Features

Lowell is Looming! ........................................ 4
by Paul Van Pernis

Introducing Middle-schoolers to Woodworking .................. 6
by Natasha Don

Candidates for the Board of Directors of the Early American Industries Association 2019 .................. 6

A Stitch in Time: The Art of Fabric Repair .... 7
by Patty MacLeish

Connect your children and grandchildren to history .................. 10

Historic Eastfield Foundation offers Tinsmithing Classes .................. 11

Information Needed .................. 12
by David R. Scofield

Departments

The President’s Page .................. 2
From the Executive Director .................. 3
Calendar .................. 12
Welcome New Members .................. 13
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.

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 forego 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: Dana Shoaf, Burkittsville, MD
Secretary: Sally Fishburn, Danville, VT

Directors 2018-2019

Chris Bender, Shoreham, NY
Jane Butler, Antrim, NH
Richard Cunningham, Forest, VA
Donal Griffin, Cambridge, NY
Pam Howard, Brasstown, NC
Gwenn Lasswell, Spring TX

Committee Chairs

Annual Meeting: Paul Van Pernis
Awards: Dan Semel
Endowment Fund: Noel Poirier
Long-Range Planning: Denise Richer
Membership: Vacant
Meetings and Programs: Dana Shoaf

Nominating: Patrick Lasswell
Publications: Louise Muse
Regional Meetings: Jane Butler
Research Grants: Heidi Campbell-Shoaf
Website Committee: Bill Rainford
Whatsits: Chris Bender

Shavings, Put take your name off the mailing list for paper executivedirector@EarlyAmericanIndustries.org, and we will to forego the paper edition, please send an e-mail to editions. If you find the pdf satisfactory and are willing, for Shavings EarlyAmericanIndustries.org.

or contact the executive director at executivedirector@EarlyAmericanIndustries.org.

protect their privacy. You may find that information in the Annual Directory or contact the executive director at executivedirector@EarlyAmericanIndustries.org.

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.

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 forego 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.

President: Denise Richer, Baldwinsville, NY
2nd Vice President: Vacant
1st Vice President & Treasurer: Dana Shoaf, Burkittsville, MD
Secretary: Sally Fishburn, Danville, VT

Directors 2018-2019

Chris Bender, Shoreham, NY
Jane Butler, Antrim, NH
Richard Cunningham, Forest, VA
Donal Griffin, Cambridge, NY
Pam Howard, Brasstown, NC
Gwenn Lasswell, Spring TX

Committee Chairs

Annual Meeting: Paul Van Pernis
Awards: Dan Semel
Endowment Fund: Noel Poirier
Long-Range Planning: Denise Richer
Membership: Vacant
Meetings and Programs: Dana Shoaf

Nominating: Patrick Lasswell
Publications: Louise Muse
Regional Meetings: Jane Butler
Research Grants: Heidi Campbell-Shoaf
Website Committee: Bill Rainford
Whatsits: Chris Bender

G ood day fellow EAIA members and friends! It has been a long winter and we are so happy to see bare ground again; Central New York has seen a very white winter this year. All of us are looking forward to getting out and searching for that coveted one-of-a-kind vintage tool at sales and tool events, and visiting the historic sites of early American industries that we love to explore.

Our Annual Meeting in Lowell, Massachusetts, is fast approaching. Wow! This looks like a very interesting week with many tours and lectures. Hopefully you have sent in your registration and selected your choices, oh yes, and reserved your table for a tool display! Everyone always enjoys our members’ displays each year, as they are always so inventive and educational. Don’t forget the tailgate sale on Wednesday that will be taking place as you arrive to register. And last but not least, remember to bring an item for our popular silent auction held on Saturday, and also a “whatsit” for Thursday night!

Thanks to our runner crew at the March Brown Auction in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Paul Van Pernis, Rod Richer Jr., Terry Page, John Verrill, Tom Elliot (and me .) . By helping with this event, the Brown Auction makes a donation to the EAIA endowment fund in exchange for the hard work of the runners. Thank you guys!

I provided back issues of the Chronicle to the attendees of my Shaker seed lecture last month. My presentation was very well received; not only did they hear about the Shaker seed business, they also learned all about who we are at the EAIA. Since that lecture, I have been approached to do another! And again, I will be an emissary for our superb group. I urge any and all of you to get out into your communities and let the world know who we are as well as sharing your knowledge. Our industrial heritage and history is rapidly disappearing, we need to preserve it.

The EAIA continues to benefit from the generous gift of the John Wells Collection. John had a wonderful collection and it continues to be a highlight of recent auctions. We at the EAIA are immensely grateful for his generous gift. He did love this organization and all the members in it.

As we swing into spring, please consider hosting a regional meeting in your area. It is really fun. One suggestion is to show off your local industrial heritage areas. I am planning on getting one together here in Central New York for later this year as well. So if you are thinking about it, contact Jane Butler or John Verrill and they will help you.

Well, I can hardly believe it’s been two years already, and this will be my last Presidents Message for Shavings. I have enjoyed working with all of you in this great organization. I will continue to work for the group as a runner at auctions, planning local regional meetings, and wherever the EAIA needs me.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Lowell!

The 2019 EAIA Annual Meeting Medalion.
From the Executive Director

by John Verrill

Ah spring, welcome back. We have waited anxiously for you. From my office window I can see current-day forms of technology that had roots in the 19th century. Tugboats and trains serve the waterfront at the port of Salisbury. They are powered by diesel these days, but motive power was once the mighty steam engine or the billowing sail. I am heartened to hear that the local government is encouraging new business development in the port, and just last week old tracks were removed and new cross ties and tracks were installed on the spur line serving the waterfront. The industries currently served are agriculture, petroleum products, and a very active shipbuilding company that produces tugboats for the shipping industry and tour boats for the pleasure cruise industry.

Not much has changed about the port in the last hundred years or so. The dominant form of shipping used to be small sailing vessels, while today barges hundreds of feet in length, pushed by massively powerful tugboats, can carry many times the capacity of the sailing vessels. I think that changes in technology have helped to strengthen our reliance on those industries that were keeping our other industries viable. Innovation is certainly something that we see every day, I think of the hand plane and how it has developed over time. It is a simple tool (or maybe not) that seems to be constantly improved but its function remains the same. The “Plane Chatter” column in the Chronicle has provided a lot of information about planes over the years, and some of our recent blog posts have dealt with the changes brought about by the Stanley Company in their model shop. Much has been written about the plane, and traders actively market rare and unique examples at auctions and tool sales.

In thinking about my comments, I hope you will continue to pursue your interests in the tools, trades, and crafts that built our nation. One way to express your interest is by attending the Annual Meeting and creating an educational display to share your knowledge and interests with others. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Fiber Arts & Machine Tools,” since the meeting is to be held in Lowell, Massachusetts, the home of much of the innovation of the American textile industry. Displays are generally done on a six-foot table that may also have backdrops. Each year we have awards for the best three displays “in theme” and the best three displays “out of theme.” So you even if your interest doesn’t fit the theme you can still display and win an award! In the past, some of the displays have been dedicated to measuring instruments, ice cutting tools, steam and other pressure gauges, crochet hooks, axes, and hand planes. Other areas of interest have included catalogs and promotional materials from tool and industrial manufacturing companies. Areas of interest seem unlimited when considering the extent of industrial innovation over the last 200 years.

We have published a good deal about the Annual Meeting and have dedicated a couple of blog posts to the exciting opportunities it offers.

We would like to see you this year, so if you haven’t registered please do so ASAP! Register here: eaainfo.org/news-events/annual-meetings/2019-annual-meeting/

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.

For information or to join, visit:
www.EarlyAmericanIndustries.org

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

Shavings, the newsletter of the Early American Industries Association, Inc., is published quarterly: February, April, July, and November. An electronic version is available to all members who have provided the EAIA with an e-mail address. To opt out of receiving the print version of Shavings, e-mail executivedirector@earlyamericanindustries.org. Current and past issues (beginning with issue 204) are available at www.EarlyAmericanIndustries.org.

Editor: Daniel Miller, 7264 Beadles Point Road, Cape Vincent, NY 13618; 315-777-7007; dan@dragonflycanoe.com [Include “Shavings” in subject line.]

The deadline for the next issue (no. 253, Summer 2019) is June 28, 2019.

Opt out of paper Shavings: To only receive the e-version of Shavings, send an e-mail to executivedirector@earlyamericanindustries.org. Include your name and address in the e-mail.

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

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

Advertising: Turn to page 14 for more information and advertising rates.

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

Shavings is printed by QMC Group, 4707 DeY Road, Liverpool, NY 13088; 315-449-0900. Both Shavings and the Chronicle are available on microfilm from UMI, 300 Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

© 2019 by the Early American Industries Association, Inc.
Lowell is Looming!

by Paul Van Pernis

A
pologies for the pun, but, this long
hard winter will come to an end,
the snow will melt, the trees will bud
out, the flowers will bloom, and Early
American Industries Association mem-
bers will gather for our 2019 Annual
Meeting, May 15th through May 18th,
2019. If you haven’t already done so, it’s
time to register online or mail in your
registration form! We’ve got a great
program lined up for you with plenty of
opportunities for hands-on learning. To
register for the meeting or to learn more
about the wide variety of lectures, work-
shops, tours, and demonstrations that
will take place during the meeting, go to
eaiainfo.org/news-events/annual-meet-
ings/2019-annual-meeting/. A couple
of the workshops are already full, but there’s still time to sign up
and try your hand at blacksmithing, cross stitch, plaster casting,
and 19th century candy making. There are also a lot of lectures
and demonstrations that are free and open to everyone attending
the meeting. Lowell, America’s first planned industrial city,
was the center of cotton cloth production in the 19th century, so there
are lots of opportunities to learn about the fascinating history of
Lowell, the weaving industry, and Lowell’s strong history as a
training ground for American machinists. In addition, we’ve put
together a great series of workshops, lectures, demonstrations,
and fun!

The meeting will start on Wednesday, May 15th, with tailgat-
ing in the parking lot at the Westford Regency Inn & Confer-
ence Center (www.westfordregency.com), our home base for this
year’s meeting. On Thursday, we’ll spend the day in Lowell, Mas-
sachusetts, visiting the Lowell National Historic Park (www.nps.
gov/lowe/index.htm). We’ll visit the Boott Mill complex with
its wonderful in-house museum. We’ll spend some time at the
New England Quilt Museum with their wonderful collection of
early American quilts, and we’ll have a special boat tour of the
extensive canal system that provided the power for the mills of
Lowell. It will be a great day filled with history and learning. On
Friday, there are sixteen different lectures, demonstration, work-
shops, and tours that will capture your attention and provide you
with multiple opportunities to try
your hand at a new skill, and en-
joy learning more about America’s
industrial history. It will be a ver-
itable playground for history and
handcraft aficionados.

After a full day of fun on Friday
you can enjoy a great auction of
antique tools put on at the hotel
by Jim Gehring and the team from
Brown Tool Auctions.

Thursday night we’ll puzzle
each other with “Whatsits” while
we enjoy some New England des-
serts. On Saturday, we’ll trade tools
and enjoy some wonderful displays
put together by EAIA members.
The display theme this year is Fiber
Arts and Machine Tools. It’s a broad category and encompasses
so many different tools. There will no doubt be some amazing dis-
plays and we look forward to seeing have you bring a display and
share your collecting passion and knowledge with us. Saturday
morning will also give you the chance to watch blacksmith Rich-
ard Wright at work at a forge similar to those used by colonial
blacksmiths in the 18th century. You can also sample some home-
made ice cream made in an old-fashioned ice cream maker running
off a hit-and-miss engine. There will be a stationary steam engine
on display and who knows what other surprises await you on Sat-
urday morning. On Saturday afternoon we’ll hear from one of the
“Mill Girls” who provided the labor in the Lowell weaving mills.

We’ll end our meeting with the always-fun Silent Auction.
Please consider bringing a donation for the Silent Auction, since
it is the major fund raiser for the EAIA’s annual budget. Everyone
loves to see our members display their talents with their dona-
tions to the Silent Auction. You can relax at the banquet, enjoy a
great meal, and we promise we’ll quickly get through our Annual
Meeting. We will top of the evening with a fascinating astronomy
lecture put on by real live astronomers in period costume using a
set of extremely rare movable magic lantern slides.

We promise lots of history, camaraderie, learning, friendship
and just plain fun! Sign up! We look forward to seeing you there!

Share the Camaraderie of the EAIA

Think about how you got interested in historic preservation,
old tools, making things by hand, and related activities, and
how you could share that passion with the next generation. A re-

gional event is a proven way to increase the membership of the
EAIA by introducing a wider audience to the world of traditional
skills and building technology.

Consider the historical assets in your area. Is there a living his-
tory site, interesting museum, tool factory, or similar place that
you think other members and potential members would enjoy?

Many facilities welcome groups and will supply a speaker or give
behind the scenes access to their collections to a dedicated group
such as ours.

It’s not hard to host an event—think about a half-day, with tool
trading in the morning; a program such as a lecture, demonstra-
tion, or tour, and a box lunch. As Regional Meeting Coordinator I
will walk you through the process. So, call or email me with your
ideas and we can get your event on the official EAIA calendar:
Jane Butler, 603-588-2603 or <jane@shorthillstudio.com>
Introducing Middle-schoolers to Woodworking

By Natasha Don

This spring, the Nashoba Regional School District executed the first round of a hands-on educational program designed to introduce middle school students to the art and skills of woodworking.

The 10-week course, running March to May, is designed to “develop hand skills and associated visualization (plan reading, measuring, etc.) through the construction of several woodworking projects,” according to the course description. The goals for this program are both practical and emblematic.

From a practical standpoint, woodworking is a valuable manual skill, but for the creators of this program, the potential for learning and experience goes far beyond the technical.

Director of Nashoba District’s Extended Learning and Enrichment, and co-creator of this program, Reina Rago explained, “It provides our middle school students a glimpse of what could be. We wanted to give our middle school kids a taste of high school but also a taste of the real world. Doing something with manual arts does not negate the importance of high school or post-secondary education. But in our society, there have been situations in which there is this assumed conflict, that you either pursue technical arts and vocations, or academics. We don’t see it as an either/or; we see it as a blending.” Fellow program founder and Bolton resident Bob Roemer agrees with this perspective.

An engineer by training, Roemer is a skilled carpenter who is very involved with the art of making furniture. He serves on the Board of Trustees for Old Sturbridge Village, and spends much of his free time volunteering. Roemer created the woodworking program with the hope of bridging the gap between the vocational and the academic.

“The real problem is that kids don’t know what it’s like to do this kind of work or even hands-on carpentry, metal work—whatever—anymore in grade school,” said Roemer. “So, when the time comes to decide where they’re going to go to school or what they’re going to do, they generally now have an academic school without a good vocational element to it, or they have a pure vocational school. And they have to choose between them. My belief is that if kids actually got their hands on this kind of stuff in middle school, they would have a reasonably good chance of convincing their parents, if it was a passion, to go to a vocational school. But they also could rally around increasing the shop capability in high school.”

The program creators believe that teaching children practical skills will give them a sense of agency to approach problems or projects in their futures, and a sense of empowerment to perhaps pursue a passion they didn’t realize was possible for them. “It’s as much about them learning how to use tools and learn a trade as it is about self-advocacy, being able to trust their instincts, and being able to work collaboratively,” said Reina Rago. “The strives I see, that are going to make this program more valuable, are learning how to ask questions, learning how to make mistakes, and learning how to say I need help and not feel bad about it. This is the laboratory of life.”

Initially, when introducing the program to the district’s middle schools, Rago and Roemer visited each building to gauge the reactions of the kids. “Bob and I went to each of the middle schools and did a presentation and a Q&A along with some projects they would be making,” Rago recalled. “And we found that most of the kids had such open-minded curiosity. We want to spark curiosity with this program.”

Kids interested in participating were asked to complete a simple application to be signed by their parents and Tech-Ed teacher. The application asked the kids to describe why they wanted to be a part of the woodshop program. “I would say over half had said I always wanted to learn to work with tools like my dad,” said Rago. “Only one of them said my dad made me,” Roemer joked. Out of 50 applications, 12 kids were chosen at random to make up the Wood Working Program’s first class. The materials, transportation, and woodshop space are being provided to the students at no charge.

Over the course of 10 weeks, the students will complete a cutting board, a balloon boat, and a tool kit. Already a few weeks into the program, the cutting board has been completed successfully.

“When they finished with the first project, they were very proud of what they did,” said High school Tech-Ed teacher and Wood Working Program assistant Andrew LeBlanc. “I think they had a sense of accomplishment, and those accomplishments help with self-esteem. So, these kinds of classes and clubs really help kids to grow.”

With the completion of the remaining projects, Roemer and Rago are optimistic that this growth will continue. Rago plans on preparing a follow-up survey for the kids to complete at the end of the 10 weeks to track the evolution of their confidence and sense of empowerment.

For Roemer and Rago, the ultimate goal is to broaden the scope of potential for both parents and children. They believe that acquiring a skill and being given the opportunity to apply that skill in a safe, exploratory setting will further enable children to realize their own passions and capabilities.

“I want parents to know that it’s more about the process than the actual product,” said Rago. “The finished product is a reminder that they can do something they thought they couldn’t do.” She and Roemer see this program providing a strong example of a different way of thinking when it comes to helping a child decide their future. “We don’t have to live in an either/or environment, which I think many parents still are when it comes to their kids. How can they be in an environment where they are encouraged to take risks? I want parents to get more of that in their heads,” Rago concluded.

This article first appeared in the April 10, 2019, edition of the Stow and Bolton Independent of Stow and Bolton, Massachusetts.
Candidates for the Board of Directors of the Early American Industries Association 2019

Listed below are the statements of the candidates for the open positions on the EAIA Board of Directors. EAIA members may vote for up to four candidates for the board. To vote, please remove the ballot from pages 7–8, fold where indicated, and mail it. Members who receive eShavings should print out pages 7 and 8, two-sided, or simply print out page 8, fold it and mail it to Sally Fishburn, 399 Old Stagecoach Road, Danville, VT 05828. Please return before the Annual Meeting.

Terry Wakeman
Ashford, Connecticut  Joined 1992

The EAIA is a fine organization that fits 100% with my interests. I have long wanted to participate in EAIA activities and to help whenever there is an opportunity to do so. I have been a member since 1992.

My focus has long been on early woodworking tools and the use of these tools to construct period country furniture. I have been fortunate to acquire two sets of tools that pre-date the mid-19th century. A partner and I operated a company reproducing Windsor chairs, tables, and case pieces for 26 years, and I now have my own business using traditional designs and joinery to make small items that have contemporary uses.

My other passion is working with Joshua’s Conservation and Historic Trust—a land trust. As a trustee my focus is on both open space preservation and the protection and preservation of historic sites. The Trust owns and maintains the Gurleyville Grist Mill and the Atwood Farm complex, and is working on acquiring a second very early mill with a fully intact water delivery system.

Marc Sitkin
Harwich, Massachusetts  Joined 2006

I’m a 66-year-old retired advertising photographer and lab owner with a BFA in photography from the Rochester Institute of Technology. I’ve been an avid woodworker for over 40 years, and by way of that interest and my dad’s overstock inventory, a bit of a collector as well. Raised in central Connecticut, we relocated to south Florida for fourteen years, prior to moving to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, with my wife of 43 years, Judi. Most of my time there is spent on woodworking and wood-turning projects, as well as being the only member of the Cape Cod Makers club that can’t write computer code. My hobbies include photography, cooking, and travel. Thanks for your consideration; I look forward to working with you to further the goals of the EAIA.

Carol Culnan
Strasburg, Virginia  Joined 1996

As a child I was enamored of old buildings, which led me to architecture school. After becoming an architect, I became interested in the building arts. Architects need to do more than provide the big picture; they should know how to put a building together. Eventually, my husband, Ken, and I started restoring and renovating old houses. That got us into collecting old tools. We joined the EAIA in 1996 when we received a membership brochure with an order of books from the Astragal Press. Since then the EAIA has been a big part of our lives. I have learned so much from the members and good friends we have in the EAIA, by attending the Eastfield Village summer workshops, regional meetings, and every Annual Meeting for twenty-one years. I would be honored to try to give back to the EAIA for all that I have received over the years. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination to the EAIA board of directors.

Bob Roemer
Bolton, Massachusetts  Joined 1990

Director: 2012-15, 2016-18

I’ve always had an interest in early American industries, primarily in understanding, maintaining, and using the hand tools of an earlier time. Being an apprentice in high school using hand tools with the last working member of the Osborn shipbuilding family in Croton-on-Hudson, NY, was really the beginning.

While at RPI, I trained inner city kids in woodworking at the Troy, NY, Boys Club. Their only tools were vintage discs contributed from the mills of Troy, but their interest became infectious when the kids saw how much one could do with a bench plane, molding plane, chisel, or saw; once they learned how to sharpen, set, or adjust it. (In that vein, I’m pleased that I’ve convinced our school district to reintroduce wood shop into the middle school programs starting in March 2019.)

In 1976, my wife, Alice, and I bought the home of Moses Wilder, an early 1800s blacksmith, in Bolton, MA. We restored it, relocated a Connecticut barn to the location of the original barn on the property, and reconstructed Moses Wilder’s stone blacksmith shop (The Chronicle, June 2007), which had been moved to Old Sturbridge Village in 1957. Each effort required new skills, from using broad axe and adze to shape the main beams and rafters, blacksmithing hardware, and doing the finish joinery.

As a trustee of Old Sturbridge Village, I’ve been working with OSV staff in researching, designing, and constructing a cabinetmaker’s shop on the OSV Common. This effort was initiated at the 2017 EAIA Annual Meeting at OSV with the offer of a generous matching grant to build and staff a reproduction cabinetmaker’s shop.

I joined the EAIA to take advantage of the members’ wealth of knowledge of the history and use of tools. The real “aha moment” came when Alice and I attended the EAIA Eastfield Village week in 2008; we both realized the satisfaction and rewards of “learning to do it” (as opposed to “learning how it was done”). I also saw a great opportunity to attract new members with a focus on learning early American crafts and skills.

Using tools is often the first step in research and documentation, and will attract younger folks to become members of EAIA. I see my primary contribution to EAIA is in this area: learning and teaching tool use and attracting a new generation of members who also enjoy this aspect of early American tools. Being an EAIA Director will provide me with the opportunity to contribute to the EAIA’s educational programs, outreach to new and prospective members, and to continue to learn from all of the members whose knowledge and experience is far greater than my own.
The Early American Industries Association

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2019

The officers of the EAIA are elected by the membership in attendance at the Annual Meeting, which will be held on May 18, 2019, at Lowell, MA.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

BALLOT

The following four candidates have been placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee to fill four vacancies on the Board of Directors. No additional nominations were received from the membership. For information about these candidates, please refer to their written statements in this issue of Shavings.

Note: if both husband and wife are members, please mark the ballot twice or make a copy of this page and mail both ballots to the address on the reverse side.

Mark the ballot, remove it from the magazine, and fold it so the address on the other side is on the outside. Place a stamp where indicated and mail. If you receive e-Shavings, simply print out pages 7 and 8, printing on both sides and mail this ballot. You may also simply print page 8 and place it in your own envelope and mail to Sally Fishburn, 399 Old Stagecoach Road, Danville, VT 05828.

VOTE FOR FOUR.

___ Carol Culnan
___ Bob Roemer
___ Marc Sitkin
___ Terry Wakeman
Sally Fishburn
399 Old Stagecoach Road
Danville, VT 05828

If you are heading to Lowell for the EAIA annual meeting, plan to stop before or after at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum in Providence, Rhode Island. For another few weeks, the museum’s exhibit, “Repair and Design Futures” will be on view, and even if you have only the slightest interest in textiles you’ll want to make the detour to take it in. This fascinating exhibit features—as described by the exhibits curator, Kate Irvin—“Repair, a humble act born out of necessity.”

On display are examples of items from different cultures and time periods. Some of the repairs, like darned socks, are indeed very humble, while others are sophisticated and obviously the work of talented seamstresses. The items in the exhibit demonstrate the variety of repair techniques and serve as a reminder of a time when “things” were dear and more valuable than time.

Clothing items that today may very well be thrown out (think of those socks you tossed out because you don’t own a darning egg or even know how to use it) were at one time repaired or repurposed. A very charming, printed, plain-weave cotton child’s coat from circa 1840 was so carefully patched that it takes a close examination to find the fault. The skill demonstrates that a seamstress had to have a keen sense of how the repair would look, how it would best blend into the existing fabric, and how, in fact, it would be disguised. For a successful repair, the seamstress had to work very hard to hide her talent.

How did one learn these skills? Practice, practice, practice. Samplers of repair techniques are also in the exhibit, such as a mid-nineteenth-century example from Mexico. There are also two other more sophisticated teaching aids: Clara A. Rorden’s 1902 sewing workbook from her days at the Pratt Institute and Mary Schenck Woolman’s *A Sewing Course* (1901). Both include fabric samples mounted unto the pages. Woolman was an instructor of sewing and taught domestic science at Columbia Teachers College and Simmons College.

The exhibit is ongoing until June 30, 2019. The RISD Museum is located at 20 N. Main Street.
Connect your children and grandchildren to history

School will be out soon, which brings a perfect opportunity for you to introduce or further encourage your children or grandchildren to learn more about history, tools, crafts, and trades. Here are a few of the programs that are available, but you should check with your local historical society or living history museum to see what youth programs are being offered this summer. Even if there are no events in your community, summer is a perfect opportunity for you to teach the pleasures of learning a craft or researching a tool to the youth in your family. Whether it’s explaining how to crochet or going to a tool auction, you can pass on your love of crafts to the next generation.

**The Genesee Country Village and Museum**

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

Located near Rochester, New York, the Genesee Country Village has a variety of programs, including some exclusively for children and others that are family events. Classes on 19th-century cheese-making techniques and the importance of the farm dairy during this time in American history will be held Monday, April 29 and Monday, September 16 from 9am–4pm.

The class is open to ages 16 to adult and includes a hearty noon meal and a share of the finished cheese to take home. The museum also offers an intensive summer camp program. More information is available on the museum’s website.

**Colonial Williamsburg**

[www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/seasons/seasons-summer](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/seasons/seasons-summer)

Exciting adventures await young history enthusiasts and curious adventurers alike at Colonial Williamsburg’s weekly summer day camps. Children ages 11 to 13 will explore STEAM-based activities, such as gardening, archaeology, military life, soap-making, trade life, historic games, and much more. All activities will engage our campers on how science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics were used in the 1700s, connecting the past to the future. Parents, we will send your child home a little dirty, a little tired, but inspired and wanting more.

**Historic Richmond Town**


Historic Richmond Town, located on Staten Island, has a summer apprentice program. Individualized sessions in the historic trades are conducted in small groups of less than five and accelerate learning as students work with an experienced artisan to build their skills forging iron, weaving baskets, carving wood, crafting tin, and cooking over an open fire as they create one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted items. The historic settings are fully furnished for an immersive and hands-on practice. Apprentices will visit the other trades during their week to add to the fun and the 360-degree learning. At the end of each session, apprentices will have the ability to present their trade and lead a specialized tour of their workshop to visitors and their families.

**Sturbridge Village**

[www.osv.org/education/discovery-adventures/](http://www.osv.org/education/discovery-adventures/)

Twice a year, Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, provides opportunities for children to get a more in-depth Village experience with three-day and five-day programs. The educators at Old Sturbridge Village have designed the Adventures programs with specific themes and ages in mind. Every Adventure session offers kids the opportunity to explore an aspect of the Village’s history and environment. All programs include an afternoon snack, hands-on crafts, and the chance to learn something new while making lasting friends and memories.

**Elsewhere**

If your local museum has a summer children’s program, let us know and we’ll publish it on the EAIA calendar.
Historic Eastfield Foundation offers Tinsmithing Classes

Want to spend a relaxing, challenging, and educational week learning the basics of tinsmithing from Master Tinsmith Bill McMillen? Then you’ll want to take the Historic Eastfield Foundation’s (HEF) Beginning Tinsmithing class on August 12-16. This year, Billy will be ably assisted by Steve Delisle, Journeyman Tinsmith at Colonial Williamsburg, so you’ll have two experts to teach you the secrets of raising hammers, creasing swedges, and soldering irons, among many other tools and skills unique to the tinsmith’s trade. Tinsmithing is one of the most endangered trades in England, but the HEF has been producing new tinsmiths for years through this wonderful Eastfield experience. To register for this and other HEF workshops, go to www.historiceastfield.org.

Historic Eastfield is a reconstructed 18th & 19th century village in East Nassau, NY, just a stone’s throw from Albany. Accommodations for those taking classes are available in the village. The historic buildings are filled with objects that were used in the past, including many of the tools used in the tin shop.

Information Needed

Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, located in Avella, Pennsylvania, houses the James Wilson Chair Shop collection. This 19th-century shop was featured in the Chronicle forty years ago in an article titled “James Wilson, a Pennsylvania Chairmaker” (December 1979). In addition to the log shop building used by Wilson during the second half of the 19th century, the collection contains his workbench, tools, patterns, stencils, a wood graining set and paint pigments, as well as photographs of the shop on its original site in Taylorstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania. The shop and collection have not been on public view for nearly thirty years, but we are currently doing research with the intent to exhibit that material again.

With that in mind, I am trying to track down the wooden brace and set of pads which were owned by Wilson and used in his shop. Our files contain a letter from Dr. Ronald Pearson of Erie, Pennsylvania who purchased the brace at auction in the late 1970s. The attached photo from Dr. Pearson is from 1995. I understand that Dr. Pearson died in 2011 and that his tool collection was auctioned that same year at Nashua, NH in one of the Live Free or Die Antique Tool Auctions by Martin J. Donnelly Antique Tools. Please let us know if you are aware of its whereabouts.

David R. Scofield, Director
Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village
401 Meadowcroft Road, Avella, PA 15312
724-587-3412 EXT: 6502
www.heinzhistorycenter.org
California

August 17

Sonoma: PAST Tool Collectors, Summer Tool Show, Sonoma Veterans Memorial Hall, 126 1st St West, Sonoma, CA. Contact: Bob Valich planepa9@gmail.com or (707) 545-8812.

Pennsylvania

June 8

Ulysses: Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Youth & Family Field Day. This event is sponsored by the Black Forest Sportsman’s Club, and offers youth 10 to 16 years of age an opportunity to try their hand at a variety of outdoor activities with their family. Qualified local instructors teach skills such as fly casting, archery, wildlife and tree identification, astronomy, and more. Admission is free, but all participants must be preregistered and accompanied by an adult. lumbermuseum.org

Maine

July 12-13


Massachusetts

April-December

Historic Deerfield: Celebrating the Fiber Arts. The Helen Geier Flynt Textile Gallery showcases Historic Deerfield’s important collection of fashion, needlework, and domestic textiles. The core of the collection was assembled through the efforts of one of the museum’s founders, Helen Geier Flynt (1895-1986). Considered one of the finest in America, the collection contains items dating from the late 17th century through the mid-20th century. Rotations and thematic displays every season are set against the backdrop of four main fibers that created most textiles before the 20th century; silk, wool, cotton, and linen. Together with the museum’s historic houses, the gallery displays a portion of the roughly 8,000 items in the fashion, needlework, and domestic textile collection. The gallery helps visitors consider the aesthetic and practical choices made and used by people in Deerfield, the Connecticut River Valley, New England, England, and Europe. www.historic-deerfield.org

Vermont

May 24–25

Woodstock: Billings Farm & Museum. Annual sheep herding and shearing. Many hands on activities using wool. billingsfarm.org

Virginia

October 26

Ferrum: Blue Ridge Folklife Festival at Ferrum College. For 46 years, the Blue Ridge Folklife Festival has brought together a host of musicians, moonshiners, craftspeople, cooks, motorheads, mule jumpers, horse pullers, coon dog racers, antique tractor buffs, and old-time gamers for a celebration of the rich heritage and traditions of the region. Our festival participants are the real thing, sharing folk traditions that have been a part of their families and/or communities for years. Covering much of the Ferrum College campus and Ferrum’s 1800 living history farm museum, the Blue Ridge Folklife Festival is handicap accessible. It is a rain or shine event. www.ferrum.edu/blue-ridge-folklife-festival/

Wisconsin

May 6

Monticello: The Wisconsin Historical Society presents Wisconsin Lighthouses. No symbol is more synonymous with Wisconsin’s rich maritime traditions than the lighthouse. These historic beacons conjure a bygone era: romance, loneliness, and dependability; dedicated keepers manning the lights; eerie tales of haunted structures and ghosts of past keepers; mariners of yesteryear anxiously hoping to make safe haven around rocky shorelines. If these sentinels could talk, imagine the tales they would tell of ferocious Great Lakes storms taking their toll on vessels and people alike. At this event, Ken and Barb Wardius, co-authors of *Wisconsin Lighthouses: A Photographic and Historical Guide*, tell those tales, taking attendees on an intimate tour of lighthouses on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Lake Winnebago. www.wisconsinhistory.org/calendar/event/6888/wisconsin-lighthouses

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

Timeless Tools and Treasures.com
Authentic tools for traditional trades
Shop online or at our Bennington, NH, store any day by appointment.
603-588-2603 • janebb@tds.net
Cash paid for old tools in the New England area
Welcome to the New Members of the EAIA

Listed below are the names of those who joined EAIA since the last issue of Shavings. If you know of someone who would enjoy being an EAIA member, why not take them to a regional meeting or direct them to our Web page to download a membership form or a copy of eShavings.

Mr. Michael Baer, 4123 Tholozan Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116
Ms. Melinda Bridgman, 65 Cady Lane, PO Box 44, East Woodstock, CT 06244
Ms. Lauren Coke, 25478 Switzer, Bucyrus, KS 66013
Mr. Nicholas Cole-Farrell, 1575 Flores Dr., Pacifica, CA 94044
Mr. Dennis Covington, 7131 Old Settlers Rd., Corcoran, MN 55340
Mr. Michael Franzen, 960 Kennedy’s Landing #6, Cincinnati, OH 45245
Mr. David Harlos, 618 NE 9th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601
Mr. William Heidt, 898 Junco Drive, Columbus, IN 47203
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Hotaling, 87 Paxwood Road, Delmar, NY 12054
Mr. Jay Howlett, P.O. Box 1776, Williamsburg, VA 23187
Mr. Norman Jennings, 1166 Oval Drive, Athens, TX 75751
Mr. Donald Kline, 909 S 12th Ave., Washington, IA 52353
Mr. Charles LeCount, 611 West Lane St., Apt. 6, Raleigh, NC 27603
Ms. Sharon Mehrman, 28 Harold St., Florence, MA 01062
Mr. George Meszaros, 2253 Riverside Dr., Lakewood, OH 44107
Ms. Kirsten Milliken, 6218 Shadycliff Drive, Dallas, TX 75240
Mr. Mark Nickerson, 156 Front St. #219, Exeter, NH 03833
Ms. Emily Pronovost, 67 Kirk St., Lowell, MA 01852
Mr. Robert Ratzlaff, 3825A Wayne Circle, Norfolk, VA 23513
Mr. Hunter Rhodes, 1917 Adelicia Street, Nashville, TN 37212
Mr. Reid Richmond, 505 Elm Ave., Jenkintown, PA 19046
Mr. Jeffrey Schiff, 110 Grovers Ave., Winthrop, MA 02152
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Simon, 25358 Jaclyn Ave., Moreno Valley, CA 92557
Mr. Andrew Sistrand, 909 Litchfield Tpke, Bethany, CT 06254
Mr. Donald Slaughter, 108 Cedar Drive, Mountain City, TX 78610
Mr. Christian South-Alderson, 4120 Eagle Watch Dr., Evansville, IN 47725
Jan Tilley, P.O. Box 1776, Williamsburg, VA 23187
Mr. Cameron Turner, 3725 S. Acoma St., Englewood, CO 80110
Mr. Matthew Utterback, 301 Cave Rd., Weybridge, VT 05763
Mr. Andrew Warren, P.O. Box 1776, Williamsburg, VA 23187
Mr. Austin White, 28 Patchen Road, Williamstown, NY 13493

---

The Arnold Zlotoff Tool Museum

Open Saturdays from 10:00 to 4:00
Memorial Day Weekend to Columbus Day Weekend

The collection includes more than 3,000 objects relating to 19th century crafts, trades, and occupations. Assembled by Mr. 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:

arnoldzlotofftoolmuseum.com

---

Advertise in Shavings

ADVERTISING: Contact Editor Dan Miller, 315-777-7007; E-mail: dan@dragonflycanoe.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—$3.50 (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.)

TINSMITH & COPPERSMITH CONVERGENCE

JUNE 21st – 23rd, 2019

SAUDER VILLAGE – ARCHBOLD, OHIO

In Northwest Ohio

Come join a gathering of Tinsmiths and Coppersmiths, many involved in the historical trade of producing wares as they were made prior to 1900. This gathering is open to anyone interested in an exchange of ideas, trading or selling tools, learning historically accurate methods of manufacture, seeing more modern techniques, and improving productivity. A detailed daily agenda will be available soon.

See demonstrations of Tinsmiths and Coppersmiths making wares using tools and techniques that were used in the 1700's and 1800's and more modern processes. Learn about the tools that were used and the construction techniques. See patterns and layout tools used in the construction of the wares.

This event is open to the public

Registration per Family - $20.00 (form available at http://www.tintinkers.org)
Saturday Evening Banquet - $20.00/person
Guest Rooms Available

Thursday-Sunday June 20-23, 2019 12 Deluxe Queen/Queen Rooms- Thursday Rate $110.00 Friday-Saturday night rate $133.00

Friday-Sunday June 21-23, 2019
3 One Bedroom Suite with King Beds $144.00 per night
5 Deluxe King Rooms $132.00 per night $133.00
2 Executive Queen/Queen Rooms $110.00
1 Executive King Room with roll in shower $110.00
3 Executive King Rooms Handicap Accessible $110.00
10 Full Hook-Up Camp Site $44.00 per night

All rooms are based on double occupancy and will incur an additional $15.00 per night should there be more than 2 per room. Local Sales Tax and Bed Tax will be applied to guestroom charges (currently 10.25%).

If you would like to book a room or campsite for this event, you may contact 800/590-9755 and use booking ID #8653.
The staff at the Sauder Heritage Inn would be happy to take your reservation today.

Sauder Village
www.saudervillage.com
22611 St. Rt. 2
Archbold, Ohio 43502

For additional information: see www.tintinkers.org or email bob@tintinkers.org
(There are several hotels within 15 miles of Sauder Village)
Spectacular Summer Auction & Antique Fair
Thursday, Friday & Saturday July 18, 19, 20 2019

MARTIN J. DONNELLY AUCTIONS
Specialist Auctioneers of Nineteenth Century Antiques
Sale Located at: 5223 County Route 8, Avoca NY 14809

Auction Schedule:
July 18 6:00 Lots 2:01 p.m.
July 19 13:00 Lots 9:01 a.m.
July 20 13:01 Lots 9:01 a.m.
Preview all day Wednesday and before during and after the sale each day.
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner On-Site
Questions: (800) 869-0695

Our Summer sale has, over the past seventeen years, become a destination for buyers from around the country and around the world. Please plan to join us for High Summer in the beautiful Finger Lakes.

www.mjdauctions.com

Antique Fair Each Day · FREE Admission
Antique Show of 60 Dealers Beginning Thursday
Antiques for Auction? Call (800) 869-0695

A Genuine, Old-Fashioned Country Auction

100 Tons Sold in Three Days!
Shavings
The Newsletter of
The Early American Industries Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 524
Hebron, MD 21830

Spring 2019

Always Buying

Always Selling

Pete Niederberger

Used and Antique Tools and
Parts for Same

Mail Order 415–924–8403

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