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Individual Alderson pieces in Lock collection, April 2010

Half pint ale jug, c late 1820's

This piece is by Sir George Alderson with his circular mark inside the base. No other marks. Front-spouted with plain strap handle. I bought this delightful jug at the sale of the late Don Todd's pewter in Melbourne in August 2006. Imperial capacity, c late 1820's.



Pint "U and fillet" tankard, c 1825

This pot was probably made by Mary Alderson, with "I.A." mark inside base. The body has secondary marks of three lions, passant, as well as crowned WR and City of Westminster Portcullis marks. Scroll handle has a spur at the top and a fish tail finial. Imperial capacity, c 1825. Bought in 1994.



Half pint “U and fillet” tankard, c late 1820’s

This was the first piece by the Aldersons that I bought back in 1983. It has the circular mark of Sir George Alderson inside base and numerous marks on the body. Marks are: three lions passant to left of handle, 2H, early Berkshire County mark, AD over C for Cambridge County and crowned VR 565 for Cambridge County {post 1879}. The scroll handle has the spur at the top and the finial is drawn out like a foot. Imperial capacity, made c late 1820’s and in use for well over 60 years.



Half pint “U and fillet” tankard, c late 1820’s

This piece is similar to the above ½ pint, having the same mark of Sir George Alderson inside the base. On the body are three lions, passant, to the left of the handle. No other marks are on the piece. The scroll handle is different to the previous ½ pint as it has no spur at the top not drawn-out ‘foot’ at the bottom of the handle. This is more like the traditional “Fish-tail” style finial. I bought this piece in Melbourne in August 2006 at the sale of the late Don Todd’s collection. It’s in superb condition, c late 1820’s.



Two half pint “U and fillet” tankards, c late 1820’s

This is a comparison of the two ½ pints in photos 005 and 008, showing the differences in handle design. The surface condition of the pieces also differs due to long use by the left-hand ½ pint which has county marks for Berkshire, Cambridge and Hereford. Neither has a capacity stamp.



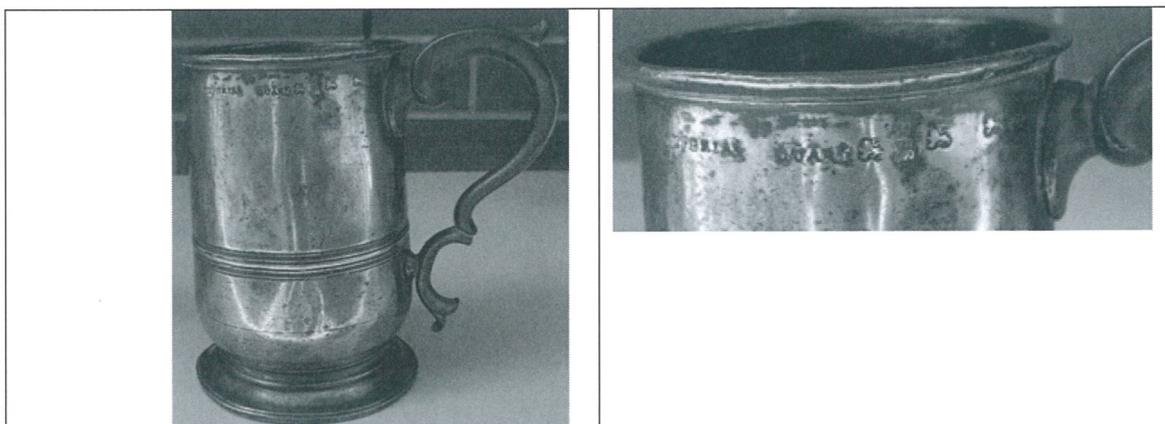
Half pint “Truncated cone” tankard, c 1825

This pot has been cleaned and polished, possibly for the American market. It has the “I.A.” mark, probably Mary Alderson, widow of John Alderson, inside the base. There’s a fine crowned WR on the body to the left of the handle as well as an early Suffolk County stamp and the City of Westminster Portcullis mark. It has no capacity stamp. The body is plain with no fillet, being similar to those made in the 1820’s by London makers such as Grimes and South. Handle has “Oozy tongue and Pip”.



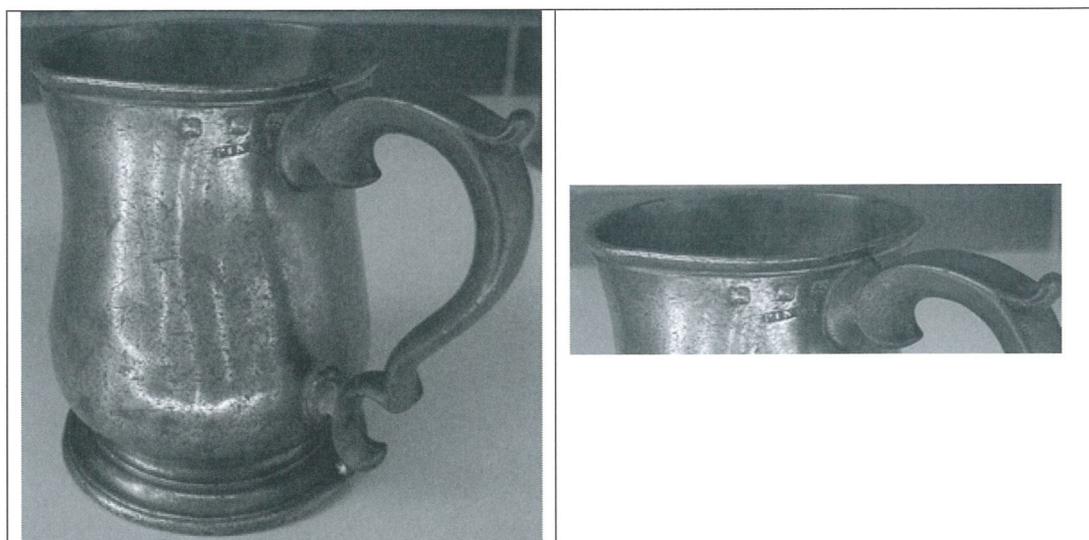
Imperial Quart “U and fillet” tankard, c 1825

In very good condition, this quart came from the Dr. Sandy Law sale at Chester in 1997. It is a typical U and fillet body with spurred scroll handle. Marked “I.A’ in base as used by Mary Alderson, it was made around 1825 and of Imperial capacity. It has four secondary lion marks, passant, to left of handle as is often found on quarts by Aldersons. A crowned VR 560 for Hampshire County is stamped on the upper body between two of the lions. There is also IMPERIAL QUART stamped on the body to the left of the lion marks. On the upper body, to the right of the handle, is the 1826 City of Westminster mark and further to the right is C * S , being an early Southampton County mark. The capacity marks were probably added after 1835 in keeping with the Act of 1834 which enforced the stamping of capacities on pewter.



Pint “Tulip” tankard, c late 1820’s

This is a low-bellied “Tulip” pint tankard of Imperial standard capacity with a wide foot that is typical of similar pieces made in London during the 1820’s to early 1830’s. It has the circular mark of Sir George Alderson inside the centre of the base. There are three lions, passant, as secondary Alderson marks to the left of the handle on the upper body. Capacity stamped “PINT” and 4 also on the upper body near the lions. The handle is a spurred scroll with fish-tail finial. In overall good condition, this piece was bought for 35 pounds in Wallingford, June 1989, and vetted at the PS Spring meeting there which was the first PS meeting that we attended.



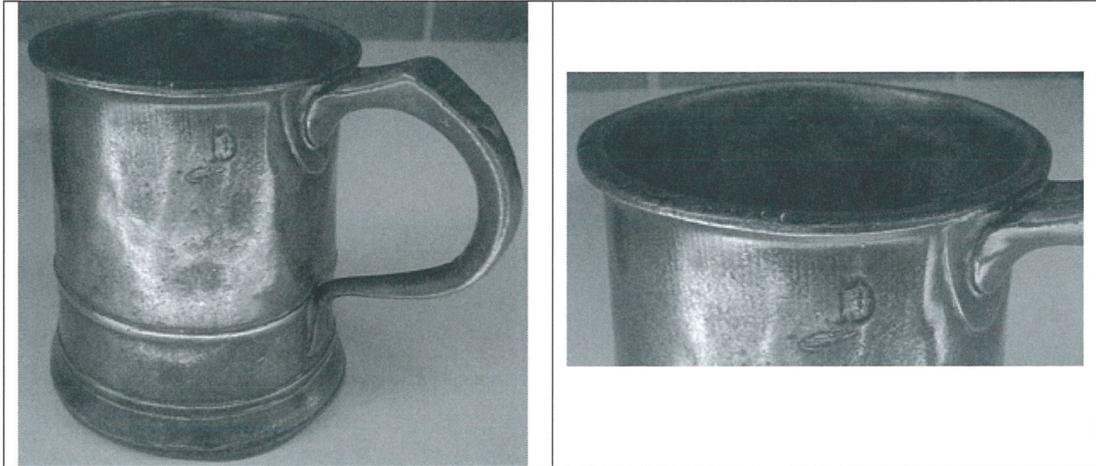
Quart “U and fillet” double-dome lidded tankard, c late 1820’s

A similar quart to that in 011 and 012, this lidded “U and fillet” tankard has the mark inside the base for Sir George Alderson. It has four lions, passant, as secondary marks on the upper body to the left of the handle. Also has capacity stamp for quart beneath the lions and owner’s initials inscribed in cursive on the front. Owner’s initials are *JMT*, surrounded by flecking which is typical of decoration found on pots, c 1800 to 1830’s. The lid is double-domed with an open-chairback thumb-piece that is often found on lidded pots from late 1780’s to mid 1830’s. I bought this at the PS Spring Meeting auction in May 2009.



Pint “Truncated-cone” tankard with escutcheon, c 1810 to 1825

This piece has the “I.A” mark of John Alderson, as used by his widow Mary Alderson, struck inside the base. Body has a single fillet or raised band and an escutcheon to the top handle attachment which indicates that it was probably made in the early years of the 19th century, c 1810 to 1825. Similar pieces to this were made by Foster and Grimes as well as Gerardin & Watson. No secondary lion marks are evident on this pot. The upper body has been struck with a large crown to the left of the handle. This may have been part of either a WR mark or a GR IV mark, both of which used a large crown. Owner’s initials, **MD**, with flecking, are inscribed on the front of the body which indicates possible dating of c 1800 to 1830’s. There is also a crowned VR over 267 for East Suffolk and small lettered PINT for capacity.



Two Imperial quart “U and Fillet” tankards, c1820’s

This is a comparison photograph of two Alderson quarts, previously described in 011, 012, 016 and 017. You can see from the bodies that they are identical and were most likely to have been made from the same mould. Apart from the obvious difference in handle and lid, only the maker’s marks vary. That on the left has the circular touch of Sir George Alderson whilst the lidded quart has “I.A”, that of John Alderson, as used by his widow, Mary.



Two pre-Imperial tankards, both by "I.A" c pre 1825

This photograph shows the two truncated-cone tankards previously described in 010, 019 and 020. Both are by "I.A", probably Mary Alderson. Neither have the secondary lion passant marks that are usually found on pieces by Alderson. The half pint has both a crowned WR verification stamp and the 1826 City of Westminster portcullis mark whilst the pint has marks indicating long use as the VR 267 for East Suffolk was stamped after 1880. Both are of Imperial capacity.



Group photograph of various Alderson pieces, c1810 to late 1820's

This photograph shows all Alderson pieces in my collection as on Monday 29th March 2010. Pieces comprise two quarts, three pints, three half pints and one half pint ale jug. All are in very good condition with no repairs to any.



Some thoughts about the Alderson marks

As all of the Alderson pieces in my collection are of Imperial capacity, it would be reasonable to assume that they were made from the mid 1820's at the time when O.E.A.S and O.E.W.S. were being replaced by the new Imperial Standard. Only the truncated-cone pieces have none of the secondary marks as used by both Aldersons so they may be a little earlier than 1825.

There is only a small difference in capacity between OEAS and Imperial; OEAS quart is 40.66 fl. oz, Imperial quart is 40 fl oz; OEAS pint is 20.33 fl oz, Imperial pint is 20 fl oz and OEAS ½ pint is 10.17 fl oz to Imperial ½ pint 10 fl oz. Perhaps the WR mark indicates being made prior to 1826 and therefore holding marginally more than Imperial. {The actual difference in capacity is 1/60th of the pot's capacity in relationship OEAS : Imperial} Rather than stamp each pot with the 1&1/60th stamp that was briefly used by some makers, the crowned WR would suffice. This would be quite plausible, especially with ½ pints where the difference between the two is 0.17 of a fl oz!!

The City of Westminster portcullis marks have only been found on "I.A." pieces, - both the portcullis marks have been found on different Alderson pieces



This implies that Mary Alderson's business was taken over by George and his brother Thomas Alderson in the early 1820's after her death. George died in 1826 and the business was continued by Thomas. It also indicates that the Alderson firm manufactured pewter within the boundaries of the City of Westminster. No "I.A." piece has a G IV City of London mark but often have the crowned WR. No George Alderson piece has a GR IV mark either.

I think that the circular Alderson mark is used on pieces that were made post 1825 as all are Imperial and none that I have seen have a WR mark or 1826 city of Westminster mark. Therefore, it would be highly unlikely for an Alderson piece with a circular touch in the base to have WR or 1826 mark as well.

In his article, A.J. Muir mentioned seeing "many a bellied measure" with the circular mark. I have yet to see one. Were tulip and bellied less easily identified in 1983?

Clarification of the working dates for the "I.A." mark needs to be determined as at the present, vendors are going by the mark indicating being made by John Alderson who died in 1792.

Consequently, pots are being sold as dating from the late 18th century when in fact they are 30 years later. This should really be evident from the capacity of the items - as if of Imperial capacity, they must have been made after 1825.