



WNYATCA



WESTERN NEW YORK ANTIQUE TOOL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Website: www.wnyatca.org

The next meeting of WNYATCA will be held **September 22, 2019**
at the Quality Inn, Batavia, NY, just off the Thruway, Batavia exit.

Tool trading starts at 9:30 am...No Charge for a Trade Table
Meeting starts at 10:30 am

Early birds get there around 8:30 am. Come early and enjoy the trading, talking, coffee and pastry.

Meeting Dates for 2019:

- ✓ September 22, November 3
- ✓ Membership \$20.00/year payable at your 1st meeting.
- ✓ Regular Meetings held in Batavia, NY 4 times/yr.
- ✓ \$5.00 Meeting donation to help with room rental

We value Members' input with the Programs and Newsletter.

At September 22, 2019 WNYATCA Meeting:

- ✓ Speaker Series: Dr. Ryan Grohsmeyer, historic metallurgy
- ✓ Check on the payment status of your membership
- ✓ Buy benefits drawing tickets to support the club
- ✓ Consider donating an item to the benefits drawing

2019-2020 Officers

President: Leon Golder 607-962-4733
 Vice President: Dan Weinstock
 Secretary: Keith McCormick 518-365-8399
 Treasurer: Joe Paolucci

Meeting Contributors

Benefit Drawing: Tim Rhubart, Dave Iverson
 What's It & Show Table: Toby Dean
 Website: Keith McCormick

Western New York Antique Tool Collectors Association June 23, 2019 Minutes

Welcome: The June 23, 2019 meeting of WNYATCA convened at 10:30 AM at the Quality Inn in Batavia, NY. President Leon Golder presided. 34 members were in attendance. President Golder welcomed everyone to the 2nd meeting of 2019. President Golder introduced three new club members, Ryan Goetzmann, Leo/Carol Fenner and Jan Comstock. President Golder introduced himself briefly. He grew up on a farm in central PA and his Father operated a feed mill. He attended Williamsport Technical Institute and was employed at the Ingersoll-Rand plant in Painted Post, NY as a draftsman for a few years; then worked in their engineering department for many years. Leon also enjoys playing the trombone. Frank Flynn brought a shaving horse today and gave a demonstration on spokeshaves. President Golder indicated that spouses are part of the membership and are not required to pay dues. President Golder suggested that the membership come prepared to discuss an interesting or favorite tool find at future meetings. For your planning, tool trading starts at 9:30; meeting begins at 10:30; meeting/program complete by 1:30; and room must be cleared by 2:30. **2019 WNYATCA meeting dates are September 22 and November 3.**

Contributors: President Golder thanked all meeting contributors. Secretary Keith McCormick for preparing the meeting minutes, sending the Newsletter mailings and maintaining the club website. Treasurer Joe Paolucci for stepping up to the plate and accepting the Treasurer's position. Joe and Reid O'Connell were thanked for preparing the Treasurer's report, maintaining club member information, logging member sign-in at meetings and interfacing with the hotel on behalf of the club. Dave Iverson for administering the benefits drawing on behalf of Tim Rhubart. Dan Weinstock for leading the What's It and Show tables and coordinating today's speaker. President Golder thanked all members that bring tools for trading, donating items for the benefits drawing and bringing examples for the What's It and Show tables.

Member's Tasks: Club members were reminded of the various ways to support the club by paying the yearly membership fee (\$20) and meeting room use fee (\$5), reviewing membership spreadsheet at check-in time to ensure contact information is correct, bringing What's It and Show Table items to future meetings, buy benefits drawing tickets, bring a potential new member to the meetings, reading the Secretary's report in advance and to wear a name tag. All members were thanked for their dedication to the club.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's report was sent prior to the meeting. No additions or corrections were made by the members in attendance and the report was accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report indicated a checking account bank balance on 2/28/19 of \$2,277.73. Income since the last report was \$579. Expenses since the last report were \$418.30, which included a Quality Inn invoice for the 3/24/19 meeting for \$368.30 and a donation in memory of Floyd Ridley. The checking account bank balance was \$2,488.43 on 5/31/19 and the checking account checkbook balance was \$2,438.43 on 6/12/19. Balance includes \$486 for the projector fund. The net gain since the last report was \$160.70. There is no difference between the checkbook and bank balance as of this report.

The difference between checkbook and bank balances as of this report is due to the \$50 check sent to St Francis Church in Phelps in memory of Floyd Ridley. The check has not yet cleared.

There are currently 75 members, with no change since the last meeting. This reflects addition of new member Eric Hansen of Machias, NY and the passing of long-time member Floyd Ridley of Phelps, NY.

69% of members have paid dues through 2018 or later. 31% of memberships expired 2017 or earlier. This is a significant change compared to the 79% : 21% figure reported at the 3/24/19 meeting.

Vice President's Report:

1) None reported

Unfinished Business:

1) **Club computer projector & PA system** –Terry Page to report on the topic at the September meeting. We need to ensure compatibility with computers and the various interfaces/connections. Joel Havens brought along a specifications sheet for a ViewSonic video projector for consideration which retails for \$300 plus tax. The proposed projector is similar to Martin Donnelly's and Joel will follow-up at the upcoming auction in July. We agreed to move this effort along at the September meeting.

2) **WNYATCA website** – President Golder commented on the good structure and old articles on the club's website. Keith McCormick will continue to update the website as necessary. Keith McCormick will confirm the GoDaddy website subscription. **Post-meeting update:** The subscription was a 3-year term and expires November, 2020.

New Business:

1) None reported

What's It & Show tables – Toby Dean will assume the presentation of the Show and What's It table items moving forward

- 1) A fine tool marked Enterprise Mfg Co of Philadelphia, PA. Patent Dec 1895. Approximately 8" in length and a stout tool. Possibly an antique shoe last to hammer the sole onto a shoe.
- 2) A perfect handle screwdriver with spiral stamp. Fins present on both sides. Marked H.D. Smith #3.
- 3) Plier-like tool, manufacturer's #'s of some kind. Spring action, push to open.
- 4) Tool with knurled end, conical shape, inside/outside graduations. Looks like a valve seat cutter.
- 5) Glass object from Jan Comstock, resembling a red delicious apple. Two-part mold with sheared lip. It came from a fishing shack along the Chemung River in the Corning, NY area. Possibly a carnival shooting game item.
- 6) A small cutter with a patterned edge. Possibly a photographic cutter to create a decorative edge.
- 7) A tool with heavy steel on a wood base. Feb 17, 1863 patent #37,707 by W.F. Rundell. A carriage jack. Rundell was born in 1832 with 10 patents on agricultural items to his name.
- 8) Forged object with a curved shape and hammered. Used for pulling railroad spikes? A puller of some kind.
- 9) A punch marked Burco A-198. An eyelet leather tool?
- 10) A combination tool marked H.P. Brooks with 1874 patent date. A cast iron tool with glass cutting wheel and equipped with a file for smoothing.
- 11) A tool with wooden handle with cylindrical cannister and hole. Used for heating over a fire?
- 12) A small, nickel plated tool that appeared to be part of another tool.
- 13) Tool with 1897 patent. Equipped with a screwdriver and awl. L.S. Starrett multitool.

Post-meeting update: Joel Havens provided links to additional information on items #1 & #10 below.

Item #1 - US Patent: 551,997, Combined Lap Iron, Last Support and Nail Dish

<http://datamp.org/patents/displayPatent.php?id=61955>

Item #10 – US Patent: 150,225, Improvement in Knife-Sharpener

<http://www.datamp.org/patents/displayPatent.php?pn=150225&id=20997>

Favorite tool finds

- 1) Leon Golder shared his experience of a 1900's era, 42" bench Martin Donnelly's auction. He ended up missing the sale, but was able to purchase it from the winning bidder after the auction.
- 2) Frank Kosmerl discussed a Cobb and Thayer timber framing slick he purchased at the Byron auction in the 1990's. The tool was made in Rochester in the Brown's Race area. The oldest axe from T. Morgan and Henry W. Stager, a nail factory in Rochester. Cooper's axes, Diderot plates for nail cutting and an 1852 cooper's shave from the Barton and Stager partnership. There were (35) edge tool makers with history in Rochester, NY.

3) Dan Coleman shared a story about a 1700's 33" diameter steel church bell from a town in PA that exhibits 2 sounds and is complete with the clapper.

Benefits Drawing

A sum of \$92 was raised for the benefits drawing.

At 11:20AM, the official business portion of the meeting was adjourned.

Speaker Series

Seth Gottlieb presented on the history of the L.S. Starrett Co. Seth studied at RIT and is knowledgeable on the history of printing and printing presses. He has also studied abroad in Manchester England and has worked on cataloging George Washington's artifacts. He has accumulated over 500 tools in his personal collection. Seth provided a comprehensive overview on the history of the company and fielded the membership's questions at the conclusion of the presentation. L.S. Starrett Co. was founded by Laroy Sunderland Starrett. He submitted a combination square patent in the year 1879. He teamed up with the Athol Mfg Co. to produce a meat chopper that was available in several sizes. They not only collaborated on machinists' tools, but on a domestic press for meats and fruits marketed towards families, hotels and restaurants. Non-agricultural and leatherworking tools were also manufactured. However, after some time, the relationship with the Athol group went sour over patent disputes. C.F. Richardson constructed a factory in the 1890's along the Miller's River in Athol, MA. Seth showed several historical photos and postcards of the factory, including a 1903/1904 image with an electric street light shown. Starrett further expanded the product line through collaborations with others. For example, a partnership existed with Adell Bros. Mfg. Co. to develop new tools, such as the smooth spindle micrometer versus the traditional type with exposed threads. In the Athol, MA area, philanthropy by many of the factory owners funded community development of churches and a YMCA. A photo of an engine was shown, a Brown 2-cylinder engine used for the local power house. The 1960's represented the peak population of Starrett in Athol. The company further expanded globally to Scotland, Brazil and China. The Union Twist Drill Company was another prominent company in Athol and Starrett later spun off their cutters to them. In 1938 hurricane flooding heavily damaged the area and local factories. A special micrometer with raised dots was manufactured for blind workers. Starrett also patented the classic satin-chrome finish, which is found on 1950's and later produced tools. The tool #'s that Starrett assigned to their tools and not necessarily unique and they were recycled and assigned to different tools. Starrett also made aluminum tools during the 1920's aluminum craze. Bronze levels were also produced for gas workers or other occupations that required non-sparking tools as part of their trade. Not all Starrett catalogs were the same and they were issued every 2 years, 1938 through 1953. The first catalog produced was on a folded sheet of paper and only (3) are known to exist today. Starrett tools may be dated by their mark. For example, a mark L.S. Starrett – Athol, MA is missing "Co." and is an earlier mark/tool. The Gristmill published an article the history of Starrett. The traditional red colored Starrett box may also be used to date the tool, as earlier tools were assembled into a black/green box. Tools in wooden boxes used transfer labels and leatherette lined boxes were a limited success. At the conclusion of Seth's presentation, several questions were asked by the members in attendance. The Starrett price list was seldom distributed. Folding rules that were made of steel were used more for advertising and a promotional item. At the Starrett factory, there is a museum and tours are available at the factory. Starrett does not have a foundry and their castings are contracted to others. The micrometer was a patent issued in 1882 and was originally designed for sheet metal work. Starrett produced many special tools when commissioned by a company. For example, Starrett produced a special tool for AMF for leveling bowling alleys. Starrett rules are engraved, not stamped.

Thank you to Seth for the outstanding presentation on the L.S. Starrett Co.



Starrett tool collection



What's It and Show Table items