

# Letters to the Editor

## From David Hall

I thought you would be interested in this recollection of mine concerning the John Somers piece [Volume 5.3, Pewter in Brazil - <http://www.thepewterer.org.uk/volume-5-3>]. I visited Smellies in Birmingham in the very early 1980s; they had taken over the Gaskell and Chambers' pewter business in the early 1970s. In fact, they ceased trading a couple of years after my visit.

But their foreman, who had previously worked for Gaskell and Chambers, mentioned somebody who had worked for a while for them and then emigrated to Brazil. I took him to mean Somers *père*. He would have been working in a workshop where traditional methods, similar to those he subsequently used in Brazil, were regularly used. The workshop contained many molds some dating back to the early 18th century, traditional tools and old touch punches and other punches.

It seems more likely that Somers would have gone to Birmingham rather than Englefields, his family's business having been in the West Midlands. What remains of the Gaskell and Chambers moulds, touch punches, etc., have of course finally ended up with A.E. Williams in Birmingham.

[Greg Somers was unsure that his recollection was correct when he mentioned Englefields, so I am that sure David Hall is right. Ed]

## From William Grant

An interesting article on the Scattergoods [Volume 5.3 - <http://www.thepewterer.org.uk/volume-5-3>]. You say that you do not know whether the third Thomas was made free by Patrimony or Redemption. It can't have been Redemption as that didn't come in until 1799. I think he became free on the termination of his apprenticeship to Richard Hammerton who was a Pewterer not a Founder. I think it was William Scattergood who was probably the Founder.

[Further research, both in the Hall and at the Founders, is in hand. And I have found what I think is a connection between Mr Scattergood and Englefields. More later. Ed]

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