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Colonial Dining Equipage and Furnishings as Revealed in Isle of Wight County Records, 1743-1752

Mary Lee Glenn

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**COLONIAL DINING EQUIPAGE AND FURNISHINGS
AS REVEALED IN ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY RECORDS
1743-1752**

**A Thesis
Presented to
The Faculty of the Department of History
The College of William and Mary in Virginia**

**In Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts**

**By
Mary Lee Glenn
1965**

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts

Mary Lee Glenn
Author

Approved, July, 1965

Jane Carson
Jane D. Carson, Ph.D.

Lester J. Cappon
Lester J. Cappon, Ph.D.

Edward M. Riley
Edward M. Riley, Ph.D.

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ABSTRACT

This study grew from the author's interest in museum work and the problems of finding information for exhibits on the lives of the common people of an area. After the topic of dining equipage and furnishings was chosen, inventories and wills recorded in Isle of Wight County, Virginia in the period 1743-1752 were selected for intensive study.

The wills and inventories, supplemented by other records of the county and one of its parishes, revealed Isle of Wight as a quiet community, little concerned with events outside its limits, yet actively engaged in the tasks typical of a self-contained economy.

The study of dining equipage revealed that most of these people lived in modest circumstances but with some attention to the social amenities and to changing styles. Almost everyone had spoons, plates, tables, chairs, and drinking vessels, and most estates also contained knives and forks, some serving pieces, and at least a few specialty or luxury items. Surviving pieces helped greatly in identifying the objects mentioned in the inventories.

Comparison with a study of inventories in rural England reveals that dining equipage not only gives testimony to the way of life of the people studied, but also provides one index of the shades of difference among peoples of generally similar backgrounds.

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INTRODUCTION

Having an interest in how the common people of Virginia lived, and seriously considering a career in museum work, I was intrigued when the question was raised of how the curator learns about the details of daily routine in the lives of ordinary people. In discussions with my thesis advisor, the point was made that many aspects of social history of interest to museums have never been investigated systematically by students of local history. Finally, after an informal survey of the source materials available for such a study, I decided to pose a hypothetical curatorial problem and attempt to solve it historically.

When the curator of a small museum decides to set up an exhibit on eighteenth-century dining in his region, where does he go for information? There are many books on antiques showing beautiful tables set with costly silver and china from wealthy homes. Eighteenth-century courtesy books, which were very popular in America, offer hints on what was considered proper social behavior.¹ Still other books also contemporary to the period, like E. Smith's The Compleat Housewife, which had reached its eleventh edition by 1742, and The Modern Method of Regulating and Forming a Table, which appeared in 1750, give bills of fare, suggest menus, and show diagrams of the conventional arrangement of serving dishes. To the curator, however, these books have one serious limitation: none of them

¹ Arthur M. Schlesinger, in his Learning How to Behave: A Historical Study of American Etiquette Books (New York, Macmillan Company, 1946) presents an excellent study of these books.

includes individual place settings and rules for table service. The earliest exposition of these matters that I found in an American library is Robert Roberts' The House Servant's Directory . . . , published in Boston in 1827. The author was an old man retiring from his position as butler, and recording a lifetime of experience with the conventions of table service. For this reason, his book to some degree supplements the diagrams of serving dishes.

All these books have direct relevance only to the lives of the well-to-do but are useful for determining contemporary standards of taste. Of course, common people owned neither the books nor the equipment they recommend, but presumably everyone followed the styles of his time as best he could.

The best clue to how well he was able to follow the style is a list of his dining equipage and furnishings. Inventories of personal estates provide such lists. In colonial Virginia it was customary to make an inventory of the personal estate on the death of the householder. The county court ordered the inventory and it was returned to the clerk, and recorded along with the other county records. While this listing was supposed to include an estimate of value, thus making it an appraisal, such an appraisal was not always made.²

By the eighteenth century, the county clerk usually kept a separate book for wills and inventories. This arrangement was especially

²The two terms were used interchangeably, as they will be in this study. The term "appraisers" was used for the men making the inventory or the appraisal.

useful to me because the will often supplements the inventory. In some cases articles especially valued by the testator were specifically bequeathed but do not appear in the inventory, presumably because the heirs had already received them. Furthermore, the article is often described more clearly in the will than in the inventory.

These books of wills and inventories, unlike books on antiques, have not been widely used by curators because they lack pictures or lavish descriptions, and to fill in the curious gaps one needs a certain amount of training in historical method. Basic items like tables and chairs will be missing. In such cases, the items probably were grouped as "lumber," had been removed from the house before the inventory, were in a section of the inventory since lost, or were inadvertently omitted by the appraiser or overlooked by the county clerk as he copied the inventory.

There are other important limitations to county records. Inventories were only lists of items in the personal estate at the time the inventory was made. Articles given away before death, and those taken before the appraisers arrived, would not appear. Often items were listed in bulk. At times such a term as "parcel of old lumber" was used to refer to a miscellany of old and relatively worthless goods. More commonly, metal items were weighed and appraised at so much per pound, and silver at so much per ounce. This lumping of items means that interesting or significant articles are not always apparent to the reader of the inventory.

While in some counties appraisal was usually by room, this was not always the case. As a result, one cannot know, for example, which of the tables and chairs listed were used in dining. A similar situation

exists for bowls, basins and other items that could have been used for cooking, washing, and other non-dining functions. When rooms are given, they provide some estimate of the size of the house, and thus the standard of living of the occupants.

In reading the inventories, one must also remember that the appraisers were not trained specialists but neighbors of the deceased ordered by the court to carry out certain duties. This lack of special training influenced, of course, their descriptions and valuations.

Despite all the limitations of the county will and inventory books, they remain a basic source, in which a curator can learn most of the reliable details he needs for an exhibit, a slide talk, a formal report, or the answer to a research query. Because of the nature of the source, however, the method which the curator uses becomes of great importance.

After I chose the topic of colonial dining equipage and furnishings, my first problem was to select a basic set of records to use. To avoid the unusual conditions produced by the French and Indian War and the Revolution, and to present a society after it had outgrown frontier austerities, I decided to concentrate my study on mid-century Virginia. Isle of Wight County was selected because most of its people were small farmers, who have escaped the attention of students concerned with the development of political leadership and economic policy. Book 5, Wills and Inventories, covered the period 1745-1752; to round out a decade I used Book 4, from 1743-1745.

In selecting specific inventories and appraisals to be copied, I made a conscious effort to get a representative cross-section of

individuals with respect to wealth, economic and social status in the county, and general background. Fifty-seven inventories and appraisals, or thirty percent of the total of approximately 180 for the ten year period were chosen for study. They were selected with the idea of so sampling the available materials that the conclusions reached from the sample would be the same as if all the estates were studied. Appraisals were preferred to inventories, but a few of the latter were chosen to fill the gaps and illustrate significant items missing from appraisals. Family relationships received special attention -- the Desheys and Rickses, for example -- with the expectation of illustrating something of the unity and continuity of Virginia family connections; but with the realization that in the short period under study, little continuity could be seen. Women's estates were selected in approximately the same proportion to all women's inventories as the fifty-seven bore to the total for the period.

In addition to all items possibly related to dining, certain other classes of materials were listed to provide a general basis for comparison. Because there are no colonial Quit-Rent Rolls extant after 1704-1705, land holdings -- the usual standard of wealth -- could not be ascertained. As a substitute, the number of Negro slaves and livestock were computed. Since the inventories for this period were not listed by room, the size of the home itself had to be estimated in another way. The number of beds is usually given, and when I compared them with articles associated with dining, I was able to make a rough judgment of style of living. A house with ten beds, for example, and only two spoons suggests a crowded household with little interest in the social amenities. On the

other hand, a house with six beds and twelve silver spoons suggests a family of normal social standards.

In copying the appraisals, standard transcription procedures were followed.³

In order to classify the material for comparison, the fifty-seven selected estates were divided into four levels of wealth. The criteria used included total personal wealth where established by the appraisers, personal estate exclusive of negroes and stock, general household goods, and the presence or absence of luxury goods. Because of the nature of the appraisals, the final groupings at times seem to show inconsistencies, with a person in a lower group having greater total wealth than an individual in a higher one. An estate with a relatively low appraisal, but containing luxury items indicating a higher standard of living was examined further for omissions that might explain the low total evaluation. If such omissions were found, I moved the classification up one bracket. The terms used to designate the four levels are "rich," "upper-middle," "lower-middle," and "poor." The monetary range for each is rich: £600-850, upper-middle: £280-390, lower-middle: £56-155, and poor: £4-70.

These groupings were then used to construct a series of charts, which appear as Appendix B. Here individual items in the inventories are arranged to form a convenient summary and at the same time to serve as

³An excellent, and readable, essay on this subject is to be found in Julian P. Boyd et al., eds., The Papers of Thomas Jefferson (17 vols. to date, Princeton, 1950-), I, xxv-ix.

an index.

In order to remove the Isle of Wight material from a vacuum of locality, I compared my conclusions with those of the English historian Francis W. Steer in his Farm and Cottage Inventories of Mid-Essex, 1635-1749.

CHAPTER I

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

While seventeenth-century Isle of Wight shared the excitement and importance of the early settlement, by the eighteenth century it had become a quiet agricultural backwater. Because the large areas of swamp and a sandy or clayey soil produced a poor grade of tobacco, there were no large plantations with elegant homes such as those that are the chief attraction of today's historic tours. The county's position on the "wrong" side of the James River, away from the centers of political and social activity, was made more isolated by the state of communications across the wide river. As a result of these natural conditions, Isle of Wight was an area of small self-contained farms.

Information on its agriculture, as well as other characteristics, can be deduced from the evidence found in the county records. Tobacco was an important crop and Doctor Thomas Willis was appointed "Inspector of Tobacco at Wainwright's Warehouse" in 1747/8.¹ Cotton, potatoes, wheat, and corn were also cultivated. Livestock included poultry, geese, sheep, cattle, and the pigs long associated with the area, while horses and oxen were used for transportation and work. The general agricultural nature of the county is reflected by the fact that all but three inventories (J. Fulgham, T. Atkinson, W. Williams) list some quantity of stock, and

¹Isle of Wight County Records, Order Book, 1746-1752, 75.

these three are atypical in many particulars.

The inventories also show the widespread use of Negro labor, for, aside from the poorest group, only three estates failed to mention slaves in either the inventory or the will. Holdings ranged from one to twenty-one, with four to eight slaves the most common, but this number included children and old people, as well as the men and women able to work in the fields.

While various farmers owned shoemaking, weaving, or carpentering tools, the only indication of an artisan depending on his craft for his livelihood is the case of Thomas Atkinson, who was probably a tailor. Generally, what a man could not make for himself, or buy from a neighbor, he would purchase from one of the ships that came up-river to trade at one of the wharves in the county.

Except for sending their two burgesses to Williamsburg, Isle of Wight's inhabitants were not actively involved in the workings of the colonial government. If there was a trained lawyer in the county, he did not die in the period under consideration. Of course, there were the usual county officials one of whom -- John Summerrell, who was appointed a Justice in 1742² -- died in 1746.

While travel outside the county was unusual, there were ordinaries to accommodate travelers in the locality. The inventory of Robert Ricks lists seventy-three chairs, far more than any other estate, and leads

²"Journals of the Council of Virginia in Executive Sessions, 1737-1763" (The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, XV, 1908), 383.

to the assumption that he kept an ordinary. This impression is supported by the amounts of pewter and earthenware he owned, as well as an unusually large number of knives, forks, spoons, iron pots, and beds. The explanation that Ricks was a wealthy planter with facilities for practicing typical Virginia hospitality could also be offered; but the absence of any mention of him in a vestry book, deed book, or genealogical study weighs heavily against the assumption that he enjoyed gentry status.

Another Ricks -- Abraham -- owned thirty-eight chairs but lacked the large stock of beds, bed linen, and tableware of Robert. He did, however, have a large amount of pewter totalling 144 1/2 pounds. Again, little is known about Abraham Ricks. Neither Ricks mentioned the other in his will, but the abundance of household goods, and the common last name strongly suggest some relationship of both blood and occupation. Perhaps Abraham had operated an ordinary which he later turned over to Robert, keeping some of the worn-out furnishings for his own use. Such a situation could explain Abraham's three old tables and eighteen or more old, "broke," and "brst" [burst?] chairs.

While trained medical men were uncommon in the colony, the consistent use of the term "Doctor" when referring to Thomas Willis suggests that he had some formal medical training. The Vestry of Newport Parish recognized his ability to treat the sick, for on several occasions they ordered that Willis be paid from five hundred to 1457 pounds of tobacco for "attendance" on or medicine for various people in the parish.³

³Newport Parish, Isle of Wight County, Vestry Book 1724-1772, 84, 128, 164.

In Isle of Wight, as in all the counties of colonial Virginia, religion played an important part in the lives of the people. The Anglican Church was the established church of the colony, but other sects, such as Quakers, were tolerated. There may have been Quakers in Isle of Wight, for a petition of the "Society called Quakers in Virginia" requesting exemption from parish levies was signed by one Abraham Ricks of Isle of Wight County in 1738.⁴

While the vestry book for Newport Parish reveals that a minister was not always in residence, there may have been an unfrocked minister among the Anglicans of Isle of Wight. The Mr. James Pedin whose inventory is included in this study asked in his will to be buried "at or in the Brick Church of the Isle of Wight County."⁵ He may have been the Reverend Mr. Pedin removed from his parish in Amelia County seven years before the death of James Pedin. In meetings of the Virginia Council in 1741 and 1742, charges of "many Immoralities as Drunkenness, Profane Swearing & Lewd & Debauched actions" were heard from the Vestry of Nottoway Parish, Amelia County, against their minister, the Reverend Mr. Pedin, and the Commissary was ordered to remove him from the parish.⁶ The tentative identification of the two men as one and the same must remain conjectural,

⁴"Quakers' Petition" (William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, XIV, July, 1905), 25.

⁵Isle of Wight County Records, Wills and Inventories #5, 1743-1752, 198. Burial within the church was traditionally reserved for ministers. See Bishop William Meade, Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia (2 vols., Philadelphia, n.d. [circa 1855]), I, 302.

⁶"Journals of the Council of Virginia," 374, 377.

supported by the negative evidence in relevant contemporary records.⁷

Whatever Mr. Pedin's association with the Church, less important officials as men of some responsibility and social standing in the religious life of the community can be identified. Two church wardens of Isle of Wight County (Thomas Smith, John Davis) died during the decade under consideration. The Newport Vestry lost its clerk also during this decade -- Joseph Weston, who held the position for the Brick Church from 1735 until shortly before his death in 1750. For performing the duties of clerk, which included keeping parish records, informing the authorities of weddings, christenings, and burials, and keeping the minutes of the vestry,⁸ he received one thousand pounds of tobacco yearly.⁹

In the records of disbursements for charitable causes may be seen the community's active concern for the welfare of its own members. John Fulgham, for example, received E9 in both 1727 and 1728 from the vestry "for keeping Mary Jackson the year."¹⁰ Mary was probably an

⁷The case is not mentioned in the correspondence of the Commissary with the Bishop of London (Lambeth Palace Papers), and the Amelia County Records (Deed Book #1, 1734-1743, Deed Book #2, 1742-1747, Will Book #1, 1734-1761, Will Book #2, 1761-1771) have no record of Pedin selling or buying land, or of his death. Varied spellings of the minister's name include Nedin and Judin (Edward Lewis Goodwin, The Colonial Church in Virginia; With Biographical Sketches of the First Six Bishops of the Diocese of Virginia; And Other Historical Papers; together with Brief Biographical Sketches of the Colonial Clergy of Virginia (Milwaukee, 1927), 298); and Pedier (Meade, Old Churches of Virginia, I, 302).

⁸Hugh Jones, The Present State of Virginia . . ., edited by Richard L. Morton (Chapel Hill, 1956), 226.

⁹Newport Parish, Isle of Wight County, Vestry Book, 1724-1772, 71-132.

¹⁰Ibid., 27, 39.

indigent widow or an orphan without an estate, and in giving her a home Fulgham obtained some additional income which he may have needed.

William Williams, whose appraisal shows an estate worth only £4.5.10, received charity for some time before his death. As early as 1734 the vestry ordered "To Willm Manggam & Wm Williams 1500 [pounds tobacco],¹¹ which was probably charity. After Williams' death, Thomas Coser received £9 for having boarded him, and Arthur Jones received nine hundred pounds of tobacco and £6 over five years for boarding his child.¹²

The county records also reveal something of the level of education in the county. Seventeen of the twenty-nine making wills signed their names. The correlation between literacy and economic standing is suggested in the fact that only one of the six in the poorest group who made wills signed his own name (Robert Lawrence). Although five women left wills, only Sarah Hollowell signed more than her mark. With all this evidence of relative literacy, in only three cases was there definite evidence of formal schooling. In addition to Doctor Thomas Willis, Nicholas Miller and John Davis seem to have attended school, for both were listed as owing fifty pounds of tobacco for three months of schooling in the account of Thomas Proud, whose will was proved 9 August, 1698.¹³ Both men later held positions of responsibility in the county; Miller as surveyor of

¹¹Ibid., 69.

¹²Ibid., 149-150.

¹³"Isle of Wight County Records" (William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, VII, April, 1899), 250; "Education in Colonial Virginia" (William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, VI, July, 1897), 3.

the road,¹⁴ and Davis as church warden.¹⁵ Both left relatively large estates.

Traditionally, the early Isle of Wight settlers came from Bristol and other places in the western part of England.¹⁶ While the names of the settlers do not reveal their exact origins, what is more English than Chesnutt, Davis, Brewer, Johnson, Miller, Neavill, or Wright? William Williams could have been Welsh and Robert Scott a Scot, but there is not a single name that does not suggest origin in the British Isles. Such names are only one more indication that these were Englishmen, living in a county named for a part of England, doing English things in English ways, and preserving their English heritage, yet at the same time finding it modified by the ways of a new world. The records heighten the impression of a county of obscure people, active within their own neighborhood, carrying out the many duties any society imposes. Their customs may seem strange or even primitive to people accustomed to the complexities of modern life, but closer study shows them to be well-suited to an agrarian, rather self-sufficient society.

¹⁴Isle of Wight County Records, Order Book, 1746-1752, 115.

¹⁵Newport Parish, Isle of Wight County, Vestry Book, 1724-1772, 64.

¹⁶"Isle of Wight County Records," 212; John Bennett Boddie, Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight: A history of the County of Isle of Wight, Virginia during the Seventeenth Century including abstracts of the county records (Chicago, 1938), 204.

CHAPTER II

POSSESSIONS: DINING FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPAGE

TABLES

The number of tables owned ranged from none (thirteen cases) to eight (two cases). The thirteen inventories where no table was listed raises the question of how these people ate -- standing up or sitting on the floor. It seems most likely that they did own tables but that these, as well as other items, are not apparent because of the limitations of the inventories.

While many tables were not identified as to form or composition, or were listed merely as old, enough were described to provide a certain amount of information on the types common at this time.

Oval tables were the most frequently listed type, and comprised twenty of the forty-one described by shape.¹ The majority of these belonged to people classified as rich or lower-middle. However, while all four in the rich group had oval tables, five of the twenty in the lower-middle group owned them.

Only one round table was mentioned, and it was in a will (William Daughtry) rather than an inventory. It is interesting to compare the

¹However, Constock says gate-leg and drop-leaf tables were the most popular types in the southern colonies. Helen Constock, "Furniture of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky," (Antiques, LXII, January, 1952), 93.

frequency of round and oval tables with the suggestions of Martha Bradley in her British Housewife, published in London about 1770. Generally, she endorsed the French preference for round or oval tables instead of the traditional English square or rectangular ones. In her opinion the French had "vastly the advantage in the disposing and placing their Entertainment." While she found it true that "we fit more conveniently," yet "there cannot be Beauty in strait Lines" and "the Form of the Table compels us to set the Dishes in the same Manner, that the people may have Room for their Plates, and thus all becomes ungraceful."² Whatever her personal preference, Mrs. Bradley's table settings included arrangements for all shapes and sizes of tables.³

Square tables were also listed rather frequently, again mainly among the rich and lower-middle groups.⁴ The only long table mentioned (J. Jordan) was in a lower-middle home, while the upper-middle group seems to have had a monopoly on "falling" or gate-leg tables. The latter, however, probably were not used for dining.

Two kinds of tables pose interesting problems of identification. Tea tables will be discussed more fully in connection with tea sets. John Summerrell's folding table worth fifteen shillings could have been a gate-leg, tuck-a-way, corner, or tilt top table but any more definite

²Martha Bradley, The British Housewife . . . (3 vols., London, [circa 1770]), I, 69-70.

³Ibid., 70-71.

⁴Part of the predominance of table shapes among the lower-middle group may be due to the more general descriptions of tables among this group, while the upper-middle inventories just list "tables", or have several of one type. In addition, the lower-middle sampling is almost twice as large as the upper-middle group.

identification is impossible.

Only rarely was a table described by both shape and wood. Walnut, black walnut, cedar, pine and mahogany tables are mentioned. At least two Isle of Wighters (T. Willis, R. Lawrence) had mahogany tables.⁵ Probably most of this wood, or the tables made from it, was imported from England or Philadelphia. Walnut could have been of either local or English origin, while pine and cedar were both native to Virginia. Maple, also of American origin, was not mentioned in connection with tables but did describe a chair (A. Ricks). Surprisingly, there was no mention of cherry.⁶

CHAIRS

Chairs were described by composition, with only two listed according to shape. These were the arm chairs of John Summerville and Robert Ricks, both relatively well-to-do men. While there were probably some other arm chairs in these homes, the majority were side chairs lacking arms. Usually these were of the slat-back variety. The inventories reveal that many of them had "flag" or rush seats. The rushes were twisted in a cord, and then tied from each side into the center. Other chairs had seats, and possibly backs also, of cane. Both flag and cane chairs could have been made more comfortable through the use of cushions.

⁵This contrasts sharply with the statement by Paul H. Burroughs that mahogany was first used in American furniture in 1750. Paul H. Burroughs, Southern Antiques (Richmond, 1931), 14.

⁶Yet Comstock mentions its frequent use. Comstock, "Furniture of Virginia," 61.

Leather chairs were also common. These usually had both backs and seats of leather, held in place and decorated by large tacks. In addition to those described simply as being of leather, three kinds of leather were specifically mentioned. Abraham Ricks willed his "10 New Russia Leather Chairs" to his daughter Mourning Jordan. Russia leather was "a very durable leather made of skins impregnated with oil distilled from birchbark."⁷ This leather had a distinctive grain and a very pleasant odor. In the eighteenth century, this process was used only in Russia and by one tannery near Paris, so that these chairs, or at least the leather for them, were of neither Virginian nor English origin. "English leather" was tanned in England, "Virginia leather" in the colony.⁸ It is interesting to speculate on how the appraisers distinguished between the two types.

Some interesting conclusions on chair ownership become apparent. Only the upper classes had cane chairs, but leather and flag were common materials for chairs among all groups. Old chairs were present in all but the wealthiest home, but the definition of what was "old" might well have varied among appraisers.

While numbers of chairs varied greatly, with ten families seemingly having neither chairs nor benches or stools, and wealthy men having as many as twenty-eight, there seems to be some degree of relationship between

⁷The Oxford English Dictionary (12 vols., Oxford), VIII, 925.

⁸I am grateful to Mr. Raymond Townsend of the Colonial Williamsburg Research Department for this information on tanned leathers.

the number of chairs owned and relative financial position. There are, of course, exceptions, like George Parker and Richard Webb with total estates of only £38-40 but eight chairs each, and John Edwards with an estate of £112.9.2 and no chairs. Generally, though, the number of chairs can be correlated with financial resources, with a range of from seventeen each for the two in the wealthiest group to three each for the poorest persons.

BENCHES AND STOOLS

There are few references in the inventories to other forms of seating, except benches, forms (backless benches or elongated stools), and stools. Again excluding the two Rickses, who had the only such furniture among the rich, none of these seem to have been very common. Among the poor, only William Page had a "parcel of Tables & Stools," and they were worth only four shillings. No one except Arthur Pursell, who had three benches and six stools, had more than one item of any of this furniture, another indication of its scarcity.

STORAGE

The plates, bowls, utensils, and other items of dining equipment had to be stored but it is very difficult to determine where these things were kept.

Trunks were mentioned so frequently that they were included in the abstracts only when found in conjunction with dining equipage. Even these, however, were most likely to be used for travel and storage of

clothing or seldom used things, rather than those in constant use.

A few chests were listed. These were low wooden pieces, of rectangular shape. They could have been rough-hewn or quite ornate. Again, they were probably used for storage of linens, or items which were rarely used.

In only two cases (W. Daughtry and J. Wright) were cupboards listed. Steer described cupboards as "either of two open tiers . . . , or else with the lower tier enclosed by doors and the upper fitted with small recessed cupboards leaving a shelf for cups or other articles," and the most likely containers for plates, cups, and dishes.⁹ Perhaps they were not more frequently mentioned because they were built into many homes.

TABLE LINEN

Table linen was used by mid-eighteenth-century Isle of Wight residents, but chiefly by the upper class. Among the rich, two of the four inventories listed table linen. The exceptions were Robert Ricks of the many chairs and Robert Driver, whose appraisal shows many curious gaps. Among the upper-middle group, nine of the eleven had table linens. Here a curious situation emerges with seven of the nine inventories listing two tablecloths each. Perhaps two was a common amount to own since it provided for one in use and one in the wash. The proverbial third in the drawer would be less necessary in a day when cloths were not used for every meal. The numbers of napkins vary a great deal more,

⁹Francis W. Steer, Farm and Cottage Inventories of Mid-Essex 1635-1749 (Chelmsford, Essex, England, 1950), 15.

with no apparent relationship to the number of table cloths.

Only eleven lower class inventories listed table linens, with all but one of these (E. Heavill) in the lower-middle group. Generally, these people had fewer napkins, although three men owned five or six each.

Abraham Ricks had six table cloths, more than anyone else, but no napkins. The others having table cloths but no napkins (N. Miller, J. Fedin) had only one or two cloths. In every other case, where table cloths were present there were also napkins. Of course, "napkins" may not always have referred to items used to wipe the mouth and hands after eating, for the term may have designated any of a variety of cloths used in the kitchen.

While many of the inventories just say "table cloth," "napkin," or "table linens," a few give some indication of the kinds of cloth used. The most common was diaper, a twilled unbleached linen with a pattern of slightly defined figures.¹⁰ This is the only cloth specifically mentioned in connection with napkins (J. Weston, Mary Deshey). The other cloths were damask -- linen with a woven pattern imitating that of Damascus silks,¹¹ and linen -- a general term covering a wide range of fabrics made from flax. Brown linen was probably unbleached or partially bleached, though it could have been linen dyed brown.

It is impossible to arrive at any conclusions on the relative values of the various kinds of table linens, for only seven were appraised.

¹⁰Ibid., 47.

¹¹Ibid.

Among these, the values run from £1 for one diaper table cloth (A. Ricks), to five shillings for two old diaper cloths owned by the same man. James Pedin's large damask cloth was worth eighteen shillings. Mary Deebey valued her diaper table cloth and six diaper napkins enough to give them special mention in her will, but this was the only occasion where table linens were specifically bequeathed.

FLATWARE

One of the most surprising facts revealed by the inventories is the paucity of flatware owned by these people. Throughout the inventories the number of spoons is far in excess of that of knives or forks, though none is as common as one might expect. This emphasis on spoons, illustrated by the seeming lack of any relationship between relative wealth and the number of spoons owned, could be the result of the ability to cast pewter spoons at home, at a time when knives and forks had to be bought and spoon molds were common. The prevalence of meat, either wild or domestic, on Virginia tables certainly necessitated some sort of knife. It is likely that the fork was accepted even in a remote part of Virginia, 150 years after its introduction into England.¹²

It is often difficult to determine the numbers of knives and forks in an inventory because one cannot be sure if a case of knives and forks always held six of each, whether or not the case was full, or how

¹²The fork was introduced into England around 1600, but acceptance was very slow. John Hampson, The English At Table (London, 1944), 26.

many items were meant when an appraiser wrote "2 Knives & Forks" (A. Ricks). The problem is much less acute with spoons for they were usually counted. Occasionally a "parcel" of spoons was listed (W. Johnson, R. Gibbs) and, in one strange case, "12 Dozn Spoons" were listed for a woman with only three pewter dishes, three pewter plates, five pieces of earthenware, and three knives and forks (E. Neavill). However, this may well have been an error in which one half dozen spoons was meant.

With the exception of the widow Neavill, Robert Ricks had by far the most spoons, knives, and forks. His forty spoons, twenty-six knives, and thirty forks form an interesting numerical relationship but hardly match his seventy-three chairs. A similar proportional relationship is evident in Abraham Ricks' appraisal with eighteen spoons, eight knives, thirteen forks, and two knives and forks listed. The other inventories are not clear enough on this matter to see if such a relationship was generally common.

In addition to the teaspoons of Dr. Willis, which will be considered with tea sets, there are two special kinds of spoons mentioned in the inventories. The two known cases of silver spoons were not among the effects of very rich men, as might be expected, but in the estates of members of the middle class. Dr. Willis had six large silver spoons valued at £2.10.0, and James Pedin had twelve. Perhaps the latter were smaller, for they were valued at only £3.12.0. The lone soup spoon mentioned, larger and heavier than a tea spoon, belonged to Thomas Smith and was worth 1.6.

VESSELS USED IN TABLE SERVICE

The vessels used in dining were described as being of a variety of materials, including pewter (the most common at this period) earthenware, stoneware, wood, glass, silver, and china. The differences among earthenware, stoneware, and china lie in their composition and manufacture. At this period, earthenware refers to coarseware, slipware, or Delft, while stoneware was brown or the newly popular salt-glaze -- often called "stone." China was Chinese export porcelain. All ceramics, but especially china, were relatively recent acquisitions in British households. For centuries, the vast majority of dining vessels had been made of wood, or, among the wealthy, of precious metals. Food had been placed on a trencher, a piece of wood with an indentation in the center. Trenchers were still common in the eighteenth century in parts of England and Scotland¹³ but seem not to have been used in Isle of Wight County, unless they were lumped with other goods as "parcels of woodenware," "old lumber," or "wooden trays." The last could have been large trenchers used to serve food.

INDIVIDUAL DINING WARE

The plate was the basic item of individual dining. Made of pewter or, in some cases, earthenware, plates were shallow and not intended for liquid or semi-liquid foods. Those in pewter were never over ten

¹³See Steer, Farm and Cottage Inventories, 28; and Marjorie Plant, The Domestic Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century (Edinburgh, 1952), 42.

inches in diameter and usually had a slightly decorated rim of medium width.¹⁴

The number of plates owned varied widely, ranging as high as twenty-eight (J. Wright) and as low as two (E. Cobb), or none at all. Their value to their owners can be seen in the fact that nine wills contain specific mention of them.

Porringers, originally designed specifically for porridge, were generally used for any sort of pudding, stew, or soup. They were round, with rather high bulging sides, one handle, and, often, a top which could also be used for a stand. While pewter porringers had become obsolete in England by 1750,¹⁵ they seem to have remained quite common in Isle of Wight. They were of pewter or earthenware, with the former considerably more common. Porringers were scarce among the poorest group.

In contrast to plates and porringers, there is no evidence in the inventories that bowls were ever made of pewter.¹⁶ Generally, bowls were round containers of various dimensions used for preparing or serving liquid foods, or for bathing. Bowls used in the kitchen were probably wooden, but only one was definitely identified as to material -- Dr. Willis' "Chinia Bowle." The other seven bowls listed were parts of

¹⁴Ledlie Irwin Laughlin, Pewter in America: Its Makers and Their Marks (2 vols., Boston, 1940), I, 26-28.

¹⁵Ibid., 30.

¹⁶Laughlin substantiates this in his statement that, in America, bowls were only rarely made of pewter. Ibid., 27.

three middle-class estates (J. Wilson, J. Johnson, A. Pursell).

One man, John Davis, had three soup dishes worth thirteen shillings. These were probably deep plates, and seem to have been commonly made of salt-glaze earthenware.

DRINKING VESSELS

Colonial drinking vessels, as revealed in the Isle of Wight inventories, had great variety in both composition and form. Many of the items are unfamiliar to modern times, necessitating some explanation.

The term "cup" seems to have referred to a variety of drinking vessels, described as being of pewter, earthenware, stoneware, glass, or silver. Those in tea sets may well have been of china, though they were not identified as such. All the cups were in lower class inventories.

Pewter cups were made in two shapes. One type, with a flat or rounded bottom, was handleless and had a straight or flared rim. Others were more squat containers with flaring sides, either with or without a handle. The latter would approximate the cup shape of today, and would probably have been accompanied by a saucer. The silver cup owned by Richard Snowden could have been of any of the shapes of the pewter ones. Since it was worth only twelve shillings it could not have been very large.

The ceramic and glass cups were probably similar in shape to those of modern times, with a handle, and using a saucer. The inventories did not refer to saucers, except for Nicholas Miller's "1 Sauser," which was probably of earthenware. Because it was not listed in connection

with cups and, in fact, there were none in the appraisal, it may have been a sauce or gravy boat. Perhaps the general lack of reference to saucers reflects a tendency to consider them with cups, so that a mention of the latter was meant to include the former.

The only beaker listed belonged to William Daughtry. This pewter vessel lacked handle or cover and "ordinarily, though not invariably, was wider at the top than at the bottom."¹⁷

The tankard, a rather high, round pewter container with a hinged lid and one handle, was one of the most common drinking vessels in the inventories. Members of all four classes owned them, from Robert Ricks with the three that he willed his children, to John Bradshaw who had few household goods other than his pewterware. Usually a man owned only one or two, with no more than three indicated in any estate.

Mugs, or open-topped tankards, were the most common drinking vessel. While many listed without any reference to their composition were probably of pewter, others were of earthenware (N. Miller), and the more common stoneware. Mugs of pewter had supplanted their covered "cousin," the tankard, in many of the colonies by this period,¹⁸ but both seem still to have been common in Isle of Wight. The continued prevalence of tankards and mugs was, perhaps, an indication of the slowness of change in this county.

Two inventories (G. Parker, J. Darden) and a will (G. Wiggs)

¹⁷Ibid., 36.

¹⁸Ibid., 32.

refer to "pottle bottles." These were tankards holding two quarts and used to serve drinks, or as common drinking vessels, rather than for one man's portion. Jeremiah Procter's "pottle mug" was a two-quart mug.

The stoneware drinking jug mentioned in William Daughtry's inventory is a rather unusual item, at least under this name. While it could have been a posset cup (a mug with two handles and a spout that one sucked the liquid through), it was more probably a mug-shaped container of indeterminate size with one handle and a pouring lip which could be used for either drinking or pouring.

Drinking vessels of glass form a readily distinguishable unit. In addition to the cups already mentioned, they included dram, wine, and "drinking" glasses, tumblers, and those listed simply as "glasses." As with the other items, a "parcel of glassware" was often listed.

Dram glasses for small amounts of liquor were mentioned in only three cases -- all among the middle classes. While wine glasses were listed only once (G. Wiggs), the more common "drinking glass" was probably also a pedestal-type glass. Tumblers, for drinking other liquids, had at one time been made of horn, but were more commonly of glass in this period. Those of Arthur Pursell were specified as being of glass. The "glasses" listed could have been of any of these types, or they could have been jelly glasses used for the decorative centerpiece known as a pyramid.

The relative costliness of glassware, and its high rate of breakage both in transport from England and in the home, may account for the absence of this commodity from the homes of the poor. The various

peculiarities of the inventories of the four richest men make them very poor guides in this, as in many other respects.

SERVING DISHES

The pewter dish was the basic serving vessel. Surviving examples are usually more than ten inches in diameter and vary in depth from the shallow plate to those over one and one-half inches.¹⁹

The variety in number of dishes owned is quite surprising, particularly since they were supposedly used only for serving food. Two men (R. Ricks and F. Williamson) had as many as eighteen dishes, and in only ten of the twenty-three inventories listing dishes was the number owned less than five. The average was more than seven. This strange situation leads to the question whether the appraisers might have used "dishes" as a general term. Another possibility, that people might have eaten out of a common dish, is somewhat invalidated by the fact that only three of the inventories listing "dishes" failed to list plates also (J. Bridger, W. Daughtry, R. Scott).

Basins, or as it was often spelled "basons," were also of pewter, though Arthur Pursell did have one of earthenware. These were round containers with narrow, ~~molded~~ rims, made in a variety of sizes, and used for puddings, stews, and other semi-liquid foods. They could be used either as a deep serving dish or as an individual plate²⁰ -- though the

¹⁹ Ibid., 26.

²⁰ Ibid.

former was probably more common. While they were not as prevalent as dishes, the relatively large number listed may indicate that basins were often used in the kitchen and for personal bathing, as well as for food service.

The two salvers in the lists belonged to members of the middle class. John Davis' was definitely of pewter and, with six pewter plates, was worth six shillings. John Wilson's was probably of pewter for, with two dishes, it was worth eleven shillings. Salvers were large platters, used mainly to serve meats. While it seems unusual that more were not listed, their rarity may be the result of the greater prevalence of trays, which were found among all classes of people. While a few trays were definitely wooden as, for example, that of Robert Ricks, the rest must have been wooden because of their low valuation, even when appraised in connection with other goods.

The bread trays of Abraham Ricks and Francis Williamson were probably small trays of wood or metal used to bring the loaf of homemade bread to the table. They could also have been used in the kitchen. It is interesting that each of these men, both members of the upper classes, had two trays, while no one else had any listed.

Since only one inventory (R. West) listed a flagon, it may be assumed that most drinks were poured from the bottles into the individual drinking vessels. The large number of bottles inventoried shows that these were common in almost every household.

Melchizedec Deshey's inventory lists one cruit and one salt. This cruit was a stoppered container for oils or vinegar. (The other

use of the label "cruit" was for a set of cruit bottles and containers for salt, sugar, and cinnamon, all matching and in a special cruit frame. The separate listing of one salt in Deshey's inventory eliminates this meaning.) While many cruit bottles were of silver and glass, more common metals also were used. Unfortunately, Deshey's cruit was not appraised, so that its composition cannot be ascertained.

Deshey's "salt" was probably a rather tall metal one, its top pierced with holes arranged in an ornate design, originally part of a cruit set. The other salts or saltcellars listed, of which there were only eleven in seven different estates, could have been of this type, or bowls, or bowls on pedestals. Only five were identified by material, one of pewter and four of glass.

The mustard pots belonging to Jacob Darden and William Daughtry could have been of any of a variety of shapes and materials. Since both pots were lumped with other goods in the appraisal, it is difficult to arrive at any idea of their value and, hence, whether they were brought to the table. The fact that both men owned saltcellars suggests that the mustard pots were parts of cruit sets.

Punch bowls of ceramic, glass, pewter, or silver, were surprisingly common. Fourteen were listed, belonging to three upper-middle, four lower-middle, and two poor estates. The appraisers usually grouped them with other goods so that it is difficult to arrive at any estimation of their value. The overall price range of from 1/8 to fifteen shillings precludes the presence of any of silver or china. At this time punch bowls did not come with matching cups, though five owners of punch bowls

also had assorted earthenware, stoneware, or glassware parcels that could have included cups.

Pitchers were fairly uncommon. Besides Robert West's earthenware one and William Daughtry's two stoneware ones, only four were listed, belonging also to middle-class people.

Three inventories (Dr. Willis, G. Wiggs, and "Mr." J. Summerrell) listed tea sets, tea ware, or "tea tackle." If these were the usual tea sets, made of ceramic, silver, or some other metal, they consisted of a teapot, slop bowl for the tea leaves, cream and sugar containers, tea canister, tongs, teaspoons, cups, and saucers.²¹ While one cannot be sure that each of these sets contained all these items, the Willis' appraisal mentions six tea spoons, tongs, and a sugar box, in addition to the "Parcell of Tea ware." The Summerrell appraisal lists a tea kettle plus the "tea tackle." The value of the tea ware precludes items of silver. Willis' ware was appraised at 7/6, Summerrell's table and tackle at £1.

Both the Willis and Summerrell inventories list special tea tables. They were four-legged rectangles, Pembroke tables, or the especially popular tripod whose circular, scallop-edged top could be tilted or removed for storage.²² The tea things could be placed directly on this table or on any ordinary table. Tea trays in a variety of shapes,

²¹Rodris Roth, *Tea Drinking in 18th Century America; Its Etiquette and Equipage* (Washington, 1961), 79, 74.

²²Ibid., 74-76.

sizes, and degrees of ornateness were used to bring the tea set to the table.²³ While no tea trays were specifically mentioned, the trays listed could have been used for this purpose.

TABLE SETTINGS

While the inventories and wills reveal much about what dining furnishings and equipage the Isle of Wight residents had, they do not indicate how these items appeared on the table. If one wishes to know about this aspect of dining, one must turn to other sources of information.

The many illustrations of the placement of serving dishes, found in books of advice to homemakers, have been mentioned previously. Yet what of individual place settings? How did Mrs. John Summerrell, for example, set her table for a special dinner?

This question is much harder to answer than that of serving dish placement. In fact, it cannot be answered, for sources of information are lacking. The only source, Robert Roberts' House Servant's Directory, is seventy years and six hundred miles away from Isle of Wight county in the mid-eighteenth century.

Roberts presents another problem also. His prose is complex, and reflects a confidence that the reader will have seen a table set in what Roberts would consider the correct form. Yet his information is as close as one can get to an eighteenth-century Isle of Wight table setting.

Roberts suggests that, for a dinner for ten, there should be

²³Ibid., 78-79.

four place settings on each side of the table and one at each end. The knife and fork would be placed to the right and left of the plate respectively, with the handle-ends at the table-edge. A spoon was added to each plate setting -- probably in the English tradition, above the plate. The water tumbler should be to the right of the plate, three inches from the edge of the table. While Roberts did not say to which side of the tumbler the wine glass was to be placed, its foot should just touch the tumbler. The napkins were to be folded "so as to admit the bread into them, without being seen," but he did not indicate where these napkins should be placed.

The table would be finished off with a dinner knife and fork "at each side of the table, opposite the centre, for carving with," six salts with spoons, a salad bowl on a silver waiter, and a wine decanter at each corner. All this would, of course, be in addition to the serving dishes, for which he also suggests placements. Also "you should have plenty of plates, knives and forks, spoons, glasses of both kinds, and every thing else that is necessary for your dinner; as it is much better to have in the room more things than are wanted, of every description, than not to have enough; as this causes great confusion."²⁴

Of course, Roberts is writing for far more elegant tables than the Isle of Wight inventories suggest. Yet one can see that, with a few substitutions and omissions, the Virginia housewife could imitate Roberts'

²⁴ Robert Roberts, The House Servant's Directory . . . (Boston, 1827), 46-48, 120-121.

table. Roberts' information may not be accurate for Isle of Wight, but it does aid the imagination in putting the equipage in its proper setting, and gives some idea of what any eighteenth-century housewife strove to do.

CHAPTER III

DINING CUSTOMS: TESTIMONY TO A WAY OF LIFE

Isle of Wight County was a relatively isolated part of Virginia. Yet its isolation does not mean that a study of dining furnishings and equipage used there has no broader relevance. Rather, when similar studies for other areas are also consulted, the Isle of Wight material helps point up similarities and differences among these regions and provides some basis for generalizations from the materials presented.

One such study of another area is Francis W. Steer's Farm and Cottage Inventories of Mid-Essex, 1635-1749. Steer presented transcriptions of inventories registered from one parish in Essex, England, and introduced them with a discussion by category of the kinds of items found in the inventories. Like Isle of Wight in Virginia, mid-Essex in England is a limited geographic area where agriculture predominated, and most of the people were of limited economic means. But life in Essex represents an old culture with roots deep in medieval conditions, while Isle of Wight in the mid-eighteenth century had been settled less than one hundred and fifty years. Steer's findings, therefore, reflect the continued use of items handed down over many generations, while most of the Isle of Wight equipage was of necessity of relatively recent vintage. Though Steer's inclusion of all their possessions provides for a broader base of study of these people, he was not interested in investigating any

series of items in depth.

Despite these differences, a comparison of Steer's conclusions with those arising from the Isle of Wight records may produce some interesting and valuable results. Also, after studying the Isle of Wight materials it is possible to come to some conclusions on mid-Essex that Steer did not make.

Steer pointed out that the family often ate their meals in the kitchen, rather than the dining room or hall, as it was then called.¹ The same custom may have been common in many Isle of Wight homes, especially the smaller ones with only two rooms -- a kitchen and combination living and sleeping room -- and a loft. No doubt many of the larger homes lacked the detached kitchen so familiar to visitors to Williamsburg and the great plantations. In these middle-sized homes, the kitchen was probably used for informal or family meals, and the hall reserved for special occasions and for entertaining guests. Steer could predicate with some accuracy what room the people ate in, for most of the Essex inventories were recorded by room, while the Isle of Wight records give no differentiation of this kind.

Steer found the long rectangular table the most common type in seventeenth-century Essex and asserted that oval tables were a later development, never as common as the rectangular.² This condition is in sharp contrast to Isle of Wight, where ovals were the most common form

¹Steer, Farm and Cottage Inventories, 28.

²Ibid., 12, and see Index: table, oval, 297.

and only one long table was mentioned. The apparent preponderance of oval tables may result from the fact that the rectangular table was so common that appraisers felt there was no need to describe it and listed it merely as a "table." Or, a change in fashion might be implied if the Essex tables reflected the passing down of furniture through several generations, so that an "old-fashioned" style was still in common use.

Steer failed to comment on the wood used, other than that one mahogany table was listed, and that most were probably of oak or elm.³ A wider variety of woods are mentioned in the Virginia inventories, but neither oak nor elm tables are identified among those found in Isle of Wight. The differences in woods probably reflect the use of local materials by regional craftsmen in both Essex and Isle of Wight.

Steer's concentration on the seventeenth century often makes it difficult to determine whether his statements are applicable to the eighteenth and, therefore, comparable for Isle of Wight. Such a problem exists in regard to chairs. Steer emphasized only the scarcity and uncomfortableness of chairs in the seventeenth century, and the prevalence of stools, forms, and benches.⁴ In Isle of Wight, on the other hand, chairs were common in most homes and other kinds of seating were quite rare. If eighteenth-century Essex inventories were consulted, they might reveal a similar adoption of chairs.

One similarity is the rarity of cloth-upholstered chairs. Steer

³Ibid., 11-12.

⁴Ibid., 13-14.

commented on this scarcity,⁵ and it is also evident from the Isle of Wight inventories. Perhaps cloth was not popular because it lacked the durability of leather or wood. Or, in a period when many rural dwellers wove most of their own cloth, upholstery fabrics may have been too difficult to make and too costly to buy.

Steer observed that "From the frequent mention of table- or board-cloths, it would appear that meals were rarely served on an uncovered table; napkins were also used to a large extent -- certainly by people other than the poorest -- to wipe greasy fingers during the meal."⁶ This conclusion is definitely at variance with the inference reached from the Isle of Wight inventories that, while the upper classes owned table linen, even they rarely had enough for daily use. Perhaps the apparent difference in custom may be explained by a change in table manners brought about by more general acceptance of a new table implement, the fork, which "made eating a performance from which a fairly careful feeder might retire with clean hands."⁷ The common use of napkins in Essex, combined with the scarcity of forks, is balanced in Isle of Wight with the reverse proportion, demonstrating the change in fashion.⁸ Yet, the spoon

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid., 28-29.

⁷Charles Cooper, The English Table in History and Literature (London, n.d.), 13.

⁸Steer found only three listings of forks. Steer, Farm and Cottage Inventories, 28.

remained the primary eating tool in eighteenth-century Virginia.

While Steer found pewter the most common metal for dining table vessels,⁹ at the same time he stated that wooden trenchers were quite common.¹⁰ In Isle of Wight, wooden vessels were much less frequently mentioned, probably reflecting the later period studied rather than a more sophisticated level of dining.

Steer did not attempt to speculate about trends or patterns in dining equipment or, indeed, in any other area. His main concern was to make the inventories available for other researchers, rather than to draw conclusions of his own. Of course, the immense amount of material with which he had to deal would have made the task of searching for patterns very difficult, especially since the compilation of the book was a "spare-time activity."¹¹

While no pattern can be seen throughout the Isle of Wight materials on dining furnishings and equipage, some tendencies within economic groupings on certain classes of items were found and pointed out in the discussion of these items. Yet the lack of broad trends does not make the study without value, for many facets of eighteenth-century life do become far clearer. First, it helps bring alive the fact that Virginia was not exclusively a land of wealthy planters and their slaves, but

⁹Ibid., 64.

¹⁰Ibid., 28.

¹¹Ibid., see Note opposite 1.

rather of people of more modest standards, as well as some living in poverty. It also points up the folly of trying to judge the past by modern standards.

On a broader scale, one comes to appreciate these people as living in their own way in their own time, instead of seeing them as quaint figures out of the past. Generally, the residents of Isle of Wight come to be seen in the tradition of agrarian societies where most people were ordinary, obscure, isolated from any significant amount of intellectual stimulation or economic prosperity, living to themselves with only a few neighbors for friendship, farming their lands and guiding the work of their families and slaves. Because they were in America, they were not as close to medieval habits and attitudes as their counterparts in mid-Essex. On the other hand, the possessions of the people of Isle of Wight show that they bore a closer identity to the self-sufficiency of the medieval village than to the interdependence of today's megalopolis.

APPENDIX A
FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPAGE FOR DINING
FOUND IN
SELECTED INVENTORIES, APPRAISALS, AND WILLS
ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY RECORDS

ESTATE OF THOMAS ATKINSON

I

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 525-527

Appraisal: E64.10.6
ordered: 22 October, 1744
returned: 28 January, 1744/5

To one Stock Lock, one Hour Glass, one Sive, 1 Tobacco Box, one Knife & Fork, Leather Shaver, one Gimblet 2.6; To one Dozen of New Plates 16.0; To one Tankard, One Bason, 12 Spoons 8.0; To Seven Glass Cups 5.0; To two Bottles 7 Vials 2 half pint Bottles, 2 Cups 2.0.

ESTATE OF RICHARD BLOW

II

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 37-38

Appraisal: E302.13.5 1/2
taken: 31 December, 1746
returned: 9 October, 1746

To a parcel of old Lumber 7.6; To a parcel of Pewter E1.18.0; To a peel of Knives & Forks 3.4; To a pcel of Earthen Ware 15.0; To a table & Desk E5.15.0; To a parcel of Linnen E2.11.9 1/2; To 1 Chest & Table 6.0; To a parcel of Chairs 14.0; To 1 Table and Chest 5.6.

ESTATE OF JOHN BRADSHAW

III

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 9-10

Appraisal: E25.14.4
Ordered 27 January, 1745/6
returned: 24 February, 1745/6

To 46 1/2 pounds of Pewter E2.17.6; To one Dozen of Plates 12.0; To three Tankards and one Candlestick 10.0; To fifteen Pound of old Pawter 7.6; To a parcell of Earthen Ware 7.0; To seven Juggs 10.0; To one Pewter Pott; and one old Trunk 2.0; To one Table 2.6.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM BREWER

IV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p.220

Appraisal: E20.9.9
ordered: 5 October, 1749
returned: 7 December, 1749

To a Parcell of old Pewter 8.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 216-217

Will
dated: 24 February, 1748/9
presented: 5 October, 1749

ESTATE OF JOSEPH BRIDGER

V

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 449-451

Appraisal: E108.14.5 1/2
ordered: 4 June, 1752
returned: 6 August, 1752

To 9 old Chairs 10.9; To 1 old Table 1 Candlestick and 2 pr of Cards 3.0; To a Parcell of Earthenware 12.0; To 1 Oval Walnut Table 12.6; 1 Ditto 8.4; to 1 Square Table 5.0; To 76 lb @1/p lb E3.16.0; to a parcell of Earthen ware 7.4; To a parcel of wooden ware 11.0; 1 Pewter Dish 2.6; to 1 Quart Mugg 1.3; To 1/2 Ounce of old Silver 2.6.

ESTATE OF JOHN CHESNUTT

VI

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 268-269

Appraisal: E29.11.8 1/2
ordered: 5 July, 1750
returned: 6 September, 1750

To 1 Black walnut Table 15.0; To 1 Gilt Trunk and one old Table 8.0; To 4 old Wing Chairs 4.0; To 1 Pine Chest and 1 old Table 7.6; To a Parcel Earthen Ware 5.0; To a Parcel Earthen Ware 5.0; To a Parcel of Wooden ware 2.0; To 5 Pewter Dishes 4 Plates and 1 Bason & 5 Spoons E1.7.0; To 1 Case of Knives & Forks Parcel of Earthen Ware 5.0.

ESTATE OF JOHN CLEMENTS

VII

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 515-516

Appraisal: E69.19.4
taken: 29 October, 1743
returned: 22 October, 1744

To 6 pound of Lead 1.6; To a parcell of Pewter E1.19.0; To 1 Mug & Vial 1.0; To 5 Knives & Forks 1.8.

ESTATE OF EDWARD COBB

VIII

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
p. 458

Inventory
returned: 20 March, 1743

one Dozen Chairs; To one stone Mugg and a Cup; To 2 Stone Bottles and 2 Pottle Bottles; pr of fleims [?] a Glass and a Funel; To 9 pounds of pewter; To 2 Dozn Spoons; a old dish; To 2 pewter plates; some Earthen Ware; To a psel of trifles; a Ball and a Dish; To a parcel of Wooden Ware.

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 428-430

Will
dated: 22 August, 1742
presented: 27 September, 1742

ESTATE OF JACOB DARDEN

IX

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 264-266

Appraisal: E 77.10.9 1/2
ordered: 5 July, 1750
returned: 6 September, 1750

To 2 Stone Juggs and 1 large Bottle 6.0; To 4 old Leather Chairs and 6 flag'd Ditto 8.0; To 1 Small Table 2.0; To 1 large Square Table 7.6; To 2 Punch Bowls, & Parcel Earthen Ware 2.0; To 2 Glass Saltsellers .4; To parcel old Linnen Cloths and Table Linnen 5.0; To 1 Stone Butter pott 1 Meal Bag 1 old Mugg 1.9; To Parcel of Wooden Ware 3.0; To 4 Pewter Dishes 9.0; To 6 small Basons 6.0; To 2 Forringers of Pewter 2.0; To 1 Dozn Pewter Plates 12.0; To 2 Dozn & 4 Pewter Spoons 2.4; To old Pewter Tankard and 1 Mustard Pot & 2 Spoons .6; To 1 Pottle Pott 1 Quart Pott and 1/2 Pint Ditto 5.0; To 1 Parcel of old Knives and Forks Iron Candlastick 1.3; To 3 Large Pewter Basons 6.0.

ESTATE OF JOHN DAUGHTRY

X

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 237-238

Inventory
taken: 27 February, 1749/50
returned: 1 March, 1749/50

7 Stone Juggs; 2 Pitchers; a Parcel of earthen Ware; 2 Diaper Table Cloaths and Napkins; 1 linnen one; 1 Oval Table; 2 Square Ditto; a Parcel of Chairs; 16 Pewter Dishes; a Parcel of old Ditto; 10 Basons; 24 Plates; a Parcel of wooden Lumber; 2 Drinking Glasses; 1 Case of Knives and Forks.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 213

Will
dated: 28 April, 1742
presented: 5 October, 1749

ESTATE OF WILLIAM DAUGHTRY

XI

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 445-446

Inventory
returned: 2 July, 1752

To ten Plates; To eight Dishes; To four Porringers; To six Basons;
To twenty three Spoons; To one Tankard; To one pewter beaker; To one
Pewter Saltcellar; To two Stone Pitchers; To two Stone Drinking Juggs; To
three quart muggs; To one Pint mugg; To one small Cup; To two Funch Bowls;
To two Drinking Glasses; To six Chairs; To one Pepper Box and one pewter
Dish

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 455-456

Appraisal : E13.18.4 1/2 [?]
ordered: 2 July, 1752
taken: 18 July, 1752
returned: 6 August, 1752

To 9 Plates 7.6; To 4 Porringers 4.0; To 23 Spoons 2.9; To 4
Basons 6.0; To 7 Dishes E1.2.8; To one Parcell of old Pewter and a Sault
Collar 7.1 1/2; To 2 Funch Bowls & a Cream Pott 5.6; To one Tankard and a
beaker & a Mustard Pott E4.0.0; To 2 Stone Pitchers E4.0.0; to one Pacell
of Stone Cups 5.6; To 5 Stone Juggs & a Earthen Pott 6.0; To 3 Rundlets and
6 Chairs and two drinking glasses 12.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 436

Will
dated: 24 December, 1751
presented: 2 July, 1752

to son John Daughtry Senr: 1 Pewter dish; a Bason; 2 Plates;
round table.

to daughter Priscilla Hodgpath: 1 Pewter dish; a Bason; 2 Plates.

to daughter Mary Holland: 1 pewter dish; 1 bason; 2 plates.

to daughter Elizabeth Parker: 2 plates; 2 porringers.

to grandson John Daughtry Junr: one of the Best of my Pewter
Tankards; 1 dish; 1 bason; 2 Plates., 1 cupboard.

ESTATE OF JOHN DAVIS

XII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 284-285

Appraisal : E284.18.7 1/2
ordered: 6 September, 1750
returned: 6 December, 1750

2 Felling Tables E2.0.0; parcel of Earthen & Glass ware E1.1.7 1/2
5 Leather Chairs 15.0; 5 Flagg Ditto E1.10.0; 4 Cain Chairs 12.0; 4 Flag
Chairs 2.0; 3 Supe Dishes 13.0; 29 lb of old Pewter 14.6; Parcel of Ditto
20.0; 1/2 Dozn of Pewter Plates & Pewter Salver 6.0; 5 Pewter Basons 5.6;
Knives & Forks 6.0; 1/2 Dozn Spoons 1.8; Parcel of Wooden Ware 13.6;
2 Table Cloths and 3 Napkins 13.0; old silver 16.0.

ESTATE OF JOHN DESHEY

XIII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-52
p. 126

Inventory
taken: 1 August, 1748
returned: 11 August, 1748

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 174-176

Appraisal: E313.0.2
ordered: 9 June, 1748
returned: 13 April, 1749

A lot of Pewter wt 39 lb E2.0.0; A Lot of old Pewter 9.0; A Lot of Pewter Wt 13 13.0; 1 Dozen of Chairs, and an old Table 9.0; 2 Table Cloaths, 14 Napkins, & a Towell E1.5.0; 2 old Tankards 2.6; A Table and two Cloaths, a Graiter & 5 Case Knives & Forks 6.0; a Parcel of wooden Ware, 9 Pieces at 7/6 7.6; 2 Trays & other Lumber 4.0; 2 Punch Bowls 2.6.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 114-115

Will
dated: 24 October, 1747
presented: 9 June, 1748

to cousin James Wrenn; a large Square pine Table.
to cousin Joseph Wrenn: half a dozen Dishes; half a dozen plates.

ESTATE OF MARY DESHEY

XIV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 204

Appraisal: E67.14.0
ordered: 9 March, 1748/9
returned: 3 August, 1749

1/2 Dozen Plates 8.0; 29 lb of Pewter E1.9.0; 6 Chairs 7.6.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 162-163

Will
dated: 20 October, 1748
presented: 9 March, 1748/9

to cousins James Jordan and Joseph Jordan: 6 flag chears; half a Dozn Dishes & Plates; 2 chests.
to cousin James Wrenn: 1 Diapr Table Cloath, & six Diapr Napkins.

ESTATE OF MELCHIZEDEC DESHEY

XVI

IWCR #5, W&I, 1745-1752
pp. 125-126

Inventory
taken: 11 August, 1748
returned: 11 August, 1748

Two Tables; To one Dozn flagg Chairs; To seventeen Dishes; one Dozen and half of Plates; To two Dozen of pewter Spoons; To two Punch Bowls; four Stone Muggs; two Pitchers; To two Earthen Potts; two Drinking Glasses; one Cruit; one Salt; To two Trays; To two pewter Tankards, two Forringers & three Bascons; To two Diaper Table Cloths & Fourteen Napkins.

ESTATE OF ROBERT DRIVER

XVI

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 132-135

Appraisal: E618.0.6
ordered: 12 May, 1748
returned: 11 August, 1748

1 oval Table 12.6; 1 small Do 10.0; 6 Leather Chars E1.10.0;
parcel of old Flagg'd Chair 2.0; 12 1/2 lb of old Pewter @12d 12.6; 17 1/2
lb of Pewter E1.3.4.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 103-104

Will
dated: 1 March, 1747
presented: 12 May, 1748

to son Robert Driver: 2 walnut oval tables.

ESTATE OF JOHN EDWARDS

XVII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 304-306

Appraisal: E112.9.2
ordered: 11 August, 1748
returned: 7 March, 1750/1

To a Parcel of old Pewter and some Wool 5.5; To Sundry old Books and other Lumber E2.0.0; To a Parcel of Iron & 1 Parcel of old Pewter E1.6.0; To 1 Pewter Bottle 2.0;

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 121

Will
dated: 27 April, 1748
presented: 11 August, 1748

to wife Ann Edwards: "all the Money and Goods which she has already carried away from me & Disposed of".

ESTATE OF JOHN FULGHAM

XVIII

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 531-532

Appraisal ~~£59.15.0~~
ordered: 28 January, 1744/5
taken: 16 February, 1744/5
returned: 25 February, 1744/5

bed, chest of Drawes & Cabinet E5.15.0.

ESTATE OF JAMES GARNER

XIX

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 159-161

Appraisal
ordered: 9 February 1748/9
returned: 9 March, 1748/9

To 13 3/4 lb of Pewter at 1/ 13.9; To 12 plates at 1/ 12.0;
To 2 Basons at 9/9.0; To 3 old Basons 9.0; To 6 Pound and half Pound of
old Pewter 3.0; To a Parcel old Plates 10 Bottles 1 Candlestick 2 earthen
pens 1 old Tray 1 Bell 2 Jugs all at 7.6; To a Parcel of old Wood and
earthen Ware 5.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 144-145

Will
dated: 22 July, 1748
presented: 12 January, 1748/9

to daughter Olive Garner: 2 new dishes.
to son Joseph: 1 new dish; 2 new Basons.
to son Jesse: 2 new Dishes.

ESTATE OF RALPH GIBBS

XX

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 29-31

Appraisal ~~£67.11.11~~
ordered: 28 April, 1746
returned: 4 August, 1746

To one Oval Table 1 Small Ditto E1.5.0; To a psell of Earthen
Ware 15.0; To a parsell of Stone Ware 14.0; To a Case of Knives and Forks
4.6; To a parsell of Glass Ware, 11 Glass Bottles 4.6; To 1 Small Gun,
6 old Chairs 11.0; To a parsell of old Table Linnen 1.0; To 12 plates 10.0;
To a parsell of New Pewter weighing 14 lb at 1/ p lb 14.0; To -----
[illegible] pounds of old Do at 8. pr lb 5.8; To 6 Basons 12.6; To 1 pint
Pott, 2 porringers and Pepper Box 3.6; To a parsell of Spoons, and Wooden
Ware 13.0.

ESTATE OF SARAH HOLLOWELL

XXI

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 109-110

Inventory
returned: 9 June, 1748

nine chairs; one Square Table; four pieces of Stone Ware; three Earthen Cups; one old Case of Knives & Forks; three Table Cloths; seven pewter Dishes; four pewter Basons; six pewter plates; one pewter Cup; two earthen Porringers; one Dozen of pewter Spoons; three Napkins; two Dram Glasses; three Trays; two Earthen plates.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 102

Will
dated: 16 February, 1745
presented: 14 April, 1748

ESTATE OF JAMES HOUSE

XXII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 179

Appraisal: E42.14.5
taken: 27 June, 1752
returned: 2 July, 1752

To 12 lb New pewter @1/ To 4 Plates @1/ 16.0; To 2 1/2 lb of old Pewter @6d 1.3; To 14 lb Iron and 4 Chairs 4.6; To 1 Barrell and one old Table 9.0; To 1 harrow Brake and 1 old Table 2.8; To 1 Meal Sifter and Parcell of old earthen ware .6; To 1 Dram Glass .4.

ESTATE OF JAMES JOHNSON

XXIII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 75

Inventory
returned: 9 July, 1747

4 good pewter Basons; 4 old pewter Basons; 3 good pewter Dishes; 4 good pewter plates; 8 3/4 lb old pewter; 1 pewter pint Tankard; 1 pewter Mustard pott; 1 Quart pewter Pott; 1 Dram Glass; 1 Bowl.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 68 [67] -69

Will
dated: 13 January 1745/6
presented: 11 June, 1747

to son Richard Johnson: 2 pewter Basons.
to son Samuel Johnson: 1 pewter dish; 1 pewter plate.
to wife Mary Johnson: 4 Basons; 1 Pewter Dish; 1 Pewter Plate;
1 Pewter Porringer.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM JOHNSON

XXIV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 7-8

Appraisal: E24.19.1
taken: 14 January, 1745/6
returned: 27 January, 1745/6

To a parcell of Stone and Earthen Ware and two Glasses E1.5.0;
To 12 1/4 Pewter 13/4 and 6 Do of old Pewter and a Parcell of Spoons
5/6 18.10; To 1 half Pint Pott and a Parsell of Tinn 2.9; To one Punch
Bowl 1.8; To a Parsell of Wooden Ware 5.3; To a parcell of old Lumber 13.0.

ESTATE OF JOHN JOLLY

XXV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 262-263

Appraisal: E20.17.6 1/2
ordered: 7 June, 1750
returned: 6 September, 1750

To 28 lb Pewter @1/6 E2.2.0; To 19 lb Ditto @1/3 E1.3.9; To
14 lb of old Pewter @9d 10.6; To 1 Dozn of old Pewter Spoons 1.6; To
1 Dozn of old Pewter Ditto 1.0; To 1 old Pewter Pint Pot .7 1/2; To a
Piece of old earthen Ware 2.6; To 3 old Knives, 2 old Razors, pair of
Shoebuckles & Knee 2.0; To a pl of old Cyder Cask and a Parcel of Wooden
Ware 2.0; To 2 old Tables 2.0; To 1 old Tray, 1 Sifter, Parcel of old
Books 2.0.

ESTATE OF JOSHUA JORDAN

XXVI

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 469-470

Appraisal: E99.1.9
ordered: 23 May, 1743
taken: 3 June, 1743
returned: 27 June, 1743

To ----- [illegible] Forianger 12.0; To 1 Table 8.0; To 1
Spining Wheel & 8 Chairs 17.0; To 4 old Chairs 4.0; To a psal of Earthenware
4.0; To 1 Sugar Box, 1 Small Trunk, 1 Punch Bowl, 1 pepper mill 5.0; To
3 Jugs & 3 Mugs 4.6.; To a psall of Glasses 1.6; To 1 long Table & form
5.0; To 32 lb of Pewter @8d E1.1.4; To 6 lb of Do @12d 6.0; To 15 lb of
old Do @6d 7.6; To 1 Dozn of Plates 15.0; To 1 1/2 Dozn of Spoons 2.3; To
a psall of Wooden ware 5.0; To 1/2 a Dozn Case Knives & forks 5.0; To
2 Table Cloths & 2 Napk 12.0.

ESTATE OF ROBERT LAWRENCE

XXVII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p.1

Inventory
returned: 28 October, 1745

To Six leather chairs; to 1 large walnut table; to one small cedar table; to Six Pewter Dishes; to five Pewter Basons & Eighteen Plates and a Parcell of Spoons; some Wooden Ware; a Parcell Earthen Ware; two Pewter Tankards; two Porringers.

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 522-523

Will
dated: 1 November, 1743
presented: 28 January, 1744

to son George: two Leather Chairs; one Black Walnut Table.
to son Charles: four Leather Chairs; 1 small Cedar Table.
to daughter Sarah: two pewter Dishes one large & one small; six Pewter Spoons.
to daughter Priscilla: two pewter Basons one large & one small; six Pewter Spoons.

ESTATE OF CALEB MACKOY

XXVIII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 374-376

Appraisal: E35.14.7
ordered: 1 August, 1751
returned: 4 October, 1751

To 1 Table and small Chest 4.3; To a Parcel of Wooden Ware 10.0; To 5 old Chairs .6; To 43 lb Pewter at 1/3 E2.16.3; To 1 Drinking Glass and Mugg 1.6.

ESTATE OF ALICE MILLER

XXIX

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 332-333

Appraisal: E46.0.1
returned: 4 April, 1751

To 24 lb Pewter E1.4.0; To 1 Dozen of Spoons 1.6; To 6 Plates one Bason 13.0; To 1 old Table 3.0; To 1 Tankard 3.0; To a small Parcel of Tin and other Trifles 4.0; To a Parcel of stone Ware 9.0; To 4 Chairs 2.6; To a parcel of Lumber E1.7.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 312

Will
dated: 16 January, 1750
presented: 7 March, 1750/1

ESTATE OF NICHOLAS MILLER

XXX

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 233-235

Appraisal, E281.17.9
ordered: 4 January, 1749
returned: 1 March, 1749

To 1 Table and Cloath 16.0; To 7 old Chaires 6.0; To 1 Pine Table & Cloath 5.0; To a Parcel of Stone ware 15.0; To 2 Earthen Plates, 1 Sauser 1 Pipkin, 1 Porringer and small Mugg 2.6; To a Parcel of Pewter E3.0.0; To a Parcel of old Pewter 15.0; To 12 Plates 7.6; 8 Porringers 8.0; 7 Plates 10.0; To 2 Dozn & 4 Spoons 3.6; To 1 Fettle Tankard 3.0; 1 old Ditto .10; To 9 Knives and Forks 2 Flesh forks 7.6.

ESTATE OF WALTER MORGAN

XXXI

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 12-13

Appraisal, E36.13.2
returned: 24 March, 1745

To a parsell of old Wooden Ware 2.0; To 10 old plates, and a old porringer & old Bason 10.0; To 10 new plates 12.6; To 20 new Spoons 2.0; To 35 lb of old pewter 1/ p lb E1.15.0; To 1 Punch Bowl, two Salts, and one Glass 4.0; To a parcell of old Wooden Lumber 9.0; To three old Chaires 1.0.

ESTATE OF JOHN MORLAND

XXXII

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 459-461

Appraisal : E243.12.4 1/2
ordered: 25 October 1742
returned: 25 April, 1743

a parcell of Earthen & Stone Ware 7.6; 79 lb pewter @1/ E3.19.6; 1 falling Table E1.5.0; 1 falling Table E1.0.0; 1 Do old 6.0; 1 Square Table 15.0; 3 Leather Chaires 9.0; 5 flagg Do 6.3; 1 Table Cloath & 6 Napkins 8.0; a parcel of Glass and Earthen ware 5.0; 2 Juggs 4.0; 1 Tankard 1.3; 4 lb pewter 4.0; 1 Table Cloth 1.0; Some old knives & forks 1.0.

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH NEAVILL

XXXIII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 87

Inventory
returned: 12 November, 1747

3 Pewter Dishes; 3 Pewter Plates; 12 Dozn Spoons; 1 Pewter Bason;
1 Pewter Tankard; 5 pieces of Earthen Ware; To 3 pieces of Leather & 5
flagg'd Chairs; To one small Table and Cutting Knife; 2 pieces of Wooden
Ware; 1 table Cloth & Napkin; 1 Drinking Glass; 3 Knives and Forks.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 79-81

Will
dated: 21 September, 1747
presented: 8 October, 1747

to grand-daughter Mary Sikes: one of the largest pewter Dishes.
to grand-daughter Mary Murphry: 1 pewter plate.
to grand-daughter Sarah Murphry: 1 pewter plate.
to grand-daughter Elinor Evaritt: 1 pewter plate.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM PAGE

XXXIV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 118-119

Appraisal: E38.14.5
taken: 27 March, 1747
returned: 9 June, 1748

3 Trays, 1 Tobo Box 3.0; 1 Stone Jugg, 2 pt Muggs 3.3; A Parcel
of old pewter 6.0; A Parcel of New Do E2.9.2; 2 pewter porringers 3.0;
1 Do Tankard 2.6; 11 Plates E1.0.0; 14 Spoons 3.4; 3 Knives & 2 Forks 1.0;
a pcel of Tables & Stools 4.0; 1 old chair &c 1.6.

ESTATE OF GEORGE PARKER

XXXV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 81-82

Appraisal: E39.15.2
ordered: 13 August, 1747
returned: 12 November, 1747

1 Oval Table 15.0; To a parcel of small Ware 3.2; 1 Chest & 2
Chairs 5.0; 6 old Chairs & 1 old Table 4.0; 15 pounds of old pewter 6.3;
36 lb of Good Pewter E1.10.0; 20 pounds of old pewter 8.4; 1 Coffee Pott,
1 Tin Cullender 1.6; 1 Safe, & old Earthen pott 3.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 76

Will
dated: 15 May, 1747
presented: 13 August, 1747

ESTATE OF WILLIAM PARKER

XXXVI

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 504-505

Appraisal E102.2.5 1/2
ordered: 23 April, 1744
returned: 24 August, 1744

To 42 lb of old pewter at 6d E1.1.0; To 19 lb Do at 9d 14.3;
To eleven pewter Spoons .9; To 6 flag Chairs and Small Table 8.0; To 3
pottle Bottles & 10 Quart Do 5.0; To a pcel of Earthen Tin Bucket & Razor
Strop 12.0; To a parcel of Wooden Ware & old Iron 8.6.

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 490-491

Will
dated: 23 May, 1743
presented: 23 April, 1744

ESTATE OF JAMES PEDIN

XXXVII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 218-220

Appraisal: E291.5.0
ordered: 3 August, 1749
returned: 7 December, 1749

To 1 Oval Walnut Table E1.15.0; To 1 Ditto 15.0; To 1 Dozn leather
Chears E3.12.0; To 5 old Chears 6.0; To a Parcell of Glasses 6.0; To 32 lb
Pewter @ 1/3 p lb E1.19.11; To 1 Dozn Pewter Plates 15.0; To 1 Dozn Ditto
15.0; To 1 Dozn Silver Spoons E3.12.0; To 1 Dozn Pewter Spoons 5.0; To
1 large damask Table Cloath 18.0; To 3 Knives and Forks 2.6; To a Parcell
of earthen Ware 5.6; To 9 pounds old Pewter 4.6; To 9 pound good Pewter
12.6.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 198-199

Will
dated: 15 April, 1746
presented: 3 August, 1749

to wife Mary: 2 puter Dishes; 6 Flaits; 4 Flag Chairs; 6 table
knives.
to daughter Ann: 6 Leather Chairs; 3 silver Spoons; little oval
Table.
to daughter Mary: large Oval Table; 6 leather Chairs; 3 silver
Spoons.

ESTATE OF JEREMIAH PROCTER

XXXVIII

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
p. 519

Appraisal: E14.9.9
ordered: 25 June, [1744]
taken: 21 July, 1744
returned: 26 November, 1744

five Chairs 5.0; One Pottle Mugg 1.6; twenty one pounds of old
pewter 14.0; one old Table 1.0.

ESTATE OF ARTHUR PURSELL

XXXIX

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 15-16

Inventory
returned: 28 April, 1746

8 Jugs; 2 Mugs; 1 Earthen Porringer; 2 Tankards; 6 pewter Dishes; 6 Basons; 5 Plates; 15 Pewter Spoons; 1 Salt seller; 1 Earthen Bason; 4 Bowls; 4 Tables; 8 Chairs; 3 Benches; 6 Stools; 1 Case of Knives & Forks; a parsell old Knives & Forks; 2 Sugar Boxes; 8 Earthen plates; 2 Glass Tumblers; 2 Dram Glasses; 1 Tea pott.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 3-4

Will
dated: 10 July, 1745
presented: 28 October, 1745

ESTATE OF ABRAHAM RICKS

XL

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 32-36

Appraisal: E786.12.5
ordered: 10 July, 1746
returned: 9 October, 1746

To 2 Razors, 2 Knives & Forks 3.0; To 80 lb of Pewter at 1/6 E6.0.0; To 18 pewter Spoons 3.0; To 18 1/2 lb of Hollow pewter @2/ E1.17.0; To 46 lb of old Pewter @1/E2.6.0; To a parcel of Earthen Ware 6.6; To 2 old Tables 1 Forme 12.0; 8 Case Knives & 13 Forks 8/; To 1 oval Table, 1 Hatt Brush, 1 sand Box 12.6; To 1 Oval Table 15.0; To a parcel of Earthen Plates and Bowls 5.0; To 1 old Square Table 5.0; To 9 Drinking Glasses and 1 Salt Seller 5.6; To 6 old Leather Chairs at 4/ E1.4.0; To 4 Do at 3/ 12.0; To 6 bret flagg Do at 2/6 15.0; To 7 Ditto @1/3 8.9; To 4 Ditto @1/ 4.0; To 5 Ditto @2/ 10.0; To 6 Ditto Broken @4d 2.0; To 1 Fire Tongs 1 Bread Tray & Sundry Trifles 5.0; To 1 old Table, 1 Barrell 1 Bread Tray, 1 Search 3.6; To 1 Diaper Table Cloth E1.0.0; To 2 Ditto old Do 5.0; To 2 Towells, 1 Pillowber 1 old Table Cloth 5.0; To 2 Brown Linnen Table Cloths 5.0;

Legacies Given

To Josiah Jordan: 58 lb of Pewter @1/6 E4.7.0; 1 Oval Table 18.0; 1 Ditto E1.15.0; 10 Leather Chairs @10/ E5.0.0; 6 Cain Do @4/6 E1.7.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 26-27

Will
dated: 24 June, 1746
presented: 10 July, 1746

to daughter Mourning Jordan: 10 New Russia Leather Chairs; 18 Cain & flagg Bottom'd Do; one Maple Ditto; half a Dozen of Pewter Dishes; half a Dozen of Basons Ditto; two Dozn Plates Do.

ESTATE OF ROBERT RICKS

XLI

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 484-486

Inventory
returned: 26 December, 1743

Two Dozen and four English Leather Chairs; Thirty Seven Flagg Bottom Chairs; Seven Virginia leather Chairs; Eight Tables; Six Benches; four old Stools; one wooden arm Chair; three wooden Trays; thirteen Wooden Bowls; a hundred and Twenty 3 pieces of Earthen Ware; hundred and nine pieces of Pewter; Fourty Spoons; Twenty Six knives and Thirty Forks.

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 471-474

Will
dated: 25 March, 1741
presented: 25 July, 1743

to daughter Elizabeth Ricks: twelve Leather Chairs; one Oval Table; one Small Square Table; Six new pewter Dishes; Six pewter Basons; one Dozn pewter plates; one Dozn & half of Pewter Spoons; one pewter Tankard; six pewter porrangers.

to daughter Mary Ricks: one black Walnut Char Table; one small Square Table; six Dishes; six Basons; one Dozn Plates; one Dozn & half of pewter Spoons; one pewter Tankard; one half a Dozn pewter porrangers; twelve leather chairs.

to son Richard Ricks: one large Square Table; one small do; one Dozn flagg Bottom'd Chairs; six pewter Dishes; six Basons; one Dozn plates; one Dozn & half of pewter spoons; pewter Tankard.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM ROCHESTER

XLII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 372-373

Appraisal : E13.11.7
returned: 3 October, 1751

To a Parcel of old Lumber 5.0; To a Chest 14 Bottles &c @6.0;
To a Parcel of Pewter @5.0; To a Table & 2 Chairs .4.

ESTATE OF ROBERT SCOTT

XLIII

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
p. 482

Inventory

taken: 18 October, 1743
returned: 24 October, 1743

1 large Table; 2 small Walnut Tables; 2 Wooden Chairs; 4 leath
Chairs; Eighteen flagg do; 2 pieces of plate; a parcel of Earthen ware;
To a parcel of Glass ware.

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 480-482

Will

dated: 24 May, 1743
presented: 24 October, 1743

to cousen Sarah Hollowell: four Pewter Dishes; one Duzon Spoons;
one black walnut Table; six Chairs; one small chest.

ESTATE OF THOMAS SMITH

XLIV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 432-434

Appraisal: E850.3.7

ordered: 5 March, 1752
returned: 4 June, 1752

To an old Pott Pann and Pewter 4.2; To 1 Pair of Money Scales and
six pieces of Wooden ware 6.0; To 1 Soop Spoon 1.6; One old Table 2.6;
One Square Table 7.6; One Large oval Table E1.0.0; one small Do 10.0; To
one Square Do 7.6; one small oval Do 1.0; Six Cane Chairs E1.10.0; To
six Leather Chares at 18.0; 3 old leather do 3.0; To Six Wooden Back'd
Do 12.7; 7 old Flagg'd Do at 7.0; To 27 lb of Pewter 27.0; 17 lb of ditto
14.2; To 1 Dozen of new large Plaites 14.0; One Dozen Do 12.0; To 1 Dozen
of old ditto 9.0; 26 lb of old Pewter 13.0; To 8 Earthen Plates and other
crockery 6.0; an old Tea Pott and Glassware 6.0; old Chest and Table 4.0;
To a Meal & Sugar Tubb and an old Table 4.2 1/2; To 2 old Sives and two
Trays 3.0; To 2 Table Cloaths 11 Napkins E1.0.0; 12 lb of old Silver @5/6
E3.6.0; To 5 Pieces of Wooden ware 5.0; 6 lb of Pewter 5.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 422-423

Will

dated: 31 March, 1748
presented: 5 March, 1752

ESTATE OF RICHARD SNOWDEN

XLV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 22-23

Appraisal: E33.12.7

ordered: May 8, 1746
returned: June 12, 1746

To 22 1/2 pound of pewter at 1/3 E1.8.1; To 25 1/2 Do at 1/ E1.5.6;
To 10 1/2 Do at 6d 5.3; To 15 old Pewter Spoons 1d 1.3; 1 Silver Cup at
12/ 12.0; To 2 old Chairs at 1/ 1.0.

ESTATE OF JOHN SUMMERRELL

XLVI

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1753
pp. 63-65

Appraisal: £386.10.6
ordered: 14 August, 1746
taken: 11 November, 1746
returned: 11 June, 1747

To one Trunk 10/ 3 Chairs, 1 Chest, 1 old Trunk 5/6 15.6; To 6 leather Chairs at 25. £1.5.0; To 3 Flagg Ditto at 3.0; To 1 Tea Table and Tea Tackle at 20/ £1.0.0; To 21 Earthen plates at 10.6; To 1 Tea Kettle 5/ To 1 folding Table 15/ £1.0.0; 1 Armed Chair & old Table 6/; To 2 Dozn pewter plates at 18/ £1.16.0; To 1 Dozen pewter plates at 12.6; To 17 lb pewter at 1/3 £1.1.3; To 57 lb Ditto at 12d £2.17.0; To 16 lb old Ditto at 6d 8.0; to 1 Gallon pewter pott 5/ 12 ditto 1 1/2 pint Ditto, one Cullender, Candle Box and Funnel at 10.0; To a parcell of Glass Ware 85/; To a Parcell of Table Linnen at 30/ £1.10.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 28-29

Will
dated: 14 February, 1745
presented: 24 August, 1746

ESTATE OF RALPH VICKERS

XLVII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 94-95

Inventory
returned: 10 March, 1747

To 101 lb of Pewter; To 13 Chairs; To a parcel of old Lumber; To 3 Tables; To 1 Bench.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 89-91

Will
dated: 16 February, 1741
presented: 14 January, 1747

ESTATE OF AQUILLA WEATHERALL

XLVIII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 11

Appraisal: £44.9.2
ordered: 24 June, 1745
returned: 24 February, 1745/6

To 45 lb of new pewter @1/3 to 26 lb of @1/ £4.2.3; To 1 Table and Seven Chairs 9.0; To 6 pieces of Earthen Ware 3.0; To a parsell of Wooden Ware and one Safe 9.0; To 1 Bagg of Silver £8.13.6.

ESTATE OF RICHARD WEBB

IL

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 188-189

Appraisal: E38.18.4
ordered: 9 February, 1749
returned: 1 June, 1749

Parcel of old Lumber 5.6; 2 Chests 5.0; 4 Dishes and half-Dozen of Plaite 18.0; 26 lb of old Pewter 16.3; 1 Dozn of Pewter Spoons and Pint Pott 1.6; Parcell of Bottles and Stone ware 3.9; Earthen Ware 5.9; Looking Glass, Mug and old Skimmer 5.0; Table and Table Tray 3.0; 8 Chairs 11.0.

ESTATE OF ROBERT WEST

L

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 428-429

Appraisal: E84.19.7
ordered: 6 February, 1752
returned: 4 June, 1752

To 1 Table 1 Butter pott an Jugg 5.6; To 1 Brass Kettle and Pewter Flaggon 13.9; To 49 lb of Pewter @1/3 pr E3.1.3; To 1 Table and 1 old Chest 6.0; To a Parcell of Wooden ware 10.0; To 1 Earthen Pitcher and Parcell of old Books 5.6; To a Parcell of Glass and Earthen ware 15.0; To 1 Brass Skimmer and 5 old Chairs 4.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 405-406

Will
dated: 19 September, 1751
presented: 6 February, 1752

to son Richard West: one half Pewter
to son Ralph West: one half Pewter

ESTATE OF JOSEPH WESTON

LI

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 278-279

Inventory
taken: 29 October, 1750
returned: 1 November, 1750

one long Table and Form; 10 Flag Chairs; two Oval Tables; 5 Drinking Glasses; A Parcel of Earthen and stone Ware; 11 Pewter Dishes; 4 Pewter Basons; 16 Pewter Plates; 16 Spoons; one square Table; 5 Diaper Napkins; one Table Cloth.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 259-260

Will
dated: 24 September, 1748
presented: 6 September, 1750

to daughter Mary Weston: one oval table; one chest; four pewter dishes and six pewter plates.
to daughter Tabitha Weston: one oval table; one chest; four pewter dishes; six pewter plates.

ESTATE OF GEORGE WIGGS

LII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 82-83

Inventory
returned: 12 November, 1747

Ten chairs; two Tables; fifteen Dishes; two Dozn pewter plates; three Table Cloths; half-Doz of Napkins; one Case of Knives Forks; some other Knives; five Basons; one Tankard; three Earthen Bowls; some Spoons; one pewter pint pott; three pewter Cups; four Mugs; three Wine Glasses; one set of Tea Ware; two pepper Boxes; one Salt Seller; one Flasket.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 78-79

Will
dated: 30 July, 1747
presented: 8 October, 1747

to brother Luke Wiggs: one pottle bottle.
to cousin Elizabeth Brasey: four Dishes; one dozen New Plates.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM WILLIAMS

LIII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
p. 252

Appraisal: E4.5.10
ordered: 7 June, 1750
returned: 5 July, 1750

ESTATE OF FRANCIS WILLIAMSON

LIV

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 508-509

Inventory
taken: 17 July, 1744
returned: 24 September, 1744

two Tables; 9 Chairs flagged; 3 Table Cloths; Nine Napkins; One Napkin; 3 Mugs; 3 Earthen plates; two Drinking Glasses; two Salts; Eighteen Dishes; One Tankard; 21 plates; 10 Basons; Earthen poringer; 3 pewter Ferringers; 18 pewter Spoons; two Bread Trays; one punch Bowl.

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 476-477

Will
dated: 14 May, 1743
presented: 22 August, 1743

to wife Ann: three Basons; four Dishes; six plates; twelve spoons;
one chest; one small Table; one Table Cloth; three Napkins; four Chairs.
to grandson Joseph: one dish; one bason.
to grand daughter Mourning: two dishes.

ESTATE OF THOMAS WILLIS

LV

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 447-449

Appraisal : E155.7.6
ordered: 4 June, 1752
taken: 1 August, 1752
returned: 6 August, 1752

To 1 Soceen Mohogany Table E1.1.6; To 1 large Ovall Table E1.12.6; to 1 Ovall Table E1.1.6; To 1 Tea Table 12.6; To a Parcell of Tea ware 7.6; Six Tea Spoons & Tongs 12.6; To Six Large Silver Spoons E2.10.0; To 13 old leather Chairs E1.17.0; To 1 Shugar Box 2.6; 3 old flag Chairs 2.0; To 16 Earthen Plates and 2 Dishes & 2 Punch Bowls 15.0; To 2 Decanters 2 Glasses and one China Bowle 8.0; To 1 Dozn Pewter Plates 18.0; To 11 Ditto 15.0; To 9 Pewter Dishes E1.7.0; To a parcell of old Pewter 5.0; To 1 Tea Kettle 7.6; To a parcell of Knives and forks 7.6; To a Parcell of Earthen and Stone ware 10.0; To a Parcell of Wooden ware 3.9; To a Parcell of Lumber 4.0; To a Parcell of Table Linen and 3 Pillow Bears E1.0.0.

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 430-431

Will
dated: 6 December, 1750
presented: 4 June, 1752

ESTATE OF JOHN WILSON

LVI

IWCR #4, W&I 1733-1745
pp. 536-537

Appraisal: E107.1.4 1/2
ordered: 22 April, 1745
returned: 24 June, 1745

To old Silver @5/ p Ounce E20.5.0; To Six leather Chairs 6.0; To one old Couch & Table 5.0; To a parcell of China E1.0.0; To two Glass Decanters & two Salts & two Glasses 4.6; To a parcell of Earthen Ware 2.6; To a parcell of old pewter E1.10.4 1/2; To two Doz of plates E1.10.0; To seven Do 7.0; To two Doz of Spoons 2.6; To two Dishes & one Salver 11.0; To old Knives & Forks 1.6; To a Cradle & Chair 7.0; To one Tray Table 5.0; To Table Linning E2.1.0; To a Cory boy & eleven Bottles 5.0; To a pail two piggins two Bowls 6.0.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH WRIGHT

LVII

IWCR #5, W&I 1745-1752
pp. 24-25

Appraisal : E121.15.5
ordered: 25 November, 1745
returned: 12 June, 1746

To 30 lb of pewter at 9d p lb E1.2.6; To 47 lb of old Pewter at 6d p lb E1.3.6; To 1 1/2 doz of Pewter plates @18.0; To 10 old Ditto at 6.8; To half a Dozn Leather Chairs @18.0; To a parcell of old Chairs at 13.6; To 1 Cupboard at 10.0; To Square Tables at E1.5.0; To Earthen Ware at 4.0; To Ditto at 8.0; To old Silver at E3.4.0; To a Parsell of old Lumber at 10.0.

APPENDIX B

DINING EQUIPAGE AND FURNISHINGS BY ECONOMIC GROUP

After the inventories were transcribed, a series of charts were constructed to tabulate the information by economic groups. While the chief function of these charts is to classify the items in the inventories, they also serve as an index to them. Though the first charts were arranged by the material of composition, it soon became apparent that grouping by use would be more meaningful.

In some cases, the inventory did not specify the material of composition of an item; yet the piece in question is included under pewter, earthenware, or some other material on the chart whenever its place in the original listing, its valuation, or other information made it quite clear where the piece fit. Other items not so identified are listed under the general term.

The four non-dining categories at the start of each series of charts are included because of their value in determining the economic groupings.

Because of the difficulties involved in presenting this material in short form, several abbreviations or unusual groupings were used.

"Pcl" is used whenever a "parcel" of goods was listed. M. Deshey refers to Melchizedec Deshey, while Mary Deshey's name appears in full. The valuations have been divided, with shillings and pence not always on the same line. To save further space, fractions of pence have been omitted.

APPENDIX B

RICH

	R. Driver XVI	A. Ricks XL	R. Ricks XLI	J.L. Smith XLIV
Total Personal Estate	618.0.6	786.12.5		850.3.7
Estate Excluding Negroes & Stock	284.11.0			77.15.9
Negroes	12	5	21	21
Beds	3	5	11	9
Furniture				
Tables			8	
Falling				
Folding				
Long				
Oval	2	2		3
Square		1		2
Tea				
Black Walnut				
Cedar				
Mahogany				

	R. Driver	A. Ricks	R. Ricks	T. Smith
<hr/>				
Tables				
Pine				
Old		3		3
Chairs				
Cane				6
Flag	Pcl.	28	37	7
Leather	6	10		9
English			28	
Virginia			7	
Wooden				6
Arm			1	
Other Furniture				
Bench			6	
Forn		1		
Stool			4	
Cabinet				
Chest				1
Cupboard				
Trunk				
Linens				
Table Cloth		1		2
Demask				
Diaper		3		

	R. Driver	A. Ricks	R. Ricks	T. Smith
Table Cloth				
Linen				
Brown Linen		2		
Hopkins				
Diaper				11 ✓
Utensils				
Knives		8	26	
Forks		13	30	
Cases, Knives & Forks				
Knives & Forks		2		
Spoons		18	40	
Silver				
Soup				1
Tea				
Individual Dining Ware				
Plates				
Earthenware		Pol.		8
Pewter			36	
Porringer				
Earthenware				
Pewter				
Bowl				
China				
Earthenware		Pol.		

	R. Driver	A. Ricks	R. Ricks	T. Smith
Bowl				
Wooden			13	
Soup Dish				
Drinking Vessels				
Beaker				
Pewter				
Can				
Cup				
China				
Earthenware				
Pewter				
Silver				
Stoneware				
"Sauser"				
Drinking Jug				
Stoneware				
Mug				
Earthenware				
Pewter				
Stoneware				
Tankard				
Pewter				
Glassware				
Cup				1
Dram glass				

	R. Driver	A. Ricks	R. Ricks	T. Smith
Glassware				
Drinking glass		9		
Glass				
Tumbler				
Wine Glass				
Serving Pieces				
Basin				
Earthenware				
Pewter				
Carboy				
Decanter				
Dish				
Pewter				
Flagon				
Pitcher				
Earthenware				
Stoneware				
Pottle Bottle				
Salver				
Pewter				
Tray				2
Bread		2		
Wooden			3	
Specialty Items				
Cruit				

	R. Driver	A. Ricks	R. Ricks	T. Smith
Specialty Items				
Mustard Pot				
Punch Bowl				
Salt Glass		1		
Pewter				
Tea Set				1 pot
Bulk Quantities				
China				
Earthenware		Pcl.	123 pcs.	
Lumber				
Pewter	30 lb.	144 1/2 lb.	109 pcs.	76 lb.
Silver				12 lb.
Stoneware				
Woodenware				11 pcs.

UPPER-MIDDLE

	R. Blow II	J. Davis XII	J. Deshey XIII	M. Deshey XV	N. Miller XXX	J. Morland XXXII	J. Pedin XXXVII	A. Pursell XXXIX	J. Summerrell XLVI	F. Williamson LIV	J. Wright LVII
Total	302.	284.	313.		281.	243.	291.		386.		
Personal Estate	3.5	18.2	0.2		17.9	12.4	5.0		10.6		
Estate Excluding Negroes & Stock	71.	44.	53.		60.	113.	68.		80.		
	13.3	9.4	3.11		12.9	10.8	9.6		1.0		
Negroes	5	9	8	9	9	4	4		9	13	16
Beds	3	4	2	4	5	3	5	6	4	3	11
Furniture											
Tables	3		1	2	1			4		2	
Falling		2				3					
Folding									1		
Long											
Oval							2				
Square						1					X
Tea									1		
Black Walnut											
Cedar											
Mahogany											
Pine			1		1						
Old			1						1		

	R. Blow	J. Davis	J. Deshey	M. Deshey	N. Miller	J. Morland	J. Padin	A. Pursell	J. Summerrell	F. Williamson	J. Wright
Linens, Tbl. Cloth, Cont'd.											
Brown Linen											
Napkins		3	14	14		6				10	
Diaper											
Utensile											
Knives		X									
Forks		X									
Cases, Knives & Forks							1				
Knives & Forks	Pol.		5		9	X	3	Pol.			
Spoons		3		24	28		12	15		18	
Silver							12				
Soup											
Tea											
Individual Dining Ware											
Plates											
Earthen- Ware						2		8	21	3	
Pewter		6		18		19	24	5	36	21	28
Porringer Earthen- Ware					1		1			1	

R. Blow	J. Davis	J. Deshey	M. Deshey	N. Miller	J. Morland	J. Pedin	A. Pursell	J. Summerrell	F. Williamson	J. Wright
---------	----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	------------	----------	------------	---------------	---------------	-----------

Pitcher

Stoneware

Pottle
BottleSalver
Pewter

2

Tray
Bread

2

2

2

Wooden

Specialty
Items

Cruit

1

Mustard
Pot

Punch Bowl

2

2

1

Salt
Glass

1

1

2

Pewter

Tea Set

X

Bulk Quantities

China

Earthen-
Ware

Pcl.

Pcl.

Pcl. Pcl.

X

Lumber

Pcl.

X

Pcl.

Pewter

Pcl.

Pcl. 52lbs.
29 lbs.

Pcl. 83lbs. 50lbs.

90lbs.

77lbs.

	R. Blow	J. Davis	J. Deshey	M. Deshey	H. Miller	J. Morland	J. Pedin	A. Fursell	J. Summerrell	F. Williamson	J. Wright
Silver		X									X
Stone- Ware					Pcl.	Pcl.					
Wooden- Ware			Pcl.	9							

T. Atkinson	J. Bridger	J. Darden	J. Daughtry	W. Daughtry	Mary Deshey	J. Edwards	J. Garner	R. Gibbs	S. Hollowell
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Soup Dish

Drinking Vessels

Beaker

Pewter 1

Can

1

Cup

1

Kerthen-
ware

3

Pewter

1

Silver

Stone-
ware

Pcl.

"Sauser"

Drinking

Jug

Stone-
ware

2

Mug

1

Kerthen-
ware

Pewter

1

Stone-
ware

4

Tankard

Pewter

1

1

1

Glassware

Cup

9

Pcl.

	T. Atkinson	J. Bridger	J. Darden	J. Daughtry	W. Daughtry	Mary Deshey	J. Edwards	J. Garner	R. Gibbs	S. Hollowell
Glass-ware										
Dram Glass									2	1
Drinking Glass				2	2					
Tumbler										
Wine Glass										
Serving Pieces										
Basin										
Earthen-ware										
Pewter	1		9	10	6			5	6	4
Carboy										
Decanter										
Dish				16						
Pewter	1	4		Pcl.	9					7
Flagon										
Pitcher				2						
Earthen-ware										
Stoneware					2					
Pottle Bottle			1							
Salver										
Pewter										
Tray								1		3

T. Atkinson	J. Bridger	J. Darden	J. Daughtry	W. Daughtry	Mary Deshey	J. Edwards	J. Garner	R. Gibbs	S. Hollowell
-------------	------------	-----------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	-----------	----------	--------------

Tray
Bread

Wooden

Specialty
Items

Cruik

Mustard
Pot

1 1

Punch
Bowl

2 2

Salt
Glass

2

Pewter

1

Tea Set

Bulk Quantities
China

Earthenware

Pcl. Pcl. Pcl.

Pcl. Pcl.

Lumber

X X

Pewter

76lbs.

Pcl. 29lbs. Pcl. 20 1/4 lbs. 22 1/2 lbs.

Silver

1/2
oz.

Stone-
ware

Pcl. 4

Wooden-
ware

Pcl. Pcl. Pcl.

Pcl. Pcl.

	J. Johnson	J. Jordan	W. Parker	R. Scott	R. Vickers	R. West	J. Weston	G. Wigge	T. Willis	J. Wilson
Tankard								1		
Pewter	1									
Glassware		Pcl.	Pcl.			Pcl.			2	2
Cup										
Dram Glass	1									
Drinking Glass							5			
Glass										
Tumbler										
Wine Glass								3		
Serving Pieces										
Basin										
Earthenware										
Pewter	8						4	5		
Carboy										1
Decanter									2	2
Dish									2	
Pewter	3						11	15	9	2
Flagon						1				
Pitcher										
Earthenware						1				
Stoneware										
Pottle Bottle			3							

J. Johnson J. Jordan W. Parker M. Scott R. Vickers R. West J. Weston C. Wigg T. Willis J. Wilson

Salver										
Pewter										1
Troy										
Bread										
Wooden										
Speciality										
Items										
Cruic										
Mustard Pot										
Punch Bowl		1							2	
Salt Glass							1			2
Pewter										
Tea Set							X		X	
Bulk Quantities										
China										Pcl.
Earthen-ware		Pcl.	Pcl.	Pcl.		Pcl.	Pcl.		Pcl.	Pcl.
Lumber					Pcl.				Pcl.	
Pewter	8 3/4 lbs.	53 lbs.	61 lbs.		101 lbs.	49 lbs.			Pcl.	
Silver				2 Pcs.						81 oz.
Stoneware							Pcl.		Pcl.	
Woodenware		Pcl.	Pcl.			Pcl.			Pcl.	

J. Bradshaw	W. Brewer	J. Chesnut	J. Clements	E. Cobb	J. Fulgham	J. House	W. Johnson	J. Jelly	R. Lawrence	C. Mackoy
-------------	-----------	------------	-------------	---------	------------	----------	------------	----------	-------------	-----------

Linens

Table Cloth

Damask

Diaper

Linen

Brown

Linen

Napkins

Diaper

Utensils

Knives

3

Forks

Cases,
Knives &
Forks

1

Knives &
Forks

5

Speons
Silver

5

24

Pcl. 30

Pcl.

Soup

Tea

Individual
Dining
Ware

Plates

Earthenware

	J. Bradshaw	W. Brewer	J. Chesnutt	J. Clements	E. Cobb	J. Fulgham	J. House	W. Johnson	J. Jolly	R. Lawrence	C. MacKoy
Mug											1
Earthen-ware											
Pewter				1							
Stoneware					1						
Tankard											
Pewter	3									2	
Glassware											
Cup					1						
Dram Glass							1				
Drinking Glass											1
Glass								2			
Tumbler											
Wine Glass											
Serving Pieces											
Basin											
Earthen-ware											
Pewter			1							5	
Carboy											
Decanter											
Dish											
Pewter			5		2					6	

	J. Bradshaw	W. Brewer	J. Chesnutt	J. Clements	E. Cobb	J. Fulgham	J. House	W. Johnson	J. Jolly	R. Lawrence	C. Mackoy
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Flagon

Pitcher
Earthen-
ware

Stoneware

Pottle Bottle

2

Salver
Pewter

Tray
Bread

1

Wooden

Specialty Items
Cruit

Mustard Pot

Punch Bowl

1

Salt
Glass

Pewter

Tea Set

Bulk Quantities
China

Earthen-
ware

Pcl.

Pcl.

X

Pcl.

Pcl.

1

Pcl.

Lumber

Pcl.

	J. Bradshaw	W. Brewer	J. Chesnutt	J. Clements	E. Cobb	J. Fulgham	J. House	W. Johnson	J. Jolly	R. Lawrence	C. Mac koy
Bulk Quantities Pewter	61	Pcl. 1/2 lbs.		Pcl.	9 lbs.	14 1/2 lbs.	18 1/4 lbs.		61 lbs.		45 lbs.
Silver											
Stoneware											
Woodenware				Pcl.	Pcl.			Pcl.	Pcl.	"some"	Pcl.

A. Miller	W. Morgan	E. Neavill	W. Page	C. Parker	J. Procter	W. Rochester	R. Snowden	A. Weatherall	R. Webb	W. Williams
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Pitcher
Stoneware

Pottle Bottle

1

Salver
Pewter

Tray
Bread

3

1

Wooden

Specialty Items

Cruit

Mustard Pot

Punch Bowl

1

Salt
Glass

2

Pewter

Tea Set

Bulk Quantities

China

Earthen-
ware

5

X

Lumber

Pcl.

Pcl.

Pcl.

Pewter

24
lbs.

35
lbs.

Pcl.

71
lbs.

21
lbs.

Pcl.

56
lbs.

71
lbs.

21
lbs.

A. Miller
 W. Morgan
 E. Neavill
 W. Page
 G. Parker
 J. Procter
 W. Rochester
 R. Snowden
 A. Weatherall
 R. Webb
 W. Williams

**Bulk Quantities
Silver**

Stoneware Pcl.

Pcl.

Woodenware Pcl. 2

Pcl.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

I. Primary Sources

A. County Records

In the colony of Virginia, the main administrative subdivision was the county. It was at this level that most taxes were levied, minor court suits settled, public facilities maintained, and everyday legal business handled. In carrying out its duties, the county court amassed a large body of records which were copied and cared for by the county clerk. While the titles of the bound volumes vary from county to county, they include wills, inventories, deeds, and orders. In time, through destruction by war, weather, and vermin, some of these records have been lost. In recent years many still extant have been microfilmed, thus ensuring their continued and wider availability. Many original record books, some photostats, and all the microfilm copies are in the Archives Division, Virginia State Library.

Will and inventory books, containing the official copies of all wills, inventories, and appraisals ordered by the court, and returned to the office of the clerk, were the most valuable type of county record for this study. The Isle of Wight County Records, Wills and Inventories, #4, 1733-1745, and #5, 1745-1752, were quite legible, and undamaged by time, a welcome and rare discovery.

For my purpose, order books, which record court proceedings, supplement the collections of wills and inventories. The Isle of Wight Order Book, 1746-1752, was consulted for information on county residents, but little was found on the men whose estates were inventoried, probably because those still living had passed their active years. The order books for the period prior to 1746, which would have been especially useful, had been destroyed.

The Isle of Wight County Deed Books #2, 1704-1715, #5, 1736-1741, and #6, 1741-1744, were of limited use in determining land acreage because physical landmarks rather than strict measurements define boundaries. Furthermore, lands acquired by inheritance or original patent do not usually appear in the deed books.

B. Parish Records

The subdivision of the county was the parish which not only concerned itself with church affairs, but, through its board of lay leaders or Vestry, served as a charitable agency and had certain duties in community affairs -- taxation and rogation, for example. The holding of a church office denoted social status in the parish.

There were two parishes in Isle of Wight County at this period, but the records of only one survive. The Vestry Book of Newport Parish, 1724-1772, is in the County Clerk's office and a photostatic copy is available at the Virginia State Library. It gives personal details about residents and provides much information on local relationships, problems and responsibilities.

C. Letters and Diaries

While letters and diaries are the best sources on the details of daily life, and usually say something about food, they do not mention dining furnishings and equipage.

D. Contemporary Books of Advice to Homemakers

In the eighteenth century, as today, there were many books of advice about home management. These books included bills of fare (lists of what would be available in the London markets in a particular month), recipes, household hints, and common home remedies. They are of particular value to the historian in learning about the fashions of the times, for one can assume that every housewife tried to imitate these styles as best she could

Library inventories, Virginia Gazette advertisements and the extant Virginia Gazette daybooks reveal the titles most popular in Virginia. These include Mrs. Glasse's The Art of Cookery, Made Plain and Easy; . . . (7th ed., London, A. Millar, J. and R. Tonson, W. Strahan, P. Davey and B. Law, 1760), E. Smith's The Compleat Housewife; or Accomplish'd Gentlewoman's Companion . . . (11th ed., London, J. and H. Pemberton, 1742), and Martha Bradley's The British Housewife . . . (3 vols., London, S. Crowder and H. Woodgate, [circa 1770?]). The first Virginia cookbook, Mary Randolph's The Virginia Housewife; or Methodical Cook (first edition, Washington, Davis and Force, 1824), features the favorite recipes of Richmond's most famous hostess in the 1780's and 90's and much of her housekeeping guidance is recommended as traditionally "the Virginia way."

The Modern Method of Regulating and Forming a Table (London, J. Hughes, [1750]) is a collection of diagrams for placing serving dishes on the table in the best London fashion, with a suggested menu for each diagram. It clearly shows the emphasis on symmetrical settings -- not only end-to-end and side-to-side, but also at cross corners. While one might think that "regulating and forming a table" would have included individual place settings, this book has nothing on that subject.

Unfortunately, there was no book published in America in this period dealing with individual place settings, nor is there an English footman's guide available in American libraries. Robert Roberts' The House Servant's Directory . . . (Boston, Munroe and Francis, 1827) is considerably later than the Isle of Wight inventories, but it is based on the "English" and "French" systems of table service popular in the eighteenth century, which were not replaced by "service a la Russe" until the late nineteenth century.

E. Surviving Furniture and Furnishings

Two major non-documentary primary sources of information on dining equipment proved useful. The warehouse of Colonial Williamsburg's Division of Collections is a rich storehouse of eighteenth-century furniture and furnishings. These items, and discussions with the staff, were of use in determining the meaning of the terminology of the inventories.

The artifacts held by the Colonial Williamsburg Archaeology Department were also quite useful in learning how items other than furniture

looked. The staff gave willingly of its vast knowledge of the period. While no specific archaeological work has been done in Isle of Wight County, many pieces found in other "digs" are similar to items in the homes studied.

II. Secondary Sources

The staff of the Division of Collections suggested two books and a magazine article as being especially valuable for the identification of specific items. Both Paul H. Burroughs in his Southern Antiques (Richmond, Garrett & Massie Incorporated, 1931), and Helen Comstock in "Furniture of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky," Antiques LXII (January, 1952), 58-99, were concerned primarily with more lavish furniture, but one could expect the Isle of Wight furniture to follow the basic forms they describe. Ledlie Irwin Laughlin's book on Pewter in America; Its Makers and Their Marks (2 vols., Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1940) was of great value in distinguishing among the many forms of pewterware.

The books of two English authors, Charles Cooper and John Hampson, were helpful in learning about English dining customs. While Hampson's The English at Table (London, William Collins, 1944) is a cursory examination of the subject, it does present the highlights. Cooper's The English Table in History and Literature (London, Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Ltd., n.d.) is much more extensive and should be required reading for anyone interested in this phase of history.

Rodris Roth presents information on Tea Drinking in 18th Century America; Its Etiquette and Equipage in United States National Museum: Bulletin 225, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, 1961. Contemporary paintings served as Roth's basic source; they also help to clarify many points on a custom that had its own highly formalized rules.

In order to put Isle of Wight in a British perspective, Francis W. Steer's Farm and Cottage Inventories of Mid-Essex 1635-1749 (Chelmsford, Essex Record Office Publications, No. 8, Essex County Council, 1950) was used for comparative purposes. Marjorie Plant in her The Domestic Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century (Edinburgh, University Press, 1952) is not basically concerned with household goods, but her book suggests contrasts and similarities between Isle of Wight and another predominantly rural part of the British Empire.

The delightful book by Arthur M. Schlesinger on courtesy literature, Learning How To Behave; A Historical Study of American Etiquette Books (New York, Macmillan Company, 1946) should be read by everyone interested in social history. It is a concise guide to etiquette books, and the author's excerpts from, and comments on, them provide insight into patterns of American social behavior from the time of earliest settlement until the 1920's.

VITA

MARY LEE GLENN

Born May 23, 1942, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Attended elementary and secondary school in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and was graduated from Central Dauphin High School, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, June 1960. B.A., Allegheny College, June, 1964. Candidate, M.A. degree, College of William and Mary, January, 1965.

Miss Glenn has held summer employment in the Division of Archives, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and on a research program sponsored by the United States Department of Indian Affairs. In June, 1965, she resigned an apprenticeship in the interpretation of historical sites, cosponsored by the College of William and Mary and Colonial Williamsburg, to accept a position as Research Archivist with Colonial Williamsburg.