

JAMES MITCHELL LAMSON SCOVILL

WILLIAM HENRY SCOVILL

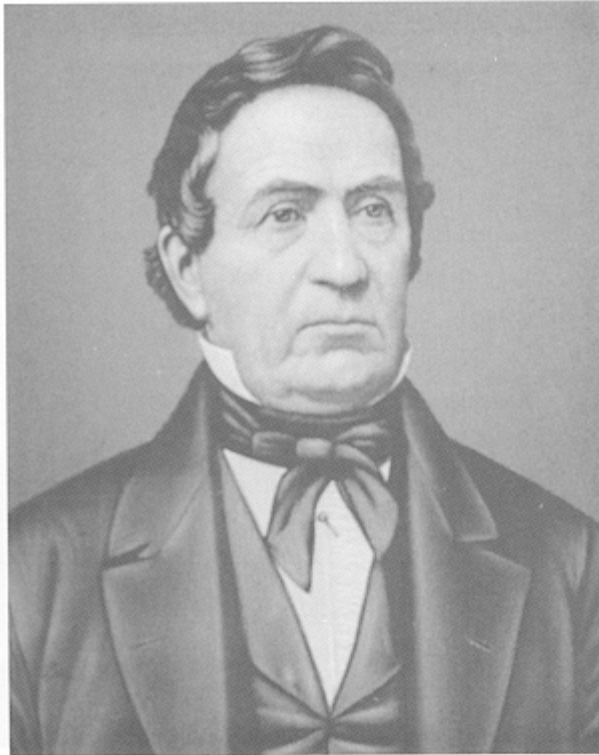
The manufacturing interests of Waterbury were perhaps more indebted to James Mitchell Lamson Scovill than to any other man. Bold, energetic and wise, he and his brother William Henry Scovill, guided the "mill on Mad River" from its simple beginnings as a button shop to a thriving company which continued to bear the Scovill name in Waterbury for nearly two hundred years.

James Mitchell Lamson Scovill was born in Waterbury on September 4, 1789. At the age of twenty-two, he joined with Frederick Leavenworth and David Hayden in purchasing the gilt button business of Abel Porter and Company. This venture was called Leavenworth, Hayden and Scovill. In 1820, the firm employed an Englishman named James Craft who was proficient in the trade and his ability to secure and develop skilled workers led to the flourishing of the firm.

When the Marquis de Lafayette visited the United States in 1824, this company presented him a set of solid gold buttons as a sample of American industry and as a token of appreciation for his service to America. In addition to the sixteen buttons given to General Lafayette, three others were made, one for each of the partners.

On April 4 1827, William Henry Scovill, born July 17, 1796, bought out Leavenworth and Hayden, purchasing a half interest in the firm which then became J.M.L. & W. H. Scovill. Recognizing a need for skilled workers and machinery, they sent Israel Holmes on a mission to England in 1839 to acquire both men and machines enabling the firm to cast and roll brass.

The two brothers were so intimately associated in the minds of the public that it is hard to consider them apart. They were very different in character, but they constituted one of those fortunate combina-



James Scovill
1789 - 1857