

Burford Bros

East Liverpool, Ohio



Dates
1882-1904

Treatment
Gold

Service
Tableware, punch bowls, toilet ware

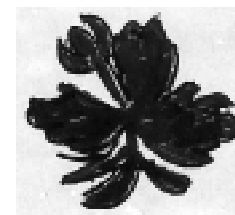
Body Style
Chelsea, Square Ridged

Founded by Oliver, George and Robert Burford, the pottery became known for the quality of their decorative work. From Nancy & Jim Gaines comes a Square Ridged sugar bowl. The Chelsea covered veg is from the Rich collection.



Shenango Pottery

New Castle, Pennsylvania



Dates
1901-present
- ? - (Tea Leaf)

Treatment
Gold lustre

Services
Tableware, hotel ware

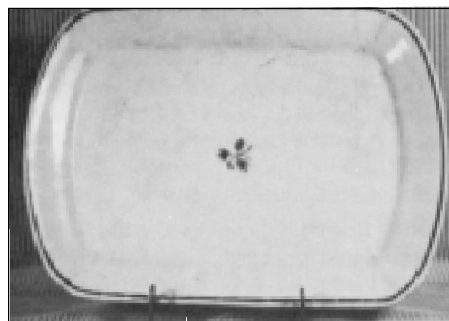


Founders of Shenango Pottery Co. unknown but James M. Smith, an inventive business man, was the director of the company. Originally intended to produce china, the depression dictated the production of ironstone, hotel and restaurant ware selling well. At one time, Shenango was the American home of Haviland China (French). The American company now produces chinaware.

Two pieces of Shenango ironstone decorated with a Tea Leaf have surfaced. One in the collection of Peggy and Jim Cheak is a tiny pitcher, decorated on one side only (above). My piece is a round nappy or honey dish with heavy gold band and the Tea Leaf motif. On the back, below the Shenango backmark, are the initials "N.O." in gold lustre.

Buffalo Pottery

Buffalo, New York



VASSAR



Dates

1901-Present

Treatment

Gold

Service

Tableware

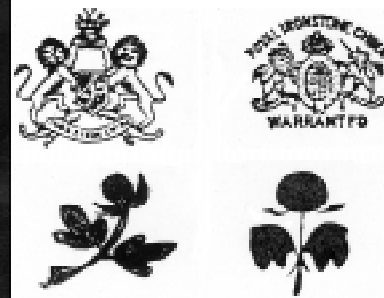
Body Styles

Unknown

Organized by William J. Rhea, a former employee of Mayer China Co. of Beaver Falls, PA and Trenton Potteries of Trenton, NJ. Was founded to produce premiums for customers of Larkin Soap Co. Only one person has ever seen a piece of Buffalo Tea Leaf and that is Annise Heavilin. In her book, *Grandma's Tea Leaf Ironstone*, there is a picture of a platter with the above backmark. No other pieces have been reported.

Steubenville Pottery

East Liverpool, Ohio



Dates

1881-1960

1881-1920 (Tea Leaf)

Treatment

Copper and gold lustre

Services

Tableware, toilet ware, children's sets



Body Styles

Simple Square - distinctive bracket handle

Founded by a group of Steubenville businessmen who persuaded A.B. Beck, a Staffordshire potter, to come to Steubenville to set up a pottery. The city possessed very important requirements for a pottery, easy transportation via the river and the Pan Handle RR, plus coal beds inside the city, and a ready supply of workers. The first kiln was drawn in 1881. By 1895, the factory converted to gas-fired kilns and employed over 200 workers.

The #1 motif above is done in gold and #2 in copper. Neither has an underpattern. #2 is sometimes referred to as the Tea Leaf Lollypop but is correctly identified as a Pomegranate motif.

Cartwright Bros. Pottery Co.

East Liverpool, Ohio

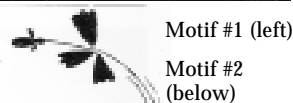


Embossed pattern
found on Cartwright
Bros. Tea Leaf;
handles found on
Cartwright pieces



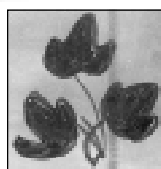
#1 Mark

#2 Mark (late)



Motif #1 (left)

Motif #2
(below)



Dates

1880-1927

Treatment

Gold lustre

Service

Tableware, toilet ware

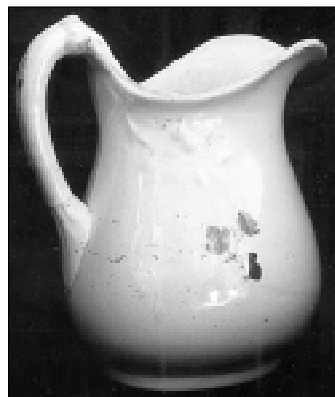
Body Styles

Plain Round, Simple Square

Features

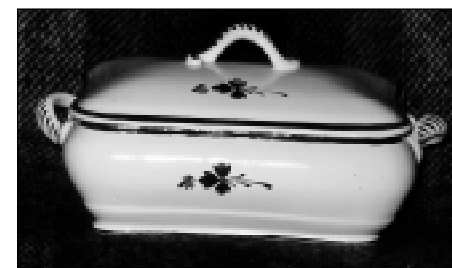
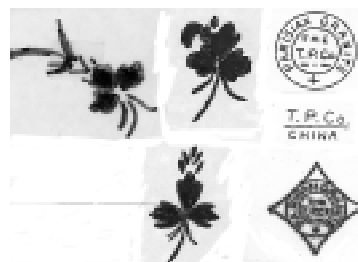
Bracket handles, Pagoda finials; serving pieces have recessed base; known by its creamy color but very white pieces have been found.

Founders William, Sr. (father), Thomas, William, Jr. and Samuel. Until recently, it was thought that Cartwright used only "the lying down" Tea Leaf (Heavilin) but the second motif was found within the past year.



Trenton Pottery Co.

East Liverpool, Ohio



Dates

1852-1870

1885-1890 (Tea Leaf)

Treatment

Gold and copper lustre

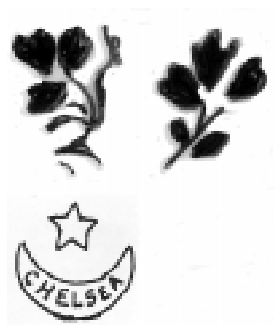
Services

Tableware

Founded by James Taylor and Henry Speeler, the pottery was called Taylor & Speeler. Speeler sold his interest in the pottery in 1860. In 1865, it became the Trenton Pottery. Isaac Davis became the sole owner in 1875, and although the pottery was still called Trenton Pottery, it was in fact I. Davis Pottery. The pieces of Tea Leaf that I have found with the Trenton Pottery backmark all contain the phrase "Parisian Granite." Trenton Pottery should not be confused with the Trenton Potteries.

Chelsea China Co.

New Cumberland, West Virginia



Dates

1886-1896

Treatment

Gold lustre

Service

Tableware

Body Style

Cable

Fancy Pie Crust (my name), (elliptical finial, stepped lid, uplift handles)

No founder names available but Hugh Robertson was appointed manager (Barber) when the pottery opened.

U. S. Pottery Co.

Wellsville, Ohio



Dates

1890-1932

1899-1901, 1907-1920 (Tea Leaf)

Treatment

Gold lustre with under glaze motif

Service

Tableware, toilet ware

Body Styles

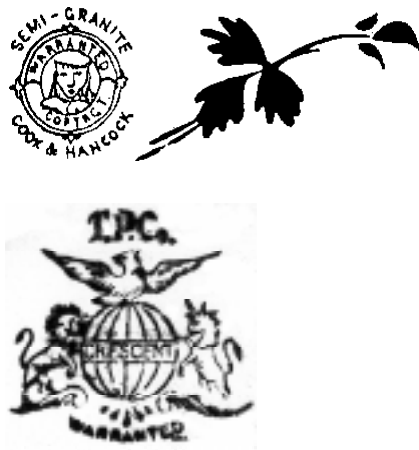
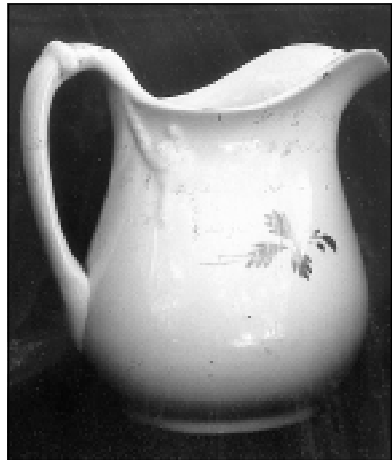
Fancy Fern (my name)

Built by Robert Hall, Sr., Silas Ferguson, John J. Purinton in 1890, the pottery featured six kilns. A disastrous fire forced the pottery to become part of the East Liverpool Potteries Co. which disbanded in 1900 and U.S. Pottery again became an independent company.

The sugar bowl shown above had been the only piece I had ever seen until Jim and Nancy Gaines found the identical sugar bowl. Later, I found a plate. The sugars are well-potted and have a lovely embossed pattern which I have named Fancy Fern.

Crescent Pottery (Cook & Hancock)

Trenton, New Jersey



Dates
1881-1906

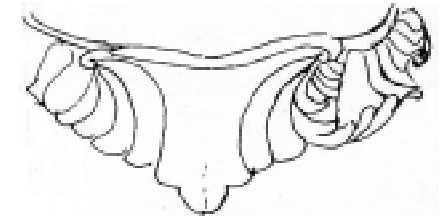
Treatment
Gold lustre

Service
Tableware

Founders Charles H. Cook and W. S. Hancock organized and operated the pottery independently until 1892, joined five other potteries to form the Trenton Potteries. The six potteries operated independently as well as part of the combine.

Vodrey & Brother Pottery

East Liverpool, Ohio



Embossing found on throat of shaving mug



Gem Shape

Dates
1876-1926
1878-1896 (Tea Leaf)

Treatment
Gold lustre

Services
Tableware, toilet ware

Body Styles
Ursilla, Palissy



Jabez Vodrey was a Staffordshire potter who came to America in the 1840's working in New Jersey, Kentucky and Indiana potteries before settling in ELO. His first ELO Pottery was established in 1847, but it was in 1876 that his sons, William, James and John, built the Vodrey and Brother Pottery and began the production of white ware. In 1896, the pottery was incorporated as Vodrey Pottery Company.

Crown Pottery

Evansville, Indiana



Dates

1892-1962

Treatment

Gold

Service

- ? -

Child's set

Founded in a pottery originally built by A. M. Beck. Following his death, a company taking the name Crown Pottery was founded. Around 1900, Crown combined with Peoria Pottery Co. of Peoria, IL to form Crown Pottery, Inc.

Jim & Peggy Cheak found a Crown Pottery child's set at a flea market. It is missing the sugar bowl and one cup and the creamer.

Walker China Co.

Bedford, Ohio



Walker
China
VITRIFIED
BEDFORD, OHIO

Dates

1923-1980

Treatment

Copper lustre

Services

Tableware, hotel ware

The Bailey-Walker China Co. became Walker China Co. when Albert Walker bought out his partner and continued the operation.

Annis Heavilin shows a cup/saucer and a plate decorated with the Tea Leaf motif in her book *Grandma's Tea Leaf Ironstone*. The only pieces I have seen recently are pitchers, and most of them were very small ones resembling restaurant creamers.

East End Pottery

East Liverpool, Ohio



Dates
1894-1909

Treatment
Copper Lustre

Service
Tableware, toilet ware,
children's sets

Body Style
Simple Square, bracket handles, pagoda finials
Plain Round, C shaped handles

This pottery was built with funds raised by subscription promoted by the ELO Board of Trade. It was a cooperative composed of Edward Owens, Joseph Deekin, Sampson Turnbull and Gus Trenie. Interestingly enough, Gus Trenie bought the facility in 1909 and it became the Trenie China Co.

There is a quantity of East End Pottery Tea Leaf found in the collections of members. This pottery made outstanding white ironstone. East End Pottery was one of the few American potteries using copper lustre.



Wallace and Chetwynd

East Liverpool, Ohio



Dates
1881-1901
1882-1901 (Tea Leaf)

Treatment
Gold

Services
Tableware, toilet ware

Body Style
Gently Paneled (my name)

Founded by a Mr. Wallace and Joseph Chetwynd, the company operated in the former Harker "Wedgewood" pottery. The facility was renamed "Colonial." Mr. Chetwynd was a Staffordshire potter who had been employed as a manager and modeler in the Cockson & Chetwynd Pottery. The Colonial Pottery was noted for the excellence of their ironstone.

This teapot is from the collection of Nancy and Jim Gaines.

Fell and Thropp Co.

Trenton, New Jersey



Dates

1890-1904 (Barber)
1879-1893 (DeBolt)

Treatment

Gold lustre

Service

Tableware

Body Style

Cable

Founded by Samuel Thropp and J. Hart Brewer, it was at one time called Fell and Brewer. No mention of who might have been Mr. Fell. Fell and Thropp was the first pottery in Trenton to produce whiteware.

The unusual Tea Leaf is also found on several other potters: John Moses of Glasgow Pottery is one. There were three decorating services in Trenton at this time, and these potteries may have all used them.



Wellsville China Co.

Wellsville, Ohio



Dates

1902-1959
1902 - ? (Tea Leaf)

Treatment

Gold lustre

Services

Tableware, toilet ware, spittoons, accessories

Founded by a company led by Monroe Patterson, using the site of the former Pioneer Pottery in Wellsville, Ohio, the pottery specialized in semi-vitreous products. The facility was acquired by Sterling China in 1959 and was closed by that company in 1969.

Ford China Co.

Ford City, Pennsylvania



Embossing on Ford charger.

Dates

1898-1904

Treatment

Gold

Service

Tableware, toilet ware

Embossing

Spring Medley (flowers and leaves deeply impressed)

Pattern name for Tea Leaf is Turin.

Founded by John Wick, Jr. and John B. Ford. The site of their pottery is now the Elger Sanitary Supply Co.

Wheeling Pottery Co.

Wheeling, West Virginia



Dates

1879-1903

1886-1896 (Tea Leaf)

Treatment

Gold lustre

Services

Tableware, toilet ware

Organized by George K. Wheat, William A. Isert and Edward Meakin Pearson. Mr. Pearson served as General Manager. He was a Staffordshire potter, connected to many of the principal members of the pottery industry in England. The pottery became one of the largest potteries in the U.S. consisting of fifteen kilns and thirteen decorating kilns. Collectors of Flow Blue know of LaBelle China Co. which was a part of the Wheeling potteries.

There are no body styles identified for Wheeling.

Glasgow Pottery - John Moses

Trenton, New Jersey



Trilby.

#1 Mark



Motif #1



#2 Mark



Motif #2

Dates

1863-1905

1893-1895 (Tea Leaf)

Treatment

Gold lustre

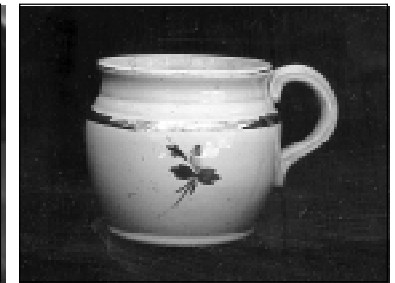
Services

Tableware, toilet ware, hotel and steamboat china, government ware

Principal founder,^o James Moses (an Irish emigrant with no pottery experience), Isaac Weatherby and Samuel K. Wilson constructed the factory on the site of a very old pottery that was torn down. His brother, James, joined the company for a short time. Barber states that Glasgow Pottery was "fully equal to any made by the practical (former) English potters who are his competition." The Crockery Journal describes the pottery as "the most perfect establishment of its kind in this country." Many Glasgow pieces carry the backmark of "Trilby."

Wick China Company

Wickboro (Kittanning), Pennsylvania



Dates

1889-1913

Treatment

Gold lustre

Services

Tableware, toilet ware

Body Styles

Knoble, Erie, Aurora



The town of Wickboro in Pennsylvania was founded by John Wick. He built a pottery, a school, donated land for commercial enterprises—all to make the town that bore his name a viable entity. Wick was also one of the operators of Ford China in Ford City, PA. It is not known who operated the pottery, but they did make a quantity of Tea Leaf in a diversity of body styles.

Goodwin Bros. Pottery

East Liverpool, Ohio



Dates

1875-1913

1885-1898 (Tea Leaf)

Treatment

Gold lustre

Services

Tableware, hotel ware, toilet ware

Body Style

Plain Round

Goodwin Bros. was founded by Henry, James and George after the death of their father, John, who had been a long time potter in ELO and Trenton. It was John Goodwin who built the Eagle Pottery which still stands in ELO and which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Notes on Decorators – Appendix I

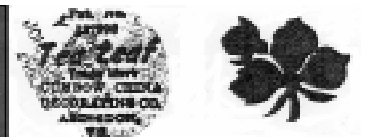
I have omitted three types of Tea Leaf that appear in many collections of members: Cumbow, Homer Laughlin, Ruth Sayer, which functioned as "decorators."

Cumbow China Decorating Co.

Abingdon, Virginia

Cumbow China Decorating Co. was exactly that. They bought blanks of potters, some American and some English, and decorated them. We are fortunate to have some lovely examples of Cumbow's decorating in Tea Leaf.

Jacob and Mabel Ruskin opened a china shop in Abingdon, VA in the 1950's. Mabel was the decorator and produced many exquisite examples, beautifully painted. In a recent book by Richard Foil, we find the history of Cumbo China. There is very little about Tea Leaf but they did decorate several different pieces: cups/saucers, creamers and sugars, miniature pitchers. Although we, as members of Tea Leaf Club International, know that these are reproductions of our old Tea Leaf, many of us have pieces of Cumbow in our collections and enjoy them. It may be of interest to us as members to know that Mabel Ruskin registered the Tea Leaf motif with the U.S. Patent Office.



Three Cumbow pitchers showing two different body styles and three sizes.

Harker Pottery

East Liverpool, Ohio

Dates
1879-1890

Treatment
Gold

Services
Tableware

Body Style
Plain Round



The original Harker Pottery was founded quite early in 1840 but did not begin producing whiteware until the date above. Three generations of Harkers were involved in these potteries. The first was Benjamin who hired John Goodwin to teach his sons, Ben, Jr. and George S. It was George's son, W.W., who started the production of whiteware.

Although Harker Pottery remained in business until 1972, it became the Harker China Co. in 1890 and started producing semi-procelain.

Harker Tea Leaf was discovered by Jim and Nancy Gaines. They are the only Tea Leaf collectors who own Harker Tea Leaf to my knowledge.

Homer Laughlin China Co.

Newall, West Virginia

Homer Laughlin Co. denies that they ever made or decorated with Tea Leaf, but there are many pieces of Kitchen Kraft (which they did make) decorated with little gold Tea Leafs. Many members have pieces in their collections.

We still are not aware of exactly who took Kitchen Kraft pieces and decorated them with Tea Leafs. However, the recently discovered Bahl Pottery Tea Leaf is decorated with a motif that closely resembles the Homer Laughlin pottery, and we know that John Bahl was a decorator in East Liverpool, OH.

Maybe someday we will learn exactly who made or decorated the Homer Laughlin Tea Leaf.



Homer Laughlin Kitchen Kraft backmark, left; Tea Leaf motif on Kitchen Kraft pieces, right..



The photos:
Above left, Kitchen Kraft covered pitcher.

Left, a collector's Kitchen Kraft dream—set of three mixing bowls, covered casserole, and a treasured pie server.

Illinois China Co.

Lincoln, Illinois



Dates
1919-1946

Treatment
Gold lustre

Services
Tableware
(Only plates have been found.)

Company was formed by businessmen James Shaw, William Coogan, and David Hart. Hart became President and Shaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
It is a guess that they produced only tableware since the only pieces found/reported so far have been four plates in the collection of Mel and Donna Pleines, long-time members.

Ruth Sayer

Lastly, Ruth Sayer. Newer members may not be aware that Ruth Sayer was once a member of TLCI. Ruth started decorating odd pieces of ironstone by different makers with copper lustre Tea Leaf.

There were many objections from the Club about her work because her first pieces were not signed. She did begin marking her pieces with an "RS" but there were enough objections to her reproduction of Tea Leaf, even though she was signing it, that Ruth and her husband left the Club. Eventually, she disposed of most of her remaining pieces.



Left, copper lustre child's set by Ruth Sayer from the collection of Ruth Smiley.

Below, footbath by Ruth Sayer from the collection of Bob Skinner.



Identifying Ruth Sayer pieces:
Above left, the backmark;
right, the motif.