

Herbert J. Lapp, Jr.  
1326 Buck Hollow Road  
Mohnton, PA 19540  
610-855-8362  
email: hlapp@dejazzd.com

---

## OBJECTIVE

Conduct Windsor chair research to identify chairmaker characteristics and techniques, find and identify the old chairmakers and continue developing my chairmaking skills.

## EXPERIENCE

- Oct 2001      **Windsor Institute, Hampden, NH**  
Completed sack-back chairmaking class studying under Windsor chairmaster Michael Dunbar.
- May 2003      **Windsor Institute, Hampden, NH**  
Completed Nantucket fan-back chairmaking class.
- June 2005      **Philadelphia Windsor Chair Shop, Earlville, Oley Valley, PA**  
Completed master class tutorial with chairmaster Jim Rendi.
- 10/01 –  
present      Windsor chairs I made:
- Sack Back – adult, child and writing arm
  - Miniature & adult Bow Backs with & without braces
  - Nantucket Fan Back
  - Fan-Back side chairs with and without braces
  - Windsor youth chair
  - Philadelphia Comb Back
  - Philadelphia Low Back
  - Continuous-arm chairs with & without braces
  - Reproduced & donated chairs made from examples owned the 1728 John Bartram Association, Reading Public Museum and the Lemon Hill Mansion to the Colonial Dames of America.
  - Restored 19<sup>th</sup> century manufactured Bow Back with arms
  - Restored 1820 child's Windsor High Chair
  - Restored 1875 family heirloom rocker
  - Made commissioned reproduction of Henzey sack-back chair for the Carpenters' Company Managing Committee
  - Completed Windsor chair commissions for other private individuals.

## Windsor Chairs Photographed & Studied

Photographed over 400 - 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century Windsor chairs as seen through the eyes of a Windsor chairmaker. My 10,000 archived images were taken at the following locations:

- Milwaukee Art Museum
- Independence Hall, Phila.
- Carpenters' Hall, Phila.
- Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Valley Forge National Historical Park, King of Prussia, PA
- Hopewell Furnace Historical Site, Elverson, PA
- Rhode Island Institute of Design, Providence, RI

- Morristown National Historical Park (Washington's 1778 – 1779 Winter Encampment), Morristown, NJ
- Pook and Pook Auctions, Downingtown, PA
- Haddonfield Friends Meeting & School, Haddonfield, NJ
- The 1728 John Bartram House, Phila.
- Stenton, James Logan's Mansion, Germantown, PA
- Wyck, Wistar family summer residence, Germantown, PA
- Cliveden, Germantown, PA
- Betsy Ross House, Phila.
- York County Heritage Museum, York, PA
- PA State Museum, Harrisburg, PA
- Hunter Mansion, Harrisburg, PA
- Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, VA
- Yale Gallery of Art, New Haven, CT
- Berks County Historical Society, Reading, PA
- Laurel and Lemon Hills Mansions, Fairmount Park, Phila.
- Mid – Atlantic Antiques and Auctions, Newark, DE
- Reading Public Museum, Reading, PA
- Whitall House, Red Bank Battle Field, Red Bank, NJ
- William Brinton 1704 House, Delaware County, PA
- Winterthur
- York County Historical Society
- Lancaster Heritage Museum, Lancaster, PA
- Dr. Thomas Bond House, Phila.
- 2005 Oley Valley Antiques Show
- Knaurer's Mills Antiques, West Coventry, PA
- Merritt's Antiques, Douglasville, PA
- Germantown Historical Society
- Camden County Historical Society, Camden, NJ
- John Cope 1723 House, Downingtown, PA
- Daniel Boone Homestead, Exeter, PA
- Chairs from private collections.

### Windsor Chair Valuation

Since October 2004, I have comprehensively studied the Windsor chairs auctioned by seven well-known auction houses to document estimated chair valuations prior & post sale. Developed comprehensive data archive of sale results.

### RESULTS

Completed detailed chair measurements of 100 - 18th century chairs including branded chairs made by F. Trumble, T. Gilpin, Joseph Henzey, John Letchworth, E. B. Tracey, Wm. McElroy and Wm. Cox. In this initiative :

- Measured and reproduced an 18th-century Lancaster County sack-back chair in the collection of the Reading Public Museum. I donated this chair to them that was auctioned at their 2005 Gala. This chair was purchased by Albert Boscov, retired-Chairman of the Boscov Department Store chain.
- Discovered two Wm. Cox chairs & an unbranded Henzey bow-back armchair at Haddonfield Friends School in school's 1797 main building attic.
- Identified many second and third unbranded chairs made by the same chairmaker using my archive data studying the maker's handiwork signatures.
- Reproduced 1770 Joseph Henzey child's sack-back chair donated to the Colonial Dames of America, who manage the Lemon Hill Fairmount Park Manison .
- Consulted to the Betsy Ross House analyzing a very early comb-back chair to identify age, chairmaker, and history. Wrote 70 page report on findings.
- First windsor chair researcher and chairmaker to be given unsupervised permission to photograph, study and measure the historical Windsor chairs at the Carpenters' Hall, Phila. Made by Henzey and used for the attendees of the First Continental Congress in Fall 1774. Published article of this work in the Spring 2007, quarterly Carpenters' Hall newsletter.
- Conducting detailed analytical study of between windsor chairs made in Philadelphia and those from Lancaster County.

- Conducting research into very early Philadelphia comb-back chairs dating from 1740 to 1759.
- Compiling and evaluating data from Henzey-made chairs to develop an objective model to identify unbranded chairs as being made by him for adult sacks, bow-back armchairs and child sacks.
- Studied and measured more Henzey-made chairs than any other researcher along with discovering several unbranded as being made by him.
- Preparing to write journal articles and books on findings and work.

### **Education**

B.S. degree in Physics-math & Liberal Arts, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, 1969.

M.A. degree in Curriculum & Instruction, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, 1976.