

THE EASTFIELD RECORD



June 2022 Newsletter



Welcome Back

The Historic Eastfield Foundation is so pleased to welcome students back for in person classes this year!

With over 12 amazing classes to offer, this promises to be an unforgettable year with the Historic Eastfield Foundation.

As we move, both as a country and organization, towards a return to normalcy, we look forward to continuing the vision of Don Carpentier through continuing his vision of education and immersive experiences for all!





Email Update

There are so many great things happening here at Historic Eastfield Foundation, including a new way to register for classes & learn more about all the great things the Foundation is doing!

In order to stay in the loop with all things Eastfield, please be sure to update your email by going to

<https://www.historiceastfield.org/>

and "Subscribing" to our emailing list!

You can also update your address & other contact information by emailing ~

information@historiceastfield.org

Stay In the Know! Join our Newsletter!

Email Address*

A Message from the President

THANK YOU
NEIL DEMARINO

Historic Eastfield
Foundation's Newly Elected
President

This year has been a season of change here at Historic Eastfield Foundation. In the fall of 2021, we welcomed Niel DeMarino as the new President of Historic Eastfield Foundation's Executive Board of Directors. His goals were clear from the beginning; resume classes at Eastfield after a challenging two years of a pandemic and begin the process of automating class registration online.

We are so proud to say that Niel has more than accomplished those two goals! While challenging, the foundation was able to create a fantastic lineup of classes and we were so proud to unveil our new online registration system.

With these happy accomplishments in mind, we must also announce that Niel, having accomplished his goals, has chosen to step down from the position of President. Niel has come to realize his numerous professional and personal commitments prevent him from being able to dedicate his full passion to Eastfield.

While he is saddened at having to step back from this new role, he is fully assured that the Historic Eastfield Foundation will continue to work to honor the incredible legacy of Don Carpentier.



2022



EARLY AMERICAN TRADES & HISTORIC PRESERVATION WORKSHOPS

1. HAND TOOL WOODWORKING: MAKE A CANDLE BOX

June 1- 3 (3 days)

Limit: 5 students

Participants start with a rough piece of lumber & learn how to use various period hand tools -- saws, chisels, & planes-to transform the wood into a handsome , dovetailed sliding-lid candle box. Basic sharpening & tool-use techniques are also taught. Both beginners & experienced woodworkers who want to hone their craft will benefit from this course. Tools & wood are provided. Students may bring their own hand tools as well.

Peter Forward is the proprietor of Peter Forward Cabinetmaking. He has worked professionally as a cabinetmaker since he was 17, & is known for his traditionally styled fine furniture. A Rensselaer County N Y. resident, Peter also serves on the Historic Eastfield Foundation's board of directors.

2. LEATHERWORKING: MAKE A PORTMANTEAU

June 9 - 11 (3 days)

Limit: 6 students

Portmanteaus, or valises, were essential to travelers in the 18th and 19th centuries & were commonly found in probate inventories & depicted in artwork & advertisements. These leather forerunners of the suitcase carried clothes & essential items for wayfarers, but were small enough to be carried by hand. In this 3-day course students learn fundamental leatherworking techniques , such as cutting, skiving, the use of awls, & various sewing methods necessary to build a medium sized, 16-inch-long valise utilizing construction methods based on extant examples as well as those seen in 18h-century artwork.

Shaun A. Pekar is a footwear historian, historic shoemaker, and proprietor of "S.Pekar, Shoe and Accoutrement Maker". He specializes in 18th & 19th century reproduction leather items, & has made reproduction leather goods for several historical sites & museums.

3. BASIC BLACKSMITHING

June 17 - 19 (3 days)

Fee: \$395.00

Limit: 6 students

This course introduces the student to the basic tools & processes of blacksmithing. Through a series of practical projects, students will learn to make their own tongs and other simple forge tools, familiarizing themselves with such techniques as drawing out, upsetting, bending, twisting, & other forming methods. More advanced subjects such as welding, brazing, simple heat treating of carbon steel for edged tools will also be touched upon. The remaining time will be devoted to small projects of the student's choice.

Olof Jansson, blacksmith/or more than 30 years, has specialized in making items for museums & historic sites in the Mohawk Valley & New York's Capital District.

4. LETTER CARVING IN STONE

June 17 – 20 (4 days)

Fee \$415.00

Limit: 4 students

This class for beginners covers the basics of hand-carving letters in stone using only hand tools. All materials & tools are provided, as well as plenty of practice time, demonstration & guidance. Participants use a brass mallet & steel chisel to chase out lines, curves, serifs, dots, & other special techniques. Each participant creates a composition of 1 to 4 letters that is carved into a slate plaque to take home with them. Students will put their hands to this most ancient art & create something that could last for hundreds of years. One day of the class will be a field trip to historic cemeteries to get inspired by 18th century lettering.

Allison Blake Steel is one of only about a dozen artisans in the U.S. still practicing the ancient art of carving letters by hand using only a mallet & chisel. She is the proprietor of Hand Carved Slate of Old Chatham, NY. Where she creates original hand-carved gravestones. She began carving slate in 2005, & gives lectures on her research into gravestone art. She previously worked as a gravestone conservator for [Monument Conservation Collaborative](#) restoring hundreds of early gravestones all over NY & New England.

5. HISTORIC CERAMICS SYMPOSIUM, "Dish Camp"

June 24 & 25 (2 days)

Fee \$285.00

No Limit

A Return To Old Friends: Four Hundred Years of Ceramics in America

After two years away, we gather again at Historic Eastfield to revisit old friends and meet new ones. We'll reexamine the earliest ceramics at Jamestown, the world of imports that filled homes with the most fashionable ceramics in the eighteenth century, and early stoneware in New York and New Jersey. Using a host of historic and modern resources, archeology, and experimentation, we'll go down the rabbit hole of more than four hundred years of ceramics in America. Two hands-on workshops are included, as is lunch both days and a period dinner at the Briggs Tavern on Saturday.

Speakers include: **David Barker**, *Archaeologist*; **Ron Fuchs**, *Curator, Reeves Collection*; **Miranda Goodby**, *Ceramics Curator*; **Meta Janowitz**, *Archaeologist*; **Angelika Kuettner**, *Curator, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*; **Merry Outlaw**, *Curator, Jamestown Rediscovery*; **Scott Penpraze**, *Historic Eastfield Foundation*; **Chris Pickerell**, *Independent Researcher*; **Mark Shapiro**, *Potter*.



6. TIMBER FRAMING-

July 25 -29 (5 days)

Limit: 10 students

Fee \$495.00



This class is generously underwritten by The Early American Industries Association, Inc.

Designed to teach the fundamentals of historic timber work to students of all skill levels, this course offers the opportunity to construct a timber frame structure incorporating traditional mortise & tenon & other joints. Students gain an understanding of the layout & construction of historic timber frames, including barns & dwellings, as they construct a woodshed. Traditional tools are used, including framing chisels, hand crosscut & rip saws, marking gauges & hand boring machines. Topics include: layout and cutting of sills, posts, floor framing, braces, tie-girts, rafters, purlins and studding, draw boring and pinning, and square rule and scribe rule systems.

Rich Friberg is a Historic Preservation Carpentry instructor at the North Bennet Street School, Boston, MA & proprietor of Pleasant Avenue Restorations, MA (pleasantavenuerestorations.com).

7. TAVERN LIFE IN AMERICA. 1700-1840

July 30 - 31(2 days)

Fee \$395.00

No Limit

The iconic American tavern was the place to meet, socialize, & enjoy entertainment in early America. This two-day workshop in the gorgeous, spacious Briggs Tavern examines the tavern's role in society & permits participants to experience the at-times rollicking atmosphere of a tavern. Topics include drinking & libations, entertainments, & female tavern keepers. A special presentation explains how the Briggs Tavern was discovered, taken down, & moved to Eastfield for reassembly. Some of the ongoing restoration work to this architectural treasure is detailed. Attendees experience a tavern evening including a period meal, learn historic dances, listen to early American music, & be entertained by early American games & magic.

Phil Dunning is a former archeological researcher for Parks Canada & has researched 18th and 19th century American taverns, drinking, & distilling for decades. Anne Lanning is Senior Vice President at Historic Deefield. Robert Olson is proprietor of Historical Conjuring and Entertainments. William McMillen is Historic Eastfield Foundation board member & retired supervisor of restoration at Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island NY Peter Schaaphok is Historic Eastfield Foundation board member. Sue Braisted has three decades of experience in historical dance & specializes in teaching Baroque & 18th century country dance.

8. INTRODUCTION TO MOLDING HANDPLANES

August 1- 3 (3 days)

Fee \$395.00

Limit: 8 students

Students become familiar with complex molding planes & learn how their intricate blade shapes & profiles evolved over the 18th & early 19th centuries. Proper sharpening, cleaning, & tuning techniques are taught. Attendees make moldings & learn how to properly install the trim work on the exterior windows of Eastfield's Meetinghouse.

Robert Adam is the founder & former department chair of Preservation Carpentry, North Bennet Street School, Boston MA. He is a working craftsman & consultant to preservation projects & museums. William McMillen is the retired Supervisor of Restoration at Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island NY, & consults with numerous historic sites & museums.

9. ADVANCED BLACKSMITHING: MAKE A SET OF ANDIRONS

August 1- 3 (3 days)

Fee \$395.00

Limit: 5 students

This intermediate blacksmithing course is designed to teach students the traditional methods for making a functional set of andirons, iconic & essential pieces of Early American iron hardware. Students have several choices of andirons to choose from.

Steve Mankowski is the owner of Pine Tree Forge & Blacksmiths at Historic Jamestown, VA. Prior to that he was a journeyman at the Anderson Blacksmith Shop in Colonial Williamsburg VA, where he worked for more than 30 years. He has researched & made fine reproduction hardware for home & museum restorations all over the country.

10. TINSMITHING: LEVELS I, II, & III

August 8 - 12 (5 days)

Fee: \$495

Limit: 8 students All levels of tinsmithing are taught during the same week

TINI

Introduction to the art of tinning designed to provide a basic working knowledge of late 18th & early 19th century tinning tools, construction techniques & pattern layout. The history of American tinning is covered in an illustrated talk. Students construct 9 reproduction items including a one-pint mug, a wall scone, & a coffee pot. All projects are based on traditional designs, using period tools & methods. All tools & tin are supplied for the workshop.

TIN II: ADVANCED TINSMITHING

Designed for those who already have experience & a good basic knowledge of construction methods as well as the use of standard tin tools. Students have access to a large collection of tin sconces, lanterns, chandeliers, candle sticks, crooked spout coffee pots, roasting kitchens, etc., which they are invited to examine, measure & copy with the expert help of the instructor.

TIN III: 18th-CENTURY TINSMITHING

Designed for those who would like to produce tinware items in the 18th century manner both civilian and military, using only hand tools & methods. Students are encouraged to produce patterns from many available documented 18th century items.

William McMillen is a Master Tinsmith from Glenmont, NY, & is also member of the Historic Eastfield Foundation board; Steve Delisle is Master Tinsmith at the Anderson Armory Tinshop, Colonial Williamsburg.



11. EARLY AMERICAN PRINTING

August 9 - 12 (4 days)

Fee \$395.00

Limit: 4 students

Participants learn a simple 32-page pamphlet format bound in its printed wrapper on the printing process on Eastfield's original iron hand presses. Students set type, & take turns in the inking & printing of the presses. The workshop also examines the functioning, set up, adjustment, & operation of presses. The final day is spent on binding techniques. Attendees gain the skills needed to achieve high levels of printing quality using basic tools.

Stephen Sword of Ontario, Canada, is a printing historian & the owner of stiff 'n'sorepress, which specializes in historic letterpress techniques. Greg Joly is a Historic Eastfield Foundation board member & the owner of Bull Thistle Press, Jamaica VT

12. BRICK FIREPLACE & OVEN BUILDING 1770-1840

August 15-19 (5 days)

Limit: 8 students

Fee: \$495.00

This 5-day course begins by providing an in-depth study of the American fireplace & oven through an illustrated lecture of regional types & construction materials. A large collection of original fireplace & oven materials, hardware & fittings are available for examination at Eastfield. Students working in groups of 3 or 4 construct a fireplace & oven using salvaged brick & lime mortar.

Sam McKinney, independent scholar & operator of "Traditional Builder," Dillsburg PA, John McMillen, Restoration Specialist

13. A FIRST COURSE IN HEARTH COOKING

August 26 - 28 (3 days)

Fee \$395.00

Limit: 6 students

Participants learn the art & science of hearth cooking by roasting, broiling, boiling & baking food using recipes & techniques from the first half of the 19th century. The class includes instruction on firewood choice & fire management, cooking tools & techniques, bake oven skills, & period recipes. Students gain knowledge they can apply to their own hearths, with or without the array of period cooking implements available in the Briggs Tavern. All ingredients are supplied & participants get to dine on the food they cook.

Gwen Miner has been hearth cooking for more than 35 years. As staff interpreter at the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown NY, she led numerous workshops on hearth skills & period cooking.



Historic Eastfield Foundation

The Historic Eastfield Foundation is dedicated to preserving the legacy and Knowledge of Don Carpentier, one of the foremost historical preservation Artist.

information@historiceastfield.org



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Saying Farewell ...



It is with deep regret that we share the passing of Judith McMillen. Judy found her passion in history and lived a life dedicated to the preservation of the past. Judy served as the Director of Education at Historic Richmondtown in Staten Island, NY where her second husband, William was the supervisor of restoration.

After retirement, she continued her dedication to historical preservation as the first female president of the Early American Industries Association as well as served as a board member of the Historic Eastfield Foundation.

All of us here at Historic Eastfield Foundation will miss Judy dearly and send our heartfelt condolences to her loved ones.