Making Furniture in Preindustrial America

Cooke, Jr., Edward S.

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

Cooke, Edward S., Jr.


For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/71695

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2452066
**Biographies of Woodbury Joiners, 1760–1820**

*William Adee* (?–1765)  Adee of New Haven bought 2,400 square feet of land near David Minor in 1750 and married Sarah Hotchkiss in 1751. At his death he owned a fairly extensive quantity of tools, especially of the turning variety. His estate listed seventy dozen chair rounds. He may have concentrated on making chairs, even though he made a coffin for Ephraim Minor in 1762. His agricultural possessions included only a mare for transport and a cow for basic family needs. Adee distributed portions of his shop and tools among five children. His artisanal equipment included:

- an ax 3/  a Small Broad ax 4/  a draw Shave 2/  a Large Hansaw 15/  a fine Hansaw 4/6  Dito 1/6  a Compas Saw 2/  one Joynter 2/3  a panel plain 2/  a Groving Plow 5/  a having plain 1/6  a qirter Round 1/  a Beed 6d  a fore plain 1/  a Smoothing plain 1/  a pair of Sash plains 4/  an Back oge 2/  a fore oge 1/9  a Rabit plain 1/3  a Small oge 1/6  Dito 1/9  2 wooden Squares 1/6  a Broad turning Chisel 2/  a turning Gouge 2/  a narrow turning Chisel 1/3  a Small Gough 1/3  a Scribing Gough 1/  a winscot Duks Bill 1/  a Sash Duks Bill 9d  a Small narrow Chisel 4d  a Sash Gouge 4d  a Heading Chisel 6d  a former 6d  a Bench hook 6d  a pair of Compases 4d  a Gunters Rule 1/9  a fro 3/  a Breast wimble 2/  a 3 qirter auger 1/6  a nail Hamer 1/  a Small Rasp 1/  a taper Bit 10d  an old pair of pinchers 1/  a pair of nipers 9d  2 nail Gimblets 1/  a hone 1/6  4 pound of old iron 8d  a turning Lathe 5/  70 dosen of turned Chair Rounds at 3d pr Dusen 17/6  a Shop with all the Loos Bords in it £5.10.0.

**Sources:** WPR; WLR; WTL; BC; loose bill in the Minor Family Papers (privately owned).

*Seth Bacon* (1768–1805)  Bacon was a carpenter who hailed from Farmington, Connecticut.

**Sources:** WTL; BC.
Josiah Baldwin (1728–1761) A native of Woodbury, Baldwin owned a lathe and a variety of carpenter’s or house joiner’s tools. His estate was appraised by two other carpenters, Eldad Spencer and Zimri Moody.

sources: WPR; CCR.

David Beardslee (1769–1846) Beardslee was a joiner in his hometown of Southbury from 1793 until 1800. His shop was assessed the rate of $40 in 1798, when he was listed as a joiner and a carpenter. Beardslee’s last appearance on the Southbury tax list was in 1799. He died in Catherine, New York.

sources: STL; BC; Beardsley Genealogy (MS, Connecticut State Library, Hartford).

Silas Bennett (1767–1853) Born and trained in nearby Huntington, Bennett moved to Southbury in 1793. He was listed as a joiner on tax assessments and purchased hardware and tools from Joel Pierce, a Southbury shopkeeper.

sources: STL; BC; CR; Account Book of Joel Pierce of South Britain, 1795–1807 (Yale University Library, New Haven).

George Bolt (worked 1793–1820) Little exact genealogical information exists for Bolt. The Bolt family came from Norwalk, where a John Bolt was a joiner. George first arrived in Woodbury in 1793 and married Dorcas Johnson of Southbury the next year. A nineteenth-century historian described Bolt as “one of the best builders of his time and most skillful as a joiner.” Most surviving references to Bolt involve house joinery and coffin building.

sources: WTL; STL; BC; DPR; J. L. Rockey, ed., History of New Haven County, Connecticut (New York: W. W. Preston, 1892); Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1796–1806 (Winterthur Museum); Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1801–1803 (Litchfield Historical Society); Account Book of Daniel Hinman of Southbury, 1807–1815 (Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford).

Ebenezer Booth V (1779–1836) See chapter 3.

Ebenezer Booth VI (1790–1864) See chapter 3.
**Elijah Booth** (1745–1823)  See chapter 3.

**Noah Hinman Booth** (1784–1867)  See chapter 3.

**Dennis Bradley** (1773–1862)  Bradley was born in Woodbury and began his career there, but by 1810 he had moved to Watertown. He had settled in Litchfield by 1820 and died there. In 1802, Bradley provided Matthew Minor of Woodbury with “two Breakfast tables 2/ one kitching table of pine 18/ two Bread trays 6/ one Poor Chest made of Bass wood” in return for rye, cider, potatoes, care of a cow, and payment of taxes.

*Sources:* BC; CR; WLR; Account Book of Matthew Minor of Woodbury, 1801–1810 (privately owned).

**Ebenezer Bull** (1732–1760)  Originally from Farmington, Bull purchased a one-acre home lot and five acres of land in Woodbury in 1758, at which time he was taxed for a faculty. Although he died a single man in January 1760, his inventory describes a fairly active, established shop. The lathe and turning tools enabled him to make chairs, the presence of brasses and cherry boards indicate that he also made case furniture, and the large number of sash squares reveal his additional activity in house joinery.

One Small Hatchet 1/ one Joynter 3/ one Ditto 4/ Corniss 6/ Groveing Plow 5/ halving Plow 3/6 Great Round 3/ Pannel Plain 4/ Billection 3/ asticle 1/3 Sml Hollow 1/6 Rabit Plain 1/4 Sprung Rabit 1/4 Sash Plain 1/8 fore Plain 6d Smoothing Plain 1/ one Smoothing Plain 2/ one Sml Round 2/ two Smaller Ditto 2/8 Small Ojee 1/3 Quarter Round 1/4 Inch Ojee 1/6 Sml Quarter Round 1/3 Sml Philister 1/3 half Inch Philister 1/4 Compass Plain 6d Quarter Round 1/4 Broad Turning Chizel 1/6 one Narrow Turning Chizel 1/3 Large Turning Gouge 1/6 Smaller Ditto 1/3 Smaller Ditto 1/ Large Hand Saw 12/ Tennon Saw 10/ Smaller Ditto 12/ Compass Saw 2/ one Pareing Chizel 2/ Inch furmer 1/ Scribing Gouge 1/ Smaller Gouge 9d two smll Ditto 6d Mortising Chizel 6d Winscott Ducks Bill 9d Sash Chizel 9d two smll Furmers 1/ two smll Ditto 9d Sash Gouge 3d Plain Iron 9d Six smll files 3/ one half Round file 6d two rasps 1/4 two pair Compasses 1/ one Gunters Rule 1/8 one Pare smll Pinchers 1/6 Small Brads 8/6 two nail Gymblets 6d 3 Wooden Squares 3/ four Gages 1/ Shaving Knife 2/ half Inch Auger 2/ one hold fast 1/6 three hammers 2/ Brest Wimble and two bitts 1/ Spike Gymblet 6d two Whet Stones 6d Chalk Line and Roal 6d Glue and Glue Pott 2/ Three Dusson Brasses £1.2.0 Turners Lathe 5/ Grindstone 10/ three Hundred and Seventy Six Sash Squares £4 40 feet Maple Board 1/6 Slit Work 5/ Pine Boards 431 feet £1.5.10 946 feet
Whitewood Board £2.16.10 200 feet of oak Board 6/ 23 feet Cherry Board 2/10 16 feet Whitewood Board 10d Nails 1/2 Glue 1/ Eighteen pound & half 4d nails 16/6.

**Sources:** WPR; BC; WLR; WTL.

**Isaac Bunce (1770–1846)**  Bunce was a joiner, according to tax lists. A native of Woodbury, he moved to Ohio in 1832 at the end of his woodworking career.

**Sources:** WTL; BC; Alice Howard, *Genealogy of the Bunce Family* (MS, Connecticut State Library, Hartford).

**Silas Butler (1733–1779)**  Butler was baptized in Edgartown, Massachusetts, on November 11, 1733, but his family most likely lived in Lebanon, Connecticut, at the time. A Silas Butler appears on the Woodbury tax lists for the first time in 1755. A case of drawers, signed by Silas Butler and dated March 25, 1755, is in the collection of the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford. On March 15, 1758, Butler married Jerusha Spencer, daughter of the joiner Eldad Spencer (see entry below). Sometime around 1760, Butler moved to western Massachusetts. A 1763 deed from Stockbridge mentions “Silas Butler, Joiner, of New Framingham.” Later he lived in Sheffield, where he died. His inventory, taken March 2, 1779, included “1 grindstone 1/ a Slay Partly made 5/ joiners tools 42/6.”

**Sources:** WTL; Berkshire County Probate District, Docket 960; Frederick Chesson, “The Great Highboy Hunt” (MS, Aug. 1992, in author’s possession).

**Naboth Candee (1734–1786)**  Candee was born in New Haven, but had moved to Oxford by 1760, when he married Esther Trowbridge. He lived on the border of Southbury and Oxford on three acres of land. His tools, which he distributed equally among his six brothers and sisters, indicate that he concentrated on house joinery.

**Sources:** WPR; BC; CCR; WLR.

**Philemon Cherevoy (1749–1801)**  This joiner was born of French parents in Acadia. When the family was expelled in 1755, Cherevoy’s parents fled south to Haiti, but he was sent to Woodbury with a brother and a sister. Treated as an orphan, Cherevoy was apprenticed to a joiner, perhaps Bartimeus Fabrique, a son of another French immigrant. Cherevoy often worked with Fabrique.

**Sources:** WTL; *Boston Evening Transcript*; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn
of Southbury, 1777–1784 (Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford); Account Book of Nathaniel Bacon of Woodbury, 1798–1849 (Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford).

Amos Crammer (worked 1777–1800) Crammer provided Nathaniel Bacon with two bedsteads worth twelve shillings each, a small chair valued at four shillings, and 135 feet of oak studs. Biographical information on Crammer was not available, but the Crammer family is from New London County.


Samuel Curtiss (1736–1813) Born, trained, and married in Stratford, Curtiss moved to Southbury in 1759. He had a faculty assessed in the 1760s and 1770s. His inventory listed 114 acres of land, a sizeable number of livestock, packed pork, a chaise, and a set of house joiner's tools. Apparently Curtiss foresook his woodworking career and concentrated on animal husbandry.

sources: WPR; BC; STL.

William DeForrest (1786–1857) This wheelwright was born in Stratford, but moved to Woodbury in 1808. He made wheels, hubs, and spokes. With Daniel and William Hurlbut, he owned a sawmill and shop.

sources: WTL; WLR; BC; Account Book of Matthew Minor of Woodbury, 1802–1826 (privately owned).

Bartimeus Fabrique (1751–1829) Fabrique was born in Newtown, but moved to Woodbury sometime around 1775, when a deed to his father's land referred to "Bartimeus late of Newtown and now resident in Woodbury." The 1796 tax assessment listed Fabrique as a carpenter, but the lists for the following two years referred to him as a joiner. His account book for the period 1791–1810 and several plans and elevations are deposited in the Yale University Manuscript Collection. The drawings are of the Newtown Anglican Church, Roxbury Meeting House, the Ebenezer Smith house and the Gad Bristol house in Woodbury, and the Buell house in Litchfield. Bartimeus and his brother David of Newtown often worked together (see appendix A). They collaborated on the Oxford Meeting House and the Sherman Hinman house, although the division of their responsibilities is unclear. Bartimeus seems to have been the most prominent house joiner in the area during the last two
decades of the eighteenth century. He had many apprentices and jour­neymen working for him, including Charles Prindle, Philemon Cher­evoy, Herman Hinman, Silas Lewis, Noah Tuttle, Simeon Clinton, John Beardslee, Eli Hall, and Curtis Mallery.


**John Whitehead Gould (1754–1781)** Born in Branford, Gould never married, but apparently he carried on an active business. His shop included an unfinished case of drawers, a lathe, a good selection of tools, and several gunstocks. Other than a single mare worth £8, Gould’s personal estate amounted to very little. His status as a single man with only commercial connections with the Woodbury community was clearly demonstrated by the need for his sister to file suit against two court-appointed adminis­trators of his estate, Ebenezer Tallman and Benjamin Rusco.

sources: WPR; BC.

**Eli Hall (1776–1859)** Referred to as a mechanic in his death notice, Hall was born in Weston but came to Southbury to train with Elijah Booth. Upon completion of his apprenticeship, Hall engaged himself in house joinery and performed contract work for Bartimeus Fabrique. In 1806 Hall married Irena Hinman and bought Elijah Booth’s home, home lot, and shop. Jervis Summers worked with Hall in 1807 (and with Noah Booth in 1808). Like Fabrique, Elijah Booth, Ebenezer Booth V, and Samuel Munn, Hall depended on Shadrach Osborn for tools, brass hard­ware, glass, and even nails. Hall’s activities after 1806 included making coffins and making and repairing farm equipment. No references docu­ment his ability to make furniture other than coffins or chests.

sources: BC; SLR; STL; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1801–1803; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1777–1784; Account Book of Daniel Hinman of Southbury, 1807–1815; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn and Nathan Preston of Southbury, 1790–1796 (Winterthur Museum); Account Book of Bartimeus Fabrique, 1791–1810 (Yale University Library, New Haven); Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1783–1792 (Yale University Library); Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of
Southbury, 1805–1806 (Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford); Account Book of David Stiles of Southbury, 1789–1815 (privately owned); Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1796–1806 (Winterthur Museum); Account Book of Ephraim Stiles of Southbury, 1785–1817 (Connecticut Historical Society); Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1806–1807 (Winterthur Museum); Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1807–1808 (Winterthur Museum); Account Book of Erastus and Benjamin Osborn of Southbury, 1808–1810 (Winterthur Museum); Account Book of Erastus and Benjamin Osborn of Southbury, 1808–1812 (Winterthur Museum).

**Billious Hill** (1735–?) Born and married in Goshen, Hill moved to Woodbury in 1765. He made a “Cherry Chest with Draws” worth £5 for Thomas Bull in 1773. The upper section of a desk-and-bookcase sold at Christie’s in 1992 was signed “Billious Hill” in chalk on the backboards. Hill left Woodbury in 1778 and moved to Lenox, Massachusetts. In his army enlistment papers in 1781, he was referred to as a carpenter.

**sources:** WTL; WLR; BC; Account Book of Samuel and Thomas Bull of Woodbury, 1719–1790 (Connecticut State Library, Hartford); Christie’s Sale #7492 (June 17, 1992), lot 178; *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing, 1900), 7:869–70.

**Hezekiah Hine** (1757–1830) Hine was born in Southbury but was working in Derby early in 1790. Later that year he moved to Southbury, where he was listed as a joiner in the 1790s. He was paid £14.12.3 for his work on the Southbury school house in 1797. In 1801 he sold his house, home lot, and shop to the blacksmith Veron Dyke and moved to Oxford.

**sources:** BC; CR; SLR; STL; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1796–1806; *Descendants of Thomas Hine of Milford, Connecticut* (St. Paul, Minn.: privately printed, 1898).

**Herman Hinman** (1782–1841) Hinman was a native lad who worked as part of Bartimeus Fabrique’s crew and with Charles Prindle. Little is known about him and his relationship with the other Hinmans in town.

**sources:** CCR; Account Book of Bartimeus Fabrique of Southbury, 1791–1810; Account Book of Charles Prindle of Woodbury.

**John Hurd** (1717–1766) Hurd was a native carpenter whose tools consisted of adzes, augers, drawknives, and saws.

**sources:** WPR; BC.
Solomon Hurd (1768–1814) Hurd, who lived in Woodbury his entire life, was assessed as a joiner in Woodbury in 1796.

SOURCES: WTL; CCR.

Daniel Hurlbut (1786–1828) Like his father, Truman, and brother, William, Daniel Hurlbut performed a great deal of general carpentry and handyman work for Nathaniel Bacon. Such limited woodworking opportunities were common in the early nineteenth century. Unlike other young woodworkers, Hurlbut was able to improve his situation. He formed a partnership with his brother in 1816 and bought a mill site to undertake furniture production. His estate listed his share (with William and Charles Peck) of partly finished “cabinet stuff” and a share in the new shop. Charles Peck had become a financial backer of the Hurlbutts early in the 1820s. Daniel and William Hurlbut also held a farm jointly.

SOURCES: WPR; WTL; WLR; HC; Account Book of Nathaniel Bacon of Woodbury, 1798–1849.

Truman Hurlbut (1750–1819) Truman Hurlbut was born in Roxbury, but he moved to Woodbury as a young man. He owned a home and shop near Jesse Minor in Woodbury. He bottomed chairs for Matthew Minor and performed various handyman jobs for Nathaniel Bacon, including painting and fixing chairs and bedsteads.

SOURCES: WTL; WLR; Account Book of Matthew Minor of Woodbury, 1801–1810; Account Book of Nathaniel Bacon of Woodbury; Thomas Hurlbut, The Hurlbut Genealogy (Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell’s Sons, 1888).

William Hurlbut (1784–1835) William Hurlbut’s estate included a joiner’s bench, a full selection of bench and molding planes, chisels, and a paint stone and paintbrushes. He had only six and a half acres of land, one horse, two cows, and two pigs. The wheelwright William DeForrest, who shared the Hurlbut’s sawmill and machinery, was one of the appraisers of the estate.

SOURCES: WPR; WTL; WLR; HC; Account Book of Nathaniel Bacon of Woodbury.

Nicholas Jebine (worked 1794–1819) Jebine trained in New Haven, where he married Mary Munson in January 1790. Their sons were baptised at the First Congregational Church on September 22, 1794, but the family must have moved to Woodbury shortly thereafter because Jebine was
assessed on the 1795 tax list. Jebine lived in a house, formerly owned by Benjamin Price, that stood just east of the meetinghouse. He built a joiner’s shop just south of the dwelling house.

Of great enough skill and reputation to be referred to as “Cabinet Maker in Woodbury” in an account book, Jebine made a wide variety of furniture. For Jabez Bacon he made a suite of furniture in 1798 that included “1 Bureau £5.5.0 1 High Post Button Bedstead £1 2 Low Post Common Bedsteads £2.2.0 12 Windsor Chairs £4.16.0 1 Kitchen Table £1.4.0 1 Breakfast Table £2.2.0 2 Tea Tables £6 2 Candle Stands £1.1.0 1 Dining Table £3.” Windsor chairs may have been a particular specialty of Jebine’s; Matthew Minor purchased sets of Windsors on three different occasions. Jabez Bacon may have sold some of Jebine’s Windsor chairs in his shop because his inventory included sixty Windsors in addition to his household furniture. In 1798, Jebine also made picture frames for Daniel Bacon. In return for his specialized skills, Jebine received foodstuffs and even had his patrons pay his town taxes.

**Sources:** CCR; WTL; WLR; Account Book of Nathaniel Bacon of Woodbury; Account Book of Matthew Minor of Woodbury, 1800–1820; Account Book of Bennet French of Southbury, 1793–1804 (privately owned); Account Book of Daniel Bacon of Woodbury, 1799–1800 (Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford).

**Thomas Kimberly (1760–1802)** A native Southbury artisan, Kimberly owned only eight acres of poor soil, one cow, and one horse at his death. For his livelihood, Kimberly relied more on his joiner’s skills. He owned a vast array of tools that included:

- 50 feet of pine boards
- Small grindstone
- 3 small whetstones
- 1 Chalk line & spool
- 2 junk oil bottles
- 1 Broad ax
- 1 Carpenters Hatchet
- 1 Narrow ax
- 1 Post ax
- 1 Carpenters’ Adze
- 1 Hammer
- 1 Hand Saw
- 1 Do
- 2 Fine Saws
- Wooden Vice
- 1/6 Broken iron Square
- Jointers rule
- 1 Coopers’ Fro
- 1 Led Glue Pot
- 1 Breast piece & bits
- 2 Bits
- 1 Jointers’ Tools No. 1
- 2/6 Do. No. 2
- 6 Do. No. 3
- 6 Do. No. 4
- 4 Do. No. 5
- 6 Do. No. 6
- 8 Do. No. 7
- 9 Do. No. 8
- 10 Do. No. 9
- 10 Do. No. 10
- 2 Smoothing plains
- 1 Smoothing Do.
- 2 Fore plains
- 2 Round plains
- 3 Mortice chisels
- 1/6 6 Very Small Do.
- 1/3 3 Turning Do.
- 1 Gouge & Chisel
- 1 Broad Chisel
- 4 Turning Gouges
- 2 pr of Compasses
- 1 pr of Nippers
- 3 Files & one rasp
- 1 Large Gimlet
- 1 Compass Saw
- 1 paint box
- & sieve
- 1 Saw set
- 2 Inch Chisel
- 1 Inch and ½ Do.
- 1 Inch ½ Auger
- ½ Inch Do.
- 6d Inch Do.
- 6d 3 Quarter Do.
- 6d 1 Large Gimlet
4th 1 Small Do. 3rd 1 Wooden Square 6th Lathe with the irons and work bench 4/6 Old Chest with tools and patterns and Nos. of Wheels Mopsticks turning sticks & C & C 1/.

Of particular note is the old chest with patterns and the turning sticks. A turning stick, probably what is now called a strike pole, turning verge, or pattern stick, had sharp spikes driven through it. When the joiner held it against a post in his lathe, it made a series of scored rings that acted as reference points for turned decoration or for drilling holes. The turning stick thus allowed uniform posts or chair rounds that were interchangeable.

SOURCES: WPR; STL; BC.

Simeon King (1748–1776) This native Woodbury joiner followed the craft in its more traditional nature. He worked in his hometown, made furniture and architectural elements, and oversaw a small farm. He owned joiner’s tools appraised at $3.2.4. In his shop were a set of black chairs ($1.10.0), 6 white chairs (11/), 1 “case of draws part done” ($1.16.0), 28 window frames ($4.18.0), and sash and sash stuff ($1.13.8). His shop and tools were sold by his widow to the joiner Richard Smith and cooper Abraham Lines.

SOURCES: WPR; WTL; BC; WLR.

Amos Leavenworth (1753–1793) Born and married in Roxbury, Leavenworth had settled in Woodbury by 1775. He contracted to build a house and kitchen for Nathaniel Smith for $20, $16 of which would consist of horses. Leavenworth also did some house joinery and tool repair for Dr. Samuel Orton in 1791.

SOURCES: WTL; BC; CCR; Contract between Amos Leavenworth and Nathaniel Smith (privately owned); Account Book of Dr. Samuel Orton of Woodbury, 1788–1798 (Woodbury Town Hall).

Harvey J. Linsley (1797–1853) Born in Branford and trained in New Haven, Linsley moved to Woodbury in 1820. He owned one acre of land with a house and shop. An 1822 bill reveals that Linsley made Matthew Minor “1 kitchen table $2.34 1 cherry candlestand $1.75 1 bureau $16. 1 cherry breakfast table $5.50.”

SOURCES: WTL; WLR; HC; November 20, 1822, bill for Matthew Minor (privately owned).
**David Miles** (1731–1771) Miles was born in Milford, but he moved to Woodbury in 1769 when he bought eighty and one-half acres, including a gristmill and a sawmill, from James Burgiss. Miles combined joinery, sawing, milling, farming, and shopkeeping. In the distribution of his estate, he bequeathed his tools to his daughters and gave part ownership of the sawmill to his widow and each of his children.

**Sources:** WPR; WLR; WTL; BC.

**Timothy Minor** (1702–1760) Minor was a native farmer-carpenter.

**Sources:** WPR; BC.

**Zimri Moody** (1736–1796) A joiner, Moody was born in Farmington and later moved to Woodbury in 1760.

**Sources:** BC; WTL; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn and Nathan Preston of Southbury, 1790–1796; Account Book of Anonymous Shopkeeper of Woodbury, 1770 (Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford).

**Daniel Munn** (1719–1796) Munn was a wheelwright whose faculty was assessed from 1761 until 1778.

**Sources:** WTL; HC; Account Book of Samuel and Thomas Bull of Woodbury, 1719–1790.

**Samuel Munn** (1753–1813) At his death, this Southbury native still owned a number of axes, augers, and chisels; an adze; a chalk line and roller; a few saws and planes; and other carpentry and house joinery tools. These tools were distributed between his two daughters. His two sons received land, stock, farming tools, and shoemaking tools. Munn bought hardware from Shadrach Osborn.

**Sources:** WPR; BC; CCR; STL; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1801–1803.

**Ephraim Munson** (1763–1834) Although Munson was born in Wallingford, his father moved the family to Farmington in 1766 and then to the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania in 1771. In 1779 the Munsons moved back to New Haven for a year and then settled in Plymouth, Connecticut. Since the family was in New Haven when Ephraim was sixteen years old, he may have trained there. By 1785 he lived in Bethlehem and owned a home and a shop southeast of the town center. He sold this eight-and-a-half-acre lot in 1796 and bought thirty-nine and a half acres
in the northeast corner of Woodbury. This location situated Munson near a sawmill, the highway, and good woodland. In 1811 he sold the land, with its shop and dwelling house, and moved back to Bethlehem, where he bought a farm on Carmel Hill. Apparently he retired as a joiner at this time, although his inventory shows that he kept many of his tools, the price of which imply that they were well aged.

sources: WPR; WLR; WTL; Bethlehem land records (Bethlehem Town Hall); Myron Munson, The Munson Record (New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, 1896).

Barnum Osborn (1764–1852) Barnum Osborn and his brother, Josiah, were native house joiners in Southbury. Together they framed a shop for Shadrach Osborn and Nathan Preston in 1796. Barnum alone framed a shop for an anonymous South Britain shopkeeper.


Josiah Osborn (1755–183?) Most of Josiah Osborn’s work consisted of framing and building tools and board fences. For a South Britain shopkeeper he also made doors, benches, and a chest. Neither Josiah nor his brother, Barnum, was ever assessed for a faculty, nor were they listed as joiners or carpenters on the tax lists.

sources: STL; CR; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn and Nathan Osborn of Southbury, 1790–1796; Account Book of Anonymous Shopkeeper of South Britain, 1787–1789; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1777–1784; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1801–1803; Account Book of Shadrach Osborn of Southbury, 1806–1807.

William H. Peabody (1769–1841) Peabody was born and trained in Norwich. In 1797 he moved to a part of Stratford that eventually became Bridgeport. A nineteenth-century history of that city referred to Peabody as Bridgeport’s first cabinetmaker. In May 1804, Peabody sold his half-acre home lot, dwelling house, and shop, and purchased eight acres with a house, barn, and outbuildings in Woodbury. In order to purchase the Woodbury estate, Peabody mortgaged it to Robert Bowne, a New York merchant. Several times in the next decade Peabody mortgaged this lot, which lay just west of the meetinghouse. Finally, in 1816, Peabody sold his Woodbury land and returned to Bridgeport.
Matthew Minor’s account book recorded that Peabody made a bureau, breakfast table, square stand, and birch kitchen table in 1805. For Minor, Peabody also performed various other jobs such as making a coffin, putting on shovel handles, and mending wooden tools. In return Peabody received foodstuffs, bedstead timber, bass boards, oak boards, maple boards, and plowing service. These transactions, typical among the Woodbury joiners, imply that Peabody concentrated on his wood-working and relied on his customers for food, for whatever labor was needed on his own meagre holdings, and even for wood.

sources: WLR; HC; Account Book of Matthew Minor of Woodbury, 1801–1810; Account Book of Nathaniel Bacon of Woodbury, 1798–1849; Stratford Land Records (Stratford Town Hall); Samuel Orcutt, A History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut (New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, 1886).

Joseph Prentice (1714–1760) Like other early Woodbury woodworkers, Prentice combined craftwork and farming. His “carpenter’s tools” made him more suited to carpentry and house joinery than to furniture production.

sources: WPR; BC.

Arthur Prindle (?–1798) Prindle lived in Woodbury in 1794, when he became a guardian to his nephew Charles Prindle. Four years later he died. Nevertheless, his inventory reveals a great deal. It consisted largely of house joinery tools: clapboard saw, sash tenon saw, chalk lines, twist augers, broadaxes and hatchets, adzes, carpenter’s chisels, panel and molding planes, and compasses. The lack of real estate in his inventory, his low tax rate, and the paucity of household products imply that Prindle was a tramping house joiner. His inventory was appraised by Bartimeus Fabrique and Philemon Cherevoy, two other house joiners. This connection suggests that Prindle may have worked for Fabrique, a relative by marriage.

sources: WPR; WTL.

Charles Prindle (1777–1858) Charles Prindle was the son of Isaac and Elizabeth Prindle of Huntington. His mother was Bartimeus and David Fabrique’s sister. When Isaac died in 1794, Charles became the ward of his uncle Arthur Prindle and probably apprenticed with either of his uncles, Arthur or Bartimeus. Primarily a house joiner who worked on his
own and with Elijah Booth and Bartimeus Fabrique of Southbury and James Stilson of Newtown, Prindle did make some furniture. He made four kitchen chairs for Reuben Mitchell in 1803 and a cupboard for Luman Ovit in 1805. In 1806 he also painted a chest and a bedstead for Mitchell. His diary provides valuable information on the mobility and operations of house joiners during this time. He moved to Bethlehem in the 1810s and then to Roxbury in the 1830s.

sources: BC; WLR; Account Book of Charles Prindle of Woodbury, 1801–1806; Account Book of Bartimeus Fabrique of Southbury, 1791–1810.

David Roots (1763–1796) This native Woodbury joiner led a poor life in town. For Jabez Warner of Washington, Roots made a chest and did some interior joinery in 1786. In 1789, he made six black chairs for Israel Minor, who also had Roots do odd carpentry work.


Cyrus Sherman (1792–1872) Sherman was a native Woodbury lad who engaged in house joinery for Matthew Minor in the late 1810s and early 1820s. In return he received pork, hay, and potatoes.

sources: HC; BC; Account Book of Matthew Minor of Woodbury, 1802–1826.

Richard Smith (1774–1826) Smith’s inventory revealed a one-bench shop with lathe, gluepot, eighteen planes, and several saws and edge tools. Together with Abraham Lines, a cooper, Smith owned Simeon King’s old house, barn, shop, and home lot at Bullit Hill in Southbury. Smith’s estate indicated that he was a man of many interests—it included a tavern sign and post, a set of surveying tools, and an extensive library.

sources: WPR; WLR; WTL; BC.

Eldad Spencer (1710–1768) This Hartford-born joiner owned a large selection of planes in addition to a lathe, chisels, and pine boards. He also owned a farm, animals, and a barn. Spencer divided up his tools and personal estate between his widow and son.

sources: WPR; BC.

Nathan A. Stoddard (1768–1848) Stoddard contracted with Nathaniel Smith in 1798 to build a woodhouse, chairhouse, and cowhouse. He was
listed as a joiner on the tax list of 1798. Stoddard only appeared on the
town tax lists from 1791 through 1802. Census records confirm that he
left Woodbury sometime between 1800 and 1810.

sources: WTL; CR; Contract between Nathaniel Smith and Nathan A.
Stoddard; Anthony Stoddard and His Descendants: A Genealogy (New York: J. B.
Bradstreet & Son, 1865).

Jervis Summers (1791–1833) Left fatherless at the age of eleven, Summers
became the ward of Abraham Lines, a cooper who lived in the Bullit Hill
area of Southbury. Summers probably apprenticed with Eli Hall, for he
was performing odd jobs for Hall in 1807. In 1816 Summers bought two
acres with a dwelling house, barn, and cooper’s shop in the southerly part
of Southbury. The tools listed in his estate were probably typical of the
Woodbury joiners in the second tier of Woodbury furnituremakers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sett joinerz bench plains</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 broad ax</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hatchet</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 carpenterz adze</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Joinerz plow &amp; 4 irons</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sash tool gouge &amp; gauges</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 hollow &amp; round plains</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ovelow &amp; bead</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 OG &amp; bead</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Ozen</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ½ Bead</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Rabbit plain</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 do small</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 philister</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Brace &amp; 25 bittz</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Iron square</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hand saw</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Joint saw</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sash saw</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 trying square</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 drawing knife</td>
<td>.17</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 broad chisel</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 two inch do</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 inch &amp; one half do</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 three fourth inch do</td>
<td>.17</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 half inch do</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small trying square</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ½ inch firmer</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 1 inch do</td>
<td>.17</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ½ inch do</td>
<td>.06</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small gouge</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 do chisel</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 files &amp; rasps</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Screw drivers</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 nail hammer</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 rule</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 oil stone</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 chalk lines &amp; rolls</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pair compasses</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cupboard lock</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 turnerz chisels &amp; gouges</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 paint stone</td>
<td>.17</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 grind stone &amp; crank</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 paint potz &amp; 5 paint</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 paint brushz</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small drawing knife</td>
<td>.12</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tap borer &amp; riveting hammer</td>
<td>.12</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 set boltz &amp; screwz</td>
<td>.12</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small paper prussian blue</td>
<td>.37</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lot different kindz paint</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 sticks bedstead timbers</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lot cherry boards</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 pine boards</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lot butternut boardz</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tool chest part finished</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lot of whitewood &amp; chesnut boards</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small lot of flaggs</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>1 do</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

sources: WPR; SLR; BC; History of New Haven County, Connecticut (New York: W. W. Preston, 1892).