

Antiques At The Tavern, Hanover, Virginia

Hanover Tavern Unveils Founding Father's Cupboard

by Walter C. Newman

The fifth annual Antiques At The Tavern show was held May 5-7 at the historic Hanover Tavern in Hanover, Virginia. The Hanover Tavern Foundation is the host, and proceeds from the show go to benefit the foundation's goals related to education and preservation. This year the foundation was able to reinstate one of its longstanding educational projects that had been temporarily put on hold during the pandemic. The tavern hosted field trips for fourth grade classes from around Virginia, and more than 2000 students took advantage of the educational experience.

Hanover Tavern has earned a well-deserved reputation for the historical and antiques-related lectures that are offered on Saturday evening at the show. This year the attendees were treated to two presentations.

A well-deserved reputation for historical and antiques-related lectures.

Sumpter Priddy III, a recognized and well-respected antiques expert, author, and researcher, presented "Inlaid Furniture of the Southern Backcountry." The interesting lecture explored the idea that inlaid and painted furniture in the backcountry of Colonial America and our newly independent nation's South was heavily influenced by the Scots and Scots-Irish settlers who moved into those areas. Their free-flowing use of light, color, and motion as decorative elements flew in the face of traditional British tastes. "Backcountry" refers to areas of frontier settlement west of the more densely inhabited tidewater regions. Priddy's talk scratched the surface of the topic, and we hope there will be more to come.

The second presentation of the evening was the unveiling of a significant piece of furniture directly related to one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, a law office storage/document cupboard with a direct connection to Patrick Henry (1736-1799). It is appropriate that Hanover Tavern should have the honor of introducing the cupboard. Patrick Henry was a native of Hanover County and was married to Sarah Shelton, the daughter of the tavern's innkeeper. The cupboard has only recently been correctly identified and its provenance established. It will be on display at the tavern for a yet to be determined time. We hope to provide further information on this important piece in the future.

The show itself held true to form. A variety of quality antiques were offered. Because of space limitations, Antiques At The Tavern can accommodate only 20 dealers. David Deal, executive director of the Hanover Tavern Foundation, and his staff again assembled an excellent mix of dealers offering a wide range of merchandise. Owing to the topic of Priddy's lecture, many dealers brought examples of inlaid and painted furniture. Several dealers had the good fortune to report that their booth contents were significantly drawn down by the end of the day Saturday.

Early buying at the show's preview reception was also heavy. A number of dealers allowed that they had enjoyed several sales during the first hour of the preview. Couple the idea of having first crack at reasonably priced quality antiques with the fact that the tavern set out a lavish hors d'oeuvres buffet at the preview, and one is given all the more reason to attend this unique show early.

For additional information, visit (www.hanovertavern.org) or call (804) 537-5050.



In his antiques life, David Deal, executive director of the Hanover Tavern Foundation, trades as Laurel Meadow Antiques & Reproductions, Mechanicsville, Virginia. Deal offered these two slightly dished English pearlware plates, circa 1770. The 9½" diameter plates have scalloped edges with feathered cobalt trim. The rims are further enhanced with molded clamshell patterns, highlighted with cobalt swags. The plates were \$175 each or \$300 the pair.



Raleigh, North Carolina, dealer John Haywood offered a varied array of items. The oil on board of a Classical statue dates from the late 19th century and is one of a group of similar paintings by Anne K. Quinn. They were likely painted on a European tour. This example was priced at \$150. The brass candlesticks were priced at \$30 to \$50. The 9½" diameter four-scene rose medallion plate, circa 1850, was tagged \$145.



Here is an unusual mixed-woods countertop apothecary-style cabinet with a gallery shelf. The 19th-century piece, 34" x 30" x 9½", features 36 drawers, each fitted with a slide top. The brass pulls are likely original, and there are some modern wooden replacements. Frank Sisto of Simpler Times Antiques, Williamsburg, Virginia, priced the cabinet at \$3500.



Scott Cilley of Northumberland Antiques, Richmond, Virginia, offered a tavern-style worktable from Culpeper County, Virginia, tagged \$895. The storage box is southern and dates from the 19th century. The legs are cut from the side panels, and the lid is covered with an old piece of needlework. It was tagged \$165. The 5" x 12" x 6½" maple and walnut valuables box was marked \$210. Cilley had difficulty keeping inventory in his booth. By early Saturday afternoon it was pretty sparse. That's a good thing.

Jerry and Judy Brill of Brill's Antiques, Newport News, Virginia, offered this fine mahogany Philadelphia tilt-top tea table, 1740-60. The 25" diameter table features a slightly tapered compressed ball column below the birdcage and is supported on snake-head tripod feet. The feet and knees are not carved. The birdcage hardware appears to be original. The table was \$3250.



Butch and Melissa Atkinson are new to the show circuit, and this show was their first adventure. The Atkinsons are both retired or soon to be retired teachers. They trade as Old School Antiques and are also the proprietors of Coalfield Station Antiques, a group shop in Midlothian, Virginia. The mixed-woods miniature New Hampshire mule chest displays an escutcheon and pulls of bone or ivory. There is evidence that the two dovetailed drawers many have once been fitted with spring locks. The 23" x 21½" x 12" chest was marked \$750.



Here is a Regency period architect's desk and games table. When it is closed, the table's surface displays three tooled and edge-decorated leather panels. The center panel can be raised to create a work surface. The drawer opens to reveal a game board, and there is a backgammon board below. The desk was priced at \$6800 by Justin Westbrook Antiques, Richmond, Virginia.

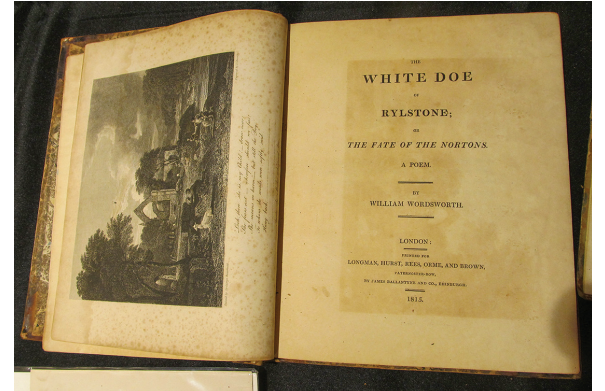


Joseph E. A. Wilkinson of Wilkinson Estate Services/The Antiques & Art Mart, Spring Hope, North Carolina, offered this late 18th-/early 19th-century walnut blanket chest from Virginia, inlaid with the initials "J" and "G." The chest features an exposed dovetailed case and three lipped drawers below. The bracket-foot base is also dovetailed. The rectangular lid displays an applied molded edge. This form is found among the chests in *Southern Antiques* by Paul H. Burroughs, published by Bonanza Books. The chest was tagged \$5200.



Peg Lockwood of Zuni, Virginia, offered a wide array of smalls. The wooden dog's head inkwell was tagged \$195, and the carved bear cub inkwell, \$195. Neither has an ink bottle insert. The Staffordshire stirrup in the form of a hound's head was priced at \$395. The Georgian mahogany tea caddy featuring a band of inlaid barber pole inlay was \$275.

Here is a copy of the narrative poem *The White Doe of Rylstone* by English Romantic poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850). This 1815 edition of the legendary story was published by James Ballantyne, Edinburgh. The frontispiece, an engraving by John Charles Bromley after a painting by Sir George Beaumont, depicts the white doe at rest. The book was priced at \$275 by bookseller Jerry N. Showalter of Ivy, Virginia.



These shorebirds and decoys were displayed in the booth of Brian Murphy Antiques & Art, Bon Air, Virginia. The birds on stands ranged in price from \$650 to \$1200. The decoys were \$125 to \$250.

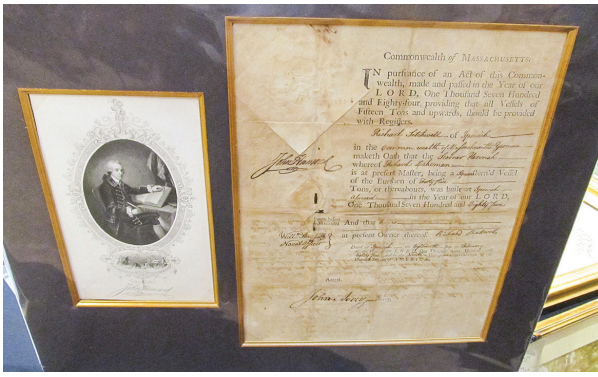


Philip Adkins of Cloverdale, Virginia, trades as Tsenacomoco Antiques. His business card notes that he deals in "objects from early Virginia and the greater South." The word Tsenacomoco relates to very early Virginia. It translates to "densely inhabited land" and is the Algonquin word for the area that is identified as the Powhatan paramount chiefdom in today's tidewater Virginia. Adkins offered these interesting artifacts that were found in a Virginia collection: a cast bronze Revolutionary War-era flag finial, \$1250; a pair of Revolutionary War/early Federal period silvered steel spurs, \$320; and a brass candlestick with a federal eagle base, \$350.

Mark M. Gaines of Baltimore, Maryland, offered this butternut or "blond" walnut mid-Atlantic tall chest with extensive string inlay on its drawer faces and a band of overlapping guilloche inlay below the cornice. With three short drawers above five graduated drawers, the chest was priced at \$2300.



SHOW



Here is an early ship's registration document signed by John Hancock, then governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is dated during the first year after legislation was enacted requiring the registration of all vessels that exceeded 15 tons in weight. This document certifies that the 55-ton schooner *Hannah*, built in Ipswich, is duly registered. It retains its original raised seal, along with the signatures of Hancock and the commonwealth's secretary of state, John Avery. Bill Subjack of Neverbird Antiques, Surry, Virginia, tagged the document \$7500.



This 19th-century oil on canvas was executed in the style of the Norwich school painters of the early to mid-19th century. The image depicts a lone fisherman at the shore of a lake, with mountains in the background. It was \$335 from Frances and Hugh Jackson of Jackson's Antiques, Lynchburg, Virginia.

This early 19th-century Shenandoah Valley standing desk/chest constructed in the Chippendale style was offered for \$38,000 by Bruce G. Shoemaker and Rose B. Berry of Baldwin House Antiques, Strasburg, Pennsylvania. The slant lid opens to an open well. Below are three short drawers, the center of which is divided, and below those are two medium drawers and two long drawers. The case is raised on ogee bracket feet. The forward corners feature split fluted quarter columns. The primary wood is walnut; the secondary woods are poplar and yellow pine. The drawer faces are boldly figured maple. There is lightwood inlay below the lid, including a frame with "John C L 1804" between two rows of checkered decoration. Notes accompanying the chest indicate that the construction techniques are traits associated with Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia: vertical backboards, extensive use of peg fasteners, exposed rear stiles, and split quarter columns. The brasses are replaced, and there has been some repair at the top of the fall board.



This year's show included the unveiling of a significant piece of furniture directly related to Founding Father Patrick Henry (1736-1799). David Deal, executive director of the Hanover Tavern Foundation, is shown with the documents cupboard on stage at Hanover Tavern's Bradley Theater. The cupboard will be on display at the tavern for a yet to be determined time.



The cupboard related to Patrick Henry as it was pictured in the catalog sale of the collection of George Robert "Bob" Jean Jr. and his wife, Bernice, conducted by Winstead's Auction Company, Yanceyville, North Carolina, in June 2022 (see *M.A.D.*, September 2022, page 131). At the auction, the cupboard sold for \$16,875.18.



Carolyn Brown of Sparrow's Nest Antiques, Williamsburg, Virginia, offered for \$2500 an 18th-century tavern table in cherry, with mixed secondary woods. The two-board top is secured by breadboard ends. The large pewter bowl was \$125; the pewter pot, \$195; the smaller bowl, \$95; and the mug, \$95. The onion bottle was tagged \$225 and the taller bottle, \$110.



The origin of this theorem is unknown, but it is clearly signed as the work of Mary Ann Lewis and dated 1840. The brightly colored flowers are shown arranged in a basket. The artwork is presented in a cherry frame of the period. It was priced at \$495 by Vernon Creekmore of Broad Rock House Antiques, Richmond, Virginia.



Charlie Miller of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, priced the circa 1790 French buffet in oak at \$3750. It displays extensive decorative carving, and its diminutive size added to its desirability. The candlesticks were marked \$150. The silk-thread mantel clock features a cast bronze child reading a book. Dating from the second quarter of the 19th century, it was marked \$1250. The circa 1835 footed basket in silver over copper was \$125.

