

Miscellanea

Newspaper extracts supplied by John Curtin

FOUNDATION DATE OF THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE

Since the edition of Tuesday 21 January 1890, the masthead of the *Limerick Chronicle* has included the statement "Established 1766," or words to that effect, and an advertisement in Guy's Limerick Directory, 1913, states that it was established in May, 1766.

However, Robert Herbert in *Limerick Printers and Printing* (City Library, 1942) pointed out that as the earliest known copy, Volume 1, Number 19, which is in the British Library, is dated 13 October 1768, the most likely date for the issue of the first copy of the newspaper was 12 August 1768. This date is confirmed by a notice from the printer and editor, John Ferrar, in the issue of Thursday 11 August 1774 (in Limerick Museum): "The printer of this Chronicle, having brought it down to the end of the sixth year, presents his warmest thanks to all his subscribers and customers in the counties of Limerick, Clare, Cork, Tipperary and Kerry..."

The numbering both of individual issues and of volumes is erratic up to 1805. Volumes 1 and 2 run from August to August, but from Volume 3, 1770, onwards they are numbered according to the calendar year. The volume for 1810 is numbered 43, correct according to the calendar year. No issues for 1811, the year the paper moved to 2, Rutland Street, are known. The volume the following year, 1812, is numbered 46, and from then to the present day the volume number has continued to be one ahead of what it actually should be, or before August each year, two ahead. It is thus easy to see how a person in 1890, subtracting volume 124 from that year, arrived at the conclusion that it was established in 1766.

Larry Walsh

THE MACHINERY AT THE DOCKS

The machinery purchased by Messrs Bannatyne and Co. for the purpose of discharging grain cargoes at the docks was tested on yesterday and Thursday, and found to work satisfactorily. A small screw steamer containing a quantity of wheat was placed alongside the "Garryowen" for that purpose and the machinery set in motion. Suction pipes connected the "Garryowen" with the vessel which was being discharged, which conveyed the grain to a tank or vat placed amidships in the former. Here the wheat, after being weighed, was driven on to another pipe which conveyed it across beneath the roadway to Messrs Bannatyne's stores. It would require an expert to go into a detailed description of the machinery, including the numerous automatic appliances, air valves, etc., but there can be no doubt as to the saving of time and labour which will be effected by the invention. Bodies of extra police continue to patrol the docks and neighbourhood, but up to the present no demonstration of a hostile character has taken place. Within the past few days

posters have been extensively posted throughout the city by the Dock Labourers Society protesting against the introduction of machinery by Messrs Bannatyne, and calling upon the public to assist them in their struggle against its establishment. The Messrs Bannatyne expect a vessel with a large cargo to arrive in the dock by Monday.

Munster News, 5 September 1896

THE NEW COUNTY COUNCILS

Section 1 of the Act establishes in every administrative county a County Council consisting of a chairman and councillors. To this council is transferred all the fiscal business of the Grand Jury, with the exception of the power of making presentments for malicious injury, which passes over to the County Courts. The presentments of the Grand Jury had to be formally approved of by the Judge of the Assize. This fiat is now abolished, as is also the traverse before alluded to, so that in all general matters the County Council is practically an independent local Parliament. Besides the powers of the Grand Jury the County Council will have the power of the Board of Guardians with respect to raising and levying the poor rate. In other words, all the rates in each county for the future will be raised by the County Council in one general rate. In addition the County Council will have transferred to it the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act, the Explosives Act, the Acts relating to Technical Education, and the management of Lunatic Asylums, including all the powers of the Board of Control, which is abolished. Upon the County Council are also large powers for the acquisition of land for county purposes, and a number of other duties and powers to be considered hereafter in detail. The new councils thus constituted will be elected by Parliamentary electors for the county, with the addition of women and peers who are qualified in all other respects, and the elections will be by ballot. It will be the duty of the Local Government Board, for the purpose of the first election, to divide each county into electoral divisions, each of which, with certain exceptions in the case of urban districts, will return one member to the County Council. The County Council will co-opt two additional members from amongst the electors, and the Grand Jury may, as regards the first County Councils, nominate three of their number to be members of the body. They will hold office for three years, and then go out as a body. So far for the County Councils.

COUNTY BOROUGHES.

Six boroughs, namely Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Derry and Waterford, will become "administrative counties" for the purpose of the Act. The Act, however, will not change the constitution of their Corporations and will practically speaking only operate in two respects, (1) to give them any powers given to the County

Councils under this Act which they do not possess, and (2) to extend the franchise.

Munster News, 7 August 1898

WILL OF THE LATE GENERAL LORD CLARINA

Probate has been granted of the will which bears date August 26th, 1898, of Gen. Eyre Challoner, Fourth Baron Clarina, of Elm Park, Clarina, Limerick, who held medals and clasps for the Crimean and Indian Mutiny campaigns. Lord Clarina, who died on the 16th December last, aged 67 years, left personal estate of the value of £23,866 14s. 11d. He died at Albert Bridge Road, Battersea Park. The executors of his will are his brothers, Lionel Edward Butler, now Fifth Lord Clarina, and Richard W. Frederick Barton Massey Mainwaring of 20 Grosvenor Place, MP, power being reserved to grant probate also to his brother, the son, and Rev. Adolphus Henry Tuthill Massey. Lord Clarina states in his will that he had an insuperable objection to being placed in a vault, and as the churchyard of Kiltely was already overcrowded, it was his particular desire that he should be buried in one of the fields of Elm Park, and he indicated a spot which he thought would be retired and convenient for the private family burying place. He expressed his wish that his successors should be able to support the title and to keep the estate (which is entailed under the settlements made in 1828 and 1855) as free from debts, as he hoped that he would find it. He therefore bequeathed to his successor his furniture and household effects, horses and carriages, and live and dead stock, and £1,000 in Consols, and £500 each in Great Northern and Great Southern of Ireland Railway Debentures, and the balance to his credit in the Limerick branch of the Provincial Bank of Ireland. He bequeathed the balance to his credit at Cox and Co., army agents, in trust to pay a legacy of £200 to his niece, Isabella Roche, and to distribute £100 amongst the people employed on his estate. The remainder of his balance at Cox and Co's, and further sums of £500 each in Great Northern and Great Southern of Ireland Railway Debentures, to be in trust for his sister, Mrs Anna Emily Barton, and his brothers other than his successor in the title, but he wished that some memorial of him should be selected for his brother-in-law, Hugh L. Baron, and his friend, Major James. The testator left all the residue of his property in equal shares to his brothers and sisters.

Munster News, 2 March 1898

A RELIC OF 1798

A relic of '98 which ought to attract some attention in this year of grace has just found its way from Limerick to Dublin. It is one of the only authentic portraits of Robert Emmett now in existence, and had been for some years the property of Mr Nash of Corbally, Limerick. The portrait, which is a very fair state of preservation, represents the patriot as a handsome young man of

about twenty-four, who has, however, no striking resemblance to the popular presentment of Robert Emmett. It has been entrusted by Mr Nash to a talented young Dublin lady who has already made her reputation in the RHA, and who will make a faithful copy of the picture. The other established portrait of Emmett is the miniature now in the possession of his descendants in America.

Munster News, 13 August 1898

A LIMERICK MAN AMONG THE INDIANS

A London correspondent remarks - It seems rather novel to find an Irishman from the banks of the Shannon ruling over a tribe of wild Indians in America, but the novelty exists. The Winnebags Indians, who live in the State of Wisconsin, U.S.A., recently chose as their chief one Thomas Reddy, a son of Patrick Reddy, an Indian trader and a native of Limerick.

Munster News, 20 July 1898

DISPUTE AT LIMERICK CLOTHING FACTORY

A dispute has occurred at the Limerick Army Clothing Factory which has resulted in the temporary locking out of about 350 of the workers. The girls complain that for some time past they have not had sufficient work to keep them employed, and that this is a breach of an agreement made with them at the termination of the last strike, when they were guaranteed a full supply of work on certain conditions. These conditions it is alleged the workers have complied with, but nevertheless a large portion of the work has been sent to the branch factory in Dublin, and the operatives here are left partially idle. Matters reached a climax on Thursday forenoon, when the girls who were at work began to cheer. Cheering is with most people usually an indication of satisfaction or pleasure, but in the case of the workers in the Army Clothing Factory, it appears to be a sign of discontent and unrest. The manager, Mr Taylor, inquired into the cause of the cheering, and a deputation from the workers went before him and complained of the work being sent to Dublin. Mr Taylor then told the employees that if they had any grievance to complain of they should first come to him and try to have a settlement before creating a disturbance. As a small penalty for their disorderly conduct he ordered them to stop out till Monday. Further, he posted a notice on the gate to the effect that no one who had earned less than four shillings a week during the last three weeks would be allowed to resume work till the 8th inst. The girls, to the number already stated, are accordingly locked out, but it is anticipated that the most of them will begin work again on Monday morning. In justification of the action of the manager has taken in locking out, Mr Snell stated that last year the firm were unable to get through in Limerick with the quantity of work they had on hands, and were obliged to open a branch factory in Dublin. Before starting the Dublin house, however, they made every effort they could to procure additional labour in Limerick, but failed. This year the work was not so brisk, but having gathered a staff together in Dublin, the managers of the clothing factory were not prepared to dismiss them at a moment's notice, and so

the work was divided as fairly as possible between Limerick and Dublin, having regard to the fact that the Limerick factory, as the parent house, was entitled to a larger share. Not more than 80 girls are employed in the Dublin factory at present. Mr Snell stated that the pressure of work is not so great as it was last year, but there is still sufficient for all hands.

Munster News, 6 August 1898

ALLEGED SHEBEENING

Denis Murnane, an agricultural labourer, was prosecuted by the police with having liquor on his premises for the purpose of sale, and without a licence.

Mr J P Connolly, solicitor, appeared for the defendant.

Sergeant Greene deposed that he searched defendant's house on the 30th April on a warrant, and found a dozen of porter. He also stated that a man named Scott came to the house while he was continuing the search, and asked Murnane's wife if she had a bottle; he appeared to be under the influence of drink at the time, and was, he believed, a frequent visitor of the house.

Mr Connolly - He admits of having the liquor on the premises, but it was for his own use.

Defendant stated that he always kept a dozen of porter for his own use, but not for the purpose of sale.

Mr Hickson - The labourers of the country as so well off now as their masters.

Defendant - Milk is very scarce in my locality and I prefer a bottle of stout.

J Scott who was next examined, stated he visited the house of Murnane very often as he was caring in that direction: he often got a bottle of stout at defendant's house.

Mr Hickson - Did you pay for it?

Witness - No, sir.

Mr Hickson - Was this man ever committed before?

Sergeant Greene - He was convicted on two occasions - in 1889 the first case, he was fined 5s, and the second was dismissed.

Mr Connolly - He admits all this.

Mr Hickson said the magistrates had come to conclusion that he exposed for sale liquor on certain dates, and would now be fined 10s 6d and costs.

Sergeant Greene - The porter is in my possession. How will I dispose of it?

Mr Hickson - Send it to Barrington's Hospital.

Munster News, 11 June 1898

THE NEW PARK

We understand the Town Clerk has received the agreement from the Board of Works in connection with the proposed new park at the rear of the Custom-house, and that when same has been signed, the place will be at once opened to the public. It is proposed that the entrance shall be from Rutland street only, and that the park shall be opened in the summer from 7 am to 9 pm, and during the winter from 8 am until sunset. We trust the action of the High Sheriff in presenting an ornamental railing will be followed by other citizens in making similar presentations to beautify the place. We should suggest that some seats be placed there as soon as possible.

Munster News, 20 July 1898

GREAT FIRE IN THE CITY

One of the largest fires which have

occurred in the city for some time past broke out at an early hour this morning in the biscuit factory of Mr James Heaphy, Lower Shannon street, and succeeded in reducing that immense building to a ruin. The fire was noticed a short time before two o'clock am by some people living opposite the factory, who conveyed the warning to the fire station. The Fire Brigade, under the superintendence of Captain A Wilde, arrived on the scene a few minutes after receiving the call. By this time, however, the building was completely at the mercy of the flames, which enveloped it from the basement to the top windows, five stories higher. Lines of hose to the number of seven were laid down and the burning mass played upon by the firemen with a copious supply of water for the space of an hour, after which the fire was all but extinguished. During the progress of the fire the heat became so intense that the residents in the houses at the other side of the street were obliged to leave, and the employees of the saw mills of Messrs F Spaight & Sons were called out, and played upon the sheds in Messrs Spaight's yard from an adjoining hydrant to prevent them igniting, as they threatened to do from the great heat and flying sparks from the conflagration at the other side. The house of Mr J McCarthy, publican, adjoining, had rather a fortunate escape, being practically uninjured, which might be accounted for by the fact of no breeze blowing at the time, and the exertions of the firemen to prevent the extension of the fire in this direction. The interior of the building was completely demolished, the roof and all the floors having fallen in. The factory had been working for the past six months and employed upwards of 40 to 50 hands in the biscuit making business. It is a remarkable circumstance that during the preparation of the factory by Mr Heaphy for his business over six months ago, the building was injured from the effects of a fire in Mr Cleeve's hay-stores adjoining, and it is strange that it itself eventually perish from the same cause. Notwithstanding that the damage is covered by insurance, much sympathy is felt with Mr Heaphy for the accident, as his business was increasing. The amount of insurance is stated to be about £3,000.

Munster News, 3 August 1898

THE MAYORALTY FOR 1898

To-day the re-installation of Mr Michael Cusack as Mayor for the year 1898 took place at the Council Chamber, Town Hall. The room was artistically decorated with plants, evergreens and flowers, supplied by Mr Bourke from the People's Park. The portraits of Daniel O'Connell, Gerald Griffin, and the Municipal Arms were ornamented with the inevitable holly and ivy, the Chamber presenting a very effective appearance. On one of the walls was hung the appropriate motto: "1798-1898 - Let us be united Irishmen once again." There was a large attendance of members of the Council, but that of the general public was small. About half-past 12 the Mayor (Mr Michael Cusack), in his robes of office, entered the Council Chamber, accompanied by the City High Sheriff (Mr Stephen B. Quin J.P.), attended by the City High Constable (Mr James Forrest), bearing the sword of state, and the sergeants-at-mace and macebearers, forming an imposing procession.

Munster News, 1 January 1898