

# The Lovier Men: Three Generations of Silversmiths, Watchsmiths and Jewelers

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### THREE GENERATIONS OF SILVERSMITHS, WATCHSMITHS AND JEWELERS

Multiple generations of Lovier men were apparent skilled craftsmen and craft-related businessmen, their art extending across at least three generations and to at least one son-in-law, and spanning census accounts from 1850 Christian County, Kentucky to 1930 Columbia County, Florida. Known as silversmiths, watchsmiths, jewelers and engravers, Richard M. Lovier (1812-1855), his sons, George L. Lovier (1841-1911) and William S. Lovier (b. 1845); likely son, Richard H. Lovier (b. 1835), with the younger Richard's own son, Louis Creiger Lovier (1867-1947); and Martin Miller (b. 1831), Richard M.'s son-in-law - all must have displayed an inherent interest, talent and skill in their shared chosen field.

Richard M. Lovier (1812-1855)

In 1850 Hopkinsville, Christian County, Kentucky, Maryland-born Richard M. Lovier is recorded as a silversmith. He and his wife, Elizabeth, and five children share their home with three apparent boarders, adult men who are skilled in their own respective trades as either tailor or gunsmith. The value of real estate owned by Richard suggests affluence and success in his career. Unfortunately, perhaps around the time their last child was born, or shortly thereafter, Richard M. Lovier died. He is said buried in August 1855 in Hopkinsville's Riverside Cemetery. In 1860, widow Elizabeth Lovier has five children ranging from 5 years to 18 years. The eldest, George L. Lovier, listed in his mother's census as apprentice to a silversmith, is recorded twice that year. George is found again that same year sharing a home with a for-certain relative and probable elder brother, silversmith Richard H. Lovier.

George L. Lovier (1841 - 1911)

George L. Lovier, son of Richard M. and Elizabeth, was born about 1841 in Kentucky. Per names of corresponding family members and of residences across Christian County, Kentucky and Davidson County, Tennessee, he appears to be the same Kentucky-born George L. Lovier who died on 21 August 1911 in the National Home for Disabled Soldiers in Washington County, Tennessee. Cause of death was a broken neck after an accidental fall from a ladder, George is buried in the Mountain Home National Cemetery in Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee. His Ireland-born wife, Kate Mannion Kane Lovier, died in Ohio in 1920, and is buried in Nashville, Tennessee. George and Kate's last home together was in Nashville before his admission to the Soldiers Home in 1904.

According to early census, George was the elder of several siblings in the 1850 Christian County, Kentucky home of his silversmith father, Richard M. Lovier and wife Elizabeth. By 1860, his father had died and eighteen-year-old George L. Lovier was a silversmith apprentice, possibly under the tutorage of a likely older half-brother, silversmith Richard H. Lovier (b. 1835). In July, 1860, apprentice George is recorded in his mother's home as well as a shared home with the Richard H. Lovier family. George is noted as a jeweler in the Richard Lovier census. By 1870, George and several adult siblings are with their mother in Kentucky. While a brother and a brother-in-law seem to carry on the family tradition, in 1870 George is recorded as "works farm".

On 15 Jan 1874, George L. Lovier married widow Katherine Mannion Kane in Davidson County, Tennessee. Kate had at least one Kane daughter. George and Kate had at least three daughters and one son. By 1870, George seems to have abandoned his original trade. A farmer in 1870, he was recorded as a grocer's clerk still in Christian County, Kentucky in 1880 and with no employment in 1900 Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee.

In January 1904, a disabled George was admitted to the Soldiers Home. Admission records indicate his military service from 1861- Oct 1863, in Company A, 3rd Kentucky Calvary, USA, and from Oct 1863 - Christmas Day 1864, in Company H, 48th Kentucky Infantry, USA, in which he served with younger brother, William S. George's transfer from one unit to the other was due to a promotion. He mustered out upon the expiration of his term of service. Onset of his disability is recorded as "after mustered out". Burial in the National Military Cemetery is in Section E, Row 6, Grave #13.

William S. Lovier (b. 1845)

William S. Lovier, next youngest brother to George L., was born to Richard M. and Elizabeth Lovier about 1845. He served with George for two years, from 1863-1864, in Company H, 48th Kentucky Mounted Infantry, USA. In 1860, young William had been a student living in his widowed mother's home. By 1870, he had taken up his father's trade abandoned sometime before by his brother George. In 1870, still living in his mother's home, a twenty-five-year-old William was recorded as a jeweler. Among other siblings and one in-law in the household, only William and the brother-in-law, Martin Miller, are keeping up the family tradition. Martin's profession in 1870 was listed as that of engraver. 1880 is the last record positively identified, to-date, for William. At that time, single and living in his mother's home, he was still true to his profession and recorded as a watchsmith.

Martin Miller (b. 1831), Husband of Mary Lovier

Included here due to census sequence, Martin Miller was the son-in-law of a silversmith and brother-in-law to men who at times were known silversmiths, jewelers and watchmakers. Martin married Mary Lovier, daughter of Richard M. and Elizabeth Lovier, about 1866. By 1870, they had two small sons and were living in widowed Elizabeth's household. Little else is known of engraver Martin Miller at present. According to his 1870 Census, he was born in Kentucky. Said ten years older than Mary, it should prove interesting to explore if Martin had been drawn to the engraving profession from having known Mary or if Martin met Mary after having become professionally associated with her father or brothers.

Richard H. Lovier (b. 1835)

Sharing a name, a birthplace and a not-so-common profession strongly suggests a kinship between Richard M. and the elder Richard H. Lovier, even if not that of father and son. Not found at age fifteen in the elder Richard M. Lovier's 1850 Census could suggest another family relationship. It could also reflect, however, a teenage Richard's absence due to adventure or to a step-mother's presence in the home. Or, it could reflect something as simple as a census taker's accidental omission. Elizabeth, widow of Richard M. Lovier, lives very near the household of an adult Richard H. Lovier in later years, and Elizabeth's son, George, seems to have been Richard H. Lovier's apprentice - all circumstantial things that seem to tie the families of Richard M. and Richard H. together.

The parents of Maryland-born silversmith Richard H. Lovier were most likely the elder Richard M.

Lovier and his apparent first wife, Henrietta Creager. The couple was married in Washington County,

Maryland on 23 Aug 1834. Richard H. was born in 1835. Per the 1880 Census for Richard H. Lovier, Richard and both his parents were said born in Maryland, thus ruling out as his mother the Kentuckyborn and Kentucky-married Elizabeth Locker Lovier who married Richard M. Lovier in 1840. That Richard H. Lovier named a son Louis Creiger Lovier in 1867 is considered further evidence that Henrietta Creager Lovier was indeed the mother of Richard H. Lovier.

Not found to-date in 1850, by 1860, Richard H. Lovier, his wife Nancy/Anna E. Lovier and two-year-old daughter, Alice, were living with the family of tailor William Ellis. Other craftsmen, including other tailors, also lived with the Ellis family. Even Richard's apparent younger brother, George L. Lovier (18), was living in the Ellis home. George was recorded as an apprentice to a silversmith in his mother's 1860 Census and counted again in the 1860 Ellis household as a jeweler. It is likely his mentor was Richard H. Lovier whose profession is recorded as silversmith in 1860.

By 1870, Richard and Annie Lovier and four children are found again in Hopkinsville, Christian County, Kentucky. This time Richard is recorded as a jeweler, the term perhaps interchangeable with silversmith. The household members of Elizabeth Lovier, widow of Richard M. Lovier, are immediate neighbors. In 1880, Richard H. and Annie remain in Hopkinsville, with Richard again being recorded as a silversmith.

Louis Creiger Lovier (1867-1947)

One of several children born to Richard H. and Anna E. Wright Lovier was a son, Louis Creiger Lovier, apparently named in-part in memory of his paternal grandmother, Henrietta Creager Lovier. Found in the parental home through 1880, it is not known what drew Louis to Florida by 1890. Louis C. Lovier married Annie B. Eaton in Columbia County, Florida on 1 April 1890. The couple is known to have had at least four children. Annie died in Florida in 1914 and Louis, after apparently parenting alone for several years, married Trudy Lidy Kitchens in Florida about 1928. All his children were grown by that time.

Born twelve years after the death of his likely grandfather, silversmith Richard M. Lovier, Louis certainly knew the next generation of family artisans, beginning with his own father who was a mature thirty-two by the time of Louis' birth. Louis grew up in the environment provided by this man who was recorded intermidently as silversmith and jeweler. His interest must have been whetted and his skill honed early-on by first-hand observations of his father. Perhaps the influence of likely uncles, one-time jeweler, George L. Lovier; jeweler and watchmaker, William S. Lovier; and engraver, Martin Miller. also played a part in Louis' development and in his being a Lake City, Florida jeweler and shop owner across the 1910-1920-1930 Census.

In his last census in 1940, a profession was not recorded for Louis C. Lovier, age 79. At that time he had been a widower for a second time for about five years. Louis died on 26 Feb 1947 in Polk County, Florida. A Hood grandson is known to have lived in Polk County and may have been the reason for Louis' presence there. Louis Creiger Lovier is buried in Oaklawn Cemetery, Lake City, Columbia County, Florida. Both wives and a son, Forest Richard Lovier (1903-1958), are also interred at Oaklawn.

[Supporting documentations are found with JOHN W. WRIGHT, tree owner elhura]

Elhura K. Smith

JOHN W. WRIGHT TREE

5 May 2013

**Date:** 1850 - 1930

**Place:** Hopkinsville, Kentucky to Lake City, Florida

**Description:** A summary of three generations of Lovier artisans as they applied their talent and skill to their chosen craft

