

Engraved Solid Silver Snuff Box



This is an old solid silver snuff box dating from around the reign of King William IV.

It was made by Birmingham silvermaker Thomas Shaw, a renowned maker of vinaigrettes and snuff boxes who worked between 1818 and 1845 based at Caroline Street, Birmingham.

Under the lid it has been engraved

**James Bain
Ironmonger
Gatehouse
1832**

The box measures about 7cm wide and weighs 72.6g

A Gatehouse timeline for James Bain :

1812 : nos. 8 & 10 High Street, Gatehouse were sold to James Hanning who was a baker.

1824 : on 28th November James' daughter Agnes Haining married James Bain at Girthon.

1825-6 : In the Pigot Directory James Bain had 2 entries under an address on High Street. He was both a shipowner and a smith.

1827 : Agnes inherited 8 & 10 High Street from her father.

1837-8 : In the Pigot Directory James Bain had 2 entries under an address on High Street. He was both a grocer & ironmonger and a smith.

1841 : In the census James Bain was a 43 year-old ironmonger, born in Scotland but not Kirkcudbrightshire. His wife Agnes was 35 and born in Kbits. They had 2 daughters Isabella (120 and Janet (10) both born in Kbits.

1851 : In the census James Bain was 55 and an ironmonger & grocer. He was born in Sorbie, Wigtownshire. With him was daughter Jessie (Janet, age 20). Wife Agnes must have been away overnight.

1852 : Slater's Directory has James Bain as smith working from a property on High St.

1855 : James Bain died

1859-60 : The Valuation Roll confirms that Jessie Bain had married schoolteacher John Thomson and the couple lived in the adjacent property to Jessie's mother Agnes.

1861 : The census confirms that Agnes was now widowed.