

# PIPE DREAMS:



Joe Norton examines the history and archaeology of the clay pipe.

## A DIRECTORY OF CLAY TOBACCO PIPE-MAKERS IN IRELAND

Nowadays smoking is considered socially unacceptable. Smokers are marginalised, if not stigmatised, by a series of bans, health warnings and barely disguised sufferance. This was not always the case, however.

Most smokers today use ready-made cigarettes, but up until the late nineteenth century the pipe was the principal method of taking tobacco and the majority of pipes were made of clay.

More years ago than I care to remember, David Sweetman presented me with a box of clay pipes from King John's Castle, Limerick, and asked whether I could do something with them. Thus began a lifetime's fascination with these rather innocuous ceramic objects.

Through trial and error, and some generous help from the late Adrian Oswald, the doyen of English pipe studies, whose recently published *Clay pipes for the archaeologist* (1975) happened to be in our library, I began to get some feel for and appreciation of the humble clay pipe. Other researchers were equally generous with advice: Reg Jackson in Bristol and Dr Peter Davey of the University of Liverpool.

The clay pipe as an archaeological artefact worthy of study had not been much considered up to this point (the 1970s). Its appreciation as an item deserving of more detailed attention matched the growth in post-medieval excavations and publication—mostly, it must be said, by the aforementioned David Sweetman and his colleagues in the then National Monuments Service of the Office of Public Works, the late Tom Fanning and later Ann Lynch and Con Manning.

It soon became obvious that just dating the pipes was not enough; more needed to be learned about their manufacture, point of origin, the names of the people involved, the source of the raw material, wages, cost of the finished product, etc.

I decided that first of all we needed as complete a list as possible, from the sources available, of all pipe-makers at work in Ireland in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. I thought that it would be easy to compile such a list by using all available directories; it didn't work out

that way, and four decades later I'm still coming up with new makers from the most unlikely sources. Nevertheless, one has to call a halt at some point, and that point is now.

The lists presented here, though not entirely exhaustive, represent the vast majority of those engaged in the trade. These are compiled from trade directories, census lists and other documentation, but of course fall victim to the destruction of Irish public records in the 1920s, as does all research of this period.

The first list is of the few known seventeenth/eighteenth-century pipe-makers (previously published in Norton and Lane 2007, with some slight additions). The second list is of all currently known pipe-makers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. What might surprise some is the late survival of the industry well into the twentieth century. The last Dublin family at work were the Devlins, who only ceased shortly after the death in 1937 of Patrick Devlin.



Top: Nineteenth-century pipes from North King Street, Dublin.

Above: Decorated bowl from North King Street, Dublin.



Above: Nineteenth-century maker's marks from Dublin and Drogheda.



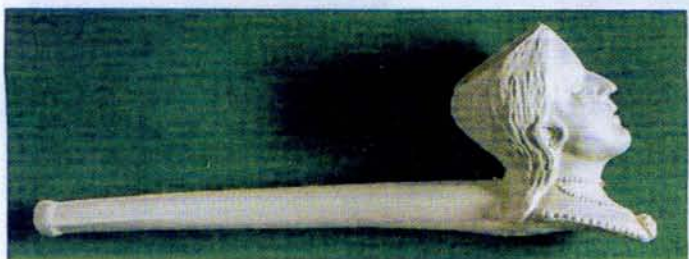
Left: Early bowl base with maker's initials.

Below: Reproduction of highly decorated nineteenth-century pipe.

The last factory to cease work in the Republic was Hanley's of Waterford, who finally closed in the late '50s, probably c. 1958 or so.

What is also obvious from the lists is that there are strong family associations within the industry. In Belfast the Hamiltons were major players throughout the nineteenth century. In Dublin the Cunninghams and McLoughlins were pre-eminent. There was intermarriage between them, as might be expected; the Cunninghams of Dublin, for instance, were married into the Hamiltons of Belfast. Census returns show that family members were drafted into the business from a young age. Journeymen moulders moved from town to town: workers from Galway turn up in Wexford and Waterford, and Scottish pipe-makers worked for various employers from Belfast to Dublin. While there was some export of pipes abroad, mainly by Hanley's, for the most part the Irish makers were content to supply the home market, in spite of dumping of product on the Irish market, usually by the Scottish manufacturers; they had the home advantage, plus a strong drive on the consumers' part to buy Irish.

Finally, it is noticeable that the makers were often clustered together in particular streets or areas, such as Francis Street in Dublin and the Smithfield area of Belfast. Though servicing a part of everyday life in the community, they were 'artisan' tradesmen, working by and large in poorer areas in what was little more than a family-run cottage industry. ■



### Irish pipe-makers, 17th–18th century

(Dublin City)			From	To
Allen	James	Francis Street	1695	1717
Allen	Luke	Son of James, b. 1700		1731
Baly	Thomas	St Michan's Parish	1671	
Blake	Robert	St Catherine's Parish	1697	d. 1714
Boyle	P.	Pipe finds only	c. 1700+	
Branson*		Pipe finds only	c. 1700–30	
Jones	Alexander	Oxmantowne	1667	
Johnson	John	St Michan's Parish	1673	
Johnson	Dennis	St John's Parish	1664	
		St Michan's Parish	1670	1676
Jacob**	Thomas	Francis Street	bur. 1703/8	
Knight	Nicholas		1686	
Longer	George	St Michan's Parish	1684	1689
Parker	Thomas	Francis Street	1714	
Parks	Thomas	Francis Street		d. 1713
Steele	John	St Michan's Parish	1671	
Wilson	Christopher	St Michan's Parish	1670	1672

### (Other areas)

Abbott	Edward	Waterford	c. 1640	
Buckley***	Thomas	Galway City	1727	
Dyer	Thomas	Waterford City	1656	1664
Dunbar	Michael	Newry		1794
Edwards	John	Bridge End, Belfast		1789
Quinn	Emmanuel	William St., Newry (also Glass Works)		1792
Turner	William	John St., Limerick City	1678	

\*On 5 June 1726 a daughter, Isabella, to Thomas and Jane Branson of Francis Street. This might be Branson the pipe-maker?

\*\*A Thomas Jacob was buried in St Nicholas Without Parish on 26 July 1703, and another of the same name on 12 December 1708.

\*\*\*See also Thomas Buckley in Knockcroghery in 1766.

### Clay tobacco pipe-makers in Ireland, 19th–20th century [except Dublin and Knockcroghery]

			From	To
Agar	Thomas	100 North Main Street, Cork City	1852	1856
Ahern	Richard	18 Broad Street, Limerick City	1881	1893
Ahern	Michael	18 Broad Street, Limerick City	1879	1880
Anderson	James	Ratcliff Street, Sligo Town		1824
Austin	John	John Street, Waterford City		1824
Bailey & Co.	David	106 North Main Street, Cork City	1886	1889
Bailey	Denis	86 Shandon Street, Cork City	1883	1884
Brown	Michael	King Street, Wexford Town		1885
Browne	Mrs J.	King Street, Wexford Town		1882
Black	Daniel	17 William Street, Belfast City		1854
		21 William Street, Belfast City	1856	1865
		14 Kent Street, Belfast City		1870
Black	Rose	18 Frederick Street, Belfast City		1868
Belfast Pipe Mfy		North Street, Belfast City	1820	1822
Boyd	Thomas	6 Water Street, Newry		1881
Breslin	Patrick	14 Ferryquay Street, Derry	1894	1911
Campbell, M'Cool & Co.		Diamond, Derry		1872
Clune	John	59 William Street, Limerick City	1877	1881
Cahill	Thomas	22 Bolton Street, Drogheda	1894	1911
Connor	Matthew	Potato Market Sq., Drogheda		1881
Connor	M.	28 Trinity Street, Belfast	1913	1949
Connor	Michael	1 Mitchell Street, Belfast		1854

Clay tobacco pipe-makers in Ireland, 19th–20th century [except Dublin and Knockcroghery] (cont.)

			From	To				From	To
Connor	James	60 Carrick Hill, Belfast	1852	1854	Kennelly	Daniel	Francis Abbey, Limerick		1856
Cummings	Peter	John Street, Waterford	1820	1822			30 Mungret Street, Limerick	1886	1894
Conway	John	110 William Street, Derry		1856	Kennelly	Michael	28 Mungret Street, Limerick	1866	1881
Connor	John	3 Raphael Street, Belfast	1870	1913	Kelly Bros		32 Fair Street, Drogheda	1905	1921
		136 Cromac Street, Belfast			Kavanagh	James	17 Coates Street, Belfast	1901	1939
Cunningham	John	142 North Street, Belfast	1881	1887			7 Nail Street, Belfast	1902	1905
Cunningham	E.	12 Garfield Street, Belfast		1913	Leahy	Timothy	Cattle Lane, Cork		1846
Casey	Charles	Bishop Street, Derry	1886	1891	Leahy	Philip	25 Cattle Lane, Cork		1845
Casey & Co.	John	58 St Columb's Well, Derry	1881	1901	Lannary	John	Abbey, Limerick		1846
Casey	Hugh	St Columb's Well, Derry	1901	1911	Lannary	Thomas	Mungret Street, Limerick		1856
Cusack	John	Fahan Street, Derry	1872	1886			& 3 Benson's Lane		
Culbert	John	15 West Street, Belfast		1854	Laurence, Quincy		John Street, Limerick		1846
Creighton	Henry	Gore Street, Sligo	1820	1822	& McNamara				
Duross	John	4 Adelaide Street, Cork		1856	Lyons	Michael	75 Kent Street, Belfast		1870
Downey	Thomas	10 Bolton Street, Drogheda		1894	Merritt	John	16 Broad Street, Limerick	1894	1911
Dorney	Wm J.	93 George's Street, Cork	1836		Merritt	William	Curry's Lane, Limerick	1879	1880
		29 Grand Parade, Cork		1867	Morris	George	John Street, Waterford	1820	1822
Doherty & Co.	Michael	14 Ferryquay Street, Derry	1865	1891	Murphy	William	81 Main Street, Wexford	1882	1930
Doherty	E.	33 Winetavern Street, Belfast		1887			(The Wexford Pipe Factory)		
Duffy	Thomas	13 Charles Street, Belfast		1868	McLoughlin	Joseph	Potato Market Square, Drogheda		1886
Farrell	Patrick	7 Barrack Street, Waterford	1839	1856	McUllough	T.	Sandholes, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone		1925
Fitzgerald	John	2 Adelaide Street, Cork	1852	1929	McNamara	John	2 Adelaide Street, Cork	1930	1932
		(See under 'M')					(See Fitzgerald's Pipe Factory)		
Gorman	Samuel	William Street West, Galway		1856	McAvoy	Dennis	Fahan Street, Derry	1846	1866
Garvey	David	Broad Street, Limerick	1846	1856	McAvoy	John	Fox's Corner, Derry		1856
		36 Curry's Lane, Limerick	1850	1872			Cow Bog, Derry	1854	
Garvey	Mary	37 Curry's Lane, Limerick	1872	1877	McAvoy	Patrick	19 Bridge Street, Derry	1887	1908
Grainger	John	37 Kent Street, Belfast		1877	McAvoy	Patrick	North Street, Belfast		1837
Hallisy	Ellen	51 Shandon Street, Cork	1844	1846	McAvoy	Bernard	45 Winetavern Street, Belfast		1856
Hynes	Mary J.	6 Prospect Hill, Galway City	1881	1908	McAvoy	Michael	142 North Street, Belfast	1841	1852
Hynes	Michael	6 Prospect Hill, Galway	1908	1911	McAvoy	Rosanna (Mrs)	142 North Street, Belfast	1854	1866
Hartney	Michael	13 Broad Street, Limerick	1879	1881	McDowell	Charles	29 Upton Street, Belfast	1908	1913
Hanley & Sons A.		French's Quay, Cork					48 Upton Street, Belfast	1905	1907
		(St Finbar's Pipe Works)	1889				25 Sidney Street, Belfast	1896	1894
		Phillips Lane, North Main Street, Cork		1890			37, 39 Carrick Hill, Belfast	1890	1895
Hanley & Co.		4 John's Lane, Waterford	1866	1958	M'Gee	James	Cow Bog, Derry		1856
Hamilton	Thomas	39 & 41 Winetavern Street, Belfast	1852	1866	McKernan	John	11 & 13 Fahan Street, Derry	1887	1911
Hamilton	James	5 Winetavern Street, Belfast	1819		McMahon	John	Lecky Road, Derry	1905	1908
		North Street, Belfast	1820	1822	M'Anally	Richard	11 Charles Street, Belfast		1870
Hamilton	James	63 Great Patrick Street, Belfast	1852	1854	McNevin	Michael	30 Castle Street, Sligo		1839
		21 Charles Street, Belfast		1868	Maginnis	L.	83 Market Street, Belfast	1906	1916
Hamilton	James	25 Winetavern Street, Belfast	1877	1880	Neagle	Patrick	2 Cornwallis Street, Limerick	1846	1856
		14 Winetavern Street, Belfast	1881		O'Gorman	Laurence	Presentation Road, Galway	1881	1890
		16 Winetavern Street, Belfast	1894	1905			(Factory in Mill Street)		
Hamilton	Jane	41 & 43 Winetavern Street, Belfast	1877	1892	Power	James	John Street, Waterford	1820	1822
		39 Winetavern Street, Belfast		1894	Power	Eliza	23 John Street, Waterford	1824	1839
		8 Winetavern Street, Belfast	1894	1899	Power	Francis	38 Grattan's Hill, Cork		1845
Hamilton	John	43 Winetavern Street, Belfast	1892	1894	Russell	Thomas	18 Shandon Street, Cork	1844	1846
		9, 11 Bathurst Court, Belfast (Works)			Reddy	Thomas	Barrack Street, Waterford		1858
Hamilton & Co.		14 Greggs Lane, Belfast		1870	Reid	James	62 Church Street, Newry		1881
Hamilton	Thomas	47 Winetavern Street, Belfast		1870	Reid	Robert	64 Church Street, Newry		1901
Hamilton	Francis	14 Winetavern Street, Belfast		1884	Ryan	Andrew	Edward Street, Newry		1881
Hamilton	E.	19 Samuel Street, Belfast	1884		Stokes & Son	Patrick	The Square, Tralee, Co. Kerry	1881	1894
		24 Samuel Street, Belfast		1899	Spillane	William	34 William Street, Limerick		1894
Haley	Francis	Market Square, Newry		1819	Templeton	John F.W.	4 Foyle Street, Derry		1866
Hart	Edward	9 Kent Street, Belfast	1877		Whelan	Denis	4 Wickham Street, Limerick	1866	1881
		74 & 76 Union Street, Belfast		1881	Whelan	Daniel	29 Wickham Street, Limerick	1886	1905
Harper Bros		Sandholes, Tullyhogue, Tyrone		1905	Williams	James	11 Pound Street, Sligo		1846
Kennelly	Daniel	Meatmarket Lane, Limerick City	1825						

## History

In the Elizabethan era of the late sixteenth century tobacco was first introduced into Europe from the Americas. With it came the pipe, adopted from the native American practice of using pipes on ritual and social occasions. Tobacco was an expensive rarity at this period and the pipes had minute bowls to hold the precious commodity. Smoking initially met with some hostility and King James I even had tobacco crops destroyed.

As tobacco became more plentiful, the size of the pipe bowls became larger. By the mid-seventeenth century almost every large town and city had a pipe-making industry. After a slight dip in consumption in the eighteenth century owing to Continental wars and the American War of Independence, clay pipe smoking saw a resurgence in the nineteenth century, with large bowls decorated with all sorts of symbols and inscriptions. These included patriotic designs, slogans, advertisements and even records of current celebrity events such as military campaigns.

Sadly, use of the clay pipe was on the decline. By the late nineteenth century the briar and even the expensive meerschaum had replaced it, while the fragile and easily broken short Scottish 'cutty' and Irish 'duidin' were seen as a sign of poverty. Their final death-knell was to sound in the early years of the last century, with two World Wars and the rise of the cheap and convenient cigarette being the principal factors in their demise.

## Pipes and archaeology

Clay pipes were very easily broken and were immediately discarded, to be replaced by another pipe. This means that they are among the most ubiquitous finds from the post-medieval levels on

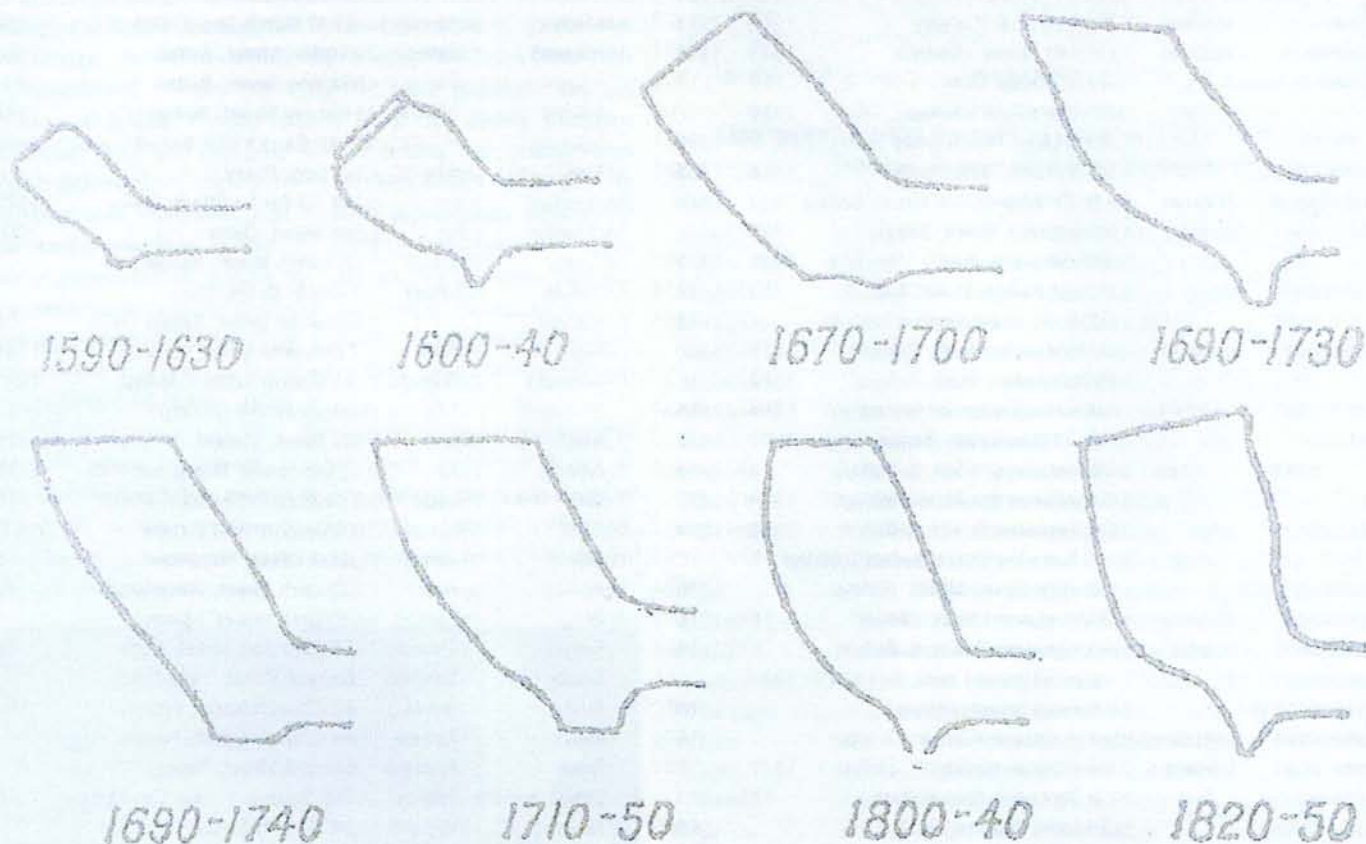
archaeological excavations. By studying the changing style of the bowls and their angle to the stem of the pipe, it is possible to date even the most fragmentary of clay pipe bowls to within a tight chronological framework. This makes clay pipes second only to coins as a dating tool for the archaeologist on post-medieval sites.

Pipe-makers also indulged in marketing by putting their names on their products. In the earlier periods, with smaller pipes, these were usually just initials, sometimes on the rear of the bowl of the pipe facing the smoker, or on the foot of the bowl. By the nineteenth century, however, full names and even addresses were displayed. This is useful for the archaeologist and for economic and social historians because it allows the study of the distribution of a particular maker and even trading links to and from Ireland.

## Clay pipes—the industry

As previously mentioned, there was a boom in clay pipe production in nineteenth-century Ireland. The distribution of makers and their familial links, coupled with the locations of the pipe 'factories', makes for interesting social comment.

It is obvious from these lists that the industry in the nineteenth century was concentrated in the principal urban centres. Dublin had the most clay pipe manufactories (63), followed by Belfast (34), Limerick (19), Derry (15), Cork (14) and Waterford (8). Provincial centres such as Wexford, Drogheda, Newry and Galway had four or five makers each, with a few operators in Tralee and County Tyrone. The exception to this is Knockcroghery, a village in Roscommon whose principal industry was clay pipe-making until it was burnt to the ground by the 'Black and Tans'. Knockcroghery will be examined in a future article.



### Dublin City clay pipe-makers, 19th–20th century

			From	To				From	To
Allen	Peter	63 Bridgefoot Street	1833	1834	Downey	James	8 Brunswick Street	1855	1881
		McCormicks Court	1835	1836	Evans	Charles	152 Francis Street	1813	1814
Bath & Co.		17 Francis Street	1815	1816			153 Francis Street	1815	1831
Bath	Michael	136 Francis Street	1824	1830			152 Francis Street	1832	1845
Bushell	Samuel	136 Francis Street	1847	1851			143 Francis Street	1846	1856
Brown	George	1 Thomas Court Bawn	1865	1871	Evans	William G.	143 Francis Street	1857	1868
		27 Merchants Quay	1872	1873	Eurelle	John	4 Nassau Street	1887	1888
		3 Mullinahack	1871	1886	Fay	Thomas	136 Francis Street	1836	1840
Byrne	John	144 Francis Street	1865	1871	Guy	James	135 Francis Street	1881	1901
Byrne	Thomas	12 Engine Alley	1843	1873	Guy	John Joseph	138 Francis Street	1867	
Bates	M.	23 Meath Street			Healy	Francis	2 Brabazon Row	1835	1839
		(Pipe only)	19th C.		Halliday & Co.	George	4 Abbey Street Upper	1864	1882
Carey	Paul	133 Francis Street	1848	1855	Keville	Edward	27 Merchants Quay	1861	1868
Carey	William	127 Francis Street	1875	1877	Morgan	John	143 Francis Street	1868	1877
Carey	Charles	127 Francis Street	1878	1888	McLoughlin	Philip	147 Francis Street	1817	1825
Carey	Mrs Charles	127 Francis Street	1889	1899			140 Francis Street	1826	1835
Cullimore & Co.		17 Francis Street	1836		McLoughlin	Patrick	140 Francis Street	1836	1839
Corcoran	T.	18 Crampton Court	1908	1915	McLoughlin	Jane	140 Francis Street	1839	1845
Cunningham	M.	Francis Street		d. 1829			132 Francis Street	1846	1856
Cunningham	Patrick	136 Francis Street	1818	1822	McLoughlin	Catherine	132 Francis Street	1857	1873
		135 Francis Street	1823	1830	McLoughlin	James	130 Francis Street	1832	1845
		136 Francis Street	1849	1850			122 Francis Street	1846	1861
Cunningham	Patrick	135 Francis Street	1831	1845	McLoughlin	J.	20 Poole Street	1859	1865
Cunningham	Thomas	127 Francis Street	1846	1874	McLoughlin	Robert	20 Poole Street	1866	1870
		135 Francis Street	1856	1871	McLoughlin	Robert	8 New Row West	1870	1873
		146 Francis Street	1866	1871	& Sons				
Cunningham	John	139 Francis Street	1860	1867	McDowell	John	136 Francis Street	1854	1855
Cunningham	James	139 Francis Street	1868	1872			139 Francis Street	1856	1864
Curwen	William	4 Nassau Street	1882	1885	McDowell	Patrick	135 Francis Street	1871	1880
Dale	John	10 Binns Court	1850		McDowell	Michael	18 Francis Street	1871	1891
Daly	James	17 Francis Street	1860	1864	McDowell	James	8 Patrick Street	1882	1890
Daly	Joseph	17 Francis Street	1865	1885	McDowell	Thomas	17 Francis Street	1919	1935
		137 Francis Street	1873	1885	O'Connor	P.	Francis Street		1908
Daly	Mrs Joseph	17 Francis Street	1886	1903	O'Connor	Joseph	139 Francis Street	1878	1880
		137 Francis Street	1886	1901**			5 Francis Street	1881	1899
Daly	William	136 Francis Street	1870	1872	Spratt	Richard	1 Marrowbone Lane	1864	
		139 Francis Street	1873	1877			[corner of Taylor's Lane]		
		137 Francis Street	1871	1872	Vose	James	147 Francis Street	1817	1845
Devlin	Patrick	46 Francis Street	1934	1941			139 Francis Street	1846	1855



Left: Pipe-maker's house and workshop, Bolton Square, Drogheda.

## Knockcroghery clay pipe-makers, 18th–20th century

Preliminary List			From	To
Buckley	Thomas		1766	
Curley	Andrew	b. 1841		
Curley	Michael			Pipe manufacturer in V.O. House Book 1854
Curley	Patrick John	b. 1881		
Curley	William			
Cunnane	Martin	b. 1859		(Father of Patrick, b. 1886)
Cunnane	Mary	b. 1884		(Daughter of Martin, a pipe-finisher)
Cunnane	Patrick	b. 1886		
Cunnane	Elizabeth	b. 1872		A pipe-finisher
Cunnane	Bridget	b. 1874		A pipe-finisher
				(their mother's name Mary, b. 1838)
Dowd	Patrick	b. c. 1865		Wife's name Mary, b. c. 1875
				Uncle's name James Dowd, b. 1841
				(See Devlin, Francis St., Dublin)
Fitzgerald	John	b. c. 1871		
Fitzgerald	Bridget	b. c. 1882		A pipe-finisher, sister of John
Fitzgerald	Bernard	b. c. 1836		In 1901 married 30 years to Maria? 1921
Fitzgerald	Patrick			Pipe-manufacturer in V.O. House Book 1854
Gavin	Peter	b. 1841		Pipe-maker 1901
Glennon	Patrick	b. 1858		Brother to John, sons of Bridget, b.1821
Glennon	John	b. 1861		
Lyons	Patrick	b. c. 1843		
Lyons	John	b. c. 1821		Wife's name Mary, born c. 1823
Murr(a)y	Martin	b. 1754		Died 2 Feb. 1814 aged 60 1814
				Sons John, died 18(12)?, aged 24, and sons Bernard and Michael
O'Brien	B.			Won medal for his pipes at Dublin Exhibition of 1882 1882
Quigley	Michael	b. 28/9/1873		Pipe-maker and carter 1901
				Son of Patrick and Kathleen (Killeen)
Tracey	Henry	b. c. 1873		
Tracey	Patrick	b. c. 1881		Brother of Henry
Tracey	John	b. c. 1859		Wife's name Kate, b. c. 1861
				Sons: Patrick, b. 1883, a pipe-maker
				William, b. 1885, a pipe-finisher
Tracey	Michael	b. c. 1872		Mother's name Mary, b. c. 1837

## Sources used in the compilation of the lists

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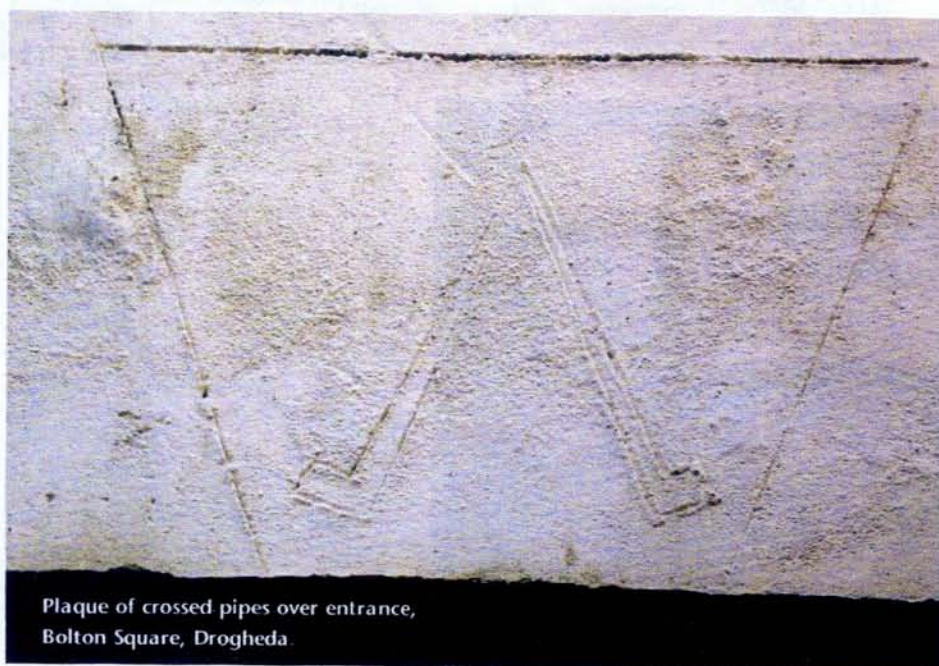
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Plaque of crossed pipes over entrance, Bolton Square, Drogheda