

NOTE ON A LONDON PIPEMAKER

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Out of a total of 347 pipemaker-apprentices recorded in the Bristol Apprentice Rolls between the first such entry in 1619 and the last in 1827, two were sons of Londoners, and of these one was the son of a London pipemaker.

This later youth was George King, described in the Apprenticeship Rolls as the son of John King "late of the City of London, tobacco-pipe maker", and he was apprenticed 3 June 1740 for seven years to Elizabeth, widow of Maurice Phillips, and with him was paid £3 charity money.¹ (Maurice Phillips had been apprenticed 1714, became free 1721, and must have died only shortly before his widow took King apprentice, for he is recorded voting at the 1739 election.)

Nothing further is known of George King; his freedom is not recorded, and it seems probable he died during his apprenticeship. The Bristol Apprenticeship Rolls, though they record dismissals of pipemaker apprentices, never note deaths, though they must have been frequent. The father, however, *John King*, may be the John King recorded taking his freedom in London in 1733.² If so, he may have died only a few years later, for the expression "late of" in the Bristol Apprentice Rolls usually, though not invariably, is associated with the word "deceased" after the trade, though the latter is not used here.

An unusual point here is the apprenticeship of a London pipemaker's son to a Bristol pipemaker at a time when the Bristol industry was beginning to decline after three or four decades of prosperity due to a rich North American trade³ and when Bristol pipemakers were beginning to drift to London from the 1730's onwards in the traditional manner of people seeking better chances in the capital. Poll book entries record this drift of pipemakers from Bristol (virtually all to London) from the 1730's at least into the 1780's; almost half the Bristol pipemaker-voters in 1784—21 out of 44—were in London or the Greater London area (Southwark, Lambeth, Brentford). However, King may have had Bristol connections, which might also explain why his son was granted Bristol charity money for his apprenticeship: a Richard King, pipemaker, took his freedom in Bristol in 1660 by virtue of having married the daughter of a freeman-pinmaker; a William King son of a Bristol turner became free 1695/6 by apprenticeship; and a John King son of a Bristol brick-maker became free 1739 also by apprenticeship and was still alive in 1754. The London John King may therefore have been a relative of one or more of these Bristol pipemakers.

REFERENCES

1. Bristol Apprentice Rolls, volume for 1740-60, f.4. I am very grateful to Miss M. E. Williams, City Archivist, Bristol, for much help with these rolls.
2. D. Atkinson and A. Oswald, "London Clay Tobacco Pipes," *JBAA* 3rd ser. XXXII (1969) 213.
3. I. C. Walker, *The Bristol Clay Tobacco-Pipe Industry* (City Museum, Bristol, 1972).