

Wesleyan Chapel Site Preservation Project

As a permanent monument to mark the 300th anniversary of the Irish Palatines arriving in Ireland, the Irish Palatine Association is commencing a project to develop the Killeheen Wesleyan Chapel site.

The Association acquired the original Killeheen Colony Church site several years ago and it is important that something be done to protect and mark the spot where many of our ancestors worshipped. The church floor still remains under the grass sod. The pulpit bible from the church is included in our Museum exhibition.

Known locally as the "Preaching House", the Wesleyan Chapel is referenced in various publications as well as letters in the Museum archive.

We envisage building a stone wall around the boundary and returning the original gate to the entrance. We would also like to erect a stone lectern and seats and see the site becoming a focal point where visitors could come to remember their ancestors and admire their strong faith in God.

Ideas for inscriptions include a quote from John Wesley's Journal on the Palatines of Killeheen on July 9, 1760: "I rode over to Killeheen, a German settlement near twenty miles west of Limerick. It rained all the way, but the earnestness of the poor people made us forget it."

We hope to include a list of the Palatine family names of the Rathkeale area (particularly Killeheen) as well as a list of those who financially supported the project.

The surnames of the Palatine families who lived in the Rathkeale area included: Altimes/Alton, Baker/Becker, Barkman/Bartman/Berghmann, Barraban, Benner, Bickerin, Bonus, Bovenizer, Bowen, Bower, Bredhour, Brough, Cave, Closterbecker, Cole, Corneille, Cooke, Cripps, Cronsberry, Delmege/Dolmetsch, Doupe/Daub, Embury/Imberger, Everett, Filme, Fitzelle/Fischel, Folker,Grause/Gross, Guier, Hartwick, Heavenor, Heck, Hibler/Hifle/Hibler, Hoffman, Hoop/Haapf, Hoost, Laurence/Lorentz, Legear/Legeer, Lodwick/Ludwig, Lowe/Lowes, Lower, Mick, Miller, Modler, Neazor, Piper/Pyper, Poff/Poffe, Richardt, Rodenbecker, Ruttle, Rynard/Reynhard, Ryner, St.John, Schmidt/Smyth/Smith, Shallas/Schalosch, Sheaffer, Shimmel, Shire/Shier/Schyer, Shoemaker, Shoneweiss, Shouldice/Schides, Siebert, Singer, Smeltzer, Sparling, Steepe, Steevell, Stork/Stark, Stroud, Switzer, Teskey, Tettler/Detlor, Ushebaugh/Usselbach, Young and Zigler.

The project will be supported by Rathkeale Community Council and much of the labour will be provided by a social employment scheme. The IPA committee will be responsible for purchasing materials and overseeing the project.

We ask your help in raising funds. Please forward a donation of €100 or more together with this completed form to the Irish Palatine Association, Irish Palatine Centre, Old Railway Buildings, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Ireland. The equivalent amount may be submitted in your own currency by personal cheque.

A list of those who have already donated appears in our current Journal. (J.16)

Irish Palatine Association promotion



Mr. Mrs. Miss. Rev. Dr. Prof. (delete as appropriate)

Name:

Address:

Country: Post/Zip:

Email address:

Would you like to record your donation in memory of an ancestor?

Name:

Amount Donated

Wesleyan Chapel Site Appeal

Please make your donations payable to the Irish Palatine Association and send to: Irish Palatine Centre, Rathkeale, Co.Limerick, Ireland.

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