

# The DOVE-TALE

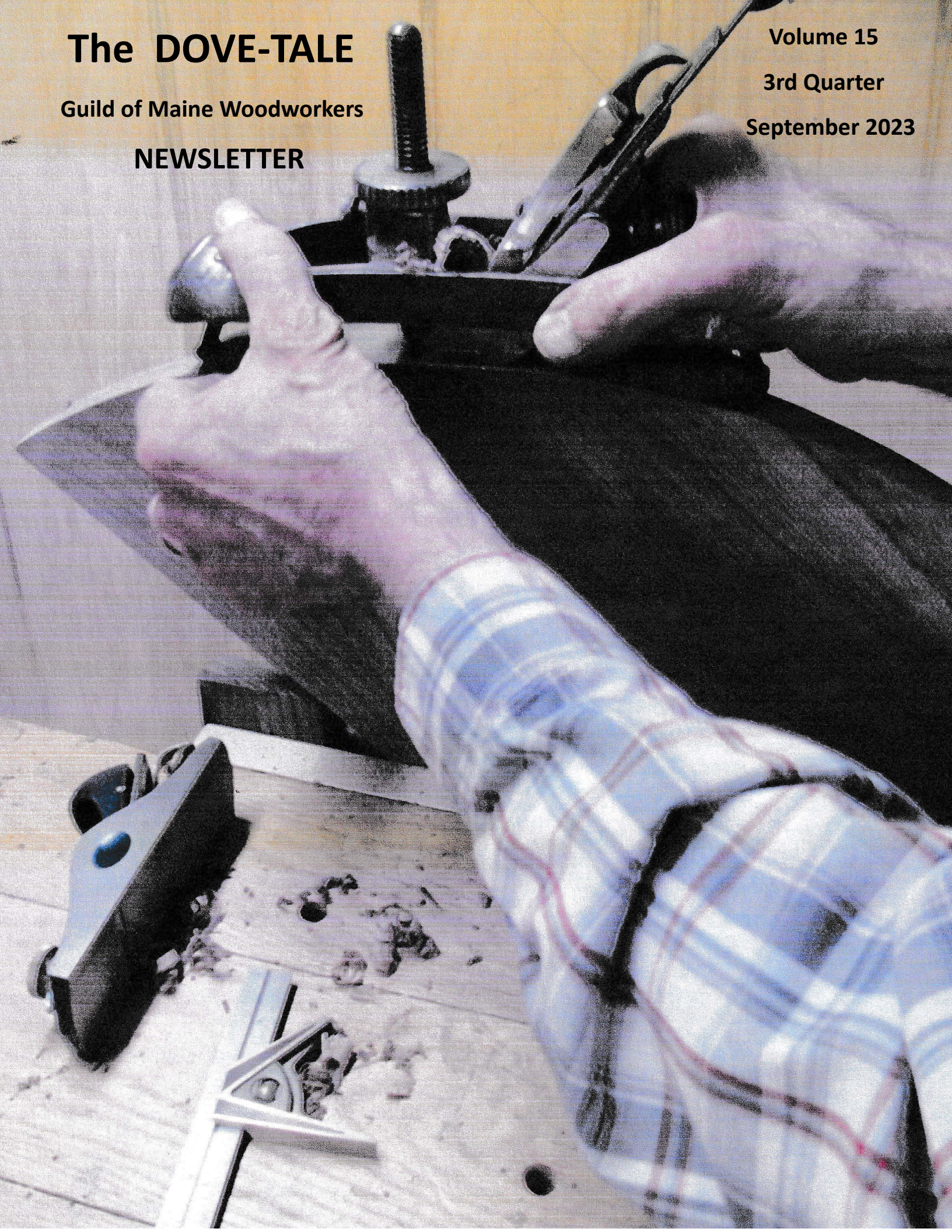
Guild of Maine Woodworkers

NEWSLETTER

Volume 15

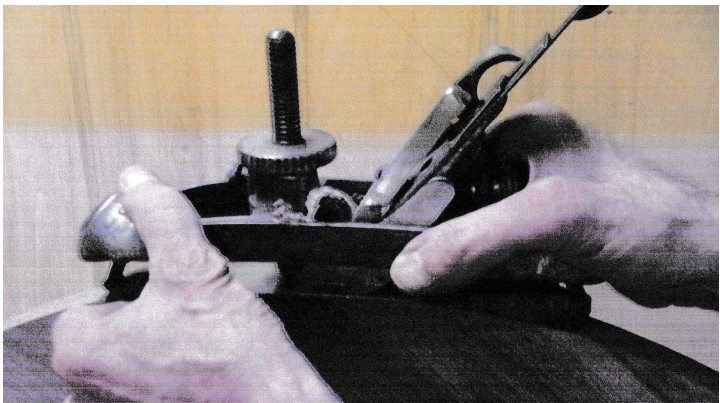
3rd Quarter

September 2023





The Stanley #20 flexible sole plane is probably the best of all radius planes innovated by various plane makers. Here the plane is smoothing the curved edge of a table top and removing saw marks from the radius edge.



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**STATEMENT:** All woodworkers, from beginners & hobbyists to professionals, are invited to join the Guild of Maine Woodworkers where individuals can meet and share their knowledge and skills. Monthly meetings include demonstrations, tool discussions and guest speakers as well as the popular “show & tell” where members show off their woodworking products, tools or gadgets. Meetings rotate around member’s shops. Maybe you will gain an idea for your shop. If you need help on a project the Guild is the place to be.

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Date	Event	Shop	Location
September 30th:	Skill Session (layout stick)	Wes Sunderland	Baldwin
October 17th:	Guild Meeting	Rolf Dries	Windham
November *14th:	Guild Meeting	Ron Boes	Windham
December 9th:	Quarterly Business Meeting	Wes Sunderland	Baldwin
Guild Monthly Mtgs. 3rd Tues. Evenings. — Quarterly Mtg. 2nd Saturday of Quarter Month.			

**GUILD OFFICERS:**

President:	Wes Sunderland	Secretary:	Randy Mayse
Vice Pres:	Jim Hanscom	Treasurer:	Pat Sunderland

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (Date indicates year end of term)**

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Susan Chandler	Frank Southard	Ron Boes
Bob Kearney	Barbara White	Rolf Dries
Wes Sunderland	Bill Lewis	Randy Mayse

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**GUILD MEETING SOP:** The Guild conducts meetings and activities on a monthly schedule.

Regular monthly meetings are January, February, April, May, October and November.

Quarterly meetings are March, June, September, and December.

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm.

Quarterly meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month beginning usually at 10 am.

Summer months of July & Aug. have no meeting, however “skill sessions” are randomly held.

One week prior to a scheduled meeting, an E-mail reminder is sent to include directions.

Regular meetings provide a meal (food) for all members, particularly as a convenience to those coming directly from work, a day job.

The Guild has had a progressively good year of activities. Membership has increased slowly by inviting guests to attend a meeting and by face book inquiries.

I've taken note that the monthly shop meetings continually have strong attendance. In addition. The "show & tell" participation has been a highlight and has always been interesting. Not only are wood crafted projects been shown but also tools or gadgets pop up as an interesting discovery.

I was offered a Foley Automatic Saw Filer (for a cost) and news travels fast. Shortly after, I was offered a few more machines and now own 3 Foley Auto Saw Filers and 2 Belsaw Filers (slightly simpler and not quite as automatic). A few are for sale ! What I really cherish is a "re-tooth machine" I came upon that, with a few adjustments, will automatically re-punch new teeth on a saw blade. I like "automatic" ! To make ready for re-toothed, you grind off the old uneven teeth, that's not automatic. It is a gem and I keep it under lock & key !! That is, no plans to part with it.

The unfortunate part of owning these gems of machines, they are not in demand. The electric motor has replaced the use of "hand saws". To saw by hand is a lost skill. Table saws, skill saws, jig saws, etc. dominate the scene, not to mention battery powered sawing tools. Ahhhh, the romance of hand sawing.....It can really be a task !

The Guilds schedule does not include shop meetings during the summer months of July & August. For an alternate schedule and opportunity to improve some skills, instructional sessions have been held on a monthly basis. This summer was "sharpening" end of June, "dovetail cutting, end of July, and "cabinet door joinery", end of August. There was strong interest but not a full house of attendance. I'm thinking about next year, since these skill sessions have run for 3 summers, to conduct a crafting schedule to make a complete project oriented on a piece of furniture. It should include several techniques of joinery mixed into the task of crafting. What really needs to be selected is what piece of furniture to fulfill these requirements.

I have not mentioned the organization SAPFM (Society of American Period Furniture Makers). A great wood crafting organization. It's not demanding in time, has many benefits, quarterly publications and a wonderful annual book, "American Period Furniture.

We need to talk at the next meeting.

**Foley Automatic Saw Filers: available .  
Installed on wood stands with casters**







**Barbara (picnic hosts in Yarmouth) Barney  
The COOK**



**The Guild annual picnic was held on Saturday, Sept. 2nd at the home and shop of Barbara White. We had 24 members and guests attend this successful annual event.**

**The following attended: Susan Chandler, Mark/Barbara Tschiegg, Wes/Pat Sunderland, Barbara White/Barney McClelland, Bill Lewis, Rolf/Susan Dries, Ron/Barbara Boes, Randy Mayse, Steve/Jody Smith, David/Jackie Joy, Bob Karney, Deb Silvrman/Pat, Jim/Linda Hascom, and Joe/lisa Elichaa.**







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**SHOW & TELL**

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Right:  
Close-up



**Randy Mayse showing a historic “doweling cutter” operated in an augur bit brace. This accessory tool shapes a round dowel at the end of lineal stock. Assorted diameter sizes may be selected up to 1 inch.**

**Prior to electric motors, all drilling type operations were performed by hand drills or augur bit braces.**



# SHOW & TELL



**Saw horse fabrication designed for compact collapsible storage, as shown left top. Six wood pieces of 1 x 4 stock cut at 32" long from 2 boards 8 ft. long, right top.**

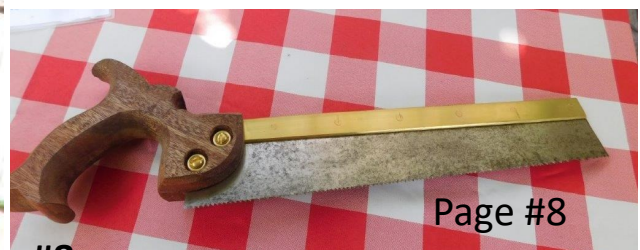


**Saw horse in set-up position. Made 30" high & 24" leg width. Minimal construction involved with rigid stability. Supports moderate weight. Very service-able.**

**This saw horse designed for small shop adaption & storage.**

More saw horse: - **page 9 & 10**

More back saw: - **page 12**







Shown are two 32" long 1x4 boards positioned for initial layout for the notch to receive the saw horse cross rail.

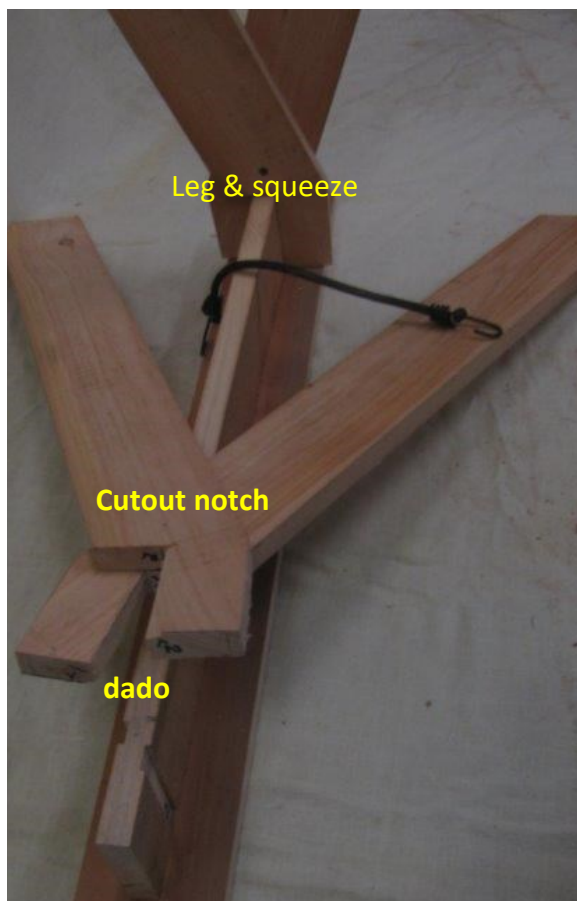
The two top board corner points are aligned and a temporary screw is placed in the center of both boards about 7 inches down from the top.

Spread the two boards apart at the bottom 22" wide. Then tack a strip across to hold in place. Tack the strip equally from the two bottom ends to form an equilateral triangle A-B-C. A-b & A-C are equal lengths.

Place a framing square on B-C to draw a vertical line through the screw and up to A. This will position the notch to be cut centered and vertical to the height.

Draw the proposed notch 1/2" wide and 4" down.

Then mark lines to trim top and bottom ends using the framing square to maintain vertical & horizontal lines.



Shown is an assembled saw horse leg end placed on top of the horizontal top that will receive the leg.

Observe the cutout notch to fit onto the horizontal saw horse stretcher.

Dado notches are cut into the horizontal piece to receive the two legs as they squeeze into place.

At the far end, a leg is in place showing the squeeze action of the notched end to hold ther assembly in position.





Two saw horses set up.

Bungie cords hold the legs from spreading, therefore maintaining a squeeze position,

The legs were rough length of 32" and a 22" spread of legs makes these saw horses about 30" high.

With minimal joinery, these horses are stable to hold moderate work.



The two saw horses are packaged being held by the bungie cords used on the legs.

Total stock to make each saw horse are two boards of 1x4" x 8 feet long.

All parts are cut at 32" long

One saw horse opened and one packaged.

Carefully selection of bungie cords is a must so they are short enough to hitch and pull the legs together and long enough to wrap the collapsed package together for storage.

These saw horses are designed for the small shop, able to store out of the way, yet available for moderate working stress.







**Randy Mayse**

A chest made with cherry.  
Demonstrates the use and  
result of the Leigh jig to  
cut routed dovetails.



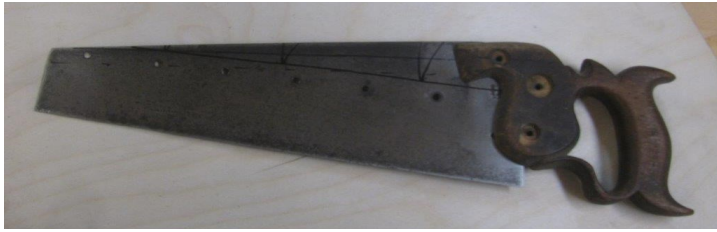
Shown is the drawer and  
two additional “hidden”  
pullout drawers.

**Susan Chandler**

A small oak coffee table  
carefully finished. Nice  
color and grain.







The original small panel saw used to cut out a new blade .  
Below: Blade cut to approximate size and holes drilled for brass back. Brass back was clamped onto the blade to align with the holes then drilled and taped into the brass.



Original saw blade was "re-toothed" at 10 PPI by a automatic toothing machine, then sharpened as "rip tooth" by the Foley automatic sharpener.

2 strips of brass back fastened with screws that were hammered flat as rivets. Saw blade was cut flush to the brass back. Screws were filed flush and smoothed to the surface of the brass back.



Right: Wood blank with 1st handle cut but then rejected.

2nd handle started by first drilling holes for the inside tight curves.

Right: Board reversed, 1st handle down. 2nd handle cut. Routing was completed while large board was clamped and held in place. Then handle was cut and separated.



Handle final shape and size. Routing radius was not tangent to the surface. The handle was a close copy of a "Lie-Nielsen" back saw handle.



Completed saw with the mahogany handle attached and brass polished.

The blade is not wide due to the small size of the original saw that provided the blade.

It was a fun project.

Bigger and better next time .  
WES



## William & Mary - Falling Leaf Table.

August 2023.

The process to select a choice piece of period furniture and become involved in making it will further reveal how life was during those early days of American colony settlement. Furthermore, the construction of furniture, particularly earlier Jacobean period sometimes referred to as Pilgram Period furniture, tells stories about the lack of tools and supplies and about the early start of settlement here in the colonies. Life was sustained with whatever was available.

This example to build a "falling leaf table", currently refer to as a gate leg trestle table, tells of life in a small cabin, perhaps a one-room cabin. The table is 25 inches high and 10 inches wide with the leaves down.

Today, tables are usually 28 inches high. We are larger ! The function of the table while not in use was to move it near a wall out of the way occupying only 10 inches in width. The family needed space in their one room for many other tasks besides to sit and eat.

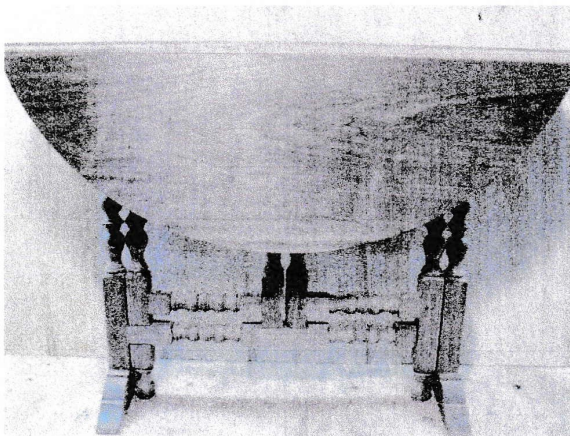
William and Mary period furniture was moving away from oak to finer domestic woods such as cherry, maple, walnut, and imported mahogany. This table is crafted with walnut, America's finest hardwood. Walnut saws well, carves and turns well,

and planes well. In machine use, it shapes and sands well. It is a pleasure to work using hand tools.

Majority of the stock is 8/4 thick milled and ready to turn. Joints are mortise and tenon with drawbore pegged tight. Table top and the rail beneath is 4/4 lumber with the feet fashioned from 8/4 pieces. There's not a lot of material in the table but the crafting process can be intense.

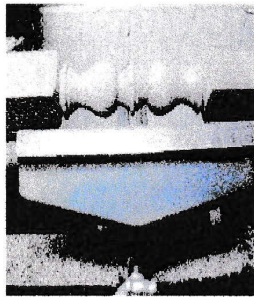
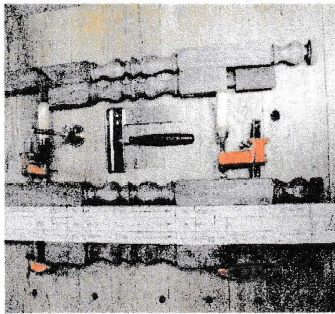
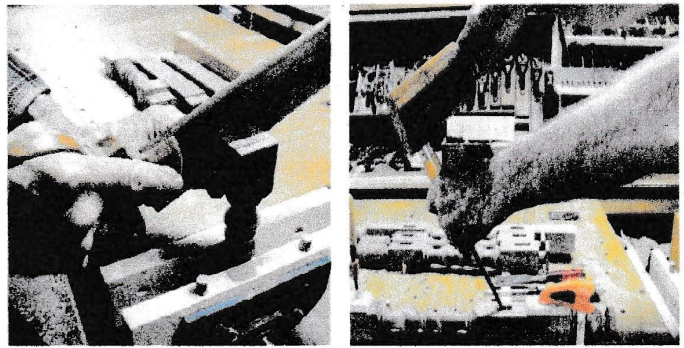
The book describing this table gave only a few dimensions. Table height 25 inches, table top diameter 31 inches and with the leaves down closed width of 10 inches. The trestle frame was 25 inches long giving the top overhang 3-1/2 inches. The square stock for turnings was 1-5/8 inches, somewhat slender, but as a finished result gives the piece a delicate appearance. The leg turning dimension was a guess. Working the height dimension by subtracting 1 inch for the top and 3 inches for the foot, the legs are 21 inches long plus tenons. Then dividing 21 into 3 equal sections, 7 inches shows the proportions between turned and square sections as determined with the use of dividers when applied to the photo.

Dimensioning the legs and stretchers was an exacting task. The swing of the gate legs returned to the home position is very close to the trestle legs and was a critical working dimension. A slight variance will clearly show parallel error. A layout stick assisted measuring exact lengths and placement of mortises. All pieces were marked off the stick with a marking knife to execute





mortise squares and tenon shoulders. Turnings were all the same with only two variations in length proportion. Leg squares were sawn slightly over size and the diameter of turnings were about 1/16 inch below the square. This allowed for finish hand planning the squares of the legs and to avoid the plane blade catching the round of the turnings. (pic. #1 & #2)



Much of the crafting involved hand tool use and methods similar to early time. The shaping of the feet was without a fret or bow saw. This was accomplished by sawing

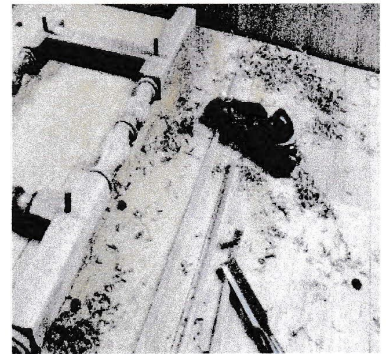


to the outline of the foot curve and waste stock removed by a chisel. Surface was smoothed with a

shoulder plane and #3 sweep carving chisels. No sandpaper was applied (pic. #3) to this project.

Exact markings were applied for mortise hole locations and tenon shoulders. A marking knife began the exact shoulder edge cut of the tenon that would press tightly when pulled into the mortise hole by

draw bore peg. Care was required not to deform the wood when the mortise chisel was



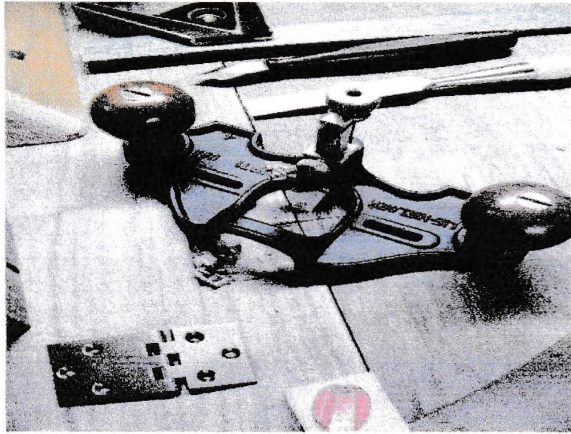
levered to clean out wood chips. Marking and cutting all mortise and tenons with care ensured the joints would be flush and requiring minimal planning after assembly. (pic.#4,#5,6.)

The table top was not overly lavish. It had a square edge, not the usual molded O-G shape. However, the falling leaves were joined to the top with a "rule joint" a



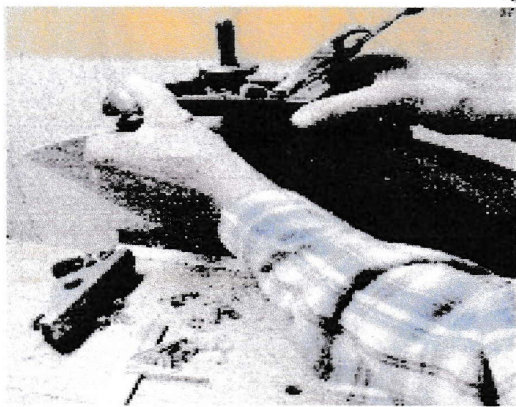


quality signature for a table. The rule joint was planned with the use of a Stanley #45 combination plane with a fitted radius foot. Brass offset hinges were fitted to the underside of the leaves and top. It is important to locate the hinge axis and



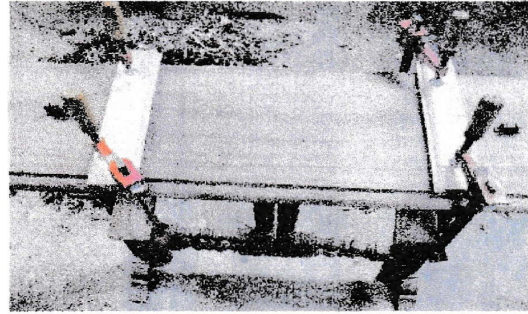
have the rule joint fit and move correctly. Again, a marking knife indicated the exact location and the hinges were set at the appropriate depth with the use of a router plane to excavate the area.

The square edge table top was final

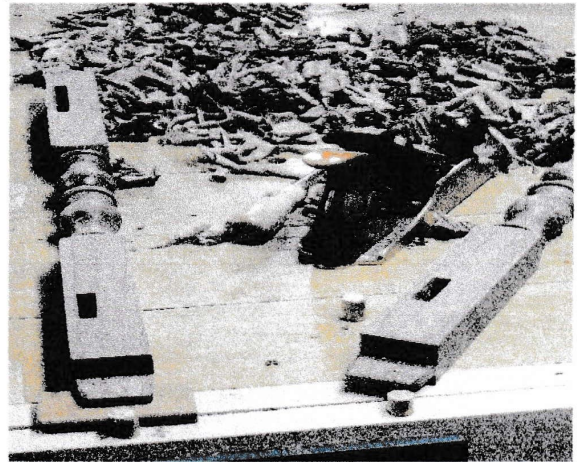


radiused smooth with a Stanley #20 flexible sole radius plane. Extreme care needs to be taken when planing to the edge at the rule joint hollow having the risk of (spelching) tare out.

A different method to fasten the top was employed. A long tenon at the top of the trestle leg was fitted through a mortise hole in the top. The top was squarely clamped down snug to the trestle frame and the tenon was wedged tight with the spreading



force aligned along the grain. It was not uncommon in historic times to simply nail the top to the frame. Glue strips were added to the top at the trestle frame beneath.

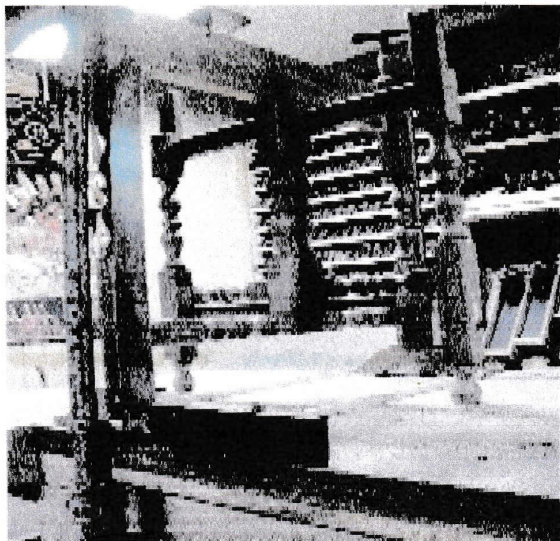
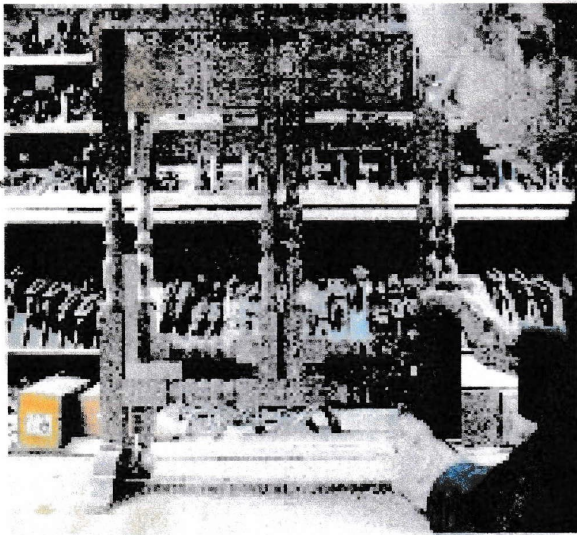


Prior to total assembly of the trestle frame and gate legs, all turned parts were hand planed for the finish surface. Spot planing was necessary after joints were pulled together to flush the joinery.

Assembly was not difficult, just demanding ! Perfect square and alignment was necessary due to the vertical legs that must be parallel while in close location to each other. The



rotational swing of the two center pivot legs needs rounding on one corner to clear each



other. (note square in left corner). When

fastening the feet to the trestle, vertical plumb must be achieved to guarantee correct contact of the gate leg feet to the floor while in the open position.

Using draw bore pegs with the mortise & tenons and wedged tenons at the top, this

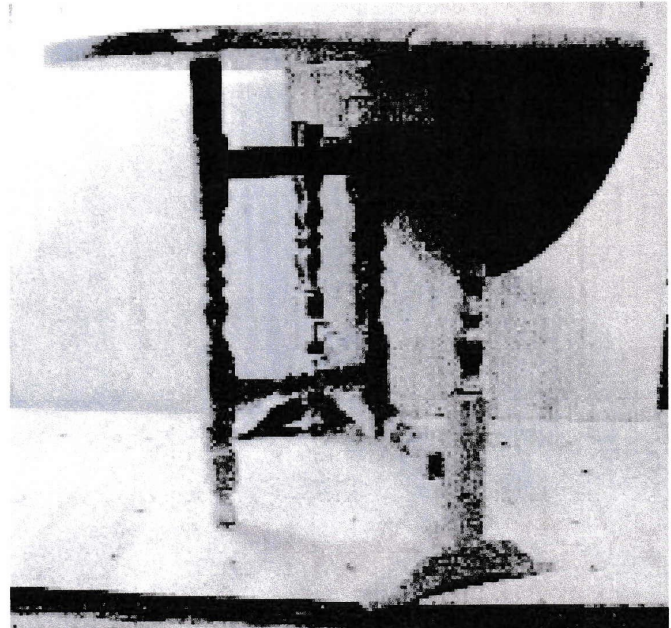


table can be assembled without any glue.

It is a delicate, light and elegant table in any home. Changing dimensions to accommodate your use is easily accomplished. Enjoy crafting this table.