

William Trent

A True & Perfect Inventory

of All and Singular the Goods, Chattels & Credits which were of William Trent Late of Nottingham in the County of Burlington in the Western Division of the Province of New Jersey, Esq. & Dec'd. Taken & appraised at Nottingham afd in the ninth of April in the Twelfth Year of his ma'ties Reign Anno Domini 1726 by us whose names are to his appraison't: Subscribed being appointed And sworn for that purpose.

Foreword

The following accounting of furnishings in the home of Chief Justice William Trent was taken sixteen months after his death on Christmas day in 1724. The house, located on the banks of the Delaware River, was still home to Madame Trent and her young son, William, and eleven enslaved men, women, and children - Yaff, Joan, Bob, Dick, Nanny, Tom, Julius, Bossin, Harry, Cupid, and Pedro.

The inventory may have been made to order to settle Trent's estate, as he died without a will and with a number of debts to his fellow - merchants in Philadelphia as did they to him. Also, Trent's widow, Mary Coddington Trent, had brought suit against his oldest son, James, for her dower rights.

This document, the original of which is preserved in the New Jersey State Archives, served as the basis for selecting the furniture, tools, and domestic objects that furnish the Trent House Museum today. Although not original to the Trent family, the furnishings and interpretive exhibits provide a glimpse into the lives of members of a wealthy household of the early eighteenth century.

Although the inventory does not provide exact information about how the Trent home was furnished, much can be learned about the household and their way of life by closely studying this document. The large number of kitchen implements indicates frequent meals and generous entertaining, for which considerable cost and enslaved labor must have been expended. Similarly there are numerous brooms and brushes, required for frequent cleaning the wood floors and nine fireplaces.

Several pieces of furniture japanned in gold confirm that Trent had access to the high-style imported furniture popular at the time in large colonial cities like Philadelphia and New York. The large supply of table silver (*referred to as "New" and "old" Plate*) demonstrates that Trent was quite wealthy by any standard. His wealth is also indicated by the number and value of his enslaved workers,

which equals about one-third of the inventory assessment.

The inclusion of sundries from the Grist, Saw, and "foulling" (*fulling*) Mills and the bakehouse shows the diversification of Trent's business interests in the town. The "great Boat" confirms that travel to and from his estate by ship via the Delaware River. "Sloop Guns" and "Ship Muskets" indicate that river travel could be dangerous in this very early period of colonial history.

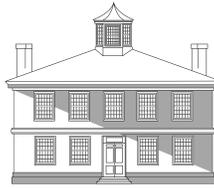
Interestingly, Trent's inventory lists no portraits or paintings. The only mention of pictures is the notation of "Eight Indian pictures without frames." It is possible that some family treasures could have been distributed among the three adult sons from Trent's first marriage, prior to the making of this inventory, since more than a year elapsed between his death in December 1724 and the estate appraisal in April 1726.

Restored to its original colonial appearance, the William Trent House is open to the public as an historic house museum, owned and maintained by the City of Trenton and with management and programming by the Trent House Association. Visitors are invited to step back in time and picture life as it was lived on the plantation of William Trent, founder of "Trent's Town."



William Trent House 15 Market Place Trenton, NJ 08611
609-989-3027 WilliamTrentHouse.org

Thank you for your tax-deductible donation to the Trent House Association.



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The Inventory of 1726

(Original title appears on cover. The inventory itself is on file in office of the Superior Court of New Jersey, State House Annex, contained in a bound volume filed as 1211-1216C, 1433-1448C.) Words in italics added by editor. Marks like dittos have no meaning except as embellishments of an 18th cent. clerk.

Item (Values in pounds, shillings & pence)

2 Large peer Glasses with Sollopt (<i>Scallop?</i>) Shells gilt with gold	£14— " —"
1 pr. Large Sconces Sollopt (<i>Scallop?</i>) Shells gilt w'th Do	2—10—"
1 pr. Small Ditto	"—12—"
2 Card Tables Jap'd in Gold	3— " —"
a Tea Table Jap'd in Do.	1—10—"
a Dutch table	"—10—"
a Corner Cubboard Jap'd in Gold	1— " —"
2 Arm Chears & 10 Do Small	8—10—"
2 Stools	"—12—"
1 Arm Chear & 6 Do Small	2—10—"
1 pr. black Walnut bellowes & a brush	"— 5—"
Steel Doggs fire shovell & tongs	1— " —"
a pr. Iron Doggs fire Shovell & tongs	"—12—"
a pr. Sconces old fashioned	"— 4—"
a tea board & round Salver	"—10—"
a black Walnut Glass	4— " —"
a Corner Cubboard	"—10—"
1 Oval Table	"—15—"
1 Arm Chear 6 Do Small & a Couch	3— " —"
12 Small Chears	2— " —"
Iron Doggs w'th brass heads	"— 8—"
a Dutch Table	"— 6—"
a fire Screen & a hearth brush	"— 2—"
a small Oval Table	"— 5—"
1 black Looking glass & Table	3— " —"
6 black Chears	1—10—"
Steel Doggs fire Shovell & tongs	1— " —"
1 Tent bedstead w'th Callico Quilt & Curtains	3—15—"
3 pr. Searsuccar Window Curtains	1—10—"
1 peer Glass—a couch & a fine glass Lanthorne	4—10—"
a Mahogone Dressing table—a black Swinging Glass	1—10—"
1 New bedstead	"—15—"
Brass Doggs fire shovell & tongs	1— " —"
A new Mahogone Cloack Case	3— " —"
6 dry rubbing brushes	"— 2—"
8 Scrubbing Do	"— 2—"
10 Hand & Stair Do	"— 2—6"
2 broom heads & 2 Wall brushes	"— 4—"
9 Flatt hand brushes	"— 5—"
6 White Wassh do	"— 2—"
2 New harth Do	"— 1—6"
1 New horse Do & 2 Curry Combs	"— 2—6"
Lynes for Windows	"— 6—"
2 New Closet Locks	"— 6—"
2 doz. new Candle moulds	"—12—"
2 Leather Bottles	"— 1—"
1 p's Twiling	1— " —"
a Rem't fine twiling Cont'g 8¼ yds	"— 8—"
17½ yds Tycking	2—10—"

5½ yds. brown holland	"—12—"
a rem't twiling 8 yds	"— 8—"
29 yds. holland Cases & Sheets	9— " —"
19½ yds. Ditto	5— " —"
3 Small Rem't's of Searsuccar for & ca.	1—10—"
11½ yds Napkin Dyaper	"—12—"
9¾ yds. fine musling	1—10—"
3 yds. Do. Courser	"— 7—6"
4¾ yds. Course Shalloon	"— 8—"
3¾ yds. Do. Green	"— 5—"
3 ps. Yeallow Camlot	12—18—"
Yeallow Sattin with furniture & Trimming	
Enough to furnish a bed & Room	14—17—8"
1 ps. Buckram	"—16—"
8 Indian pictures without frames	"— 8—"
A bedstead & green Linen Curtains	2— " —"
a Square Table & Swinging glass	1—10—"
2 pr. Callico Window Curtains	"—10—"
Doggs w'th brass heads	"—10—"
a Closs press & 2 hampers	1—10—"
3 Dutch Stanns & 2 Cases	1— 5—"
2 Large Looking Glasses & 2 Do Small	1—10—"
1 Ovall Table	"—15—"
a Doe Trough	"— 5—"
a bathing tubb	"— 3—"
a bedstead & blew Curtains	2—15—"
a pr. old Iron Doggs	"— 3—"
1 pr. Linen Curtains	1— " —"
1 Grind Stone	"— 5—"
1 brass pott & cover	1—14—7"
3 Doz. & 5 tinn petty panns	"— 3—6"
1 Copper Stew-pann w'th a Cover	1— " —2"
1 Copper bakeing pann w'th Do	1—11—6"
1 Copper fish kettle & plate	3—10—"
2 bell mettall skellets	1— 2—3"
2 flatt Copper Sawce panns	"—10—"
1 Copper preserveing pann & Cover	"—12—"
2 pr. new fine brass Candlesticks & Snuffers	"—15—"
2 pr. Do in use	"—10—"
1 high Cheffing Dish	"— 6—"
2 bells w'th Springs	"— 4—"
2 brass Cheffing Dishes	"—10—"
1 fine Warming pann & handle New	"—10—"
2 Large flatt hand Candlesticks	"— 6—"
1 box Iron	"— 7—6"
1 fine brass Coffee pott	"— 8—6"
4 brass Lardeing panns	"— 2—"
1 brass Skimmer & a Ladle brock (<i>broken?</i>)	"— 5—"
1 fine Steel plate Warmer	"—16—"
1 fine brass tea Kettle w'th Lamp & stand	"—18—"
1 brass Mettall Skellet & 1 Do bell mettall	"—13—"
1 hand bell	"— 2—"
8 brass Candlesticks	"—16—"
2 Warming panns of w'ch one is broken	"—14—"
2 box Irons & 2 Stanns	"—12—"
3 Sawce panns	"— 8—"
1 bell Mettall Skimmer	"— 1—"



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