

ENGLISH FIRMS PRODUCING TOOLS USED BY THE DOMINY CRAFTSMEN

ASHTON AND JACKSON

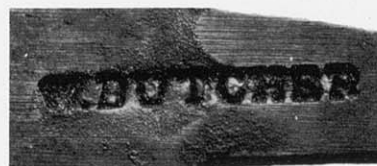
FLAT FILE: 1838-1861; steel; L. (including American white-ash handle) 13½"
(57.26.529, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



The "flat," or "entering," file marked *ASHTON & JACKSON* and *WARRANTED / CAST STEEL* was used to smooth flat surfaces or corners joined at right angles. The manufacturer is first listed in the *Directory* of 1841 at 76 South Street, Sheffield, with the designation "American Merchants and Manufacturers." The company does not appear in the previous *Directory*, published in 1837, suggesting the partnership may have been formed between 1838 and 1841. In the 1849 *Directory* the firm is identified as "cutlery, file &c manufacturers." It continues to be listed in this manner until 1861, when it disappears from the directories.

BUTCHER, WILLIAM

METALWORKING FILE: 1818-1828; steel; L. (including horn handle) 15⅞"
(57.26.484, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



MORTISE CHISEL: 1818-1828; steel; L. (including American ash handle) 10⅞"
(57.26.65, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



MORTISE CHISEL: 1818-1828; steel; L. (including American hard-pine handle)
11 7/16" (57.26.237, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



The mark *W. BUTCHER* appearing on a plane iron (not illustrated) and on the file and mortise chisels illustrated above, probably was in use for less than a decade. A firm with this name does not occur in the *Sheffield Directory* for 1817. The next *Directory*, published in 1821, lists, "Butcher, William, edge tools in all its branches, skates, saws, files, hoes, trowels, &c, manufacturer, Eyre Lane." A directory was not published after this date until 1828, when the firm "Butcher, Brown, and Butcher" appears on Eyre Lane. Its products included those of William Butcher in 1821, as well as "joiner's tools, West India and Brazil plantation tools." The English company "W. & S. Butcher" which applied for an American trade-mark in 1872 probably was the firm designated in the *Sheffield Directory* of 1833 as "Butcher Wm. and Saml." The *W. BUTCHER* stamp, therefore, could not have appeared on tools before 1818 and probably was discontinued by 1828.

CUTLER, HIRAM (See Weldon, William)

FENN, SAMUEL

FILE FOR CLOCKMAKING AND WATCHMAKING: ca. 1824; steel; L. (including cherry handle) 7 11/16" (57.26.539, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



FILE FOR CLOCKMAKING AND WATCHMAKING: ca. 1824; steel; L. (including soft-maple handle) 5 1/4" (57.26.535, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



The maker of these files, who used *FENN* as his mark, conducted his business in London, not in Sheffield, and was active about 1824. In that year, page 169 of *Pigot and Co.'s City of Dublin and Hibernian Provincial Directory . . . to which is Added a Comprehensive Directory of London* lists Samuel Fenn of 105 Newgate Street, London, as a "tool maker and dealer."

FRANCE, JONATHAN

TURNING TOOL FOR METALWORKING: ca. 1797; steel; L. (including dogwood handle) 9 7/8" (57.26.417, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



One of the most useful indexes in the early Sheffield directories is that for trade-marks used by different types of skilled metalworkers. Without this index, it would be impossible to link manufacturers with tools marked only by initials or symbols. The usefulness of the index to trade-marks is demonstrated by the identification of a turning tool used on the lathe for metalworking in the Dominy Clock Shop. Following the common practice among craftsmen of converting files, with their excellent steel, into other useful tools, the Dominys fashioned their turning tool from a triangular-shaped file. The mark on the tang consists of two conjoined letter *U*'s over the initials *FF*. Under a listing of file makers at work in Sheffield in 1797, this symbol is assigned to Jonathan France, a "filesmith," at 127 Pea-croft (*A Directory of Sheffield, Including the Manufacturers of the Adjacent Villages; with the Several Marks*, page 68). France does not appear in the earlier *Directory* of 1787 or the later *Directory* of 1817.

FURNISS, CUTLER, AND STACEY (See Weldon, William)

GENN, SAMUEL

CHISEL FOR WOODTURNING: 1774-1787; steel; L. (including ash handle) 13"
(57.26.122, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



The chisel for woodturning in the Dominy Shop was made from a file with worn teeth. The handle is stamped *FD*, a mark used by Felix Dominy (1800-1868), who probably was responsible for converting the file to a chisel in the nineteenth century. Stamped on the file, under a symbol resembling a tulip, are the initials *BN*. These initials can be identified as the mark of Samuel Genn, a filesmith of Sheffield, active from 1774 to at least 1797. Genn retained them as his mark throughout this period but changed his device at least twice. The mark illustrated above appears in *Sketchley's Sheffield Directory* published in Bristol in 1774 (p. 13). In 1787 a stylized fleur-de-lis appears above Genn's initials *BN* (page 7 of Gales and Martin, *Directory of Sheffield*, republished in facsimile in 1889 by Pawsin and Brailsford); in 1797 the symbol is replaced by a stylized flower (page 141 of J. Montgomery, *A Directory of Sheffield*). From 1787 to 1797 Genn resided and probably conducted his business at "24, Smithfield." The *Sheffield Directory* of 1817, the first to be issued after 1797, does not list Genn.

GREAVES, WILLIAM AND SONS

FILE FOR CLOCKMAKING: 1817-1833; steel; L. (including handle) 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ "
(63.156.55, Gift of CRESTLEA FOUNDATION).



FILE FOR CLOCKMAKING: 1817-1833; steel; L. $7\frac{1}{8}$ " (63.156.237, Gift of CRESTLEA FOUNDATION).



FILE: 1828-1841; steel; L. $4\frac{5}{8}$ " (63.156.236, Gift of CRESTLEA FOUNDATION).



FILE FOR METALWORKING: 1817-1833; steel; L. $11\frac{3}{8}$ " (63.156.148, Gift of CRESTLEA FOUNDATION).



Greaves and his sons probably intended to export much of their production to the United States, for the Sheffield directories list them as "American merchants." The toolmakers first appear in the *Directory* of 1817 with an establishment on "Division-street." Between 1828 and 1833 William Greaves and Sons moved to the "Sheaf Works" on Maltravers Street. In the directories of 1833 and 1841, the firm is described as "steel converters . . . and manufacturers of table knives, razors, edge tools, &c." The mark of the firm, before it moved from Division Street to Maltravers Street, appears on three files in the Dominy Collection, thus dating them between 1817 and 1833. In addition to the mark *W. GREAVES / & SONS* on the four files illustrated above, the mark *SHEAF WORKS* is stamped on the tang of the third example. It can be dated, therefore, between 1828 and 1841.

GREEN, JOHN

FLUTING CHISEL: ca. 1817-ca. 1833; L. $6\frac{3}{4}$ " (63.156.194, Gift of CRESTLEA FOUNDATION).



This chisel, used by the Dominy craftsmen to make narrow grooves in decorating their cabinetwork, is stamped *JOHN GREEN* but cannot be assigned to a specific craftsman. During the last quarter of the eighteenth century and for at least half of the nineteenth century, several members of the Green family produced tools in Sheffield. John Green and Son, Hannah Green and Son, and Jane Green and Son are described as "edge tool makers" in the 1774 *Directory*. To make the attribution more difficult, Hannah Green and Son are identified with the mark *John Green* in the 1787 *Directory*, perhaps erroneously. The clue to the maker probably is the term *CAST STEEL* stamped on the chisel blade. This term indicates that the chisel was produced in the nineteenth century, when many Sheffield firms adopted cast steel for tools. The 1817 *Directory* lists John Green, "Factor," on Burgess Street, the same street on which John Green and Son were located in 1774. The subsequent directories of 1820 and 1833 list a John Green as a "fork, knife, and scissor manufacturer." Another John Green, a "file cutter" in "Chapel yard, Bow Street," appears in the 1833 *Directory* and again in the 1841 *Directory* with a change of address to the "Gas office yard, Bow Street." Although the maker of the fluting chisel cannot be determined with certainty, the tool probably was made in Sheffield, where several craftsmen were active from 1817 to 1833 who could have used the mark "John Green" as well as the term "cast steel."

HILL, MICHAEL

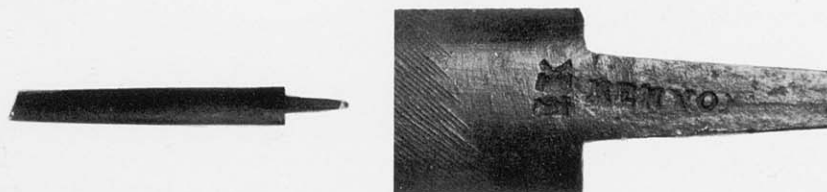
FILE (RASP): ca. 1797; steel; L. (including handle) $9\frac{3}{8}$ " (63.156.48, Gift of CRESTLEA FOUNDATION).



The trade-mark illustrated above appears next to the name of Michael Hill, "File Maker" at 62 Pond Street, only in the *Directory* of 1797. He is not listed in the *Directory* of 1787 nor in that of 1817, the only guides published before and after 1797.

KENYON, JOHN AND COMPANY

FILE: 1774-1841; steel; L. $5\frac{3}{4}$ " (63.156.209, Gift of CRESTLEA FOUNDATION).

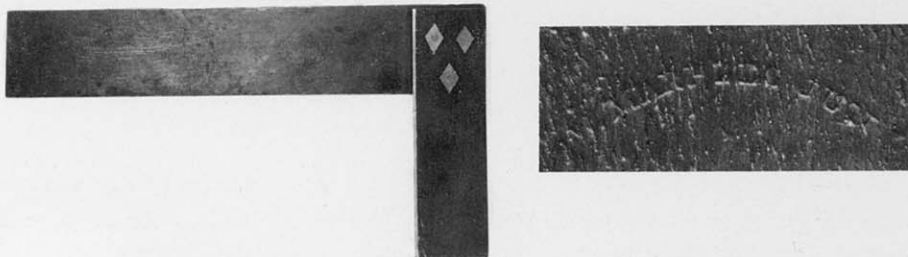


John Kenyon, "file manufacturer," is first listed in the 1774 Sheffield *Directory* in partnership with a relative, Joseph Kenyon. The firm was in "Hollis-Croft" (listed in subsequent directories as "Hollis-croft" and "Hollis Street"). By 1787 John Kenyon was in business alone at the address of 1774. In the directories of 1774 and 1787, his mark is listed as the initials *JK*. Between 1797 and 1817, his firm became "John Kenyon and Co., Filemakers." The *Directory* of 1828 records that this company was still located in "Hollis-croft" and describes members of the firm as "merchants, saw, file, bar, and sheet iron and steel manufacturers." By 1833 the firm had moved to

"Willey Street," where it was still located in 1841. The file stamped *IK / KENYON*, therefore, could have been made at any time between 1774 and 1841.

MARPLES, WILLIAM, JR.

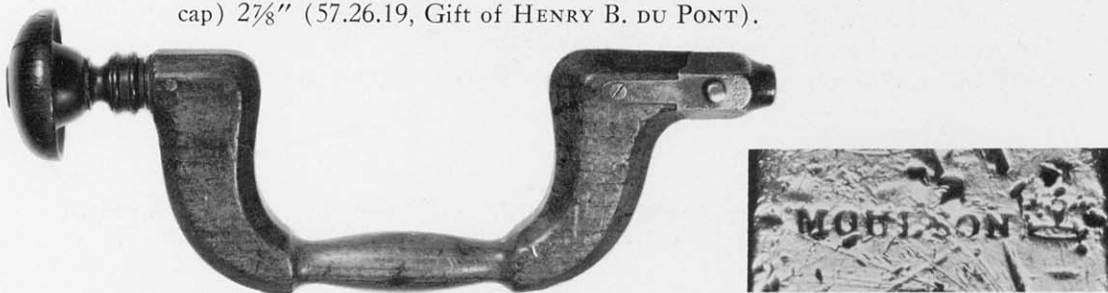
SQUARE: 1833-1849; brass, mahogany, steel; L. (handle) 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ "", L. (blade) 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (63.156.5, Gift of CRESTLEA FOUNDATION).



From 1833 to 1849, William Marples, Jr., manufactured "joiners' tools, braces, bits, and skates" on Broomhall Street in Sheffield. The semicircular stamp *W. MARPLES JUN* appears on a square probably purchased by Felix Dominy shortly after 1833. A William Marples, presumably the father of the craftsman active in the 1830's and 1840's, is listed in the Sheffield directories of 1821 and 1828 but not in the *Directory* of 1833. The firm of William Marples and Son was producing tools for craftsmen as recently as 1928, when it published a tool catalogue (see page 21 of the article, "The Sabot Maker," *The Chronicle* of the Early American Industries Association, XVII [June, 1964]).

MOULSON BROTHERS

BRACE (OR BITSTOCK): 1828-1841; beech, rosewood, brass; L. 14 $\frac{1}{8}$ "", Diam. (of cap) 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " (57.26.19, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



The addition of metal to the wooden parts of tools was an improvement of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The brace used by the Dominys is an excellent example of the new construction. Previously, woodworkers generally had the experience of seeing the wooden end of a brace, where the bit was forced into the stock, split from repeated pressure and torque. The brass mount with a spring catch, which secured a bit to the stock, eliminated this problem. Near the catch release of the Dominy brace, Moulson Brothers stamped the mark they used from 1828 to 1841. These Sheffield "saw and joiners tool manufacturers" were located on Tudor Street in 1828, but by 1833 they had moved to the "Union Works" in Division Street. In the latter year, William White described the firm as "saw, edge, tool, joiners tool, brace, bit, and skate mfrs. and merchants" in his *History and General Directory of the Borough of Sheffield*.

NEUBOULD, SAMUEL

TRYING PLANE: 1802, with Blade 1787-1841; steel; L. (including American beech block) 24 13/16" (57.26.1, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



TRYING PLANE: 1765-1800, with Blade 1787-1841; steel; L. (including American beech block) 26" (57.26.8, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



SMOOTHING PLANE: 1787, with Blade 1787-1841; steel; L. (including satinwood block) 6 3/4" (57.93.59, Gift of ROBERT M. DOMINY).



COMPASS PLANE: 1803, with Blade 1787-1841; steel; L. (including American beech block) 6 3/4" (57.93.58, Gift of ROBERT M. DOMINY).



CARVING GOUGE: 1815-1841; steel; L. (including hickory handle) 7 1/2" (57.26.133, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



Members of the Newbould family made edge tools in Sheffield from 1774 to at least 1841. It is not surprising, therefore, to find the stamp *NEWBOULD* on the blade of the modeling plane bearing the initials of Nathaniel Dominy IV (1737-1812) and the date 1787, on the irons of the trying plane and smoothing plane stamped with the mark of Nathaniel Dominy V (1770-1852) and the dates 1802 and 1803, and on the blade of the trying plane and the carving chisel used between 1800 and 1841 by Nathaniel Dominy V.

Thomas Newbould, a maker of shears and edge tools, appears in the Sheffield directories from 1774 through 1797. Samuel Newbould is first listed as a maker of edge tools in the *Directory* of 1787 and is assigned the trade-mark illustrated above. Between 1797 and 1817, Samuel's business must have expanded, for the Sheffield *Directory* of the latter year lists his firm as "Newbould Samuel and Co., merchants, saw, fender, edge tool, wool shear, and steel manufacturers, South Street." This listing continues through 1841. It is possible that several members of the Newbould family formed a cooperative venture. Adding weight to this conjecture is a listing in the 1828 *Directory* for Thomas and William Newbould as "American merchants," also located on South Street. Only one other English toolmaker's mark, that of William Butcher, appears as frequently in the Dominy tool collection.

SORBY, JOHN AND SONS

GOUGE: 1821-1841; steel; L. (including hawthorn handle) 11½" (57.26.116, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



Probably at the request of this Sheffield firm, the *Directory* of 1833 states: "All goods of their manufacture are marked I&H.Sorby." The mark appears on a gouge used either by Nathaniel Dominy V or by Felix Dominy from about 1820 to 1840. John Sorby and Sons were producing tools from at least 1821 to 1841. In the directories of this period, they are described as merchants and factors as well as manufacturers of edge tools, braces and bits, tools for joiners, files, saws, spades, and shovels. The firm was located at 26 Spittal Hill.

STUBS, PETER S.

FILE FOR METALWORKING: 1790-1810; steel; L. (including white-pine handle) 16" (57.26.292, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



Two pages of a catalogue with the engraved inscription "Peter Stubs Warrington" are illustrated by the late George H. Kernodle in his article, "Concerning the Simon Willard Legend," *Antiques*, LXI (1952), 524. Efforts to locate Kernodle's source or another copy of this catalogue, which he states was issued in 1790 and included "nearly 500 tools" for clockmakers, have not been successful. The probability that the maker of

the file shown above and stamped *PS / STUBS* was the Peter Stubs of Warrington who issued the catalogue of tools for clockmaking reported by Kernodle is strengthened by the presence among the Dominy tools of a small file (not illustrated) probably intended for use on clock parts and also stamped *PS / STUBS*.

TILLOTSON, JOHN AND SON

FORMING CHISEL: 1818-1841; steel; L. (including replaced handle) 9"
(57.26.252, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).

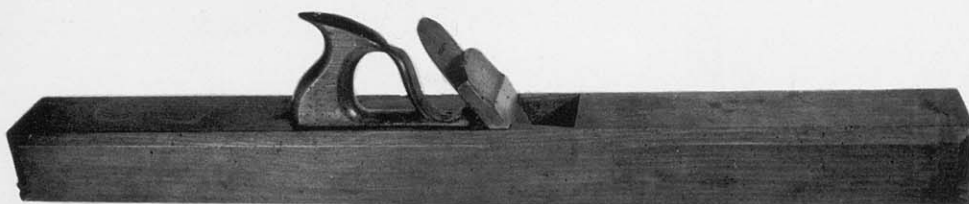


The forming chisel stamped *TILLOTSON / SHEFFIELD* and *PATENT / CRYSTALLIZED / CAST STEEL* could not have been purchased by the Dominy craftsmen before 1818. The Tillotson firm is not listed in the *Directory* of 1817 and, therefore, probably was formed after this date and before 1821, when the company first appears in the Sheffield directories. It is questionable whether or not this firm made tools, because, when first listed, it is described as a "factor, and table knife manufacturer." In 1828 John Tillotson and Son were listed as "merchants" and "manufacturers" of scissors and table knives, steels for butchers, and "dealers in edge tools, files, &c." Although the term "dealers" is ambiguous, the distinction between it and "manufacturers" suggests the Tillotsons were only distributors of edge tools. The firm was in business at 54 Coalpit Lane from the first directory listing until 1841.

WELDON AND FURNISS (See Weldon, William)

WELDON, WILLIAM

LONG JOINTER PLANE: 1766, with Blade 1787-1841; steel; L. (including American beech block) 33½" (59.158.1).



MODELING (OR COMPASS) PLANE: 1765-1800, with Blade 1787-1841; steel; L.
(including American beech block) 7¼" (57.93.52, Gift of ROBERT M.
DOMINY).



CHISEL: 1787-1841; steel; L. (including ash handle) 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ " (57.26.67, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



The Weldon mark demonstrates the persistence of a trade-mark among Sheffield toolmakers through changes in the ownership of a firm. William Weldon, "wool shear and edge tool maker, Colston croft," is first listed in the Sheffield *Directory* of 1774 and assigned the mark *W. WELDON*. By the publication of the next *Directory* in 1787, his mark had been simplified to *WELDON*. Blades in the three tools illustrated above bear this stamp and probably were made after 1787. The block of the long jointer plane bears the initials *ND* and the date 1766. After use for a generation, the plane iron apparently was replaced.

Before publication of the 1817 *Directory*, the Weldon firm had become "Weldon and Furniss" on "Castle-Hill" and had turned to the production of edge tools. In 1828 Weldon, or his relatives, presumably left the business, for the company is listed as Furniss, Cutler, and Stacey in the directory of that year, still located on Castle Hill. This company of 1828 is identified as a merchant and a manufacturer of saws and edge tools, a converter of bar steel, and a refiner of cast steel. In the 1833 *Directory* the listing remains the same and does not change until 1841, when Hiram G. Cutler appears as the sole owner of the works on Castle Hill. His activities include "merchant, steel converter, saw, edge tool, file, and table, shoe and butcher knife manufacturer."

These firms all retained the trade-mark *WELDON*. The continuing use of the mark is demonstrated by a Cutler and Company catalogue published between 1833 and 1837. Although the date is not stated on the title page, a number of tools illustrated in the catalogue, "Book 87," are stamped with a crown and initials *WR* for "William Rex." It can be assumed, therefore, that the catalogue must have been printed after 1833, when the Sheffield *Directory* still lists Furniss, Cutler, and Stacey as owners of the Castle Hill Works, and before 1837, the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign. All the plane irons depicted on a page in the catalogue (Fig. 3), are marked *WELDON*, and, in addition, the title page states concerning tools: "None are genuine, unless stamped—*WELDON*." The Weldon mark, which first appeared in 1787, was still in use fifty years later.

WING, SAMUEL W.

FILE FOR METALWORKING: 1821-1841; steel; L. (including cherry handle) 15 $\frac{5}{8}$ " (57.26.530, Gift of HENRY B. DU PONT).



Sheffield directories list Samuel Wing as a "file manufacturer" from 1821 through 1833. It can be assumed that his career in Sheffield ended between 1833 and 1841, for he does not appear in the *Directory* of the latter year.