Metals
117A–C. FLATWARE
John F. Hinds, Webster, Massachusetts, ca. 1860
Silver

A. Teaspoon (1 of 12)
L. 5¾"
N-540.1–12

DESCRIPTION: Pointed oval bowl; upturned fiddle-shaped handles with midrib. Shoulders on handles near bowl. Die-stamped in roman capitals on back of each: “J. F. HINDS” and “WEBSTER”. Engraved in script on front of each spoon: “Shumway”.

B. Serving Spoons (2)
L. 8½"
N-541.1–2


II7 A,B,C
C. Sugar Shell

L. 6"
N=545


COMMENTS: Although not listed in the standard reference works on silversmiths, a John F. Hinds had a store in the Spaulding block in Webster, Mass., in the 1860s and 1870s, where he made and sold silver wares. The building still stands today. “Shumway” refers to Charles Lewis Shumway and Achsah Ward who were married November 22, 1860.

REFERENCE: The History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, 2: 466, mentions a John F. Hinds who was elected selectman of Webster in 1865.
118. NAPKIN RINGS (2)

Massachusetts, ca. 1860
Silver
h. 1″ Diam. 1¼″
N-528,1, 2

Description: Cylindrical form made from sheet silver and soldered. Decorated on outside with wheelwork, rollerwork, and bright-cut engraving: two rows of wheelwork each side with zig-zag pattern of small rollerwork inside; interlocking cartouches interspersed with bright-cut engraving. Engraved on 1 in script: “Achsah”; on 2: “Charles”.


119. BOOT SCRAPER

New England, possibly Coventry, Connecticut, 1780–1820
Iron
H. 6½" W. 10¼" D. 2"
N-461

DESCRIPTION: Wrought iron figure in the shape of an abstract dog with a long tapering neck and a small head and a tapering corkscrew tail; rectangular extensions in place of front and rear legs are cut and bent into tabs at bottom for figure to stand on; each tab is pierced so figure can be screwed to a wooden surface. This is a flat piece of iron with only the head shaped in three dimensions.

PROVENANCE: Perkins, Shumway, Nadeau

COMMENTS: An extraordinary achievement with great economy of means, this object would have been regarded as a classic example of American folk art, had it found its way into the marketplace.
120. MASONIC PLAQUE
New England, 1780–1820
Brass
H. 7⅜” w. 6¼”
N-605

Description: Cast circle of rope with knot at bottom; dividers and square inside with a capital G in center.

Provenance: According to family tradition, it was owned by the Fayette Lodge, Charlton, Mass. Paul Revere reportedly gave the plaque to the lodge when he served as Grand Master. The plaque was placed on a closed bible. Fayette Lodge met at Ryders Tavern, a building later owned in part by Mrs. Leslie (Waldron) Olney who gave the plaque to RWN.


Reference: Masonic Symbols in the Decorative Arts, no. 10.

121. WEATHERVANE
New England, ca. 1880
Copper
H. 24” w. 36” d. 12”
N-900

Description: A three-dimensional figure of a running horse, sulky, and driver. Mounted on a vertical shaft emanating from between the horse’s front legs; this shaft, in turn, is set into a horizontal bar. The horizontal bar serves as the visual groundline, so that three of the four legs appear to be off the ground, while the horse’s right rear extended leg is at-
tached to the bar. The two sulky wheels each have eight spokes. Shafts on each side run from axle to horse’s front. Excellent detail with reins, harnesses, nails in horseshoes, etc. Mustachioed driver wearing cap sits on seat above outstretched horse’s tail. Sections of horse bolted (or riveted) together. Most portions covered with verdigris; some areas are brown, perhaps where seams have been joined by solder or some other substance.

PROVENANCE: Given to Delphis J. Nadeau, RWN’s father, in the late 1930s.

COMMENTS: The whole figure is brilliantly realized to suggest an actual sulky racer going full tilt. Famous trotting horses were popularized in prints by Currier and Ives and often became models for weathervanes.

REFERENCES: Kaye, Yankee Weathervanes, ch. 8, for an extensive discussion of horse racing, its popularity, and the iconography associated with specific horses as expressed in prints and weathervanes. Also, see her “Cushing and White’s Copper Weather Vanes,” Antiques vol. 109, no. 6 (June 1976), pp. 1220–27. For similar, but not as well realized, examples, see Sotheby’s Americana Sale, New York, January 19–21, 1996, no. 1033, stamped “Harris & Co., Boston,” third quarter nineteenth century. See also Bishop and Coblentz, A Gallery of American Weathervanes and Whirligigs, p. 74.