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Francis Bonaventure Gerardin and Thomas Watson

More information concerning Gerardin & Watson

With some of their Pewter and Pewter Marks

The previous article put on the website in Autumn 2010 used the information that was then known by the Pewter Society. Since then with a Watson descendant's emails, detailed research by a knowledgeable and able genealogist, and details of Pewter in an Australian collection it has been possible to add considerable information both to the Pewter Society data base of pewterers and to this website. The other article will remain on the website as it really shows what a difference these website contacts can make in a short space of time, and the different pewter shown in that original 2010 article.

An email to this website from a member of the public - (a descendant of Thomas Watson) –

Thomas Watson Senior was born in Norwich in 1788 the son of Thomas Watson and Elizabeth Dewing who had married in 1783. Elizabeth Dewing has a sister Mary Dewing who married Francis Bonaventure Gerardin in London in 1796. Francis Gerardin was born in France in 1768 but left during the Revolution and initially settled in the Spittlefields area of East London. Francis and Mary Gerardin's first daughter Mary Catherine was baptised at Christ Church, Spitalfields on 25th June 1797. The register entry shows that the family were living in Crispin Street and Francis was already a pewterer. Maybe this was a trade he had learnt in France. By the time their second daughter was born in September 1801 they were living in Little Windmill Street, just south of Poland Street and it is probable that they then settled at 21 Poland Street in late 1801 or early 1802. It was here that Francis Gerardin established his pewter

To: "johnsbank@me.com" <johnsbank@me.com>

Subject: Gerardin and Watson

Dear John

We wanted to thank you for your articles on Gerardin and Watson which have helped our family history research. We thought that you would like a little more information to complete the story - or at least move it on a little!

You note that when Thomas Watson 2 died his will was witnessed by his sons Thomas Gerardin and Jesse who were both living in Manchester. Thomas and Jesse's sister, Emma Jane married Sir William Mather in 1863 (at the Swedenborgian Chapel in Argyle Square, London). Sir William was the owner of the Salford Iron Works and, as the census records show, Thomas Gerardin Watson was working for his brother in law and this explains the move to Manchester. It is likely, therefore, that Jesse was also in his brother in law's employ when he was in Manchester. Jesse subsequently moved to Scotland where he had an engineering business.

Thomas 2 's brother Henry, the last family pewterer in Poland Street, was still shown in the 1891 census at Poland Street as a Pewter and employer. So the family connection with Poland street spanned most of the 19th century. Henry had two daughters, Janie and Rosalie Maria. Rosalie (1854-1932) was a successful miniature portrait painter who married the artist Alfred Emslie. Some of Rosalie Maria Emslie's work is held in the V&A collection.

Rosalie's daughter, also Rosalie Emslie, was an artist.

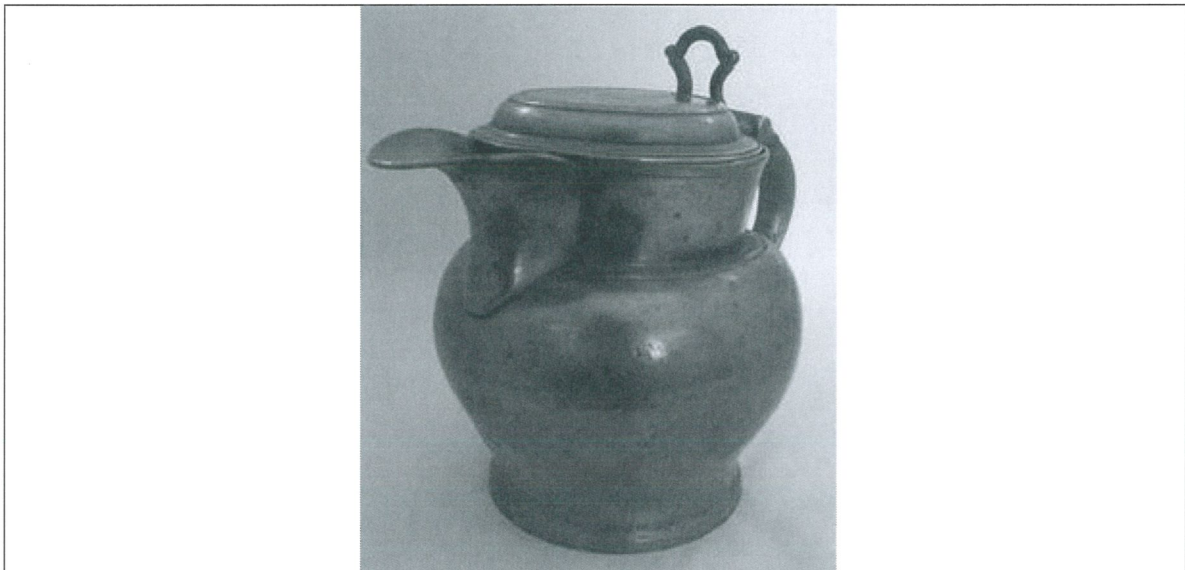
Interestingly, there has been a strong artistic tradition in the family. As well as the two Rosalie Emslies, Albert Thomas Watson Penn (1849-1924), Thomas Watson 1's grandson, was a photographer in India and his ethnographic photographs are in the national collection. Two of Thomas 1's great grandsons were also artists. Walter Edward Penn (1882-1959) was a Bosham based artist and William Charles Penn (1877-1968) was a renowned portrait painter and teacher with many works in national collections. Norman Alexander Clark (1913-1992), Thomas Watson 1's great, great grandson was also a painter and teacher based in Sussex. Some of his work can also be found in national collections.

I hope you find this interesting

With kind regards

Mike and Jackie Sharp

works. I know this because my 3rd great grandfather came to London at age 13 to be an apprentice to his uncle Francis. Thomas Watson Senior eventually became his partner and married in 1811. His first son was also called Thomas Watson and in some records is shown as Thomas Watson Junior. Sadly my 3rd great grandfather and his wife both died in the winter of 1834/5 and Thomas Watson Junior took his place in the partnership. Francis Gerradin had died on 9th February 1821 so his wife Mary carried on the partnership I think through to her death in 1845. I also think that Thomas Watson Junior's younger brother Henry was also involved in the business probably from the 1850's onwards.



The genealogy was then Researched & Written mainly by -

Christine Ellis of Sydney Australia

From a Watson descendent, it is stated that Francis Gerardin was born in France in 1768, and that he left France during the revolution and settled in the Spittlefields area of east London.

Research shows that Francis married Mary Dewing on 29 March 1796 in Finsbury and, according to the Watson descendent the occupation listed for Frances on the baptism of their first child at Christ Church

Spitalfields in 1797 is that of Pewterer, and they are living at Crispin Street..

Parish records reveal that four further children were born to this couple although later research indicates that only two survived to adulthood.

1811 London and County Directory

Gerardin Francis, Pewterer and machine maker, Poland Street, Oxford Street

Francis died Intestate in 1821, interestingly listed as Bonaventure Gerardin alias Francis, with administration of his affairs passing in March of that year to his wife Mary of Poland Street St. James.

Mary Gerardin, nee Dewing, was born in Norfolk in 1772 and her eldest sister Elizabeth married a Thomas Watson in 1783 in Norwich. One son also named Thomas born 1788 in Norwich, is known by the descendents to have become an apprentice to his Uncle Francis in London at the age of 13.

Thomas married in 1811 and it appears that at least eight children were born to the couple, the eldest being Thomas (2) born in 1812 in Castle Street, Marylebone, London.

In the early 1800s the Gerardins and the Watsons were involved in the recent Swedenborgian non-conformist Church in Holborn. Francis and Mary baptised as adults in 1801 and Thomas Watson in 1807

The following entries confirm that a partnership had been created between Gerardin and Thomas Watson and it is possible that this was created by Mary after the death of Francis (1820/21). Thus the Gerardin in Gerardin and Watson is likely to be Mary Gerardin.

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1822-23 Pigots London and Provincial Directory

Pewterers : Gerardin Fr 21 Poland St, Oxford St,

1825/1826 Pigots Directory

Gerardin & Watson Pewterers and engine makers 21 Poland Street, Oxford Street.

1829 Post Office Directory

Gerardin and Watson, Pewterers, 21 Poland Street, Soho

Apparently Thomas and his wife both died about 1834 but it appears that their son Thomas was already working in the business and inherited his father's interest. Thomas (2) is mentioned in the Will of Mary Gerardin, Widow of Frances, when she dies in 1845. Thomas, (wife named as Mary), is listed as her Partner 'engaged with and in the trade or business of Pewterers', carried out at 21 Poland Street.

Mary wrote her Will on the 28 May 1839 but it appears that on the 24 th January of the same year a Partnership indenture was signed for the period of twenty one years with Thomas (2) liable for the payment of £200 annually.

1839 Pigots Directory

Gerardin & Watson, Pewterers & Beer engine makers, 21 Poland Street, Oxford Street

1843 Post Office Directory

Gerardin & Watson , Pewterers 21 Poland Street

Watson, Thomas Pewterer – see Gerardin & Watson

1848 Post Office Directory

Gerardin & Watson , Pewterers 21 Poland Street

Watson, Thomas Pewterer – see Gerardin & Watson

Another Watson is mentioned in the Will of Mary Gerardin, and that is Robert Watson, born about 1801 in Norwich, named as Uncle of her present partner Thomas Watson. Thomas inherited Nineteen guineas and a mourning ring each for himself and his wife.

1851 Post Office Directory

Gerardin & Watson Pewterers 43 Poland Street

Watson, Thomas Pewterer – see Gerardin & Watson

1856 Post Office Directory

Gerardin & Watson Pewterers Manufacturing Pewterers & Beer Engine makers 43 Poland Street.

Watson, Thomas Pewterer – see Gerardin & Watson

As can be seen the premises of Gerardin & Watson have now moved and it is at this address that Robert Watson and his family appears in 1851 where Robert is shown as a Pewterers assistant. This address is still the home of the Watson family in 1861 with a Thomas Watson (3), a Pewterer, aged 21 listed as a Grandson. Further research reveals that this is in fact Thomas Gerardin Watson born in 1839 but it is doubtful that the relationship of Grandson, as shown, is correct, he is the son of Thomas (2)

It appears that this Robert Watson named above lived at 43 Poland Street with an uncertain role. He was called a pewterers assistant in 1851 and otherwise also a Shopman, Warehouseman, and Upholsterer.

Thomas Gerardin Watson does not reveal himself in the 1841 census but in 1851 aged 11 is at a boarding school in Derbyshire. He marries Mary Hordern Atkinson in Lancashire in 1867 and in 1871 as a Master Pewterer is living with his wife and one daughter in Islington. By 1881 the family have moved to Lancashire although Thomas G. aged 41 is listed as a 'Master Bleacher' – perhaps an enumerator error for 'Master Pewterer'.

Thomas Watson (2) is retired at 58 with income from houses and dividends. He was remarried after the death of his first wife, fairly soon after to a wife Mary Ann some 9 years older than himself. He dies in 1879 leaving less than £10,000, will witnessed by his two sons Thomas Gerardin Watson now a Manchester accountant and Jesse Henry a Finisher in Manchester.

In 1901 Thomas (3) is listed as Secretary of the Salford Iron works. He has retired but 1911 and dies in 1912 shown on the Probate of his Will as an Accountant.

Who then is the Henry Watson who continues as the last known Gerardin & Watson pewterer until before his death in 1895. When the lineage of pewter workers started by Francis Bonaventure Gerardin , French revolution refugee, had continued for around 100 years. Henry is Thomas's (2) younger brother. Henry with wife and two daughters moves into 43 Poland Street after Uncle Robert Watson died in 1862, at least he and his family are shown living there in the census of 1871. He is there to 1891 but retired to nearby Abbery Grove St John's Wood when he died in 1895 – the last and the longest serving of this pewtering line.

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Another Pewterer named William Vince who was born in Swaffham Norfolk in 1832 appears in 1851 and aged 19 he is living at 43 Poland Street with Robert Watson and his family listed as a Pewterer's apprentice. In 1853 William Vince marries Robert Watsons' eldest daughter Louisa born in 1825.

William, (occupation variously Pewterer, Pewterer and Bar fitter and retired Pewterer) and Louisa Vince live for over thirty years in Battersea until William, Widowed, dies in 1896 when his sole beneficiary of £2663 is his sister in law Emily Watson.

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Newspaper reports :

1) The Morning Post (London, England), Friday, March 01, 1850; pg. [1]; Issue 23783.

Gerardin and Watson. Messrs., 43 Poland Street donate £5. 5s to an appeal to provide a Chapel in the grounds of the Licenced Victuallers' Asylum Old Kent Road occupied by 160 inmates consisting of 119 distinct houses (Instituted 1827)

2) The Bristol Mercury (Bristol, England), Saturday, September 13, 1856; Issue 3469

*JOURNEYMEN PEWTERERS - Good, steady, HARD-METAL POT-MAKERS may meet with immediate and Constant Employment in London, at Good Wages. - Apply to Messrys. **GERARDIN & WATSON**, Poland-street, Oxford-street. None need apply who cannot have a good character from late employers.*

3) The Morning Chronicle (London, England), Saturday, September 20, 1856; Issue 27999.

NEW INVENTIONS - PROVISIONAL PROTECTION

Thomas Watson, of the firm **Gerardin and Watson**, of Poland-street, pewterers-an improved beer-engine, lever. or lifter and apparatus for fitting the same to counters.

4) The Era (London, England), Sunday, March 7, 1858; Issue 1015. Sunday, March 21, 1858; Issue 1017 and Sunday, April 4, 1858; Issue 1019

PATENT BEER-ENGINES.-GERARDIN and WATSON, of re, Poland-street, Oxford-street, beg to call the attention of Licenced Victuallers and others to the **IMPROVED BEER-ENGINE**, patented by Thomas Watson,* which may be seen at their Manufactory, as above, or may be obtained from any Pewterer. The Engines are superior in appearance to the ordinary counter engines now in use, being without the objectionable aperture, or slot, thus leaving the counter perfectly free, and rendering it impossible for any grit, dirt or fluid to make its way into the working parts of the machine.

They may be seen in use at the following houses:-

Mr. Hodding, King's Head, 2, James-street, Covent-garden.

Mr. Taunton, Hampshire Hog, 410 Strand.

Mr. Till, Queen's Head Tavern, 19. Great Tower-street, City.

Mr. Taylor, Three Tuns, 1. High-street, Whitechapel.

Mr. Blackshaw, Waggon and Horses, Hertford-road, Downham-road Kingsland.

Mr. Rhodes, Olive Branch, Gray's Inn-road.

The Stingo Ale Stores, Portobello-terrace, Notting-hill.

** see Patent No. 387, dated August 28, 1856.*

5) The Morning Post (London, England), Wednesday, August 13, 1862; pg. 2; Issue 27660.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

A beer-engine, shown by **Messrs. Gerardin and Watson**, is deserving of notice, on account of the security which it affords against dirt or sand getting into the machine, which too frequently occurs when the lever

works in a "slot" in teh ordinary manner. The machine has also a much more artistic appearance than the usual class of beer-engines.

6) The Times Saturday June 30 1866 Issue 25538 Page 14

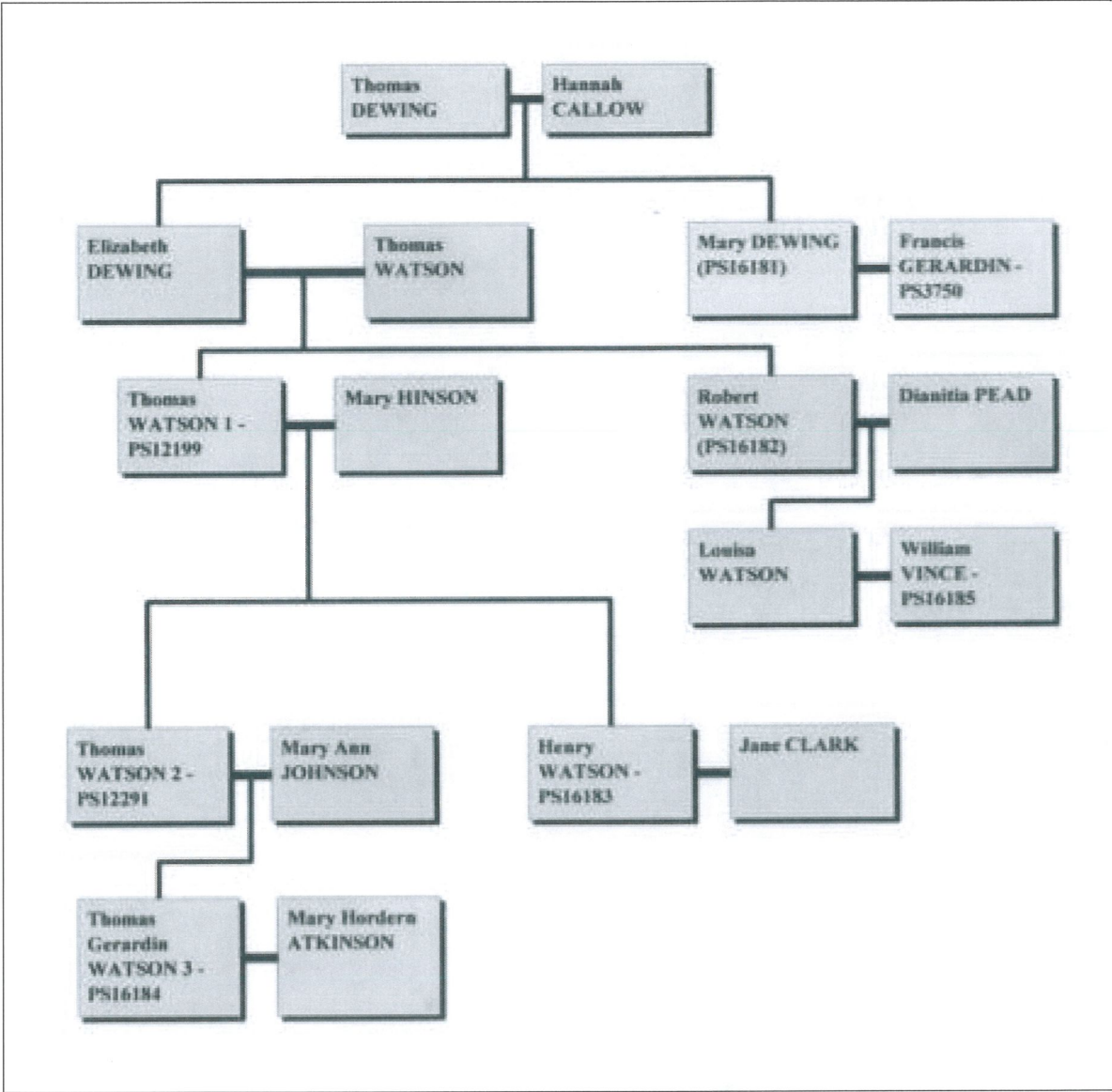
Euston-road-. The excellent modern Fittings for the Lord Nelson Music Hall and Public-house, large Refrigerator, 15 Pier and Chimney ?? in gilt frames,&c.

MESSRS.R. and J.E. LOW will SELL by AUCTION, on the premises, Duke's-road, Euston--road, on Thursday July 5, at 12 for 1 o'clock, the superior FITTINGS of a PUBLIC-HOUSE and MUSIC HALL, including a nearly new metal-top counter, with brass spirit taps, and eight-motion beer engine in metal case by Gerardin and Watson, mahogany frame seats. stuffed and covered in Utrecht velvet, 40 mahogany-top drinking tables, panelled and glazed partitions, gas chandeliers and brackets, a handsome Spanish mahogany bar cabinet, fittings of coffee and tap rooms. store vats. scantling, circular marble-top tables, kamptulicon oilcloth. three pillar outside show lamps, and numerous effects. May be viewed the day prior, and catalogues had on the premises: and at the auctioneers; offices, 2, Southampton-street, Strand. W.C.

**7) The Leeds Mercury (Leeds, England), Monday, July 3, 1871;
Issue 10367 : LONDON GAZETTE, Friday, June 30 .**

*PARNERSHIPS DISSOLVED Gerardin and Watson, Poland-
street, Oxford-street, pewterers*

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The Family Tree



GERARDIN & WATSON PEWTER AND PEWTER MARKS

Information on selected pieces of pewter made by Gerardin and Watson, January 2011

By Geoff Lock from his own collection

Bellied measures, c 1826 to 1850

In the photographs accompanying these notes are several pictures of bellied measures made by the Gerardin and Watson firm, London, c 1826 to c 1850.

These are two ½ gill measures {One with a side-spout}, a gill measure and a ½ pint bellied measure.

All four pieces have a thick, narrow central band at the widest part of the body.

In a paper to the Pewter Society in 1966, the late Ron Michaelis named this style as type 4, dated from c 1830 to c 1860. I personally think that his order of dating is incorrect and that this style of bellied measure should be type 3, dating from c 1826 to c 1850 and that his type 3 should be type 4.

To support this, I have examples of this style of measure with the 1826 City of Westminster portcullis.

Type 4 bellied measures, having both a central band and reeding to the upper body are not often found before c 1840 and not with the above verification mark.

The pictures show the following pieces: single ½ gill with 1826 mark and circular "G & W" mark in base, 2 ½ gill measures, one side-spouted, both having 1826 mark and capacity mark ½ GILL, "G & W" mark in base of piece without the side-spout. Neither ½ gill measure has any verification mark.

Gill and ½ pint bellied measures, both having circular "G & W" mark in base; gill has two verification marks for Hertford Co. being crowned VR over 396 and crowned ER over 396, also 0,7,8 and 9 being year marks, possibly for 1897, 1898, 1899 and 1900. The ½ pint has only capacity mark in relief on rim.

Set of three measures; ½ gill, gill and ½ pint described above were bought over 36 years, from 1974-2010.

The handles of these measures have up-turned ball-finials, a common feature of London-made measures.



Truncated cone pint with Escutcheon, c 1826-1830

This piece has the circular "G & W" mark in the base, an 1826 City of Westminster portcullis mark on the body as well as PINT capacity stamp in relief.

There is also a Salisbury City stamp and is encribed "*Crystal Fountain*" on the centre of the body.

An escutcheon attachment at the top of the handle dates this piece to c 1820's- early 1830's.



Half Gill, Gill, and Half Pint measures with the usual circular Gerardin and Watson mark



Bucket and ridge ½ pint, c 1830-35

Bought in 1994, this piece has the three petal marks attributed to Francis Gerardin on the upper body above the capacity stamp of ½ pint. The 14 “petals” form a circle surrounding a “C”. The circular “G & W” mark is in the centre of the base. Ownership initials of *MS* surrounded by flecking, together with the “petal” marks suggest that it was made during the period 1830-35.

There are no verifications marks.



The half gill side spout has the 1826 Portcullis mark as does the unspouted which also has the Circular Gerardin & Watson Mark (and likely remains of the same mark in the base of the small spouted measure).



Truncated cone ½ pint, pre-Imperial, by Francis Gerardin, c 1820

This scarce pre-Imperial standard truncated cone ½ pint has the mark of Francis Gerardin in upper case in the centre of the base. There are numerous verification marks on the body including an 1826 City of Westminster portcullis, a large crowned G R IV, a small crowned WR, crown VR over 150 for Northampton shire, crowned VR over N and a large ½ PINT capacity stamp in large individual letters. An ownership label is on the front of the body for *W Thorton, Byfield* within a wriggled shield together with an initial "T" on thumb-rest, for Thorton. This engraving is typical of Regency England period. Byfield is a town within Northamptonshire so the verification marks tie in well. The piece has a plain body and tongue style thumb-rest that are typical features for a tavern pot of c 1800-1820's.

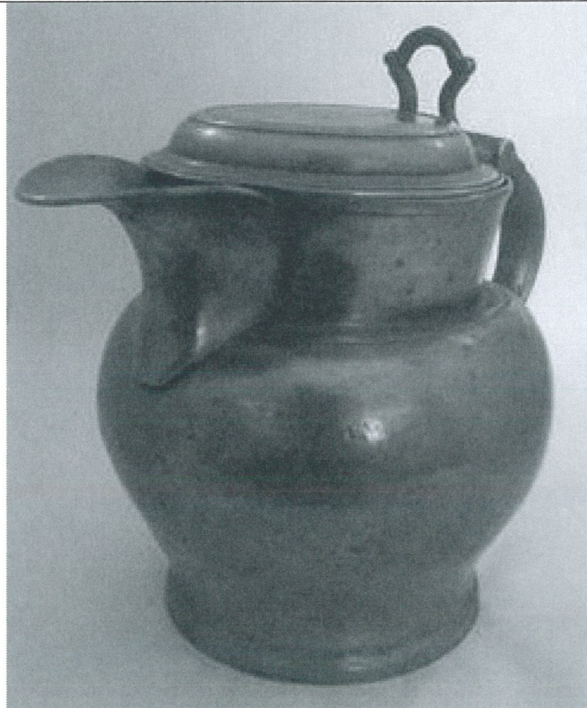


Half Pint and Gill by Gerardin & Watson usual circular marks in the base VR and ER verifications indicating perhaps in use to 1910 (individual year marks to the rim).



Double-dome lidded pint capacity ale-jug, c 1830's

This delightful pint capacity ale-jug came from John Richardson in 1994 and is a favourite piece of mine. The lid is typical of the period c 1790-1830, having a double dome and an open-chair back thumb-piece. Its scroll handle is unusual on ale-jugs which were more often made with the "Lapped" style of handle. "G & W" mark in centre of base. This ale-jug has often been used at meetings held by the Adelaide members of the Pewter Society.

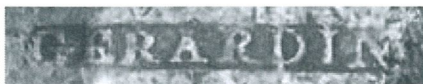


Quart Ale Jug with circular mark under the lid and a hole placed through as though to allow passage of air more easily. (not one of Geoff's)

There were not a lot of marks used by Gerardin or Gerardin and Watson that are known of. The most common of which for Gerardin & Watson is this or small variations on it – (the number in the middle might have identified the pewterer as only very low numbers under 10 are seen) (the purpose of the hole is unknown)



Francis Gerardin did originally use simply the upper case version of the spelling of his name within a rectangle of which we do not have a copy we can use but is simply 'like' this –



GERARDIN

Another mark found is simply what appears to be 3 small flower heads to the left of the top handle terminal (below the rim). Enlarged the centre resembles a letter C – more logically it would have been a G but this writer has never seen the bar.



This has been seen with the circular mark so is not necessarily early in the 1800s



The above is another mark also used but not often found, there are a few others.