

Leading the way in business, charity and equal rights for women

With their businesses flourishing, many Quakers became involved in the development of Waterford City affairs. This included the establishment of the Waterford Chamber of Commerce, the development of the railways, the building of the first Waterford bridge (wooden – and known affectionately as “Timbertoes”).

Feeding the hungry during the Great Famine

During the Famine, the Quaker Famine Relief Committee, under the direction of Joshua William Strangman established two soup kitchens in the city and distributed clothing and straw beds. Quaker relief was also given throughout the county especially in Ring. Quaker relief work for the poor continued well after the Famine, largely through the efforts of the Bell family.

Frederick Bell, with his sister Anna, opened the Munster Dining Rooms in Michael Street (near Dunnes Stores) in the early 20th century. A normal restaurant upstairs subsidised the poorer area below, which provided for one penny a pint of soup with bread, seated, or 2 pints of soup, for takeaway. Tokens were given to beggars “to avoid the straying of any monetary donations”. The project ceased in 1935.

Championing equal rights for women

From the start Quaker women were recognised equally in their community, education and church affairs. Emerging from this came strong, capable and determined women, who campaigned for social reform and equal rights for women in Waterford. Dr Mary Strangman was the first woman to be elected to Waterford City Corporation. Rosamond Jacob was a writer, suffragette and nationalist. Anna Haslam was a suffragette and campaigner for women’s rights. Dorice White did relief work in Russia. Dorothea Jacob was a strong activist for art in Waterford. Anna Bell set up The Munster Dining Rooms, a café for those in need.



Dr. Mary Strangman

Penrose – Glass making

In 1783 George Penrose and his nephew William founded the first Waterford Glassworks. The Penrose family had come to Waterford in the early 1700s. To start their glass manufacturing, they brought over John Hill, a Quaker from Stourbridge and a glass expert, along with a team of glass craftsmen. In 1786 John Hill left Waterford, passing on the secret glass making formula to his Quaker friend and work colleague Jonathan Gatchell who became an important member of the business. By the early 1800s the factory was employing over 200 workers and exporting almost a million glasses. With the death of George in 1796 and William in 1799, the direct Penrose connection ended but the business went on to become one of the largest Irish companies and most iconic brands worldwide.

Jacob – Biscuit making

There were many Jacob families, arguably the best-known was that of William (1825-1902) and Robert (1831-1861) Jacob, the biscuit manufacturers. Their parents had a bakery in Bridge Street. With the busy port nearby, they developed a biscuit that could last for long periods at sea. The sons expanded their parent’s bakery and by 1850 opened another bakery and shop at 69 the Quay. William then moved to Dublin to grow the business further. In 1885 the Jacob’s Cream Cracker that we know today was launched and the business has since become a household name.

Quaker Beliefs & Values

Quakers believe that every human being contains something of God. They regard all human beings as equal and worthy of respect. They recognise no barriers of colour, class or gender. Honesty, integrity, simplicity, equality and peace are central to the way they conduct their lives. They seek to create a community of tolerance and understanding within which a balance between discipline, freedom and exploration is maintained. www.quakers-in-ireland.ie

Waterford Cultural Quarter

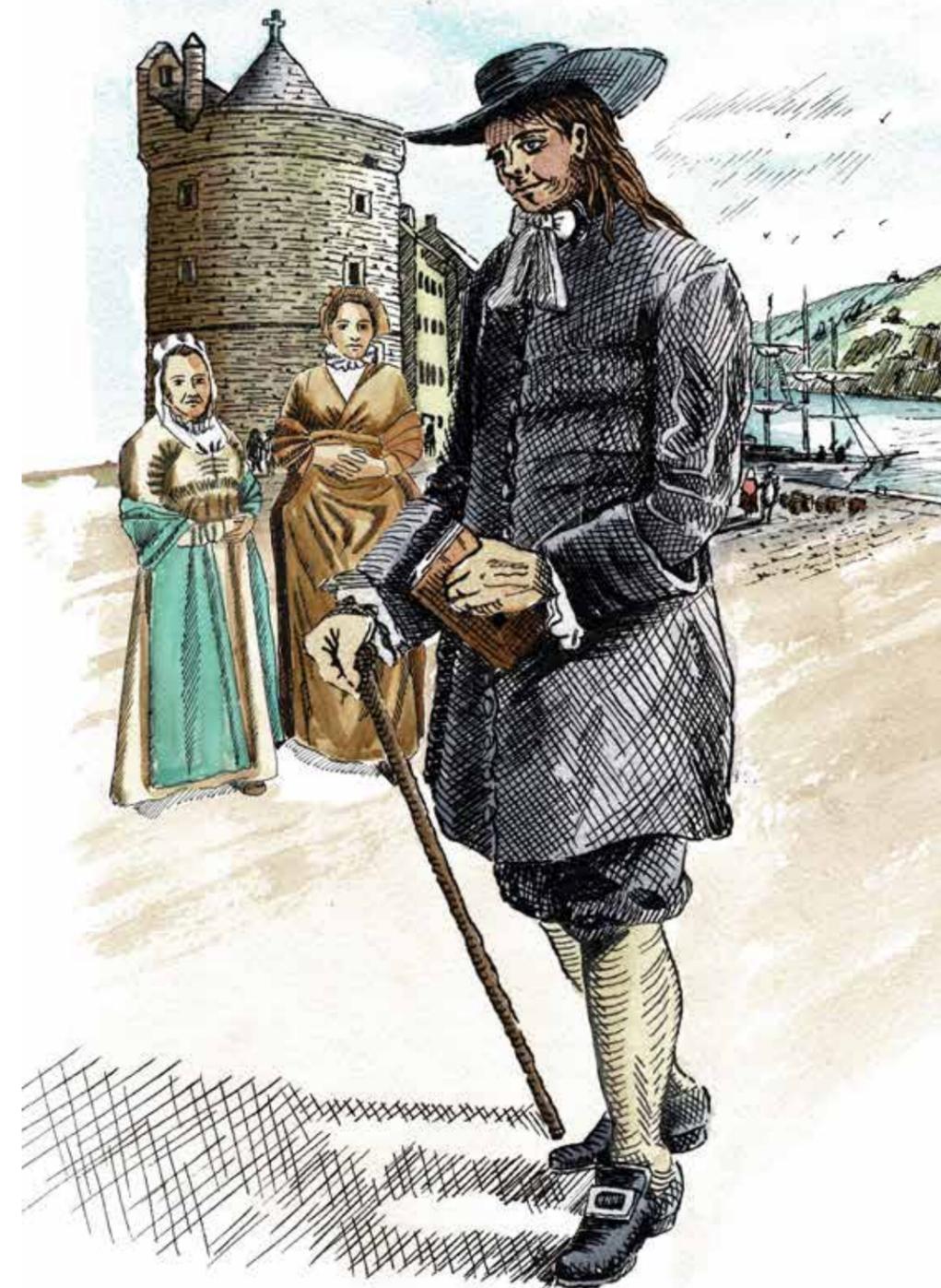
Waterford Cultural Quarter is an urban regeneration project supported by Waterford City and County Council to develop the O’Connell Street area as a hub of culture and creative enterprise. This map was developed to recognise the particular impact of the cultural business heritage of the Quaker families of Waterford in this area of the city. www.waterfordculturalquarter.ie
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Quaker Trail

A journey of discovery

Walk in the footsteps of the early Quakers who settled in Waterford and added greatly to the economic and social fabric of the city



Quaker History



The first Quakers arrived in Waterford in 1655

Quakers began in the northwest of England in 1652, when George Fox, their founder, became dissatisfied with the teaching and practices of the Church of England. From 1655 Quaker families began settling in Waterford city, near Wyse Park. Many fled from England to escape religious persecution and oftentimes imprisonment. Early Quakers came with very few possessions, many were in fact refugees, seeking to make a new life in the city.

They became very successful business people

As they settled in Waterford, the Quakers tried to maintain their Christian religious identity as they lived out their strongly held beliefs of truth, honesty, simplicity, equality and religious tolerance. Over time their small trades expanded and developed into extremely successful businesses, due largely to their strict honesty and work ethic. Within 150 years of arriving in Waterford, most of the family businesses and homes had moved to O'Connell Street and the quays.

Meeting Houses

They began by holding their Sunday "Meeting for Worship" in individual homes, but by 1694 they set up their own Meeting House in Bowling Green Lane, just off the Cork Road. In 1703 they built a new Meeting House in nearby Bowling Green Alley. In 1791, following strong growth in their numbers, they built a new Meeting House in O'Connell Street which they used until 1972 when it was sold to Waterford City Council for use as a temporary Court House before becoming today's Garter Lane Arts Centre. The current Meeting House is in Newtown on land at the edge of the Newtown Schools.



Burial Grounds

Their first burial ground was established in John's Lane in 1689 and about 200 of the early Quakers are interred there. A memorial was erected by the Waterford City Council in 2014 to mark this site. A second burial ground was established in 1764, in Parliament Street, (within Wyse Park now), where about 400 Quakers are buried. In 1824 the third burial ground was opened in Newtown, which is still in use today. In 1955 the land of the two early burial grounds was given to the city to be used as an amenity area for the people of Waterford.

Newtown School

Newtown School was opened as a boarding school in 1798 for the education of Quaker boys and girls in Munster. It was located in the former Wyse family home, within 17 acres of fine parkland. Sir Thomas Wyse MP, the well-known Irish educationalist, was born there. Today the school draws both day and boarding pupils of all religious persuasion, and none.

The Quaker values of honesty, integrity, simplicity, equality and peace are still central to the ethos of the school. In 2015 the decision was made to join the free scheme and no longer be fee paying for tuition. There is now an ambitious plan for the development of new school buildings to allow for a proposed increase in pupil numbers from 400 to 600. This will be funded by the Department of Education. The school is still owned and managed by Quakers.

Newtown Junior School

Newtown Junior School began in 1926 as a small Montessori school within the grounds of Newtown School. Maria Montessori visited soon after its opening. Over the years the school has developed and in 2007 the decision was made to join the National School System. It means that Newtown Junior School is the first and only Quaker National School in the country. There are currently 120 pupils at the school, which is located within the original 17 acres of the fine parkland of Newtown School.

1800s and 1900s

The small, close-knit Quaker community, which first settled in Waterford city in 1655, became very successful in trade, commerce and industry. Quaker family businesses flourished, especially with their practice of inter-marriage between Quaker families. As their businesses developed and prospered, many families re-located from the Wyse Park area to O'Connell Street, Mary Street, Bridge Street and onto the Quays. These included many well-known family names:

- Bell - Chemist and veterinary products
- Chapman - Tea and coffee merchants
- Cherry, Strangman, Goff and Davis - Brewing and commerce
- Courtenay and Ridgeway - Butter merchants
- Gatchell - Glassworks
- Goodbody - Jute factory
- Grubb - Chemist and hardware
- Harvey - Printers, stockbrokers, estate agent and travel agent
- Hill - Salt merchants and grocers
- Jacob - Biscuit making
- Jacob - Iron works and engineering
- Jacob - Stockbrokers, commerce and travel agent
- Malcomson - Cotton and shipbuilding
- Mason - Soap and tobacconist
- Nevins - Newfoundland fishing and trading
- Peel - Cornmerchants
- Penrose - Glassworks and shipbuilding
- Richardson - Bacon merchants
- Walpole - Tea, coffee, retail china and glass shop
- White - Shipbuilders, chemist and hardware

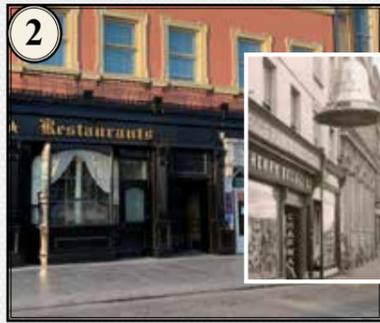


NEWTOWN SCHOOL



1. George Chapman & Co - No 61 the Quay

- In 1870, George Chapman (1822-1878) came to Waterford and opened a grocery shop.
- Sons William and George continued the business, selling quality groceries including tea, coffee, spices and imported dried fish from Newfoundland. Tea was blended in the shop and was very popular locally.
- A store and smoke house in O'Connell Street produced smoked bacon and ham for export as far as Cuba and China.
- For over 100 years the Chapman family developed a reputation of quality food and friendly service.



2. Bell family - Nos 62 and 89 the Quay, 62 now part of Granville Hotel

- In 1862 Henry Bell (1838-1922) opened a druggist, oil and colour merchant business.
- Daughter Janie and sons William, Albert, Frederick and Samuel all joined the business as chemists. They expanded and as well as creating their own remedies they imported petrol and also opened a photography studio.
- c.1905 they erected a large bell-shaped lamp outside the shop which became a local landmark.



3. Thomas S. Harvey - No 55 the Quay

- In 1837, Thomas Smith Harvey (1806-1892) moved from Cork to set up a bookbinding and stationery company.
- He expanded into a successful printers, Harvey and Co.
- During the Famine he set up a soup kitchen at his house on John's Hill to feed those queuing to enter the nearby workhouse.
- In 1853 his son Thomas Newenham Harvey (1837-1901), educated at Newtown School, joined the business.



4. Harvey & Sons - No 12 Gladstone Street, In 1862 T.S. Harvey left the printers on the Quay, (see previous) to start a new business dealing as stockbroker and estate agent. Banking and a travel agency followed, as did the Waterford Penny Bank, where small savings of a penny and upwards could be made (the Savings bank see No 7 would only accept savings of 10 pence or more).



5. Waterford Chamber of Commerce - No 2 George's Street, The Parlour Vintage Tea Rooms downstairs

- Designed by famous architect John Roberts; built for William Morris.
- Bought by Chamber of Commerce in 1813.
- The Chamber had 24 Quaker Presidents in the first 50 years, including Courtenay, Davis, Grubb, Jacob, Malcomson, Penrose, Ridgeway, Strangman and White.



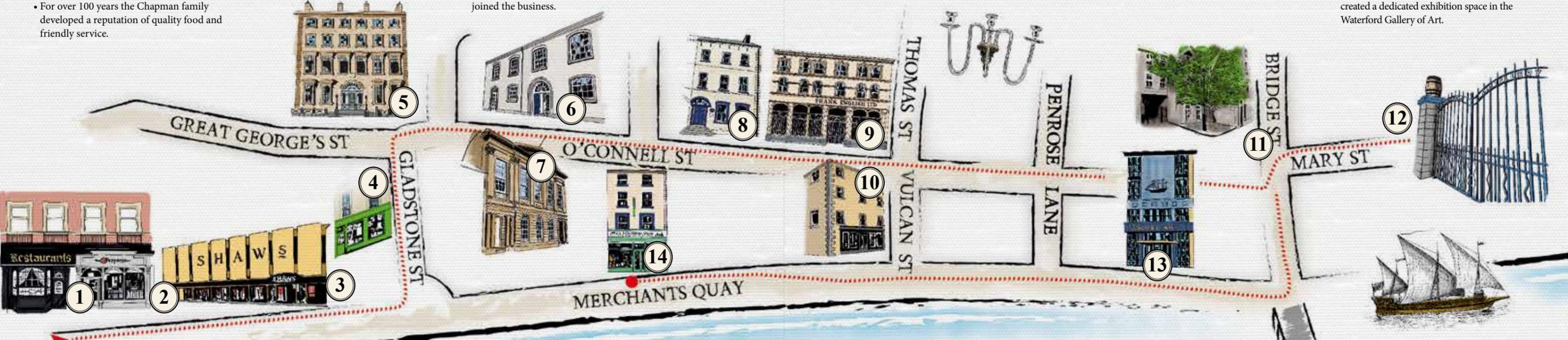
6. Quaker Meeting House - No 22 O'Connell Street, now Garter Lane Arts Centre

- Built in 1791 following strong growth in Quaker numbers.
- Used until 1972 when sold to Waterford City Council as temporary courthouse, now arts centre.
- Current Meeting House is in Newtown beside the Quaker Newtown Schools.



7. Savings Bank - Nos 32/33 O'Connell Street, now Waterford Gallery of Art

- Built in 1841 by Architect Quaker Thomas Jackson.
- In 1852 Joshua William Strangman, bank trustee and Quaker businessman, offered a room in the bank to the Waterford School of Art. Newtown School held Art exhibitions in the 1930s, leading to the formation of the Waterford Municipal Art Collection in 1939.
- In 2019 the Waterford City and County Council created a dedicated exhibition space in the Waterford Gallery of Art.



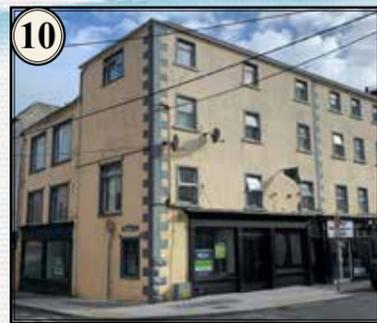
8. Jacob Family Home - Nos 2/3 O'Connell Street, now private residence

- Joseph (1737-1781) and Hannah-nee Strangman (1737-1787) Jacob lived here with their 14 children.
- Three Jacob families, directly descended, were involved with successful Waterford businesses.
- Jacob families contributed greatly to the city's development during the 18th and 19th centuries. Famous "Jacobs Cream Cracker" developed in 1880s; still a widely known product today.



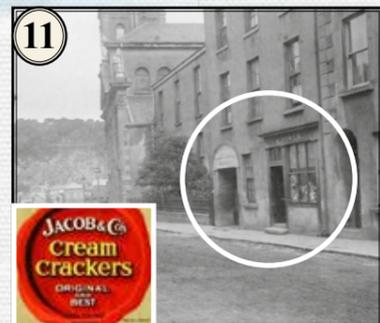
9. White Family Business - No 1 O'Connell Street

- In 1775 Thomas White opened a sugar and general grocery business.
- Son William developed the family business with hardware and ropemaking.
- In 1819 William built the White dockyard and slipway at Ferrybank. His sons Albert and George inherited the business.
- Albert worked the shipyard and built a large home nearby (later the Athenaeum Hotel).
- George established George White and Sons, chemist, hardware and many other enterprises.



10. Tuskar Lodging House - Nos 51/52 O'Connell Street, until recently Grubb & Co. Art Suppliers

- Albert Bell (see No 2; 1864-1912) leased no. 51 and opened a poor men's hostel. He ran 4 of these Tuskar Lodging Houses (one for women) in the city, giving cheap meals and much-needed accommodation.
- In 1923 there were 18,270 bed nights; in 1932, there were 21,043 (average of 50/57 per night).
- By 1951 the project ceased, due to changing social conditions.



11. Jacob & Co. - No 11 Bridge Street. This building was knocked and re developed

- Brothers William (1827-1902) and Robert (1831-1861) developed the parents' bakery, near the busy port.
- They "double-baked" their bread dough to make a "ships biscuit" - long lasting food at sea.
- By 1850 they had opened another bakery and shop at 69 Merchant's Quay to sell fancy biscuits. Business prospered and expansion began.
- In 1852 William moved to Dublin, setting up a biscuit factory in Peter's Row which became hugely successful and is now a household name.



12. Strangman's Brewery Mary Street - now Waterford Distillery

- In 1773 Thomas Strangman (1708-1787) moved from Mountmellick with his second wife Sarah. Father of 15 children, one of whom was William (1746-1818).
- In 1792 William established Strangman's Brewery in Mary Street giving huge employment over the years.
- In the mid-1840s, some Strangman family withdrew from the business, due to the Temperance Movement.
- Joshua William Strangman (1796-1874), was a director of the Strangman Brewery.



13. Gatchell - No 31 the Quay, now Dooley's Hotel

- A retail shop for the Waterford Glassworks, near the Anne Street factory.
- Since 1817 the shop, started by Jonathan, was under the direction of the Gatchell family.
- The shop showcased the superior quality and huge range of Waterford glass to distinguished visitors and locals.
- The glassworks included tumblers, lighting, vases and wine glasses.



14. Jacob and Sons - No 46 the Quay, now MC's Outdoor Store

- Thomas White Jacob (1802-1882) developed a successful iron foundry.
- He diversified into plumbing, heating and construction.
- He built many houses in Ballybricken, Newtown and Tramore.
- Their work can still be seen in the railings around Waterford Court House.