

THOMAS DUNN, (?-?) Cutlery manufacturer
Given to the Company by Mrs Dorothy Gainsford in 1963

From the records of apprenticeships and freedoms held by the Cutlers' Company, it is possible to suggest the family background of Thomas Dunn, who became Master Cutler in 1832. It is possible that he is the Thomas Dunn, son of William, knifemaker, who became a Freeman in 1803.

Thomas Dunn was a manufacturer of table knives and was Master during the building of the third, the present, Cutlers' Hall in 1832.

Also in 1832, for the first Parliamentary election for Sheffield, there were four candidates. As Master Cutler, Thomas Dunn counted a show of hands and declared Thomas Asline Ward and James Silk Buckingham to be elected. The other candidates, John Parker and Samuel Bailey, demanded a poll and two days later, Parker and Buckingham were elected.

Ward had been a popular choice of the disenfranchised men and rioting followed the result. The house of Parker's agent's was stoned and Parker's father, Hugh Parker, a local magistrate from 1799, read the Riot Act. The army was summoned and five people were killed.

Other public positions

Thomas Dunn was Mayor of Sheffield in 1844 and was also involved in the plans for the Sheffield's Botanical Gardens in Ecclesall, Sheffield.

Artist - unknown