

# Living History

A Quarterly Journal of Historical Preservation

Volume 3, Number 1

## Loring McMillen and the Richmond Town Restoration Staten Island, NY

Loring McMillen (1906-1991), Borough Historian of Staten Island, was a pioneer in the study of American material culture. A lifelong resident of the island, McMillen had a natural tendency to collect, analyze, and categorize things. "I could never look back at two objects and not wonder why they had changed and what caused the change," he once said.

Loring's interest in local history had roots in his mother's curiosity about how people lived and what caused them to be the way they are. Elizabeth McMillen, a teacher and one of the earliest female graduates of Columbia University, had been an active participant in the fight for labor reform. She encouraged Loring to study "the inner domestic life that people led, what they ate, what kind of tools they used, and how they developed these tools."

Elizabeth's influence was reinforced by Loring's maternal grandfather who spent the last years of his life in the McMillen family home. Sydney Smith Boyce, who died at age 93, had been a newspaper editor; he loved to tell stories of past events and people, first hand memories that Loring inherited. Sydney kept a "museum" of old things in the attic where his grandson was allowed to play.

Like his mother, Loring's father, Harlow, was a teacher and crusader. He became leader of Staten Island's Prohibition Party. Years later, Loring recalled his father's strong feelings for local names. The family lived at 1647 Richmond Turnpike, but soon after the First World War the road's name was changed to Victory Boulevard. Harlow was so upset that he had the address changed from 1647 Richmond Turnpike to 226 Fairview Avenue, the adjacent street, then had the front stoop rebuilt to face Fairview.

After graduating from high school with honors in 1924, Loring went to Union College in Schenectady, New York. He excelled in track and cross country and attained a degree in civil engineering. On returning to



*William T. Davis and Loring McMillen, ca. 1940. "In 1929 Loring McMillen returned to Staten Island to commence a career and marriage, just months before the October stock market crashed. The ensuing Great Depression brought an abrupt halt to the real estate boom and devastated a great many Staten Island lives and businesses, including numbers of "landpoor," older, native-born families, sometimes descendants of early settlers. McMillen brought a new perspective and energy to the study of the locality. His approach was rooted in democratic populism and became closely allied with the emerging "New Deal" philosophy. He focused his attention on the material life—especially the buildings and tools—of the common folk of the Island." —Charles L. Sachs, in the Staten Island Historian, Summer/Fall 1991.*

Staten Island in 1928, Loring was employed by the New York Telephone Company as an engineer and district manager, a job he was to maintain until his retirement in 1966. During this time he took classes in architecture at

Columbia and New York universities.

Alone until he married Eleanor Smith in 1929, Loring McMillen began to ride about Staten Island, photographing and sketching

## COMMUNICATIONS

### TO THE EDITOR,

Thanks for sending your sith material. Enclosed is three dollars as requested (Five Siths and a Mathook from Ulster County, New York. Available, item 2. page 11.)

While these are not central to eighteenth-century Anglo-American agriculture, I am nonetheless very interested in learning of other focused studies of pre-industrial

agricultural hand tools such as yours. I was particularly fascinated to see the spade handle adaptation from the Snyder farm and other variations. Those few I surveyed some years ago for the Staten Island Historical Society in Richmondtown, New York, were of the fully enclosed grip style. They also had a mathook (which I called a pickthank), which was found in the wall of a seventeenth-century house they dismantled, thus probably the oldest documented mathook extant. I am forwarding a photo for your records.

You mention blade "tines" in your report. David Tresemer calls them "tangs," and suggests other nomenclature in his study, *The Sythe Book*, which you may already know about.

Lastly, although I cannot locate your mention of it, I believe you said there might be field testing of sites next summer (1993?). If

so, could you advise me if and as these plans mature? I would love to see these tools in action (as I did in the short German documentary film of the 1950s) to compare their efficiency to the sickle I use regularly at Colonial Williamsburg.

Thank you again, and good luck in your continuing research. Happy Holidays.

Wayne Randolph  
Agriculture Specialist  
Colonial Williamsburg  
Williamsburg, Virginia

P.S. If you run across any cradle sythes *with hard date* documentation, please let me know.

DEAR WAYNE,

Thanks for your interest. I will use this issue of *Living History* to open a dialogue with other people interested in pre-industrial harvest tools. I do know of the Tessemer book and will go with his terminology.

I have read that a person with a sith and a mathook can cut an acre of grain in one day, and only one-quarter to one-third of an acre with a sickle in one day. How many acres can you cut with a sythe, with and without a cradle?

Of course the efficiency of the harvest will include the other members of the team who gather and tie the grain, the wagons that take the sheaves to the barn, and the good refreshments. If I hear of such an event being planned, I will let you know. In the meantime I will make a sith and a mathook.

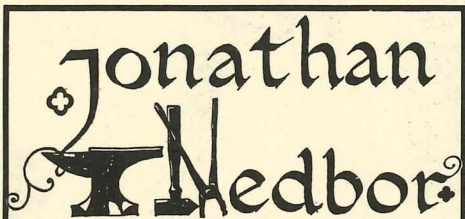
Peter



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# Gloucester Old Spot Pigs



My eighth grade history teacher's exclamation, "I bet my speckled pig!" always made me smile. Little did I know that thirty years later I would be raising speckled pigs myself. I guess the laugh is on me.

I raise Gloucester Old Spot pigs. A rare breed today. It is believed to be the progenitor of many of the country's spotted pigs. An Old Spot is noted for black spots not only on its bristles, but also on its skin. The breed has large ears that flop forward, covering the eyes and face, especially as the animals get older.

I first learned of Old Spots when visiting the Irasburg, Vermont, farm of Paul and Nancy Daniels. Paul, a director of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy, raises Dutch Belted, Lineback, and Pinzgauer cattle, which were the reason for my visit. Nancy raises Old Spots among her rare breeds and proudly showed me her beautiful Queen Ann. Nancy's love and concern for the breed was obvious as she listed its assets: lean body, low fat, gentle temperament, hardy foragers, nurturing mothers. . . . I was hooked, and I bought two female piglets for the cloister where I live.

All of our livestock breeds are hardy and self-sufficient and the Old Spots were no exception. While they are indeed cornfed gems, they also started foraging quite young and before I was really ready, they found the

fields of neighboring farmers quite tasty.

I remember a farmer taking me to his potato patch where he and his family were trying to pick potatoes while Mae and Ethel, my swine girls, were squealing and racing with delight around them. Old Spots are very smart. They knew they weren't supposed to be there. One slap on the rump sent both scurrying back down the hillside to the safety of the cloister.

According to Britain's Rare Breed Survival Trust, the Old Spot originated in the Beekaley Valley region of England and was called the Orchard Pig because it was used to clean orchards of windfalls. And they still love apples, but the breed was lean at a time when fat was in, primarily for lard, so it was evidently never popular, though it is likely that the breed was brought to this country and bred with other varieties. In the U.S., Ag-World Imports of Bloomington, Illinois, has imported Old Spots since 1985, primarily for cross breeding. The breed's leanness is now an asset when lean swine bring premium prices at market.

Today there are only a few hundred registered Old Spots in Britain. This small gene pool has caused the trust to import Old Spots from Australia to add genetic diversity. The trust has proposed a similar program to the Minor Breeds Conservancy, which was informed the handful of American breeders of

the program to determine interest. Even Britain's Prince Charles has become involved with the breed's future by guaranteeing loans to establish new Old Spot herds.

Old spots were especially good on land that can't be used for crops or pasture. They can thrive on hillsides, ravines, and tree stands that can be enclosed to contain them. Visitors to the cloister are often amazed to see the Old Spots grazing with the sheep and goats, but their foraging is not destructive; they only start rooting when there's nothing on the surface to eat.

While there are many reasons for raising Old Spots, I haven't mentioned the most personal: I'm a sucker for a pretty face.

Brother Johannes Zinzendorf

## Sources:

1. American Minor Breeds Conservancy, P.O. Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.
2. Gloucester Old Spot Breeders, Ag-World Imports, RR1, Box 395, Bloomington, IL 61701.
3. Nancy Daniels, Diamond-Heart Farms, Irasburg, VT 06846.

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## Loring MacMillen and the Richmondtown Restoration continued ...



*Loring MacMillen. Loring cradles grain on the Decker Farm, Staten Island. He uses a cradle sythe with five tines. Courtesy of Historic Richmond Town.*

old houses and buildings. Many of these landmarks were abandoned and neglected, and they were disappearing fast. On one warm August day in 1929, Loring met a group of people led by an older man in a straw hat and a dark ruffled suit, who proved to be William T. Davis, a local historian. When the two men discovered their mutual interest in the architectural and natural history of the island, they began a long and productive friendship, taking field trips and auto excursions to all parts of Staten Island until Davis's death in 1945.

Davis was president of the Staten Island Historical Society, which met occasionally in an old house on Richmond Road. Loring joined as its youngest member in 1931 and in 1933 he was made "custodian" of their

growing collection.

Many of the field trips Loring took were weekend family outings with friends. During one such adventure, the group discovered a collection of colonial pottery fragments in the foundation of an early house. For two years Loring and his friend Howard Hill spent many evenings gluing the broken pieces back together, the results: the "complete contents

of a late 18th century cupboard of a family of moderate means."

At this time, the McMilleens were renting a bungalow with an attached garage, but their Model A Ford rarely made it inside, as it was filled with artifacts, tools, and antiques. Using three old maps, Loring drew a detailed map of Staten Island at the time of the American Revolution which led him to many ancient houses hidden by modern alterations.

In 1933 the Staten Island Historical Society found a permanent home in Richmondtown at the Old County Clerk's and Surrogate's Office, which the Borough of Staten Island would continue to own and maintain for the society's use. Built in 1848, but unused for ten years, this eight-room brick building was ideal for displaying the group's growing collection of household articles, tools, prints, photographs, vehicles, fire arms, and Indian relics, and would become the center of today's Historic Richmond Town village, a museum complex that actively interprets three centuries of daily life and culture on Staten Island.

From 1935 to 1939 the work at Richmondtown was augmented by the WPA. At its peak in 1937, twenty-six workers were employed to do archaeological work, document historic buildings, index local records, interview island elders, and preserve and restore the historical society's collections. Meanwhile, a volunteer group lead by Loring MacMillen, met one night a week, often working into the early hours of the morning on accessions and exhibits; even after a paid



*Cooking. Interpreters prepare wafers in the c. 1820 kitchen of the Guyon Lake Tysen House, at Richmond Town Restoration, Staten Island. Courtesy of Historic Richmond Town.*



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*Washing. Judith McMillen, on the porch of the Guyon Lake Tysen House (c. 1740) with 1920 addition), supervises laundry, at Richmond Town Restoration, Staten Island, Courtesy of Historic Richmond Town.*

staff became a reality in the 1960's, these volunteers continued to play an important role in the development of Richmondtown.

In 1939, using Loring's map and early records of Staten Island that were becoming available, members of the historical society discovered the remains of the 1695 Voorlezer's House in Richmondtown, a small two-story frame building constructed for use as a Dutch Reformed Church, school, and a living quarters for the voorlezer (a lay minister and teacher). After years of careful study and restoration, it was opened to the public, a rare survival of the early Dutch settlement. Its crudely built wooden frame is a testament to the primitive living conditions of the Dutch pioneers.

In 1943 Loring submitted a proposal to the New York State Historian for the development of Richmondtown. The goal, he wrote, was "to recreate a typical 18th-century and early 19th-century village within easy reach of every resident of the metropolitan area." Funds never materialized, but Loring actively pro-

moted the idea and with other preservationists refined and augmented its scope.

In 1950 McMillen's vision attracted the interest of "master builder" Robert Moss, then the New York City park commissioner, who obtained a major grant for research and planning. From 1953 through 1955 Loring worked full-time as historical consultant. The plan made public in 1956 called for a major outdoor museum complex.

Today Historic Richmond Town occupies 100 acres of land on the Richmond Creek, centrally located on the 7 by 14 mile island. The village consists of twenty-nine historic buildings, 12 original to the site with thirty-five full and part-time staff. Richmond Town is home to numerous traditional and seasonal activities, workshops, and fundraising events. Although it is open all year, the program of living history interpretations is especially active during the summer.

The present supervisor of restoration, William McMillen, Loring's son, works hard with a small budget to maintain and

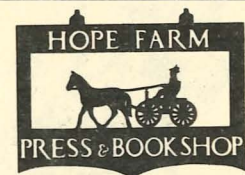
expand the village. When visited in December, he was directing three workers on the restoration of the newest arrival to the village, the Corcheron House, a farmhouse built on the island by a Manhattan merchant about 1817. One worker with draw knife and shave bench was making shakes from bundles of short riven (split) boards of red cedar, a frequent project since roofs are in constant need of repair.

Judith McMillen, William's wife, directs the education department. Its thirteen-member staff, four of whom work full-time, work with school children and interpret the site to visitors. This work had recently been supported by an annual \$300,000 contribution from the New York State's department of education, but this grant was reduced to \$50,000 in 1992 and prospects are unsure for next year. New efforts at fund raising are under way.

Loring McMillen and the people of Staten Island whose unified efforts created Historic Richmond Town have preserved not only their local history and culture, but a model of historic preservation that any community can learn from.

For information about Historic Richmond Town and its current calendar of events, write or call:

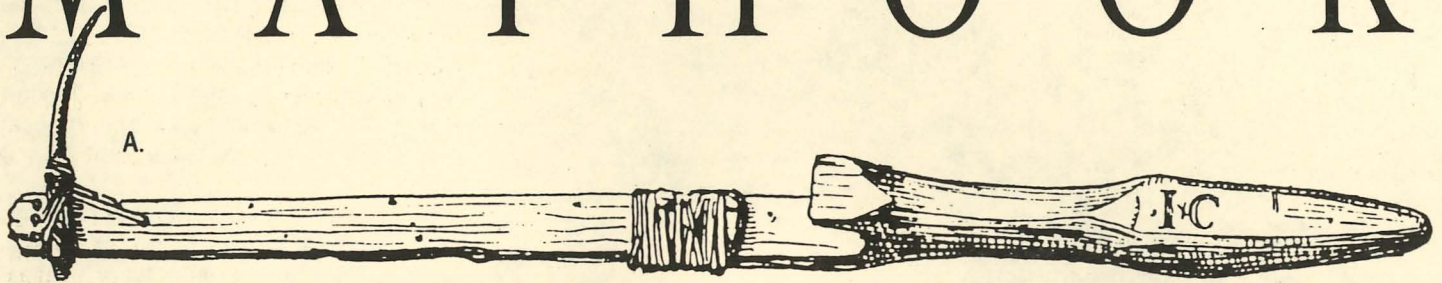
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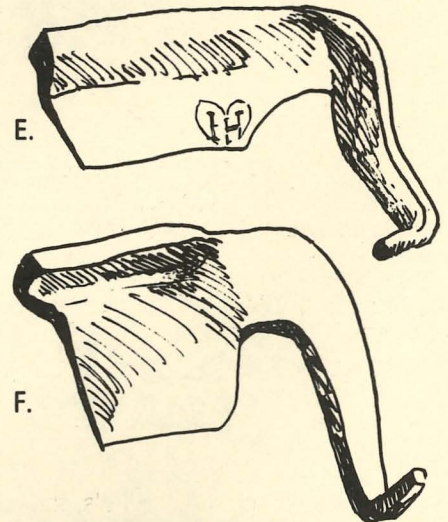
# M A T H O O K



A. Staten Island Mathook, Mid 18th Century. Drawing by F.O. Fingade.

In 1941 the Staten Island Historic Society had many priorities in the preservation and documentation of historic buildings, but a fire in the roof of the Stillwell-Perline House, built originally in 1698 drew their attention to do minor repairs. They discovered some unexpected architecture, but because of other pressing matters it was 1943 before Loring MacMillan and six other enthusiasts could devote their Saturdays to probe the secrets of the buildings fireplace development, uncovering the layers of stone, brick, plaster, and wood, to the original Dutch jambless fireplace, a style used in Hudson Valley houses until the mid 18th century.

In their weekend work of exploring and documenting the Perin house, Loring and his friends found five interesting objects hidden in the walls, an old hog bristle paintbrush and a carpenter's reel used to keep his chalk line. In a space behind the fireplace, evidently fallen through an opening in the floor boards above, were a child's crutch, a flint lock rifle, and a well worn wooden stick with an iron point on the end. No one knew what it was.



E. & F. Comparison of Tang and Blade Design of the Sith and Sythe. Drawing by P. Sinclair.

The tang of the sith (E.) is bent at a right angle to the blade while the tang of the sythe (F.) is level with its blade. The cross sections of the blades of these tools also differ.

The "IH" set in a heart and stamped on the sith blade (top) is positioned in the usual place for the blade maker's mark. Other sith blade makers which have been documented are S. and A. Waters" of Amsterdam, New York, "H. Barton of Mayfield," "P.L. Rice," "HS," "HE," and "M." Some of the 18th century sith blades may have been European imports.



B. *The Reaper*. Drawing by Vincent van Gogh, collection National Museum Vincent van Gogh, Amsterdam, Holland.

According to a United Nations agricultural report, the use of the sith and mathood could still be found in Europe in 1969, "in Belgium and the Netherlands and in the neighboring regions of northeastern France and northwestern Germany, but even there it is rapidly vanishing."

# A N D S I T H

In 1727, Nicholas De Puy purchased about 3,000 acres of land from the Indians at Shawnee on the Delaware. Much of it was cleared fields on the river flats and islands. It soon became an important wheat producing area. From 1743 until his death in 1785, Aaron Depuy, Nicholas' son, ran a frontier store at a place called Shawnee on the Delaware, just north of the Water Gap, above the present town of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

An article by Don McTernan in *Pioneer America*, Volume 4, Number 1, January 1972, uses Aaron's store records to describe the economics and culture of this Minisink area which is still a cultural boundary between the English and Germans of Pennsylvania, with their down-river urban markets, and the Dutch of the Mid-Hudson Valley in New York State.

Below is a listing of wages paid for farm and harvest work. The figures yearn for an interpretation. They include what may be the earliest mention of cradling in 1752, and look at how the wages went down, six shillings for mowing versus four for cradling.

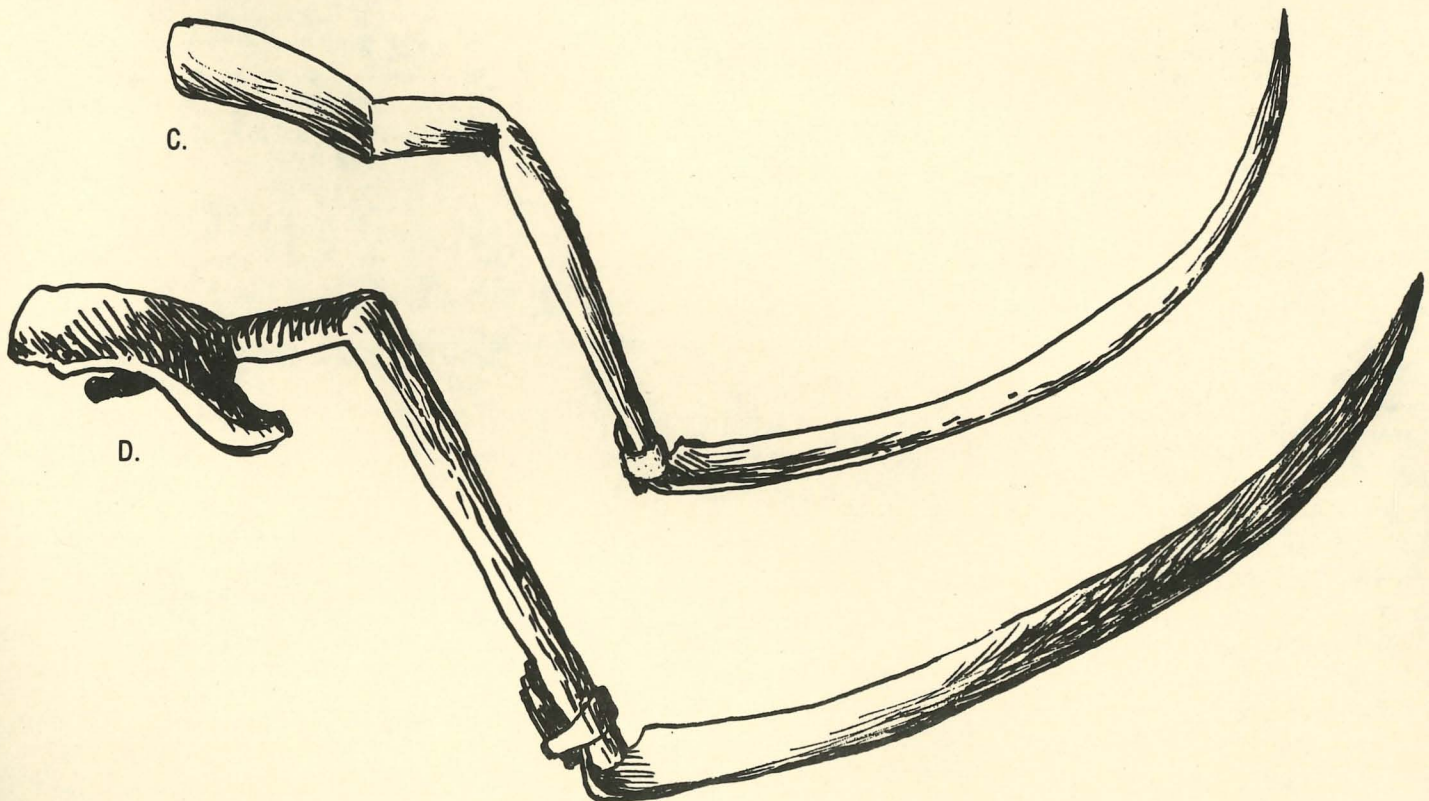
### REPRESENTATIVE DAILY WAGES

1743	average day	2s. 6d.		plow corn	7s.		cradling oats	4/8
1746	average day	2s. 6d.		plant corn	2s.	1781	average day	2/8
	mowing	6s.	1754	hay harvest	3s. 6d.		harrowing & sowing	7s.
1752	average day	2s.	1755	work	4s. 6d.		mowing	3s.
	cradling	4s.		harvest	4s.		threshing buckwheat	2s. 1d.
	(earliest metion of cradling)			wheat harvest	5s.		average day	2s. 2/8
1753	average day	2s.	1765	cutting grass	3s.	1782	1½ days cradling	7s. 6d.
	harvest	5s. 4s. 6d.		cradling wheat	5s.	1783	threshing rye	4s.

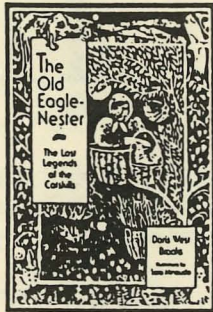
C. *Wisconsin Sith*. 19th century, Het Museum (The Museum), Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. Drawing by P. Sinclair.

D. *Hudson Valley Sith*. 19th century. Drawing by P. Sinclair.

The Sith (known also as Zicht or Flemish Sythe) and the Mathook were always used together in harvesting field crops. The earliest record of these tools in Europe dates to the early 14th century, and their use was confined to the Low Countries. They were more efficient than the sickle, but many of the New World Dutch farmers eventually replaced them with the two-handed cradle sythe.



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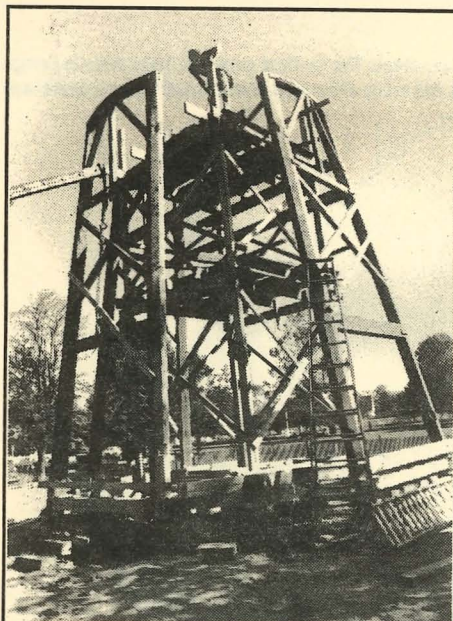
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## PUBLICATIONS

*HistoryNews* is a 32-page bimonthly magazine published by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The December issue is impressive, with advice on preservation from Arthur C. Parker and a dramatic piece by Simon Schama, *Clio Has a Problem*, which calls for a little poetry and passion in the education of the professional historian. Schama is author of *Citizens*, a popular history of the French Revolution, and *The Embarrassment of Riches*, an interpretation of Dutch culture in the golden age.

*History News Dispatch* is an 8 page monthly newsletter that lists meetings and conferences. The *Dispatch* also runs classified and help wanted ads. The January 1993 issue lists seven openings at historic sites and museums for a curator, research historian, manager, and director.

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*The Rag* is the 10-page quarterly publication of the Society in Early Arts and Trades (S.W.E.A.T.). Its editor, Fred Bair, Jr., is a "wordwright" of good humor and fellowship who has created a network of clerks and common workers in the historic trades. He and his wife visit local chapters each year from their base in Florida, in their aging camper.

This habit of traveling seems to appeal to Fred. On his summer vacations from college in the early 1930's, he hiked through the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee with a push-button accordian in pursuit of Appalachian ballads, and rode freight trains across the country, first as a "bindle-stiff" with a stick and bundle over his shoulder, later as a common tramp after he found it easier to "flip a freight" without the bindle.

Fred had a long career as a farmer, regional planner, and economic consultant, until his retirement in 1980, when he assumed the position of Secretary, Florida Chapter, Mid-West Tool Collectors Association and edited the *Florida Bull*. In 1984, with a MacIntosh Apple computer, he helped found S.W.E.A.T. and establish the fourth rule of the organization. "No member shall be solely a purveyor of tools or stuffs, but all shall stand ready, at any reasonable time to demonstrate an art or craft." Be it ever so humble.

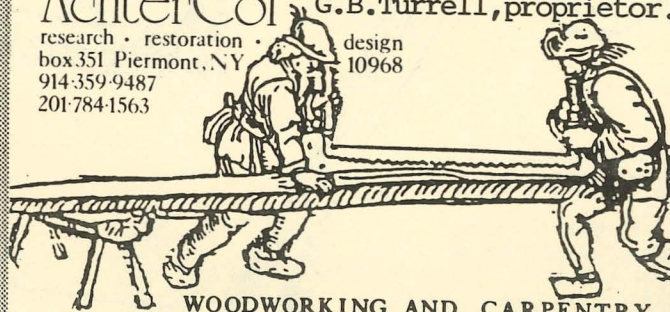
*The Rag* Contains a large listing of fairs and living history events, descriptions of historic sites, books, and magazines, as well as names of new members and news of the old. Always fun to read.

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WOODWORKING AND CARPENTRY



# Old Seeds in New Catalogs

The place to start looking for a particular variety of seeds is the source, the *Gaden Seed Inventory* (softcover \$25 including postage) and its companion, the *Fruit, Berry and Nut Inventory* (softcover \$21 including postage) of Seed Savers Exchange (3076 North Winn Road, Decorah, IA 52101). These two books contain the inventories of almost 500 seed catalogs and mail-order nurseries, giving a comprehensive view of what is currently available in the marketplace, as well as a history of the availability of each heirloom variety over the last ten years.

The following list is a personal one, made up of companies I have had success dealing with and whose products have worked for me.

1. Southern Exposure Seed Exchange (P.O. Box 158, North Garden, VA 22959). Less an exchange than a catalog, one of the best available. Don't let the name fool you, many of the varieties grow well in the north. The catalog provides historical information on each variety and is one of the few sources for my favorite carrot, ox heart.

2. Fisher's Nursery (494 White Oak Road, Strasburg, PA 17579). Amos M. Fisher is a young Amishman making a living on a small farm by offering the country's finest collection of rare fruit trees, particularly strong in German and Pennsylvania German varieties like Swaar. Pick up trees at the farm and enjoy the experience.

3. R.W. Shumway's (P.O. Box 1, Granitville, SC 29829). A consciously old-fashioned catalog, and one of the few sources where you can buy Manglewurste beet seed by the pound and Lancaster Sure Crop corn seed by the bushel.

4. Mellinger's Inc. (2310 W. South Range Road, North Lima OH 44452-9731). Not many rare varieties, but what they do have is available in bulk and at some of the best prices around.

5. Landis Valley Heirloom Seed Catalog (Landis Valley Museum, 2451 Kissel Hill Road, Lancaster, PA 17601). Great source for rare Pennsylvania German Seeds, Primarily from Lancaster County.

6. Companion Plants (7247 North Coolville Ridge Road, Athens, OH 45701). Plants only, but one of the few sources for madder root.

7. J.L. Hudson, Seedsman (P.O. Box 1058,

Redwood City, CA 94064). An iconoclast company and seed catalog filled with philosophy and an amazing variety of seeds.

8. and 9. Select Seeds (180 Stickney Mill Road, Union, CT 06076) and the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants (Monticello, P.O. Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902). Two excellent sources for historic flowers.

10. Vermont Bean Seed Company (Garden Lane, Fair Haven, VT 05743). A source for beans in quantity, particularly dried beans for winter storage.

11. Peace Seeds (2385 SE Thompson St., Corvallis, OR 97333). A large number of garden vegetables and herbs, including many rare and hard-to-find varieties.

Brother Johannes Zinsendorf

Living History adds the following catalogs:

12. Fox Hollow Herb & Heirloom Seed Co., (P.O. Box 148, McGrann, PA 16236). Almost 200 historic vegetables, herbs, and flowers available in 35¢ sampler packets as well as standard 75¢ packets. Catalog \$1.

13. Garden City Seeds (1324 Red Crow Road, Victor, MT 59875-9713). A large variety of northern acclimated, open pollinated seeds, bulk prices, catalog \$1.

14. Ronniger's Seed Potatoes (Star Route, Movie Springs, ID 83845) Specializing in potatoes, with some onions and cover crops, they offer bulk rates and their \$2 catalog is informative.

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## COMING EVENTS

### February 27-28, Pottstown, Pennsylvania

The Mid-Atlantic Region of The Association of Living Historical Farms and Museums (MAALHFAM—mal'fam) is having its annual meeting at The Hopewell Village National Historic Site southwest of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The conference is titled "Iron From Farmhouse To Forrow." The meeting will explore the historic techniques of producing iron and the material culture of its varied end uses. Group and individual participation is encouraged. Contact:

Steve Miller  
Landis Valley Museum  
2451 Kissel Hill Rd.  
Lancaster, PA 17601

### March 19-20, Sturbridge, Massachusetts

Old Sturbridge Village, a living history museum representing an 1830 rural New England setting, will be hosting the fourth annual "A Union of Spirits," a conference for historic interpreters. This year's focus is the interpretation of historical conflict and other difficult topics which will include drug and alcohol addiction, poverty, political and social unrest. They are interested in finding interpreters willing to make presentations, conduct short workshops, or lead discussions. Write:

Old Sturbridge Village  
1 Old Sturbridge Road  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts 01566

### March 27, Tifton, Georgia

Georgia's Living History Museum, Georgia Agrima, which preserves and interprets the estate's rural heritage from 1870 to 1910, presents a "Black Heritage Celebration"—A festival honoring the contributions of our African/American culture to the development of rural Georgia. Arts, Crafts, Music and Lifestyles will be featured, with a special appearance by the Gospel Music Hall of Fame performers, 'The Dixie Hummingbirds.' For a listing of 1993 events which honor everything from turpentine and trains to cane and cotton, write:

Georgia Agrima  
P.O. Box Q  
Tifton, Georgia 31793

### May 1, New Harmony, Indiana

Blacksmith workshop with Jerry Hoffman, publisher of The Blacksmith's Journal and well known workshop leader. For a list of their programs, write:

The Center for Folklife  
P.O. Box 624  
New Harmony, IN 47631

### May 13-15, Albany, New York

EAIA (Early American Industries Association) is holding its annual meeting in Albany. The organization, which covers all aspects of historic tools and trades, is 60 years old and nowhere near retirement. For information write:

Kathy Fox  
1275 Kent Place Blvd.  
Summit, NJ 07901

### May 15-16, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

2nd Annual Fishing River Rendezvous. 1800 to 1850 time frame, open fire cooking, flint knapping, storytellers, weavers, spinners, dyers, and woodworkers. Traders fee waived for demonstrators. Contact:

Cathy Johnson  
P.O. Box 321  
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

### June 11-13, Johnstown, New York 12095

The Mohawk Frontier Festival, 1760 to the Revolutionary War period, presented by the Fulton-Montgomery Community College. Author Robert Moss will be lecturing on Sir William Jonson, impersonating Sir William, signing books about him, holding a workshop on dreams, and table hopping at a round table working-lunch for small groups.

June 11-12, the 220th annual Market Fair and military encampment will be held at Johnson Hall. Sir William first held these fairs for the exchange of commerce and good fellyings and they were ruled by a "Court of Powder" to insure fair trade and continued good relationships among neighbors. Sutters, weavers, quilters, magicians, mimes, Punch and Judy, and herb merchants will all be there.

### June 24-27, Rindge, New Hampshire

International Conference of the Timber Framers' Guild of North America at Franklin Pierce College. Seminars, demonstrations, and exhibits relating to traditional and modern timber framing, plus a trade show. From June 18 to 24 there will be a timber framing workshop at the same place to build a pavilion to hold the conference in. Contact:

Timber Framers' Guild  
of North America  
P.O. Box 1046  
Kenne, NH 03431

Fall 1993, Somewhere, New York State  
Planning is underway for the fall

conference of the New York Folklore Society which will bring it together with the Foxfire Network of Empire State Teachers. Goals for the conference are to improve mutual understanding and develop working relationships between folklorists and educators, and to build a strong network between Foxfire and Folklore. "The organizing question is: what are the possibilities for folk-cultural education at all levels."

#### September 4-5, Springfield, Ohio

The Fair at New Boston, 1790 to 1810 time period, is an educational, theatrical, and entertaining gathering. For details, contact:

Ruth B. Peters, Publicity  
George Rogers Clark Heritage  
Association  
P.O. Box 1251  
Springfield, OH 45501

#### September 8-11, Columbus, Ohio

Annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History. For information, write:

AASLH  
172 Second Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37201

#### September 12-13, Baltimore, Maryland

North Point Defenders' Day, celebration of The Battle of North Point, 1814, dedicated to the children of Maryland. For information, write:

Sonia Socha  
Eastern Baltimore Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
2 Dunmanway, Suite 238  
Baltimore, MD 21222

#### October 3-4, Salem, West Virginia

Harvest Festival, a good one. Contact:

Outdoor Living History Museum  
Fort New Salem  
Salem-Teikyo University  
Salem, WV 26426

#### October 23-24, Jamestown, Virginia

The annual meeting of S.W.E.A.T. (Society of Workers in Early Arts and Trades) will be held at Jamestown Festival Park. There are lots of interesting local sites, including Williamsburg. For information, write:

Fred Bair, Jr.  
606 Lake Lena Blvd.  
Auburndale, FL 33823

## AVAILABLE

The following items are for sale from Living History. Prices include postage.

1) *Hog Plow and Sith: Cultural Aspects of Early Agricultural Technology*, by Peter H. Cousins, Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, 1973. A few copies of this 20-page illustrated booklet are still available at \$5.

2) *Five Siths and a Mathook from Ulster County, NY*. This 18 page illustrated article includes reprints from the EIAA Chronicle. \$3 each.

3) All seven back issues of *Living History*. \$2.50 for one, \$2 each for orders of two or more. Write for list of articles.

4) Packages of open-pollinated heirloom garden seed. Catskill Mountain varieties grown by the Wolven family. \$5 for two types. These include:

a) Wolven Blue and White Sweet Corn (a local variety of Black Mexican).

b) An unidentified vine pea, an edible pod type.

c) A purple Lima bean.

d) And a white Lima bean. These Limas have long vines. (Some folks say the purple is a scarlet runner, but the Wolvens never heard of that.)

e) An unidentified bush bean recently introduced from the state of Washington. Its color and pattern are somewhere between a Jacob's cattle bean and a Connecticut cranberry bean.

f) \$5 special for last year's five tomato varieties. This comparison planting includes three open-pollinated and two hybrid types.

4) Delaware River eel skins, \$5 each.

This raw hide is used to tie grain flails and is good for mending splint baskets and sprained wrists.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

For the special price of \$4 for 25 words, you can place a classified ad in *Living History*. Send it to: P.O. Box 202, West Hurley, NY 12491.

RURAL NETWORK: SINGLE PEOPLE favoring country life offer social support to each other. Send \$1. for sample newsletter. Rural Network, 6235 Borden Road-LH, Boscobel, WI 53805.

HOWARD FRISCH: Antiquarian Books. Livingston, NY 12541. Books bought & sold; free search services. Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11-4, or call (518) 851-7493.

RESEARCH JOURNAL Vol. 6, 1991-1992, Health and Nutrition-Agriculture, Political and Social Commentary. Conservation of Diversity. \$15 + \$1.50 postage: Peace Seeds, 2385 S.E. Thompson St., Corvallis, OR 97333.

FOOD HISTORY NEWS: Quarterly newsletter dedicated to historic foodways. News, reviews, how-tos. \$10 individual; \$12 institution, FHN, HCR 81 Box 354A, Inslesboro, ME 04848.

OLD NEWS: Biographical history. Informative, accurate, entertaining. \$14 for one year, eleven issues. Old News, 400 Stackstown Road, Marietta, PA 17547. Phone (717) 426-2212.

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**THE NEXT ISSUE of *Living History* will bring you more information about people and events. Keep sending your SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS, COMMENTS, AND IDEAS.**