



# WESTERN NEW YORK ANTIQUe TOOL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION



Website: <http://wnyatca.org>

The next meeting of WNYATCA will be held on **March 19, 2017** at the Quality Inn, Batavia, NY, just off the Batavia Thruway exit.

**\*\* Tool trading opens at 9:00 am...No Charge for a Trade Table**

**\*\*Meeting starts at 10:30 am**

(Early birds arrive around 8:30.) Come early and enjoy the trading, talking, coffee and pastry.)

<p><b><u>Meeting Dates for 2017:</u></b> (Please write these down)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>March 19; June 4; September 24; November 5</b></li> <li>❖ Membership \$15.00/year payable at your 1<sup>st</sup> meeting</li> <li>❖ Regular Meetings held in Batavia, NY 4 times/yr.</li> <li>❖ \$5.00 Meeting donation to help with room rental</li> </ul> <p>We value Members' input with programs and newsletter.</p>	<p><b>At March 19, 2017 WNYATCA Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Check on the payment status of your 2017 membership</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Buy raffle ticket(s) to support the club</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Consider donating an item to the raffle</b></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Officers from 2017 through 2018</u></b></p> <p>President: Otto Dole 315-524-7108  Vice Pres.: John Rogers 585-455-7443  Secretary: Keith McCormick 518-365-8399  Treasurer: Reid O'Connell 585-266-5286</p>	<p><b><u>Meeting Contributors</u></b></p> <p>Benefit Drawing: Tim Rhubart  What's It: Dan Weinstock  Website: Chuck Young</p>



**Western New York Antique Tool Collectors Association**  
**November 6, 2016 Minutes**

The November 6, 2016 meeting of WNYATCA convened at 10:32 am at the Quality Inn in Batavia, New York. President Otto Dole presided; 31 members and two guests were present. President Dole thanked folks for attending the final meeting of 2016 and hoped all made the journey without deer hits. After a brief review of the meeting's agenda, guest Jerry and new member Dave were introduced. Mark Eastlick, the intended presenter, was unable to attend due to health concerns and a schedule conflict, so Joel Havens will be presenting a program on plane makers of Western New York, specifically in the Buffalo area. Dan and Myrna Coleman are in Virginia, and are looking forward to seeing all again in March, 2017. President Dole spoke with Howard Myer, who wished all good luck and much success in keeping the meetings going. His current address is 2600 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Room 200, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716-731-5246). President Dole thanked the club contributors for their contributions (Annita for minutes; Reid for keeping track of the resources; Joel for the fine programs and picking up the presentation for today; Tim for administering the Benefit Drawing; Frank Flynn for the What's Its). Due to scheduling conflicts, Dan Weinstock will be picking up What's It duties for Frank. Members were reminded of the ways in which each can support the functioning of the club by paying yearly membership (\$15.00) and meeting charges (\$5.00), reviewing membership spreadsheet to insure correct information, bringing What's Its and Show items to the meetings, donating treasures to the Benefit Drawing, purchasing Benefit Drawing tickets, bringing potential new members to the meetings, reading the Secretary's report in advance, being available to become an officer, and wearing name tags.

As the September 11, 2016 minutes were pre sent, no reading was necessary. Terry Page moved to accept the minutes as reported; Reid O'Connell seconded. The minutes were approved as sent. The Treasurers Report indicated a checking account balance on 8-31-16 of \$1,414.42. Income since the last report was \$670. Expenses since last report were \$551.05. The checking account bank balance and checkbook balance were both \$1,533.37. The net gain for the cycle was \$118.95. There are currently 78 members, with 59 paid through 2015 or later (76%); 19 members are in arrears, expiring 2014 or earlier (24%). For comparison, the figures for March 1, 2015 showed 58(77%) paid but 17 (23%) in arrears, with 75 members. We seem to be holding our own on a percentage basis. The Treasurer's Report is filed subject to review.

As part of the President's Report, Otto discussed the Antique Tool Gazette <http://greatplanestrading.com/SWTCA/antique-tool-gazette/current.pdf> which does include information on WNYATCA on its site. Gregor Mszar, who runs the site, is a member of our club. Under Unfinished Business, the club web site was discussed. The rights to the current site are held by Chuck Young and will expire in July of 2017. Renewal is usually a small fee (approx. \$10.00). If Chuck has auto renewal it will go directly to him. Terry Page questioned whether the site should be removed. Chuck seems not interested and the club could create its own site, which could be turned over with change in officers. Another option could be to drop the club site and funnel club information through the Antique Tool Gazette. Terry volunteered to contact Chuck directly to see if he is willing to release the site in July, and Joel Havens volunteered to help with a website.

Under New Business, John Rogers suggested printing up cards with pertinent information about the club and asking each member to distribute ten cards to interested parties as a way of advertising the club and increasing membership. Terry Page moved that the cards be printed; Chris Tahk seconded.

Chris Tahk said his clock collectors club has a display in the local library including actual artifacts and "pick-up" information on the organization to help keep the club visible. Perhaps a similar approach could be used by WNYATCA. He will check with his library. Joel Havens offered to help. Almost every town has a library with displays. Chris and Joel will work on the topic and report at the next meeting.

Name tags were also raised as a way to increase club awareness and membership. The topic had been discussed in the past, and individual name tags were created to be handed out and turned in at each meeting. If

everyone purchased their own individual name tag, wearing them at other functions may help advertise the club. John Rogers volunteered to bring back information on the name tags at the next meeting.

Next President Dole presented the meeting dates for 2017: **March 19; June 4; September 24;** and **November 5**. As an additional piece of New Business, Leon Golder asked if there were any business cards from 2014. One was brought forth as a possible sample for developing new cards. A Xerox copy of the card could be made at the front desk.

Vice President Joel Havens discussed the progress on funding a projector for the club. They are expensive to rent and having one inside the club helps facilitate presentations. The purchase price for such a unit is approx. \$400, and currently the fund is about half way there. Joel is seeking donations to help make the purchase happen. Joel also reported that Mark Eastlick will be presenting on Western Pennsylvania plane makers during 2017.

The next order of business was the election of officers for 2017-2019. President Dole briefly reviewed Henry Roberts (1837-1923) the creator of Robert's Rules of Order. West Point educated and an Army officer, Roberts realized there were no universally accepted rules of governance. The first edition was 176 pages, and the eleventh edition, consulted by President Dole, has 388 pages. According to Roberts, one needs to be a member in good standing, which for WNYATCA means being a paid member. Candidates for office may come from three options: nominations from the Nominating Committee; nominations from the floor; and volunteers from the floor. No vote is required if only one nominee is offered; election is by consent of acclamation. Nominating Committee Chair Terry Page then took over the floor. For the office of President, Otto Dole said he was willing to continue on for a while. There being no other nominees, one ballot was cast for Otto Dole as President. The Nominations Committee Chair next offered John Rogers as Vice President. There being no other nominees, one ballot was cast for John Rogers as Vice President. For the office of Treasurer, Reid O'Connell said he would be willing to continue on in the office. There being no other nominees, one ballot was cast for Reid O'Connell as Treasurer. Next came the office of Secretary. Although 18 contacts had been made as of the meeting opening, no one had stepped forward. Terry stressed that minutes and program notes did not need to be as extensive as they had been. After a few hopeful minutes, Keith McCormick volunteered from the floor. There being no other nominee, one ballot was cast for Keith McCormick as Secretary. The Nominations Committee and the club heartily thank these individuals for their donations of time and talent to supporting WNYATCA.

Once elections were complete, Terry discussed how he attends 19-20 tool shows each year, and at each he distributes information on EAIA. The organization presents a wealth of information through two publications (The Chronicles and the Shavings newsletter) and offers members the opportunity to see behind the scenes at special trips held during the year. Future trip destinations include Sturbridge Village in 2017 and a Bethlehem steel plant in 2018. Certainly EAIA offers the tool aficionado many advantages for membership. (See [eaiainfo.org](http://eaiainfo.org) for more information).

Leon Golder announced the blacksmithing group is looking for blacksmithing hand tools, tongs and the like, for new folks just starting out in the trade. Leon is hoping WNYATCA members, with their practiced and knowledgeable eyes, could help find some of these hand tools in the \$15-\$18 range. Leon is willing to help broker the purchase of such tools, with the intention of getting the implements into the hands of burgeoning smiths.

With business and announcements finished, Tim Rhubart facilitated the Benefit Drawing, which consisted of five units. The box lot of small hand tools was won by Douglas Magin. Keith McCormick won the Sweetheart level. Norm Willits won the Great Neck level. John Rogers won the book and suspenders, and Otto Dole won a second lot of tools.

Dan Weinstock next presented the What's It and Show Table items. **First** was a brass set of pliers with conical shaped jaws, perhaps an expansion tool for soft material or an auto tool to put clips on a gas line. **Second** was an electrical tester with an alligator clip and a meter gauge stamped "Lavravia SIDI Made in France." Its definitive purpose was undetermined. **Third** was a box wrench shaped tool with a spring loaded clipping lever. Given its heavy construction, perhaps it was a buggy wrench. The **forth** item was a rapid adjust wrench found at

an estate sale in Niagara Falls. Although the maker was unidentified, the piece definitely was factory made. Joel will check out possible patents. **Next** was a clamp with an internal wedge which moved to apply pressure. Terry identified it as a “snap lock” tool for thin steel strapping. **Sixth** was a frame of four small boxwood strips with graduated markings, held together in an “H” formation with brass stops. Perhaps it is an architect tool or a surveyor’s tool for vertical height determination. **Seventh** was a scissors type tool from Sargent Tool Company, which perhaps is a hose clamp remover. The **eighth** item was a heavy cast iron arched channel with several large ring openings on the side. Used on an oil rig, a heavy rope passed over the top channel and a pulley system connected to the eyes hoisted the rope to the top of the oil rig. **Ninth** was a delicate awl for stitching horse collars. Similar smaller awls were used in the glove making industry in Gloversville, NY. The **tenth** item was a hand stamped bit gauge marked “R. and S.E. R.R.” Perhaps it is a railroad tool from Rochester and Sodus or Rochester and Southern Rail Roads. **Last** was a wood handled tool with a brass rocking cutter at the top, which appeared to work as a fence. Group offerings included it being a tool for instrument construction or a leather cutting tool for a cobbler or saddle maker. With the completion of the What’s Its and Show Table, the business portion of the meeting was adjourned.

Vice President Joel Havens graciously filled in for Mark Eastlick and presented a program focusing on Buffalo New York plane makers. Offering an impressive array of Buffalo planes and a “take home” hand-out of alphabetically listed plane makers, Joel focused his remarks on the L. & I. J. White Company. The company started making axes in Monroe, MI in 1837, but moved to Buffalo in 1844. Eventually they became the second largest plane/tool maker in New York State with the largest maker being D. R. Barton of Rochester. An 1854 description of their operations stated that a full time staff of 60 employees utilized “\$20,000 worth of raw materials to turn out \$60,000” of product. Known in particular “as manufactures of BEARDSLEE planning and other machine knives” the firm stressed quality production. A later “1859 Buffalo Commercial Advertiser publication...wrote with considerable local pride. ...’At the present time the articles manufactured by the White firm stand high in the market as the best made anywhere...the quality of their manufacturing standing second to none.’” The account also indicated the staff had increased from 60 to 75 employees, who earned \$1.50 to \$3.00 per day. A series of three fires inflicted heavy losses on the company; the last on September 1, 1867 resulted in \$35,000 of damages. The firm survived until 1929, when it was bought out by another firm. Based on several different wooden planes in his collection, Joel pointed out many of the plane bodies were manufactured by other New York makers, such as the Baldwin company, with L. & I. J. White supplying the irons. After some brief comments about Baldwin’s high quality and the irregular quality of some other makers, the program closed at 12:18pm.

Secretary:  
Annita Breitweiser

Submitted: January 31, 2017



## Auburn Tool Company

*Club member Frank Kosmerl found the following summary on the Auburn Tool Company through an eBay tool seller, and kindly sent it along for the membership to enjoy.*

THE AUBURN TOOL COMPANY is the outgrowth of an enterprise started in the prison in 1823, by Truman J. McMaster and Hon. Nathaniel Garrow, who then commenced the manufacture of carpenters' planes and plane irons, and carried on the business till about 1833, when Alonzo McMaster and Jacob Young bought the establishment and continued the business under the name of Young & McMaster till 1838, when the property was bought by the firm of Z. J. McMaster & Co., which was composed of Z. J. McMaster, Paul D. Cornell and Aurelius Wheeler, who, in 1847, sold to George Casey, Adam Miller, Josiah Douglass and Nelson Kitchell, by whom the business was conducted till 1858, under the name of Casey, Kitchell & Co. In 1858, Mr. Casey bought the interest of his partners and admitted to partnership J. N. Starin, Nelson Fitch, Abijah Fitch, Noah P. Clark and Alonzo G. Beardsley, who carried on the business under the name of Casey, Clark & Co., till October 8th, 1864, when a stock company was formed and incorporated, with a capital of \$75,000, which was subsequently increased to \$100,000, and the business has since been carried on under the name of the Auburn Tool Company, the parties last named being the incorporators and the first trustees. George Casey was elected President and has held that office to the present time. Nelson Fitch was elected Secretary and held that office till April 22d, 1868, when he was succeeded by N. P. Clark, who still holds the office. George Casey also acted as Treasurer till June 2d, 1867, when N. L. Casey, who has since held the office, was elected.

The works were removed from the prison August 1st, 1877, and now occupy a depression on the east bank of the Outlet, on Aurelius Avenue. The company employ thirty hands and make about 100,000 planes and plane irons per annum. The motive power is furnished by the Outlet, which has a fall at this point of 17½ feet. The manufacture of wood planes was an important industry in Auburn in the 1800s. These planes were made of wood with metal blades. Elliot Storke, among his many ventures, also made wood planes. His was an all metal plane manufactured by Auburn Metallic Plane Co., which he founded in 1867. This company was the major manufacturer of metallic planes in New York State. The plane manufacturers, Holly and Loughborough had experimented with and undertaken small productions of metallic planes during the 1850's. The demise of the wooden planes with the development of metal planes was spearheaded by the Auburn Metallic Plane Company. Wooden planes are a very desirable item to collectors of antique tools.

from eBay seller, odysseywood , Dallas, Texas 1/17

