



**Frederick & Ann Peover
China Manufacturers, Hanley 1818 -1822 (possibly to 1825)**

It isn't known where Frederick Peover was born, but he was in the Staffordshire Potteries, when he married Ann Mare in 1807 at the fashionable parish church of Norton le Moors.¹ Ann's brothers James and John Mare, were both potters. The first evidence of Frederick's role in the industry came in 1812 in the notice of a dissolution of a partnership between Frederick Peover and William Guest "Enamellers, Gilders, and Lustres of China and earthenware at Hanley", the business to be continued by Guest².

Given the description of this partnership and the evidence of his later work it is tempting to think of Frederick Peover as a ceramic decorator, but he was not a pottery painter. When his son Frederick was baptised in 1814, the register described him as an engraver,³ a trade in which Frederick Jr. was also trained.⁴

Ann Mare Peover inherited significant resources in 1814 and 1815, including £200 from her great-aunt, and property from her great-uncle.⁵ Combined with the couple's own funds, this enabled them to establish their business. Both Parson & Bradshaw's and Pigot's trade directories of 1818 list Frederick Peover as a china manufacturer in High Street, Hanley,⁶ and rate records from July 1818 show that he leased the premises from John Glass.⁷

Tragically, just two years later, in April 1820, Frederick died at the age of 36. His will, signed in February 1820, included a codicil added on 2 April, when too weak to sign, he made only his mark. He was buried six days later.⁸

Ann, no doubt with her brothers' support, continued the business for at least 2 years. She is one of the few women listed in as a China manufacturer, and she appears in both Pigot's and Allbut's trade directories published in 1822.⁹ The rate record for August 16, 1822, shows John Glass was renting the High Street property to Ann Peover, but by July 14, 1823, the factory was occupied by John Mayer who is listed as variously as Mayer or Mare until 1825. By October 11, 1825, the factory had been leased to Barlow, Ellis & Hume.¹⁰ The spelling of the name not only as Mayer but occasionally as Mare, suggests that it may have been Ann's brother, John Mare, who carried on production of the Peover wares on Ann's behalf, with production finally ceasing in the summer of 1825.

Ann Peover died in March 1826 aged 39¹¹. Her eldest child Sarah was 18, her youngest Ann only 7. Another surviving daughter Ellen was 10, she had medical issues which resulted in years of litigation related to the substantial inheritances of the Peover children.¹² In addition to the three girls, two sons survived to adulthood, William, who became a watch & clock maker,¹³ and Frederick jr., who worked as an engraver and a commission agent in Hunslet, Leeds.¹⁴

Endnotes

¹ Marriage of Frederick Peover and Ann Mare, 15 Apr 1807, Parish Register of St. Bartholomew's, Norton Le Moors, Staffordshire.

² *Staffordshire Advertiser*. 4 April 1812.

³ Baptism of Frederick Peover jnr., 18 September 1814, Parish Register of St. Mary's Bucknall, Staffordshire.

⁴ Baptism of Ann Peover 4 November 1840, records "Ann, daughter of Frederick and Mira Peover, Hunslet, Engraver", Parish Register of St Mary the Virgin, Hunslet, Leeds, Yorkshire,

⁵ Ann Peover was left £200 and some pieces of silver cutlery in the will of her grandmother Ann Bagnall Boulton (1732-1814), grant of probate 5 May 1814. She was also left a share of the extensive lands and property in the will of her great uncle John Bagnall (1725-1815), grant of probate 29 May 1815; Staffordshire, Dioceses Of Lichfield And Coventry Wills And Probate 1521-1860.

⁶ Parson, William, and T. Bradshaw. 1818. *Staffordshire General & Commercial Directory, for 1818, Part First: Containing the Borough of Newcastle-under-Line, the Potteries, and the Town of Leek ...* Manchester: Sold by the proprietors; J. Pigot & Co, and R. & W. Dean (Firm). 1818. *The Commercial Directory for 1818-19-20 ... With a List of the London, Country & Irish Bankers ... 3 ed.* Manchester: J. Pigot; R. & W. Dean.

⁷ Rate records (photocopy of a transcription made by Alfred Meigh before the originals were destroyed some time prior to 1940), Ceramics Department, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.

⁸ Will of Frederick Peover, probate granted 28 September 1820, Staffordshire, Dioceses Of Lichfield And Coventry Wills And Probate 1521-1860.

⁹ *Pigot and Co.'s London and Provincial New Commercial Directory, for 1822-3*, Manchester 1822; *The Newcastle and Pottery General and Commercial Directory, for 1822-23*, T. Allbut, Hanley, 1822.

¹⁰ Rate records (photocopy of a transcription made by Alfred Meigh before the originals were destroyed some time prior to 1940), Ceramics Department, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.

¹¹ Burial record of Ann Peover, 17 March 1826, Parish Register, St Mary's Bucknall, Staffordshire.

¹² National Archive Cause number: 1856 P154. Short title: In the matter of Ann Peover, Frederick Peover and Mira Peover infants by John Baker their next friend. Reference: C 15/328/P154

¹³ 1841 census for the Township of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, William Peover lists his occupation as "Watchmaker". On his marriage certificate of 24 May, 1841 his occupation is given as "Clockmaker".

¹⁴ 1841 census for Pottery Yard, Hunslet, Leeds, Frederick Peover is listed as an engraver. The notice of his death in the *Leeds Times* 25 January 1851 records him as "engraver and commission agent."