Features
The 2019 EAIA Annual Meeting .............4
by Paul Van Pernis

Weaving Through History In Lowell ........6
by Gwen Lasswell

In Memoriam: John G. Wells .............7
by Paul Van Pernis

Cabinetmaking Returns to Old Sturbridge Village .............8
by Tom Kelleher

EAIA’s BIG Sponsors Regional Blacksmithing Meeting .............8
by Bob Roemer

What makes a good story for the Chronicle? . .9
by Patty MacLeish

Research Grants Program Aids in the Study of Early Trades & Crafts .............10

Departments
The President’s Page ..................2 Welcome New Members .............10
From the Executive Director .............3 Calendar ..................12

A National Park ranger operates a power loom at the Boott Mills Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts. The Boott Mills Museum will be one of the highlights of the 2019 Annual Meeting. Read more about the meeting starting on page 4.

By Jonathan Lansey [CC BY-SA 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)], from Wikimedia Commons
Welcome to e-Shavings.

We hope you like this electronic version of Shavings, with its color illustrations and easy navigation. Please note that you can click on any item in the table of contents and you will be directed to the proper page. The contents of e-Shavings is the same as the paper edition except that this version has color photographs and the contact information for all officers, directors, heads of activities, and members listed above has been removed in order to protect their privacy. You may find that information in the Annual Directory or contact the executive director at executivedirector@EarlyAmericanIndustries.org, and we will take your name off the mailing list for paper Shavings. Put “Subscribe to e-Shavings” in the subject line. You will continue to receive all other EAIA mailings on paper.

All members who receive the paper Shavings, for whom we have an e-mail address will receive both editions. If you find the PDF satisfactory and are willing to forgo the paper edition, please send an e-mail to executivedirector@EarlyAmericanIndustries.org, and we will take your name off the mailing list for paper Shavings. Put “Subscribe to e-Shavings” in the subject line. You will continue to receive all other EAIA mailings on paper.

Officers 2018-2019

President
Denise Richer
Baldwinsville, NY

2nd Vice President
Vacant

1st Vice President & Treasurer
Sally Fishburn
Danville, VT

Secretary

Dana Shoaf
Burkittsville, MD

Directors 2018-2019

Chris Bender
Shoreham, NY

Robin Lee
Ortawa, ON

Jane Butler
Antrim, NH

Louise Muse
Smithtown, NY

Richard Cunningham
Forest, VA

Noel Poirier
Wrightsville, PA

Donald Griffin
Cambridge, NY

David Pollak
Morristown, NJ

Pam Howard
Brasstown, NC

Bill Rainford
Merrimack, NH

Gwenn Lasswell
Spring TX

Bob Roemer
Bolton, MA

Committee Chairs

Annual Meeting
Paul Van Pernis

Nominating
Patrick Lasswell

Awards
Dan Semel

Publications
Louise Muse

Endowment Fund
Noel Poirier

Regional Meetings
Jane Butler

Long-Range Planning
Denise Richer

Research Grants
Heidi Campbell-Shoaf

Membership
Vacant

Website Committee
Bill Rainford

Meetings and Programs
Dana Shoaf

Whatsits
Chris Bender

The President’s Page
by Denise Richer, President EAIA

Hello EAIA members,

With summer behind us and autumn here, our tool adventures will be moving inside now.

This summer, EAIA members enjoyed a great time at Bob Roemer’s, July 28th Blacksmith Regional meeting in Massachusetts (see page 8). Thanks for a great meeting Bob! This was a great time and was very well attended. Maybe if we ask nice, Bob will host again next summer?

Many EAIA members enjoyed the huge outdoor tool auction and dealer show on the lawns hosted by Martin Donnelly in Avoca, NY. Our son, Rod Jr, found a tool there that I am trying to research. It is a mill pick signed T. Noye & Son, Cato, NY. Anyone have anything on this? Let me know. The Directory of American Toolmakers sits them in Buffalo.

So, moving on to our inside search for the perfect tool, the EAIA is going to benefit from the very generous bequest of the estate of John Wells, as his wonderful tool collection of fifty years will be auctioned off over the next two years at the auction houses of Brown, Martin Donnelly, and David Stanley. The proceeds of any tool from the Wells collection will be donated to both the EAIA and the M-WTCA.

John Wells was a dedicated member of the EAIA. He and his wife, Janet, were members for forty years. He was a recipient of the J. D. Hatch Award, and a collector of some amazing tools. Don’t miss out on acquiring one of the incredible tools from John’s collection. John died on Aug. 23, 2018, just shy of his 89th birthday. We will miss him and we thank him for this generous legacy that will help EAIA and M-WTCA into the future.

Our 2019 Annual Meeting in Lowell, Massachusetts, is being expertly planned by Paul Van Pernis, Bill Rainford and Bob Roemer. It looks to be a meeting you definitely won’t want to miss! There is a lot of new stuff from our Fiber Interest group, I understand. I can’t wait!

We are still in need of a Membership Chair! Gaining new members for the EAIA is one of the vital jobs for the organization. Deb and Ross Gibson had to resign the membership committee for health reasons. Please consider volunteering to lead the way for the future of the EAIA. We need you! If you feel you can’t chair the committee but would like to help in that capacity or have any ideas to share, please touch base with any board member.

Have a great time out there searching and researching. Don’t forget to prepare a nice exhibit for the upcoming Annual Meeting. It’s never too early to start thinking spring.

Best Regards, Denise
Driving into work this morning, I noticed that most of the corn fields have been harvested and the soybean fields are turning a glorious shade of yellow. Fall ushers in my favorite time of year as the weather moderates (though today's high is supposed to be 85°), the trees show off their colors, the geese and ducks return to our region for the winter, and my lawn mowing chores slow down as growth comes to a standstill.

This year the EAIA has lost some very active members whose input we will miss greatly. Ken Culnan was always there when I needed advice on matters of printing and advertising, Bill Curtis always had an encouraging word about the EAIA, John (Jennie) Alexander served many years on the grants review committee, and John Wells, who was always ready to submit articles for the Chronicle and auction reports for Shavings. John led a wonderful life of tool collecting and research with his wife; their collections of tools were exemplary. At his death, his bequest to the world of tools was that they be auctioned off so that others would have an opportunity to own these coveted tools. The proceeds of these tool sales will be donated to the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association and to the Early American Industries Association in equal proportions. The money donated to the EAIA will be placed in our endowment and income will go to fund either scholarships or grants, something the Board of Directors will discuss at its fall meeting. We are indebted to the service of these members and to all who work and support our organization.

We have had a couple of regional meetings this year. Bob Roemer hosted a meeting at his blacksmith shop in Bolton, Massachusetts, and at around the time of publication of this issue of Shavings, the Institute for Industrial Art & History, under the leadership of John Schroeder, will host a meeting at their museum in North Andover, Massachusetts. These meetings are a way for EAIA members to learn something new and to interact with other members. I know I harp on this a good deal, but I lament that we have to struggle to get people to host these meetings—although Bob Roemer and John Schroeder would be exceptions as they moved ahead with their meetings with great enthusiasm. Here is my challenge for our members, announcing it on our many Internet platforms, and, of course, listing it in Shavings. OK, I have thrown down the gauntlet, who will be the first to respond?
The 2019 EAIA Annual Meeting
Put it on Your Calendar!

by Paul Van Pernis

It’s time to start thinking about the 2019 EAIA Annual Meeting, which will take place Wednesday, May 15th through Saturday, May 18th, 2019! We will be based at the Westford Regency Hotel in Westford, Massachusetts (www.westfordregency.com). Room rates at the hotel are $125/night. Come and join us for another great meeting full of great activities and great people. On Thursday we will visit the Lowell National Historic Park (www.nps.gov/lowe/index.htm). The park is the site of the Boott Mills, which were part of a large group of cotton mills built along an extensive series of canals in town. The Boott Cotton Mills complex is the most intact and houses the Boott Cotton Mills Museum. The history of Lowell is closely tied to its location along the Pawtucket Falls of the Merrimack River, which provided water power for the factories that formed the basis of the city’s economy for a century. Lowell was founded in the 1820s as a money-making venture and social project referred to as “The Lowell Experiment,” and quickly became the largest textile center in the United States.

The Merrimack Manufacturing Company opened a mill by Pawtucket Falls and began weaving cotton in 1823. Within two years a need for more mills and machinery became evident, and a series of new canals were dug, allowing for even more manufacturing plants. With a growing population and booming economy, Lowell was named after Francis Cabot Lowell, and was officially chartered on March 1, 1826. By 1850, Lowell’s population was 33,000, making it the second largest city in Massachusetts and America’s largest industrial center. The 5.6-mile-long canal system produced 10,000 horsepower to ten corporations with a total of forty mills. Ten thousand workers used an equal number of looms fed by 320,000 spindles. The mills were producing 50,000 miles of cloth annually. Other industries developed in Lowell as well: the Lowell Machine Shop as well as other machine shops served the large number of weaving mills.

Moxie, which was created around 1876 by Dr. Augustin Thompson in Lowell, originated as a patent medicine called “Moxie Nerve Food.” He claimed Moxie was especially effective against “paralysis, softening of the brain, nervousness, and insomnia.” In 1880, Lowell became the first city in America to have telephone numbers.

Uriah A. Boyden installed his first turbine in the Appleton Mill in Lowell in 1844. It was a major improvement over the old-fashioned waterwheel. The turbine was improved at Lowell again shortly thereafter by Englishman James B. Francis. Francis had begun his career in Lowell working under George Washington Whistler, the father of painter James Abbott McNeill Whistler. His improved turbine, known as the Francis Turbine, is still used with few changes today. Francis also designed the Francis Gate, a flood control mechanism that provides a means of sealing the canal system off from the Merrimack River, and completed the canal system by adding the Northern Canal and Moody Street Feeder, both designed to improve efficiency to the entire system. We’ll get a first-hand look at the canal system and the turbines on a narrated boat tour of the canals.

The Lowell Mill Girls were young female workers who came to work in industrial corporations in Lowell, during the Industrial Revolution in the United States. The workers initially recruited by the corporations were daughters of propertied New England farmers, typically between the ages of 15 and 35. By 1840, at the height of the Industrial Revolution, the textile mills had recruited over 8,000 women, who came to make up nearly three-quarters of the mill workforce. While their wages were only half of what men were paid, many were able to attain economic independence for the first time, free from controlling fathers and husbands. As a result, while factory life would soon come to be experienced as oppressive, it enabled these women to challenge the then existing gender stereotypes. As the nature of the new “factory system” became clear, the Lowell Mill Girls joined the American labor movement. In 1845, after a number of protests and strikes, many of the mill girls came together to form the first union of working women in the United States, the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association. The Association adopted a newspaper called the *Voice of Industry*, in which workers published sharp

Top: Interior view of the Boott Cotton Mills.
Above: The Lowell Mill Girls Tenements
critiques of the new industrialism. The Voice stood in sharp contrast to other literary magazines published by female operatives, such as the Lowell Offering, which painted a much more sanguine picture of life in the mills. We’ll spend time at the Boot Mill, tour the canal system by canal boat, and visit the tenement houses where the Lowell Mill Girls lived.

We’ll also take the time to visit the New England Quilt Museum (www.nequiltmuseum.org/index.html) which is less than a block from the Boot Mill site. The New England Quilt Museum, founded in 1987, is the only museum in the Northeast solely dedicated to the art and craft of quilting. Their collections are strong in 19th-century quilts, with a geographic focus on New England. The museum staff are planning a special display of their early quilts just for our group.

On Friday, we’re going to feature a wide-ranging series of hands-on workshops, lectures, and demonstrations. You will have a chance to try your hand at blacksmithing, rigid heddle loom weaving, cross stitching, 19th-century candy making, and decorative plaster molding. We will have a demonstration on bookbinding. You will have a chance to make a toy that will be donated to the Boston Children’s Hospital Cancer Unit. More workshops and hands-on activities are in the works, so stay tuned. You can take a tour of the Starrett factory and museum in nearby Athol, Massachusetts. You will get to see some very early Native American tools from the extensive collection at the Peabody Institute of Archeology (www.andover.edu/learning/peabody). You’ll hear about Civil War soldier’s quilts. We’ll be entertained at our banquet by Doctor and Doctor Noah (yes there are two) and their “Amazing Mechanical Magic Lantern Astronomic Slide Show.” Both the Fiber Interest Group and the Blacksmith Interest Group are helping to put together this meeting.

And of course, we’ll enjoy tailgating, our annual Whatsits session, the ice cream social, displays, and tool trading, as well as the Silent Auction, our Annual Meeting, and banquet. The theme for this meeting’s displays is Fiber Arts Tools and Machine Tools. So, start thinking about a display. They’re a great way to share your knowledge and some of your tools with the rest of us. The more displays the better! Don’t forget the Silent Auction. Items donated by members help support the EAIA’s annual budget. Share your creative talents with the rest of us and bring an item or two for the auction.

Bill and Alyssa Rainford and Eileen and Paul Van Pernis are co-hosts for this meeting. Put the dates, May 15 through May 18, 2019 on your calendar. Think about your display, and an item or two to donate to the Silent Auction. Bring a friend or your family and come enjoy a great 2019 EAIA Annual Meeting in Massachusetts. Watch for more information about the 2019 Annual Meeting in Shavings and on the EAIA web site (www.eaiainfo.org).
Weaving Through History In Lowell

by Gwen Lasswell

The 2019 EAIA Annual Meeting is just around the corner! Well, not really, but I'm excited all the same. We will be getting a very in-depth look at the beginnings of the textile industry here in the US. There will be a lot of interesting things to see. Much of it will be unusual and not in the mainstream because the American textile industry, as it was practiced in Lowell and so many other textile communities, has all but died out. In Lowell we will learn about the very beginning of it all. Francis Lowell and the Boston Manufacturing Company started a textile manufacturing company but, more importantly, saw that a carefully selected and maintained worker population was just as important to the bottom line as their efficient, water driven power. Economic and, no doubt, political changes resulted in a change to the worker/employer relationship, but for the time that it flourished this business model was masterful.

That said, and I hope I've caught your interest in the subject and theme of the 2019 meeting, it's now time to think about one of the cornerstone events of the meeting—DISPLAYS! (And don’t put it off until the week before—you know who you are!)

Not surprisingly, the display theme will be fiber tools. It’s a HUGE field. Our dear friend Bill Curtis collected hundreds of buttonhole cutters. Look at the buttonholes on your shirt—they required a specialized tool. I have a friend who collects sock making machines. Yes, in her house she has nearly forty table and standing sock makers. There are hand sewing tools, yarn tools, cutting tools, spinning and weaving tools, the list goes on. Spinners wind their yarn on a unique tool. Can you name it? It’s called a “niddy noddy.”

There is a stunning variety of tools required to make a textile and then a garment. It’s an over-the-top and step-by-step process that is labor intensive and multi-layered. I know you all have a fiber tool or two laying around. Take a look at it. Does it represent a particular period in textile history? Perhaps a particular part of the process of textile or garment making. Don’t think you have to bring hundreds of examples of one type of tool. Bring what you have, label it carefully as yours, and we will display it. Maybe with like types. Remember sock darning eggs? A woman I know in Texas has collected over a thousand and it’s hard to find two that are alike. Bring in your unique, your favorite, your much loved and cared for example of a textile tool. Let’s have a large variety of each kind to compare and contrast.

In addition, the EAIA Fiber Interest Group will be holding live demonstrations of textile crafts (check out our Facebook site for more information). Whether or not you are a fiber crafter, you can see these crafts in action and ask questions about what is being done. How do you obtain the raw materials for yarn making? How does a spinning wheel work? What do you need to know to start weaving? Is it hard to learn to knit or crochet? If you ARE a fiber crafter, please bring examples of your work. Show off your creations in the display or work on them in the demonstration area; maybe you will show a new fiber crafter how to get started.

See you in Lowell!

Opt out of Shavings

We are winding down the print version of Shavings. For several years we have been reaching out to our members and asking that they subscribe to the e-Shavings that we publish on our website. This is a full color version of Shavings that is otherwise the same as the print version; it is available at least two weeks before the print version arrives in the mail. We know that some of our members do not have access to the Internet and therefore need to have the print version.

As of this year, new EAIA members will not have the option of receiving a print version, and in the future we are considering sending the print version only to those members who don’t have an email address.

Our reason for this change revolves around the cost of printing and mailing, both of which have increased over the years. We want to improve the Chronicle through the use of more color. The savings realized by only distributing Shavings electronically will allow us to do just that in the near future.

We hope that you will opt out of the print version if you are able to read it on-line. We thank you for your help. You can opt out by emailing executivedirector@eaiainfo.org.

Mid-West Tool Collectors Association’s Golden Anniversary

We at the Early American Industries Association send our congratulations to our friends at the M-WTCA as they celebrate their 50th year.

Founded in 1968 by a small group of avid tool collectors, the association has become international in scope with a membership approaching 4000 that are scattered to all corners of the globe. Included are individuals from all walks of life as well as libraries, museums, historic sites who share a common interest in collecting, using and appreciating antique and traditional tools.
In Memoriam: John G. Wells  
(12/8/1929‒8/23/2018)  

by Paul Van Pernis  

John Wells, one of the true pillars of the tool collecting community, passed away peacefully on August 23rd, 2018, secondary to Alzheimer’s dementia. He would have celebrated his 89th birthday in December of 2018. John was introduced to the building trades as a very young boy. His father was a building contractor and John recalled going to a shop where his father would cut lumber to dimension. John was only 2 or 3 years old at the time and would play in the “sawdust bin” while his father was working. As he grew he helped his father on housing construction sites, learning by doing, and by the time he was in high school he was running his own cabinetmaking shop with several employees producing cabinet work for his father and other contractors as well.

His family didn’t have money for college, so John saved money and entered the University of California at Berkeley to study architecture. He worked his way through college by working as the “maintenance man” at one of the college dormitories. He graduated with honors in 1956 and received the award for the most outstanding architecture student at the graduation ceremony. That very same day he was offered a job at the Demars and Reay architecture firm in Berkeley. When Mr. Reay left the firm, John became a partner in the firm of Demars and Wells. When Mr. Demars’s wife became ill the firm was dissolved and John became the head of the engineering department at Kennedy Jenks, where he worked until his retirement. John was directly involved with the development and building of many prominent buildings in the San Francisco Bay area and throughout the United States.

John’s greatest love in his life was his wife Janet who enthusiastically supported John’s second great love, collecting antique tools. John told me about sending away for a Stanley #34 tool catalog when he was only about 12 or 13, thinking that he’d like to have one of each woodworking plane shown in the catalog. Once his career in architecture was under way, he began his quest for those planes. With a sharp eye and perseverance, John began collecting and never quit. He joined both the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association and the Early American Industries Association early in his collecting career, and almost immediately began writing articles. John wrote over 240 articles for the Gristmill and other tool collector publications! John eventually served as the treasurer and eventually the president of the M-WTCA. He and Janet loved to travel and regularly attended tool meetings and auctions throughout the country and made regular trips to the David Stanley Auctions in England. John’s comprehensive knowledge about woodworking planes and his discerning eye led to the creation of the finest collection of patented American woodworking planes anywhere in the world. Janet jumped in as well and assembled her own wonderful collection of miniature woodworking planes.

John loved researching and learning about woodworking planes and their inventors and makers. He readily shared that knowledge with all of us through his articles and his willingness to answer questions. His research on Leonard Bailey continued until his advancing dementia brought that to a halt. However, John’s legacy will live on. He stipulated in his trust that all of the proceeds from the sale of his tool collection be given in equal portions to both the Early American Industries Association and the Mid-West Tool Collector’s Association to encourage continued research into early American tools and trades. His book on Leonard Bailey has been finished, and once published, all the royalties from the sale of that book will also be given to the EAIA and the M-WTCA. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on in his writing and his incredible generosity to all of us who cherish hand tools and hand craft. Dear friend, may you rest in peace!

The Legacy of John Wells  

EAIA Members will remember John Wells’s reports in Shavings on the results of Brown and other auctions over the years. His frequent contributions to the Chronicle are all worth reading again—from his fascinating stories of rare and unusual tools like the pianomakers’ mitre plane to his very last article, “Be Patient, Eventually that Tool Will Come Home—The Importance of Provenance,” which provides insight into his passion for tools and collecting.

These are the articles that John contributed to the Chronicle:

• “Chardoillet Planes” 63, no. 1 (March 2010)
• “New York City Makers of Pianomakers’ Planes: 1842–1920s,” 64 no. 4 (December 2011)
• “Chardoillet’s Planes: A Follow-Up,” 66, no.3 (June 2013)
• “A Wooden Version of a New York City Pianomakers’ Mitre Plane,” 67, no. 2 (June 2014)
• “The Burlington Grasshopper: A Tool for the Carpenter Who Wants a Special Tool for Every Job,” 68 no.1 (March 2015)
• “Be Patient, Eventually that Tool Will Come Home—The Importance of Provenance,” 68, no. 2 (June 2015)
Cabinetmaking Returns to Old Sturbridge Village

by Tom Kelleher

As part of a recent larger investment in the historic trades, and inspired by conversations at the 2017 EAIA Annual Meeting, Old Sturbridge Village is proud to announce plans to reintroduce a working cabinetmaking shop to the living history museum. Spearheaded by EAIA members and OSV trustees Bob Roemer, Brock Jobe, and Norm Abram, the Village plans to open a new Cabinetmaker’s Workshop on the Village Common for the museum’s 75th anniversary in 2021. Grants from the Americana Foundation and a generous $50,000 matching grant from an anonymous EAIA donor are helping in the effort, as is a donation of usable old tools from Lee Valley Tools.

Meanwhile, the Village is showcasing historic woodworking techniques, with professional cabinetmaking demonstrations three days a week this summer and fall. Also on exhibit in the temporary workshop is a selection of historic objects from the museum’s extensive collection, highlighting the variety of things early 19th-century cabinetmakers made for their clients, ranging from architectural elements, furniture, agricultural tools, and more. In addition, visitors to the museum can see early coffins, chairs, case furniture, and more made by 19th-century cabinetmakers, as well as some of their tools, in the “Planed, Grained, & Dovetailed: Cabinetmaking in Rural New England” exhibit, located near the Village’s water-powered sawmill.

To help support this exciting project, contact the Old Sturbridge Village Development Office at 508-347-0300 or development@osv.org, and be a part of history!

EAIA’s BIG Sponsors Regional Blacksmithing Meeting

by Bob Roemer

The EAIA’s regional blacksmithing meeting held at the reconstructed Moses Wilder blacksmith shop in Bolton, Massachusetts, on July 28th was a resounding success. Thirty people attended in addition to the presenters and demonstrators. Regrettably, the attendance was limited only by the number that the shop could reasonably accommodate.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide hands-on demonstrations and give participants an opportunity to try basic blacksmithing using coal forges. The event lasted the entire day, with demonstrations and presentations in the morning, followed by lunch and an afternoon of opportunity for free forging with coaching from master smiths at one of the four available blacksmithing stations. The day ended as blacksmithing meetings typically do, with participants’ stories and networking about blacksmithing.

The participants who were not already members were introduced to the EAIA, and several became members as a result.

Derek Heidemann, Coordinator of Historic Trades at Old Sturbridge Village, demonstrated the forging of blacksmith’s tongs from a single piece of mild steel, first by forging jaws at either end, then diagonally slitting the piece to form the reins, and finally punching and riveting the hinge joint.

Dirk Underwood, blacksmith and edge tool maker, demonstrated blade making from large coil springs.

Rob Lyon, the former Master Blacksmith at Old Sturbridge Village, discussed early iron production from bog iron, a process that was very important to the trade and economy of New England in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Tom Kelleher, Historian and Curator of Mechanical Arts at Old Sturbridge Village, discussed the economic aspects of early blacksmithing using early account books and journals to make the craft and business of blacksmithing from that period come alive.

Bob and Max Roemer demonstrated the use of a restored antique Champion tire and axle upsetter to shorten the length and tighten an iron wagon tire that had come loose from the wooden parts of the wheels.

Our thanks to the presenters, mentors, Jane Butler, and Alice Roemer for making the event a success. With the interest that was expressed for and during the event, we are tentatively planning a similar meeting for the fall of 2019.
Submitting Articles for the Chronicle

The Chronicle has been published continuously since the inception of the Early American Industries Association in 1933. In that time, thousands of articles have appeared covering technology, crafts, and other subjects that fit the mission of the EAIA:

The Early American Industries Association, Inc. preserves and presents historic trades, crafts, and tools, and interprets their impact on our lives.

We have been very fortunate to have skilled editors over the years. The June issue of the Chronicle was the last to be edited by Patty MacLeish, capping off a successful twenty-year run. Your next issue will have a new editor, Megan Fitzpatrick, who comes well-qualified not only as a skilled editor but also a skilled tool user and teacher.

We are sometimes challenged with finding new authors to fill our pages, and so we appeal to you, our members, to help us fill in the gaps. We hope that you will pass our request on to someone you know (or you!) who has a story to tell about historic trades and tools. We also encourage researchers, historians, museum professionals, students, and others with interests in American craft, industries, and tools who are looking for an opportunity to be published. For first-time authors, our editor is happy to work with them so that the article fits the format of the publication. This is a great opportunity for you or a friend to share your expertise in print with our members.

Our editor is Megan Fitzpatrick; she can be reached by mail at 1554 Pullan Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45223, or by email at editor@earlyamericanindustries.org.

What makes a good story for the Chronicle?

By Patty MacLeish

“Any tool or implement worth having deserves to have its history recorded.” —Stephen C. Wolcott, first editor of the Chronicle, 1934

Last year in preparation for the EAIA’s 85th anniversary I delved into the history of the Early American Industries Association. I had the pleasure of learning about the EAIA’s early leaders and was especially interested in the past editors of the Chronicle. There was one thing that we had in common—convincing people to tell the history of their objects or of the crafts and trades that absorb their time (and in some cases spend lots of money on at auction).

Over the years, I worked with many members who were hesitant to write. And I can understand that. Writing is hard. But my job as editor was to be the helping hand to form what you know about your object’s history into a published piece. The Chronicle’s new editor, Megan Fitzpatrick, is right on board with that philosophy. She can take you from an idea to a finished piece. And although I am sure she has a red pencil, too, she will also apply it with a gentle hand. Like me, she wants to get your story out there.

Here are some basics.

Don’t get bogged down with worries about footnotes and bibliographies. The editor will work you through that. Many times only a few references are needed, if at all.

The Chronicle does publish long pieces, but we aren’t asking for a tome. Sometimes a good article just shows up. One of my favorite pieces was a one-page article by Norm Forgit. He wrote this short piece about a brick he had found while demolishing a building (“The 160-year-Old Weather Report,” vol. 67, no.1). On the brick:

“[w]ritten as nicely as if it had been done with a pen on paper was the following message:

‘Sept. 26th 1849
‘Wind South west
‘Blowing fresh’

Under the ‘6,’ the maker’s fingerprint is visible.”

This little article touched me deeply. I could truly feel the connection to the brick maker. Who was he? Did he think about the brick being found at some point in the future?

Many of you, in the course of learning about a tool, have come upon a tidbit from our past like this that deserves to be shared. So share it.

In the early days of the Chronicle, members would send items that they had come upon while reading old farm journals or newspapers. The information within those pages can easily remain lost (even in the days of Google search) until it is brought to light. I have heard many of you begin a story by saying, “I was working on the history of such and such and came upon something about…” Send it to the Chronicle. If you think it is at least interesting, if not vitally important to the history of a trade, craft or object, then share it.

Finally, if it’s simply that you think you don’t have the time or inclination to write, find someone else who will! You probably live in a community that has a museum, an historical or preservation society, or a historic house, library, or archives. Be on the lookout for possible material from these sources that might be published in the Chronicle. Exhibits and special programming are based on solid research and an exhibit at a museum usually contains only a portion of everything that may have been learned to support the exhibit itself. You can serve as a local agent for the EAIA by contacting the director or curator about publishing an article in the Chronicle to accompany the exhibit. Likewise, you may hear a speaker whose topic relates to the EAIA’s purpose and would be willing to turn a talk into an article. Acting as our eyes and ears in your community will help us fill the pages of the Chronicle. If you make the first contact, Megan Fitzpatrick can take it from there. If you need sample copies of the Chronicle to show potential writers, contact John Verrill.
One of the outstanding achievements of the EAIA over the past eighty-five years has been its contributions to research and publications. Edward Durell and Loring McMillen, both early and influential members, advocated for greater support by the EAIA for research and publication. McMillen (father of past board member William McMillen and father-in-law of the EAIA’s past president Judy McMillen) noted in a report in 1958 on the history of the organization that:

In time, through the urging of Durell and McMillen, a Publications Committee emerged and the success of the program evolved to include grants-in-aid for researchers, which resulted in articles in the Chronicle, and in some cases the publication of books. By 1966, the EAIA was funding researchers and writers. The first recipient was Raphael Salaman; the EAIA supported him in the research for his Dictionary of Woodworking Tools. This endeavor led to the establishment of a fund to be used for grants to promote scholarship to be published by the EAIA, and by 1977 these undertakings had evolved into the EAIA grants program to “…support individuals engaged in research or publication projects relating to the purposes of EAIA.” The first committee chair was Charles Hummel and the first four research grants were awarded in May 1978. Over the past sixty years, the EAIA had awarded more than 120 research grants to individuals to assist them in research consistent with the mission of the Early American Industries Association.

The awards are named for influential individuals. The Winthrop L. Carter Memorial Award is given in memory of Winthrop L. Carter, a board member of the EAIA and a staunch supporter of its publication and research grants program. The Watson Award is named in honor of John S. Watson, EAIA treasurer from 1967 to 1997, in gratitude for his devoted service to the Association. Mr. Watson was an enthusiastic proponent of the Research Grants Program from its inception until his death. The James M. Gaynor Memorial Research Grant, first presented in 2015, was named in honor of past president, longtime board member, and member of the grants committee, James “Jay” Gaynor. Jay had been the director of Historic Trades at Colonial Williamsburg. He was renowned for his extensive knowledge, writing, and commitment to research. He was a mentor to many individuals, including those who received awards during his service on the Research Grants Committee. In 2015, the first James A. Gaynor Memorial Grant was awarded to Joshua A. Klein to study “The Furniture Production of Jonathan Fisher (1768-1847) of Blue Hill Maine.” Just recently Joshua published his findings in a book titled Hands Employed Aright: The Furniture Making of Jonathan Fisher (1768-1847) published by Lost Art Press in 2018.

The deadline for the 2019 EAIA Research Grants program is March 15, 2019, and the awards are announced in early summer. Within 90 days of receiving an EAIA research grant, recipients are required to submit a project report on a form supplied by the EAIA Research Grants Committee. An article based on the grantee’s research must be furnished with the report. This article will be published in the Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association.

The application for the research grants program is available on the EAIA Website: eaiainfo.org/research/research-grants/. The grant application and supplemental materials may be filled out and submitted on-line. If further information is needed or there are questions about the program’s mission please email the Research Grants Committee Chair, Heidi Campbell Shoaf at 2willowooks@adelphia.net.
The EAIA Awards Committee would like to thank all those who took the time to send in a nomination for the 2018 awards. It is now time to be thinking about who you feel should be the recipient of the 2019 Long Time Service Award, as well as anyone who you feel is worthy of the J. D. Hatch Award. The Hatch Award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution toward furthering the mission and goals of the EAIA through scholarly contributions. The Long Time Service Award is our recognition of a member who has served the EAIA in an outstanding way. I know we all can think of someone who fits one of these roles.

By our policy and procedures, the committee must seek out nominations from the membership at large. Please submit nominations now so the Awards Committee can give careful consideration to all nominations.

The J. D. Hatch Award is given in memory of J. D. Hatch, the fifth president of the EAIA from May of 1946 to May of 1947. Mr. Hatch served as editor of the Chronicle from 1942 to 1949. Mr. Hatch provided over fifty years of support and service to the EAIA.

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

The Long Time Service Award is given to a member who has actively served the EAIA for ten years or more, demonstrating a high level of commitment, time, effort and creative imagination. They will have contributed a substantial amount of effective participation in the affairs of the association.

Every member of the EAIA is important to the organization as a whole. There are, however, some who stand above the rest in these areas. Please submit your nomination(s) to Gwenn Lasswell via e-mail to gelasswell@sbcglobal.net or via USPS mail to:

Gwenn Lasswell
311 Trolley Lane
Union Mills, NC 28167
Shavings 250 Page 12

**California**  
**October 19-January 13, 2019**  
San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles will be displaying Excellence in Fibers (in collaboration with *Fiber Art Now* Magazine), Suture and Stitch: Mark Newport, and Seeing the Threshold: Jayoung Yoon.  
www.sjquiltmuseum.org

**November 17, 2018**  
PAST Tool Collectors Fall Tool Show, Modesto, CA. Contact Bob Weaver, 209-524-5852 or bobweaver1944@charter.net

**Connecticut**  
**November 1, 2018**  

**March 27-30, 2019**  
National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Hartford, CT. NCPH.org

**Delaware**  
**April 4, 2019**  
Policing Fakes: Early Trademark Regulation In The U.S. Hagley Museum, Wilmington, DE. www.hagley.org

**District of Columbia**  
**October 22, 2018**  
Thomas Jefferson’s Library. Take a self-guided trip through a re-created version of Jefferson’s library, which assembles 6,487 volumes that founded the Library of Congress, and learn how one of America’s greatest thinkers was inspired through the world of books. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. www.loc.gov

**Indiana**  
**October 26-27, 2018**  
Donnelly Antique Tool Auction, Indianapolis, IN. 800-869-0695 www.mjdtools.com

**Maryland**  
**October 26-28, 2018**  
The Preservation Trades Network Presents the 22nd Annual International Preservation Trades Workshop, Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, MD. pt.org/iptw-2018

**Massachusetts**  
**October 13, 2018**  
Historic Trades Demonstration, Redware Pottery with Rick Hamlin. Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, MA. www.historic-deerfield.org

**October 13-14, 2018**  
Historic Trades Demonstration, “The Fine Craft of Building 17th & 18th Century Furniture” with EAIA member Craig Farrow. www.historic-deerfield.org

**October 20, 2018**  
North Andover: EAIA Regional Meeting at the Institute for Industrial Art and History, contact John Schroeder, 9 Village Way, North Andover, MA, 01845 978-689-9622 johnschr@aol.com

**New Jersey**  
**November 4, 2018**  
CRAFTS of NJ meeting, High Bridge Masonic Lodge, High Bridge, NJ. Contact Ivan Raupp, ivanraupp@aol.com

**November 10, 2018**  
Great Falls Symposium on the Industrial Archaeology of the New York-New Jersey area. Patterson, NJ. For information contact: Roebling chapter of the Society of Industrial Archaeology, roeblingsia.org/symposia.html

**November 17, 2018**  
The Magic of Lionel Neil Hartley is Joshua Lionel Cowen in this magical one-man show about the founding and history of one of the greatest toy companies ever created! Historic Allaire, Wall Township, NJ. https://allairevillage.org/

**Recently Opened**  

**New York**  
**October 1-November 30, 2018**  

**November 3, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM**  

**Pennsylvania**  
**October-ongoing**  
The Mercer Museum is a history museum of everyday life in America during the 18th and 19th centuries. Henry Mercer (1856-1930) gathered the collection and constructed the Museum. The collection of some 40,000 objects documents the lives and tasks of early Americans through the tools that met their needs and wants prior to the Industrial Revolution, or about 1850. Doylestown, PA. www.mercermuseum.org

---

**John Schroeder demonstrating his vintage racer at the EAIA Regional Meeting held at the Institute of Industrial Art & History, in North Andover, Massachusetts**

---

**November 13, 2018**  
Annual Meeting of the Tidemill Institute, Beverly, MA “Creating Tide Mills Then & Now.” www.tidemillinstitute.org/2018-annual-conference/

**May 15-18, 2019**  
68th Annual Meeting of the EAIA, Lowell, MA. www.eaiainfo.org
Advertise in *Shavings*

ADVERTISING: Contact Editor Dan Miller, 315-777-7007; E-mail: dan@dragonflycanoec.com (Subject Line: *Shavings* Ad); or mail to 7264 Beadles Point Road, Cape Vincent, NY 13618.

**Display Ads**

- Full Page (9.875"h x 7.5"w): $175
- Half Page (4.75"h x 7.5"w): $110
- Quarter Page (two sizes: 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.)


---

**Perfect for Your Holiday Shopping**

WWW.EIAINFO.ORG

**Stanley Woodworking Tools**

**The Finest Years**

by WALTER JACOB

A collection of the Stanley Tools columns by

Walter Jacob from *The Chronicle, 1998-2010*

The “Stanley Tools” column by Walter Jacob has been a regular and popular feature of *The Chronicle* of the Early American Industries Association since 1998. The articles have been updated, indexed, and arranged by topic. The columns cover the story of the Stanley Tool Company, including advertising and marketing campaigns, and type studies of tools and Stanley lines, such as Four-Square and Defiance. The book includes numerous illustrations as well as essays by Eliton W. Hall, John G. Wells, and Suzanne Feldman Jacob.

To purchase visit WWW.EIAINFO.ORG

$24.95 plus S&H
Shavings

Please take note!
The deadline for the Winter issue of Shavings is January 6!
Please submit articles, events, classified ads and display ads to:
Dan Miller (dan@dragonflycanoe.com) or
John Verrill (executivedirector@earlyamericanindustries.org)
by this date!

WILLIAM McMILLEN
TINSMITH
3 Timber Lane
Glenmont NY 12077
518-462-1264
e-mail: judytb@aol.com
OLD TIN TOOLS WANTED!

David Stanley Auctions

1000 Lots of
ANTIQUE & MODERN
WOODWORKING & ALLIED
TRADES TOOLS
To include the European portion of the
John and Janet Wells Collection
HERMITAGE LEISURE CENTRE
WHITWICK, LEICESTER LE67 5EU UK
Friday 1st February
at 9.30am prompt

CATALOGUES S9 FROM MECHANICKS
WORKBENCH, P.O. BOX 420, MARION, MA 02738
Tel: 508-748-1680 wing@mechwb.com
www.davidstanley.com

75 Years of EAIA
Research in One Place
order on-line at
www.EAIAINFO.org
Subscribe to our Tool Auction Catalogues for 2019 and Save!

- Four Full Color Auction Catalogues
- Five Listed Auctions of 1001 to 3201 Lots Each
- Sent Priority Mail 3 Weeks before each auction.

Three Ways to Order

Mail: Send Name, Address, and $95 in the United States or Canada
      $150 for other International Orders
      Send to: Martin J. Donnelly Auctions · PO Box 281 · Bath, NY 14810

Telephone: Just call (800) 869-0695 with your credit card number.

Online: Log on to www.mjdauctions.com
Shavings
The Newsletter of
The Early American Industries Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 524
Hebron, MD 21830

Fall 2018

Always Buying

Pete Niederberger
Used and Antique Tools and
Parts for Same

Mail Order
415–924–8403

Always Selling

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