



# Shavings

The Newsletter of the Early American Industries Association

Volume 269  
Fall 2023



**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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**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.

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Sally A. Fishburn	Terry Page
<b>Nominating</b>	
Dana Shoaf	

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*Front Cover: EAIA board member Patty MacLeish tries out an oversized Stickley chair, built for the Dalai Lama, during the recent regional meet at the Stickley Museum and Gustav Stickley House.*

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**For information or to join, visit:**

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

or contact Executive Director John Verrill, P.O. Box 524, Hebron, MD 21830 or e-mail him at:

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The deadline for the next issue (no. 270, Winter 2024) is January 5, 2024.

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

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## President's Message

by Sally A. Fishburn

Not having yet experienced a killing frost, or even a mild frost, in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont makes it hard to believe that we are well into the fall season with the year's end in sight. I just completed several weeks of travel from Vermont through Michigan and Wisconsin. The peak foliage I experienced from the Michigan shores of Superior all the way back to Vermont was spectacular and proved that it is indeed fall. Today, October 4th, it is sunny and in the low 80s.

My trip's main objective was to spend a week at Fort Wilkins, in Copper Harbor, Michigan, training Michigan State and National Park employees window restoration and plaster preservation best practices for maintaining and restoring their buildings. If you have not been to this farthest north point in the Upper Peninsula, you might consider it. It is a wonderful area and Fort Wilkins's interesting history is well exhibited. This military outpost was built in 1844. It proved unnecessary and troops were withdrawn in 1846. The fort was reoccupied after the Civil War to protect from northern threats. By 1870 the fort was abandoned when those fears did not materialize. The dilapidated fort was deeded to the State of Michigan in 1923 and was in need of major restoration work.

This proved an interesting situation regarding the training I was providing. We would be working on windows and plaster from the 1930s and 40s restoration, not original material. Several discussions ensued regarding at what point it is worth restoring and at what

point should materials be recreated and replaced. These conversations resulted from the fact that many of the 1940s window sashes were extensively deteriorated at the sills. In our pre-20th C. restoration work our repairs match the existing materials, which are generally locally sourced. Except for the framing timbers, Fort Wilkins original materials were all shipped from Detroit, even the plasterers.

History is a continuum and what is regarded as worth preserving is a constantly moving target. Within the historic preservation world, the arbitrary decision was made that any building over 50 years old is "historic." I have been fascinated lately that in 2020 I restored the original windows in the 1805 Congregationalist Church on the north side of the Norwich, Vermont, green, and currently I am restoring the 1960s windows in the Episcopalian parish hall on the south side.

On my travels home I lucked out to be in the Fayetteville, New York, area for the Regional Meeting. The meeting was both excellent and informative. Thank you to Rod and Denise Richer for planning this meeting. We met at the Stickley Museum in Fayetteville. I had no prior knowledge of the Stickleys, other than Gustav, whose house we visited in the afternoon.

The museum tour in the morning provided a history of Gustav and his brother's businesses and how they pioneered a new furniture style based on the Arts and Crafts movement in England. Gustav was a hard core proponent of hand crafting furniture, i.e.,

building the pieces entirely by hand, whereas his brother realized that to have an affordable price point insuring a profitable business would require increased production utilizing machinery to create furniture almost identical to Gustav's. Over 100 pieces of furniture illustrate their design principles and stylistic changes over the years to satisfy the changing times and tastes. The L. & J. G. Stickley factory is still producing furniture today in Manlius, New York.

This dichotomy is constant in our world and has made a visible comeback in the last decade, especially the last several years with the increased interest once again in hand tool use, eschewing power machinery. The conversation will always continue. EAIA was formed in 1933 to preserve the tools, trades, and crafts that built early America. We do acknowledge that as time passes the span of history increases.

In 2008 our mission statement was updated to read *the Early American Industries Association Preserves and Presents Historic Trades, Crafts, and Tools and Interprets Their Impact on Our Lives*. Have we defined a certain amount of years that makes something historic?

In the afternoon we visited Gustav Stickley's house in Syracuse, New York (not to be confused with the Craftsman Farms in Parsippany, New Jersey, which is also, a Gustav Stickley house museum and property). The house Gustav purchased was a Victorian era

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—  
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spec house. In 1901 a fire gutted the interior. When Gustav rebuilt the interior, he created the first fully-realized craftsman interior in the United States. The exterior has been restored but the interior is waiting. The Gustav Stickley House Foundation is currently fundraising to start the interior work. They will be restoring the first floor as a museum and event space and the upper floors will house a boutique hotel. The hope is to complete the interior by 2025. It looks to be some mighty nice digs for an overnight stay. The interior woodwork requires some TLC but is amazingly intact; however the plaster is another story. Visit <https://gustavstickleyhousefoundation.org/> for more



PHOTO: ROD RICHER

*This group of EAIA members visited the Stickley Museum as part of a regional meeting.*

information.

We have had two regional meetings this fall. In addition to the meeting in Fayetteville, Bob Roemer hosted a meeting at the Moses Wilder Blacksmith Shop in Wilder, Massachusetts. Thank you, Bob. Regional meetings

are a great way to have more localized meetings. Our regional meetings follow an easy to use template that is available in our [Policies & Procedures Manual](#). It would be great if more folks would pick a local historical museum or site and set up a regional meeting. If you are interested, you can contact our office and John Verrill can advise you if needed.

We are also considering a second model of regional gatherings that would involve a little less work. For lack of a better term we are calling them pop-up meetings. The idea is to support, sponsor, or help a local museum, historical site, or organization with an event they have planned. EAIA could provide a speaker, a demonstrator, help with the event, provide some funding, and or advertise the event and invite EAIA members to attend and meet up at the event. It is reasonable to assume that this will be beneficial to both EAIA and the organization we are partnering with, increase the attendance at the events, and bring information about EAIA to people with interests that align with ours but may not be aware of EAIA. We are working up some information and resources to support this model but, in the meantime, if you spot an opportunity to try a pop up meeting do not hesitate to reach out to John

Verrill or myself on how to get started. Some members have already used this model before we formalized it. Terry Wakefield set up a woodworking demo at an event at the Eric Sloane Museum and Bob Roemer has demon-

strated at the Bolton Fair. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting new venture.

We hope this model will have a bigger impact with less work for promoting the EAIA and our objectives.

In between those two stops, I had a relaxing visit with Paul and Eileen Van Pernis. While visiting Paul and Eileen, I had the chance to look at Paul's plane collection, especially the early metal planes. I have read Paul's book *Leonard Bailey and His Woodworking Planes* and really appreciated being able to see the planes first hand and understand the evolution of metal plane designs. Pictures are great but the real objects; well you all know the impact of that. In addition, I got a sneak peak at Paul's current research projects, some of which you will read about in a future issue of the *Chronicle*.

I urge you to also share your projects, research, and knowledge with us through articles for both the *Shavings* and the *Chronicle*. Editor Sarah Thomas is working hard to get the *Chronicle* back on schedule, but she will never get there if we do not have a regular stream of articles to publish. And, once we are back on track, she will still need a continuing stream of articles to maintain our four issues per year printing schedule.

One last plug: The Endowment Committee is running a \$90 for 91 donation campaign this year. As you probably know we would like to increase the endowment by \$10,000 each year with a goal of adding \$100,000 by our 100th Anniversary. I thank everyone who donated last year; we raised over \$14,000! Let's do that again. Increasing the endowment increases the money we have available to promote EAIA and our objectives. 🦢

## From Desk of the Executive Director

by John Verrill

The fall EAIA board meeting took place a couple of days ago in York, Pennsylvania. Our fall meeting is always scheduled to coincide with the Brown International Tool Auction. We have a promotional table during the tool sale on the first day, and supply runners for the auction on the second, for which the EAIA is given a generous contribution to the endowment fund. We always meet new people and sell memberships, EAIA books, and other products. It is also fun to talk to longtime members and search for that special tool at the tool vendor sale.

Your board of directors works hard to make sure the membership gets a good value in return for their commitment to the EAIA. Our committees have been very busy this year. The one committee whose work is most visible is the Website Committee. If you haven't checked out the website lately, I think you will be pleasantly rewarded by its new, up-to-date look and ease of navigation. Visit it at [www.eaia.us](http://www.eaia.us). Our webmaster, Marc Sitkin, has worked tirelessly and generously to insure that the site is useful and receives wide distribution across the web.

The board and Grants Committee has added new categories to make grants accessible to a wider range of recipients, including small museums and historic sites. The first is the Preservation Trades & Crafts Grant in honor of John & Janet Wells. It is open to students and apprentices studying to learn practical trades used in historic preservation; this scholarship provides a onetime award of up

to \$3000. Applicants must submit a letter of application describing their historic preservation trade goals and how this scholarship will assist them. In addition to the letter, they must submit three letters of reference from instructors, supervisors, or other individuals who have direct knowledge of the applicant's work and intentions to pursue preservation trades. Awardees must submit captioned photos of work or training the scholarship helped them accomplish.

The second grant is for Conservation, and is named in honor of James M. Gaynor. The EAIA supports the preservation of historic trades and crafts. To this end, it established a Conservation Grant of up to \$3000 to support conservation planning, object treatment services, educational interpretive services, and supplies related to sharing historic trades with the public. This grant is open to historic sites and museums who have 501(c)3 status and that are open to the public on a regular basis. Applicants must submit a written proposal of no less than 500 and no more than 1,500 words describing the project, how the funds will be used, and the anticipated end result. If the grant will be used to help pay for conservation treatment or for conservation planning, applicants will submit the credentials of those who will be providing treatment or planning services. Awardees must submit a 500 word report following the project or program's completion along with captioned photographs.

We continue to search for ways to expand our membership and the membership committee works closely with our Director of Member Engagement, Lara Miller, to find new ways to spread the word. Lara has designed a marketing post card that can be distributed to our members, especially institutional members. Lara is active every day promoting the EAIA on our social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Do check them out!

The Publications Committee works to insure that both the *Chronicle* and *Shavings* are published four times a year. Updates to the design of the *Chronicle* are being investigated, and recently a proofreader was hired to insure the reader will have a seamless reading experience. Other activities include planning new publishing projects, including a pattern book of the tin patterns made by master tinsmith Bill McMillen during his lifetime. Walter Jacob is anxious to publish Volume 2 of his *Stanley Woodworking Tools*. I am sure we will hear more about that in the near future.

Our annual budget now is bolstered by funds from the endowment, which is well managed by the Endowment Committee. This affords the EAIA the opportunity to employ Lara Miller as our director of member engagement; to continue publishing the *Chronicle* in color; to utilize the services of a proofreader; to fund research grants; and to meet the costs of maintaining a website. The endowment has shown excellent growth over the years, especially since the major contribution from

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## Working Wood in the 18th Century

The EAIA is sponsoring *Working Wood in the 18th Century, by the Book* at Colonial Williamsburg January 25–28, 2024.

Printed words and images: How did 18th century craftspeople turn them into actions and objects? How did craftspeople fill in the blanks left by what was unwritten or unillustrated? And how can the ink they left on paper inform our understanding of a past in which most craft knowledge was shared orally? Join tradespeople and scholars from Colonial Williamsburg and esteemed guest presenters as they explore woodworking by the book.

The EAIA will be at the program making our presence known as a lead sponsor of the program. Our sponsorship will underwrite the keynote speaker, Christopher Schwarz,\* who will speak on the long historical arc of woodworking books. Later, he'll demonstrate the low workbench illustrated by M. Hulot in *L'Art du Tourneur Mécanicien* (1775) to explore how the design has persisted among chairmakers up to the present. Chairmaking of a different flavor will be the focus of demonstrations by master cabinetmaker and educator Dan Faia, who will explore the structure and ornament of a high-style neoclassical chair design published by George and Alice Hepplewhite in *The Cabinet-maker and Upholsterer's Guide* (1789). Colonial Williamsburg cabinetmakers Bill Pavlak and John Peeler will explore how 18th century craftspeople could use Thomas Chippendale's elaborate published patterns as a springboard for designing and building chairs in the "plain and neat"

manner favored by colonial Virginia's fashion-conscious consumers.

To learn more, visit <https://www.colonial-williamsburg.org/learn/on-site-opportunities/educational-conferences-forums-symposiums/working-wood-18th-century/>

\* Christopher Schwarz is a woodworker, author, and publisher of *Lost Art Press* in Covington, Kentucky.

### EAIA Promotional Cards

EAIA promotional cards are available to share with your local museum, historic site, tool seller, or at events. These are postcard size and in full color, and were designed by our Director of Member Engagement, Lara Miller. Please email [Lara](mailto:lara@eaia.us) if you would like to have some to share.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—  
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the estate of John & Janet Wells. We can assure you that we are not only protecting the endowment for the future but will continue to utilize income to keep EAIA a dynamic organization.

One final note on the EAIA board—President Sally Fishburn reminds us that her term will be up at the conclusion of the 2024 Annual Meeting. This means there will be vacancies on the board and the executive leadership team this spring. We will have three vacancies on the board plus one spot opening for the 2nd Vice President. We urge you to throw your hat into the ring for one of those spots or the leadership track, just let me know or email Nominating Committee chair Dana Shoaf.

Wishing you my best for the upcoming holiday season. 🦃



EAIA board member Ron Howard spent the last summer working at the Tin Shop at Colonial Williamsburg. Photo: Karen Clancy.

## The EAIA's 2024 Annual Meeting Is April 24th–April 27th, At Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia!

It's time to start planning your trip to Colonial Williamsburg for the EAIA's 2024 Annual Meeting. Colonial Williamsburg is the world's largest living-history museum (301 acres), with more than 600 buildings, of which 88 are original 18th century structures. The Historic Trades and Skills community at Colonial Williamsburg uses 18th-century tools and techniques to apprentice in and eventually master more than twenty historic trades and skills. You won't find a trades community with so many experts in one place anywhere else in the world!

The staff at Colonial Williamsburg are excited to host the EAIA Annual Meeting in April 2024 and have pulled out all the stops to make our meeting a great one. We'll be based at the Woodlands Hotel ([www.colonialwilliamsburghotels.com](http://www.colonialwilliamsburghotels.com)). The hotel has offered our members a great room rate of \$159/night and that rate is good for a couple of days before and after the meeting. **Now is the time to reserve your room as we have a block of only 90 rooms.** You can do that easily by going to the EAIA website at [www.eaia.us](http://www.eaia.us), and right on the top of the page is a link to allow you to make your room reservations. You can also contact the hotel directly at (855) 235-1675. If you do call, make sure you tell them you're making a reservation for the EAIA meeting.

On Thursday, April 25th, we'll start the day with special talks from the Colonial Williamsburg archaeologists at three sites, the Bray School, which is the the oldest extant building dedicated to the education of Black children

in the United States, the First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, which is one of the country's earliest African-American congregations and was founded by enslaved and free Black worshippers, and the John Custis home site. The Williamsburg archeology crew describes the Custis site as the richest archaeological site in



*The Governor's Palace, Colonial Williamsburg*

Williamsburg. Then it will be on to lunch and free time to explore the two fantastic, recently opened (2020) museums in Williamsburg, the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, which are located under one roof. Both of them are guaranteed to blow your socks off! You can also wander around the city at your leisure.

After that you're still not done having fun! The Historic Trades Department at Colonial Williamsburg will close to the public ten of the Colonial Williamsburg trade shops from

3–5PM on Thursday afternoon. EAIA members will then be allowed to enter these closed shops in groups of 15 for hands-on experiences in these shops. These exclusive experiences are for EAIA members only, and will include the blacksmith's, milliner's, tailor's, wheelwright's, tinsmith's, cooper's, joiner's, founder's, cabinetmaker's and weaver's shops. Our ice cream social and the Whatsits session will top off a fantastic first day of our 2024 Annual Meeting.

Friday we'll have the opportunity to gather at the Colonial Williamsburg Collections and Conservation building for two sessions. The first will include all of the 18th century planes donated to Williamsburg by EAIA members Dave and Ruby Englund, the early American tinsmithing tools donated by Judy and Billy McMillen, as well as other interesting tools from the vast collection of tools held at Williamsburg. The other session will give EAIA members the rare opportunity to see Colonial Williamsburg's extensive collection of needleworking tools. What a great treat! The rest of the day on Friday is yours to wander about, revisit Colonial Williamsburg, spend more time in the museums, and enjoy all there is to see at your own pace.

Saturday will begin with tool trading and displays. We want to encourage everyone to think about bringing a display. The display theme for our 2024 meeting is *Trade and Domestic Tools of the 18th and 19th Centuries*. That

# The EAI Regional Meeting—Stickley Furniture and More

By Rod Richer

On September 30th, 2023, the Early American Industries Association held a regional meeting in Fayetteville, New York. The event was hosted by Denise and Rodney Richer and the subject of the meeting was Stickley furniture.

The morning started with a traditional tool tailgate sale in the parking lot outside of the Fayetteville Public Library, which houses the Stickley Museum. After the donuts, coffee, and tools were depleted, we headed into the library to begin our guided tour of the museum by director Amanda Clifford. Amanda led a very informative and interactive tour through the museum, taking the participants through a chronological history of the Stickley family. Using the many original furniture pieces in the museum, Amanda was able to show the many notable advancements and achievements made by the Stickley brothers from the

Arts and Crafts period of furniture design and beyond. After spending about an hour and a half with Amanda, the group broke for lunch before the next presentation.

The second portion of the meeting was with David Rudd, owner of Dalton's American Decorative Arts, LLC, and president of the Gustav Stickley House Foundation. The group first met at Dalton's Arts and Crafts furniture store where they could peruse through the many pieces of Arts and Crafts furniture, many made by Stickley. David has owned and operated this store for 27 years, preserving and selling Stickley furniture since his college days at Syracuse University, where he found his interest in the Arts and Crafts period. From there David took the group on a guided tour of the Gustav Stickley home. It is currently being renovated by the foundation and is under construction. David walked the

group through the renovation plan and showed how preservation of original architectural components would be blended into new construction. As one of the organizers of this event I would like to thank those that were able to participate—especially Amanda Clifford and David Rudd, who both presented masterfully for Early American Industries Association members.




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2024 ANNUAL MEETING—  
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broad theme allows members to showcase their personal collections from 200 years of early American industry. We hope you'll bring a display for all of us to enjoy! Saturday afternoon will give you more time to explore Colonial Williamsburg and all the interesting places in the immediate area. We'll end our meeting with the always fun silent Auction and our closing banquet. We look forward to seeing all of you at what should be an amazing meeting in Colonial Williamsburg! The registration brochures and on-line registration will be available in early February 2024.





## News From Our Members

### Museum Spotlight

The **Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation** is located on the original town square of Manheim, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth Keiffer generously donated her former home and artifact collection to establish the not-for-profit foundation in 2001 to benefit the local community and those interested in history.



Miles H. Keiffer and his wife, Elizabeth, both Manheim natives, had a

lifelong interest in collecting and preserving history and artifacts related to the early years of Manheim and the vital role the town played in the history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. They wish that others would enjoy and learn from their collection of artifacts. Their collection includes important pieces of Stiegel-type glass, pottery, furniture, ephemera, and clocks. The artifacts represent the hardship, success, ingenuity, learning, artistry and diligence of the people in Manheim. The stories are considered integral to the development of the town of Manheim, its people, and the influence they had on America. When

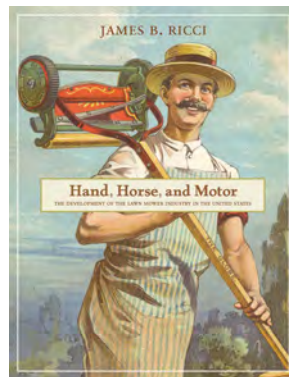


Miles passed in 1975, Elizabeth continued collecting and preserving and eventually, in 2001, created the foundation to preserve Manheim's early history and its artifacts. The foundation has been working to fulfill that goal and more. In the 21 years of the foundation's existence, we have developed a museum, library, garden, and carriage house meeting room, and have secured the return of more than 150 Manheim and Manheim-related objects.

Museum Director Jim Hosler has been an individual member of the EAIA for many years, and the foundation has recently become an institutional member. Welcome aboard!

### Lawn Mower Collection Donated

I am a long time member and live not far from the Wiggins Tavern in Northampton, Massachusetts, the birthplace of the EAIA. My wife and I have donated our entire lifelong collection of old lawn mower ephemera and catalogs to the **University of Massachusetts/Amherst Special Collections and University Archives**. Cataloging is not yet completed however the [webpage](#) is now active. The lawn mower was first manufactured in England in 1830, followed by the USA in 1855. My book *Hand, Horse, and Motor: The Development of the Lawn Mower Industry in the United States* was published in 2016.



### An Early American Treasure: The Rare Coin in a Pie Crimper

When it comes to antique shows or public household auctions, one can expect to see various unique items from different eras. However, the pie crimper pictured in this brief article is no ordinary antique. While the crimper may not be the treasure, the coin used to form its crimping wheel certainly is a treasure.



Pie crimpers crafted with large copper coins are not uncommon to see, but most times, the coins used are from the 1830s, 40s, or 50s. This crimper, on the other hand, hit the jackpot! The coin used on the crimper is a specimen of the first of the large copper cents, which were issued by the United States in 1793.

The 1793 Flowing Hair large copper cent is known in three types and is up there with the rarest. The coin was only produced for



one year. The obverse image of a woman with flowing hair and a chain reverse is consistent across all types. However, the difference between the three types lies in the coin's reverse. One type spells out America in full, another spells it as Ameri, and the third has periods. In the numismatic world (coin collector's world), all three types of this coin list for around \$60,000 when in extra fine condition.

The coin present on this crimper is a true treasure. If it had never been holed and notched, it would undoubtedly realize somewhere around \$35,000 at auction. However, in its altered state as a pie crimper, it is worth around \$1,000. The simple design of the handle and the coin condition leads us to believe that the crimper was made in the 1790s.

Interestingly, the crimper was sold for a mere \$55 at an end-of-the-month antique auction in 2004. The coin was represented as some sort of foreign coin, but little did the buyer know that they had stumbled upon an early American treasure.

*Jim Hosler is the Executive Director of the Historic Mannheim Preservation Foundation in Mannheim, Pennsylvania. Jim has been an EAIA member since 1990.*

### *Outbuildings abuilding!*

EAIA Past President Dana Shoaf has gotten a little obsessed about building outbuildings at his old house in Maryland. This one is number four, and he started it in January as a chicken



coop, and then decided it would be too nice to use for that, so he is still figuring out exactly what he wants to do with it.

The main portion is 8' x 8', and the lean-to is 6' x 8'. The poplar sheathing is from a local bandsaw mill, and the sashes are old with old wavy glass. He used real linseed oil paint on it, and fellow EAIA member Steve Manowski made the strap hinges and pintles. It is nice to see the kind of thought that Dana puts into these little buildings that have so many small touches of history.

Dana's UPS driver complimented him on the compound he is building; but we will bet lots of passersby enjoy seeing his little historic village too.

He is currently building a small garden shed for Heidi that will be made with Greek Revival touches. He promises to show us pictures of that when it is done!

## The EAIA Blog

EAIA has a website blog, or short information forum for our members. Articles about tools, history of trades and crafts, and other subjects of interest to our members are encouraged.

It is not hard to do. Just visit the [blog page on the EAIA website](#), then select the "Contact Us" button at the top of the page, tell us about your blog, submit the form, and we will contact you about submission of your work. You may include photos to illustrate your post. Most blogs are between 500 and 1,500 words.



*Photo from James Ricci's blog [The Reel Lawnmower](#).*

There are already over 100 blogs on our site for you to read! Visit today and read some of the interesting articles that are posted. Here are just a few samples: [18th Century House Wrights, Joiners and Carpenters](#), [An Important Philadelphia Windsor Chair](#), and [Stanley Model Shop 278 Rabbet & Fillister Plane](#).

We look forward to reading your blog! 

## Reader Queries & Whatsits

I have always been fascinated by the iron industry in my hometown, Bridgewater, Massachusetts. I taught Industrial Arts in my local high school for twenty years and worked in the local foundry for seven years, so I am personally familiar with all aspects of iron production. I am also an amateur local historian. I had a chance once to tour the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company in Pittsburgh in the late 1970s before it closed. So, I am searching for the title of the oldest continually operating iron industry in New England, if not the country, for our town. I have proof that the dam for power was permitted in 1695 and a report of an injury in court records from 1713. The local foundry is about to close, ending over 300 years of production by the same family at two locations in our town. Are you folks aware of anyone else claiming this title? Any help that you could provide in this quest would be appreciated.

*David Moore  
Bridgewater Historical Commission  
Bridgewater, Massachusetts*

*\*Editor's note. Though it only operated from 1646-1670, the Saugus, Massachusetts iron works is thought to be the earliest iron works in North America. This does not answer David's question so I hope someone will help with more information about the longest "continuous" iron industrial site.*

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This object was found in a local creek. After wire brushing the rust, a marking was found—'C128' in relief on underside of the cone-like piece. It was embedded with coal



and small pebbles. It has been identified as a tuyere. Forced air passed through the tuyere into a cone like attachment that somehow fit flush to an iron smelting furnace.

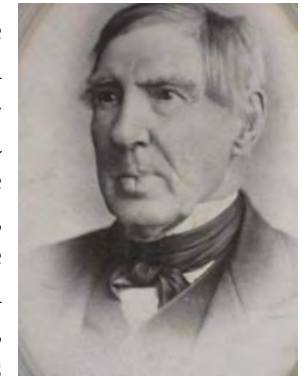
It was found near East Dorset, Vermont, so perhaps it was discarded from the iron furnace that is located nearby. The furnace is still standing and is made from white marble, which was quarried in large mines and was a major industry in Dorset in the 19th century.



*Dorset Furnace, courtesy Hagley Museum & Archives*

My mother's two grandfathers both forged iron, one in Staffordshire, England, the other was a moulder in Amherst, New Hampshire. The Woodhouse Chain Works opened in Trenton, New Jersey, in the 1880s. William Wood-

house, or Grand Sire as he's referred to in the Woodhouse family album, owned a chain works before leaving Staffordshire, England to start the Woodhouse Chain Works in Trenton, NJ, in the 1880s; he was followed soon after by his family.



*William Woodhouse*

*Craig Gilborn*

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### *Whatsit?*

As an avid collector of dividers, I couldn't pass the pictured object up, but I have no idea what it is.

If anyone has an interest in collecting dividers and calipers you might find my [blog](#) of interest.



*Paul Belanger  
Madison, Ohio*

# Calendar of Events

## Alaska

### Ongoing

**The Hammer Museum, Haines:** Here is a guide to making a hickory handle for your hammer! <https://www.hammermuseum.org/hickory-handle-making/> Explore the world's first museum dedicated to preserving the history of the hammer. The Hammer Museum portrays the complex history of the ordinary tool, making it a top destination for visitors to Haines. The museum's six galleries feature over 2,500 hammers that provide a unique view of the past. From ancient times to the present day, the hammer tells the story of man's progress and ingenuity. We will open in the off season, let us know you're coming!

## North Carolina

### Ongoing

**John C Campbell Folk School, Brasstown:** The Folk School offers many trade and craft classes throughout the year. A full catalog is available on line at <https://www.folkschool.org/find-a-class/>

## Massachusetts

### November 24-25

**Historic Deerfield, Deerfield:** Open Hearth Cooking Demonstrations <https://www.historic-deerfield.org/events/open-hearth-cooking-demonstrations/>

[historic-deerfield.org/events/open-hearth-cooking-demonstrations/](https://www.historic-deerfield.org/events/open-hearth-cooking-demonstrations/)

### December 1

**The Athenaeum, Boston:** *Developing the West End.* Throughout its history, Boston's west side, later known as the West End, has seen its physical shape transformed, its purposes redefined, and its population abruptly replaced. No other neighborhood of Boston has benefited and suffered so much, and for so long, from the effects of urban development. Come join The West End Museum's archivist Bob Potenza as he explores the neighborhood's complicated history. <https://community.bostonathenaeum.org/s/events>

## New York

### November 24-December 30

**The Farmer's Museum, Cooperstown:** *Glimmer Nights.* At Glimmer Nights, visitors of all ages will experience the museum as never before on a self-guided walking tour through a wonderland of elaborate, multi-colored light displays. The path winds through the museum's Country Village and other areas, each creatively illuminated with a unique theme.

## Ontario

### Ongoing

**Canada Science & Technology Museum, Ottawa:** Learn how the Archimedes screw works and build a model. <https://ingenium-canada.org/scitech/education/try-this-out/archimedes-screw>

## Pennsylvania

### November 19 & December 20

**National Museum of Industrial History, Bethlehem:** Holiday Tin Making Workshop. Join us for a fascinating, hands-on experience that guests of all ages enjoy. We offer a demonstration that mimics steel making on a tabletop level. Guests are invited to watch or participate and take home their own holiday-themed ornament creation. <https://www.nmih.org/holidaytinmelting23/>

### December 16

**Newlin Grist Mill, Glen Mills:** Bird Walk Join us for monthly naturalist-led walks through the 160-acre park at Newlin Grist Mill. We will meet year-round residents, visit exciting migrants, and learn the basics of bird identification and biology. <https://newlingristmill.org/>

## Virginia

### Ongoing

**Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg:** *"I made this..."* The Work of Black American Artists and Artisans, an exhibition that celebrates the lives of eighteenth through twentieth-century Black American artisans and artists through the material culture they created. <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/explore/art-museums/current-exhibitions/i-made-this/?from=home>

### January 25-28, 2024

**Working Wood in the 18th Century—Printed Words and Images:** how did 18th century craftspeople turn them into actions and objects? How did craftspeople fill in the blanks left by what was unwritten or unillustrated? And how can the ink they left on paper inform our understanding of a past in which most craft knowledge was shared orally? Join tradespeople and scholars from Colonial Williamsburg and esteemed guest presenters as they explore woodworking by the book. EAIA is a sponsor and will underwrite the presentation of the keynote speaker, Christopher Schwarz.

## EAIA On Preserecast

E AIA Director of Member Engagement, Lara Miller, was recently interviewed on the Preservation Maryland Podcast by CEO Nick Reading. In the interview Lara discusses EAIA's history, mission and upcoming plans and events. This was a great interview and is a nice live introduction to our staffer. To listen in to the interview follow the link to [Preserecast](#).



## We Welcome New Members

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

Brad Baker, Oshawa, Ontario,  
Canada

Judy Cantwell, Canton, CT  
Stanley Conn, Owensboro, KY

Jill Deiss, Winchester, VA

Sam DeSocio, Newark, DE

Phil Donaho, Soddy Daisy, TN

Nicholas Fields, Charlton, MA

Duane Giefe, Pound, WI

James Hayden, Gerrardstown,  
WV

Jeffrie Lane, Bedford, NY

Bill Mares, Burlington, VT

Trevor Martin, Washburn, WI

David McCaskey, Mount Sidney,  
VA

Keith Mitchell, Georgia, VT

Kirsten Moffitt (Colonial  
Williamsburg Foundation

– Conservation Dept.),  
Williamsburg, VA

Elise Mosley, Milwaukee, WI

William Murrin, Sugar Grove, IL

Randy Newcomer, Ephrata, PA

Richard Pianka, Stonington, CT

Nicholas Redding, Walkersville,  
MD

Richard Sponholz, Walpole, NH

William Stewart, Fort

Washington, MD

Andy Turner, Dayton, OH

John Ziebell, Magnolia, TX

## Conservation Grant New for 2023–2024

The EAIA supports the preservation of historic trades and crafts. To this end, it established a conservation grant of up to \$3000 to support conservation planning, object treatment services, educational interpretive services, and supplies related to sharing historic trades with the public. This grant is open to historic sites and museums who have 501(c)(3) status and that are open to the public on a regular basis. Applicants must submit a written proposal of no less than 500 and no more than 1500 words describing the project, how the funds will be used, and the anticipated end result. If the grant will be used to help pay for conservation treatment or for conservation planning, applicants will submit the credentials of those who will be providing treatment or planning services.

Awardees must submit a 500 word report following the project or program's completion along with captioned photographs. The deadline for submission is March 15, 2024, and awards will be announced in mid-May. Applicants may use the [existing grants application](#) to apply. Please email [Executive Director John Verrill](#) to pose any questions about the application and review process.



*Jennifer Petrila gives a demonstration at the EAIA regional meeting held at the Moses Wilder Blacksmith Shop in October. Read more about it on the [EAIA Blog](#).*

# WINTER MARKET

*December 2nd*



*10:00 - 4:00*

Artisan & Craft Market

Free Admission

Historical Demonstrations

New Exhibits

Cider & Treats

Special Tours

## Winter Market with Special Programs & Exhibits

Join us on Saturday, December 2nd, for our first annual Winter Market! This FREE event will feature an artisan and craft vendor market, brand new art exhibits, historical demonstrations, special tours, and much more! Take advantage of these special museum programs to experience winter-themed programs and Sloane works, never before displayed at the museum, while shopping for great gifts and supporting local artisans during the holiday season.

Museum Hours: December 2nd, 10AM-4PM.

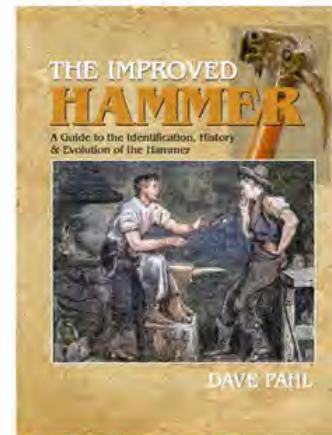
Admission: Free

*Important Notice: Activities will be held indoors and outdoors in celebration of the Winter Season. Please take care to dress for the weather.*

*Eric Sloane*  
**MUSEUM**

# The Improved Hammer

*By Dave Pahl*



A comprehensive study of man's first tool. Hundreds of color photos, line drawings and historical facts make this book a must have for collectors, historians, antique buffs, do-it-yourselfers or anyone who has ever used a hammer.

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Please take note!

*The deadline for the Winter  
issue of Shavings is  
January 5!*

Please submit articles, events, classified ads  
and display ads to:

Dan Miller ([dan@dragonflycanoe.com](mailto:dan@dragonflycanoe.com)) or

John Verrill ([eaia1933@verizon.net](mailto:eaia1933@verizon.net))  
by this date!

Advertise in *Shavings*

ADVERTISING: Contact Editor Dan Miller, 315-777-7007; E-mail: [dan@dragonflycanoe.com](mailto:dan@dragonflycanoe.com) (Subject Line: *Shavings* Ad); or mail to EAIA, P.O. Box 524, Hebron, MD 21830.

Display Ads

Full Page (9.875" h x 7.5" w): \$175

Half Page (4.75" h x 7.5" w): \$110

Quarter Page (2.375" h x 7.5" w or 3.625" h x 5" w): \$60

Business Card (2" h x 3.5" w): \$35

20% discount on three or more display ads for members. Ads do not need to run consecutively to receive the discount. Display ads are published in full color in the electronic version of *Shavings*. Advertisers may also add links from the ad to Web pages or e-mail addresses.

Classified Ads

25 words or less—\$4.00; 15¢ per word thereafter. Box around the ad—35¢ (A word is anything with a space on both sides of it.) Please make checks payable to EAIA. (Non-Members add 20% per ad for either display or classified ad.)



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The 1.5 acre property is priced at \$174,900 to allow an adequate budget for restoration. There is a catch, though: In addition to the usual legal and financial requirements imposed by any real estate transaction, the successful buyer of this property will possess the following qualities and talents:

- A preservation philosophy that respects historic fabric
- An appreciation for and dedication to honoring the work of craftsmen long gone
- Education, knowledge, training, and experience in restoration crafts
- A degree of competence in restoration crafts and the construction trades
- A commitment to carrying on the work for at least five years
- The financial resources to succeed with the restoration work
- The ability to manage such a project while still enjoying life

If you feel you qualify and are interested in purchasing this property, please contact the Listing Agent, Judith Koehler, at (585) 749-1515. MLS #: R1483401