

"KENDAL PEWTERERS"

A paper read before the members of the
Society of Pewter Collectors, in London
on Monday, January 14th, 1935:

by

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With warm esteem
I dedicate this brochure
to
Francis Weston Esq., F.S.A.
President of The Society of Pewter Collectors.
1933-4.

KENDAL PEWTERERS

A member of the Society of Pewter Collectors was some few months ago perusing the 1812 edition of that interesting old work, Cary's "Road Guide", when his eye was attracted by the following reference to Kendal:

"Kendal, situated on the river Ken, is a place of considerable trade, each having its Hall; viz. Mercers, Tanners, Glovers, Shearmen, Cordwainers, Taylors and Pewterers".

Now, this member, Mr. Ernest Hunter, of Chorley Wood, Herts., was unaware that there had been a Pewterers' Company in the little Westmorland town: so were his fellow members; and even the greatest authority on the history of Pewter and its makers, the late Howard H. Cotterell, whose researches in the subject were most thorough, was evidently equally unaware, as his numerous books contain no mention of a Kendal pewterer in the long list of provincial members compiled so patiently by him over a period of many years. But, curiously enough, this list does contain the names of a few youths from Hawkshead, Lancs. and Langdale, Westmorland - each of them a Benson - who served their apprenticeships to Bristol pewterers: e.g. "Arthur Benson, Hawkshead, Lancs.: son of Brian Benson. Apprenticed to John Benson, Bristol, 2 Aug. 1605, for seven years." Again: "Arthur Benson, Langdale, Westmorland: son of Solomon Benson. Apprenticed to Bernard Benson, Bristol, for nine years from 4 Feb. 1626." In the above cases relationship would seem to be the reason of

these apprentices going so far afield; but I have come across two other instances in Cotterell's list in which family ties are not apparent, and so it seems rather strange that, with Kendal near at hand, these particular lads were not sent there to learn their trade. But I must crave your indulgence for this digression, as it is anticipatory.

Our President, Mr. Francis Weston, F.S.A. - himself a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Barber Surgeons and an antiquary of repute, with special knowledge of the records of the London Guilds - and our energetic Hon. Secy. Captain A. V. Sutherland-Graeme, F.S.A., hereupon requested me to go to Kendal on behalf of the Society and ascertain all the information available in the matter; and in particular to examine the ancient "Boke of Records" containing the names of the Pewterers, which the Town Clerk has courteously written would be placed at my disposal for inspection. But before doing so, I thought it well to refer to one or two older books to see if they threw any light on the facts stated in Cary's "Road Guide". I found that Cary had evidently copied his information from Richard Blome's "Britannia", published about 1670. If, however, he had taken as his authority "The History and Antiquities of Westmorland and Cumberland" by Nicolson and Burn - a solid work - published in 1777, he would have been on safer ground. For not only are we told there that "they (the Companies) have a very elegant town hall, lately repaired by the Corporation at a considerable expense, where they hold their courts" (thus proving

that the Town Hall was the home for all), but we learn also that the list of the seven Companies as given differs in two items from that of Blome. Nicolson and Burn omit the Glovers and Pewterers and substitute the Skinners and Barbers for them. From this it would seem that by 1777 the Pewterers' Company had ceased to function. However, we can forgive Cary; as, if he had not made his inaccurate statement that there was a Pewterers' Company in Kendal in 1812, the date when the "Road Guide" was issued, we should probably have never known that there was such a Company earlier on. And it is to that earlier Company that I shall now devote my attention.

But, first of all, it is imperative to say a few words about the "Boke of Records of the Burgh of Kirkby Kendal, A.D. 1575." It consists of about 350 leaves of thick hand-laid paper, each $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches high by 8 inches broad. The binding is calf, once stiffened with mill-board, but now reduced to a very limp and dilapidated condition. It should be explained that "by the 18 Eliz. the government of the town was committed to twelve burgesses, one of whom was annually chosen as chief magistrate under the title of alderman; there was also a recorder and twenty-four assistants....This charter was materially altered by one of the 2 Charles 1. under which a Mayor, twelve Aldermen and twenty capital burgesses were constituted the governing body. This charter, under pressure from the Lord Chief Justice, Sir George Jefferies, was surrendered in 1683, and a new one granted." Seeing, however, that the last enrolment of a Pewterer in the

"Boke of Records" was in 1675, the subsequent history of the charters of Kendal need not detain us on this occasion.

The "Boke" contains the street directory and list of subscribers to the Kendal Incorporation Fund in 1557 and lists of municipal dignitaries and officers kept by successive town clerks and annotated with memoranda as to deaths, removals, promotions and the like, until some of the pages are an indescribable mess of writing. Following are lists of freemen arranged under their respective trades; and the "Boke" concludes with a list of enrolments of apprentices. There were "Twelve Several Companies", each sub-divided into two or more sections. Thus, No. 3 consisted of "Shearmen, Fullers, Dyers, Websters"; and No. 11 included "Smiths, Iron and Hardwaremen, Armerers, Cutlers, Bowyers, Fletchers, Spuryers, Potters, Panners, Plumbers, Tinkers, Pewterers and Metallers": (who) "may choose two wardens whereof one to be a blacksmith yearly". A complete list of Companies is appended to this paper.

The names of the "Pewterers and all metallers in all", to follow the quaint wording of the "Boke", read thus:

	Anthonye Hodgson
	Randell Prestonn
8 Aug. 1594	Gawan Shiperd jur.
27 Apl. 1599	Edwardus Hodgson jur.
oedem die	Johes Collinson jur.
Octr. 1607	Miles Hodgson jur.
10 Nov. 1607	Robrte Hodgson jur.

Thomas Jackson jur. decimo Sept. 1612
 Willmus Rakestrawe 13 Jul. 1626
 Willmus Sadler eodem die
 Willmus Nelson eodem die
 Hugo Langfellowe mort eodem die
 Christopherus Collinson jur. 17 Maij 1627
 Hugo Forth jur. 22 Januarii 1629
 Allan Moore jur. ij die Aprilies 1635
 Willmus Milner jur. xi Februarii 1635
 28 Apl. 1640 Anthonius Preston jur.
 Willus Gerrard jur. 3 Dec. 1646
 Johes Allan, brasier, jur. 20 April 1648
 Thomas Troughton }
 Thomas Sadler } jur. 1654
 Anthony Winder 1664
 Hugh Jackson 1664
 Lanclott Forth 1666
 John Benson 1666
 Willus Whitwell 1668
 Thomas Garnett 1668
 Robt Jackson 1673

Now in the hundred years covered by this list, only 28 names are recorded, and certainly less than half of these appertain to actual pewterers as will be shown shortly. Compare such a figure with 457 Shearmen, 178 Mercers and 164 Cordwainers, as included in the "Boke", and it will be seen that the Pewterers

was one of the least of the Companies. In 1661 the Pewterers broke away from the coterie of Companies in which they were until then incorporated, and obtained a separate constitution from the "Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Kirkby Kendal.....for the well ordering and good government of the trade, mystery and occupation of the Pewterers within the said Corporation". The terms of the constitution, too lengthy to be read in toto, are also appended to this paper, and were the development of the codes of orders issued within the preceding hundred years to other Companies. But it may be briefly stated that Sunday trading was not permitted; that lack of punctuality in arriving at the due hour of meetings of the freemen was forbidden; that apprentices might not be taken for any lesser time than seven years; that no freeman of the said mystery within the borough might join partner or take to be joint partner with him either foreigner or townsman not being free of the said mystery; and that Pewterers should mark their wares with several marks of their own; but there is no mention of any touchplate on which the marks might be recorded. An infraction of any of these orders was punishable by fine.

I will now return to the "28 Pewterers and all Metallers in all", and give you such information of them as has been obtained from a close search of the whole "Boke". Incidentally I may mention that this was entirely transcribed some considerable time ago, and was published in 1892 by the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, with an

introduction by Chancellor Ferguson, which latter publication has been of material value to me.

Let us take the first name on the list, that of Anthony Hodgson, who must have been enrolled in 1575 when he gave 20/- to the fund for the incorporation of the borough in that year; but some 13 citizens each then contributed as much as 40/-. He was one of the Twenty Four Assistants under the Elizabeth charter, and died in September 1590.

Next comes Randall Preston. Of him all that I can ascertain is that he paid 2/- in 1588 to a fund entitled "Aldermen and Burgesses their several gifts and contributions". Evidently he was a poor man.

No further particulars are to be gleaned of Gawan Shipherd, Edward Hodgson, John Collinson, Miles Hodgson and Thomas Jackson; but William Rakestrawe, I find from the Enrolment of Apprentices, was apprenticed in 1615 to Richard Bowman, brazier; and as there are several similar instances later on I am apt to believe that the number of actual Pewterers working at the same time in Kendal was always very small.

William Sadler remains obscure. William Nelson, however, it is suggested by the Rev. H. Poole in his interesting and informative brochure on the Trade Companies of Kendal, may be the William Neelson who became a freeman of the Wrights' Company "by composition" on Oct. 16. 1618. Mr. Poole points out that this admission "by composition", which appears against 17 out of 25 names between 1617 and 1626 in the Wrights' list, is without parallel among the other Companies' lists

Now we come to Hugh Langfellowe. He was apprenticed to William Birkhead, brazier, in 1617; and from the further fact that Thomas Troughton was apprenticed to Hugh Langfellowe, brazier, in 1641, it is quite clear that he was not a pewterer solely. Nor was Christopher Collinson; for, he, too, is described as a brazier when he took John, son of Nicholas Collinson, as apprentice in 1630.

But Hugo Forth was undoubtedly a pewterer. I again have recourse to the Enrolment of Apprentices where I find that in 1630 William, son of William Shippard, was apprenticed to Hugh Forth, pewterer. Of Allan Moore, Anthony Preston and William Gerrard I can say nothing. John Allan, you will notice was a "brazier"; and Thomas Troughton presumably was the same, having been apprenticed to Hugh Langfellowe, brazier, in 1641, as mentioned above. There are no further particulars of Thomas Sadler, Anthony Winder and Hugh Jackson, but in Lancelot Forth we again reach not only a pewterer but a man of considerable importance in the town. He was Mayor in 1684, the year after that in which the Charles I. charter had been surrendered; and in the new charter granted by Charles II. the King declared "our wellbeloved Lancelot Forth Esq. about to be and to be the first and modern Mayor of the Burgh aforesaid". He was Mayor for the second time in 1708. As to the last four names on the list, those of John Benson, William Whitwell, Thomas Garnett and Robert Jackson, there is no further record than that of their admission to the freedom; but we may perhaps infer that Benson

was connected with the family of the same name who sent two representatives earlier in the century to Bristol to be apprenticed to pewterers there, as already mentioned.

It would seem evident, however, that the "Boke of Records" was kept in a rather haphazard fashion, with not a few omissions by an occasional unbusinesslike Town Clerk; for a close investigation of the volume shows there were one or more pewterers whose names we do not find in the list of 28. Thus Richard Forth, pewterer, was made free of the Wrights' Company "by composition" on Aug. 12. 1619, and in 1623 was appointed one of the Twenty Four Assistants. In 1633, a few years before the Elizabeth charter was superseded by that of Charles I., he became Alderman. Probably he was grandfather or great uncle of the Lancelot Forth who became Mayor in 1684 and 1708. Again, in 1641, Thomas, son of George Dodgson, was apprenticed to James Forth, pewterer.

From the foregoing it would be fair to conclude that there were very few makers of pewter only in Kendal; but it is evident that pewterers were allowed to work in either pewter or brass, as the following extract from the Constitution of 1661 will show:

"13. Also it is further ordained and established that no person or persons using the said trade of a pewterer within the said borough and being free thereof shall from henceforth cast or work any pewter vessel or brass within the said borough, but that it be as good fine metal as is the pewter and brass cast and wrought after the perfect goodness of the same...." This will probably account for the name of one brazier appearing in

the list of "Pewterers and all metallers in all", whilst from the evidence I have given it is apparent that others were represented there.

The "Enrolment of Apprentices" as shown in the "Boke of Records" demands some notice. It consists of 423 entries, the earliest being of date 1571, and the latest, 1645. I have only been able to trace 2 apprenticeships to pewterers in it, and 4 to braziers, whilst 145 youths were apprenticed to Shearmen in the same period. Although, as will be remembered, the Pewterers' Constitutions ruled that no one should be accepted as an apprentice for any lesser time than seven years, Some of the other Trading Companies were for a lengthier term, the average for all being 8-7; and the longest recorded was for 19 years.

It is conjectured that the Pewterers' Company must have gone out of existence before 1744, because in a programme of a procession of the various Trade Guilds in that year there is no reference to Pewterers, nor in the programme of the last procession held in 1759, wherein Woolcombers, Taylors, Shearmen, Dyers, Weavers, Shoemakers, Ironmongers and Mettlemen, Tanners, Builders, Glovers, and skimmers, and Mercers are mentioned.

The last of the Kendal Trading Companies to survive was that of the Cordwainers, which came to an end in 1799 owing to its inability to win a case imposing a fine of ten pounds on a person not free of the Company who attempted to do business in the town. Mr. J. Wilson Brown, the able and courteous Librarian of Kendal, showed me at the time of my visit the Minute of some such Book

of this Company, which has been placed in his care by the donor, a local resident. It is faintly possible that a similar book appertaining to the Pewterers may still be lying on oblivion in a Kendal Home; for with the foregoing example before us it is feasible to hazard that on the dissolution of these Trading Companies their records were retained by individual members.

APPENDIX A.TWELVE SEVERALL COMPANYES.

1. Chapman Marchannts and Salters May Choise ij^o wardons whereoff th'one to be yearly A Chapman Thother A Marchannt of Salter.
2. Marcers and Drapers Lynnen and Woollen May choise ij^o wardons whereof th'one to be A Mercer thother a wollen or Lynnen drap or A m'cer occupyinge Wollen Drapye.
3. Shearmen Ffullers Dyers Websters May Choise iij^o wardons and all to be Shearman yearlye.
4. Taylers Imbrodyrers and Whilters(1) May Choise iij^o or ij^o wardons all to be tayllers yearlye.
5. Cordyners Coblers and Curryers May choise iij^o or ij^o wardons all beinge Cordyners yearly.
6. Tanners Sadlers and Girdlers May Choise ij^o wardons whearoff one to be a Tanner and thother A Sadler or Girdler yearlye.
7. Inholders and Alehowsekeepers and Typlers(2) May Choise iij^o wardons wheroff ij^o to be Inholders and other ij^o Alehowsekeepers.
8. Butchers and Ffishers May Choise ij^s wardons bothe to be Butchers yearlye.

(1) To welt is to border or hem,
 (2) Beerhouse Keepers.

9. Cardmakers(1) and Wyerdrawers May Choise ij^o wardons and bothe to be Cardmakers yearly.
10. Surgons Scryvyners Barbors Glovers Skynners Parchem^t and Poyntemakers May Choise ij^o wardons thone to be A Glover yearlye.
11. Smythes Iron and Hardwaremen Armerers Cutlers Bowyers Ffletchers Spuryers Potters Pannrs Plumbrs Tynkers Pewterers and Metallers May Choise ij^o wardons wheroff one to be A blaksmythe ye'lye.
12. Carpenters Joyners Masons Wallers Sclaters Thatchers Glasiers Paynters Pleysterers Dawbers(2) Pavers Myllers and Cpwpers May Choise ij^o wardons wheroff th'one to be a Carpent^r or Joyner.

(1) These craftsmen made cards, or combs of leather and wire for carding woll.

(2) Builders of clay or mud walls, mixed with straw.

APPENDIX B.CONSTITUTIONS BYELAWS AND ORDINANCES

CONSTITUTIONS byelaws and ordinances made and established by the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough and Kirkby Kendal in the County of Westmorland at their general convocation and court there holden the fifth day of December in the 13th year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second according to the power and authority to them given and granted by Letters Patent as well of the late Queen Elizabeth as of the late King Charles the First of blessed memory as good and necessary for their common profit and the King's liege people and especially for the well ordering and good government of the trade mystery and occupation of the Pewterers within the said Corporation.

Borough of K. Kendal.

FIRST it is ordained and established by the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid that the freeman of the said trade mystery and occupation of Pewterers within the said borough for the time being shall from henceforth be a perfect joint and entire company fellowship and society of and amongst themselves and that they shall be so allowed and called viz. the Company of Pewterers and that they may make and have their general and open meetings at some convenient place within the said borough from time to time to be provided there to choose and appoint out amongst themselves yearly two three or four

sufficient men which shall be Wardens and Overseers of the said Company for the better executing of such reasonable and profitable laws and orders as now or hereafter shall be lawfully made ordained and allowed as fit and convenient for the common profit and bettering and advancement of the said trade and agreeable to the laws and statutes of this realm.

2. ALSO it is further ordained and established that no Pewterer nor any other person or persons occupying using or retailing any wares or merchandize belonging unto the said trade shall upon the Sabbath day by himself or any other for him show sell or put to sale or buy exchange or retail any of the said wares in or at any shop booth tavern or any otherplace whatsoever within the said borough upon pain or forfeit to the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being the sum of two shillings the one half thereof to the use of the said Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses and the other half to the use and towards the increase of the stock of the said company for every time he shall offend herein contrary to the true meaning of this ordinance.

3. ALSO it is further ordained and established that no freeman of the said company shall at any time hereafter absent himself from any meeting being appointed by the Wardens of the said Company or the Beadle appointed for that purpose for the time being by the space of half an hour after the time so appointed he having sufficient summons or notice thereof unless such person or persons do obtain licence of the said wardens

or some of them or be let by sickness upon pain to forfeit unto the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being the sum of twelve pence to the use abovesaid for every time he shall so offend herein contrary to the true meaning of this said ordinance.

4. ALSO it is further ordained and established that every Freeman of the Borough using and occupying the said trade of a pewterer and keeping open shop for that purpose shall from henceforth yield and pay quarterage to the use and behoof of the said company that is to say one shilling of every quarter of a year the same to be paid to the known wardens of the said Company or some or one of them for the time being from time to time for the maintenance of officers and other necessary employments for the good of the said company upon pain that every one making default herein shall forfeit to the chamberlain of the said borough for the time being two shillings the one half thereof to be to the use of the said Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses and the other half to the use of the said company of Pewterers for every default contrary to the true meaning of this ordinance.

5. ALSO it is further ordained and established that no person or persons now using or which hereafter shall use the said trade mystery and occupation of a pewterer within the said borough shall take any person or persons to be apprentice or apprentices at the said trade for any lesser time than seven years nor at the end of his or their apprenticeships make him or them free of such mystery or trade except he or they shall have served as apprentice or apprentices during the term of seven years or more

upon pain to forfeit to the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being the sum of ten pounds to the same uses last mentioned for every time that he or they shall offend herein contrary to the true meaning of this ordinance and that every such person or persons taking any apprentice or apprentices shall cause the name and surname of such apprentice or apprentices and the term of his or their apprenticeship to be entered and enrolled within one month next after such retainer by the Town Clerk of the said town for the time being in the Book and Records of the town in that behalf appointed upon pain to forfeit to the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being the sum of five shillings one half thereof to the use of the said Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses and the other half to the use of the said company of Pewterers.

6. ALSO it is further ordained and established that no person or persons now or hereafter using the said trade of a pewterer within the said town shall at any time hereafter keep or use any shop booth or place within the said town for ordinary showing selling or setting of sale any merchandize or wares appertaining to the said trade but only one shop booth or place at one time upon pain to forfeit the sum of ten shillings to the chamberlains of the said borough to the use before last mentioned in manner and form aforesaid.

7. ALSO it is further ordained and established that no person or persons shall hereafter keep any shop or other room whatsoever backwards or forwards outwards or inwards within the

said town for the showing or putting to sale or selling by way of retail any wares belonging to the said trade nor use or exercise the said trade but such as now do lawfully use the same and are or shall be free of the said trade or such as have been or hereafter shall lawfully be brought up and have served by the space of seven years or more as an apprentice at the same trade within the said borough and at the end of his apprenticeship be made free of the same trade (the times of usual fairs held in the said borough only excepted) upon pain to forfeit to the chamberlains aforesaid the sum of twenty shillings for every time offending contrary to the term of this ordinance.

8. ALSO it is further established that no Warden of the Company of the said mystery or trade of Pewterers for the time being by himself nor together with any other of the said company shall upon any composition or otherwise make or admit to be free of the said mystery or trade within the said borough any person or persons other than such as then shall have lawfully served as an apprentice by the space of seven years at the least in the same trade or mystery with some freeman of the said borough of the same mystery or trade upon pain to forfeit to the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being three pounds six shillings eight pence to the uses last mentioned for every time offending contrary to the true meaning of this ordinance.

9. ALSO it is ordained and established that no person or persons by colour or pretence of any such admittance or making free contrary to the said last mentioned ordinance or otherwise

of himself shall contrary to the ordinances abovesaid use within the said borough the said mystery or trade of a pewterer nor keep any shop within the said borough for traficking in the said trade nor sell any merchandize or wares by retail within the said borough which belongs to the said mystery but only at the fair times upon pain to forfeit to the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being forty shillings to the uses aforesaid for every offence contrary to the true meaning of this ordinance.

10. ALSO it is further ordained and established that no freeman which now is or shall be free of the said mystery or trade within the said borough shall join partner or take to be joint partner with him in the same trade within the said borough any person or persons either foreigner or townsman not being free of the said mystery or trade or that may not lawfully use the same mystery or trade within the said borough for any such person or persons not being free as aforesaid upon pain to forfeit to the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being fifty shillings to the use aforesaid for every offence contrary to the true meaning of this ordinance.

11. ALSO it is further ordained and established that every freeman which is or shall be of the same trade shall from time to time hereafter upon lawful notice or warning to him or them to be given be aiding and assisting unto the wardens and other officers of the said company for the time being for the due execution of all lawful orders made or to be made touching the said mystery or trade tending to the common good and good government

of the said company and standing with common justice and the laws of the realm upon pain to forfeit to the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being the sum of forty shillings to the use aforesaid for every offence contrary to the true meaning of this ordinance.

12. ALSO it is further ordained and established that no person or persons using the trade of a pewterer within the said borough and being free thereof shall from henceforth sell or change any pewter or brass new or old at any place or places within the said borough but only in open fairs or markets or in their own dwelling houses except they be desired by the buyer of the said wares upon pain to forfeit to the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being the sum of five pounds to the uses aforesaid for default.

13. ALSO it is further ordained and established that no person or persons using the said trade of a pewterer within the said borough and being free thereof shall from henceforth cast or work any pewter vessel or brass within the said borough but that it be as good fine metal as is the pewter and brass cast and wrought after the perfect goodness of the same according to the statute in that case provided and that the makers of the same wares shall mark the same with several marks of their own and shall keep good and lawful beams and weights for weighing the same wares upon pain to forfeit for every default the sum of twenty shillings to the uses aforesaid. ALL which pains forfeitures and sums of money so as aforesaid to be forfeited shall be

levied and sued for by the chamberlains of the said borough for the time being by distress of the goods of the offenders to be taken for the same or by action of debt to be commenced and prosecuted in the name of the said chamberlains in His Majesty's Court of Record to be holden at the Moothall or in some other place within the said borough before the Mayor Recorder and Elder Aldermen of the said Borough or in any other of His Majesty's Courts of Record wherever such actions may properly and legally be sued and prosecuted in all which actions and suits shall be recovered the ordinary costs of suit to be expended in the prosecution thereof and after costs and charges of suit deducted all and every of the said pains penalties forfeitures and sums of money so to be forfeited or paid as aforesaid shall be employed and disposed of to the several and respective uses as in the several constitutions byelaws and ordinances above mentioned expressed and declared.
