

SCARCE – BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

A VERY SCARCE OLD ENGLISH PEWTER FLAGON

Made by

EDMUND HARVEY 1721-1781 OF STOCKTON ON TEES

Of this style of flagon only 6 complete examples (and two lidless) have been found. NONE are in museums, just one is in a private collection (belonging to this writer), and five are in North Yorkshire UK, Churches.

There are likely to be more - but this writer after considerable research is aware of none at 28.03.2018.

This style is called a - York Acorn Style Communion Flagon. It is difficult to clean. It was not sold widely or (yet known of) out of the County. It is possible this style was only originally sold within a horse ride south east or west from Stockton on Tees. It was not used other than in Churches.

(30-40 miles on good 'roads' was a good day's ride then)



26cm height to top of thumbpiece 21cms to rim. Never any finial. This weighs about 1822 gms (4 pounds) formerly in Minchin and Merritt UK collections.

Edmund Harvey (of Stockton)'s touch mark (which was his Wigan grandfather's also) is at central inner base.



All found with 1 plate or footed plate on which the Flagon might have stood to avoid spills on the altar cloth or by the Communion rail. This theory (unproven) is not accepted by others.



Smallest found at 7 1/2" to rim

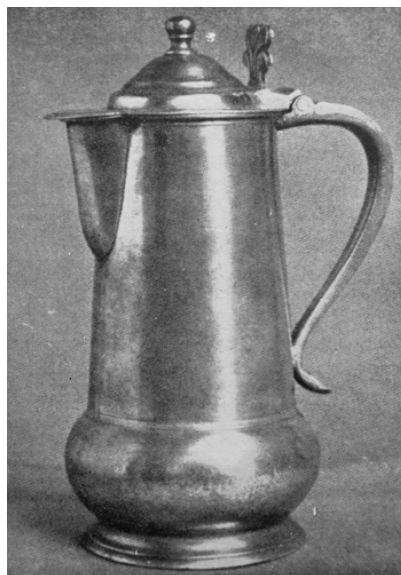


Another NYTC but 1/2" larger than above right

Two with lids missing and the centre one differing in style though all marked for this maker. To the right – this is a slightly smaller size than the others, with a different (Ramshorn) thumbpiece but also marked. Same size handle? – bent out to fit(?) Strangely same day next one seen some 6 miles away.

This pewterer's (probable – genealogical trail not available) father died in 1717 some 4 years before Edmund set up in business. Thus, there is a theory that perhaps he finished his apprenticeship in York.

The following two pieces are more traditional York Acorns said to be made by him. Though no marks on them have been published to prove it (as found thus far).



H H Cotterell writing in 1932 said the above left (which he owned) was one of the very finest pieces of English Pewter in existence. It features as fig 118 in *Pewter Down the Ages*, on the cover and fig 5 of *Old British Pewter a Connoisseur booklet* and is on plate XL (ref e) in *Old Pewter*.

To the right (showing the spout and known thumbpiece and a smaller bowl) is perhaps an early development of his own style. This is seen in "Country Life" magazine of June 8th 1945 and by Bernard Hughes in *Old English Pewter* 1 page 991.

Note there are seen three distinct types of York "Acorn" Pewter Communion flagons. This is the scarcest of the three.

Preston Park Museum of Stockton on Tees provided much help with the search for these flagons. They had an exhibition from 1984 and returned that pewter in 2017 so were familiar with much of what was known of.

The name “Acorn” consider



This then is one distinct type of so called York Acorn Pewter Communion Flagon Most are marked. Size varies only rarely. It was sold only in a relatively small UK provincial area.



The bowl base, the trunk or body, the domed lid, perhaps apparent above.

In the 100 years of records in the UK Pewter Society Library there has been no thorough research of this type of flagon. That is possibly due to its provincial nature, its use only in a few Churches of that area, and the scarcity of pieces sold off. Thus, there has been no previous interest of consequence.

Of the three different styles – “Yorkshire Church Plate by K Fallows published 1915” shows 57 Churches holding some 69 such flagons (of the St Denys type – actually a different style to this the common factor of all three known styles being the bowl as a separate piece).

This writer attempted to contact all 57 churches, those not replying after 6 months were 14, who had had sent to them some 5 letters each. It might be they do not want to say what they have – it might be they have not got any such pieces. Attempts have been made

to visit phone and email some of those where contact details could be verified. One or two letters were returned as “inaccessible”

R F Michaelis did start a hand-written list (undated but in the 1960s) which conveniently provided the information summarised. He also recorded that there were in Yorkshire some 169 of the straight sided flagons which Edmund Harvey also made. An example follows –



The only article found about Edmund Harvey of Stockton on Tees was published in the Journal of The Pewter Society of Spring 1989 by Malcolm L Toothill.

There is now a small amount of extra information that could be added to that as researched by Jamie Ferguson as follows -

The elder Edmund Harvey of Wigan died in 1685. In his will and inventory, he left his business to eldest son James. There is reference to next sons Lawrence and John who had already been lent money to set up in partnership and to acquire stock in trade (were they just retailing at this point?). Son James dies in 1687. His will is badly water damaged and whilst difficult to read it seems to divide things up to Lawrence and John (and his other siblings, as clearly, he had no offspring). There are no known details of Lawrence between 1687 and the christening of Edmund son of Lawrence in Stockton in December 1698. Lawrence dies in 1714. Whereas This Edmund could have been in business in 1721 (aged 22) perhaps it was a little later. Who taught him his trade - given his father was dead! The EH bird mark is seen on pieces that span the 17th and 18th c without seemingly a big break so I suspect it was continued to be used by James, possibly John. John dies in Wigan in 1723. Was the EH mark sent to his nephew in Stockton at this point? Lawrence could also have taken it when he left Wiga

EDMUND HARVEY 1698-1781

In John Brewster's "Parochial History and Antiquities of Stockton-On-Tees" published in Stockton in 1796, he reserves a section for posthumously famous respectable though obscure tradesmen. (Brewster was Curate at Stockton in 1776 returning after 1791 as Vicar to Stockton).

Edmund Harvey was christened on the 27th of December 1698 in Stockton and died 1781 aged 83.

Brewster mentions Edmund Harvey as notable firstly for pushing tirelessly for a cut to the River Tees, thirty years after his death such a cut was made shortening the journey from Stockton to the Sea by 3 miles.

Brewster wrote that when he was curate, Edmund used to leave scraps of paper with religious texts written on, kindly intended for his attention. Also, he told how Edmund had purchased a few sheets of copper and discovering duty had not paid he later attempted repayment at the Customs House – but his scruples were mocked so he threw down the money telling them to give it to the poor.

Edmund was noted for attending the Parish Church with 6 small boys which he used to educate in his Finkle Street workshop part of which was set up as a school room. He with the assistance of others also clothed them. In about 1769 he increased his school with 6 poor girls he also educated. To help pay for it they were taught needlework and their product sold. *"He was one of the last instances of the pious and simple manners of departing times."* No-one continued his work after he died.

One of his students a Henry Mallenby who became a schoolmaster and then a solicitor's clerk had two pieces of his poetry about Edmund Harvey published in the Newcastle Ladies Pocket Book for 1787 – 6 years after he died.

The premises at 9 Finkle Street are said to have been reconstructed between 1680-1710 with stone perhaps salvaged from Stockton Castle and were lower than later developments.

His father was likely to be Lawrence Harvey born 1659 in Wigan Lancashire and his Grandfather another Edmund Harvey a notable Wigan Pewterer whose holloware mark his grandson continued to use.

We can think of him as a modest pious skilled pewterer helping the poor of his community by trying to give those he could a good basic education. Also looking at the wider benefits such as a change to the Tees might bring benefit to Stockton on Tees

Image Source:

Altering the course of the River Tees – 1791; Courtesy of [Picture Stockton](#).

The above is a simple precis of - The Story of Edmund Harvey was kindly submitted by Bryan & Vicky Cooper.

TODAY IN 2018 HE IS NOT FORGOTTEN –

Edmund Harvey Centre Cromwell Avenue Stockton-on-Tees TS18 2EF

(In November of 1971 Teesside County Borough's Education Committee put in a planning application for the erection of a Speech Therapy and Child Guidance Centre at Queens Street, Cromwell Avenue, Stockton on Tees.)

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Edmund Harvey – Pewterer of Stockton-on-Tees

Malcolm L. Toothill

On a recent visit to my brother in Northumberland, he mentioned the existence of Pewter at Preston Hall Museum, Eaglescliffe, which is between Yarm and Stockton-on-Tees, in the old county of Yorkshire.

Subsequently I arranged a visit, expecting to find the usual array of pub pots, plates, etc. However, my pessimism was unfounded, and I am delighted to report an interesting collection of pewter bequeathed to the museum by Colonel Gilbert Spence in 1926. The collection ranges from 18th and 19th century British and continental pewter, to a few rare items such as a 17th century flat-lid tankard, a 17th century candlestick with a mid drip-pan, and a fine pair of broad rimmed plates, 10½ inches in diameter, by William Adams and engraved with armorials. The benefactor kept meticulous records and, in fact, I was able to examine his account book which records that he spent the princely sum of £84-11s-6d on pewter during his lifetime.

However, more importantly, there are a number of pieces on loan to the Museum from local churches in the Stockton Diocese, all made by Edmund Harvey. In addition there is information relating to Harvey which is too detailed to have obtained by reference to Cotterell or indeed, any other known sources. Having enquired at the Museum as to where the information had originated, I was referred to Mr Warbrook, the Administrator of Stockton-on-Tees Museum Service. Apparently, a student by the name of Carl Greathead had researched on 'Pewters of Stockton' as his Thesis, and had found the existence of only two pewterers, namely Henry Bell and Edmund Harvey. Very little came to light regarding Henry Bell, but much more is now known about Harvey.

The Museum were most helpful, and allowed access to the research documents and also allowed me to inspect and photograph the pewter. Edmund Harvey has variously been described as having worked in York or Wigan, and there has been speculation that 'York Acorn' flagons were made in Wigan. Shelley records an Edmund Harvey being Master of the Wigan Company in 1676. It is now certain that the Harvey of Wigan was the grandfather of the one referred to here, and thus we can now say that from the evidence available, this type of flagon was only made in the York area. There are entries in the Stockton-on-Tees Parish Register recording Edmund Harvey's date of birth as 27th October 1698, Son of Lawrence; baptised on 27th December 1698, and being buried in Stockton on 8th September 1781.

Additional research records Harvey in many instances as follows:–

1) POOR RATE RETURNS

Mention of Widow Harvey (Edmund's mother) from 1718-1729, and Edmund Harvey from 1730-1759, thereafter the Returns have not survived.

Also mention of Henry Bell, Pewterer.

2) ACCOUNTS OF MERCHANTS SHIPPING THROUGH STOCKTON

Various entries from May 1721 to July 1729 showing that Harvey imported battery from Rotterdam. (Battery is a term used to describe metal or articles of metal, especially of brass or copper, wrought by hammering. I believe this word was used mainly from the late 16th to the early 19th century.)

Also mention of John Harrison of York in 1717 – See Cott O.P. 2162.

3) NORTH YORKSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE AT NORTHALLERTON

From the Terrier of 1764, the "Purchase of one Pewter Flagon from Edmund Harvey" by Crathorne Parish Church. (This particular 'York Acorn' flagon, with frontal spout and 'Ramshorn' thumbpiece, is on display at Preston Hall)

4) POLL BOOKS FOR DURHAM CITY & COUNTY

Poll for entering two knights of the Shire for County Durham in April 1761, records Harvey as

a candidate listed under the Stockton Ward, who owned, in his own right, freehold property in the Borough of Stockton.

5) *PHOTOCOPY OF CHURCHWARDENS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1736*

"To exchange of flagons 12/- : Geo Bromley and George Elstob" (There is a fine 'York Acorn' flagon with palmette thumbpiece bearing Harvey's touchmark on loan to Preston Hall Museum from Stranton Church and engraved:-

Rich'd Conder – A.B. Vicar

Mr George) Bromley

) Elstob Ch hw dens

6) *19th CENTURY PHOTOGRAPH OF HARVEY'S SHOP IN FINKLE STREET, STOCKTON*

A 17th century building, little altered over the years, and now used as a Tea Shop.

7) *COPY PAGES FROM A 19th CENTURY LOCAL BIOGRAPHY*

"Edmund Harvey, Pewterer. The introduction of this name upon this list is intended to give a little posthumous fame to a respectable, though obscure tradesman of Stockton, who through a long life continued with unceasing, but fruitless application to impress upon the opulent inhabitants of the town, the expediency of opening the Cut, or channel, the execution of which, has of late years, proved so advantageous."

The 'Cut or Channel' previously mentioned refers to a scheme, devised by Harvey, to straighten the River Tees, in order to ease navigation, at a time when the Tees was important to trade in Stockton. The plan never succeeded in Harvey's lifetime, but was carried out during the 19th century. However, the Biography also states that Harvey was an avid churchgoer and a lover of education, who had planned to use profits from the scheme to educate six boys and six girls, with a 'little pension for himself', as his means of living were far from independent. There is also mention of his immense honesty and I quote "By some means which cannot now be known, this conscientious, but eccentric man, had received a few sheets of copper on which Government Duty had not been paid. For several years he felt very great uneasiness of mind at the idea of having defrauded the Revenue, but at last, he resolved to ease his conscience by paying the Duty."

8) *THE 'CUT OR CHANNEL' ACROSS THE RIVER TEES*

The original plans for the scheme survive, as do the 'List of Subscribers' showing 100 Shareholders who contributed £50 each.

This research not only throws 'new light' on Edmund Harvey as a pewterer, but also gives an insight of life and times in the 18th century.

There are pieces from eight churches on loan to the Museum, consisting of 'York Acorn' flagons, straight-sided York flagons, plates and a tazza, all bearing the touchmarks of Harvey. By inspecting these pieces, and items brought to the Autumn Meeting in October 1988, it is now possible to update the information recorded in Cotterell and Peal's M.P.M.:-

2185. HARVEY, EDMUND, of ? : c. 1700-1750.

2186. HARVEY, E——, of ? : c. 1670.



2185 Harvey, Edmund. The small touch almost certainly belongs to 2186. (R.F.M.,
See O.P C.A.P.)

2186c Harvey, Lawrence. This touch is on the inserted repair in a 36" broad rim dish of c.1660. (A,S.G.)



c/b. 5669b.

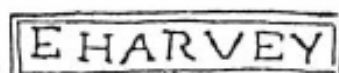
COTT O. P. 2185

The small mark of a 'bird in a beaded circle' is recorded on :-

- a) All the church flagons examined.
- b) Two dome lidded tankards of c1740/50, one in my own collection, the other belonging to Frank Holt.
- c) A pair of unlidded 'tulip' tankards, both in the Frank Holt collection, c1750.
- d) A porringer with 'old English' fretted ear, and deep bowl, brought to the Autumn Meeting by John Douglas.
- e) A salt, formerly in the collection of JC Fenton (mentioned by Michaelis in his articles for Apollo magazine).

It would appear, therefore, that Harvey used this mark only on 'standing pieces' such as the aforementioned. The porringer noted above under (d) was dated by Michaelis as circa 1670, and Peter Hornsby commented at the Autumn Meeting, that the style of mark appears to be 'early', and could have also been used by Edmund Harvey of Wigan. Whilst this is possible, there is no evidence to support the view that the mark was other than that of Edmund Harvey of Stockton. It is known that styles of various pewter articles, including porringers, were made for long periods, especially by provincial makers. In the circumstances, from around 1720 until at least 1764 (date of purchase in respect of the Crathorne flagon).

The larger 'columnar' mark appears on five pieces of flatware from various churches, and on a charger in the Museum's collection. It is sometimes struck twice on the rear of the well, and used in conjunction with 'hallmarks' on both single-reeded and plain-rimmed plates. On a single-reeded plate from Hilton church, a hitherto unrecorded oblong mark of E HARVEY appears as reproduced below:-



This oblong mark is also struck on a narrow plain-rimmed paten or plate dated 1724, from Thorpe Thewles Church, but in this case is used with the 'hallmarks' and a crowned X mark only.

The 'Tin from London' mark appears on only two items:- a pair of plates from Kirby-in-Cleveland Church.

COTT O. P. 2186

The circular mark of a rampant lion can also be attributed to Edmund Harvey of Stockton.

There are a pair of plates from Hipswell Church, both single-reeded circa 1730/40, one of which is struck twice with this mark (Note the letter 'B' to the right of the device – could this be attributed to the other known Stockton Pewterer, Henry Bell?) The other plate records the 'columnar' mark of Cott O.P. 2185.

Cotterell's stated date of circa 1670 can now be disregarded. No evidence of these 'hallmarks' appearing on any items inspected.

PEAL M. P. M. 2185

The comment that the small mark belongs to 2186 is partly correct, but as I have already shown, all marks in respect of 2185 & 2186 are those of the one maker.

PEAL M. P. M. 2186c

Recorded by Sutherland-Graeme as being on the inserted repair in a 36" broad rim dish. This dish is almost certainly one from the Navarro Collection, now in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, by the maker John Redshaw, Cott O.P. 3878; the inserted repair showing the mark of Lawrence Harvey.

The touchmark and 'hallmarks' have the appearance to suggest the 18th century and not 1660. Edmund Harvey's father was Lawrence, who is recorded on the 'Mormon Index of Lancashire' as being born in Wigan on 23rd January 1659. He obviously moved to Stockton-on-Tees, where Stockton Parish Register records his burial on the 9th February 1714.

Whilst there is no evidence to support my theory, I believe this could be the mark of Edmund's father. The touchmark is columnar, as is Edmund's flatware mark, and the name appears in the same places. The device is that of a Lion Statant, and in the 2186 mark, Edmund's is a Lion Rampant. The 'hallmarks' of 2185 and 2186c bear similarities, in that the first two are name letters, the third is identical, and the fourth is a Lion, albeit of a different 'stance'.

I am indebted to Carl Greathead for his extensive research, which I have been able to expand to form the above conclusions.

If members are ever in the North Yorkshire area, I can certainly recommend a visit to Preston Hall Museum.

References

1. Cotterell, H. H., *Old Pewter its Makers and Marks*, (1929 and reprints)
2. Peal, C. A., *More Pewter Marks*, (1976), 25
3. Shelley, R. J. A., *Brief Notes on the Wigan Pewterers*, (read to the Society of Pewter Collectors, Jan. 1936), 9 and 10
4. Michaelis, R. F., 'English Pewter Porringers' Parts 1 to IV *Apollo* July, August, September, October 1949

ABOVE ARTICLE IN THE SPRING 1989 JOURNAL OF THE PEWTER SOCIETY PAGES 3 - 6

Additional from the research of Jamie Ferguson in 2018

The elder Edmund Harvey of Wigan died in 1685. In his will and inventory he left his business to eldest son James. There is reference to next sons Lawrence and John who had already been lent money to set up in partnership and to acquire stock in trade (were they just retailing at this point?). Son James dies in 1687. His will is badly water damaged and whilst difficult to read it seems to divide things up to Lawrence and John (and his other siblings, as clearly he had no offspring).

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John dies in Wigan in 1723. Did the EH mark get sent to his nephew in Stockton at this point? Lawrence could also have taken it when he left Wigan.

EDMUND HARVEY WORKED AND LIVED AT STOCKTON ON TEES – WHICH ALTHOUGH NOT NAMED ON THIS SOMEWHAT EARLIER (THAN HIS DATES) MAP OF 1645 IS SLIGHTLY TO THE WEST OF LEVENTHORPE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE RIVER TEES



1645 Blaeu
Yorkshire