The story behind a journeyman carpenter's tool chest
Story on page 10.
Tool chest photograph by Edward Engelkes.
Dedicated Member Will Be Missed

It is indeed with regret that I report to you that we lost a good friend and dedicated member on Feb. 3 with the death of Don Tubman. Don was our vice president of meeting planning and also the host with his wife, Sue, of the forthcoming Green Bay national meeting. We shall miss Don as a friend and associate.

The Board of Directors has elected Doug Cox as our vice president of meeting planning. Doug has served in many areas of our association’s work and will take hold and run with his new responsibilities. He will need your help and my request is that all of you come forward to do so. Larry Thorson, one of the directors in Area B, has stepped up to the plate to host the Green Bay meeting in Wisconsin and has assembled a great team to make the June meeting a success.

It is a pleasure to report that our membership appears to have stabilized and, in fact, shows a modest growth. On March 31 our membership was 3,641, up 47 members compared to the same date in 2002. The growth that we have is a direct result of stronger participation by our area directors, members and the Membership Committee. Ed Hobbs, vice president of our areas of membership, with his committee of Norm Heckman, Dick Chapman, Don Bosse and Ron Pearson are working on several programs to develop growth and retention.

The Board of Directors approved a new program for the 2003 dues year providing for a higher level of membership on a voluntary basis. The program has, in my opinion, already become a success. As of this writing, we have received 216 individual contributions in excess of the basic dues for a total dollar amount of $6,400.

See you in Green Bay.

Willie Royal

from the president

JUNE, 2003 • No. 111

in this issue

Area Meets... Reports and photographs from M-WTCA’s area meets around the country. Page 4.

Cover Story The story behind a journeyman carpenter’s tool chest. Cover photo by Edward Engelkes. Page 10.

A Gem A stick pin gets passed down through the generations from the creator of the Panther saw. Page 16.

D.R. Barton An account of the various plow planes produced by this edge tool manufacturer. Page 22.


Auxiliary The stories behind winning displays. Page 32.
**Mid-West Tool Collectors Association National Meetings**

### Spring, 2003

### Fall, 2003

#### M-WTCA Area & Other Meetings

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<tr>
<td>Area I Meeting</td>
<td>July 19, 2003</td>
<td>Bedford, TX. Gregor Mszar (817) 937-5475.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area E Meeting</td>
<td>Aug. 3, 2003</td>
<td>LaFox, IL. Dick Chapman (815) 492-2124.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Area F Meeting</td>
<td>Aug. 24, 2003</td>
<td>South Whitley, IN. Jan Cover (765) 523-3560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocky Mtn,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest, PAST Meeting</td>
<td>Aug. 29-30, 2003</td>
<td>Bill McDougall (505) 344-9272.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area A &amp; B Meeting</td>
<td>Sept. 13-14, 2003</td>
<td>LaCrosse, WI. Larry Thorson (608) 788-7753.</td>
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<td>Area D Meeting</td>
<td>Sept. 21, 2003</td>
<td>Cosgrove, IA. Jim Escher (319) 656-3931.</td>
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<td>Area F Meeting</td>
<td>Oct. 11, 2003</td>
<td>Odon, IN. Joe Pernis (812) 636-7553.</td>
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<td>Area Q Meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 1, 2003</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC. Bob Fields (704) 393-1282.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area E Meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 2003</td>
<td>Virden, IL. Jim Moffet (217) 499-7358.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area N Meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 21-22, 2003</td>
<td>Blountstown, FL. Willard Smith (850) 674-8055. EIA Joint Meet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Dates must be cleared with Gary Johnson (815) 636-1464. E-mail tinstools1@aol.com.

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**Membership Update**

By Ed Hobbs

Thank you, thank you, thank you! For the first time in a couple of years, M-WTCA has more members as of March 31 of this year than it had as of March 31 last year. I think this goes to show what our “Membership Team” can do with a little work.

Who is on the Membership Team? Well, it is every person in M-WTCA. Whether you are a dealer that sends out information on M-W with a shipment, an individual that takes the time to approach someone who has an interest in antique tools, a director that holds meetings or sends out a reminder letter or someone that in some way promotes the benefits of being a member of M-W, everyone is a part of this very important team.

In my experience, success breeds success. So keep up the great work. Together we can and will make a difference.

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**It’s Time to Nominate Directors in Most Areas**

By George Wanamaker

Mid-West Tool Collectors will elect directors in 16 of the organization’s 18 areas.

Elections will be held in Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, M, N, O, P, Q and R. Two directors will be elected in each of Areas E, F and J. There will be no election in Areas H and L. The outgoing directors in Areas A, B, C, D, E(2), F(2), J(2), K, M, N and O have served two terms and are not eligible to run this year. These areas will need a new person to fill the position or positions of director.

Nominations will be accepted from June until the end of July. A nomination form is included in this issue of The Gristmill. If you wish to nominate a member for director, please ask that person first, and if he or she agrees, fill out the nomination form and return it to George Wanamaker so it arrives by Aug. 2. If more than two people are nominated, the two with the highest number of nominations will be placed on the ballot for a vote in the area. Thus, every nomination is important.

Now is the time for all members to think about a person in their area who would make a good representative to help run the business of the organization. Directors in all areas should have at least one person they have started to groom for these positions. If no nominations are received from an area, the area’s senior director will be contacted to find a candidate or candidates for the vacant positions. Should that be the case, directors are asked to be ready with a nomination.

Please nominate a member from your area; don’t leave it to the other person to do.
Snow Fun
Area F Meet Barely Beats the Winter Weather

By Matt Borders

Winter in Indiana is always a display of extremes, often coinciding with Area F’s spring meeting in Brown County State Park. Over the years I have attended this meeting I have experienced almost every type of weather the Hooiser State has to offer, but this year was wild even by our standards.

Temperatures in the forties on Friday began to drop late in the day with rain moving in to accentuate the chill. Of course, I was so engrossed in the indoor activities that I paid little heed to the goings on outdoors. Though attendance was down slightly this year, there were still plenty of tools for me to “play with” as my 2-year-old son, Lane, so aptly puts it. According to him, everything I do is a variety of play; from playing in my workshop to playing at the hardware store where (at least in my opinion) I work. Come to think of it, my boss often seems to share Lane’s assessment of my activities.

In addition to the usual distraction of tools, this year I was doubly preoccupied because I was asked to demonstrate my skills at a panel raising Friday after lunch. As many of you know, speaking to a group after lunch has its good and bad points. On the one hand that time slot ensures few if any hecklers. On the other hand, the combination of a good meal and a comfortable chair contributes more to the good manners of an audience than their interest in the topic, and Bill Marlow has provided me with several photographs to prove my point. Apparently, several of you were either lost in contemplation of my words of wisdom or fast asleep. I can’t quite tell from the pictures but I’ll assume the former.

Friday night’s speaker was Jack Devitt, author of a book on Ohio toolmakers as well as an upcoming work on their Hooiser counterparts. I was unfortunately called away during Jack’s presentation [Daddy Duty] and I apologize to him for having to leave in the middle. Contrary to popular opinion, I did not leave because I was flunking the quiz on Indiana history he was giving. Honest.

Saturday morning brought an intensification of both rain and cold, as well as a most interesting talk by my friend Ted Robertson. Ted builds harpsichords for a living in Ellettsville, IN, and brought several slides of his work to share with us. Ted also figures prominently in the final act of our weather drama.

Saturday afternoon we had some time to kill between teardown of the room and the banquet that evening, so my wife, Celena, and I accompanied Ted into Nashville to look for a particular type of paint he was told was available there. His sources proved incorrect and, while we had a good time, we mostly succeeded in getting thoroughly soaked.

At the banquet that evening, we noticed fewer people than expected. Upon inquiring, we were told that snow was expected and many people had headed for home. One look out the window confirmed that rain, not snow, was still steadily falling and that coupled with the weatherman’s historic inaccuracy, convinced us to stay. After all, what could happen in two hours?

Donald Davidson, the official historian of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, was the speaker that evening. Always an enjoyable lecturer, Davidson regaled us with anecdotes and trivia about the greatest spectacle in racing, many in the audience trying unsuccessfully to stump him with trivia questions.

As the meeting broke up, Ted left a few minutes ahead of Celena and I as we lingered to say our good-byes. Imagine our surprise when upon emerging from the inn, we found that the rain of two hours ago had changed to snow, some four inches having already fallen in that brief time. As we made our way out of the parking lot and up the hill we discovered two vehicles off the road. One turned out to be Ted, whose van had slid down an embankment to the left; the other contained Ralph Porter and Tim Bonelli, off the road to the right.

To abbreviate the story, suffice it to say that we spent an extra night in Brown County State Park. I had a most enjoyable conversation with Ralph as we sat by the fireplace in the inn, waiting for the tow truck. Thankfully, no one was hurt and Ralph’s car sustained only minor damage, though I guess we’ll all listen a little more closely to the weatherman next time.

Speaking of next time, Joe Greiwe has asked me to take over for him next year. Joe has done a wonderful job the last few years and thankfully has agreed to stay on and show me the ropes, though his shoes will be awfully hard to fill.

Due to the exorbitant costs associated with holding a meeting in the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park next year’s meeting will be held in the Canyon Inn in McCormick’s Creek State Park. Though both inns are comparable in almost every respect, the costs are significantly less and more in line with our budget. We’re looking forward to a great meeting in a new location, and I hope to see you all there next Feb. 13 and 14.

M-WTCA Area A Cabin Fever Meet

On Feb. 8 in Medina, MN, Area A once again held its annual Cabin Fever meet. This meet has always been a most popular meet, and 2003 was no exception, with 173 tool collectors and spouses attending. Many familiar faces were seen, as well as several new. Out of state members braved the cold and traveled from Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Illinois, Nebraska, New York and even Missouri.

The tables soon filled, and at 8:30 sharp, tools began trading hands. At 1:30 the consignment auction began, consisting of more than 300 lots, including 150 hand planes from the collection of Ed Hirte.

Several door prizes were donated as gifts to those attending. Among them was a subscription to the Fine Tool Journal from Clarence Blanchard, auction catalogs from Martin Donnelly, several
Wayne Anderson (left) presenting plane door prize to Jim Keats at the Area A Cabin Fever meeting.

models to illustrate his talk. There was no doubt in anyone's mind when he referred to saw teeth, saw set, etc. It was a great way to present a subject. Dave Heckel, always an interesting and knowledgeable speaker, filled in many gaps in the study of the Stanley 45 plane.

Heckel won first place for the largest collection of 5-ounce hammers. Very impressive. Display awards also went to Bill Morgan, crate opening tools, second, and Dick Cummings, rope machines and shaker boxes, third. President Willie Royal and wife Jean had the daunting task of picking the ugliest tool. George Warren won the honor and a huge second hand trophy for an old beat-up jack plane.

Tailgating closed at 2 p.m. Thursday, but toolers were outside in the cold waiting for the opening bell at 7 a.m. the next morning. After that, the buzz of tool collectors on the hunt rose to new heights.

Next year's meeting is scheduled for the first weekend in February.

Area I Experts Make Owner of Caliper Happy

By Emery L Goad

A rea I's 16th annual Ground Hog Day tool meet drew a record crowd, 200

Continued on page 6
MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP NEWS & MISCELLANY

AREA MEETS

Area I
Continued from page 5

people, with 71 tables laden with tools.

Part of the program included free appraisals for the public. One man brought a tool from his garage wall that had belonged to his grandfather because he didn't know what it was.

It turned out to be a Stanley caliper made for the Internal Revenue Service and which lists in John Walters' book at $3,000 to $5,000.

The owner knew his grandfather had worked as a still inspector for the IRS, so the appraisal made the tool a real treasure.

Among the member appraisers were nationally recognized authorities on levels, woodworking planes, implement and adjustable wrenches, plumb bobs, rules, machinist tools and railroad tools before 1900.

The meeting was held at the Northwest Arkansas Holiday Inn Convention Center in Springdale, AR.

EAIA Workshops Seek Participants

Early American Industries Association still has openings in its summer tools and trades workshops.

Master tradesmen will conduct hands-on one-day workshops in 11 trades July 14-18 at Eastfield Village historic site in New York. Tinsmithing, surveying, coopering, splint basket making, blacksmithing, granite cutting, letterpress printing, cabinetmaking, historic paneling, wooden moldings and sashmaking will be offered.

For more information, contact Elton Hall at (508) 993-9578 or email eaia@fastdial.net.

Joint M-WTCA Area Q and EAIA Summer Meeting

By Ed Hobbs

The annual M-WTCA Area Q and EAIA Summer Meeting will be held in Raleigh, NC, on July 26 at Ed Hobbs' Farm.

Each year this "Annual Rite of Summer" draws a growing number of those interested in tool collecting and early industries from all over the East Coast. It is an opportunity to buy and sell tools, hear a very interesting program, participate in the tool auction, trade stories, eat great BBQ and generally relax under the shade of the barns and pecan trees. While primarily a Saturday event, some early birds come in on Friday afternoon to set up, check things out and/or to park their motor homes or campers. In 2002, more than 240 people attended the meeting.

The program this year will be on building muzzle-loading rifles from scratch. John Braxton, a master craftsman who has been building muzzle loaders and related items for many years, will give a demonstration and presentation on the subject. In addition, we may be able to get a tour of Historic Yates Mill, the early restored gristmill which was the subject of last year's program. Area Q is currently building a quern, a hand-operated gristmill, and plans to present it to the mill to assist in its educational programs.

Because of the increasing number of people attending, again this year, pre-registration will be required to ensure we have adequate food and facilities. The farm is located just south of Raleigh off I-40. There is plenty of room for all, and we can guarantee there will not be any snow or cold weather and the BBQ will melt in your mouth.

Notices will be sent to all M-WTCA and EAIA members in North and South Carolina and Virginia. For more information, contact Ed Hobbs at (919) 828-2754 (hobbosed@msn.com), Ray Hoke at (919) 876-8512 (rayhoke@cs.com) or Robert Oehman at (919) 858-8506 (roehman@intrax.net)

A Missing Tool

Dick Cummings is hoping for the return of a Klein 4-inch spud wrench that was stolen in February in Webster, FL.

If collectors see one for sale, he asks that they call him at (248) 722-4418 or (248) 852-4311. Cummings lives in Rochester Hills, MT.
Fred A. Curry was the educational marketing representative for Stanley Tools of New Britain, CT. He was a supporter of Stanley tool collecting and research, and a longtime member of M-WTCA. He freely shared his knowledge about the operations of the Stanley Tool Co. to the members of M-WTCA with many presentations and displays. The information he shared with Stanley collectors was invaluable.

Fred died in 1992, and the Fred Curry Award was created in his honor. Its purpose is to encourage members to collect and more importantly, display their Stanley tools, and in the spirit of Fred Curry continue to share their knowledge with other collectors. The symbol of the award is a Stanley Gold Hammer.

The Fred Curry Award is given at our national meetings, for the best Stanley tool display. The award plaque itself has been special in that it was a gold-plated Stanley hammer, mounted on the award plaque. These hammers were made up and purchased from Stanley. We have just one of the hammers left.

We contacted Stanley about acquiring more and we were informed that they did not have any, and were not going to make more.

The feasibility of buying a hammer and having it plated was looked into, however, that would be too costly. The following solution was decided upon by the Display and Awards Committee to be the best use of the last Gold Hammer, and what will be done about the Fred Curry Award in the future.

A large award plaque will be made. It will have the last Gold Hammer on it, an explanation of the award and nameplates with every award winner affixed to it. It will be taken to each national meet and set up on a table with the displays. This large plaque will allow members, new and old, to read who Fred Curry was, why the award was conceived, and why it is coveted by the members who knew him. The size of the plaque would allow many years of winners' names to be displayed on it.

The award winners from this point forward will receive a Fred Curry Award plaque with a hammer engraved on it.

-Display and Awards Committee

Donald W. Tubman

Donald Tubman, vice president of meeting planning for the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association, died unexpectedly of cancer on Feb. 3 at St. Mary’s Medical Center, Racine. He was 68.

A longtime active member of M-WTCA, he had served as a director and had been host of the annual Area B meeting in St. Francis, WI, for a number of years. He and his wife, Sue, were to be hosts of the semiannual national meeting at Green Bay in June.

President Willie Royal said his immediate reaction when he learned of Don’s death was one of sadness and emptiness. “The loss of an associate and friend always leaves a void in our lives. In Don’s case, it left a large one. Don personified the meaning of a friend.

“He was dedicated to the affairs of M-WTCA and was at the same time a fun-loving friend that made you want to associated with him and be in his presence. It was, indeed, a pleasure to have known Don. We will surely miss him.”

Those thoughts were echoed by many, including his good friends, Milo and Arlene Frischen, who said the organization has lost a very dedicated member. And more personally, “We have truly lost a dear friend and travel companion. Don enjoyed working with people and wanted to help make a difference. He enjoyed life to the fullest. The memories of our tool convention trips, antique shopping and more will never be forgotten.”

Don was also active in his community. At the time of his death, he was president of the Yorkville, WI, School Board and had been a member of the board for 30 years. He also was a member of the Racine County Agricultural Society for 25 years, serving as secretary; Union Grove Lions Club, serving two terms as president; Town of Yorkville Long Range Planning Committee; Town of Yorkville Sewer Commission; Town of Yorkville Water Commission, and Union Grove Cemetery Board. He was a member of Early American Industries Association.

He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1957. He was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Don opened Grove Insurance Agency in Union Grove in 1981. Prior to that, he was employed at Marshall Field and Company.

Don and Sue were married June 23, 1956, and often celebrated their wedding anniversary at the spring national meeting. Survivors include two sons, James (Joanne) Tubman, and Jonathan (Jill) Tubman; five grandchildren, one sister, and Mollie, the Collie.

Sue wished to express her thanks to members who sent flowers and memorials. Memorials were suggested to the Lions Leader Dog for the Blind Program, 1039 S. Rochester Road, Rochester, MI 48307 or Wisconsin Lions Foundation, 3834 County Road A, Rosholt, WI 54473.

Memorial services were held Feb. 6 at the funeral home in Union Grove followed by burial in Union Grove Cemetery.
At membership renewal time the following members have elected a higher level of membership or have made additional gifts as a way of providing added income to M-WTCA. This extra income is particularly welcome during these times of low interest rates. The Board of Directors will use these funds to support existing programs or fund new needed programs. We are very appreciative of Bill & Barbara Collins Joe programs or fund new needed pro-

Richard L. & Patricia Chapman
Jan A. & Karen H. Cover
Henry Kirke & Janet J. Cushing
Jim & Carole Davis
Emmet E. & June Delay
Donald W. & Patricia Devine
Mark A. DeVito
Howard W. Diamond
Thomas & Sara Dugan
James & Hillery Durochina
Eve Ebersole
Dell Edwards
Gene B. & Mary Anne Epting
Carlton K. & Susan Falher
Alan L. & Rose Betty
Bob Patsy Fields
John & Frances Fite
Bob & Corie Francis Sr.
Dennis Freund
Dennis Fuller
Alvin & Phyllis Fetter
C. Barnes & freshly Gardner II
Martin Gardner
Christopher & Bonita Garrett
Wayne & Ann Grasmer
Jim Gehring
David & Cathy Gengozian
Ed & Alice Gentry
Richard & Patricia Gilliland
Robert & Joey Gilmore
Ronnie Glover
Chalmers Gordon
Wallace & Eleanor Gordon
Dr. Paul E. & Maryln Gorham
Jeff Gray
Steven Gretter
Rod Griffith
Jerry & Jane Grismer
Wesley & Lisa Groot
Jeff Grothaus
Karl Gullick
Jonathan & Merrill Hanke
Eugene R. & June L. Hanson
Chuck & Ruth Ann Hartman
Peter J. Donna Hathaway
William & Gerry Hejna
Thomas A. Henry

Heinz K. Hilmer
Alan Hochhalter
Donald E. Hoffmaster
James & Paulette Humphrey
David & Jeanne Jeffers
Joe & Christina C. Jenkins
Duane & Jean Johnson
Tom & Carol Jordens
Patrick & Kathy Joy
Philip O. Keirstead
Ashley Kennedy
Joe & Linda Kunz
Don Lauria
Harold & Mary Anna Liberty Jr.
George F. & Laura L. Luteri
Albie A. & Martha Lyman Jr.
Arthur Macc Jr.
Ralph & Betty Jean MacLachlan
Georgie Malby
James & Pat Mau
Lewis & Joan McDonald Jr.
John & Barbara McKean
William & Judith McMillen
John & Veronica Mencely
William & Elizabeth Morgan
Sanford & Barbara Moss
Norman C. & Bertha Muchebauer
Robert & Elizabeth Mustain Jr.
James F. & Norma Nabor's
James & Kathy Nelson
Timm & Hearn
Beth & Elizabeth Packer
Stering & Patricia Pennman
Robert L. & Alice Petrovic
Charles L. & Betty Pettett
Roger & Eleanor Phillips
Tom H. Pointer
Herb Proffit
A. David & Shirley Rawls
Paul & Arlene Remelius
E.J. (Al) & Elaine Renier
Ashton T. & Stephanie Reynolds
Ed & Laverna Richards
Robert C. & Marietta Riese
Norma Rigler
Raymond & Patricia Rozell
Frank J. Scheibert
Dennis Schiltke
Wolfgang Schmidt
Nanette Schulte
Michael & Ann L. Sepstson
George & Theodora Shackleton Sr.
R. Judd & Nancy Sherman
Greg & Cindy Simpson
Roger K. & Marsha Smith
Mark Snyder
Leo & Mitzi Stambaugh
Harold & Beth Stiffler
Neil & Barb Stoll
Mary Lou Stover
W.L. (Bill) & Kristi Stover
Gary & Terri Studebaker
Dean & Sandra Sutton
Ronald L. & Kathleen Switzer

Additional Gifts

Thomas M. & Jane Blaisdell
Fred K. & Nancy Brackbill
Tom & Carol Bramscher
William S. & Kathleen Brooks
Aison & Maxine Catledge
Richard P. Janet Cunningham
Richard D. & Sue Dickerson
Alfred & Charlene Dobberfield
Nason J. & Sandra S. Donahue
David Foster
Wayne H. Hatz
Dennis J.R. & Barbara Hodgson
Jared & Linda Isaacs
Mike & Katie Lamarr
Herman & Alice Leonhardt
Jack & Ann McDaniel
Ray & Gloria McDonald
Steven W. Neale
Philip L. & Marsh R Platt
John A. & Sandi Reed
Patrick M. & Gloria Remehan
Allen & Susan Roderick
Clifford & Annette Sapienza
Dick Schusler
Siegfried & Renate Snyder
Peter J. & Cassie Strasser
Thom & Paulette Trail
David Paul Trueblood
Paul & Eileen Van Pernis
Roy & Diane Verner
Verne E. & Laverne Vollrath
William H. & Carol Whowell
Leo T. & Dolores Winckler

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Arkansas
Harreld, Jack Bella - Vista
Lybrand, Jerry - Pine Bluff

California
Connell, Brian La Crescenta
Grater, Gerry - Arcadia
Hoffman, Russell - El Cajon
Kugelberg, Don - Rossmoor
Van Der Voort, Henry - Corte Madera

Colorado
Hickey, Mark - Aurora

Connecticut
Watton, Fletcher - Aurora

Florida
Blanchard, Clarence - Jensen Beach
Burnidge, William B. - Jupiter
Cramer, Brett - Fort Lauderdale
Fitzpatrick, Gary - Orlando
Gathers, Jeffrey - Orlando
Marretta, John - Valrico
Murphy, Hayes - Saint Petersburg
Newsm, Arthur C. - Webster
Rubright, David - Apopka
Sciame, Virginia - Odessa
Varner, Thomas - Sanford
Vernik, Zenon - Zephyrhills
Williams, Bruce - Palm Beach Gardens

Georgia
McMillen Jr., Earl - Eatonton
Miles, Jack - Madison
Raymo, Randy - Converse
Scott, Richard - Macon
Small, Jim - Madison

Illinois
Baxie, Pauline - Barrington Hills
Craft, John S. - Lewisville
Davison, Mary - Glen Ellyn
Garrett, Robert - Highland Park
Hoffman, Charles - Joliet
Horney, Robert - Romeoville
Kabes, Michael - Richfield
Kubes, Michael - Chicago
Ost, Julius - Montevideo
Ostergard, Lee - Forest Lake
Peterson, Wes - Minneapolis
Schnittke, Dave - Shakopee
Stein, Richard - Waconia
Williams, Bruce - Palm Beach Gardens

Indiana
Amrhein, Gary - Deput
Bunzendahl, Dan - Connersville
Hyatt, Zach - Indianapolis
Johnson, Edward - Hope
Krysevich, Albert - Delphi
Mansfield, Tony - Palmyra
McCullough, David G. - Frankfort
Mohr, Tod - Roanoke
Paulus, Melvin - Odon

Iowa
Bergan, William - Ridgeway
Cupo, Michael E. - S. Plainfield

Kansas
Ferguson, Terry - Concordia
Gendre, Paul - Clay Center
Martin, Joseph P. - Topeka
Nixon, Roger - Saint Marys

Kentucky
Brungin, Walter O. - Louisville
Hester, Ernie - Louisville
Rawlings, Bill - Flemingsburg
Young, R. Brown - Nicholasville

Louisiana
Rivera, Adam - Baton Rouge

Maryland
Choyce, Jerry - Mount Airy
Ferris, Robert - Baltimore
Van Hart, Bruce E. - Prince Frederick

Massachusetts
Brooks, Ralph E. - Foxboro

Michigan
Cerny, Jack - Vermontville

Minnesota
Abrahamson, Jan - Minneapolis
Bergstrom, Thomas - New Brighton
Brinkman, Barry - Vadnais Heights
Erickson, Peter - Plymouth
Foster, James - Ham Lake
Fraedrich, Ted - Minneapolis

Missouri
Asman, Charles - Street
Churchill, Michael L. - Columbia
Cooper, Patrick - Independence

Nebraska
Dalton, Jim - Omaha
New Jersey
Cupo, Michael E. - S. Plainfield

New Mexico
Earnhart, J.E. - Eunice

New York
Middlebrook, Daryl - Penn Yan

North Carolina
Craft, John S. - Lewisville

Ohio
Koons, D.C. - Bucyrus

Pennsylvania
Armstrong, David - Murrysville
Bendirsky, Scott - Millersville
Connell, Brian - Elizabethtown

Rhode Island
Collington, Robert W. - Cranston

South Carolina

Tennessee
Downing, Mark - Oak Ridge
Maddux, Owen - Signal Mountain

Texas
Akerley, Brent - Lake Geneva
Cooper, Theodore W. - Waukesha

Utah
Meyer, Gary - New Baden

Vermont

Virginia
Abrahamson, Jan - Minneapolis
Bergstrom, Thomas - New Brighton

Wisconsin
Abrahamson, Jan - Minneapolis
Bergstrom, Thomas - New Brighton

You're welcome!

Historical Artifacts

A sampling of 18th-century tools, including a carpenter's square and bit brace. In 1759 Washington wrote to his British agent requesting a large number of woodworking tools. He specified a brace like this example, and it is the earliest known documentation of an order from the colonies for an English brace with a metal, spring-catch chuck. Gifts of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association.

An English bit brace, one of many tools donated by members of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association.

This photo and credit to M-WTCA were published in the 2001 annual report of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.
COVER STORY

John A. Engstrom, Journeyman Carpenter
– The Man and His Tool Chest –

By Al Renier

A s we all know, there is more to tool collecting than just collecting tools. It’s the history of the people behind those tools that intrigues us.

When my telephone rang almost four years ago, little did I realize that I was about to embark on an engaging and gratifying investigation that would take until now to complete.

The caller was Bob Ahlrichs. Bob, a longtime member of M-WTCA, lives in Pocahontas, IA. He was calling to find out if I would be interested in looking at, and possibly buying, an old tool chest and some old tools. He was making the call for Wilbur “Web” Ekstrand, a friend of his in Pocahontas.

Linda Engstrom, a cousin of Web’s wife, Marian, owned the tool chest and tools, which had belonged to her grandfather, John A. Engstrom. It seemed that Linda, who lived in Woodbury, MN, was interested in disposing of them. Bob gave me the telephone number of Don Ekstrand, Web’s son, who happened to be in the Twin Cities area, on furlough from a mission in Japan at the time. I contacted Don, and it was only a matter of minutes before Linda’s address was obtained and a date and time arranged for us to meet.

When I first saw the chest and tools, I was disappointed. The tools were few and the chest was dirty and in need of a lot of TLC. Although there was the usual space provided for a set of wooden molding planes in the chest, they had apparently found other homes. The same was true for any bench planes, a brace and bits. The same was true for any bench planes, a brace and bits and many of the other tools one would expect to find with the chest.

Needless to say, we quickly arrived at a mutually agreeable price and when I left for home that evening, the chest and the tools were in my van. Linda also provided me with a number of her grandfather’s pictures and documents that she thought I might find interesting.

Fig.1. House in Sweden where John A. Engstrom was born.

Later that night, while perusing the documents, I realized that in many ways John A. Engstrom’s life experiences paralleled my grandfather’s, and that of thousands of other immigrants from the Nordic countries and Europe who had settled in the Midwest during the late 19th and early 20th century. It was apparent that John had many unique talents and contributed greatly to the development of his new country. As I continued to read, on into the morning, I knew I had to learn more about this man, and when I later began the restoration of his tool chest my search started.

His Life

Cajsa Anders’ daughter, wife of Anders Anderson, gave birth to Johan Anderson in a small house (fig. 1) in Mellerata Delan in Varmiand, Varuskags Sweden, on Oct. 21, 1859. He was the youngest of four boys and had two sisters. He changed his name to John A. Engstrom when he came to America.

Family documents record that although John was raised in a typical Nordic way of “First Work Then Play” he spent many happy days with his brothers, playing ball in the summer and skating in the moonlight on the nearby lake during long winter nights.

In 1868, when John was 9 years old, his family moved from Krossegurd to Strand, where they rented a small house on a large estate for 250 kroner a year. They paid the rent by having members of the family work on the estate for 1 kroner a day. They were a very poor family, and by 1872 owed their estate owner landlord 80 kroner. It is recorded, that the landlord took John’s father’s horse and sold it at auction to pay off the debt.

Shortly thereafter, John’s father went to the Northland to work while John’s mother and the younger children went to live with a widower who needed domestic help. His two older brothers joined their father five years later. It was during this period that John learned to read and write and as his older brother, Gustav, states “they studied catechism, bible, history, geography, biology and maps.”

It was customary, that at Christmas time the king and queen of Sweden would ask the poorest of the poor to perform for them. The boys were asked to sing a song, and after singing, they each received a kroner. They must have had good voices, as they were asked to perform again the following year.

In 1879, after working for seven years in Northland, John’s father returned, bought a house and two cows, and the family was once again together in Varmiand.

It was probably during this period that the boys apprenticed at their various trades - Gustav as a mason and John as a carpenter - and by 1880, like so many others in similar circumstances, they all got “American Fever” and started to make their preparations for the trip to America.

Although John was the youngest, he was the first of the four boys to leave for America, arriving in the United States in June of 1881. He was 22 years old when
he established his residence in St. Paul, MN.

In his autobiography, John's brother Gustav states that the others followed John to America on a small cattle boat in December 1882, sailing from England to Montreal in 14 days and 4 hours. From there they traveled by train to Chicago, where they went through immigration and spent that winter working at odd jobs. In the spring of 1883, Gustav moved to Grand Rapids, MI, to live with relatives of the girl he had married prior to leaving Sweden. His brother, Charles, traveled to St. Paul to be with John.

There is no documentation still available to record just what John and Charles did during the next few years, but John was probably working at his trade as a journeyman carpenter. They both must have been doing quite well as they decided to get married. Charles married Christina Elizabeth Nilson in 1884 and John married Carolina Strom in St. Paul on Aug. 30, 1890. Carolina was born in Sweden on April 14, 1861. He was 31 and she was 29 at the time.

Three years later, on March 27, 1893, Carolina gave birth to their daughter, Ruth, in St. Paul. She was born during a period of depression and work was scarce.

That same year, John and Charles moved with their families to a farm on which they had previously built a house large enough to hold both families. It was located between Princeton and Cambridge, at Maple Ridge. They were going to be farmers. Records show that a year later, they were called upon to help fight the historic 1894 fire at nearby Hinckley, MN.

John's daughter, Ruth, records in her autobiography that her Uncle Charlie didn't like farming and soon moved his family back to St. Paul, while she remained on the farm with her mother and father.

John received his citizenship papers on April 5, 1898, in Princeton, MN, County of Mille Lacs.

One month later, on May 14, his wife Carolina died, and after making arrangements for the care of his daughter, who was only 5 years old at the time and went to live with a Mrs. Rodberg of Maple Ridge, he returned to St. Paul to once again began working as the journeyman carpenter he had been trained to be.

John was initiated into Local 87, city of Saint Paul, MN, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (fig. 2) on Feb. 4, 1902. His union record shows that his monthly dues were 35 cents. By 1926, they had increased to $1.50 per month.

He was an active union member and on April 6, 1919, he wrote a letter to the editor of the Daily News. In it, he took issue with the editorial of March 23, which had apparently supported the manner in which Civil Service examinations were being given. His dues book for 1922 lists him as a trustee.

Highlights of his exciting career, from 1901 to about the end of 1928, are discussed in the following section "His Time Books."

Documentation records that for a number of years after Carolina died John made trips to Grand Rapids, MI, to visit his brother, Gustav.

On Nov. 10, 1909 John married Eda Wallin. Eda was born in Sweden on May 9, 1878, and when her father died in 1892, her mother sent her and her sisters to live with relatives in Grand Rapids. Eda's older sister, Augusta, was the wife of John's brother, Gustav.

John and Eda lived at 728 Sims St. in St. Paul. Their only son, John Alden Engstrom, Linda's father, was born on Nov. 21, 1915, in St. Paul.

In 1927, while working on a friend's roof, John fell and injured his leg. The accident left him with one leg shorter than the other, and the fall apparently ended his traveling and somewhat curtailed his career as a carpenter.

John A. Engstrom died Aug. 11, 1936, at the age of 77 and was buried at the Union Cemetery in Maplewood, MN.

His Time Books
John was a meticulous man and maintained detailed time books. Books (Fig. 3) in which he recorded hours worked and his hourly rate on a daily basis. Two of the time books were still with the chest. No doubt there had been others. A typical page, for the period June 1901 through December 1902, is shown in Figure 4. Note that the record not only records the days on which he worked but also the days he didn't. In addition, it provides us with notes that pertain to where he was working, some of his activities and his concerns.

As I continued to study them, page after page, they began to reveal a great deal about the character of the man, his work ethics and the extent of his activities. For example, on the page shown, for the period 1901 and 1902, he records that he worked a 10-, 11-, and even a 12-hour day six days a week, but never worked on a Sunday and took two weeks off at

Continued on page 12
Christmastime. John was a religious man and, according to his granddaughter, Linda, often taught Sunday school.

The same page records him working on a project in St. James, MN, on June 15, 1901, and on another a year later in Clarion, IA, on June 25, 1902, (Fig. 5) indicating that John was not only willing to travel to projects that were a considerable distance from home, but was also willing to stay away from home for extended periods of time. In the period from late February 1902 until June of that same year the page also records a number of days during which he didn't work. His simple note “during strike” tells us the story. His rate was 35 cents per hour in 1901, and he increased it to 37 1/2 cents per hour on Jan. 1, 1902. That was pretty good money in 1902.

The documentation doesn’t provide detailed information pertaining to just who John worked for on many of his major projects - it usually does when he worked for private individuals. But it does indicate that at various times he worked for the American Hoist & Derrick Co. of St. Paul, MN, and from the nature and location of several projects for James J. Hill, the famous Canadian who established his home and headquarters in St. Paul, and who in late 1800 and early 1900 reached out to the West, East and South to establish his Great Northern Railroad Empire. The records also indicate that in addition to being a master carpenter on these projects, his responsibilities were often supervisory in nature.

For example, a detailed material delivery ticket from the Drake Marble & Tile Co., dated Feb. 17, 1906, is addressed to John A. Engstrom, Supt. of Construction for the New County Court House in Ellsworth, WI. In his time book, he noted that his railroad fare from St. Paul to Ellsworth was $2.15.

Space doesn’t allow for a page-by-page review of his many activities, and only a few of the highlights are related here.

A note in December 1903 shows him working for the military at Fort Snelling, MN.

In 1905, he records that on Dec. 31, 1903, he finished building a house on East 7th St. for the Berglins and was paid $3890.25.

John had arranged for his daughter to be cared for, and on Nov. 12, 1906, he records that he “paid Mrs. Rodberg of Maple Ridge in full for the present year for Ruth M. Engstrom.”

By Nov. 18, 1906, we find him building a Railroad Depot in Williston, ND, and on June 8, 1907, he notes, “paid in full for the first six months in the present year for board, room & T.C. for Ruth M. Engstrom.”

John, an individual willing to accept responsibility, was also a businessman. Included with his documents was a copy of an article printed in the St. Paul Daily News of 1920 that announced the “Incorporation of the St. Paul Cooperative Mercantile Association with capital stock of $50,000. Shares in the company are rated at $25.00 each.” John A. Engstrom is
Fig. 7. John with his crew at the depot in Williston, ID, in 1908. John is on the left.

listed as treasurer of the corporation.

He was also a gifted cabinetmaker and often expressed that talent by making gift items for members of his family. (Figs. 8, 9, 10)

His Tool Chest

I haven't been able to determine exactly when John made his tool chest, but believe it was shortly after he came to St. Paul in 1882. When I started to restore it, I found a railroad shipping ticket glued to one end of the box that reads “UNION STATION ST. PAUL, RECEIVED 1902” (Fig. 11). Deterioration of the paper makes it impossible to determine from where John shipped it.

When I first saw that the old brass handles had a Stanley Hart trademark (Fig. 12), I was confused. When did Stanley use that trademark? Would it support the information on the shipping ticket? I immediately contacted M-WTCA member Walter Jacob, who informed me that Stanley Works started use of the Stanley Hart, commonly called sweet heart, trademark on hardware items in June of 1893 and that there was no conflict regarding age.

John used 115 large brass screws to hold his 40-inch-long, 24-inch-wide and 20-inch-high tool chest and cover together. He put it together like a fine piece of furniture. Basic construction is of 3/4-inch-thick clear white pine and all exterior trim and moldings are black walnut. The chest contains six 1/2-inch-deep black walnut drawers, stacked three on a side with the lower drawers shortened so they can slide independently on side rails. The drawers are constructed with 1/4-inch-thick black walnut sides and 1/4-inch-thick maple bottoms.

The drawers in the front row are 5 1/4 inches wide and there's a hinged cover on the top drawer. The cover was made by gluing together 7 rows of 1/4-inch by 1/4-inch alternating black walnut and maple strips and using the result to frame a 2-inch-wide center panel of 1/2-inch-thick cherry.

The back row of drawers is 7 3/4 inches wide with a hinged cover on the top drawer. The cover was made by gluing a 1/4-inch by 1/2-inch strip of black walnut to a 1/4-inch by 1/2-inch strip of maple and using the result to frame a 6 1/2-inch wide center panel of 1/4-inch thick cherry.

Beneath the drawers, is a compartment designed to hold a set of wooden molding planes. The remaining space was left open to hold bench planes and other tools.

All of the angles, including those on the black walnut drawers, are dovetailed. The exterior corners of the box and the cover are protected with brass plates.

The box has a beautiful solid brass lock, but as usual the key is no longer

Fig. 9. A chair John made for his daughter, Ruth.

The following tools were still with the box:

- Stanley 45 Combination Plane Type 7B (1896-1906) indicating that John took advantage of new developments.
- Stanley 70 router, japanned cast iron, Type 2 with 2 cutters (1 1/4 inch & 1/2 inch) and turned maple knobs with beaded bases.
- Stanley 40 scrub plane with beech handle (1896-1902).
- Stanley 62 folding rule.

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Fig. 10. John made two of these tables, one for each of his children.
Fig. 11. Shipping ticket reads "Union Station St. Paul Received 1902." Photo by Edward Engelkes.

Stanley 49 adjustable bit gauge, nickel plated.
Stanley 41 pocket level.
Stanley 88 clapboard siding marker.
Stanley 66 Type 1 hand header, japanned with complete set of cutters and two fences.
14-inch steel backed Henry Disston & Sons back saw.
Rosewood handled sliding T bevel.
Early Swedish wooden mortice gauge.
1 1/2 inch Barton gouge.
1 1/8 inch Barton gouge.
3/4 inch DM Co. gouge.
1/2 inch Butcher gouge.
1/4 inch Addis carving gouge.
Glass cutter with diamond point and rosewood handle.
Rosewood handled steel.
Small hand vise.
Small bench vise.
Several saw files.
Several wood plane irons.
Coping saw blades.

Acknowledgments

Gratitude is expressed to the following individuals, without whose help this article couldn't have been written.

To Linda M. Engstrom, the granddaughter of John A. Engstrom, for her patience with me and the time she spent in verifying items in John's Time Books. Marian Ekstrand, daughter of Ruth M. Engstrom, for supplying background information on her mother. Donald Engstrom, grandson of Gustav Engstrom, for information regarding his father's autobiography. Bob Aihalshas of M-WTCA, Wilbur "Web" Ekstrand and his son, Donald, for getting me started on this in the first place to Walter Jacob for supplying the information on Stanley trademarks and Edward Engelkes for his photographs.

References:

Time books of John A. Engstrom.
Two Lives of Faith - The autobiographies of C. Oscar and Ruth M. Anderson (Ruth M. Engstrom, daughter of John A. Engstrom), Missionaries to China.


P.S. To M-WTCA members. Information supplied by Walter Jacob pertaining to Stanley trademarks:

"The Stanley Works Sweet Hart - the letters SW inside of a heart was first used June 1893. Reference is from the U.S. Patent Office filing for a trademark on Feb. 7, 1894, No. 24,562 noted in Patent Gazette page 399 April 17, 1894. Essential feature of trademark as quoted is "The representation of a heart shaped figure accompanied by the initials S.W."

Fig. 12 Brass handle with Stanley trademark heart with the letters SW in it. Photo by Edward Engelkes.
New Online Resource for Researching Patented Tools and Machines

In 2000, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) created an online database containing the text and drawings of all patents in its collection, dating back to 1790. For those of us who researched patented tools, this was an extremely exciting development—we were no longer required to visit a patent library and pore over volumes of microfilm (and run up a hefty photocopying bill) to gather our data.

The euphoria was short-lived, however. The USPTO site was difficult to navigate, required specialized software to view the patent papers and provided very limited searching capabilities (patent number and classification only). Unless you were well versed in patent classification arcana, it was very difficult to find specific patents.

Despite these drawbacks, a number of computer-savvy collectors became skilled in searching the database, and began amassing patent information in their areas of interest and publishing their findings on personal web pages and discussion forums.

In early 2002, a group of these researchers from the OldTools and OldWWMachine mailing lists (online discussion forums for antique tools and woodworking machines, respectively) embarked on a project to coalesce their individual data into a centralized database of tool and machinery patents. The resulting web site was christened the “Directory of American Tool and Machinery Patents,” or DATAMP for short.

In February 2003, http://www.datamp.org opened to the public. The site contains detailed information on more than 9,000 tool and machine patents, including:

- Patent Date, Application Date and Antedates (where applicable)
- Classification (USPTO class as well as what type of tool it is)
- Information on the persons associated with the patent (inventors, assignees, witnesses)
- Information on the companies associated with the patent (manufacturers, assignees)
- Drawings and photographs of the tools
- Descriptions of the tool and its patent claims
- Links to related information

Even more importantly, the site provides a wealth of search capabilities (person, company class, type, and others) as well as cross-references by person, company and classification.

We are also looking for volunteers—we need both “data stewards” to collect and enter patent data, as well as programmers (PHP, Python, XML) to assist in the development of the web site and related programs. By our estimate, there are approximately 30,000 U.S. patents that would be “interesting” to antique tool collectors, so there is still a lot of work to be done. If you would be interested in volunteering to help with DATAMP, drop us a line using the link at http://www.datamp.org

- Ralph Brendler Area E Director and DATAMP Volunteer
  ralph@brendlers.net

Nail Pullers – A Unique Combination Tool

By Ray Fredrich

My research is still going on but moving slower than I had expected.

The inventor of this “Combination Tool” is George J. Capewell of Hartford, CT, and is one of the most seen patentees in patent research. To date, I know of 13 patents on nail pullers.

This tool pounds nails, pulls nails and will hold a nail to reach up and put in that hard to reach place. It has a wooden handle that is unusual to most of the pullers researched, but seems adequate to pull today’s 8 penny nail but not much larger.

According to the patent papers, “The invention relates to the class of tools which combine in one structure, means for setting, driving and extracting nails, brads, tacks, pins and the like, and the object is to provide a simple, convenient and efficient tool of this class which is cheaply formed, easily assembled and is durable.”

The tool is 14 -1/4 inches long and the handle is shaped like a small baseball bat. It is stamped with the words “Pat APPL’D For.” It was patented May 1, 1894. I found it at a tool meeting, and it is the first one of its kind that I have ever seen.
By Laura Woodrough Steneck

In recent months, I happened across an auction web site that had a Panther brand hand saw advertised for sale. When I checked further, I discovered that this particular “Panther Head” saw handle had been patented by my great-grandfather, James Richards Woodrough, in 1880.

Using bits and pieces of information that had been in our family history files for years, maintained by my sister-in-law, Margot Woodrough, I began to research the Woodrough family and came up with some amazing information. So let me start from the beginning and see if I can piece together this family puzzle.

Joseph Woodrough was born March 5, 1813, in England. Regrettably, the names of his mother and father are unknown and his exact place of birth, as well. I believe he was educated in England and came to America as a young man. It’s possible he arrived at the port of Boston, MA, because in 1843 he was working at the Welch & Griffith’s hand saw manufactory in Arlington, just 13 miles away.

In 1845, Joseph Woodrough left the Welch & Griffith’s Co. and formed a partnership with his friend and fellow co-worker, William Clemson, and this company was called Woodrough & Clemson. A lot has been written about William Clemson, his wife Amelia Wright, and their children, Francis, George, Nathan and Richard W., but it has been a struggle to find very much on the other half of this partnership, Joseph.

In 1845, both of these young men decided to marry. William Clemson had followed his sweetheart from Warwickshire, England, to Boston. Joseph may have known his bride back in the old country, but we don’t know for sure. We do know that Agnes was also from England, immigrating in 1832 with her family, so the friendship may have been kindled by the common English background. Joseph and Agnes Moreman “of Boston” filed their intent to marry on Sept. 7, 1845 and it is presumed they married the same month.

Their first son, Horace William Woodrough, was born June 18, 1846, in Arlington, MA. followed by a second son, James Richards, born June 7, 1848, also in Arlington.

The information on William Clemson says the Woodrough & Clemson Co. was “in a little shop near Boston.” By 1850, Joseph, Agnes and their two sons are living in West Cambridge, MA, which is just about 3 1/2 miles from Boston and living in the same town is none other than William and Amelia Clemson. So it’s my guess that the “little shop near Boston” was actually in West Cambridge, and eventually the factory went up in East Woburn, MA.

Around 1855, Joseph moved his family to Hamilton, Ohio, and by May of 1860, after struggling many years together at Woodrough & Clemson, William Clemson packed up his family and moved to Middletown, NY, where he joined in a partnership with Elisha Wheeler and Edward Madden, forming the Wheeler, Madden & Clemson Co. But Joseph did not abandon his saw factory in East Woburn, now called Woodrough & Co. It appears Joseph continued to maintain his home in East Woburn, even though the family was living in Hamilton, OH.

I have read that the Woodrough & McParlin Co. was in business from 1856 through 1890, so Joseph must have set out almost immediately upon his arrival in the area, to establish another factory. Hamilton, OH, is about 29 miles north of Cincinnati, so Joseph had a fair distance to travel each day to and from his work. According to research done by Gil & Mary Gandenberger, published in The Gristmill September, 1994, Joseph Woodrough is listed as “Saw Manufacturer” in 1855; by 1856 it’s Woodrough & McParlin, listed in 1857 as the successor to Lee & Levitt Saw Manufacturers.

A gold, highly-engraved stick pin, owned by James R. Woodrough, was passed down to his son, James R. Woodrough, Jr., who then gave it to his son, John Randolph Woodrough. It was inherited by John's daughter, Laura Woodrough Steneck, in 1970.

and his bride have moved the 867 miles from Hamilton, OH, to Woburn, MA, and James is working for Woodrough & Co.

A map of East Woburn, MA, dated 1875, shows the actual location of the Woodrough & Co. factory and clearly indicates a large pond next to it called, appropriately enough, "Woodrough Pond." Also shown on the same map is the house where Joseph and his family lived, just up the street from the factory on Railroad Street. Across the street from Joseph's house was the Post Office and a store, behind which is noted "H. & R. Woodrough." So it appears that Herbert, now 20, & Rufus, age 18, have also returned to East Woburn with their father, Joseph, and have gone to work for him in the factory there. In 1877 they are joined by the eldest sons of Joseph's friend and first partner, William Clemson. Francis and George N. Clemson work at the Woodrough & Co. factory for two years.

The 1877 City Directory, Woburn, lists this: Herbert H. Woodrough, butcher, boards Joseph Woodrough; Joseph Woodrough, saw manufacturer, house Railroad, E. Woburn. In the "C" section we find: Clemson, Frank W. (Clemson & Co.), E. Woburn, house Railroad, E. Woburn. Next line: G. N. (that would be George N.) (Clemson & Co.), saw maker, boards Joseph Woodrough; next line, Richard W., saw maker, boards Frank Clemson, next line, Clemson & Co. (D. McFarlane, W. Clemson & G. N. Clemson), Railroad St. E. Woburn, saw manufactory. So by 1877 the Clemson brothers had taken over Woodrough & Co. in East Woburn. George N. then left E. Woburn and returned to Middletown, NY, and resumed his duties at Wheeler, Madden & Clemson. He also formed a partnership with his younger brother, Richard W., and continued developing a metal cutting saw.

James and Mary Julia have two daughters born to them, Leoni Richards, born Oct., 1871, in Boston and Mabel Louise, born April, 1873, in Cambridge, MA. About 1877, probably shortly after the company was sold to the Clemson brothers, all of the Woodroughs return to Cincinnati. James R. goes back to work at Woodrough & McParlin, becoming an officer of the company in 1879. Horace, Herbert and Rufus are also working for Woodrough & McParlin, probably as salesmen or traveling agents.

James Richards Woodrough Jr., first son of Joseph and Agnes, is born in Cincinnati, Ohio on March 24, 1879. Their daughter, Mabel Louise is not with the family in the 1880 census, therefore she is presumed to have died in early childhood, but no record of her death was recorded.

So let me see if I can gather up all of the family in 1880. Joseph & Agnes Woodrough are now living in Cincinnati, Ohio. Living with them are Herbert, age 24, a traveling agent, his wife Lula, age 23; Rufus Lee, also a traveling agent; and Lutie May, their only surviving daughter. Horace W. is living across the river in Covington, KY, with his wife, Sarah and their three children, Howard Beckett, Joseph William and Frederick Charles. James Richards, his wife Mary Julia and their three children, Leoni, James Richards Jr. and William Wilson, also live in Cincinnati. The father and all of his sons are working for Woodrough & McParlin.

Lutie May ties the Woodrough and Clemson families together by becoming the bride of Richard W. Clemson in 1880. These two families have worked closely together since William and Joseph formed their partnership in 1845, each having sons joining in partnerships and it is only fitting that the daughter should form a partnership of her own.

In 1882, James Richards and Mary Julia Woodrough add a fourth child and second son, Louis Duhme, to their family. The family still resides in Cincinnati and it appears that James has become a traveling agent for Woodrough & McParlin.

The 1883 Woburn City Directory shows only one Clemson remaining in town, Francis, whose home is at 174 Montvale Ave. (Railroad Street became Montvale Avenue) and the factory is still Clemson & Co., also on Montvale. No Woodroughs are listed. I suspect Francis may be living in Joseph's house, as the address appears in close proximity to the factory, which is where Joseph lived.

In 1885, when Edward Madden died, William Clemson purchased his interest continue on page 18
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in Wheeler, Madden & Clemson, in Middletown, NY, and in 1886 he transferred it to his sons, George N. and Richard W. Clemson. George became the president and Richard, secretary.

By 1886, the Clemson & Co. in Woburn becomes Woodrough & Clemson, a partnership having been formed between Herbert H. Woodrough and Richard W. Clemson. Francis Clemson is still living at 174 Montvale and Richard W. (Woodrough & Clemson), saw manufacturer, Montvale, resides in Charlestown, about 11 miles away. Herbert H. Woodrough (Woodrough & Clemson), saw manufacturer, Montvale, lives in Woburn, just 2 miles from the factory. The Woodrough & Clemson factory is located on Montvale Avenue near Albany with offices at 31 Pearl and 220 Franklin in Boston. At Woodrough & McParlin, in Cincinnati, James Richards is named superintendent, with Horace W. Woodrough. Joseph, now 73 years old and with all of his children firmly entrenched in the saw manufacturing business, retires to his little cottage next to the Beckett Paper Co.

In 1889, at the age of 75 years, 3 months and 4 days, Joseph Woodrough died of heart failure while visiting his old home and factory in Montvale, MA. In 1890, William Clemson died in Middletown, NY.

Following the deaths of these two old friends, and patriarchs of a co-mingled family, many changes took place. The Wheeler, Madden & Clemson Co. became The National Saw Co., with George Clemson, president, and Richard W. Clemson, secretary. In addition to the Middletown factory, National Saw also took over the Woodrough & Clemson Co. in E. Woburn, MA, and the Woodrough & McParlin Co. in Cincinnati, OH, claiming additional factories in Newark, Brooklyn and Philadelphia. Herbert H. Woodrough is living with his family in Brooklyn, NY, and is probably connected to the saw factory there.

In addition to running the National Saw Co., George and Richard also operated their firm, Clemson Brothers. Their three-story, stone, steel and brick building at 22 Cottage St., Middletown, served as headquarters for this company. The factory employed some 40 people in the manufacture of Star bracket, hack, butcher and scroll saws. George N. Clemson is credited with inventing the hack saw.

George Clemson married Elizabeth Dow of Corning, NY, in 1886. George had purchased, in 1885, a mansion on High­land Avenue, Middletown, NY, the former home of Henry R. Low, a state senator from New York. He had it completely remodeled and brought his new bride to this lovely home.

By 1900, George N. Clemson's household includes his wife, Elizabeth, three children, the youngest age 5 months, two teenage nieces and five servants. They also bought a large home in Tarpon Springs, FL, where they spent the winter. The home there, called "The Clemson House," is today an historic building. Richard W. and Lutie Woodrough Clemson also purchased land in Tarpon Springs, FL. They built a lovely home there, described as "almost as large as the Clemson House," and they lived there year-round. The eldest Clemson brother, Francis, and his wife, Elizabeth are living still in Woburn, MA, with their four children.

In 1900, Agnes, widow of Joseph, is living in Florida with her daughter, Lutie and son-in-law, Richard Clemson. Horace was widowed in 1898, and he, too, is living with Lutie and Richard in their Tarpon Springs home. Horace is now retired and apparently in poor health. Herbert H. and his wife, Lucy are living in Brooklyn with their daughter, Alice, Lucy's parents Charles and Lydia Hancus, and a servant girl. James Richards Woodrough, holder of the "Panther Head" saw patent, died on May 20, 1894 in Cincinnati, OH. In 1900, his widow, Mary Julia, is living at 570 Linden Ave. with her sons, James R. Jr. and Louis Duhme. Rufus Lee Woodrough, in 1888, is living in Chicago, IL, still working for Woodrough & McParlin as an agent. By 1910, Rufus Lee has moved to Indianapolis, with his wife, Jean Burns Woodrough, and he has become the manager of The Marion Brick Co.

Horace William is gone, and it is presumed he died between 1900 and 1910.

Herbert H. Woodrough is living at 121 Halsey St., Brooklyn, NY, with his wife, married daughter, Alice Chapman and her husband, George, as well as a live-in chauffeur, chambermaid and cook.

Lutie May, her husband, Richard Clemson, their son, George W., her mother Agnes Woodrough, now aged 94, and a servant, Toski, are living in Los Angeles, CA.

Rufus Lee Woodrough, widowed by 1920, is living with his sister and brother-in-law in Los Angeles. Richard Clemson died in Los Angeles, and in 1920 just Lutie, Rufus Lee and a servant make up the household. Lutie Clemson died on the 18th of April, 1940.

None of the children of the four sons and daughter of Joseph Woodrough and Agnes Moreman went into the saw manufacturing business.

In 1970, after the death of my father, John Randolph Woodrough, son of James Richards Woodrough Jr. and Laura Alma Holmeyer, I came into possession of some stick pins, among other things. I knew they were heirlooms, but being a young mother, I passed them off to my sister and she stored them away in the bottom of her jewelry box.

During a recent visit, my sister and I were talking about the Woodrough genealogy, and all I had discovered about the Woodrough patents and the Clemson family. She happened to mention the stick pins, and recalled that one was in the shape of a saw.

As soon as she returned home, she carefully packaged up the lovely gold and engraved pin and sent it to me. I had hoped there would be a panther head carved into the handle, but on close inspection, there wasn't.

This pin belonged to my great-grandfather, James Richards Woodrough. He probably purchased it or had it made because of his patented "Panther" brand saw.

A photo caption in the March issue of The GRISTMILL incorrectly identified Robert Rauhauser's award-winning display. The picture showed a portion of his unusual display of cow/calf weaners.

**Correction**

A photo caption in the March issue of The GRISTMILL incorrectly identified Robert Rauhauser's award-winning display. The picture showed a portion of his unusual display of cow/calf weaners.
Questions Remain in Improvement in Plow Planes

By John McKieman

Harmon Van Buskirk Bench Plane No. 97,328 Pat. Nov. 30, 1869, Vienna, MI.

Type of Patent: Fence Adjustment

Description: Van Buskirk provided a third (center) arm which with right hand threads on one end and left hand threads on the other. page 115, J. A. Moody, “The American Cabinetmaker’s Plow Plane,” page 115.

Years ago, when I read in Moody’s book that Harmon Van Buskirk was the inventor of the fence adjustment feature now known as the “center wheel” and is seen on the Sandusky Center Wheel Plow, I was mystified. What caught my eye was his address: Vienna, in the county of Genesee and state of Michigan. Actually Harmon lived in Fine Run in Vienna township. Harmon did his inventing in this spot about a generation after the pioneers arrived.

This was hard for me to believe, so I started probing to determine how an obscure carpenter in rural Michigan was moved to invent this improvement to the plow plane. I still don’t know but with a great deal of help from Marian Thorne of the Clio Area Historical Association, I have collected data I would like to share.

Harmon Van Buskirk was born in Henrietta, Monroe County, near Rochester, NY, July 11, 1825. His father, Garrett Van Buskirk, was born at Buskirk’s Bridge, Washington County, NY, in 1778, and died in 1846. Garrett was a farmer, carpenter and joiner. Harmon’s grandfather, John Van Buskirk, was a farmer and was killed during the War of 1812, at the battle of Oak Orchard Creek.

Harmon left home at age 13 to work on a farm. When he reached his majority, he learned the cooper’s trade, working at it for six years. In 1844, he married Louise Horton, of Monroe County, NY. Louise was the daughter of Hiram Horton, who carried on a coopering business. A daughter, Lydia J., was born in October, 1845. In 1849, Harmon’s wife died. Sometime later Harmon married Louisa, daughter of Elijah Oakley, who was engaged in the manufacture of potash in Genesee County, NY. A son, Francis S., was born in 1851.

Harmon moved to Belleville, MI, in 1850 and worked at his trade for a short time. He is listed in the 1860 census as living in Vienna township, Genesee Co., Michigan, age 34, working as a carpenter. His household consisted of his wife, Louisa, daughter Lydia, and son Francis.

On Aug. 7, 1862, Harmon enlisted in Company C, 23rd Infantry, as a corporal, in Flint, MI. He was mustered Sept. 12, 1862. He was with his regiment when it pursued John Morgan’s raiders. He was in Knoxville at the siege and while at Sulphur Springs, TN, he was captured and taken to Belle Island, near Richmond, and afterward transferred to Libby Prison and Andersonville, where he remained until Oct. 8, 1863. He remained in various prisons and was mustered out at Salisbury, NC, June 28, 1865.

After the war, he went back to carpentry for three years. Next, he operated a shingle mill for two years. After that, he turned to farming and remained in farming until 1879. So far, our subject worked as a farm laborer, was trained as a cooper, probably self-taught as a carpenter, was a soldier and prisoner and then ran a shingle mill. I can’t see a connection between any of these occupations and the plow plane.

About the time Harmon went off to war, Lydia married David S. Haistead, a merchant. The family is shown in the 1870 census to include Jennie, age 6, and Albert, age 3. The, early 1870s were not kind to the Van Buskirks. Francis, his son, died in 1872. This was followed in 1874 by the death of his second wife, Louisa. Harmon was married for the third and final time in 1876 to Catherine Van Nest, the widow of Henry Van Nest. Next in his varied career, Harmon became a dealer in drugs and groceries. Harmon died March 5, 1899. The Flint Daily News reported “H. Van Buskirk, a highly respected pioneer of Vienna township, died on Saturday, aged 70 years. Deceased had been a merchant of Pine Run for thirty years and was one of the first storekeepers of that once thriving village.”

This story includes loose ends and conflicting data but I’m ending my search. I don’t think we will ever know what possessed Harmon to invent. His land in Pine Run has been overtaken by progress. No buildings look old enough to have belonged to Harmon. The only tangible sign that Harmon and Catherine Van Buskirk existed is their final resting place in the Pine Run Cemetery.

References:
Portrait and Biographical album, p. 763 Pine Run Cemetery.

Harmon Van Buskirk’s grave (second from left) is in Pine Run Cemetery. His third wife, Catherine, lies far left.
A Concise Guide to Stanley Custom Rules

There is a Stanley rule for every purpose, or so it would seem in reading Scott Lynk’s book on special and custom rules. To name a few: rules to measure school desks, shingles, rope, windows, glass, leather, cloth, milk, agates, shoe sizes, barrel contents. They come in boxwood, maple, teak, hickory, ivory and ebony. Some have protractors or calipers. They are used by architects, carpenters, engineers, inspectors, printers and advertisers. Lynk drew on many tool collectors’ expertise, reproducing their previously published articles along with his own vast findings. He described custom rules as those produced or marketed by Stanley, produced under a proprietary label or modified and embellished by a craftsman or inventor for a specific use or application. Custom rules were usually standard rules produced for a customer by Stanley with special features, altered configurations and/or slight changes in tables or graduations.

The book shows prototypes of tools from the Stanley Model Shop, some with the original identification tag. As Lynk explains, Stanley executives from sales, design and front office met weekly (1913-1955) with model shop mechanics who presented prototypes of tools to be discussed. Some became part of the Stanley line; others did not make the cut. One such loser was an 8-fold 4-foot rule, which Lynk owns. He said it would be easy for the rule to break at the joints when opening or closing it. “The construction was most certainly doomed to failure with Stanley’s cheap round and mid joints,” he concluded.

In the chapter on special rules, Lynk includes a No. 66 1/2 carpenter’s rule. The inside of the rule was marked in “chair” measurements on one leg and “desk” measurements on the other leg. It apparently was custom-made to measure school desks and chairs. This book contains a great deal of information in one place in a concise and easy to read format with large photos. I learned a lot on a subject I knew little about in a short time. It’s a worthwhile reference book for anyone’s library.

---Mary Lou Stover

“A Century of U.S. Wrench Makers

One hundred years of patented and/or adjustable wrenches are listed in Ken Cope’s revised second edition of “American Wrench Makers.”

The revised edition contains 66 more pages than his first book and lists makers from 1830-1930, an additional 15 years.

Cope says identifying wrenches is “frustrating” for many collectors. Detailed markings were a production problem for the manufacturer so companies used short names or trademarks and short patent data; heavy use and neglect often made markings unreadable; patent dates were not always complete and in some cases were wrong. In addition, most casting and forging shops made wrenches to include with their agricultural and industrial products, but they had no special features.

Cope concentrates on patented or adjustable wrenches that can be tracked. He found most of the information in U.S. Patent Office records, city and state directories, mechanical trade magazines, hardware catalogs, and columns on industry news published in magazines.

The second edition format is in the same easy-to-use style as the original. The illustrations are crisp and clear. Listings are by trademarks and trade names, wrench patent dates with makers and alphabetically with illustrations of the makers’ products.

This book will be a big help to collectors in identifying the maker and the period in which the wrench was manufactured. Another valuable tool from Ken Cope.

---Mary Lou Stover

“A Directory of Pennsylvania Blacksmiths

A Directory of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Blacksmiths is a welcome book for those who collect hand forged iron tools, especially members who seek out Pennsylvania tools.
A group of Area P members got together and decided to produce the directory. It shows what good things areas can do for tool collectors as a whole. The directory lists 2,300 blacksmiths who worked in Lancaster County between the mid-1700s and mid-1800s.

The original list of 1,800 names was compiled by Elmer Z. Longnecker for his master's degree thesis in 1966. Using city and county business directories, tax records, advertisements and newspapers records from 1729 to approximately 1840, Area P members added 800 names to the list. Their idea for the project first surfaced about 15 years ago.

Names are listed alphabetically by county, borough or city. A second listing is alphabetized by the blacksmith's last name and gives the first recorded date the blacksmith was working and in what area.

The surest way to identify the maker, though not foolproof, is the signed tool. John Tannehill compiled the list of makers' marks. Other Area P members deserving credit for the worthwhile project are Rick Cammauf Jr., Jason Miller, Terry Eckert, Pete Herchelroth, Bill Warner and the late Harry Derstler.

—Mary Lou Stover

The soft cover, 66-page directory may be ordered from Warner, 513 W. King St., York, PA 17404, for $15 each, shipping included.
D.R. Barton – A Significant Manufacturer of Plow Planes

By Vince Barabba

By almost every account I have been able to find, David R. Barton founded one of the finest edge tool companies of his time. My latest estimate is that over the life of the D. R. Barton trademark, approximately 300 categories of tools were produced by his company. This article is about one category of D.R. Barton tools: plow planes.

Based on reviewing a range of catalogs from 1873 to the early 1900s, I believe 19 fundamentally different types of plow planes were produced, ranging from simple untoted beech captive wedge planes, to all rosewood screw arm planes adorned with ivory tips. Obviously,

D.R. Barton was a significant player in the manufacture of plow planes.

In John A. Moody's book, The American Cabinetmaker's Plow Planes, he chronicles the development of plow planes with primary emphasis on American plow planes. In his meticulous coverage of the development of plow planes, he lists many different companies that produced plow planes and provides an indication of the range of plow plane types produced by each of them. (See Chart 1)

Interestingly, this very comprehensive review, with the exception of a color plate illustrating a Barton boxwood plow plane, does not include the full range of plow planes manufactured by Barton. The table indicates that Barton, although not producing the most complete range of plows, certainly should be considered among the most respected manufacturers of plow planes.

This article will illustrate 15 of the 20 different types of Barton plow planes that I have collected – with the help of a lot of people.

Exotic Woods and Ivory Tips

The first five, given their adornment with ivory tips, can be classified as the Cadillacs of Barton's planes.

The first (Fig. 1), is a rosewood handled screw arm with boxwood arms. It has a "O" mark, which indicates it was produced between 1874 and 1880, according to researcher Frank Kosmerl's analysis (The Chronicle, EAIA, Volume 53, No. 1 page 13).

The second (Fig. 2) is an all rosewood handled screw arm plow. When sold new in approximately 1873, the cost of this plane was $10 (about $3 less than a comparable Sandusky plow plane). The Barton mark according to the late tool authority and author Emil Pollak is a "B" which indicates it was manufactured before 1865.

The third (Fig. 3) is an all boxwood handled screw arm plow also with a "G" mark.

The fourth (Fig. 4) is an untoted rosewood screw arm plow with boxwood arms. The "B" mark indicates it was manufactured before 1865.

The fifth of the ivory tip planes (Fig. 5) is marked J.P. Millener. Joel P. Millener had an off and on again partnership with Barton, and for a time produced planes in Kingston, Ont. Canada. (See Kosmerl article). This untoted rosewood plane, with the exception of the mark, replicates every aspect of a Barton plane.

Screw Arm Planes in Exotic Woods

Equally beautiful, but without the adornment of the ivory tips, is this all boxwood screw arm plow. (Fig. 6). The plane is of interest because the irons that came with it reinforce Kosmerl's findings of Barton's many partnerships. In this case, of the eight irons two are stamped D. R. Barton, four are stamped D. R.
Barton and I. Belden, and two are stamped D. R. Barton and Wm. P. Smith.

Putting the following three pieces of information together: 1) the “B” Barton trademark; 2) an assumption that the irons were acquired at the time the plane was purchased; and 3) given the dates of the Smith and Belden partnerships found in Kosmerl’s research, it is probable that this plane was manufactured sometime during the early 1840s.

Figure 7 is an untoted boxwood body with boxwood arms plow. Again, the “B” mark places its manufacture before 1865.

The two planes in figure 8 are both rosewood with boxwood arms. The plow on the right has a “G” mark and the one on the left an “E” mark indicating both planes were made after 1865.

The significant difference, however, is found in the wooden knobs and washer nuts on each side of the plane. The plane on the right has the familiar Barton knobs and washer pattern that is consistent with every other Barton plane in my collection and the profile drawings found in Moody’s book (pg. 85). The plane on the left, however, has entirely different knobs and washer nuts. In discussions with Kosmerl and Phil Whitby, we have come to the conclusion that the pattern of the knob and washer nuts resembles the pattern found in planes from the Auburn Tool Co.

I have one other damaged Barton plow with similar knobs and washers, which I originally thought was the result of someone putting together two broken plows. I’m now open to the possibility that Barton had made an arrangement with Auburn to manufacture the positioning nuts to work on the screw arms, which are identical to other Barton plow planes. It’s possible that such an arrangement may have been going on for years.

The plow on the left is marked 34, the number used to designate it in an 1873 catalog. My other Barton plow with Auburn knobs and washers is marked 29, the number used in catalogs published after 1900.

This possibility is reinforced by Kosmerl’s research, which uncovered that one of Barton’s employees, Alonzo D. McMaster, plow maker, may have worked for T. J. McMaster when Auburn was having some of its tools made in the Auburn prison. Additionally, Kosmerl points out that Barton had other possible connections to prison labor.

In a discussion of the Barton partnership with Joel P. Millener, Kosmerl reveals: “Joel P. Millener was a longtime associate of Barton, having joined in partnership in the late 1830s in the canal boat building business. In 1855, Millener procured a five year contract with the prison in Kingston, Ontario to use prison labor to make wooden planes. Steamboats crossed Lake Ontario daily between Rochester and Kingston, so business connections and communications were predictable and easy.”

Figure 9 is a handled beech body with boxwood arms. Its “G” mark places its manufacture after 1865.

Standard Screw Arm Planes

Figure 10 is an all apple wood plow with a tombstone depth stock and a wooden depth stock lock. The “B” mark places it manufacture before 1865.

Figure 11 is an all beech wood plow with a tombstone depth stock and a wooden depth stock lock. The “G” mark places it manufacture after 1865.

Wedge Arm Planes

Figure 12 is a captive wedge, beech wood plow with a tombstone depth stock and a wood depth stock lock. The “B” mark places it manufacture before 1865.

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D.R. Barton – A Significant Manufacturer of Plow Planes

Continued from page 23

mark shows it was manufactured before 1865.

Figure 13 is a handled captive wedge apple wood plow with a brass depth stop adjustment screw and brass end caps.

Figure 14 is an untoted captive wedge beech wood plow plane with a brass depth stop adjustment screw and brass end caps.

I feel that D.R.Barton should be considered a major plow plane manufacturer of the 19th century. For the reader who would like to know more about D. R. Barton than this very focused discussion of Barton plow planes, I strongly recommend the article written by Kosmerl.

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<th>Plow Plane makers (year of catalog)</th>
<th>Total plow planes made</th>
<th>Total w/ wedge arm adjustment</th>
<th>Total w/ screw arm adjustment</th>
<th>Total w/ ivory tips</th>
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<td>17</td>
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A letter from Alvin Woodworth and Company ordering wagon buggies from Alva Bolster in 1846 has been obtained by Jay Newhof. The spelling is as written. Aurora refers to the city in Illinois.
A Tool Legacy

By David B. Crowe

ool collecting has certainly taken me to many, many places through the years. It has also exposed me to a variety of experiences, none of which was more interesting and unique than an incident which occurred last summer.

Responding to an auction ad which proclaimed “Two carpenter’s chests and old carpenter’s tools,” I attended a sale near Rock Falls, WI, on Aug. 10, 2002. Years of exposure to such ads have, of course, left me with the expectation of finding little or nothing. Upon arrival, therefore, I was delighted to find that the ad had not exaggerated. There were a number of nice old framing chisels, some interesting levels and planes, and a variety of other items. When I spoke with the auctioneer concerning the origin of the tool chests, he explained that they had been given to the party whose goods were being auctioned and that they had been in storage for quite a number of years.

Experience has taught me to attend auctions early to allow for careful examination of items before the selling commenced. As it turned out, I was so early that I found myself helping one of the auctioneer’s assistants remove the tools from the chests and placing them in appropriate categories on tables which had been placed in rows. As we were about to finish unloading one of these chests, I noticed a roll of brown paper lying on the bottom. When I removed it, I saw that the brown paper, which was cut out of sacking, was the cover for nine sheets of lined tablet paper that had been carefully stapled to it. A cursory examination aroused my curiosity for it appeared to be some sort of legal document.

A short time later I sat down and took the time to read the document carefully. It turned out to be a hand written codicil to the will of one George E. Mohr. It had been written at Honey Creek, WI, on Jan. 3, 1936, and it began “To whom it may concern, I the undersigned do hereby express my wishes in regard to what I may leave in worldly goods...” He went on to list some of his meager assets including some postal savings, a $1,000 bond and two steamer trunks of carpenter tools (undoubtedly, the same two “chests” which appeared at this auction). All of the “afore-said left at my demis shall be divided equally among all surviving children” [sic]. Mr. Mohr went on to mention that as long as he was “capeable” [sic] he would try to “keep things where they could be found.” He concludes “as where I am buried will leave it up to you children only make it simple no fus [sic] or wasteful expense.”

The rest of the pages in the document were headed by a name (presumably of friends or family) and followed by a list of what he assigned to each of them. Some of the assigned items were pathetically simple — a black fountain pen to Nina Bemis, a wall can opener to Maureen Thompson. To Ora Mohr (sister? daughter?), however, he assigned “one but gague Stanley make” [sic].

As I sorted through the numerous items I bought at that auction, I found the butt gauge (an early Stanley No. 93) in a small cloth sack. Apparently, it was the one that had been assigned to Ora Mohr, for it now seemed clear that nobody in the family had seen that codicil nor had anyone paid much note to the tools in the chest. In addition, I had G. E. Mohr’s tool marker as well as several molding planes which he had marked.

The experience of the past summer continues to fascinate me. It takes me back to those years when, during the Great Depression, people literally lived from day to day on very little. Mohr was a man who lived in this era and who prized the simple, utilitarian things around him which were part of his daily life. He exemplifies the close relationship which frequently exists between men and their tools for he probably depended on them for his livelihood. The fact that he left part of his will in his tool chest and assigned various tool items to his heirs document this. One might be appalled in modern times to receive something as simple as a butt gauge as a legacy, but I doubt that Ora Mohr would have considered it the least bit unusual.

And so, my collecting friends, look carefully in the bottoms of those tool boxes! You never know what thoughtful item might await you to lend a deeper insight into the experiences of that great American life journey.
Despite uneasiness over the economy and the war, the overall market for antique collectible tools seems to remain relatively strong. When the last bid was made at the Brown Auction in April and the computer printed out the auction gross, it was an impressive $385,208, an average of $492 per lot. Absentee bidders won 25 percent of the lots, making a significant contribution to the gross. (Prices in this article include the 10 percent buyers' premium.)

William Rigler's Collection

Three of the stars of this auction, as well as many other wonderful tools, are from the collection of William Rigler. Bill was the president and later the treasurer of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association. He served on countless committees, and won their highest accolade, the Marion Henley Award. Bill was everyone's friend and will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

The Stars of the show

As predicted, the unquestioned star of the show (Lot 698) was Leonard Bailey's 22-inch split-frame jointer. (Fig.1) This was the last of four versions of the split-frame plane, and overlapped production of the vertical post plane. It was made in Boston between 1858, when he patented the cam lock lever cap, and 1868. This example was in pristine, untouched condition and was a real gem. Bidding was opened by an absentee bidder at $7,590 and progressed rapidly without hesitation to close at $19,800.

William S. Loughborough's plow plane (Lot 676) patented May 3, 1864 (Fig.2) is one of the earliest iron plow planes. There are very few examples of this plane complete with the fence. It is unmarked but reportedly had a paper label when originally collected. Paper labels on other Loughborough planes have read: “W.M. S. Loughborough – Rochester, N.Y.” It sold to an absentee bidder for $16,500.

The I Sym (1753 – 1802) carriage maker's plow plane (Lot 538) is one of the earliest and rarest plow planes (Fig.3) to have an adjustable spring steel fence to permit plowing a groove parallel to the curved edge of a work piece. It is similar in concept to the Falconer plow but almost 50 years earlier. There are only two (or possibly three) known examples. This one, which was one of Bill Rigler's most prized tools, was illustrated on page 62 of W. L. Goodman's “British Planimakers from 1700.” It sold to a bidder in the room for $10,450.

The Rufus Porter level (Lot 252) was another of Rigler's favorites (Fig.4). Porter was an early 19th century American artist and inventor, and his levels are collected by both art and tool collectors. It is a simple pendulum inclinometer with a round dial and a weighted pointer. Its most attractive feature is Porter's charming etching of two masons laying up a brick wall. This exceptionally nice example brought $8,800.

The third star from Rigler's collection (Lot 137) was a rose-engine lathe c.1830, made by W. Mills, London. (Fig.5) I'm told that Bill was as tickled as a kid with a new toy when he got the lathe and proceeded to teach himself to turn out fancy spiral and scrolled turnings. It sold for $8,250 to an absentee bidder.
Patented Planes
Lot 533, a type 2 Walker's patented plow (Fig.6), which has the cutter adjustment in the center of the plane, and a complete set of 15 original cutters sold for $4,950. The unusual feature of the Walker is the eight steel sliding plates that make up the plane's body, which can be positioned so the sole of the plane conforms to the profile being cut.

The smooth plane in the group of three Morris' patent Diamond metallic bench planes by the Sandusky Tool Co. attracted a lot of attention. It is the only known example with an oval footprint rather than the usual parallel sides. All three planes were in Good + condition and looked like they had been bought and kept together. The very rare smooth plane (Lot 525) bought $4,840, the jack plane (Lot 526) sold for $1,650, and the jointer (Lot 527) realized $2,860.

A Metallic Plane Co. No.11 filletster plane (Lot 328) with a non-adjustable cutter and a narrow fence brought $3,850.

A rare and graphically delightful Bailey Tool Co. block plane with "Bailey Tool Co" cast in the sole (Lot 523) sold for $1,870.

Collectible Hand Saws
This is the first time I have seen thirty-two unusual handsaws in fine condition in an auction.

Lot 624, a rare Panther Saw by Woodrough and McParlin, in the seldom seen 22-inch panel size, brought a high bid of $3,520. Rigler's article in the December 1995 GRISTMILL says the Panther Saw was covered by design patent No. 11603, issued to James R. Woodrough, Jan. 13, 1880.

A. No.66 handsaw by H.H. Woodrough (Lot 496), with a blade-clamping device patented Jan. 25, 1881, brought $935. H.H. Woodrough later became Woodrough & McParlin, maker of the Panther Saw.

Lot 487, a special order presentation saw by Henry Disston, Philadelphia c.1860 (Fig.7), etched with "Pappenheim & Defyfoos, Cincinnati," sold for $2,860. It had a nicely shaped handle carved with the wheat motif, split-nut saw screws, and an inset steel plate decorated with three eagles. It was one of the saws presented at the Saw Symposium held at the MW-CA Fall 2002 semiannual meeting.

A Henry Disston and Son handsaw (Lot 634) with three medallion labeled saw screws with split nuts, sold for $1,210. "Disston and Sons." The maker claimed it was "intended for fine cabinetwork and would cut a joint sufficiently smooth to glue without planing." It was a premium saw when made, and is now quite rare. This example, in Fine condition, brought $550.

A skewback version of a similar saw (Lot 493), a Disston Acme No. 120, also in Fine condition, sold for $231.

Lot 482, a saw by Wm. Marples & Sons, had several rows of holes located directly above deep gullets, which separated groups of cross-cut teeth. The tooth design, based on a Taylor Brothers patent, was claimed to "save labor and files" because the teeth were filed down the holes made it easy to create new gullets. It sold for $330. Lot 635, a handsaw by the American Saw Co., patented by J.E. Emerson, July 16, 1867, used a similar tooth design and claimed the gullets also act as cleaners. It brought $495.

Levels
J.W. Harmon's "Artificer's Level" (Lot 512) was complete with horizontal circle and leveling base, and a compass mounted on top of the sighting tube exactly as shown in the July, 17, 1883 patent (Fig.8). It was packed in a handsome fitted hardwood carrying case, and was a bargain at $1,430.

There were two L.L. Davis tall frame inclinometer levels in heavy, dark red, Cuban mahogany. Lot 497, was 30-inches long, in G++ or better condition, and sold for $990. Lot 498, was 24-inches long, in Good + condition, and also brought $990.

A 3 1/4-inch high, 24-inch long, tall frame L.L. Davis cast iron inclinometer level (Lot 499) in G++ condition, went for $880. L.L. Davis Tall Frame inclinometers, introduced in 1868 and replaced by standard frame inclinometers in 1870, are quite rare. A 12-inch Davis Tool & Level

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Co. standard frame inclinometer (Lot 502) in G+ condition brought $413.

An L L Davis No.36 japanned pocket level (Lot 511), rare in the small 2 1/2-inch size, sold for $605.

A 24-inch Bradford Union Mfg. Co. spirit inclinometer, patented by John Happle, April 5, 1904 (Lot 240), had a glass level tube bent in the shape of a half circle, a cherry stock, and thick aluminum top and bottom rails. It was in Fine condition and brought $1,100. A 30-inch Bradford inclinometer (Lot 241), also in Fine condition, sold for $770.

A 30-inch T. F. Deck Gravity Level Co. pendulum inclinometer, patented Dec. 15, 1896 and Feb. 14, 1905 by Thomas F. Deck, in Fine condition sold for $605. The Deck Gravity Level used an elaborate set of internal roller bearings to assure smooth and accurate operation of the pointer. This was the later version of the Deck, which has an inclinometer with an extra large dial.

A Davis and Cook 18-inch level, with a very decorative cast iron filigree web (Lot 245), uncleaned but in G+ condition, brought $1,045.

A rare Stanley No.164 low angle smooth plane (Lot 691), a must-have for Stanley plane collectors, was in Fine condition and sold for $3,050. (Fig.10)

There were two Stanley No. 1 smooth planes in the auction. Lot 24 had a Sweet Heart marked cutter, 90 percent japanning, and a chip in the lever cap. It sold to an absentee bidder for $1,320. Lot 472 had a Sweet Heart marked cutter, 99 percent japanning, and was in Fine (Minty) condition. It brought $1,760.

A very scarce Stanley No.12 3/4 scraper (Lot 476) with thick rosewood bottom, a marked cutter and all the other proper characteristics in Fine condition brought $1,155. A Stanley No.87 scraper (Lot 478) with 90 percent japanning, a marked cutter and in Good + condition sold for $1155.

A Stanley Bedrock No. 602C Type 6 smooth plane, very rare with a corrugated bottom (Lot 322) in Good + condition brought $1,760. A Bedrock No. 602, Type 6, smooth bottom plane (Lot 186) in Fine Condition went for $1,485.

The wonderful gentleman’s combination bench and tool cabinet (Lot 144) offered by Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co., and suitable for use in the living room of your posh New York apartment, was another one of Rigler’s favorites. It was in Good + condition and sold for $3,300.

A small dovetailed gunmetal and steel miter plane was made by Bob Baker.

Other Great Items

The 22nd International Antique Tool Auction in Camp Hill

The concept is...
and presented to “William Rigler” to commemorate his presidency of the M-WTCA (Lot 694). It went to a longtime friend of Bill’s for $1,155.

A rare, 1 3/8 inch wide, Stanley No. 95, 2-foot, 4-fold ivory rule (Lot 339), professionally repaired but otherwise in Fine condition, sold for $990. A Steps & Co. No. 38 ivory and German silver inclinometer rule (Lot 572), worn and with an old crack, but otherwise in Good condition, brought $1,100. A Stanley 036 inclinometer rule (Lot 574) with a light stain on one side but otherwise in Good condition sold for $330.

A large colorful Stanley point of sale “Happy Carpenter” display (Lot 603) brought $2,200. A very rare and unusual brace by Rochbach, a top Pennsylvania maker, (Lot 383) patented Jan. 3, 1854, Feb. 7, 1854 (Lot 391) has a crank handle that operates a pair of gears to turn the chuck five times for every turn of the crank. This rarity brought a bid of $1,375.

Fig. 11 Rochbach triple-stamped goosewing ax.

A wooden framed boring machine, (Lot 162) patented Feb 13, 1843 by Rube Smith, in Good condition sold for $2,200.

The 23rd International Antique Tool Auction will be held at the Sheraton Inn, Harrisburg, PA, Oct. 24-25. It’s bound to be a great show. See you all there.

Footnotes
3 See Roger K. Smith, P-TAMPIA Vol.II, p.38 – 43 for an excellent write up on Loughborough and George and John Telford who manufactured and sold some of his planes between 1866 and 1888. P-TAMPIA is available from the author, P.O. Box 177, Athol Mass. 01331-0177.
5 An I Sym carriage maker’s plane sold in the David Stanley 3rd International Auction and then sold again in the 35th International Auctions, March 25, 2000.
6 The Metallic Plane Co. made several versions of the No.11 filletster. Some have a lever adjusted cutter and some have a broad fence with an open tracery web.
8 No example of this top of the line instrument was available for inclusion in Don Rosebrooks “American Levels and their Makers,” p.49.
10 For a great write up on square hole augers based on Oppenheimer’s 1884 patent see the article by Hank Allen, “A Square What?,” in The Tool Shed, CRAFTS, Sept. 1999.
Wood Planes at the Brown Auction

By David V Englund

Fancy or rare Plow Planes

There were many wooden plows and filletsters in this auction, but three were exceptional. Most expensive was an I SYM carriagemaker’s plow from England at $10,450. This is reported in detail in John Wells' accompanying article. Lot 373 was a rosewood with brass centerwheel SANDUSKY #140 in G+ condition. It brought $6,820. Lot 642, a handled ebony SANDUSKY plow with four ivory tips brought $5,720, considerably above high estimate of $3,700. Six other plows each brought $1,000 or more. In general, these were made of fancy woods, ebony, boxwood or rosewood, and had ivory tips. (Prices include the 10 percent buyer’s premium.)

18th Century Planes

This auction featured three Chelor and two Nicholson planes, more than in other recent auctions. Two of these were plow planes. Best was the CE CHELOR/LIVING IN/WRENTHAM, which had unusual early assembly numbers on both fence and body (this gives us another clue about their method of manufacture). It had a nice 18th c. owners imprint - AM. An old imbedded screw at the top rear was an effort to repair cracks in the body of the plane. Neither the blade nor wedge was original, but a snecked iron was used and the wedge was a museum quality restoration. It brought $5,940. The other plow, a F NICHOLSON/LIVING IN/WRENTHAM was in only fair condition and had heavy wear. The finish had been cleaned off, and it had a bad split in the front arm. The wedge and one of the wooden thumbscrews were replaced. Because of condition, this plane brought only $2,860.

Of the three molders, the 3/4-inch wide CE CHELOR/WRENTHAM bead was the best. It appeared to be very early with the original tall, narrow wedge and small wedge finial. The blade was unusually thin, but obviously original. The finish was proper, and overall G+ condition. It brought $1,650, over the high estimate. Lot 307, an I NICHOLSON/WRENTHAM 1-inch wide bisection looked to have its original finish. That's difficult to tell when the finish is a light color, but this plane had a 3/8-inch hang hole at the back, and probably stayed right at the workbench during its working years. Also the color was consistent over the entire surface. This plane had normal wear, and about 1-1/2-inch length missing from the top of the original blade, nevertheless G to G+ condition. It brought $1,045. Lot 657, a fluting plane by CE CHELOR/ WRENTHAM had been overcleaned, with dark patina still in the grain on both ends. The blade and wedge were original, but there was evidence of nail holes and light saw cuts where a fence had been attached. Also, it had a 1-1/2-inch long age crack on the top and rear side. Still, in G+ condition, this plane brought a respectable $1,870.

Other desirable 18th c. makers included a JON BALLOU/PROVIDENCE bege at $660, an S.DEAN hollow at $193, an S.CARUTHERS bisection at $495, an I SLEEPER crown molder at $715, and a JO.FULLER crown at $1,540. There were some bargains, an I.CLARK plow estimated $800-$1,200 went for $193, probably due to a beat-up, ugly wedge. A museum quality replacement wedge in the proper style would cost approximately $100. Approximately 14 early Pennsylvania makers brought from $125 - $500 per lot.

Wooden planes from the South

A dozen or more planes from the Southern states brought surprising money. These were planemakers from Memphis and Nashville TN, Columbia SC, Natchez MS, and New Orleans LA. These unusual wooden planes brought prices averaging about $250 per lot.
A STUDY ON...

By Don Bosse

Each issue of The GRISTMILL is a fountain of knowledge, willingly shared with you (the members of M-WTCA) by the members of M-WTCA.

I’ve heard it said many times that an education is not free, I believe that what we receive every three months in the mail is about as close to a free education as you can get. Most of what you read will never appear in any other publication, areas of study so specific in many cases, that less than one page is all that is required to present a new idea or discovery.

Now I know that most of you have something to say, and many have spent years collecting and learning about tools, so be an educator! Don’t let your years of learning go to waste, once you’re gone and your spouse has sent your tools to auction it will be too late.

So forget about that sale that will eat up hours of your day and leave you with nothing to show for your time. Take a few minutes and write down your knowledge and experiences before they are lost. The satisfaction you will receive will be worth it.

Now for new researchers, in this issue I would like to introduce you to Bob Siegel Jr. I am sure many of you already know Bob, who is a resident of Wisconsin and is also a founding member of M-WTCA. He has two areas of study he would like receive information about, the first is “Ice Harvesting,” information regarding the tools, history, and lore would be greatly appreciated. The second is regarding “Woodenshoe (Sabot) Carving.” Any unique information about the tools, techniques, or history of this unusual trade would be of great value. Bob may be reached at: mwtcabosse@worldnet.att.net

If you would like to be added to this list, please contact me at: Don Bosse, 8154 9th Street Place North, Oakdale, MN, 55128. (651) 735-3590 or email me at: mwtcabosse@worldnet.att.net

Randall Harris (812) 963-5817 **December 2002 “Bailey & Stanley #1 Bench Planes” bearplanes@insightbb.com

Tom Lamond (516) 596-1281 **September 2002 “American Axe Makers and Markings”

Charles Beatty (616) 637-9265 **September 2002 “Edge Tool Makers Named Beatty”

Don Bosse (651) 735-3590 **March 2002 “Early Development of the Millers Patent Planes”

John Freeman (415) 752-2857 **September 2001 “Liberty Bell Plane Series Mfd. by Stanley”

Allan Klemm*an (250) 383-2321 **September 2001 “Ax Makers of North America”

Todd Friberg (815) 398-0602 **September 2001 “Pre-1920 Saws, Saw Steel and Saw Working Tools”

Mel Miller (309) 274-4973 **June 2001 “Davis Levels”

Lou Nachman (704) 875-1833 **December 2000 “Montgomery Wards Lakeside Hand Planes”

Jay Ricketts (404) 378-0266 **September 2000 “No-Set Saws”

John Adams (931) 732-4400 **June 2000 “Small Trimming Planes, All Makers”


Ray Fredrich (847) 398-2642 **March 2000 “Patented Mechanical Nail Pullers”

Jim Everette (910) 739-7163 **March 2000 “102 and 103 Block Planes”

Cliff Fales (313) 987-3849 **September 1999 “Spiral Ratchet Screwdrivers”

Chuck Prine (412) 561-6408 **September 1999 “Carpentry Planemakers of Western Pennsylvania and Environ”

John Wells (510) 848-3651 **September 1999 “Metallic Mitre Planes”

Charles Hegedus (770) 974-7508 **September 1999 “Stanley Pocket Levels” “Sargent’s Shaw’s Patent”

William Warner (717) 843-8105 John Tannehill (717) 461-4378 ** September 1999 “E. W Carpenter Patented Planes”

Bob St. Peters (618) 462-0229 ** September 1999 “Israel White, 3-Arm Plow Planes” “Bench Planes (wooden) With Grout Style Cutters Affixed to their Soles”

Don Rosebrook (504) 673-4049 ** September 1999 “Levels”

Emery L. Good, (316) 838-3465 ** September 1999 “Bicycle Tools, Pre-1920”

Tom Lamond, (516) 596-1281 ** December 1999 “All Known Brand Names & Logos Used By Local Wholesale Hardware Concerns”

* * Denotes Gristemill issue with full details of the study listed.

WHY I LIKE IT

MY FAVORITE TOOL

By Philip Baker

The editor periodically asks for an article on “my favorite tool.” This frustrates me no end. Now I’ll tell you why.

No matter where I am, at an M-WTCA semiannual meet, a local area meet, at the flea market. Whatever, if I find something that’s worth vying for it becomes my favorite tool.

If the tool warrants research, then it really becomes my favorite. That is until having become satisfied with its acquired history I’m ready to move on.

Moving on may find the need to produce a piece of furniture, a special window, a door entrance, etc. because that’s what I did for a living. In doing so the tool in my hand to accomplish a task was my favorite.

The type of product produced in my shop required some high tech power tools but always the hand tools came into play. A saw, plane, chisel, bit brace and bits, carving tool and mallet, and don’t forget the many scrapers, even a set of bench hooks at the moment of use were my favorite tool.

Many times during a day’s work I would put to use these tools and remark to myself “how sweet it is.” I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to use tools of the trade. I guess tools are my favorite thing.
Book Selected for Green Bay Reading Group

By Pat Mau

"Off Neck Road" will be discussed by Auxiliary members at the Green Bay meeting.

At the North Carolina meeting, 57 women attended the lively discussion of "Miss Julia Speaks Mind."

"Off Neck Road" by Mona Simpson follows a group of women from that area as they mature and change throughout their adult years. Thanks to the shopping skills of Barb Slasinski, many of our group were able to get discounted copies of the book.

If you have a book or two that you would like to recommend for additional reading for the group, please get it to me now so I can compile a list. My new email address is: patmau@cox.net

Gifts and Treasures Handed Down

By Linda K. Stanton

My great-grandmother, Magdelen Eliza Hungerford (Strevell), lived from 1831-1893. She learned many handicrafts while a child. She completed her cross-stitched sampler when she was only 9 years old. Note that none of the letters goes below the line. The letter "g" is a good example. She made quilts and did beautiful tatting, among other things.

Magdelen passed her knowledge down to my grandmother, Ena Mae Strevell (Lasher), who lived from 1872 - 1950. I didn't know my grandmother very well, as I was only 10 years old when she died. Grandma was 21 years old when her mother died, and she didn't marry until she was 26. Grandma was the youngest of eight children, four of whom died (three the same day) as children before she was even born. One of her brothers married a few years after she was born. She, a brother and a sister grew up together. The girls had to use what they learned from their mother to help with the household, especially after her death. Then they had to tend the house for their father and brother.

My aunt, Mildred Irene Lasher, was born in 1902 and was 95 when she died. She never knew her grandmother. However, her mother taught her how to do the crafts that she had learned from her mother.

Aunt Mildred attempted to show me how to tat. It was an abysmal failure since I am left-handed. However, I did learn how to knit from her and can knit very well.

I am so pleased to have had these items handed down to me. I treasure them. I treasure more the knowledge that I learned from them all. The display won the Most Elegant award at North Carolina.
My Grandmother’s Crafts

By Babe Kinnemeyer

The items on my display came from my husband John's family. Grandma Dinger was born in Germany in 1874 and came to America at the age of 16. She loved working with her hands. She could knit as she read the paper, in the movies or riding in the horse and buggy.

The unusual quilt was given to my nephew 53 years ago and wasn't new at that time. There was a sweater, baby sweater and cap and a beautiful crocheted purse. Being a classy lady, she made purses to match her outfits. There were two tiny dolls that she patiently sewed a layette for using very delicate stitches. There were several of her patterns she used as she crocheted.

Grandma traced patterns for the jewelry case, picture and many other items. She and grandpa made cathedrals three to four feet tall but we never kept one—smart too late.

Grandma Kinnemeyer Heinlein sewed the beautiful large quilt. She had a love for quilting. Love went into each stitch she took. She was widowed at an early age and had little time for crafts until after she remarried. Everyone who knew her loved her and she was a wonderful mom to me. We are grateful we have some of Grandma's crafts to remember them by. The display received the Most Versatile award at North Carolina.

Stitches in Time

By Jeanne M. Price

In Grandma's time, young girls were introduced to the written language through marking samplers. The sampler taught the forming of letters and numbers and as a sample of various stitches and patterns. I found mine in Grandma's trunk.

At the bottom of old work baskets you would often find a discarded lucet. A lucet is a small tool in the form of a lyre used for making chains. It could be of wood, ivory or horn. With the lucet held in the left hand and the ball of thread in the right, the end of the thread was passed through the hole in the base from back to front and secured with the left thumb. The thread was brought up at the back of the implement between the horns and wound in front of and then behind the right horn and, similarly, in front of and behind the left horn, in the manner of a figure eight, and was then brought out between the two horns. By revolving and winding the thread a light knot was formed that was extremely strong and did not stretch. The cords were used for closure of bags and purses and for laces. Machine cording made the lucet obsolete.

A tool that has lost much of its usefulness in modern days is the stiletto. It will often be found with the lucet as it was needed for making the eyelet holes through which cords and laces could be threaded. It was made of metal or ivory, and Grandma would use it for eyelet embroidery.

An implement used in conjunction with a crochet hook, familiar in former times, but comparatively rare, is the two-pronged fork employed in hairpin-work. In appearance, the tool resembles the lucet and it was from this hairpin-work was derived. The tool in both cases is held in the palm of the hand, though in hairpin work the loops, formed with the aid of a crochet hook, are not tightened but remain on the fork in a double row. When enough loops have been formed, they are slipped off and the strip is combined with ordinary crochet so a trimming is formed.

A pastime favored by my Grandma was tatting. She taught my sister and I this skill and we spent many pleasant hours knotting threads. The thread was first wound on the shuttle and by a series of knots and picots a narrow trimming was formed. The shuttles were made of ivory, bone, silver, wood and mother-of-pearl. The size of the knotting depended on the thickness of the thread. Old shuttles had considerable space between the tips of the blades to enable silk cords or coarse homespun to be wound.

Idle hands had always been discouraged in American society. When Grandma went visiting, she always had a small portable project with her as a pastime. One of these projects was a bedspread pillow worked on homespun that when finished decorated a love seat. This form of Art Needlework was worked in worsted, slubbed, and ornamented fabric with a variety of decorative stitches.

The machine age is here but Art Needlework will still be practiced. While older tools from times past are fun to examine and collect, modern tools are more functional. The display won the Most Acceptable award at Winston-Salem.

Chicken Scratch – An American Original

By Joey Gilmore

Chicken Scratch is a lovely old needlecraft which has been known by many names. You may know it as Depression Lace, Chinese Pinwheel, TicTac Embroidery, Snowflake Embroidery, Teneriff Embroidery or Amish Embroidery.

Continued on page 34
Continued from page 33

Its origin is uncertain. It probably dates back to early America and spread across America as the settlers moved westward. Hence, there are the many different names. A combination of simple embroidery stitches and a basic needle weaving stitch when worked on gingham fabric results in a beautiful lace effect that looks like it took hours to accomplish.

I treasure all the aprons and tablecloths my husband’s mother did in Chicken Scratch. The display won a Judges Choice at Winston-Salem.

Grandma’s Trunk

By Gloria Renehan

The Winston-Salem meeting was a good excuse to go through grandma’s trunk in the attic and piece together some family history.

Johannah E. Treimer (Hannah as she was known) was born in 1865. We believe she had two brothers and a sister. On Feb. 13, 1896, she married John Trollan, an Irish immigrant. It appears they lived all of their married life in Pennsylvania. They had four sons and a daughter. She died in 1934 before the marriage of her daughter, Kathleen. When Kathleen died, grandma’s trunk was in her attic.

The only history with the trunk told us grandma came to America from Germany at the age of 16 with her family and this trunk. The framed picture was on her daughter’s dresser with the word “Mother” on the back. We now knew what grandma looked like.

The fancy blouse and dress tops, stuffed teddy, page from the family bible, autograph book and auto harp are some of the items the trunk contained. Were they hers? Did she make any of them? Why were they kept? We can only speculate on the answers and wonder what her life might have been like.

The trunk itself is very interesting. It appears to look more like a shipping crate with the name Anton Trimer stenciled on the top. It has metal strap hinges and a lock with a large key. It is 38 inches wide by 25 inches deep by 26 inches high.

There is a paper written in Old Script German fastened to the inside of the lid that we have been unable to get translated. There are two hand forged locks with a carving under each of them.

Most Sentimental was the award garnered by this display at Winston-Salem.

Grandmother’s Hobbies, by Annette Torres, won a Judges Choice award in Winston-Salem. Mike Slasinski photo.

Grandmother’s Quilt

Left Unfinished

By Annette Torres

My display at Winston-Salem consisted of a quilt top my grandmother had pieced for my brother in 1938.

She quilted remnants of material that had been used to make clothes for him or other members of the family. The bedsprad of the popcorn pattern she was crocheting for me when she died lacks a row of medallions, half medallions and the edging. There is a medallion and a half that she was working on still in the quilted bag where she kept her work. I also included her crocheted needle case.

Grandmother lived with us her last two months and I would sit in her room playing or talk-
ing to her as she worked on the bedspread. She was a very special lady to me, and I suppose I was her pet as my cousins and sisters claimed.

I have often been asked why I never had the bedspread completed, but I feel if anyone else works on it that would take some of the special meaning away from it for me. It will fit a double bed with a little hanging over just as it is.

The display won a Judges Choice at the North Carolina show.

My Grandmother’s Crafts

By Helen Devitt

“My Grandmother’s Crafts” was a sentimental journey for me as my grandmother lived with our family for the last thirty years of her life. She was like my second mom.

My display shows her, Alta Azubah Davenport Gunder Mills, as a young woman with her first husband. She is pictured with an afghan she crocheted in Florida. Also included is a picture of her at our wedding along with my handkerchief on which she crocheted an edging. She and I were also part of a double four generation in 1935.

Another item I included was a rocking chair pad that she made for her great-grandchildren and is now used by her great-great granddaughter. Favorite projects were her sombrero hat needle books which I will share with my daughters. She crocheted cross bookmarks and gave them to friends and relatives. Crocheted dollies and a chair set in pineapple design popular in the 1940s were also included in the display.

A part of my display that I use daily at our back entrance is the large wool crocheted rug.

To complete my display, I included her last girdle, to remind me of her 18-inch waist when she was a bride, and also a can of her famous sour milk sugar cookies.

Oh, what wonderful memories I have of Grandma Mills! The display was a Judges Choice winner in North Carolina.
Tony Murland and Mike Hancock in conjunction with Tyrone Roberts announce an outstanding International Sale of Antique and Useable Woodworking Tools, to include a superb selection of quality infill planes, rare NORRIS, SPIERS, MATHIESON, SLATER, BUCK, HOLLAND, and TOWELL planes. Tools by HOLTZAPFFEL. Rare metallic framed braces, superb selection of complex moulding planes and cabinetmakers planes. Hundreds of carving tools chisels and gouges. Planemakers tools, rare rules, 18th century tools and ancient tools. a probably unique solid rosewood MATHIESON brass stemmed fillester. Also a section of contemporary toolmakers CARTER, ENTWISTLE, FUNNEL, PARRY, HAMLER, HOLTEY, LEAMY etc etc.

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The GRISTMILL • June 2003 • 36
By Hunter Pilkinton

As I write this on April 2, 2003, nature is putting on its spring show. The daffodils (butter cups) have come and gone, flowering trees are in bloom and leaves are about half out on most trees. A venerable old pear tree beside our kitchen window was covered with beautiful blossoms, and is now shedding petals all over. It won't bear but 1 or 2 pears but it sure puts on a show in its old age. Never give up, I guess is its lesson.

Only got one reply to puzzles in the December, 2002, of The GRISTMILL, from my Canadian friend B. G. Thomas, Cheltenham, Ontario. He says my puzzles help him "get his brain moving."

Here are the answers to the puzzles in the December GRISTMILL.

Puzzle 1 Susan and Lisa were playing tennis betting $1 on each game. Susan won 3 bets and Lisa won $5. How many games did they play? ANSWER - Lisa must win 3 games to get even, and 5 more to win $5, plus she played 3 games to lose the $3 to Susan adding up to a total of 11 games.

Puzzle 2 Determine what two letters, when pronounced fit the description below. Example "not difficult" = EZ

1) a vine = IV 2) extra = XS 3) a number = AT 4) avoid = MT 5) skin blemish = 5h 6) annoy = 6n 7) Bishop = 7B 8) enormous = 8m

They're easy once you see the answer!

Puzzle 3 Decode the picture puzzle shown in the sketch. Sorry for the small size as published, but most of us are no stranger to magnifying glasses!

Upper left figure = "feeling down in the dumps" Middle left figure = "too (too) soon to (two) tell" Lower left figure = "mad about you" Upper right figure = "operating under false pretenses" Middle right figure = "kick up stairs" Lower right figure = "checkered past"

And now for this issue's puzzles:

Puzzle 1 (see sketch) Each of four cubes shown is marked the same. One side of each has no markings. Describe the markings on each side of the block in the proper orientation. It may help to draw a foldout pattern, as shown with the sketch.

Puzzle 2 Listed below are 8 simple words. Can you think of a synonym for each which is also the name of an animal? Example: a lifting device = crane

1) Club 2) Guide 3) Endure 4) Bond together
5) skin blemish 6) annoy 7) Bishop 8) enormous

Puzzle 3 Which word doesn't belong in the following list and why?

1) write 2) lead 3) waste 4) sight 5) herd 6) led 7) heard 8) right 9) card 10) waist 11) site

Puzzle 4 Using only 4 number 3s and common math signs, arrange the 4 number 3s in simple equations to equal the numbers 0-10. Example 3/3 = 0. The puzzle original suggested 15 minutes completion time. Puzzles this issue are from "So You Think You're Smart," by Pat Battaglia and "World's Greatest Puzzles," by Charles Barry Townsend.

Have fun and contact me directly with answers or comments.

– Hunter Pilkinton
2431 Highway 13,
South Waverly, TN 37185
Phone (931) 296-3218

Puzzle 1
A Ruling Needed

Having just received an Interlox Master Slide Rule as a gift, I was delighted to see the cover story by George Wanamaker on the Master Rule Manufacturing Co. However, my rule has all of the features of the Model 10 except that all of the metal fittings are brass, not sheet metal.

It can't be a Model 11, for it has PAT. PEND, nor can it be a Model 9 for the same reason. So what do I have? A Model 10A? Made during World War II? Made late-1940s but thanked for his contribution.

The article obviously entailed much research and will stand as a very useful reference. The author is to be thanked for his contribution.

K.B. Johns
Boone, NC

HUGE TOOL AUCTION
“KEN LORD ESTATE”
July 25 & 26th ** 9 AM Each Day
Held in Ray Co. Veterans Bldg.* 312 Clark St. * Richmond, MO

We were unable to get a comprehensive list since most of those being in storage & virtually inaccessible. So we simply skimmed the surface of this huge accumulation of tools of all kinds, styles & mfg. It includes a very large lot of interesting wrenches (such as cut-out Planet Jr, Iron Ace, Blackhawk, Deere & others, as well as other uncommon styles & varieties), many handsaws, lg. lot of wood & iron planes, brace & bits, wooden pulleys, hammers, hand axes, levels, 3 cooper's crozes, travelers, scoop shaves, compass planes, other cooper's tools, hand tools, wood carpenter chests, wooden shot boxes. In addition there will be lots of Stanley, Winchester, Keen Kutter, Diamond Edge, Shapleigh & Simmons tools & collectibles, beautiful Norvell-Shapleigh Scissors & Shears glass display case, 4' Diamond Edge showcase & others. Chauffeurs Badges, License Plates, over 200 Padlocks (some RR, Mo-Pac Women's Toilet lock, etc, Simmons CDQ, Good Luck.) Some Padlock displays, Winchester & Remington collectors series Pocket Knives, Shot Boxes, Full box of Ford 5 cent Cigars, 56" Oak Roll-top Desk (C), KK & DE store signs, fishing & sporting good collectibles, Stanley Commemoratives (Handsaw, Back Saw, T-bevel, #45) Owner: Ken Lord Trust

Simmons & Company Auctioneers, Inc.
40706 E. 144th St. Richmond, MO 1-800-646-2936
www.simmonsauction.com

Check our Website for Complete Listing Info, Photographs, Directions, Lodging, etc.

Thurs. July 24
Ken loved his toys, so on Thursday we will sell his large collection of Model Farm Tractors & Toys, Farm Show Toy Tractors, Ertl, John Deere, Dealer Cases, Muscle Cars, Nascar & Racing Memorabilia & Collectibles, Hot Wheels, Matchbook, Racing Champions, Johnny Lightning, Showroom Series, Rusty Wallace, Dale Earnhardt, and much more. Some vintage toys as well.

Darley’s Barn
MWTC Area F Annual Tool Meet
South Whitley, IN

Sunday, 24 August 2003

The Venue: A picturesque setting nestled in the heart of rolling farmland, with lots of open grass for vehicles and tool-tables, shade if you need it, and an 1853 barn full of primitives of every description (plus the early-morning coffee and pastries). “It’s hard to imagine a lovelier spot!” – Bill Baxter, leading Midwest auctioneer

The Familiar: Indiana tailgating at its very best, from antique and collectible tools to that rare one-of-a-kind, together with a great hot buffet lunch prepared by Scott Darley and the good company of some of the nicest folk you’ll ever hear spin a long yarn. “The food alone was worth the drive.” - a visitor from Pennsylvania

Again This Year: The Best Little Tool Auction in Indiana, of over seventy-five exceptional-quality antique tools (including Stanley #42 Miller's patent, Stanley #1, 2, 2C, ivory rules, complex molders, chisel sets, levels, Stanley MIB, and on and on, all Fine or G+); tool displays on the theme “One Notable Tool”, with 1st and 2nd best-display awards of $100 and $75; five good-as-cash door-prizes, announced in time to spend. “This is a serious auction!” - Martin J. Donnelly, Live Free or Die Tool Auctions

New This Year: Demonstrations of time-honored manual skills and arts, featuring Kentucky master craftsman John Turbek's start-to-finish construction of a gorgeous tool chest with dovetails, inlay and veneering; planemaking by Tod Herrli of Mississinewa Valley Workshop; Ralph Brendler of Illinois on hand-made Shaker boxes; Mike Yazel of Indiana on bowl- and seat-hewing. Especially for the women and anyone weary of tooling, a guest appearance by award-winning miniatuirist Carol Turbek, with her amazing scale-model version of an early American carpenter’s workshop.

Auction listing, registration information and map mailed on 15 July 2003 to MWTC members in IN, MI, KY, OH, IL

Others should contact Jan Cover, jacover@purdue.edu, (765) 494-4288 days, (765) 523-3586 evens.
WANTED

Wanted: Tools of any sort made by the Sandusky Tool Co. I don’t have them all yet! Also, catalogs, advertising and related material. John Walkowski, 3452 Humboldt Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55408 (612) 624-0785.

Wanted: Plumb brand mechanics tools. Any pre-Proto tools or tool boxes. Bob Byron, 19 Chenhall View Lane, Hoquiam, WA 98550 (360) 532-2764. E-mail: bobbyron@techline.com

Wanted: Seeking material for book. All items marked “The Winchester Store” and all pre-1923 advertising, sports items and paper. Also ARMAX, BERRY, CRUSADER and HENDRYX items. Tim Melcher, (918) 786-8500. tmelcher@greencis.net and at www.thewinchestertestore.com

Wanted: Tabletop cast iron printing presses. All makes and sizes (Kelsey’s must be smaller than 3 x 5). Also, micrometer calibrated in printer’s measurements (points). Paul Aken, 3051 Sheridan Rd., Zion, IL 60099. (847) 746-8170. email: tablepress@connect.net

Wanted: Back issues of Fine Woodworking magazine. Please contact: Pete Sandberg, 517 Taylor St., Waupun, WI 53963 (920) 324-4492. Or please bring them to the M-WTCA meeting this spring in Green Bay, WI, and look me up there. Thank you.

FOR SALE

For Sale: Treadle wood lathe by W.C. Young, Worcester, MA; surveyor’s transit by J.H. Hobby, Hempstead, Long Island; dog powered treadmill by Minard Harder, Cokeskill, NY; other tools, machines and instruments. Visit our website at: americanartifacts.com or call Richard Van Vleck (301) 447-2680.

For Sale: Steam Whistle Patents book. 216 U.S. patents and far more. $35 includes shipping. Bruce Cynar, 10023 St. Clair’s Retreat, Cobleskill, NY; other tools, machines and instruments. Please contact: Pete Sandberg, 517 Taylor St., Waupun, WI 53963 (920) 324-4492. Or please bring them to the M-WTCA meeting this spring in Green Bay, WI, and look me up there. Thank you.

WANTED FOR RESEARCH

Wanted for research: Tools marked by a Beatty, catalogs, advertisements, or other information on the Beattys. If you have any, I would like to hear from you. Especially looking for a copy of a Beatty Edge Tool Company catalog dated 1899. Charles Beatty, 566 North Shore Drive, South Haven, MI 49090. (269) 637-9265 cbeaty@btc-bci.com

For further information, to find a dealer in your area or to place an order, contact:

JOHN T. KRAMER
PO. Box 8715 / Sugar Creek, MO 64054 / (816) 252-9512
kramer@kramerize.com / www.kramerize.com
16-PAGE BOOK OF INSTRUCTIONS & USES FREE WITH PURCHASE.

Our ancestors kept their fine pieces good for hundreds of years by using materials that were natural and compatible.

I have formulated my Antique Improver based on my studies of those old recipes. It is made by hand from all-natural ingredients—positively no modern petro-chemicals or synthetics.

Recommended for both the metal and the wood of old tools and guns. Natural color and beauty of the wood is restored, rust is removed and prevented from reoccurring, while leaving the metal with a soft, natural patina. Originality is maintained; value is preserved. Try it! You will be amazed!

Advertising Information

### ISSUE

March: January 10
June: April 10
September: July 10
December: October 10

### DISPLAY ADS — RATES

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*(NOTE: For layout purposes, all quarter page ads must meet the following specifications: 2 columns (4-7/8") wide x 3-3/4" tall. This is called a "double column size ad." Photos — additional $8 each (Polaroids not acceptable). Typesetting and borders are not included in the page rates. Special artwork will be charged at cost. We must have a sketch or rough drawing indicating how you want your ad laid out. Camera-ready ads are accepted at no additional charge. For your protection and complete satisfaction, ALL ads should be typewritten and double-spaced. If this is not possible, please PRINT legibly.

Payment must accompany ad. Make checks payable to M-WTCA. At this time, advertising will be accepted only from M-WTCA members in good standing. For information and membership application, contact Paul Gorham at the address below or one of the officers whose address is shown on the inside front cover of this publication.

Send all ads to:
Paul Gorham, 811 Robin Glen, Indianapolis, IN 46215 (317) 962-5207
email: pgorham9@mchsi.com or pgorham9@hotmail.com

The GRISTMILL • June 2003 • 39
Open House Antique Tool Auction
Saturday, June 21, 2003: Avoca, New York
Martin J. Donnelly Antique Tools, County Route 8, Avoca, New York

Special Note: Please plan to join us for a Tripartite Joint Regional Meeting of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association, Early American Industries Association and the Western New York Tool Collectors at our World Headquarters Complex in Avoca, New York. Plans call for tool trading beginning at dawn on Saturday, demonstrations, presentations and more, followed by an auction of 601 lots called by Live Free or Die Auctioneer Paul Wilmott. Registration Details for the meeting are being handled by Western New York Tool Collector’s Association President Chuck Wirtenson. To register, please send $5.00 to the following address and indicate whether or not you will be selling:

Chuck Wirtenson
President, WNYTCA
PO Box 109
Verona NY 13478
(315) 363-7682

Registration Fee of $5.00
Includes Donuts & Coffee
& One Trading Space

Our auction of 601 Lots will begin at High Noon and will feature the complete woodworking shop of Norman Peschke of Clifton Park, New York. Included are a wide range of power shop woodworking tools and hand tools of every sort. Also included in the sale will be a Stanley No. 41 Miller’s Patent Plane, an Ultimatum Brace by William Marples, many scarce STANLEY items, chisels, edge tools, blacksmith’s tools including a Hay-Budden anvil and other items too numerous to mention. Nearly 4000 tools will be included in the sale. Please plan to join us for an enjoyable day in the country!

Please check our web site for lodging information or give us a call at (800) 869-0695.

Annual Antique Tool Fair and Antique Tool Auction
July 11 & 12, 2003 600 Lots Sold Each Day
Withington Auction Estate, Hillsboro Center, New Hampshire
Auctioneer Richard Withington, New Hampshire License No. 1

Join Us for High Summer in New Hampshire!

More than 200 Dealer Spaces - Spaces Just $35.00 Each
Friday Auction 600 Lots 2:01 p.m. -- Overnight Camping On Site
Saturday Auction 601 Lots 9:31 a.m.
Flea Market Opens at Dawn Saturday
Dealer Spaces Just $35.00
During Brimfield Week!
For Details Call: (800) 869-0695
Plan Today to Make the Trip!
Call for Details: (800) 869-0695

All items in all auctions photographed and available for secure online absentee bidding at www.mjdtools.com/auction
Full color, 88 page auction catalogue for the July Sale: $17.95 or subscribe & save (see adjacent page)

Live Free or Die Antique Tool Auctions - A Division of Martin J. Donnelly Antique Tools - (800) 869-0695