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EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT  
AND ITS MAKERS

By GEORGE MUNSON CURTIS



INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO.  
MERIDEN, CONN.  
1913

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## EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS.

**T**O those who are lovers of old plate, and have become familiar with the various shapes and designs characteristic of Colonial days, it is interesting to note the slow evolution and gradual change in church and domestic silver from the simple and yet beautiful vessels of the seventeenth century to the more elaborate forms and greater variety of articles of the eighteenth century, which the growing luxury and more complex life of the later period demanded.

Judging by the examples that have survived, silver utensils of the seventeenth century were limited to spoons, the caudle-cup, the beaker, the chalice, or standing cup, the tankard, the flagon, and what are called to-day wine-tasters. The ornamentation on the earliest of these pieces suggests the conventional flower designs found on oak furniture of the same period.

The old inventories and wills, however, give us a list of articles once in common use which are doubtless no longer in existence.

Dr. Gershom Bulkeley died in 1713 in Glastonbury. He was a man of considerable distinction and wealth. By the terms of his will he bequeathed to a son a silver retort and to a daughter a silver cucurbit, a species of retort, shaped like a gourd, used, perhaps, to distil perfumes and essences, once the duty of an accomplished housewife.

In various inventories frequent mention is made of silver dram-cups, always lower in value than spoons. They were miniature bowls with an ear-shaped handle on each side, and called dram-cups because they comfortably held a dram, or spoonful, and were used for taking medicine. Sometimes they were of pewter. Modern collectors have called them wine-tasters, which is clearly a misnomer. Our ancestors were not wine-tasters: they *drank* from beakers, caudle-cups, and tankards.

Other articles mentioned are silver platters and punch-bowls, whistles, hair-pegs, seals, bodkins, thimbles, clasps with glass centres, chains or chatelaines with scissors and other articles attached, shoe and knee buckles, and last, but not least, silver hat-



bands,\* worn only by those who affected the highest type of fashionable attire. Articles of gold were toothpicks, cuff-links, stay-pins, rings, brooches, buttons, and beads *ad libitum*. Doubtless a search through other inventories would reveal many other articles of silver and gold.

In the eighteenth century the colonist had greater wealth, and life had become more formal, and luxury more common. As a result, the silversmith had increased the variety of his manufactures, and used more elaborate designs, although he still clung to a simplicity of line and form that was characteristic of all early industrial art in America.

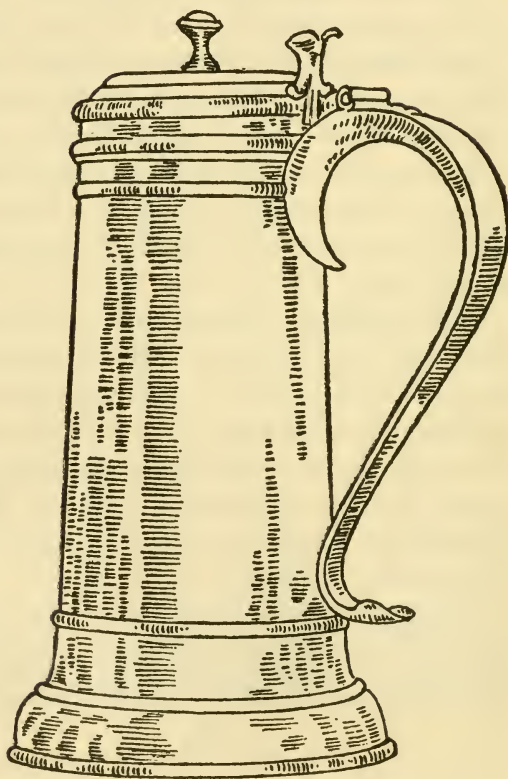
Although the earliest known silversmiths in New England had either learned their craft in England or been taught the trade by English workmen, there was no attempt to adopt later the elaborate baronial designs of the mother country. Simpler forms were more in keeping with the simple life of this country.

\* Captain Giles Hamlin of Middletown (died in 1689 ae. 67) was a prominent figure in the early days of the Colony; he was the owner of a silver hat-band which he bequeathed to his daughter. The portrait of Pocahontas dated 1616 depicts her crowned with a mannish headgear, encircled by a golden hat-band.

## Seventeenth Century Plate

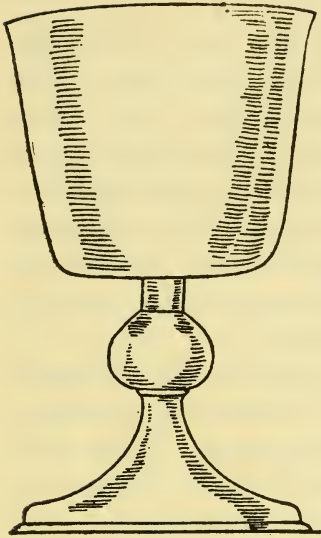


Caudle Cup

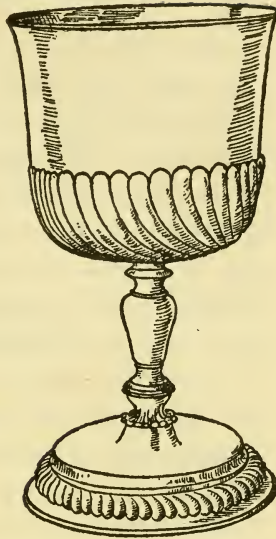


Early Flagon

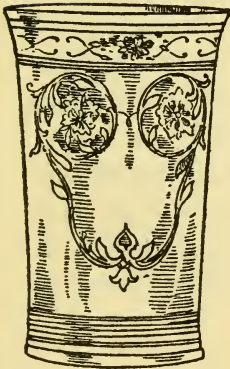
# Seventeenth Century Plate



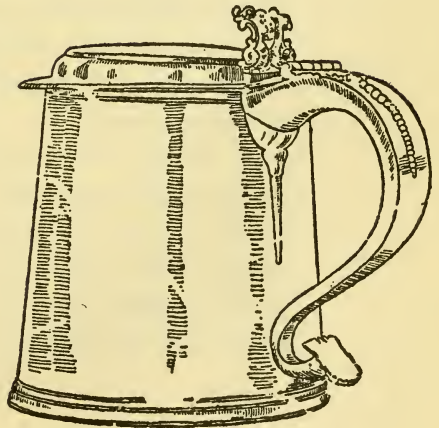
Earliest Shape of Chalice



Later Style of Chalice



Early Beaker



Early Tankard with Flat Lid

As early as 1715, the man who had amassed a fortune could purchase coffee and chocolate pots, braziers (the forerunners of the modern chafing-dish), elaborate urn-shaped loving-cups, porringers,—in a form which seems to have been peculiar to this country,—patch-boxes and snuff-boxes, toddy-strainers, and many trinkets dear to the feminine heart.

By 1736, when tea had so far dropped in price that it had become a necessity, beautifully chased tea-pots had come into vogue, in delicate and pure designs, in forms now known as bell and pear.

The silversmiths were also making graceful sauce and gravy boats, quaint steeple-topped pepper-casters, beakers with single and double handles, cans with double scroll handles, three-legged cream-pitchers, candlesticks and salvers shaped like patens, and in other forms.

Later in the century beautiful tea-sets and punch-bowls became popular, as graceful in shape and line as the Heppelwhite, Adam, and Sheraton furniture of that period. One of the most frequent of motives was the classical urn, which became

as common in silver as in architecture. Meantime the tankard had increased in height, the flat lid had been replaced by a domed cover with a finial, and a band had been moulded around the middle of the body. It should be remembered that no tankard was made with a spout. It was a drinking-vessel pure and simple. The spout now so frequently found on these old pieces is quite a modern addition, —an attempt to make a pitcher.

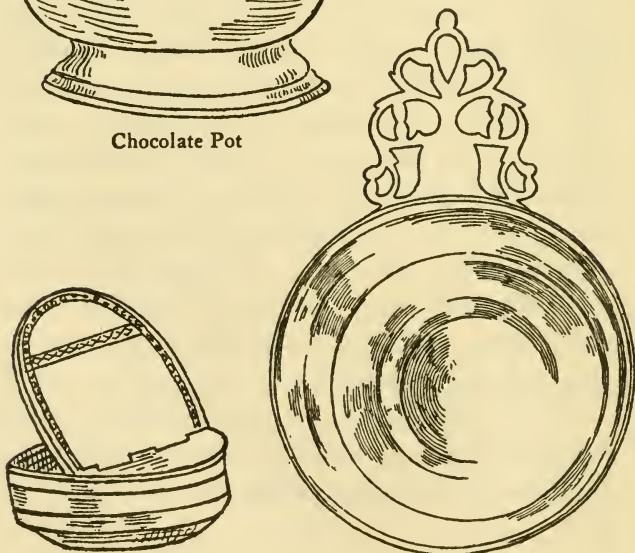
Spoons in the seventeenth century were invariably rat-tailed. From the handle down the back of the bowl to about the middle ran a ridge, shaped like a rat-tail. This is sometimes thought to have been an attempt to strengthen the spoon, but its use must have been purely ornamental, for it adds little strength to these strongly made spoons. Sometimes the rat-tail was shaped like a long "V," and grooved, while on each side were elaborate scrolls. The bowl was perfectly oval in shape, while the end of the handle was notched, or trifid.

This style of spoon was continued, with modifications, through the first third of the eighteenth century. Then the bowl became

Early Eighteenth Century Plate



Chocolate Pot



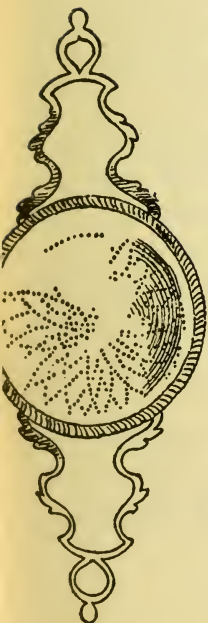
Snuff Box

Porringer

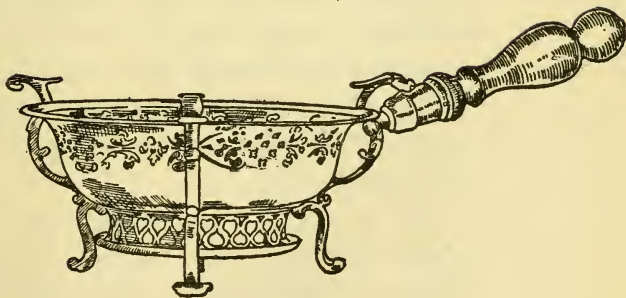
Early Eighteenth Century Plate



Loving Cup



Strainer



Brazier or Chafing Dish

ovoid, or egg-shaped, and the end of the handle was rounded, without the notch.

The rat-tail was gradually replaced by what is known as the drop, or double drop, frequently terminating in a conventionalized flower or shell, or anthemion, while down the front of the handle ran a rib.

Later the bowl became more pointed, the drop was replaced by a tongue, and the handle about 1760, instead of slightly curving to the front at the end, reversed the position. A little later the handle became pointed, and was engraved with bright cut ornaments and a cartouche at the end, in which were engraved the initials of the owner.

During the first ten years of the nineteenth century a popular style was the so-called coffin-shaped handle, succeeded probably about 1810 by a handle with a shoulder just above the junction with the bowl, while the end became fiddle-shaped, or of a style now known as tipped,—shapes produced to this day.

Up to about 1770 spoons were of three sizes,—the teaspoon, as small as an after-dinner coffee-spoon; the porringer-spoon,



a little smaller than our present dessert size; and the tablespoon, with a handle somewhat shorter than that of to-day./

So few forks have been found in collections of old silver that it forces the belief that they were generally made of steel, with bone handles. There seems no reason why, if in general use, silver forks should not now be as common as spoons.

In the great silver exhibition recently held in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, of more than one thousand pieces, there were only two forks to be found, and they were of course two-tined.

In the manufacture of silverware, as in every other form of industry, modern methods have worked a revolution. Now powerful lathes and presses accomplish in seconds the work of days under old conditions.

Nevertheless, we can produce no better silverware than could the old craftsman working with his primitive tools. The silversmith of Colonial days knew thoroughly every branch of his trade. He was designer, die-sinker, forger, solderer, burnisher, chaser, and engraver. He was a many-sided man, and he did thorough work.

Let no one fancy him as other than a man of might, for muscle and sinew were as needful in fashioning plate as in the trade of blacksmithing.

With his hammers, anvils, beak irons, testers, swages, punches, planishing hammers, and stakes and drawing benches, he skilfully shaped the beautiful white metal, putting a feeling into his work that is generally missing in modern silver.

He used a lathe, probably worked by foot-power, not for spinning, but for shaping and truing a porringer, a beaker, or a bowl after the hammers and anvils had done their work. This is plainly shown by the mark left by the lathe in the centre of these vessels.

The metal was hammered while cold, and many times during the operation was annealed; that is, heated in a charcoal fire, to prevent brittleness and to make it tough.

With the planishing hammers and anvils, rotten stone and burnishers, a uniform and beautiful surface was produced that can never be attained by a modern workman using a buffing wheel.



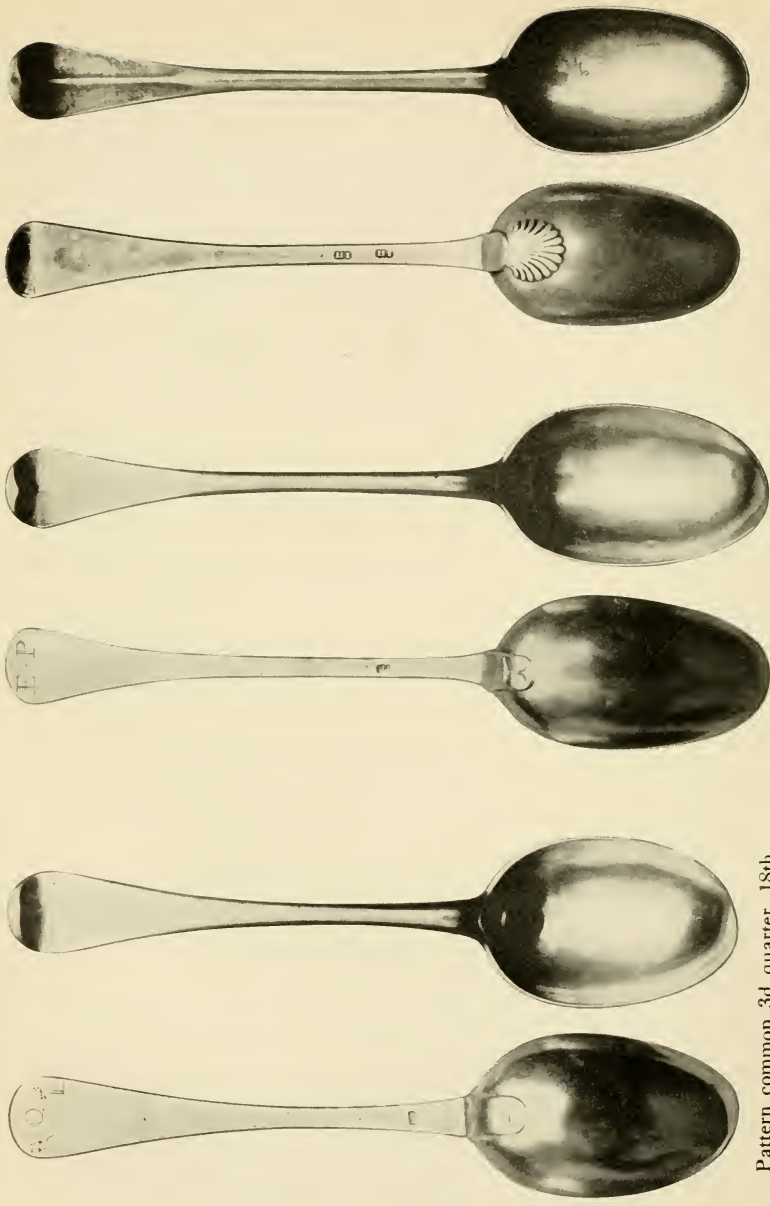
Plate i

Earliest type of rat-tail. Made by Jeremiah Dummer about 1690 for Rev. Noadiah Russell and his wife, Mary Hamlin. Owned by Miss Mabel W. Wainwright, Hartford

Somewhat later type of rat-tail, dated 1695. Made by W. G.

Rat-tail type of about 1730. Made by William Ward of Guilford. Owned by Mrs. C. E. Francis, Durham  
Mark: W. Ward (script), in rectangle

Photograph of Spoons reduced to half size and chronologically arranged, showing front and back



Pattern common 3d quarter, 18th century. Made by Samuel Parmele  
Mark: S. P. in rectangle

Pattern common 3d quarter, 18th century. Made by Phineas Brad-

Pattern common 3d quarter, 18th century. Made by I. H.



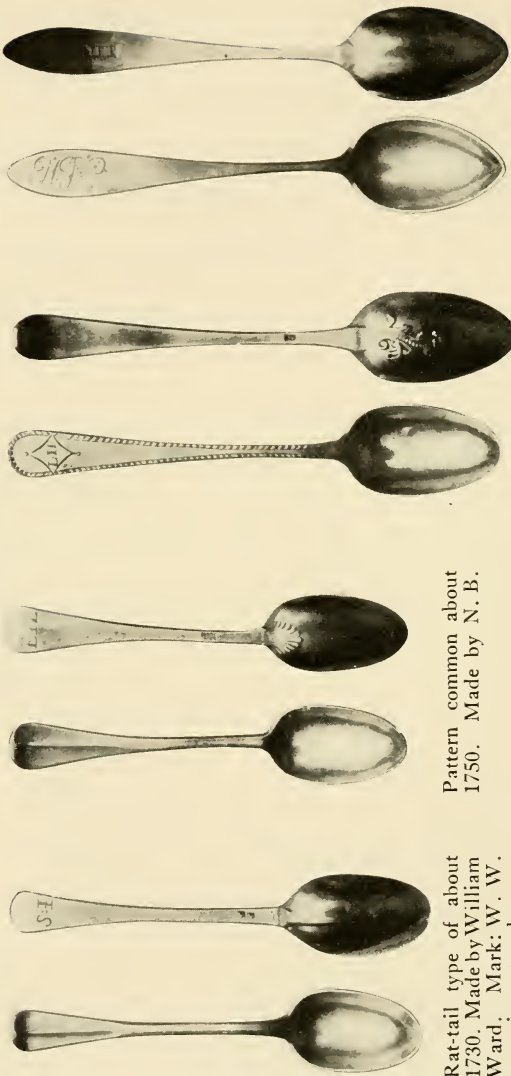
Tipped pattern: after 1810  
 Made by Merriman & Bradley  
 Mark: M. & B. in rectangle

Pattern with so-called coffin shaped handle  
 1800 to 1815. Made by John P. Trott  
 Mark: J. P. T. (script) in oval

Pattern common 1780 to 1800  
 Made by Thomas Norton  
 Mark: T. N. in rectangle

Plate iii.

Photograph of Tea Spoons reduced to half size and chronologically arranged, showing front and back



Rat-tail type of about 1730. Made by William Ward. Mark: W. W. in rectangle

Pattern common about 1750. Made by N. B.

Common after 1770 to 1780. Made by Joseph Loring of Boston

1780-1800 Made by J. P. Trott Mark: J. P. T. in rectangle

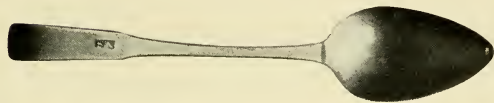
Photograph of Tea Spoons reduced to half size and chronologically arranged, showing front and back



1800-1815. Made by  
Barzillai Benjamin  
Mark: B. B. in rectangle



1800-1815. Made by  
Nathaniel Shipman  
Mark: N. S. in rectangle



1810 and after. Made by M.



Illustrations showing transition in the bend of Spoon Handles  
in the third quarter of the eighteenth century



Showing bend of handle previous to decade  
1760-70



Showing bend of handle after decade  
1760-70



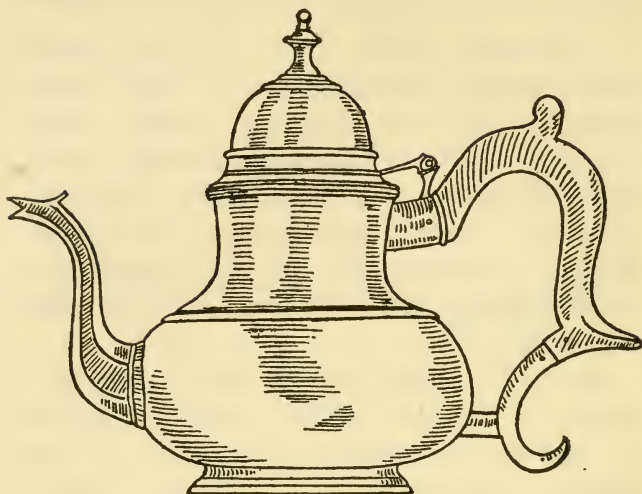
Ornaments on the back of spoon bowls and handles were impressed by dies forced together by drop presses or under screw pressure. This is absolutely proven by the exact duplication of the pattern on sets of spoons. Accurate measurements show that these ornaments were not hand-work, for there is not the slightest deviation in dimensions.

The silversmith carried little manufactured stock. It was the general practice to take to the smith the coin which it was desired to have fashioned into plate. These coins were melted in a crucible and poured into a skillet to form an ingot, which was then hammered into sheets of the correct gauge.

This explains the usual practice at that time of valuing a porringer or a tankard, or other plate, by saying that it contained so many Spanish dollars or English coins.

Probably most of the early plate was fashioned from Spanish dollars, once so generally in circulation in this country. They were not up to sterling standard, being only .900 parts fine, while sterling is .925 fine. Nevertheless, early plate seems

Mid-Eighteenth Century Plate

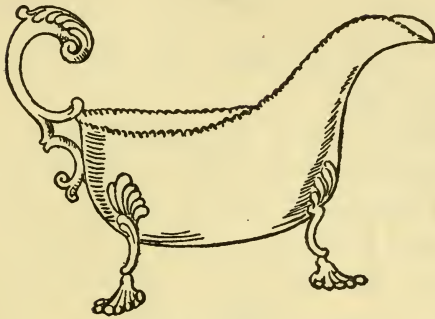


Bell Shaped Tea Pot

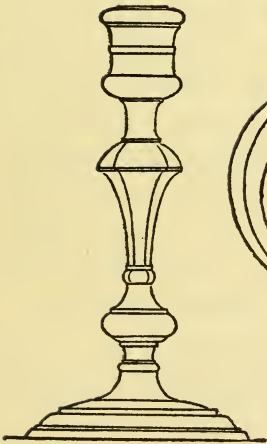


Pear Shaped Tea Pot

# Mid-Eighteenth Century Plate



Sauce Boat



Candlestick



Tankard with Domed Top

to be whiter in color than that manufactured to-day.

Perhaps this is the explanation: hand-hammered or forged silver must be annealed very frequently, and in the old days this was done with the aid of a bellows in the open air, instead of in a furnace, as is done to-day. As a result, a film of oxide of copper was formed, which was removed by plunging the article into what is called the pickling bath,—a hot diluted solution of sulphuric acid. This operation continued often enough would tend to make the surface almost fine silver; hence the white color.

Most smiths impressed the plate they fashioned with their trade-mark. The earliest marks were initials in a shaped shield or in a heart, with some emblem above or below. Later marks were initials or the name in a plain or shaped or engrailed rectangle or oval. In the early part of the last century the word "Coin" \* was added, and about 1865 the word "Sterling" was employed to denote the correct standard.

\* When the United States Mint was established in 1792, the standard of silver coinage was fixed at  $.892\frac{4}{10}$  fine. In 1837 the standard was raised to .900 fine. Therefore, "Coin" stamped on plate does not indicate .925, or "Sterling" fine.





Silversmith Shop of Lewis Curtis, Farmington. Formerly stood at the head of the main street, one hundred and fifty feet west of Elm Tree Inn. Now located in the meadow two or three hundred feet north of the Country Club



Silversmith Shop of Joseph Carpenter, Norwich

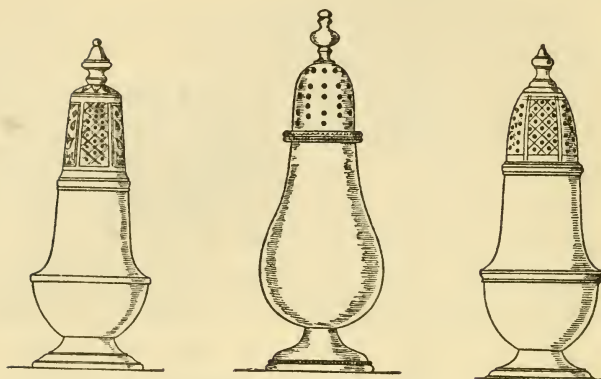
Undoubtedly, the shops of the gold and silversmiths were small affairs, with no cellars or substantial foundations, being similar in that respect to those of blacksmiths. They were frequently built on leased or rented land, and could with little difficulty be moved to other sites.

When Captain Robert Fairchild, of Stratford, sold his homestead in 1768, he reserved the right to remove from the premises a goldsmith shop. Such reservations were not unusual.

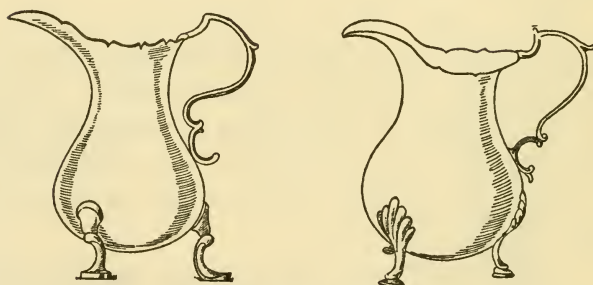
They were easily broken into by burglars, and "stop thief" advertisements in the local press were quite common. The shops of Joseph and Stephen Hopkins, of Waterbury, were entered in this way some eight or ten times in the decade from 1765 to 1775.

The writer well remembers a visit in 1875 to the smithy of one of these artisans in East Hartford. There, busily engaged, was an old man forging spoons for a Hartford jeweler. The building could not have been more than fifteen by thirty feet, and yet there was ample room for every emergency. The smith had learned the trade,

## Mid-Eighteenth Century Plate



Three types of Pepper Caster



Examples of Cream Jugs



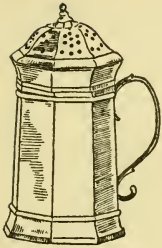
Beaker

Cup

Beaker



## Mid-Eighteenth Century Plate



Pepper Box

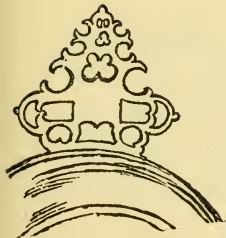


Two Handled Cup

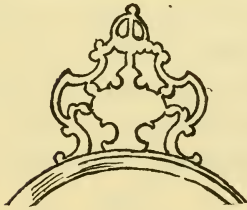


Can or Mug

### Porringer Handles



Early 18th Century



Early 18th Century



Later and usual type  
of 18th Century

just as his predecessors of earlier days had done, and perhaps was the last of the fraternity.

The knowledge that America had silversmiths during the Colonial period came as a complete surprise and revelation to most of those who were so fortunate as to see the splendid examples of their work exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 1906.

That these craftsmen were equal in skill to their English rivals cannot perhaps be claimed in every respect on account of the lack of demand for highly florid ornamentation, but it may be safely stated that American silversmiths produced wares that for beauty of shape, sense of proportion, and purity of line were not surpassed in England; and, if occasion demanded, elaborate ornamentation in most decorative designs was fully within the grasp of American workmen.

Working in silver was a most respectable craft, and many of the men who followed the trade were of excellent social standing, particularly in Boston. One can say without fear of contradiction that the best silver-

work in this country was done in that town.

The earliest American silversmiths of whom record has been found were Captain John Hull, coiner of the Pine Tree Shilling, mint-master of Massachusetts, and merchant prince, and his partner, Robert Sanderson, both of Boston, and working in the middle of the seventeenth century.

They were succeeded by men who were also past masters of the craft, such as David Jesse, who is thought to have been born in Hartford; Jeremiah Dummer; John Coney; John Dixwell, son of the regicide of that name who resided in New Haven for so many years; the Edwardses; Edward Winslow; William Cowell; the three Burts; the Hurds; and last, but not least of this very incomplete list, Paul Revere, father and son, the last the hero of Longfellow's famous poem.

These men were craftsmen of the greatest skill, and the many examples of their work still extant show that they upheld the standards and traditions of their trade in a manner worthy of the highest praise.

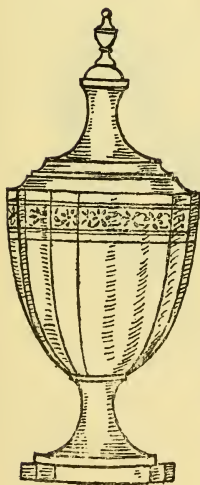
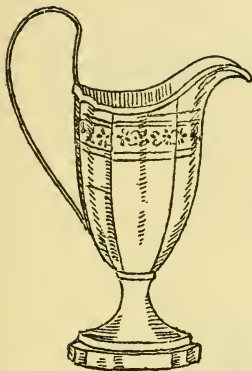
The work of a number is to be found in

## Later Eighteenth Century Type

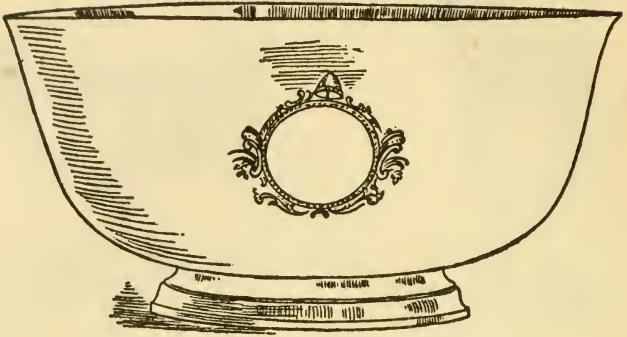


This and the following page illustrate a tea service of the urn type, popular at the end of the 18th century

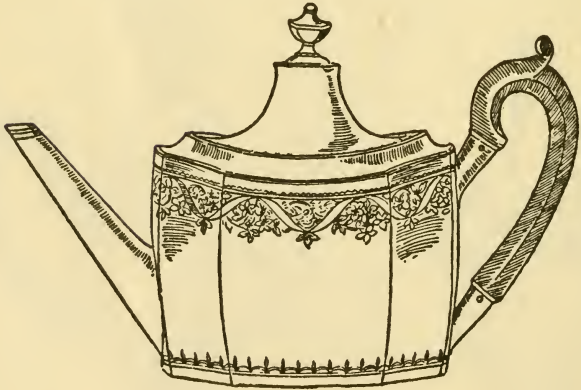
Later Eighteenth Century Type



Later Eighteenth Century Types



Punch Bowl by Paul Revere



Tea Pot made about 1795

Connecticut to-day, particularly in the churches. In fact, a considerable part of the early communion silver in this State was made by Boston silversmiths.

Jeremiah Dummer (1645-1718) is represented by thirteen silver vessels in our churches, one more than John Dixwell has to his credit, although the latter was born in New Haven, and must have known many men in the Colony.

But Dummer is of interest to us in another way. When the government of Connecticut decided in 1709 to issue paper currency, or Bills of Exchange, the agents of the Colony apparently selected him to do the mechanical part of the work; that is, the engraving of the plates and the printing of the bills.

Journals of the Council for 1710 show transactions with Dummer relating to this currency, and in 1712 Governor Saltonstall laid before the Council Board the bill of Jeremiah Dummer for printing 6,550 sheets of this paper currency.

The inference seems clear that Dummer not only printed, but engraved, the first paper currency of Connecticut. His one-

time apprentice, John Coney, had the distinction of engraving the plates for the first paper money issued by Massachusetts some years previously, the first issued on this continent.

Part of the trade of a silversmith was to engrave on the metal coats-of-arms, ornamentations, or the initials of the owners, and, of course, the transition to engraving on copper was easy and natural. Several of the early engravers did their first work on silver, Paul Revere and our own Amos Doolittle among the number.

The early church silver is of very great interest not only on account of its beauty and quaintness, but also because of its association and history. Nothing else brings us into such intimate touch with the life of our forefathers. Generation after generation of the sturdy Connecticut stock have hallowed it by the most religious act of their lives.

The beakers, caudle-cups, and tankards were frequently in domestic use before they were presented to the churches, the offering of devout Christian men and women. This plate is nearly all in precisely the same con-



dition as when first dedicated to God's service.

Too many of our churches have banished these sacred memorials to safety deposit vaults in our cities and to boxes and baskets stored in attics in our country districts. The substitution of the individual cups is, of course, the cause of this change.

Would it not be most fitting if these discarded memorials were deposited in some central place where the protection would be ample, and yet where their historical and religious significance would not be hidden and their beauty and workmanship could be studied and admired?

While not so likely, when silver is stored in a safety deposit vault in the name of a church, there is always, when placed in the custody of an individual, the danger not only of fire and burglary, but that it may be utterly forgotten, and thus, through carelessness or dishonesty, finally drift into alien hands and be lost to the church forever. The silver of more than one Connecticut church has been destroyed by fire, and in one case the writer's visit resulted in the locating of church silver that had

been completely forgotten. Fifty-seven Connecticut churches still preserve their ancient silver. Much of it is of great historical interest, and some of it of very great beauty.

The oldest piece of communion plate in this State belongs to the Congregational Church in Guilford. It is a quaint old beaker with flaring lip, and is marked in pounced engraving "H. K." on the side. It was the gift of Henry Kingsnorth, one of the first settlers of that town and a man of substance and worth. He died at the age of fifty in 1668 during the great sickness, as it was called, and his will reads:

"I give and bequeath unto y<sup>e</sup> church here fifteen pounds to buy any such utensils for the sacrament withall as they shall see cause." The beaker was made by William Rouse, of Boston, a contemporary of Captain John Hull, the mint-master.

One of the beakers belonging to the Congregational Church in Groton bears the engraved inscription, "The Gift of S<sup>r</sup> John Davie to the Chh. of Christ at Groton." It was made by Samuel Vernon, a silversmith of Newport, R. I. The story of the

Earliest Piece of Church Plate in  
Connecticut



Beaker belonging to Congregational Church, Guilford. Presented by Henry Kingsnorth, 1668. Made by William Rouse of Boston. Height  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches



beaker is this: John, who was a son of Humphrey Davie, of Hartford, and cousin of Sir William Davie, of Creedy in Devon, England, graduated at Harvard in 1681, and became one of the first settlers of Groton and its first town clerk. In 1707 his cousin, Sir William, died without male issue, and John of Groton succeeded to the baronetcy. Barefooted and in his shirt-sleeves, he was hoeing corn on his farm when the messenger arrived to tell him of his good fortune and to salute him as Sir John Davie. He soon left for England, and the beaker was his parting gift.

Belonging to the ancient Congregational Society of Norwichtown is a two-handled cup made by John Dixwell, and bearing the inscription in quaintly engraved letters, "The Gift of Sarah Knight to the Chh. of Christ in Norwich, April 20, 1722." She was Madam Knight, who wrote a diary of her trip from Boston to New York in 1704. For a number of years she was a resident of Norwich, and lies buried in the old graveyard in New London.

There are sixteen silver beakers owned by the First Congregational Church, New

London, and two of them bear the inscription, "The Gift of the Owners of the Ship Adventure of London, 1699." They were made by two Boston silversmiths working in partnership, John Edwards and John Allen. A ship named "Adventure" and built in London was owned at that time by Adam Pickett and Christopher Christophers, of New London. It does not seem a wild flight of the imagination to conjecture that these beakers were presented to the church as a thank-offering either for a profitable mercantile venture or for a fortunate escape from some harrowing experience at sea.

In 1725 Governor Gurdon Saltonstall gave by will a silver tankard to this church, and in 1726 his widow made a like gift. In 1793 the church by vote had these two vessels made into three beakers by J. P. Trott, a New London silversmith, but care was used to preserve the old inscriptions.

The Congregational Church at North Haven owns a large baptismal basin on which is inscribed, "The Gift of the Rev. Ezra Stiles, D.D., LL.D., President Yale College, to the Congregational Church in

North Haven, 1794." He was one of the most distinguished men of his time, and a native of North Haven.

There was a time when the First Congregational Church, Hartford, could boast of an array of plate made by these early silversmiths. This fact is revealed by the ancient Court of Probate records. In the early part of the last century a pinch of poverty was felt, or else it was thought that the style of these vessels was too old-fashioned. Whatever the cause, the plate was sold.

In the collection was a fine old mug made by William Cowell, of Boston, and presented by Mrs. Abigail, the wife of Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, pastor of the church from 1683 to 1732. On the mug is the inscription, "Ex dono A. W. to the First Church of Christ in Hartford, 1727."

In 1883 William R. Cone, of Hartford, found the mug in the possession of J. K. Bradford, of Peru, Ill., whose grandfather, Dr. Jeremiah Bradford, had bought it of the church in 1803 for \$15. Mr. Cone was able to buy it for \$75, and re-presented it to the church.

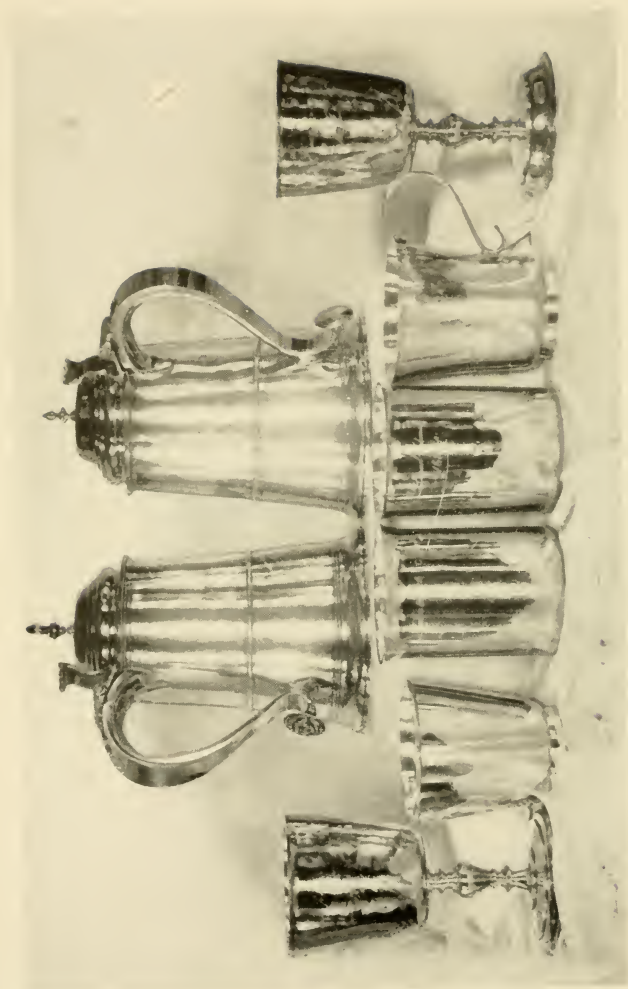
In 1840 the Second Congregational Church, Hartford, procured a new communion service, made from its ancient silver, melted down. The old inscriptions were faithfully copied, and tell of the following gifts: a tankard, given by John Ellery in 1746; two cups, engraved "The Dying Gift of Mr. Richard Lord to the Second Church of Christ in Hartford"; two cups, engraved "The Gift of J. R. to the South Church in Hartford"; and two cups, engraved "S. C." The church now owns only one piece of ancient silver, a beautiful tankard given by William Stanley in 1787.

Hartford is not the only town which has lost its ancient church silver. The Congregational Church in Saybrook sold its plate in 1815 (but fortunately it is still in existence), and the Congregational Church in Wallingford remodeled its ancient plate in 1849, in a style popular at that period, while the Congregational Churches in Wethersfield and Cheshire lost their communion silver by fire a number of years ago. The East Hartford Church plate nearly met a like fate only a few months ago.

The Congregational Church in South







Communion Vessels belonging to First Congregational Church, Fairfield

Windsor owns two beautiful beakers made by John Potwine, a silversmith of that vicinity, and presented by Governor Roger Wolcott in 1756.

The Congregational Church in Fairfield has a beautiful collection of plate: two handsome tankards, dated 1753 and 1757; two fine chalices presented by Captain John Silliman in 1752; three beakers and a cup with a handle. On Saturday evening, May 1, 1779, this silver was in the home of a deacon, General Silliman, and for convenience it had been placed in a corner of his bedroom. That night a company of British soldiers landed on the shore of Fairfield, and stealthily made their way to the good deacon's home, and made him a prisoner. The noise of the entering soldiers awakened Mrs. Silliman, who hastily threw some bed-clothes over the silver and, although the house was ransacked, the communion plate was not discovered.

The First Congregational Church, Bridgeport, has a large collection of ancient silver; but its most noteworthy piece is a tankard made about 1738 by Peter Van Dyke, of

New York. It is a small one, only six inches high, and has been disfigured by the addition of a spout in modern times; but the ornamentation on the handle in most elaborate arabesque scrolls and masks, and around the base in acanthus foliage, is the most beautiful ornamentation that has been found on any ancient silver in America.

One of the most interesting collections of communion silver in the State belongs to the Centre Congregational Church, New Haven. It consists of thirteen beautiful caudle-cups and a large baptismal basin.

The latter was made by Kneeland, of Boston, and was presented to the church by the will of Jeremiah Atwater in 1735. Its history is quite interesting.

Early in the eighteenth century Mr. Atwater, a wealthy merchant, made a purchase in Boston of a cargo of nails. In one of the kegs, beneath a layer of nails, he found a quantity of silver money. He wrote to the Boston merchant, and told him of the money found in the keg, and asked how it could be returned to its rightful owner. The reply stated that the keg was bought for nails and sold for nails, and



Baptismal Basin and the oldest of the Caudle Cups belonging to Center Congregational Church, New Haven



had passed through many hands, and it would be impossible to trace the original owner, and that Mr. Atwater must dispose of the money as he saw fit. He finally concluded that he would give the money to the church, and had it wrought into a baptismal basin. This was the traditional story as told to Dr. Leonard Bacon by the two eldest children of a Jeremiah Atwater, who was a nephew of the original Jeremiah. On the following facts we can absolutely rely. Mr. Atwater made his will in 1732, and died the same year. The will says, "I give and bequeath unto the First Church of Christ in New Haven the sum of fifty pounds to be improved for plate or otherwise, as the pastor and deacons shall direct." This story in full was told by Dr. Bacon in the *Journal and Courier*, July 15, 1853.

During the British invasion of New Haven in 1779, all the communion silver was hidden in a chimney in the house of Deacon Stephen Ball at the corner of Chapel and High Streets, where Yale Art School now stands.

In the Congregational Church, Columbia,

is a beaker presented by Captain Samuel Buckingham in 1756. When the centenary of the founding of Dartmouth College was observed a few years ago, this beaker was taken to Hanover for the occasion because of its intimate association with Dr. Eleazer Wheelock.

When Canterbury was settled about 1690, a number of the pioneers were from Barnstable. The interest of the older town apparently did not wane, for by the church records we find that in 1716 the church in Barnstable presented to its daughter more than two pounds sterling, which was invested in a silver beaker still in use in the Canterbury Church, and inscribed, "The Gift of Barnstable Church, 1716."

Belonging to the Congregational Church, Windham, are three ancient silver beakers, inscribed, "John Cates legacy to the Church in Windham."

Cates was a mysterious individual, and probably the earliest settler in Windham. Barber, in his Historical Collections, says he served in the wars in England, holding a commission under Cromwell. On the restoration of Charles II. to the throne,







Plate belonging to Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown.  
Cup made by John Gardiner. Height  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches. Patent  
made by an unknown maker. Mark: J. Gardner in rectangle



Beakers made by John Potwine and presented to East Windsor  
Church by Gov. Roger Wolcott in 1756. Height  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches  
Mark: I. Potwine (script) in cartouche

Cates fled to this country for safety, and, in order to avoid his pursuers, finally settled in the wilderness of what is now Windham. He died there in 1697.

Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, possesses two ancient and interesting pieces of communion silver: a beautiful cup or chalice, made by John Gardiner, a silversmith of New London, and a paten.

The tradition is that they were originally owned by Rt. Rev. Samuel Seabury, first bishop of Connecticut, and presented by him respectively to St. James Church, New London, and Calvary Church, Stonington. Around the chalice runs the inscription, "Given by Dr. Yeldall towards making this chalice 4 oz. 7 dwts. 1773." Who Dr. Yeldall was, is not known, but in an advertisement in a New London newspaper in 1775 it is stated, "Dr. Yeldall's medicines may be had of Joseph Knight, Post Rider." Presumably, therefore, he was well known in that vicinity.

Some fifty years ago, at Bishop Williams's request, these memorials of Bishop Seabury were presented to the Divinity School.

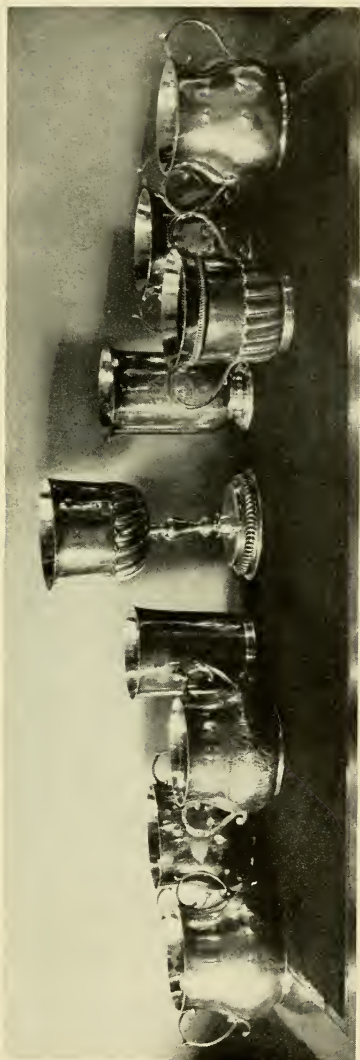
This brief account of the ancient silver

belonging to the churches of Connecticut by no means exhausts the subject, either historically or from other points of view.

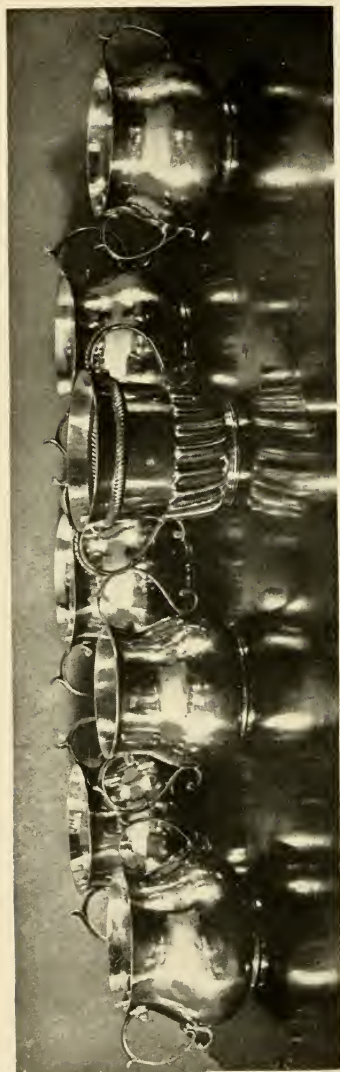
One might continue describing in detail the display of ten beakers and massive baptismal basin belonging to the First Church in Middletown, the fine array belonging to the Congregational Church in Stratford, and the seven very ancient and beautiful caudle-cups owned by the old church in Farmington. Not less worthy of mention is the silver of the First Church in Milford (two of the pieces having been made by a Connecticut silversmith), and the fine silver of quaint design belonging to the Congregational Church in Guilford.

The United Church and Trinity Church, New Haven; St. John's Church, Stamford; The Congregational Church, Durham; Center Church, Meriden; First Congregational Church, Derby; Congregational Church, North Haven; and many others,—have beautiful collections of silver of great interest, most of it made by the silversmiths of Connecticut.

In private hands, among the old families of the State, a considerable quantity of old



Communion Vessels belonging to Congregational Church, Stratford



Caudle Cups belonging to Congregational Church, Farmington

plate remains, but the great bulk of it has disappeared forever,—most of it consigned to the melting-pot, to issue thence in modern forms of nondescript styles or no style at all. The temperance movement in the early part of the last century is responsible for the disappearance of quantities of old plate. Many of the old porringers, tankards, beakers, mugs, and cans were transformed into spoons and forks by our local craftsmen, of whom Hartford and New Haven had so many.

What stories of this iconoclasm could have been told by Beach, Ward, Sargeant, Pitkin, and Rogers, of Hartford, and Merri-man, Chittenden, and Bradley, of New Haven!

Indeed, one begins to believe that every town of any importance in this State had its local spoon-maker, whose trade was nearly as familiar to the inhabitants as that of the village blacksmith.

But, of all causes for the disappearance of old plate, none was equal to the feeling that the good old silver utensils of the forefathers were old-fashioned. It is the same subtle influence which banished to

garrets and outhouses the beautiful furniture of the same period, and gave us in exchange the Empire styles and the mid-century products of the so-called furniture butchers.

It is surprising to find what quantities of plate were owned by some of the rich men of the Colony. To give a few illustrations: Rev. Samuel Whittlesey, of Wallingford, who died in 1752, had silver to the amount of 108 ounces, consisting of tankards, porringers, beakers, salt-cellars, spoons, etc.

Captain Joseph Trowbridge, of New Haven, who died in 1765, owned 234 ounces of plate.

In March, 1774, the home of Hon. Thaddeus Burr, of Fairfield, was entered by burglars, and plate was taken which must have amounted to several hundred ounces. In a list published in a newspaper at the time are such articles as chafing-dishes, teapots, porringers, tankards, silver-hilted sword, beakers, cans, sugar-dish, and spoons *ad libitum*.

Governor Theophilus Eaton, who died in 1657, left plate valued at 107 pounds sterling.



The greater part of the early domestic silver found in Connecticut was made by the silversmiths of Boston, New York, and Newport. This was but natural, for Connecticut had no large commercial ports where merchants grew rich through foreign trade and accumulated wealth in sufficient quantities to invest very large sums in the productions of the silversmith's art.

In one respect the conditions in Connecticut one hundred and fifty years ago were much like those of to-day. If a man of wealth desired to purchase an article of exceptional quality and worth, he was quite likely to patronize the merchants and craftsmen of those far-away cities, Boston and New York, where styles were sure to be of the latest fashion and workmanship of unusual merit, while a man of slender resources naturally depended on near-by shopkeepers and artisans.

However, Connecticut had many silversmiths, and a number of them did most creditable work when their services were demanded, although, owing to the influence just stated, their products seem to have been distributed almost wholly in their own

localities,—one might indeed say among their fellow-townsmen.

One never finds in Hartford the work of a New Haven smith, or in New Haven the product of a man who was working in New London, except when recent migration has carried the ware from home.

As a result, these silversmiths, in order to eke out a living in communities that were not lavish in accumulating their work, were obliged to turn their attention to various other trades. Some were clock and cabinet makers; others were blacksmiths and innkeepers; and others, to use a homely phrase, were jacks-of-all-trades.

Many of them advertised extensively in the weekly press, and these appeals for custom vividly illuminate the social and domestic demands and requirements of their patrons, and present striking pictures of the times.

The earliest silversmith of Connecticut of whom record has been found was Job Prince, of Milford. Very little relating to him has been discovered. Apparently, he was born in Hull, Mass., in 1680. He died evidently in 1703, for the inventory

Work of Cornelius Kierstead



Baptismal Basin and two-handled Beaker belonging to First  
Congregational Church, Milford. Made by Cornelius Kierstead.  
Diameter of basin 10 inches. Height of beaker  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches  
Mark: C. K. in rectangle



Cup made by René Grignon. Height  $2\frac{5}{16}$  inches.  
Owned by Mrs. Carl J. Viets, New London. Mark  
R. G. crowned, stag passant below, in a  
shaped shield

of his estate is on file in the Probate Court, New Haven, dated January 24, 1703-04. It includes a set of silversmith's tools, a pair of small bellows, a pair of silver buckles, tobacco-box, tankard, porringer, and six spoons. The Princes were evidently a seafaring family, and even Job owned a Gunter's scale and a book on practical navigation.

The next silversmith in Connecticut was René Grignon, a Huguenot, who had lived in various parts of New England and finally settled in Norwich about 1708, for in that year he presented a bell to the First Church there. He attained considerable importance during his brief residence, and, judging by the two pieces of silver still extant, which it is safe to ascribe to him, was an expert craftsman. He stamped his work with the letters "R. G.," crowned, a stag (?) passant below, in a shaped shield.

He died in 1715, and his inventory contained the usual stock in trade of a gold and silver smith. His tools he left to his apprentice, Daniel Deshon, who was afterwards a silversmith in New London and ancestor of the family of that name once quite prominent in that town.

Grignon did a considerable business, for debts were due his estate from persons in Windham, Colchester, Lebanon, New London, and Derby.

Next in chronological order was Cornelius Kierstead, a Dutchman by descent, baptized in New York in 1675. He followed his trade in that city until about 1722, when he appeared in New Haven with two other New York men and leased land in Mount Carmel and in Wallingford for the purpose of mining copper. They were not the first men to search for the red metal in that region, for Governor Jonathan Belcher and other Boston men had sunk thousands of pounds in copper mines in Wallingford, and the net results or profits, so far as can be learned, were the holes in the ground.

It is perhaps needless to say that Kierstead's venture was not successful, but the incident apparently settled him as a permanent resident of New Haven. On the map of New Haven, dated 1724, his home is indicated as on the west side of Church Street, a short distance below Wall Street, and just north of the home of Moses Mans-





Basin, diameter  $13\frac{3}{8}$  inches, owned by New South Church, Boston. Rapier, length  $33\frac{1}{4}$  inches, once probably the property of Gov. Roger Wolcott, now owned by H. W. Erving, Hartford. Flagon, height  $13\frac{5}{8}$  inches, owned by First Parish Church, Charlestown, Mass. Tankard, height  $7\frac{7}{8}$  inches, owned by Second Church, Boston. Teapot, height  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches, owned by Winthrop Sargent. Can on right, height  $6\frac{7}{8}$  inches, owned by Alfred Bowditch. Mark: J. Potwine (script) in cartouche. Illustrated by courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



field, the school-teacher, whose father-in-law he was. He was still living in New Haven in 1753, for in that year the selectmen placed him in charge of a conservator, giving as a reason that, "on account of his advanced age and infirmities, he is become impotent and unable to take care of himself."

In a few Connecticut churches we find examples of his work: a caudle-cup in the Congregational Church, North Haven; a baptismal basin and a two-handled beaker in the First Congregational Church, Milford; and a tankard belonging to Trinity Church, New Haven. There are also two other pieces extant made by Kierstead,—a fine punch-bowl and a large candlestick. He was certainly a most skilful craftsman.

The next to record is John Potwine, who was born in Boston in 1698, and followed his trade there until about 1737, when he moved to Hartford. For a time he seems to have continued as a silversmith, for three beakers made by him are owned by the Congregational Church, Durham, and two by the church in South Windsor. A fine silver-hilted sword is owned in Hart-

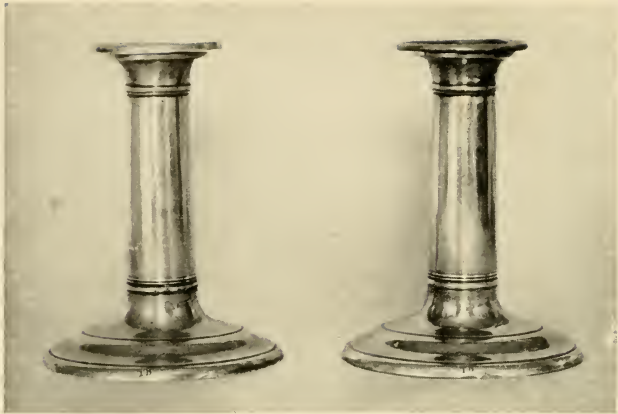
ford, which was doubtless made by him, and probably once belonged to Governor Wolcott. In the recent silver exhibition held in Boston were several examples of his work, which prove that he was a silversmith of very high order.

He was apparently for a while in partnership in Hartford with a man named Whiting, and later was a merchant in Coventry and East Windsor, dying in the latter place in 1792.

Shortly after Potwine's advent appeared another silversmith, not of Connecticut lineage,—Pierre, or Peter, Quintard, who was of Huguenot extraction and was born in 1700. He was registered as a silversmith in New York in 1731, but in 1737 moved to what is now South Norwalk and there passed the rest of his life, dying in 1762. There is a caudle-cup made by him belonging to the Congregational Church, Stamford; and in the Metropolitan Museum, New York, are two fine beakers bearing his mark. His inventory shows that he also made gold and silver jewelry, rings, beads, and knee and shoe buckles.

New Haven, the richest town in the Col-





Made by Timothy Bontecou. Height  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Owned by Mrs. Oliver Swan, Meriden. Mark: T. B. incised



Plate of the First Congregational Church, Derby  
 Flagon, height  $17\frac{3}{10}$  inches. Made by Ebenezer Chittenden.  
 Chalices, height  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches. Made by Miles Gorham, 1804  
 Marks } E. Chittenden in rectangle  
       } M. G. in rectangle

ony, was evidently quite a centre of silver-smithing. The map of 1748 shows that Timothy Bontecou, also of Huguenot descent, was located on the west side of Fleet Street, which ran from State Street to the wharf. He was born in New York in<sup>1693</sup>, but learned his trade in France, and was certainly living in New Haven as early as 1735. He was the victim of an outrage by a mob of British soldiers at the time of the invasion in 1779, and died in 1784.

From 1770 to 1800 the junction of Church and Chapel Streets was a favorite stand for silversmiths. On the southwest corner were located the following men in the order named: Captain Robert Fairchild, Abel Buel, and Ebenezer Chittenden.

Captain Fairchild was born in Stratford in 1703. Shortly afterwards the family moved to Durham, and there the young man first followed his trade. He became prominent, representing the town in the General Assembly from 1739 to 1745; was an auditor of the Colony in 1740 and received the title of captain in 1745. He removed to Stratford about 1747, and in 1772 to New Haven, and, when a very old

man, to New York. It is probable that, while in Stratford, John Benjamin was his apprentice. He was certainly a silversmith, but only one or two pieces of his silver-work are known to be in existence. It is said that he made the brass weathercock still capping the spire of the Episcopal Church, which was used as a target by a battalion of British soldiers quartered in Stratford during the winter of 1757-58.

Captain Fairchild was an excellent silversmith, and a number of pieces of his work are still in existence, including two tankards, several beakers, an alms-basin, two braziers, and many spoons. While located at the corner of Church and Chapel Streets, New Haven, on land leased of Trinity Church, he must have been quite active in his trade. We find him advertising in April, 1774, that "he carries on the goldsmith's and jeweller's business at his shop adjoining his house near the south-east corner of the green, where he will do all sorts of large work, such as making of tankards, cans, porringers, tea-pots, coffee-pots, and other kinds of work. Those who please to favor him with their custom may depend on having

their work well done and on reasonable terms.”

In 1779, to vary the monotony of trade, he advertises a few hogsheads of choice West India rum for cash, and in 1784 he tells us that he has opened a house of entertainment, and has provided a new and convenient stable. The same newspaper announces, under date of November 26, 1794, that Captain Robert Fairchild, late of this city, has just died in New York.

His next-door neighbor on the west, and separated from him by a narrow lane now known as Gregson Street, was Abel Buel. He was a man of singular versatility and inventive genius. He was born in 1742 in that part of Killingworth now known as Clinton. He learned the silversmith's trade of Ebenezer Chittenden in East Guilford, now Madison.

Before he had attained his majority, he was convicted of counterfeiting, and confined in New London jail. On account of his youth he was soon released, but to the day of his death he bore the scars of cropped ear and branded forehead.

Like other Connecticut silversmiths, his

activities were not confined to his trade. He must have moved to New Haven about 1770, and he was soon appealing for custom in the local press. He had already invented a machine for grinding and polishing precious stones, which had attracted considerable attention, and in recognition of this service his civil disabilities were removed by the General Assembly. In his shop, the old Sandemanian meeting-house, he had established a type foundry, for which he received a grant from the General Assembly.

In 1775 he was in some trouble with the Rivingtons, printers of New York, and had apparently absconded; but he soon returned and again made his appeals to the public. In 1778 he established a public vendue. In 1784 he advertised his map of the United States, which, he said, is the first engraved by one man in America. His advertisement of 1796, perhaps better than any other, gives an idea of his activities:

“Mariners’ and surveyors’ compasses and other instruments cleaned and rectified, engraving, seal and die sinking, seal presses, enameled hair worked mourning rings and



lockets, fashionable gold rings, earrings and beads, silver, silver plated, gilt and polished steel buttons, button and other casting moulds, plating mills, printers blacks, coach and sign painting, gilding and varnishing, patterns and models of any sort of cast work; mills and working models for grinding paints as used in Europe; working models of canal locks, drawings on parchment, paper, silk, etc., by Abel Buel, College Street, New Haven, where there is a decent furnished front chamber to let by the week."

The same year he advertised that "he has on exhibition the wonderful negro who is turning white," the authenticity of which phenomenon was vouched for by no less a person than Timothy Dwight, President of Yale College. In 1798 he advertised a useful machine for planting onions and corn which he had invented. In 1795 he established a cotton manufactory, which President Ezra Stiles, of Yale, stated in his diary would prove a success.

He was the coiner of the first authorized Connecticut coppers, produced in a machine of his own invention. His roving

disposition carried him to various parts of the world, and, like other rolling-stones, he gathered no moss, but died in great poverty about 1825.

There are still extant various pieces of silver made by Buel, notably four two-handled cups belonging to the Congregational Church, North Haven.

The following story, gathered from the Colonial Records of Connecticut, shows that he did important work and was considered a skilled silversmith:

In 1771 the General Assembly, desiring to show its grateful sense of the many important services rendered by Richard Jackson, Esq., of London, who for some time had acted as the agent of the Colony at the Court of Great Britain, manifested its appreciation by adopting a vote of thanks, and appropriating a sum not to exceed £250 to procure some proper and elegant piece or pieces of plate to be presented to him. It was to be engraved with the arms of the Colony, and inscribed with some proper motto expressive of respect.

The commission for this work was given to Abel Buel, and he forthwith began to

fashion the plate; but some months later, because of the certainty that there would be large duties to pay when the plate entered England and the fear that Buel would not be able to complete the work in time, the commission was withdrawn from him and given to a silversmith in England.

Just west of Buel's stand were the house and shop of Ebenezer Chittenden. He was born in Madison in 1726, and for a number of years worked at his trade in that place, removing to New Haven about 1770, possibly in company with his son-in-law and apprentice, Abel Buel.

Thirteen beakers, and a flagon  $17\frac{1}{4}$  inches high, made by him, have been located in Connecticut churches. He was a man of excellent connections. His mother was a sister of Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson, of Stratford, father of Episcopacy in Connecticut, as he is called, and first president of King's College, now Columbia University, New York, and his brother Thomas was the first governor of Vermont. He was quite intimately associated as a skilled mechanic and friend with Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton-gin, and for many years

he was either warden or vestryman of Trinity Church, New Haven. He died in 1812.

On the other side of Church Street from Robert Fairchild was located the silversmith shop of Richard Cutler, while on Court Street were the home and shop of Captain Phineas Bradley, who was a skilled workman and saw service in the Revolution. His brother, Colonel Aner Bradley, was also a silversmith. He was born in New Haven in 1753, learned his trade there, and served in the Revolutionary War at Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and was wounded in the Danbury raid, 1777. He retired as colonel of militia. After the war he settled in Watertown and followed his trade until his death in 1824.

Marcus Merriman, who was born in Cheshire in 1762, came to New Haven when a boy. He saw naval and military service in the Revolution, part of the time in the company of Captain Bradley.

His first advertisement appeared in 1787, and thereafter he was constantly asking for custom. He apparently did a large business for the times in his shop on State Street.

Thirteen of his beakers and a caudle-cup have been found in Connecticut churches, and his spoons are not uncommon in New Haven County. It is probable that he produced more silver than any other early Connecticut silversmith. He died in 1850.

Amos Doolittle, born in Cheshire in 1754, certainly began his business career as a silversmith, having learned his trade of Eliakim Hitchcock, of that place. He advertised several times that he worked in silver, but the greater number of his announcements had relation to engraving, and are of interest. He successively advised the public that he has published a mezzotint of the Hon. John Hancock in colors; Mr. Law's Collection of Music; that he does printing on calico; that he engraves ciphers, coats-of-arms, and devices for books, or book-plates, and maps, plans, and charts; that he has published the Chorister's Companion, and that he does painting and gilding; and in 1790 that he is publishing an elegant print of Federal Hall, the seat of Congress, with a view of the Chancellor of State administering the

oath of office to the President. He died in 1832.

Other silversmiths of the period in New Haven might be mentioned, such as John and Miles Gorham, Charles Hequemburg, and Samuel Merriman, who all did creditable work.

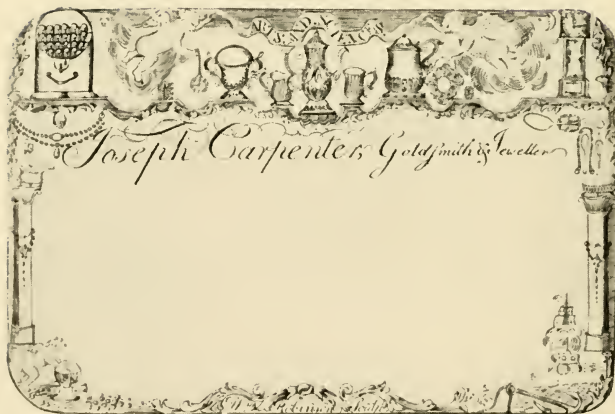
In Hartford, after Potwine's day, perhaps the most skilled craftsman was Colonel Miles Beach, who was born in Goshen in 1742, and followed his trade in Litchfield until 1785, when he moved to Hartford and opened a shop about ten rods south of the bridge on Main Street. His first partner was Isaac Sanford, and later he was in business with his former apprentice, James Ward. Spoons bearing his mark are found in Hartford and vicinity, and there are four interesting chalices, made by him in 1794, belonging to the Congregational Church in Kensington, Berlin. He saw active service in the Revolution, and he was chief engineer of the Hartford Fire Department from its organization in 1789 to 1805. He died in 1828.

James Ward, just mentioned, was one of a family of silversmiths. His father,





Business Card of Beach & Ward.  
Found in the back of an old watch



Card of Joseph Carpenter



brother, and probably grandfather, all followed the trade in Guilford. He was born in Guilford in 1768 and, as already stated, was apprenticed to Colonel Beach. After the firm of Beach & Ward was dissolved in 1798, Ward for a time continued alone at a shop about ten rods north of the bridge at the "Sign of the Golden Kettle." A number of silver pieces made by him have been found in Connecticut churches, as well as spoons in private hands. He was a good craftsman and, like other Connecticut smiths, did not strictly confine himself to his trade, for we later find him making and dealing in pewter worms for stills, dyer's, hatter's, and kitchen coppers, and various sorts of brass and copper goods, and casting church bells. He became quite prominent and influential in Hartford, and died in 1856.

No early Hartford silversmith ever used the advertising columns of the local press to a greater extent than did James Tiley, born in 1740. His first announcement was in 1765, which states that "he still does gold and silversmith's work at his shop on King Street, Hartford." This was the old name for State Street. Another notice says that

his shop was a little east of the Court-house on the street leading to the ferry. When the brick school-house which stood on the site of the present American Hotel in State Street was blown up by a gunpowder explosion in May, 1766, Tiley was among the number of those seriously injured. For many years he pursued his calling until financial difficulties overtook him in 1785. Later he advertised that he had opened a house of entertainment in Front Street at the sign of the "Free Mason's Arms." He was a charter member of St. John's Lodge of Free Masons in 1763, and he was also a charter member of the Governor's Guard, now First Company of Governor's Foot-guard, at its organization in 1771. He died in the South in 1792.

Next door to Tiley in 1774 was Thomas Hildrup, watch-maker, jeweler, and silversmith, from London, whose motive it was to "settle in Hartford if health permits and the business answers." He therefore requested the candid public to make a trial of his abilities, assuring them he was regularly bred to the finishing branch in London. He later returns his unfeigned thanks to

those who favored him with their custom or interest since his commencing business here, their favors having exceeded his most sanguine expectations. Somewhat later his shop was situated south of the Court-house at the sign of the "Taylor's Shears."

In 1777 he was appointed postmaster and began a series of migrations to various locations. While occupying this position, it is related that Sheriff Williams drove up to the office one day and was informed that it had been removed. He replied, "Hilldrup moves so often he will have moved again before I get there."

Hilldrup was evidently blessed with a vein of humor. In one of his announcements he states "he has silver watches which will perform to a punctilio, and others that will go if carried, and he has a few watches on hand upwards of one year which he is willing to exchange with the owners for what the repairs amount to."

He died about 1794, and, judging by the amount of his inventory, he did not find later that the favors of a discriminating public exceeded his most sanguine expectations.

Other silversmiths of the period in Hartford were Ebenezer Austin, whose shop was on the west side of Main Street, a few doors south of Pearl Street; and Caleb Bull and Norman Morrison, the latter a grandson of Dr. Norman Morrison. Bull and Morrison worked in partnership, although one suspects Morrison was the silversmith of the firm. He was reared in the family of Captain Tiley. He was lost at sea in 1783, and shortly after Caleb Bull, who had married his widow, advertised the silversmith's tools for sale, and says they are the most complete in the State. Captain Bull was a member of Hartford's first City Council, and was one of the first board of directors of the Hartford Bank.

At a somewhat later date Jacob Sargeant was working in a shop next door to the United States Hotel. His spoons are still found in Hartford County.

Middletown's earliest silversmith was apparently Timothy Ward, the son of Captain James, and born there in 1742. Little is known concerning him, and that little indicates that he was lost at sea in 1767 or '68. In November, 1766, he made a will in

which he says he is "bound on a long sea voyage, and may never see land again."

The Boston commissioners' records on July 10, 1767, announce the arrival of the sloop "Patty" from Connecticut, Peter Boyd, master, with Timothy Ward on board, a goldsmith from Middletown. Less than a year later, on May 2, 1768, his will was proved in court, and his inventory was filed, containing a list of silversmith's tools, which tell us that he was a craftsman of merit.

Apparently, the most skilful of Middletown's silversmiths was Major Jonathan Otis. He was born in Sandwich, Mass., in 1723, and began business in Newport, R.I., where he continued until 1778. As he was an ardent patriot, and the town was in the hands of the British at that time, he moved to Middletown, and died there in 1791. Eleven of his beakers and cups have been found in Connecticut churches,—six in Middletown, four in Suffield, and one in Durham.

Antipas Woodward, born in Waterbury in 1763, began business in Middletown in May, 1791, taking the shop under the printing-office vacated by Timothy Peck, an-

other smith, who was moving to Litchfield. Moses, the brother of Antipas Woodward, was running this printing-office overhead at that time; but the building was soon destroyed by fire, and Antipas then moved to the shop formerly occupied by Major Otis. He must have been an excellent silver-smith, judging from a fine porringer made by him which is owned in Boston.

Other smiths of the period were: Samuel Canfield (1780-1801), who also was sheriff, and whose shop in 1792 was ten rods south of the town-house, and in 1796 a few rods north of the printing-office. His one time apprentice, William Johonnot, whose shop was south of the corner of Court and Main Streets (perhaps the site now occupied by the Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank), opposite Mrs. Bigelow's tavern, and who about 1792 moved to Vermont.

Joseph King, whose shop in 1776 was at the northwest corner of Main Street and Henshaw Lane, now known as College Street. Apparently, his business was not a profitable one, for it devolved on Samuel Canfield, in his official position as sheriff, to make a number of calls on his brother

craftsman during a period of years which must have been unhappy ones for Joseph.

In November, 1785, David Aird, with true British pride, announced in the local press that he was a watchmaker from London, and that he carried on the business in all its branches two doors north of the printing-office; whereupon Daniel Walworth, with due and becoming humility, informed the public that, while he was not from London, he was a goldsmith and brass-founder, and that he performed all kinds of gold, silver, copper, and brass work in a shop nearly opposite the printing-office.

About 1800, Judah Hart and Charles Brewer were working at the silversmith's business in a shop which stood at the northeast corner of Main and Court Streets. Two or three years later Hart moved to Norwich, and Brewer took as a partner Alexander Mann. In a year or two Mann left him, and began to manufacture guns. Brewer continued to do business at the same old stand, in later years as a jeweler only, and died in 1860. Spoons bearing his mark are common in Middlesex and New Haven Counties, and in the Congregational

Church in Durham are three beakers made by him and presented in 1821.

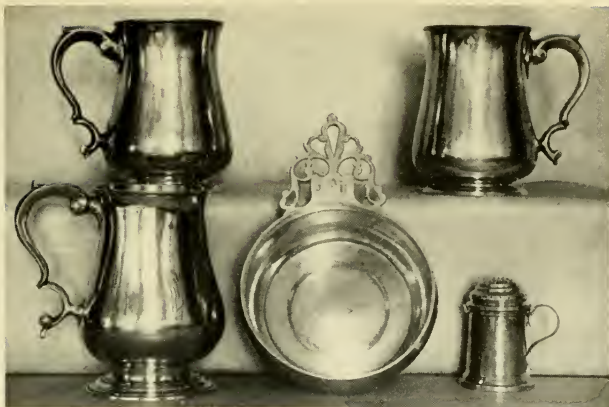
It has been stated that some of the Connecticut workmen turned their attention to various pursuits; in fact, were jacks-of-all-trades. Abel Buel has been cited in illustration of this statement, and the activities of Joel Allen, who was born in Southington in 1755, deserve equal prominence. He was a spoon-maker, engraver, brass-worker, carpenter, general storekeeper, and tinker, and yet he did excellent work. Opportunity has been given to examine his day book, running from 1787 to 1792.

In his shop he sold everything from pinch-beck \* jewelry to castor hats, including spelling-books, Bibles, dry goods, groceries, drugs, meats, and hardware. In 1790 he moved to Middletown, and began to engrave for the silversmiths, working principally for Samuel Canfield. In 1790 he rendered a bill to the Congregational Church in Middletown for taking down the organ, adjusting and mending the pipes, putting

\*Chr. Pinchbeck, London watchmaker, eighteenth century, invented an alloy of three or four parts of copper with one of zinc, much used in cheap jewelry.



Work of Connecticut Silversmiths



Two upper cans, height  $4\frac{7}{8}$  inches, made by Jonathan Otis.  
 Lower can, height  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, by S. Parmele; porringer,  
 diameter  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches, by J. Gardiner, and pepper box, height  
 3 inches, by J. Benjamin.

Marks { S. Parmele (script) in cartouche  
 J. Gardner in rectangle  
 Otis (script) in rectangle  
 I. B. in oval



Silver Belonging to Congregational Church, Guilford  
 Basin, diameter  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches; middle beaker, height  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches.  
 Made by Samuel Parmele. Former given by Mrs. Deborah  
 Spinning, 1768; the latter by Mrs. Ruth Naughty, 1773. The  
 end beakers, height  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Made by B. Benjamin and  
 given by Lydia Fowler, 1825

Marks { S. Parmele (script) in cartouche  
 B. Benjamin in rectangle



Chalices belonging to Congregational Church, Parish of Kensington, Town of Berlin. Made by Col. Miles Beach in 1793.  
Height  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches. Mark: Beach in rectangle

in new ones, mending the bellows, and charged £9 for all this work.

He engraved the map of Connecticut published by William Blodgett in 1792,—an excellent piece of work. He made book-plates, engraved seals and coats-of-arms; he painted and gilded chairs and mirrors; and, when Major Jonathan Otis, silversmith, died in 1791, he lettered his coffin. During this busy career he found time to make silver spoons and jewelry. He died in 1825.

Guilford was the home of two excellent silversmiths, Billious Ward and Captain Samuel Parmele.

Ward, the son of William Ward, who was probably a silversmith, was born in 1729. Two patens, five beakers, and a number of spoons have been found in Connecticut marked "B. W.," and doubtless made by him. He died in Wallingford in 1777 of small-pox, whither he had gone to visit his intimate friend, Rev. Samuel Andrews, rector of the Episcopal Church, who at that time was in dire disgrace, owing to his sympathies with the British side of the Revolutionary quarrel, and was confined to his own premises.

Captain Samuel Parmele, who received his title in 1775 and saw active service in the Revolution, was born in 1737. He was prominent in Guilford, and was an excellent workman. In the Congregational Church in that town are a baptismal basin and a beaker made by him, and spoons marked "S. P." and "S. Parmele" are not uncommon among the older families of that vicinity.

Norwich, which, as every one knows, was at an early date one of the most important and wealthy towns in the Colony, had a number of skilled smiths. Perhaps the most important was Thomas Harland, who was born in England in 1735 and came to Norwich in 1773, where he died in 1809.

In addition to the trade of silversmithing he was an expert watch and clock maker. In 1790 he had twelve workmen in his employ, his annual output being two hundred watches and forty clocks. He also produced quantities of jewelry, which is described in his advertisements as "Brilliant, garnet and plain gold rings, broaches, hair sprigs, ear jewels, and gold and silver

buttons." His assortment of plate consisted of "Tea pots, sugar baskets, creamieures, tea tongs and spoons."

Among his apprentices afterwards in business in Norwich were David Greenleaf, Nathaniel Shipman, and William Cleveland, grandfather of President Grover Cleveland. Eli Terry, inventor of the Connecticut shelf clock, also learned his trade of Harland, as did Daniel Burnap, the expert clock-maker and silversmith of East Windsor.

Joseph Carpenter, born in 1747, was another enterprising silversmith whose shop still stands fronting on the old town green. In it was lately found an engraved copper plate from which his business cards were printed.

His name is surrounded by a graceful grouping of silver tea-set, cake-basket, mug, spoons, tongs, buckles, watches, rings, a clock, and a knife-box, illustrating the articles in which he dealt. At the top appear the words "Arts and Sciences" on a ribbon scroll, while cherubs floating in clouds hover over these treasures.

Other silversmiths working in Norwich

were William Adgate, Samuel Noyes, Gurdon Tracy, Charles Whiting, Philip and Roswell Huntington in the eighteenth century, and Judah Hart and Alvan Willcox of the firm Hart & Willcox, Thomas C. Coit and Elisha H. Mansfield of firm Coit & Mansfield, and William Gurley in the early part of the nineteenth century.

New London, another enterprising and wealthy town, had its quota of silversmiths. Mention has already been made of Daniel Deshon (1697-1781).

John Gray (1692-1720) and Samuel Gray (1684-1713), both born in Boston, followed their trade in New London at an early date. Two interesting pieces made by the latter, a can and a snuff-box, were in the recent silver exhibition in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Captain Pygan Adams was the son of Rev. Eliphalet Adams, pastor of the Congregational Church, New London, succeeding the Hon. Gurdon Saltonstall when the latter became governor of Connecticut.

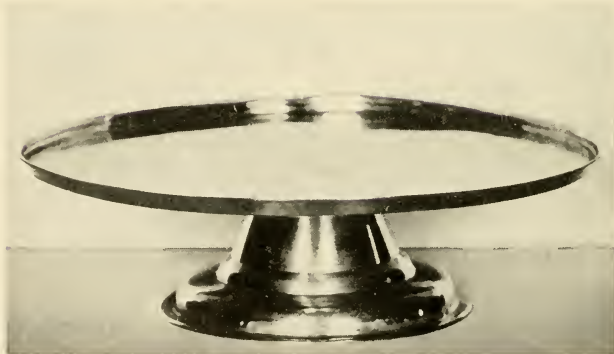
Captain Pygan (1712-1776) was a prominent man, and represented the town in the General Assembly at most of the sessions



Porringer with a cover, diameter  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Made by  
Thomas Harland; the property of Mrs. Thomas  
Harland, Norwich  
Mark: Harland in rectangle between profile and eagle  
displayed



In the successful siege of Louisbourg in the island of Cape Breton in 1745, Capt. Andrew Ward of Guilford commanded one of the Connecticut Companies. He was a teetotaler and instead of spending his grog money for rum, saved it, and when he returned to his home, had the money wrought into four spoons and his initials A. W. and Louisbourg engraved on the backs by his kinsman, Billious Ward. One of these spoons is shown in the accompanying illustration



Paten made by Billious Ward. Diameter  $8\frac{3}{4}$  inches, height 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Johnson crest engraved on the top. Owned by Mrs. Susan Johnson Hudson, Stratford, formerly owned by her ancestor, Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson, first President of Kings College, now Columbia University

Mark: B. W. in rectangle, engrailed at one end



from 1753 to 1765. He was appointed by the Assembly to many responsible positions, as auditor, overseer of the Mohegan Indians, and one of the builders of the lighthouse at New London in 1760. He was also deacon of his father's church. He is called a merchant in the History of New London; but his father, in a deed of gift to Pygan in 1736, calls him a goldsmith, and Joshua Hempstead in his diary has three entries which show that, when he needed anything in the goldsmith's line, he patronized Captain Pygan. In 1735 he bought of him a pair of gold sleeve-buttons, in 1738 some plated buttons, and in 1744 Pygan replaced the broken mainspring of his watch.

Additional evidence puts him in the class of the best silversmiths Connecticut has produced. In 1910 a fine porringer bearing the mark "P. A." was sold in Guilford. A rat-tailed spoon and tankard owned in Lyme, and several fine spoons owned on the eastern end of Long Island, are also so marked. No other known silversmith had these initials.

John Champlin (1745-1800) also worked

in New London, and evidently did a good business. In 1779 his shop was entered by burglars, and the list of stolen articles gives one an excellent idea of the contents of a gold and silversmith's shop of that period: "12 strings of gold beads; 40 pairs of silver shoe buckles and a parcel of silver knee buckles; 3 or 4 silver plated and pinchbeck knee buckles; 6 silver table spoons; 3 dozen tea spoons; 10 silver watches; a large quantity of watch chains, keys, main springs, stock buckles, stone rings, jewels, broaches, etc." On November 30, 1781, he notified his old customers and others that, since the destruction of his shop by the enemy,\* "he has erected a new one by his dwelling in Main Street."

John Hallam (1752-1800) was another enterprising silversmith. In 1773 he advertised, "At his shop near the signpost, makes and sells all kinds of goldsmiths and jewellers work as cheap as can be had in this Colony." He engraved the plates for the bills of credit issued by the Colony in 1775.

\*The burning of New London by a British force under command of Benedict Arnold.





Beaker, height  $3\frac{1}{16}$  inches, made by J. P. Trott, owned by  
Mrs. Carl J. Viets, New London  
Mark: J. P. T. in rectangle

His inventory on file in the Probate Court contained the following plate: two tankards, a can, a cup, two porringers, milk-pot, pepper-box, sugar-bowl, punch-ladle, and many spoons.

John Gardiner (1734-1776), one of the family associated with Gardiner's Island, who fashioned the beautiful chalice belonging to Berkeley Divinity School, must have been a smith of exceptional skill.

Jonathan Trott, a Boston silversmith, was a skilful craftsman, and in that town are still preserved a number of pieces of plate made by him. He went to Norwich in 1772, and there kept the Peck Tavern for a short time. He moved thence to New London, where he died in 1815. His two sons, Jonathan, Jr., and John Proctor, were also silversmiths, and there is in Lyme a tea-set of the style popular about 1810 marked "I. T.," and probably made by Jonathan, Jr. John Proctor did a large business for the times, and much plate, both hollow and flat, bears his trademark.

Belonging to the Congregational Church in Middlebury are two old cups, or beakers,

presented by Isaac Bronson and Josiah Bronson in the year 1800. They do not bear the marks of the maker.

These interesting vessels were probably made by some near-by silversmith, and the only man of that vicinity whose record makes it safe to assume that he was the craftsman in question is Israel Holmes, who was born in Greenwich in 1768, and came to Waterbury in 1793.

His house stood on the site of the present St. John's rectory. In 1802 he was engaged to go to South America by a silver mining company, and died on the voyage. His inventory, filed in August that year in the local Probate Court, contains a list of silversmith's tools, which shows that he was a smith of considerable practice and experience.

There ought to be many spoons in that vicinity made by Holmes. Joseph, Jesse, and Stephen Hopkins, and Edmund Tompkins at an earlier date than Holmes, were goldsmiths in Waterbury; but it is probable that their work was confined to the making of jewelry.

Joseph Hopkins's peculiar claim to dis-

tion was in the number of times his shop was visited by burglars. Five times between 1766 and 1772 was he the victim of these outrages, either because his stock was of more than ordinary value or because of the enmity of some neighbor, and in 1780 his shop was destroyed by an incendiary fire,—a record of misfortune unique among Connecticut silversmiths.

Although there is no evidence that many of Connecticut's silversmiths fashioned articles more pretentious than spoons, it was probably due not to lack of ability, but to absence of demand.

Captain Elias Pelletreau, of Southampton, L.I., was a smith of excellent reputation, who fashioned many pieces of plate. His day book shows that he was called on to produce tankards, porringers, tea-pots, silver-hilted swords; in fact, everything that a full purse could demand.

At the outbreak of the Revolution he removed to Simsbury, Conn., where he resided for a few years. An examination of his day book shows that not once was he called upon during that period to fashion hollow-ware plate. His work was con-

fined to spoons and the jewelry and trinkets in demand in that region.

This list of early Connecticut silversmiths is by no means complete. There were many others who did excellent and creditable work, and were successful and capable men; but a sufficient number have been mentioned to show that Connecticut has reason to be proud of the record, especially considering the limited field in which these men were obliged to work and the strong competition from larger and wealthier towns than were to be found in this Colony.

The question of high prices, about which we hear so much nowadays, was evidently as troublesome one hundred and fifty years ago. In the issue of the *Connecticut Courant* for August 17, 1767, a two-column article appeared, discussing exports, imports, and home manufactures, urging lower prices on all articles made in this Colony by artificers and mechanics, and complaining that they are eager to raise prices when prices rise, but are very slow to reduce them when prices fall.

Two enterprising gold and silversmiths, Joseph Hopkins, of Waterbury (whose shop



had so many times been broken into by thieves), and Martin Bull, of Farmington, considered that this complaint gave an excellent opportunity to gain a little patriotic publicity and at the same time to advertise their wares. In the issue of August 24, 1767, the following letter was printed:

“We, the subscribers, goldsmiths of Waterbury and Farmington, being convinced of the truth of the sentiments expressed in this paper No. 138, and sensible of the obligation that lies upon every person in this popular Colony to conduct so as will have a natural tendency to advance the good of the whole; hereby inform the public that (notwithstanding we have the vanity to believe that our demands have ever been short of any goldsmith in this Colony) we are determined to serve all our customers for the future, demanding only seven-eighths of our usual acquirements for labour; excepting in making silver spoons and silver buttons, which has ever been lower than the wages of most other tradesmen.

JOSEPH HOPKINS.  
MARTIN BULL.”

It has long been a current tradition that many of the silversmiths were also blacksmiths, and the following reply to the letter by Hopkins and Bull shows that the tradition is based on fact, although it is certain both these gentlemen were skilled artisans and of good standing in their respective communities. In the issue of August 31, 1767, we read the following letter:

“Mr. GREEN: In your last, two persons calling themselves Goldsmiths ‘Inform the Public that they have the vanity to believe their demands have ever been short of any Goldsmith’s in this Colony.’ Vanity indeed, with great propriety! When in the article of Gold Necklaces (in which they have been so celebrated) they have had a price equal to any one, reckoning the Labour and the advance on the Gold;—and it is surprising those gentlemen did not see into what a dilemma their expressive vanity leads them; for they ‘Are determined to serve all their Customers for the future’ at a rate short of the former—viz: ‘Demanding only seven-eighths of their usual acquirements for Labour.’ Why this alteration? Is it because they are determined

to engross the business by representing to the Public that they sell cheaper than anybody else—Vanity!—Or is it not rather because they are conscious to themselves of having injured their customers by overrating Labour done by Blacksmiths and Tinkers, and mean to make restitution that way; for they seriously express a sense of the obligation that lies upon ‘Every person in this popular Colony to conduct so as will have a natural tendency to advance the good of the Whole.’

“But for men to set up themselves for Standards for others, that have acquired their skill by hire of journeymen—it is to be wished the Legislative Body would pass an act that no man should set himself up at any trade without having served a regular Apprenticeship of seven years, and have a Certificate from his master. Then we should not see every Blacksmith and Tinker turn Goldsmith.”

## EARLY CONNECTICUT SILVER- SMITHS.

**T**HIS list does not include the names of those who began to work at the trade after 1830. Probably the majority of these men made only spoons and jewelry. However, many of them made articles of more importance than spoons, for now and then some unexpected evidence of this fact comes to light, proving that the ability to fashion silver into various shapes and utensils was not uncommon.

That the number of examples still extant is so small is due to two causes: first, the lack of demand and consequent limited production; second, the melting-pot,—that final receptacle, until recently, of old plate, exchanged for new or sold because of the desire to realize its money value.

Many of these men advertised as silversmiths and jewelers and sometimes as watchmakers. This latter term undoubtedly generally meant what its use to-day indicates: that they mended, repaired, and regulated watches. But they should not all be classed under this head. The inventories and advertisements of Thomas Harland and Joseph Keeler prove conclusively

that they made watches. Harland is said to have had an annual output of two hundred; but the first considerable attempt to manufacture watches took place in the Pitkin shop in East Hartford,—a venture from which indirectly grew the American Waltham Watch Company.

	Born	Died
<b>Adgate, William</b>	Norwich	1744—1779
<b>Adams, Pygan</b>	New London	1712—1776
Son of Rev. Eliphalet Adams. For further notes see page 72.		
<b>Allen, Joel</b>	Southington and Middletown	1755—1825
His shop and store were located in that part of Southington called Plantsville. Moved to Middletown about 1790. See page 68.		
<b>Austin, Ebenezer</b>	Hartford	1733—
Born in Charlestown, Mass. Moved to Hartford in 1764. Served in the Revolution. Advertised in 1768, 1780, 1788. About the latter date moved to New York. In 1818 was listed among the pensioners of Revolution living in New York.		
<b>Avery, John</b>	Preston	1732—1794
Was a farmer and self-taught silversmith. Made clocks, shoe and knee buckles, spoons and beads. He was justice of the peace and held court. Four of his sons were silversmiths.		
<b>Avery, John, Jr.</b>	Preston	1755—1815
Son of John above.		
<b>Avery, Robert Staunton</b>	Preston	1771—1846
Son of John. Captain of Militia. When his father died, he abandoned the trade.		
<b>Avery, Samuel</b>	Preston	1760—1836
See John Avery.		

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- |  |                           |           |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|
|  | Born                      | Died      |
| <b>Avery, William</b>  | Preston                   | 1765—1798 |
| See John Avery.  |                           |           |
| <b>Babcock, Samuel</b>   | Middletown and Saybrook   | 1788—1857 |
| Born in Saybrook. Collector of customs there. Moved to Middletown, and advertised in 1812. His shop was a few doors north of the Episcopal Church.   |                           |           |
| <b>Balch, Ebenezer</b>   | Hartford and Wethersfield | 1723—1808 |
| Born in Boston, and learned his trade there. When he became of age, he moved to Hartford, and in 1756 to Wethersfield. Goldsmith and clockmaker. A number of early spoons have been found marked E. BALCH.   |                           |           |
| <b>Barrows, James Madison</b>  | Tolland                   | 1809—     |
| Working at his trade in 1828 in Tolland. Born in Mansfield.  |                           |           |
| <b>Bartholomew, Roswell</b>  | Hartford                  | 1781—1830 |
| Born in Harwinton. In 1804 he became a member of the firm Ward & Bartholomew, in 1809 Ward, Bartholomew & Brainard.  |                           |           |
| <b>Beach, Isaac</b>  | New Milford               |           |
| His name appears signed to a subscription paper dated 1788. Whence he came is not known. In 1791 he bought a plot of ground on which a shop was standing, occupied by himself and Noadiah Mygatt, saddler. In 1794 he sold the shop and apparently left the town.  |                           |           |
| <b>Beach, Miles</b>  | Litchfield and Hartford   | 1742—1828 |
| Son of Adna Beach. Selectman, 1777; grand juror, 1773. Major in the Revolution, later Colonel of Militia. See page 60.   |                           |           |
| <b>Beecher, Clement</b>  | Berlin and Cheshire       | 1778—1869 |
| In 1801 advertised in <i>Connecticut Courant</i> that he was in the "Gold and silversmithing business: likewise brass founding, in Berlin, opposite the Academy." He was a clever workman, but very eccentric and peculiar, due, it was believed, to an unfortunate love affair in his youth. In 1818 he was living in Cheshire on a farm on the road leading to Milldale. At one time he conducted his business in that town under the name Clement Beecher & Co. He once made the remark that he "hated to sell things because it broke the assortment." He called his shop and farm the "New Jerusalem." To the produce which he raised and the spoons and gold beads which |                           |           |





Barzillai Benjamin  
1774-1844  
Bridgeport and New Haven  
From an oil portrait



## EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

he made he gave the same name, and his New Jerusalem apples, vegetables, and spoons were in demand among the people of Cheshire, Meriden, and Berlin. He was at times an itinerant silversmith, and traveled about the region, carrying in his cart forge and anvils and the various tools of his craft. Many specimens of his work have been found marked C. B., particularly among the older families of the district. He was also an inventor and patented a number of articles, among others a washing-machine which he trundled about in a wheelbarrow, to exhibit its merits to his customers. In his old age he grew morose and lived the life of a hermit. In front of his house was hung a great bell, possibly of his own founding, which he rang when in need of assistance.

Born     Died  
1774—1844

**Benjamin, Barzillai**     Bridgeport and New Haven

He was born in Milford. For many years he lived at what is now 262 East Main Street, Bridgeport, and his silversmith shop adjoined his house. George Kippen was his partner for a while. In New Haven his shop stood at the southwest corner of Church and Chapel Streets, where Robert Fairchild had once been located. For a few years he did business in New York also. He was a skilful smith, and many examples of his work are still to be found. Belonging to the First Church, Guilford, are two beakers made by him, and a fine tea-set and back hair comb made about 1815 are owned in Union City, and are examples of his skill as a craftsman. His inventory filed in the Probate Court, Bridgeport, contains a long list of silversmith's tools. His son, Everard Benjamin, was his successor in 1829 in New Haven. The George H. Ford Company, successor of Everard, is therefore successor of Barzillai.

**Benjamin, Everard**     New Haven     1807—1874  
Began business in 1829. See above. For many years he was associated with George H. Ford. Firm was known as Benjamin & Ford.

**Benjamin, John**     Stratford     1730—1796  
Was probably an apprentice of Robert Fairchild. Although a member of the Church of England, he was an active patriot during the Revolution. He took part in the battle of Ridgefield, was wounded in the shoulder, and carried the bullet to the day of his death. In May,

## EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

1782, he was promoted from Captain to Major, and later to Colonel. A beautiful pepper caster and several spoons made by him are still extant. See page 52.

Born Died

**Benjamin, Samuel C.** New Haven 1801—1831

Son of Barzillai, for whom he was working when he advertised in 1819 that he was located a few rods south-east of the Public Green, and nearly opposite J. Buck's City Hotel. He made jewelry and silverware. Later he was a teacher in a school for young ladies.

**Billings, Daniel** Preston, New London Co.

He was located in Poquetannock Village, Preston, and advertised in 1795.

**Blackman, John Starr** Danbury 1777—1851

He was a clockmaker as well as silversmith. His shop was south of the Court House and on same side of the street. His sons, **John Clark Blackman**, 1808—1872, and **Frederick Starr Blackman**, 1811—1898, were his apprentices. The former moved to Bridgeport and established a business, and the latter succeeded to his father's business in Danbury. **Levi Clark**, 1801—, was also his apprentice, and located in Norwalk.

**Blakslee, William** Newtown 1795—1879

Son of Ziba Blakslee, the silversmith. Desiring to perfect himself in his trade, when twenty-one years old, he journeyed to St. Louis, Mo., and worked with French artisans, intending to remain there. He resided in the home of Madame Bouyé, a lady of culture. He worked hard, studied nights, learned to speak French fluently, and became an expert silversmith and engraver. He also learned the clockmaking art. At the end of four years he returned to Newtown for a visit. While there, he fell in love and married, and decided to remain in Newtown, and went into business with his father. He was prominent and did a good business.

**Blakslee, Ziba** Newtown 1768—1825

Born in Plymouth. Came to Newtown when a young man. His house and shop stood at the head of Newtown Street on the road leading to Brookfield. He worked at the gold and silversmith's business, cast church bells, made surveyors' instruments, clocks, and watches. **William Blakslee** was his son.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

<b>Bontecou, Timothy</b>	New Haven	Born 1693	Died 1784
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Born in New York City, and learned his trade in France. Married his second wife in New Haven in 1736. He sold his shop in 1775. He was a member of the Church of England, and was registered as one of the Congregation in Stratford in 1735, and, when the new church was built in 1743/4, he contributed £15. When Trinity Church, New Haven, was organized in 1765, he became a member and was its first recorded warden. He was buried in the crypt beneath Trinity Church, which at that time stood on Church Street. An illustration is shown of two candlesticks, doubtless made by him. See page 51.

<b>Bontecou, Timothy, Jr.</b>	New Haven	1723—	1789
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Son of Timothy, of whom he learned his trade.

<b>Botsford, Gideon B.</b>	Woodbury	1776—	1866
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His home and shop were in what is now known as Glebe House, now owned by the Episcopal diocese of Connecticut, and in which Rev. Samuel Seabury was elected first bishop of Connecticut and of the United States, by the clergy there assembled in 1783. Examples of silver made by Botsford are not uncommon in that locality.

<b>Bradley, Aner</b>	New Haven and Watertown	1753—	1824
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Brother of Phineas, the silversmith. For additional notes see page 58.

<b>Bradley, Phineas</b>	New Haven	1745—	1797
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His shop and house stood on Court Street. Brother of Colonel Aner Bradley. Phineas served in the Revolution and was Captain of a company of New Haven men. At the British invasion of New Haven, July, 1779, he did valiant service with his men at the bridge on the road leading to Milford.

<b>Bradley, Richard</b>	Hartford	1787—	1867
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Born in Hartford. The Directory 1825-28 gives his location as Morgan Street, near the bridge. Met death at the hands of a burglar on Thanksgiving night. For many years was a member of the firm.

<b>Bradley &amp; Bunce</b>	Hartford		
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<b>Bradley, Zebul</b>	New Haven	1780—	1859
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From 1806 to 1817 he was a member of the firm Marcus Merriman & Co. and Merriman & Bradley. About

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

the year 1826 he formed a partnership with Marcus Merriman, Jr., under the name of

**Bradley & Merriman.**

In the year 1847 the Directory of New Haven contains the advertisement of the firm.

**Bradley, Zebul, & Son**

Consisting of Zebul Bradley and Gustavus Bradley.

	Born	Died
<b>Brainard, Charles</b>	Hartford	1787—1850

A native of Wethersfield. Member of the firm Ward, Bartholomew & Brainard, afterwards C. Brainard & Son (Charles H.).

<b>Breed, John</b>	Colchester	1752—1803
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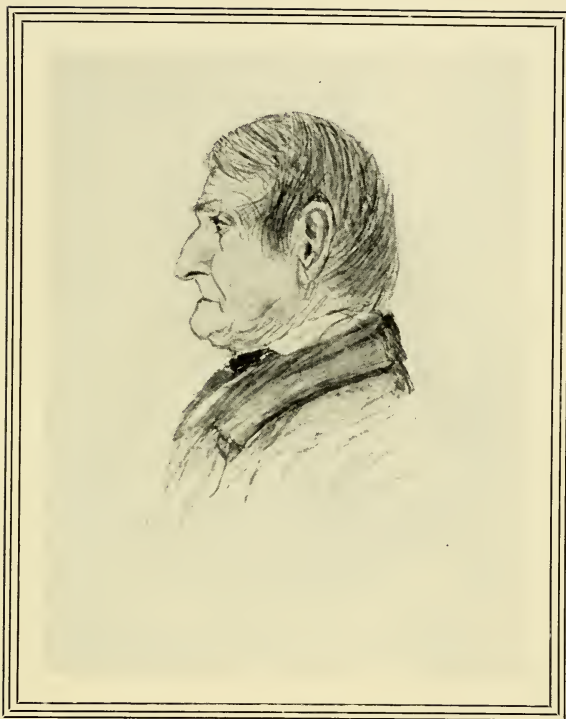
Born in Stonington. His relative, Gershom Breed, had dealings in Colchester, and this influence probably induced John to move to that town. He located on Town Street, or Governors Road, the main highway leading from New London to Hartford. He married in 1773 Lucy Bulkley, a member of an influential family there. His inventory contains a considerable list of silversmith's tools as well as farming implements. To agriculture he probably devoted the last few years of his life. His widow, who died in 1821, left the sum of \$500 to be applied toward building a home for the poor of the town.

<b>Brewer, Charles</b>	Middletown	1778—1860
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Born in Springfield, Mass. Learned his trade of Jacob Sargeant, of Hartford. He located in Middletown, October, 1800, and on October 16, that year, Judah Hart and Charles Brewer advertised that they had taken a shop a few rods north of the printing-office, where they would carry on clockmaking, watch repairing, and gold and silversmithing in all its branches. In December, 1801, they had removed to a shop opposite the new meeting-house. This partnership was dissolved on September 21, 1803, and on October 28, that year, Brewer formed a partnership with Alexander Mann under name of Brewer & Mann, which lasted until April, 1805. Thereafter Brewer continued alone. The jewels belonging to St. John's Lodge, F. & A. Masons, and two beakers of the communion vessels of the Congregational Church, Durham, were made by Brewer, and spoons bearing his mark are found in Middletown and near-by towns.

<b>Brewer &amp; Mann</b>	Middletown
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See above.



Charles Brewer

1778-1860

Middletown

Sketched from life by his nephew, William S. Stearns



EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- Brewster, Abel**          Canterbury and Norwich          Born 1775—Died 1775—  
 Advertised in Canterbury in 1797, and in 1804 gave notice that he had moved to Norwich, and in 1805 that he was selling his place of business to Judah Hart and Alvan Willcox, because of poor health.
- Buel, Abel**                          New Haven                  1742—1825  
 In 1799 he was located in Hartford on Main Street, opposite the North Meeting-house, making silver, plated, gilt, steel, brass, and iron hilted swords and dirks, pikes, and military flags. For full particulars relating to his life see page 53.
- Buel, John**                  New Haven and Derby                  1744—1783  
 Brother of Abel Buel. Advertised in New Haven, 1779, and in Derby Neck, 1780-82. Died in New Haven.
- Buel, Samuel**                  Middletown and Hartford  
 Advertised in former place, 1777, and in Hartford, 1779. A Samuel Buel was born in Killingworth, 1742; died in Westfield, Mass., 1819. A beaker belonging to Center Congregational Church, Meriden, bears his mark, S.B.
- Bull, Caleb**                          Hartford                  1746—1797  
 Served in the Revolution, and was commissioned Captain, January 1, 1777, in Colonel Samuel B. Webb's regiment. A member of the Society of the Cincinnati. See page 64.
- Bull, Martin**                          Farmington                  1744—1825  
 He was a gold and silversmith and maker of silver buttons and spoons. He also made saltpeter for the army when needed during the Revolution. He was a deacon of the Congregational Church, a conductor of church music, town treasurer for eight years, clerk of the Probate Court for thirty-nine years. A strong patriot and a writer of long letters—appallingly solemn—to the youth of the village when at college. He made a book-plate for the "Library of the First Society in Farmington," founded in 1795, and later executed a more ornamental plate. See Vol. III., p. 187, *Ex Libris Society*.
- Burdick, William S.**                  New Haven  
 Advertised in 1814 that the firm of Ufford & Burdick had been dissolved.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

**Burnap, Daniel** Coventry and East Windsor Born Died  
1760—1838  
Learned his trade of Thomas Harland, of Norwich. Began business in Coventry. About 1785 moved to East Windsor, and twelve years later settled in what is now known as Andover. Made spoons, buckles and repaired watches and jewelry.

Advertised in 1791 as follows:—

“BRASS WHEEL'D CLOCKS.”

“The subscriber having for a number of years applied himself principally to the business of Clock making and having met with considerable encouragement in the business, takes this method to inform the publick that although he works in many other branches common for those in the silversmith line as also surveyor's Compasses, watch repairing &c., yet notwithstanding clockmaking is intended as the governing business of his shop and is determined that no pains shall be wanting to merit the approbation of his Customers. Clocks of various kinds may be had at his shop in East Windsor on short notice on the most reasonable terms (warranted). Those parishes that may be in want of publick clocks may be supplied at the above shop and may depend on a faithful performance by the publick's servant, Daniel Burnap.” The tools with which he engraved the silvered dials of his clocks are owned by Albert H. Pitkin, Hartford. Experts consider that Burnap made as fine clocks as were ever produced in New England. A few examples of his silver-work are still extant.

**Burrill, Theophilus** New London —1739  
Under date January 1, 1738/9, Joshua Hempstead wrote in his diary, “I was at the Town Meeting & ye choice of Taverners & Theophilus Burrill a goldsmith, aged about —. Died with Convulsion fitts: he belonged to Boston but hath sojourned in Town 2 or 3 years.”

**Bushnell, Phineas** Saybrook and Guilford 1741—1836  
Born in Saybrook. Moved to Guilford about 1795. Died in Branford. Tradition says that he did some silversmithing.

**Candee, Lewis Burton** Woodbury 1806—1861  
Born in Oxford. He was in partnership with Daniel Curtiss, and the firm was known as Curtiss & Candee and Curtiss, Candee & Stiles.



EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

**Canfield, Samuel** Middletown  
 He was living in Middletown in 1780. He advertised 1792-97. During the years 1790-92 Joel Allen, engraver and silversmith, did more or less work on silver for Canfield. In 1787 he was sheriff, and served a number of writs of attachment on his brother silversmith, Joseph King, to recover debts. For a time he was in partnership with a man named Foot (probably William Foot). In 1801 he was living in Lansingburg, N.Y., and in 1807 in Scanticoke, N.Y.

**Canfield & Foot** Middletown  
 See above. Born Died

**Carpenter, Joseph** Norwich 1747—1804  
 As early as 1769 he was in business in a shop belonging to his stepfather. This shop has never been altered, and retains to-day all its old features. His son Charles, who settled in business in Boston, learned his trade of his father, as did also, probably, Rufus and Henry Farnum, prominent silversmiths of Boston. See also page 71.

**Case, George** East Hartford  
 Advertised in 1779.

**Champlin, John** New London 1745—1800  
 Advertised from 1768 to 1780. See page 73.

**Chapin, Aaron** Hartford 1753—1838  
 Born in Windsor. His name appears in Hartford Directory for 1825. He is put down as a cabinet-maker and jeweler at the head of Trumbull Street. He was deacon in First Church. Spoons bearing his name as silversmith are found in Hartford and vicinity.

**Chittenden, Beriah** New Haven 1751—1827  
 He was son of Ebenezer, and probably learned his trade of him. In 1787 he advertised that his shop was next door to the printing-office of *New Haven Gazette and Connecticut Magazine*. Later he lived in Durham, Milford, Salisbury, Kinderhook, N.Y., and Middlebury, Ohio.

**Chittenden, Ebenezer** New Haven and Madison 1726—1812  
 See page 57.

**Church, Joseph** Hartford 1794—1876  
 Born in East Hartford. His father moved his family to Lee, Mass., when Joseph was quite young, and established the first paper-mill in Western Massachusetts.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

Joseph returned to Hartford when a youth and learned the silversmith's trade, and established his business on Ferry Street, after having been with Jacob Sargeant and Horace Goodwin. Later he moved to Main Street. William Rogers, C. C. Strong, and L. T. Wells were among his apprentices, and in 1840 he sold his business to the latter two and became an official and director of the Ætna Fire Insurance Company, and was a director of the Connecticut River Bank and vice-president of Society for Savings. Frederick E. Church, the landscape painter, was his son.

**Clark, Joseph** Danbury Born Died  
—1821

In 1791 he advertised that he carried on the clock and watch making and gold and silversmith business in all its branches at his shop near the printing-office. He was living in Danbury in 1777, and bore arms in the Danbury raid of that year. Prior to April 1, 1811, he moved to Newburg, N.Y., and later to Alabama, where he died about 1821.

**Clark, Levi** Norwalk 1801—1875

Born in Danbury, and learned his trade of his father-in-law, John Starr Blackman. Settled in business in Norwalk.

**Clark, Peter G.** New Haven

Advertised in 1810.

**Clark, William** New Milford 1750—1798

Born in Colchester. Settled in New Milford about 1775. He built a house soon after, in which he kept tavern and carried on silversmith's business. He advertised in 1774 and 1777. His inventory shows a large number of silversmith's tools. When the Union Library was established in 1796, the first meeting was held at his house. He seems to have been a public-spirited man.

**Cleveland, William** Norwich 1770—1837

Son of Rev. Aaron Cleveland. Born in Norwich. After a residence of some years in New London and New York, returned to Norwich. Made a deacon of First Congregational Church there in 1812. While in New London, he was in partnership with John P. Trott under firm name Trott & Cleveland. Married, 1793, Margaret Falley. His son, Richard Falley, was the father of the late President, Grover Cleveland. Deacon William

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

lived in later years in Worthington and Salem, Mass., and Zanesville, Ohio. He died at Black Rock, N.Y.

<b>Coit, Thomas Chester</b>	Norwich	Born	Died
			1791—1841

Born in Norwich. His family moved to Pomfret and then to Canterbury. He was apprenticed at the age of fourteen. Followed the trade fourteen years in Norwich, part of the time in partnership with Elisha H. Mansfield (1816— ). Later moved to Natchez, Miss., and died in New York.

<b>Coit &amp; Mansfield</b>	Norwich
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See above.

<b>Copp, Joseph</b>	New London
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Married Rachel Denison, 1757. Advertised in 1776 that his shop had been robbed.

<b>Curtiss, Daniel</b>	Woodbury	1801—1878
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He established a manufactory of silver articles about 1825, making spoons, thimbles, spectacles, etc., associating with him Lewis Burton Candee and, later, Benjamin Stiles under firm names of Curtiss & Candee, and Curtiss, Candee & Stiles, and Curtiss & Stiles. Spoons made by these firms are frequently found in Connecticut. Gave up the business in 1840.

<b>Curtiss &amp; Candee</b>	Woodbury
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See above.

<b>Curtiss, Candee &amp; Stiles</b>	Woodbury
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See above.

<b>Curtiss &amp; Stiles</b>	Woodbury
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See above.

**Curtis, Joel** Wolcott, Conn., and Cairo, N.Y. 1786—  
Silversmith and clockmaker.

<b>Curtis, Lewis</b>	1774—1845
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Farmington, Conn., and Hazel Green, Wis.

His little red shop with prominent show windows still stands in Farmington a few hundred feet north of the Country Club. It was originally located on the main street, a hundred or more feet west of what is now known as Elm Tree Inn. Silversmith and clockmaker. In 1797 he advertised that his shop had been entered by burglars and a number of silver articles stolen. In 1799 he advertised that he made chime clocks that played

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

a number of tunes and clocks that showed the moon's age, etc. He probably learned his trade of Daniel Burnap. In 1820 he moved to St. Charles, Mo., and later to Hazel Green, Wis., where he died.

- |   |            |                     |
|---|------------|---------------------|
| <b>Cutler, Richard</b>  | New Haven  | Born 1736—Died 1810 |
| Born in Fairfield. Settled in New Haven in 1760, where he purchased a large lot at the southeast corner of Church and Chapel Streets, and erected a dwelling and a shop. The locality is still known as Cutler's Corner. He was long engaged in the gold and silversmith's trade. He was a Tory in his sympathies during the Revolution. He formed a partnership about 1767 with Hezekiah Silliman and Ambrose Ward. See Silliman. In 1800 he took his sons into partnership. |            |                     |
| <b>Cutler, Richard, Jr.</b>   | New Haven  | 1774—1811           |
| See above.  |            |                     |
| <b>Cutler, Richard &amp; Sons</b>   | New Haven  |                     |
| See above.  |            |                     |
| <b>Cutler, William</b>  | New Haven  | 1785—1817           |
| See above.  |            |                     |
| <b>Cutler, Silliman, Ward &amp; Co.</b>   | New Haven  |                     |
| See above.  |            |                     |
| <b>Dagget, Henry</b>  | New Haven  | 1741—1830           |
| A merchant, magistrate, and alderman (Tuttle Genealogy). His shop or store burned January 27, 1800. Caught fire from goldsmith's forge in back room. At one time was in partnership with Isaac Beers.   |            |                     |
| <b>Davison, Barzillai</b>   | Norwich    | 1740—1828           |
| Born in Pomfret. In business in Norwich.  |            |                     |
| <b>Dennis, Ebenezer</b>   | Hartford   | 1753—               |
| Advertised in <i>Connecticut Courant</i> , 1782-85. His shop was opposite Dr. Solomon Smith's office. His shop was robbed March 9, 1785. Brother of George, Jr.   |            |                     |
| <b>Dennis, George, Jr.</b>  | Norwich    | 1749—               |
| Advertised in 1778.   |            |                     |
| <b>Deshon, Daniel</b>   | New London | 1697—1781           |
| He was of Huguenot descent. Apprenticed to Captain René Grignon. When Captain Grignon died in 1715, he bequeathed to Daniel his goldsmith's tools, and his  |            |                     |



EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- |  | Born         | Died      |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| <b>Elderkin, Elisha</b>  | Killingworth | 1753—1822 |
| Went to New Haven before 1777, and has a record as a Revolutionary soldier. After the war he settled in his home town, Killingworth.   |              |           |
| <b>Elliott, John Aaron</b>   | Sharon       | 1788—     |
| He was first a printer and then learned the trade of watchmaker and silversmith. He also, for a time, resided in Red Hook, N.Y., and in Michigan, but returned to Sharon. His name appears in Business Directory of Connecticut, published in 1857.  |              |           |
| <b>Ellsworth, David</b>  | Windsor      | 1742—1821 |
| He advertised in 1772 and again in 1792.   |              |           |
| <b>Fairchild, Robert</b>   |              | 1703—1794 |
| Durham, Stratford, and New Haven<br>See page 51.   |              |           |
| <b>Fairchild, Joseph</b>   | New Haven    |           |
| In business there in 1824.   |              |           |
| <b>Fitch, Allen</b>  | New Haven    | 1785—     |
| He was the son of Nathaniel and Mary Fitch. In 1811 he bought land on south side of Crown Street, with a frontage of 18 feet, and built a shop on it. He advertised in 1808. In 1813 an advertisement announced that the firm of   |              |           |
| <b>Fitch &amp; Hobart</b>  | New Haven    |           |
| is dissolved.  |              |           |
| <b>Foote, William</b>  | East Haddam  | 1772—     |
| Born in Colchester. He lived at various times in Colchester, Glastonbury, and East Haddam. Later moved to Michigan. Advertised in East Haddam in 1796—97. See Canfield & Foote.  |              |           |
| <b>Francis, Julius C.</b>  | Middletown   | 1785—1862 |
| Was member of firm Hughes & Francis, 1807—09.  |              |           |
| <b>Gallup, Christopher</b>   |              | 1764—1849 |
| North Groton, now Ledyard<br>The house where he lived is still standing, in good repair, and the room in which Christopher used to carry on his trade is still shown by his descendants. Spoons made by him are in use among Ledyard families. It is probable that he made other articles. |              |           |

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

Born Died

**Gardiner, John** New London 1734—1776

He was a descendant of the Gardiner family of Gardiner's Island, and was a son of Jonathan and Mary (Adams) Gardiner. Jonathan was a physician, and was lost at sea, 1735 or 1736. She was a daughter of Rev. Eliphalet Adams. John, the silversmith, was an excellent craftsman, and his silver is still found in New London, Conn. He made the silver cup belonging to Berkeley Divinity School. His inventory filed in 1777 gives a long list of silversmith's tools, including two stamps for impressing his trade-marks.

**Gilbert, Samuel** Hebron

He advertised in 1798. Spoons bearing his mark are frequently found in Hebron and vicinity.

**Goodwin, Allyn** Hartford 1797—1869

In business with his brother under firm name H. & A. Goodwin. Is mentioned in Hartford Directory, 1825.

**Goodwin, Horace** Hartford 1787—1864

He learned the trade of jeweler and silversmith, and first located in New Britain and soon moved to Vermont. In 1811 he returned to Hartford, and went into business with his brother Allyn. Their store and shop stood on ground now occupied by Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. In 1852 he engaged in the music business.

**Goodwin, H. & A.** Hartford

See above.

**Goodwin, Ralph** Hartford 1793—1866

Mentioned in Directory in 1828.

**Goodwin & Dodd** Hartford

Advertised in 1812.

**Gorham, John** New Haven

Born probably in Hamden. Estate of John Gorham of that town was administered in Probate Court, 1790. John was his youngest son, and was probably the silversmith. He advertised in 1814. His spoons are still found in New Haven County.

**Gorham, Miles** New Haven 1757—1847

The six cups belonging to the First Congregational Church, Derby, were made by him. His spoons are still found in vicinity of New Haven.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- Gorham, Richard** Born Died  
1775—1841  
 In 1806 Isaac Townsend leased land on High Street to Samuel Shethar and Richard Gorham. The partners sold the lease in 1809. Spoons marked S & G have been found in the vicinity of New Haven. See Samuel Shethar.
- Graham, Daniel** West Suffield 1764—  
 He advertised in 1789. Married in Wethersfield, 1790.
- Gray, John** New London 1692—1720  
 Born in Boston. Came to New London about 1713 to administer his brother's estate, Samuel Gray. Daniel Deshon was probably apprenticed to him. He married, 1714, Mary Christophers, of New London. He lies in the old cemetery in New London.
- Gray, Samuel** New London 1684—1713  
 Born in Boston. He married in 1707 Mrs. Lucy Palmes, of New London. He came to the town before 1712. Joshua Hempstead, in recording his death in his diary, says, "had been sick a long time." The most elaborate of the ancient tombstones in the cemetery in New London is the one erected to his memory. Brother of John Gray. His inventory gives evidence that he was an expert silversmith. Among other items are mentioned 99 ounces of plate in 3 tankards, 3 cups and spoons and forks; 20½ ounces of plate in buckles and buttons; 76 ounces of plate in silver chafing dishes, etc.
- Greenleaf, David** Norwich 1737—1800  
 Born probably in Bolton, Mass., where his father was a physician. Learned his trade of Thomas Harland. Served in the Revolutionary War. He advertised in Norwich, 1769. He was in Bolton, Mass., 1769-72. In Coventry, 1778, where he spent the rest of his life. David Greenleaf, of Hartford, was his son.
- Greenleaf, David, Jr.** Hartford 1765—1835  
 Advertised in Hartford, 1788-94. Son of David, of Norwich.
- Greenleaf, Joseph** New London 1778—1798  
 Died of yellow fever there, 1798, aged twenty.
- Grignon, René** Norwich —1715  
 He came to this country in the latter part of seven-teenth century, and joined French settlement at East Greenwich, R.I. Driven from there by persecution. He went in 1691 to Oxford, Mass., and about 1696 to



EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

Boston, where he was at one time elder of the French Church. In 1699 he was again living in Oxford, but the Deerfield massacre, 1704, drove the inhabitants away, and he probably then settled in Norwich. See page 47.

**Griswold, Gilbert** Middletown and Portland

Early part of last century was practising his trade.

**Gunn, Enos** Waterbury Born 1770—Died

Was born in what is known as Gunntown on the edge of present Middlebury and Naugatuck. Spoons are still found in that vicinity marked E. GUNN.

**Gurley, William** Norwich 1764—

Born in Mansfield. Advertised in 1804 in Norwich.

**Hallam, John** New London 1752—1800

See page 74.

**Hamlin, William** 1772—

Born in Providence, R.I. Apprenticed in Middletown.

**Hanks, Benjamin** 1738—1810

Windham, Litchfield, and Ashford

Born in Plymouth, Mass. He advertised in Windham, 1777-79; in Ashford, 1790. At the October session of the 1783 General Assembly he asked for the exclusive right to manufacture air clocks, which was granted. The memorial he presented stated that he had "invented and executed a clock which winds itself by the effects of air and will continue so to do without any other assistance until the parts thereof are destroyed by friction." At that time he was living in Litchfield. (See Kilbourne's *Chronicles of Litchfield*, 1859, p. 266.) He sold to Amherst, Mass., in 1793, its first church bell.

**Harland, Thomas** Norwich 1735—1807

After serving his apprenticeship in England, he journeyed from place to place, wandering as far East as Warsaw, probably practising his craft and learning foreign methods. He was evidently a man of education, for the inventory of his library shows an unusual collection for that period of works of the best historical and philosophical writers, and the large number of French works would imply a familiarity with that tongue. He came to America in 1773—a year of great excitement in the political life of America—in one of the ships which brought the taxed tea to the port of Boston. He did not tarry there, but settled immediately in Norwich. In his first advertisement in 1773 he states that "he makes

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

in the neatest manner and on the most approved principles, horizontal, repeating and plain watches in gold, silver, metal or covered cases: spring, musical and plain clocks; church clocks and regulators: he also cuts and finishes watch-wheels and fuzees of all sorts and dimensions, neat as in London and at the same price." In 1774 he says, "he has now compleated an assortment of warranted watches viz. Horizontal, Showing Seconds from the Centre, Day of Month, Skeleton and Eight Day Watches in gilt, tortoise shell and plain silver Cases." His mechanical ingenuity was unusual, for in 1788 he made for Norwich Landing a fire-engine which was long in use. The homestead which he built in 1779 is still in the possession of his descendants. In front of it, and surrounded by the piazza, are two large elm-trees said to have been planted by his apprentice, Nathaniel Shipman, in 1781. See page 70.

- |   |                         |   |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Harland, Thomas, Jr.</b>   | Norwich                 | Born 1781—Died 1806   |
| Son of Thomas, Sr. Although he died so young, he had accumulated a large inventory in his business. He had for sale 117 silver and gold watches.  |                         |   |
| <b>Hart, Eliphaz</b>  | New Britain and Norwich | 1789—1866   |
| Born in New Britain. Learned trade of his brother Judah. He settled in Greenville in Norwich and died there.  |                         |   |
| <b>Hart, Judah</b>  | Middletown and Norwich  | 1777—1824   |
| Born in New Britain. Began business in Middletown in 1800, in partnership with Charles Brewer. Formed partnership with Jonathan Bliss in 1803. In 1805 removed to Norwich, and formed partnership with Alvan Willcox. In 1807 in business alone. In 1816 removed to Griswold, and in 1822 to Brownsville, Ohio. |                         |   |
| <b>Hart &amp; Bliss</b>   | Middletown              | 1803—1804. See above.   |
| <b>Hart &amp; Brewer</b>  | Middletown              | 1800—1803. See above.   |
| <b>Hart &amp; Willcox</b>   | Norwich                 | 1805—1807. See above. Spoons marked H. & W. with an index hand preceding are common in Norwich. |
| <b>Hequembourg, Charles, Jr.</b>  | New Haven               | 1760—1851   |
| Born in France. He was a soldier of the Revolution in France. He first appeared in New Haven in 1804,   |                         |   |

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

when he bought land. He advertised 1809-20. His shop was on Church Street, opposite the site of Trinity Church at that time. Spoons made by him are frequently found in New Haven County. His daughter married in 1810 James Brewster, father of carriage industry in New Haven.

**Hildrup, Thomas** Hartford Born Died  
—1804  
See page 62.

**Hitchcock, Eliakim** Cheshire and New Haven 1726—1788  
He maintained shops in Cheshire and New Haven. Advertised in New Haven, 1776. It is said that Amos Doolittle was his apprentice. Spoons made by him are found in Cheshire. He was one of the charter members of the Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard, organized 1774. His shop in New Haven was on Union Street, near Fair.

**Hobart, Joshua** New Haven  
See Fitch & Hobart

**Holmes, Israel** Greenwich and Waterbury 1768—1802  
See page 76.

**Hopkins, Jesse** Waterbury 1766—

**Hopkins, Joseph** Waterbury 1730—1801  
Late in life became Judge of Probate, and gave up silversmithing.

**Hopkins, Stephen** Waterbury 1721—1796

**Hotchkiss, Hezekiah (?)** New Haven —1761  
Clockmaker, but his inventory shows he owned silversmith's tools.

**Hughes, Edmund** Middletown  
In 1804 was located in Hampton. In 1806 the partnership of Ward & Hughes, Middletown, was dissolved. Same year partnership of Hughes & Bliss was formed, and in the following year that of Hughes & Francis.

**Hughes & Bliss** Middletown  
1806. See above.

**Hughes & Francis** Middletown  
1807—1809. See above.

**Huntington, Philip** Norwich 1770—1825  
He was town clerk from 1801 to 1825.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- |   |            | Born  | Died     |
|---|------------|-------|----------|
| <b>Huntington, Roswell</b>  | Norwich    | 1763— |          |
| Learned his trade of Joseph Carpenter. In 1784 he advertised as goldsmith and jeweler in a shop opposite the store of Jedediah Huntington. Finally moved to Hillsborough, N.C.  |            |       |          |
| <b>Jarvis, Munson</b>   | Stamford   | 1742— | 1825     |
| His father, Samuel, was a blacksmith, and the inventory of the confiscated estate of Munson shows that he owned a like shop. It is probable that he worked in both silver and iron. Two silver mugs owned by the Congregational Church, Green's Farms, bear the maker's mark M. J., and were probably made by him. He was a Loyalist, and left the country in 1783 and settled in St. John, N.B., where he passed the rest of his life. He was a member of the Provincial Assembly in New Brunswick, and a man of prominence. |            |       |          |
| <b>Jennings, Jacob</b>  | Norwalk    | 1729— | 1817     |
| The inventory of his estate mentions a number of silversmith's tools.   |            |       |          |
| <b>Jennings, Jacob, Jr.</b>   | Norwalk    | 1779— |          |
| He learned his trade of his father. His nephew, Isaac Marquand, was apprenticed to him to learn the trade. Frederick Marquand, the well-known New York jeweler and benefactor of Yale College, was Isaac's son.   |            |       |          |
| <b>Johonnot, William</b>  | Middletown | 1766— | 1849     |
| In 1782 he was apprenticed to Samuel Canfield for five years. Began business in 1787. He advertised in 1787-88, and stated that his shop was opposite Mrs. Bigelow's tavern. In 1792 he moved to Windsor, Vt., where he carried on his business of jeweler and silversmith.   |            |       |          |
| <b>Keeler, Joseph</b>   | Norwalk    | 1786— | 1824     |
| Silversmith and watchmaker. His inventory shows such items as pivot lathe, fusee cutting tool, main-spring tool, small brass files, four watch-case stakes, together with silversmith's tools, proving that, like Harland, he actually made watches. Spoons bearing his mark are found in Norwalk and vicinity.   |            |       |          |
| <b>Kierstead, Cornelius</b>   | New Haven  | 1674— | 1753 (?) |
| See page 48.  |            |       |          |
| <b>King, Joseph</b>   | Middletown |       |          |
| His name and shop appear on map of Middletown, made about the period of the Revolution. Still living there as late as 1807.   |            |       |          |

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- Kinney, Thomas** Norwich  
 Was located there first half nineteenth century on She-tucket Street.
- Kippen, George** Middletown and Bridgeport Born 1790—Died  
 He was born in Middletown. Probably learned his trade of Charles Brewer. In 1825 George Kippen and Elias Camp, both of Bridgeport, leased a shop there. Later Kippen was in business with Geo. A. Hoyt. Spoons are found in Bridgeport and vicinity marked G. Kippen and G. Kippen & Hoyt. The First Congregational Church, Bridgeport, possesses three beakers made by Kippen. Map of Bridgeport, made in 1824, shows that his shop was located at the corner of Beaver Street (now Fairfield Avenue) and Broad Street. Kippen was also in partnership with Barzillai Benjamin for a time.
- Kirtland, Joseph P.** Middletown 1770—  
 Born in Norwich. He advertised as a silversmith in 1796 in Middletown.
- Lathrop, Rufus** Norwich 1731—1805
- Lewis, Isaac** Huntington and Ridgefield 1773—1860  
 Born in the former place. In Ridgefield as early as 1809. His shop was probably on west side of Main Street, immediately below where the Episcopal Church stands.
- Loud, Asa** Hartford 1765—1823  
 Advertised in 1792 as a silversmith. In 1793 sold his shop on Main Street to James Spencer. Was reported in 1807 to have absconded.
- Main, David** Stonington 1752—1843
- Mann, Alexander** Middletown 1777—  
 Born in Hebron. In business a short time with Charles Brewer. Later a gun-maker.
- Mansfield, Elisha Hyde** Norwich 1795—  
 See Coit & Mansfield.
- Marble, Simeon** New Haven 1777—1856  
 About 1801 the firm of Sibley & Marble was formed. They were located at first on Chapel Street, and later on State Street, south of Chapel Street. The firm advertised from 1801 to 1806. Marble then continued alone. Later he was located on Church Street. At his death he left a considerable estate of bank and railroad stocks and houses.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- Merriman, Marcus** New Haven Born 1762  
Died 1850  
 Born in Cheshire. He was active in the Revolution. Served on a privateer, and had many adventures. Member during the British invasion of New Haven in 1779 of the company of Captain Phineas Bradley. He was present at the defense of West Bridge, and contracted a cold at the time, from which he never fully recovered, although he lived to an advanced age. After the war he began to practise his trade of silversmithing. His first advertisement appeared in 1787. Much plate has been found in New Haven County bearing his trademark. In 1802 Bethuel Tuttle became his partner, and they worked under the name of Merriman & Tuttle. The same year Zebul Bradley was admitted, and firm became Marcus Merriman & Co. In 1817 the firm became Merriman & Bradley. See page 58.
- Merriman, Marcus, Jr.** New Haven  
 Son of Marcus Merriman. About 1826 he went into partnership with Zebul Bradley. Firm was known as Bradley & Merriman.
- Merriman, Marcus, & Co.** New Haven  
 See above.
- Merriman & Bradley** New Haven  
 See above.
- Merriman & Tuttle** New Haven  
 See above.
- Merriman, Reuben** Litchfield 1783—1866  
 Probably came to Litchfield in 1827, for at that time his name first appears on the land records.
- Merriman, Samuel** New Haven 1769—1805  
 Brother of Marcus and born in Cheshire. First advertised in 1794. At that time his shop was two doors west of the New College, Chapel Street. In 1800 he advertised that his shop had been destroyed by a fire, and that he was then located with his father on State Street. He next leased a shop on Church Street, south of Richard Cutler's shop.
- Merriman, Silas** New Haven 1734—1805  
 He moved from Cheshire to New Haven about 1769, and established his home and shop on State Street. He not only made silverware, but was also a clockmaker. He was father of Marcus and Samuel.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- |  |               | Born | Died |
|--|---------------|------|------|
| <b>Merrow, Nathan</b>  | East Hartford | 1758 | 1825 |
| His name appears on tax list as goldsmith in 1783.   |               |      |      |
| <b>Moss, Isaac Nichols</b>   | Derby         | 1760 | 1840 |
| Some of his tools are preserved by a descendant living in Thomaston.   |               |      |      |
| <b>Munson, Amos</b>  | New Haven     | 1753 | 1785 |
| He advertised in 1776.   |               |      |      |
| <b>Munson, Cornelius</b>   | Wallingford   | 1742 | —    |
| A Tory. Died in British army.  |               |      |      |
| <b>Mygatt, Comfort Starr</b>   | Danbury       | 1763 | 1823 |
| He was a gold and silver smith, and also made clocks and watches. He was in partnership with his brother David. In 1804 he advertised for one or two boys to serve as apprentices to the gold and silver smith's clock and watch making business. He was a member of the General Assembly in 1800 and 1802. In 1807 he moved to Canfield, Ohio, where he passed the rest of his life.  |               |      |      |
| <b>Mygatt, David</b>   | Danbury       | 1777 | 1822 |
| He was in partnership with his brother, Comfort Starr. He finally moved to South East, N.Y.  |               |      |      |
| <b>Mygatt, Eli</b>   | Danbury       | 1742 | 1807 |
| Father of Comfort Starr and David. Was first in general store and drug business with Dr. Daniel Noble Carrington as partner. They advertised in 1793 that they had gone into the silversmith's business with Najah Taylor. The shop and store were on Main Street, nearly opposite where the Hotel Green now stands. Mygatt served in the Revolution, and was made Lieutenant-Colonel in 1778. He was very prominent in Danbury, and represented the town in the General Assembly in 1777, and many times subsequently, dying while attending the May session, 1807. |               |      |      |
| <b>Newberry, Edwin C.</b>  | Brooklyn      |      |      |
| He was born in Mansfield. Served his apprenticeship in Hartford. Began business in Brooklyn about 1828.  |               |      |      |
| <b>Norton, Andrew</b>  | Goshen        | 1765 | 1838 |
| Tavern-keeper and silversmith. A descendant living in Goshen has some of his smith's tools.  |               |      |      |

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- |  |                               |                     |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Norton, Thomas</b>  | Farmington                    | Born 1773—Died 1834 |
| Advertised in Farmington, 1796—1806. He moved to Albion, N.Y., where he passed the rest of his life.   |                               |                     |
| <b>Noyes, Samuel</b>   | Norwich                       | 1747—1781           |
| Born in Groton. Established his business at Norwich Landing.   |                               |                     |
| <b>Oakes, Frederick</b>  | Hartford                      |                     |
| In 1814 the firm of Oakes & Spencer advertised. Probably James Spencer. Directory of 1825 shows that Oakes was located three doors north of Marshall's tavern, which was at northwest corner of State House Square.  |                               |                     |
| <b>Oakes &amp; Spencer</b>   | Hartford                      |                     |
| See above.   |                               |                     |
| <b>Olmsted, Nathaniel</b>  | Farmington and New Haven      | 1785—1860           |
| Born in East Hartford. He learned his trade of Daniel Burnap, of East Windsor. He built a house in Farmington in 1808, and began business there. He married Phidelia Burnap, a niece of Burnap, the silversmith. In 1826 he moved to New Haven, to be near his brother, Professor Denison Olmsted, of Yale. His shop was then on north side of Chapel Street, four doors east of the bank at No. 127. In 1847 the Directory gives the location of N. Olmsted & Son, jewelers and silversmiths, as 37 Olive Street. |                               |                     |
| <b>Otis, Jonathan</b>  | Newport, R.I., and Middletown | 1723—1791           |
| Commander of the militia in Newport, and bore the title of Major. See page 65.   |                               |                     |
| <b>Parmeles, James</b>   | Durham                        | 1763—1828           |
| Silverware and gold beads made by him are found in Durham, and his tools are preserved by his great-granddaughter, who lives in Parmeles's homestead.  |                               |                     |
| <b>Parmeles, Samuel</b>  | Guilford                      | 1737—1803           |
| See page 70.   |                               |                     |
| <b>Peabody, John</b>   | Enfield                       |                     |
| Advertised in 1779.  |                               |                     |





EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

**Potwine, John** Born     Died  
1698—1792

Boston, Hartford, East Windsor, and Coventry.

Born in Boston, and followed his trade there until 1737. His shop was in Newbury Street. He followed his trade for a while in Hartford after 1737, and later ran a general merchandise store there and in East Windsor and Coventry. A great-great-grandson lives in Scantic, and preserves his account book and a number of relics connected with the old smith. His account book, dated principally in 1752, shows dealings with Daniel Henchman, the silversmith of Boston. He died in Scantic, where for many years his son was pastor of the Congregational Church. See page 49.

**Pratt, Nathan** Essex                     1772—1842

Son of Phineas Pratt, the silversmith. The Masonic jewels in the lodge-room in Essex were made by Nathan about the year 1811.

**Pratt, Nathan, Jr.** Essex                     1802—

Son of Nathan Pratt, silversmith, of whom he learned the trade. Later devoted himself to the ivory comb business.

**Pratt, Phineas** Westbrook and Lyme     1747—1813

Born in Westbrook. Served in the Revolution. In 1772 he advertised that his silversmith shop in Lyme was for sale. He was associated with David Bushnell, inventor of the "American Turtle," or first torpedo boat, giving him material assistance. The house in which Bushnell carried on his experiments is still standing on Corban Point, Old Saybrook. In 1799 Pratt took out a patent for a machine he had invented for making ivory combs, the first invention of the kind, and the business resulting from it grew into a large industry. He had great mechanical talent. He was deacon of the Congregational Church in Westbrook.

**Pratt, Seth** Lyme                     1741—1802

Served in the Revolution.

**Prince, Job** Milford

Born probably in Hull, Mass., about 1680. Died in Milford, c. 1703. See page 46.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

**Quintard, Peter** New York and Norwalk Born 1699—Died 1762

Son of Isaac Quintard and born in New York. He was registered there as freeman and goldsmith, 1731. Land was transferred to him in 1722 on south side of Maiden Lane, with a frontage of 21 feet. Moved to Norwalk about 1737. His inventory taken at his death gives the following items: all the goldsmith's tools, £35; 2 necklaces of gold beads, £5-12; 7 gold rings, £3-3; 2 pairs gold jewels, £1-2; 2 pairs silver buckles, £2-10; 6 silver spoons, £1-3; 2 sleeve buttons, £0-11; 1 silver tongs, £0-3-9; 6 large silver spoons, £4-0-0; 4 gold stone rings, £2-13-4; house lot, barn, and shop, £230-3. See page 50.

**Reed, Isaac** Stamford 1746—

Born in New Canaan. He was living in Stamford in 1776, and was making clocks, silverware, and jewelry. He was a Tory and was obliged to migrate to Nova Scotia during the war. Returned to Stamford about 1790.

**Roath, Roswell Walsten** Norwich 1805—

In business in 1826, in which year advertised his shop as at the corner of Main and Shetucket Streets. Later moved to Denver, Col., where he died.

**Rockwell, Thomas** Norwalk —1795

Inventory of his estate shows he was watchmaker and silversmith.

**Rogers, Joseph** Newport, R.I., and Hartford —1825

Brother of Daniel Rogers, silversmith, of Newport: both apprentices and later partners of John Tanner of Newport. In 1803 Joseph moved to Hartford. House and shop corner of Trumbull and Pratt Streets. Silver marked I R and J R has been found in Newport.

**Rogers, William** Hartford 1801—1873

Was apprenticed to Joseph Church. Became a partner in 1825. In 1828 was in business alone. About 1847 began to manufacture plated spoons and forks. This venture grew into a large business, and with his brothers he later established the well-known trade-mark, 1847 Rogers Bros.

**Russell, Jonathan** Ashford 1770—

Advertised in 1804 that he was carrying on his business in the East Society of Ashford.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- Sadd, Hervey** New Hartford Born 1776 Died 1840  
 Born in East Windsor. His old red house is still standing. North of it, and situated near a brook whence he had water power, he built his shop. Here he made silver spoons and other articles, and later he established an iron foundry where he made stoves, pots, and kettles. In 1829 he moved to Austinburg, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life. One of the silver communion cups belonging to the Congregational Church in East Hartford was made by Sadd.
- Sanford, Isaac** Hartford  
 An advertisement in 1785 states that the firm of Beach & Sanford has moved from Litchfield to Hartford, and proposes to carry on engraving, clock and watch making, and silversmithing. As early as 1783 and as late as 1822 an Isaac Sanford was living in Hartford who was a miniature painter and engraver, and possibly the same man as the silversmith. In 1812 he was in England, where he was granted a patent for making tile. In 1824 he was living in Providence, R.I.
- Sargeant, Jacob** Mansfield and Hartford 1761—1843  
 Born in Mansfield. About 1785 he moved to Hartford, and was successful in his business. It is said that Joseph Church learned his trade of Sargeant. His store and shop were at No. 10 State Street, next door to the old United States Hotel. The Directory of 1838 shows that he was located at 229 Main Street. He left a considerable estate for the times. Clocks bearing his name are found in Connecticut.
- Shethar, Samuel** Litchfield and New Haven  
 In 1801 he was in business with Isaac Thomson in Litchfield. In 1806 he was in business in New Haven with Richard Gorham. He was probably living in Litchfield in 1810.
- Shethar & Gorham** New Haven  
 See above.
- Shethar & Thomson** Litchfield  
 See above.
- Shipman, Nathaniel** Norwich 1764—1853  
 Learned his trade of Thomas Harland. In 1790 he advertised for sale watches, clocks, and a general assortment of goldsmith's work. He was a representative from Norwich to the General Assembly many times, and was judge of the County Court and Probate Court. The late Judge Nathaniel Shipman was his grandson.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- |                      |           |               |              |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Sibley, Clark</b> | New Haven | Born<br>1778— | Died<br>1808 |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
- Member of firm Sibley & Marble, 1801-06, situated on Church Street, next north of the location of Trinity Church at that time.
- |                            |           |  |  |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|--|
| <b>Sibley &amp; Marble</b> | New Haven |  |  |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|--|
- See above.
- |                           |           |       |  |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|--|
| <b>Silliman, Hezekiah</b> | New Haven | 1738— |  |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|--|
- In 1767 Richard Cutler, Hezekiah Silliman & Ambrose Ward & Company advertised that "they are goldsmiths and jewellers in New Haven and beg leave to inform the publick that at their respective shops in said New Haven, they severally continue to do all sorts of Gold and Silver Work both large and small: likewise the Jewelling Business in all its Branches."
- |                        |          |  |       |
|------------------------|----------|--|-------|
| <b>Skinner, Elizer</b> | Hartford |  | —1858 |
|------------------------|----------|--|-------|
- In 1826 advertised that his shop was at the head of Ferry Street.
- |                        |            |  |  |
|------------------------|------------|--|--|
| <b>Smith, Ebenezer</b> | Brookfield |  |  |
|------------------------|------------|--|--|
- Latter half of eighteenth century was working at his trade on Whiscomer Hill.
- |                        |       |       |      |
|------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| <b>Spencer, George</b> | Essex | 1787— | 1878 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|------|
- In 1801 he was apprenticed to Nathan Pratt "to learn the art and mystery of the trade of goldsmithing." After a time he gave up the trade and began to manufacture ivory combs in Deep River, in which he did a successful business.
- |                       |          |  |  |
|-----------------------|----------|--|--|
| <b>Spencer, James</b> | Hartford |  |  |
|-----------------------|----------|--|--|
- In 1793 bought the silversmith shop of Asa Loud. Probably partner later of Frederick Oakes.
- |                        |         |  |  |
|------------------------|---------|--|--|
| <b>Staniford, John</b> | Windham |  |  |
|------------------------|---------|--|--|
- In business there late in the eighteenth century.
- |                        |            |       |      |
|------------------------|------------|-------|------|
| <b>Stanton, Daniel</b> | Stonington | 1755— | 1781 |
|------------------------|------------|-------|------|
- He served for a time during the Revolution on the privateer "Minerva," which captured the British merchant ship "Hannah." In his share of the prize was a beautiful brocaded silk dress, which, on his return, he presented to his affianced bride as a wedding gift. They were expecting soon to be married; but death prevented. He was killed in the defense of Fort Griswold at Groton.
- |                       |            |       |      |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|------|
| <b>Stanton, Enoch</b> | Stonington | 1745— | 1781 |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|------|
- Killed in the defense of Fort Griswold at Groton.



EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- Trott, Jonathan** Born Died  
1730—1815  
 Boston, Norwich, and New London  
 The *Connecticut Gazette*, under date of January 2, 1784, has the following: "Jonathan Trott, Innholder, Norwich, gives notice of the meeting of the New London County Medical Society, December 18th, 1783: meeting postponed by adjournment to January, 1784." For further notes on his life see page 75.
- Trott, Jonathan, Jr.** New London 1771—1813  
 Son of Jonathan Trott. In an advertisement in 1800 he "informs the publick that he carries on the business of a Gold and Silversmith at his shop two doors north of J. & A. Woodward's, Beach Street." See page 75.
- Trott & Brooks** New London  
 Advertised in 1798. See John Proctor Trott.
- Trott & Cleveland** New London  
 Advertised in 1792. See John Proctor Trott and William Cleveland.
- Tuttle, Bethuel** New Haven 1779—1813  
 Member of firm Merriman & Tuttle, 1802-1806. 1806-1813, member of firm Marcus Merriman & Co.
- Tuttle, William** New Haven and Suffield 1800—1849  
 Son of Bethuel. Some time before his death he moved to Suffield.
- Ufford & Burdick** New Haven  
 Advertised in 1814. See William S. Burdick.
- Walworth, Daniel** Middletown 1760—1830  
 Born in Groton. He advertised in 1785 and subsequently.
- Ward, Ambrose** New Haven 1735—1808  
 See Hezekiah Silliman.
- Ward, Billious** Guilford 1729—1777  
 See page 69.
- Ward, James** Hartford 1768—1856  
 See page 60.
- Ward & Bartholomew** Hartford  
 1804-09. See James Ward and Roswell Bartholomew.

EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

- Ward, Bartholomew & Brainard** Hartford  
1809-1830. See above and Charles Brainard.
- Ward, John** Middletown  
Advertised in 1805 that he had "taken the shop formerly occupied by Judah Hart where he will carry on gold and silversmithing in all its branches." Later formed a partnership with Edmund Hughes under name of
- Ward & Hughes** Dissolved 1806.
- Ward, Timothy** Middletown Born 1742—Died 1768  
Son of Captain James Ward. See page 64.
- Ward, William** Litchfield 1736—1826  
Born in New Haven.
- Ward, William** Guilford 1705—1761  
Father of Billious Ward. Blacksmith and silversmith. The inventory of his estate shows that he owned tools for working in iron and other metals. Rat-tailed spoons have been found in Guilford and vicinity marked W. W. and W. WARD.
- Wardin, Daniel** Bridgeport  
Advertised in 1811.
- Welles, Andrew** Hebron 1783—1860  
He bore the title of General. The writer owns a number of his silversmith's tools.
- Wells, William** Hartford 1766—  
His name appears as silversmith in Directory for 1828.
- White, Amos** East Haddam and Meriden 1745—1825  
Silversmith and sea-captain. Served in the Revolution. The latter part of his life was spent in Meriden.
- White, Peregrine** Woodstock 1747—1834  
Bought land in Woodstock in 1774 for purposes of clock-making. He also made silver spoons. A number of fine clocks bearing his name as maker have been found in southern New England.
- White, Peter** Norwalk 1718—1803  
Built a silversmith shop in 1738.
- Whiting, Charles** Norwich 1725—1865  
He built a shop in Norwich about 1750.



EARLY SILVER OF CONNECTICUT AND ITS MAKERS

**Willcox, Alvan**      Norwich and New Haven      

Born	Died
1783	1865

Born in Berlin. For two or three years, viz., 1805-07, he was a member of firm Hart & Willcox. For a while he lived in New Jersey. In 1824 he was living in New Haven, and his shop was at southwest corner of Church and Chapel Streets, where a number of early silversmiths were located before him and E. Benjamin subsequently. His name appears in New Haven Directory for 1841—first issued—as silver-worker, in 1850 as gold and silver thimble and spectacle maker, and in 1857 he is called a “silver-plater.”

**Willcox, Cyprian**      New Haven      1795—1875

Brother of Alvan. Born in Berlin. In 1827 he was a silversmith in New Haven. Later he was an iron founder, at one time at the foot of Whitney Avenue and later on North State Street, not far from East Rock. The late H. B. Bigelow succeeded to his iron business. For several years he was First Selectman of New Haven, and during the years 1855-56-57 he was Judge of Probate. He died in Ithaca, N.Y.

**Williams, Deodat**      Hartford      —1781

In 1776 he advertised “has set up his business in a room under the Printing Office where he makes and sells Ladies’ Necklaces, Locketts, Ear Rings and Hair Sprigs, Silver Shoe and Kneebuckles, Stock Buckles, Stone Shoe Buttons, Stone and Silver Broaches and a variety of other articles. Officers Silver Mounted Hangers with either lions, eagles, painters or plain heads, etc.”

**Wilmot, Samuel**      New Haven      1777—1846

He advertised in 1808. In 1800 an advertisement states he is a member of the firm.

**Wilmot & Stillman**      New Haven

**Woodward, Antipas**      Middletown      1763—

See page 65.

**Yeomans, Elijah**      Hartford      1738—1794

Born in Tolland. Advertised in Hartford, 1794.

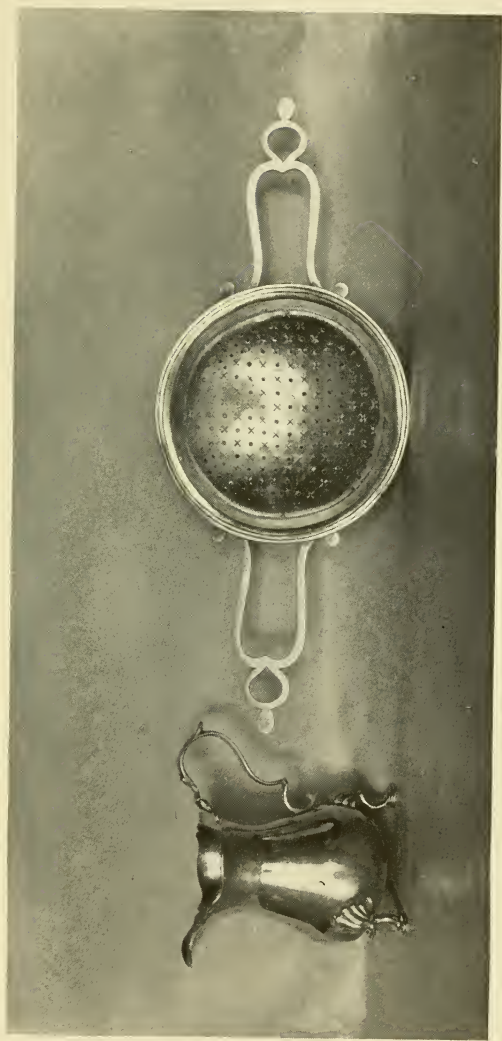
**Young, Ebenezer**      Hebron

He advertised in 1778-80.

**Young, Levi**      Bridgeport

He advertised in 1827 as opposite the shop of Peck & Porter on Water Street.





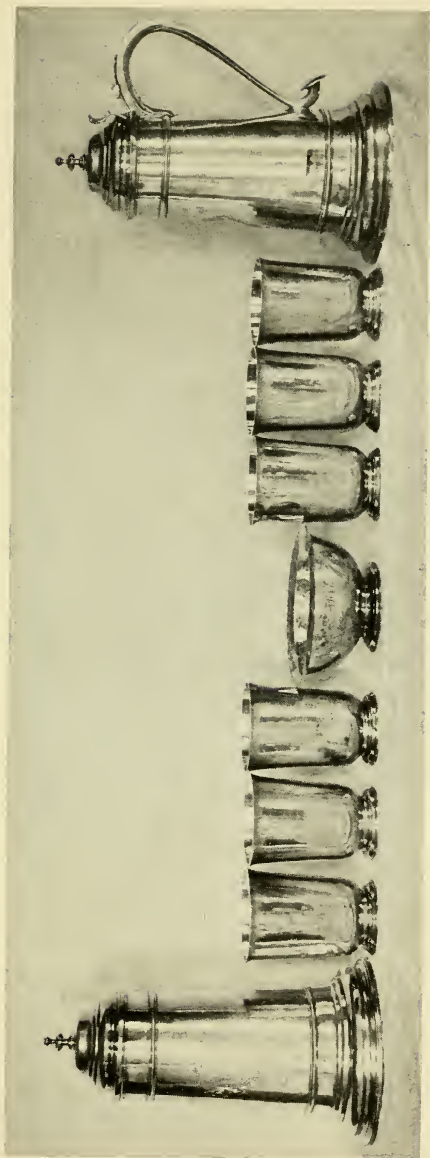
Cream Pitcher: height 4 in., made by James Tiley, mark **J-TILEY**  
Strainer: length 11½ in., made by Ebenezer Austin, mark **Austin** **E.A.**



## NOTE

The writer wishes to express his appreciation to those who have sent him the names of many early Connecticut silversmiths in the alphabetical list. His thanks are particularly due to Mrs. Elisha Edgerton Rogers, of Norwich, and Mrs. C. H. Brush, of Danbury, who have rendered great help in discovering the names of early craftsmen in the eastern and western parts of the state respectively.



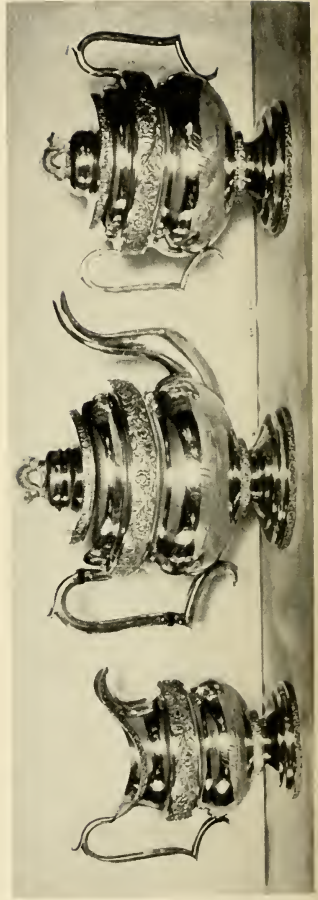
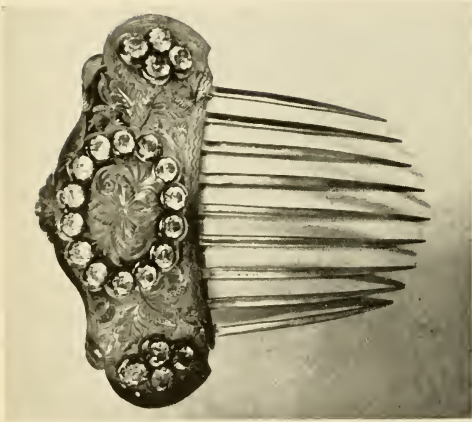


Communion vessels formerly belonging to Congregational Church, Westchester Society, town of Colchester, lately presented (except the bowl) to the Connecticut Historical Society by Mrs. Leverett Brainard. This silver was presented to the church about 1774 by Lieutenant David Day and his wife Hannah. Flagons, 13½ inches high, and cups, 5¾ inches high, were made by Samuel Minott, of Boston. The bowl, diameter 6⅝ inches, made by Ward & Bartholomew.

Mark } W. & B } Given by an unknown donor.  
 } HARTFORD. }

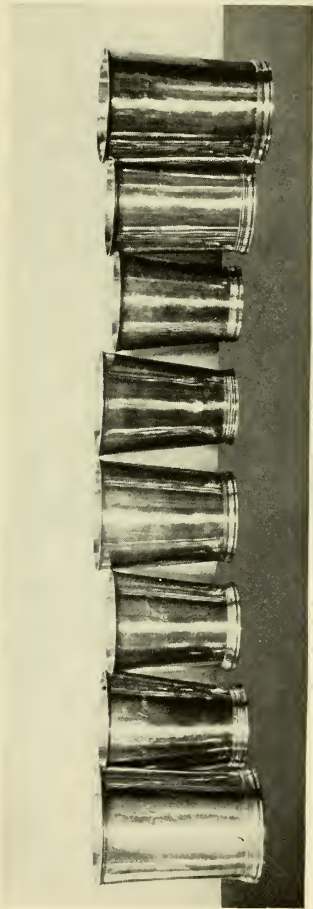
Plate xxvi.

Silver comb made by  
Barzillai Benjamin about  
1815: width  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches





Group of Connecticut made Beakers, owned by Center Congregational  
Church, Meriden



Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 8 made by Ebenezer Chittenden ; No. 6 by Samuel Buel and No. 7 by  
Marcus Merriman & Co. Marks: E. C. in rectangle, S. B. in rectangle and M. M.  
and M. & Co. in rectangles. Height of end beakers  $4\frac{9}{16}$  inches and  $4\frac{13}{16}$  inches

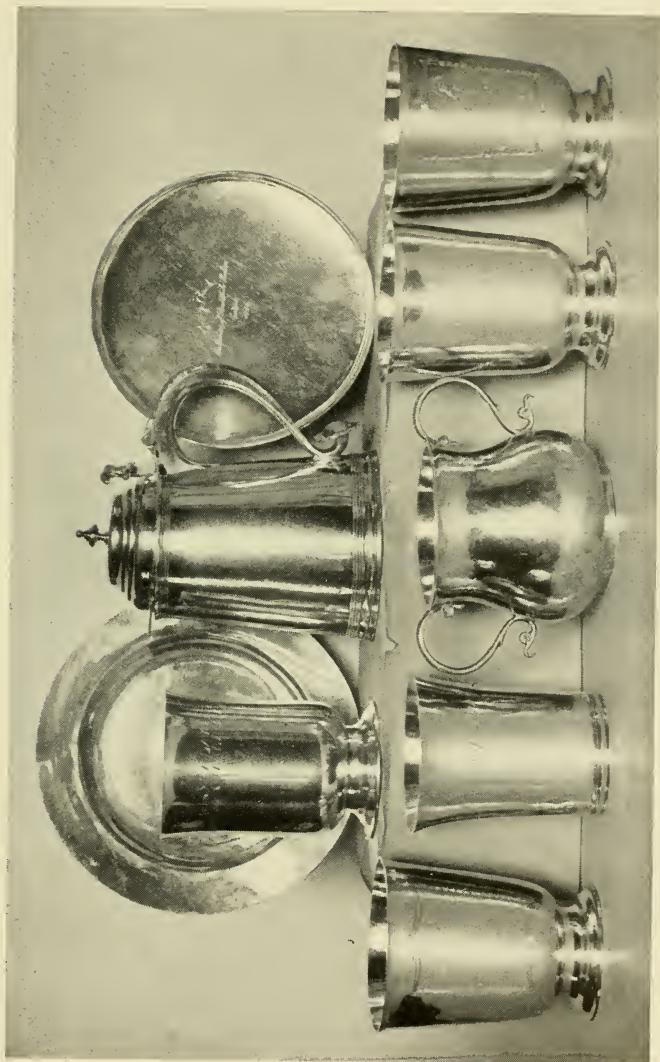
The Work of Connecticut Silversmiths



Tankard, height 10 inches, owned by Congregational Church, Green's Farms, made by R. Fairchild. Four cups on the ends, with two handles each, height  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches, owned by Congregational Church, North Haven, made by Abel Buel. Middle cup with two handles, height  $4\frac{7}{8}$  inches, owned by same church, made by Merriman & Bradley. Two cans in lower row, height  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches, owned by Congregational Church, Green's Farms, each marked M. J., probably Munson Jarvis. Marks: R. Fairchild in rectangle, Buel in rectangle, M. & B. in rectangle above a grape vine, M. J. in rectangle

The Work of Connecticut Silversmiths

Tankard, height  $7\frac{3}{8}$  inches, owned by Trinity Church, New Haven, made by Cornelius Kierstead, presented by Mrs. Mary Hillhouse, 1822. Plate on left, diameter  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, owned by Trinity Church, New Haven, made by R. Fairchild. Paten on right, diameter  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches, owned by Trinity Church, Southport, made by Billious Ward. Cup in front of plate, height  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches, owned by St. Luke's Chapel, Middletown, made by J. Gardiner

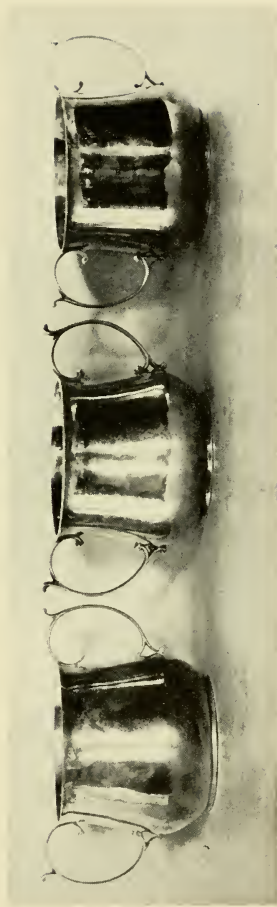


One cup on left and two on right, height  $4\frac{7}{8}$  inches, owned by First Congregational Church, Middletown, made by Jonathan Otis. Caudle cup, height  $4$  inches, owned by Congregational Church, North Haven, made by C. Kierstead. Beaker left of caudle cup, height  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches, owned by Congregational Church, Guilford, made by S. Parmele. Marks: C. K. in rectangle, R. Fairchild in rectangle, B. W. in oval, J. Gardiner in rectangle, Otis (script) in rectangle, S. Parmele (script) in cartouche

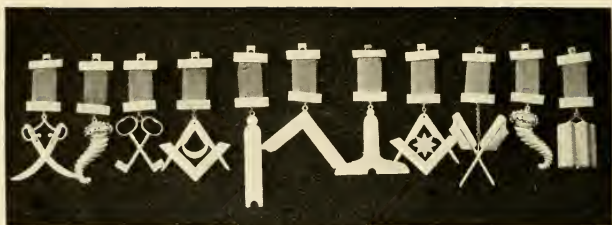


Silver tea service made by Jonathan Trott, Jr., about 1810, and owned by Miss Anna Lord Huntington, Old Lyme. Mark: I. T. in rectangle, between emblems impossible to decipher. Height of teapot 10 inches

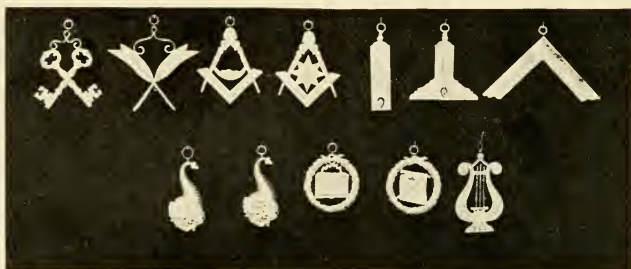
Caudle Cups owned by United Church, New Haven



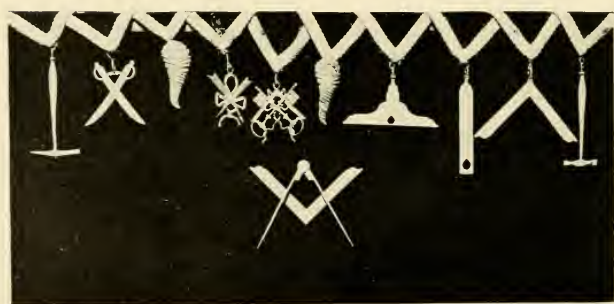
Nos. 1 and 2 made by Merriman & Bradley, No. 3 made by Ebenezer Chittenden, all  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches high. Marks: M. & B. in rectangle above a grape vine, E. C. in oval



Jewels owned by St. John's Lodge, F. & A. Masons, Middletown. Made by Charles Brewer about 1812



Jewels owned by St. John's Lodge, F. & A. Masons, Hartford. Made by Samuel Rockwell and James Tiley



Jewels owned by Mt. Olive Lodge, F. & A. Masons, Essex. Made by Nathan Pratt about 1811









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