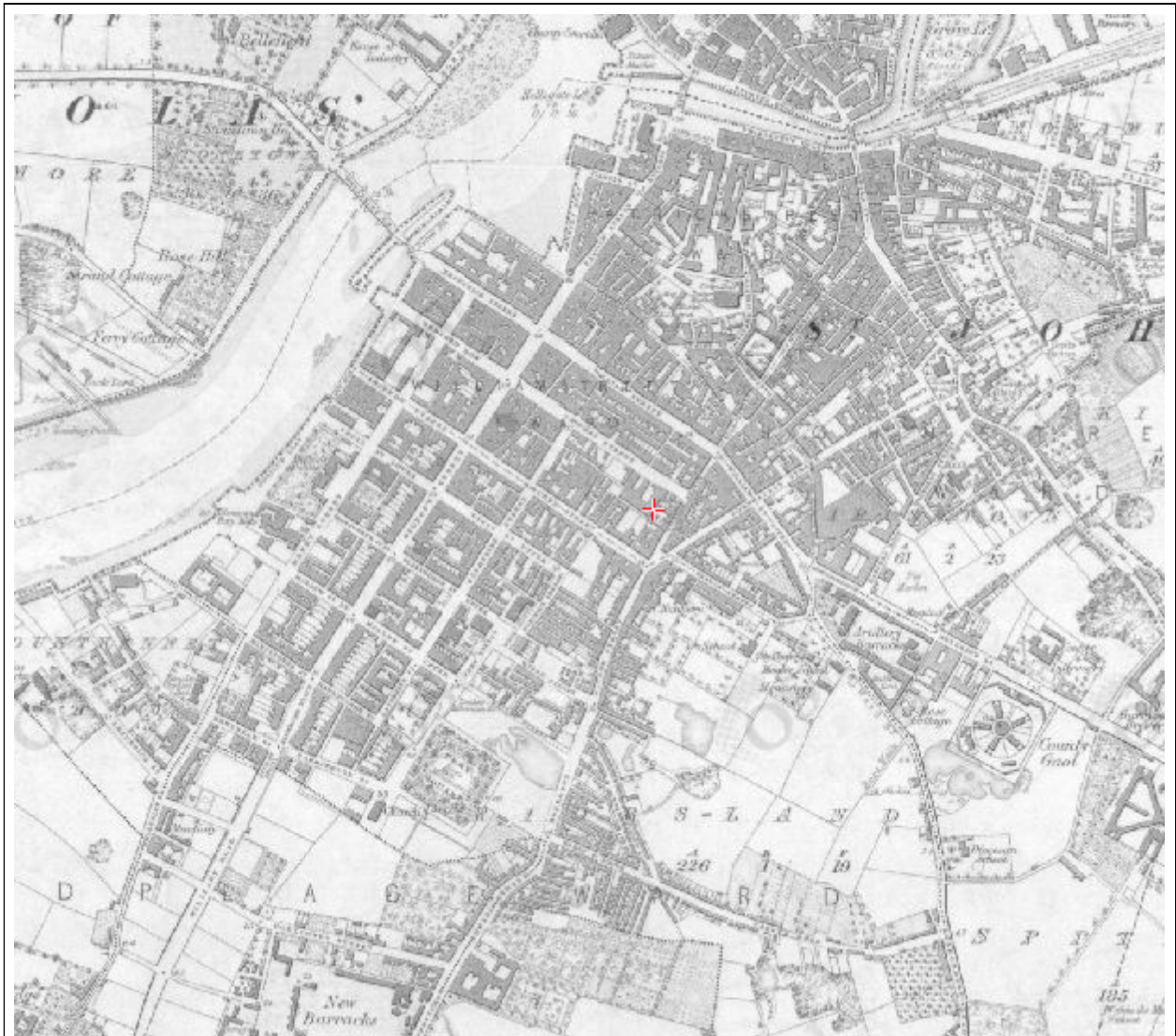


Limerick



Map of limerick

Presumably Michael Joseph was promoted in 1890 as the Guerins of Sallypark left and moved to Limerick. There is good evidence that he was raised to the position of Auditor at this time.

The first address recalled by Patrick Joseph for the Guerins is 75 Colooney St and seems to be the address they moved to in 1890. The house had three windows to the front, a second class house of six rooms and a rateable value of £4. The actual rate book covering this period is lost and the value is from the closest available year. Which is 1903. Michael Joseph was now in the Audit Office of the WL&WR.



75 Colooney St.

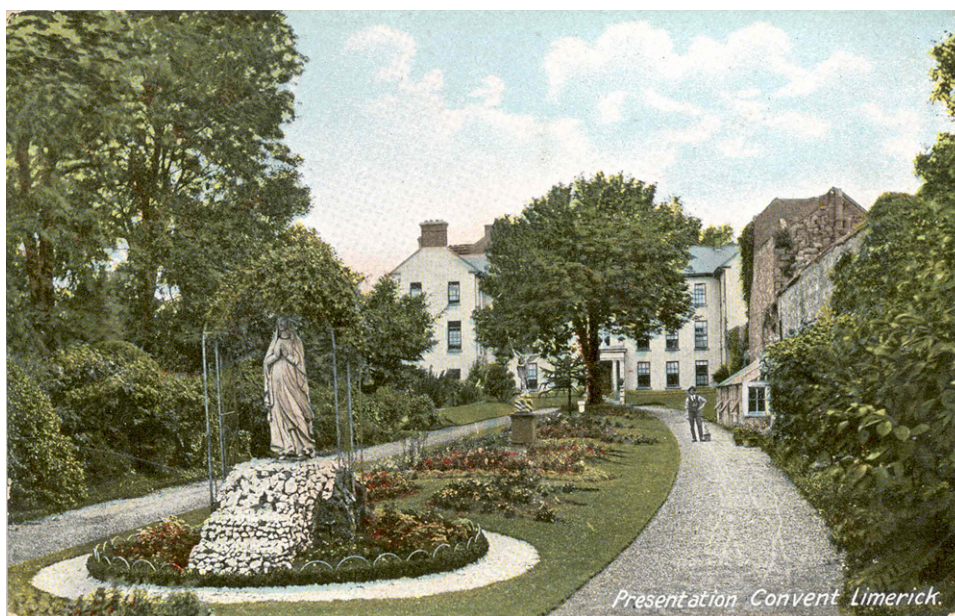
The eldest, Jim, made his first communion and was confirmed at St. Michael's, Denmark St., Limerick in 1892 and 1894 respectively. For both ceremonies, PJ records that he wore a Norfolk Suit - that is a belted jacket with knickerbockers, long stockings, boots (blacks), white collar and bow. He collected 1 shilling from the neighbours and received a prayerbook.

Situated in Denmark Street, just off the junction of O'Connell Street and Patrick Street, this church was first opened in 1781. It replaced the original parish church of St. Michael, which had stood in nearby West Watergate since medieval times but had been destroyed by the Cromwellians in 1651. The Catholic parish was without a proper church until the present church was opened, after the relaxation of the Penal Laws, on land donated by the Arthur family. The church was enlarged in 1805 and again in 1881. During the struggle for Catholic Emancipation, Daniel O'Connell held some of his rallies in this church. The parish records, dating back to 1770, are in excellent condition, and are still clearly legible.



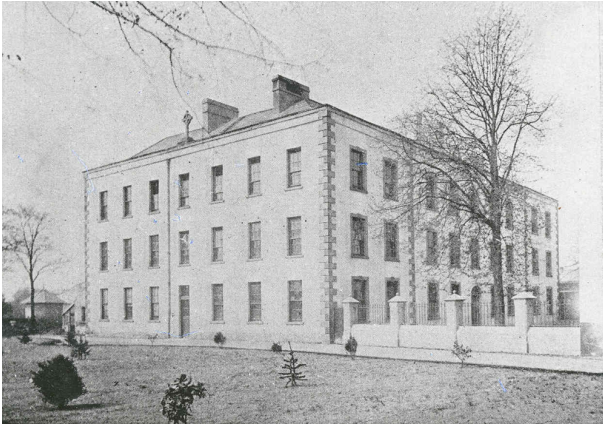
St. Michael's Church, Denmark St., Limerick

Patrick Joseph recalled that his bother Jim's education began at the Presentation Convent, Sexton St. Then it seems he attended in the Model School in O'Connell avenue. Set up in the mid 19th Century the Model Schools were Protestant but promoted the Irish Language. The Model School in Limerick became Catholic in the 30's according to Jim's son, Joseph Liam's (1923) recollection. (He



Presentation Convent Limerick.

He recalled that while he was a student the classrooms and all areas of the school were suddenly populated with statues of Our Lord, The Blessed Virgin and the saints.



Christian Brothers School, Sexton St.

The records of the Christian Brothers, St. Michael's, Sexton St. show that Jim attended there from 1896 (aged 14). PJG recalls that he left around 1900 and began work under his father Michael Joseph in the audit office of the Waterford Limerick and Western Railway. This railway was amalgamated with the Great Southern and Western by royal assent on 6th of August 1900 and so Jim must have started before this time if he worked for this company and not the amalgamated one.



Colbert station Limerick 1898



James Guerin at school

This is a picture of Jim at school, dated by period clothing experts to 1890 approx. He is second from the left on the front row. This picture was almost certainly taken at the Model School. I have no dates for his attendance but I presume that his primary education was at the convent and that he then moved up to the Model school aged around 7 as was the custom. These boys look to be around 11/12 years old so the year might be 1893/4.

PJG recalled that Jim and his friends used to swim in the “Pike Stream” and if he ever tagged along they would throw him into the water by one arm and a leg. As I said before, he left school in 1900 and took his first job under his father Michael, in the audit office of the WL&WR in Limerick. He worked there for some months but then ran off to Clonmel to join the British Army, The Royal Irish Regiment. He was unsuccessful according to PJG's recollection and returned home.

He tried again some months later (1901?) and was successful this time. He served 3 days according to his army record. His father bought him out of his commission for 3 guineas (The usual charge was 20 Gns but a Colonel Oakes was a friend of Michael Joseph and had it reduced). His father bought him a bicycle, a Rudge-Whitworth, to tempt him to stay but Colonel Oakes convinced his father to let him join up and Michael Joseph did eventually. However, due to his Fenian background his father never forgave him for his consorting with the enemy.

I think Colonel Oakes was Charles J T Oakes (1835-1910) who appears from the English Census records to have served in the British army since around around 1851 when he was a Cadet in Sandhurst. He is recorded in all the census returns until he disappears from England at the time of the 1891 census. There is then a record of him in 1894 as owner of Moores Hotel, Kilkee, Co. Clare. He is shown there in the Irish census of 1901. His wife Mary Margaret is shown as proprietor



Jim in Agra

in the 1911 census. I think Charles died in Eton, England in 1910.

Michael Joseph must have known him very well to ask for the reduction to Jim Guerins' commission. Perhaps the Guerin family holidayed in Kilkee in the 1890-1901 period and they stayed at the hotel and so became good friends. Perhaps Michael Joseph was not as anti-British as PJG recalled.

With Jim gone into the army the bicycle then passed to Patrick Joseph.

Jim's military service in the Royal Irish Regiment began in Limerick on 17th September 1901 with him signing up for 12 years service. His service number was 7095. His Short Service army form had to be edited to reflect the recent death in January that year (1901) of Queen Victoria. So all references to "Her" majesty changed to "His" and the final oath was to King Edward VII. He served the first 6 months in Clonmel according to PJG. When he came home before transferring to

Aldershot PJG got his tunic out and jumped on it !



The barrack Clonmel

The barracks in Clonmel are shown here, they no longer exist as they were raised to the ground during the civil war (1922-23).

The second born of the family was John, known as Jack, and was baptised in 1883 in the R.C. Church, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny, he made his first communion and confirmation, like his brother James, at St. Michael's 1893 and 1895. PJG did not recall what he wore. PJG recalled that he was educated the same as his older brother but instead of going to the

Christian Brothers he completed his education (1898 – 1901) (1903 according to PJG but confirmed by the Jesuit archivist as 1898 to 1901) at the Sacred Heart College, The Crescent. A school which was later called Crescent College S.J. . His story is tragically short and I shall complete it here. PJ recalled that while at the Crescent he did an acrobatic act in the school concert at the Old Theatre Royal, Henry St. He was greatly applauded and did cartwheels, handspings



The Crescent

etc. PJG recalls attending this with his parents in 1903 but his must have been 1901. He also recalled his impressions of his older brother, that he was the smartest dressed member of the family. He stood 5'6" and had a 'good mop' of brown straightish hair, his complexion was pale and his eyes grey. He was always clean shaven and his wardrobe was always fashionable, matching rather than

oddments. He cycled and like most men of the time wore boots, not shoes. He had his own circle of friends, never mixing with his brother Jim, and was by his brother's memory a jolly kind of fellow. He chose his own wardrobe, the money provided by his mother, but had a peculiar 'boyish' trait that he would tire of his own cap and would confiscate PJG's. He considered this the better article though both had been bought at the same time by their mother. She would then have to replace PJG's cap.

Jack too worked for the GS&WR and worked there from 1901 until his death in 1911. He started at 15 shillings per week and boasted to PJG that he would never start work for less than £15 per annum. He began work at Kilorglin Station in Kerry. He took up digs in Kilorglin which were by PJG's recollection smart and cost around 9 shillings per week. The rest of the family moved to Tralee a short time after he started in Kilorglin. During the period when the family were in Tralee he travelled to see the family at weekends.

He had joined Young Munster Rugby Football Club in 1901. PJ, who had himself a lifelong association with the club, recalled him as being one of the founder members but as the club was officially founded in 1895 we must be happy to include his name as being one of the early members. PJ recalls first meetings as taking place in Mary St. on Kings Island in a 4 storey house on the rhs after you cross Baals Bridge. This building was demolished in 1910 and he had died before they took up residence in Francis St. PJ thinks he was tea-total and that although a great lover of Rugby, he played no Gaelic games. Though he had four sisters who played that piano PJG recalled that he had no knowledge of music.

Jack contracted TB in 1910 and was off work for about a year. Dr. Devane of Perry Square attended him at home and did not send him to hospital. He spent his last month in bed and died in 1911. Fr. Michael Murphy from St. John's Cathedral performed the last rites. The funeral went directly from the home (2 St. John's Villas, Mulgrave St.) to the cemetery, Mount Saint Laurence just up Mulgrave St. The hearse was horse drawn as were the carriages. Fr. Murphy attended at the graveside. Jack is buried in the first Guerin grave in Mount St. Lawrence cemetery in Limerick city. 82 Qc is the plot number. 12 months mourning was usual at the time, PJG recalled. 'Deep mourning' was common, when mourners refrained from attending theatres etc. The womenfolk wore black and the men wore black crepe arm bands stitched on around the left arm above the elbow. During the 1914-18 war a black cloth diamond was worn in lieu of the crepe band.



A Limerick funeral of 1919 with horse drawn hearse

Chief mourners besides the family, Jim was in India, were P.J.'s cousins from Waterford, James and Peter Freeman and is uncle Michael Freeman.

But this is jumping ahead somewhat. The 1901 census records the 7 children at home with Michael Joseph and Hanora at 75 Colooney st. All the children listed as 'Scholar', Michael Joseph as Accountant and Jim as Railway Clerk. By this time the sisters Mary and Margaret must have also made their First communions and been confirmed, at St. Michael's Church? Again, we can but surmise. Patrick too was 10 in 1899 (first communion?) and 12 in 1901 (Confirmation?). Catherine was 10 in 1901 so she too might have made her first communion in St. Michael's church Limerick. Some time that year it seems that the family moved to Tralee.