

## The 19th Century

Many of the notable events during the 19th century have been highlighted. There were however, other developments during this period that play a very significant part in Limerick's history.

The first half of the 19th Century saw the introduction to Limerick of teaching orders which, to this day, educate the youth of the city and district e.g. The Jesuits, Christian Brothers, Sisters of Mercy and the Presentation Sisters. The state of trade and industry in the city, however, was somewhat chequered during the century. The industrial revolution, with mass production of English manufactures, heralded the end of the traditional "home industries" of Limerick e.g. weaving, silver smiths, despite the endeavours of the newly founded (1805) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber built its first offices in Rutland Street, now the town hall where the Mayor has his office. They now have their office in O'Connell Street where they own a very well preserved Georgian building. The great famine of 1847 did not affect Limerick to any great extent because of the work of charitable organisations and because they were not entirely dependant on potatoes.

By 1848 Limerick was connected to Dublin by rail. The railway allowed the larger manufacturing interests in Ireland and England to penetrate into "local" markets which had hitherto enjoyed the protection of isolation. This, in effect, meant that the large-scale industries survived while the smaller concerns very often went out of business.

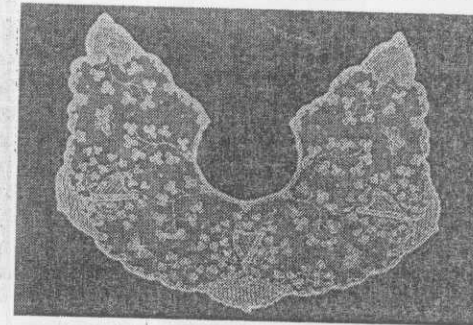
Some of the prominent industries during this period were:

### Leather

The city was widely famed for Limerick made gloves, owing to their extreme fineness, a pair could be packed into a walnut shell as a dainty present for the lady. Up to recently shoes were made in Limerick.

### Lace

Limerick is the second oldest of the 19th century lace-making centres. The industry was established in 1829 and is still maintained at the Good Shepherd Convent in Clare Street.



### Flour-milling

The Russell, Bannatyne and Ranks Mills were all important names associated with the milling industry, which lasted until recently.

### Bacon

Denny's, Mattersons, O'Mara's and Shaw's were all household names in their day. Limerick Bacon was highly regarded throughout the country.

## Clothing

Up to recently Limerick had a world wide reputation for having clothing manufacturing industries. The best known is the Limerick Clothing Factory which was started by Sir Peter Tait in 1850 and was located in Edward Street. The factory was the first in the world to make ready made clothing. It was a unique institution employing 1,000 people, and was renowned as being the largest and most modern factory of its day, being the first to use the famous Singer Sewing Machine. It manufactured all kinds of uniforms most notably for the British and the American armies and had the distinction of supplying uniforms to both sides of the American Civil War. Other modern day household names of Limerick clothing manufacturers were Danus and Crescent Clothing. The industry is currently enjoying a revival and there are many small manufacturing concerns establishing themselves.

## Tobacco

Clunes and Spillanes were the main manufacturers of tobacco products and snuffs. Some of the well known brand names were Thomond Kincora, Garryowen Plug and Craven A.

## Brewing, Distilling and Bonding

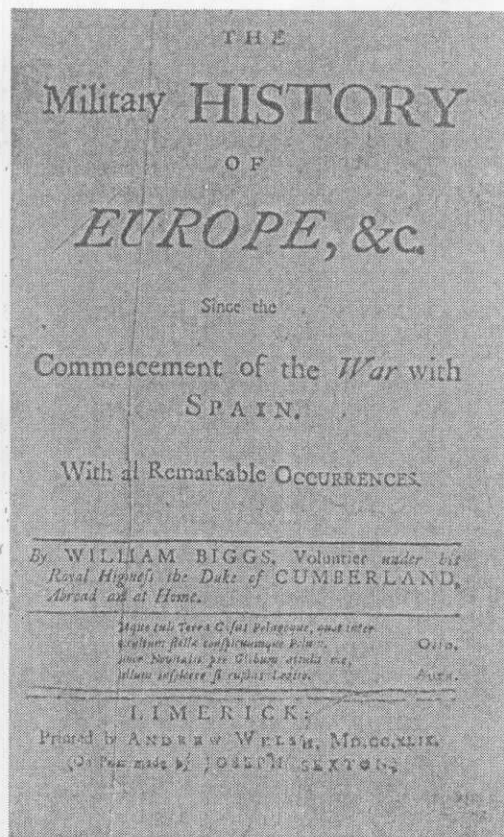
Brewing is one of the most ancient of domestic arts and has been carried out in Limerick throughout the centuries. One of the earliest was the City brewery near the Golden Mills, in the oldest part of the city, close to King John's Castle, built in 1739. Other notable breweries of the 19th century are the O'Connell Brewery, St. John's Brewery, Thomond Brewery and Canal Brewery. The O'Connell Brewery, though not the oldest Limerick brewery is perhaps the best known. The foundation stone of the building is still preserved in the Limerick Museum. Some of the finest porter in Ireland was brewed there for over 100 years until its closedown in 1881.

## Papermaking

Joseph Sexton, a prosperous Limerick Merchant, was one of the earliest papermakers in Ireland and the first in Munster. He had two mills one in Annacotty, built in 1749, and a larger one at Ballyclough which is a little further upstream of Annacotty. His paper was of first class quality.

Other Limerick paper manufacturers were Pat Waters of Bank Place in 1824 and in 1840 Daniel Brennan of Iverstown Mills, John Mullins of Rosbrien Mills and T. Garvey of Ballingoola Mills. The latter mill was closed in 1861.

Many of our present day architectural features and structures were built during this century.





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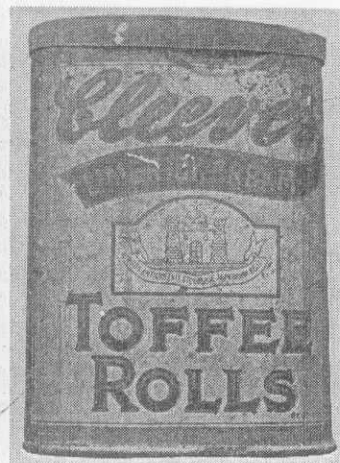
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## Markable Occurrences

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## Cleeves

This condensed Milk Factory on the north bank of the  
 Shannon was the largest milk-processing factory in the county.  
 Cleeves also operated a toffee factory at Charlotte Quay and  
 were well known for this product. The total employees of the  
 two factories was almost 1,000.

