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Tools of the pewterer Samuel Pierce, 1767-1840, of Greenfield, with spoon molds and spoons. A pewter plate rests on a wooden chuck used to shape the piece in spinning. Note the insulating corncob handle on one of the soldering irons. The face of Pierce's iron die, which stands upright in foreground, is shown in detail at the right. *Hall Tavern*

## The pewter



Teapot by Samuel Pierce, with the plaster mold in which he fashioned the spout. *Hall Tavern*

Plate, beaker, and coffeepot by Samuel Pierce. The beaker carries his rare initial mark. Diameter of plate, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. *Hall Tavern*





THE PEWTER AT DEERFIELD, in itself an important collection, is given special significance by the display of lathe tools, hand tools, and molds used by an early Connecticut Valley pewterer. Burnishers, forceps, soldering irons, knurl, files, turning hooks, chasing tools—all are there, along with the chuck on which the pewterer fashioned his plates, and the iron die with which he stamped his mark on his wares. The craftsman who used these tools was Samuel Pierce (1767-1840), who worked for forty years a stone's throw from Deerfield in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Born in Middletown, Connecticut, Pierce probably learned his trade from Joseph Danforth, a member of the leading family of Connecticut pewterers, and his own work was of the highest standard. He used three marks: a large eagle with his name; later, a smaller eagle with his name (illustrated here); and a rare punch with his initials over X.

The fascinating story of the discovery of Pierce's tools

in an old chest in the Pierce family carriage house was first told in *ANTIQUES* (February 1927) by Julia D. Sophronia Snow of Greenfield, who identified Samuel as a local craftsman. His work is further discussed by Ledlie I. Laughlin (*Pewter in America*), who presented the tool chest and its interesting contents. All these implements may now be seen in a graphic display in the Hall Tavern, with numerous pieces by Pierce and other American pewterers.

Tableware, lighting devices, and other objects of American and English pewter may also be seen in the other Deerfield buildings, and examples are illustrated elsewhere in these pages. Some of the greatest rarities are in Memorial Hall, a part of the collection of Solon L. Newton (1841-1901) of Greenfield. This early-formed collection, which comprises also ceramics, brass, iron-work, and some furniture, was left on Mr. Newton's death to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association.

Pewter in the Solon L. Newton collection. Large two-handled cup, probably made here though the form is very unusual in American pewter; indistinct maker's mark, a standing bird, unrecorded; height 6½ inches, top diameter 6¾ inches, extreme width 9½ inches. Porringer by David Melville, c. 1756-1793, of Newport, a rare form by this maker; mark on solid handle; diameter of bowl, 5½ inches. *Memorial Hall*



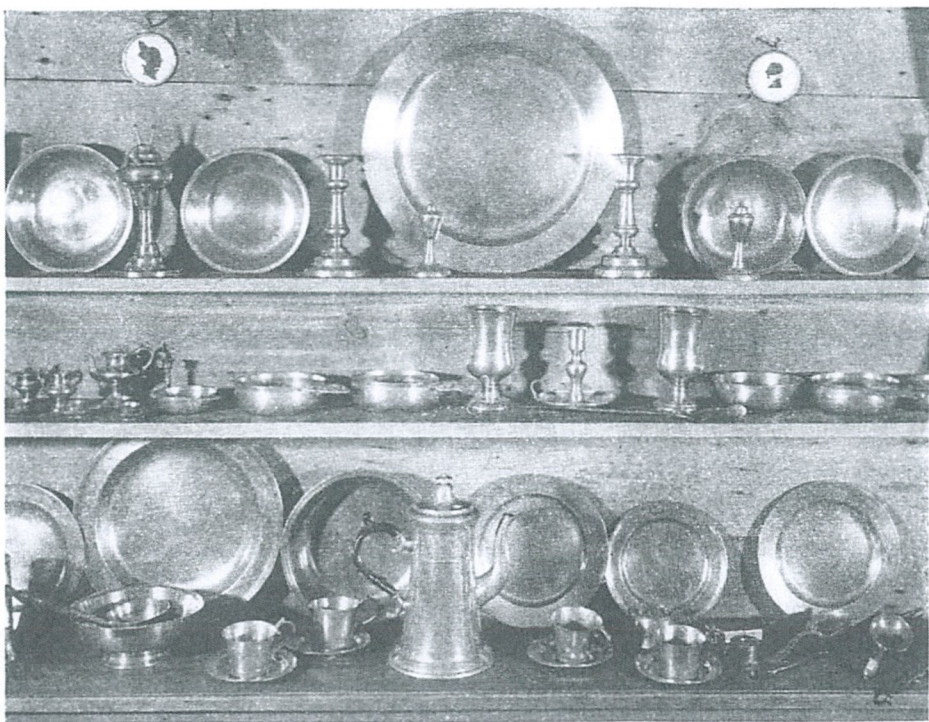
Communion pewter from the Unitarian Church of Charlemont, Massachusetts. Baptismal bowl with gadrooned edge, on foot; unmarked but attributed to Oliver Trask, 1792-1847, of Beverly, Massachusetts. Flagon with covered spout, beading on lid, broad convex bands on body—all unusual features in New England pewter; pewter handle; mark: O. TRASK. Oliver Trask and his older brother, Israel, produced some of the best work of the brittania period. *Memorial Hall*







English and American pewter sets the table with basins and wide-rimmed plates, tankards, measure, and mug, candlesticks, pitcher, footed bowl, miniature porringer, and spoons. The knives and forks have Whieldon pistol handles. The large cone of sugar is in the customary form known to our ancestors. New England Queen Anne chairs with crewlwork seats are drawn up to the New England walnut gateleg table. *Allen House*



Pewter of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, much of it American, including bowls and silhouette frames by Samuel Pierce. *Hall Tavern*

Set of four pewter two-handled communion cups in the Solon L. Newton collection. Bands of gadrooning on body and foot, beading on handles. Marked *RB* with rose and crown; maker unidentified but believed to be Robert Boyle, who became a freeman in New York in 1755 and may later have worked in New England. The form is rare in American work, and this set is unique; Laughlin says, "No finer examples of the craftsmanship of the American pewterer have survived." He illustrates a cup closely similar, but without handles (*Pewter in America*, Pl. XXXV, 231). Extreme width 7 1/4 inches. *Memorial Hall*

