SOME TIME AGO an American visitor called at the Limerick Chronicle office to enquire the location of Scabby Lane. He had been told his parents were born there, but he found it difficult to believe that a lane could be so inelligantly named.

Everyone else also found it difficult to believe and the stranger abandoned his quest. Though there is no trace of Scabby Lane now, it really did exist, and one of Limerick's oldest citizens tells us that it was located off Broad Street. And, if further proof were needed, the writer found the lane mentioned in an school register of the 1850's. The register was kept at the old St. John's C.B.S. School. John Street. The building is still intact to-day and in use but the school has gone.

The book carried much interesting information, too, on many of Limerick's old laneways long since swept away by the winds of social change. And there were the names of hundreds of pupils long dead and forgotten, with details of the ancient crafts their fathers followed and now long extinct too.

But first, let us have a look at some of the old place names mentioned. There was Milk Market, Town Wall, Ball Alley Lane, Magdalen Lane, Purcell's Lane, Flag Lane, Curry Lane, Pencil's Lane, Bowles' Lane, Repeal Alley, Forker's Lane, Mungret Lane, Joshua's Lane, Cassidy's Lane, Garvey's Lane, Barrack Lane, Fitzgerald Lane, Cornwallis Street, Scott's Land, Clappett's Bow, and Mass Lane.

What place did Father Quin occupy in Limerick's lesser-known history? Whatever it was, he must have been a popular pastor in his day, for his name was enshrined in Father Quin Lane. And where, too, were Sheey Lane, Smith Lane, Moloney Lane, Williams' Lane, Monaghan Lane, Barrett's Lane, Hogg Lane?

The register continues with names places such as Miller's Row, Blackbow Lane, Gallows Green, Carey's Lane, and Johnman's Row.

Some of Limerick's history is recalled in many of these old places. Playhouse Lane, for instance, was named after the theatre which stood at the corner of this lane and Gerald Griffin Street. And how did White Wine Lane get its name? It was so called because the farmers met there for the theatre which stood at the corner of this lane and Gerald Griffin Street. And how did White Wine Lane get its name? It was so called because the farmers met there for the theatre which stood at the corner of this lane and Gerald Griffin Street.

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Six-year-old Michael Dwyer of Garryowen was "continually mitching" and so were six-year-old John Sexton and his eight-year-old brother Dan, of Blackboy Pike.

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