



# THE NATIONAL PIPE ARCHIVE

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Falmouth and Penryn were natural sites for pipe-makers, busy ports convenient both for the import of clay and the marketing of the finished product; unfortunately the destruction of the wills proved in the Probate Court of Exeter has deprived us of the principal source of documentary information. The inhabitant of Truro never had far to go for his clay pipe; initially the makers were probably encouraged by the town's proximity to the clay beds on the Beacon at St Agnes. Until the nineteenth century most of the Truro makers would seem to have been in a smaller way of business than the Earles of Bodmin. The Census Return of 1841 shows that nearly twenty people were engaged in the manufacture of clay pipes in Truro, almost half of them young women.

In the far west, in Ludgvan near Penzance, another short dynasty flourished. These were the Honychurches, two with the same christian name of Gregory—a matter of convenience as much as of family pride for there was then no need to scrap the old moulds on the death of the patriarch. The will of the first Gregory Honychurch was proved in 1732 and the inventory of his property shows him as having small tenements in Ludgvan and Gulval. His stock in trade was worth £10 which represents a very considerable quantity of clay pipes. Also working in Penzance was Samuel Haydon, the son of one potter and the brother of another. The natural affinity between the two trades of pipe-maker and potter was emphasised in the nineteenth century when several potters took to making pipes as well. Although potters sometimes made pipes it is doubtful if pipe-makers ever made much else than pipes, their kilns being too small. Having said that, the kilns in Meneage Street, Helston, did produce a number of wig-curlers.

Since the raw material for the manufacture of pipes was basic and the tradesman's tools minimal clay pipes were always very cheap. In 1605 John Tremenhire of Helston, a prominent shop-keeper there, had "8 dozen tobacco pypes 2s": in 1622 William Fynche, a Saltash merchant, "one grosse of tobacco pipes 1s 6d": in 1621 John Colquite of Fowey "in the seller" a chest "with tobacco pipes and other trifles 6s": in 1633 Caleb Dell, the Millbrook mercer, a gross and a half of pipes valued at 1s 6d: in 1708 Henry Jolly of St Columb Major, another mercer, a box of pipes worth 2s. These prices show that clay pipes were sometimes four, sometimes eight to the penny. During the eighteenth century finer pipes were introduced and there were even aristocrats among clay pipes: for instance, in 1747 William Piercy of Helston, a self-styled tobacconist but with the shelves of his shop well stocked with mercery goods and groceries too had "a box of fine pipes, some glasses and some bottles" valued at £3.8.0. "his purse, wearing apparell, debts standing out and tools and utensill

belonging to the trade of a tobacconist" were worth £30.

In 1812 Samuel Randall of Truro announced that he conveyed pipes "to any part of the county free of all breakage" and the carriage of the goods to the customer was usually the pipe-maker's responsibility: he could not wait for the pipe-smoker to push open the shop door but he would have to pack pipes securely in boxes, a gross or a half-gross at a time, and peddle them from shop to shop or house to house. It was no doubt partly for this purpose that Nicholas Hambly of Truro in 1690 had his horse and pack-saddle.

The study of the developing shape of the tobacco pipe throughout the centuries is one that Mr Adrian Oswald has made his own and Cornish made pipes will require a chapter in that study when more bowls and stems become available for comparison. In three hundred years the pipe changed very little and, being a functional article, there was really no reason why it should. At the beginning the bowl was small, tobacco being very expensive, and set at an obtuse angle to the stem. The initials of the maker were often impressed underneath, where bowl and stem met. In course of time the bowl became larger and was set at right angles to the stem, the initials appearing on a projecting spur. Two pipe bowls found in Helston with large initials on the bowls themselves might indicate that the tobacconists saw the pipe as a convenient means of advertisement

The following list of pipe-makers is arranged alphabetically under towns and then, unless families disturb the arrangement, chronologically.

#### BODMIN

##### John Barnard

1670 will of John Barnard junior of Bodmin, tobacco pipe-maker. His estate totalled £16.10.6 and included  
three pip molds with thngs usefull 10. 0

##### Simon Earle 1

1673 lease to Simon Earle of Bodmin, pipemaker, of meadow in Dark Lane on the lives of lessee, Simon his son and Abigail his wife (CRO. Coryton Colln).

1683 inventory of the estate of Simon Earle of Bodmin, totalling £222.11.10 and including  
his moulds and tooles belonging to his trade 4.10. 0

##### Simon Earle 2

1696 in the Window Rate for the borough of Bodmin (CRO) Simon Earle's house is given with five windows and "Simon Earl's house that Charles Poolstreet lives in, not payable, 8 windows".

- 1721 will of Simon Earle of Bodmin tobacco pipemaker; sons Simon and Richard. To Richard he left "all my working tooles for making tobacco pipes to be delivered at the age of three and twenty years if he shall learn that trade and set it up".

### Simon Earle 3

- 1747 Simon Earle of Bodmin pipemaker bond on will of John Langworthy.

### Richard Earle

- 1727 Richard Earle pipemaker takes reversionary lease of a "messuage and garden plot in Borestreet lately Simon Earl's pipemaker".

## HELSTON

The profusion of tobacconists in eighteenth century Helston would point to there having been pipe-makers there and this was confirmed by the discovery of two pipe-kilns in Meneage Street in 1970. The fact that these were beneath the concrete floor of a garage did not allow proper examination; the many fragments of pipes gave the kilns a mid-eighteenth century date. Strangely, not one of the pieces bore the initials of the maker. The documentation of the Helston pipe-makers remains to be done, probably from the Rogers records at Penrose.

## LAUNCESTON

A Survey of the Borough of Newport made in 1754 (Devon CRO. Bedford Colln) shows a field "called the Tobacco Pipe Field" leased to and occupied by Richard White. Whether this name was given because of the field's shape, because fragments of pipe were always turning up there or because pipe-makers had worked there, remains to be discovered. This affection for the pipe is also illustrated in the will of Robert Edwards of Rame; in 1643 he left to Thomas Hodge "halfe of a litle boate called the Tobacco Pipe".

## PENRYN

### Henry Baker

- 1671 lease of house and garden in Penryn to Henry Baker of Penryn pipemaker (RIC. HB/10/193).

It is certain that it remains to discover more pipe-makers here and in Falmouth.

## PENZANCE (including LUDGVAN)

### Gregory Honychurch 1

- 1723 deed reciting that "Nicholas Hosking of Ludgvan leased to Gregory Honichurch of Ludgvan pipemaker a meadow in Tregarten on lives of Gregory son of lessee, Katherine wife of John Hosking the eldest daughter of lessee and Margaret his youngest daughter" (RIC. Hend. MSS. Vol. 2).

- 1732 will of Gregory Honychurch of Ludgvan pipemaker: left his wife Joan £5 per annum and she "to have the use of a room in my house at Botreva"; £25 each to daughters Katherine, Jane, Elizabeth and Margaret. The inventory of his estate totalled £186, including

stock in trade	10. 0. 0
small estate in Gulval	70. 0. 0
small estate in Ludgvan	80. 0. 0

### Gregory Honychurch 2

- 1738 Greg. Honychurch for nett. pipes in full 1. 3. 6  
(RIC. Borlase Account Book)

- 1740 Gregory Honychurch of Penzance pipemaker bond on will of George Richards of Marazion.

The surname is nor uncommon in St Erth and neighbouring parishes. There were Honychurch goldsmiths in Penzance at the turn of the century.

### Samuel Heydon

- 1736 Samuel Heydon of Penzance pipemaker bond on will of Thomas James of Madron.

- 1745 bond on wills of Walter Heydon and John Ashford.

### Richard Eddy

see JRIC 1969 p.60 for the history of the Mounts Bay Pottery.

- 1833 man wanted to superintend the manufacture of pipes; apply to Richard Eddy, the Pottery, Penzance (WB 8.3.1833).

- 1837 for sale: dwelling house at the South Folly, Penzance, also all that large limekiln, pipe kiln and manufactory for pipes, with the offices, large yards, warehouses, stables, shelters and premises adjoining, the whole now in the occupation of Richard Eddy. Pottery contiguous. The proprietor about to embark in another concern (RCG 19.5.1837).

## TRURO

### Everard Thurlby

- 1843 Edvardus Thurleby married Frances Seniow (St Mary's PR).

1654 lease to Everard Thurlby of Truro pipemaker (quoted in Taunton MSS, RIC).

1665 Everard Thurlby buried.

#### William Prinne

1667 William Prinne of Truro pipemaker (CRO. BT/240/3).

#### Nicholas Hambly

1672 Nicholas Hambly of Truro pipemaker bond on will of Henry Lanhadrerne.

1690 inventory of estate of Nicholas Hambly, totalling £9.1.0, comprised

purse and girdle	2. 6
chamber over the hall	
one bead, bolster, pillow, rug, beadsteed	2. 0. 0
one table board and frame in the Hall	4. 0
18 small putter dishes	12. 0
3 plats, 5 poreg dishes of tynn	1. 6
one quart, one pint, one half-pint, one tyn cup	1. 0
one tyn chamber pott, one tyn candle sticke	1. 0
one bell mettle skillitt, one brass candle sticke	2. 6
one brass kittle, one small brass pann	6. 0
three small brass crocks, one iron	5. 0
one table board and frame, one old foram	1. 6
five timber dishes, five spoones, five timber trenchers in the Shop	1. 0
pipe moulds and clay	5. 0
one horse and pack saddle	1.10. 0
two piggs	18. 0
one dwelling house and garden	2.10. 0

#### John Oates

1692 John Oates of Kenwyn pipemaker bond on will of Richard Oliver of Feock.

1725 inventory of estate of John Oates of Kenwyn pipemaker, totalling £11.15.0, comprised

four platters and seven plates	10. 0
one bedstead and curtaines	10. 0
other pore lumber about the house	15. 0
a pore old house much out of repaire	10. 0. 0

How poor Nicholas Hambly and John Oates were can be judged from the inventory of a contemporary Truro potter, Richard James: in 1688 his estate was valued at £39.1.6, including

in the shop	
2 trendells, 1 old forme, 1 old shole	2. 0
for claye and working gaire	18. 0
for the ware ready made	10. 0
a rick of furse	1. 0. 0

Richard's wiodw, Chesten, died soon after and her will was proved the same year. She bequeathed to her cousin, James Williams, "all my earthenware and cloome whatsoever and all my clay, sand, furserick and all other implements and necessaryes belonging to

the trade of a potter". (These two were unfortunately omitted from my *Cornish Earthenware Potters* in JRIC 1969).

#### Thomas Harris

1697 Thomas Harris of Kenwyn pipemaker residuary legatee under will of Joan Dennis, a Truro widow.

1728 inventory of estate of Thomas Harris of Kenwyn pipemaker, totalling only £8.19.6 with nothing relevant to his trade.

#### George Wakeham 1

1685 lease to George Wakeham of house, garden and orchard in Pydar Street, Truro, then in his occupation (Truro Borough Order Book CRO).

1707 inventory of estate of George Wakeham of Truro pipemaker totalled £37.13.6. this mentions a "chamber over the shop" but nothing of any clay or moulds.

#### George Wakeham 2

1754 George Wakeham of Truro pipemaker bond on will of William Harness.

#### George Randall 1

1803 George Randall pipemaker (RIC. N/80. Constable's List, St Mary's).

#### George Randall 2

1841 George Randall, aged 30, Andrew Place, pipemaker (Census Return).

#### Samuel Randall

1803 Samuel Randall pipemaker (RIC. N/80).

1812 Pipe Manufactory. Samuel Randall, Tobacco-Pipe Maker, No. 46 Pydar-street, Truro, begs leave to inform his Friends and the inhabitants of the county of Cornwall in general, that he continues to sell PIPES of the best quality, on the lowest terms, and conveys them to any part of the county free of all Breakage.

Considerable improvement hath of late been made in the Business. S.B. flatters himself he shall be able to give perfect satisfaction to all those who shall favour him with their commands. (RCG. 1.2.1812).

1824 Philip Body, son of Elisha Samuel and Mary Randall baptised (Kenwyn PR).

- 1830 Samuel Randall, pipemaker, Pydar Street (Pigot's Directory).  
 1844 Samuel Randall, pipemaker, Pydar Street (Pigot).  
 1841 Samuel Randall, aged 60, pipemaker, Pydar Street (Census Return).

#### Benjamin Randall

- 1841 Benjamin Randall, aged 45, pipemaker, Goodwives Lane (Census Return).  
 1848 Pipe manufactory in Goodwives Lane to be disposed of: Messrs Allen and Randall there for 20 years (WB. 10.3.1848).  
 1852/3 Randall and Truscott, pipemakers, Goodwives Lane (Slater's Directory).  
 1854 Benjamin Randall informs his friends that he has re-established his well-known pipe factory business in Goodwives Lane where it has been for 22 years. Now in partnership with Nicholas Hendra. (WB. 23.6.1854).

#### John Randall

- 1841 John Randall, aged 25, pipemaker, Castle Street (Census Return).  
 1856 John Randall, pipemaker, Pydar Street (Kelly's Directory).

#### Elisha Randall

- 1852 Pipe manufactory, Lemon Quay: Elisha Randall tenant (WB. 4.6.1852).  
 1856 Elisha Randall, beer retailer and pipemaker, Kenwyn Street and Lemon Quay (Kelly's Directory).  
 Elisha was landlord of the New Inn, Kenwyn Street, for a short period. The kilns he rented on Lemon Quay were part of Blacker and Company's Back Quay Pottery.

#### Henry Bastian

- 1841 Henry Bastian, aged 25, pipemaker, East Bridge Street (Census Return).  
 1852/3 Henry Bastian, pipemaker, Calenick Street (Slater's Directory).  
 1856 Pipe-kiln in Calenick Street to let: apply Henry Bastian (WB. 28.3.1856).

#### Thomas Bastian

- 1844 On Thursday, Thomas Bastian, pipemaker of Truro, was convicted of brutally assaulting, in company with two others,

Rogerus Praed of Falmouth at Petherick's beershop on the fair-day and was fined 20s and costs (RCG. 7.6.1844).

#### William Cock

- 1850 William and Alfred, sons of William, pipemaker, and Jane Cock of Richmond Hill baptised (Kenwyn PR).  
 1853 another son, Charles, baptised (Kenwyn PR).  
 1878 William Cock, tobacco-pipemaker, 7 Goodwives Lane (Harrod's Directory).  
 1881 William Cock of Goodwives Lane, pipemaker dead: personal estate £56.13.3.  
 1882 William Cock's widow, Jane, states that she is taking the opportunity of announcing "to her friends, customers and the public generally that she has opened business at No. 28 Goodwives Lane, where she carries on pipemaking in all its branches, and hopes for a continuance of the support accorded to her late husband" (RCG. 27.10.1882).  
 1883 Mrs Jane Cock, clay-pipemaker, Moresk Road (Kelly).  
 It needs explaining here that the Town Council had seen fit to change the name of Goodwives Lane to Moresk Road, some of the residents having taken a dislike to the old one.

#### Alfred Cock

- 1882 Alfred Cock, twenty years and more with his late father, announces his carrying on business as a pipemaker at 7, Goodwives Lane (RCG. 27.10.1882).  
 1883 Alfred Cock, clay-pipemaker, Moresk Road (Kelly).

The variety of the addresses of Truro pipemakers—Calenick Street, Castle Hill, Pydar Street, Goodwives Lane, Lemon or Back Quay, East Bridge Street etc—suggests that kilns are to be found in many parts of the city: recent alterations and demolitions have produced them on Lemon Quay, outside Julian's sale-room, and in Union Street. The Census Return of 1841 shows that this final burst of pipemaking gave employment to several youths, girls and young women. In Goodwives Lane there were John Hodge, an apprentice aged 13, Fanny Farr aged 15; in Pydar Street Philippa Hamley aged 15, Elizabeth Lance aged 20 and Mary Stevens aged 20; in Castle Hill Jane Dowrick aged 25, Sarah Vinicombe aged 15 and Jane Arthur aged 15; in Castle Street Harriet Rowe aged 15; in Calenick Street William Stephens aged 20.