

Walford Connections

In RFS Newsletter no. 19 (winter 1993), Christopher Claxton Stevens recorded a labelled mahogany bow-fronted chest of drawers made by Timothy Walford & Son of Colchester (Fig 1). Another labelled Walford chest, purchased in Bath in the early 1980s and now in Australia, has recently been brought to the society's attention (Fig 2). It is considerably plainer than the bow-fronted chest, which has some elaborate decorative details like the outstanding reeded corners terminating in long leaf capitals, but it bears an identical label (Fig 3) reading:

*Timothy Walford & Son,
Upholders, Cabinet Makers
& Appraisers
19 Head Street Colchester
Paper Hangings
Funerals completely Furnished
Old Goods taken in Exchange*

From Claxton Stevens' research, this probably dates both chests to the early 19th century, prior to 1822 when the business became styled as Timothy Walford Jnr. However, some caution is needed here as the labels clearly indicate that the Walfords dealt in secondhand furniture as well as supplying new and they may well have applied their labels to both. Like the bow-fronted chest, the mahogany veneers on this one are apparently laid on pine; the handles are replacements and conceal a single hole,



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

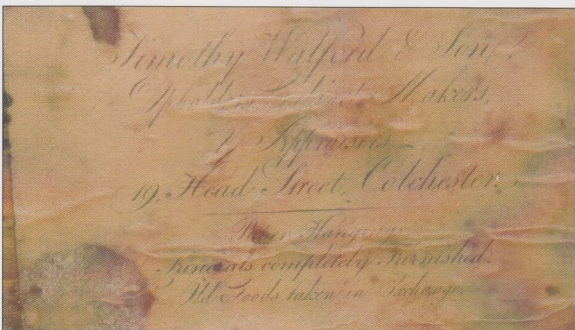


Fig. 3

suggesting that it too originally had knobs. These two chests, seemingly of a similar date but displaying markedly different levels of decoration, give an interesting indication of the range of items the Walfords were supplying during this period.