

## A Wee Bit O' Whiskey

The earliest record of the distillation of alcohol goes back to Italy in the 1200s. The process and use spread rapidly through medieval monasteries (!), but this was largely for medicinal purposes, mainly for treating colic and smallpox.

The first written record of whiskey comes from 1405 wherein a certain chieftain apparently died of too much imbibing.

With a license to distil Irish whiskey from 1608, the old Bushmills Distillery in Northern Ireland is the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world.

In America, whiskey was used as currency during the American Revolution. George Washington operated a large distillery at Mount Vernon.

During the Prohibition era in the U.S., lasting from 1920-1933, all alcohol sales were banned, but the federal government exempted whiskey prescribed by a doctor and sold through licensed pharmacies. [wikipedia]



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