



# Shavings

The Newsletter of the Early American Industries Association

Issue 273  
Fall 2024



**The Early American Industries Association**

[www.EAIA.us](http://www.EAIA.us)

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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](http://www.eaia.us).

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*Front Cover:* EAIA members and others enjoy a tour of the Tradesman’s Tool Chest exhibit during Blacksmithing Weekend at the Fenimore Farm & Country Village in Cooperstown, N.Y., in September 2024. (Photo Courtesy of Bob Roemer)

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The deadline for the next issue (no. 274, Winter 2025) is **February 1, 2025**.

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

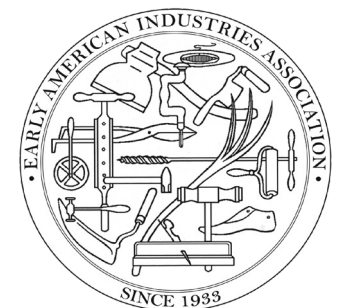
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# President's Message

by Rodney Richer

I am writing my first President's column with both a great sense of honor and much sorrow. Terry Wakeman, a 32-year dedicated EAIA member and our recently elected president, died on October 26th following a fall. I was just getting to know Terry a bit better and looked forward to working with him as EAIA vice-president over the next few years. His enthusiasm for and dedication to EAIA will be missed.

One of Terry's objectives was to advance the mission of the Early American Industries Association by promoting more regional meetings. Terry, in fact, planned the 2021 regional meeting at the Eric Sloane Museum in Kent, Connecticut. It was the first post-COVID in-person EAIA meeting, and by all accounts it was a great gathering.

I share the same enthusiasm for regional meetings. The social aspects of being together and sharing our passions and knowledge of tools and historic trades are the best parts of being an EAIA member. I have enjoyed participating in the Early American Industries Association since 2017. For me, the annual and the regional meetings have provided an opportunity to interact with so many wonderful and knowledgeable people to expand my understanding of my own interests.

I am an avid collector and have homed in on New York State tools originating in Auburn, NY. While I enjoy finding and owning these rare tools, it becomes secondary to the relationships I have accumulated in the process. There's no better way than face-to-face meetings to educate each other and invigorate and grow interest in the involvement in EAIA. That is why I and the leadership of

EAIA have committed to carrying on Terry's initiative to promote regional meetings in 2025 to honor his time as our President.

I am excited to work with all of you over the next few years to continue to move this fine organization forward and bring more great content to our members and the wider public.

I look forward to helping move forward upcoming meetings and special projects including some excellent publications work and a large undertaking by the EAIA to publish a tin-smith pattern book of Bill McMillen's lifetime of work as a world-class craftsman. I would like to thank all our volunteer committees that make these projects possible.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming Rochester, NY, annual conference scheduled for May 28-31, 2025. I am honored to

contribute to carrying on the mission of this great organization with so many good people.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable upcoming holiday season. 🦃



*EAIA's new President, Rodney Richer*

## From the Executive Director

by John Verrill

Sadly, the opening words of my column are to announce the death of EAIA President Terry Wakeman. In mid-October, Terry had a bad fall which put him in the hospital and worsened an existing condition from which he was not able to recover. I spoke to him just a day before his fall and he was very upbeat about leading EAIA. He was adamant in stressing the importance of regional meetings and was anxious to work with members to increase the number of these events and to expand into territory that would be new to members in the south and west. I was happy to report that we had had regional meetings in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia this fall. Additionally I reported on the planning for the 2025 annual conference in Rochester, NY. He was excited to bring a new project to display and his friend Cookie to share in the comraderie.

Terry's family followed his wishes not to have a funeral or obituary. We respect that, but if you would like to send a card of condolence to his friend and partner Alice "Cookie" Carberry please send it to me and I will forward all cards to her. EAIA, P.O. Box 524, Hebron, MD 21830

On the first weekend of November, EAIA board members met for our fall board meeting in York, Pennsylvania. On the agenda was the leadership change necessitated by Terry Wakeman's death. By acclamation and rules of EAIA bylaws, First Vice President Rodney Richer was elevated to the position of President, Second Vice President Peter Hudson was moved to the 1st VP slot and the Exec-

utive Committee will nominate a new 2nd VP from the current board membership.

The fall board meeting always coincides with the Brown Antique Tool Sale and Auction. We are grateful to Jim Gering, owner of the Brown Auction Company for allowing EAIA to set up an information table for the events and for arranging for the use of the hotel board meeting room for the board meeting on Sunday morning. In exchange, EAIA members serve as runners for the auction. Jim always also sends along a generous check to be deposited into the endowment account.

Just after Thanksgiving each year we begin our membership renewal drive for the next year. We do hope you will renew so that you will continue to receive *Shavings*, *The Chronicle*, and invitations to regional meetings and the annual conference. EAIA celebrates its 92nd year in 2025. We hope you will consider a gift of \$92 for our 92nd anniversary; all gifts to the initiative go to the EAIA Endowment fund to ensure the future of your organization.

We wish you wonderful holidays and a new year full of promise and good health. 🐾



EAIA's membership renewal drive is underway. A recent photo of members at the Annual Conference.

## 2025 EAIA Annual Conference Headed to Rochester, N.Y.

by EAIA Staff

Save the date as the 2025 Annual Conference is well into the planning stages! The conference will be held **May 28 through May 31, 2025**, in Rochester, N.Y. The Doubletree By Hilton Hotel in Rochester will serve as our headquarters hotel. We have a full schedule of events, museum visits, tool sales, and member displays planned.

On Thursday, May 29, we will travel to the **Genesee Country Village & Museum**, the largest living history museum in New York State. The museum was chartered in 1966, to preserve the architecture of the Genesee Valley region in a recreated historic village, providing context for the telling of New York State and 19th-century American history. We will have the opportunity to explore the village of 68 historic buildings, museums, and trades shops, all of which are handicap accessible. Costumed interpreters

will share the stories of the historic buildings, and journeymen and apprentices will demonstrate their crafts, which include coopering, shoemaking, dressmaking, pottery, woodworking, printing, pharmacology, and more. It will certainly be a full day of learning and exploration. After dinner on your own, we will be entertained with a “whatsit” session with our own renowned host Terry Page.

Friday’s activities will include visits to the **George Eastman House Museums** in downtown Rochester. George Eastman was a leader in developing film technology in the late 19th and early 20th century. The film library and museum is the world leader in the collection of all aspects of film preservation, conservation, and collecting. The large museum was completed in 1989 and the collections and exhibitions were moved out of the Eastman House and into this modern climate controlled and accessible building. George Eastman’s house has since been returned to a museum dedicated to preserving the home and furnishings of the Eastman family as it was left in 1932 at George Eastman’s death.

On Friday afternoon we will travel to Victor, N.Y. to visit the **Valentown Museum**. Valentown Hall, a 19th Century, four story building constructed by Levi & Alanson Valentine to be a shopping plaza and community center (complete with underground parking!) at a busy crossroads, it soon became a home for the local Grange. Today it is an intriguing Museum housing many exhibits that

depict historic made-in-America tools, artifacts and furnishings that represent rural life in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. The landmark four-story building is a rare example of 19th century architecture that has remained almost unaltered since its construction in 1879. After dinner on your own, we will return to the hotel ballroom for a live tool auction presented by Great Planes Trading Company. There will be 250 lots of tools, antiques, and irresistible objects to bid on!

Saturday will be dedicated to member tool displays, tool exchange, and a variety of presentations by members including past EAIA President Dana Shoaf, of Middletown, Md., who will share information and a presentation about his large collection of 19th Century photographs of craftspeople with the tools of their trade. Another presenter is long time member Frank Kosmerl of Victor, N.Y., who will share his extensive collection and expertise of surveying, and surveying tools. Additional presenters will be announced at a later date.

Saturday evening will bring our concluding events. The always popular annual silent auction will bring lots of competition for the great hand crafted objects, antiques, books, and more! The conference will end with a banquet, awards ceremony, and a program on the history of the Erie Canal by Craig Williams, Canal Historian. Did you know that the canal was called the “mother of cities,” because it gave rise to so many cities, towns and villages along its passage? Rochester is one of them. We can’t wait to spend time with you there! 🐸



*Genesee Country Village & Museum*

# The Tradesman's Tool Chest: Hand Tools of New York Trades Exhibit Comes Alive!

By Susan Joy Sager

The Fenimore Farm & Country Village in Cooperstown, New York (formerly known as The Farmers' Museum) took the opportunity this Fall during Blacksmithing Weekend, September 28-29, 2024, to expose a new generation of visitors to its extensive tool collection (and the story behind it) with a first-ever guided tour of The Tradesman's Tool Chest exhibit!

Showcasing the extensive collection of 19th and early-20th Century tools donated to the museum from the first president of the EAlA Board, William B. Sprague, this tour highlight-

ed the various trades that were vital to life in the 19th Century. In addition to the important work of the village blacksmith to supply folks with nails, tools, horseshoes, and kitchen implements, a number of other tradesmen worked metal into products required by New Yorkers in the 1800s. Specialized skills were used to cast iron stove parts and hardware, craft sheet metal household utensils, forge and cut nails and files by artisans such as the tinsmith, iron founder, filemaker, nailer, and more!



Held annually in late September, Blacksmithing Weekend 2024, also featured visiting smiths, a new Scavenger Hunt for visitors to find evidence of forged items throughout the museum's historic buildings, an activity table plus demonstrations, displays of tools, tool related documents, books and more!

Interested in visiting the Field Blacksmith Shop and touring the Tradesman's Tool Chest exhibit? The museum reopens for the season in April 2025 with Blacksmithing Weekend tentatively scheduled for September 27th and 28th.

The Farmers' Museum changed its name to Fenimore Farm & Country Village on November 1, 2024. The new name was selected to more accurately reflect the property's long history and to better express the museum's current focus, which encompassing a broad range of exhibits and activities, including an historic village and a working farm.

The Fenimore Art Museum is located across the street! 🐧

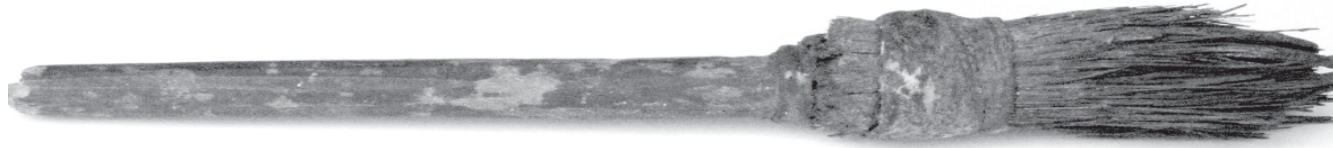


*Miles Moody gives a tour of the Tradesman's Tool Chest exhibit during Blacksmithing Weekend.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUSAN SAGER

# A Rare Event: A Paintbrush Survives the Nineteenth Century

by Ted Kinsey



*The paintbrush found in an attic in Caledonia, New York.*

Old paintbrushes had a very low probability of survival, because they were, in a real sense, expendable. Once it was worn and caked with paint, there really wasn't much point in keeping an old paintbrush. So it takes an unusual circumstance for one to have been preserved for future generations.

Not only has the brush in the above photograph survived, but there is some fairly convincing, although circumstantial, evidence that lets us give it an approximate date.

The brush is ten inches long and made of some sort of coarse animal hair or bristles, which

are attached to a hand-whittled wooden handle. The exposed part of the slightly tapered handle is six inches long and about a half-inch in diameter. The bristles are about four inches in

length except those which have been worn or broken. They were rather irregularly distributed around the handle and secured with a length of cord or heavy twine, the end of which was then tied around the handle. It appears that the bristles were also glued to the handle since the space between them is filled with some dark-colored, solid material. The ends of the bristles were roughly sliced off at the top after the glue had dried. The brush is filled with dried red paint. It was obviously never cleaned or even wiped after its last use. This makes detailed examination somewhat difficult since the museum staff has decided not to remove the paint.

The bristles are considerably coarser than horsehair, which was the original guess. Under a microscope they are also essentially transparent, and have a core, or are hollow. Comparison with modern "pure bristle" paintbrushes shows a strong similarity, except that the older bristles are considerably coarser. The likeliest candidate for the donor thus seems to be a pig.

The location in the house where the brush was found lets us date it with some degree of confidence.

The house was built after 1804, when the first sawmill in Caledonia was constructed a

## *Good Things Often Come in Small Packages*

During my time as editor of *The Chronicle*, I was often in awe of the time and effort authors put into research and writing. On the pages of *The Chronicle*, we have had Herb Lapp's series on Thomas Livesey, a Pennsylvania merchant miller and Paul Wood's work on quarrying in Vermont. Both were exemplary pieces of research and writing. And our readers were impressed.

Some, however, are so impressed that they are left with a feeling that they could never do that. Not true! Just as important to *The Chronicle's* success as a publication are short pieces, focused on particular objects that bring history into closer focus.

I remember many such pieces, but recently thought of Ted Kinsey's short piece on a paint brush (Vol. 55, no. 3, September 2002). Ted, who died in 2013, was a long-time member of EAIA and emeritus professor of Physics at SUNY Geneseo. He was also a master wagon maker and ox driver. In 2002, he was part of a crew that was dismantling the Peter Campbell house in Caledonia, N.Y. The house became part of the collection of the Genesee Country Museum, which is one of the sites members will visit during the EAIA Annual Conference in Rochester this year.

The brevity of the article belies its impact. Take a minute to read it and consider Ted's musing on the how and why of the survival of this brush.

You, too, may have a similar story to tell—the rolling pin passed down from your great, great grandmother or perhaps the tool that set you on an adventure of collecting. Share your story in *The Chronicle*. Sarah Thomas, editor of *The Chronicle*, is there to help you get from the idea stage to a page in *The Chronicle*.

**Patty MacLeish**

## A Rare Event, continued...

short distance from the site, and before 1807, when it is first mentioned in the written records. In 1857 it had some major modifications in the Greek Revival style. Marks on the framing show that the original structure had a window in the gable end of the attic. This window was removed and sided over in the 1857 remodeling, after which time the attic had no light source. It is hard to think of a reason for anyone to be in a dark attic with a wet paintbrush. It seems likely, then, that the brush was abandoned in the attic at some time after the first decade of the 1800s and prior to 1857.

There is one other intriguing part of the story. One of the two studs that supported the attic window was partially painted with red paint, which is a good color match to that on the brush. Nothing else in the attic was painted.

One is tempted to imagine a scenario: someone, a child perhaps, daubing paint beside window where the light was good and then abandoning the brush. The brush was laid down on the ceiling lath away from the loose boards of the center catwalk.

I wonder what happened to the paint pot. 🐢



*The Peter Campbell house where the paintbrush was found, in Caledonia, N.Y.*

COURTESY OF GENESEE COUNTRY MUSEUM

## 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.



# Sparking Interest in the Trades

*EAIA Pop-Up Draws Crowds*

By Lara Miller

On October 12th, EAIA held a pop-up at the third annual Spark trades festival, founded by the TradesUp nonprofit. Each year, this free festival takes place at the sites of the Eric Sloane Museum and the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association in Kent, Conn. An additional festival was added on Martha's Vineyard this year. These past few years, TradesUp has been doing the important work of fostering knowledge of and experience with the realm of trades, to include both modern and historic trades.

At Spark, around 40 volunteer presenters spend the day introducing visitors, and especially kids, to their respective trades & crafts. Among these trades & crafts are timber-framing, weaving, tinsmithing, farriery, stone wall building, wool spinning, joinery, tool sharpening, plumbing, tiling, architecture, and many, many more. We were thrilled to see so many EAIA members among the presenters and organizers, including Margaret Liljedahl (weaving), Nathan Goodwin (preservation carpentry), Nevan Carling (timber framing), Andy & Micky Sistrand (tinsmithing), Richard Comstock, and Mason Lord (TradesUp founder).

As visitors make their way through a village of trades activities, not only are they learning about trades they may never have had access to otherwise, but they also discover the various ways in which trades and crafts are connected to each other. For example, this year, numerous children were building tiny stools with one of the woodworkers and discovered they could

take those stools to the upholsterer, who helped them upholster the stools themselves. As each child left, most of them were carrying armfuls of items they'd made, to include stools, linseed oil painted houses, tiny tapestries on stick looms, horseshoes, punched lanterns, and more.

One comment that was made several times was that every person leaving the festival, whether child or adult, had an enormous smile on their face. Even those of us working the event were continually giddy. We hope that in future years more and more people are able to experience this incredible event that we at EAIA are very proud to be a sponsor of.

As the TradesUp organization continues to grow, they are collaborating with other sites around the nation to hold additional Spark festivals. If you know of an organization or institution interested in hosting an event like this, or if you are ever interested in presenting or volunteering at a TradesUp

event, you can find more information at <https://www.tradesup.org/join-us>



*EAIA member Nathan Goodwin showing a visitor how to use a wood plane.*

PHOTO BY LARA MILLER

# EAIA News

## In Passing

We've had a number of friends and members pass on recently. In tribute:

### *Pam Baker Howard*

Pam B. Howard, wife of EAIA Board member Ron Howard, died November 10. Pam was a master weaver who was an instructor at the John C. Campbell Folklife School in North Carolina, an interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg, past EAIA board member, and past co-chair of the fiber arts committee.

Pam was always a creative person. She trained as a draftsman and was the monument designer at Georgia Marble Company. Her claim to fame was designing the sarcophagus for Jackie Gleason.

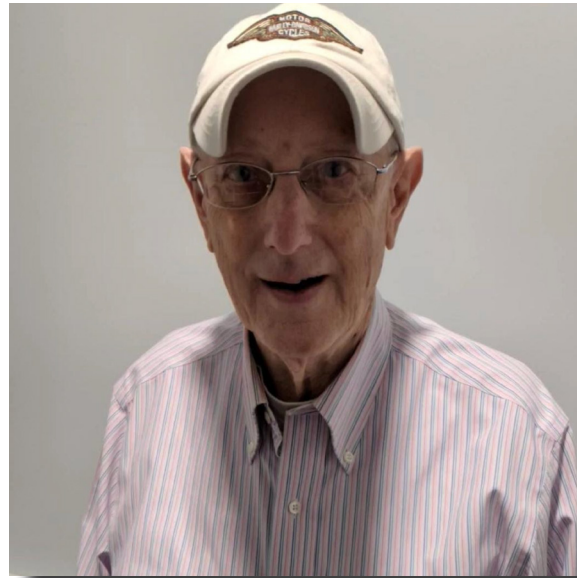
Pam was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, and a dear friend to so many. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Ron, and their daughter, Rebecca. We send our deepest condolences and care to Ron and Becky. A celebration of life will be held on December 4th in Williamsburg.



The family asks that in lieu of flowers; please make a donation in her name to [Hospice House of Williamsburg, Va.](#), or the [John C. Campbell Folk School](#)

### *Don Stark*

Don was a retired executive with Harley Davidson Company. He passed away on November 14.



Don spent 57 loyal years of marriage to wife Carol, countless career and professional successes, a hobby that became a supportive social circle to his whole family (collecting antique woodworking tools), and getting a front row seat to the development of his son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren.

You could always count on Don to be at a tool auction, a Mid-West Tool Collectors Association meeting or an EAIA function. He served two terms on the EAIA Board of Directors, and like many tool collectors he received inspiration from the books of Eric Sloane.

### *Bob Preussner*

Bob graduated from Texas College of Arts & Industry, Kingsville, Texas. He joined the Navy in 1952 completing Officer Candidate School in October 1952 and served on active duty and reserve, completing 21 years of service, proudly retiring as Captain USN. He worked for Petro-Tex Chemical, Tenneco Oil and finally Tenneco Inc. for 32 years. He was awarded two patents in wastewater treatment while he worked at Petro-Tex Chemical.

Bob was interested in family genealogy, Texana history, enjoyed museums and was a voracious reader. Bob was a loyal member of EAIA for 30 years.

Houston Maritime Museum: <https://houston-maritime.org>)

The Bryan Museum: <https://thebryanmuseum.org/give/>



## In Passing, continued...

### *Terry A. Wakeman*

Terry was a loyal member of EAIA for 32 years. He served on the Board of Directors and held the positions of 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and in May of this year he was elected President.

In his first *Shavings* column as President he wrote, "I have a deep affection for this organization, of which I have been a member since 1992....Things are very unstable in our world at present with wars and protests as well as our own contentious presidential election. It is hard not to be anxious. There are many ways to restore a sense of wellbeing. My way is to go to my shop and work on a project. The concentration required and smell of wood makes the outside world disappear. Try it!"

Terry was a lifelong woodworker and ran a woodworking business and Windsor chair manufacturer, Bebbington Brooks Woodworking.

The company used traditional joinery and late 18th and early 19th Century designs to offer accessories for contemporary uses. Work was done primarily with antique woodworking tools. Prior to starting Bebbington Brooks Woodworking, Terry and a partner operated a business called Classics In Wood, producing a variety of Windsor chairs, tables, and case pieces of the early 19th Century.

When he shared this photo, he told us that, "I strongly support working with kids to expose them to crafts. Much to my surprise doing it has been fun. What made this event special (the Bolton, MA Fair) was that there were lots of kids and I was busy pretty much the whole day. Tip - kids love to plane and they keep the shavings."

We will all miss Terry and his dedication to the craft and to sharing it with others. 🐦

*A recent photo of Terry Wakeman at The Bolton Fair in Massachusetts, showing kids the craft of woodwork.*



# EAIA News

## *Call for Nominations*

The awards committee is putting a call out for nominations for the Long Time Service Award and the J.D. Hatch Award for 2025.

Candidates for the Long Time Service Award should have at least 10 years of service to EAIA and display the following qualities: Demonstrate a high level of commitment; contribute a substantial amount of time, effort, and imagination to the association; and display a record of effective participation in the affairs of EAIA. The nature and importance of their contributions to EAIA, as well as its length of service are factors to consider.

Candidates for the J.D. Hatch Award should have demonstrated excellence in the advancement of general knowledge of EAIA through scholarly writing in articles, books, or public presentations consistent with the mission of EAIA. Recipients of this award are not required to be members of EAIA.

You may contact any member of the awards committee with your nominations.

Denise Richer, 315-380-5882, [Richertool@aol.com](mailto:Richertool@aol.com)

Alice Roemer, 978-779-6945, [Mar@roemer.com](mailto:Mar@roemer.com)

Rod Richer Jr., 315-532-8032, [Rodneyr1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:Rodneyr1@twcny.rr.com)

## *Awards Committee Seeks Members*

The 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, please join us by contacting Committee Chair Denise Richer at [richertool@aol.com](mailto:richertool@aol.com) or call or text 315-380-5882.

## *Textile History Forum Date Change*

We have changed the date for the Textile History Forum to August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2025.

A call for papers seeks submissions that include papers, presentations and works-in-progress.

The forum meets bi-annually and was founded in the 1990s as a scholarly, but non-academic setting to encourage new voices to discuss old materials and process. We offer a unique space for those currently working on research to present mid-project and receive feedback from fellow researchers. All of our papers are printed in our Proceedings and dispersed on the day of, so we encourage presenters to not read their papers, but to discuss the process, raise questions and lead an interactive presentation of their papers.

All are invited to submit on a variety of topics involving textiles.

## We Welcome New Members

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

Lawrence Alberti, Southington, CT

Cynthia Amidon, Hancock, NH

Roger Collins, Inwood, WV

Stephen Conlin, Dennis, MA

Daniel Dailey, Lititz, PA

Amy Davis, Hollywood, MD

Simeon England, Edmonton, KY

Alexander George, Medford, MA

Beth Holmberg, Portland, ME

Philip Ivory, Hudson, NY

James Lennon, Levittown, NY

Mason Lord, Sharon, CT

Stephen Midkiff, Bloomsburg, PA

Raphael Pierson Sante, Quincy, MA

Ronald Pilling, Bishopville, MD

Jane Poss, Lowell, MA

Corey Reed, Benbrook, TX

Frances Richardson, Lexington, VA

Becky Rizzi, West Rutland, VT

James Robinson, Rock Hill, SC

Tom Shay, Brough, UK

Eli Shelin, Tallahassee, FL

William Swailes, Willow Hill, PA

John Treggiari, Salem, MA

Mike Viney, Fort Collins, CO

Steve Ward, Boone, NC

Robert Wieser, Riverside, CT

## EAIA News, continued...

In the past the papers have covered everything from prehistoric footwear, weaving in Ecuador on traditional card looms, textile production in Lowell, the canvases on which old masters painted, and much more.

We would appreciate passing on the information to all interested parties. We are open to submissions from academics and non-academics alike. Deadline for abstract submission is January 15, 2025. Deadline for paper and details of presentations submission is May 15, 2025.

The forum takes place August 1-3, 2025, at: The Weaver's Croft and Eaton Hill Textiles

334 Jake Martin Road  
Marshfield VT

Abstracts and submissions should be sent to:

S. Rabbit Goody  
Thistle Hill Weavers  
101 Chestnut Ridge Rd  
Cherry Valley, NY 13320

### Fall Nittany Antique Machinery Show

The Nittany Antique Machinery Association had a successful Fall show and Gary Gentzel set up a small EAIA display table. "I was able to speak with some folks who stopped by the museum and expressed interest in EAIA," Gentzel said. "The small EAIA display I set up was just beside the area where I was demonstrating my shaving horse. Many had not heard of the organization before so this made for some good exposure. There were several who seemed very interested in joining so I hope you will soon see their membership requests.

The Fall show is largely focused on tractors and other agricultural equipment, but also includes some engines, some antique vehicles, chainsaw carving, sawmill, cider press --- and a museum (nothing fancy!) which also houses a 150HP Corliss Steam engine that Gentzel operates. The show also includes a flea market, food vendors, and crafts, etc.

[www.nittanyantique.org](http://www.nittanyantique.org)



EAIA table at Nittany Antique Machinery Show

## Calendar of Events

### Arkansas

Through December 31, 2024

#### Springdale:

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History  
118 W. Johnson Avenue  
Springdale, AR 72764

**Tracing the Threads: Weaving in the Arkansas Ozarks** This exhibition traces the history of handweaving in the Arkansas Ozarks over the past 200 years with a special emphasis on the importance of

the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild in supporting this craft tradition.

**Ozark Tree Army: The CCC at Devil's Den State Park** Ozark Tree Army is a photo exhibit featuring many photographs and select artifacts from the 1930s-era Civilian Conservation Corps work at Devil's Den State Park near West Fork.

### 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 19-th Century ship carvings, shop figures, and the museum's latest acquisition, a magnificent carousel hippocampus.

#### January 2

**Bethany: The Frozen Swapmeet!** Lakeview Lodge located in Bethany Memorial Park, 265 Beacon Hill Road, (Rt. 42), Bethany, CT. For info, e-mail: [attictoolchest@gmail.com](mailto:attictoolchest@gmail.com)

### Kentucky

#### November 30

**Harrodsburg: Blessing of the Hounds - Join Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill** and the Long Run Woodford Hounds fox hunters for this grand, traditional event featuring a blessing of the hounds, riders, and horses, followed by the first meet of the formal hunting season.

### Massachusetts

#### Through December 30

**Sturbridge: Museum by Candlelight** at Sturbridge Village. Relish old traditions and create new ones as you watch demonstrations of classic Christmas projects,

stroll through the decorated Village and Christmas Tree Trail, listen to stories and live music, sample sweet treats, and more.

## 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.

### December 14

**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 Delaplaine Randall Conference Room 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.

## New Mexico

### December 7

**Albuquerque:** Rocky Mountain tool

Collectors Association at the New Mexico Area Meeting. Contact Jason Fink at [jason@rmtc.org](mailto:jason@rmtc.org).

## Pennsylvania

### December 1

**Harmony:** *Mid-West Tool Collectors Association* at Harmony History Museum. Time: 10 a.m. Location: Stewart Hall, Historic Harmony, 218 Mercer Street, Harmony, PA 16037.

### December 27

**Bethlehem:** *The Corliss Comes Alive and Special Lecture* at the [National Museum of Industrial History](#). For more than a decade the museum's staff, volunteers, and community partners worked to restore our massive 115-ton Corliss steam engine to working order, 105 years after being built by the Snow Steam Pump Works in Buffalo, N.Y. The engine was used by the York Water Company and pumped eight million gallons of water per day. Today the engine, the most powerful operating water works steam engine in North America, is a focal point of the museum's 13,000 square foot exhibit space, where it has painstakingly been mechanically restored to its former glory and repainted its original color. Join us as we operate the engine and learn more about this fascinating piece of industrial history from the museum's historian.

## Whatsit?



THIS TOOL IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY** IS ONE OF MANY USED BY A PARTICULAR TRADE FOR A VERY SPECIFIC PURPOSE. HINT: IT'S A FINISHING TECHNIQUE.

THINK YOU KNOW THE TRADE AND ITS UTILITY?  
DROP US A LINE AT [SHAVINGS@EAIA.US](mailto:SHAVINGS@EAIA.US)

# Profiling Nancy Evans

By John Verrill

After the EAIA board meeting in York, Penn., on November 3rd, by prearrangement I visited one of our most senior members at her home in Delaware. Nancy G. Evans has been a member since September of 1965 - 59 years of dedication to our organization! Last summer she contacted me to tell me that at age 92 her advisors felt that she should scale down her vast research library and that she was contacting museums and organizations that she belonged to who might be interested in her books and her collections of magazines, including *The Chronicle* to be donated as interest allowed.

I arrived at the appointed hour, and after the appropriate introductions, I was led up to the 3rd floor of her townhouse. Her office and library was as organized as any I have ever seen. I identified 34 volumes that would be of interest to our mission, including copies of the books Ms. Evans researched and authored. We packed the books into appropriate file boxes and together slid them down the three flights of stairs. These were not lightweight paperbacks! I was then able to load them onto my hand truck and place them in my car which was filled with EAIA supplies and five boxes of planes that were donated by another member!

We talked a bit afterwards and she told me of the many museum representatives that had come to share in the bounty of her collection. It was impressive to know that EAIA was held in the same esteem as many of the institutions such as Winterthur. Ms. Evans is a generous donor to our

organization and we will certainly offer some of these resources at our next silent auction, but you can bet I will spend much time reading them first!

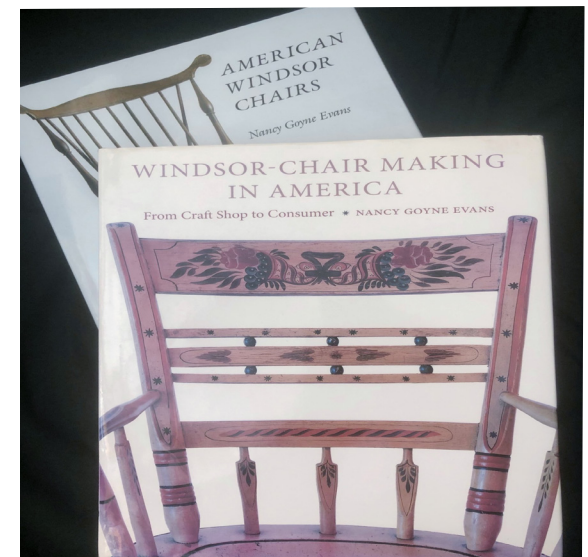
Here in her own words is her biography:

I joined the EAIA in 1965 at the suggestion of colleagues in the emerging field of early American decorative arts after receiving a master's degree in the Winterthur Program and accepting a position on the Museum staff. Although I am not a collector of tools, I found membership in the EAIA useful to gain practical knowledge from members engaged in various pursuits in the woodworking trades. Membership became particularly useful in 1966 after I submitted a proposal to write a book exploring the craft of Windsor furniture making in America for Winterthur's expanding publication's program, and the project was approved.

In the 1960s the field of American decorative arts was in its infancy. What began as a several-year project became a several-decade part-time project that produced three substantial books, each dealing with separate studies within the craft, the texts based primarily on period documents: *American Windsor Chairs* (1996), *American Windsor Furniture: Specialized Forms* (1997), and *Windsor-Chair Making in America: From Craft Shop to Consumer* (2006). Altogether the books won several awards. Another furniture study published in 1997 of which I was co-author focused on the collection of New England Furniture at Winterthur crafted during the Queen Anne and Chippendale periods. In addition to the books, I have written more than 40 research-based articles that have ap-

peared in publications. As part of my career, I was an active lecturer and participated in workshops and seminars. I closed my business in December 2023.

In addition to membership in the EAIA, I have been a longtime member of the Pewter Collectors Club of America, the Decorative Arts Society, the Decorative Arts Trust, and the Society of Winterthur Fellows. When I retired from Winterthur in the early 1990s, I became associated with Sotheby's Institute of Art, where I was a part-time faculty member of the American Arts Course from 1992 to 2006. During that period I began to hike, joining a local hiking club where I was active for more than 25 years. Expanding my independent hiking horizons, I traveled to the American West, Canada, the British Isles, and Continental Europe. 🦢



Some of the Nancy Evans books generously donated to the organization.

### 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](http://zlotofftoolmuseum.org)

**Please take note!**

**The deadline for the Winter 2025 issue of Shavings is February 1!**

Please submit articles, events, classified ads and display ads to:  
John Verrill ([eaia1933@verizon.net](mailto:eaia1933@verizon.net))  
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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.

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