

Climbing the Tea Leaf Family Tree:

Copper-Lustre Decorated Ironstone 1860-1880

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As we mature (not grow older!) in our relationships and in the joy of our collections, we realize the value of family. Each year the Tea Leafers celebrate a family reunion; this year we are looking at the roots of our ironstone and will review our Tea Leaf family tree and cousins along the way.

Our extensive educational resources -*Grandma's Tea Leaf Ironstone*, our *White Ironstone Body Style* booklets, and the supplements sent with *Tea Leaf Readings*-contain invaluable information and pictures of our Tea Leaf families.

Our grandma, Annise Heavilin, wrote a book for us, and her Tea Leaf descendants have been expanding this knowledge as more ironstone marks, shapes and motifs have been found.

The period of 1860 to 1880 was a prolific one in the development of ironstone body styles which were decorated with copper lustre. More than 25 different body styles were produced by a dozen English potters.

Included in this name are many notable names such as Anthony Shaw, Joseph Clementson, Elsmore & Forster, Alfred Meakin, and Powell & Bishop.

Some of the most admired body styles were produced in these two decades; consider *Prairie Shape*, *Lily-of-the-Valley*, *Fii Cousin* and *Bordered Fuchsia*-these were all manufactured during this illustrious period of ironstone production.

The octagonal and paneled shapes of the 1850's had given way to rounder more graceful styles, many of them with decorative embossing.

Botanical embossing and styles with wheat shafts were especially popular during this period. The photographs shown here illustrate the variety of patterns produced.



Above: Clementson Prairie Shape with its embossed wheat design, c. 1862. This group of dishes feature the Coral motif; center: A marvelous shaving mug in Clementson's Prairie Shape decorated with the beloved Teaberry motif; below: More flowers adorn the Washington Shape by Powell & Bishop. This teapot and sugar bowl feature a rose motif



About the photos: Above: Quartered Rose covered vegetable dish by J.F. featuring a Teaberry motif c. 1860; center: Hanging Leaves pitcher potted by Anthony Shaw, c. 1860's; below: Bordered fuchsia covered hot toddy bowl-note the addition of embossed Fuchsia flowers and leaves to the Hanging Leaves blank. The mark on the bottom of this bowl states "Ironstone manufactured by Anthony Shaw, for Lacey and Beardsey"

