

# The STANTONS of London

(This article starts in a similar way to other articles in this series; concerning makers so as to introduce pewterers from history whose pewter the amateur collector might find)

This is a family line of London Pewterers first found in the records in 1773 and working through until about 1879 as pewterers and metal workers in London. This is a good example of a family looking after its own, as one generation succeeds another.

Different to the Aldersons for example, in that nothing very special is ever recorded as happening. No high Office, and no special or fantastic occasion that needed their input is recorded, no crime, no passion, no incredible skill is recorded. We can guess they must have been regular and very skilled working folk who kept themselves to themselves.

*A bit out of place here but - Interestingly there were also shown in directories to be telescope manufacturers and tube drawers when they had a tinplate warehouse at 73 Shoe Lane trading as Stanton Brothers in 1848/50 (at the same time having a metal warehouse at no 71 owned by a James Stanton. Another product was scale plates – a circular flat plate with a very narrow rim (one at over 10” diameter is known).*

It could be said then that why should we bother much about them? Why indeed? Apart from that they were good skilled craftsmen and are renowned for their elegant church flagons. (Although elegant these flagons are all a little lighter in weight than those of some other makes that preceded them.)

So this article will start with -

In the writer's early collecting days it did seem that there was a lot of their pewter to be found – especially that of the Robert Stanton working in the reign of William IV. After the article gives a briefly summarised history of who was working and when it also includes mention of other marks – some of which this writer does not have the agreement of any of the copyright holders to show herein.

Usual preamble –

*(The purpose of such articles as this, is not to give a conclusive account, but to put together snippets of known information so that those interested might pursue their own knowledge of the named pewterers more easily. Whilst every care is taken to publish only what is understood by the contributors or from sources believed to be good, it would still be valid to keep an open mind about all the information given. This website welcomes any updated information and would hope to make any necessary corrections at the following website review, usually occurring in spring or autumn.)*

There are pewterers with the name Stanton recorded in the early 1600s but there is no reason to assume that they are the same family as those who made the pewter illustrated in this article and no known marks for them. They are included here simply because the name is recorded with the same spelling.

Name of pewterer or business	Working dates	Working address	Related to	Worked with or as
Henry Stanton	<b>1617 on</b>	In Lasham Hampshire	Son of William Stanton (gentleman)	Apprenticed in London to an Edward Starton possibly related.
John Stanton	<b>1620 on</b>  Free 18 July set up shop 15 Feb 1620/1621	London	Son of John Stanton born in Worcester	Apprenticed to William Dixon in London from 1612-1620
Robert Stanton I	<b>1773-1816</b>	14 Great Wild St Lincoln's Inn Fields (1775-1787) later at Brewery Court Shoe Lane	Robert, son of William a whitesmith, and wife Lettice married 1773 had 8 children baptised pewterer sons – Robert, William James and a John (likely John was a metal merchant)	Apprenticed to Thomas Smith in 1766 free in 1773.
William Stanton	<b>1810 - ?</b>	London address uncertain	As above – more unknown	Unknown as to trade though free by patrimony in 1810 so pewter related assumed.
Robert Stanton II	<b>1810-1842</b>	Blackman St London from 1811 at 28 and 37 perhaps until 1842 but also at 7 Clerkenwell Green from 1829	See relatives as above – free in Dec 1810 striking his touch same year, he became Renter Warden in the Worshipful Company in 1839 and died in 1842 He had two daughters including a Lucy Christened as he was at St Andrew's Holborn	Apprenticed to William Wightman from 1794 – 1810 he in turn had three apprentices Nicholas Power Joseph Speller

				& Edmund Samuel Russell
James Stanton	<b>1815-1835</b>	71 Shoe Lane Holborn and in 1834 Little Britain.	James married Prudence Piggott (pewtering Francis Piggott?) and had three sons James, Robert and William christened at the family's church - see above.	Apprenticed to Richard Joseph and had as apprentice John Wildin He was succeeded by his wife Prudence and his son James
Lettice Stanton	<b>1816-1818</b>	2 Brewers Yard (address of her will)	See husband Robert II for relationships. He will sad the pewter pot moulds could be purchased by either or – Robert, James, Benjamin- her sons!	Perhaps had a business relationship with Nathaniel Barber who witnessed her husband's will
????? Stanton	<b>1820 - ?????</b>	mystery	mystery	Mystery - see hallmarks comment below
Prudence Stanton	<b>1835-1861</b>		Married to James Stanton see above - and died in 1858 She was mother to James Stanton (1822?) and we assume to a William and a Robert christened also (but how long did they live?)	She had apprentices – George Rose and George Powell  Likely she continued her husband's marks
James Stanton	<b>1842-1879</b>	51 Banner Street in 1851 census as a pewterer (age 29) 42 Elliot St Southwark in 1861 Marlborough St Chelsea in	Born in 1822 son of James and Prudence as above  Died in 1879  No other relationships known.	1844 –1866 mentioned – how ? likely in trade directories....

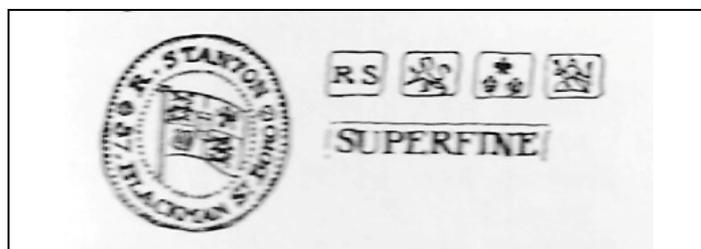
		1871 working		
Lucy Stanton	<b>1847-</b>	Do not know if she worked - unlikely	See child of Robert Stanton II and Prudence	Freedom by Patrimony in May 1847 – but what did this then mean?

So the end of the recorded life of a pewtering line stretching perhaps from 1773 to 1879 – over a hundred years. Quite good then for a family to take care of its own and to continue a skill.

# THE MARKS KNOWN

## Robert Stanton II –

- 1) Fleur de Lys - Lion Rampant (and repeated shown on pewter photographs below)
- 2) R S - Fleur de Lys - Lion Rampant – Britannia (or the arrangement HH Cotterell shows below)
- 3) Associated with him is a distinctive large crown over G IV R (shown on a pewter piece below)
- 4) The (Polo Mint type of tyre like circle – here with beaded edge – perhaps) In the circle top, the outside, his name and street address - and inside a (splendid) flag.



- 5) R STANTON in printed incised letters (as shown below)
- 6) A fairly ordinary SUPERFINE label is also attributed to him within a simple edged border.

**James Stanton (1815-1835)** his marks have added interest but this website does not have copy right agreement to show these marks described as following: (in truth it is not because the copyright owner's have been asked, but more that this writer is tired of the archaic and primitive practices of the UK copyright law, according to the educated press it is the single most restrictive copyright law in the free world (wherever that is).

- 1) James Stanton took on the Scallop Shell of his pre-freedom master Richard Joseph. (Though he chose the scallop shell the other way up with the 'hinge' at the bottom)  
The Scallop shell has above it J. STANTON and below it SHOE LANE –the shape is in the form of an oval laid on the horizontal with an indent into each end (see below)

*There is a fake mark for James Stanton using the scallop shell whereby the two triangles below the shell (the very corners of the shell hinge) in the fake do not come close to touching the shell and in the fake have irregular sides. The J in the name in the fake is of the same size and in a circular direction evenly with the other letters whereas in the original it drops a little from the regular circular line of the other letters. His faked mark has been seen on wavy edged plates an unlikely product for James Stanton (1815-1835) as they were then very much out of fashion – likely these were made in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for the American department store market.*



2) There is also a lined edged circle with a Scallop shell to the centre of the circle and above the shell the name STANTON and below the word LITTLE over the word BRITAIN.(see above) On one photographed on Pewter there appears to be a knife blade pointing upwards at the top centre front edge of the scallop shell.

3) Hallmarks of –Rampant Lion – Britannia – Unicorn – Fleur de Lys – r also attributed to James.

4) and 5) As for Robert Stanton- the striking Crown over G IV R + the Fleur de Lys and Lion hallmarks (repeated)

6) and as above shown by H H Cotterell the lion Rampant Britannia Griffin(or is it a lion head?) Fleur de Lys hallmarks. Seems they had various punches and used them – and we don't know how or why of the order shown – we only know who used what – and that we are not so sure about!

*This website differs from many others who think pewterers didn't care much and mixed up punches, yes some would - especially the drinkers - but the proud would not – more likely the historians got mixed up – and who could blame them!*

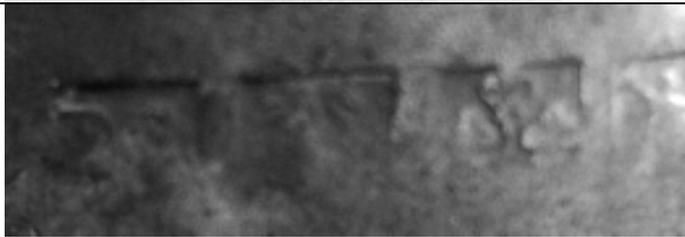
**???????? STANTON (1820 - on)** - here we have a mystery never solved! There clearly was a Stanton who made pewter who had their own 4 hall marks as follows –

**A – Fleur de lys – Lion rampant - Britannia** (who was A???)

It does appear that no-one knows which STANTON this was and the dating is guessed with the style - a George IV stamp in relief was found on a U shaped mug with broken scroll handle and these hallmarks.

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**Simple Pewter Drip Mug** in truncated cone style plain body fillets only to the footrim which measures nearly 4” whilst it stands 4” tall. This bears the hallmarks of Robert Stanton as shown at OPM4483 this Robert Stanton (whose R Stanton is marked in the base as a pot touch) worked in London at Blackman Street from 1810 – 1842. It weighs 12 ozs. The cone used in drip mugs exactly fits in the top of this and is missing. A dark pewter patina this is an interesting and simple piece, albeit with one clear maker's mark.



**Spire Flagon from the time of George III** in remarkably fine condition standing  $12 \frac{3}{4}$  high with a footrim of 5", and weighing 3 lbs 2 ozs. This is absolutely typical of those made by the Stanton family of London especially Robert Stanton of OPM4483. This rare example appears almost unused during its long history and is in the most collectable of conditions. Fine finial and open chair back thumbpiece, plain body with cast fillets. It is unmarked by the maker or the owner, this is not unusual with Spire Flagons by Stanton. This would likely have been made for Church use. The style of handle is also recognisably that of the Stantons' at this time.



**Pint Pewter Mug.** Heavily reeded foot rim good broad band just above the lower handle terminal, truncated cone shaped body. A nice handle and strong rim. Interesting hallmarks of three fleur de lys followed by lion rampant and repeated with a nice crown over the word 'pint' to the left of the handle. A Norfolk county northern division crowned verification mark to the right of the handle The hall marks can be found in C Peal Pewter of Great Britain on page 68. Stamped Pint to the front with another small verification mark to the left of that. It weighs about 11lb stands 4 ¼" tall A footrim of 3 ¾" and a rim of about 3 ½" Probably made by the Stanton family of London pewterers from 1773 – 1842 though this was likely made later.



**A Pair Of Antique Pewter Beakers by Stanton verified for Norwich** in the reign of William IV (1830 to 1837) and VcrownR over U2 over 01 which may have been for Cornwall. The hallmarks on each ,of fleur de lys and lion rampant repeated are thought to be for Robert Stanton of London Pewterer of 37 Blackman Street London (renamed yet?) from 1810 until he died in 1842. This beakers have two nice bands of incised reeding and are boldly engraved for an owner likely an innkeeper - R RIX to the under base. Each stands 3 ¾" with a footrim diameter of 2 7/8" and the first weighs over 8 ozs and the second, one ounce less (a mystery) at 7 ozs.





### **Tall Spire Spouted Lidded Flagon**

Standing 15" to the top of the finial with a foot diameter of about 6 1/3" and weighing some 3lbs 13 ozs. The same style as those made by Robert Stanton and his family. The Shemell collection sold at Bonhams offered a similar item at lot 241 and attributed a first quarter 1800s date to it.

It has a well reeded cast drum and foot, a flared base, double scroll handle with fish tail terminal, a knopped dome lid and open chairback thumb piece. Some oxidation hides its glory though the inside looks scarcely used. Maybe the lid was slammed down at some stage making two small dings where the lid touches the top rim. This is almost identical to one shown in a Pewter Society Journal in Spring 2002 page 36 figure 38b. This handle is claimed to be the later version of the broken style handle note the difference in the lower handle terminal. With James Stanton dead in 1835 then later types are associated with Robert Stanton. This family appear to have been responsible for many of these – as though this was a speciality of theirs. Although called a broken handle style it is in fact one casting and dated to after 1830. Note the struts attaching the handle to the barrel, the lower one usually welded to an oval escutcheon.



### **R Stanton Hallmarks on Pint Pewter Mug**

A truncated cone made with two heavy bands of incised reeding one at the lower handle terminal the other below the upper handle each have ten incised rings.

This mug has the hallmarks of Robert Stanton of London working 1810 and dead in 1849. This is verified for the Yorkshire West Riding and Crowned VR over 317 for the same. Also there are the remains of a crowned WR verification which suggests 1831-1837 so this is likely made in the 1830s. Darkly patinated in parts this stands 4 1/2" and weighs about 438 grams.



The following five examples are from the [www.pewtersellers.com](http://www.pewtersellers.com) website.

*(This website has no financial involvement whatsoever with www.pewtersellers.com. It is as a condition of using their images and wording that they ask for this mention. And they do have an awful lot of very good images most useful to this website).*



Harlequin set of quart, pint & 1/2-pint mugs by Robert Stanton London c1810-25 (OP4483) marked with hallmarks to the left of the handle. Each has broken arch handle with fishtail terminal, reeded base and one cast low fillet to the body. The half-pint shown in this photograph may be later than the others. It has capacity label struck above the hallmarks, but no verification marks. In very good condition, with medium-grey surface patina. 3 1/2" high, with mouth & base diameters of 2 3/4" & 3 1/8".



Pint has a large crown 'GIVR' verification below the hallmarks, which are upside down, also struck 'PINT' twice, with four different verification marks from Norfolk. In excellent condition, with medium-light grey surface patina. 4½" high, with mouth & base diameters of 3½" & 3⅞".



Quart has distinctive 'crowned QUART' label above hallmarks, and two verification marks for Norfolk County, and another for City of Norwich. In good condition, with some darker oxide areas. 6¼" high, with mouth & base diameters of 4⅛" & 4¾"



½-pint pre-Imperial mug by James Stanton London c1815-35 (OP4480) his hallmarks and crowned WR mark to left of handle, and Shoe Lane pot touch inside base. Ale standard later verified for Yorkshire North Riding, with no capacity label. Superb condition with light-medium grey original surface patina. Ale standard capacity. 3½" high.



Gill christening mug by an unidentified member of the Stanton family, London c1820-30 (PS8967) with four hallmarks to left of handle. U-shape two-band body with 7 upper and 8 lower incised lines, pedestal base, and solid broken arch handle with plain terminal. In excellent used condition, with medium-grey original surface patina. Capacity 5.6 fl oz, and 3½" high.