cruthaigh do claoideacht agus co-antracht Gael. I gcoimh na h-oiche, Marta 7, 1921, ina thig fein dunmarbhaidh e ag Gallaibh I lathair a bancheile. Beidh buan-cuimhne ar a oide I measc na ndaoine, 1879-1921. |
| 52 | Denis F. McNamara, Mayor, 1892. Cardinal Manning died January 14th 1892. Gladstone elected to power on the Home Rule Ticket. | 59 | Cuimnighid ar Luimnig. Do buanu cuimne Sheoirse Mhic Fhlannchadha. Oglach agus Oifigeach d'arm na Poblachta. Meire Luimnighe 1921, a dunmarbhuidh le Gallaibh na thig fein I lathair a bean-ceile an 7u Marta, 1921. |
| 53 | William M. Nolan, High Sheriff 1890. Mayor 1895 to 1896. Chairman, Committee "Garryowen" Fete, opened by Countess of Dunraven, and realised £3,000 for Barrington's Hospital. Mayoress presided at "Colleen Bawn" Stall. Nolan's Cottages built. Scheme for Technical Instruction for City initiated. Mayor went with deputation to Lord Lieutenant re endowment for Technical Education. Trade & Labour Congress in Limerick attended by Mayor in state. Band Stand in the People's Park inaugurated by Mayor. Garryowen Football Club won Munster Cup. Presented by Mayoress. | 60 | Stiophain M. O'Meara, Meire Luimni 1921-23. Torcaire Dail Eireann sna Stait Aontaithe 1921. Fe glas I gcampa Droichead Nua 1922-23. Ball de'n Coirle Stait Stephen O' Mara, Mayor Limerick 1921-23. Trustee Dail Eireann 1921. Special envoy to U.S.A. 1921. Interned Newbridge 1922-23. Member of Council of State. Appointed by President de Valera 1959. |

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| 61 | Paul A. O'Brien, 1925-27. Archbishop Mannix made Freeman, August 1925. Shannon Hydro Electric Scheme started August 1926. Athlunkard Boat Club Boat House completed December 1925. Dominicans celebrate 700 years in Limerick January 1926. Bohemians Rugby Football Club win first Munster Cup, April 1926. G.A.A. acquire Ennis Road Grounds April 1926. | 66 | This link was presented to Seoirse E. Ruiseil Mayor of Limerick 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57, by the sixteen surviving former Mayors of Limerick. G.B. Dillon, J.C. Hickey, A. O'Mara, Michael B. O'Malley, Michael J. Keyes, Stephen O'Mara, P. F. Quinlan, Patrick O'Connell, B.C., P.C., John Carew, James Reidy, Michael Hartney, K. Bradshaw, P.J. Donnellan, Des. J. O'Malley, Stephen Coughlan, James McQuane. |
| 62 | P. F. Quinlan. Councillor P.F. Quinlan elected Mayor of Limerick 24th June 1933. Inaugurated poor children's excursion to Youghal 30th July 1933. President de Valera opened Civic Carnival 2nd October 1933. Entertained Atlantic flyers Capt. Pond and Lieutenant Stabelli 17th May 1934 who conveyed Mayor's Petition to Holy Father, Pope Pius XI. Turned sod Limerick's largest housing scheme (380 houses) Island Field, 7th June '34. Messrs. P. Molloy & Sons and M. Doyle & Son, Builders. Entertained French Engineers 3rd July, 1934. Unanimously re-elected Mayor 9th July 1934. Apostolic Benediction received from Holy Father Pope Pius XI 13th July, 1934. Mayoral Banquet 25th Oct. 1934 to Limerick's team on victory All-Ireland Hurling Final. G.A.A. Jubilee year. Limerick City Management Act became Law, 6th Sept. 1934. | 67 | Vincent V. Feeney, Mayor of Limerick 1966-67. Aiseirí na Cásca 1916-1966. |
| 63 | Alderman James M. Casey elected First Mayor under the Limerick City Management Act 1934-36. Alderman James M. Casey acted as Deputy Mayor from 7th to 22nd March, 1921, after the murder of the Mayor by British Crown Forces. | 68 | Joseph P. Liddy, Mayor of Limerick. 1958-59 – Consecration of Bishop Murphy. Inauguration of President de Valera. 1970-71 – Freedom of the City conferred on Bishop Wyse-Jackson. Received President Nixon in Limerick. Enthronement of Bishop Caird. Civic Reception for Apollo 13 Astronauts James Lovelle, Jack Swigert, Fred Haise. Visit to U.S.A. received by President Nixon at White House. 50th Anniversary of deaths of Civic Leaders O'Callaghan, Clancy, Wall and Volunteer O'Donoghue. Attended funeral of Cardinal Michael Browne, O.P. visit of Lord Mayor and Mayoress of London, Sir Peter and Lady Studd and Party. Opened Watergate Housing Scheme. |
| 64 | Alderman Michael Hartney, Mayor 1945-46. Commandant Mid Limerick Brigade Old I.R.A. Commercial Air Services from the United States of America to Shannon Opened October 24th, 1945. | 69 | Michael D. Lipper, 1973-74. Mayor of Limerick. |
| 65 | Miceal B. O'Maille, Meire, 1948-49. Dligheadoir. | 70 | An Comhairleoir Tony Bromell Méara Luimní 1982 / 83. A bhean Áine is a gclann Úna, Déaglán, Fionnuala, Eamonn. Cláraitheoir Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál. Briathar Dé Mo Lóchrann. |
| | | 71 | Maurice Lenihan Historian 1884 Mayor of Limerick. Presented by J.J. Kenneally & Sons Jewellers Limerick 1992. 1691 – 1991 Limerick Treaty 300. Mayor Jim Kemmy and Mayor Paddy Madden. |
| | | 72 | Presented to Clr. John Quinn Mayor of Limerick 1st February 1993 by ICS Liam Ahern Chief Executive Irish Co-op Society Limerick ICS 1893 - 1993. 1893 Chairman - Sir Horace Plunkett. 1993 Chairman - W.R. Nagle. |

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| 73 | <p>Ald. J. Kemmy Mayor of Limerick. A.I.B. Bank Y.M.R.F.C. G. Casey President 1995. Young Munster R.F.C. Centenary 1895 – 1995.</p> |
| 74 | <p>Kieran O'Hanlon Mayor 1996 / 97. Marking 800th Anniversary of Charter. Presented by Wyeth Nutritionals Ireland.</p> |
| 75 | <p>Frank Leddin Mayor 1997 / 98. Marking Telecom Eireann Board Meeting in Limerick. Presented by Bord Telecom Eireann Plc.</p> |
| 76 | <p>Cllr. Joe Leddin Mayor of Limerick 2006/2007 Marking The Contribution By The Leddin & Keyes Families To The People of Limerick Presented by Joe Leddin & Family Leddin Finance Dublin</p> |