

Richard Pue, father and son, printers in Dublin and owners of Dick's Coffee House

Richard Pue¹ established Dick's Coffee House, on Skinner's Row in Dublin sometime before July 1698. His place of birth is unknown. Pue became a freeman of Dublin in 1701 as a member of the Dyers' Guild. On 25 December 1703 he began publishing *Impartial Occurrences* with Edward Lloyd. The paper ceased in February 1706, reappearing in February 1712 as Pue's occurrences.

Owing to Pue's political leanings, Dick's was a centre for residual protestant Jacobite interest in Dublin, however Pue became a Tory over time and would inform Dublin Castle of "papist murmuring" in 1707 and Jacobite activities in Dick's.

In 1714 after the accession of the Hanoverian monarchy, Pue suffered for his earlier Tory support, being imprisoned briefly by the Irish house of commons in February 1715. This was part of an overall purge of Dublin's Tory press, with Pue being taken in custody again in November 1717. He left Ireland for a time, returning in late December, publishing *Pue's Occurrences* again on 4 January 1718. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Pue

He held a number of auctions from Dick's from the 1720s, as well as selling "eye water" and other health elixirs. John Dunton, a London bookseller, described him: "he is a witty and ingenious man, makes the best coffee in Dublin ... and has a peculiar knack at bantering, and will make rhymes to anything" [*Dublin Scuffle* (2000), 429].

Pue was a successful printer who was not sworn into the Printers' Guild. Pue died in early 1722, and was buried at the church of Church of St. Nicholas Within, Dublin on 10 May 1722. His wife Elizabeth took over his businesses after his death, and in turn was succeeded by their son Richard.

Elizabeth maintained close ties with Dublin Castle, and was alleged to be in their pay by rivals. . Richard Pue II (1700–58), the fourth son of Richard and Elizabeth, had assumed full control of *Pue's Occurrences* by 1731. A Whig, in great contrast to his father, Richard II supported the castle interest, but not as explicitly as his mother, and gave greater attention to literary content. Enlarging and redesigning the layout in 1738, Richard II increased the circulation of *Pue's Occurrences*, carrying many notices of country property auctions; Dick's Coffee House by then was one of the main auction houses in Dublin, known especially for book auctions. James Pue assumed control of the business upon his uncle's death (14 December 1758). James, who died in December 1762, was succeeded by his wife Sarah Pue (died post 1776?), who continued as proprietor, marrying John Roe (April 1763), a business associate of her husband's. Roe continued to publish *Pue's Occurrences* until 1769, when his brother Cornelius became proprietor. Sarah then resumed control of the business before selling out in June 1775.

Pue's Occurrences ceased publication in the 1790s, predominant among Dublin newspapers during the eighteenth-century, alongside George Faulkners' *Dublin Journal* and James Hoey's *Dublin Mercury*. More than 100 Dublin newspapers were founded before 1770 – only four survived past 1780 (Morash, 2010, 45–7).

<https://puesoccurrences.wordpress.com/2010/08/11/the-pue-in-pues-occurrences/>

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This post is based on the article on the Pue family in the Dictionary of Irish Biography (Cambridge, 2009) available in hard copy and online. For more information, see the [DIB online](#) or the [DIB page at the RIA website](#).

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Richard Pue: It says much of the real politics of Dublin at this time that in the heart of the town, which was the Protestant stronghold of the kingdom, one of the best known and most popular businessmen was a Jacobite*. This was Richard Pue. The business district of Dublin was then situated on Skinner Row. It was where the Tholsel (the municipal centre of Dublin), the Guild Hall, the Court of Quarter Sessions, and the Exchange were all situated. Also on this thoroughfare was a meandering three-storey timber building thought to have been built in the fifteenth century. Known formally as Carbrie House and informally as "the great house" on Skinner Row, Pue acquired an interest in it in the early 1680's. He converted the drawing room level into what became known as Dick's Coffee House, named after himself and known colloquially as "Dick's". This became a Tory clubhouse and the most famous Dublin coffee house of the period. Pue also converted another area of Carbrie House into an auction room, which thereafter became the most sought-after venue for conducting book auctions in Dublin, and he adapted another portion to accommodate a printing press. As has been noted already, the English journalist and self-publisher, John Dunton, had first-hand experience with Pue and Carbrie House. When he toured Ireland in 1698, Dunton held two of his book auctions there and also became acquainted with the printing facilities whilst working with John Brent in preparing his auction catalogues. He afterwards described this area in exuberant terms: "meer Paradice: Oh Spacious Dwelling!... Airy, Great and Noble (and the Top Printing-House in all Dublin)". Although Dunton does not state expressly that he is speaking of the printing press at Dick's Coffee House here, there can be little doubt that he is addressing the printers then in occupation.

<https://www.proquest.com/openview/e3d67db73d5a1439011732229b76b81f/1.pdf?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750>

- Jacobite: The movement was strong in Scotland and Wales, where support was primarily dynastic, and in Ireland, where it was mainly religious. Roman Catholics and Anglican Tories were natural Jacobites. The Tory Anglicans had doubts about the legality of the events of 1688–89, whereas the Roman Catholics had more to hope for from James II and James Edward, the Old Pretender, who were firm Roman Catholics, and Charles Edward, the Young Pretender, who vacillated for political reasons but was at least tolerant.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Jacobite-British-history>