

Origins, Backgrounds and Cultural Identities of American Importers and Dealers.



October 2018

Neil Ewins



Enoch Wood & Sons, Burslem, 1820s.

Ralph Stevenson
Manufacturer,
Cobridge.

= Mary Mayer of Hanley.
m. 5 Sept 1807.

Stewart Brown

John Adams Stevenson
b. c1809.

Ralph
Stevenson
b. c1810,
Wolstanton.
Solicitor, Hanley.

Mary Stevenson =
m. 1831, Burslem.

George Alexander Brown
merchant from Baltimore.
d. 11 May 1870, Hope St.,
Liverpool, aged 67.

Stewart Ralph Brown
b. 1833, Manchester.

Leadley Brown
b. 1846, Cheshire.



‘Capital, Washington’, Ralph Stevenson & Williams,
Cobridge, c. mid-1820s.

‘At Burslem, England on the 17th ult, George A. Brown,
formerly of Baltimore, to Mary, daughter of Ralph Stevenson
Of Cobridge, Staffordshire.’ (*Baltimore Patriot*, April 22, 1831).

CHINA COLLECTING
IN AMERICA

BY ALICE MORSE EARLE



ILLUSTRATED

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
NEW YORK MDCCCXCII

‘It seems odd that **English potters** should have made so many pitchers bearing testimony to the victories of their late enemies, unless they were ordered by **American dealers** specially for the American market; but I have never seen anything to prove that such orders were given’ (p.142).



Jug, Commodore Perry, ‘We have met the enemy and they are ours’,
Staffordshire, c1820.

What impact did importers and dealers have on production?

AMERICAN IMPORTERS OF STAFFORDSHIRE

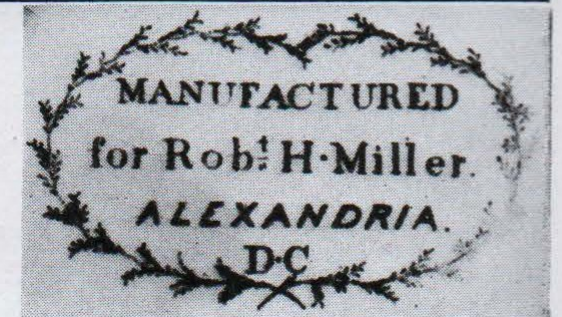
By ROBERT H. McCAULEY

BRIEF SUMMARY of available facts about tradesmen who imported Anglo-American Staffordshire ware is given here under the names of the fourteen American where these importers conducted business from 1814 to I am indebted to libraries and historical societies in the as cities for their generous cooperation in compiling these Publication of this list will, it is hoped, elicit additional nation about the merchants responsible for bringing this sting ware into our country.

ndria
bert H. Miller (Fig. 1). On the base of a creamer and tea-
y an unknown maker, decorated in mulberry on one side



FIG. 1 — HARRISON PITCHER. Unknown maker. With mark of the importer, Robert H. Miller of Alexandria.



The Magazine Antiques, June, Vol. XLV, No.6, 1944, p.295-7.



William Adams, Tunstall.



Mitchell & Freeman
Chatham Street, Boston.

Nathan Mitchell and Watson Freeman formed a partnership in **1823**, but they only occupied No.12 Chatham Street from **c1829 to 1832**.



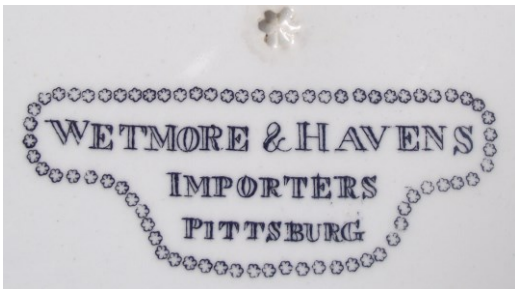
‘Gondola’, Davenport, Longport, 1830s.



‘Waverley’, Davenport, Longport, 1830s.



Hill & Henderson,
New Orleans, existed
from c1822- c1835.



Wetmore & Havens, Pittsburgh,
c1831-38.

*Queensware Direct from the Potteries: US Importers of Staffordshire Ceramics in Antebellum America, 1820-60, by **John A. Walthall.***

Co-Sponsored by Illinois State Archaeological Survey, TCC,
San Francisco, 2013.



‘Great Fire, City of New York’ c1836.

Ceramic importers in New York clustered around Pearl Street, Water Street and Maiden-lane.

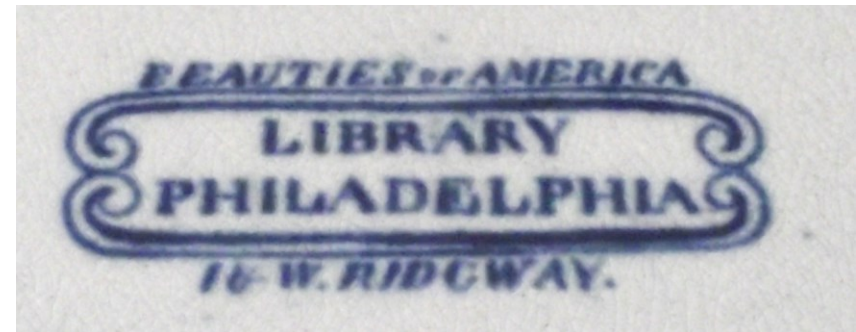
Evidence of this is found in:

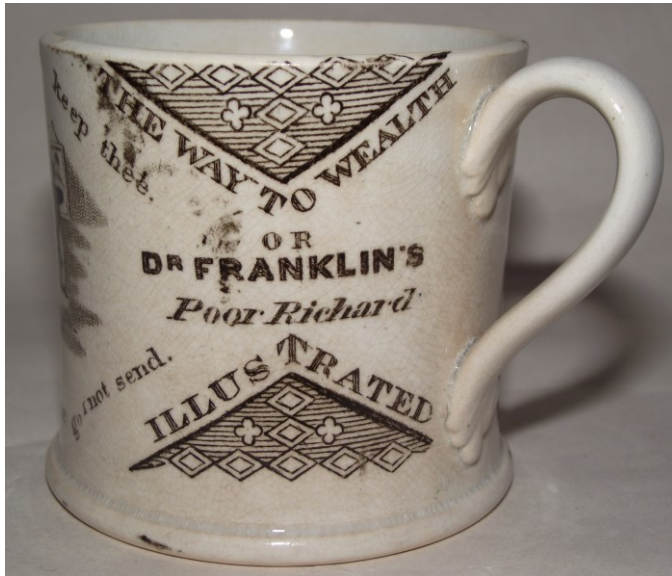
An Account of the Conflagration of the Principal Part of the First Ward of the City of New-York,
by C.Foster, 183 Broadway, c1836.

Also ceramics were produced that include imagery of the ‘Great Fire’ of New York.



John Ridgway of the Cauldon Place Works, Shelton, visited the United States in 1822.





In Philadelphia, November 4, 1822:

‘After breakfast I paid a visit to **Mr. Shufflebottom**, who gave me a candid statement of **Haslam’s** ignorance of and inattention to business – and in short of his general bad conduct; I then saw **Tams and Anderson** who gave me a Second Edition of the thing...afterwards I called in at Haslam’s late shop, a pretty place and fine situation, the rent moderate, the premises convenient.

Tams & Anderson existed in 1822.

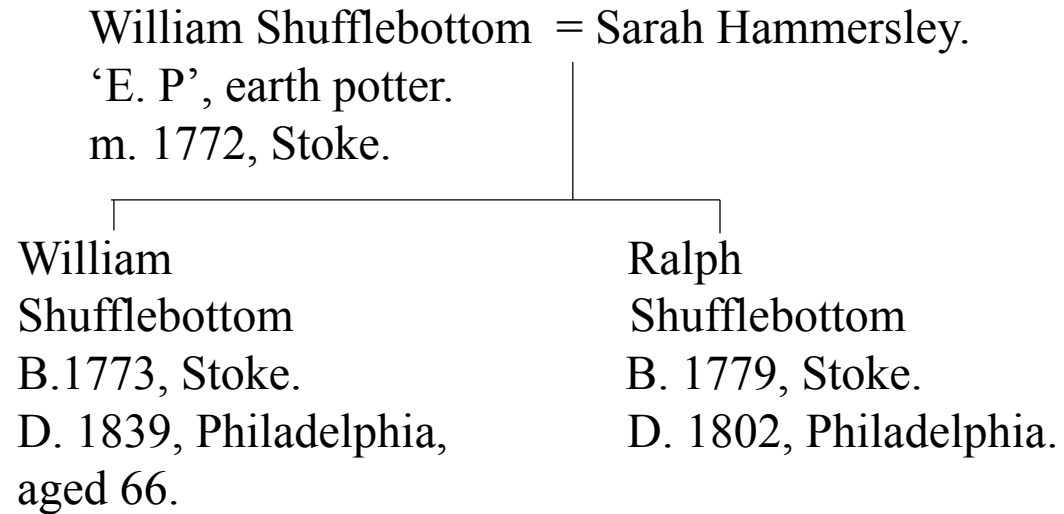


‘Keep thy Shop, and thy Shop will keep thee’,
Children’s mug, Staffordshire, c1840.

William Shufflebottom arrived in Philadelphia in 1798.

He advertised ceramics and glass from
1802 to 1830.

His brother, **Ralph Shufflebottom**,
a merchant, died in Philadelphia in 1802,
aged 23.





‘United States Hotel, Philadelphia’, Tams, Anderson & Tams.



Tams & Anderson, c1822.

References to **Tams, Anderson & Tams** occur in the press from 1824 to 1828.



Floral printed, Tams, Anderson & Tams, Staffordshire, c1824-1828.

Philadelphia Directory and Stranger's Guide, Philadelphia, 1825:

Tams, Anderson & Tams, china store, 183 High.

Tams, William, china &c and merchant, h. 163 N 9th

Anderson, F. [Frederick] commission merchant, 183 High.

Anderson, Walter, China merchant, Yohe Hotel.

Reference to W.Anderson, ‘...of the former concern of Tams, Anderson & Tams...’

(Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, Philadelphia, January 22, 1828).

Did Tams, Anderson & Tams end in **1828**?

Walter Anderson died in 1829, aged 33.

Frederick Anderson died in 1830, aged 29.

‘Buried at St.Peter’s Episcopal Churchyard, Philadelphia.

The **Tams, Anderson and Tams** partnership cannot post-date 1830.

S. Tams & Co.



Guildhall, London,
S. Tams & Co., c1820-30.



Unknown view, European castle (?),
S. Tams & Co., c1820-30.



New Store – No.94 William st.

Collection of Table, Tea and Desert ware...

S. Tams is described as ‘Being concerned in the manufacture of The above articles...’

(National advocate, New York, January 18, 1817).



S. Tams also advertised ‘China, Glass and Queens Ware’, available from 298 Market Street, Philadelphia

(December 27, 1817, Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser, Philadelphia).

Cup plate, blue edge, c1820-30, impressed ‘S.Tams & Co., Staffordshire Warranted.’



The Cheap Crockery Store of
Sampson Tams...

‘S.T. visiting the manufacturers in England once every year...’

(*Columbian*, New York, March 25, 1819).



Cup plate, blue printed, c1820-30, impressed
‘S.Tams & Co., Staffordshire Warranted.’

Jesse Tams

married

Eliza Ruscoe

Audlem (west of the Potteries) September 6, 1839.

Note: father, 'Michael
Tams, Manufacturer'

James Tams

married

Sarah Antoinette

Wade of New York.

Liverpool, November 16, 1843.

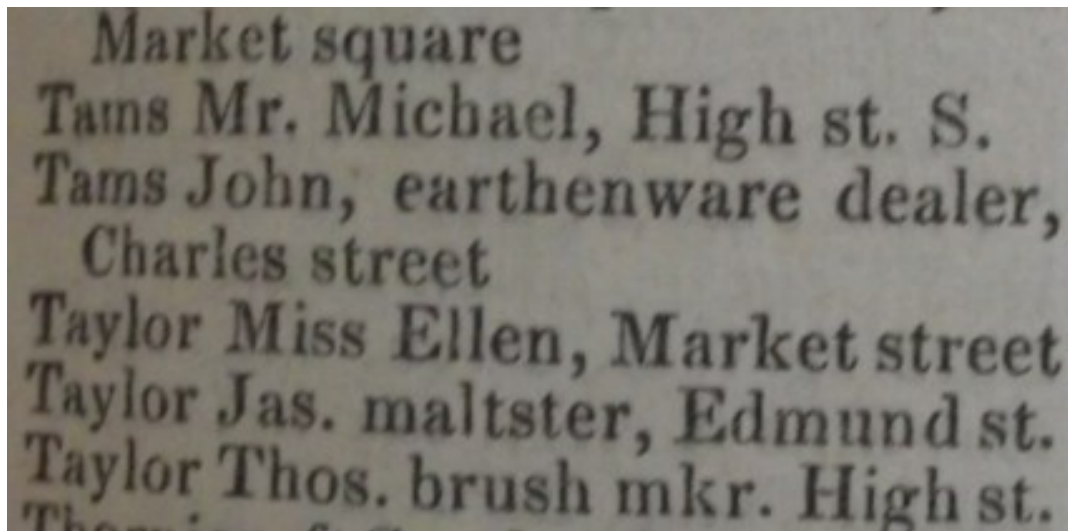
Note: father 'Michael
Tams, **Manufacturer,**
Shelton'.

Peter Roden's *Copyhold Potworks and Housing in the Staffordshire Potteries, 1700-1832*, Wood Broughton Publications, Cumbria, 2008.

Sales of plots of land called **Gold Crofts**, South East side of Shelton High Street.

3 May 1808, Michael Tams, of Shelton, Potter purchased 49.9 square yards, 1 house, £40, p. 320.

William White, *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire....1834*.

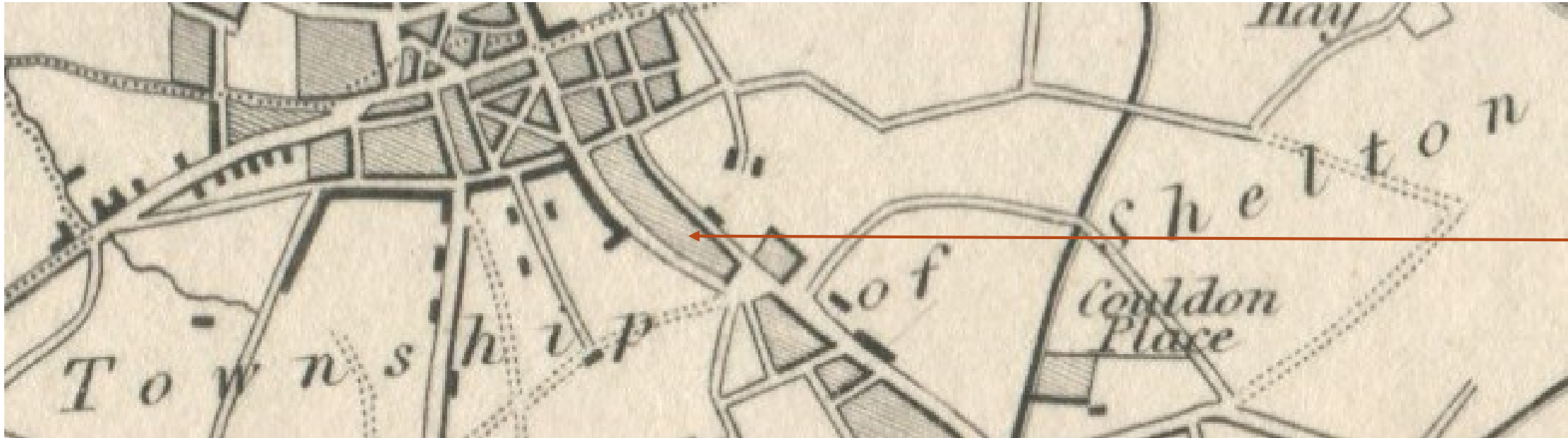


Market square
Tams Mr. Michael, High st. S.
Tams John, earthenware dealer,
Charles street
Taylor Miss Ellen, Market street
Taylor Jas. maltster, Edmund st.
Taylor Thos. brush mkr. High st.

Listed under:

‘Miscellany of Gentry, Clergy, Partners in Firms, and others not arranged in the lists of Trades and Professions.’

Mr. Michael Tams, High street, Shelton.

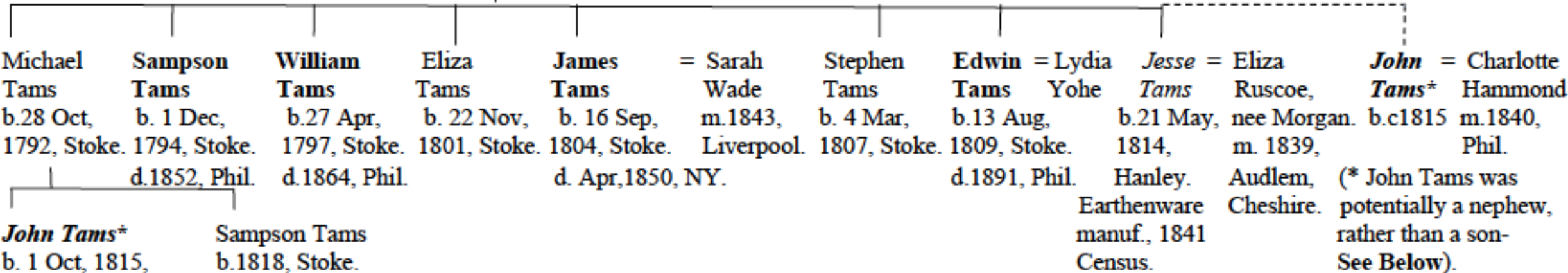


Gold
Crofts,
Shelton.

Stoke upon Trent map, 1835.

The Tams family of Staffordshire and Philadelphia

Michael Tams = Sarah Wildblood
Manufacturer, m. December 11, 1791, Norton in the Moors, Staffordshire.
Shelton.



*John Tams** b. 1 Oct, 1815, Stoke. In Philadelphia, and then Kansas.

John Tams appears in the **Kansas Census** of 1865, 1870, and 1880 involved in 'China Ware', b. England, c1815. His three daughters Charlotte (b.c1853), Eliza (b. c1855), and Mary (b. c1857) were all born in Pennsylvania, relating to former partnerships with **William, James and Edwin Tams**.

Key: Names in italics, had connections to ceramic manufacturing. Name in bold italics, had connections to dealing in ceramics Staffordshire and then in the USA. Names in bold, dealt in ceramics in the USA.

Philadelphia, May 13th 1849

My O H Pickett

Tippecanoe Ohio

Bought of E. & J. TAMS,

Manufacturers and Importers of all descriptions of China, Glass, and Queensware,

WAREHOUSE, No. 20 NORTH FOURTH STREET, above Market.

EDWIN TAMS, }
JOHN TAMS. }

50	Sets Fanny Painted Teas	10	5 11
14	do Blue edged plates	2 4 4 2 2 50 37 35 33 25	5 16
4	" " " Saups	2 2 11 45	1 70
12	" " " dishes	74 74 74 74 74 74 74 74 74 74 112 125 150 200 270 350 450 550 650	5 79
15	White Paris Round Mugs	16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 112 125 150 200 270 350 450	9 99
6 3/4	Fanny Gold Bowls	3 2 2 2 2 37 55 65 55 55	4 32
2 1/2	" " " Pitchers	75 100 125 200 300 400	4 10
7	Great Enam'd Bowls	62 75 112 175 75 75 112 175	6 75
1/2	White Paris Chambers	200 300 350 200 300 350	1 42
1/2	" " " Croc.	350 550	95

Invoice of Edwin and John
Tams, Philadelphia, 1849.

To E. H. Pickett, Tippecanoe,
Ohio.

1	White Granite Tea Ware	4 1/2 ps	350	3
6	" " " Teas French		37	3
1	do Flown Blue Cushan Bowls	12 1/2 1/2 125 150	11	1
12	" New Stone plates ass'd	112 55 75 62 75 75 75 75	10	10
2 1/2	" Gold Enam'd Pitchers	250 300 350 400	13	13
1/2	China Toys		150	
5	White granite plates	112 70 55 75 62 75 75 75 75 75	4	4
1	" " " dishes	250 300 350 400 450 500	21	21

Flown Blue Cushan Bowls

Norma Jean Hoener's *Flow Blue China: Additional Patterns and New Information*, 1996.

No Cushan, but lists CHUSAN made by a number of Staffordshire manufacturers.

One backstamp for Chusan is marked 'R.D.'

Richard Dudson or Richard Daniel.

Earthenware manufactories and China manufactory...

Mr. Richard Dudson, tenant.

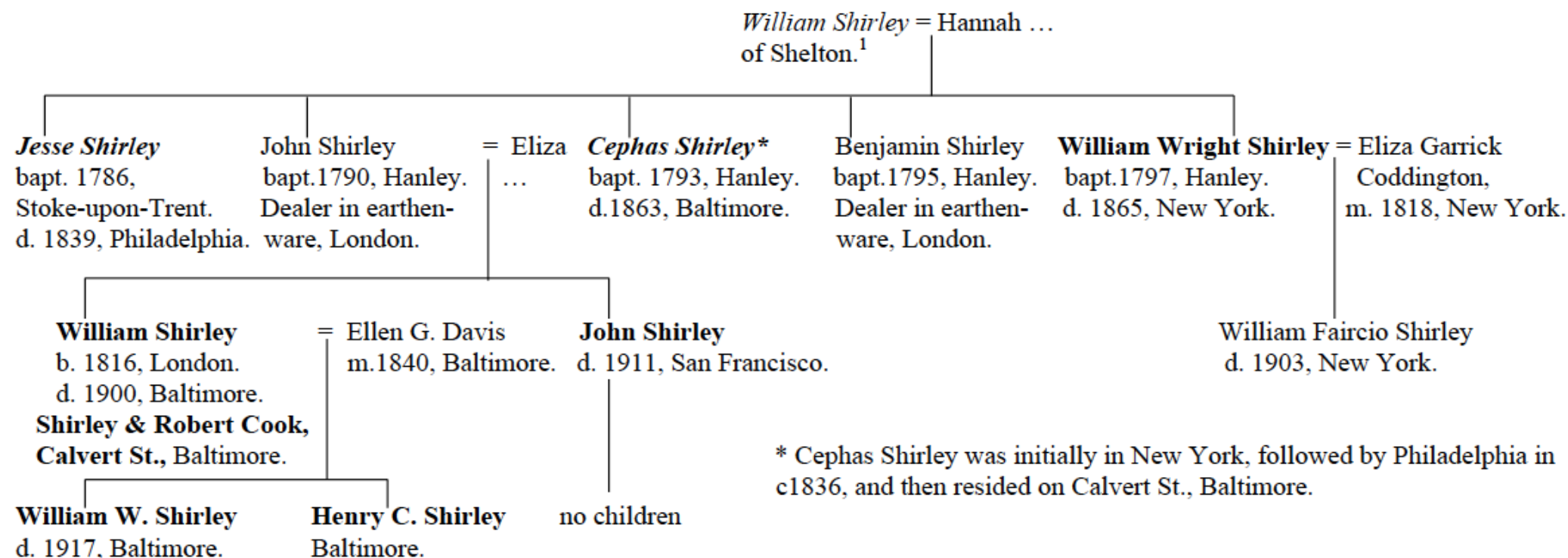
Jesse Tams, and another, as tenants.

in Cannon Street, Shelton district.

(14th October, 1843, *Staffordshire Advertiser*)

Staffordshire connections

The Shirley family of Staffordshire, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and California.



Key: Name in italics, had connections to ceramic manufacturing. Names in bold-italics, had connections to manufacturing in Staffordshire, and then dealing in ceramics when in the USA. Names in bold, dealt in ceramics in the USA.

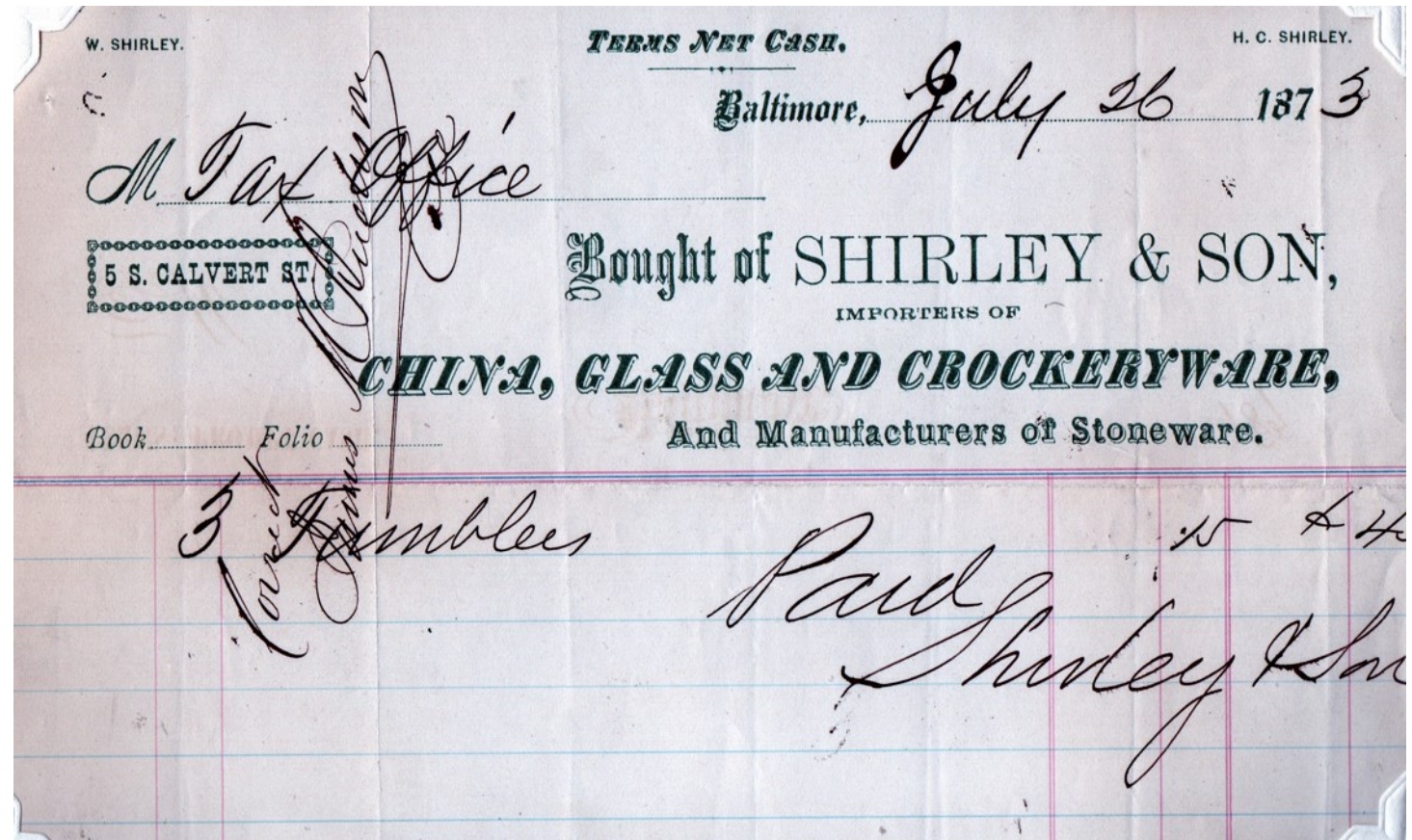
¹ Holden, W. (1811), *Holden's Annual London and Country Directory*...lists Jesse Shirley, Hanley, and William Shirley, Shelton, earthenware manufacturers. Underhill, T. (1816), *Biennial Directory...for the Years 1816 & 1817*, lists W. and J. Shirley, Hanley and Shelton.

Californian link

John Shirley advertised in
San Francisco

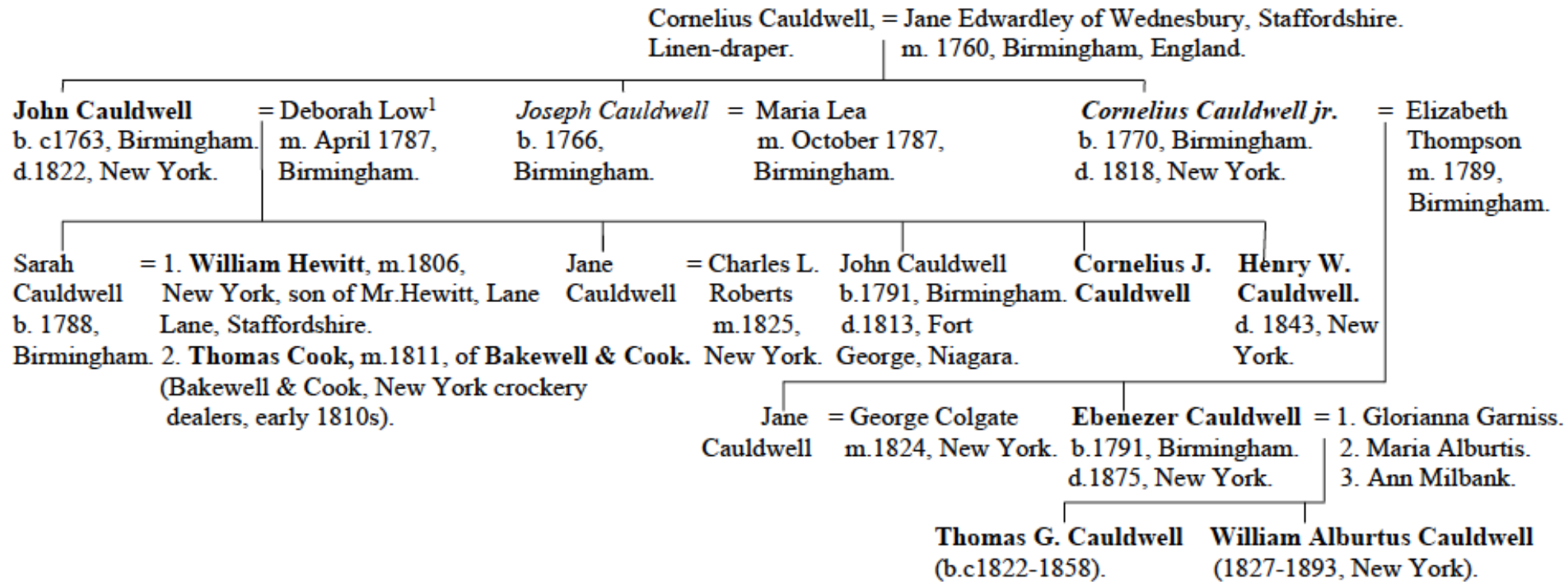
(*Daily Placer Times and Transcript*,
San Francisco,
June 28, 1854)

Baltimore link.



Invoice of Shirley & Son, **Baltimore**, for glass tumblers,
July 26, 1873.

The Cauldwell family of New York.



Key: Names in *italics*, dealt in ceramics in England. Names in ***Bold italics***, dealt in ceramics in England, and then in USA. Names in **Bold**, dealt in ceramics in USA.

¹ Deborah Lea, sister of Maria Lea according to Abbe and Howson's *Robert Colgate: The Immigrant: A Genealogy of the New York Colgates and Some Associated Lines*, 1941. However, according to Birmingham parish records, the name appears as 'Deborah Low'.

Cauldwell Cornelius, china store 429 Pearl
Cauldwell J. merchant 304 Pearl

Longworth's American Almanac, New York Register and City Directory, 1812.

The Precursor Stage of conducting the ceramic trade....

Joseph Cauldwell of Birmingham, dealer in earthenware, in partnership with **Jacob Lea**, manufacturer, Longport.

References in the *London Gazette* in the 1790s.

Cornelius Cauldwell, dealer in earthenware and glass, 35 Dale-end, Birmingham, England.
Chapman's Birmingham Directory for 1800.

Moved to New York in 1806.



Staffordshire, creamware, with pink lustre decoration, c1820. Bequest of R. Wistar Harvey, 1940. (40-16-95)
Deaccessioned by the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



‘Be always ready to die for your country.’

Reasons for migration

To Thomas Jefferson.

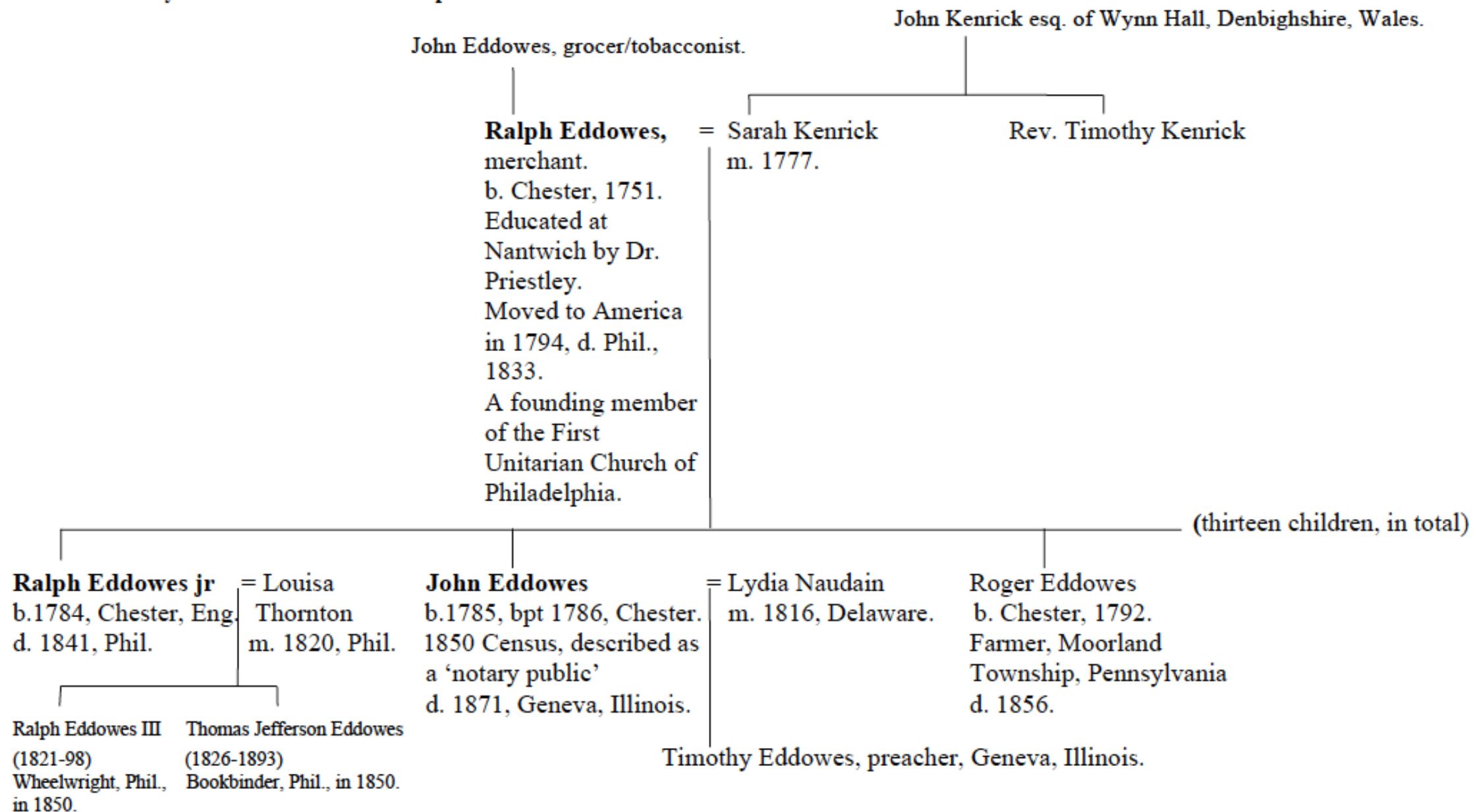
‘... My attachment to the principles on which the Constitution of the U.S. is founded has gathered additional strength since the administration of it has been in your hands, and I consider it as an [sic] high honour & happiness that I can subscribe myself
Your fellow Citizen

Ra. Eddowes.’

Thomas Jefferson Papers, November 14, 1807.

Ralph jr and John Eddowes advertised jugs depicting image of President.

Eddowes family of Cheshire and Philadelphia



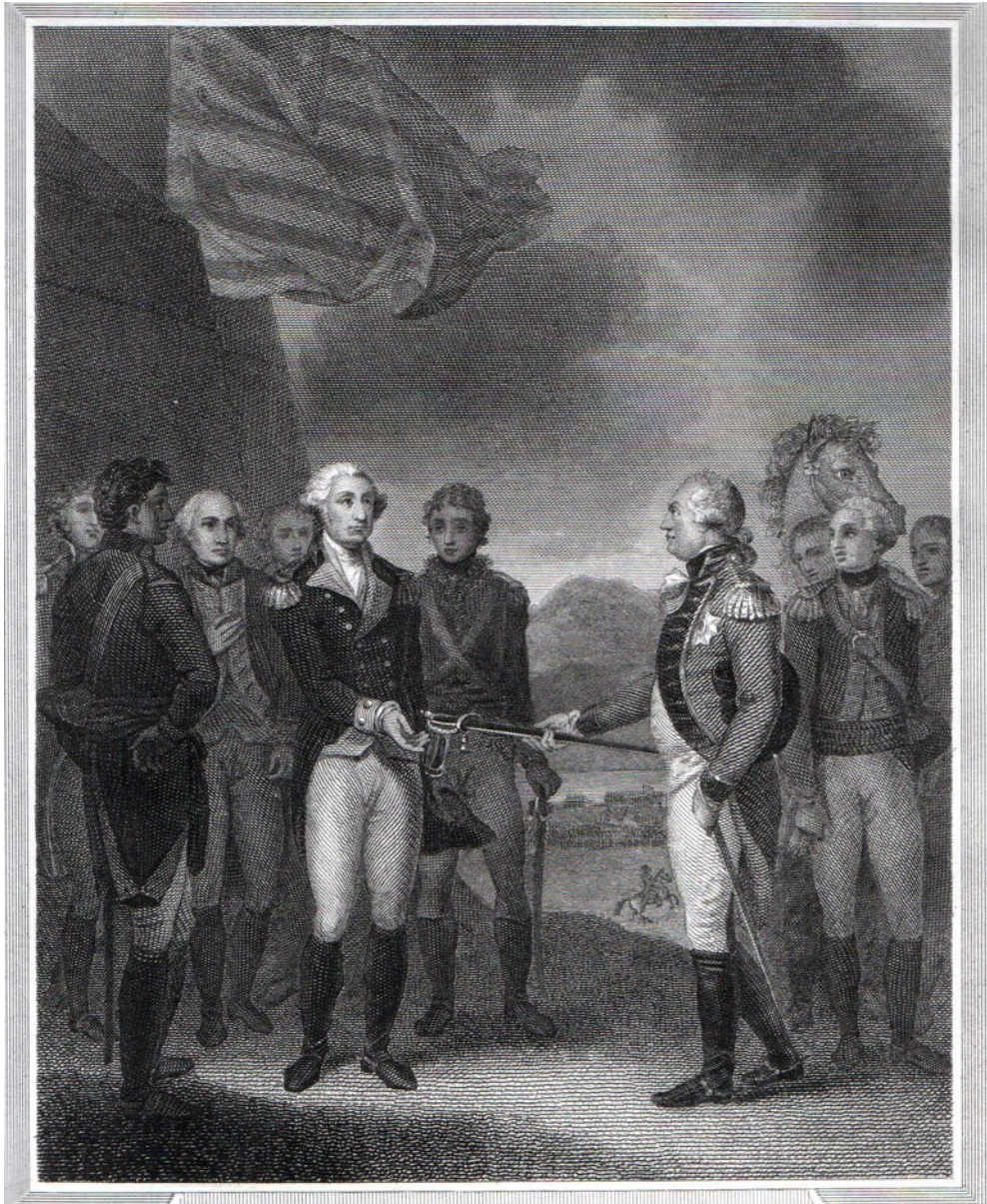
Key: Names in bold, involved in dealing in ceramics in the USA.



Lustre pitchers, Staffordshire, c1825.

Barbara H. Madig's 'Commemorative Wares in George Washington's Hometown', *Ceramics in America*, 2006.

Barbara H. Madig's 'Robert H. Miller, Importer: Alexandria and St.Louis', *Ceramics in America*, 2008.



‘Cornwallis resigning his sword to Washington’,
This engraving appears in Joel Barlow’s *The Columbiad*, first published in 1807.



Porcellaneous, 7 ¼ inch bowl, Staffordshire, c1825.



Printed backstamp,
' "Columbian Star"
Oct. 28th, 1840,
Jno Ridgway.'

The election was held
from October 30, 1840 to
December 2, 1840.

Toy cup and saucer, John Ridgway, Cauldon Place works, Shelton, c1840.

Field & Clark



Sugar, two fishermen and a ruin, manufactured by Enoch Wood, Burslem, c1820s.



Impressed, 'Field & Clark, Importers of Earthenware, Utica.'

Thomas Field and Theodore Clark, Utica, existed as a partnership from c1822-1829.



‘Utica...’, 1824.



‘Late Governor’, advertised June 1824.



De Witt Clinton, was voted in again as New York Governor in 1825.

Clinton died in 1828.

‘Enoch Wood earthenware found in St.Paul’s Church, Burslem’
by Pamela Kingsbury in *Magazine Antiques*, July 1977, p.122-27.

‘By far the most interesting of these American views is a plate commemorating the Opening of the Erie Canal which has an inscription Governor Clinton in the center...

Unfortunately, the plate, which is privately owned, has no manufacturer’s mark...’



Gilpin's Mill,
Brandy Wine Creek.

‘Washington’s Scroll’.

These designs were all found in the foundations of St.Paul’s Church, Burslem. If Enoch Wood only placed his most up-to-date production all these designs would all date to c1828.

This design was also found at the St.Paul's site.



Enoch Wood & Sons, Burslem, c1828.



In 1823, **Thomas F. Field** of Utica married Mary Ann Roberts at the Baptist Church, Oliver Street, New York.

They were married by the **Rev. John Williams**.

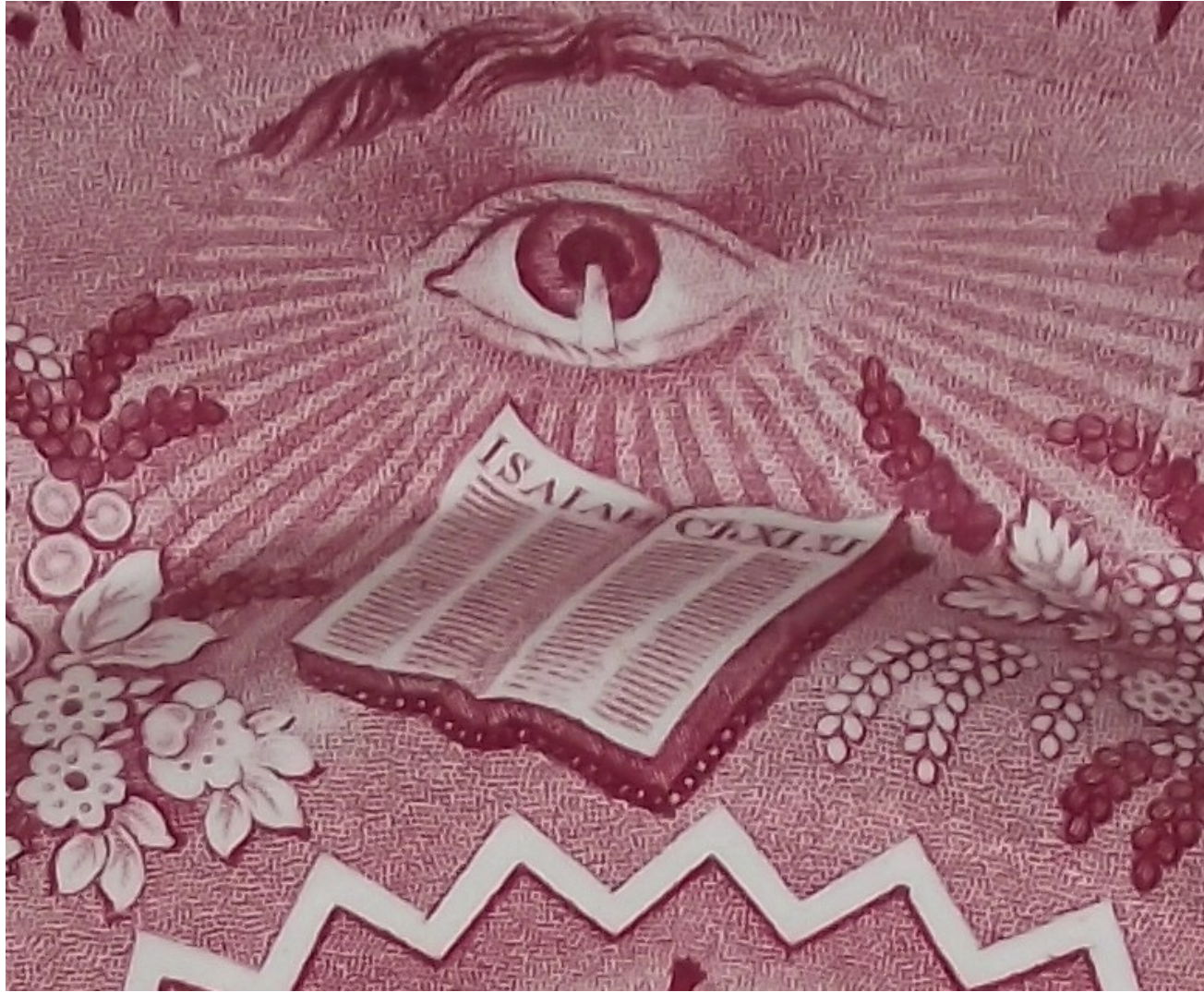
Members of the **Hewitt** and **Cauldwell** families were also married at this Baptist Church.



Thomas Cowperthwait & Co., City of New York
 (Printed Philadelphia 1852) .



‘Millenium’ [Sic], Staffordshire, c1833.



Rev. H. W. Hartman, 'The Millennium Plate', in Sam Laidacker's *The American Antique Collector*, Vol. 1, May 1939, No.3.

'Little seems to be known about the identity of the maker. The only clue we have is the mark "R.S. & S." on a small pink plate.' (p.50-51).

Mixed contemporary reviews...

As this was made for the American market, should this design be included within the **Historical Staffordshire** category?

The implications of examining importers.



Staffordshire, c1838.



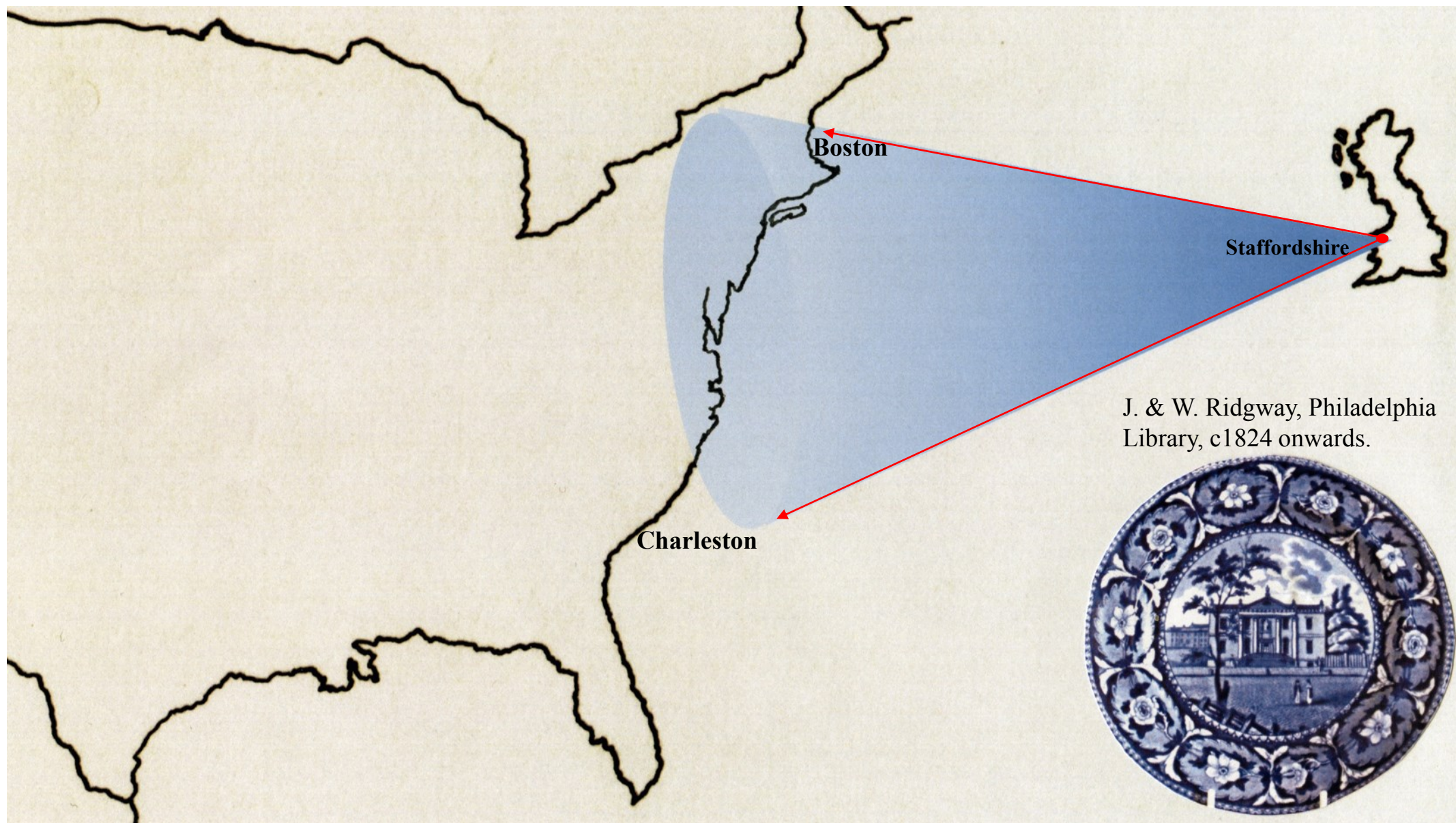
Detail, 'Constitutional Ware', c1838.



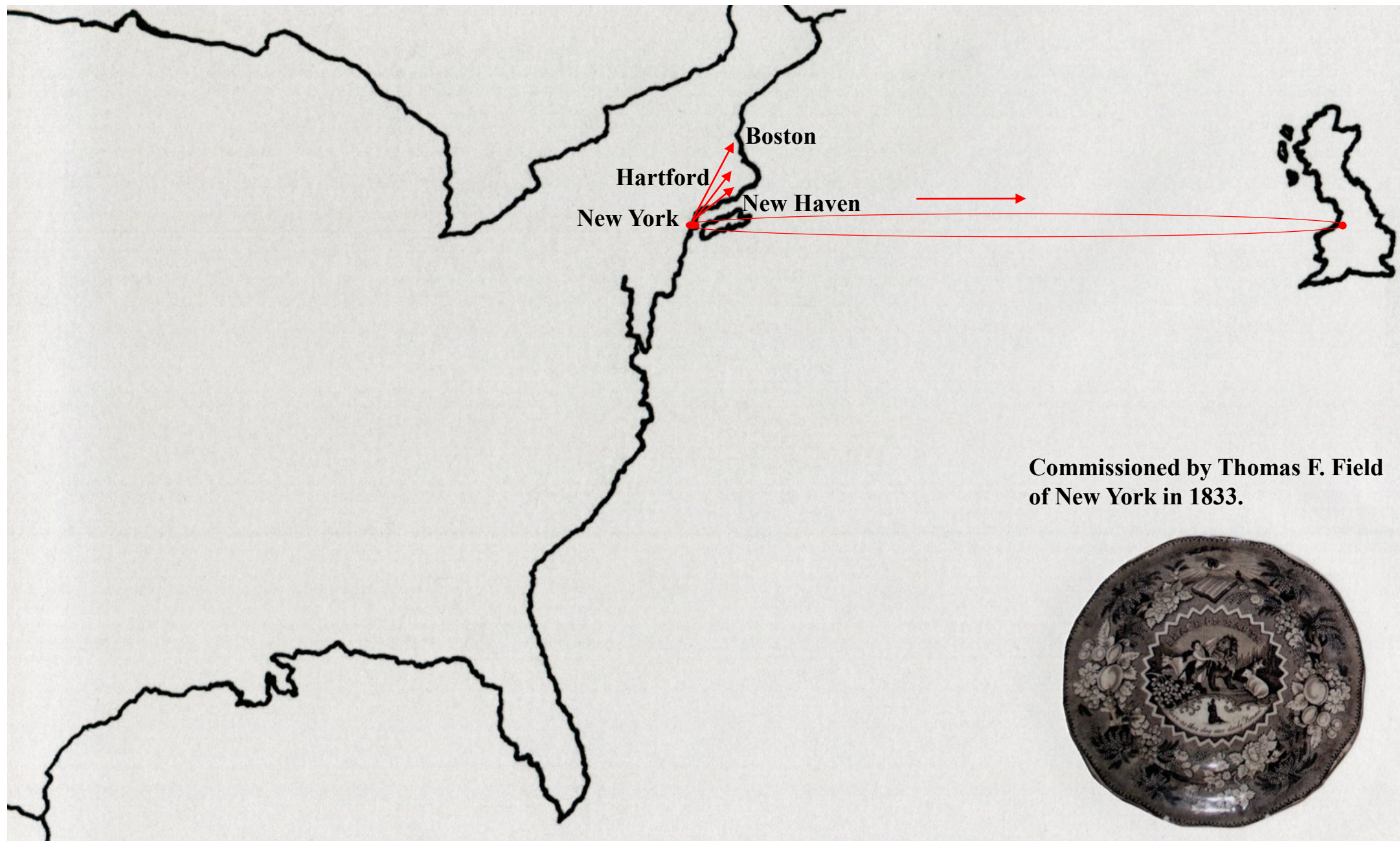
John Ridgway's diary, October 24, 1822, Boston.

‘Rose with a slight cold...I blame myself this morning for strolling round the town for nearly 3 hours in selecting the best objects for sketching to be applied to a set of American scenery.’

‘Beauties of America, Octagon Church, Boston’, J. & W. Ridgway, Shelton, c1824.

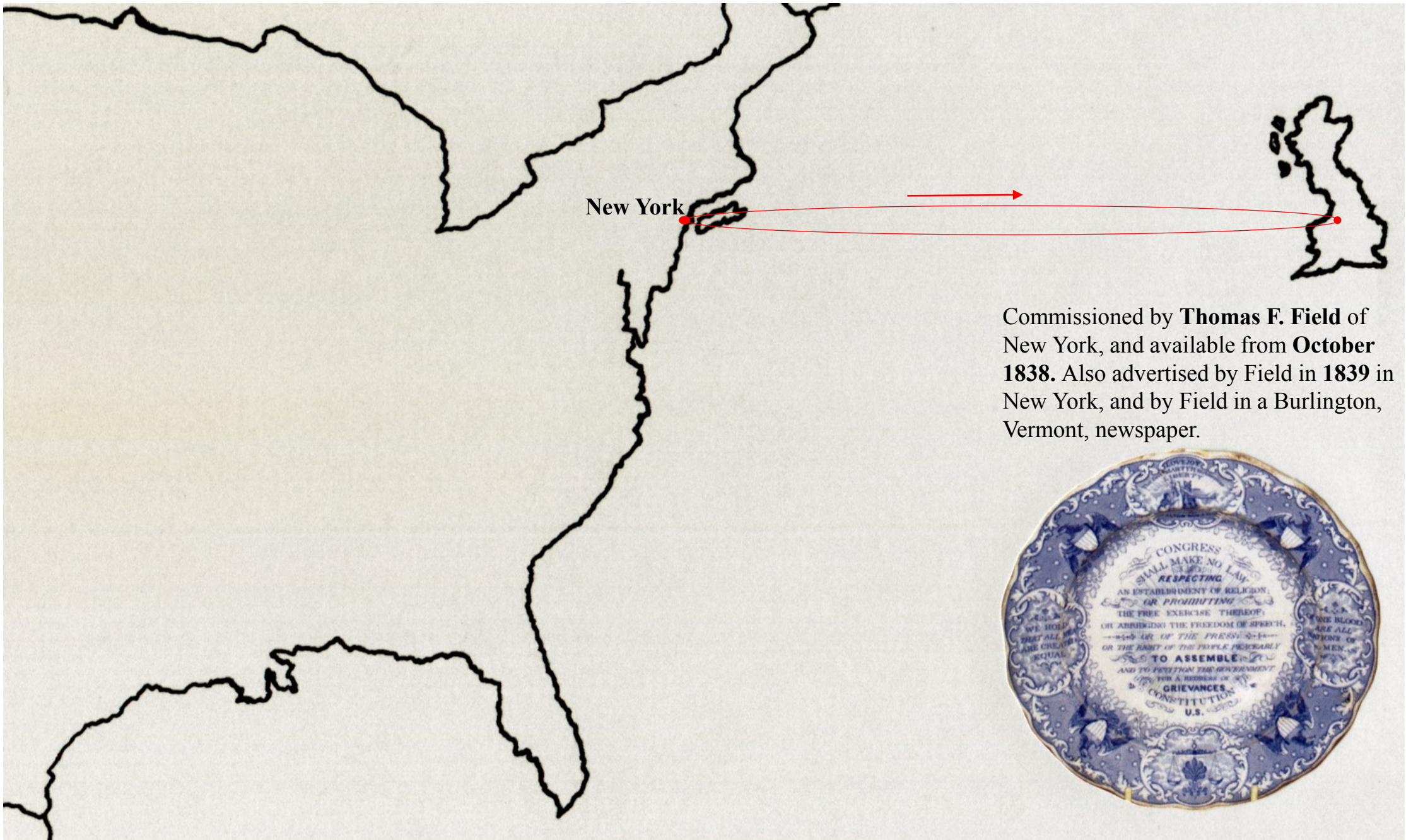


J. & W. Ridgway, Philadelphia
Library, c1824 onwards.



**Commissioned by Thomas F. Field
of New York in 1833.**





Commissioned by **Thomas F. Field** of New York, and available from **October 1838**. Also advertised by Field in 1839 in New York, and by Field in a Burlington, Vermont, newspaper.



Benjamin Franklin, entitled 'General Washington', holding a document inscribed 'Freedom', c1860.

Conclusion

By exploring the origins of ceramic importers and dealers we can see a precursor stage that questions Norman Buck's model of the Anglo-American trade.

A new interpretation is that early trading links were formed by importers and dealers, some of whom had connections to Staffordshire, or prior knowledge of ceramics.

Understanding the origins, backgrounds and cultural identities of importers and dealers has implications on how we understand ceramics made for the American market.

The marketing of ceramic importers and dealers shows that they could influence what was produced for the American market.

Ceramic importers and dealers were not always responding to American demand, but commissioned goods which reflected their own views on politics, religion or slavery.