

Doors of Dublin
By Kay Mauser

The homes on the streets of the wealthy in the early 1700's were all built in the Georgian manner according to strict codes. It is not known what the original color of the doors were but they were probably a dull beige.

It is thought that the residents wanted something to distinguish their home from the others and thus began the colorful painting of the doors. They also had beautiful, ornate knockers, elegant fanlights above the doors and wrought iron boot knockers by the entryways.

If, however, you are in Dublin on a tour of the city, the imaginative Irish will tell you a different story depending upon what they believe their tourist will believe. One of the popular stories is that the writer George Moore, an abstemious drinker who only had wine with dinner, lived next to another author, St. John Gogarty, who liked to drink heavily. Moore got tired of Gogarty knocking on his door at all hours of the night wanting admittance, thinking he was home. So Gogarty painted his door a bright red. This started a trend.

There is also a story that, after the death of Queen Victoria, the English ordered the Irish, who were still under their rule, to paint their doors black in memory of the Queen. The Irish rebelled and painted them different colors.

And then there is the story about women getting tired of their husbands getting drunk and going into the wrong houses and had their doors painted different colors to distinguish them.

You may take your pick as to what you want to believe, but any make for a good story.