



Limerick lace FROM DESIGN TO MAKERS

An Exhibition presented by Limerick Museum

Curated by Dr Matthew Potter. Research by Maureen Egan and Ruth Guiry Cagney. Images from the Sisters of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork, by kind permission of Sister Bernadette Maria Knopek. Photographs by Keith Wiseman



FROM DESIGN TO MAKERS

This exhibition depicts designs used to make Limerick lace; profiles the makers of lace in Limerick city in 1901 and 1911; and shows examples of finished pieces of lace.

Design.

Images of lace designs from Mercy convents in Munster, housed in the Sisters of Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville demonstrate the basis for the creation of the pieces.

Makers.

Maureen Egan of Pennywell Lace Makers in Limerick City and Ruth Guiry Cagney, MA have created a database of lace makers in Limerick mainly based on the 1901 and 1911 censuses. This gives an invaluable window into the lace making workforce during the heyday of the industry.

The Finished Product

Images of lace pieces from Mercy convents in Munster, housed in the Sisters of Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville demonstrate the beauty and craft which resulted from the collaboration between design and makers.



Lace patterns from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork



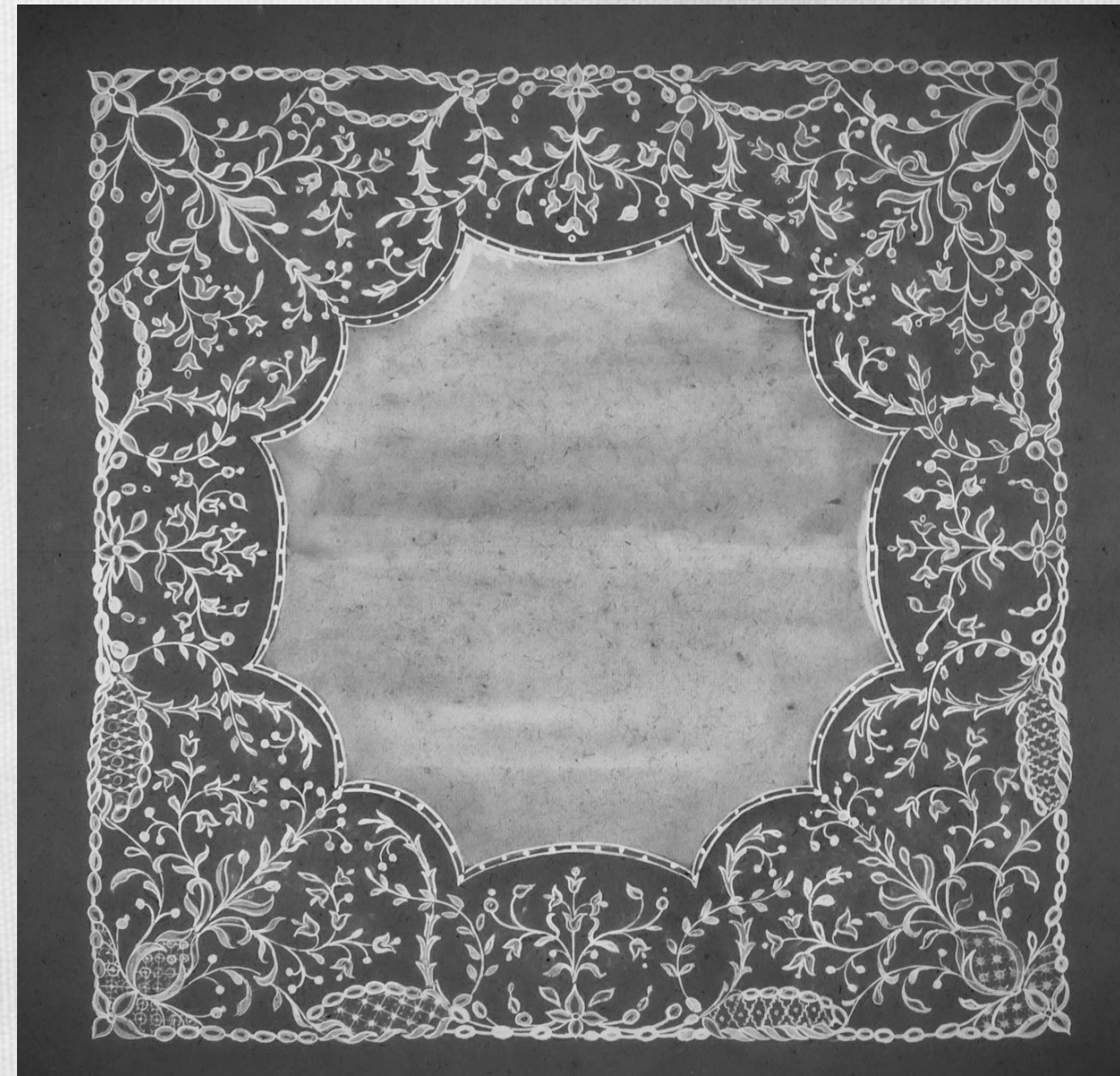
INTRODUCTION

Limerick lace is probably the most famous of all Irish laces. It is a form of hand embroidery on machine made net and is a 'mixed lace' rather than a 'true lace', which is entirely handmade. The Limerick lace industry was established in 1829 when English businessman Charles Walker, opened a lace factory in the city. The history of Limerick lace may be divided into two periods based on method of production:

- Large factory manufacture (1829-70)
- Home and small workshop manufacture (1870-1990).

Limerick lace was the largest lace industry in Irish history and at its peak in the early 1850s, employed 1,800 women. Its output included dresses, christening shawls, ecclesiastical robes and handkerchiefs. It was worn by thousands of women, including Queen Victoria, American First Lady Edith Roosevelt and Countess Markievicz. Generations of churchmen in Ireland and the Irish diaspora also wore Limerick lace and used it to decorate their churches.

Convents also began making lace, including the Good Shepherd Convent, Sexton Street from 1850 onwards; the Presentation Convent in Sexton Street; and the Mercy Convent at Mount Saint Vincent, on O'Connell Avenue.



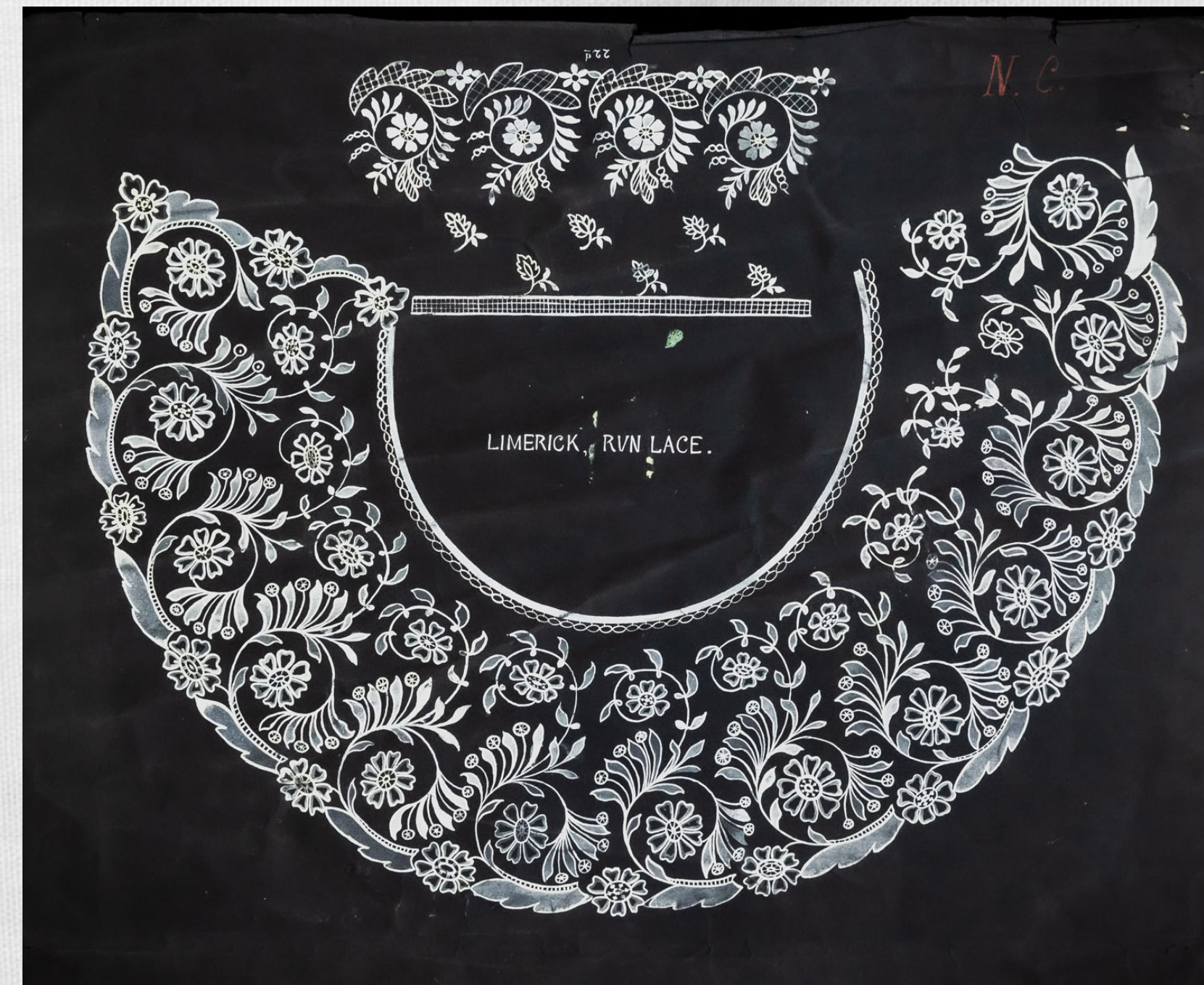
Lace patterns from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork



MAKING LACE IN HOME AND WORKSHOP

In the 1860s, the spread of machine made lace from Nottingham brought about the collapse of large scale factory-based lace making in Limerick. The number of lace makers in the city declined from by 97 percent between 1861 and 1891. In the 1880s, Limerick lace underwent a significant revival due to the activities of English philanthropist Florence Vere O'Brien.

After 1870, Limerick lace was no longer made in factories. Instead it was made either in workshops such as Cannock's department store, or in the home where women made lace to order for business women who then sold it on to retail outlets. Florence Vere O'Brien employed several former factory workers to make lace for her in their own homes. In 1904, Mrs Maude Kearney established Thomond Lace which employed between 50-80 home workers at its height.



Lace patterns from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork



Design For Florence. (LIMERICK LACE)

LIMERICK LACE IN CHARLEVILLE CONVENT

In the 1840s, Limerick lace making was introduced to a number of convents and convent-run institutions, both in Limerick and elsewhere. Limerick lace was disseminated widely throughout Ireland by Catholic religious sisters anxious to provide employment at the time of the Famine. They introduced it to several other convents including religious houses in Youghal, Kinsale, Dunmore East, Cahirciveen, and Kenmare. In 1908, lace was made at nine locations in Limerick city. Limerick lace was also made at nine locations in County Cork, three in County Tipperary, two each in Counties Kerry and Sligo, and one each in Counties Galway, Mayo, and Dublin. Most of these were convents.

The Sisters of Mercy Convent in Charleville was an important centre for making Limerick lace. Founded in 1836, the Convent established a lace-making enterprise in 1855. A qualified lace-maker was employed and products were sold to America and Australia. The former convent chapel now houses the Mercy Order Provincial Heritage Museum which has a fine collection of Limerick lace pieces and patterns from all over the Order's convents in Munster.



Lace patterns from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork



LACE MAKERS IN LIMERICK 1901 AND 1911

Limerick, like all laces, provided a sharp contrast between those who made it and those who wore it. Truly has it been said that lace has been 'made by the poorest women to adorn the rich.' Nonetheless, the sheer numbers employed in Limerick lace making over a long timespan undoubtedly meant that it provided a vital source of income for many hundreds of families. The social history of Limerick was altered by the lace industry. It provided employment to a significant proportion of the female workforce, who in turn supported or helped to support a large number of dependent relatives. In 1851, it was estimated that each lace worker maintained two or three other family members.

Extensive research on the number of lace-makers in Limerick has been undertaken by Maureen Egan and Ruth Guiry. The main sources were the 1901 and 1911 censuses, and lists of lace makers from the papers of Florence Vere O'Brien.

The data is analysed under the following headings

- Spatial Distribution
- Living Arrangements and Overcrowding
- Mapping Lace Makers
- Literacy
- Age Profiles
- Marital Status



Lace patterns from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

The highest numbers of lace workers are predominately located in the Abbey (DED Urban 1) and Irishtown (DED Urban 6) Wards. These wards are located to the older parts of the city and encompass St Marys and St. Johns Parishes and a portion of St. Michaels (map below).

The below data is spilt into two tables for the relevant years and represents the number of lace related workers and needle related workers within the eight urban DEDs. The 1901 Census (red) recorded 128 lace makers and the 1911 Census (blue) recorded 113. Abbey Ward remains consistently high across both census periods accounting for 21% of lace workers in 1901 and rising to 29% in 1911. Irishtown Ward accounted for 26% in 1901 and dropped to 11.5% in 1911. Market Ward and Shannon Ward remained the lowest across both census periods.

Needle related activity, including listings like needle work, plain work, sewing etc, were more frequently recorded in 1901. There was a decrease in the recording of these in the 1911 census records.

1901 Census of Lace Makers and Needle Workers			
DED	Ward	Lace Related	Needle Related
1	Abbey	27	7
2	Castle	17	3
3	Custom House	18	2
4	Dock	18	8
5	Glentworth	9	5
6	Irishtown	33	11
7	Market	1	1
8	Shannon	5	1

Figure 2: Spatial Distribution of Lace Makers and Needle Workers, 1901 Census

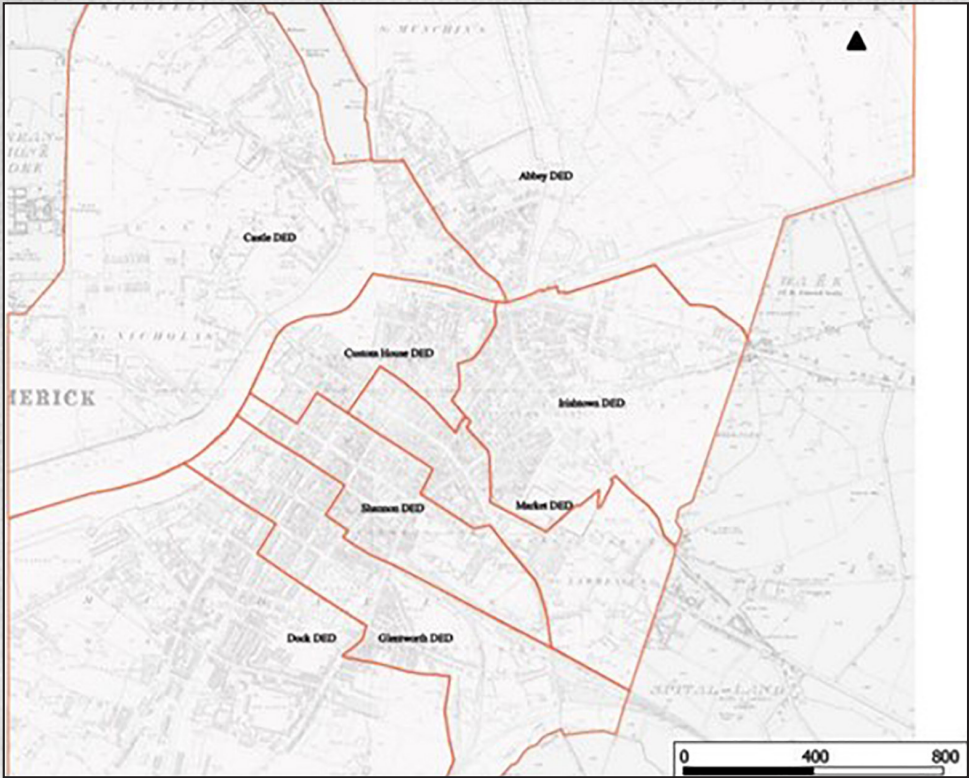
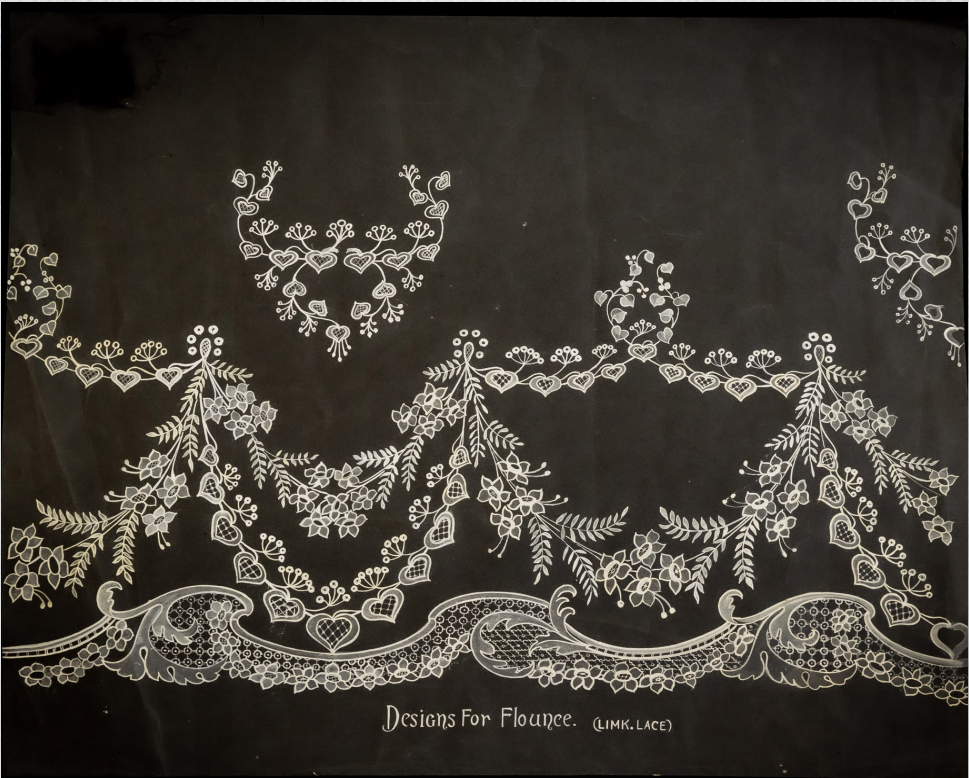


Figure 1: District Electoral Divisions, Limerick City, 1901 (OS, 1:2500, V.10-11, 14-15)

1911 Census of Lace Makers and Needle Workers			
DED	Ward	Lace Related	Needle Related
1	Abbey	33	0
2	Castle	11	1
3	Custom House	12	0
4	Dock	19	2
5	Glentworth	13	1
6	Irishtown	13	1
7	Market	7	1
8	Shannon	5	0

Figure 3: Spatial Distribution of Lace Makers and Needle Workers, 1911 Census



Lace patterns from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork

In some cases, distinctions were also made between 'lace' workers and 'Limerick lace' workers who are most commonly visible in the 1901 Abbey Ward returns.

Lace Designer and Worker were also listed alternative variations listed in the 1901 Dock Ward returns.

Maude Hodkinson was listed as a teacher at 34 Henry Street in the 1901 Dock Ward returns (image below).

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
 FORM A.
 RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

NAME AND BIRTHDAY	RELATION TO HEAD OF FAMILY	RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE	EDUCATION	AGE	SEX	RACE, PROGENY, OR DESCENT	STATUS	WIDOW WIFE	WIDOW LADY	IF DEAF AND DUMB, STATE WHEN AND WHERE BORN
Maude Hodkinson	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Teacher	27	F	Irish	Single			
Elizabeth Hodkinson	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Teacher	26	F	Irish	Single			
George Hodkinson	Son	Roman Catholic	Teacher	22	M	Irish	Single			
Thomas Hodkinson	Son	Roman Catholic	Teacher	15	M	Irish	Single			
Lara Hodkinson	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Teacher	16	F	Irish	Single			

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 43 Vic., cap. 6, s. 4 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 Signature of Head of Family: *James Hodkinson*

Figure 4: Maude Hodkinson return, 1901 census



Lace patterns from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork

Norah and Bridget Dunne (sisters) were also listed as teachers at 43 George Street in the Glentworth Ward (images below).

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
 FORM A.
 RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

NAME AND BIRTHDAY	RELATION TO HEAD OF FAMILY	RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE	EDUCATION	AGE	SEX	RACE, PROGENY, OR DESCENT	STATUS	WIDOW WIFE	WIDOW LADY	IF DEAF AND DUMB, STATE WHEN AND WHERE BORN
Norah Dunne	Sister	Roman Catholic	Teacher	27	F	Irish	Single			
Bridget Dunne	Sister	Roman Catholic	Teacher	27	F	Irish	Single			

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 43 Vic., cap. 6, s. 4 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 Signature of Head of Family: *Norah Dunne*

Figure 5: Norah and Bridget Dunne return, 1901 census.

Anne and Agnes Buckley listed as manager and teacher at 33 Military Road in the Dock Ward (image below).

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
 FORM A.
 RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND BIRTHDAY	RELATION TO HEAD OF FAMILY	RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE	EDUCATION	AGE	SEX	RACE, PROGENY, OR DESCENT	STATUS	WIDOW WIFE	WIDOW LADY	IF DEAF AND DUMB, STATE WHEN AND WHERE BORN
Anne M. Buckley	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Manager	33	F	Irish	Single			
Agnes M. Buckley	Sister	Roman Catholic	Teacher	33	F	Irish	Single			

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 18 Edw. VII, and 1 Geo. V, cap. 14, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 Signature of Head of Family: *Anne M. Buckley*

Figure 7: Anne and Agnes Buckley return, 1911 census

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND OVERCROWDING

The below tables are lists of the lace workers in the city for both the 1901 and 1911 census returns for each ward. The data includes the number of lace working families living at each listing. The family unit is determined as head of household, wife, and children. Any other listing such as uncle, aunt, mother-in-law are added as an additional family and boarders, lodgers and visitors are listed in the notes column.

The majority of lace makers lived in typical living conditions and family environments, but some houses contained more than one family. Other houses were subdivided up and contained several families. There sub divided houses are determined by multilevel numbering e.g 55.2 Bonfield Lane.

ABBEY WARD

1901			1911		
No of Families	Street	Notes	No of Families	Street	Notes
1	15 Aherns Row		1	4 Aherns Row	
1	16 Aherns Row		1	9 Athlunkard Street	
4	20 Athlunkard Street		1	13 Athlunkard Street	
1	55.2 Bonfield Lane		1	23 Athlunkard Street	
1	61.7 Bonfield Lane		1	20 Bishop Street	
14	65.3 Bonfield Lane		1	2 Chapel Lane	
15	65.4 Bonfield Lane		1	26 Clare Street	2 listed as visitor
15	65.5 Bonfield Lane		2	69.6 Clare Street	
2	2 Castle Lane		2	1 Emily Street	
1	2.6 Clare Street		2	2 Emily Street	
2	4.5 Clare Street		1	11 Emily Street	
2	42.4 Clare Street		1	4 Exchange Street	
14	16.5 Convent Street		2	3 Gaol Lane Bow	
1	7 Emily Street		1	1 Hassetts Bow	
3	7.2 Fish Lane		1	1 Island Road Part Of	
2	5.2 Flag Lane		1	17 Island Road Part Of	
1	8 Gaol Lane		3	20.4 Mary Street Part Of	2 listed as boarders
1	23.6 Mary Street		1	21.3 Mary Street Part Of	
1	52.5 Mary Street		1	7.1 Nicholas Street Part Of	
1	23.4 Nicholas Street		2	4.2 O Sullivans Bow	
			1	6 Pennywell	
			1	6 Peters Cell	
			3	5 Pouleen	
			1	9 Sandmall	
			2	16.3 Sandmall	
			2	3 St Lelia Street	
			1	10 St Lelia Street	
				17 St Lelia Street	

Example: Link to 65.4 Bonfield Lane, listed as private dwelling.
http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Limerick/Limerick_No__1/Bonfield_Lane/1496937/



CASTLE WARD

1901			1911		
No of Families	Streets	Notes	No of Families	Street	Notes
3	3.2 Bridge Street	2 listed as lodgers	5	2 Augustine Place	
2	1 Creagh Lane		1	3 Clunes Lane	
1	4 Cross Road		1	71 High Road	
2	9 Cross Road		1	17 Kings Island	
1	4 Georges Quay		2	1 Mass Lane	
1	8.3 Georges Quay		2	2.1 Merchants Quay	
2	16.1 Georges Quay		2	2.1 Merchants Quay	
1	18 Georges Quay		1	10.2 Nicholas Street	
1	56 High Road		2	2 School Lane	
1	10 Kilrush Little		1	20 Thomondgate	
1	59 Kings Island				
1	18 Mary Street				
2	1 Mass Lace				
2	13 Nolan Cottages				

CUSTOM HOUSE WARD

1901			1911		
No of Families	Streets	Notes	No of Families	Street	Notes
1	4.4 Arthurs Quay		2	10.3 Charlottes Quay	
1	5.6 Charlottes Quay		2	28 Charlottes Quay	
1	19.1 Charlottes Quay		5	15 Denmark Street Lower	
1	19.2 Charlottes Quay		1	1 Market Alley	
1	19.3 Charlottes Quay		2	21.1 Market Alley	1 listed as boarder
1	19.5 Charlottes Quay		1	5 Michaels Lane Part Of	
1	19.6 Charlottes Quay		1	12 Michael Street	
1	21.2 Charlottes Quay		2	5 Punches Row	
1	1.2 Custom House Place		2	7 Watergate	
3	15.1 Francis Street	1 listed as boarder			
2	9.2 Market Alley				
1	38.2 Patrick Street				
1	11 Punches Row				
2	2.3 Rutland Street				
1	10.2 Rutland Street				
1	17.4 Rutland Street				

Example: Link to 15.1 Francis Street
http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Limerick/Limerick_No__3_Urban_District/Francis_Street/1499417/

DOCK WARD

1901			1911		
No of Families	Streets	Notes	No of Families	Street	Notes
	11.2 Barrack Hill		1	12.1 Barrack Hill	
2	34 Colooney Street		3	3 Barrington Street Little	
2	80.3 Colooney Street		1	8 Caledonian Place	
3	6 Connollys Range		4	24 Colooney Street	
2	34 Henry Street	1 listed as servant. Head is Teacher in lace making	1	48.3 Colooney Street	
5	35 Military Road	3 listed as boarders	2	63.1 Colooney Street	
1	17 Mount Pleasant Avenue		1	21 Halls Range	
1	64 South Circular Road		1	45.3 Henry Street	
2	7 Vizes Fields		1	3 McNamara Place	
1	37 Vizes Fields		2	33 Military Road Part Of	
2	8.6 Walshes Lane	1 listed as boarder	1	19 Mount Pleasant Avenue	
5	31 Windmill Street	1 servant and 3 boarders	1	9 Mount Pleasant Cottages	
1	48.1 Windmill Street		1	63 Vizes Fields	
			1	50 Windmill Street	

Example: Lick to 24 Colooney Street
http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Limerick/Limerick_No__4_Urban/Colooney_Street/630532/

GLENTWORTH WARD

1901			1911		
No of Families	Streets	Notes	No of Families	Street	Notes
1	21 Bowman Street		2	15 Browns Lane Upper	
1	30 Bowman Street		1	36.2 Catherine Street	
1	11 Careys Road Upper		1	32.2 Cecil Street Upper	
1	34.2 Edward Street		1	13 Cunninghams Lane	
1	43 George	Teacher of Limerick Lace	2	59 Dixons Lane	family and a boarder
1	12 Halls Range		1	48 George Street	Teacher of Limerick lace
1	6.3 Reeves Path		1	20 Henry Street South	
			1	3 Kings Lane	
			1	2.2 Moyles Street	
			1	19.1 Pigotts Lane	
			1	2.4 Reeves Path	
			1	4 Walshs Lane off Careys Road	

IRISHTOWN WARD

1901			1911		
No of Families	Streets	Notes	No of Families	Street	Notes
2	11.1 Bensons Lane		3	30 Broad Street West	1 listed as visitor and 1 listed as boarder
1	5.2 Brennans Row		1	5 Church Street	
1	19.2 Brennans Row		1	9.2 Gerald Griffin Street Lower	
1	1 Bushy Lane		2	5 Josses Lane	
1	25.2 Cathedral Place		1	13.3 Mungret Street	
1	12.4 Curry Lane		2	2 Back Clare Street West	
1	2.1 Fitzgeralds Lane		1	5 Garryowen East	
2	3.4 Fitzgeralds Lane		1	37 Garryowen East	
1	11 Garryowen		1	1.3 Lock Quay	
2	43 Garryowen		1	5 Rixtown Terrace	
1	16 Garveys Range		1	10.5 St Johns Square	
1	34.2 Gerald Griffin Street Lower				
1	34.3 Gerald Griffin Street				
2	4.2 Hills Lane				
2	13 James Street				
1	29.2 John Street				
1	29.3 John Street				
2	29.4 John Street	1 listed as a boarder			
2	26.1 Mungret Street				
1	78.5 Mungret Street				
1	36 Pennywell				
1	37 Pennywell				
2	7.3 St John Square				
1	10.3 St. Johns Square				
2	2 Watergate	1 listed as a boarder			

MARKET WARD

1901			1911		
No of Families	Streets	Notes	No of Families	Street	Notes
Lunatic Institute	1.2 Spitland		2	8 Garryowen Villas	1 listed as a visitor
			1	15 Gerald Griffin Street Lower	
			1	2 Narrow Lane	
			Lunatic Institute	1.1 Spitland	
			1	4 St Johns Avenue	

SHANNON WARD

1901			1911		
No of Families	Streets	Notes	No of Families	Street	Notes
1	51.1 Catherine Street		2	5.2 Glentworth Street Little	1 listed as visitor
1	29 Cecil Street Upper		4	15 Hunts Lane	
1	4.2 Gormans Lane		1	2.1 Taylor Street	
1	3.2 Nelson Street Part Of		2	10.2 Anne Street	
1	29.5 Wickham Street		1	3.2 Bawdies Lane	



Pieces of lace from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork.

MAPPING LACE MAKERS

The below three maps highlight the streets where lace makers lived over the ten years. The symbols are colour coded according to their ward:

Red	Abbey Ward
Blue	Castle Ward
Yellow	Custom House Ward
Green	Dock Ward
Orange	Glentworth Ward
Turquoise	Irishtown Ward
Purple	Market Ward
Pink	Shannon Ward

A compilation of maps (1840, 1865, 1900, 2008) were used from the IHTA in order to be able to locate some of the streets which have either been demolished, altered or undergone name changes. The use of Gerry Joyces book entitled Limerick City Street Names were also used to help determine changes and approximate locations.

The majority of lace makers appear to be clustered to the older parts of the city, mainly Englishtown and Irishtown and again around the Careys Road area. The Englishtown and Irishtown areas were a prime location from the nineteenth century lace making facilities which were located on Clare Street, Patrick Street, Sarsfield Street, Glentworth Street and the Good Shepard Convent.

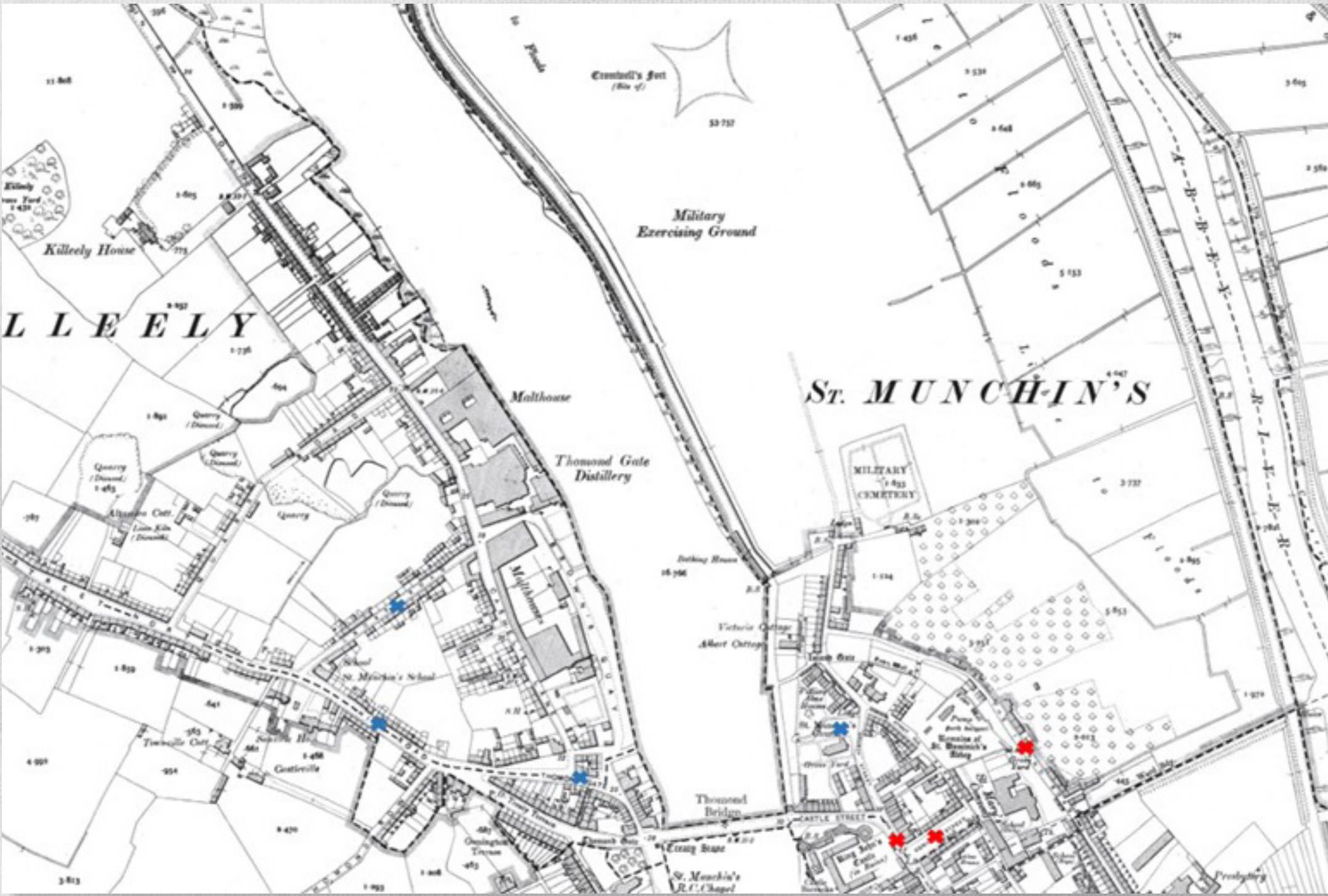


Figure 8: Map of Lace Makers 1

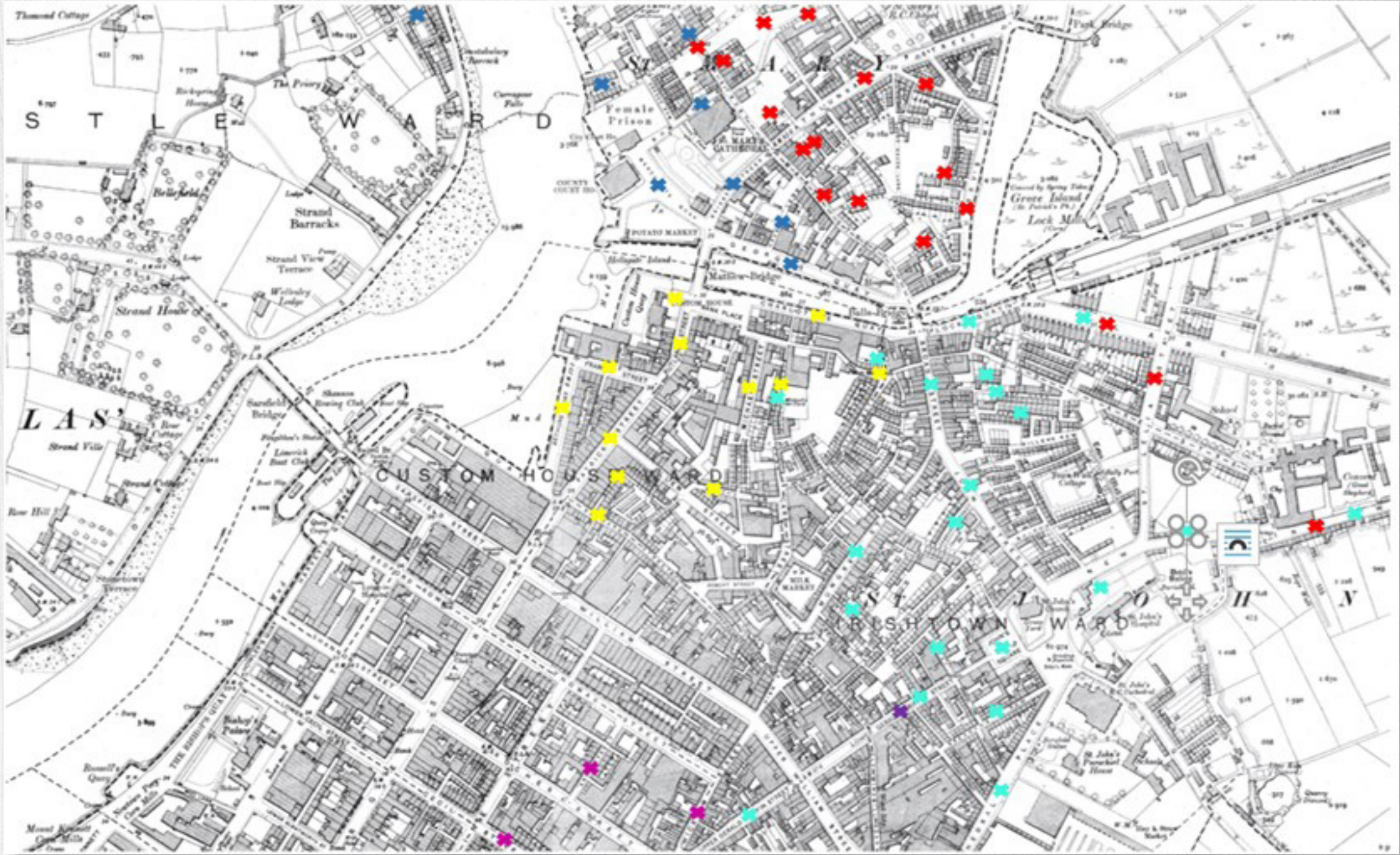


Figure 9:
Map of Lace Makers 2



Figure 10:
Map of Lace Makers 3

Red	Abbey Ward
Blue	Castle Ward
Yellow	Custom House Ward
Green	Dock Ward
Orange	Glentworth Ward
Turquoise	Irishtown Ward
Purple	Market Ward
Pink	Shannon Ward

LITERACY

The below tables indicate the variations in literacy across the 1901 and 1911 censuses for both lace makers and needle workers.

Lace Makers listed as being able to 'read and write' accounted for 57% in the 1901 census and 27% listed as 'cannot read or write'. In comparison, the 1911 census listed lace makers as 85% able to 'read and write' and only 10% listed 'cannot read or write'.

Abbey ward contained the highest number of those being able to read and write in both the 1901 and 1911 census records but also contained the highest number of lace making residents. Dock Ward also recorded high levels of being able to read and write in both census years with only one illiterate lace worker in both 1901 and 1911. Irishtown recorded the highest level of illiterate lace workers in the 1901 census returns with all of these being age 40 and over.

1901 Literacy Rate Lace Workers								
	Abbey	Castle	Custom House	Dock	Glentworth	Irishtown	Market	Shannon
Read and Write	18	11	8	14	8	11	1	3
Read Only	4	1	5	3	-	6	-	-
Cannot Read or Write	5	5	5	1	1	16	-	2

Figure 11: 1901 Lace Workers Literacy Rates

1911 Literacy Rate Lace Workers								
	Abbey	Castle	Custom House	Dock	Glentworth	Irishtown	Market	Shannon
Read and Write	28	9	11	18	12	8	7	4
Read Only	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cannot Read or Write	3	2	1	1	1	3	-	1

Figure 12: 1911 Lace Workers Literacy Rates



Pieces of lace from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork

1901 Literacy Rate Needle Workers								
	Abbey	Castle	Custom House	Dock	Glentworth	Irishtown	Market	Shannon
Read and Write	6	3	2	8	3	8	1	1
Read Only	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Cannot Read or Write	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Figure 13: 1901 Needle Workers Literacy Rates

1911 Literacy Rate Needle Workers								
	Abbey	Castle	Custom House	Dock	Glentworth	Irishtown	Market	Shannon
Read and Write	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-
Read Only	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cannot Read or Write	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 14: 1911 Needle Workers Literacy Rates

The numbers for needle workers are considerably smaller but in 1901, 84% were listed as being able to read and write and 83% in the 1911 returns. Irishtown contained the highest numbers of needle workers in 1901 with eight lace workers being able to read and write. Recorded needle workers dropped hugely by 1901 where they were either in short supply, diminishing in the workforce or listed under an alternative such as lace making, dressmaking or seamstress work.



Pieces of lace from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork

AGE PROFILES

The below data shows the age profile returns from both census records and is more easily read in chart form.

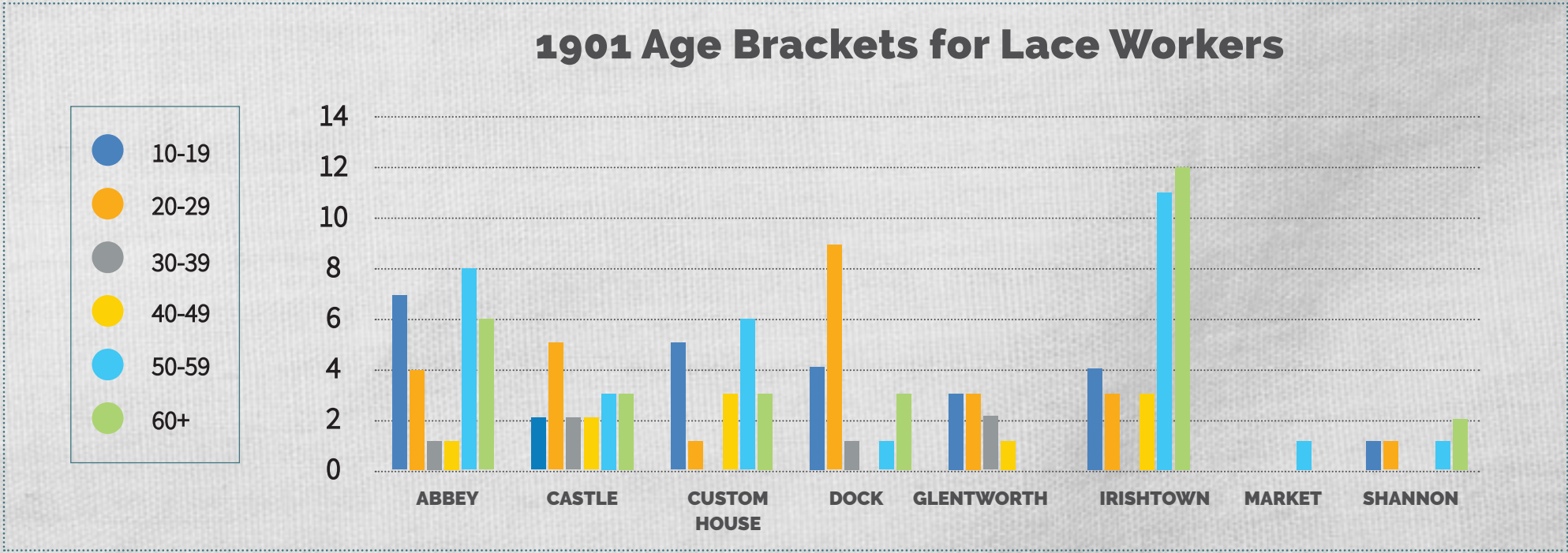
1901 Age Brackets Lace Workers								
	Abbey	Castle	Custom House	Dock	Glentworth	Irishtown	Market	Shannon
10-19	7	2	5	4	3	4	-	1
20-29	4	5	1	9	3	3	-	1
30-39	1	2	-	1	2	-	-	-
40-49	1	2	3	-	1	3	-	-
50-59	8	3	6	1	-	11	1	1
60+	6	3	3	3	-	12	-	2

Figure 15: 1901 Age Bracket for Lace Workers

Irishtown Ward has the highest numbers of lace workers aged 50 years or over while the majority of Dock Ward lace workers are aged between 20 and 29 years. Abbey Ward displays a high amount of lace workers in the 10-19 age bracket and also in the 50-59 age bracket.



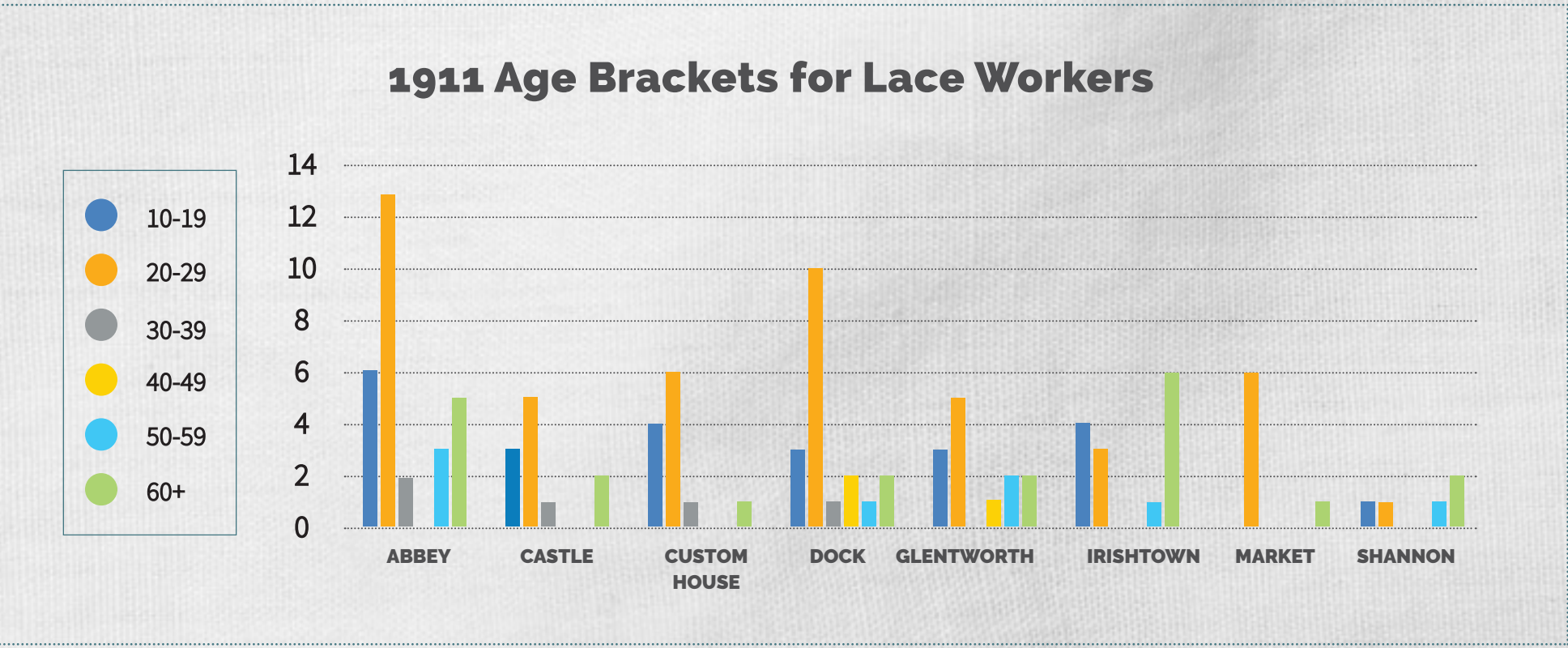
Pieces of lace from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork



In the 1911 census, Abbey Ward shows a jump in the 20-29 age bracket for lace making while Irishtown shows a decrease in the over 50s bracket. Dock Ward remained consistent in the 20-20 bracket from the previous census.

1911 Age Brackets Lace Workers								
	Abbey	Castle	Custom House	Dock	Glentworth	Irishtown	Market	Shannon
10-19	6	3	4	3	3	2	-	1
20-29	15	5	6	10	5	4	6	1
30-39	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
40-49	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
50-59	3	-	-	1	2	1	-	1
60+	5	2	1	2	2	6	1	2

Figure 3: 1911 Age Brackets for Lace Workers



Pieces of lace from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork

MARITAL STATUS

The marital statuses (not married, widow, married) for both census returns are recorded below in table and graph form.

48% of lace workers were unmarried in the 1901 census in both Abbey and Dock Ward and 45% were recorded unmarried for Irishtown.

The majority of unmarried lace workers were primarily under age 30 in Abbey Ward and Dock Ward while in Irishtown they were approximately age 50 and over.

1901 Marital Status Lace Workers								
	Abbey	Castle	Custom House	Dock	Glentworth	Irishtown	Market	Shannon
Not Married	13	9	7	13	9	15	-	3
Widow	10	3	6	4	-	14	-	1
Married	4	4	5	1	-	4	1	1
Spinster	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

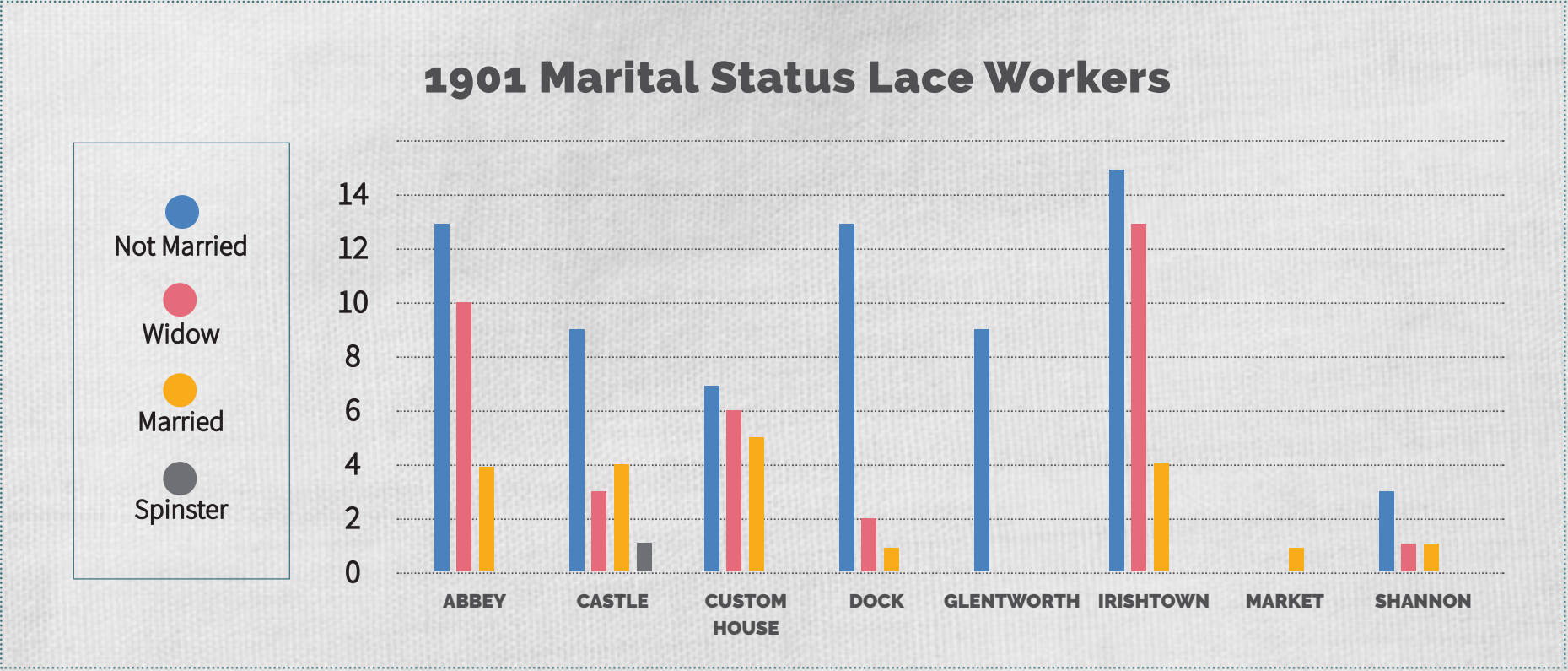


Figure 20: Chart representing 1901 Marital Status



Pieces of lace from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork

Unmarried figures were highest in Abbey Ward in 1911 at almost 78%, followed by Dock Ward at 89%. The majority of unmarried were aged 30 and under for both Abbey and Dock Ward.

1901 Marital Status Lace Workers								
	Abbey	Castle	Custom House	Dock	Glentworth	Irishtown	Market	Shannon
Not Married	25	10	9	17	13	9	7	4
Widow	4	1	-	2	-	1	-	1
Married	4	-	3	-	-	3	-	-
Spinster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 21: 1911 Lace Worker Marital Status

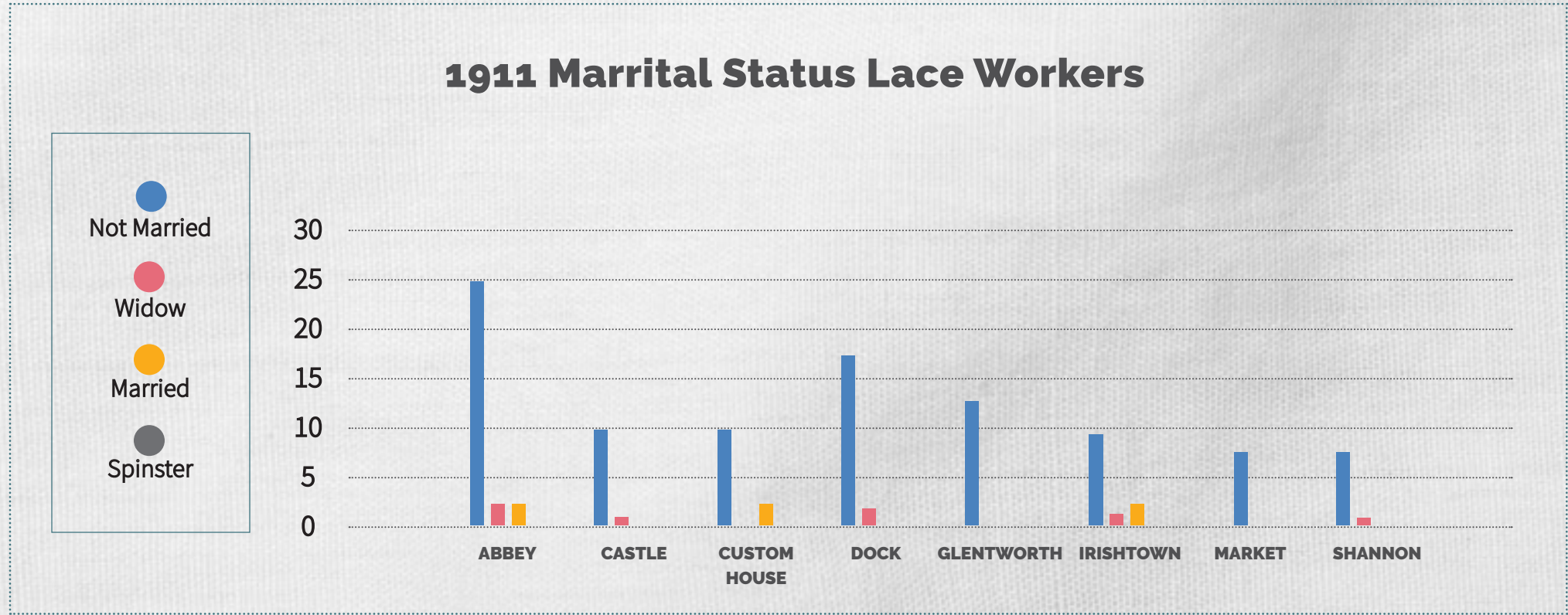


Figure 20: Chart representing 1901 Marital Status



Pieces of lace from Sisters of Mercy of Mercy Provincial Heritage Centre, Charleville, Co Cork



Limerick lace FROM DESIGN TO MAKERS

Sources

Nellie Ó Cléirigh and Veronica Rowe, *Limerick Lace, A Social History and A Maker's Manual* (Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, 1995).

Matthew Potter, *Amazing Lace: A History of the Limerick Lace Industry* (Limerick, 2014).



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media