

NEWPORT GOLDSMITHS

DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE COLONY AND CONTINUING UP TO 1800, THERE WORKED IN NEWPORT A GROUP OF GOLDSMITHS WHO PRODUCED TANKARDS, CANS, CREAMERS, SPOONS, PORRINGERS, AND OTHER ITEMS COMPARABLE TO THE WORK BEING DONE IN BOSTON, NEW YORK, AND PHILADELPHIA AT THAT TIME. IT IS THOUGHT THAT MUCH OF THIS FINE SILVER WAS TAKEN

TO ENGLAND BY THE DEPARTING LOYALISTS. IN SUPPORT
THEREOF, SEVERAL IMPORTANT PIECES HAVE IN RECENT
YEARS BEEN ACQUIRED ABROAD. TWO CUPS BY JOHN
CODDINGTON WERE AUCTIONED IN LONDON SEVERAL YEARS
AGO AND AN ARNOLD COLLINS PORRINGER WAS PURCHASED
IN FRANCE, PERHAPS OTHER PIECES WILL GRADUALLY
RETURN HOME.

ARNOLD COLLINS - 1735

MARRIED (1) PRIOR TO 1687 TO SARAH; SON SYLVESTER BORN IN 1688, DAUGHTER SARAH BORN 1690. COMMISSIONED MARCH 3, 1690, TO DESIGN AND ENGRAVE THE SEAL OF THE COLONY. MARRIED (2) ON MARCH 16, 1692, TO AMY TEW WARD, WIDOW OF THOMAS WARD; A SON HENRY BORN MARCH 25, 1699, DIED 1766, UNMARRIED. IN 1702 HE WAS A PROPRIETOR OF COMMON LANDS. IN 1711 A BEAKER MADE BY HIM WAS BEQUEATHED TO

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLE COMPTON, R.I.,
BY JOSEPH CHURCH. CONTRIBUTED THE LAND FOR THE
FIRST SABBATARIAN MEETING HOUSE. WILL RECORDED
AUGUST 1735.

SAMUEL VERNON 1683-1737

BORN DECEMBER 6, 1683, IN NARRAGANSETT,
SON OF DANIEL AND ANN (DYER) VERNON; SECOND
COUSIN OF EDWARD WINSLOW, GOLDSMITH OF BOSTON.
MARRIED (1) APRIL 10, 1707, TO ELIZABETH FLEET
OF LONG ISLAND, WHO DIED IN 1722. FREEMAN, 1714.
MARRIED (2) ELIZABETH PAINE OF BRISTOL JANUARY
12, 1725, SISTER OF NATHANIEL PAINE; SHE DIED

MARCH 15, 1759. ADVERTISED WORKING 1705-1725-1726.
HIS FIFTH CHILD OF FIRST MARRIAGE, DANIEL, BORN
AUGUST 20, 1716 (FREEMAN, 1738), WORKED AS A
GOLDSMITH. APPOINTED BY ASSEMBLY TO SETTLE LAND
DISPUTE 1726. ASSISTED THE GOVERNOR IN INVESTIGATING
HEALTH CONDITIONS. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, 1728.
MEMBER OF BOUNDARY COMMISSION, MASSACHUSETTS -

NEW HAMPSHIRE 1737. ON BASE OF CUP LENT BY
CAPTAIN V. A. WATSON OF LONDON, ENGLAND, 1936,
RHODE ISLAND TERCENTENARY AT RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL
OF DESIGN, A DIFFERENT TOUCH MARK APPEARS,
INITIALS ABOVE FLEUR-DE-LYS BUT IN A RECTANGLE,
POSSIBLY A PIECE OF EARLY ORIGIN PRIOR TO THE
ADOPTION OF USUAL MARK. HIS THIRD CHILD AND

FIRST SON OF SECOND MARRIAGE, SAMUEL, JR. (BORN
SEPTEMBER 6, 1711, DIED JULY 6, 1792), MARRIED
AMY WARD FREEMAN 1733, HAD TWELVE CHILDREN.
SAMUEL VERNON DIED DECEMBER 5, 1737.

ISAAC ANTHONY 1690-1773

BORN, APRIL 10, 1690, IN NEWPORT, SON OF
ABRAHAM AND ALICE WODELL ANTHONY. ADVERTISED AS
A GOLDSMITH IN THE BOSTON GAZETTE MARCH 21, 1737.
DIED IN NEWPORT, 1773.

BENJAMIN BRENTON 1686-1740

BORN, DECEMBER 23, 1686, ELDEST SON OF
WILLIAM AND HANNAH (DAVIS) BRENTON, GRANDSON OF
GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRENTON (FIRST CHARTER, 1660-1662;
SECOND CHARTER, 1666-1669). MARRIED SARAH COLLINS
IN 1708; SON BENJAMIN, JR., BORN OCTOBER 16, 1710.
FREEMAN, 1717. SOLD LAND TO SAMUEL FOWLER. MADE
A FLAGON FOR TRINITY CHURCH IN 1733 AS A NATHANIEL

KAY LEGACY, AS WELL AS A FLAGON FOR ST. MICHAELS
OF BRISTOL, R. I. DIED, 1740.

JOHN CODDINGTON 1690-1743

SON OF NATHANIEL AND SUZANNA CODDINGTON.

HIS FATHER NATHANIEL (BORN MAY 23, 1653, DIED
JANUARY, 1724) WAS THE SON OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM
CODDINGTON, BORN 1601. HIS MOTHER WAS SUZANNA
HUTCHINSON, THE DAUGHTER OF CAPTAIN EDWARD (BORN
MAY 28, 1613) AND CATHERINE HUTCHINSON AND THE

GRANDDAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND ANNE HUTCHINSON WHO WERE FORCED TO LEAVE BOSTON DURING THE ANTINOMIAN CONTROVERSY AND WENT IN MARCH, 1637/8 WITH A GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED WILLIAM CODDINGTON, FIRST TO PROVIDENCE WHERE THEY WERE JOINED BY ROGER WILLIAMS, WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM TO PLYMOUTH WHERE IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE SETTLERS FROM BOSTON WOULD BUY AQUIDNECK. THEY WENT ACROSS THE BAY AND WITH

THE ASSISTANCE OF ROGER WILLIAMS BOUGHT THE ISLAND
OF AQUIDNECK (NOW CALLED RHODE ISLAND ON MARCH 24,
1637/8 FROM THE NARRAGANSETTS FOR "FORTY FATHOM
OF WHITE BEADS". THE DEED READ: "WE, CAUNOUNICUS
AND NUANTUNNOMU, THE CHIEFS SACHIMS OF THE
NANHIGGANSETS BY VERTUE OF OUR GENERALL COMMAND
OF THIS BAY - - - -HAVE SOLD UNTO MR. CODDINGTON
AND HIS FRIENDS UNITED UNTO HIM, THE GREAT ISLAND

OF ACQUEDNECKE." THE GROUP THAT MADE THE PURCHASE
NUMBERED EIGHTEEN INCLUDING WILLIAM CODDINGTON.
THIS GROUP SETTLED ON THE NORTH-WARD END OF THE
ISLAND (THEN CALLED POCASSET, NOW CALLED PORTSMOUTH).
IN A MATTER OF WEEKS DISCORD BETWEEN THE ADHERENTS
TO ANNE HUTCHINSON AND THOSE OF WILLIAM CODDINGTON
CAUSED A RUPTURE, REFERRED TO IN GOVERNOR WINTHROP'S
(MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY) JOURNAL OF 11 MAY 1639

"AT AQUIDY THE PEOPLE GREW VERY TUMULTUOUS AND PUT OUT MR. CODDINGTON AND THE OTHER THREE MAGISTRATES AND CHOSE MR. WILLIAM HUTCHINSON ONLY, A MAN OF VERY MILD TEMPER AND WEAK PARTS AND WHOLLY GUIDED BY HIS WIFE WHO HAD BEEN THE BEGINNER OF ALL THE FORMER TROUBLES IN THE COUNTRY, AND STILL CONTINUED TO BREED DISTURBANCE."

THE MEETING WHICH IS REFERRED TO IN
WINTHROP'S JOURNAL OCCURRED ON APRIL 28, 1639 AND
WAS CONTINUED ON APRIL 30. AS A RESULT, THE
EASTONS LEFT POCASSET ON APRIL 30 AND WENT BY BOAT
ALONG THE WEST SHORE AND BEGAN THE SETTLEMENT OF
NEWPORT ON MAY 1, 1639. CODDINGTON AND HIS
FOLLOWERS EITHER ACCOMPANIED THEM OR FOLLOWED
VERY SOON, HOLDING A TOWN MEETING MAY 16, 1639

WITH THE FOLLOWING IN ATTENDANCE:

WM. CODDINGTON, JUDGE

JOHN CLARKE

NICHOLAS EASTON

JEREMY CLARKE

JOHN COGGESHALL Elders

THOMAS HAZARD

WILLIAM BRENTON

HENRY BULL

W. DYRE SECR:

16TH 3D 1639

WILLIAM CODDINGTON, HAVING THE ORIGINAL DEED TO THE ISLAND IN HIS OWN NAME, WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS ARGUMENTS FOR PORTSMOUTH TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWPORT GOVERNMENT AND THE FOLLOWING YEAR ON MARCH 12, 1639/40 "WILLIAM HUTCHINSON WAS ELECTED ONE OF THE ASSISTANTS" DOUBTLESS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS RENOUNCING HIS OFFICE.

MARRIED (1) MAY 23, 1715; MARRIED (2)
AUGUST 25, 1720 TO ELIZABETH ROGERS. MEMBER OF
THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES 1721-1729. SHERIFF 1733-
1735. COLONEL OF THE MILITIA IN 1729. ALLUDED
TO HIMSELF AS A GOLDSMITH IN HIS WILL.

DANIEL RUSSELL 1698-1771

WORKING 1718-1719. MADE BAPTISMAL BOWL
FOR TRINITY CHURCH AS A WILLIAM BRIGHT - JOHN
MULDER MEMORIAL. WORKING 1721-1724. MARRIED (1)
MARY RUMRELL AUGUST 30, 1722, IN FIRST TRINITY
CHURCH. MADE BAPTISMAL BASIN FOR TRINITY CHURCH
AS A NATHANIEL KAY LEGACY. ADVERTISEMENT 1735,
"WORKING GOLDSMITH." MADE IN 1742 GOLD LOCKET

IN GARVAN COLLECTION. MARRIED (2) TO MARY MUMFORD
JANUARY 10, 1754, BY THE REV. JAMES SEARING, JR.,
OF SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. JULY 1, 1755,
MR. DANIEL RUSSELL IS MENTIONED IN A LETTER TO
WILLIAM VERNON, JR., OF NEWPORT AS A SUBSCRIBER
TO A VOLUME OF DR. MAYHEW'S SERMONS PUBLISHED IN
BOSTON. EXTRACT FROM EDWARD THURSTON'S INTERLINED
ALMANAC MAY 12, 1772, "PEACH TREE BLOOMED IN

MR. DANIEL RUSSELL'S GARDEN WHICH BLOOMED LAST
YEAR (1771) MAY 6."

JONATHAN CLARKE 1705-1770

VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THIS GOLDSMITH AT THIS TIME. POSSIBLY HE WAS A DESCENDENT OF ONE OF THE FOUNDERS, JOHN CLARKE. WORKING IN NEWPORT IN 1734 and 1755. LATER WORKED IN PROVIDENCE. MADE in 1734 A FLAGON FOR THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN PROVIDENCE, NOW THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN. IN 1735 JOINED WITH EDWARD WINSLOW, SAMUEL GREENWOOD

AND OTHERS IN REFUSING TO ACCEPT TAX NOTES AS
CURRENCY. MADE THE JABEZ BOWEN PUNCH STRAINER
DATED JANUARY 1766.

JOHN TANNER 1713-1785

TAUGHT TRADE TO DANIEL AND JOESPH ROGERS.

JOSEPH ROGERS BECAME A PARTNER OF TANNER & ROGERS.

GAVE TO THE SABBATARIAN MEETING HOUSE THE SCROLL

WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN 1773.

JONATHAN OTIS 1723-1791

BORN IN SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS, NEPHEW
OF MOODY RUSSELL (1694-1761) OF BARNSTABLE,
MASSACHUSETTS (GOLDSMITH). MARRIED KATHARINE
COGGESCHALL IN 1745. WORKING IN NEWPORT 1750
AND 1753. LIVED AT 87 SPRING STREET. REMOVED
TO MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT, DURING THE BRITISH
OCCUPANCY OF NEWPORT. MAJOR OF MILITIA, 1778.

THOMAS ARNOLD 1739-1828

PROMINENT CITIZEN AND MEMBER OF TRINITY CHURCH. HAD A SHOP FOURTEEN FEET WIDE ON THAMES STREET ON SITE OF THE MERCURY. WILLIAM STODDARD NICHOLS WAS ONE OF HIS APPRENTICES. APRIL 12, 1784, PROPRIETOR OF A PEW IN TRINITY CHURCH. SIGNED A DOCUMENT "DO MANIFEST OUR APPROBATION OF THE PLAN FOR SETTLING A MINISTER." OTHER SIGNERS WERE

DEBORAH HUNDER, JOHN BANNISTER, FRANCIS MALBONE
AND OTHERS. MARCH, 1805, HE SUBSCRIBED \$5.00
FOR A NEW BELL, THE SAME AMOUNT AS WILLIAM CROOKE.
DECEMBER 1, 1806, "IT WAS VOTED THAT MR. LITTLEFIELD
BE REQUESTED TO EMPLY MR. THOMAS ARNOLD TO TAKE
CHARGE OF THE CLOCK, PUT HER IN ORDER, AND AGREE
WITH HIM FOR A COMPENSATION TO KEEP IT SO."

(ANNALS OF TRINITY CHURCH). CONTINUED IN TRADE
UNTIL 1796. A BEAKER MADE BY HIM IS OWNED BY
THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, NEWPORT.

DANIEL ROGERS 1792

BROTHER OF JOSEPH ROGERS. BOTH WERE
APPRENTICES TO JOHN TANNER, WORKING 1752/3.
ADVERTISEMENT, 1774. CHOSEN DEPUTY TO ASSEMBLY,
1792.

WILLIAM HOOKEY 1812

LISTED 1736 and 1745 AS "GOLD AND SILVER-SMITH." WORKING 1750 on "LONG WHARF." HE WORKED AT 6 CODDINGTON STREET WHICH WAS BUILT BY HIS GRANDFATHER, THE REVEREND DANIEL WHITEMAN. DIED IN 1812.

NICHOLAS GEOFFROY 1761-1839

BORN GRENVILLE, FRANCE c 1761. CAME TO
NEWPORT c 1795. DESCRIBED AS "AN INDUSTRIOUS AND
USEFUL CITIZEN OF THE TOWN". IN 1799 HE BOUGHT
LAND WHICH HAD BELONGED TO BENJAMIN BRENTON.
ADVERTISED AS WORKING 1798. MARRIED SALLY SHAW
IN 1803. WORKED WITH JOHN A. SHAW AND LATER
JOINED HIM IN JOHN A. SHAW & CO. SOMETIME AROUND

1800, HE REWORKED THE BEAKER OF THE SABBATARIAN CHURCH, NOW AT NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. MADE A LADLE OF SOME SPOONS AND THE SILVER LACE FROM MRS. JOHN BANNISTER'S WEDDING GOWN. HE HAD A SHOP WHERE HE SOLD IMPORTED GOODS AND "SILVERED" MIRRORS AS WELL AS DEALING IN RETAIL FOODSTUFFS. HIS ENTRIES IN J. A. SHAW'S DAY BOOK (LATER HIS) ARE IN A FINE FRENCH HAND. (ARCHIVES OF NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY). HE BECAME KNOWN BEYOND

RHODE ISLAND BY THE PART HE PLAYED IN POLITICS
DURING THE ELECTION OF JOHN ADAMS. DIED IN
FEBRUARY, 1839.

WALTER CORNELL 1780

DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, WALTER CORNELL CARRIED ON A BUSINESS IN BOTH SILVER AND CLOCKS. WHETHER HE BOUGHT THE CLOCKS AND PUT HIS NAME ON OR WHETHER THEY WERE MADE IN HIS SHOP IS YET TO BE DETERMINED. HE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE WORKED BOTH IN PROVIDENCE AND IN NEWPORT.

WILLIAM STODDARD NICHOLS 1785-1871

SON OF WALTER NICHOLS, CABINETMAKER, AND
RACHEL STODDARD NICHOLS, WHO WAS A DIRECT DESCENDANT
OF JOHN AND PRISCILLA ALDEN, BEING THE DAUGHTER OF
RACHEL PAYBODIE STODDARD WHOSE FATHER WILLIAM
PAYBODIE WAS A GREAT-GRANDSON OF JOHN ALDEN.
APPRENTICED TO THOMAS ARNOLD. WORKED IN NEWPORT
IN 1808; LIVED ON DIVISION STREET. HAD A SHOP AT

155 THAMES STREET WHERE HE MADE STRINGS OF GOLD
BEADS FROM FIVE-DOLLAR GOLD PIECES. MOVED LATE
IN LIFE TO THE NICHOLS FAMILY HOUSE ON
MARLBOROUGH STREET, THE WHITE HORSE TAVERN,
WHERE HE DIED, LEAVING IT TO HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.