

LIMERICK BOAT CLUB

WELLESLEY PIER, SARSFIELD BRIDGE, LIMERICK, IRELAND.

Web: <https://limerickboatclub.com>

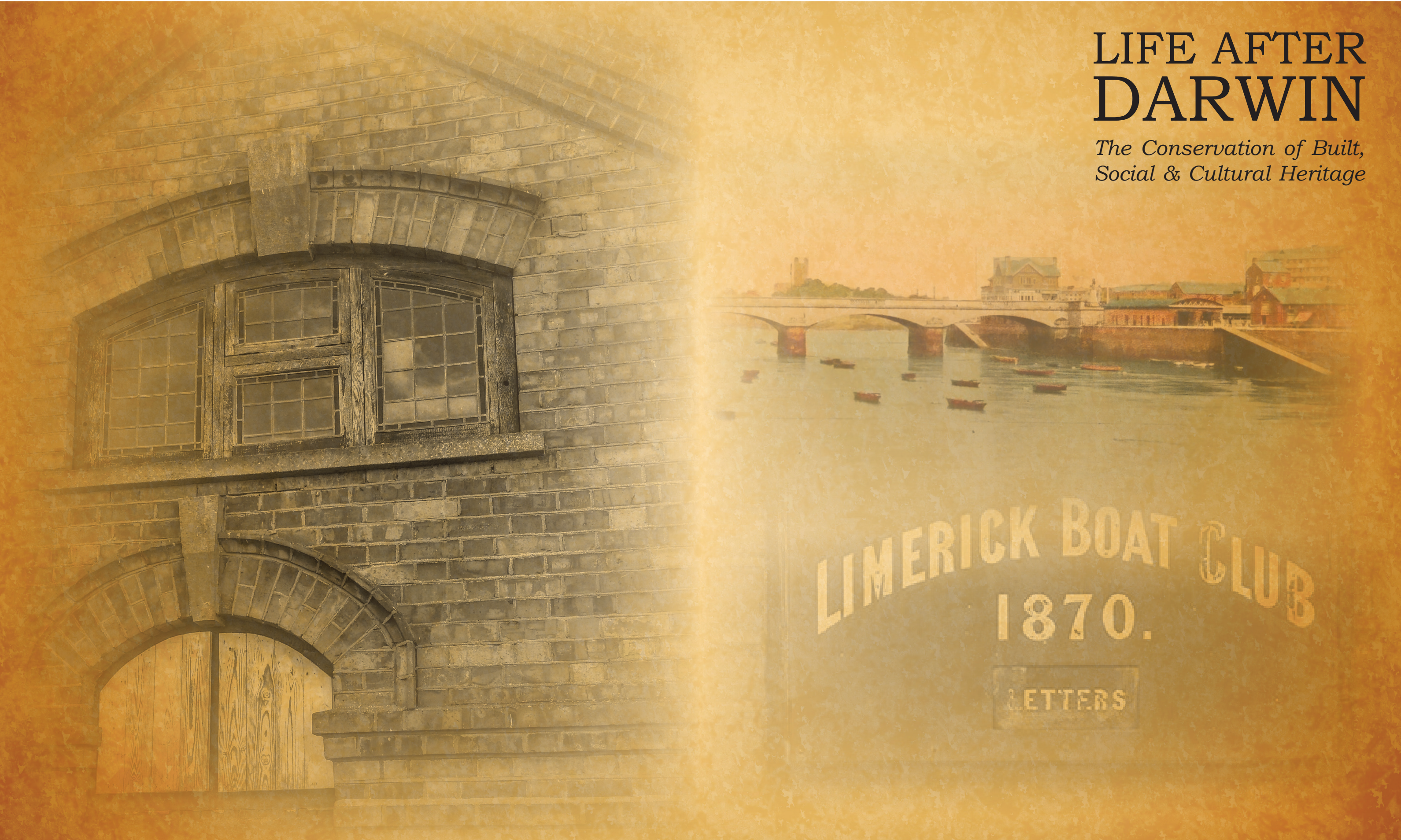
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LIMERICK
BOAT CLUB

LIFE AFTER
DARWIN

*The Conservation of Built,
Social & Cultural Heritage*



Special thanks to Mark Pattison, Dublin University Boat Club, for his help in providing the photograph of C.B. Barrington.

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Produced by Julie Long.
Cover Design by GBM Limerick Ltd.

Introduction

Built Heritage

The Limerick Boat Club sits like a Victorian jewel on Wellesley Pier in the middle of the majestic Shannon River.

Like a cultural emblem, the history of the club intertwines with the rich heritage of Limerick City and her people.



c 1902 tinted postcard of Limerick Boat Club with views of Harvey's Quay, Howley's Quay,

The Bishop's Quay, Russell's Quay and Steamboat Quay.

Just visible is the spire of the red brick Presbyterian Church on the corner of Henry Street
and Lower Mallow Street

The boat house and the club house are built on Harbour Pier, or Wellesley Pier, and are accessed via Sarsfield Bridge. The corresponding jetty known as Poor Man's Kilkee is attached to Harvey's Quay and forms a lock.

Wellesley Pier: Built c 1820. A substantial stone pier demonstrating the solid masonry skills of its time. While serving many functions, this pier is a landmark on the riverscape of Limerick and provides a recreational use along the River Shannon.



Enlarged segment of a c 1902 photograph from which the previous tinted quayside postcard was based. In the background of the club house, you see Bannatyne's Granary, Spaight's Timber Mill & Stores, The Bishop's Palace, Newtown Pery Corn Mills, Mount Kennett Corn Mills and a sailing ship unloading by Harvey's Quay

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage is the legacy of both the physical and the intangible attributes of a group that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

The deliberate act of keeping cultural heritage from the present for the future is known as conservation.

The Limerick Boat Club represents a very good example of cultural heritage. The physical buildings are excellent examples of mid-Victorian building practices; the intangible attributes are represented by the social capital generated by the members. Social capital was the cornerstone of organisations like the LBC; it is present in most similar organisations today. When the club was founded in 1870, Limerick was an industrial city. The bacon factories, distilleries, clothing factories, condensed milk factories and mills were some of the most technologically advanced and biggest in Europe. Social and sporting clubs were vital in connecting people with each other, building trusting relationships, sharing knowledge, growing entrepreneurship and benefitting civic involvement for altruistic purposes.

While looking at the benefits of conservation for this landmark site, we realised the importance of conserving the intangible cultural heritage as well as the physical built heritage.

Listed amongst the club members were men whose legacies have long outlived them. In their day, these men were liberal, modern and civic minded; their work ethic and vision gave rise to a global market for Limerick products and large levels of employment.

Spanning a history that includes two World Wars, an Irish free state, an Irish civil war, rural electrification and the motor engine; we introduce you to some of the Limerick Boat Club members who were central to the economic, religious, political, cultural and social tapestry of the city.

The Myles Brothers - Sir Thomas and Jack

The Merchants - Alexander W Shaw, Joseph Matterson, Robert Gibson, William L Stokes and The Merchant Statesman - Ted Russell

The Barringtons - Sir Charles Burton

The Drapers - Bruce Murray & Archibald Murray of Todd's - David Tidmarsh of Cannock's

The Stars - Richard Harris, Burl Ives and Bill Whelan



The Myles Brothers

Sir Thomas Myles (1857-1937) of 15 Catherine Street & 13 Upper Mallow Street

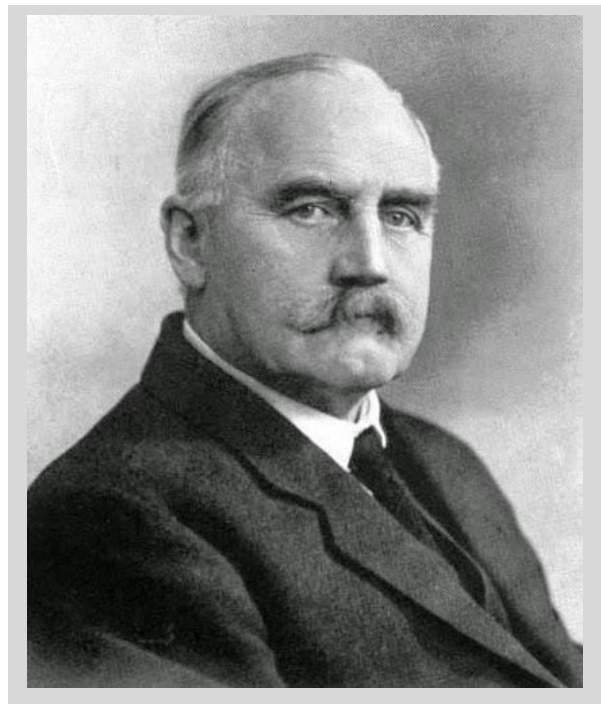
Described as a sportsman, sailor, surgeon & gun-runner, Sir Thomas Myles was born in Limerick to a family long associated with the city. He began his school life in the Diocesan School on Roxboro Road, Limerick which took him to Trinity College Dublin, Vienna and the Richmond Hospital.

The Sportsman

Thomas Myles wrote the rule book for the game of rugby as it is played in Ireland. Both Thomas Myles and Bruce Murray, of Todd's, played in the first ever rugby match in Limerick. They also rowed together in the winning Limerick Boat Club crew at Castleconnell Regatta in 1874.

The Surgeon

Myles graduated from Trinity in 1881 with his M.B. and B.Ch. That same year he was chosen to be Resident Surgeon in Dr. Steevens' Hospital. The Royal College of Surgeons Ireland founded a Chair of Pathology, the first of its kind in Ireland, in 1889 and appointed Myles to this esteemed position. In 1900 he was elected President of the College and from 1905 to 1910 he represented the College on the General Medical Council. In 1910 he was appointed Honorary Surgeon to the King in Ireland, George V, and in 1914 he was appointed Consulting Surgeon to the Troops in Ireland with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Though he served the British Empire, Myles was also of a strong Nationalist disposition.



Sir Thomas was made an Honorary Freeman of the City of Limerick in 1900, during the three-year Mayoralty of John Daly, on account of his medical achievements. The others so honoured were Thomas J. Clarke (soon to marry Daly's niece), James F. Egan and Maude Gonne. Along with Vincent Nash, the High Sheriff of Limerick, Thomas Myles was one of two Limerick men awarded knighthoods in King Edward VII's coronation honours list, announced on June 26, 1902.

Myles the surgeon is commemorated in his native city today by the annual Sir Thomas Myles Lecture at the University of Limerick, inaugurated in the year 2000 and delivered by an invited lecturer at the Sylvester O'Halloran Surgical Scientific Meeting every March.

The gun - runner

In 1914, Ireland was on the brink of civil war. The anti Home Rule Ulster Volunteers had landed 24,000 German rifles and three million rounds of ammunition. Pro Home Rule Irish Volunteers began the importation of arms for their organisation. While the landing of 900 rifles in Howth and its aftermath is well known, the subsequent associated landing of 600 rifles at Kilcoole in Wicklow by Robert Erskine Childers (*Asgard*), Edward Conor Marshall O'Brien (*Kelpie*) and Sir Thomas Myles (*Chotah*) on the 1st of August 1914 is lesser known.

Dr John Thomas 'Jack' Myles (1855-1934) of 15 Catherine Street, Limerick

John Thomas (Jack) Myles was Limerick's first international rugby player. Jack was a member of the Munster rugby team which faced Leinster on the 26th March 1877 in the Market Fields, the first match between the two sides.

At Henley Royal Regatta on June 24th, 1875, Jack Myles was in the Dublin University Boat Club eight which won the Ladies' Plate.

He was also a member of the Limerick Protestant Young Men's Association.

Both Thomas and Jack were adventurous sportsmen; noted in the following article where they swam from the Limerick Boat Club to Barrington's pier with little effort.

Freemans Journal 24.09.1872, page 3

A SWIMMING FEAT.—A few mornings ago three young members of the Limerick Boat Club, Messrs. J. and T. Myles and J. Ridge, swam from the Wellesley-bridge to Barrington's-quay.

They were attired in swimming costume, and made a pretty even start. There was no particular inequality between them at any time more than a couple of yards, and the three men reached Barrington's quay almost together. The

distance was a mile and three hundred yards, and was accomplished in five-and-twenty minutes. The tide had begun to ebb when they started. They were accompanied by a four-oared boat containing their clothing. They were not much exhausted by their lengthened natation, and obviously could have accomplished a still greater feat.

Myles' Creek in Kilkee is named after the brothers as it is believed that one or both brothers were the first to swim the Bay. Myles Street in Limerick was named after their brother James Myles.

The Myles Family Vault is located in St. Munchin's Church, King's Island.

The Merchants

Sir Alexander William Shaw (1847 – 1923) of 'Derravoher' (previously Riverview), North Circular Road, Limerick

Owner of the bacon factory, W J Shaw & Sons, Mulgrave Street; Shaw was a keen sportsman and took part in rowing, rugby, athletics and hurling, but golf became his main interest.

Shaw was a founding member of Limerick Boat Club in 1870, Limerick Golf Club in 1891 and Lahinch Golf Club in 1892 (the Shaw Cup). Limerick Golf Club saw Shaw as first president and captain and he was appointed first trustee of the club in 1909. In 1894 he established the South of Ireland Championship, which is still played. Limerick Golf Club's Pat Murray won in 2012.

He was elected Honorary Vice-President of the Golfing Union of Ireland in 1902. Interestingly, the crest for the Limerick Golf Club and the Limerick Boat Club are identical.

He sat as Vice President of the Limerick Amateur Athletic & Bicycle Club 1882 - later to become Limerick Athletic Club. Shaw acted as president to Limerick Football Club in 1884.



Sir Alexander Shaw

He was on the Board of Governors of Barrington's Hospital.

Joseph Matterson Jnr (1841 – 1906) of Castletroy House, Limerick

Owner of Matterson's Bacon Factory, Dominic Street & Roches Street. There were four separate factories in their Limerick operations, the bacon factory, sausage department, canning and meat/bone waste. They gave employment to thousands of people in the 166 years it was in operation.

Matterson was one of the founding members of Limerick Boat Club and the Lahinch Golf Club (Matterson Cup), a Vice Patron of the Limerick Protestant Young Men's Association, a member of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce and he sat on the Board of Governors of Barrington's Hospital.

He was President of the Limerick Amateur Athletic & Bicycle Club in 1882; later to become Limerick Athletic Club.

Robert Gibson (1844 - 1914) of No. 8 Shannon Street & Mulgrave Cottage, Mulgrave Street, Limerick

Robert Gibson was a Butter Agent; and one of the founders of the Irish Co-operative Creamery Movement. Along with W L Stokes, they set up the first Co-operative Creamery in Dromcollagher, Co. Limerick in 1889 (W L Stokes was an agent for Co-operative Wholesale Society, Manchester). The cause for co-operatives was then taken up by Sir Horace Curson Plunkett and Lord Monteagle. Gibson & Stokes were mentioned extensively in Sir Plunkett's Diary's of 1890.

Originally a member of the Church of Ireland, Gibson was one of the first Irishmen to publically become a self-proclaimed Buddhist. Regarding his Buddhist leanings, on an occasion when asked by a Mrs Ponsonby if he had something to read, he replied "Madam, I have the Grocers Gazette and the Light of Asia, what more can a man want".

He developed and marketed Gibson's Antiseptic Ointment as a cure for 'eczema, ringworm and other complaints'.

He was the librarian in the Limerick Protestant Young Men's Association.

He attended the first Sinn Fein meeting held in Limerick in the Athenaeum in 1907.

Roberts' wife, Jane Gibson, was an active member of the Limerick Branch of the Irish Women's Franchise League of whom Mrs. Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington was a founder.

Gibson achieved Limerick Boat Club's first small boat win at the Limerick Regatta in 1872.

William L. Stokes (1851 - 1910) of 'Derreen', 2 Lansdowne Villas, Ennis Road, Limerick

Stokes was also a Butter Agent; and one of the founders of the Co-Operative Creamery Movement.

Limerick city's first rugby club, the Limerick Football Club, was founded by Charles Burton Barrington and William Lamb Stokes in 1876. They are credited with the introduction of rugby to Limerick.

Stokes was one of the founder members of Garryowen Football Club and 1st President in 1884. He is accredited with securing Rugby Union recognition for Garryowen in the same year. As a founding member of the club, Stokes had a huge influence on the game in Limerick during the 1880's and, if not for his tireless work promoting rugby, Garryowen might never have begun.

MP Michael Joyce, first Captain of St. Michael's Rowing Club, was also a founding member and Garryowen Football Club's first treasurer.

Stokes was an Honorary Treasurer of Limerick Amateur Athletic and Bicycle Club in 1887. He was a member of Freemason Lodge No. 73 (Eden Lodge), a Councillor for the Market Ward, High Sheriff of Limerick in 1910, a member of Limerick Boat Club, a member of the Corporation Education Committee and a supporter of the Free Library Movement.

The Merchant Statesman

George Edward "Ted" Russell (1912 – 2004) of 'Derravoher', North Circular Road, Limerick

The Mayor, TD, Senator, Businessman, Sportsman & Charitable Worker

Ted Russell was born on April 9th, 1912, the week before the Titanic sank. He first attended Crescent College in Limerick and, for a short time, Mount St Benedict's near Gorey under the famous Father Sweetman. He was then sent to Stonyhurst Jesuit College in England. There, apart from receiving a fine education, he became a proficient rugby player.

On his return to Limerick, he joined the Bohemians Rugby Football Club with whom he had played during his school holidays. He was captain of the club in 1936 and 1937 and later became president and trustee.

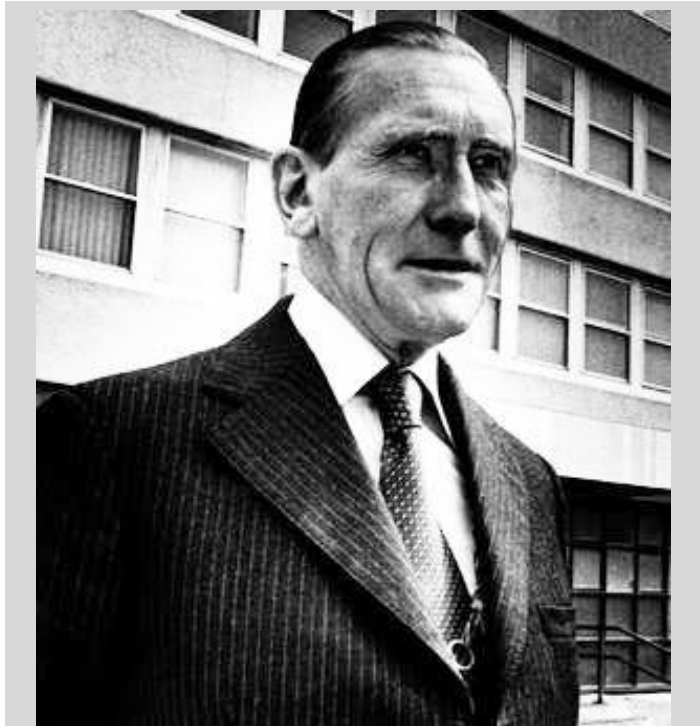
He played for three successive seasons with Munster and in 1938 got a final Irish rugby trial. "I was, however, too light as a forward at 12 stone 10 lb to be picked for Ireland. There were then men like Sammy Walker and Jack Higgins weighing 15 to 16 stone," he said. Ted rowed with Limerick Boat Club and was a very active member.

A long-time member of Limerick Corporation, Ted Russell was elected first as an independent (1942) and later as a member of Gluais Linn (1945), Clann na Poblachta (1950, 55), and Fine Gael (1960, 67, 74, 79).

Serving as Mayor of Limerick on five occasions, he was made a Freeman of the city in 1995 and was awarded an honorary doctorate in Economics by the University of Limerick in 2002.

Ted was active in the campaign for the establishment of a university in Limerick, which led to the establishment of the National Institute for Higher Education (later the University of Limerick) in 1972.

Ted was chairman of Limerick Harbour Commissioners for 26 years, Director and President of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, Director of Limerick Racecourse and active with the St. Vincent de Paul. For most of his life he was chairman of the family provender milling business and was chairman of the Silvermines company for 38 years.



Ted Russell

On his retirement in 1992 from the Limerick Harbour Commissioners, the Minister for Defence and the Marine, Mr David Andrews, visited Limerick to unveil a plaque renaming the floating dock in his honour. Later Russell told one journalist: "I believe I am now the only person, other than the Queen of England, who has a city docks named after them in their lifetime."

Despite all Russell's public activities, he said it was his work with the Cancer Association of Ireland that he considered his most significant contribution to society. He served as chairman of the association 1949-61 and saw the building of St Luke's Hospital, Dublin, as well as diagnostic clinics throughout the country. Ted Russell was the godfather of the late Mr. Denis Leonard, founder of the Limerick Civic Trust. He donated 2½ acres of land near his home at Barrington's Pier to the city which has been developed into a people's park.

The Barringtons

Sir Charles Burton Barrington OBE (1848 – 1943) - Son of Sir Croker Barrington Snr, of Glenstal Castle (now Glenstal Abbey), Murroe, Co. Limerick

Charles succeeded his father and became the 5th Baronet in the Barrington baronetcy of the City of Limerick.

Charles was an outstanding athlete and in addition to playing rugby was a highly successful rower. He won the Ladies Plate at Henley on three occasions while rowing for Trinity College (DUBC), a feat which remains unsurpassed to this time.

In addition to founding Limerick city's first rugby club, the Limerick Football Club, with William L. Stokes in 1876, he was instrumental in the foundation of the Irish Football Union in 1874 (became the IRFU in 1879).

Charles was the vice president of the Limerick Amateur Athletic & Bicycle Club 1882; later to become Limerick Athletic Club, and an active member of Trinity Football Club, Dublin.

He was a freemason of Limerick Lodge 13 and chair of the Committee of the Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1919. He was a Life Governor of Barrington's Hospital.

According to contemporary accounts, Charles and his brothers Croker and William received a 'tumultuous' reception at the family home in Glenstal early in 1877 to mark their endeavours in America and the winning of The Graduate Cup. The brothers represented Ireland and Trinity College in the international rowing races at Philadelphia which was staged to mark the centenary of the American Declaration of Independence. The engraved oar from the regatta was presented to the Limerick Boat Club by Charles Barrington in 1896 and is mounted in the clubhouse to this day.

Irish rowing owes much to Charles Barrington and his brothers for the part which they played in the evolution of competitive boat racing in this country.

Charles Burtons' son, Sir Alexander Fitzwilliam Croker Barrington, (called 'Fitz' by his family), wrote Christmas cards to the Limerick Boat Club members until his death in 2003.

The Barrington Family legacies in Limerick

Barrington's Bank

The north bank of the Shannon from Stonehouse to Coonagh was subject to considerable flooding at every spring tide. The Barrington Family completed the embankment along this stretch allowing the lands along that stretch to be redeveloped.

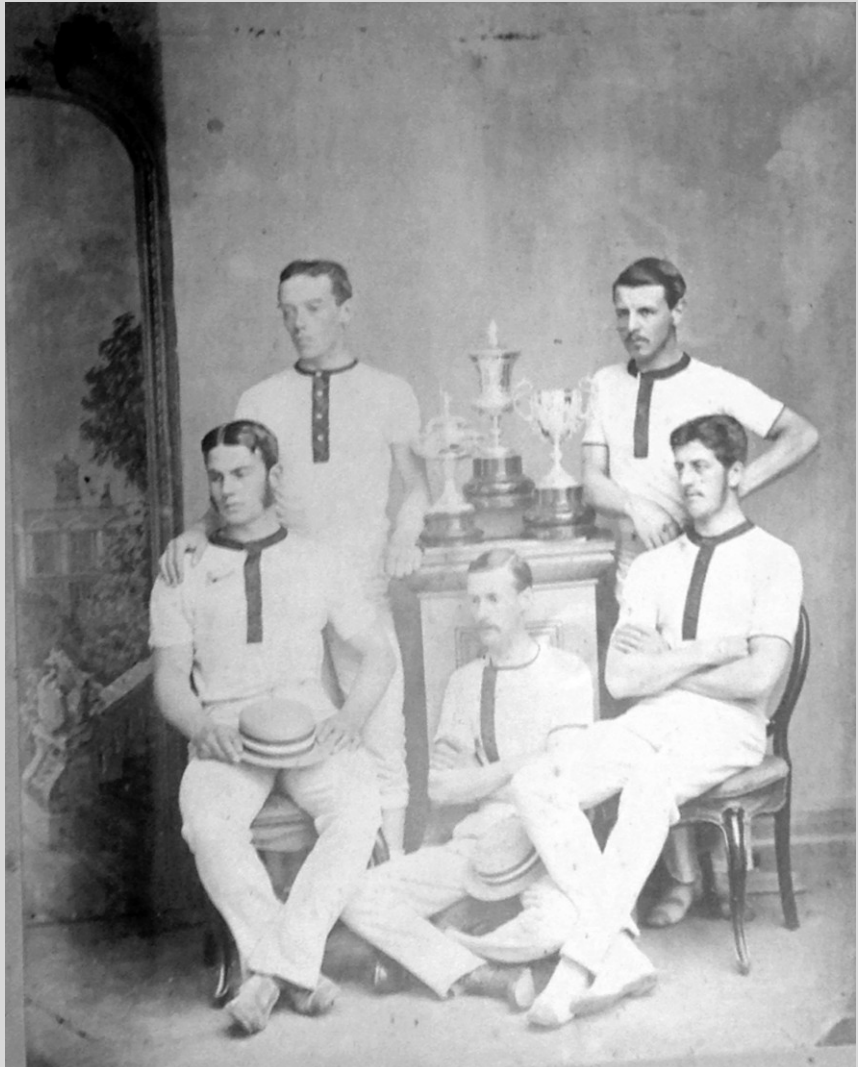
Barrington's Pier

The pier itself was built by the brother's Uncle Matthew Barrington, in conjunction with the landlord, the Marquis of Lansdowne, into the deep water of the river.

Barrington's Hospital

Donated to the people of Limerick by the Barrington family in 1829.

Limerick also has Barrington Street, Little Barrington Street and Barrington's Walk. These street names memorialise the significant philanthropic and beneficial contribution the Barrington family made to Limerick.



Dublin University Boat Club IV 1870

W. Murray & Ivar McIvar (Back)

C.B. Barrington (aged 22) & F.E. Bird (Front)

W. B. Kyle (cox)

The Drapers

The Murray Brothers of Todd's

Bruce Murray (1856 - 1941) of 'Portland', North Circular Road, Limerick

A son of Archibald Murray Snr. who, with William Todd, founded Todd's in 1874.

Bruce sat on the committee of the Limerick Amateur Athletic & Bicycle Club 1882 - later to become Limerick Athletic Club. He was a Life Governor of Barrington's Hospital and a member of Freemason of Limerick Lodge 268.

His first entry into sport was in 1873 when he played the first rugby match ever played in Limerick with Sir Thomas Myles. Murray and Myles also rowed together in the winning Limerick Boat Club crew at Castleconnell Regatta in 1874.

The Bruce Murray Cup was the first trophy to be presented for schools competition in Limerick.

A rower, Captain, President and lifelong supporter of Limerick Boat Club; the LBC accounts for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 show a sum outstanding to Bruce Murray for £385-10-11 for accounts paid by him when the club was in financial distress.

Murray's greatest lasting legacy to the club however involves his stewardship of the club as Hon Secretary for nearly 50 years. His meticulous records, including a bound annual report each year, chronicles the history of the club in a period of unprecedented change in Limerick.



Bruce Murray & A.E. Goodwin

Both Bruce and his brother Archibald Murray were original members of Limerick Boat Club.

Archibald Murray Jnr (1841 – 1927) of 'Portland', North Circular Road, Limerick

A son of Archibald Murray Snr, who with William Todd, founded Todd's in 1874.

Archibald and his brother Bruce contributed generously to the new Presbyterian Church located at the corner of Henry Street and Lower Mallow Street. The Church no longer serves a religious function as it has been converted to offices. However, there was a brass plate in the apse which recorded that 'this Church was built by the congregation in the year 1900. It was chiefly through the care and devotion of Mr Thomas A. Ferguson (MD of Bannatyne Mills and Director of the Limerick (Tait) Clothing Company) and Mr A. Murray (Jnr.) and the Rev R.H. Semple this was accomplished'. He also replaced the old organ in the church in 1915 'at his own expense for £900'.

Archibald was the president of Limerick Protestant Young Men's Association for fifty five years, the President of the Chamber of Commerce from 1914-17, on the Board of Governors of Barrington's Hospital and a Governor of St. John's Hospital. He was also chairman of J. Matterson & Sons Ltd.

The Tidmarshs of Cannock's

David M Tidmarsh (1892 - 1944) of 'Lota', North Circular Road, Limerick

The great grandson of James Moriarty Tidmarsh who, with Michael J. Cleary (of Clery's Dublin) bought Cannock's Department Store from George Cannock and Peter Tait.

David Mary Tidmarsh was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Royal Irish Regiment in April 1915 at the age of 23. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps (Royal Air Force from 1917) and was appointed a Flying Officer in January 1916. Tidmarsh was credited with seven aerial victories during World War I. He was awarded the Military Cross for 'conspicuous gallantry' by George V on the 31st of May 1916. He was shot down in aerial combat with Oberleutnant Kurt Wolff of the Royal Prussian Jagdstaffel who was one of Imperial Germany's highest fighter aces with 33 victories on the 11th April 1917 and spent the remainder of the war in a prisoner of war camp.



David M. Tidmarsh

After the War, Tidmarsh was repatriated and discharged from the RAF. He re-joined the RAF at the beginning of World War II and was promoted to squadron leader in September 1942. He resigned his commission due to ill-health in January 1944 and returned to Ireland where he died shortly after. His brother, John Moriarty Tidmarsh was killed over Doncaster on 3rd September 1918. David died just 18 days after he lost another brother, Major Gerard David Tidmarsh (also awarded the Military Cross). Gerard was with the Royal Artillery and died on active service on 9th November 1944.

David was the Honorary Secretary of the British Legion Club in 1928 and one of the original members of LBC. In his will, 'I bequeath to the Limerick Boat Club my Lough Derg Class centreboard yacht now in Cannock's garage and her sails and gear which are in the Limerick Boat Club to encourage sailing and to be controlled by the sailing committee for those who have graduated beyond the 'Falcon' stage'.



The Stars

Richard Harris (1930 - 2002) of 'Overdale', Ennis Road, Limerick

Stage & Screen Actor, Singer. A past pupil of Crescent College, The Crescent, Limerick. Harris, one of nine children, was a talented sportsman. He played rugby with his school and later with Garryowen. Twice nominated for an Academy Award, he is best known for his roles in 'The Field', 'Camelot', 'A Man called Horse', 'Cromwell', 'Gladiator' & 'Harry Potter'.

Burl Ives (1909 - 1995) of Jasper County, Illinois, USA

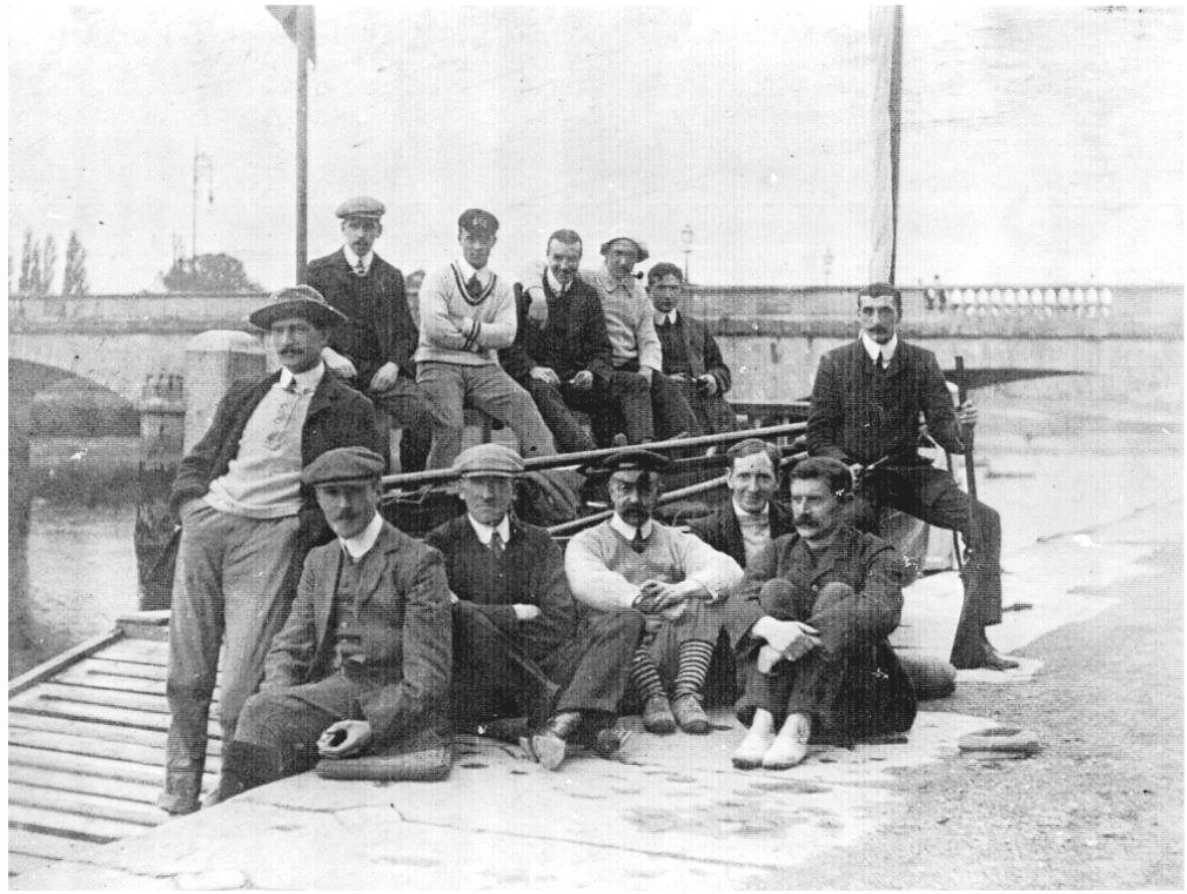
Stage & Screen Actor, Folk Singer. Academy Award winner for 'The Big Country', Ives lived in Kilcornan, Co. Limerick for a number of years. He is best remembered for creating the role of Big Daddy in the 1950's 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' when it ran on Broadway.

Bill Whelan of 18 Barrington Street. Limerick

Composer & Musician. Also a past pupil of Crescent College, The Crescent, Limerick. Laurence Olivier Award nominee, Grammy Award winner & Lifetime Achievement Awardee from IMRO, he has worked with U2, Kate Bush, Van Morrison & Richard Harris among others. He is best known for his 'Riverdance' composition. Bill serves on the boards of Berklee School of Music in Boston, the University of Limerick Foundation, The Irish Traditional Music Archive and the cutting-edge Crash Ensemble.

The Sailing Club

Uniquely, Limerick Boat Club was involved in rowing, sailing and boat building.



Limerick Boat Club Sailing Committee

Seated on Rail – R.H. Ross, Andrew S. Murray, John Turpin, W.H. Jeffares, J.C. Purcell

By Boat – G.S. Ross (Vice Commodore), N.W. Gore-Hickman, George Spillane, Bruce Murray (Commodore),
T. Hutchinson, J.O. Myles (Hon. Sec.), W.B. Slade (Flag Officer)

From the Clare County Library, 1874 26th August (IT). Aquatics: Kilrush Regatta: - Kilrush Tuesday night. This Regatta continued today. There was an enormous attendance some ten thousand spectators being present.

The First Race was for Hookers under twenty tons, won by the Temperance belonging to Wm. Hayes of Ballylongford.

Second Race was for four-oared canoes and was won by the Scatterry Island men.

Third Race was for yachts and coastguard men, won by the Cappa coastguards.

The next race was the race of the day; it was for four-oared first class gigs. The competing crews were the Limerick Boat Club, the Kilrush Boat Club, and the Glin Rowing Club. The Limerick and Glin crews held together for three hundred yards, when the Limerick headed them, and won.

Pat Lawless (1926 - 2010) of Harbour View, South Circular Road, Limerick

Limerick Solo Circumnavigator, Pat joined Limerick Boat Club at the age of 15 to learn how to row. Being of slight build, the Captain suggested he become a coxswain. One day an older club member asked Pat if he would like to crew his sailing boat. Pat trained in the 'Falcon', a sailing dinghy which the club owned, and quickly earned his ticket to sail the club's 17' half-decked sloop. At 16, he bought his own 16' sloop - and a love affair with sailing began. In July 1996, aged 70 years, he sailed up the Shannon Estuary in his 30- foot vessel 'The Sea Dog' having completed the 30,000 mile world voyage and realising his lifelong dream.

Boat Building

In 1962, the Limerick Vocational Education Committee's inaugural boat building course was being run in the LBC. Some of the vessels being produced included a gandelow for fishing and shooting in the Lower Shannon, a clinker-built boat for fishing on Lough Derg, two centre-board sailing boats and a catamaran built by Mr. Eamonn Gleeson. Due to the success of the course, it was continued for many years after.



In producing this booklet, it is our hope to give you a flavour of the membership and their impact on Limerick. There are many more similar stories which will be covered in a wonderful book currently being compiled by Mr. Tony Tynne, Club President.

The Future

Conservation

Looking forward, the Limerick Boat Club members have taken a two strand conservation plan for this landmark site.

Social & Cultural Heritage

Conservation of The Social Heritage of the Club.

Built Heritage

Conservation & Restoration of the Boat House and the Club House

To conserve heritage; that it be preserved for future generations as a social history. It has been born out many times that once the built heritage is removed; the cultural and social heritage fades from even oral history over time.

Proposed Site Use

Development of a New Sporting Club

The decision to develop a new sporting club was based on the following :

In accordance with the World Health Organisations guidelines, physical activity is necessary both for physical and mental wellbeing. Rowing is unique in that it offers a non impact sport which can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

While the ethos of the rowing club would be rooted in legacy of the Limerick Boat Club, a modern and fresh approach is being taken to serve the requirements of a new demographic.

As part of the club's five year plan, the primary current focus is to offer non competitive recreational rowing to people of all abilities while recognising the time constraints of modern life. Research has shown that the demands of competitive rowing are one of the primary reasons for opting out of the sport. The option to row for pleasure, exercise and social interaction is in demand - particularly with the increased interest in the sport from the female demographic.

Will there be Life after Storm Darwin for the Limerick Boat Club? Redevelopment is an ambitious and expensive undertaking; but then one of the club's forefathers, Alexander Shaw, set out the first golf course in Lahinch with nothing more than a clear vision and feathers to mark the holes.

We welcome you to be part of it.