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Above: EAIA President Dana Shoaf enjoyed a planning visit to the Museum of Frontier Culture. He hopes you will join him at the EAIA Annual Meeting in Staunton, Virginia!

Below: Tobacco farming at the Frontier Culture Museum, site of the 2020 EAIA Annual Meeting.
President’s Message

Time Well Spent

Happy New Year! I know it’s a bit late to wish you all that, but it can’t hurt, right? We have had a mild winter so far in Maryland, but I’d like some snow. At least a good hard freeze for a few days so I can get the tractor in the woods and harvest some firewood.

I must admit, though, it was nice to have moderate temperatures when Executive Director John Verrill, Chronicle Editor Megan Fitzpatrick, and I represent the EAIA at the Working Wood in the 18th Century conference at Colonial Williamsburg, which took place January 17–19. What a productive time we had!

Approximately 400 people, including board members Richard Cunningham and Ron Howard, attended the conference. We set up two tables to sell EAIA memberships and merchandise, and to interact with members and anyone else who was interested in the organization.

John and Megan did wonderful work at the tables, and Megan is a rock star! She knows many people from her days at Popular Woodworking, and her fans came by frequently! That, along with our friendly demeanor, attracted scads of people to our booth and helped us sign up twenty-eight new members! We also renewed eight more members and sold hundreds of dollars’ worth of merchandise.

Just as important, we also got the name of our organization out to a larger audience. Williamsburg displayed our logo prominently and publicly thanked us. I asked to say a few words at the Saturday banquet, and the organizers graciously acquiesced.

I took the opportunity to express our gratitude to the attendees and the conference organizers and was happy to see dozens of hands fly up when I asked how many of the attendees were EAIA members. I invited folks to stop by our table for our logo-emblazoned “magic” carpenter’s pencil—“You don’t need to measure with them,” I said. “Just make a mark and cut”—and Sunday morning our table was swamped with smiling people wanting the extraordinaire pencils. It was great.

John and I further expanded the EAIA’s reach through our Facebook page. John posted a number of images and videos, and I used the Facebook Live option to allow people a glimpse into the conference themselves. I interviewed both John and Megan, and talked with Colonial Williamsburg Joiner and EAIA member Peter Hudson in his shop. Jane Rees, respected tool historian and longtime EAIA member, chatted with me about her new British plane makers directory. Noted Windsor chairmaker Elia Bizzarri also gave a great interview. If you haven’t seen this material, check it out on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EarlyAmericanIndustries/

It was time well spent for the three of us and for the EAIA. We’ll do it again next year, and we will be back at it, flying the EAIA flag. It was fun to speak to so many of you, and I hope to see many more of you at our upcoming annual meeting!

Until then, I wish you all productive days and restful nights.
From the Executive Director

The crush of holiday activities has finally subsided. This was a busy end-of-year; we implemented new membership database software, and have been working to migrate our membership data. You may have received an email receipt for your membership payment—a function of the new software—but for those of you who have joined this year and those who have made extra contributions, you have not received a response from us yet. Though we are behind in responding to you, rest assured that we will get those new member packets and receipts for donations out to you in the coming weeks. Please be patient as we learn the ins and outs of CharityProud, our new software. We do want to say thanks for your quick response in renewing; we really appreciate your continued interest and support.

Planning for the Annual Meeting in Staunton is progressing. We have a great program of tours, events, and speakers. This year’s planning committee includes Dana Shoaf, Tom & Mary Anne Graham, George Lott, Thomas Elliott, and me. By the time you read this issue of Shavings, you may have received your registration brochure. If not, it will arrive shortly. You may register by returning the form in the brochure, or you may wish to register online at our website. Be sure to call the Stonewall Jackson Hotel (866-880-0024) soon to reserve your room; the rate is $139/night. More information about the meeting is included in a separate article in this issue.

The EAIA received a check from the estate of John Wells in the amount of $100,000.00 in December. This is the second installment from the sale of Mr. Wells’s extensive tool collection. He specified that he wanted other collectors to have the opportunity to own the very special, unique, and rare tools he had collected over his lifetime. The collection was divided between two auction houses—Brown Tool Auctions and Martin J. Donnelly Auctions—to accomplish that goal; the proceeds from the various auctions were divided evenly between the EAIA and the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association. The EAIA portion has been deposited in the endowment fund, and it was John’s desire that income from this portion of the endowment be used for educational activities and research grants.

In mid-January, Dana Shoaf, Megan Fitzpatrick and I attended the Working Wood in the 18th Century symposium at Colonial Williamsburg. (Board members Richard Cunningham and Ron Howard were also in attendance.) As a sponsor of the symposium, along with the Society of American Period Furniture Makers, we were able to set up an information table with copies of our publications and membership information. Before, after, and in between the extremely informative sessions, we were at the table introducing the EAIA to the large audience—400 people attended—and we brought in twenty-eight new members and eight renewal memberships. It was a great four days in which we made many new friends and connected with many of you members, too. Our sponsorship of the conference brought our organization to the attention of all who attended, and with the recognition of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, it gave us access to a vast new audience.

See you in Staunton!

Denise Richer Calls for Regional Meeting Ideas

Hello fellow EAIA members! I am seeking input on regional meetings for this year and next. I would like to hear your ideas, because we all know how much fun and learning goes on at regional meetings.

Regional meetings are not only a vehicle for attracting new members to the EAIA, but a nice way for our members to join in and get to know each other between annual meetings.

Think about local museums, historic, or industrial sites near you that we may work with to host a meeting. If there are no museums in your area, another possibility would be to host knowledgeable lecturers or collectors to make a presentation, or have a display at town hall or in the local library. This organization has so many members with a wealth of knowledge to share that you may not have to look far for a presenter!

We want to share the Early American Industries Association with a wide audience and what better way than with a regional meeting? If you have any ideas, please email me at Richertool@aol.com or call or text my cell at 315-380-5882. I would love to discuss any and all ideas with you.

—Denise Richer, Past President

From the Editor

Welcome to the new all-digital Shavings! As announced in the last issue of Shavings, the EAIA will no longer be printing and mailing Shavings. As a result, not only will the EAIA be saving money, but we will no longer be constrained by the needs of a printed publication. What does this mean? It means we can enhance your reading experience by changing formats and including elements that can’t be produced on a printed page.

The first thing you may notice is that the pages of Shavings are now in landscape format. This makes for easier reading and less scrolling on most screens. You’ll also notice that the content will adjust to the device you are using, whether it be a desktop computer, smart phone, or tablet.

We’ll also be able to include other interactive elements such as video. For example, Bob Roemer, Marc Sitkin, and Jennifer Petrila recently collaborated on the production of a video showing Jennifer at Bob’s blacksmith forge making a woodworking chisel. The result was a two-part video, which we have embedded as part of an article about the EAIA’s recently launched initiative to produce informative videos about early American industries and tool use.

We will be liberally sprinkling hyperlinks throughout Shavings, so you don’t have to type them into your browser. Simply click the link and the web site will launch in your browser. To make it easy for you find hyperlinks, we will be underlining them with a red, dotted underline, like this link to the EAIA: http://eaiainfo.org. A link may also appear as a word or phrase rather than a URL, like this: Early American Industries Association.

When viewing Shavings in your browser, you will find a number of useful tools along the bottom of the page that will allow you to share Shavings on social media, by email, or to embed the issue on a web page. It is also easy to change the display size; your Shavings experience may be best realized in full-screen mode. You will also be able to download it in PDF format, though not all of the interactive features will be incorporated in the PDF.

I look forward to receiving your feedback about our new Shavings, whether you want to share what you like about it, what may not be working for you, or other ideas you may have about how Shavings can be made more useful for you. Feel free to email me at dan@dragonflycanoe.com.
The 2020 EAIA Annual Meeting is on the Horizon!

This week you will receive the annual meeting brochure and invitation to our exciting meeting in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Mid-May in Virginia is a beautiful time of year—it’s not yet summer, but is no longer spring, just a glorious green, warm, and inviting time. Average temperatures vary between 65 and 75 degrees F in the day time and 55 to 65 degrees overnight, so spring and summer clothes along with a light jacket will assure your comfort.

The meeting dates are May 20–23, 2020, and our hotel venue is the historic Stonewall Jackson Hotel in downtown Staunton, Virginia. The hotel meeting rate is $139 per night, not including state and local tax. This rate is good two days before and after the meeting. It is advisable to make reservation early, as we expect our room block to fill up fast (the reservation line is 866-880-0024.) It is great hotel that was recently refurbished and updated to fit the needs of its guests. Located in the center of the city, the hotel is surrounded by great restaurants, pubs, shopping, museums, and historic sites. We have tried to include some free time and meals on your own so that you can explore the city.

The theme of the meeting is From Forest to Farm: Tools that Tamed the Frontier. We will be learning a lot about this theme as we explore Thomas Jefferson’s mountain-top Monticello and the Virginia's Frontier Culture Museum. We look forward to member displays that illustrate this theme. Displays will be on exhibit on Saturday, so please be sure to reserve a table for your presentation (you will see a check box on the registration brochure.)

Meeting registration begins on Wednesday, May 20th at noon in the hotel lobby. This year’s tailgate sale is to be held from Noon to 5 pm on the top floor of the parking garage adjacent to the hotel. It is open and offers good views of the city; in case of rain we will use the floor below which is covered. The garage does have a height restriction so no high-cube vans will be accommodated; we hope that this will not impact too many participants. There is a small elevator available if needed for access.

Wednesday afternoon and evening is on your own, and we hope you will use this time to begin your exploration of the area and the vibrant downtown. Just a short walk from the hotel are many attractions of interest including the Jumbo Fire Museum, home of the oldest motorized fire engine in Virginia and the only remaining 1911 Robinson fire engine, Sunspots Glass Blowing Studio, with daily demonstrations until 4 pm, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum, the American Shakespeare Center & Blackfriars Playhouse; the Camera Heritage Museum, Trinity Episcopal Church and its famous Tiffany windows, and the African American Heritage Center at the Staunton Visitors Center. These are just some of the attractions in town. Venturing further from Staunton, there are numerous places of interest including the Virginia Military Institute Museum, which houses the Henry Stewart Firearms Collection, Natural Bridge State Park, and the Virginia Museum of the Civil War at the New Market Battlefield Park. These are just a few of the nearby places to visit. For a listing of all of the attractions in the area please consult the Virginia Tourism Guide.

On Thursday, May 21st, after enjoying a buffet breakfast in the hotel, we will travel on our own by car (carpooling advised, as it is a forty-minute trip) to Monticello. Here we will split into two groups; one will visit the home, gardens, wings, and Mulberry Row, while the other will remain at the Visitor Center where there will be presentations about the restoration, furnishings, and other topics by the Monticello Joiners. At noon we will enjoy a box lunch and then switch groups for the afternoon tours and presentations. Dinner on your own is followed by the Ice Cream Social and Whatsits session in the lobby and ballroom of the hotel.

On Friday May 22nd, after a buffet breakfast in the hotel, we will again travel on our own (just a few minutes away) by car to the Frontier Culture Museum. From 9 am to 2 pm we will have tours of the museum and artisan demonstrations by museum staff and members of the Contemporary Long Rifle Association. We’ll enjoy a box lunch in the pavilion and free time after 2 pm to further explore the museum or other area attractions. Dinner is on your own, but for those who are interested, Brown Antique Tool Auctions will have a live auction beginning at 6 pm in the hotel ballroom.

Saturday May 23rd will be spent at the Frontier Culture Museum, where the day will begin with set up for the tool sale and member displays in the museum pavilion. The pavilion will be open to the public as the museum celebrates Historic Trades and Tools Day. From 10–3 there will be presentations in the museum lecture hall. Denise Richer will tell all about Shaker Seeds at 10 am; Jeffrey Evans will make a presentation on Shenandoah Valley furniture at 11:30 am; Dr. Carole Nash will talk about “Native American life in the Shenandoah Valley” at 11:55 am; and Jeff Headley and Steve Hamilton will talk about using hand tools in the crafting of reproduction furniture at 2:15 pm. Artisan members of the Contemporary Long Rifle Association will demonstrate historic trades and artisan crafts throughout the day. EAIA members will demonstrate the use of tools to museum visitors in the courtyard—let us know if you would like to participate! Food vendors will be on the grounds to provide a selection of foods. From 2–3:30 pm the Taylor & Boody Organ Company will provide tours of their factory in Staunton. From 5:30 to 7 pm we will be back in the hotel lobby to enjoy a cash bar and exciting silent auction. Our annual banquet and business meeting begins at 7 pm, and our dinner speaker is Don Williams, Senior Furniture Conservator at the Smithsonian Institution’s Center for Materials Research and Education.

Come and join us for this wonderful 2020 EAIA Annual Meeting! Register today (eaiainfo.org/news-events/annualmeetings/) and join us on Wednesday May 20th through Saturday May 23rd, 2020, for a wonderful EAIA experience!
Thanks to Our Generous Donors in 2019!

We are always thankful for the generosity of EAIA members. We salute you with this listing. The EAIA is only as strong as its membership, and that strength is due to your kindness and continuing interest and support. Your donations help secure the future of the Early American Industries Association.

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We Welcome New Members

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

John Alexander, Alexander
Brooks, 279 Penny Lane,
Independence, VA 24348

Larry Baird, 12 Forest Road, Ponca
City, OK 74604

Richard Bell, 644 Route 304, New
City, NY 10956

Ted Boscana, PO Box 1776,
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1776

William Brown, 411 Mt. Haven Dr.,
Forest, VA 24551

Peter Callen, 2958A N 51st Street,
Milwaukee, WI 53210-1603

Martha Creegan, 79 Noble Street,
Somersworth, NH 03878

Forest Dean, 448 Cottage Avenue,
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dean Dibling, 2804 Bardolino
Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28306

Amanda Doggett, 1712 Back Creek
Road, Seaford, VA 23385

David F, 670 Griswold St SE, Grand
Rapids, MI 49507

Robert Finnegan, 31 Rundelane,
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Edward Fistek, 904 Monica Circle,
Kingsville, MD 21087

Andy Glenn, 304 Prospect Street,
Berea, KY 40403

Donald Halsted, 1 Oakdale Lane,
Lincoln, MA 01773

Nicholas Heatherly, 3848 E.
Kingsbury, Springfield, MO
65809

David Hickson, 1600 Gamewell
Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

William Higgins, 130 East 94th
Street, Apt 7B, New York City,
NY 10128

Jeffery Hill, 2237 Heather Hill Blvd
N, Cincinnati, OH 45244

Scott Hunter, 1506 Sunrise Pl,
Madisonville, KY 42431

Mark Johnson, 3043 West Liberty
Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Robert Johnson, 90 Coventry
Wood Road, Bolton, MA 01740-1123

Bruce Kilm resisting 327 Chota Hills
Lane, Loudon, TN 37774

Jim Kitchen, 2803 Garrett Drive,
Bowling Green, KY 42104

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Horn Turn, Glen Mills, PA 19342

Frank Kruse III, 445 Tuxedo Drive,
Commerce, GA 30530

Karre & Melody Loftheim, 111
Adams Street, Williamsburg, VA
23185

William Lohr, 141B Mountain
Church Road, Middletown, MD
21769

Elizabeth Lonsdale, 4521 Outten
Road, Snow Hill, MD 21863

Robert McCombs, 4321 Otten
Road, Snow Hill, MD 21863

Michael Maggio, PO Box 357, New
Berlinville, PA 19545

Dennis McLain, 1219 Mansion
Woods Road, Annapolis, MD
21401

David S. Merrifield, 120 Pamunkey
Turn, Yorktown, VA 23693

Merrill Mitchell, 1917 College
Avenue, Davenport, IA 52803

Stephen Moulton, PO Box 220,
LeRoy, NY 14482-0220

Daniel Mundy, 375 Oak Grove
Road, Pittstown, MA 01543

Kenneth Neiswender, 37
Wheatstone Court, Palmyra, PA
17078

Jerry Olson, 168 Reo Street, Lowell,
MA 01852

Steve Pender, 106 Park Drive,
Rockwell, SC 29833

Jennifer Petrolla, 6 Kenwood Drive,
Rutland, MA 01543

Brian Pfeiffer, 147 Brattle Street,
Cambridge, MA 02138

Matthew Reen, 2301 Mr. Ephraim
Road, Adamstown, MD 21710

David Scofield, 401 Meadowcroft
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Bradley Shuffield, 215 Weatherbee
Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110

David Shuster, 147 Longsdale Ave,
Dayton, OH 45419

Josie Smith, 1 Coleman Court,
Chico, CA 95926

Christina Smith, 1021 Roup Ave,
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Stewart Stolz, 317 E Main St,
Frankfort, KY 40601

Robert Verlik, 23 Spizey Court,
Clayton, NC 27527

Tom Wagner, 6779 Southkoll
Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45248

Richard Wood, PO Box 2165,
Juneau, AK 99802

Lawrence Yopp, PO Box 175, Lake
Geneva, WI 53147
Many people are watching YouTube videos to gain insights into activities of interest. The executive board of the EAIA has decided to produce some YouTube videos relating to making, using, and collecting tools. Our hope is that we can tap into the vast pools of knowledge and skills that our membership can offer, package them in an easily accessible way, and provide another channel to provide interesting content to our membership and the public. We hope that the wide distribution offered by the YouTube platform may also reach potential members that we currently can’t reach effectively.

We have recently shot footage at Bob Roemer’s forge in Bolton, Massachusetts, that shows the process of hand forging a woodworking chisel, and have turned the raw footage into a series of videos. Blacksmith Jennifer Petrila did a great job demonstrating the process, and Bob’s shop was a great location to film at.

In order to guide the directions the video project may take, We have prepared a short survey to help us understand how EAIA members would like to see videos implemented. Please take a moment to fill out the survey so we could get some insights into your own preferences. Thanks in advance for your participation. The survey can be found here: https://forms.gle/8b276TXrKxaRnmB59
Wanted: Research Grant Applicants!

Are you interested in a topic that you would like to investigate in depth and need money to complete your research? Do you know someone who is studying for an advanced degree and wants help to further their research? Want to have your research published in the Chronicle? Would you share with your local college, library, or historical society the information about the EAIA Grants program? Please help us spread the word about this valuable program or make an application today.

The EAIA’s research grant program was funded through the generosity of the Winthrop Carter family, the estate of John G. Wells, the EAIA endowment fund, and others. Since 1979, 121 grants have been awarded. These research grants are designed to assist individuals, students, and scholars undertaking research that leads to better understanding of early American industries. Four grants may be awarded each year, depending on the funds available; individual grants of up to $3,000 are awarded. These grants honor individuals who have contributed to the advancement of the EAIA and its mission. The first grant is awarded in honor of Winthrop L. Carter, the second grant is in honor of John S. Watson, and the third grant is in honor of James M. Gaynor. A special grant in honor of John G. Wells is also available for educational study and/or research.

Recent grant awards include Sultana: An American Schooner, the Royal Navy, and British American Shipwrights, by Carter Award recipient Phillip Frank Reid, 19th Century American Toolmakers: For the Saddle & Shoemakers Trade, by Gaynor Award Recipient Christian Matthew South-Alderson, and Isaac Meason & JD Mathiot: The Iron Industry in Western Pennsylvania, by Watson Award Recipient Mark G. Kelly.

Carter Fellowship recipient, Phillip Reid, PhD, tells about the value of the EAIA Grants Award Program:

The Carter Fellowship allowed me to complete ten days of archival work at the Sultana Education Foundation in Chestertown, Maryland, in September. During that time, I was able to read and take notes from the entirety of HM Schooner Sultana’s master’s log, covering the four years of her service in the Royal Navy in British America from 1768–1772. As the master was in charge of the vessel’s fitting-out, operations, maintenance, and navigation, as opposed to her naval exercises, which were the responsibilities of her commander, his log contains a wealth of detail about her equipment, performance, damage, and repairs. It is an incomparable resource for understanding the small New England-built schooner of the mid- to late-eighteenth century—a highly successful and, by this time, ubiquitous Atlantic maritime technology. In fact, however, the success of the type long ago gave rise to a mythology around it, which, like so many historical mythologies of the nineteenth century, was highly charged with nationalism. Nationalism, like all ideologies, tends to distort historical reality, sometimes severely, so understanding not just the advantages, but the limitations of the schooner compared to its alternatives helps us continue to dismantle such distortions in favor of a more accurate appreciation of technological history: Sultana affords an unusual opportunity to do that, not only because the surviving records are so complete, but because her service in the Navy highlighted some important examples of both the schooner’s capabilities and disadvantages.

During this visit, I was also able to formulate a clear plan for Phase 2 of this research, as I had access to all the materials involved. When I procure additional funding, I will make a second trip to Chestertown to read the commander’s log, which is also completely preserved, as well as tabulate the data present in the vessel’s master books, which record all the personnel who served aboard, what they were paid, and what became of them. Applications for additional funding are still outstanding, but I should have final word on the last of those by March.

The final result of this project will be my second monograph, whose working title is A Boston Schooner in the Royal Navy: From Commerce to Conflict in Maritime British America, 1768–1772. If funding allows me to stay on schedule, I hope to finish the book by the end of the year. It is also my hope to make a documentary film based on that book, contingent upon finding a filmmaker with whom to collaborate and the funding to pursue that.

I thank the EAIA once again for materially advancing this project. Without your support, that would not have happened when it did.

The deadline for grant applications is March 15, 2020. The application is found on the EAIA website under Research Grants. Please pass the word on to those undertaking research projects. We also encourage students who are working on advance degrees to consider applying.

Philip Reid’s work table at the Sultana Education Foundation, with plenty of room to spread out big sheets of copied logbooks. Above left: the Sultana under sail.


Who is Leonard Bailey? Was his contribution to American history of such significance that American industry and society were changed so much? Paul Van Pernis and the late John G. Wells help the reader understand Leonard Bailey, his numerous inventions and improvements to woodworking planes and other tools, and prove that Bailey’s designs and patents indeed changed not only the woodworking and hand tool industry but laid the groundwork for the change in American industrial tool making and manufacturing.

Leonard Bailey was born in 1825 in New England. He began his career as a cabinetmaker and used wooden planes in that profession. But it didn’t take long before his inventive and active mind created metal “…woodworking planes [whose] designs are still in use…” (p. xii). The planes he designed, built and sold allowed for mass production, easy adjustment by the user of the plane iron, and eliminated chatter in the planes’ use.

His first patent was awarded in 1855 for an improved scraper plane. That first patent was one of dozens to come in the next fifty years.

The book focuses on Bailey’s woodworking planes and spoke shaves. One chapter describes his patented copy presses.

Bailey’s planes used form and function and they sold by the thousands. But for all his engineering inventiveness and design skills, he was terrible at marketing his own products. He was frequently in financial trouble, and he really liked to work alone.

Wells and Van Pernis not only detail the evolution of Bailey’s ingenuity, but the evolution of various types of tools he developed. “Because [Bailey] had the castings…made in relatively small batches…he had the opportunity to make small changes in design or construction that did not require a change in the castings.” (p. 44)

During the Civil War, Bailey’s business suffered and he lost a great deal of money. From Winchester, Massachusetts he and his wife and children moved to Boston. There, he continued to sell his spoke shaves, and worked on improving other tools.

In the 1860s, wooden planes were transitioning to cast-iron planes. Bailey daringly left the hammer-adjusted wooden plane and expended his design genius in adjustable cast iron planes. Today, this seems like a no-brainer but in 1864 it was revolutionary and changed the plane-making world.

After the Civil War, he moved his family to New Britain, Connecticut during his years with Stanley Tools. Those were the most stable years of his career. One of his inventions, the 9½ block plane was manufactured by Stanley from 1872 to 1971. This remarkable run of 99 years of manufacturing and selling the same plane speaks to Bailey’s creative genius and the invention of a hand tool that withstood the test of decades and eras.

After leaving Stanley, Bailey had several partners but none of them ever lasted long. “…it is likely that Bailey’s insistence on…innovative design and quality manufacturing [was more important] than running a profitable business.” (p. 59)

Stanley Tools ruthlessly brought lawsuits against Bailey, hoping to destroy him financially and emotionally. Emotionally, he certainly had a great deal to despair over. Of his seven children, all but two died. Three of them died within five weeks of each other due to scarlet fever. Perhaps creating plane innovations took his mind off his worries and despair. He was always “on the edge” with his finances, too.

Though Bailey lost every one of the lawsuits brought against him by Stanley he continued to invent, improvise, and improve his planes, box scrapers, and spoke shaves and to sell them under his own company, L. Bailey & Co.

In 1879, Stanley Tools purchased Leonard Bailey’s patents and became the agents to sell Bailey’s Victor tool line. “[Bailey] had designed the best carpenter planes in the world…” (p. 206) Stanley Tools knew Bailey’s patents would be very profitable for Stanley. Bailey knew it was time to yield to Stanley Tools and reap the financial benefits of selling his patents to them.

With the sale of his tool line, Leonard Bailey moved to Wethersfield, Connecticut and spent his latter years creating improvements and inventions for copy presses. Copy presses were used in offices to make copies on very thin paper (onion skin) that would make an impression from the ink of the original document.

By his death in 1905, Bailey had forty-six patents to his name. “[his] inventive genius, hard work, and entrepreneurial drive helped catapult the United States to a position of world leadership in the manufacture of the tools and machinery that changed the United States from a rural farming economy to an industrial world power.” (p. xii)

The book shows the variations of the numerous tools Bailey produced. In addition, it provides fundamental manufacturing dates for the Bailey tool collector.

All the boxes were checked in writing and designing a book of this type: many photos, most in color; text and photos on the page about the topic; engaging writing that allows any reader to understand technical information; chapters easily marked and subdivided by different color ink endnotes which are as informative as the text. For social history and biographic information, the beginning and end of most chapters place the reader in Bailey’s era. In-between are detailed descriptions with excellent color close-ups of the tools discussed. The end of the book provides an epilogue, Leonard Bailey’s genealogy, a list of his patents, and an extensive index. The book’s 9” × 12” hardback format allows for those excellent photos and patent drawings.

This easy-to-read and understand book should be added to the bookshelf of every woodworker, tool dealer and collector, and historian. It was certainly the best social history read by this reviewer in several years.
A Plane Inquiry

by John Verrill

From time to time, we receive inquiries about unusual and unknown tools. Although not an example of an American woodworking plane, we thought we would forward this inquiry that was received by EAIA in an email from Monsieur Guy Coster of France. His request was written in French, but here is the translation:

Hello to you,

I got your email address from the Internet on the old tools. You are a collector of old tools and I think you will be able to help me in my research.

Indeed, I have in my possession a beautiful and large planer in wood and metal that I hold from my family (see attachment). I would like to know a little more about this tool, in particular about its history, the year of its manufacture, is it a rare tool, which country, etc.

If you can’t tell me, can you give me the contact details of someone who could help me with these searches?

Thank you in advance for your help and your information, I wish you a happy new year 2020.

Guy Coster

Upon receipt of Mr. Coster’s email, I forwarded it to member (and EAIA past-president) Paul Van Pernis. He gave a really informed response which I share with you.

Hello Guy,

John Verrill forwarded your inquiry about your beautiful old woodworking plane to me. You have a wonderful example of an adjustable-pitch jointer plane made by Ignace Chardoillet. His plane was patented in France on October 10, 1844, and the patent was amended on October 26, 1846. His patent was the first known French patent for a woodworking plane. Ignace Chardoillet was from the town of Belfort in the region of Bas-Rhin, Alsace. His family history in this town can be traced back to 1524. The patent document can be found in the “Bulletin des lois du Royanne de France,” Volume 34, item 795, 1847. This book is available through Google Books. In addition, Roret’s encyclopedia, “Nouveau Manuel Complet du Tourneur,” Volume 3, pages 344–347, published in 1848, discusses a number of different planes designed by Chardoillet. This book is also available on Google Books. To retrieve it, go to Google Books, and in the advance search section enter the author’s name, E. de Valcourt, in the author’s section and “Nouveau Manuel Complet du Tourneur” in the title section.

If you can find a copy of the Chronicle, Volume 63, Number 1, March 2010, there is an excellent article by John G. Wells on pages 25–29 discussing Chardoillet’s planes. The Chronicle is the journal put out by the Early American Industries Association. If you can’t find this journal, please let me know, and I’ll make a copy and send it to you. The article contains photographs of several different Chardoillet planes.

Guy, you have a beautiful example of a Chardoillet jointer plane. They are rare, and are highly sought after by collectors in Europe and the US. It was made in France. How wonderful that it is part of your family’s history. Apologies for not being able to correspond with you in French, but I hope this information is helpful to you. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have other questions.

Happy 2020,

Paul Van Pernis

A Note from the Editor of the Chronicle

I’m in the midst of planning the content for upcoming issues of the Chronicle, and again invite every member of EAIA (and others) to submit articles on any subject relating to the organization’s mission.

Deadlines for upcoming issues:

- April 6 for June 2020 issue
- July 13 for September 2020 issue
- October 12 for December 2020 issue
- January 11, 2021 for March 2021 issue

Authors need not be accomplished writers; I’m happy to work with novice writers to develop, organize, and edit information into a strong and interesting article. This is a great opportunity to develop an article based on your interests or research you have completed.

If you are an experienced author, you may find it helpful to know that the Chronicle follows Chicago style, images should be at minimum 5 × 7 at 300 dpi, and electronic submissions are preferred. Please send all article queries to me at editor@eaiainfo.org.

— Megan Fitzpatrick, Editor

The Chronicle
The Early American Industries Association

The Society Educational Department
Henry O. Staley, Executive Director
Paul Wood, Appraiser for a Predatory Collector & Declarator
Bret Warr, Western Plains Opener
Timothy Spiller Black Bear Corporation, NMI’s Carpenter & Sea Captain
Sterling’s No. 3 1/2 Cross Box Plane

Volume 63 Number 1 December 2020
In Memoriam: Willis “Skip” Ernest Barshied Jr.

Skip Barshied passed away peacefully at home on the afternoon of January 6, 2020, surrounded by his friends. Born June 3, 1930, in Amsterdam, New York, to Margaret and Willis Barshied, Sr., Mr. Barshied spent his early life in Marshville, New York. His education included six years at the Marshville school. He graduated from Canajoharie High School in 1948. That same year, he married Ethel Nellis and moved with her to the Nellis Farm on Route 10. Like Skip, Ethel was from a long-established Palatine family. He resided in Stone Arabia for seventy years. Skip had a deep interest in the land and worked on the Nellis farm for ten years. For a few years, he was secretary of a small fire insurance company founded in the Town of Palatine in 1854. For twenty-eight years, he directed and helped restore the 18th-century Brower-Loucks-Dunn farm property in Stone Arabia.

Mr. Barshied was an accomplished historical preservationist. From a very early age he was engaged in collecting, preserving, restoring, and stewarding all forms of Mohawk Valley heritage—artifacts, sites, stories, and people. He was one of the founders and first president of a group which dedicated itself to the preservation of Fort Klock, near St. Johnsville, in 1954. Fort Klock and its surrounding complex is now one of a very few national landmarks in Montgomery County. He participated in the restoration of the Windfall Dutch Barn at Salt Springville and was the first chairman of the Trustees of Salt Springville Community Restoration. He restored the Conrad Kilts Farm at Stone Arabia, which includes a Dutch barn, circa 1790 Greek Revival house, summer kitchen, a relocated 18th-century house, and a relocated building used as a shoe shop. Many of those with an interest in the past and the area were proud to have been given personal tours of the beloved property.

Willis was a strong participant and leader in many important Mohawk Valley organizations. He was one of the founders of Stone Arabia Preservation Society as well as a Trustee of Canajoharie Library and art gallery. He spent many years helping the Young Pioneer Program at Fort Klock. He was a supporter and friend of the Stone Arabia Amish community. Many of his tools can be seen in the hands of this community today. He was an active part of the Town of Palatine citizenry and often informed the town board on ruling and events of the recent (and distant) past. In 2008, Mr. Barshied received the 2008 Liberty Bell Award from the Montgomery County Bar Association and the National Historic Preservation Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Skip’s collecting often focused on the families of Stone Arabia. He collections have been important for many in genealogy searches and those looking to learn more about the Palatine region of New York. Throughout his years, he authored various newspaper articles and historical narratives. He was the author of the book “Shoes for John,” the story of a Stone Arabia boy in the time of the American Revolution. Over the past few years, many of his unique historical tools and artifacts have had a weekly presence in the paper under the title of “Whatchmacallits.” Many of his musings and stories can still be enjoyed online at www.DutchBarnFarm.com/essaysbyskip.php.

His wife of 58 years, Ethel Nellis Barshied, predeceased him on November 10, 2006. His brother, Robert, and sister-in-law, Penny, also predeceased him. Mr. Barshied is survived by his son, Andy, and daughter-in-law, Maureen, who reside in Averill Park, New York. He has four wonderful grandchildren: Ben (and Claire) Barshied, of New York, New York; Mathew (and Lauren) Barshied of Ross, California; Gregory (and Alexandra) Barshied of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Kristen (and Tim) Shehan of Pleasant Valley, New York. His nephew Scott Barshied resides in Mechanicsville. At the time of his death, there are twelve children that called him Great-Grandpapa.

Services were held January 17, 2020. Donations in remembrance of Skip may be sent to Fort Klock, P.O. Box 42, St. Johnsville, NY 13452.
Short Subjects
Goodman’s British Planemakers, 4th Edition

E AIA member & Tools & Trades History Society president Jane Rees introduces a copy of her latest work, Goodman’s British Planemakers 4th Edition, to John Verrill, executive director of the EIA, at the Working Wood in the 18th C Symposium.

This edition contains fifty years of updates to the first work, which was published in 1968 by W. L. Goodman, and was originally titled British Planemakers From 1700. Jane and her late husband, Mark, edited and published the 3rd edition in 1993. This much updated reference directory contains biographies of over 2,400 plane makers with examples of their marks. The book is available online through Astragal Press.

Calendar of Events

**Delaware**

**Ongoing**

**Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, MA: Finding Your Chair’s Roots: Researching Objects and the People Who Owned Them.** Bartels Seminar Room, Flynt Center of Early New England Life. Objects with histories of ownership, or provenance, are valued by museums, historians, and collectors for their ability to serve as conduits to the past. Occasionally, however, the provenance of an object is greatly exaggerated or fabricated in order to increase its monetary value. Ever wonder how museums research the objects in their collection, and verify their ownership history? The process, known as provenance research, requires not only a familiarity with the objects themselves, but also knowledge of art historical and genealogical research. This course will provide participants with an introduction to the principles of provenance research, genealogical research methods and sources, and the rules of connoisseurship, so that they can better assess the age and authenticity of an object, and its likely owner. Particular emphasis will be placed on researching decorative art objects produced or used in America between 1650 and 1850. Participants will benefit from instruction in utilizing online genealogical databases and resources, and the opportunity to examine select objects from the museum’s collection.

**April 7**

**American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA: Patriot, Artisan, Entrepreneur, and Industrialist: Paul Revere’s Ride to Rolling Copper by Robert Martello.** Robert Martello explores how Paul Revere’s greatest role in building the new nation took place in workshops and manufactory’s via a lifetime of groundbreaking metallurgical work.

**Massachusetts**

**March 7, 14, 21**

**N Cutter Museum, Wilminton, DE: The Millrace: An Oral History Podcast.** The Millrace is a podcast where we explore the past through the voices of people who lived it. Inspired by Hagley’s 19th-century millrace—the water channel that powered the machinery on this site for over a hundred years—our podcast tells stories of enterprise and industry from Hagley’s oral history collections. For our inaugural series, we’re stepping back in time 100 years to 1918. Using interviews from the Brandywine Oral History Project, we’ll learn how the events of this explosive year changed the lives of the people who lived and worked along the Brandywine Creek. A new episode will air every other Friday, starting on August 31, 2018.

**Iowa**

**April 18**

**The Sawmill Museum, Clinton, IA: Demonstrations of a circular saw, with explanations of this method of sawing large logs into the lumber that was once shipped from Clinton down the Mississippi River.**

**Maryland**

**March 1**


**New Jersey**

**January 1–June 14**

**Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, MA: Finding Your Chair’s Roots: Researching Objects and the People Who Owned Them.** Bartels Seminar Room, Flynt Center of Early New England Life. Objects with histories of ownership, or provenance, are valued by museums, historians, and collectors for their ability to serve as conduits to the past. Occasionally, however, the provenance of an object is greatly exaggerated or fabricated in order to increase its monetary value. Ever wonder how museums research the objects in their collection, and verify their ownership history? The process, known as provenance research, requires not only a familiarity with the objects themselves, but also knowledge of art historical and genealogical research. This course will provide participants with an introduction to the principles of provenance research, genealogical research methods and sources, and the rules of connoisseurship, so that they can better assess the age and authenticity of an object, and its likely owner. Particular emphasis will be placed on researching decorative art objects produced or used in America between 1650 and 1850. Participants will benefit from instruction in utilizing online genealogical databases and resources, and the opportunity to examine select objects from the museum’s collection.

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**Minnesota**

**April 17–18**

**Lie-Nielsen Hand Tool Event, St. Cloud, MN:** Free and open to the public. Hosted by the Central Minnesota Woodworker’s Association, 248 33rd Ave South, Waite Park, MN 56387

**Ohio**

**April 25**

**Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum, Sugar Creek, OH:** The Ferroequinologist Tour. An extended three-hour-long guided tour of the...
Age of Steam Roundhouse, including our collection of steam locomotives, restoration shop, turntable, machine shop, and store house. This tour is an in-depth look at the technical aspects concerning steam engineering, locomotive mechanics, industrial heritage, railroad history, and roundhouse architecture. (* A person who studies trains.)

**Pennsylvania**

**April 3-4**

Brown Tool Auction, Camp Hill, PA: The semiannual antique tool auction and tool sale at the Radisson is a favorite for those seeking tools for collections or for using in the shop. Tool sale with many vendors is held on Friday and the Antique Tool Auction begins on Saturday morning.

**Vermont**

**Ongoing**

The American Precision Museum, Windsor, VT: Exhibit: Shaping America. Our signature exhibit, Shaping America, explores how the machinists and tool builders of this region’s “Precision Valley” played an important role in determining the course of American history. The exhibit examines how advancements in machining drove industrialization, changed the face of war, and allowed for the development of our modern consumer culture.

**Ottawa, Canada**

*January 1-December 31*

Canada Science & Technical Museum, Ottawa, ON, Canada: Permanent Exhibition: Artifact Alley is the dazzling centre hall of the Canada Science and Technology Museum. Encompassing eight distinctly-themed cases and the Demo Stage, Artifact Alley is the museum’s backbone. More than 700 artifacts are on display—arranged as stand-alone pieces or in artful groups. From vehicles to cameras to telescopes to trade literature, the breadth and beauty of the museum’s collection is front and centre here. Visitors will experience an immersive winter scene, take the wheel of a ship, and see how science and technology figure into our daily lives. Get hands-on with real woodworking tools, discover old technologies that can now be found as apps on a smartphone, take command of a sci-fi spacecraft, and more!

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**WILLIAM McMILLEN**

Restoration/Preservation Consultant

3 Timber Lane
Glenmont NY 12077
518-462-1264
email: judytb@aol.com

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2020 Auction Schedule

March 20th & 21st: Marriot Indianapolis East
April 17th & 18th Radisson Hotel, Nashua
July 16th, 17th, & 18th, World Headquarters, Avoca, New York
September 13th & 14th, Radisson Hotel, Nashua
October 30th & 31st: Marriot Indianapolis East

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