

The Poughkeepsie Pottery

Adam Caire was born in Bavaria in 1833. His father John B. Caire had moved to this part of Germany after his service in Napoleon's Army, had married, had three sons and had learned the trade of potter. In 1838 he moved his family to Poughkeepsie and purchased the pottery on Main Street.



Adam learned the trade at his father's pottery and when his father sold the business he worked as a journeyman in Connecticut and New Jersey. When he returned to Poughkeepsie he purchased an interest in a pottery and formed a partnership with Philip Riedinger. He conducted business alone following Mr. Riedinger's death.

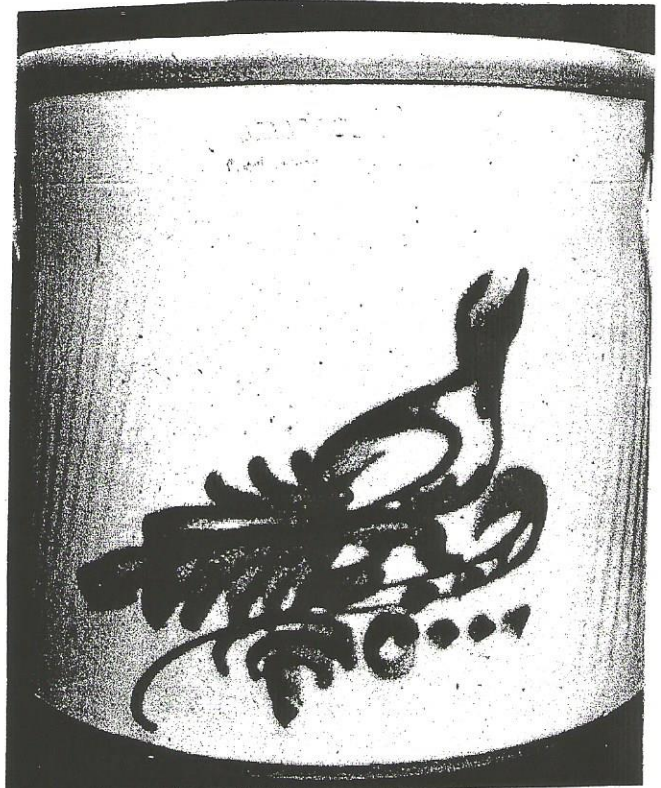
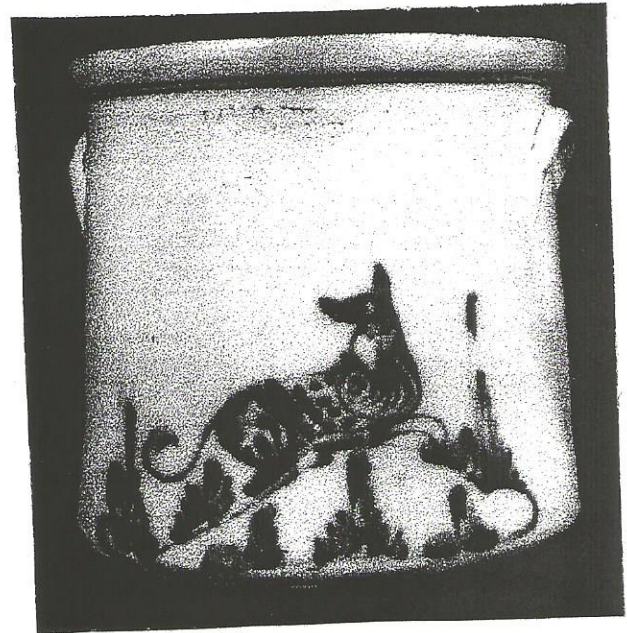
Mr. Caire twice held the office of alderman and served on the board of supervisors. He was elected one of the commissioners of the Alms House serving as president for a number of years. He was a member of the Baptist Church for over twenty five years and held the office of deacon. He was made a trustee and served as president for a number of years. He died in 1896 and is buried in the family plot at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

A reminiscence by Adam's grandson Richard is of great interest. "When the day's work was done, the potters were at liberty to make little things for themselves. These included banks, pitchers and the like which were decorated and fired and then brought home to members of their families as presents."

His obituary in the Poughkeepsie Eagle affirms the man he was. "Very few of our citizens have been more respected or beloved by all who came in contact with him. He leaves a wife and six children, all of an adult age, and a large circle of friends who join with them in mourning his sudden departure."

The Caire operation is said to have stopped the day Adam Caire died suddenly at his pottery.

Most of the pieces of pottery with the Caire name were sold in the Hudson Valley. Those sold farther away, such as New York City, were made by Caire but were stamped with the name of the firm buying the pieces. The Caire pieces which appeared with the Caire name were often sold to peddlers who would load them into wagons at the pottery and then sell them in various near-by towns.



An Unusual Stone Crock: Made by Adam Caire of Poughkeepsie, New York, in the last quarter of the 19th Century. Its distinctive feature is the decoration in cobalt blue of a chicken pecking at corn.