

The Family Members from 1752 to 1994:
Dates in order of birth & death

- A ● John Aynsley (I) 1752 – 1829 Founder
- B ● James Aynsley 1801 – 1841 Publican The Wheatsheaf Inn, Uttoxeter Road, Longton
- C ● John Aynsley (II) 1823/4 -1907
- D ● John Gerrard Aynsley (I) 1855 – 1924
- E ● Harry Aynsley & Herbert Aynsley (independent manufactures)
- F ● John G Aynsley (III) 1884 – 1921
- G ● Gerrard Aynsley (II) 1880 -1959
- H ● Kenneth Aynsley 1894 – 1975
- I ● John Ronald Aynsley (III) 1920 – 1955
- J ● J Michael Gillow Son in law to Kenneth Aynsley 1932 - 2014.
- K ● John Michael Aynsley 1904 - 1994.
- L ● Gavin Williamson 1976 - 2010 (Left Aynsley)

A ● John Aynsley (I) 1752 – 1829 Founder

John Aynsley, the founder of Lanes End and the early wares, is one of the best-known names in ceramics, with a history dating back to the late 18th century. Originally from Little Harley Towers, near Newcastle upon Tyne, John Aynsley, the first, came to Lanes End, in Staffordshire, about 1770 in search of new opportunities. Probably from 1752. He may have learnt the trade of an engraver in London. On 24 November 1777, he married Sarah Gallimore at Stoke Parish Church and was described as a painter, possibly of china. He brought up a large family, of whom the second son, James, was the father of John Aynsley the second, who founded the Portland Works around 1788. John Aynsley opened an establishment in Lanes End, the township at the southern end of the Staffordshire potteries, better known from the 1840s as Longton. A contemporary in 1790 described him as an 'enameler', indicating that he was a decorator rather than a manufacturer. He was also one of the 14 original co-partners who included Joshua Spoke in the first Fenton Park colliery in 1790. In 1796, John Aynsley appeared to have opened a manufactory in Flint Street on the site of the present market in Longton. By all accounts, he prospered working one of two properties that he owned and was still in business as Aynsley and Company. In 1810, he may then have retired, although there are later references to him first as a potter in 1818 and then an engraver in 1822 at the address at Commerce Street, Lanes End. had relinquished his investment in the Fenton Park colliery as early as 1800 and died at Lanes End on the 26th of February 1829 age of 77, comparatively a poor man with no recorded will.

In his obituary notice John Aynsley was represented as 'One of the first manufacturers of porcelain in Lanes End and the first lusterer' although there is no evidence that he manufactured porcelain his reputation as a producer of lustre wares was upheld by Simone Shaw who wrote in 1829 that 'A person named Mr John Aynsley recently died introduced [silver lustre] at Lanes End and since 1804, it has been practiced with various success through the whole of the district'. However he is better known for beer and cider mugs, plates and tea pots decorated with black transfer prints enamelled in a wide range of colours and illustrating sporting, theatrical, political and humorous events such as the illustrated example 'keep within the compass' and 'French happiness' on present evidence John Aynsley would seem to have been mainly a decorator who may well have engraved prints and produced creamwares and other pottery.