

Limerick Waterworks Company

P9

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Introduction

The first scheme to bring a supply of piped water to Limerick begun in 1834. Prior to this water requirements were met from wells, streams, or the river Shannon. Such resources of supply were liable to contamination and would give rise to outbreaks of water-borne disease such as cholera, typhoid, and dysentery.

In June 1825 R. Leadbetter, an engineer, made an estimate of £43, 000 for supplying the Limerick citizens with piped water, by providing a pumped supply from Shannon at Rhebogue to a reservoir to be constructed at Cromwell's Fort, Gallows Hill (now Garryowen). This scheme was sanctioned by Act of Parliament in 1825, however actual construction did not commence until 1834.

In 1834, London Waterworks Company (later renamed Limerick Waterworks Company) built two tanks at Cromwell's Fort, Garryowen. To supply these tanks, a pumping plant was built at Rhebogue, about 1½ miles upstream from Thomond Bridge, which extracted water from the Shannon. The water then passed through a settling tank and a rough sand filter, before it was pumped to the tanks at Garryowen. Two steam engines were used to raise the water to Garryowen. This plant was used until 1921.

In 1859, as the city only had a supply of water every alternate day, R. W. Ryland was called in to advise on a further extension of existing works which was completed in 1863. It consisted of a storage reservoir on the Ennis road, served from the Garryowen reservoir.

In 1879 Dr. T O' Sullivan reported that the public supply was both inferior and inadequate, and a movement was begun to get an improved supply. A number of proposals were made by various consulting engineers, none of which were taken any further.

Article 60 and Article 61 of the 1853 Limerick Improvement Act had authorized Limerick Corporation to purchase both the water company and the gas company. However Limerick Corporation did not purchase the water company until 1885. The Limerick Waterworks Act was passed in 1883 to facilitate the purchase.

The Limerick Waterworks Company collection consists of records dating from 1833 to 1883. It includes records relating to purchase of land by Limerick Waterworks (P9/1-3); account books (P9/5), water rental books (P9/7); correspondence book (P9/8), a file relating to the sale of the company to Limerick Corporation (P9/11).

Limerick Corporation Water Works collection (L/WW/) should be consulted for researchers interested in water supply system of Limerick from 1883 onwards, and for post 1934 records should consult collection L/WS Limerick City Council Water and Sewage

Researchers interested in the estate of Reverend Richard Moore, Rhebogue should note that Limerick Archives also holds a copy of the Rentals and Particulars of Sale of his estate, dated 1887 (P/SC/11).

Purchase of Land (1833)

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|---|------------------|--|-------|
| 1 | 17 December 1833 | Notice of Compulsory
Purchase by Limerick
Water Works Company of
three hundred and forty-two feet of land on the lands of Singland. Includes
signature of John Fahy, Michael Tynes, and Michael Devine who sold land for
the sum of £1, 6s, 0d. | 2 pp. |
|---|------------------|--|-------|

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|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 2 | 1833
by Limerick Archives] | Cost to Solicitor. [Not Held | 1 item |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|

- | | | | |
|---|------|---|----------|
| 3 | 1833 | File of Compulsory Purchase
Orders and receipts.
[Not Held by Limerick
Archives] | 22 items |
|---|------|---|----------|

Estate of the Reverend Richard Moore Dispute (1850 – 1876)

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|---|-----------|---|---------|
| 4 | 1850-1876 | File relating to dispute
with the Estate of
Reverend Richard Moore.
[Not Held by Limerick
Archives] | 4 items |
|---|-----------|---|---------|

Account Books (1825-1847)

- 5 7 February 1825-5 December 1846 Account book of Limerick Water works company with details of income and expenditure. Expenditure includes money paid out for items such as wages of employees, purchase of material for laying pipes, repair of tanks, purchase and carriage of coal, poor rates, and postage and stationary. Income includes total figures of arrears and rentals received as per rental books. Accounts dated 19 October 1846- 5 December 1846 have been annotated with note 'this account is cancelled in consequence of instructions from the company to keep current expenses and expenses of repairs of the tanks separately'. Includes also account of William O'Sullivan, supplier of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipe; accounts of John Jones, and John Handes, plumbers; account of John Barrett, contractor. Includes also list of material received from London between April 1838 and July 1844 for the Waterworks Company, including items such as '78 bundles of lead pipes', and list of stock of lead pipes,cocks, balls and [ferules] stored at Gas Works for Limerick Water Works Company on 25 April 1845.

c.150 ff

- 6 19 October 1846-25 December 1847 Account book of Limerick Water Works Company. Includes expense account for repair of tank (19 October 1846-25 September 1847); quarterly income and current expenditure accounts(25 December 1846-25 December 1847); list of articles in store delivered to Mr. Cagely such as '1 inch pipe' and 'metal fire plugs', list of stocks of cocks, balls, [ferules] and lead pipes between 1 June 1847 and 23 December 1847.

c.25 ff

Water Rental Book (1835-1840)

- 7 20 June 1835-25 March 1840 Water Rental book with lists of inhabitants taking water from Limerick waterworks (20 June 1830-20 February 1839), and returns of quarterly rents,

and arrears due to the company (December 1836-March 1840). List of the inhabitants is arranged under the headings 'date of order', 'name', 'place' or 'street', 'value of premises', 'annual charges' and 'remarks'. Remarks includes comments such as 'discount from December 1837' and 'agreement with drawn'. The rental returns is arranged chronologically per quarter, and records the name of customer, place, rent due, arrears due, and total of rent and arrears, and 'remarks' such as 'cut off for non payment' and 'insolvent'.

c. 90 ff

Correspondence (1847-1848)

8 6 March 1847-[] March 1848 Letter book with handwritten copies of correspondence mainly between Captain Robert Kane(Limerick Water Works Company Agent), and Fredrick Harbridge(Committee of management of Limerick Water Works Company). Topics include laying of pipes to supply Limerick Union workhouse with water; rentals and arrears of various customers; operation of steam engine pumps; appointment of J. G Cagaly as Kane's successor as agent, engineer, and collector for Limerick Water Works.

c.120 pp

Contracts (1872-1883)

9 1872 Military Barracks Contract
Archives] **[Not Held by Limerick**

10 1883 Denny & Sons, Contract
Archives] **[Not Held by Limerick**

Sale to Limerick Corporation (1883)

11 19 December 1883

Photocopy of signed
schedule of deeds and
documents handed

to Limerick Corporation on completion of the purchase of Limerick Waterworks Company. The schedule begins with document dated 28 September 1833 being a notice of land wanted by the Company and a receipt for £78 in return for which Patrick Coughlan surrendered land called 'Cromwells []'. The schedule ends with conveyance deed dated 14 December 1883.

4 pp