



# Shavings

The Newsletter of the Early American Industries Association

Volume 268  
Summer 2023



**The Early American Industries Association**

[www.EAIAINFO.ORG](http://www.EAIAINFO.ORG)

**John H. Verrill, Executive Director**  
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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.eaiainfo.org](http://www.eaiainfo.org).

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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.

**Officers 2022-2023**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
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| 1st Vice President & Treasurer | Secretary          |
| Terry Wakeman                  | Jane Butler        |

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| Cheryl Fox     | Bob Roemer    |
| Donald Griffin | Andrew Rowand |
| Ron Howard     | Marc Sitkin   |
| Peter Hudson   |               |
| Patty MacLeish |               |

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|   |  |
|---|--|
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| <b>Awards</b><br>Denise Richer                    | <b>Regional Meetings</b><br>Jane Butler        |
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| <b>Membership</b><br>Marc Sitkin                  | <b>Website Committee</b><br>Marc Sitkin        |
| <b>Meetings and Programs</b><br>Sally A. Fishburn | <b>Whatsits</b><br>Terry Page                  |
| <b>Nominating</b><br>Dana Shoaf                   |  |

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*Front Cover: Davis Tierney discussing firearm use on the Virginia Frontier as Judy Dorphley, Peter Hudson and Alan Sadler look on. Photo credit: Patty MacLeish*

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

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

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

[eaia1933@verizon.net](mailto:eaia1933@verizon.net).

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The deadline for the next issue (no. 269, Fall 2023) is October 1, 2023.

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**Advertising:** Go to page 15 for more information and advertising rates.

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# President's Message

by Sally A. Fishburn

The Policy and Procedure Manual states that as President I can write about anything I want in the President's Message. I often wonder just how far I can go with that. I suppose that "within reason" is implied.

I think everyone who attended the Annual Meeting in Stanton enjoyed themselves. The programs and presentations were excellent. For someone who does not frequent antique stores or flea markets, (quite honestly I'd have to drive pretty far to find one), the tool swap on Wednesday afternoon and sale on Saturday morning are always a highlight. I get to look at and purchase great tools while visiting with and learning from all the other toolies that surround me. I did purchase a cove and bead molding plane that I have been searching for over the last twenty years. It was a long search because I was looking for the specific plane that matches the back band molding in the formal parlor of my pre-1800s farm house. Note: this is a simple farm house and this is one of only two complex moldings in the house.

As the saying goes, "It takes a village to run an Annual Meeting." Many thanks to John Verrill for chairing the meeting and planning it all with the help of Lara Miller, and our local hosts, George Lott, and Mary Anne and Tom Graham. Planning a meeting is a big task but, hopefully, a rewarding one. Once on the ground at the meeting our board members and helpful members-at-large all pitched in to keep the meeting running smoothly. Thanks to everyone that volunteered and to everyone who attended. We did create a special 90th an-

niversary t-shirt, so if you are in the market for new EAIA swag head to the website store and order a shirt.

I have to share two other highlights from the meeting. The open house at the Taylor & Boody organ company was hands down totally cool. They build organs from the ground up in this facility. Beyond the awesome woodworking they also make the organ pipes. The truly magical moment for me was watching molten lead/tin poured to create the sheets used to craft the organ pipes. The second was Don Williams's presentation on the H. O. Studley Tool Chest. Although I do not personally dream of creating a similar tool chest, I have always wondered about the person who built that chest. Don provided interesting insight into the man, the reason, and the tool chest. Don has written a book about the tool chest that is available online.

We had four excellent presentations on Saturday. These presentations were recorded and are available to watch on-line. A link to the videos was sent to the membership on May 30th, but there is also a link included in the newsletter if you would like to watch the presentations. They will also be available through our new website. Thanks to our presenters.

Marc Sitkin has been working diligently over the last nine months to retool the website and the new version is now live and can be accessed at [www.eaia.us](http://www.eaia.us). I have taken a look at what Marc has created and it is beautiful. He has been working to include all of the EAIA information in a way that will entice non-mem-

bers to consider joining the EAIA. This new website will also include a video section.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The planning is starting to shape up and it looks like it will be awesome, with time split between Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown.

We had an excellent response to our membership survey. Generally the response rate for non-profit surveys is around 12% but we garnered a response closer to 25%. The early, quick takeaways confirm that a high percentage of our membership is 65 and older, that a majority of our current members were introduced to EAIA through other members and that a primary deterrent to attending annual meetings is costs and travel. The membership committee is considering new methods of outreach, and we know that we are reaching more people through our social media accounts. However, the survey results point to the need to have more regional meetings. Regional meetings provide a great way for our members to gather in their geographic location at lower cost and less travel than required to attend the annual meeting.

So, I encourage all of you to consider hosting a regional meeting. We all live near awesome historic sites, local museums, and historical societies that would all be happy to host a regional meeting. A traditional regional meeting consists of a morning tailgate sale, a programmed event such as a tour of the fa-

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## From the Executive Director

by John Verrill

The EAIA Annual Meeting in Staunton, Virginia, was a wonderful opportunity to explore our nation's history. The Virginia Frontier Culture Museum has exhibits from most of the groups that emigrated to America in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries; reconstructed buildings and gardens tell the story of the Irish, the Germans, the English, and the Africans who settled here, as well as the native people who were here beforehand. The museum's staff did a great job of interpreting these different groups, and members of the [Contemporary Longrifle Association](#) also had great presentations.


Visiting Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson, was an exercise in architecture, agriculture, politics, and enslavement. Jefferson was a man who had many interests; aside from being a master politician, he was an architect, farmer, woodworker, inventor, businessman, and voracious reader—some of these he did well and others were, well, not so successful. At Monticello we learned that he was profoundly influenced by architecture and he built, tore down, and rebuilt Monticello many times in his lifetime. He was also a very complicated person who fathered children by his wife and his enslaved personal servant, Sally Hemmings.

The gardens at Monticello were planted in order to feed the many people who lived on the mountaintop. Jefferson was an able gardener and introduced many new plants to Virginia as he collected seeds and plants from his travels in the US and abroad. Those gardens

and plants have been researched and planted in the recreation, using Jefferson's plans. It was a treat to be able to learn about all of the avenues that he explored.

One of my favorite activities in Staunton was a visit to the Taylor & Boody Organ Company. We were treated to a wonderful tour of their factory to see how pipe organs are manufactured, much as they have been for hundreds of years. We watched as a mixture of lead and tin was poured to make sheets from which organ pipes are made. We saw the hand work and joinery that holds the organs together and learned that the wood is cut and dried in their own sawmill, as they have exacting standards for the oak, maple, and other hardwoods that are used to make their traditional pipe organs. At the end of the tour we were treated to a concert by a staff member on a 1,000 pipe organ located in a nearby church, needless to say the sound quality was superb! The tour had to be one of the most interesting and informative tours I have encountered in my travels. The participation of all fourteen employees made it even more special. You can learn about them on their [website](#).

Now that the 2023 Annual Meeting is in the rear view mirror, it is time to begin planning our very special 2024 Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia! Save the dates April 24–27, 2024. We will be staying at the [Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel](#) (\$159.00 + tax) which is adjacent to the [historic area](#). Nearby [Historic Jamestown](#) and all the museums located there will fill one day, and the remaining time will be

devoted to Colonial Williamsburg, the trades shops, and museums in the historic area. We look forward to a large turnout for this special meeting! 

*Did you miss the Annual Meeting? That doesn't mean you missed the presentations!*

All four presentations given at the 2023 Annual Meeting were live-streamed and recorded, and are available to view using the links below. We thank Paige Hildebrand, Director of Events at the Frontier Culture Museum, for recording and uploading the presentations on the museum's YouTube channel.

### Shaker Seeds

Presented by Denise Richer

### Shenandoah Valley Furniture

Presented by Jeffrey S. Evans

### Virginia Freight Wagons of the Newton School: A Research Update

Presented by Byron Smith

### The Carpentered Canoe: The Rise and Decline of the Wooden Canoe Factory in North America

Presented by Dan Miller

# Minutes of the EAIA Annual Meeting

## May 20, 2023, Hotel 24 South, Staunton, Virginia

President Sally Fishburn called the meeting to order 7:06pm

Sally thanked John Verrill and Lara Miller for helping to host the meeting. She also thanked Mary Anne and Tom Graham, and George Lott who were our local hosts; as well as all the board members who helped during the meeting.

Thanks to all the organizers and presenters at the Frontier Culture Museum. There was a moment of reflection for those who have passed during the past year: Gordon Stanton, Billy McMillan, and Warren Hewertson.

Sally presented George Lott with a 90 year EAIA t-shirt as a thank you on behalf of Tom Kelleher, of the Old Sturbridge Village, and Bob Roemer for George's contribution of period woodworking tools to the old Sturbridge Cabinetmakers Shop. George's tools will be used on a regular basis to educate Village visitors and students of Old Sturbridge Academy about the use of hand tools in this important trade of early America. Of equal importance, it will help to inform and engage young people about the importance of tools in our time and the enjoyment one can gain from their use, either as an avocation or in a profession. George used these tools in his long volunteer association with the Frontier Culture Museum and they will now continue his mission at the OSV Cabinetmakers Shop, a living history installation initiated by the Early American Industries Association.

### *Secretary's Report*

Sally Fishburn, on behalf of Jane Butler, requested a motion to approve the minutes from May 2022. Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Sally Fishburn highlighted a variety of committee work over this past year, and reviewed finances and the endowment

Total revenue to date: \$82,000.

Total Expenses to date: \$40,000.

EAIA's total assets are \$2,000,000.

### *Endowment Report and Grants Committee Report*

Heidi Campbell-Shoaf reported that, as of April, the Endowment Fund is \$1,500,000. The 90 for 90 campaigns successfully raised \$14,000—exceeding our goal by \$4,000.

The Grants Committee is working out the fine points of a conservation grant and Annual Meeting Student Scholarships. The conservation grant will fund conservation planning, object treatment services by a qualified individual, as well as support for educational interpretive services and supplies related to historic trades.

The EAIA awarded a \$3,000 grant to Anabel LeBrecque of Berkeley, California, for *Salt of the Earth: Deep Histories of the North American Interior: Reexamining the history of salt production in the Western Mississippi River Valley by Indigenous and Euro-American people*

Patty MacLeish and the Publications Committee have been hard at work support-

ing *Chronicle* Editor Sarah Thomas. The *Chronicle* is currently behind schedule but Sarah is working hard to get it back on schedule by early next year. That requires producing almost two years worth of *Chronicles* in one year. We encourage all of you to consider writing an article. You can start with as little as an outline or a collection of information or as much as a fully cooked article. Sarah's job is to help you turn that information into a great article.

Marc Sitkin has been working on and maintaining our website. The website was hacked days before the annual meeting. Marc has been at work trying to fix that issue, as of the meeting the website has been fixed.

Marc is currently working on switching the hosting from WordPress to Wix, which should make it easier to manage and update in the future. He is retooling the home page not only to provide information but to entice visitors to become members.

Reporting on behalf of Marc Sitkin, the Membership Committee started its work this year reviewing ten years of membership numbers, which showed a slow but steady decline. Blind surveys were sent out this spring to better understand the demographics of our membership to help in working out productive methods for recruiting new members. To date we have received over 250 responses to the survey, which is a very good response rate. Although they are still working through the responses, the key takeaways are that 60% of the respondents are 70 or older and 23% are in their 60s. 42% learned about EAIA through

another member, 17% through printed literature, and 11% through contact at an event. We had a great discussion during our board meeting regarding these results and recruiting new members.

Marc points out that if each of us recruited one member that would go a long way to increasing our membership.

Of the respondents, 55% have attended an annual meeting. The two top reasons for not attending are economics and travel. There is a general consensus among the board that increasing regional meetings in more sections of our geographical area would offer more opportunities for folks to meet up in person without as much travel. Those regional meetings could follow the traditional regional meeting model of visiting an historic site or museum with a morning tailgate sale, a presentation, and box lunch, or be as simple as a “pop up” event at a museum or local historical site. If a local museum is having an event you could ask to sponsor it or help with it and support the event.

Also please note that our regional meetings should be open to the public, so please advertise your event in the local papers. Providing demonstrations at local fairs is another good option. Bring along some EAIA business cards with your name on them and the QR code for the EAIA.

In addition, Lara Miller’s work on social media has attracted a lot of attention and is providing another avenue through which we are attracting new members.

### *Nomination Committee Report*

Sally Fishburn reported on behalf of Dana Shoaf, Chair of the Nomination Committee.

Noel Poirier and Carol Culnan will be retiring from the board. Sally thanked them for their service while on the board.

New candidates for Board of Directors (2023–2026) are:

- Tom Kelleher—long-time curator and historian at Old Sturbridge Village
- Dave Niescior—a young and upcoming tradesman and senior historian at the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, New Jersey.
- Sarah Lasswell—an artisan carrying on the tradition of willow weaving and an enthusiastic and supportive EAIA legacy member full of creative ideas.

On behalf of Jane Butler, Secretary, Sally Fishburn asked if there were any additional nominees from the floor. No additional nominees were provided.

Due to the fact that we did not get the nominees, their information, and an election form in the Spring *Shavings*, all of that information will be coming in the Summer *Shavings*. Please remember to vote. The ballot will be on the cover of the *Chronicle*.

### *Awards*

Denise Richer, Chair of the Awards Committee, presented the presentation display awards:

#### *In Theme*

- 1st Place—Ron and Shirley Kearns: One-man Saw
- 2nd Place—Denise Richer: Studebaker Wagons
- 3rd Place—Bob Terry: Firearms

### *Out of Theme*

- 1st Place—Frank and Sherry Kosmerl: Compass and Surveying display
  - 2nd Place—Sam and Pat Laswell: Plane Web site
  - 3rd Place—Rod Richer: Plane Display
- Pat Lasswell was awarded the Long Time Service Award, and Paul Van Pernis was awarded the J.D. Hatch Award

### *Keynote*

Don Williams was the keynote speaker for the meeting. He presented *Virtuoso: The Tool Cabinet and Workbench of Henry O. Studley*.


### *Silent Auction*

Members donated 87 lots this year, Which raised \$7,492. Dana Shoaf presented Silent auction awards: the highest dollars being awarded to John McMillen on the donation of the Tom Densmore’s Wine Chest which brought \$1800. The second place award was presented to Tom Elliott bring for his donation of four drawings of Monticello that rased \$1010. The third place award went to Priscilla Hart for her warm smile and vintage 1940s wardrobe.

### *Wrap-up*

Dana Shoaf announced that the 2024 Annual Meeting will be held April 24–28, 2024, at Colonial Williamsburg. The hotel will be the Woodlands Hotel and Suites. The 2025 Meeting will be held in Rochester, New York.

Sally asked for any new business, no new business was called.

Motion was made to close the meeting and adjournment was at 9:20 PM. 



## Candidates for the Board of Directors

The following candidates have opted in as potential members of the EAIA Board to fill three vacancies for the 2023–2025 term. The ballot for voting for these candidates is located on the wrapper for the current issue of the *Chronicle*. When you receive the ballot, please mark it and return as directed.

We thank these candidates for stepping up to be elected to represent you, our members.

### Tom Kelleher, Sturbridge, MA

Tom Kelleher has been a member of the EAIA and an avid reader of the *Chronicle* for decades. He is Historian and Curator of Mechanical Arts at Old Sturbridge Village, a living history museum in Massachusetts,



where he has worked since 1984. Tom is a past president of the international Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums.

He is a practitioner of several historical trades, including blacksmithing, coopering, milling, tombstone carving, and timber frame carpentry.

### David Niescior, Camden, NJ

I am a tailor by trade, an historian of early America by training, and the Senior Historian at the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, New Jersey, by profession. I have also practiced the trade of 18th-century tailoring since 2010, and

in recent years I've branched into practicing elements of carpentry, joinery, turning, shoe-making, blacksmithing, and hatting, and I'm hoping to expand that list yet. I have a great love for 18th century things, and learning how they work, how they were used, and how they were made. To that end I've striven for accuracy in recreating construction methods, endeavoring as much as possible to use the original tools, materials, and techniques. Some projects of mine of the last few years include six suits of regimental clothing of the Royal Regiment as they may have appeared in 1760, a set of bench planes based on early originals I either own or have studied, and my shoe making tools, including my bench. Much of my work can be seen on my Instagram page, @davidthomechanick, which I use as a kind of running log and portfolio of the things I make and study.

I studied at Rutgers University—Camden between 2008–2015, earning my BA in History and MA in American History. I have presented my work, both written and otherwise, at Historic Deerfield, for the Colonial Dames of America, the Museum of the American Revolution, and the Society of American Period Furniture Makers, among others.



### Sarah Lasswell, Union Mills, NC

Thank you so much for considering me for the EAIA board of directors. Though I have only been a member for the past few years, I grew up surrounded by early American tools and crafts and the people that love them. I have a BA in History with a minor in textile conservation, and have enjoyed working in Museum textile collections both large and small. I have been attending EAIA annual meetings since 2016, and though I look forward every year to seeing friends and interesting new places, I most enjoy experiencing it with my son Sam, and have been so moved by the way EAIA members have included him and nurtured his interest in history.

I would bring to the board my experience with non-profit organizations, having spent fifteen years working in the non-profit sector and serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Non-Profit Development Program (Morocco 2003 and Romania 2004–2006). Though my publishing background is in public health, I spent several years producing and reviewing scientific research and enjoy both academic scholarship and the peer-review process. I am very interested in the work the EAIA does to support research and scholarship on the early American tools and trades.

My personal tool fascination has grown as a “user” rather than a “collector.” My current trade is



that of casket maker, specializing in handmade natural caskets for use in green burials. I am one of only a handful of willow casket weavers in North America, and practice using the same techniques and tools as have been used to weave willow baskets for centuries. I cultivate willow by hand on my 22-acre farm in North Carolina using traditional coppicing techniques. My business partner builds simple pine caskets, and we invite families to join us in the workshop, whether to participate hands-on, or just be present. The connection to the process of making something by hand is deeply present in many of us, and in times of transition and grief this tangible experience, holding the tools and forming the wood, can be transformative. I have been working with other casket weavers in forming a guild to promote our trade and develop programs for training and employing apprentices—the historic structures of artisan trades still have much to teach us, though we may also be writing our website content using AI technology!



Meeting organizers John Verrill (left) and Lara Miller (center) man the registration table at the 2023 EAIA Annual Meeting. Photo by Sally Fishburn.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—FROM PAGE 3

cility, a lecture, or demonstrations and lunch. For more information on planning a regional meeting, visit the website's [Regional Meetings page](#). However, you are not tied to creating a traditional event. We are open to new ideas and creating other types of regional meetings or local get-togethers. You could also consider a pop-up regional meeting. If a local organization or historic site is having an event the EAIA could help with the event, provide demonstrations, or just decide to highlight and advertise the event as an EAIA meet up.

In all instances, please get the information to the EAIA office so we can advertise the event through email and help out in the planning as needed. Also, advertise through local papers and community digital bulletin boards. The general public is always welcome to our meetings. You can print out EAIA business cards with our QR code on the back and your name and contact info as a local contact on the front to hand out to those who are interested in learning more. We can send you the QR code and business card template to use.

As everyone is aware, the *Chronicle* is behind schedule. We were behind schedule when we hired Sarah Thomas as the new editor, and we did not have a file of articles on hand waiting to be published. She really had to start from scratch with the help of the publishing committee to solicit articles for her first magazine. As I have mentioned before, we need more people to write articles; members and non-members are all welcome to write. Sarah is on hand to help you create your article

no matter you how you perceive your ability to write an article. We have a diverse knowledge base and curiosity about tools, trades, and crafts in American history. Let's share our knowledge.

A very ambitious production schedule has been proposed to get the *Chronicle* back on track. For that to succeed we will need twice the articles in the next calendar year than required for a usual four edition year. Please sharpen those pencils, grab your favorite pen, or sidle up to your computer and craft an article.

Lastly, a short tool story: twenty plus years ago I purchased a Magic Saw. I swear I bought it from one of the higher end tool companies. Just for the record I am not a fan of gimmicky stuff and the name Magic Saw turned me off but I liked the idea of a coping saw with a closed pistol grip. I have used this saw exclusively for coping sash profiles and moldings. It arrived with five coping saw blades, and after twenty years, I had used my last one up. The blades are 6", of course, not 6 1/4" or 6 1/2", which I could buy from the local hardware store. So I went online to order replacement blades. I could not find replacement blades, only updated versions of the Magic Saw. It was no longer just a two trick saw—coping and jab saw—but has an exciting new feature: a tungsten carbide cutting roller in the tip for cutting glass and notches in the handle for trimming the glass. The multi-tool has reached a new level in my house. Now I just have to figure out—do I store this tool with my saws or glazier's tools? 🦢



## A Look Back at the 2023 Annual Meeting

By Patty MacLeish

Staunton, Virginia, was a surprise to me and to many of the EAIA members who gathered for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Located thirty or so miles west of Monticello, in the Shenandoah Valley near the Skyline Drive, Staunton is a thriving city boasting a beautiful, lively downtown with stunning architecture, and the meeting headquarters, Hotel 24 South, is a gracious, refurbished historic hotel. Our meeting began with the usual tailgating on the fourth level of the hotel's parking garage. We enjoyed a stunning view of Staunton as we greeted friends and worked to get the best deals.

All were told to be up early on Thursday morning (a 6:45 breakfast start!) in order to leave for our day at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Although there was some grumbling about the early start, no one had a problem making it to breakfast as we were all awakened quite early by a fire alarm. Fortunately, we didn't have to evacuate, but, as a consequence, we were all on time for departure. Everyone had a chance to tour Monticello and to hear three excellent speakers. We had a basic tour of Jefferson's renowned home and then we picked other "topic" tours related to all the people who lived and worked at Monticello.

The presentations gave further insight to life at Monticello. First up was Craig Jacobs of *Salvagewrights* and Southern Preservation Builders. He described his work in helping with the reconstruction of buildings on Mulberry Row at Monticello and about his work teaching the techniques of building and de-



*Meeting attendees spent a day at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Here, John Kesterson and Richard Weymer chat about their experience.*

constructing log cabins. He began his afternoon talk by noting that he had joined the EAIA in June 2022. He explained that when he opened his first issue of the *Chronicle*, he said to his wife, "These are my people!" The opening article in that particular issue was on cider presses, which he collects.

Bob Self, who has worked at Monticello since 1983 as a contractor and later on the staff, is a longtime EAIA member who helped put together the special issue of the *Chronicle* that focused on Thomas Jefferson. His talk for the EAIA included, among many other behind-the-scenes tales, his search for a molding plane needed to repair a piece of molding on

a shelf at Monticello. Charles Merrill, a guide and fabricator at Monticello, rounded out the presentations with his tales of remaking various Jefferson pieces, in particular, Jefferson's polygraph or copying machine.

That evening everyone gathered at the hotel for the ice cream social. The ice cream was a hit, and many folks were happy to share thoughts on the first day's activities. Will Covington, a new member from Centerville, Maryland, was at annual meeting for the first time.

"I really enjoyed the lectures we had this morning, especially Craig Jacobs's talk on woodworking," Will said. "I'm a hand-tool woodworker myself and really appreciated what he was doing." Will had decided to attend the Annual Meeting after learning about it on Instagram. John Kesterson from Barberton, Ohio, and a veteran of many annual meetings, agreed. "Today was an absolute fun-packed day," he said. "The grounds at Monticello were outstanding, and I thought the interpreters did an outstanding job. And the presentations were very good and very informative. I thought Craig Jacobs did an outstanding job."

Fortified with ice cream and beverages from the hotel bar, we headed to the Whatsits session. This spirited favorite with an array of tools was led by Terry Page with assistance from Rob Richer and Sam Kenyon.

There was no need for an early wake-up on Friday for our short drive to the Frontier Culture Museum. Located in a large park-like setting, the museum has a unique outlook on presenting the story of the people who came

to the Virginia frontier and those who were there before Europeans arrived. The first section of the museum includes homes, farms, and workplaces of the people who arrived on our shores. The buildings had been moved to the sites from the various countries. We saw a 1700s West African village, an English home, a forge from Northern Ireland, and prosperous Irish and German farms from the same period. Strolling or “golf-carting” through the park eventually leads visitors to a Native American village and a 1740s settlement and further



*Sam McGinty, tailor and costumer at the Frontier Culture Museum, working on a pair of leather britches in the German farmhouse at the museum. Photo credit: Bruce MacLeish*

down the path to nineteenth-century homes and farm buildings, a church, a schoolhouse, and other buildings.

Later that afternoon, some of us went on a wonderful open house tour at the Taylor & Boody Organ Company. Others explored the Camera Heritage Museum, and other local attractions. In the summer, Beverly Street, the city’s main venue, is closed to traffic from



*Top photo: Taylor and Boody Pipe Organ factory. Credit Alex Allardt  
Bottom photo: Camera Heritage Museum. More than 6,500 cameras! Credit Bruce MacLeish*



Friday afternoon to Sunday evenings and the street becomes a lovely mall for strolling, shopping, and eating al fresco.

We were welcomed back to the Frontier Culture Museum on Saturday morning. Some members were up early to set up for the Tool Exchange and the Displays.

The theme for 2023 was *From Forest to Farm: Tools that Tamed the Frontier*. For the second



*Bob Terry and his display about rifles.*

day, members of Contemporary Long Rifle Association and the museum staff held ongoing demonstrations. The afternoon featured an interesting array of speakers—Denise Richer on Shaker Seeds, Dan Miller on the development of wooden canoe manufacturing, and Jeffrey Evans on Shenandoah Valley Furniture. Byron Smith, who had received a grant from EAIA and written several articles on Virginia Freight Wagons for the *Chronicle*, gave an update on his most recent research on the wagons. (Links to YouTube videos of the presentations are located in another area of Shavings.)

Saturday evening’s auction was again a success. The selection of donated items was varied and tempting to those in attendance. Dana Shoaf made sure we placed our bids early and often. (And the result was amazing—\$7,800.) After dinner and a brief business meeting, awards were presented; Displays, Hatch and Longtime Service.

Guest speaker Don Williams, the Smithsonian’s furniture conservator and author of *Virtuoso: The Tool Cabinet and Workbench of Henry O. Studley*, capped off the evening with a wonderful presentation on the famous tool chest.

Alex Allard, from Newport, Rhode Island, who hadn’t been to an annual meeting in about twenty years, summed up our days in Staunton wonderfully. “Everything was fabulous,” she said. “And everybody was so enthusiastic and shared information and explained everything. I love this kind of nerdy, very focused event, and the very enthusiastic people who attend.”

Thanks to Executive Director John Verrill and Lara Miller, Director of Member Engage-



ment, along with Annual Meeting Committee members Sally Fishburn, Terry Wakeman, George Lott, and Mary Ann and Tom Graham for their help organizing the meeting along with a large group of members who filled in where needed to make the meeting a success.

Mark your calendar now for next year's meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, April 24–27, 2024. Our hotel will be the Woodlands, right on the Colonial Williamsburg campus, and we will also visit Historic Jamestown. Check out future issues of *Shavings* to learn more about the special programs at Colonial Williamsburg organized specifically for EAIA members. You won't want to miss it!

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## Regional Meeting

*Stickley Museum, Fayetteville, New York*

Rod Richer has engaged the Stickley Museum in Fayetteville, New York, and has scheduled a regional meeting on September 30, 2023.

There will be no registration or admission fees, and participants will do lunch on their own. Coffee and donuts for the tailgate have



been donated for an eye opener. Please register for the event prior to Labor Day so that we can gauge participation for the museum and Stickley house tour. You may inform us of your intent to join the meeting by email to [EAIA1933@verizon.net](mailto:EAIA1933@verizon.net) or by calling Rodney Richer at 315-532-8032.

The Stickley Museum/Fayetteville Library is located at 300 Orchard St, Fayetteville, NY.

- 8–10AM Tailgating in parking lot (donuts & coffee)
- 10–11AM Lecture on Stickley in the community room by Museum Director Amanda Clifford.
- 11–12 Tour of the Stickley Company Museum (elevator accessible).
- 12–1:30PM Lunch on your own. Nearby places include the Craftsmen House, Bull & Bear Tavern, Red Robin, Bonefish Grill, Panera, and McDonalds.
- 1:30–2:15PM Stop/Shop Daltons Vintage Stickley Store.
- 2:30–4:00PM Tour of the Gustav Stickley House under restoration with Director David Rudd

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## Bolton Fair

*Bolton, Massachusetts, August 11–13*

Tim Fiehler (an EAIA member and professional cabinetmaker) and Bob Roemer will be at the Bolton Fair in Bolton, Massachusetts on August 11–13. We'll be demonstrating and encouraging folks (particularly kids) to try basic vintage hand tools, this year including a large

antique treadle lathe in addition to planes, drawknives/shave horses, saws and drills. We found that kids were particularly interested mesmerized even by using a drawknife and also watching spills come out of the side of a spill plane, which they eagerly took home. With a certain amount of trepidation, parents were convinced to try hand tools—at the urging of their progeny!



The Bolton Fair is an agricultural fair that began as a small town celebration in 1874. At its inception, animal shows and agricultural exhibits were the heart of the fair—and we are proud to say still are to this day. There's also great food and entertainment, crafts, commercial exhibits, a farmers' market, midway rides, demolition derbies, and lots of educational demonstrations. Now, as in the beginning, the Bolton Fair is organized entirely by volunteers and typically draws annual attendance of approximately 30,000.



## Touch a Trade

The Eric Sloane museum in Kent, Connecticut has created a series of hands-on trades workshops for teenagers. Touch a Trade is an initiative to support the development of the next generation of trades and craftspeople. This trades education program is provided through Touch a Trade. In it students experience S.T.E.A.M.-based learning through this hands-on class using Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. The Sloane Museum offerings include carpentry and plumbing this summer. You can learn more by contacting Museum Director Andrew Rowand by email at [andrew.rowand@ct.gov](mailto:andrew.rowand@ct.gov)

Touch a Trade's mission is to support the development of the next generation of trades and crafts people, it is an initiative of Hudson Valley Preservation and is fiscally sponsored by HatchSpace, a 501(c)(3) registered charitable organization.

## Whatsit

These four photos show a wooden implement that I purchased from an antique store in Harrisonburg, VA in 2015. I have no positive ID as to what it was used for, the cultural group that made it, or its origins.

I sent these pictures to the folks at the Winterthur Museum and they were stumped on all the above questions.

My best guess is that it was a household item that got regular use judging from the patina and from the wear at the tip on the underside. Some suggested it might be associated with the use of a mangling board (defi-



nately not according to the man who wrote the definitive book on same) and others that it might be associated with flax processing, but it is a far cry from the sharp-edged swingling/skutching knives that I have seen, albeit it is about the same length. The close-up of the engraved figures on the side shows figures that look similar to graphics that I have seen in 17th and 18th century New England cemeteries on the tombstones and in some books and pamphlets of the colonial era. Given the influx of settlers from Pennsylvania in the early 1700s into the Shenandoah Valley, where I purchased this item, it occurs to me that it could possibly be from someone with Swedish, Finnish, or

Dutch ancestry and drawing from a Northern European or Scandinavian tradition.

My speculations aside, if you would put these pictures out in the next Shavings to see if anyone can clearly identify it I would be very grateful.

*Hayden W. Mathews*

*111 Grebe Drive*

*Lake Frederick, VA 22630*

*(703) 424-3379 (Cell)*

## Travis McDonald Retires

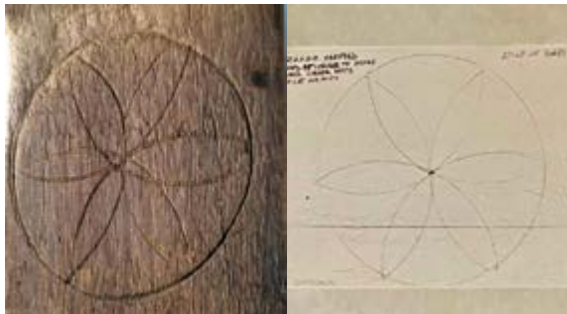
Travis McDonald, an EAIA member for twenty years, has retired as Director of Architectural Restoration at Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's retreat home in Forest, Virginia. Travis led the restoration effort at Poplar Forest for 34 years. Not as well-known as Monticello, it is however an architectural treasure worthy of a visit. We salute Travis on his retirement and for his contributions to the preservation of the history, tools and architecture of Poplar Forest during his long tenure. Read more about his life and accomplishments [here](#).

“Designated a National Historic Landmark, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest is an award-winning historic restoration in progress, nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visiting Poplar Forest offers a unique opportunity to hear the stories of Jefferson's family, the free and enslaved craftsmen who built the historic masterpiece, and the enslaved people who lived and labored on the plantation. Come explore the world of Thomas Jefferson at his most private retreat.”

## Daisy Wheels

*Member seeks information on architectural details in historic buildings.*

Do you know of a daisy wheel? Can you make a full sized tracing, note where it came from and send me a copy? I've seen many, but have only copied three. That's not a big enough sample for a comparative study.



I research the use of geometry in construction before we had standard dimensions prior to the Industrial Revolution. Daisy wheels, found on sheathing, posts, and beams of wood frames, may have been a module, a unit of measure for a specific frame. Thanks in advance.

*Jane Griswold Radocchia, Architect*  
[www.janegriswoldradocchia.com](http://www.janegriswoldradocchia.com)  
[www.jgrarchitect.com](http://www.jgrarchitect.com)

## American Historic Trades Summit

I attended the first American Historic Trades Summit hosted by the Campaign for Historic Trades and Preservation Maryland on June 12–14th. The summit took place at Hotel Providence in Providence, Rhode Island, where attendees were surrounded by history and incredible architecture. The summit was attended by over a hundred people from all over the country, which were comprised of tradespeople, craftspeople, museum professionals, nonprofit staff, contractors, preservationists, restorationists, and more.



*Historic Downtown Providence was the backdrop for the Historic Trades Summit. Photo by Lara Miller*

Attendees enjoyed highly informative sessions & workshops, networking opportunities, a tour of Heritage Restoration with its fantastic staff, tours of other sites around Providence, and more. It was clear that numerous attendees left with connections that will help further their missions, goals, funding, projects, etc. I know that I also left with greater knowledge, a

lot of inspiration, and even more hope for the future of our world of historic trades, crafts, and tools.

*Lara Miller*  
 EAIA Director of  
 Membership Engagement

## Boatbuilding

Bob Roemer modestly says “I haven’t done any project lately worthy of publishing in *Shavings* except my usual boatbuilding, this one being a modified Marisol Skiff. I just got the laminated gunwales and inwales glued in place and am setting the transom knees and breasthook on the stem. The wood for both is ash, which was felled on our property a couple of years ago, a small silver lining to the devastating effect of the emerald ash borer. Thought you’d be interested in the progress of “tree to boat.”



## A Virginia End Table

Perhaps some of the attendees to the 2023 EAlA Annual Meeting at the Frontier Culture Museum noticed a small end table at the Bowman family home that represented an 1820s American homestead.

The table is a reproduction of an antique found in the Shenandoah Valley and first mentioned in Carlyle Lynch's book *Furniture Antiques Found In Virginia*. Mr. Lynch was a Washington and Lee University graduate, and ended his career as an industrial arts teacher in Broadway, Virginia.

Mr. Lynch discovered this table when a client brought him the table for repairs after



the owner had removed paint to discover the beautiful inlay work on the drawer. The whereabouts of the original are currently unknown, but its legacy lives on through Mr. Lynch's drawings. His plans are numerous and include



furniture from such places as Old Salem in North Carolina. The book is still available at used bookstores. More practical are the professionally-reproduced plans previously sold by Time Life and now by a number of wood-working supply stores.

I have started my own reproduction piece, which is not yet complete. Like the one at the museum, the thicknesses of the top and other structural members have been reduced for a more proportional appearance.

—Richard P. Cunningham  
Forest, Virginia

## 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.

Richard Byrne, Norfolk, CT  
Vera Hailey, Waynesboro, VA  
Joseph Lauretto, Richmond, NH  
Noah Levy, Towson, MD  
Erick Mandt, Columbia, MD  
Charlie McKenzie, West Amana, IA  
Ben Purvis, Saraland, AL  
Annie Rubel, Vernon, VT  
Charles Shircliff, Cloverport, KY  
Judith Sivonda, Clifton Forge, VA  
Tinsmith Museum of America,  
Williamsburg, VA



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**The Zlotoff Tool Museum**

*Open Saturdays from 10:00 to 4:00 Memorial Day Weekend to Columbus Day Weekend—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 Resort. For more information visit the museum's website

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

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***The deadline for the Fall issue of Shavings is October 1!***

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

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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.

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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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