

THOMAS ASLINE WARD, (?-1871) Cutlery manufacturer and MP for Sheffield  
Given to the Company in 1887 by T A Ward's son, Asline Ward.

Thomas Asline Ward was born in Sheffield, the son of Joseph Ward, a knifemaker. He was trained by his father and took out his Freedom in 1802. He became a prominent local cutler and was Master Cutler in 1816. He was part of the small group of local men who wanted political reform, including James Montgomery, Samuel Roberts and Rowland Hodgson. In 1832, he was one of four men put up for Sheffield's first election for its own Members of Parliament.

The Master Cutler, Thomas Dunn counted a show of hands and declared Thomas Asline Ward and James Silk Buckingham to be elected. But 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 this result. The house of Parker's agent was stoned and Parker's father, Hugh Parker, a local magistrate since 1799, read the Riot Act. The army was summoned and five people were killed.

Ward was one of the founders of the Literary and Philosophical Society in 1822 and was a Town trustee and a magistrate. He died in 1871.

The fascinating diaries of Thomas Asline Ward were edited and published as '*Peeps into the Past*' by AB Bell and RE Leader in 1909.

#### **Artist - William Poole (1798-1888)**

William Poole studied in Birmingham with his younger brother James, both coming to Sheffield in the 1820s. William Poole was a portrait painter, as well as painting interiors and landscapes. He was a member of the Sheffield Society of Artists.