

ATURE - FAMILIES IN BUSINESS

Locksmiths: ing the Mid- nce 1948



RYAN'S Locksmiths was established by the late Joé Ryan in 1948 at No.3 Gerald Griffin Street Limerick and traded from there until 1975 when the business transferred to its present location at No 7 Upper William Street.

Since then many changes have taken place. For example from hand operated to the latest in computer and electronic machines necessitated by the ever changing technology of modern times.

Ryan's also offer a full security advisory service to suit domestic and commercial requirements.

A choice of restricted key systems (Master keyed etc) which offers key control to the client, is available and can be tailored to individual needs.

We offer a wide range of key cutting to code for lockers/cabinets and cars including electronic coding used by the Automotive Industry.

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Griffins - family of funeral care

The Griffin family have been involved in Funeral Service since 1860, when the founder, John Griffin set up a posting establishment (horse coach business) in Church Street, near King John's Castle on the banks of the majestic Shannon River.

Today, Gerry Griffin and his family are the sixth generation of the family to look after Limerick's dead, and care for families at a time of great distress and trauma.

"It was originally a posting business which involved the hire of horses and carriages, when people wanted to go to various places around Limerick, Clare and Tipperary," said Gerry.

"As he had horses and transport, he was at some point asked to carry out a funeral, and it developed from there and we continued to use horse drawn hearses right up to 1963."

The business was run from Church Street until John's eldest son another John Griffin moved the business to 20 Lower Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick in 1890 when it was then known as Cornwallis Street.

He had a large family with two of his sons working in the business, Johnny and Dan, who both lived on nearby Mulgrave Street.

Disaster struck the Griffin family in June 1912 when John, his wife Catherine, a housekeeper and a couple staying with them perished in a fire, which destroyed

the Gerald Griffin Street premises.

Gerry Griffin states: "The fire started at night in the stables at the back of the premises. These were located in a two-storey building where the horses were stabled in the upstairs section with the coaches and hearses housed in the ground floor area."

"There were 15 horses, 3 horse hearses and 14 carriages in that building when a fire started in an adjoining hay loft. The fire brigade came on foot and put out the fire."

"All the horses were brought to other stables nearby for their safety."

"When the family and guests had gone back to bed, unfortunately, the fire flared again and they all died when it spread to the main residence. Mrs. Griffin died from her injuries when she jumped from an upstairs window."

After that, their two sons, Johnny and Dan, took over the business, and Johnny and his wife MaiNell moved back to Gerald Griffin Street when the premises were rebuilt in 1914.

Johnny passed on in 1934 and the business was kept going by his wife and her brother-in-law, Dan, they with the help of sons Joe, Jack & Paddy were in control until 1949.

At that point, the business passed on to the fourth generation when Johnny's son, Joe, took over.

Joe ran the busi-



Gerry Griffin with sons John-Mark and Danny

ness for some years but contracted tuberculosis and died in 1956 at the age of 39. He had been living in Davis Street with his wife and family and on the death of Mainell, they moved down to Gerald Griffin Street.

In the early Seventies their youngest son Gerard was apprenticed to O'Connor Brothers funeral undertakers in Cork, to study embalming and the business in general.

He returned in 1975 and is still in the business to this day.

Gerry had been helping out in the business since he was about seven years of age, and still recalls as a young boy doing many of the small but essential chores.

"I remember going to the breastplate engravers, Alfie Jones, in Catherine Street with the brass plates for coffins, and cycling over to the City Home with habits for people who died there. I would hand the habit all wrapped up in brown paper

and string to a gentleman in the gate lodge. With a sticky label attached giving the name of the deceased and the arrangements.

"From the age of fifteen, I was playing a very active role in the business travelling as the passenger in the hearse, who was called a mute, because you were supposed to keep quite and just help the driver."

The new millennium and particularly the years 2005-2007 saw great changes in Griffin's Funeral Directors.

The big move to John's Gate, Pennywell had started. Building a state of the art funeral home with spacious comfortable visitation rooms, family rooms, arrangement rooms and modern kitchen and wash room facilities.

Gerry brought the ancient trade of funeral directing right into the new century. The positive response from client and visitor's has been most encouraging. Gerry has now a very

strong team with him at this new facility. His son John Mark is a great asset and assistant to Gerry. The funeral manager Paul Fitzhenry is a qualified embalmer with the British Institute of Embalmers and has over 20 years experience at all levels of service. Assisted by embalmer Clare Haran who has brought a new dimension to the ancient craft especially in presentation and cosmetics. On the administration side,

Gerry's wife Liz keeps everything and everybody going in the right direction. Their daughter Hazel and her husband Joe Noone have recently launched another dimension to the caring profession. They have opened a new monumental and headstone company SPIRIT Memorials around the corner from the funeral home. Technology has arrived with networked workstations, wi-fi, web pages www.

griffinfunerals.com and on-line enquiries facilities. The Griffin family have been serving the families of Limerick with a dignified and thoroughly professional service for over 150 years. This generation to generation service ensures an unrivalled continuity of care that very few businesses or professions can match. As Gerry & Liz are now grandparents it must come with some pride to see the seventh generation coming into the world.

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- BEST ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

Importance of bookkeeping

and so on - which form the basis of information on your tax return for six years.

How to get started?
There are two options available in respect of maintaining your books - get a professional or complete them in your spare time outside of business hours. Remember time is money and business hours should be used for growing

sales where possible!!

Most new ventures struggle with cash flow at the beginning and cannot afford to pay a professional i.e. a bookkeeper or an accountant. Whenever new clients visit our office we encourage them to complete a simple task: buy two hard back books, glue and a pen. This is all you actually need to set up your

bookkeeping section of your business!! Hard to believe but it can really be this cost effective.... keeping costs at a minimum is essential. We ask them to stick every business related receipt they get during the year into the first book. They should take the second book (or alternatively enter the information on the computer using a spreadsheet) and complete a list of every expense by date and expense category e.g. rent, light & heat etc. I ask them to complete

a total at the end of each month and to keep a total of the sales for each month at the back of this book. The accountant will receive this book at the end of the year along with bank statements and all other relevant back up. The accountant should decide what expenses qualify to be set against sales and will omit the rest of the items. The accountant only has to analyse this data. This should reduce the accountant's hours spent on the books and this should be

reflected in the fees charged!! A client that has completed this exercise is able to control expenses on a weekly basis and is also able to cut overspending straight away, keeping the business solid. Most people would agree that the client completing the bookkeeping on a regular basis leads to Common Sense Accounting on all levels!!

For more advice contact Common Sense Accounting on 061 513082; Email: info@csal.ie; www.csal.ie

Accounting in the cloud - a guide



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