



MARCH 2011

NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: March 24, 2011

**PLACE: Agricultural & Industrial Museum
217 W Princess St., York, PA 17403**

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Filling and Bowing

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this newsletter goes to press, we haven't heard from Mark who usually has an inspiring President's Message. We presume he has been busy and the month of March has flown by for him. Keep working on your projects.

We hope everything is okay and that Mark will see you at the meeting.

Julie
Newsletter Editor

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

While we have an excellent speaker lined up for next month, this month's search fell short. Attempts to find candidates were met with "I'm too busy" or "I don't talk to groups" and even a "You guys are too good for me." We haven't figured out that last one yet! Have any of you been published in *Fine Woodworking* lately? At any rate, Dennis Kunkle is filling in with two unrelated subjects. First, he will unveil his new bow lathe that he made for the museum. This reproduction of an early, hand powered lathe will be tried out on the membership and all attendees will be forced to demonstrate their wood turning skills in front of everyone. There will be no exceptions! After that fiasco, Dennis will talk about the oft ignored finishing step of grain filling. Open grained woods like walnut and oak require this procedure and skipping this task leaves the wood grainy and pitted. A live demonstration is planned to better show a time tested method of achieving a smooth finish.

Don't miss this meeting.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING



Lee Sumner enlightened the group on all the steps necessary in the restoration of antique metal planes. If you thought that some steel wool and elbow grease was all that you needed, Lee set you straight. He

has developed quite a system through, in some cases, trial and error. He knows what works and what doesn't and his results speak for themselves. No metal plane is too far gone and the satisfaction from bringing a rusted barn-find back to a useable tool is a project that many of us will soon try.



SHOW & TELL

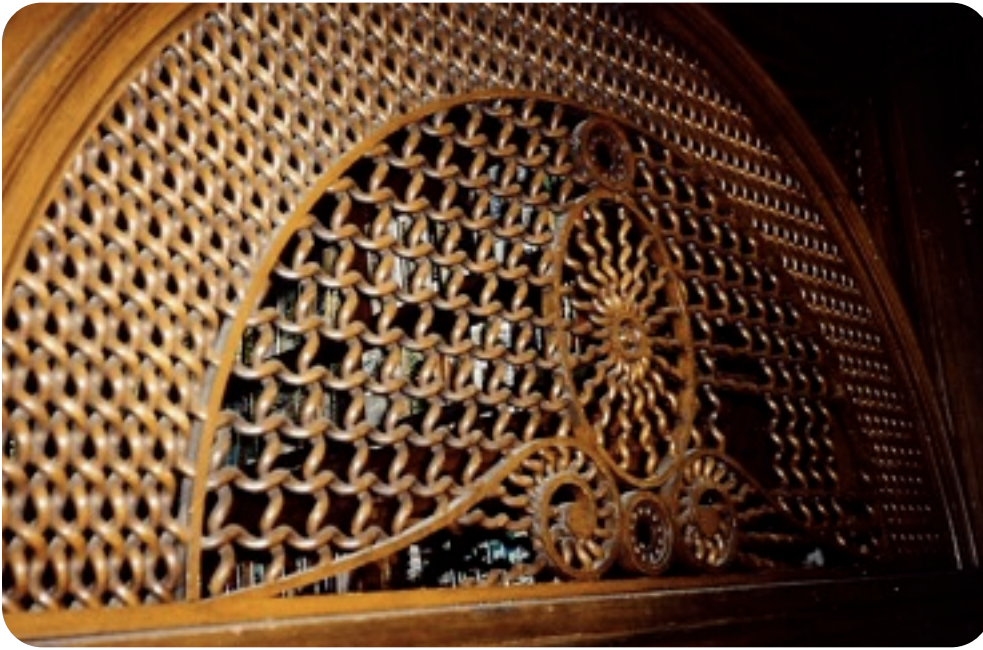


Lloyd Shelleman mounted this little clock inside this beautiful burl. It may be tiny but it will get the job done.



Tom Elledge created this beautiful lectern for his church. (I thought he might be practicing to be the new Guild President).





Ray Parsons shared information and photos showing the intricate construction techniques used in the Amelia S Givin Public Library located in Mount Holly Springs, PA. On your trip through there, stop in and check it out.

The interlocking spiral molding is unique and required a one of a kind precise machine.



On the next pages are copies from the patent showing details contained in this specialized equipment and also a history of the library.



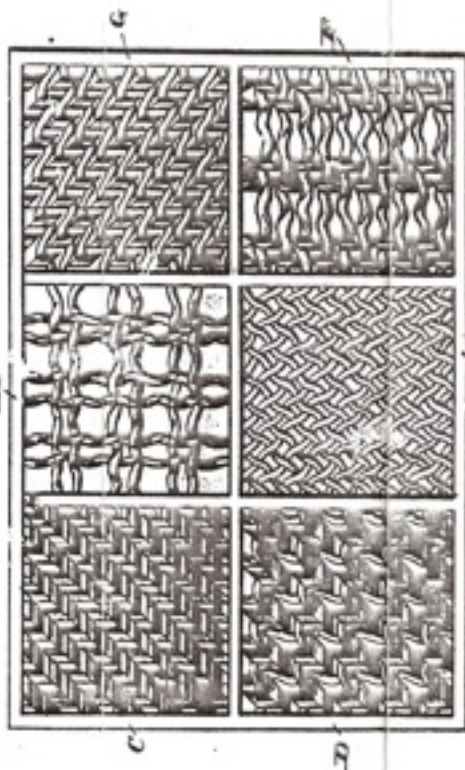
(No Model.)

M. Y. RANSOM.
INTERLOCKING SPIRAL MOLDING AS AN ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE.
No. 326,329. Patented Sept. 15, 1885.

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

H. M. Moore,
Geo. W. King,

INVENTOR
M. Y. Ransom
C. W. Lippitt
Attorneys

U. S. PAT. OFF. PHOTODUPLICATION SERVICE

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M. Y. RANSOM.

LATHE FEEDING MECHANISM.

No. 307,332.

Patented Oct. 28, 1884.

Fig. 1.

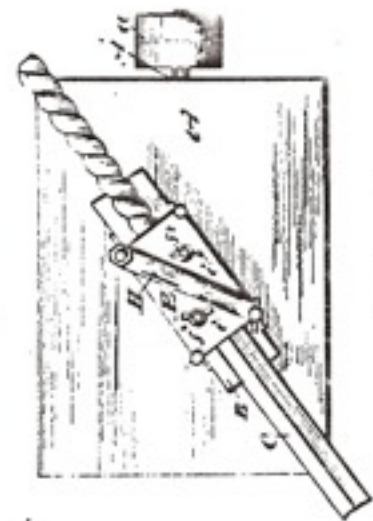


Fig. 2.

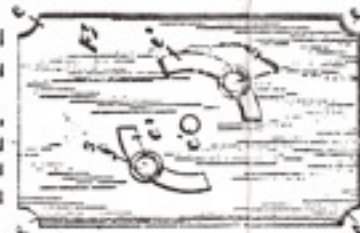
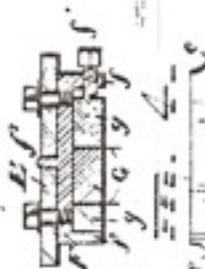


Fig. 3.

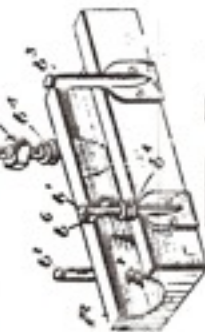
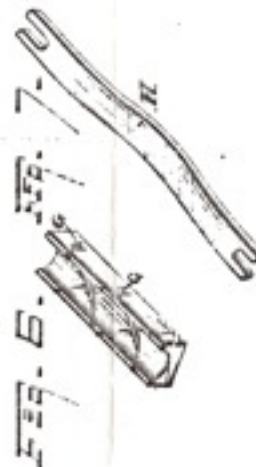


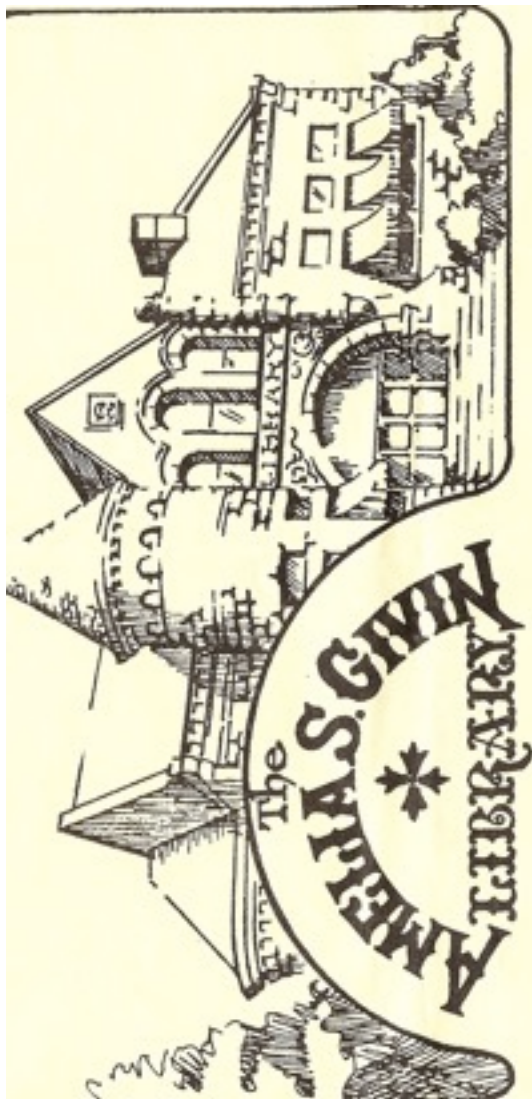
Fig. 4.



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History of Amelia S. Givin Library

Each day in the early summer of 1889 residents of Mt. Holly Springs watched workmen at the corner of Baltimore and Church. In May workers had begun clearing rubble from the fire that had destroyed the Central Hotel on that site in January. As the large brown limestone blocks from Hummelstown Quarry were piled to form the walls of the new library, passersby fretted because the progress was so slow. Independence Day had passed, and the walls were only 14 feet high. They murmured because the slaters delayed putting on the roof until mid-August.

Meanwhile, the library's benefactress had departed for a trip to Alaska on July 30. When she returned in early October, Miss Givin toured the building site with her contractor and they optimistically set the completion date for December 1. Plasterers had finished inside, all the large locust trees that obstructed the front of the structure had been removed, and all that remained was interior woodwork, windows and shelving the books.

Not until December 31 was the announcement of dedication ceremonies published in "The Mountain Echo" after delays in lumber and glass delivery and a month spent buying, arranging and cataloging the books.

The evening of January 2, 1890, the Mt. Holly citizens were presented with their library—a massive 60 x 30-foot stone structure 90 feet tall with solid oak interior, fully furnished and stocked with books and periodicals—and in six months time.

For the inaugural ceremony, a special train from Carlisle was scheduled to carry in all the dignitaries: then-governor James A. Beaver, Secretary of the Commonwealth Charles W. Stone, the president of Dickinson college, pastor of Carlisle's venerable First Presbyterian Church, and members of the Harrisburg press.

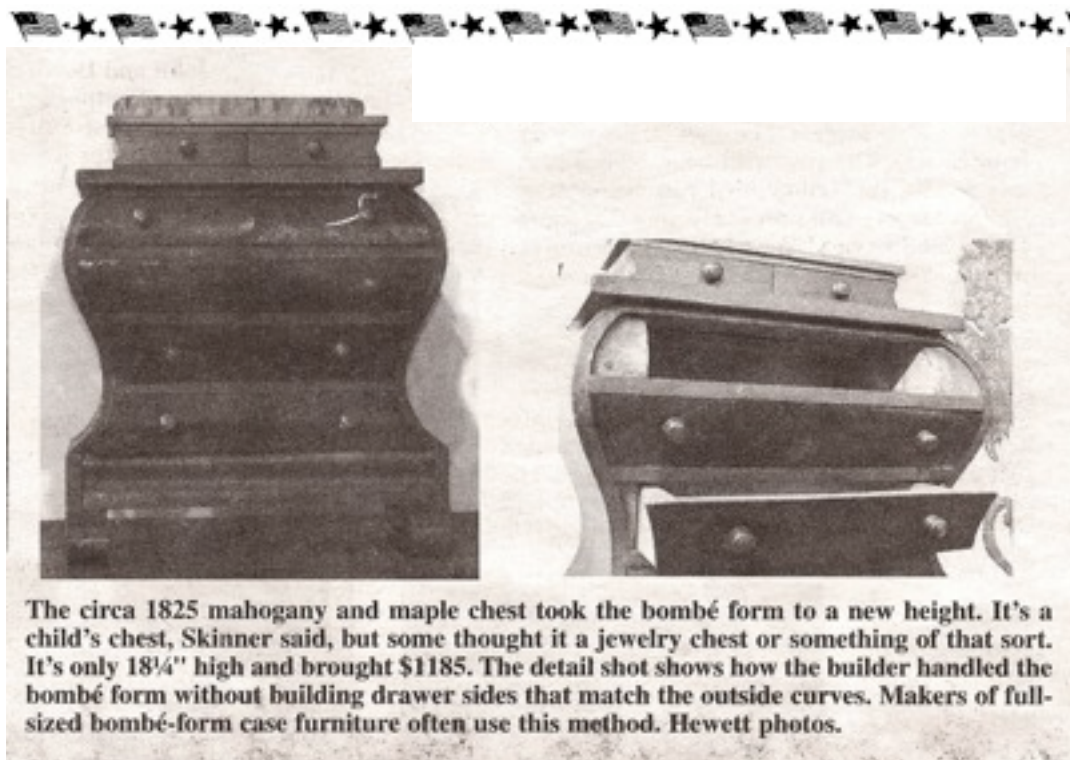
Architecturally, the new library was the latest thing, as Miss Givin, according to a friend, was "quite modern" in her thinking. The brick and brownstone exterior is typical of the Romanesque Revival school of Boston architect H. H. Richardson.

The interior was luxurious and fitted with all the current conveniences—electric lights, hot water heating, as well as three marble and tile fireplaces and the highly polished, solid Indiana oak ceilings, sidewalls, furniture, flooring, spiral staircase and screens.

The screens separate the two reading rooms on the south and the circular northern library room from the central foyer. The intricate, open patterns of interlaced spindles, known as Moorish Firework, are a fine example of spiral moldings created with a lathe feeding mechanism which had been patented in 1885 by Moses Y. Ransom of Cleveland.

Amid the beauty and luxury of the library building, the patrons found three cases of fiction, a case devoted to children's books, one of poetry, and shelves for biography, history, travel, science, art, philosophy and reference. In the reading rooms, periodicals covered the tables, including "children's papers" prominently displayed.

Local stories tell that Miss Givin frequently drove to the library and sent the librarian for a ride in her own carriage while Miss Givin worked in her place, perhaps recommending books, logging borrowers' names and overseeing the reading rooms. Today, the recently restored portrait of Miss Givin hangs over the mantel in the west reading room, as if she oversees her library still.



The circa 1825 mahogany and maple chest took the bombé form to a new height. It's a child's chest, Skinner said, but some thought it a jewelry chest or something of that sort. It's only 18 1/4" high and brought \$1185. The detail shot shows how the builder handled the bombé form without building drawer sides that match the outside curves. Makers of full-sized bombé-form case furniture often use this method. Hewett photos.

Dennis Kunkle shares this clipping from the Maine Antique Digest regarding the bombe style of furniture. The construction of these curves, especially in the miniature is the work of a master craftsman!

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Remember, you help to make STWG what it is today. Contribute and share your knowledge with other members. In this way, you'll help others and in the process of sharing you can learn as well.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

If you have a work in progress but it is too large to bring to the meeting, you can still share your progress with others by emailing your photos and a description of your work to the editor at: stwg@comcast.net.

SHOW & TELL

Allows you showcase your latest project! You can share the things that you may have learned during the construction of this. What a wonderful opportunity to provide helpful hints and tips to other members when you show off your latest!

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