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# RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

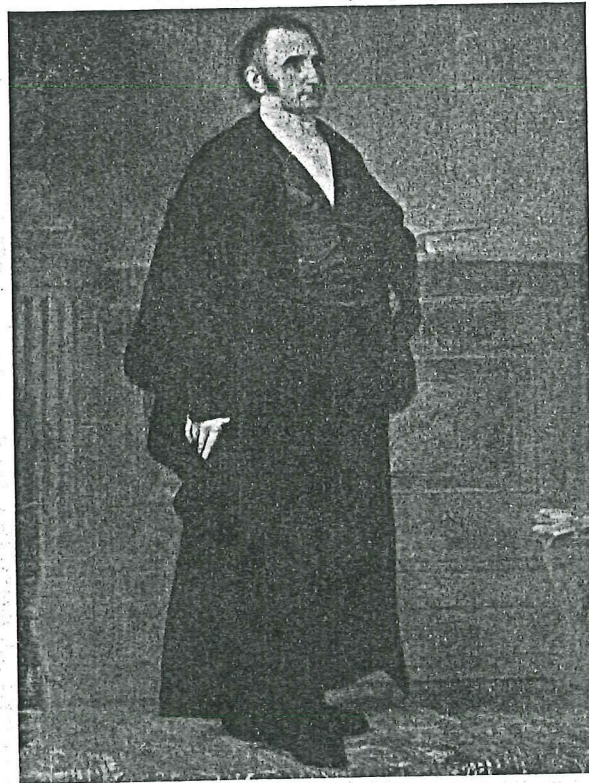
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FRANCIS WAYLAND

*From Portrait in Sayles Hall*

Issued Quarterly

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68 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

### *New Publications of Rhode Island Interest*

The Society of Colonial Wars issued in December a leaflet of eleven pages on John Albro's Deposition of 1705 in regard to the purchase of Aquidneck.

### *Notes*

The following persons have been elected to membership in the Society:

MR. CHARLES J. HILL

MR. WILFRED C. MURPHY

### Three Examples of the Work of Lawrance Langworthy, Newport Pewterer

BY MADELAINE R. BROWN, M.D.

The earliest Rhode Island pewterer who has left known examples of his work is Lawrance Langworthy of Newport. He worked first in Exeter, England; and in the Exeter Museum, Devonshire, is a plate bearing his touch mark and the date 1719. By 1731 he had moved to Newport as evidenced by the Supreme Court Records naming him as pewterer and plaintiff in a law suit.<sup>1</sup>

He did not come to America for religious reasons since he remained a member of the Anglican Church and became

<sup>1</sup> Colket, M. B., "Lawrence Langworthy, Pewterer" *The American Genealogist*: 15, p. 1. July 1938.

a vestryman of Trinity Church, Newport. It is supposed that he came for business reasons and to Newport, because the only other Langworthy known to have come to this country was Andrew Langworthy, a citizen of Newport as early as 1652.

Lawrance Langworthy had two children, Mary and Southcott. Mary married Daniel Pierce and he and Southcott went into business together as braziers in Newport. The Langworthy name was carried on only one generation further for Southcott's only son was severely injured in the Revolutionary War and left no descendants.

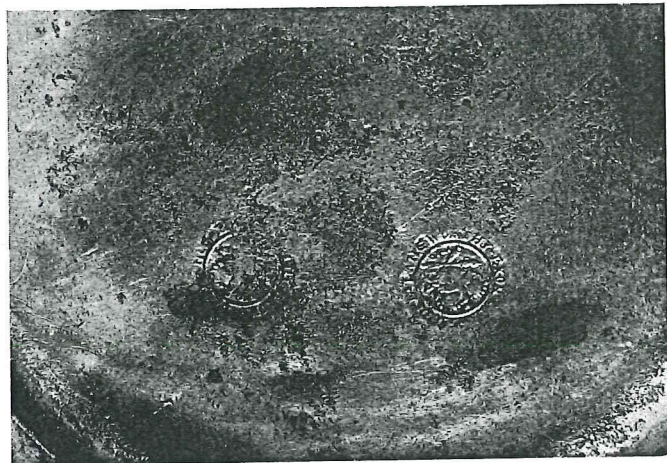
Mr. Colket prints Lawrance's will probated 1739 which shows that he left a very substantial estate for that day.<sup>1</sup> The tombstone of Lawrance and his wife, Mary, is in the Island cemetery, Newport, and is believed by Mr. Howard Chapin to bear the only example of an impaled coat of arms in colonial Rhode Island. The birth place of Lawrance is given as Ashburton and of Mary as Dartmouth, both of Devonshire. It is probable that she was Mary Southcott since this was the name of a prominent gentry family of Devonshire and both Langworthy children named sons Southcott. Mr. William Langworthy of Hamilton, New York, descendant of Andrew Langworthy, has made a search of the Ashburton parish records without being able to trace the Langworthy ancestry.

In 1936 a bell metal, three-legged pot turned up in the possession of Mrs. Benjamin Blake of Weston, Massachusetts. This bears the mark "L. Langworthy 1730" on the handle. In the spring of 1938 a similar pot with the mark "L. L. Newport" was discovered in the possession of Mr. Lewis Wiggin of Northampton, Massachusetts and due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Franklin of Needham, one marked identically with Mrs. Blake's was located in the collection of the late Mr. Albert Bowman of Springfield, Vermont. It is of interest that all of these pots were found in the Connecticut valley possibly indicating an early maritime trade route.

The handles of both pots where they were attached have a defect blotting out the "L" of Langworthy. The fact that two examples dated 1730 have been found in this country leads one to suppose that the maker began work in Newport at this time. Outside of a spoon handle by Joseph



TOUCH MARK OF LANGWORTHY  
FROM COLKET, IN AMER.  
GENEALOGIST



TOUCH MARK OF LANGWORTHY ON PEWTER PLATE IN  
EXETER MUSEUM, EXETER, ENGLAND

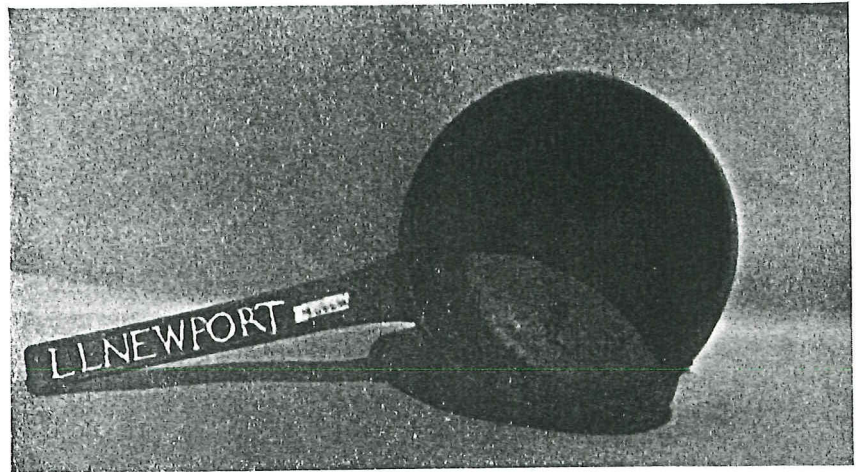


LANGWORTHY PEWTER PLATE IN  
EXETER MUSEUM, EXETER, ENGLAND

Copeland of Chuckatuck, Virginia, recently excavated at Jamestown<sup>2</sup>, these pots by Langworthy remain the earliest known examples of an American pewterer's work. Copeland's touch mark dated 1675 is strikingly similar in type to Langworthy's English mark, although the two men began work forty-four years apart on opposite sides of the Atlantic.

There are several bell metal pots of the same type in Newport at present, two of which bear simply "Newport" on the handles. One is in the Newport Historical Society and the other in the Winton-Lyman-Hazard House. These were probably made either by Lawrance or his son, Southcott, but unfortunately no pewter made in this country by the former has been discovered.

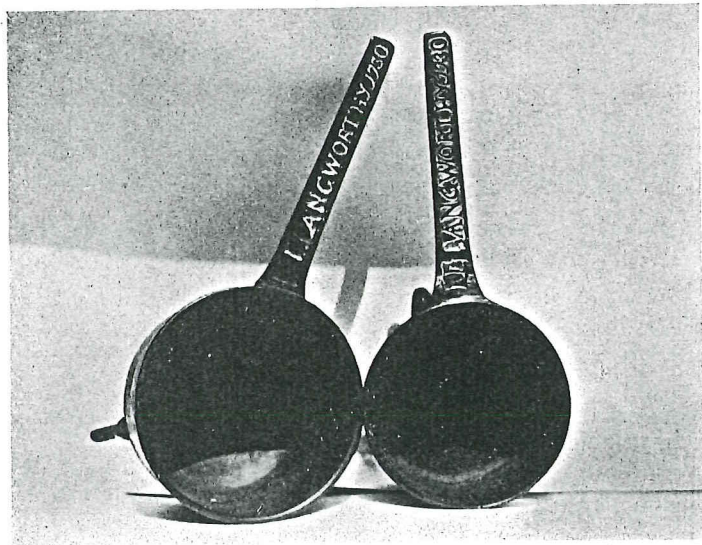
<sup>2</sup> Bailey, W., "Joseph Copeland, 17th Century Pewterer" *Antiques*: 23, p. 188 April 1938.



*Photo by Mr. P. J. Franklin*

LANGWORTHY BELL METAL POT

*Owned by Mr. Lewis N. Wiggin, Northampton, Mass.*



*Photo by Mr. P. J. Franklin*

LANGWORTHY BELL METAL POTS

*Owned by  
Dr. Madelaine Brown*

*Owned by  
Mrs. Benjamin Blake*