

A Story of Belfast

A Story of Belfast told through a selection of objects.

Selection of City Centre objects



Job Ryder two-faced clock, Belfast Post Office

Job Ryder's two-faced clock was used in Belfast's first permanent Post Office in Donegal Street, where it sat in a window with one face facing inwards to the office and the other facing outwards to the street to be used by the stagecoaches. This was a device to prevent fraud and dissent regarding the timing of the mail



Death mask of James Hope

James Hope joined the United Irishmen in 1795 and was soon elected to the Belfast Central Committee. He fought at the Battle of Antrim in 1798; after the Rebellion he lived in Dublin and Co, Meath before returning to Belfast to live in relative obscurity in Brown's Square, off the Shankill Road, until his death in 1847. His name is commemorated in Belfast's Hope Street, off Sandy Row



Smithfield Flax Spinning and Weaving Company

One ton scotch flax token (probably a reckoning device) from Smithfield Flax Spinning and Weaving Company. Scotch probably refers to the nature of the ton measurement, (as in English miles and Irish miles), rather than the provenance of the material



John Dunlop's bicycle

John Dunlop got the idea for the pneumatic tyre watching his son riding his tricycle over the cobbled yard of his veterinary surgeon's workshop in May Street



Late Bronze Age (800 – 400 BC) gold ornament
found on the Cave Hill