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## The Bank Quay Glassworks Warrington Lancashire 1757-1884 ... Port Wine Goblets for the Prince of Wales by Perrin, Geddes & Co 1806 English Glass Imports for Frederick Rhineland, New York, 1770-1790

### 1757-1789 Peter Seaman & Co

The **Bank Quay Glassworks** which made **Flint** and **bottle** glass was opened in **1757** by the four-person partnership of **Peter Seaman** and **Robert Patten** (Warrington) - **Edward Deane** and **Thomas Falkner** (Liverpool). Peter Seaman, the local innkeeper with the financial backing of the other partners, leased land from Thomas Patten at Bank Quay. The site was undoubtedly chosen to make full use of **water transport** as Thomas Patten had made the **Mersey navigable to Bank Quay** so that he could **import copper from Ireland** for his smelting works at Bank Quay. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mersey\\_and\\_Irwell\\_Navigation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mersey_and_Irwell_Navigation)

### 1795-1824 Perrin, Geddes & Co

This nine-person partnership was dissolved on the 30th of June **1824**. Three of the partners were deceased - Edward D. Falkner - William Geddes and Amy Seaman. The other partners were **Hannah Evans** - **P. Nicholson** - **Peter Vawdrey** - **Joseph Flintoft** - **Marie Flintoft** and **Josiah Perrin the younger** (son of Joseph Perrin - nephew of Josiah Perrin of Josiah Perrin & Co - Glass Merchant)

#### Note:

Amy Seaman died 27th August 1798

Interesting that John Arthur Borron was the Executor of the late William Geddes. (see 1824 - 1826 Bank Quay Glass Company, below).

### 1824-1826 Bank Quay Glass Company

This four-person partnership consists of **Edward Falkner** (deceased 1824) - **John Arthur Borron** - **David Carruthers** - **Edward Garven**. It was dissolved on the 30th of June **1826**.

### 1826-1848 Bank Quay Glass Company

This four-person partnership consists of **John Banastre Falkner** (This fellow's name is interesting, as the Member of Parliament from Liverpool had been Sir Banastre Tarleton, a soldier during the Revolutionary War in America. It would be interesting to know if this fellow was a relation or just named after the MP. Tarleton was MP when the Prince Regent came to Liverpool in 1806.) - **John Arthur Borron** - **David Carruthers** and **Edward Garven**. By **1833** the company had gone over **solely to bottle production** as it had become more profitable to produce **black bottle metal for export to Ireland** after the introduction of the **excise tax in Ireland in 1825**.

#### Note:

John Arthur Borron died July 1849 age 77 (Little Woolden Hall Cadishead Warrington) and his wife Mary

Geddes died 24th April 1834. She was the daughter of Archibald Geddes Hermitage Park Leith.

### 1848-1881 Charles H Cartwright & Sons

This three-person partnership consisted of **Charles H Cartwright** who took over the **Bank Quay Glass Co 1848**. In time his two sons joined the business. The partnership was dissolved on the 22th September **1881**. Charles H Cartwright died in 1884.

### 1881-1883 Cartwright Brothers

The two brothers' partnership, **Walther J Cartwright** and **Thomas J Cartwright**, continued the business at the premise now known as the **Old Works Bank Quay**. It is probable that they had a disagreement and dissolved their partnership on the 23th of August **1883**.

### 1883-1884 T J Cartwright & Company

**Thomas J Cartwright** closed the glasswork in **1884** due to completion from the **St. Helens glass industry**. Interesting that Crosfield's soap manufacture paid £ 3000 for the glassworks in September **1893**.

#### Side Note:

**Peter Seaman** (Owner Of The "Eagle and Child" Inn) was the descendant of an old and respectable family resident at Middlewich for several generations (**Peter Seaman & Co 1757-1789**) was the father-in-law of **Josiah Perrin** as he married his daughter, Catherine in 1778 (See Notes). His sisters in law were **Amy Seaman (1795-1824 Perrin, Geddes & Co)**, Elizabeth married to James Nicholson of Warrington, Mary (wife no 2) married to Daniel Vawdrey and Hannah married to Sir William David Evans, Knight and for many years one of the Benchers of Gray's Inn, and successively a Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and Vice Chancellor of the county palatine of Lancaster, and the Vice Admiralty Court of Bombay.

### 1767-1791 Josiah Perrin & Co the Warrington Wholesale and Retail Warehouse

The popular belief is that **Josiah Perrin & Co** operated a **Glassworks at Bank Quay**. It is interesting that he is not listed in the Warrington 1771 rate book. The only evidence that I have found is that in 1767 he set up - The Warrington Wholesale and Retail Warehouse (a Glass Warehouse - see notes - reference the Liverpool Advertiser 1767) at Old Church Alley Liverpool.

It is obvious that **Josiah Perrin** had a good knowledge of the glass industry as he was involved in the manufacture of **flint glass and bottles** at the **Old Glasshouse in Hanover Street, Liverpool**, in **1761** as either a manager or partner with **Samuel Woods** who is listed as the occupier of the glassworks in The Liverpool Poll book, 1759, 1761 and 1762. From the Poll Book of 1754 and

1761 we learn that William Atherton (Senior and Junior), Isaac Houghton, John Manchester and Daniel Parr are listed as working in the glasshouse. There is a possibility that Thomas Holt and Co acquired the **Old Glasshouse in Hanover Street in 1781**. The glassworks was originally started in **1715** by **Josia Poole**.

We know from an advertisement in the *Ibidem* 7th of August 1761 that Josiah Perrin was working at the Old Glasshouse. We presume that Josiah Perrin left before the death of Samuel Woods in 1862 and he went to work for Peter Seaman & Co at Bank Quay (see reference, *Old Lancashire Glasshouse* by Francis Buckley). We now have to presume that Peter Seaman was probably involved in the Warrington Wholesale and Retail Warehouse.

There is a suggestion that Josiah Perrin probably had connections with the **Perrins glass-makers of Bristol** as the name appears many times in the Bristol's Poll Lists. It is likely that Josiah Perrin may have been employed in the glass industry in Bristol as a glasscutter. We know that he was buying his glass in Warrington off Peter Seaman & Co and also off the Bristol Glasshouses where Michael Edkins "was engraving glass" (1760-1770).

By **1790** he is listed as selling glass in a warehouse at no 9 water streets Liverpool. In **1791** he handed over or sold **The Warrington Wholesale and Retail Warehouse** to John Kirk who had been in his employment for three years. At this stage in his life he had accumulated a lot of wealth and he may have bought an estate of 129 acres in Wharton near Warrington.

We have evidence that he **sold a cargo of glass in 1776 to Frederick Rhinelander** (1743-1805) a **leading glass merchant of New York, America**. It is interesting that in correspondence with Frederick Rhinelander he is known as the Manager of **Bank Quay Glasshouse** near Warrington. Frederick was not impressed with the price he was charged as the Bristol Glass companies were cheaper. He was charged two shilling and sixpence per dozen for dram bottles as opposed to the eight pence by the Bristol glass companies. I wonder were the Bristol glass companies evading paying the glass duty or was Josiah Perrin extracting maximum profit from the trade.

The **Bristol Glass companies exporting glass to Frederick Rhinelander in New York from the Liverpool port** (due to cheap freight charges) were **Richard Cannington & Co of the Temple Gate glassworks** and **Vigor & Stevens of Thomas Street** (1775-1787). Liverpool was the place to be located during the late 18th century as 17 % - 20 % of all British exports went through Liverpool.

**Josiah Perrin** was instrumental in setting up **Perrin Geddes & Co**. He probably had become head of the Seaman family after Peter Seaman died **1787**. He acquired the share of Edward Deane and Thomas Falkner the Liverpool merchants with the help of his brothers' in law. Joshua Perrin died in **1796** and his only child, Sarah, age 12, became his heir at law. At this time **1796 Joseph Perrin**, nephew of Joshua Perrin, probably became involved in **Perrin, Geddes & Co**. Sarah Perrin

died on the 5th of July 1803 age 19. She had one son, Archibald Geddes, but by a "twist of fate" (Reference the will of her late father, see notes) the children of Joseph Perrins' **Josiah the younger and Maria** took over the business.

Unbeknown to himself, in **1767**, **Josiah Perrin** had sown the seeds for the **Perrins to be the major player in the Warrington glass industry** (see also history of **Cockhedge Glassworks** Scotland Road Warrington) and no better man than **Joseph Perrin** to continue in his footsteps. He was probably instrumental in making sure that when the Prince of Wales, the soon to be Prince Regent, visited Liverpool on Thursday 18th of September **1806**, that **Perrin, Geddes & Co** had the finest set of glassware ever produced by a British Manufacture during the Regency period on the table for them to drink their port. We can see that the Glass Goblet is engraved with the Liverpool Coat of Arms, the Liver Bird. This is the Goblet type that the Prince of Wales drank his wine or port from at the important Banquet in Liverpool for the Warrington glass industry. See also: <http://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/2008/11/28/regency-cut-glass/>

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A **Perrin Geddes & Co wine glass 1806**, the cup shaped bowl engraved with a liver bird above rope collar with step cut base, raised on a diamond knob and octagonal pillar stem and star cut petal edged foot, 10,5 cm high. Sold at auction by William Farmer 12th of April 2010 - see link for £ 390.00

Photograph Courtesy of <http://www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk>  
<http://www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk/results.asp?menultemOn=2&start=0&resultsSalesID=56>



There is a suggestion from the **Victoria & Albert Museum** (<http://www.vam.ac.uk>) that local Warrington glass-cutter **John Unsworth**, who styled himself "Manufacturer to His Majesty and to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales", may have been one of the Glass-

cutter in Perrin Geddes & Co. This is probably true as John Unsworth operated a glass business in Warrington from 1789. His company was dissolved in 1805 owing debts to his brother in law Peter Stubs who probably organised a job for him in Perrin Geddes & Co.

### **Peter Stubs File Maker Scotland Road Cock-hedge Warrington 1777-1958**

What one must realise is that there was **no motorized technology in 1806** and the **glass engraver** was dependant on the quality of a **steel files** to do their craftwork. We now know that The **Warrington Glass Industry** was lucky to have **Peter Stubs**. How else would they be able to do the enteric engraving without a good file? More to the point - **John Unsworth** gave instructing to Peter Stubs on the quality, type and shape of file needed to do his work. Hence the artistic work of the Glass engraver in Warrington was **15 years ahead of the likes of Sunderland due to the humble steel file**.

**Peter Stubs steel files** were of such high quality compared to other manufactures that they started to put his initials "**P.S.**" on theirs, which were of inferior workmanship. It affected his business so that in **1805-1806** he had to take out advertisements in the IRIS and the Sheffield Advertiser. In one advertisement he offered a reward £ 50 for anyone to give information on the whereabouts of the culprits. Peter Stubs' manufacturing business was unusual in that he had it organised such that he only dealt with retailers and the end user. It took the glass industry in the British Isles another **140 years to eliminate the Glass wholesaler and Manufactures Agent**.

Acting on the assumption that **Josiah Perrin** was a **glasscutter** from **Bristol** we have to presume that he had his **own pattern book**. We therefore have to presume that **Perrin, Geddes & Co** was operating from this pattern book on the more artistic goods that they produced. It is likely that when **John Unsworth** joined Perrin, Geddes & Co he added his ideas. It is more than probable that the **Scottish glass manufactures were copying some of their more ornate designs**.

During their three or four week holidays the **Liverpool Corporation** held a major banquet for the **Prince of Wales** and his brother, the **Duke of Clarence**. The Prince of Wales recognised that the design of the goblet from which he was drinking his port was of exceptional quality and design. "One needs a decent goblet to drink their port". He requested the Mayor (Henry Clay or **Thomas Molyneux**) to order him a full set with his **three feathers emblem** on the centre boss. The Mayor not knowing the price of glass insisted that the Liverpool Corporation would pay for same. They ordered 12 decanters; 36 coolers; 6 carafes; 72 claret glasses; and 72 cort glasses. **Joseph Perrin** probably informed them that this was **insufficient to be considered grand enough for a Prince** so Liverpool Corporation increased the quantity by 12 decanters, 48 wine glasses, 48 claret glasses; and 36 goblets; a grand **total of 342 items** of glassware. The price of the glassware service set came to £ 1306 and 18 shillings. No flees on Joseph Perrin and a nice order for the firm of Perrin, Geddes & Co. It

took Perrin, Geddes & Co two years from September **1806 until January 1808 to manufacture the full glass service**. Interesting that the Liverpool corporation gave the set of glassware used at the banquet (see photograph Courtesy of Fielding's Auctioneers) to the **Duke of Clarence** as they could not afford to buy two glassware sets.

### **Note:**

#### **The Liverpool Advertiser**

17th April 1767 just opened in the Old Church Alley **The Warrington Wholesale and Retail Warehouse** were sold on the most reasonable terms - Double and Single Crystal Flint - Cut - Flowered and Plain Glasses of all sorts whatsoever **Josiah Perrin and Co**.

#### **The will of Josiah Perrin 22th of October 1795**

**Josiah Perrin** left a **considerable real estate** according to the High Court in 1807. There is one important statement in Joseph Perrin's will that states that **if his daughter Sarah marries a man from Scotland or a man of Scottish parents she will forfeit all right to inherit his estate**. **Joseph Perrin** knew of this statement because in the likely hood of this happening his two children would then inherit all of the estate of Josiah Perrin. It is probable that over a number of years he encouraged her friendship with a **William Geddes** a **merchant born in Scotland** of Scottish parents. The Geddes had originally come to Warrington from Scotland. The **Geddes family were major players in the Scottish glass industry in Edinburgh and Glasgow**. **Sarah married William Geddes** on the 13th of July 1802 (I wonder where they married over a blacksmiths forge) and nine months later died 5th July 1803 given birth to her son Archibald. Archibald was now Sarah Geddes heir at law but Joseph Perrin now knew that his children were the rightful heir to Josiah Perrin's estate. The High Court on the 23th of January 1808 vested the estate of Josiah Perrin to the **children of Joseph Perrin, Josiah the younger and Maria**.

It is interesting that Sarah son was called **Archibald Geddes** as there was an Archibald Geddes involved in the **Leith Glass Company** in **Scotland** during the late 18th and 19th Century. The 1861 Scottish Census list an Archibald Geddes born 1803 in Scotland and now living in Lancashire, this would indicate that Sarah Perrins and William Geddes eloped to be married in Scotland and their son was born in Scotland. Interesting that in 1820 an Archibald Geddes born 1803 is listed as a member the **Carthusians** **Monks**  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthusian>.

### **Flashback**

It is interesting that in 1800 the **Liverpool Corporation** had paid for a painting of the **Duke of Clarence** to be commissioned and displayed in the town hall in recognition of his active part in the defence of the slave trade. (The Duke of Clarence was the third son of George III, and served in the Royal Navy. He later became King William IV, after the death of his brother, George IV, the former Prince Regent. **Clarence** was indeed, like



**Banastre Tarleton**, MP for Liverpool, a **strong proponent of the slave trade**.) This has to be one of the reasons he was invited to Liverpool in **1806** for a three or four week holiday at their expense and he also organised an invitation for the **Prince of Wales**. At the same time in **1806** the people of Liverpool elected William Roscoe to parliament for his role in the **abolition of the slave trade**. One of the places that the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence visited on the Thursday 18th of September **1806** in Liverpool was the Old Church Day charity School where the Prince of Wales became its Patron and donated 100 Guineas.

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#### Note:

Marriage 1 March 1778 St. Elphins, Warrington, Lancashire, England

Josiah Perrin - Gentleman of Parish of Liverpool

Catharine Seaman - of this Parish

Witness Wm. Berrey; Hugh Orrett

Married by Licence by E. Owen Rector

Register: Marriages 1770 - 1784, Page 154, and Entry 183

I will add more information as it becomes available. If you wish to make a contribution in lieu of credit please e-mail me at [glass@inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org](mailto:glass@inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org).

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#### References

I want to thank Craig Sherwood for guidance in writing this article on the Bank Quay Glassworks and Peter Rogerson, Librarian Warrington Borough Council, Community Services Directorate Central Library, Museum and Art Gallery Museum Street Cultural Quarter Warrington WA1 1JB

<http://museum.warrington.gov.uk/>

I also want to thank Kathryn Kane, see link below <http://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/2008/11/28/regency-cut-glass/>

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**Old Lancashire Glasshouses** by F Buckley F.S.A Society of Glass Technology 1929 volume 13

**An Eighteenth-century Industrialist Peter Stubs** Warrington T.S. Ashton, 1939

Also Visit <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/> & <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/census-records.htm>

**Liverpool, its commerce, statistics, and institutions** by Henry Smithers 1824

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**English Glass Imports, 1770 - 1790** by **Arlene Palmer Schwind**, Yarmouth, Maine, USA <http://www.schwind-antiques.com/>

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Reports of cases argued and determined in the Court of King's Bench, with tables of the names of cases and principal matters. Author: Edward; Great Britain. Court of King's Bench. Publisher: London. Printed by A. Strahan for J. Butterworth, 1801-14.

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[http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/wiki/Main_Page) - Manchester Archives

**Innocent espionage**: the La Rochefoucauld brothers' tour of England in 1785 by François La Rochefoucauld (duc de), Alexandre de La Rochefoucauld, Norman Scarfe

<http://www.google.ie/books?id=GU0SAAAAYAAJ> House of Commons papers, Volume 31 by Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons

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#### Siehe unter anderem auch:

- PK 2010-2** **Joyce, SG, Thomas Joyce, Dublin, Irland: Englisches Pressglas 1880-1980**  
**Inchicore Pressed Glass Works Private Museum**  
**[www.inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org](http://www.inchicore-pressedglass-museum.org)**
- PK 2010-3** **Joyce, SG, English Glass 1947-1948 - The Holborn Glass Connection**
- PK 2010-3** **Joyce, SG, Hoskins, Rose & Co. Ltd, Glassware Importers & Manufactures Agents, 1927**
- PK 2010-3** **Joyce, SG, Max & Jacques Guggenheim Ltd, London, Gläser von Libochovice , um 1930**
- PK 2010-3** **Joyce, Petrides, SG, Max & Jacques Guggenheim Ltd, Max Guggenheim & Son Ltd, London, 1877 - c 1939**
- PK 2010-3** **Joyce, SG, Matthew Turnbull Ltd - Cornhill Glass Works Sunderland 1859-1953**  
**[www.thistlewoods.net/Matthew-Turnbull.html](http://www.thistlewoods.net/Matthew-Turnbull.html)**
- PK 2010-3** **Joyce, Edward Bolton and the Orford Lane Glassworks, Warrington, Lancashire 1797-1901**
- PK 2010-4** **Joyce, Cockhedge Glass Works, Scotland Road, Warrington, Lancashire, 1805-1867, First Glass Production in the Australian Colonies**
- PK 2010-4** **Rimmer, Smith, William John (Bill) (1882-1972) and Crown Crystal Glass Co. Ltd 1924 in Australia**