

More Merry Widows of Limerick City

The list of widows, published in *The Old Limerick Journal* Number 44 Winter Edition 2010, ended in 1801 and this list begins eleven years later. Some of the widows were still alive in 1812 therefore the numbering system is continued from the last list. The symbols A for widow of an Alderman and B for widow of a Burgess are also continued. Thus we find:-

- 20 B Sarah James
- 24 A Christian Carpenter
- 27 A Mary Ann Franklin
- 29 A Catherine Roche
- 30 A D Harrison, (Deborah)
- 31 B Eliza Vincent
- 32 B Ann Bindon

The new Widows:-

- 35 B Margaret Parker
- 36 B Jane Sargent
- 37 B Mary Fitzgerald
- 38 A Mrs Joseph Sargent,
(Margaret Lloyd)
- 39 B Ann Webb
- 40 B Mercy Wallace
- 41 B Mary Ferrar
- 42 A Maria Shepherd
- 43 A Elizabeth Hunt
- 44 B Mrs C Parker
- 45 B Mary Stretch
- 46 B Eliza Tavernor

Some additional notes on some widows

- Number 20, widow of Burgess, Sarah James was the widow of Raleigh James Sheriff in 1767. She was still drawing her pension in January 1822, 39 years after the death of her husband. The *Limerick Chronicle* Thursday 3 July 1783 reported the death, "yesterday evening of Raleigh James." *Faulkner's Dublin Journal* Tuesday 19 July 1763 reported the wedding at Limerick of Mr Rawley James, Tallow Chandler, to Miss Sally Johns, daughter of Mr Joseph Johns, Burgess of said place.
- Number 24, Alderman's widow, Christian or Kitty Carpenter, as she was informally called, the wife of Thomas Carpenter, Mayor in 1781, drew her pension up to February 1813 when she died in her house in Cornwallis Street. Her brother James Sargent died insane in 1817 and her brother Francis was found guilty of forging their fathers will. Her other brothers brought Francis to court to prevent him from claiming their father's entire estate. Francis was debarred by the court from inheriting anything from his father.

by Noel Murphy

- Number 27, Alderman's widow, Mary Ann Franklin, wife of Alexander Franklin, Mayor in 1783, drew her half yearly pension on 16 June 1821. Her next payment was due in December 1821 but there is no mention of her up to and including 25 June 1822 when the account book closed. One may assume that she died sometime after June 1821 and before December 1821. The *Clare Journal* Thursday 2 June 1791 reported the death of Alderman Alexander Franklin on the previous Monday 30 May 1791.
- Number 29, Alderman's widow, Catherine Roche was still collecting her pension on 26 March 1822 shortly before this account book ended.
- Number 30, Alderman's widow, Deborah Harrison was also collecting her pension up to 21 May 1822. John Harrison died in his house in Mary's Street on 4 April 1797.
- Number 31, widow of Burgess; Elizabeth Vincent was still being paid her pension up to 15 April 1822 and beyond.
- Number 32, widow of Burgess, Ann Bindon was also alive on 13 May 1822 when this account book ended.

The new widows listed in this Account Book

- Number 35, widow of Burgess, Margaret Parker was already on the books when she received a half years pension on 20 August 1812. She received her last payment on 16 August 1817, indicating the year of her death. Edward Parker was Sheriff of Limerick City in 1780 and was appointed Town Clerk in 1788 to succeed Robert Hallam who had just died. This was a permanent position. Edward seems to have retired in 1811 as his son, also Edward, succeeded him in that year and was elected a Burgess without serving as Sheriff. Edward Parker died on Tuesday 7 April having been Town Clerk for thirty years. He was born 1755 and died in the 58th year of his age.¹ His son in a sworn statement to a Parliamentary committee in 1820 stated that he took a months holidays every year to go to the seaside.
- Number 36, Jane Sargent, widow of Burgess, was the wife of Francis Sargent who was Sheriff in 1765. He was the son of Peter Sargent the 1753 Mayor who died in 1785. From a Limerick marriage notice in the *Hibernian Magazine* dated 5 January 1775, Jane was the eldest

daughter of the Rev James Sargent. Extensive research failed to reveal a Rev James Sargent, in fact the only Rev Sargent listed at that time was the Rev Joseph Sargent. Rev Joseph's wife was named Jane and Francis named one of his daughter's Jane. Francis produced a forged will on his father's death and his three brothers took him to court where he was sentenced to be disbarred from any and all benefit from his father's estate. His folly no doubt cost him his chance of becoming Mayor. He also had a daughter Christian who ended up as an unmarried mother much to the embarrassment of her aunt Christian Carpenter listed above. Francis and Jane his wife were therefore first cousins. This was common in the Protestant community as the pool from which to choose a bride was very small. Jane died on the 2 June 1821.

- Number 37, Mary Fitzgerald, widow of Burgess, was married to John Fitzgerald one of the 1783 Sheriffs. He must have died about September 1812, as she started to collect her pension on 24 September 1813.
- Number 38, Alderman's widow, Mrs Joseph Sargent was Margaret Lloyd who married Joseph Sargent of Limerick in Cashel, County Tipperary in 1782² She had a dowry of £2,000. Her husband Joseph won another £2,000 in the State Lottery in February 1788. Joseph died in 1804 leaving his widow with nine young children, the last one born on 30 January 1803 while he was Mayor. Margaret died in 1855.
- Number 39, Ann Webb widow of Burgess, was the wife of Richard Webb Sheriff of Limerick in 1797 and 1799. Ann's last payment was made on the 25 May 1818. The *Clare Journal* Thursday 11 February 1819 announced the death on Friday night in William Street of Anne Webb, relict of the late Richard Webb, Burgess. The death was occasioned by grief for the loss of her only child, Miss Anne Webb. The daughter had died on the 13 January 1819. Richard Webb, Sheriff, died in office on Tuesday 25 March 1800 and was replaced by Phillip Russell. Richard was the son of James Webb who died on the 31 August 1798.
- Number 40, Mercy Wallace, widow of Burgess, was the widow of Robert Wallace Sheriff in 1787. The *Limerick Chronicle* Wednesday 30 October 1793 reported the death of Robert Wallace a Burgess of the Corporation having served the office of Sheriff of this city in the year 1787. He died at his lodgings near

THE
LIMERICK-HUNTINGDON
FERRARS.



BY ONE OF THEM.

1903

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No.

For private circulation.

Bookplate from *The Limerick-Huntingdon Ferrars*, (Plymouth 1903)
(Limerick Museum)

Rutland Street on the morning the death notice was published. Mercy Wallace was still alive when the account book ended.

- Number 41, Mary Ferrar, widow of Burgess, was the wife of John Ferrar, author of a history of Limerick and was Sheriff of the city in 1780. Mary was paid a lump sum of 11 years worth of pension on the 18 December 1815 and was still on the book in 1822 and beyond. The pension information places John Ferrar in Dublin at the time of his death in 1804.³ John Ferrar and Mary Johns married in Limerick in February 1768.
- Number 42, Alderman's widow, Maria Shepherd, was the wife of Rev Thomas Shepherd Mayor of Limerick in 1791. Maria Moroney was the daughter of Andrew Moroney and his wife Miss Henn. Maria married Thomas Shepherd on 21 July 1785. Rev Thomas died on 29 April 1812, aged 61, at his house on Charlotte Quay and Maria died in 1824.
- Number 43, Alderman's widow, Elizabeth Hunt, was the wife of William Hunt the 1811 Mayor. She collected her first pension payment on 16 August, 1816. William Hunt of Friarstown⁴ married

Elizabeth the daughter and heiress of David Urquart. Elizabeth, widow of Alderman Hunt of Friarstown, died on Monday 22 October 1823.

- Number 44, Mrs C Parker widow of Burgess, is difficult to identify. She is not connected to Edward Parker the deceased Town Clerk. There is no record of another Burgess or ex-Sheriff named Parker dying in the year before she collected her first pension payment on 7 October 1817. She collected her pension yearly in October. This period notes her payment in October 1821. She is not mentioned in the 1833 list, which covers only February to May 1833.
- Number 45, Mary Stritch, widow of Burgess, was married to Abraham Colclough (pronounced Cokely) Stritch. He was admitted a Freeman on 27 June 1801 and was elected Sheriff in 1803, 1804 and 1805. He died in Ennis on Thursday 12 June 1817. Their daughter was married in Ennis in 1820 so the family seem to be residents of County Clare. Mary was still collecting her pension in November 1821. The account book ends in June 1822 and again the small number of records for 1833 only run from February to May 1833. Mary

Stritch was born Mary Anne Bolton.

- Number 46, Eliza Tavernor, widow of Burgess, is probably the wife of John McAlister Taverner who died in office whilst Sheriff in 1818. She collected two years pension on 9 May 1821 and was still alive when the accounts book closed in 1822. John Tavernor married Eliza Davis on 17 December 1798 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Widows listed in 1833

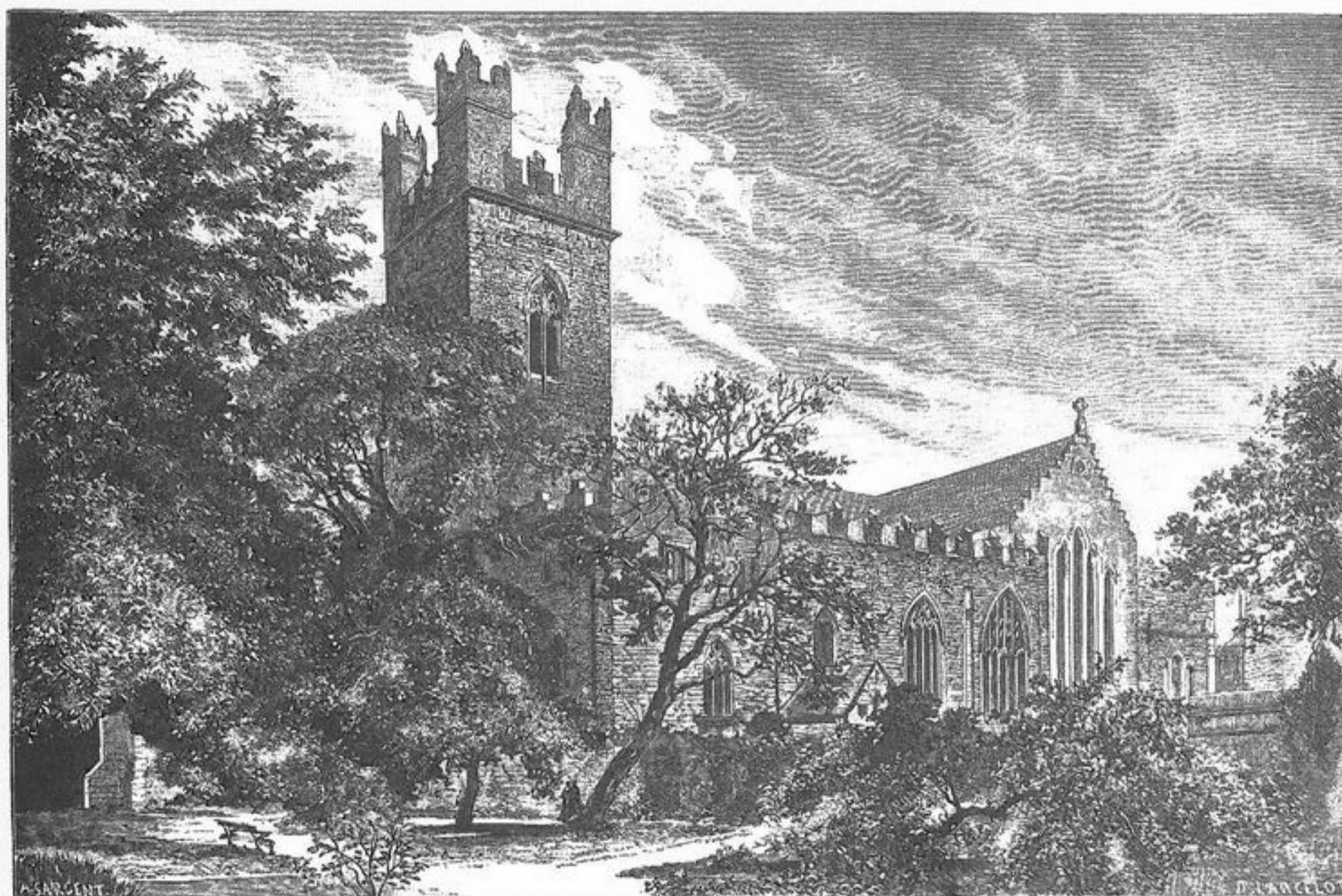
This same source also has a list of widows who drew their pensions in the first half of 1833. The list gives the due date of each widow's pension, which is important as the due date should mark the date of the death of each widow's husband.

Between 1822 and 1833 the amounts of money paid to each widow seem to be smaller and it possibly reflects a difference between the Irish pound and the pound sterling. A half years annuity for an Alderman's widow, which was £4, has been converted to £3 13s 10d and similarly a widow of a Burgess who received a yearly payment of £5 had the amount reduced to £4 12s 4d.

The widows listed are: -

- 47 A Mrs Crips, due on 4 February. 1833. Half yearly.
- 48 B Mrs Morris, due on 8 March 1833. Yearly.
- 49 B Mrs Collis, due on 26 February. 1833. Half yearly.
- 29 A Mrs Roche, due on 25 March 1833. Quarterly.
- 50 B Mrs Taylor, Chamberlain's widow, due on 10 March 1833. Half yearly.
- 30 A Mrs Harrison, due on 25 March 1833. Half yearly.
- 51 B Mrs Carroll, due on 10 April 1833. Half yearly.
- 31 B Mrs Vincent, due on 30 March 1833. Yearly.
- 38 A Mrs Sargent, due on 11 May 1833. Yearly.
- 52 B Mrs Jackson, due on 1 May 1833. Half yearly.
- 29 A Mrs Roche, Alderman's widow, due on 24 May 1833. Quarterly.
- 53 B Mrs Edwards, due on 25 May 1833. Half yearly.

- Number 29, Alderman's widow Catherine Roche was still living in 1833.
- Number 30, Alderman's widow Deborah Harrison was still living in 1833.
- Number 31, Elizabeth Vincent, widow of Burgess was still living in 1833
- Number 38, Alderman's widow Margaret Sargent was still living in 1833
- Number 47, Alderman's widow Mrs Crips was the wife of John Crips the Mayor in 1830. John never served as Sheriff. Alderman John Crips was of Cahirnarry. A John Crips of Cahirnarry married a Miss Elizabeth Helena Cudmore the daughter of John Cudmore of Ballycahane, County Limerick in July 1790.
- Number 48, Mrs Morris, widow of Burgess, is also difficult to identify. There



CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY, LIMERICK.
By D. LANGLLOT, from a Photograph.

St. Mary's Cathedral from an engraving by A Sargent

(Limerick Museum)

was a J De Burgh Morris, Burgess who was in the Corporation in 1818-1819.

- Number 49, Mrs Collis, widow of Burgess, was wife of Henry Collis who served as Sheriff from 1812 through to 1817, six years uninterrupted service. He was also Sheriff in 1800 and 1802.
- Number 50, Mrs Taylor, widow of Burgess, was the wife of William Taylor a corrupt crony of Lord Gort. When Edward Parker was put on trial for his crimes whilst serving as Town Clerk, William Taylor stood out from his fellow jurors in refusing to return a verdict of guilty. Taylor was the only juror to receive refreshments, the other jurors were denied all relief including necessary medicines. He was praised highly by Lord Gort and admitted a Freeman in July 1816. Shortly afterwards he was elected Sheriff and in August 1823 he was appointed Chamberlain to the Council for life to succeed Lord Gort. When Sheriff Taverner died in office, Taylor was chosen to take his place for the remainder of the term. He continued as Sheriff for the next four years 1819 to 1822. William Taylor's death was announced in the *Limerick Chronicle* 10 March 1824. "This morning at his house in Glentworth Street, late Sheriff of this city and Chamberlain to the Corporation of Limerick. There never existed a gentleman of more pure and honourable principles, he was a most indulgent husband and parent and a sincere disinterested friend."

- Number 51, Mrs Carroll, widow of Burgess. Henry Pierce Carroll was Sheriff in 1798, 1803, 1804 and 1806. He was listed at Meelick Lodge in 1809 and his wife had a daughter in June 1799. A daughter died at his house in Clare Street in March 1821 and his mother died in St John's Square in September 1801
- Number 52, Mrs Jackson, widow of Burgess. William Marcus Jackson was Sheriff for three consecutive years, 1818 to 1820. William lived on the North Strand and was also an Attorney. He was born in 1761 and entered Trinity College, Dublin on 6 November 1775. His father was also William.
- Number 53, Mrs Edwards widow of Burgess. There were no Sheriffs named Edwards recorded for Limerick city, nor is there any reference to an Edwards being voted directly onto the Council of the Corporation of Limerick.

Widows listed in 1842

This list was drawn up for a Corporation Council meeting held on 19 December 1842.⁵ It was resolved that the several pensions be paid by the treasurer as soon as he had funds to do so. The list of eighteen Corporation widows included;

- 29 Mrs Alderman Roche, due on 29 September 1821.
- 31 Mrs [Elizabeth] Vincent, due on 25 March 1840. By 1842 she was dead.

- 38 Mrs Joseph Sargent, due on 11 May 1841.
- 48 Mrs De Burgh Morris, due on the 8 September 1841.
- 49 Mrs [Henry] Collis, due on the 25 August 1841.
- 50 Mrs [William] Taylor, Chamberlain's widow due on 10 September 1841.

SOURCE

Limerick Local Taxation 1822, Ordered, by the House of Commons, to be printed, 31 July 1822. Copy in City Library. Reference 352 094 194. Appendix (B). Documentary Papers, Account No 9, in appendix to report from select committee.

FOOTNOTES

1. *Limerick Evening Post* 11 April 1812.
2. *Burke's Irish Family Records* mistakenly claims that Mayor Joseph was married to Jane Fitzgerald, 6th daughter of Thomas the 17th Knight of Glin. Jane was married to Mayor Joseph's son and heir also named Joseph.
3. *Ennis Chronicle* Thursday 10 May 1804 reported the death in Merrion Row, Dublin, of John Ferrar. One of his daughters [Mary] was married at Merrion Row on 4 February 1796 and died in June 1809.
4. *Clare Journal* Thursday 27 January 1814, announced the death in Clare Street, at the age of 71, of the mother of Alderman William Hunt, of Friarstown, near Limerick City.
5. Limerick Archives. L/Min/1.