Limerick Shop-Signs of the Eighteenth Century.

By ROBERT HERBERT.

The House and Shop Signs of most large cities have long been the subject of research among antiquaries. A series of articles by J. Holden MacMichael in *The Antiquary* has listed some thousands of London Signs, and Henry F. Berry has done a like service for Dublin with a list of several hundreds. 1

In comparison, this list of seventy odd signs will appear a modest one; and yet, while probably by no means complete, it is as complete as our records will allow. It must be remembered that while there were London and Dublin Newspapers, the main source of information in the early seventeenth century, the Limerick papers, with the exception of a single copy, do not begin until 1739, and that even then, the files are very incomplete until 1780, a time when signs were already on the wane.

The main purpose of the shop-sign was two-fold: —first, as an address, before the numbering of houses, or in fact the naming of streets, was introduced; and secondly, so that the address might be easily identified by persons unable to read. Undoubtedly, they were also used as advertising mediums, but once the first two purposes were rendered unnecessary, the shop-sign disappeared gradually.

The custom is so old, that it is impossible to date its origin. During recent excavations at Pompeii, several signs were discovered: —a mule turning a corn-mill was the sign of a baker; a milk-shop had a goat on its sign; a school was indicated by a teacher birching a boy; and a tavern had a Bush with the proverb "Vino vendibili suspensa hedera non opus est," or as we might say, "Good wine needs no bush."

The Inn or Tavern has always been the most prominent, and has lasted the longest. It usually either refers to the trade of the innkeeper, as "The Golden Bottle," "The Three Golden Tuns," etc., or is quasi-heraldic. In the latter category are included all the variously-coloured lions, harts, swans, etc. A third type, more common in villages than in cities, was formed by adopting the arms of the local ruling landlord as a sign, and by calling the Inn after the family, as "The Courtenay Arms." 2

Many signs now seem unintelligible, but they are just corruptions that, through long use by uneducated people, have been adopted finally as the actual sign. It is said that the "Pig and Whistle" is a corruption of "Peg and Wassail," and that the "Goat and Compasses" comes from the motto "God Encompasses Us." I have discovered what may be a local example of this corruption. Mr. Enright of Castleconnell, probably a descendant of the Michael Enright who in 1784 left the Crown & Anchor Tavern in Limerick to open one at Castleconnell (Vide No. 23) told me that the house in which he now lives, known as World's End, is a corruption of Worall's Inn from the man who once owned it. It is this so, the tradition must be a very old one, as it was owned in 1824 by a Captain Eyre Powell, and was then known as World's End.

Apparently the merchants were beginning to turn their signs into advertising mediums in the seventeenth century, for about that time an Act of Parliament was passed limiting their size and projection. In 1785 Sir Christopher Knight, Mayor of Limerick, caused the ancient projecting signs to be taken down. 3

The most outstanding of the remaining signs are the Three Balls of the Pawnbroker, and the Barber's Pole. The former is said to derive from the Arms of the Medici family, who were originally doctors and bore a shield with Three Golden Pillis, but who later became so famous as money-lenders. The latter, with as little certainty, is said to come from the time when the barbers were also surgeons, and their principal work was blood-letting. The patient is said to have held a pole so that the blood might flow more freely, and the red and white stripes are the symbols of this blood-flowing.

The Inn-signs in this list are mostly of the quasi-heraldic type. The signs of other traders mostly refer to their trades, and in some cases could scarcely be more appropriate: —"The Cross-legs" for a hosier; "The Hand and Pen" for a scrivener; "The Seven Plates and Worm" for a pewterer, etc. Signs the significance of which I am unable to explain are "The Cross Frying Pans" for a draper; "The Cross Keys" for

a draper; and "The Two Blue Posts" for a goldsmith. Perhaps the first two were the signs of a hardware merchant and a locksmith respectively, and that the succeeding shopkeepers, though different in trade, preferred retaining the old signs on account of their popularity.

An interesting parallel to the Shop Signs is described by O'Keeffe, the dramatist, in his reminiscences: "During the Limerick Assizes I saw a stuffed glove, about four feet long, hanging out from the top of the Exchange nearly across the main street; this was the accustom'd token that for a week or a fortnight, while the courts were sitting, no debtor could be arrested." Needless to say, the players were grateful for the custom that allowed the city, and incidentally the theatre, to be crowded with persons who dared not appear normally inside the city gates. The players always came during the Assizes, a sort of gala week or fortnight occurring twice a year. This week also, incidentally, brought many visiting barbers, hair-dressers, jewellers and other traders from Cork, Dublin and London to the City, and these set up shop temporarily in the Inns they stayed at, or, by arrangement, with local merchants.

Sometime round the turn of the century the custom of numbering houses was adopted in Limerick, and so the shop-sign became obsolete. It did not, however, die immediately and, in fact, was fairly common until about 1820. Even at the beginning of the present century there were quite a number in existence, as the Kettle over Newsoms or the Teapot over Jacobs. Their use was, however, merely decorative, and having lost this they were not renewed.

The most interesting surviving relics of this ancient custom are, the inscribed stone and the remains of the Brazen Head in John Street (vide No. 12), and the Indian, the sign of Rawleigh's, Snuff and Tobacco Manufacturers, which is still retained in their shop in Rutland Street.

The following abbreviations have been used in the text: — E. Englishtown, and I. Irishtown, and the following in the references: — M. J., Munster Journal; L.J., Limerick Journal; L.C., Limerick Chronicle. All the newspapers referred to, with the exception of the Munster Journal for 1749-51, are in the Limerick City Library.

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A Limerick shop of the 16th century (Quay Lane).

**1. Adam & Eve**

*Tavern*  
*Thomas Knight*  
*Newgate Lane, L.*  
*1862*

Knight, like Storey (Vide No. 62) complains that "some malicious persons have been damaging my sign at night."  

**2. Anchor**

*Tavern (?)*  
*Mr. Quidlings*  
*On the Quay, E.*  
*1750*

"For Newfoundland, Burthen 150 Tons, the Mary Snow of London, Capt. Lugger, is now arrived in the Port of Limerick, and will in a few days be ready to sail from hence (wind and weather permitting) for St. John's in Newfoundland. All fishermen and others inclined to proceed on board said Snow, may apply to the said Captain at Mr. Quidlings at the Sign of the Anchor, on the Quay, or to Mr. Michael Tierney, merchant in Limerick, who will make agreement with them on very reasonable terms."

**3. Apollo**

*Music Warehouse*  
*James Corbett*  
*Patrick Street*  
*1869 7*

**4. Bear**

*Tavern (?)*  
*Quay Lane, E.*  
*1748 8*

**5. Bear**

*Chandler*  
*Francis Evans*  
*18, Broad Street, L.*  
*1869 9*

According to an inscription on the keystone over the arch, this house was built by Pierce Creagh Fitz-Andrew, one of the most enterprising of Limerick Mayors, and re-built by John Creagh in 1767. It consists of four houses with an arched laneway in the middle. Evans' shop is described as "one of the middle houses of the Bear."

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4. Local papers issued during Assizes weeks.  
7. L.C., 13/9/1809.  
The Big Tree was probably an Inn or Lodging-house in which Mrs. Gynan lived.

7. Black Bull — Amos Vereker Corner of Bow Lane, E. 1782

"To let, the three houses (formerly known by the name of the Black Bull) next the corner of Bow Lane, in the Main Street. Amos Vereker." 11

8. Black Bull Inn — John Bennett Outside John's Gate 1796

Bennett was son-in-law to Brian O'Donnell, the former owner. 12 When offered for sale in 1796, the advertiser stated that there was "no inn more frequented or better established for a number of years." 13

9. Black Horse Livery Stables William Morony Parade, E. 1785

Morony became owner of the Royal Garter (Vide No. 57) in 1788. His prices at the Black Horse were "10d. hay and 10d. oats, & not more than 4 horses in a stable." 14

10. Black Horse Inn — Samuel Johns Thomond Gate 1783

Johns was a silversmith who married Thomas Taylor's widow (Vide No. 70). He announces in 1793 that "he continues to be employed by his friends and the public as auctioneer," gives his address as "on the height of Thomond Gate, and says that he has stables for 60 horses. 15 He became a freeman in 1756 16 and City Sheriff in 1765. 17

11. Blue Anchor Public House John M'Donnell Mardyke 1787 18

12. Brazen Head Inn — Simon Kent John Street, L. 1794

This is described in 1793 as "the large lot of ground with the concerns thereon, formerly called the Brazen Head, from to John Street, 48 feet, to Francis Street, 76, the lane joining Mr. Hill's to North 130 feet, that joining Mr. Pinchin's to South, 130." 19

The house is still in existence but at least one storey has been taken down. On it there is an inscribed stone "Ye Olde Brazen Head, Built by Simon Kent, 1794." Over the stone is a large block of wood on which, apparently the Brazen Head was once carved. Obviously Kent meant that it was re-built in 1794.


14. City Arms Printer — Alex. MacDonnell Rutland Street 1805

The proprietor, Alexander MacDonnell, was printer of the General Advertiser of Limerick Gazette (a paper which Gerald Griffin edited for a very short while) from 1804 to 1817. 21 The present City Printing Works is, I believe, the successor to the City Arms.

15. Cock Inn (?) Robert Farman Opposite Castle Bks., E. 1741

This was either an Inn or Livery Stables. The owner advertises that he has "The English Grey Horse call'd Chance . . . to be let to Mares this Season at a moyder a leap and tryals, and a crown to the groom." 22 A moyder equalled about 27/6.

16. Cock Ale-House — L. 1750 23

17. Lenihan, p. 705.
18. L.C., 14/10/1797.
19. L.C., 1794.
20. L.C., 9/1/1783.
In 1785 the Cock was still in existence in the Irishtown. It was then offered for sale by John Ryan, and had been owned by his father, Philip Ryan, before him. 24

17. Cock Inn (?) Daniel Shea Quay Lane, E. 1785

The following advertisement would suggest that the Cock was either an Inn or Lodging-house:—Alexander Feron (a native of Italy) just arrived from Dublin, makes all kinds of Thermometers and Barometers for Physicians, Brewers, &c., &c. He also repairs Spy Glasses, Spectacles, &c. Commands left for him at Mr. Daniel Shea’s at the Sign of the Cock, Quay Lane, Limerick.” 26

18. Copper Globes Pewterer Joseph Barrington Charlotte’s Quay 1787

Barrington lived in Broad Street before he moved to the Copper Globes, a shop “formerly held by Mr. Peter O’Keefe, where he is as usual largely supplied with every article in the Pewter, Brass and Copper business . . . . Stills, Worms, Boilers, &c., &c., manufactured at the shortest notice.” 26

19. Cross Frying Pans Draper Richard Franklin Opposite Main Guard, E. 1760

Franklin, besides draperies, sold “all kinds of hardware and fine Bloom Tea.” His draperies consisted of “Plain and flower’d cambricks, Cotton Hollands, Silk Gingham, Long Lawns, English Callamincoes, Jean Fustians, Silk Jeans, Dutch Dyapers, Striped Dimities, Turkey-quilts, China Blues, Ditto Brown, Silk Thread and Cotton Handkerchiefs, Dickies for Ladies, with variety of other goods too tedious to insert.” 27 The shop was in Mary Street, opposite the Main Guard or Tholsel.


The owner was the widow of George Harrison, and announced that, with the help of her son, Charles, she “continues the business of her said husband, in making all manner of Locks, Grates, Jacks, Sadler’s work, and all other parts of said business.” 28

In 1785, James Crowe, Son & Successor to Will. Crowe, removed to the Cross-Keys. He describes the premises as an Hardware and Ironmongery business, opposite Mr. Norris’s, Irishtown. 29

C R O W E’s IRON-MONGERY WAREHOUSE, supported by the Public, for thirty Years and upwards.

IS now Extensively Revived at the CROSS-KEYS, opposite Mr. Norris’s, Irishtown, Limerick, and as he has Purchased from the Principal Manufacturers in England, he is Enabled to Sell at and UNDER DUBLIN PRICES.

SCYTHERS, REAPING HOOKS, Multiplying Jacks, with almost every Article in the Building Way.

June 29, 1785.

21. Cross Keys Draper John Shepherd E. 1750 30
22. Cross Keys Hosiery John Monsell Near Market-House, I. 1765

Monsell sold Silk, Thread, Worsted and Cotton Stockings. He announces that he makes stockings for such as send in their materials, and that he will give “great encouragement for Spinners the long way.” He also sold China and Glass Ware. 31

24. LC., 8/12/1785.
27. M.J., 30/1/1790.
29. L.C., 15/5/1786.
23. Crown & Anchor Tavern  Michael Enright Strand 1782

Enright was for a while the owner of the King's Head (Vide No. 45) and later opened an Inn at Castleconnell. The latter was the terminus of the Castleconnell Passage Car in 1802. 33 described as "an handsome jaunting car run twice daily from the New Buildings in Clare Street to Enright’s Inn at Castleconnell, by John Kiely." In 1793 the "Society for the relief of the Widows and Children of Seamen and Soldiers who may die or be killed in His Majesty’s Service during the war" met here. William Devanes was their chairman. 34 In 1809, a Michael Enright was committed to gaol for selling spirituous liquor without a license. 35

24. Crown & Anchor Tavern  Nicholas Shea George's Quay 1810

Late in 1810 this Tavern was taken over by Mary Jackson. 37

25. Crown & Anchor Tavern  John Twiss 3 Francis Street 1812

26. Duke of Marlboro’s Head Printer  T. Brangan Key Lane, E. 1716

On 4th May, 1716, T. Brangan issued the Limerick Newsletter, the earliest known Limerick newspaper. It was a folio half-sheet, printed in double columns on both sides, and in an advertisement the printer states that he had but recently come from Dublin. Only the first number is known to exist, so the venture was probably short-lived. The local news read as follows: — "Yesterday the Honourable Capt. Brown of the Royal Sceoh Battalion, set out from hence to Rose-Gray, to the great regret of the Ladies of this City." 39

27. Funeral Board Undertaker  Widow Mgt. Seymour Bow Lane, E. 1746

Fortunately, many of the customs then in use at deaths have been abolished. It would be a pity, however, if they were forgotten entirely. The Funeral Board was supplied with "all necessary for the decent solemnity of Funerals, in City or Country, viz: —Hatchesmen, Streamers, Hearse, Escutcheons, Hangings, Sconces, large and small Velvet and Cloth Palls, Cloaks, Plumes, Stands and Tapers, Death’s Heads for Chappels, chas’d furniture for coffins, silver’d or plain, with Inscription Plates, Figures of Time, Handles, Letters, &c.;" 40 --- by the Widow Margaret Seymour, assisted by the Herald Printer’s Office, Dublin.

28. Globe Inn  Francis Whitmore Main Street, E. 1680

This is the oldest known sign in Limerick. Its owner was mayor of Limerick in 1681. 41 When Dineley visited the city in 1680 he commented "the Inns of the best accommodation are at Mr. Francis Whitemaeres, the signe of the Globe, and at one Mr. Wm. Allen’s in the same street, att both which places is a better draught of Claret, though not so great, as in most Taverns in London." 42 The old stone house behind the New Technical Schools is sometimes known as Whitemore’s Castle, and was in all probability Francis Whitemore’s Inn. 43 The Globe Tavern was still in existence in 1750. 44

29. Globe Coffee-House  Widow Gloster Opposite the Exchange, E. 1774

This Coffee-house was open as early as 1768, when its owner, Arthur Gloster, was granted his freedom. 45 Apparently he died early in 1774, for in March of that year a Debating Society was held for the benefit of his widow. The admission was sixpence, and the subjects debated were: — "What are the principal accomplishments to render a man agreeable in the eyes of the fair sex? Has Great Britain already passed, or not yet arrived at its meridian greatness? Which is more likely to attract the attention of a lady, an ugly Peer or a handsome commoner? Which is more likely to ensure success in life, impudence or humility?" 46 It might be noted how debatable each point still is, almost 200 years after they were first considered.

The Society met again in October of the same year to consider "continuing so useful and rational an entertainment," 47 and in July the Widow Gloster offered the Globe

32. L.C., 30/9/1782.
33. L.C., 7/8/1802.
34. L.C., 11/3/1783.
35. L.C., 8/2/1809.
36. L.C., 11/7/1810.
37. L.C., 21/11/1810.
38. L.C., 8/5/1812.
41. Lenihan, p. 794.
43. Lenihan, p. 760.
44. M.J., 19/7/1760.
45. Freeman’s Register (Ms.).
46. L.C., 10/3/1774.
47. L.C., 21/10/1774.
for sale, including "two billiard tables and an excellent walled garden outside Thomond Gate." 48

In 1785 it was re-opened by John Doherty, who formerly kept the Turk's Head (Vide No. 72), as the Merchants' Coffee House. He states that "English, Dublin, Cork and Limerick Papers will be regularly provided. . . . Tea, Coffee, Chocolate and all other necessaries usually supplied in the London, Dublin and Cork Coffee Houses, and on the same plan. Breakfasts supplied to gentlemen in the Coffee-Room or sent to their Lodgings." 49

Besides the Merchants' Coffee House, there was a Merchantile Coffee House, erected by the Citizens, Merchants and Traders of Limerick in 1789, on the site of the Old Mayality House in Quay Lane. No "species of gambling" was permitted on the premises. 50

30. Golden Ball Draper Samuel Fennell I. 1741

Fennell was a Quaker. He married Mary Pearse in 1738, had nine children and died in 1772. 51 His goods show little change in the trade of the draper or the fashion of the ladies in 200 years: — "Irish Hollands, Cambricks, Muslins, Dyapers, North Country Linens of most sorts, Tickens, Chequers and Cherry-derrys, Stockings, Pinns, Velvett with Velvett Capps, etc. He supplies Funerals with Hollands, Cambricks, Kentings and Wollen Dresses of most sorts, all of the newest fashions." 52


Yeaman's knew the value of catching the eye, and begins his advertisement: — "Right Genuine Sack from the Canaries, taken by an English Privateer and carried into London, wherein was canted and brought to Cork." Among the wines he sold were "Frontoniac, Lisbon, Madeira, Malaga, Rum, Coniac, Brandy, Geneva." He also sold "Right Bordeaux Vinegar, which pickles and greens extraordinary good, Shrub made by himself he engages right good, Velvet and common corks, Crops of Glass for Glaziers, Crown and other kinds, Superfine Crown Glass for Pictures. . . . English Ridge Tile that no Clay in Ireland will make the like. . . . Said Yeaman's sells North Country Whiskey and Whiskey Shrub. Anniseed waters very near Fenolette." 53

MY SATIN WORK, AND SILVER MUSLINS
at ELEVEN GUINEAS the GOWN, beautiful CURTAIN for BONNETS at Three and Four Guineas each, brocaded and plain Canterbury MUSLINS, a vast Variety of elegant NEW BRUSSELS LACES, STIPED, figured and plain SATINETS and VELLUMS, NEW CALICHOES from 6l. to 10s. 10d. per Yard, English and Irish RIBBONS and RIBBON SASHES, Royal Print HATTS, &c. &c. &c. arrived at the MUSLIN WAREHOUSE.

RYAN informs the LADIES of his Return to LIMERICK, and that all his NEW GOODS, chosen for this present Season, are arrived.

June 19, 1791.

32. Golden Eagles Milliner James Ryan 10, Charlotte Quay 1801 54

In 1802 Ryan gives his address as 8 Patrick Street. 55 In 1821 John Bourke, Woollen-Draper, owned the Golden Eagles and gives the same address as 21 Charlotte Quay. 56
Fitzgerald started as a jeweller in Mary Street, opposite the Main Guard, in 1792. In 1805, he called in all debts, as he intended “removing to England.”

In addition to the usual wines, England sold English and Irish refined sugars, London Bag Hops, Iron and Steel, London Porter, Window Glass and English China.

Henchy was an apothecary and seedsman. He sold “which he believes are not in any shop in town but his: —Wrench’s Earliest Hotspur Pea, which sown the same day with any other sort, come in twelve days sooner. Early Milan Cabbage, Sweden’s famous Phoenix Brocoli, Two-year-keeping Onions, Early Pomfret Cabbage, Chonde Milan Beautiful Greens, Dwarf-dwarf Bog Pea or Cluster Beans, Dwarf-dwarf Marrow Pea, Negroe Dwarf Kidney Beans, &c., &c.”

This Inn was purchased by Robert Hayes and carried on by him in 1796. The Gridiron boasted that it had a billiard table and kept Limerick papers constantly. Exchange Alley later became known as Gridiron Lane.

“Edmund Casey, Writing Clerk and Accountant, hath lately opened a Scrivener’s Office at the Hand & Pen, the Meat Shambles, in the Englishtown, Limerick, where Ingrossing and other writing will be carefully and expeditiously done, for such attorneys and other Gentlemen as are pleased to employ him.” This is probably the Edmund Casey who in 1769 was a Warden of the Brewers’ Guild, the Secretary of the Deputy Grand Lodge of Freemasons.

Watson was successor to Ferrar as printer of the Limerick Chronicle. His sons continued the business until about 1830, but they removed to Rutland Street.

This Inn, probably on account of its situation opposite the Exchange, was for many years the most important in Limerick. Actually, it was at the corner of Mary Street and Little Fish Lane. Bennis was for some years Master of the Guild of Smiths. He was also a member of the Guild of Masons, Bricklayers, &c.

It was the meeting-place of many convivial societies, including the Winter Evening Club, which met every Wednesday and of which the Mayor was President; and the Gan Curam Cuideachta, a society which had William Duncan as President in 1784 and
Walker Jackson in 1785. In 1769 Lodge No. 9 of the Freemasons met here, and in 1781 Lodge No. 13. Apparently, it was also the rendezvous of the Corporators, for in 1774 Richard Bennis submitted a long over-due bill for £10 11s. for wines, etc.

From 1782 to 1784 it was owned by Michael Enright and sometimes known as the Exchange Tavern. In 1782 a Committee for conducting a Military Review at Loughmore on 29th August met there. The committee consisted of Colonels Smith, Odell, and Monsell, and of Majors Croker, Creagh, Massy and Bateman, all of well-known Limerick families.

Dennis Murphy, its owner in 1785, was also owner of the Noted Inn at Castleconnell. In 1792 it was taken over from Murphy's widow by Michael Dwyer, and its name was changed to Dwyer's Hotel; and in 1804 it was taken over from Dwyer's widow by Henry Buchanan. Buchanan was owner of the Limerick & Ennis Balloon Coach, and so the hotel was called "The Balloon Hotel and Tavern." Buchanan's fares to Ennis were: - inside, 9/-; outside, 4/10/2.

46. King's Head Hotel John Blake William Street 1810 85
47. Limerick Pantheon Hatter Sarsfield & Rooney 18 Patrick Street 1814 85
48. Mercury Printer James Connor Opposite Custom House c1815 87
49. Pair of Sconces Ironmonger Francis England Between Balls Bridge and Market-House, L. 1774 88
50. Pestle & Mortar Apothecary Pritt Quin E. 1765

Before Quin opened this shop it was run by Mr. Stritt, a jeweller. Quin's wife, Sophia, carried on the millinery business at the same address.

51. Plow Ironmonger (?) Laurence Mahon Creagh Lane, E. 1774

Mahon advertises that three window-sashes had been stolen from his shop, and that he would pay 2 guineas to anyone who would "discover or prosecute to conviction the villain or villains who were guilty of this daring act of injustice."

52. Pope's Head Printer M'auliff Near the Exchange, E. 1604

John and Thomas M'auliff were printing together "near the Exchange" from 1800 to 1804. Some time around 1802 the name "Pope's Head" first appears and was probably adopted in competition with Goggin's "Shakespeare" (Vide No. 61). In 1803 they advertised their circulating library "near the Exchange" and at their New Library, No. 14 Patrick Street. J. M'auliff was still carrying on the Circulating Library "in Patrick Street, corner of Ellen Street" in 1810. From 1805 to 1808 Thomas M'auliff was printing alone at the "Pope's Head, near the Exchange."

53. Prince's Feather Chemist M. St. John 27 Mary Street 1802 92

In 1804 St. John moved to 1 Patrick Street, and died there, suddenly, in 1804. His widow carried on the business. It is more than likely that this man was the father-in-law of Mr. St. John Long, artist and quack, referred to by Dr. Richard Hayes in his article on "Some Notable Limerick Doctors."

54. Punch Bowl Tavern (?) Mr. M'Allister White Horse Lane, near Bks. 1741 67

Alexander M'Allister, an Innkeeper, was granted his freedom in 1748.

55. Pyde Horse Inn (?) Behind the Golden Lyon, E. 1741 99

In 1749 Francis Yeamans (Vide No. 31) offered the Pyde-Horse House, "Next the
Goal" for letting. The house is described as follows: — "With 2 cellars, a shop, middle-
room, parlour and kitchen on the first floor, a backyard with a large diningroom, middle
and back room on the second floor, a garrett room, drawing room, middle-room and back
room on the third floor, and two large garretts divided into rooms." 100

56. Queen's Head Inn
Richard Tomkins Near Thomond Bridge, E. 1741
The Inn was in Castle Street and was owned by Thomas Hubbert before 1741. 101

57. Royal Garter Inn
Paul Moynahan Near Mrs. Pery's, L. 1751
This Inn was opened opposite Andrew Welsh's Printing Office by Paul Moynahan
in 1751. 102 In 1783 it was owned by William Boyle and is described as "back of the
Square, opposite the theatre." Boyle added a new stables with room for 85 horses, as
well as coach houses, etc., obviously for use on theatre nights. 103 In 1788 it was known
as the Garter Inn, and was owned by William Morony (Vide No. 9). 104 The charges were
as follows: —Dinner, 1/1; Breakfast, 8d.; Suppers, 10d., with good stabling, hay, oats,
&c., at 8d. per night. The house and yard are still in existence and may be seen in Play-
house Lane. The house has probably had several storeys taken down.

58. Royal Munster Hotel & Livery Stables W. Collopy George's Street 1809
This hotel was established in 1791 and was known as the Royal Mail Coach
Hotel. 105 In 1806 George Russell, Francis, who owned it, retired from business, 106 and
in 1809 W. Collopy took it over from S. Dickson. 107 Sometime between 1809 and 1824
it was taken over by Edward Cruse and was again known as the Royal Mail Coach
Hotel. 108 It is now known as Cruise's Hotel in O'Connell Street. The original facade
of the building is illustrated in Mr. Bennis's Reminiscences of Old Limerick.

59. Salmon Weir Vintner
Catherine Homans 1801 109

WM. END, Pewterer and
Brazier, at the seven Plates,
and Worm in the Irish-town Limer-
rick, takes this method of informing
the Publick that he makes fixture-
able Stills and Worms in the most ap-
proved manner and sells them at the most moderate prices.
He continues to sell good English Pewter, Bras and Copper
Work as usual. N. B. He makes none but English
Pewter worma, according to the Standard of London, on
forfeit of the Goods, as the Act of Parliament in that
cafe specifies.
March 13.

60. Seven Plates & Worm Pewterer
William End 1774
End, true to his sign, informs the public that "he makes statuable stills and
worms in the most approved manner . . . the latter, according to the standard of
London, on forfeit of the goods. He continues to sell good English Pewter, Brass and
Copper-work." 110 The accompanying cut adjoins his advertisement and may be a repro-
duction of his sign.

61. Shakespeare Printer
William Goggin Bridge Street, E. 1804
William Goggin was printing in Limerick as early as 1784, and was the founder
of three generations of Limerick printers. His address is always given as corner of Bridge
Street, and his shop was known as "The Shakespeare" or "The Shakespeare Press." He
died in September, 1809, and was succeeded by his son, Stephen Byrum Goggin. The
latter stayed at Mary Street, corner of Bridge Street, until 1814, when he acquired an
additional premises at 121 George Street. In 1820 his sole address was 15 George
Street. 111

100. M.J., 7/12/1749.
102. M.J., 1751.
103. L.C., 11/9/1783.
104. L.C., 1788.
105. Inscription on old print of the hotel, repro-
duced in Mr. Bennis's Reminiscences of Old
Limerick.
106. L.C., 11/1/1806.
111. Bibliography of Limerick Printing by Dix, p. 39 et seq., Irish Booklover, 1933, p. 79, etc.
62. (A Small Keg) — Richard Storey Near the Market-House, I. 1787

Storey complains that “a small keg which hung as a sign over my door has been repeatedly carried away,” and offers a reward of £5 for information. 112

53. Spinning Wheel Linen Warehouse John Russell Rutland Street 1792 113

54. Springs & Axel-Tree Coachsmith Cornelius Quill Inside John’s Gate, I. 1785

Quill “engages to make all kinds of Springs, fluted or plain . . . together with axle trees and all kinds of Coach and Post-Chaise work in the Iron way . . . none engage this branch of work nearer than Dublin . . . He engages his Spring and Axel-tree for 13 months.” 114

65. Stadtholder’s Head Inn (?) — Custom House Quay, E. 1749

The Stadtholder’s Head, in all probability an Inn or Tavern, was so called in memory of William of Orange. In 1749 in this house, a certain James Roberston, “for the entertainment of the curious,” exhibited “a course of experiments in natural Philosophy, consisting of 6 Lectures; the course to begin as soon as thirty persons have subscribed a British Crown each.” The Lectures were held at noon, and repeated at five p.m. 115

66. Straw & Chip London Wareh’s — 123 George Street 1814 110

67. Sugar Leaf Grocer Thomas Murphy Mary Street 1809 117

68. Sun Printing Office McKern & Taylor 16 Rutland Street 1811 118

The McKern of this partnership was William, a son of George McKern (Vide No. 41). He was printing on his own at the same address from 1815 to 1832. 119

69. Swan. Inn Matthew Moore Near Thomond Bridge 1786

This house was the property of the Corporation and was part of a lease of 1819 to to Lord Gart: — “That parcel or plot of ground next adjoining the north-east end of Thomond Bridge . . . upon which there are 14 houses or shops, including the house formerly called the Swan Inn, and extending from the house next the bridge . . . to the house near the Slip beyond the Swan Inn, containing in front or streetwards, 251 feet . . .” 120 Moore died in 1786. 121 In 1797 it was owned by Mort Egan and was known as the Black Swan Inn. 122 From the description in the above lease it would appear that the house at present known as “Curreygour Bar” is the old Swan Inn.

70. Taylor’s New Inn Inn Richard Taylor Outside the Square, I. 1783

Thomas Taylor, Innholder, died in 1769 123 and his widow, Anne, succeeded him. 124 When she married Samuel Johns (Vide No. 10) the son, Richard Taylor, succeeded to the business and announced that “to prevent mistakes, the words “Taylor’s New Inn” are on the sign at the door.” 125 As early as 1783 Taylor’s Inn had been the terminus of the Dublin Stage-Coach. 126


Bonfield, among other things, sold whole or retail, choice Old Claret, White Wine, Mountain, Tent, and old Sack, by the Hoghead, Dozen or Bottle. 127 In 1784, Mr. McMenus, formerly Master of the Three Tuns Tavern died. “His death was occasioned by a horse running over him last Thursday on Thomond Bridge.” 128

72. Turk’s Head Tavern John Doherty Quay Lane, E. 1785

In 1785 John Doherty sold the Turk’s Head and bought the Merchant’s Coffee House (Vide No. 29). 129

112. L.C., 17/5/1767.
113. L.C., 11/7/1782.
114. M.J., 30/9/1765.
116. L.C., 19/1/1814.
117. L.C., 9/12/1808.
118. L.C., 3/7/1813.
119. Irish Booklover, 1832, p. 70, etc.
121. L.C., 23/1/1786.
122. L.C., 1/1/1767.
123. L.C., 14/12/1789.
124. L.C., 31/12/1789.
126. Lenihan, p. 478.
129. L.C., 22/8/1785.
From the advertisement of Brehon, who was also a clockmaker, we get some idea of the scope of a local goldsmith’s work of the period. “He makes all kinds of repeating watches, and mends them in the best and safest manner . . . Said Brehon has a large assortment of touched plate, Butterboats, large and small ditto, large and small cups, Variety of touched Shoe & Knee Buckles, and a large assortment of jewellery work from the maker in Dublin, such as paste and stone, shoe and knee buckles, Garnet Hoops, Gold set lockets, Rings of different kinds, Pebble Rings set round with garnets, Watches, &c., he will engage; also plain and chased Coffee-pots, and plate-handled knives and forks, with Cases, with several other articles too tedious to mention. N.B.—He will give the highest price for old Gold and Silver, and for Silver and Gold Lace.” Brehon was made a freeman in 1747, and died in 1758.

Frances Lucas, otherwise Warwick, a sister of the owner, announces that she has just returned from the Lying In Hospital in Dublin, where she had served two years “in order to perfect herself in the Theory and Practice of the Art of Midwifery in all its parts, and variety of Births, whether Natural or Preternatural . . . She engages by the blessing of God, to lay Women with all the ease, speed and safety possible, and to bring them happily (as far as in the power of Art) through all the accidents that precede, accompany and follow labour . . . The Poor she serves gratis.”

Mathew Carmody will engage to make banks, put down sluices and cross-gaps and prevent inundations effectually . . . He is to be heard of at Mr. Michael Coonerty’s at the Wool-Pack, Limerick.

Flannery announces that he is carrying on the business of his late mother, Eleanor Flannery, for the benefit of himself and the other children. It is safe, therefore, to assume that the business was in existence long before 1782, and was, in fact, that described in the 1769 Directory as “Thomas Flannery, Grocer, John Street.” Perhaps it was the same house that was known in earlier years as the Golden Bottle (Vide No. 31).

I have not continued this catalogue beyond the year 1814, as by this time the signs were already becoming relics of a past custom, and end it with a brief reference to a few Limerick laneways which at this early date had already acquired their names from Taverns situated in them, as RED LION LANE, WHITE HORSE LANE, WHITE WINE LANE, and BELL TAVERN LANE. There was also a BLACK BOYE, but this may have been a corruption of Bealach Buidhe or Boherbuoy.

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Cut used in advertisements about stallions.

130. M.J., 30/9/1765.
133. M.J., 31/1/1751.
135. L.C., 4/7/1782.