Municipal Privileges
Act 1876

by Des Ryan

Dublin] and Maude Gonne. According to the standards of the period, both Clarke and Egan were convicted felons. This was Daly's way of thundering his nose at the British government.

From 1877 to date only 89 of 94 recipients have signed the Roll of Freemen, four women, the first being Countess Maria of Aberdeen in 1894, and 85 men. The 94 recipients comprised of 65 who were by vote of the City Council and 29 through it being hereditary. The claim to hereditary title does not seem to have been abolished in 1876, it was still being claimed, and granted, up to 1927. There was a claim in 1961, but it was refused on the grounds that the claimant was not the eldest son of a Freeman. The following is a list of names of those who got the Freedom of the City by hereditary means, after 1876, and are omitted from Limerick City Council publications.

Hereditary Freemen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Francis Wilkinson</td>
<td>24/5/1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Greene Barry</td>
<td>7/1/1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard John Kane</td>
<td>7/1/1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Joseph Sexton</td>
<td>7/1/1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Dowell</td>
<td>7/1/1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hooland</td>
<td>11/1/1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Levers, senior</td>
<td>16/7/1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Levers, Jr.</td>
<td>16/7/1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Moroney O'Donnell</td>
<td>22/11/1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Vereker Lloyd Moroney</td>
<td>22/11/1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.R. Baker</td>
<td>9/12/1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z.P. Lodger</td>
<td>1/8/1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.G.E. Twiss</td>
<td>27/6/1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Mc Mahon</td>
<td>25/11/1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Matthew Hagan Bodkin</td>
<td>26/11/1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hackett Lee</td>
<td>7/4/1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlo Scassia</td>
<td>7/4/1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles M. Scassia (Sr.)</td>
<td>7/4/1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Byrne Goggin</td>
<td>12/8/1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles C. Dawson</td>
<td>21/3/1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. O'Connell</td>
<td>6/5/1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James O'Hooloran</td>
<td>6/5/1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Gubbins</td>
<td>6/5/1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Matthew Scassia</td>
<td>23/10/1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael O'Connell</td>
<td>3/10/1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William J. Hall</td>
<td>27/3/1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Thomas Barry</td>
<td>10/11/1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Fitzgibbon MacMahon</td>
<td>25/11/1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Gubbins</td>
<td>20/4/1927</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unsigned Recipients

There are five unsigned spaces in the Roll of Freemen since 1 January 1877, and one of the conditions of being awarded the Freedom of Limerick City is that the recipient should come to Limerick to receive the honour, and sign their name to the Roll of Freemen. The five unsigned recipients are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Butt</td>
<td>1/1/1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Dwyer Grey</td>
<td>24/5/1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William O'Brien</td>
<td>13/6/1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael O'Connell</td>
<td>30/10/1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paschal Robinson</td>
<td>7/8/1930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Isaac Butt

Isaac Butt (1813-1879) was born in Glenfin, County Donegal, his father, a Church of Ireland Minister, was from Adare in County Limerick. As a young boy Butt had often spent his holidays in Adare visiting his grandfather who was also named Isaac. Butt had been prominent Unionist and barrister, but later on his political views changed. This was, in part, due to his legal defence of the leaders of the 1848 and 1867 rebellions. In 1869 Butt accepted the presidency of the Amnesty Association, which had been founded to secure the release of Irish political prisoners. A year later he took over the leadership of the Home Government Association, a loose collection of conservative Protestants, Catholics and committed Nationalists.

In 1871 Butt travelled to Limerick city as a Home Rule candidate, to contest the parliamentary seat of Francis William Russell, M.P., who had died. After winning the by-election on 30th September 1871, he was elected M.P. for Limerick. In 1873, Butt changed the name of the Home Government Association to the Home Rule League. The aim of the league was that Ireland should be given the same limited form of independence from England by constitutional means. It was through Butts efforts that the Municipal Franchise Act was passed. He and Richard O'Shaughnessy, both Members of Parliament for Limerick were the first to receive the title of Honorary Freeman under the new Act. Although Butt and O'Shaughnessy were conferred with the Freedom, at a hastily convened meeting on Tuesday 11th May 1877, for some reason or other Butt did not sign the Freeman's Roll.

After attending a meeting of his election committee that morning, Butt made his way from Cruises Hotel to the Council chamber of the Town Hall, just down the street, where O'Shaughnessy who was also in attendance was waiting. The Mayor, John Boys, asked to take advantage of the situation while the cities two representatives were in town. As the meeting got under way the Mayor asked if any of the Councilors wished to address the meeting. Councillor Donat O'Brien said he just wished to say that Henry O'Shea had not yet completed the illumination of the address to be presented to Butt and O'Shaughnessy. O'Shea hoped to do so shortly and then the address would be forwarded to the residences of their representatives. The Mayor stood up, and turning to Isaac Butt said: "It is with the greatest pride and pleasure, as chief magistrate of the city and chairman of the corporation, that I present you with the Freedom of the City."

The Mayor then, amid much applause, went through the ceremony of confering the Freedom of the City. In his acceptance speech, Butt referred to the Municipal Privileges Bill, by saying:

In 1871, we were, I might say, for the first time perhaps, able to form an Irish party in the House of Commons. I introduced two bills, one for the purpose of assimilating the franchise in Ireland to that of England, and the other [the Municipal Privileges Bill] to confer upon the Corporations in Ireland, the same privileges as those enjoyed by English Corporations, namely to elect their own high sheriffs and clerks of the peace. In the latter bill it was proposed, an advantage by the way over the English Corporations, that the Irish Corporations should have the power, as in the case of the freedom of the City, of conferring the Freedom of the City on such as they might think deserving of the honour. The bill was accepted by the [British] government, and referred to a select committee of which the Lord Chancellor for Ireland and the Chief Secretary were members. It passed through the committee, but, by a transaction, which reflected little credit upon Parliament, the bill was thrown out in the House of Lords. In 1875 I brought in the bill again but I did not receive the support from the government that I expected. Last year I introduce the bill for the third time and it is now reported conditionally by the Government. The measure, however, was opposed by some of the Irish Conservatives, and just as the end of the session was drawing to a close, one of the most moderate of the party suggested a compromise. They consented to withdraw the opposition to the bill if I would agree to accept that (Irish) Corporations could nominate three people for the position of sheriff, but the power of selecting those [the sheriff] would be given to the Lord Lieutenant. I had the choice of either accepting the compromise or losing the opportunity of passing the bill into law and having to wait for another year. When the bill finally passed through Parliament, on August 15th 1876, the section dealing with the right of a Corporation to elect its own Clerk of Peace was omitted from the bill. The power of the Head of the Corporation to veto bills passing through Parliament was broken in 1911, but they still had the power to delay a bill for two years.

Edward Dwyer Grey

In the 1880s Edward Dwyer Grey [1845-1888], served as Lord Mayor of Dublin and later on as High Sheriff; and was a strong supporter of Charles Stewart Parnell. Grey's family owned the Freeman's Journal, the Belfast Morning Post and the Dublin Evening Telegraph. In 1869, Grey became a Roman Catholic in order to marry his wife. He was made a Freeman of Dublin in 1880, and in the next year he was elected Mayor. Later on he was also Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1884. Grey was also a member of the Irish Parliamentary Party and was imprisoned in 1882 for remarks made in the Freeman's Journal while he was still High Sheriff.

Edward Dwyer Grey, Charles Dawson [from Limerick], both M.P.s for Carlow and Michael Davitt were made honorary Freemen of Limerick on Easter Monday 14 April 1884. In a letter to the Mayor, Maurice Lenihan, dated Easter Sunday, Grey apologised for not being able to attend the ceremony due to the fact that he had bronchial asthma. When Dawson and Davitt arrived at Limerick railway station that Monday they were taken by carriage, in procession, to the Town Hall. In his speech to the gathered assembly Dawson said:

I cannot help drawing the attention of the meeting to the change that had taken place in the history of their ancient city. In olden times no one could become a member of the corporation or of any of the guilds, which contributed to the prosperity of cities like Limerick unless he was one of the chosen minority, unless he did not belong to the religion of the vast body of his fellow countrymen. Now however, the demolition of that system had come, and it would come more perfectly in corporate privileges and in freedom likewise.

Not by special guilds would that Freedom be got but through the media of the franchise, which would confer power on the people to obtain what they are looking for.

Before the ceremony of presenting the Freedom took place the Mayor made reference to Dwyer Grey, as when he said:

I hold here the casket and certificate of Freedom of one of whose absence I sincerely regret - I mean Mr. Edward Dwyer Grey. It is not necessary to wear for me, he said, to Mr. Davitt, and Mr. Dawson, to administer the Freeman's oath to you, and to give you the roll to sign, and then to hand to you those beautifully formed and carved caskets in silver and native oak, which contain the velvet record of your uncontested and unique honor, and to wish you many happy years, and all the compliments and comforts of this holy season.

The newly admitted Freeman, having gone through the usual ceremony of taking the oath, sign their names to the roll prescribed. The Town Clerk also read the minute with reference to the Freedom conferred on Dwyer Grey. The casket presented with the Freedom certificate to each of the recipients was of a very handsome design, made of carved Irish oak, surmounted on the top with a miniature, in silver, of the Treaty Stone and the pedestal on which it rests at Thomondgate.

A heavy drinker and asthma sufferer, Edward Dwyer Grey died on 27 March 1888.

William O'Brien

William O'Brien [1832-1928] was a conservative publisher, agrarian agitator, politician, founder of the United Irish League, born in Mallow, County Cork, is mainly associated with the campaigns for land reform and Home Rule. O'Brien was a Fenian but resigned from the organisation in 1870. He was imprisoned a number of times during the 1880s and refused to wear a uniform. At one stage he escaped from a courtroom and fled to America, then to France; he returned later on and gave himself up. In 1890 he married Sophie
Raffalovich, daughter of a Russian Jewish banker living in Paris.

On Friday 17 June 1887, O’Brien landed at Queenstown [Cobh], County Cork at 6.30 a.m. from the White Star steamer, Adriatic. At 11 a.m. he made his way with the Mayors of Cork and Limerick and other guests, to the Queenstown Town Hall. The chairman of the Town Commissioners opened the proceedings and, after a number of addresses were made, the Mayor of Limerick, Francis O’Reefe, rose to speak and said:

As the Mayor of Limerick I have the honour to greet you on your return to our shores. The municipality of Limerick, the city of Sarsfield, whose spirit and patriotism are unchangeable, as a slight appreciation of your merit, has, by unanimous vote, conferred on you its freedom. We ask you to name a day to receive this freedom, the highest at our disposal and we confer it on you as a testimony of your services as a journalist univelled, a representative unwearied, and triumphant assailable of governmental abuse.

Seventeen years later, on Sunday 5 November 1904, O’Brien was attending a Nationalist meeting in Limerick with John Redmond and the Mayor, Michael Donnelly, when he received an invitation from the Town Clerk to visit the Town Hall the following day, and add his name to the Roll of Freeemen. During the course of the meeting on Sunday O’Brien got the impression that Redmond was also going to be made a Freeman that Monday. When he realised his mistake he wrote a letter to the Mayor that evening saying:

As all the contemplated presentations can not take place on the same occasion, it would undesirable that any presentation could be made in an individual case [his own]. I trust, that on some future occasion it may be possible that the eminent leader of the Irish Party and myself should receive together the distinguished municipal honour intended for us by the noble hearted citizens of Limerick.

When the Councillors turned up that Monday for the ceremony, they were left with red faces when the Mayor informed them what had happened. Before they left the Town Hall a motion was put down for a future meeting of the council to confer the Freedom of the City on Redmond and John O’Callaghan, the Secretary of the United Irish League, America. A citizen who attended the meeting thought the whole thing was a sham. In a letter to the Limerick Chronicle, he wrote:

With the exception of the Mayor and the Councillors, the whole place was full of countrymen. John Redmond, the Mayor, William O’Brien and a few others [were] driven through the streets while the people on whom they depend, and for whom they labour, (go) on foot through the mud. Mr. O’Brien kept off the smell of the rabble with dainty flowers; and while the lot of them were feasting at the Royal Hotel, putting each other on the back, the poor man whose [cash] collections they want [was left] outside as usual.

Another citizen noticed “the visitors, with all their talk about political aspirations, stayed in hotels with royal prefixes, the Royal Hotel and Cruise’s Royal Hotel.”

**Michael O’Connell**

On Thursday 30 October 1913, according to the Limerick Leader, the Mayor, held an adjourned court for the admission of Freeman at the Town Hall when Michael O’Connell of Waterworks Villa, Ennis Road, Limerick was admitted to the Freedom of the City, as the eldest son on Thomas O’Connell, Waterworks Superintendent, who was also a Freeman.

**Charles Robinson O.F.M.**

Charles Edward Neville [Paschal] Robinson (1876-1948) was born in Dublin, before his family emigrated to America. There, as a young man he studied for the legal profession but gave up to become a journalist, like his father. In 1892 he was associate editor to the literary magazine North American Review. In 1896 he joined the Franciscan Order and was ordained a priest, in Rome, in December 1901. He was an archivist and Professor of Theology. In 1909 he was sent to the Near East to conduct visitations to the Franciscan Missions. Four years later he was offered the chair in Medieval History at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. At the end of the First World War the United States government appointed him to their educational and economic mission, at the Paris Peace Conference, in connection with questions affecting the Holy places in Palestine. Later he was sent to Palestine, by the Vatican, and was appointed Apostolic Visitor for the Holy Land. In the summer of 1929 he was made Apostolic delegate to Malta and on 27 November that year he was made Papal Nuncio to the Irish Free State, a position he took up in January 1930. One of the first to congratulate him on his new appointment was Limerick City Corporation.

Robinson visited the city in late September 1928, where he was a guest at the Franciscan Friary on Henry Street. On 25 September, accompanied by the Provost of the Order, Father Quin, he visited the Shannon Scheme at Ardcnacrushe. On 8 August 1930, Limerick City Council decided unanimously to confer the Freedom
of the City on the Papal Nuncio to mark the great honour paid to our country by His Holiness the Pope. The Mayor stated that the Nuncio would be communicated with at once. The date of his visit would be made known at the earliest possible moment, the Mayor added. A week later the Nuncio’s private secretary replied to the City Council. In a letter dated 16 August, he conveyed the Papal Nuncio’s thanks and appreciation to the City Council for the proposal to confer the Freedom of the City on him. The Secretary also conveyed the Nuncio’s regrets that he would be unable to come to Limerick to receive the Freedom owing to the pressure of more immediate duties. The Nuncio, he stated, has been already compelled to refuse several invitations of a similar nature. The Secretary went on to say that he was sending a copy of the letter to the Bishop, Dr Keane, to whom the Nuncio had personally explained why he could not accept [the honour]. Mr Dalton, a Council official, wanted the resolution (the offer of Freedom) to stand, as he contended: “His Excellency may be in a position to come sometime.”

Whereas the Papal Nuncio was not prepared to come and accept the Freedom of the City, he did visit Limerick on 13 November. Although the visit was to be of a semi-private nature it was treated like a state occasion, as the people gave the Nuncio a rousing welcome. The Nuncio and his secretary, Monsignor Riberia, were met at Anmacott by the Bishop, Dr Keane, the Mayor Mr Donnellan, the Town Clerk Mr Nolan and Mr McCormack of Limerick County Council. On their journey into the city the residents along the route cheered the Nuncio as his car passed by. All the streets around St John’s Cathedral were decorated with the Papal colours and bunting. By 2.30 p.m. members of the Confraternity had fixed the canopy around the Cathedral; while the boy scouts were also involved in the ceremonies. The Nuncio remained seated in the Papal Chair and under the canopy to the Cathedral where he presided over a religious service. At a reception held afterwards the Nuncio said:

It gives me particular pleasure to meet the Mayor and members of the Corporation. When I arrived in Ireland last January the first letter of congratulation that reached me was from the Corporation of Limerick. In my reply I expressed the hope that in due time I would have the occasion to thank them personally, and now that occasion has presented itself. I gladly avail myself of it, he continued, to record in the most public way my indebtedness to the municipal authorities not only for the letter to which I have referred, but also for their proposal to bestow the highest civic honour on me—a proposal which, with their understanding consent, I am reluctantly constrained to decline.

The Nuncio went on to say that you would need to be a superman to fulfil all the engagements and invitations that he had received from all parts of Ireland. He hoped that Limerick would be indulgent to him, and make allowances for his being obliged to hurry away sooner than he would wish, owing to the stress of other engagements elsewhere.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was also due to receive the Freedom of the City. She was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on 26 August 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, and when she was 15 she told her mother she wanted to be a nun and go to India to help the poor. In 1928 she wrote to the Sisters of Loreto in Bengal. They wrote back telling her that she would have to go to their convent in Darjeeling, India, to learn English. She left Zagreb, with a companion, on 26 September, arriving in Calcutta a few days later. She left Ireland in mid-November and arrived in Calcutta, India, on 5 January 1929.

She spent several years at the Loreto convent in Calcutta, taking up a teaching position at St Mary’s School in Calcutta and eventually she was appointed Mother Superior of the school. A letter from her mother, at that time, did not contain congratulations but a reminder of why she had given her consent to her going to India. She wrote: “Don’t forget, that you want to go out to India for the sake of the poor.” In 1946 Mother Teresa began her work helping the poor and the less fortunate. Two years later she replaced her traditional Loreto habit with a simple white cotton sari decorated with a blue border and began working full-time in the slums of Calcutta. In 1947, with the permission of the Vatican to start her own congregation, the Missionaries of Charity. From working with the poor, the sick and the abandoned, Mother Teresa became world famous.

One of the people who had worked with her in Calcutta was Limerick man Jim O’Connor, from Athea, County Limerick. When O’Connor heard that Mother Teresa intended to visit Ireland, in early June 1963, he got in contact with the Sisters and invited Mother Teresa to Limerick. He told the Limerick Leader that, “For years he had been trying to bring her here. She was going to come a few years ago, but she was sick.”

Mother Teresa, the paper reported, “decided to include Limerick after representation from a number of people; one of those being the Junior Health and Justice Minister Willie O’Dea.”

Minister O’Dea told a reporter from the Limerick Leader that he had been asked by a number of people to try and bring the woman, whom many regard as a living saint, to the city. O’Dea said: “I wrote to her and I got a message back asking me to ring her people in Calcutta, I have done that. I was delighted to receive this message, which indicates that Mother Teresa will visit Limerick on the 3rd of June.” Minister O’Dea showed the letter to the reporter.

The letter stated: “Mother Teresa has accepted your kind invitation to visit Limerick, and will be happy to receive in the name of the poorest of the poor the Freedom of the City.” She had also been asked to accept an Honorary Degree at Limerick University. When the newspaper contacted staff at the university they said they had no knowledge of her being offered a degree. Minister O’Dea continued:

“I intend to contact the Mayor, Mr. Quinn, about giving Mother Teresa the Freedom of the City. I do not want to pre-empt the Corporation whose decision it is, but I am very confident that they will confer this honour on Mother Teresa.”

Three weeks later, 24 April, the Limerick Leader reported that the Mayor, when asked if Mother Teresa would be given the Freedom replied, “No decision has been made.” It seems Minister O’Dea created a problem for the City Council by suggesting she would get the Freedom. Some of the Councillors, Minister O’Dea’s intervention could have disqualified Mother Teresa. No name can be mentioned before it is agreed by the full City Council first, then the person is written to, to see if they will accept it. Meanwhile a group called Mothers Working at Home invited Mother Teresa to speak at their conference in the Limerick Inn Hotel.

By 10 May the Limerick Leader reported that Mother Teresa had refused the Freedom of the City. Mrs Norn Dennis, one of the co-ordinators of the visit and the conference at which Mother Teresa was to speak, received a fax, addressed to the Mayor, from the office of the Missionaries of Charity in London. The message read as follows:

We regret to inform you, it is no longer possible for Mother Teresa to accept the offer of the Freedom of the City of Limerick, made to her by Mr. Willie O’Dea on behalf of the Corporation. We are aware of the controversy surrounding the granting of this honour, which she
had accepted on behalf of the poorest of the poor. Be assured of our prayers for you and all the people of Limerick.20

Although the visit was still going ahead, Mrs Bennis told the Limerick Leader that Mother Teresa’s itinerary had not yet been finalised. A few days later it was reported that Mother Teresa would arrive by helicopter from Belfast and would stay with the nuns from St Mary’s Convent at their house in Moyross. The report also noted that she would receive the Freedom – even though the Council had not yet voted on it.21

It was at a special meeting of the Council, on Friday 14 May, that a vote was finally taken. The meeting lasted only two minutes with the Mayor proposing the Freedom, which was jointly seconded by Councillors Frank Prendergast and Gus O’Driscoll. However, by that time Mother Teresa had fallen, while on a visit to Rome, and had broken three ribs. The Sisters of Charity, who were co-ordinating the Irish trip confirmed over the weekend that her visit was now definitely off.22 An editorial in the Limerick Leader, on the handling of the affair, labelled the whole thing a fiasco, and continued:

is it only among the members of Limerick City Council that a proposal to honour the greatest woman in the world could prove controversial? It was the City Fathers alone who made a name of the decision making process. It was their mania for secrecy, their apparent huffing and puffing for almost six weeks that led to the Freedom being declined before it was officially offered. They ought to have immediately and unanimously agreed to the proposal, irrespective of who made it. Why, even Godless Red China would not hesitate to roll out the red carpet for Mother Teresa.23

Mother Teresa’s visit to Ireland was re-scheduled, and Limerick was omitted from that schedule. Mr Eamonn O’Neill, Assistant Town Clerk, at City Hall, said they were informed that her Irish visit had been curtailed. He also discounted the suggestion that the Mayor should go and meet her elsewhere to accord her the honour.24

Honoured in absentia

There were also cases where the council voted the Freedom to individuals who were unable to come and accept the certificate and sign the register. Those honoured in absentia were the Boer war [1899-1902] recipients, whose names were not written on the Roll of Honour, Paul Kruger, President of the South African Republic, the Transvaal, Generals Louis Botha, Jacobus de Le Rey, Christiaan de Wet, President Martinus Steyn, of the Orange Free State, also in South Africa, and Captain William O’Donnell, an Irishman fighting for the Boers.25 Some of these Freedoms were voted for while the Boer Republics were at war with the United Kingdom. As Ireland was part of the United Kingdom at that period, the Corporation was in effect, granting the Freedom to the enemy. In any event there is little doubt that some of these men would have had a problem wearing an oath of allegiance to a British Monarch.

In the case of William Gladstone, a former British Prime Minister, who introduced two Irish Home Rule Bills that were defeated, the register was taken to England, due to his age, where he signed it on 4 October 1886, the one and only time the register is believed to have left Limerick. Then there is the case of the Earl of Dunraven who was granted the Freedom in December 1908, it had removed ten years later – in 1918 – and then had it restored 89 years later. The questions still remain whether it should have been withdrawn initially, or should it have been restored, particularly when only the recipient had the right to question why his name had been expunged [crossed out] from the register of Freeman. The Earl, I am sure, had plenty of opportunities to oppose his name being expunged from the records. The story of the Freedom of Limerick City is full of anomalies, as regards when it may be awarded and withdrawn. In 1918, the same year the Freedom was withdrawn from Dunraven, Eamon de Valera, Kathleen Clarke (nee Daly)26 and Eoin McNeill were voted the Freedom of the City. McNeill signed the register on 11 November, but it was not until 5 December 1921, when it was the first Lady Mayor, Marie O’Donovan, who had been co-opted onto the City Council, officiated at a ceremony in the Theatre Royal, that de Valera and Kathleen Clarke signed the register.

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7. Limerick Chronicle, 2 May 1877
8. Munster News, 12 April 1884
10. Limerick Leader, 31 October 1913.
12. Limerick Leader, 26 September 1928.
15. Limerick Leader, 13 November 1890.
16. Ireland’s Own, 29 August 2010 and Gerry Brennan, Angel of the Glade.
17. John Scally, Mother Teresa, The Irish Connection (Dublin 2010).
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27. Kathleen Clarke was the wife of Thomas Clarke, the only husband and wife to receive the Freedom of the City.