



Shavings

The Newsletter of the Early American Industries Association

Issue 274
Winter 2025



The Early American Industries Association

www.EAIA.us

John H. Verrill, Executive Director
 P.O. Box 524, Hebron, MD 21830
eaia1933@verizon.net

The Early American Industries Association preserves and presents historic trades, crafts, and tools and interprets their impact on our lives. Membership in the EAIA is open to any person or organization sharing its interests and purposes. *Shavings*, the newsletter of the Early American Industries Association, Inc., is published quarterly in February, April, July, and November. Current and past issues (beginning with issue 204) are available at www.eaia.us.

Director of Membership Engagement: Lara Miller, membership@eaia.us

Shavings Editor: Melissa A. Winn, shavings@eaia.us

Chronicle Editor: Sarah Thomas, chronicleeditor@eaia.us

Submissions: EAIA's *Shavings* is a member-driven newsletter. Contributions are always welcome and needed. Please observe the deadlines.

Reporting an Address Change: Please notify Executive Director six weeks before the change. Contact information above.

Officers 2024-2025

President	2nd Vice President
Rodney Richer	Vacant
1st Vice President & Treasurer	Secretary
Peter Hudson	Jane Butler

Directors 2024-2025

Jerry Davis	David Niescior
Cheryl Fox	Donna Page
Ron Howard	Bob Roemer
Tom Kelleher	Andrew Rowand
Sarah Lasswell	Marc Sitkin
Patty MacLeish	Preston Sweeney

Committee Chairs

Annual Meeting	Publications
Rodney Richer	Patty MacLeish
Awards	Regional Meetings
Denise Richer	Jane Butler
Endowment Fund	Research Grants
Heidi Campbell-Shoaf	Heidi Campbell-Shoaf
Membership	Website Committee
Andrew Rowand	Marc Sitkin
Meetings and Programs	Whatsits
Rodney Richer	Terry Page
Nominating	
Sally A. Fishburn	

Table of Contents

EAIA at Working Wood 5

Pieces of Tangible History 6

Member Book Featured on Podcast 9

Member Project: Restoring a Chest of Drawers . . . 10

Inside the Fisher & Norris Factory Museum. 11

EAIA News 13

Profiling Nancy Evans 16

Departments

President's Message 3

From the Executive Director 4

Welcome New Members 13

Calendar of Events 14

Whatsit? 15

Front Cover: Colonial Williamsburg joiner Brian Weldy demonstrates the sophisticated greenwood turning and joinery techniques at this year's *Working Wood in the 18th Century* conference. (Photo by Richard Cunningham)

Shavings, the newsletter of the Early American Industries Association, Inc., is published quarterly: February, April, July, and November.

The deadline for the next issue (no. 275, Spring 2025) is **April 1, 2025**.

Submissions: EAIA's *Shavings* is a member-driven newsletter. Contributions are always welcome and needed. Please observe the deadlines.

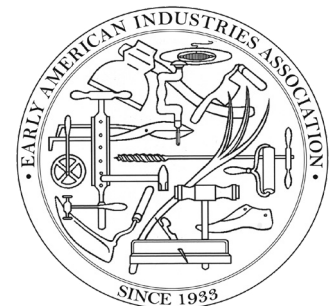
Reporting an Address Change: Please notify Executive Director six weeks before the change. Contact information above.

Advertising: Contact Melissa Winn for advertising rates at shavings@eaia.us.

Requesting a replacement copy: Contact Executive Director John Verrill (see contact information above).

Both *Shavings* and *The Chronicle* are available on microfilm from UMI, 300 Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

© 2025 by the Early American Industries Association, Inc.



President's Message

As I sit next to my window, in upstate New York, writing this column facing a three-foot wall of snow, I am reminded how eager I am to start the spring season. I'm eager to make the drive down to York, Pa., for the spring tool auction where I look forward to seeing many of you again, for the first time this year. I'm just as eager to see you as I am to buy more essential tools, which at least for me, signifies the start to another great year of participating in our common interests and friendship.

I attended the *Working Wood in the 18th Century Conference* in Williamsburg, Va., in January for the first time. It was a wonderful event that drew almost 250 attendees and another 140 watching online. The EAIA gets fantastic exposure here for attendees that share our interests. This year, EAIA Executive Director John Verrill stationed himself at our booth and reported approximately 15 membership renewals and four new member sign-ups. He gave away dozens of copies of *The Chronicle* to introduce people to the EAIA. The 2025 Annual EAIA Conference in Rochester, N.Y., is coming together as we close in on its arrival in just 12 short weeks. On the first day Genesee Country Village will provide several hands-on workshops as well as extended content throughout our day in the blacksmithing shop, "firing" a barrel with the cooper and leg turning on the treadle lathe. Three limited hands-on workshops, about 3 hours in duration, will include painted tin work, stitching a leather sheath, and a sharpening workshop, which will be offered to limited attendees. We will also have the opportunity to tour the collections vault as a special offer for our organization. I am personally

looking forward to an 1880's-style baseball game for our entertainment during lunch, and I hear they may need to draft some willing EAIA members to participate! This, and the many other activities planned during the three days in Rochester, should make the 2025 annual conference a memorable one. Registration for our Annual Conference will be coming out in late February.

Hard work continues from all our volunteer committees, to provide continued content in our publications: *Shavings* and *The Chronicle*. I would like to thank all the authors that provide great content and ask anyone interested in providing content to please reach out to John Verrill. Also, scholarship and grant opportunities are being provided again to advance the continued research and sharing of information on tools, trades, and industries of the past. This is a

core mission of the Early American Industries Association. As we transition from winter, I am looking forward to the planning of more regional meetings throughout 2025, as we have had many great events the last couple of years. 🐦

by Rodney Richer



EAIA President Rodney Richer

From the Executive Director

by John Verrill

At this time of the year the EAIA office is humming along, tidying up all the membership renewals and finalizing plans for the annual conference in Rochester, N.Y. We have just completed the conference brochure and sent it off to the printer. It will be mailed by the end of February. You may have noticed that the EAIA board has changed the name from the Annual Meeting to Annual Conference. This change came as the result of discussions noting that the event is an educational opportunity for all who attend. For many members who work at museums or historic sites it is an opportunity for their institutions to support their attendance as an effort to expand their knowledge of the tools, trades, and crafts in our history. We hope this will increase our attendance.

In the downtime of winter we also hope to hear from members about planning possible sites for Regional Meetings. We have heard from one member who is planning a meeting at the [Catoctin Furnace Museum](#) near Thurmont, Md., sometime this summer. These one day events don't have to be elaborate in scope, they could just be a morning tour of an historic or industrial site followed by a box lunch or perhaps a tour of an individual's collection of tools or workshop. It has also been suggested that members who live in close proximity to each other could meet for lunch or happy hour to exchange their interest in history, trades, and tools. In fact it was at a lunch meeting in August 1933 at the Wiggins Old Tavern in Northampton, Mass., when a group of folks decided to form a group to share their in-

terest in the tools, trades, and crafts, and here we are still interested 92 years later. We hope to hear your ideas and willingness to pursue them.

As many of you have noticed The Chronicle is behind schedule. Production fell behind during the pandemic and a change of editors further delayed it. It is our goal to get caught up this year as we know how important it is to ensure you get all that you are entitled to as a member. As we move forward with this, we hope to expand the number of contributors to the publication by spreading the word about the opportunities for individuals, like you, to be published. We encourage you to share your interests. Have you collected information on a particular industry that you would like to share? A photo and a few paragraphs can be

as interesting as an extensive article. One thing about The Chronicle is that it should reflect your interests. Send me your ideas!

I look forward to seeing you in Rochester at the end of May. The conference will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about a region rich in history and manufacturing. Our theme this year is "Tools & Trades Along the Erie Canal." 🐾

EAIA 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SAVE THE DATE

May 28th-31st

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

EAIA Represents at Working Wood Conference

by John Verrill

In January, President Rodney Richer and I attended the “Working Wood in the 18th Century” Symposium at Colonial Williamsburg. The Early American Industries Association, the Society of American Period Furniture Makers, and Lie-Neilsen Tools were sponsors of the event.

Three days of presentations by both journeymen and apprentices from the Trades Shops as well as renowned cabinet makers from around the nation gave us a look at “To Furnish a Town: High, Low and In-Between.” These experts demonstrated the making of furniture that ran the gamut from a fashionable chair for the Governor’s Palace to a humble stool that might have been used in an enslaved person’s quarters.

Steve Brown and former *The Chronicle* editor Megan Fitzpatrick made presentations about furniture construction. Brown demonstrated the construction of a formal cabriole leg dressing table and Fitzpatrick discussed the construction of a blanket chest that she copied from an example in the collection at Colonial Williamsburg. Additional presentations included methods of processing wood in preparation for furniture building, including hewing and pit-sawing wood into usable lumber.

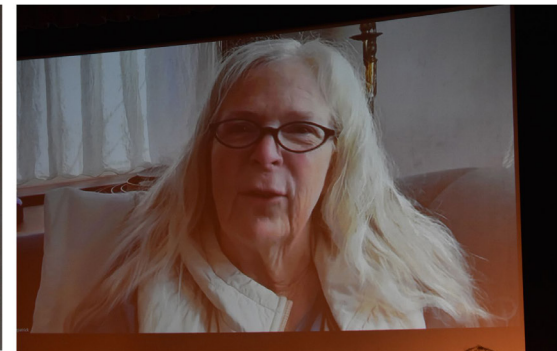
Journeymen cabinet makers Bill Pavlak and John Peeler presented information on how economic factors affected the styles and construction of fall front desks and drop leaf dining tables using examples from the vast holdings of Colonial Williamsburg. CW Conservator Chris Swan made a presentation about the appearance of the finishes and patina that evolved on

furnishings over time due to environmental factors and sun exposure.

We were also treated to a presentation about the Bray School, the latest building to undergo restoration in the historic area. The building was ‘discovered’ several years ago near the college of William & Mary by researchers looking for clues to the whereabouts of the building that had been used as a school for enslaved and free Black chil-

dren. The building had undergone many updates which were stripped off to reveal the 1774 structure; it was then moved three quarters of a mile to its current location and has been fully restored.

It was a great opportunity to talk to the crowd of woodworkers and EAIA members who attend. We’ve gained many new members as a result of our participation. 🦩



Presentations at the “Working Wood in the 18th Century.”

PHOTOS BY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM

Pieces of Tangible History

By Lara Miller

In January, my husband Andrew and I accompanied my mentor, Rick, on a behind-the-scenes tour of the furniture collections at the [Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art](#) in Hartford, Conn. I was fortunate to begin a decorative woodcarving apprenticeship in the style of 17th-century New England carvers with Rick this past year, so we were eager to observe and be inspired by the high-quality pieces held in these collections.

We were led around by Dr. Philippe Halbert, the Wadsworth's Curator of American Decorative Arts, who provided us with a wealth of information regarding the pieces we examined.

Though the many pieces that had me ooing and aahing could fill this entire newsletter, I wanted to share with you some of my favorites.

I hope you enjoy looking at these beautiful pieces of handmade furniture as much as I have. Not only did this field trip provide my mentor and me with the inspiration and knowledge we were looking for, but it also served as a reminder of the numerous gray areas involved in most trades & crafts. Through our research, he and I often read that most early American carvers used primarily oak and pine (which we use, as well), and that certainly seems to be the case, but to look at a chest that was additionally crafted with pecan and a box with tulipwood was fun for us.

Throughout my several years in the realm of trades & crafts, I am always grateful for the collectors who help preserve (and often restore) our tangible history, like many of you do. Having access to such centuries-old pieces (be they

wood, iron, fiber, tin, glass, ceramic, etc.) is a large part of what helps us collectively keep these trades & crafts alive, and what helps us at EAIA carry out our mission of preserving and pre-

senting historic trades, crafts, & tools. So, if you are a collector, thank you.

Please keep up the good work. 🐦



An interesting joined wainscot chair with a heddle cut into the back panel for weaving. Made between 1650 and 1680 of white oak, the maker is unknown but is attributed to the New Haven Colony (likely Guilford, CT).

LARA MILLER



Side chair, c. 1740–60

Spencer Family Shops (active c. 1640–1830)
Hartford, Connecticut
Maple and ash, unadorned and
pigment stained red

The High K. and Barbara A. Rickard
Department of Art, Yale University

This turned side chair is the oldest attributed example of Hartford furniture in the Wadsworth's collection. It belongs to a shop tradition begun by one of the city's English Puritan founders, Thomas Spencer (1607–1687). A turner and militia officer, Spencer was granted a home lot on the east side of Main Street in 1638. This chair may have been made under the direction of his great-grandson, Obadiah Spencer III (1695–1783). Its transitional design reflects an evolving baroque style in Connecticut furniture. Traces of still visible pigment suggest that the chair was originally painted red.

Left: This side chair was built between 1740 and 1760 of maple and ash by the Spencer Family Shops in Hartford, CT, which were active between 1640 and 1830. The description reads: “This turned side chair is the oldest attributed example of Hartford furniture in the Wadsworth’s collection. It belongs to a shop tradition begun by one of the city’s English Puritan founders, Thomas Spencer (1607-1687). A turner and militia officer, Spencer was granted a home lot on the east side of Main Street in 1638. This chair may have been made under the direction of his great-grandson, Obadiah Spencer III (1695-1783). Its transitional design reflects an evolving baroque style in Connecticut furniture. Traces of still visible pigment suggest that the chair was originally painted red.” **Below:** A stunning chest, made in 1670 of white oak, pine, and pecan. It is attributed to maker Kenlin Winslow of Ipswich, MA, but could have also been made by other Ipswich carvers William Searle or Thomas Dennis.

PHOTOS BY LARA MILLER





Various carved boxes: From top: Made between 1660 and 1690 of white cedar, red oak, and tulipwood. Probably made in Granby, CT; Made in New England in 1677 of oak and pine. Unidentified maker. Initials read "SH."; Made between 1685 and 1700 of white oak, maple, and poplar. Probably made in Newbury, MA.; No information for this one, but interesting to look at!

PHOTO BY LARA MILLER

Applications Open for MESDA!

Spend a month marinating in the Old [Chesapeake] Bay with us! Applications are now open for the 49th annual MESDA Summer Institute which will explore the decorative arts of the Chesapeake. For more information and how to apply, see <https://mesda.org/program/si/>. Applications are due **March 1, 2025**.

The MESDA Summer Institute (Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts) is a rigorous multi-disciplinary decorative arts and material culture field school for graduate students, museum professionals, makers, scholars, and those in related fields. Summer Institute fellows spend a month working closely with MESDA's unparalleled collection and research resources. Using primary sources and object-based analysis, fellows gain experience with decorative arts across a range of media and learn how to create compelling object- and place-based narratives.

Our focus this year will be on the Chesapeake, but the methodologies and skills taught are useful for the fruitful study of objects from other time periods and regions. The curriculum includes lectures and collection studies with leading curators and scholars, hands-on workshops, and an intensive week-long study trip to important private and public collections. At the successful completion of the program, our fellows earn three graduate credits. Participants are eligible for full fellowships that cover the entire cost of the course, including housing and travel.

EAIA Member's Book Featured on YouTube and 'Ben Franklin's World' Podcast

The latest issue of *The Chronicle* reached my mailbox about a month ago. It included Kathryn Sullivan's review of EAIA member and clockmaker Bob Frishman's new book, *Edward Duffield: Philadelphia Clockmaker, Citizen, Gentleman*. Duffield did not train as a clockmaker in the traditional manner, but was indeed a very talented craftsman. From the photographs that accompanied the review, we get a glimpse of both Duffield's talent and the quality of Frishman's new book.

Recently, I was listening to "Ben Franklin's World," a podcast that focuses on the people and events in America during Franklin's lifetime. I was pleased not too long ago to tune in and hear that Frishman was a guest. He's a wonderful storyteller and he has a talent for weaving

the history of the day with the events in the life of Duffield. Frishman's book was published by the American Philosophical Society, which was founded by Benjamin Franklin. The proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the APS.

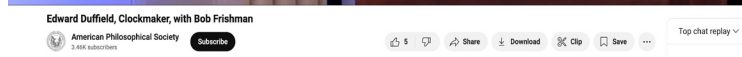
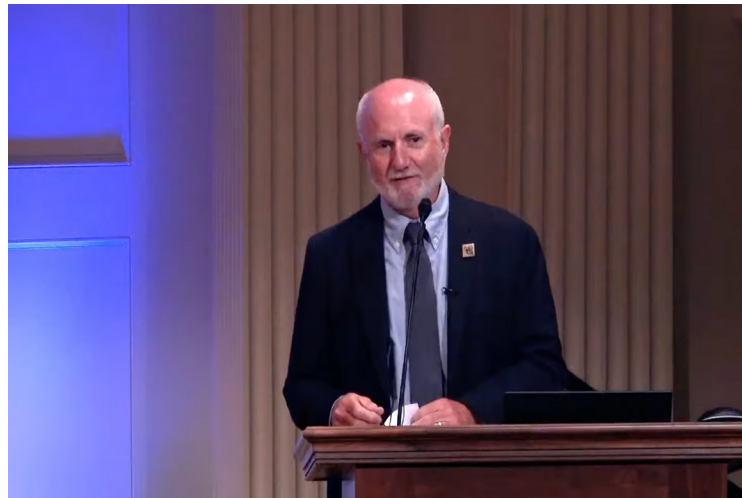
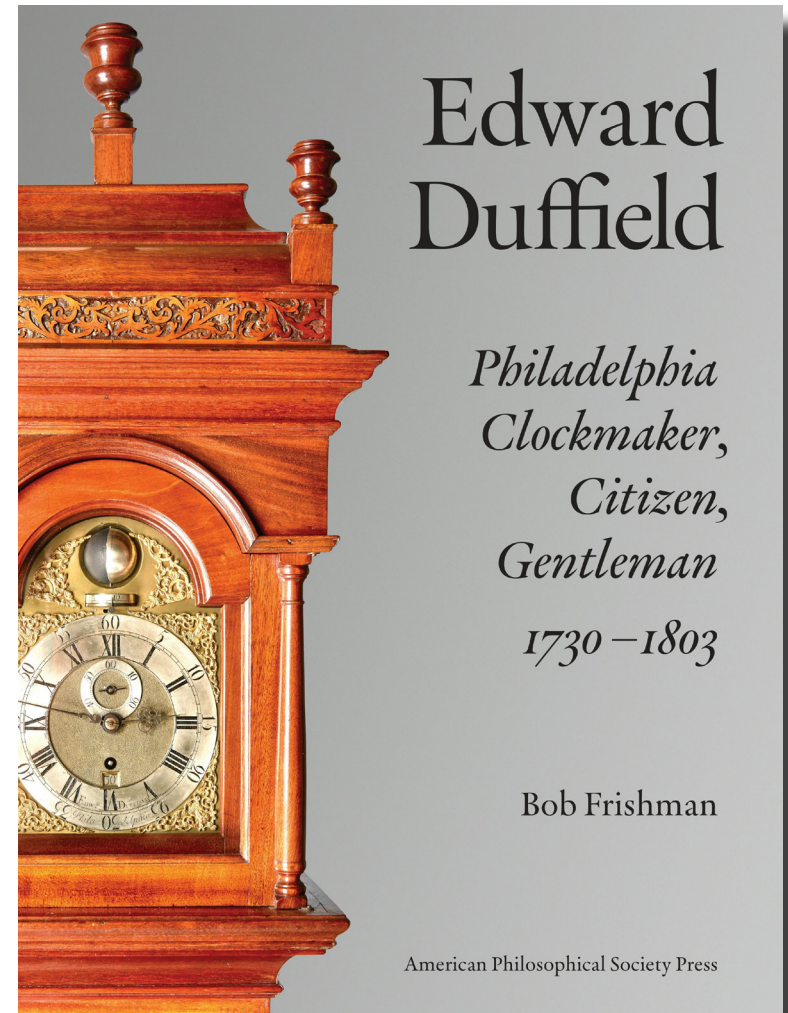
Check out the podcast and look for **Episode 402: Bob Frishman, Clocks, Watches, and Life in Early America**.

I mentioned the podcast to Sarah Thomas, editor of *The Chronicle*, and she pointed out that Bob has also appeared in several YouTube productions. The first is a talk presented to the American Philosophical Society in September 2024. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_BfuEH9L9Pg). Another is a presentation Bob gave at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dD4SDUxYsTk>). If you have an interest in clocks or in life in the time of the early days of America, you will enjoy these videos. Frishman is an engaging speaker. More information and links to other presentations by Frishman are available at <https://www.edwardduffield.com/>.

Finally, if you downloaded a free copy of *Shavings*

By Patty MacLeish

from the EAIA website, you might want to consider joining EAIA as a member, so you can read the review and the other great articles in *The Chronicle*. 🐦



American Philosophical Society Press

Member Project: Restoring a Chest of Drawers

By Daniel Gatti

I recently finished a weeks-long restoration project, namely repairing, restoring, and refinishing a large four-drawer chest of drawers. It's a mahogany veneer, has a bowed front, brass pulls, and a nice floral design inlay on the face of the top drawer. It's finished with a warm gloss poly finish. The piece measures 46" long x 22" deep x 35" high. It belongs to an elderly couple, friends of a friend of mine, who were just about to throw it out. I'm glad they didn't. It was an interesting, challenging, and rewarding project. 🐼



Inside the Fisher & Norris Factory Museum

By Joshua Kavett

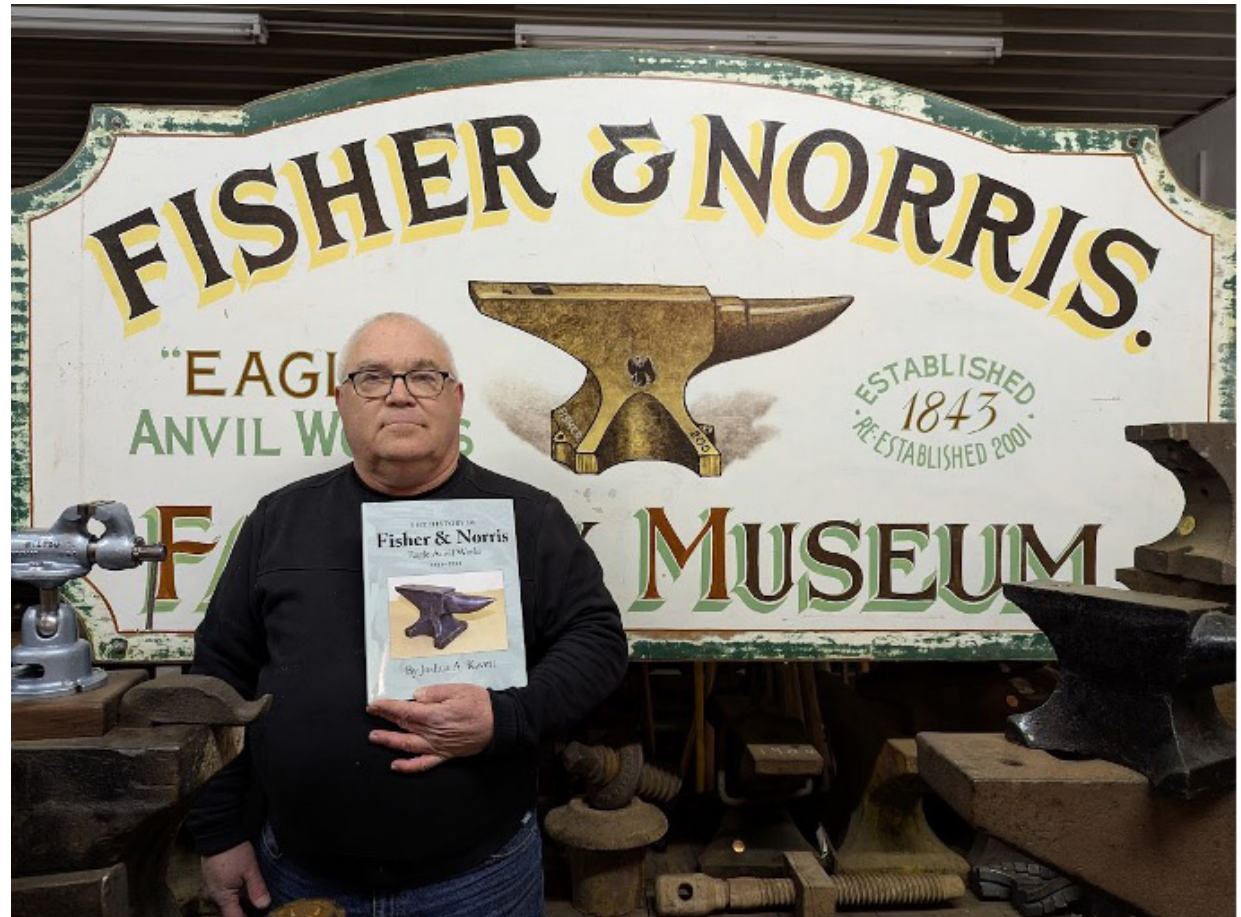
The Fisher & Norris Factory Museum was established in 2000. The collection is located in a pole barn built for the purpose of housing the collection of F&N artifacts obtained from the Crossley Machine Company plus future acquisitions. The collection has grown substantially over the past 22 years.

The impetus for the collection began with Richard Postman's book, *Anvils in America*. A price list on page 191 provided me with the location of the Crossley Machine Company. A visit in April 1999 began an adventure that changed my life and those around me. Mr. Louis Russo, the owner of Crossley, generously gave me any remaining artifacts associated with the era of anvil production (which had ended in 1979). I spent the summer of 1999 exploring the building to find as many relevant items as possible. Recovered were original patterns for anvils, swage blocks, and vises. Boxes of sales records and other ephemera were found throughout the plant. A few anvils and many anvil stands were also found. I was now the custodian of the remaining artifacts of Fisher & Norris and legal owner of the Fisher & Norris Company.

I decided to begin an earnest study of the history of the company, and to find as many of the products they produced over the years as I could. During the past 23 years, the collection has grown to be the largest F&N collection in the world. There are currently more than 500 anvils, vises, and other products produced by F&N. These objects were studied to reverse engineer them in order to figure out the technology of when they were made.

The museum also houses many anvils produced by other companies such as American STAR, Hay Budden, Peter Wright, Foster, and others. I knew that eventually I would write a book detailing the history of Fisher & Norris. My book, "The His-

tory of Fisher & Norris" was published in 2020, and is available at shop.fishernorris.com. It tells the story of how the Museum started, and the history of the company, including people, products, technology, and much more. 🐉



The collections housed in the Fisher & Norris Factory Museum are eclectic. They represent a lifetime of collecting interesting things. The Museum is open to interested parties by appointment only. The best way to contact me (Joshua Kavett, pictured above) is at njanvilman@gmail.com.

COURTESY OF JOSHUA KAVETT

Fisher & Norris Factory Museum, continued...



Collection of 20, 30, and 40 lb. Fisher anvils on the top shelf of the display.



Colonial anvils, early Fisher anvils, and other interesting objects.



The remnants of the original crane from the Fisher & Norris foundry building which was demolished in 1962. The photo shows the crane in the shop in the 1930s. These are the only pieces of the original foundry that exist.

EAIA News

Call for Nominations

The nominating committee seeks nominations for three 3-years terms on the Board of Directors. The Board creates and carries out policies for the management, and administrative and organizational functions of the EAIA, and hires and supervises the Executive Director. There are four board meetings a year and it is beneficial but not required for board members to attend the spring board meeting at the Annual Conference and the fall board meeting at the Brown Tool Auction, York, Pa., in person.

We welcome nominees who are current members of EAIA with an interest in actively helping EAIA with their time and talents. We seek a variety of skills to help maintain the organization including, but not limited to, expertise in the areas of finance, fundraising, graphic design, publishing, non-profit management, law, meeting planning, education, and IT.

If you would like to serve or have a nominee suggestion for consideration, please contact Sally Fishburn, chair of the nominating committee via email at safishburn@gmail.com or call at (802) 684-2524 by March 24th.

Awards Committee Seeks Members

AThe EAIA Awards Committee seeks two additional members to fill out our required number of five members.

Duties include taking nominations and suggesting nominees for the two awards available each year. The awards are the Long Time Service Award and the JD Hatch Award; and, if attending the annual conference, to assist in

the judging process for the member displays exhibited.

If interested in serving EAIA in this capacity, contact Denise Richer at richertool@aol.com or call or text 315-380-5882.

EAIA's 2025 grant applications are open!

Each year, EAIA awards grants in support of projects related to our mission of preserving and presenting historic trades, crafts, and tools.

These grants are awarded to:

- Individuals for research projects.
- Students or apprentices engaged in historic preservation/trades training.

- Historic sites and/or museums that hold non-profit status, in support of active conservation, public demonstrations, or educational programming.

-First-time Annual Conference attendees to cover registration & lodging.

Individual research grants may be up to \$3,000. Grants for training, conservation, or demonstrations will vary, but will not exceed \$3,000. For more information, including all guidelines and previously-awarded grants, please visit www.eaia.us/grants.

Deadline to apply: March 15th, 2025.

Please feel free to share and spread the word!

We Welcome New Members

We wish to express our thanks and extend a warm welcome to these members who have joined since November. Your interest and support is very much appreciated.

Ingrid Adam, Shirley, MA
 Larry Bolhuis, Aplington, IA
 James Caldwell, North Brookfield, MA
 Robert Carver, Sharon, MA
 Gordon Dayton, Gaylordsville, CT
 Dave & Diane Engel, Joliet, MT
 Joanne Downs, Bellport, NY
 Marc Fournier, Andover, MA
 Jim Hardwick, Locust Grove, VA
 Russell Harvey, Rocky Hill, CT
 Robert Hazen, Malvern, PA
 William Hines, Greeneville, TN
 Duane Holmes, Morrison, CO
 Paul Isaac, Larchmont, NY
 Mikaila Kaiser, Las Vegas, NV

Gary Kerschner, West Chester, PA
 Sue Kittel, Trumansburg, NY
 Colleen Kwiatkowski, Rochester, NY
 Sam Loyd, St. Louis, MO
 Dennis Merlau, Delton, MI
 Gustave Mueller, Sloansville, NY
 Daniel O'Neil, St. Albans, VT
 Chad Purnell, Chicago, IL
 Brent Rauber, Canisteo, NY
 Richard Renck, Chesapeake City, MD
 Charlotte Tahk, Orchard Park, NY
 Matthew Thexton, Falls Church, VA
 Allan Williams, Casuarina, Australia
 Bob Wood, Ridgeway, SS

Calendar of Events Illinois

California

April 26

Spreckels:

PAST Tool Collectors (formerly Preserving Arts and Skills of the Trades) 2025 Spring Tool Show and Sale. For more information, contact: West Whitaker west@pasttools.org or Bill Tennant bill@pasttools.org.

Connecticut

Ongoing

Mystic: *Figureheads and Ship Carvings* at the Mystic Seaport Museum. This new exhibit showcases the depth and breadth of the museum's carving collections. In addition to figureheads, it features other 19th-century ship carvings, shop figures, and the museum's latest acquisition, a magnificent carousel hippocampus.

May 24-25

Kent: The Eric Sloane Museum in Kent, CT, will be hosting their second annual Ironworks Weekend from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. This program explores the history of ironmaking in the Housatonic Valley at the Kent Iron Works site. The event will include special tours, exhibits, and an iron smelting demonstration at the site of a still-existing nineteenth-century iron furnace.

April 7-9

Chicago: *The American Historic Trades Summit*. "This national convening provides participants with the opportunity to share knowledge, pool resources, ensure consistent standards, and learn how to advocate for program support. The Chicago Summit will have informational sessions and networking opportunities that explore the past, present, and future of historic trades training in America." EAIA board member Andrew Rowand will be the keynote speaker.

Maryland

Ongoing

Baltimore: "*Sparrows Point, An American Steel Story*." In 1887, it was an isolated stretch of marshland on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay. By 1958, it was the biggest steel mill in the world. In 2001, it went bankrupt. And by 2015, it was a pile of demolished rubble. Sparrows Point is a story of capitalism, labor unions, race, gender, civil rights, pride, and hubris. It's the story of American steel. Watch its story in this six-part podcast series from the **Baltimore Museum of Industry** on YouTube.

March 15

Damascus: PATINA (Potomac Antique Tool and Industries Association) presents their annual *Tool Auction and Tool Sale* at the Damascus Maryland Volun-

teer Fire Association Activity Center at 10211 Lewis Drive.

April 5

Frederick: *Civil War Medical Care Living History* at the **National Museum of Civil War Medicine**. Members of the Blue and Gray Hospital Association will be in the Camp Life Gallery at the museum describing the medical history of America's bloodiest conflict. Dressed as members of the Confederate medical department and armed with period medical equipment, the unit brings a unique perspective to understanding the conflict.

Massachusetts

February - September 2025

Historic Deerfield: *Vermont Furniture from the Alley Collection* Many examples in the exhibit retain their vibrant, original surfaces and are organized according to their decoration: solid and highly figured native wood, painted wood, ornamental painting on metal and glass, and veneer and inlay.



2024 Potomac Antique Tool and Industries Association Tool Auction and Tool Sale

COURTESY OF PATINA

New York

Ongoing

New York: Historic hand tools are on display at the [South Street Seaport Museum](#). Check out the blog post [Tools of the trades; Caring for historic hand tools](#) for more information about the collection. The museum is open Wednesday - Sunday.

North Carolina

March 13-15

Winston-Salem Old Salem Museum & Gardens [Southern Ceramics Forum](#). The Forum is hosted jointly with Colonial Williamsburg. This two-day event will feature an afternoon of pre-conference, hands-on workshops with opportunities to mold clay and closely examine Moravian bottles and Georgia stoneware.

Oregon

Ongoing

[Pacific Northwest Tool Collectors Association \(PNTC\)](#) meetings are fairly unique as far as tool collector meetings go. We focus on education and research into tools, rather than just a buying frenzy (although there is some of that, too!). Each meeting has a theme, and members are asked to display tools from their collections in that theme. Displays are judged and each member with a display can talk about interesting tool trivia showcased in their display. We have a full [calendar of meetings](#) throughout the year.

Pennsylvania

April 3

Doylestown: Mercer Museum [Treasures from the Library Vault: Seeds & Gardening](#). A special presentation featuring archives from the Mercer Museum Research Library exploring gardening and the origins of Bucks County's Burpee Seeds and Landreth Seeds companies.

June 4-7

Erie: M-WTCA National Spring conference at the Sheraton Bay Front. For More Info: Mark Eastlick (814) 490-9357 emarktool@yahoo.com

Virginia

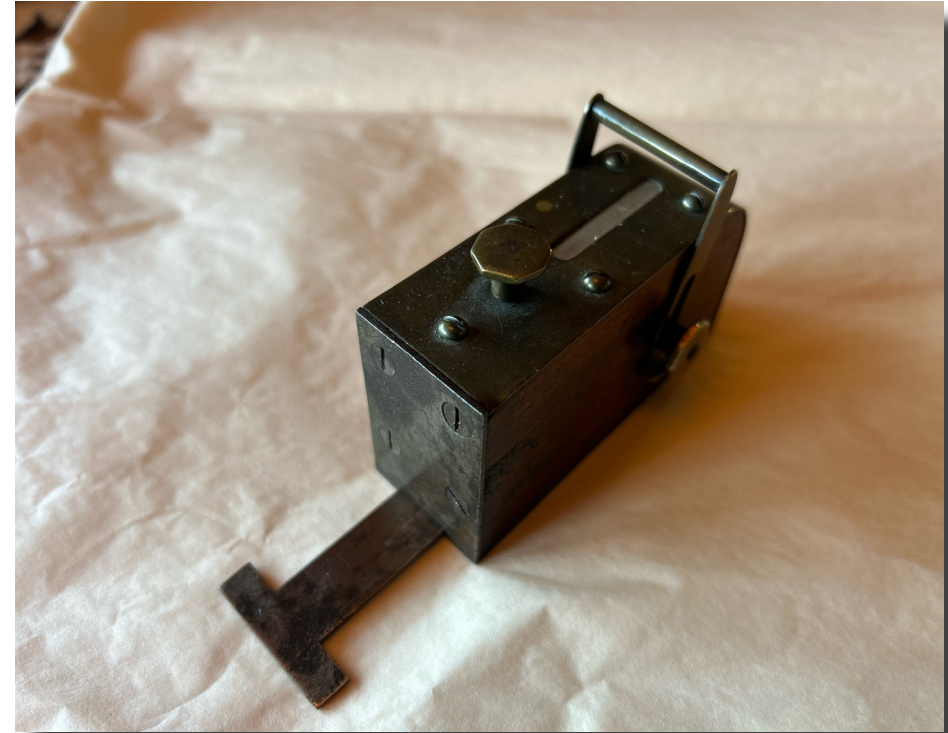
March 15

Lynchburg: Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest presents [Woodworking Hands-on Workshop](#). You will have the chance to try your hands at the tools used during the restoration of Jefferson's retreat. Participants will learn about the art of historic woodworking. This class will focus on the hands-on side of woodworking. You will use 18th & 19th century period correct tools to make your own picture frame using wood from the restoration.

April 26

Virgilina: M-WTCA Area Q & S meet at the volunteer fire dept: 8052 Florence Ave., Virgilina, VA 24598. For more information, contact Ed Hobbs (919) 817-8680 hobbsedandkathy@gmail.com.

Whatsit?



“I RECENTLY ACQUIRED THIS TOOL AND HAVE NO IDEA OF ITS PURPOSE. HOPING SOMEONE CAN IDENTIFY IT.

IT'S 3 1/8" LONG, 1 3/16" TALL, 1 1/8" WIDE.

IT HAS A LEVEL VIAL, AN ADJUSTABLE BRASS CROSS PIECE (HANDLE), A PULL OUT T SHAPED STEEL BLADE THAT'S 3" LONG IN 1/16" INCREMENTS THAT CAN BE SET IN OR OUT AND SECURED IN POSITION WITH BRASS TIGHTENING KNOB ON THE TOP.”

THINK YOU KNOW WHATSIT? DROP US A LINE
AT SHAVINGS@EAIA.US

Whatsit?



A TALE OF TWO WORKBENCHES?

LEFT: I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IDENTIFY THE PURPOSE OF THE ITEM IN THE ATTACHED PHOTOGRAPH. IT BELONGS TO A ROBERT ODDO OF WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP, PA (OUTSIDE EASTON, PA) WHO OBTAINED IT FROM STEWART FRITZ AND BELIEVES IT BELONGED TO HIS 3RD GREAT GRANDFATHER IN THE FRITZ FAMILY ON HIS MATERNAL SIDE. ANY THOUGHTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. THANKS! - JIM MARTIN, PRESIDENT OF THE WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BELOW: JOHN DAVIS OF MANASSAS, VA IS LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS UNIQUE WORK BENCH. HE SAYS IT STANDS AT "ELBOW HEIGHT."

THINK YOU KNOW WHATSIT?
DROP US A LINE AT SHAVINGS@EAIA.US



The Zlotoff Tool Museum

Open Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day

Admission is FREE

The collection includes more than 3,000 objects relating to 19th century crafts, trades, and occupations. Assembled by Arnold Zlotoff over four decades, the collection is effectively the result of one man's passion to understand the craftsmanship and ingenuity of early Americans. The museum is located in Vermont in the historic Champlain Island town of South Hero, just off US Route 2, on the grounds of the Apple Island Resoirt. For more information, visit the museum's website:

zlotofftoolmuseum.org

Please take note!

The deadline for the Spring 2025 issue of Shavings is April 1!

Please submit articles, events, classified ads and display ads to:
John Verrill (eaia1933@verizon.net)
by this date!

Timeless Tools and Treasures.com

Authentic tools for traditional trades plus books on tools

Cash paid for quality hand tool collections

603-588-2603 • janebutler@icloud.com



The CHRONICLE

of
The Early American Industries Association
Volumes 1-60 1933-2007



A DVD containing the first sixty volumes of *The Chronicle*

The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association Volumes 1-60

**75 Years of EAIA
Research in One Place
order on-line at
www.EAIA.us**



MARTIN J. DONNELLY AUCTIONS

The World's Largest Specialist Auctioneers of Antique Hand Tools
A Division of **Martin J. Donnelly Antique Tools**, Avoca, New York
www.mjdauctions.com (800) 869-0695 mjd@mjdauctions.com

Great Online Auctions Coming

First Tuesday and First Wednesday Each Month

September 3 & 4, 2024	January 7 & 8, 2025
October 1 & 2, 2024	February 4 & 5, 2025
November 6 & 7, 2024*	March 4 & 5, 2025
December 3 & 4, 2024	April 1 & 2, 2025
	May 6 & 7, 2025

*Rather than risk upstaging the Presidential Election, we have opted to move our November Auctions to Wednesday and Thursday of that week.

Online Only at www.mjdtools.com. Just click on "Auctions"
We have many great collections in the pipeline and we have the demonstrated ability to document and bring to market collections of tools and related antiques. If you have items for inclusion in our upcoming sales, please give us a call at (800) 869-0695 or by email at mjd@mjdtools.com

Martin J. Donnelly Auctions www.mjdtools.com
Celebrating our Twenty-Fifth Year of Auctions



Some Highlights from Our Recent Sales



Got EAIA?

Show your support for the EAIA with branded items from our store!

Shop at eaiainfo.org/store

Always Buying

Always Selling

Pete Niederberger

**Used and Antique Tools and
Parts for Same**

**Mail Order
415-924-8403**

**Call Me and Come To The Shop
pniederber@aol.com**

ANTIQUe & COLLECTABLE ★ TOOL AUCTION ★

Friday, May 23rd, 2025

TAILGATING STARTS: 6:00 A.M.

AUCTION STARTS: 12:00 P.M.

★ LIVE ONLY! NO ONLINE BIDDING ★

Saturday, May 24th, 2025

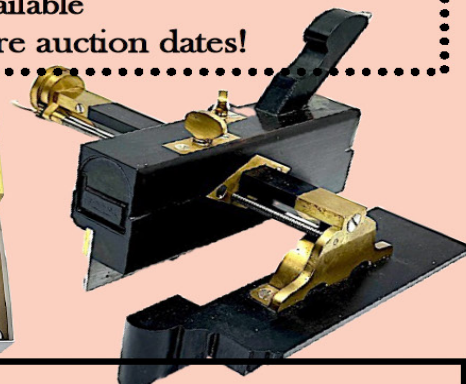
TAILGATING STARTS: 6:00 A.M.

AUCTION STARTS: 10:00 A.M.

★ LIVE & ONLINE BIDDING ★



Consignments invited
All lots described accurately—Bid with confidence
ABSOLUTELY NO RESERVES!
Absentee bidding available
Stay tuned for future auction dates!



Sale managed by Patrick Leach

INTERNET'S FIRST ANTIQUE TOOL SELLER WITH OVER 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN USING, COLLECTING, BUYING AND SELLING TOOLS AND ANTIQUES.

email: leach@supertool.com phone: (978) 386-2436

All events held at **Brookline Auction Gallery**

32 Proctor Hill Road, Brookline NH, 03033

www.brooklineauctiongallery.com (603) 673-4474

David Stanley Auctions

Are holding an auction of 1000 lots of Antique and Modern Woodworking Tools to include this rare split frame smoother.



On **Thursday 17th April**

(Catalogue will be live on 3rd April)

FREE INTERNET BIDDING

*Only when bidding on our website

This is a UK internet only auction. Please note the time difference
T: +44 1530 222320 E: tools@davidstanley.com
www.davidstanley.com

Tools and Trades Books.com

New and old books about using and making tools, early technology, traditional trades, early tool catalogs, structures and more.

603-588-2603

janebutler@icloud.com

