

Butter Mold 19th century



Donated by Roger Greenbanks

Chosen by Lorna Quimby
Former President, PHA; Town Clerk (1981-1995)

Vermont thrift: *Eat It Up*
Wear It Out
Make It Do
Or Do Without

Peacham mold carvers were highly regarded. The most famous was James Kinerson, whose business was taken over by John Varnum; the latter's intricate, elegant small molds are sought after by collectors today. You may see examples in our Industries Exhibit in the Historical House.

This mold, however, is larger, with an oval shape not designed to delineate specific weights or measures of butter. Although probably made by a wood carver, it would be used to press and identify butter sent for trade at a local store for fabrics, dishes, or any other items not made at home.

It is an example of Vermont thrift:

- The "H" initial plug that replaced an earlier letter. We surmise the mold came to Herbert Hooker from his father, Orman Hooker, and that the original letter was an "O."
- The door handle (with keyhole) on the back replaced an earlier handle whose outline is faintly visible. Since these molds were soaked in water before pressing butter, the original handle probably gave out.