

Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture & Woodenware

Volumes 1, 2 & 3

Ejner Handberg



The Countryman Press Woodstock, Vermont

Copyright © 1973, 1991 by Ejner P. Handberg

First Countryman Press Hardcover Edition

Previously published in paperback in three separate volumes by Berkshire Traveller Press and Berkshire House Publishers

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any way by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages.

ISBN 978-0-88150-777-5

Library of Congress No. 73-83797

Jacket design by Deborah Fillion

Jacket photo by Rick Mastelli/Image & Word

Published by The Countryman Press, P.O. Box 748, Woodstock, Vermont 05091

Distributed by W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 500 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10110

Printed in the United States of America

10987654321

Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware

Volume 1

Measured Drawings
by Ejner Handberg

PREFACE

This is not an attempt to write a book about the Shakers and their furniture. There are already excellent books which serve that purpose. I refer especially to those by Dr. and Mrs. Edward Deming Andrews. Rather, this is a collection of measured drawings made to scale and with dimensions and details accurately copied from Shaker pieces which have been in my shop for restoration or reproduction. These drawings and patterns have been accumulated over a period of many years of interest in the woodwork of the New England and New York State Shakers.

E.H. 1973

FOREWORD

Ejner (pronounced Eye' ner) Handberg was born in Viborg, Denmark, in 1902. When he was seventeen, he moved to New York. For most of his life, Ejner was a builder in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

His interest in working with wood began in boyhood on his way to school, when every day he passed a shop where a man worked at a lathe in the window. One of his first jobs as a young man was building lead-lined shipping crates for a Danish firm in New York that made blueprint paper. As a builder, he was perhaps best known for his addition to the handsome old Congregational Church in Stockbridge, and for the studio in the same town that he built for Norman Rockwell in a carriage shed that had been stripped down to the frame.

Building was a way to make a living, according to his wife Elsie, but Ejner's real love was cabinetwork. In 1960, the Handbergs built the Pinewood Shop on Route 102 in Lee, not far from Stockbridge, with a large workshop for Ejner and a gift shop, where Elsie, who was skilled in sewing, offered things that they made.

Ejner's involvement with Shaker furniture began with a chance meeting with Faith and Edward Deming Andrews, noted authorities on the Shakers and residents of nearby Pittsfield. In search of a good cabinetmaker to repair Shaker pieces and a good seamstress for a sewing project, Dr. and Mrs. Andrews had been told of a husband and wife in Lee with those talents. They showed up at the Handberg shop, and in spite of the fact that it was not the Handbergs for whom the Andrewses had been looking, the two couples hit it off.

The visit was the beginning of a friendship as well as a working relationship. The Andrewses often stopped by on Saturdays for tea and something Faith had baked, frequently bringing Shaker furniture items for repair. In the course of his work, and to satisfy his own interest, Ejner began to make lifesize measured drawings of the pieces he handled, scouting the local dump for large refrigerator and stove cartons to get cardboard big enough for his work. In time, a thick stack of drawings accumulated.

Dr. and Mrs. Andrews, who appreciated the kind of understanding that results from the careful examination necessary to produce accurate drawings, urged the Handbergs to publish Ejner's work. The first book, published in 1973, by Berkshire Traveller Press was a family effort. Ejner redrew the pieces to a smaller scale, Elsie did the writing, and their daughter Anne typed the manuscript. Ejner and Elsie collaborated on the four Shaker books that followed, and a last book on measured drawings of 18th-century American furniture in 1983. Ejner died two years later.

Ejner Handberg's books have sold more widely than perhaps any other books on the Shakers. A large part of their appeal is their practical nature and their utter lack of pretense - both, characteristics of Shaker work as well. Did Ejner appreciate the visual kinship between Shaker furniture and contemporary Danish design? No, says Elsie Handberg, adding that her husband didn't even like Danish Modern. Did the Handbergs develop a friendship with the few Shakers who remained at Hancock, Massachusetts, or New Lebanon, New York, as the Andrewses had? No, they didn't; Shaker furniture appealed to them in a way that the Shakers' way of life did not.

Today, Ejner Handberg's straightforward look at Shaker work continues to draw admirers into the Shaker sphere. I am grateful to Elsie Handberg and Anne Handberg Oppermann for insights and reminiscences.

June Sprigg, Curator Hancock Shaker Village Pittsfield, Massachusetts 1991



SHAKER REWARD OF MERIT

This Shaker reward of Merit was given to a young Shaker School boy of Hancock, Massachusetts during the nineteenth century. The drawings depict Shakers at work and play during two seasons.

It reads as follows:

The bearer Mr. Elijah Barker receives this as a token of the praise he merits. For his faithfulness and good behavier in schools from his teacher. S.A.P.

Courtesy of the Edward Deming Andrews Memorial Shaker Library, Winterthur, Museum, Winterthur, Delaware.

Reward of Merit In the Shaker Manner to Ejner Handberg from Faith Andrews

Pittsfield, Mass. May 1, 1972

An expression of thanks for your understanding and appreciation of Shaker furniture.

Collectors of this furniture are indeed fortunate to know of your work and have benefited by your advice and help.

When a restored piece leaves your shop to take its place in the "world" one is reminded of the virtues of the early Believers. Honesty, simplicity and humility were their guiding principles.

When these are adapted by an artisan today we approach perfection in workmanship.

FA.

The late Faith and Edward Deming Andrews devoted decades of their lives to Shaker research and wrote several definitive books on the Shakers. Much of their collection of Shaker artifacts now resides in various museums in the country and abroad.

CONTENTS

Pine Cupboard	2
Bed	+
Sewing Desk	ć
Trestle Tables	3
Work Tables 10)
Drop-Leaf Tables	2
Stands	4
Towel Racks	3
Mirrors 20)
Table Desks	2
Knobs, Pulls, Wall-Pegs 24	,
Benches 26	5
Foot Stools	3
Stools)
Chairs 32	2
Chair Catalog 42	2
Mt. Lebanon Chairs 46	5
Chair Finials 60)
Oval Boxes	2
Carriers 68	3
Trays 71	L
Clamp-on Cushions	,
Spool Holder	5
Woodenware 76	5
Candle Sconces	3
Candlestand80)
Coat Hangers 8	1

NOTES TO THE CRAFTSMAN OR COLLECTOR

White pine was the most common wood used for furniture like cupboards, chests of drawers, benches, woodboxes and many other items.

Bedposts, chairposts and all parts requiring strength were usually made of hard maple or yellow birch.

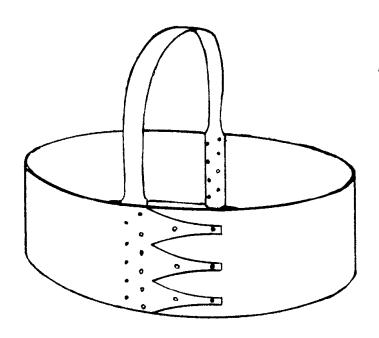
Maple, birch and cherry were used for legs on trestle tables, drop leaf tables and stands. The tops were often pine. Square legs are tapered on the inner surfaces only.

Sometimes candlestands, work stands and sewing stands were made entirely of cherry, maple or birch. The legs are dovetailed to the shaft and the grain should run as nearly parallel to the general direction of the leg as possible. A thin metal plate should be fastened to the underside of the shaft and extend about three quarters of an inch along the base of each leg with a screw or nail put in the leg to keep them from spreading.

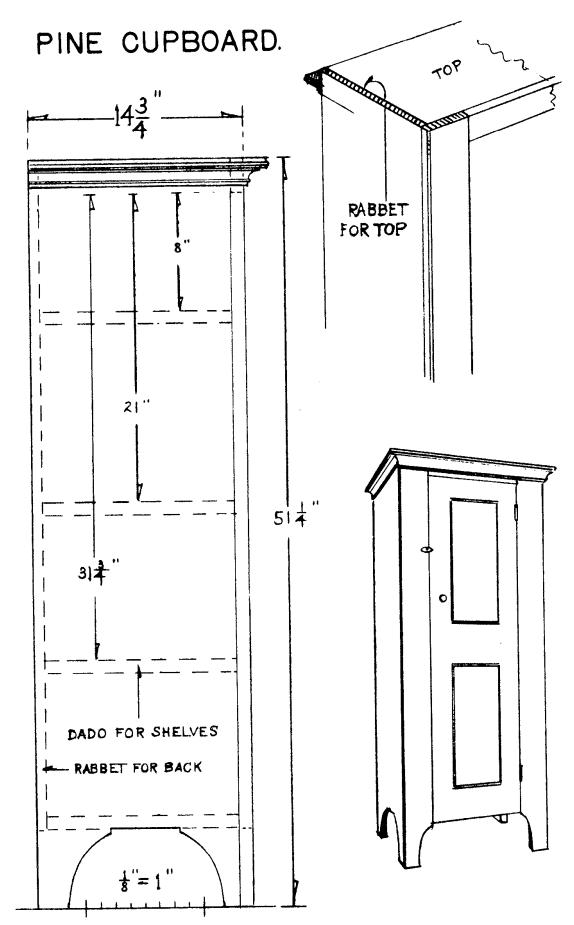
Parts for chairs and stools were mostly hard maple with an occasional chair made of curly or bird's-eye maple. Birch, cherry and butternut were used less often.

Oval boxes and carriers were nearly always made of maple. The bottoms and covers were fitted with quarter-sawn, edge-grain pine which is less apt to cup or warp than flat-grained boards. First the "fingers" or "lappers" are cut on the maple bands, then they are steamed and wrapped around an oval form and the fingers fastened with small copper or iron rivets (tacks). After they are dry and sanded the pine disks are fitted into the bottom and cover and fastened with small square copper or iron brads.

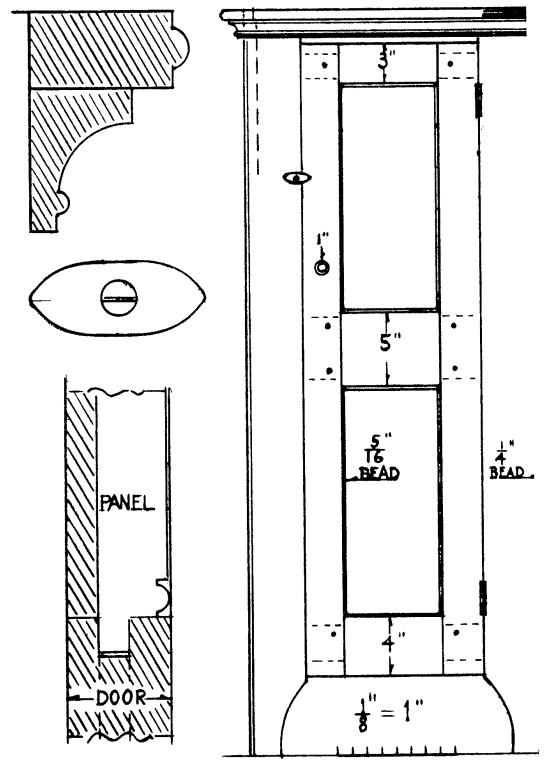
In New York State and New England, the woods used for the many different small pieces of cabinet work and woodenware were white pine, maple, cherry, yellow birch, butternut and native walnut. They were often finished with a coat of thin paint, or stained and varnished, or sometimes left with a natural finish.



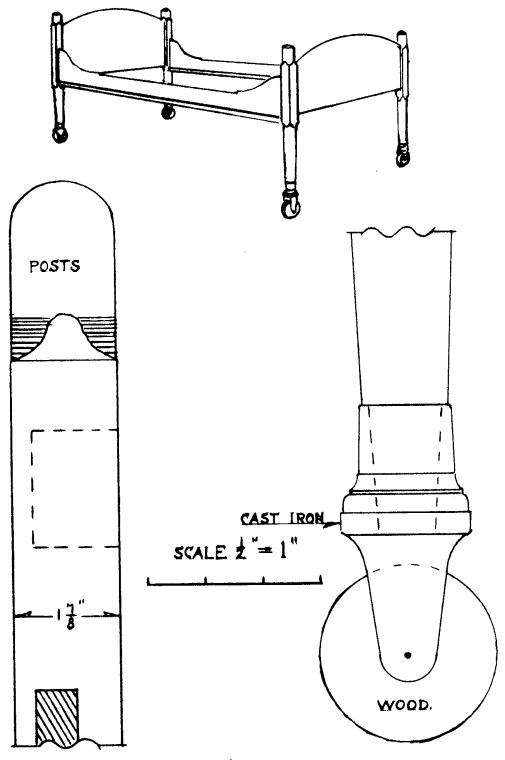
"THAT WHICH HAS IN ITSELF THE HIGHEST USE POSSESSES THE GREATEST BEAUTY"

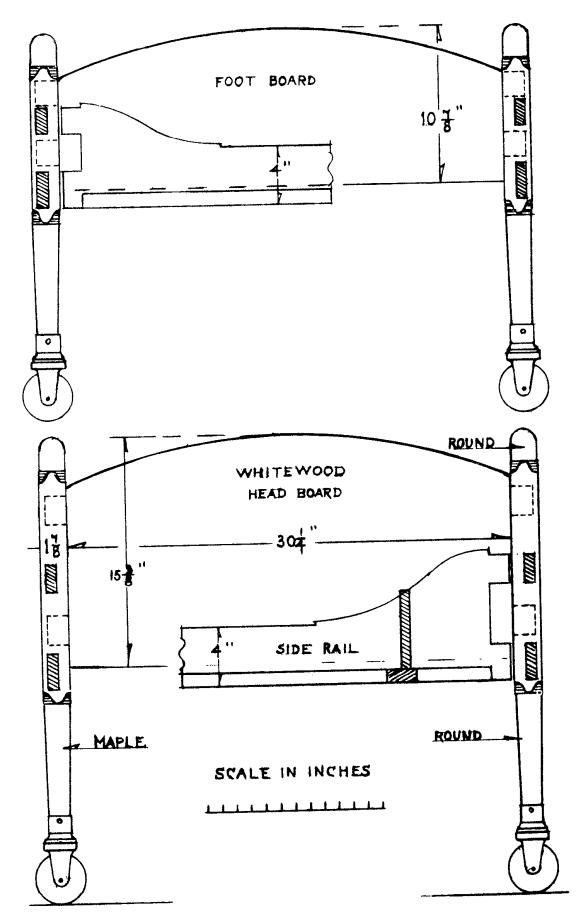


PINE CUPBOARD.

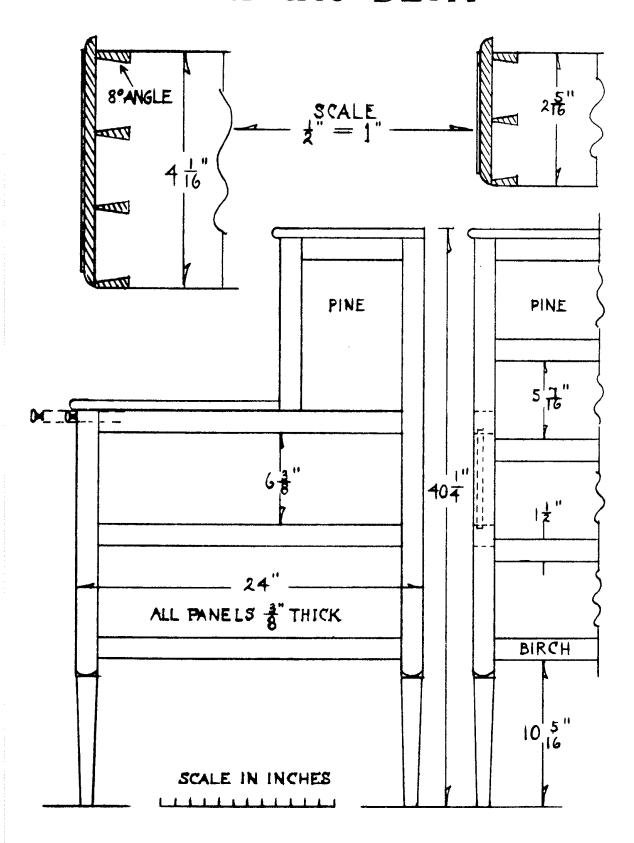


BED MAPLE AND WHITEWOOD

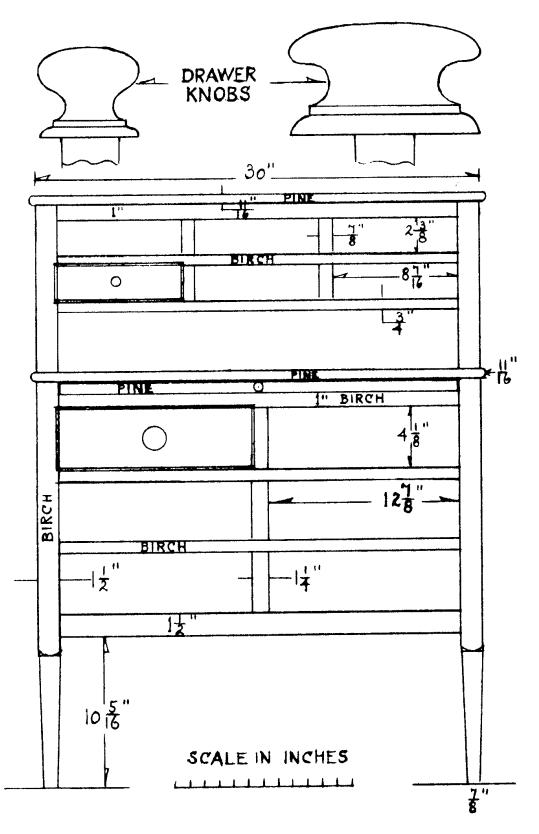


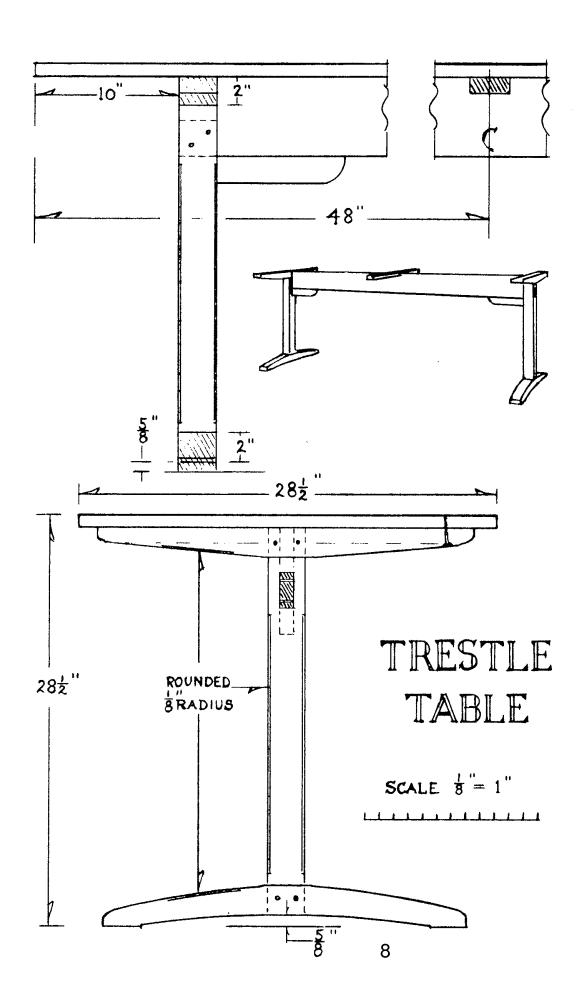


SEWING DESK

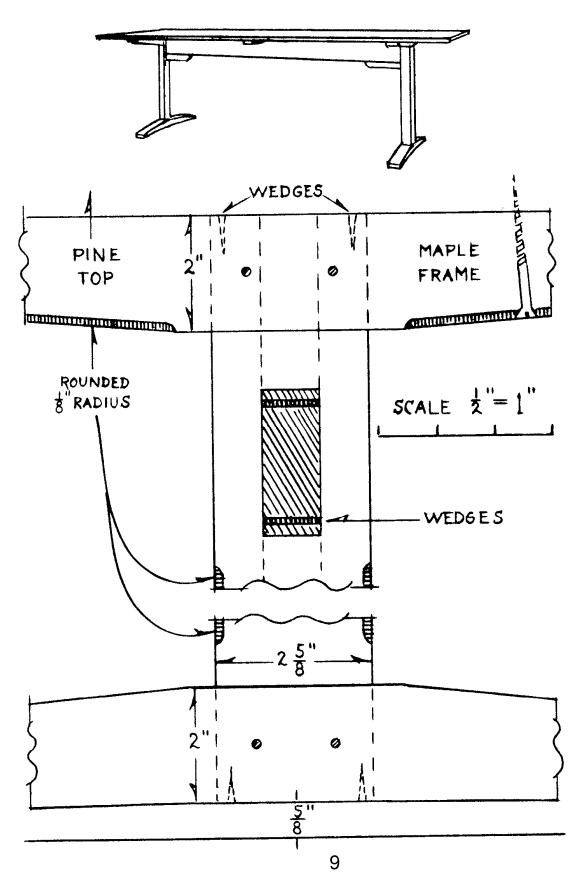


SEWING DESK

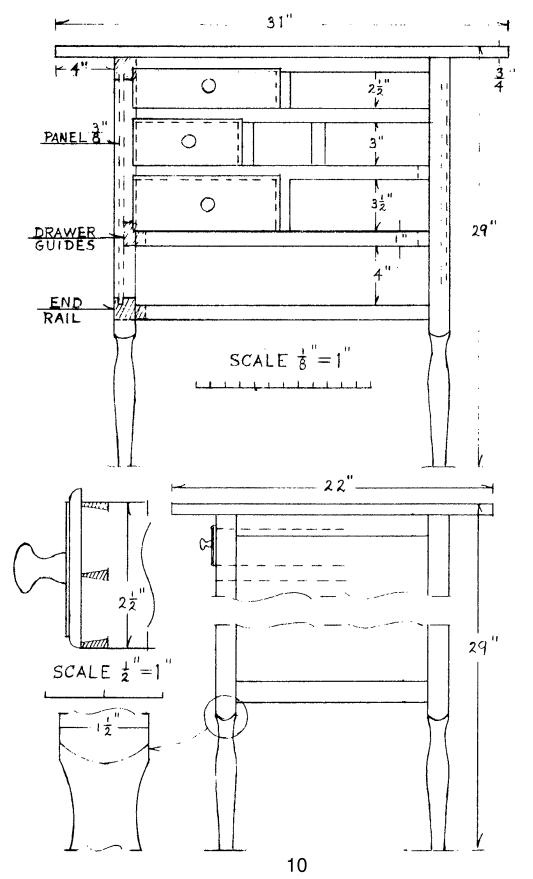




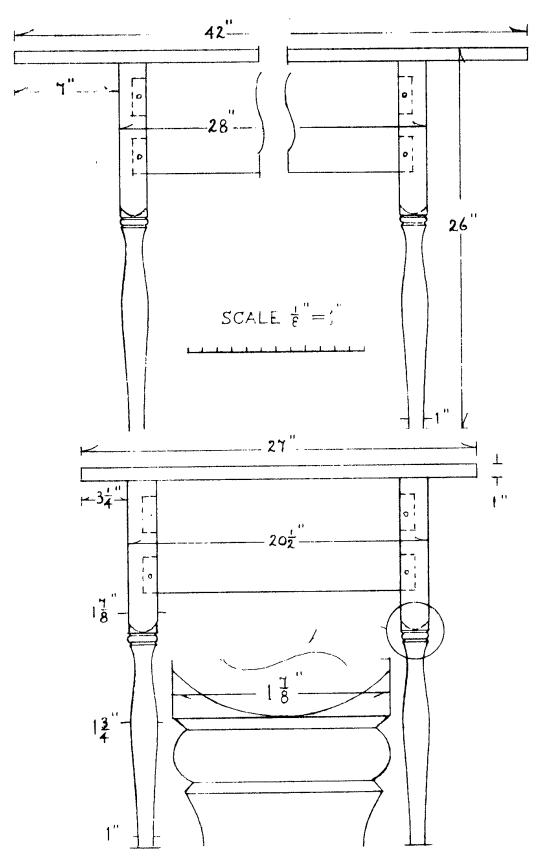
TRESTLE TABLE

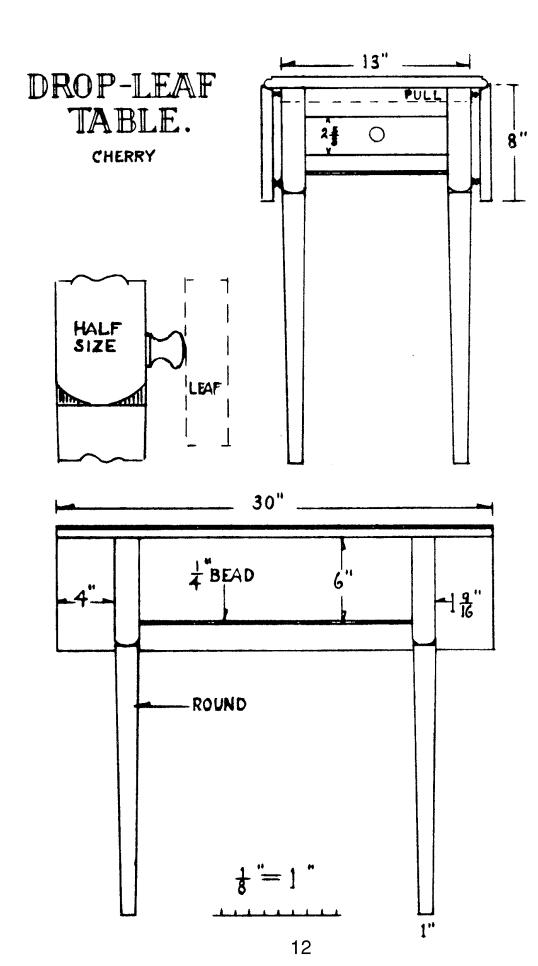


SEWING TABLE.



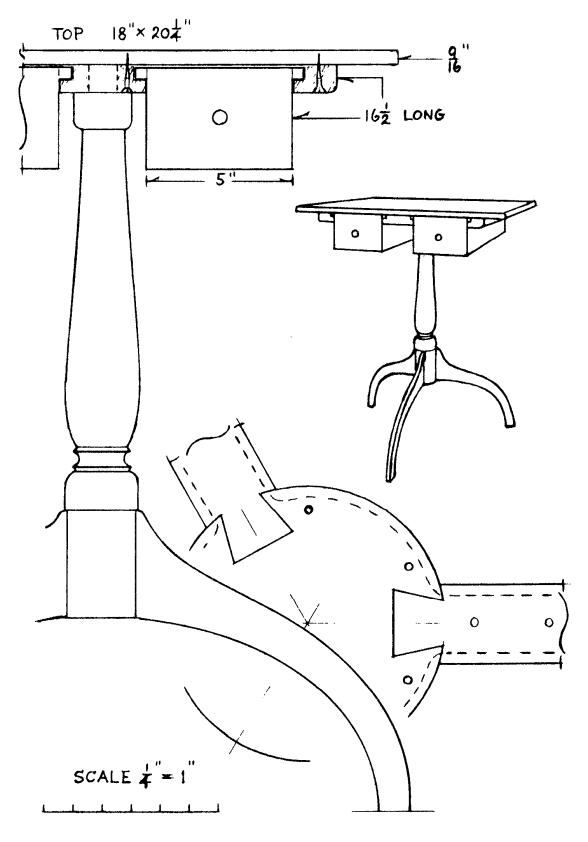
WORK TABLE.



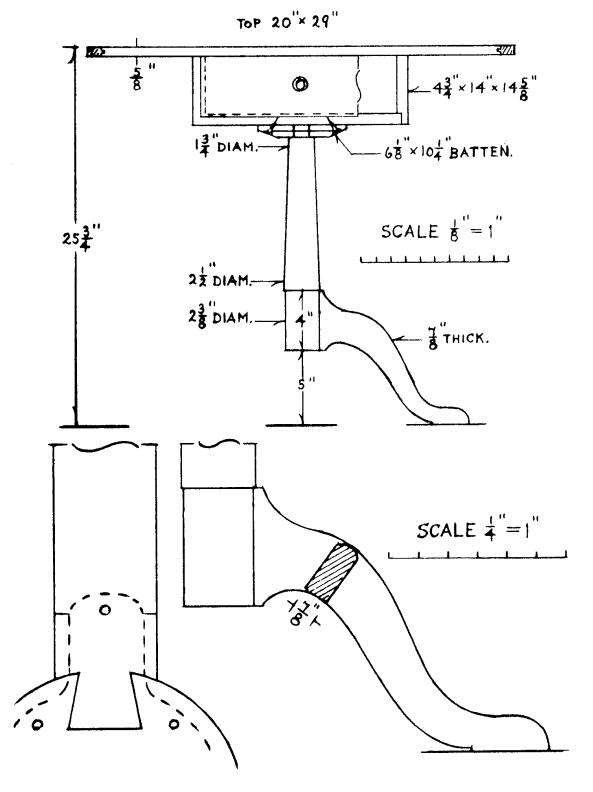


DROP-LEAF TABLE 26" 0 0 TAPER ON TWO INNER SURFACES SCALE IN INCHES

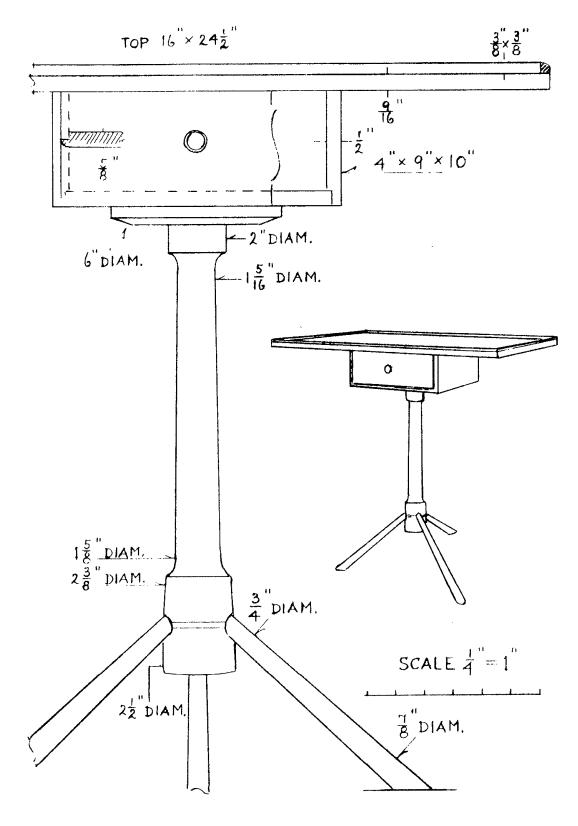
SEWING STAND.



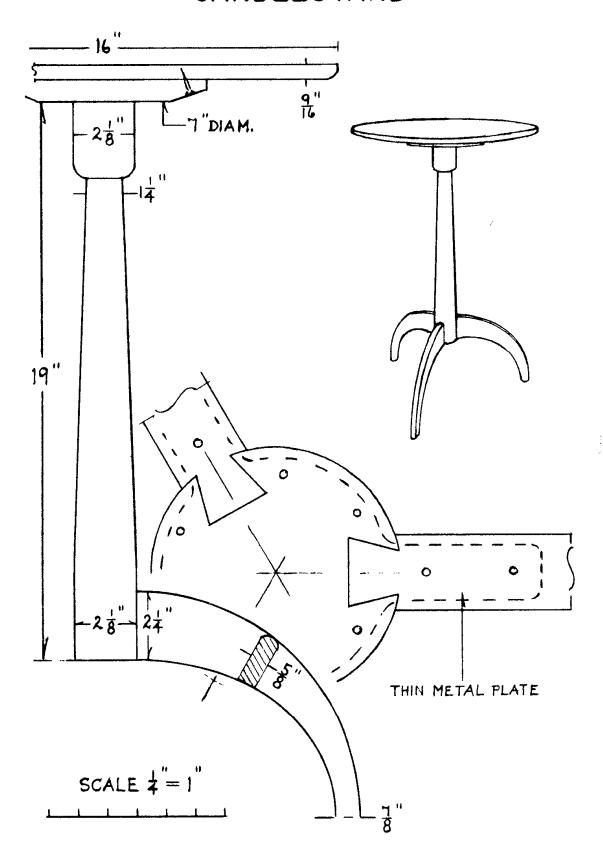
WORKSTAND.

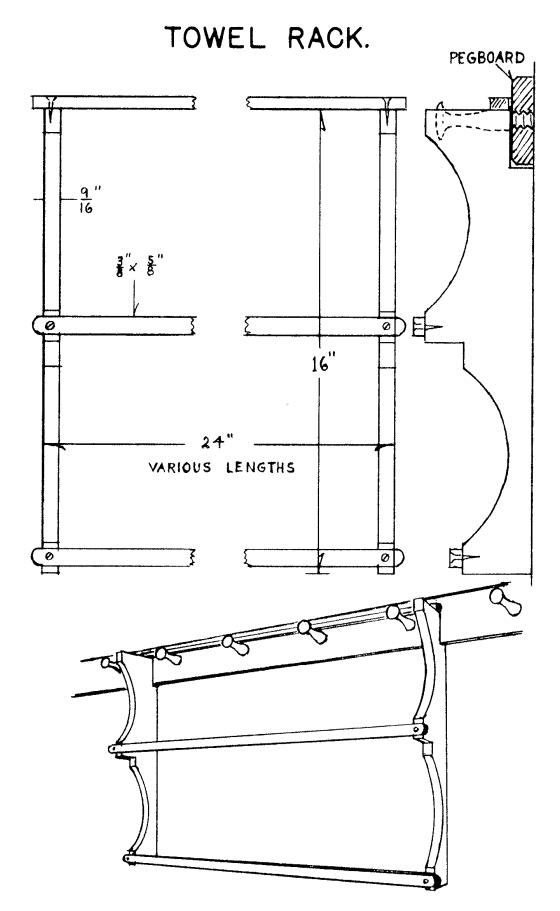


PEG-LEG STAND.

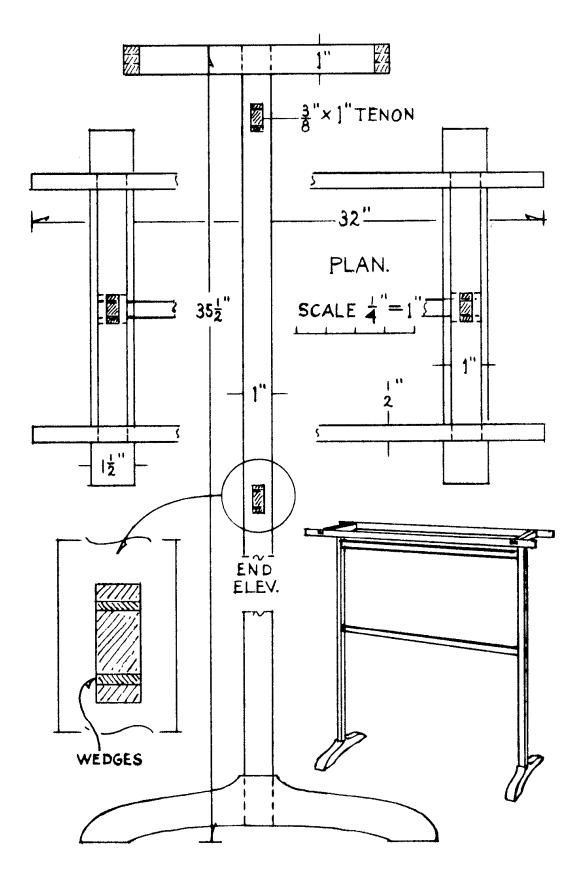


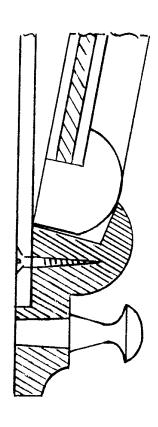
CANDLESTAND.



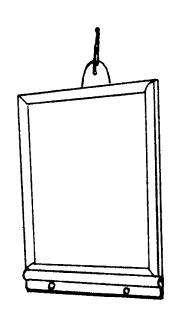


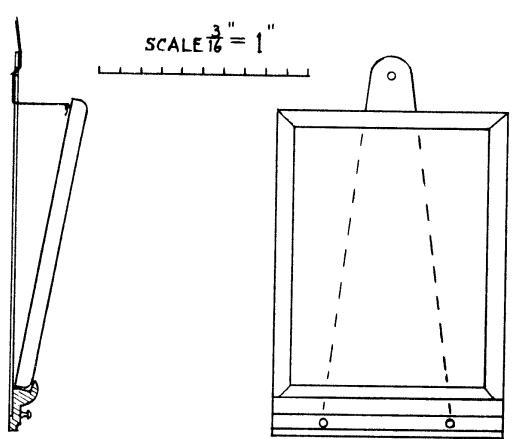
PINE TOWEL RACK

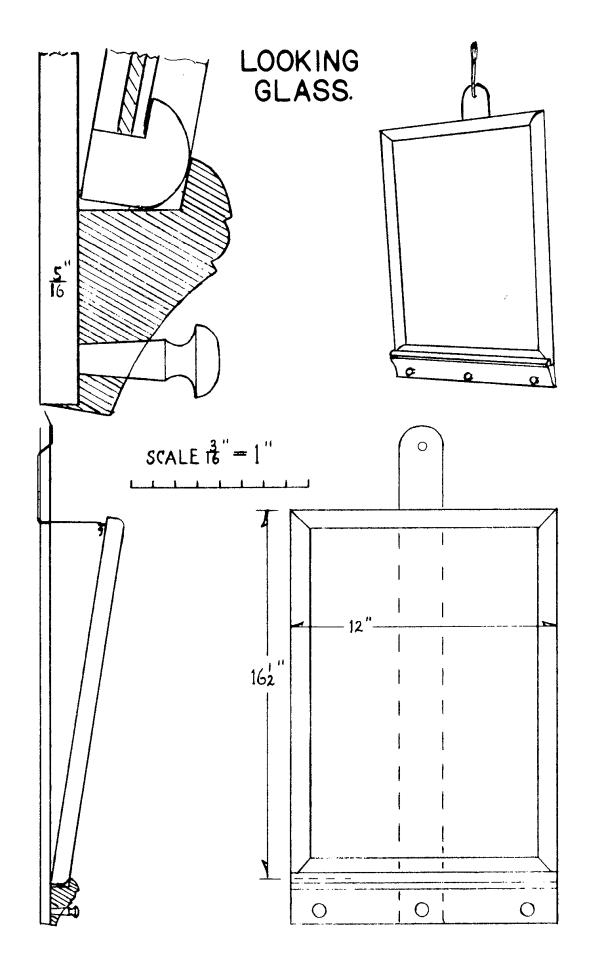


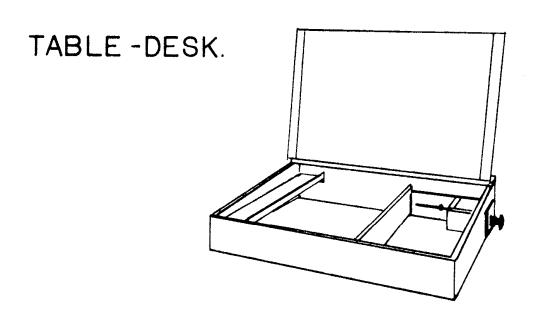


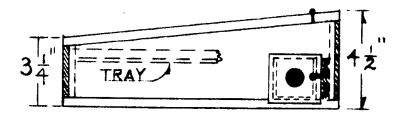
LOOKING GLASS.













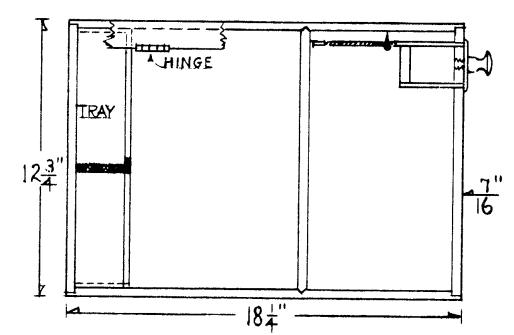
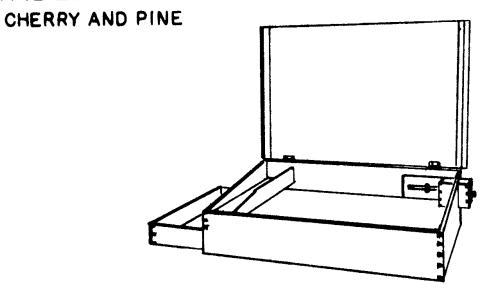
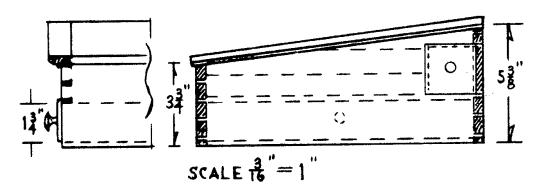
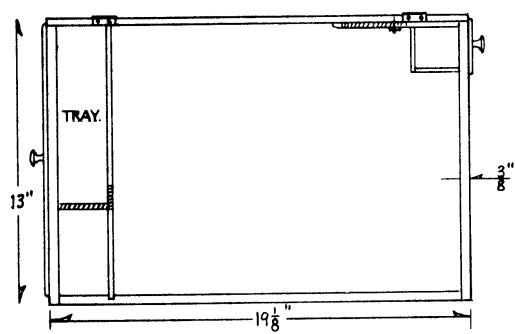


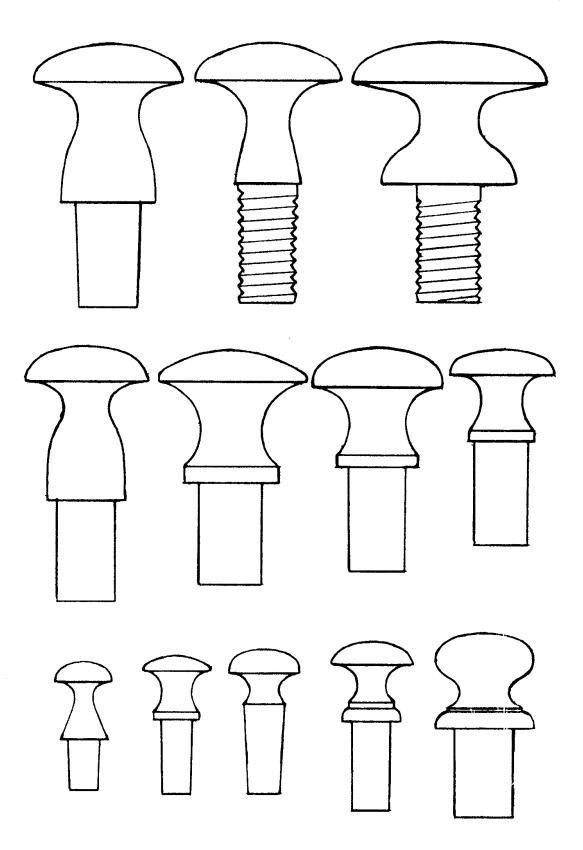
TABLE - DESK.



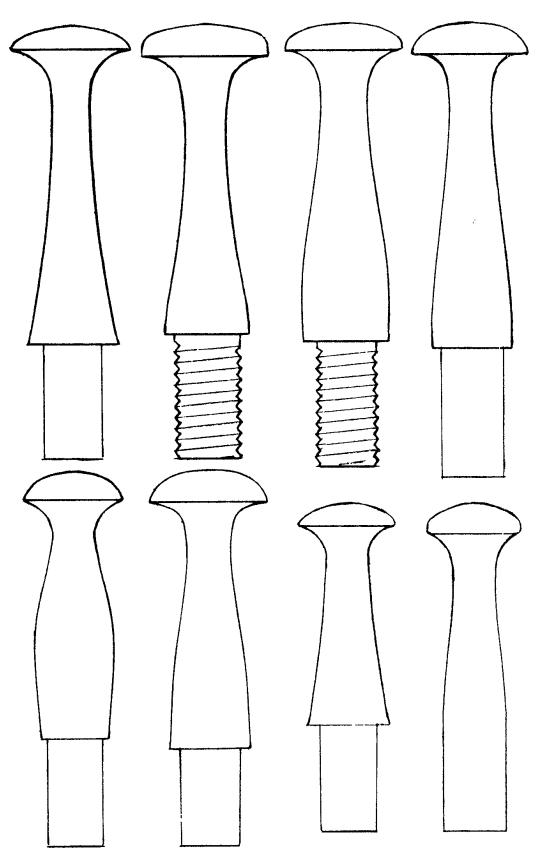




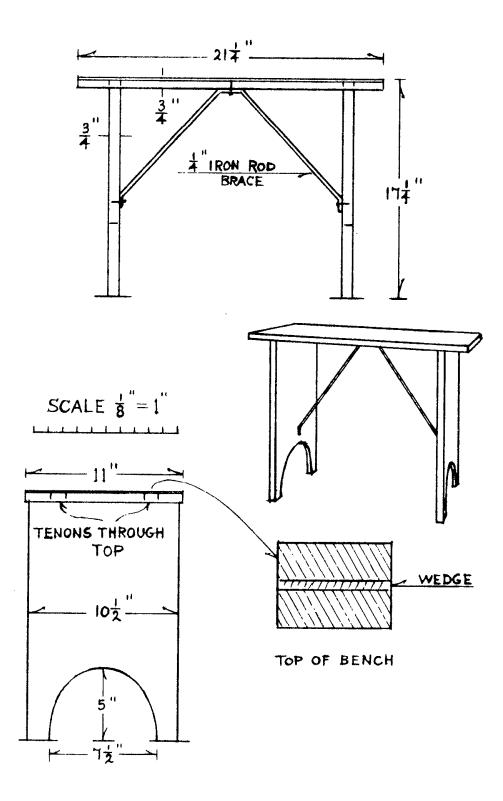
KNOBS AND PULLS.



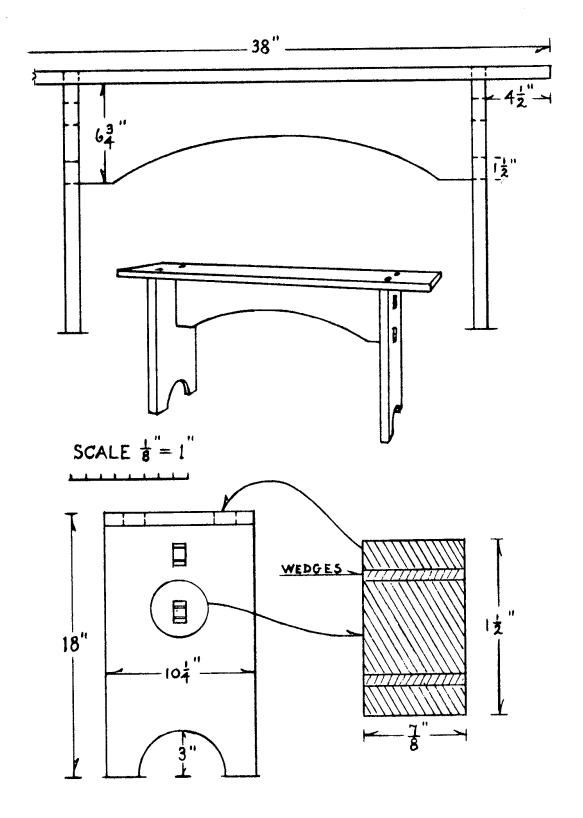
WALL-PEGS.



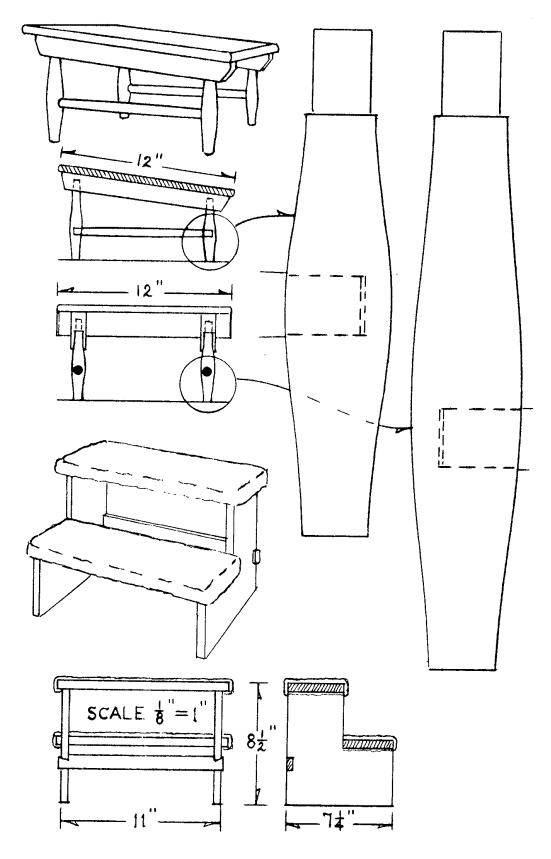
SMALL BENCH.



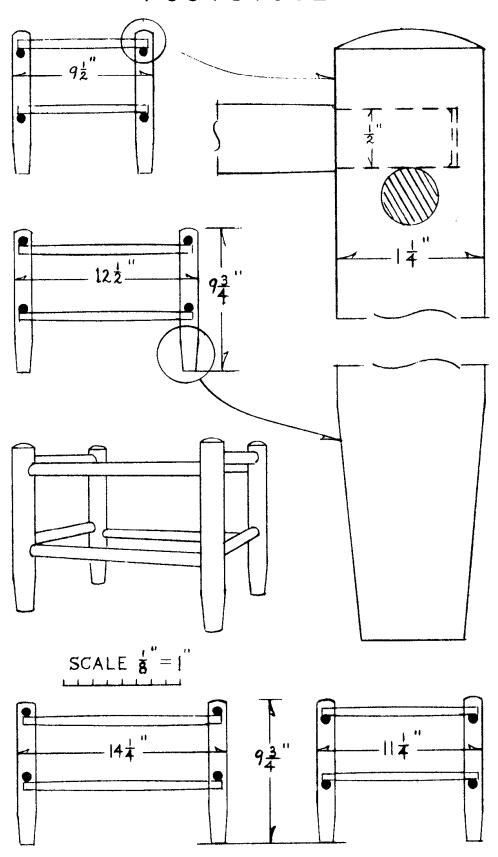
PINE BENCH.

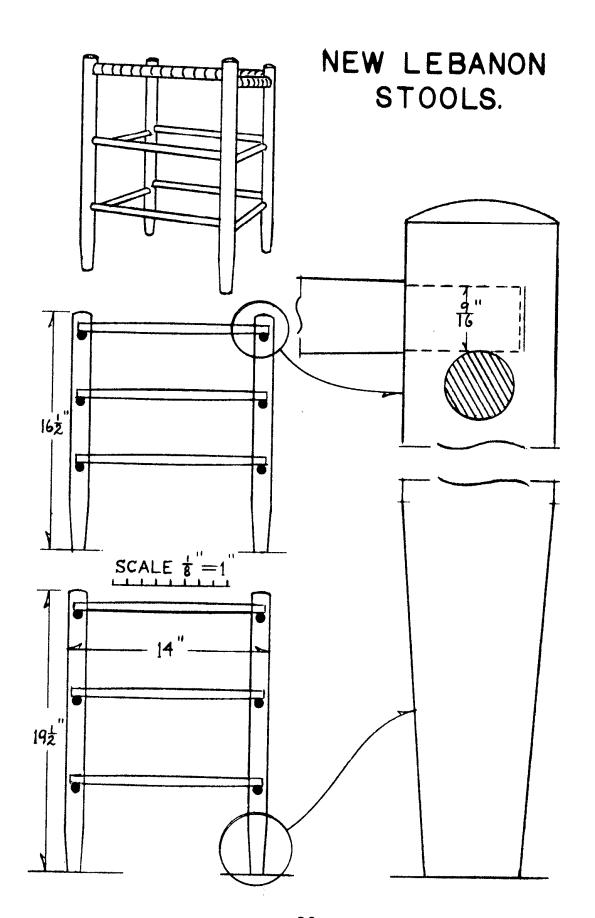


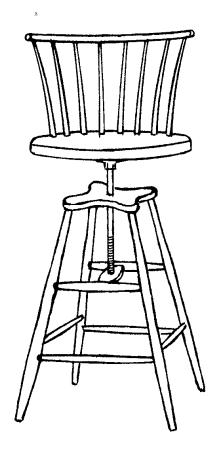
FOOT BENCHES.



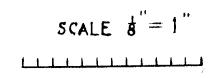
FOOTSTOOLS.

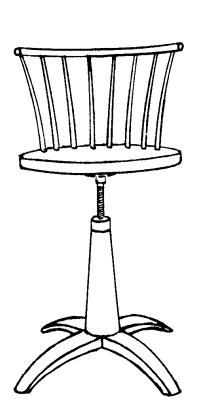


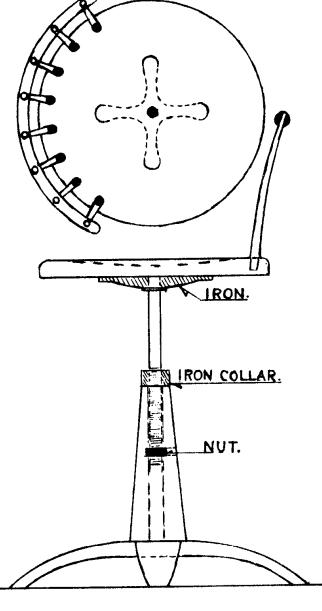


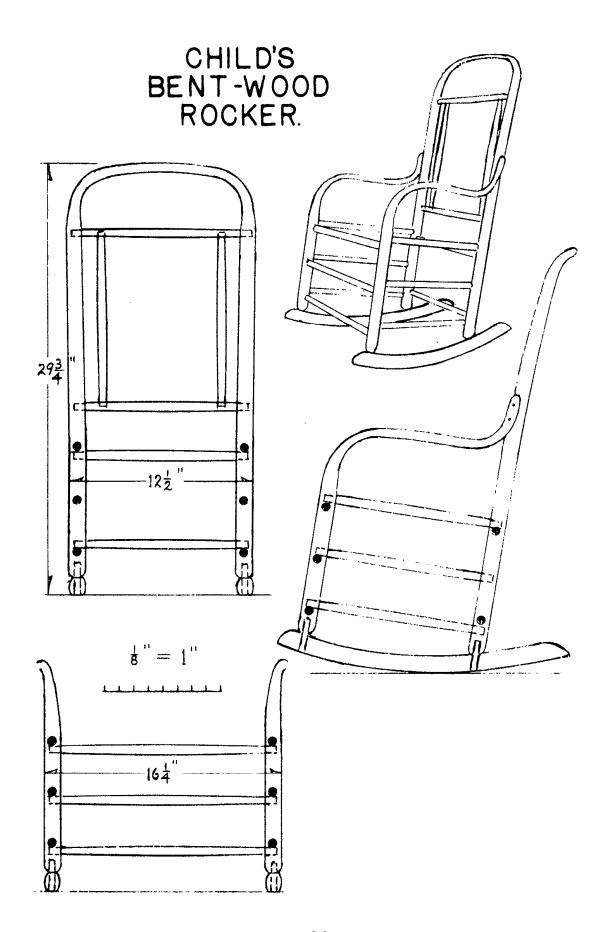


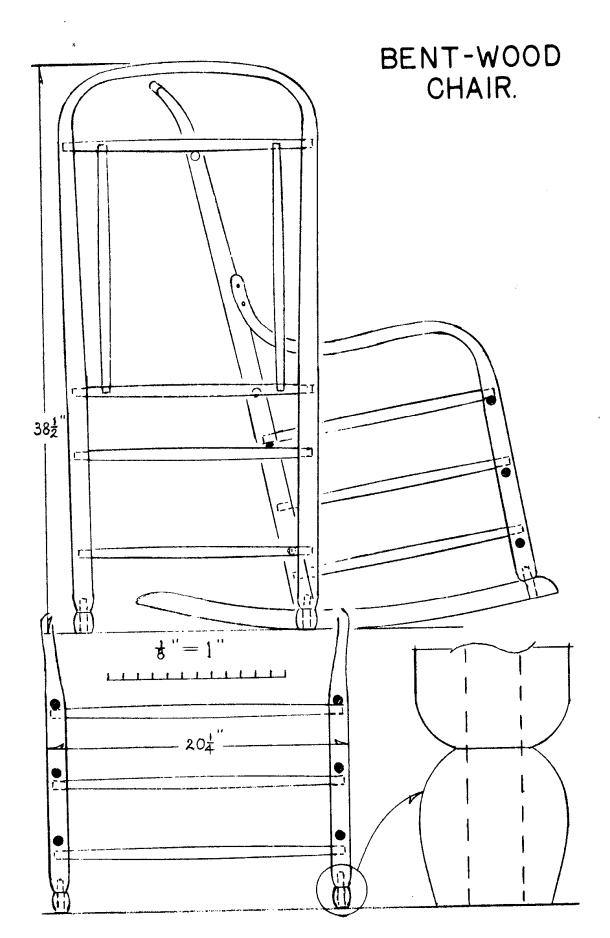
REVOLVING STOOL.



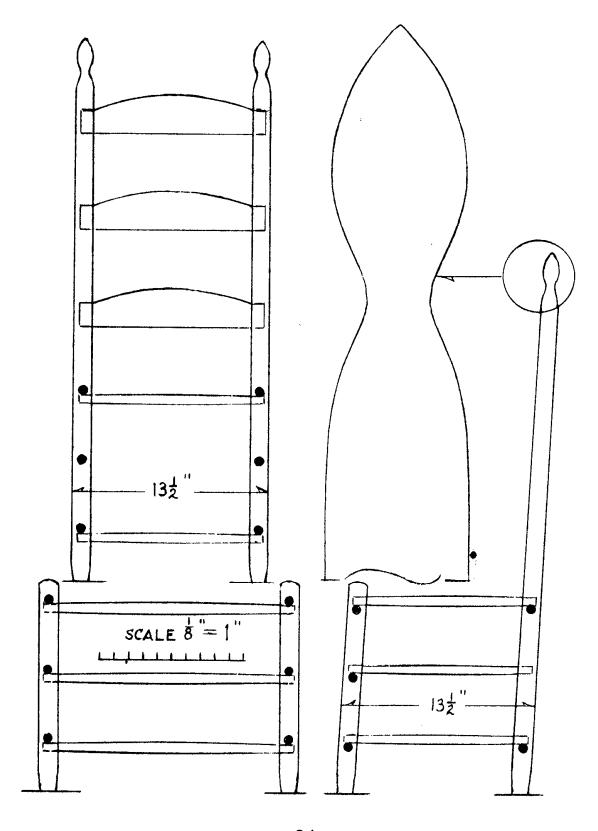




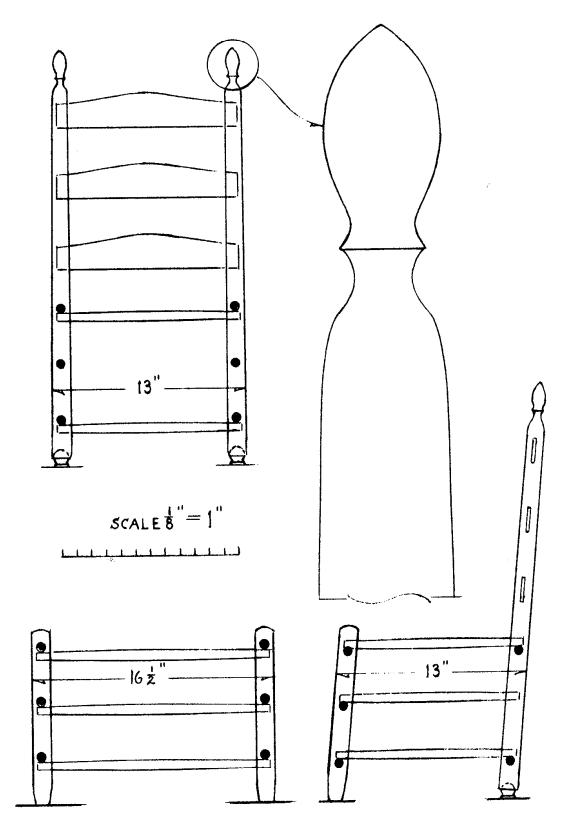


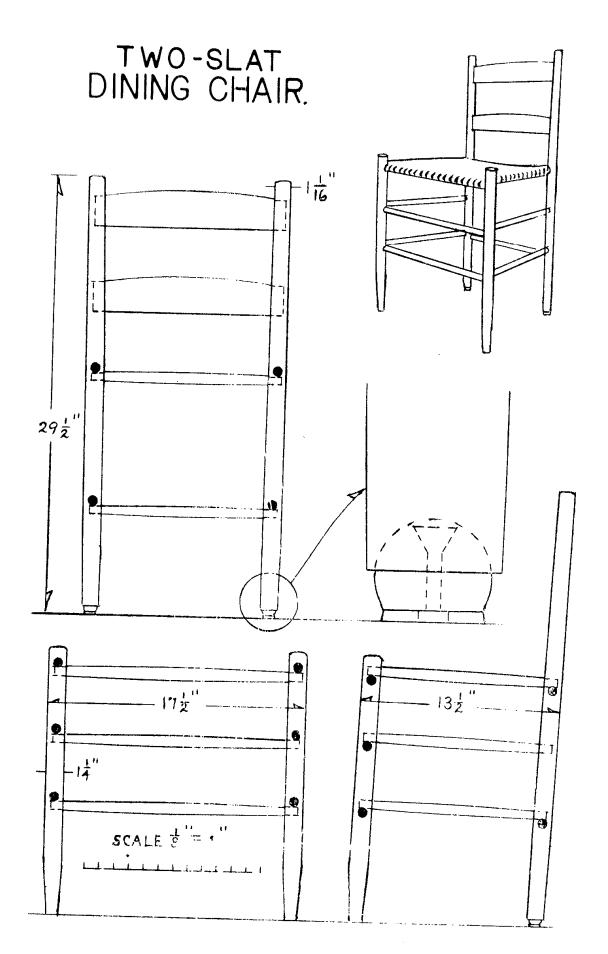


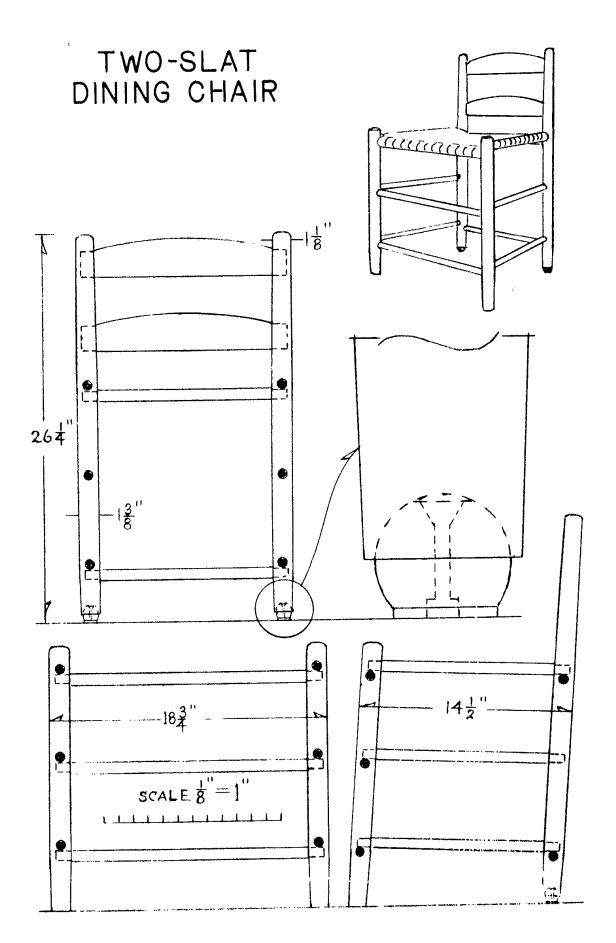
CHILD'S CHAIR.



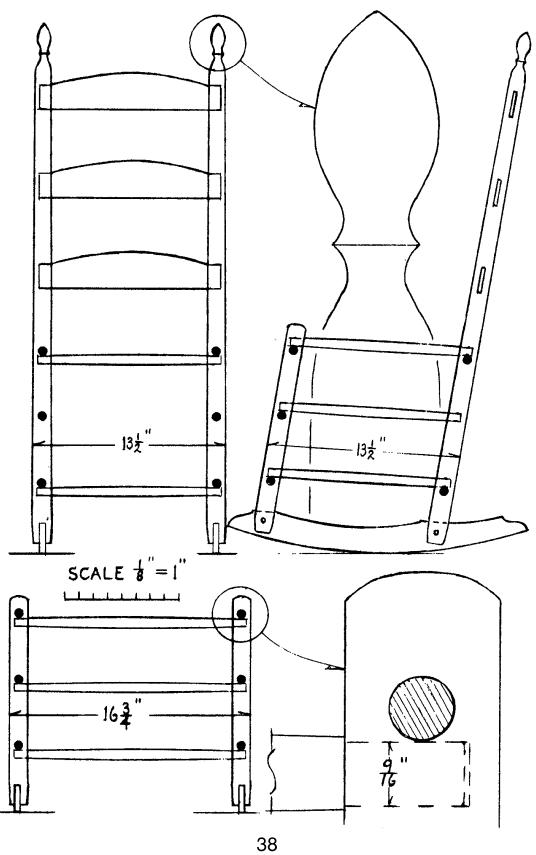
CHILD'S CHAIR.

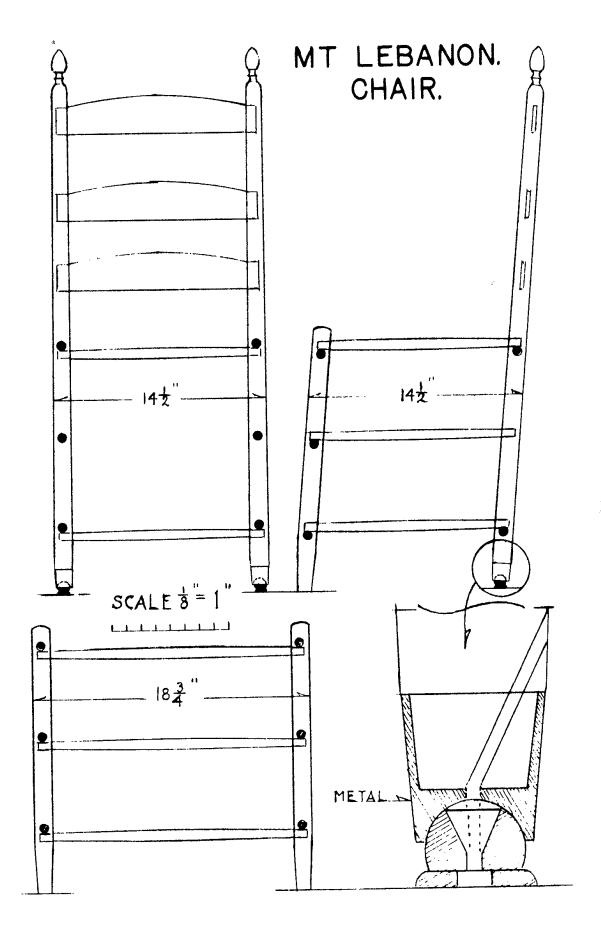


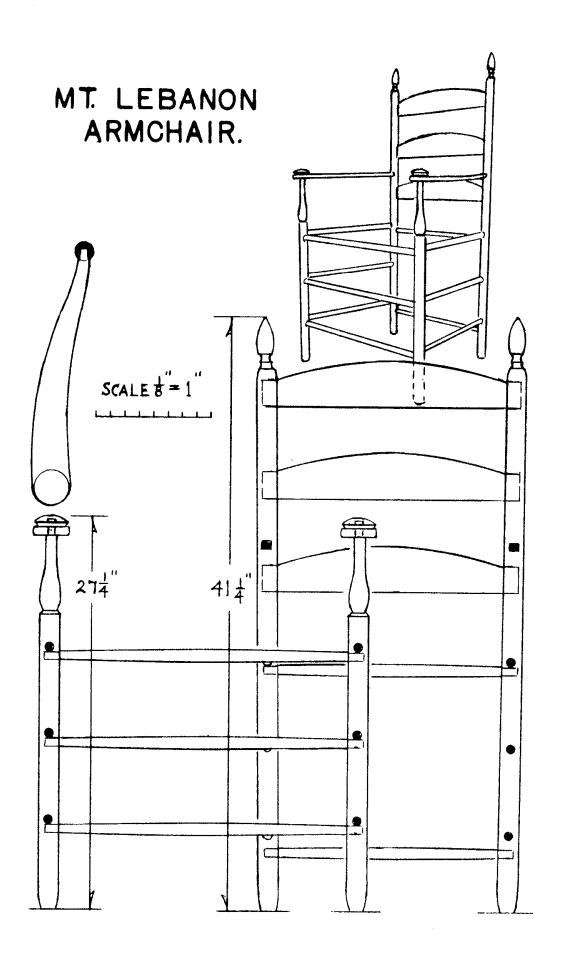




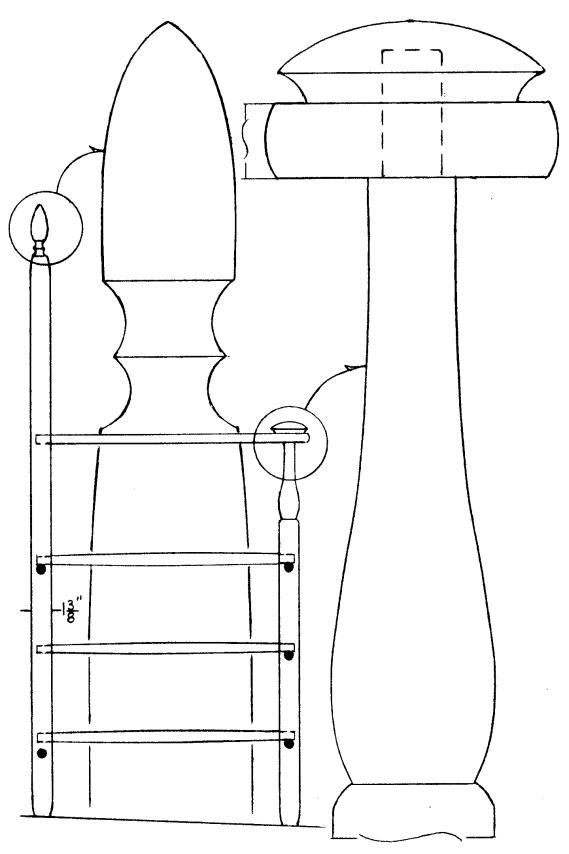
EARLY ROCKING CHAIR.







MT. LEBANON ARMCHAIR.



MT. LEBANON CHAIRS.

The following quotations and the descriptions on the Plates are taken from a Shaker chair catalog dated 1876.

. . . a description and a representation of the different sizes of chairs and foot benches which we manufacture and sell. We would also call attention of the public to the fact that there is no other chair manufactory which is owned and operated by the Shakers, except the one which is now in operation and owned and operated by the Society of Shakers, at Mount Lebanon, Columbia, county, N. Y. We deem it a duty we owe the public to enlighten them in this matter, owing to the fact that there are now several manufacturers of chairs who have made and introduced into market an imitation of our own styles of chairs, which they sell for Shakers' Chairs, and which are unquestionably bought by the public generally under the impression that they are the real genuine article, made by the Shakers at their establishment in Mount Lebanon, N. Y. Of all the imitations of our chairs which have come under our observation, there is none which we would be willing to accept as our workmanship, nor would we be willing to stake our reputation on their merits.

"The increasing demand for our chairs has prompted us to increase the facilities for producing and improving them. We have spared no expense or labor in our endeavors to produce an article that cannot be surpassed in any respect, and which combines all the advantages of durability, simplicity and lightness.

"The bars across the top of back posts are intended for cushions, but will be furnished to order without additional cost.

"Many of our friends who see the Shakers' chairs for the first time may be led to suppose that the chair business is a new thing for the Shakers to engage in. This is not the fact, however, and may surprise even some of the oldest manufacturers to learn that the Shakers were pioneers in the business after the establishment of the independence of the country.

"The principles as well as the rules of the Society forbid the trustees or any of their assistants doing business on the credit system, either in the purchase or sale of merchandise, or making bargains or contracts. This we consider good policy, and a safe way of doing business, checking speculative or dishonest propensities, and averting financial panics and disasters. We sell with the understanding that all bills are to be cash.

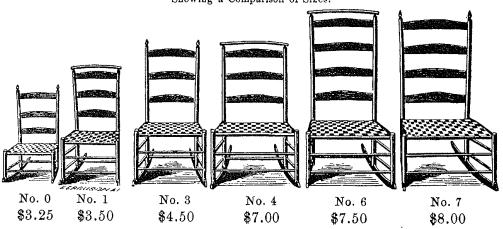
"Look for our trade-mark before purchasing - no chair is genuine without it. Our trade-mark is a gold transfer, and is designed to be ornamental; but, if objectionable to purchasers, it can be easily removed without defacing the furniture in the least, by wetting a sponge or piece of cotton cloth with AQUA AMMONIA, and rubbing it until it is loosened."



The Shakers' Slat Back Chairs, with Rockers.

WORSTED LACE SEATS.

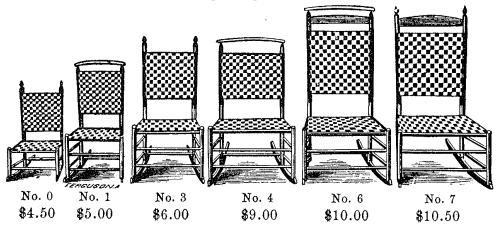
Showing a Comparison of Sizes.



The Shakers' Web Back Chairs, With Rockers.

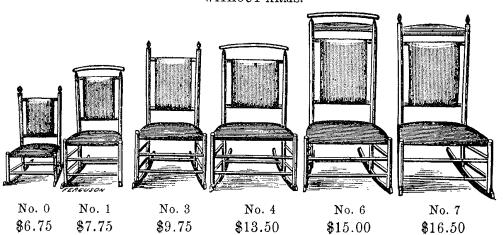
WORSTED LACE SEATS AND BACKS.

Showing a Comparison of Sizes.



THE SHAKERS' UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS.

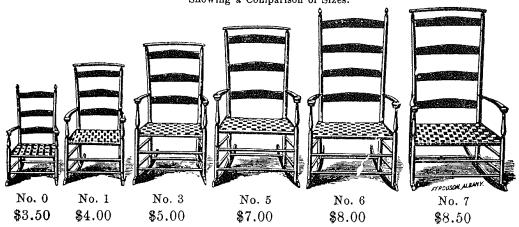
WITHOUT ARMS.



The Shakers' Slat Back Chairs, with Arms and Rockers.

WORSTED LACE SEATS.

Showing a Comparison of Sizes.



The Shakers' Web Back Chairs, with Arms and Rockers.

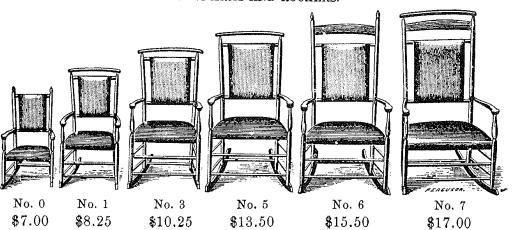
WORSTED LACE SEATS AND BACKS.

Showing a Comparison of Sizes.



THE SHAKERS' UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS.

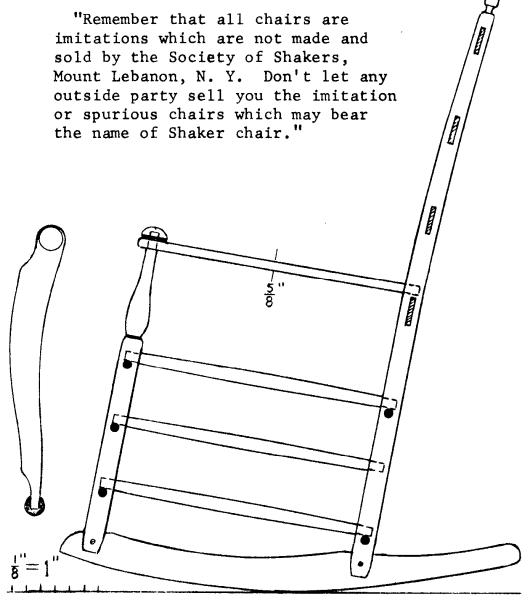
WITH ARMS AND ROCKERS.

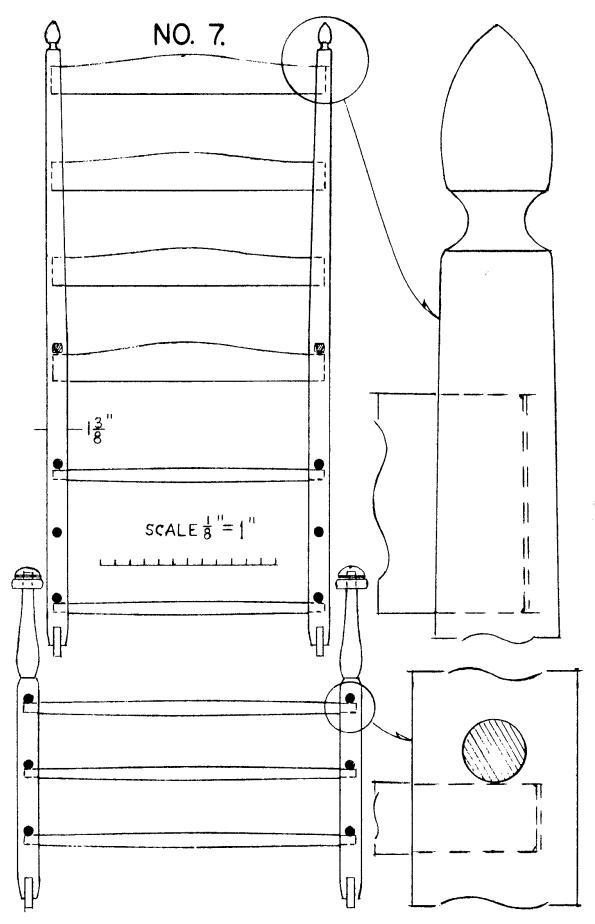


MT. LEBANON CHAIR NO. 7.

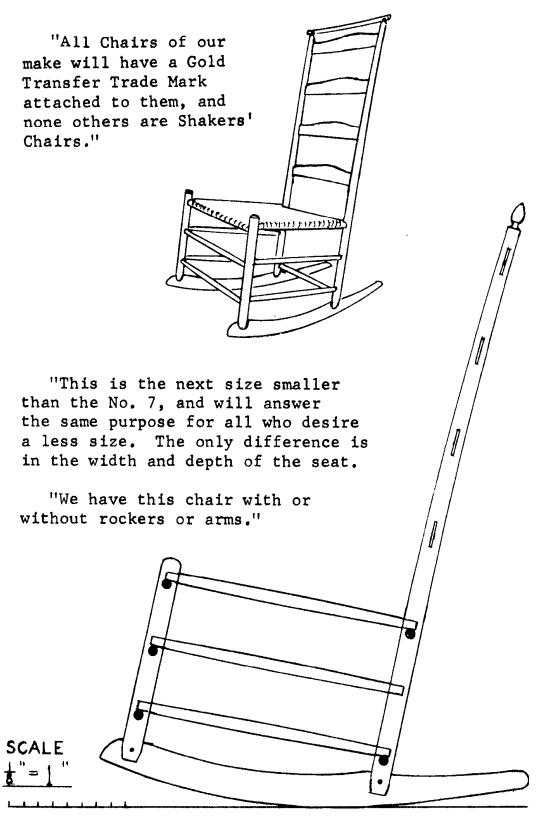
"This is our largest chair, and on the top of the back posts is a bar which we attach to all the chairs which are designed for cushions.

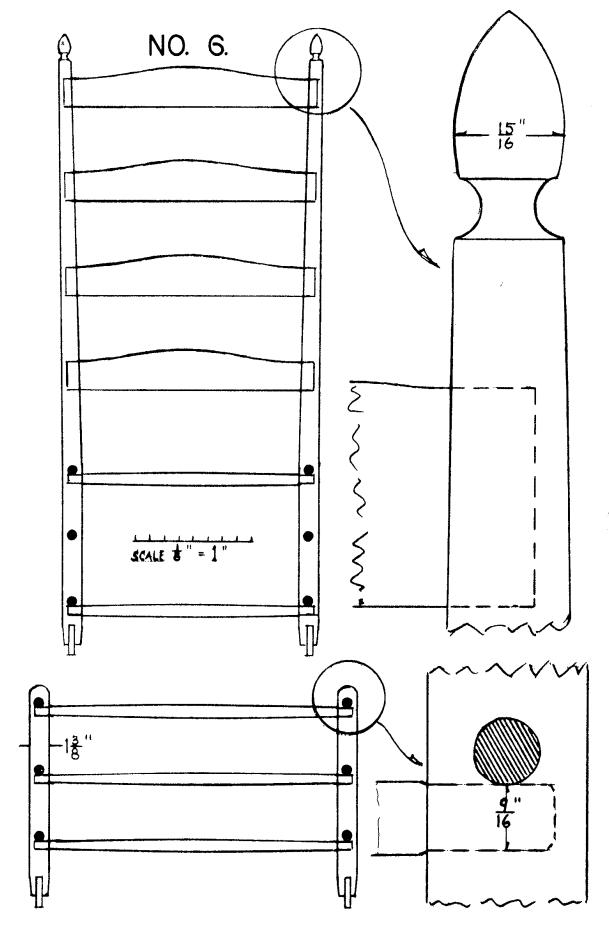
"We have this chair with or without rockers or arms.





MT. LEBANON CHAIR NO. 6.



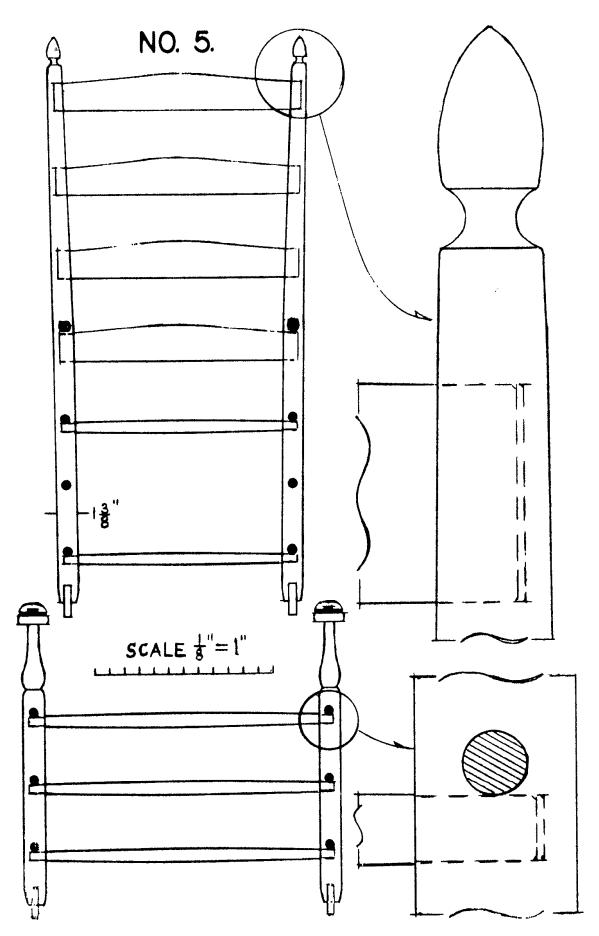


MT. LEBANON CHAIR NO. 5.

"This size is well adapted for dining or office use, when an arm chair is desirable. We have a smaller size, with only two back slats and plain top posts, for table use, and without arms.

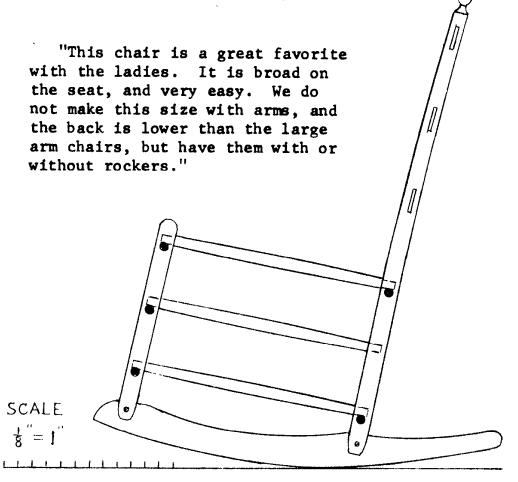
"We do not have this chair without the arms.

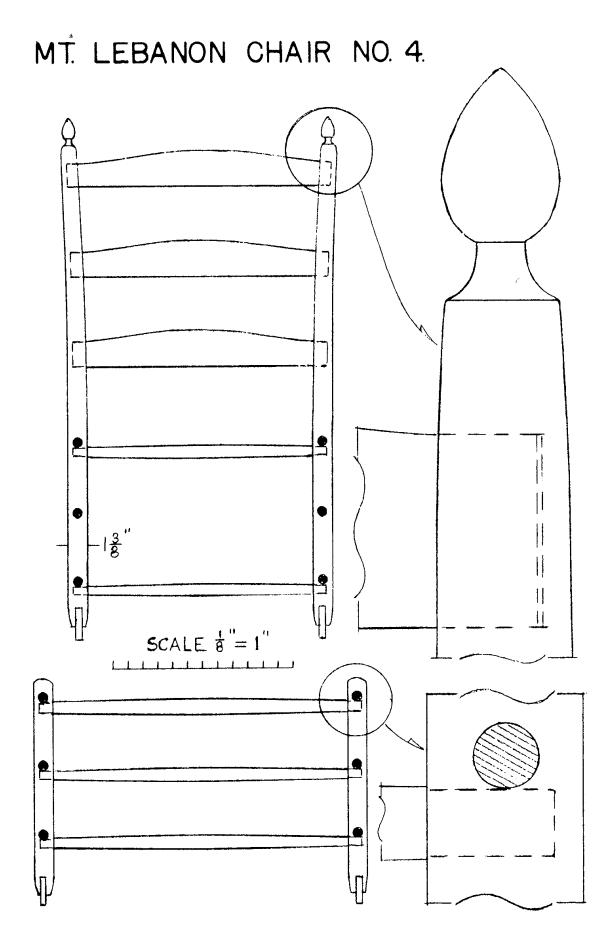
"The Shakers do not make or sell any of the cheap quality of chairs, but we claim for every one of them the same quality and price invariably."



MT. LEBANON CHAIR NO. 4.

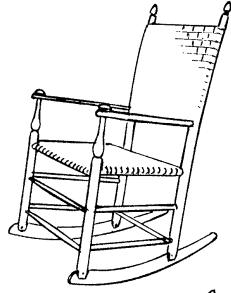


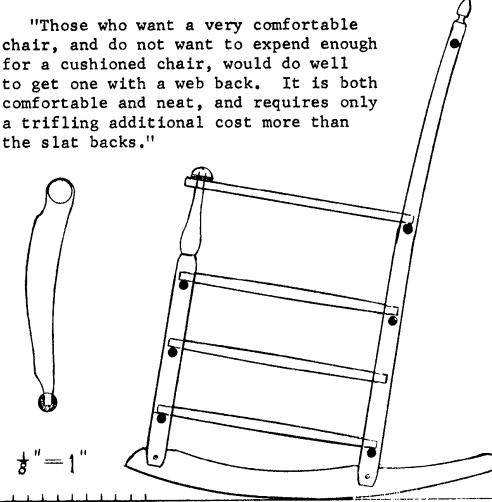




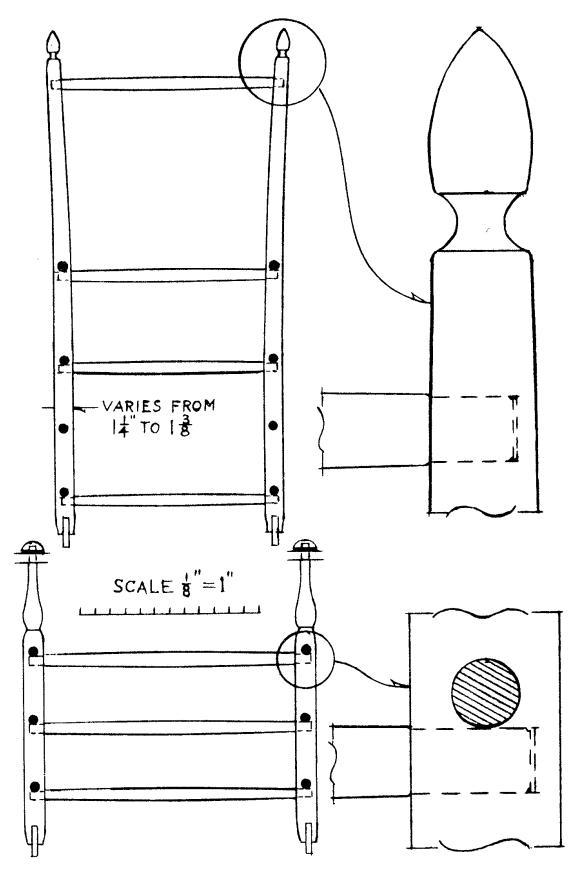
MT. LEBANON CHAIR NO. 3.

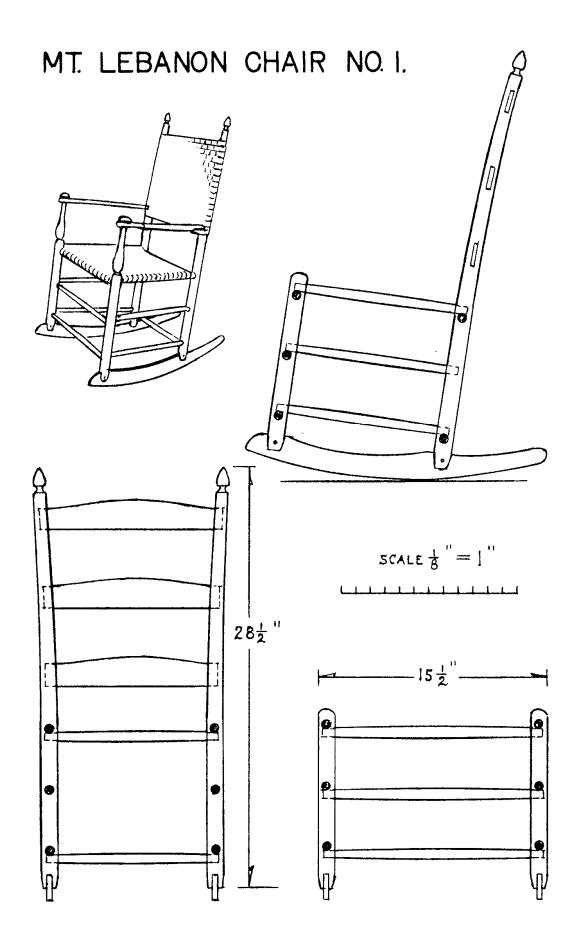
"This is a favorite sewing chair, and for all general purposes about the chamber and sitting room. We have this size with arms, rockers, or without either."



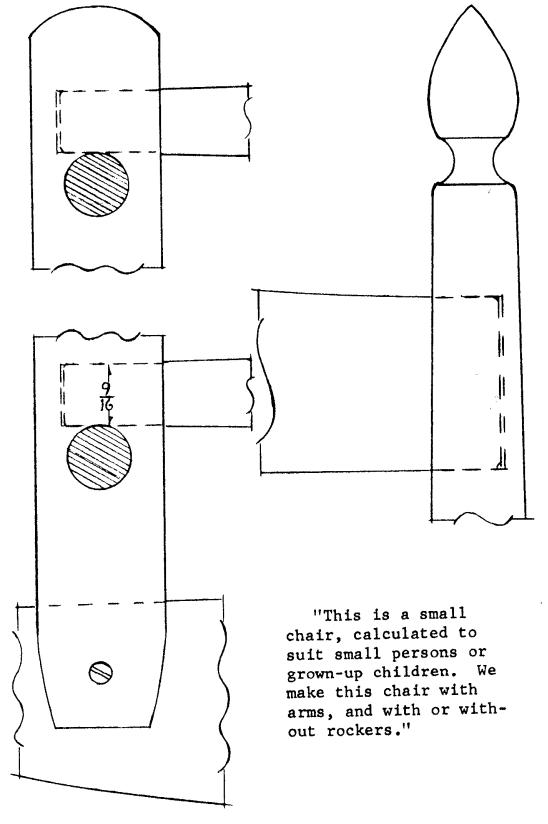


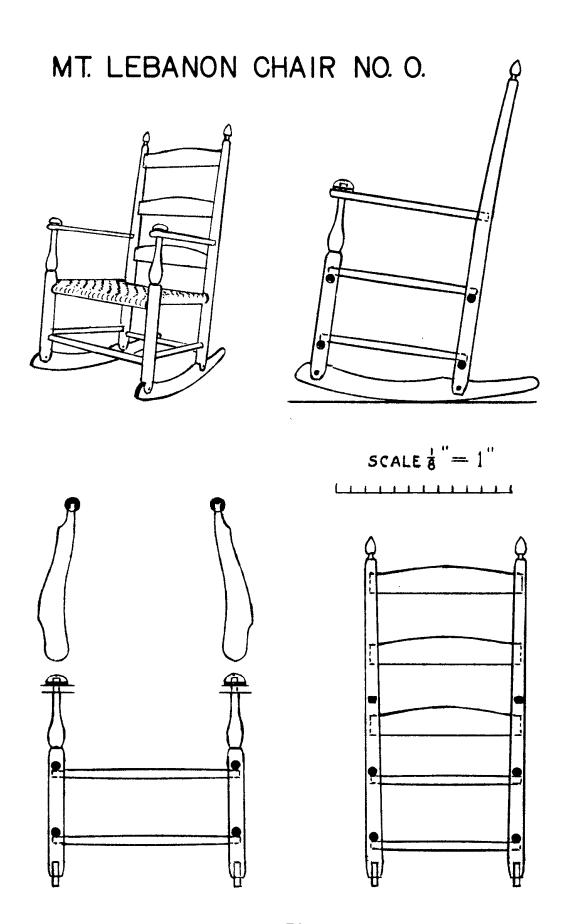
MT. LEBANON CHAIR NO. 3.



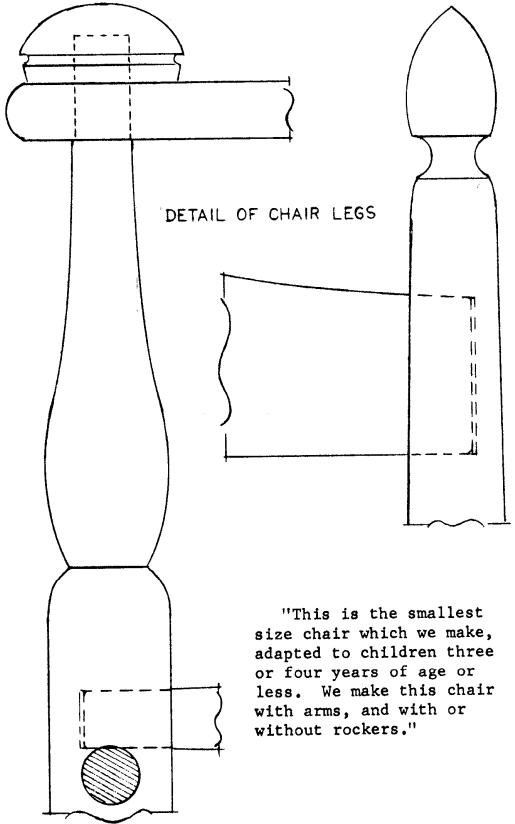


MT. LEBANON CHAIR NO. I.

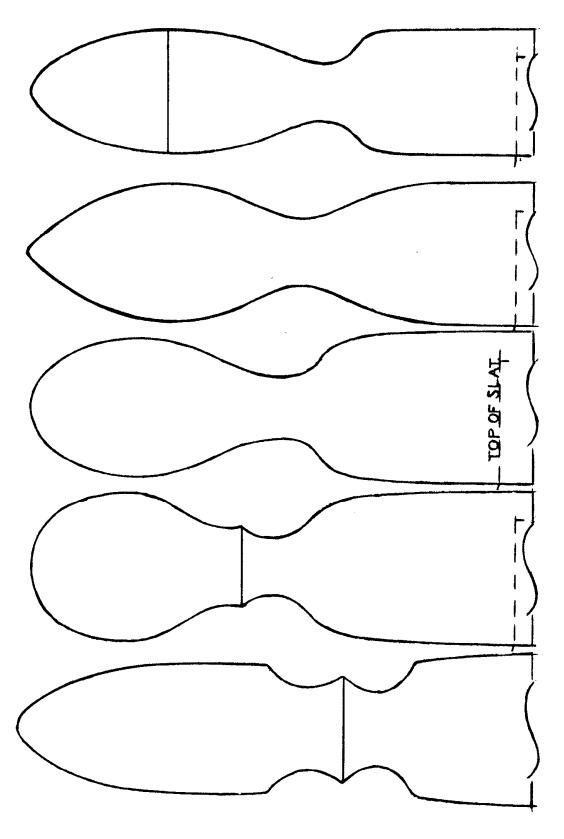




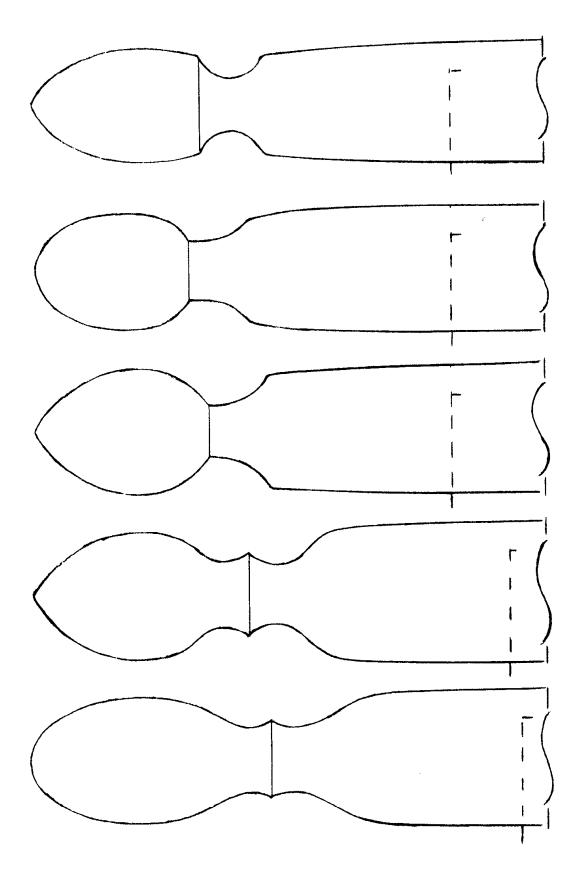
MT. LEBANON CHAIR NO. O.

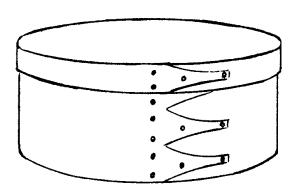


CHAIR FINIALS.



CHAIR FINIALS.

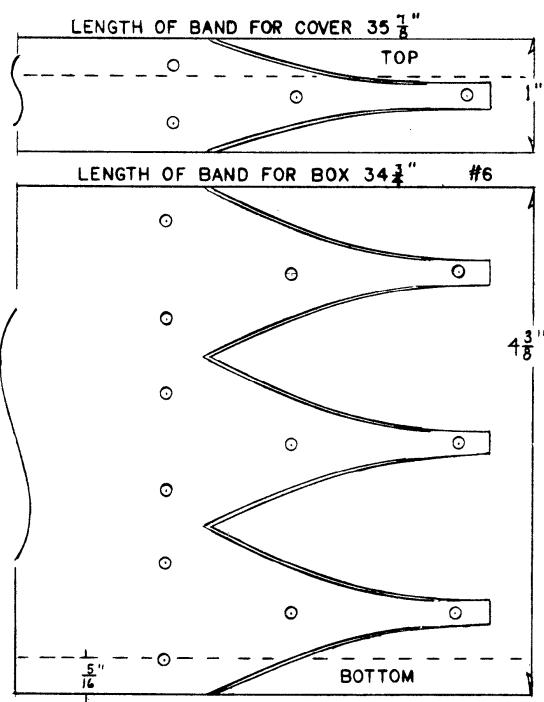


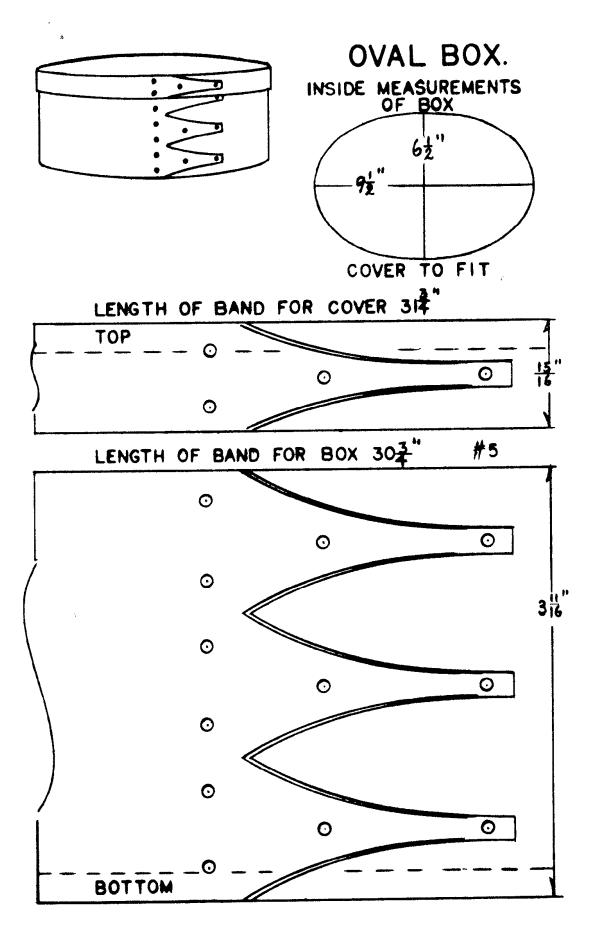


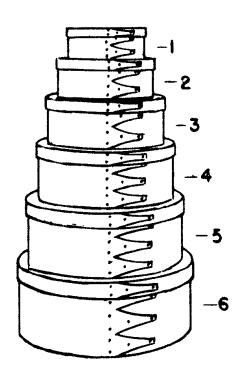
OVAL BOX.

INSIDE MEAS.
OF BOX 72"×108"

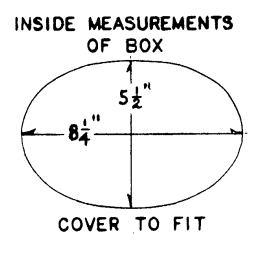
COVER TO FIT

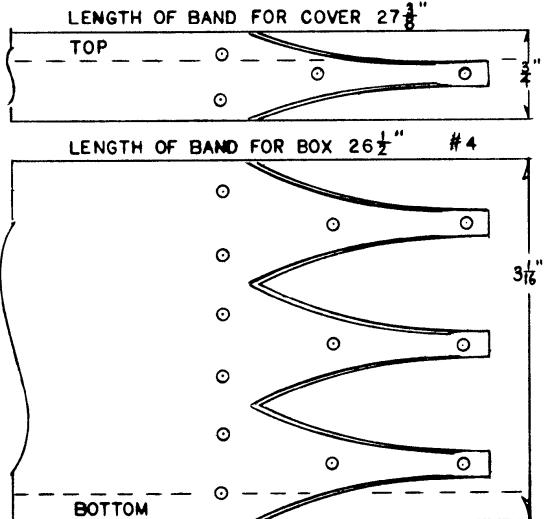




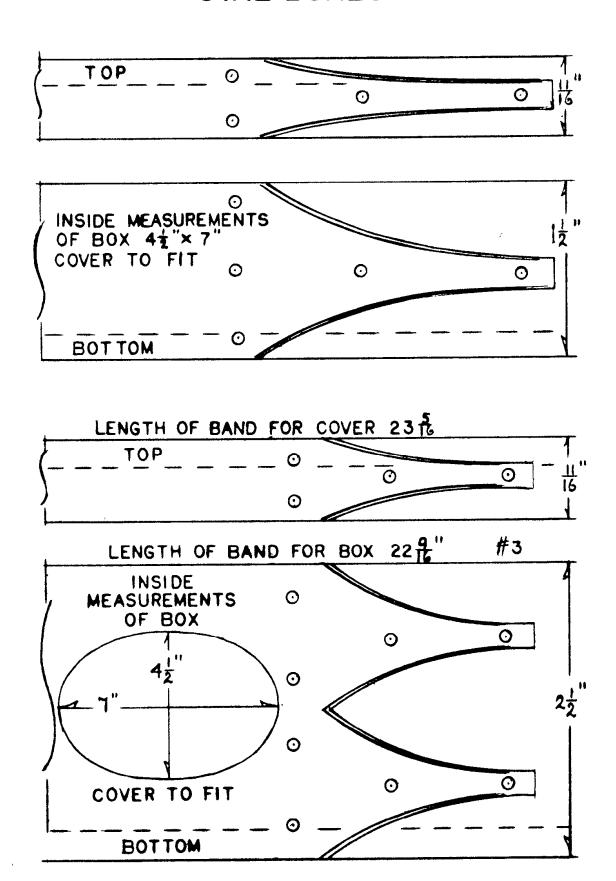


OVAL BOXES.

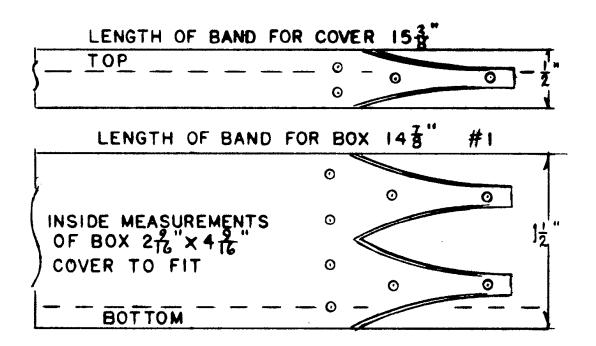


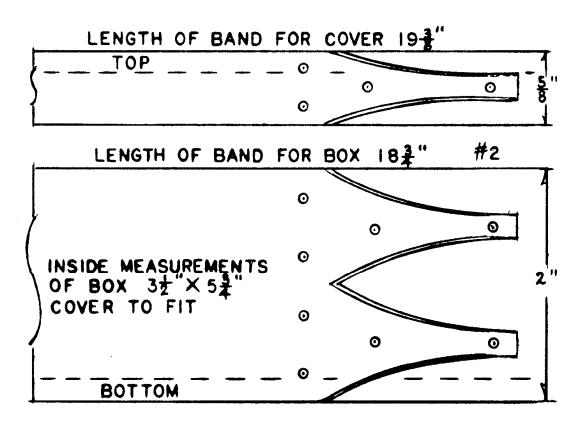


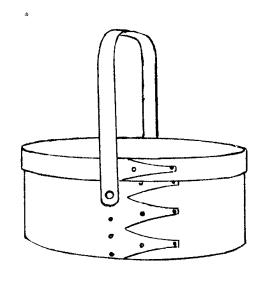
OVAL BOXES.



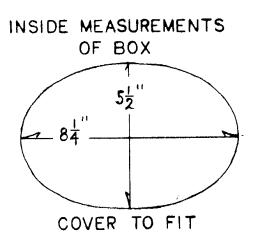
OVAL BOXES.

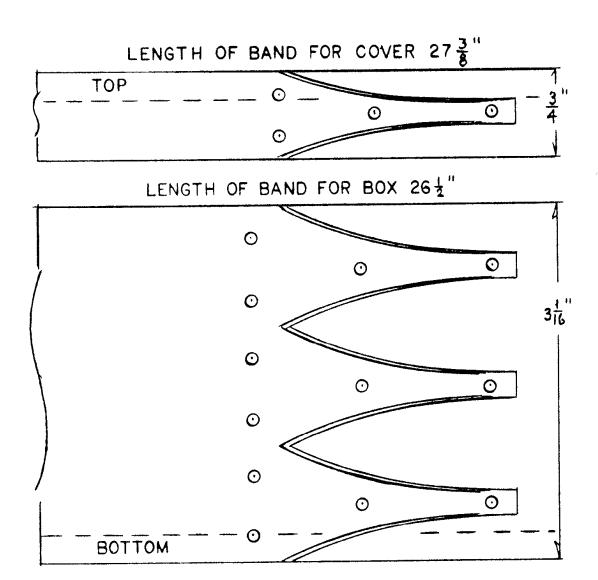




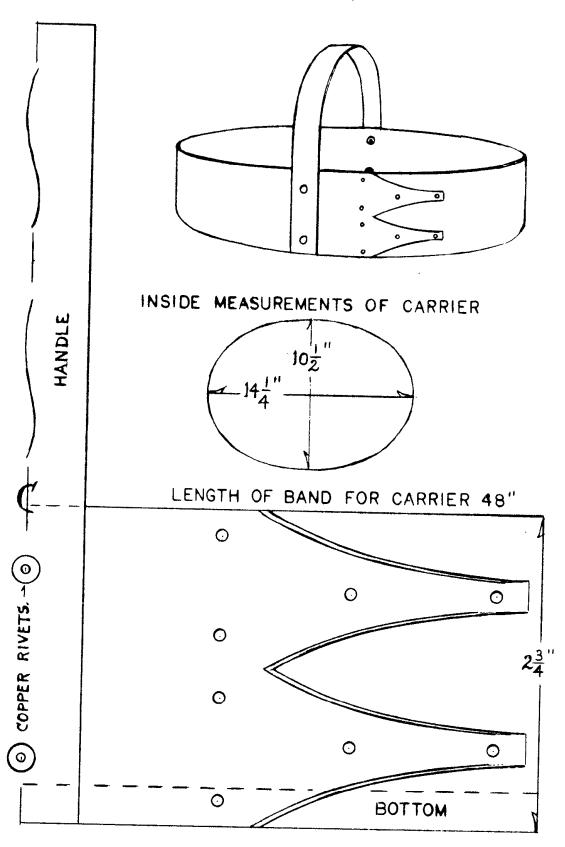


SEWING BOX.

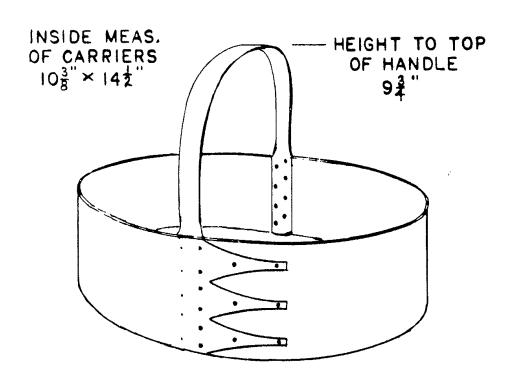


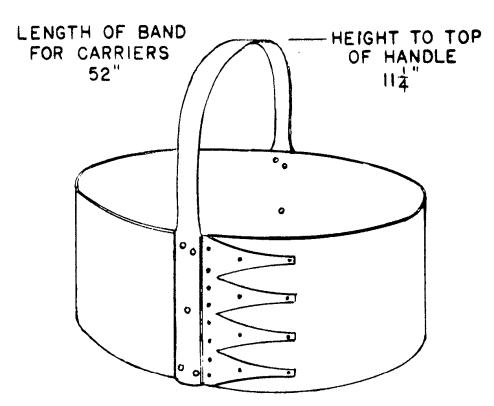


CARRIER.

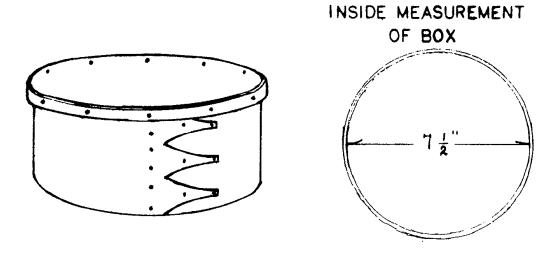


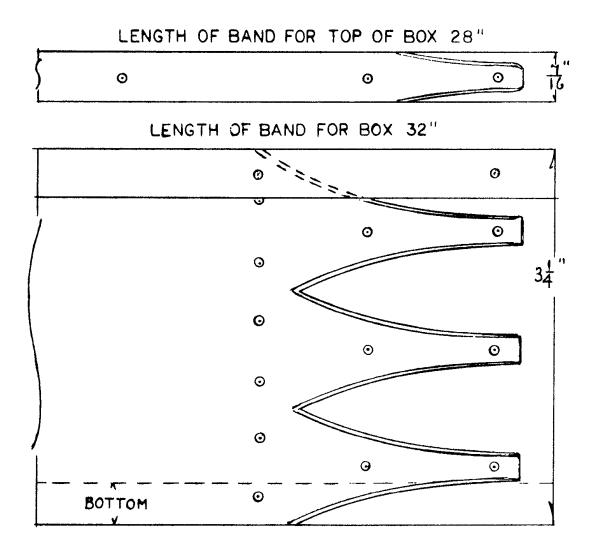
CARRIERS.



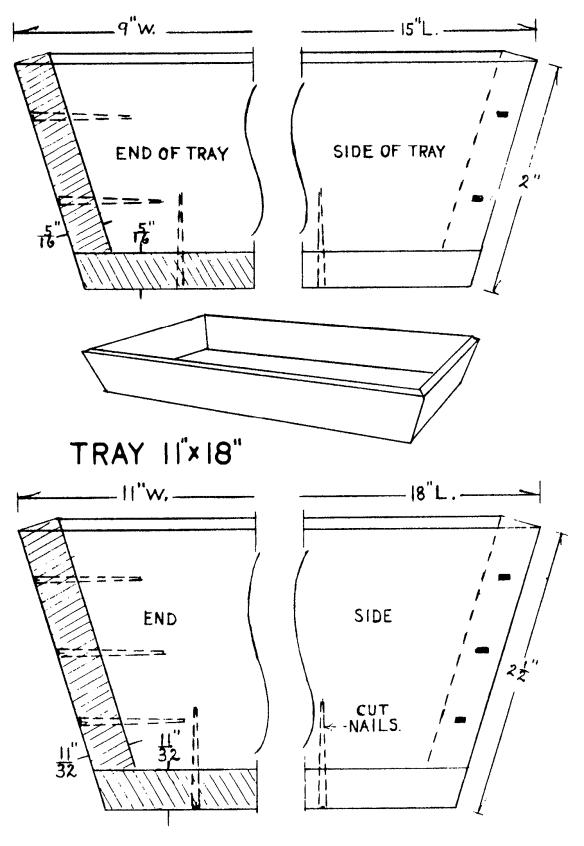


SPITTOON OR "SPIT-BOX"

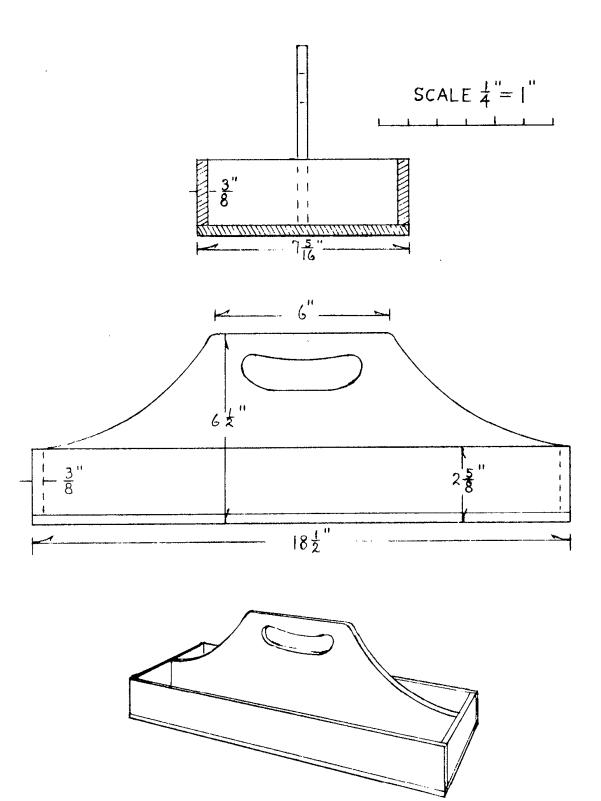




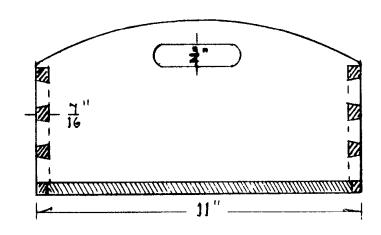
PINE TRAY 9" x 15"

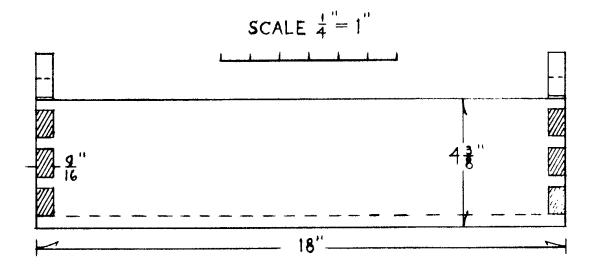


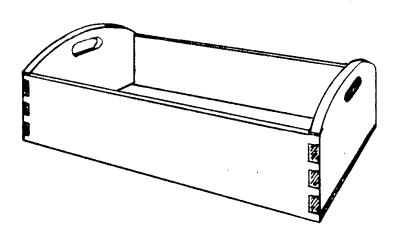
DINING ROOM TRAY.

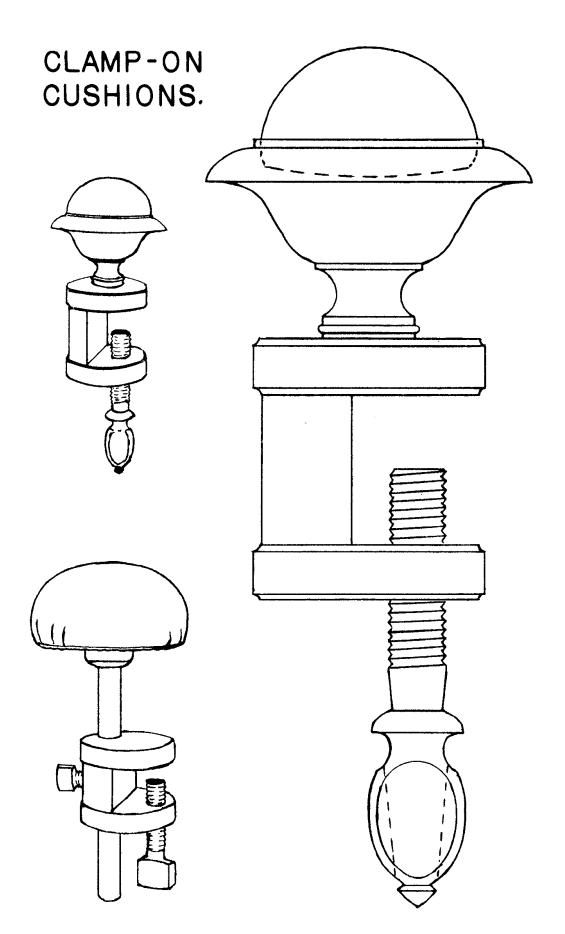


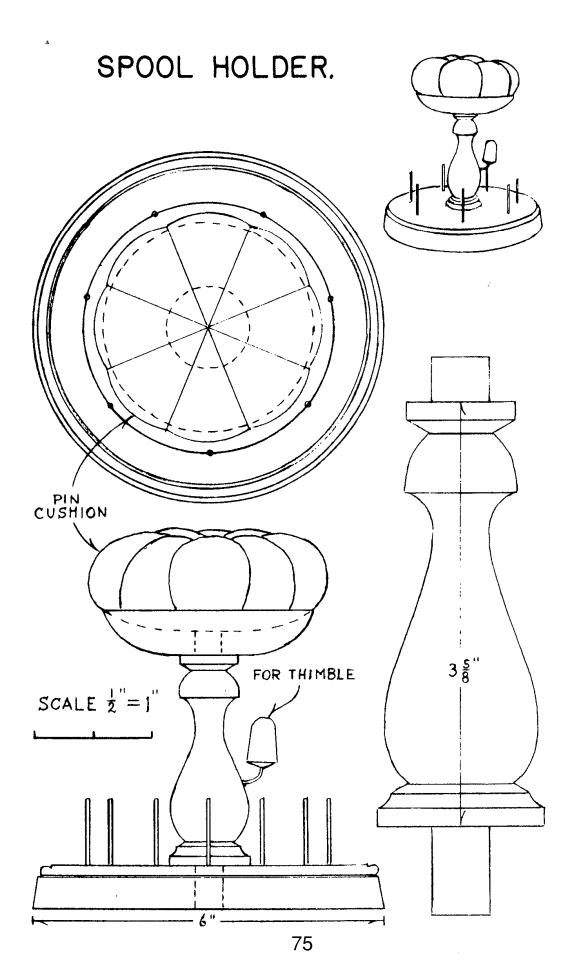
PINE DINING ROOM TRAY.



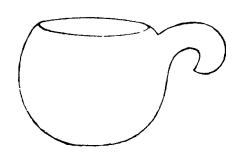


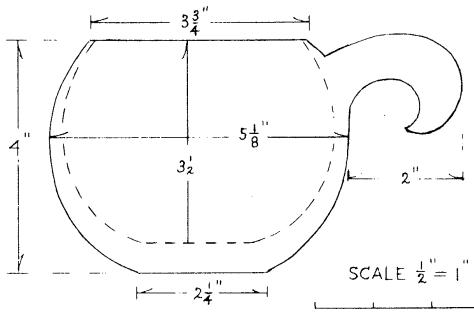




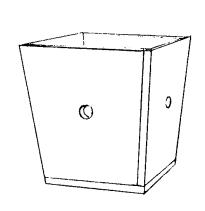


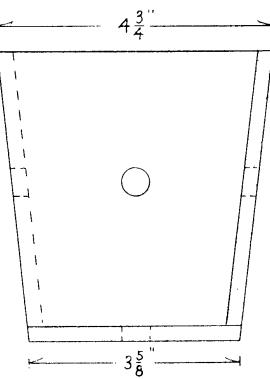


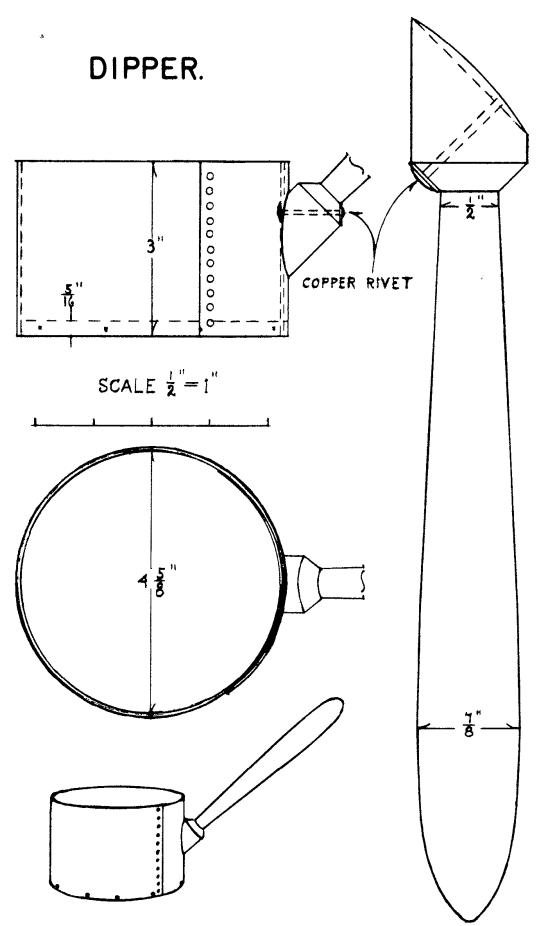


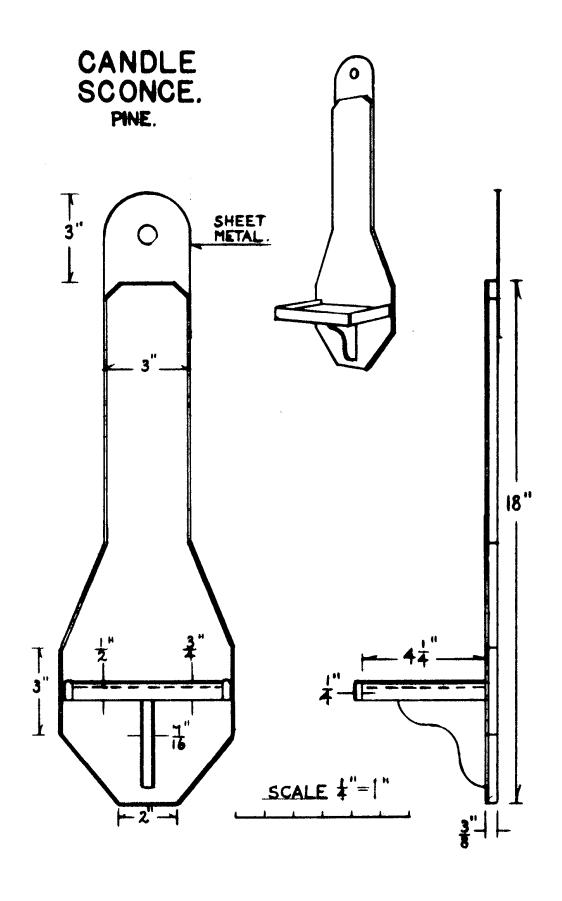


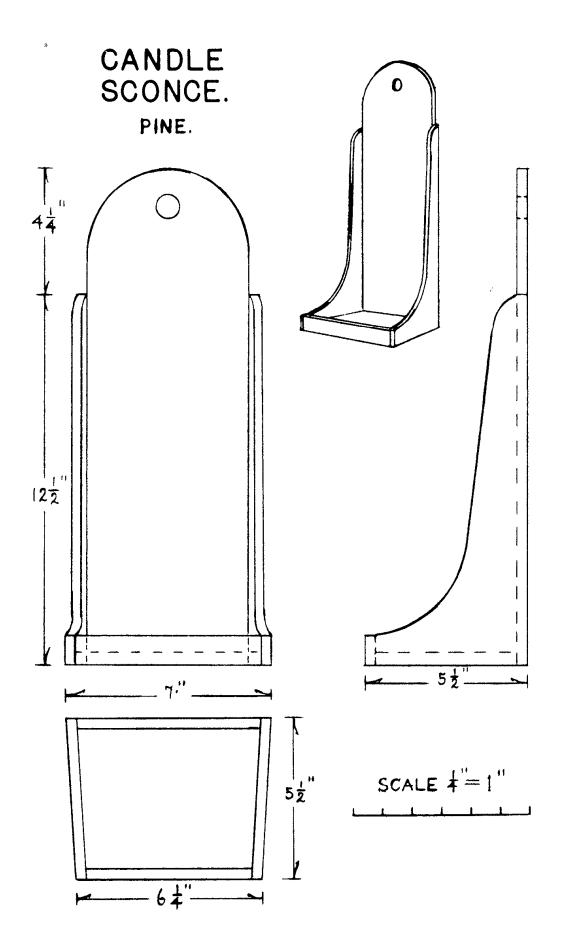
BERRY BOX.

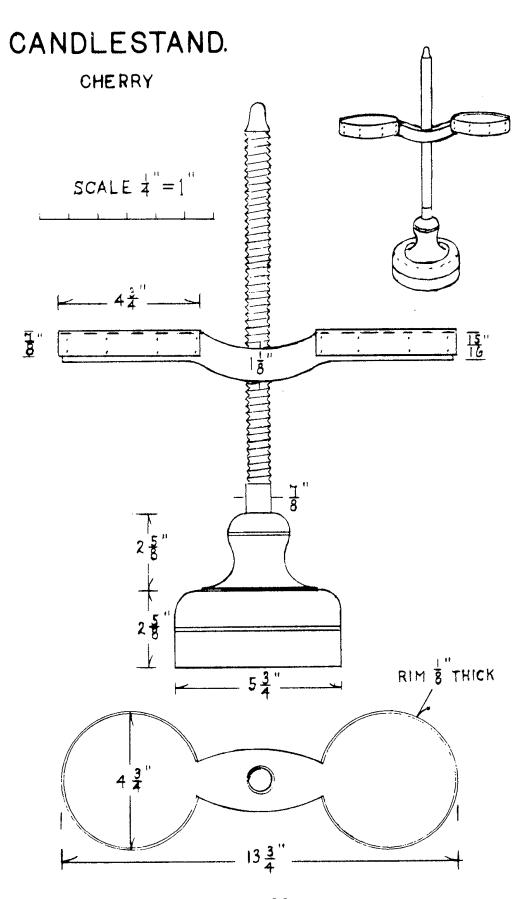




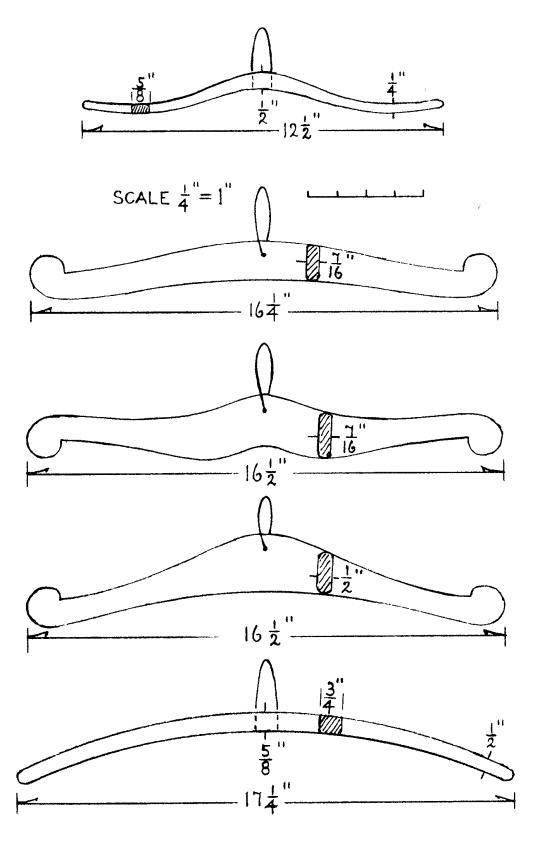








COAT HANGERS.



INDEX

Asterisks after plate numbers refer to drawings made from pieces in the collection of Dr. and Mrs. Edward D. Andrews.

Arm Chair, 40, 41	Pegs, Wall, 25
Bed, 4, 5	Pine Bench, 27*
Bench, Foot, 28	Pin Cushion, 74, 75
Pine, 27*	Rack, Towel, 18*, 19
Small, 26*	Revolving Stool, 31
Box, Berry, 76*	Rocking Chair, Early, 38*
Oval, 62-66	Sewing Box, 67
Oval, Sewing, 67	Clamp-on Cushion, 74
Candle Sconce, 78*, 79*	Desk, 6, 7
Candlestand, 17*, 80*	Stand, 14*
Carrier, 68*, 69	Table, 10
Catalog, Chairs, 44, 45	Sconce, Candle, 78*, 79*
Quotations, 42, 43	Spittoon, Spit Box, 70
Chair, Arm, 40, 41	Spool Holder, 75
Bent-Wood, 33	Stand, Candle, 17*
Child's Bent-Wood, 32	Peg-Leg, 16*
Child's, 34, 35	Sewing, 14*
Dining, Two-Slat, 36, 37	Work, 15*
Early Rocking, 38*	Stool, New Lebanon, 30*
Finials, 60, 61	Foot, 29
Mt. Lebanon, 39, 46-59	Revolving, 31
Coat Hangers, 81	Table, Desk, 22, 23
Cupboard, 2*, 3*	Drop-Leaf, 12, 13
Desk, Table, 22, 23	Sewing, 10
Sewing, 6, 7	Trestle, 8*, 9*
Dipper, 76, 77	Work, 11*
Finials, 60, 61	Towel Rack, 18*, 19
Foot Stool, 29	Tray, 71*
Bench, 28	Dining Room, 72*, 73*
Knobs, Drawer, Door, 24	Wall-Pegs, 25
Mirror, 20, 21	Workstand, 15*
Oval Boxes, 62-66	Table, 11*
Sewing Box, 67	-

Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware

Volume 2

Measured Drawings

by Ejner Handberg

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This second book of Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware includes pieces which have been in my shop, as well as several other interesting pieces from collections mentioned below.

Special thanks are due to Mrs. Edward Deming Andrews for permission to make measured drawings of several more pieces from the Andrews collection and for the help and information given me.

I am also very grateful for cooperation and for similar help and permission at Hancock Shaker Village, Hancock, Massachusetts and the Shaker Museum, Old Chatham, New York.

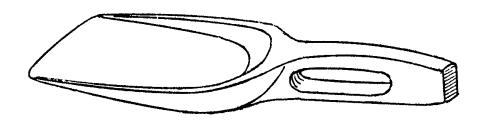
Although the Shaker cabinetmakers were obliged to make their furniture and woodenware with utility in mind, their work is eagerly sought today by museums and private collectors for its simplicity and beauty. I wish to thank several of these collectors for allowing me to examine and make drawings of Shaker pieces in their possession.

E.H.

1975

CONTENTS

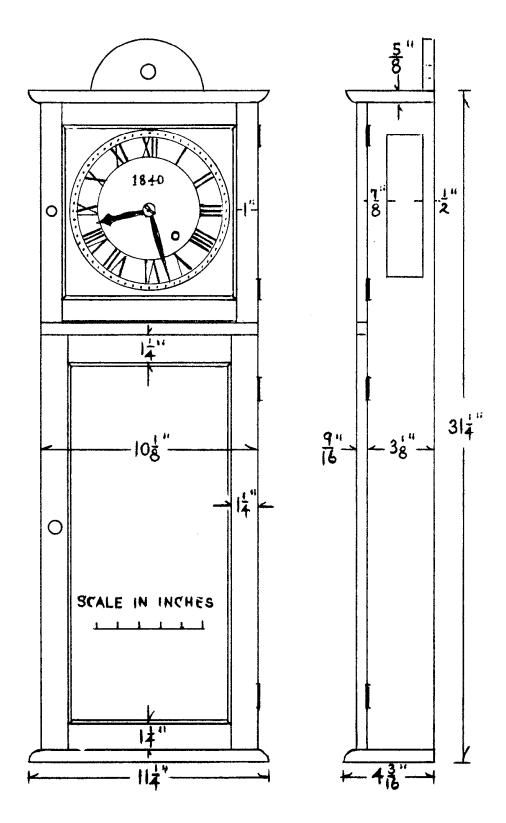
Wall Clock	2
Desks	4
Sewing Desks	8
Sewing Table	12
Tables	14
Stands	24
Washstands	30
Blanket Chest	34
Wood Box	36
Utility Chest	38
Benches	40
Loom Stool	43
Step Stool	44
Revolving Stool	46
Stools	48
Chairs	50
Drawer Pulls	60
Bed Casters	61
Hanging Shelf	62
Wall Cupboard	63
Boxes	64
Model Blanket Chest	66
Tray	67
Scoop	68
Mortar and Pestle	69
Sewing Accessories	70
Shaker Stove	74
Dividers	76

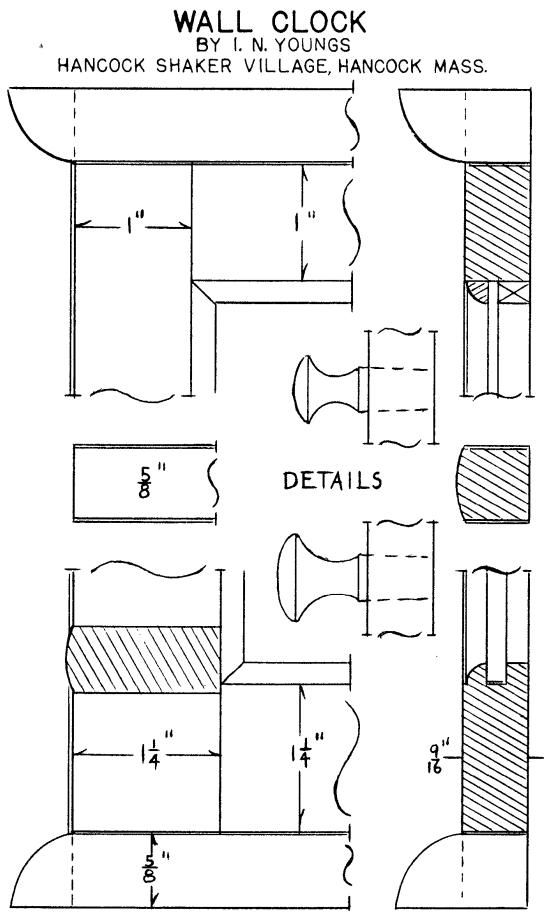


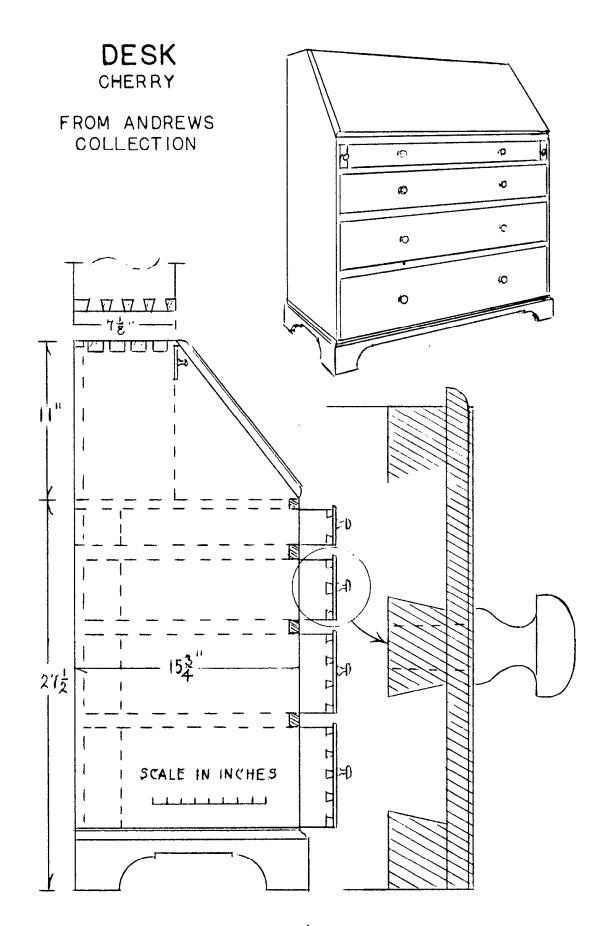
"BEAUTY RESTS ON UTILITY"

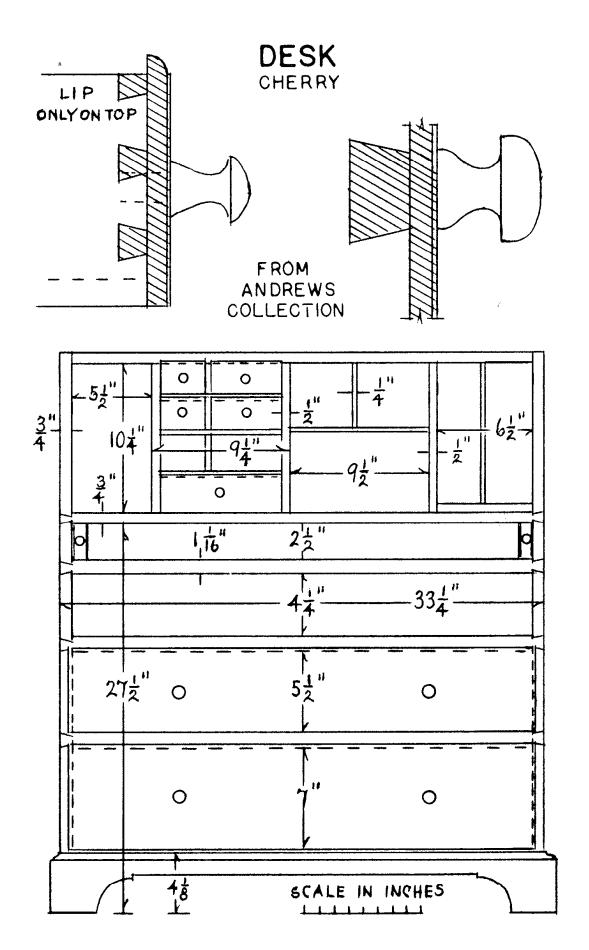
WALL CLOCK BY I. N. YOUNGS

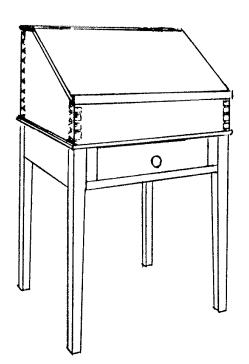
HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE, HANCOCK MASS.





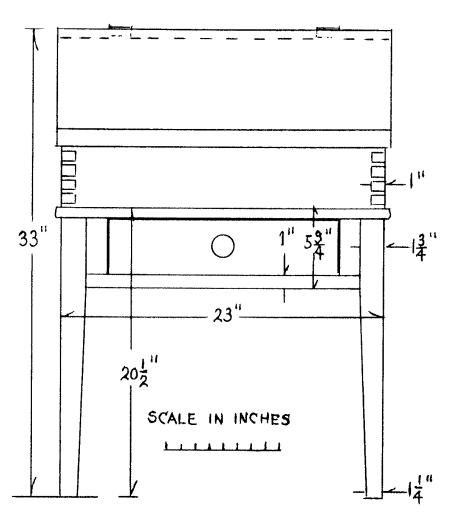


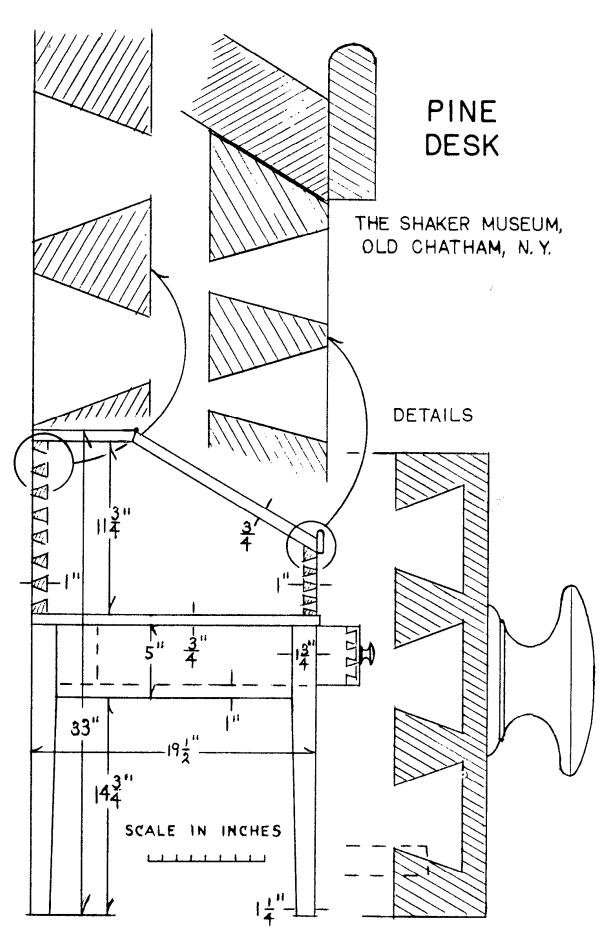


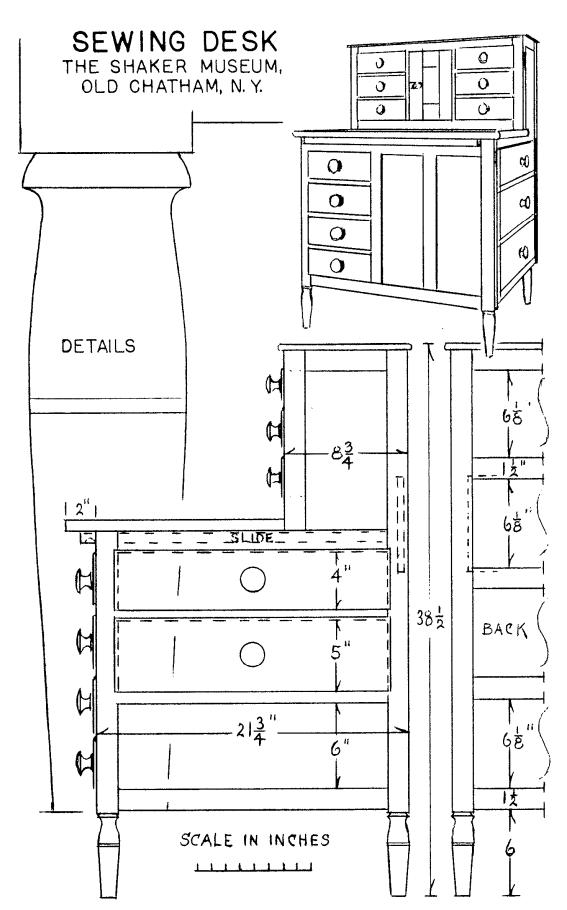


PINE DESK

THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.

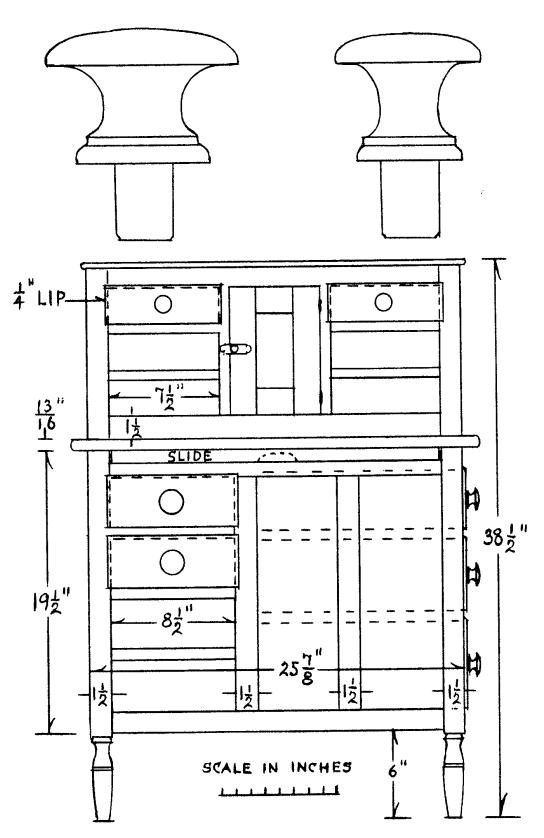


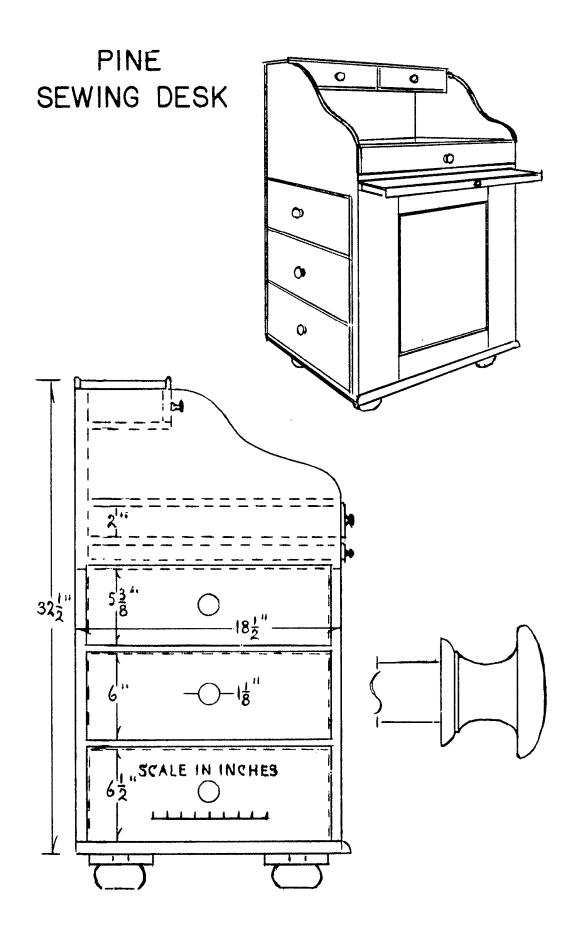




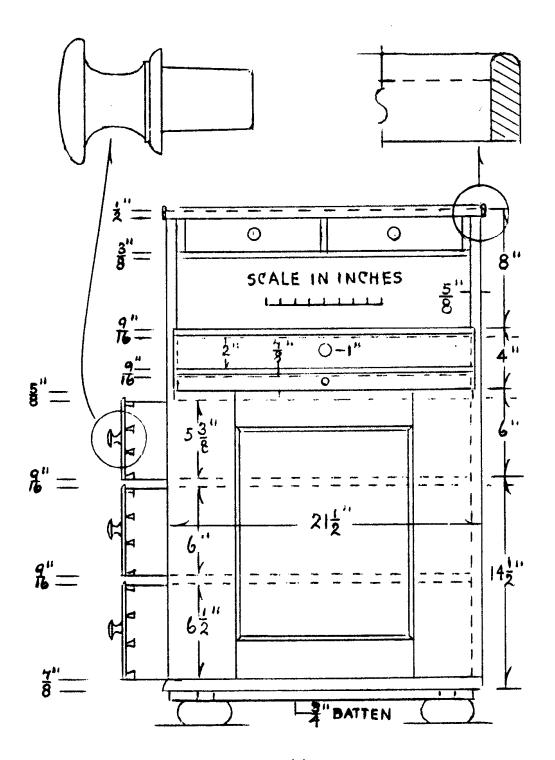
SEWING DESK

THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.



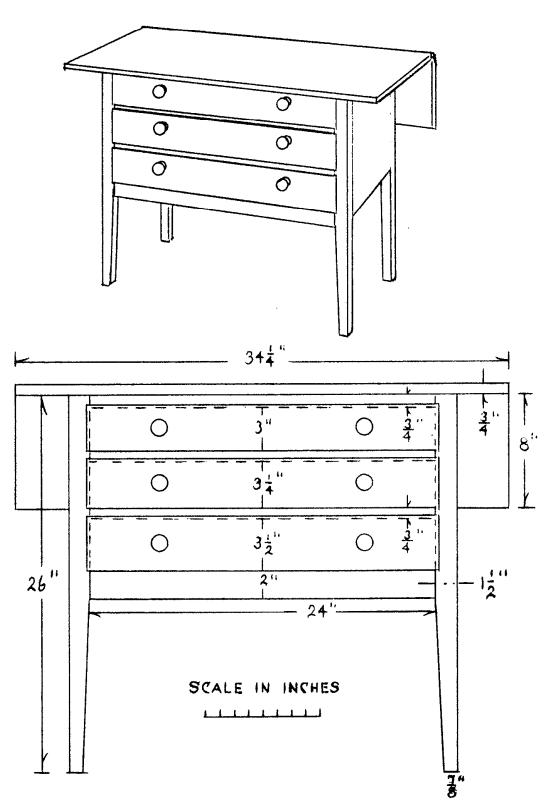


PINE SEWING DESK

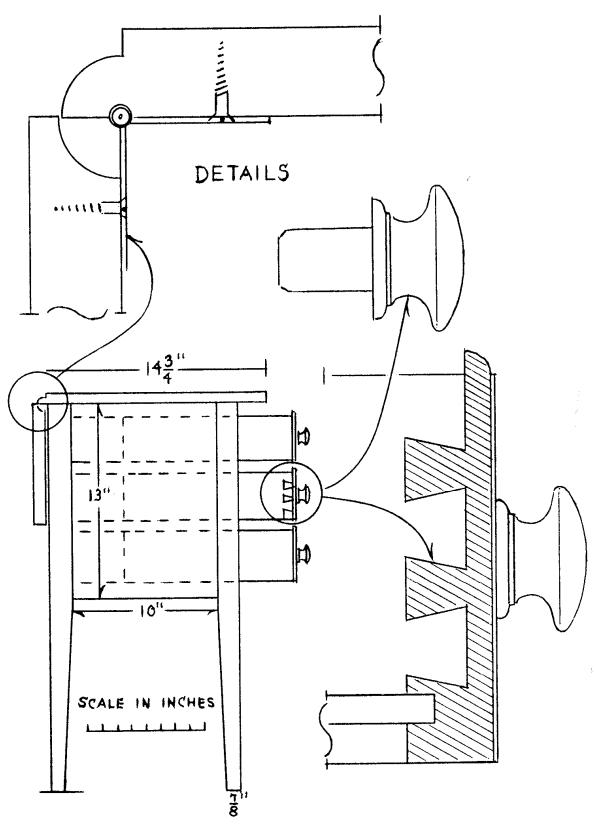


SEWING TABLE

THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y. CHERRY WITH PINE TOP

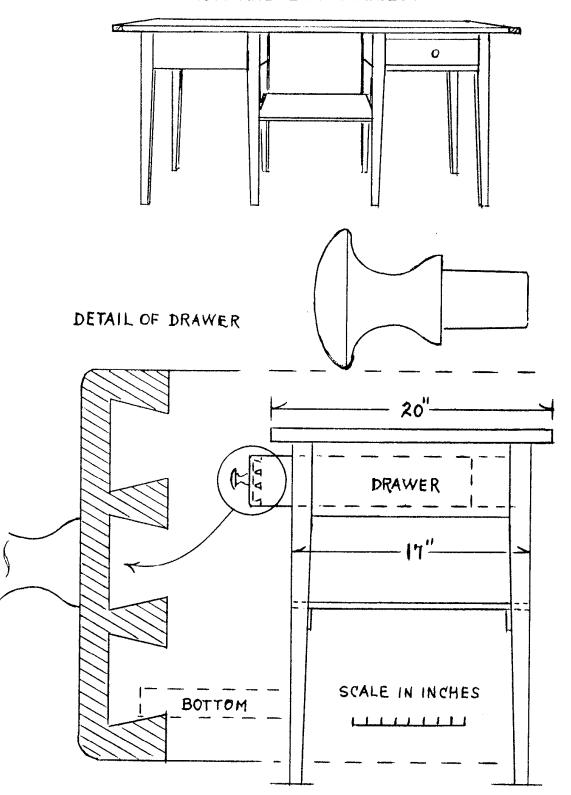


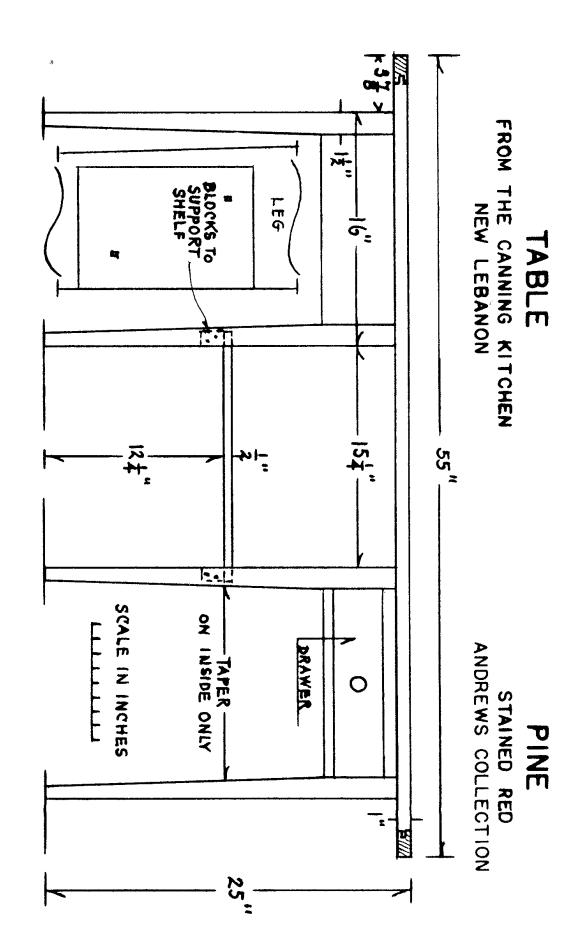
SEWING TABLE
THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N. Y.



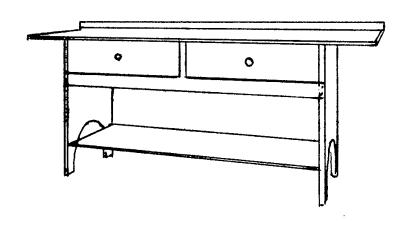
PINE TABLE

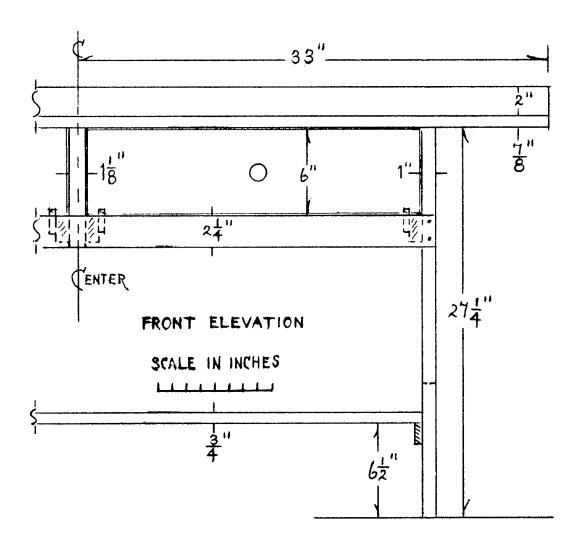
STAINED RED FROM ANDREWS COLLECTION



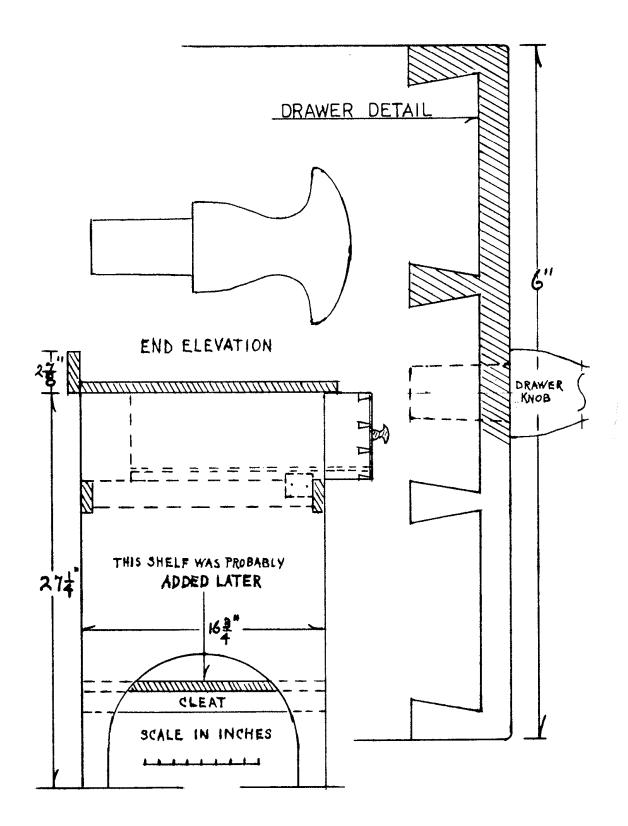


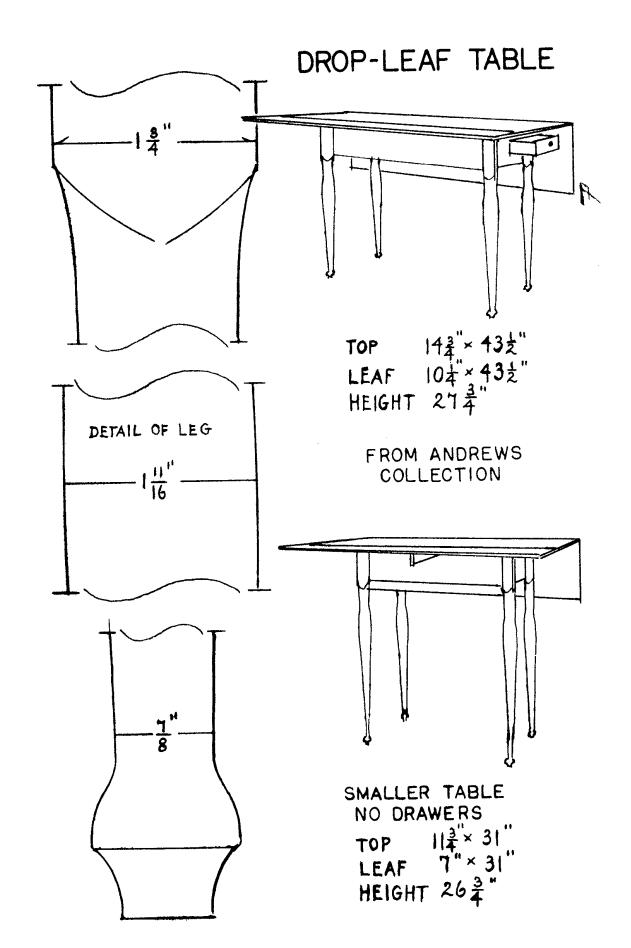
BAKE-ROOM TABLE

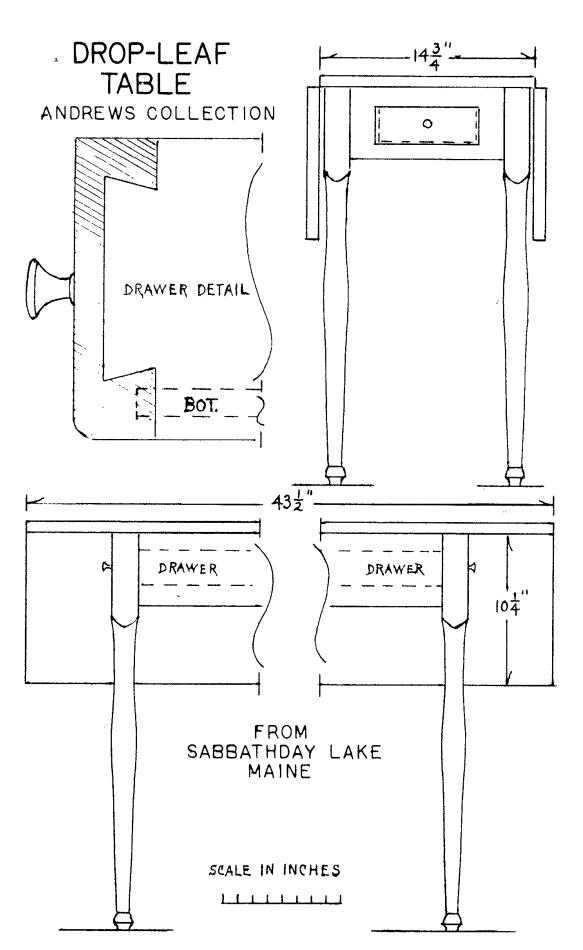




BAKE-ROOM TABLE

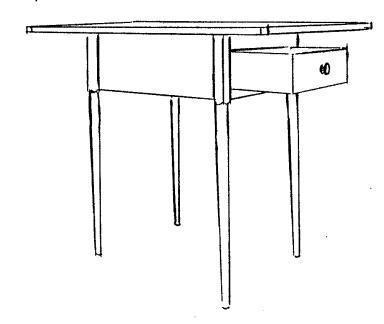




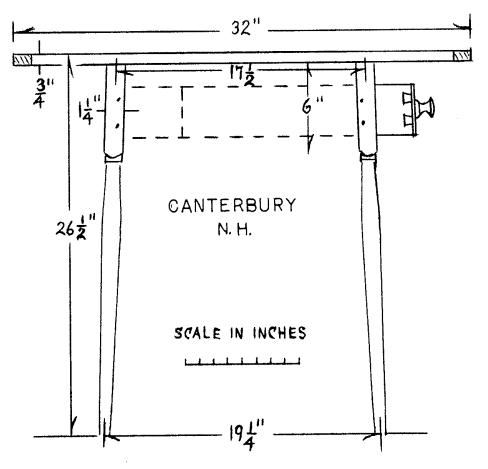


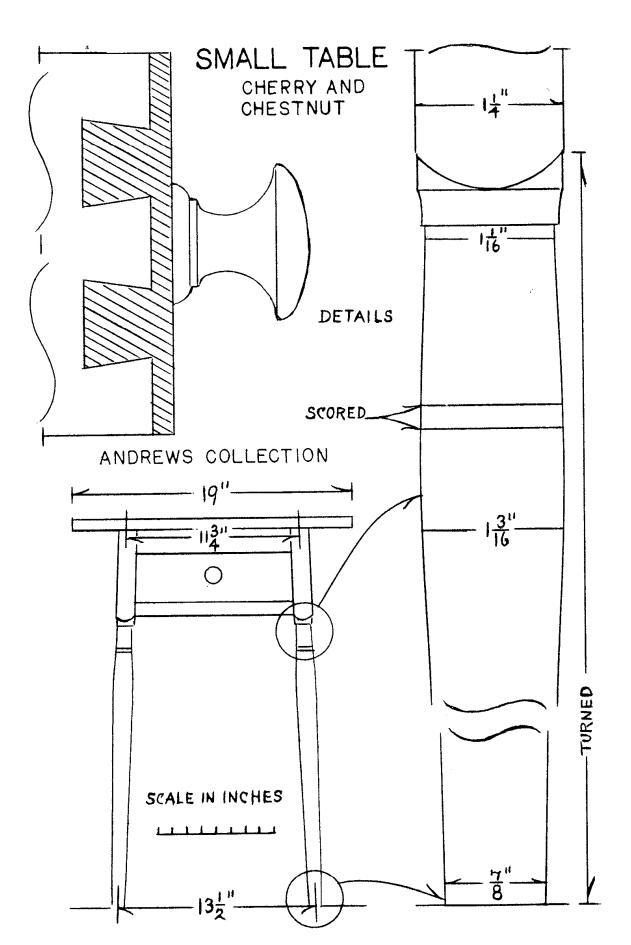
SMALL TABLE

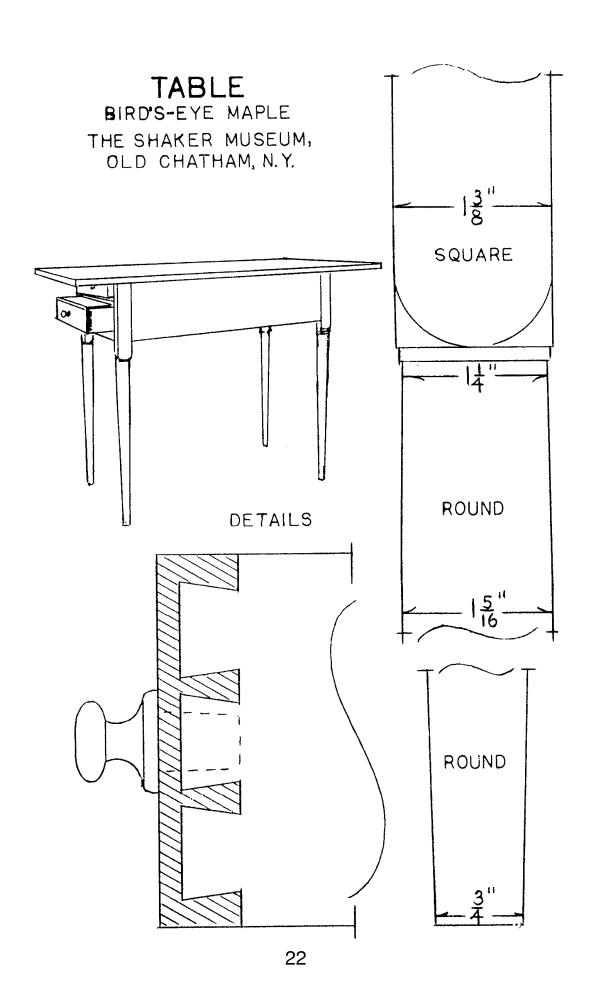
LEGS OF CHERRY TOP, FRAME AND DRAWER OF CHESTNUT

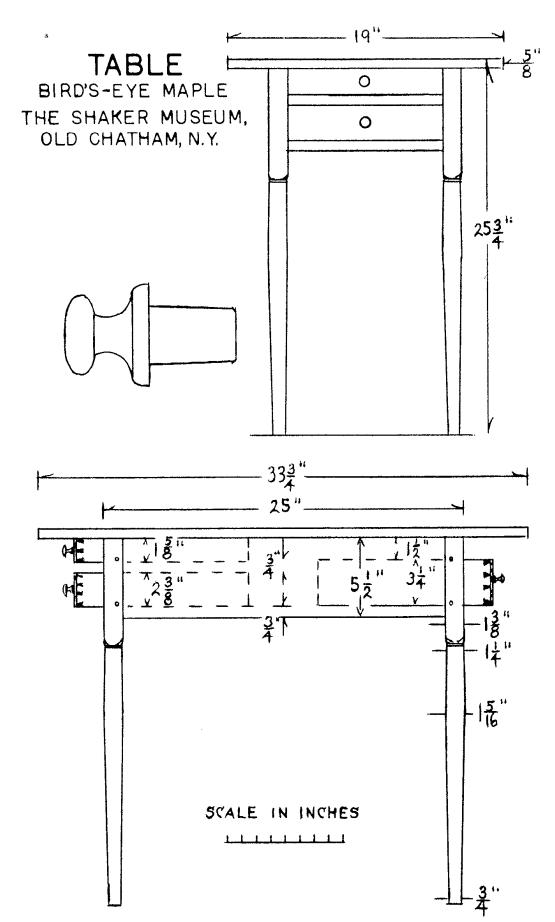


FROM ANDREWS COLLECTION

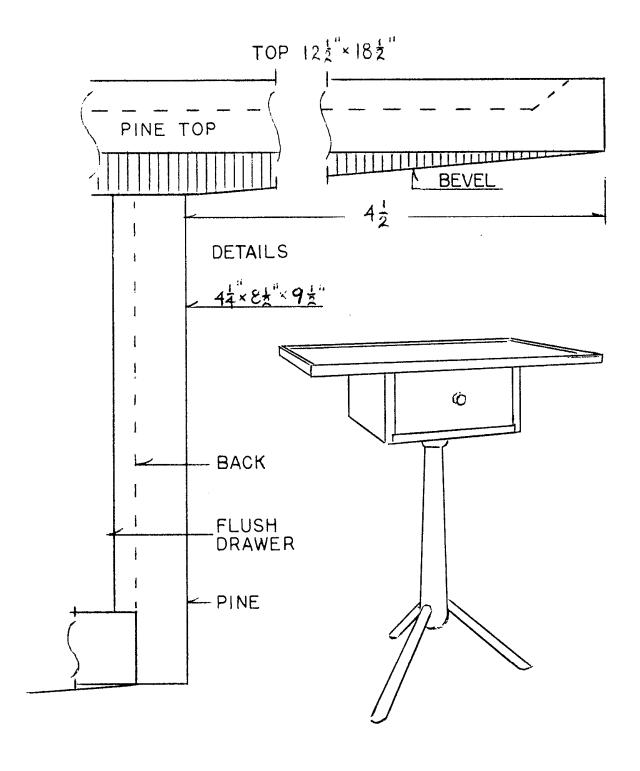




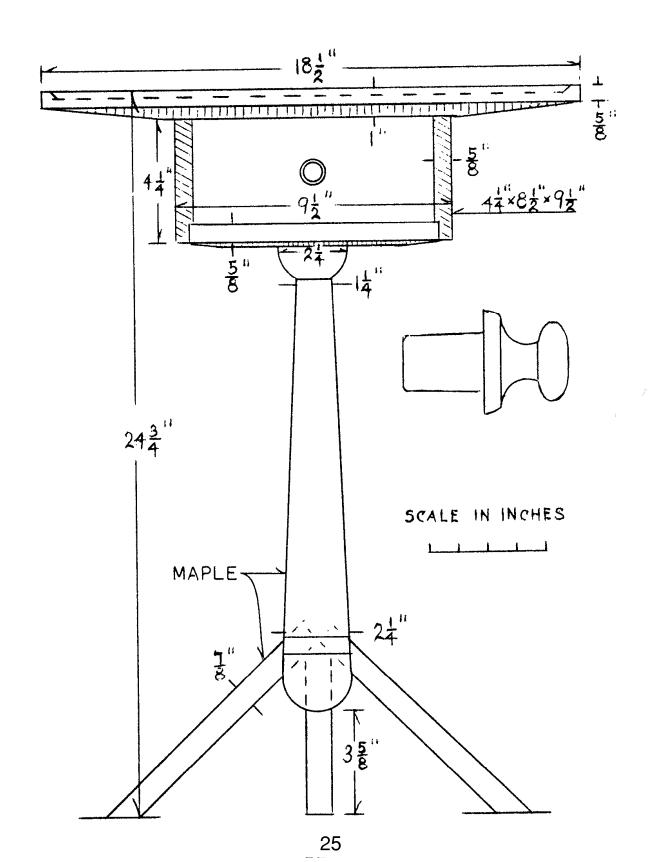


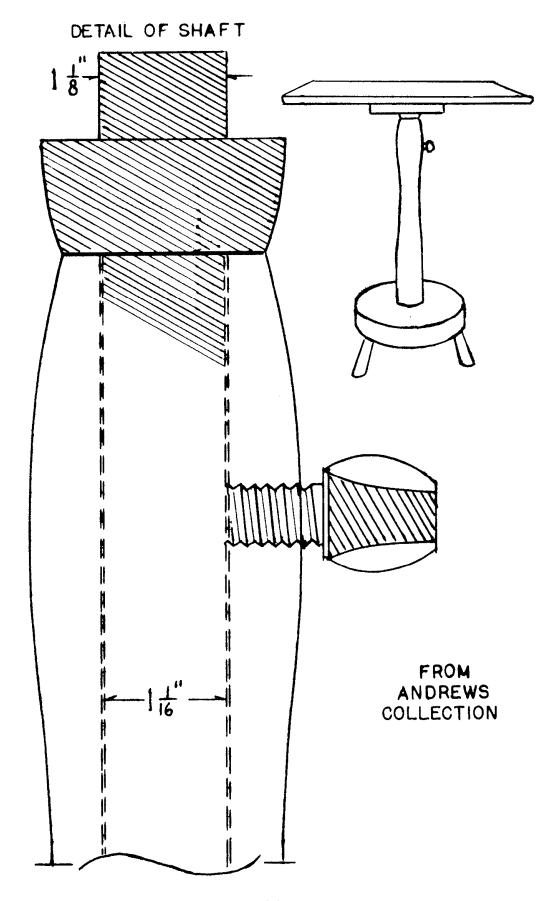


PEG-LEG STAND

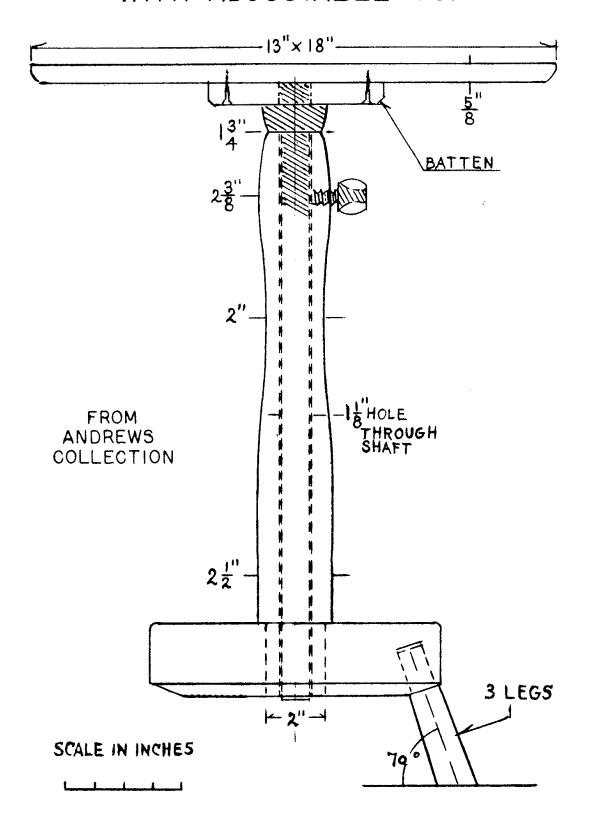


PEG-LEG STAND

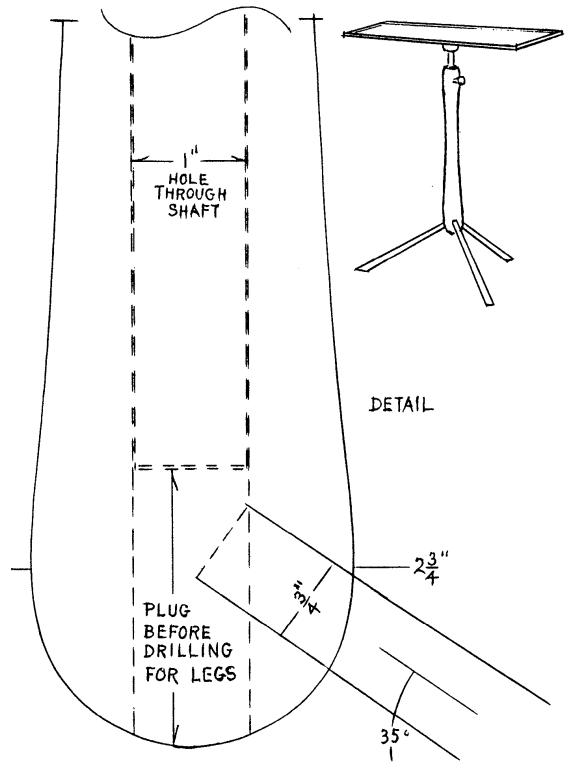




EARLY STAND WITH ADJUSTABLE TOP

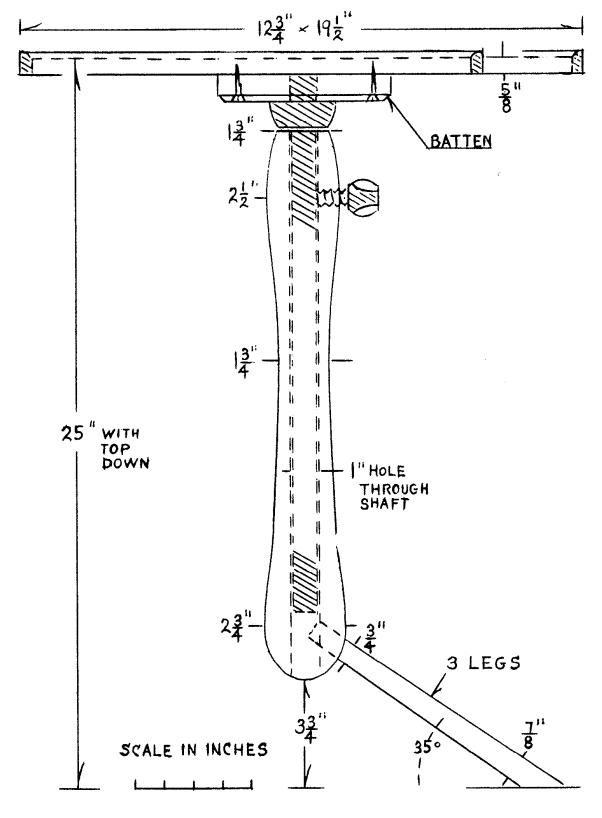


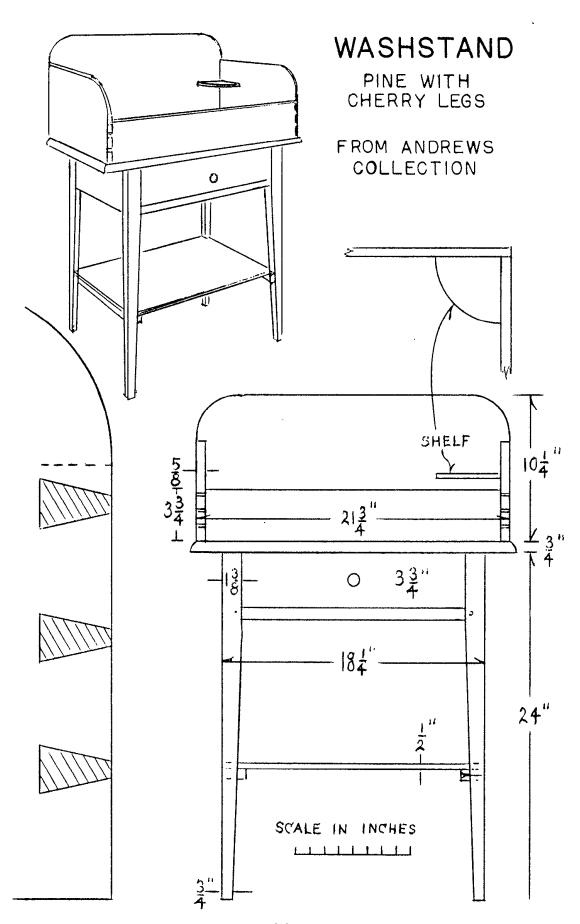
STAND WITH ADJUSTABLE TOP



STAND WITH ADJUSTABLE TOP

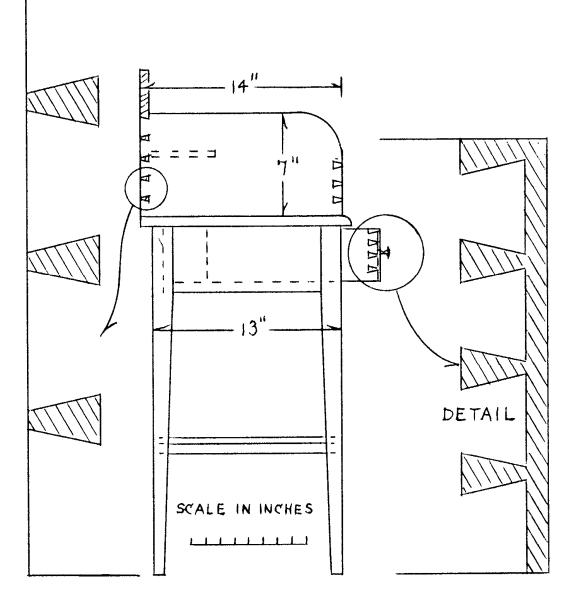
SHAFT AND LEGS OF MAPLE TOP OF PINE



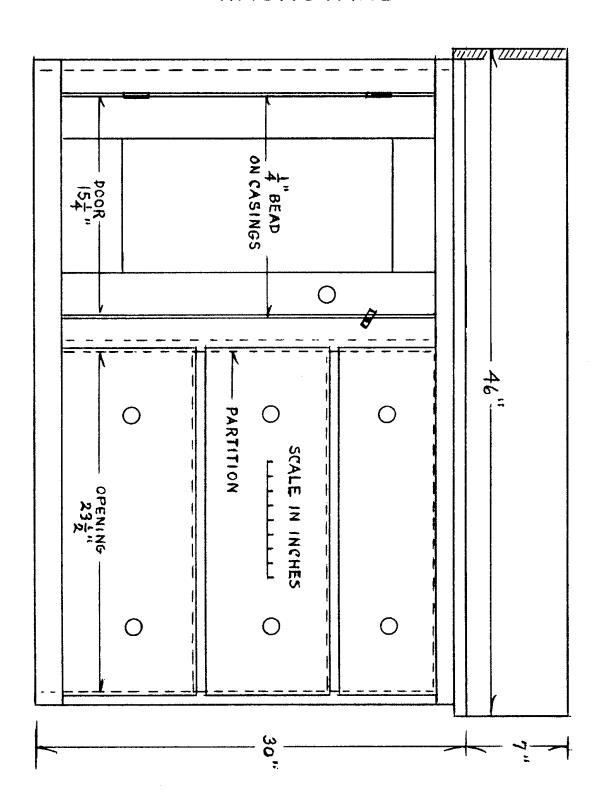




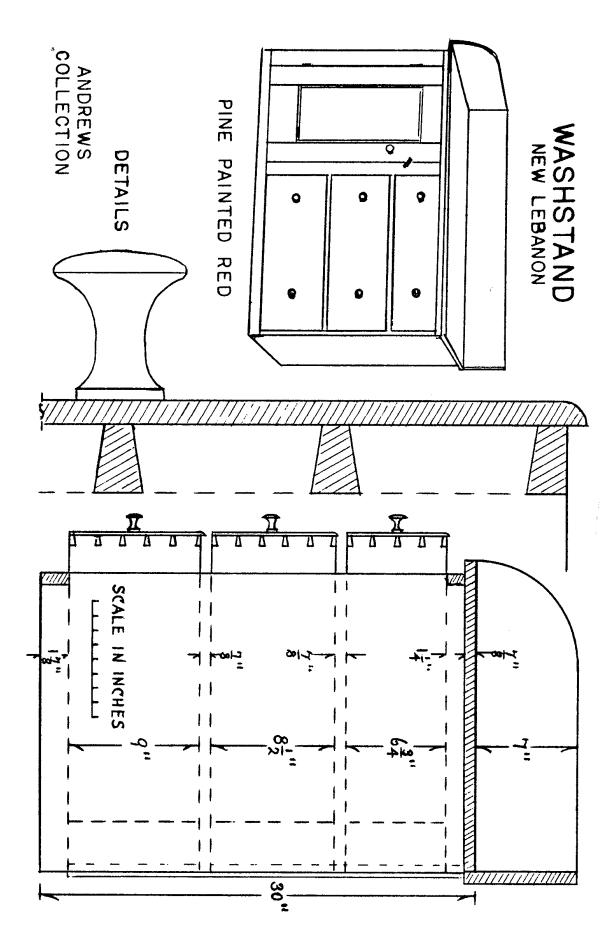
PINE WITH CHERRY LEGS

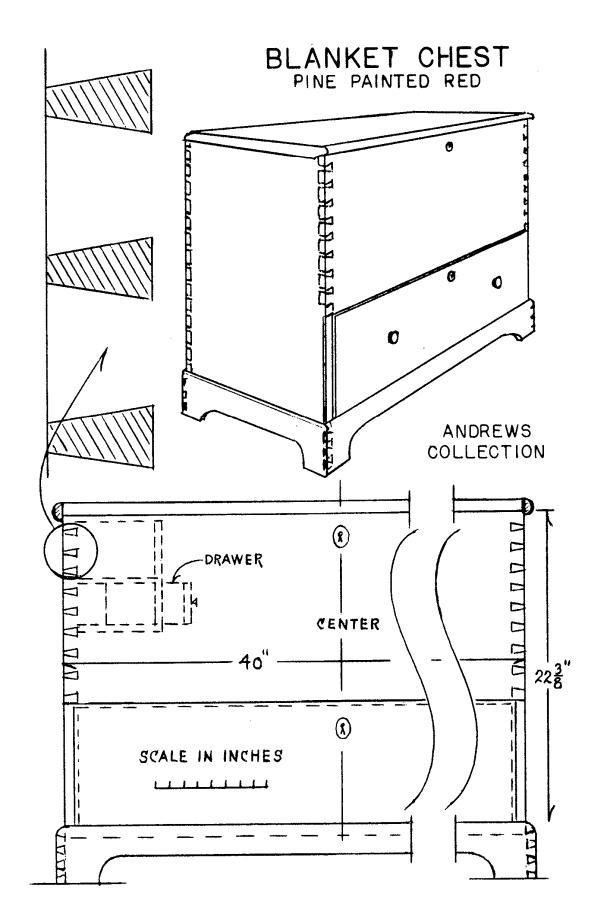


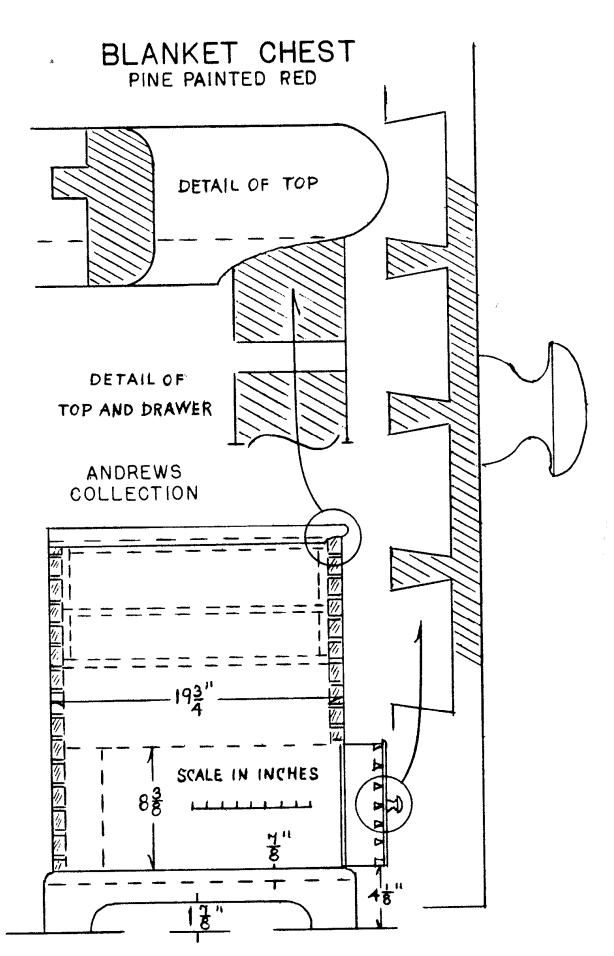
WASHSTAND

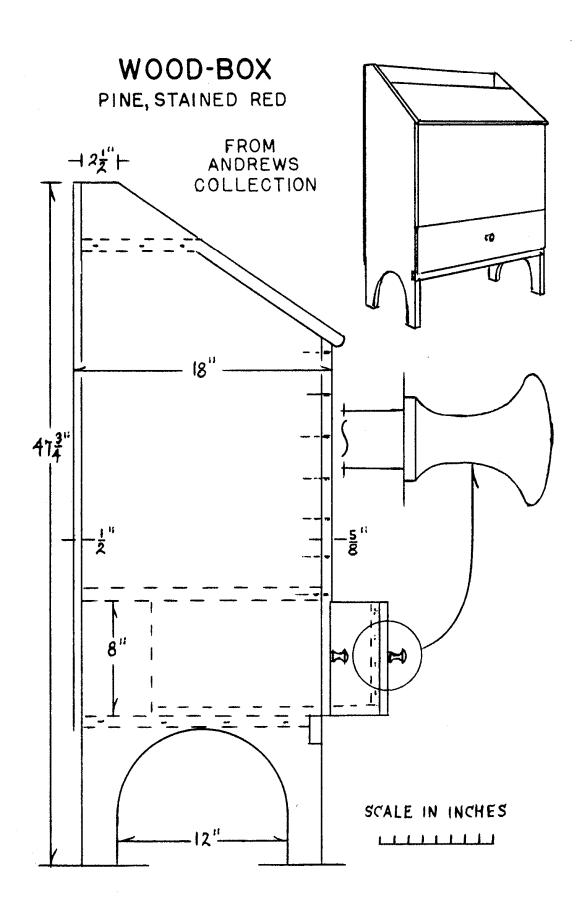


FROM ANDREWS COLLECTION

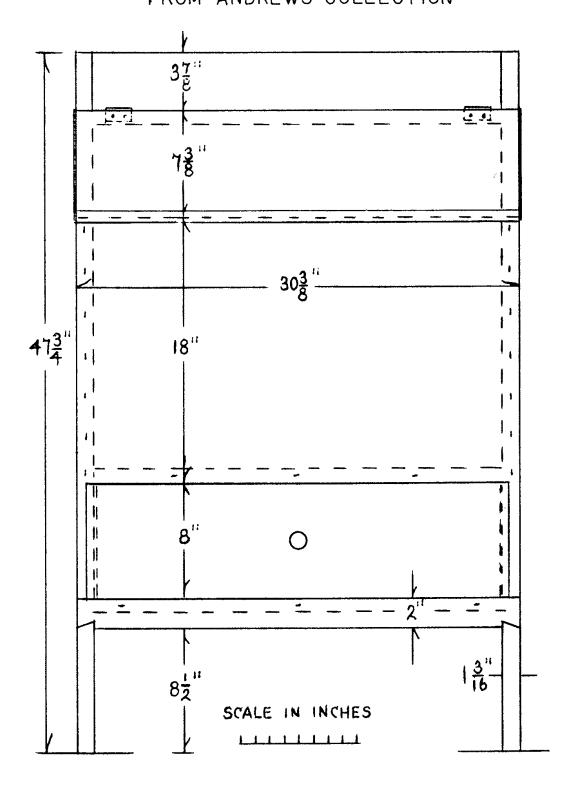




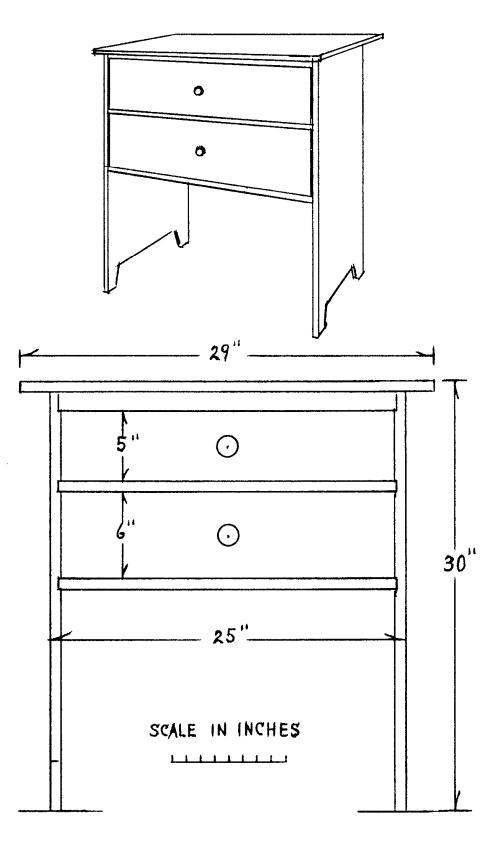




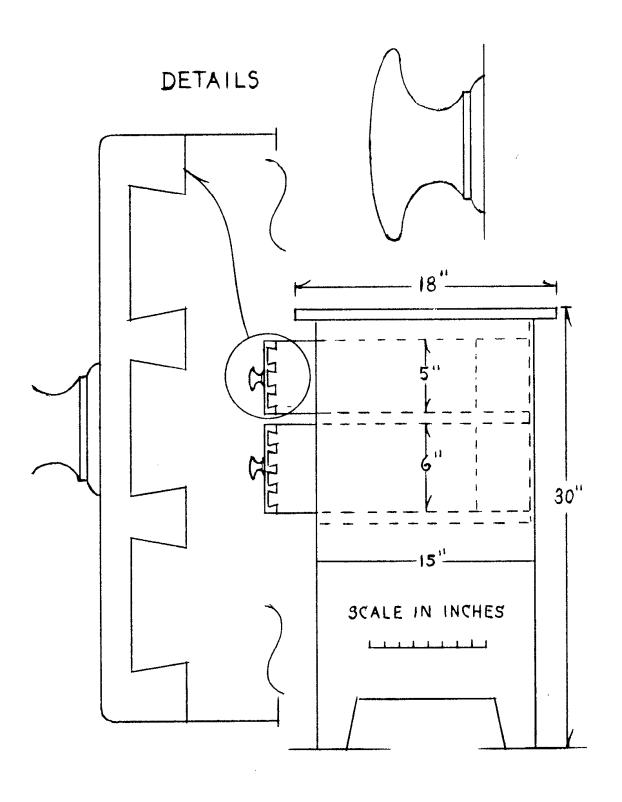
WOOD-BOX
MADE FOR THE MINISTRY CANTERBURY N.H.
FROM ANDREWS COLLECTION

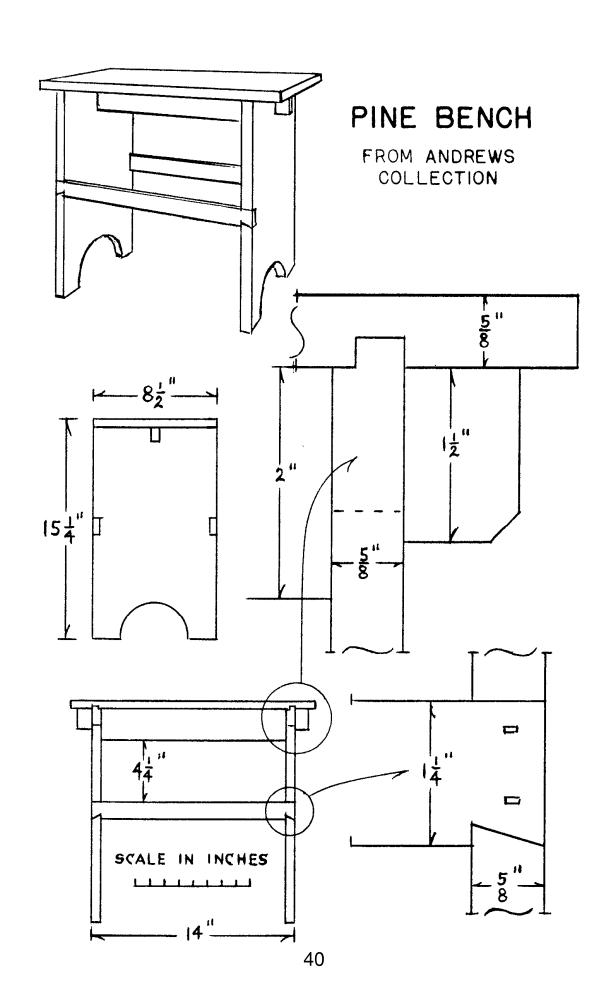


2 DRAWER UTILITY CHEST



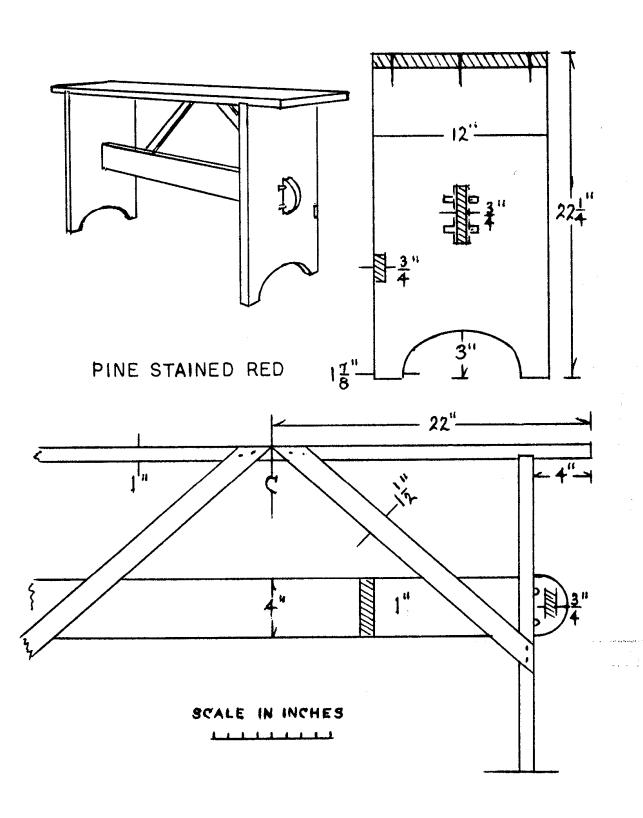
2 DRAWER UTILITY CHEST

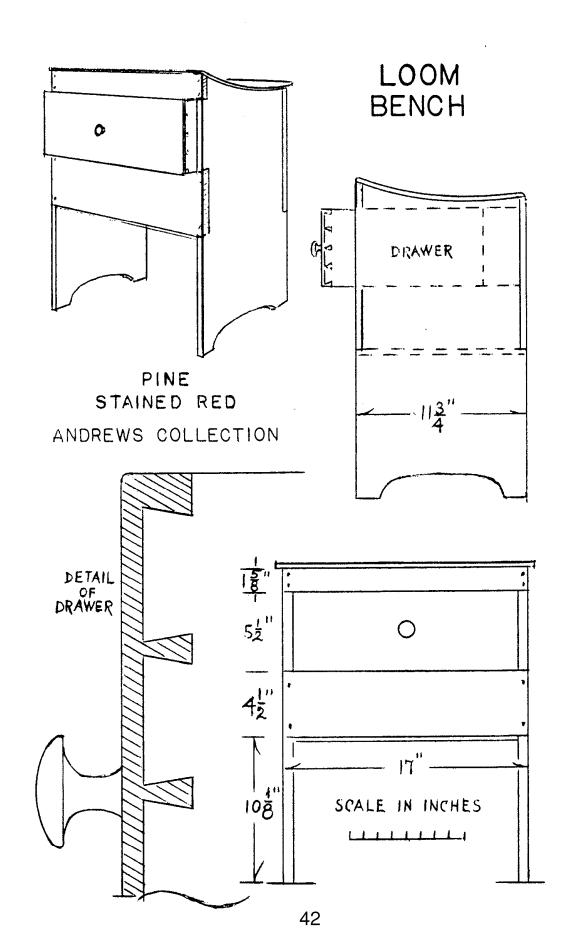




KITCHEN BENCH

HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE, HANCOCK MASS.

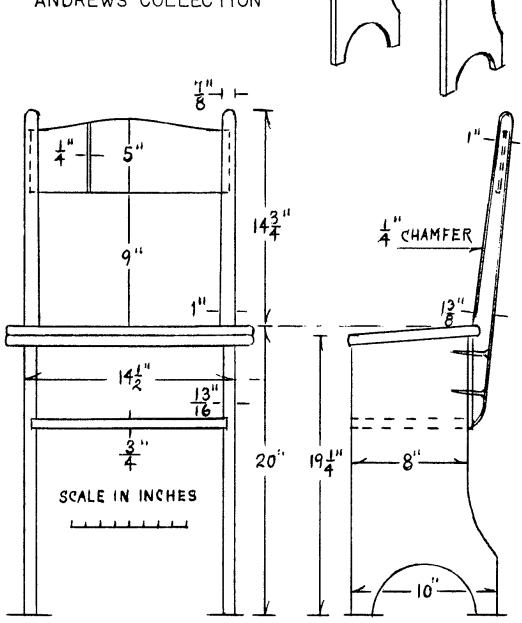




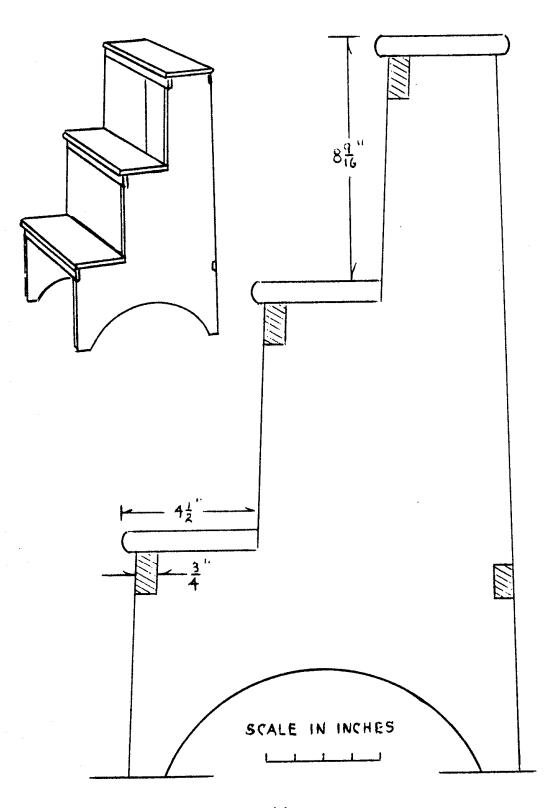
LOOM STOOL

STOOL OF PINE BACK OF BIRCH STAINED RED

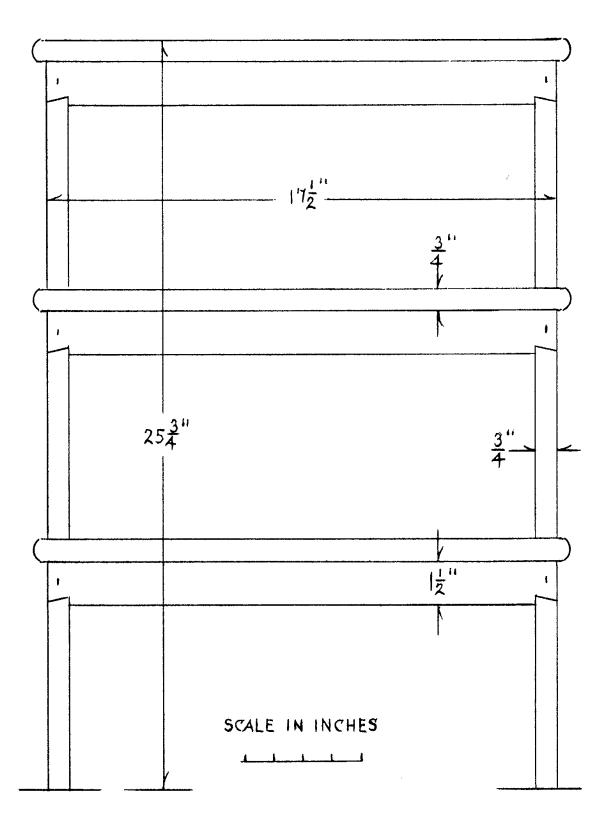
ANDREWS COLLECTION



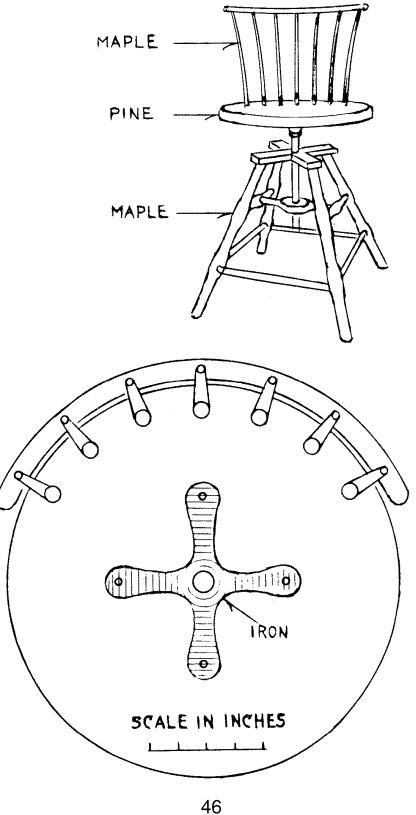
STEP-STOOL



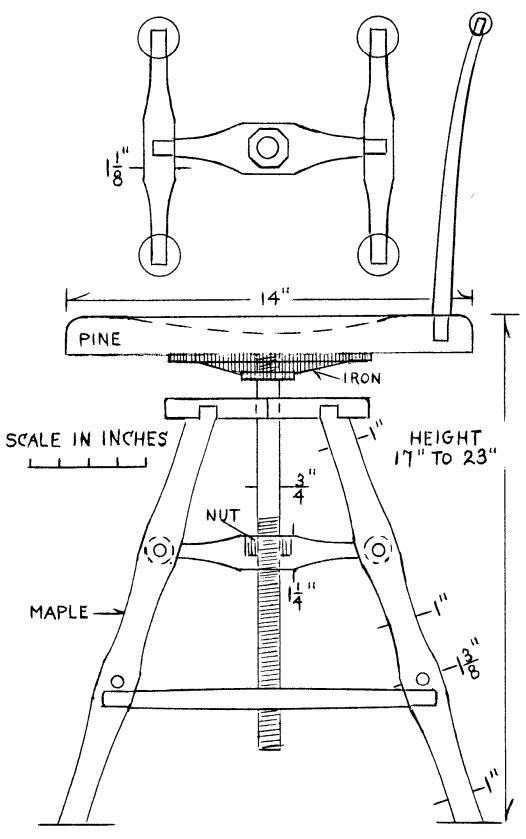
STEP-STOOL

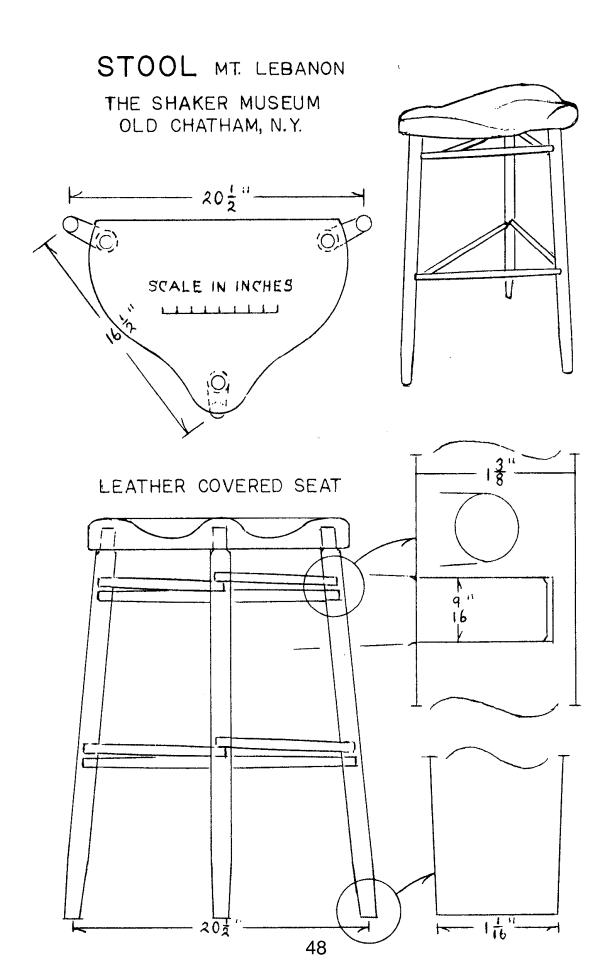


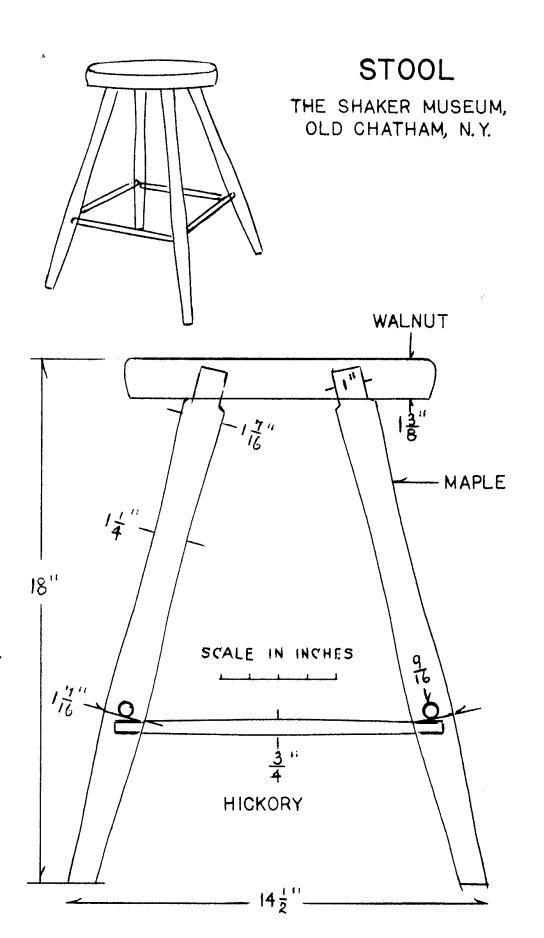
REVOLVING STOOL

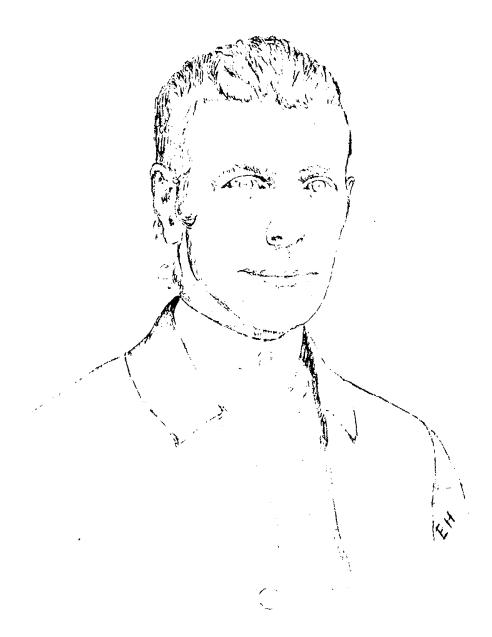


REVOLVING STOOL









ELDER ROBERT M. WAGAN CHAIRMAKER



Illustrated Catalogue

AND

PRICE LIST

٥F

Shakers' * Chairs,

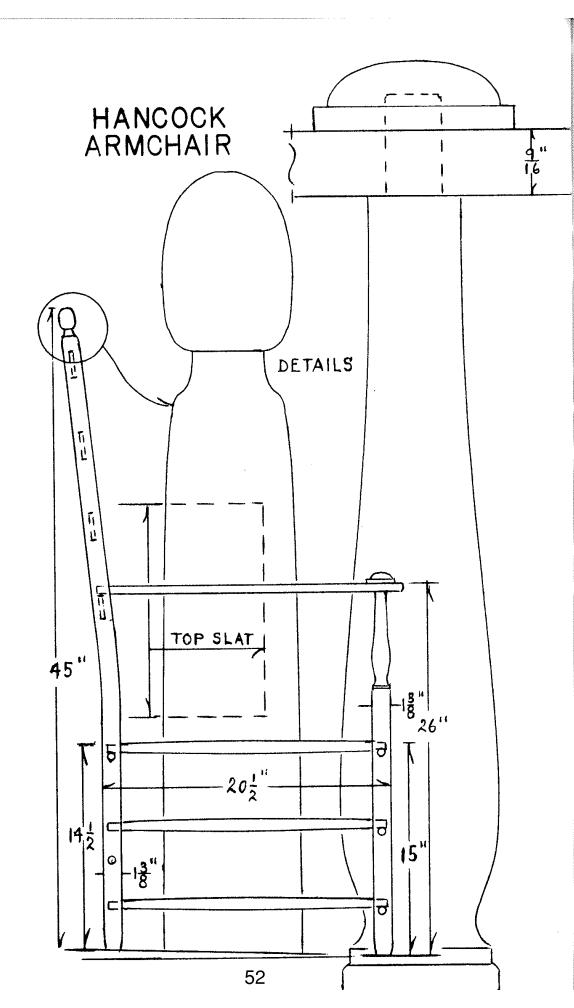
MANUFACTURED BY THE

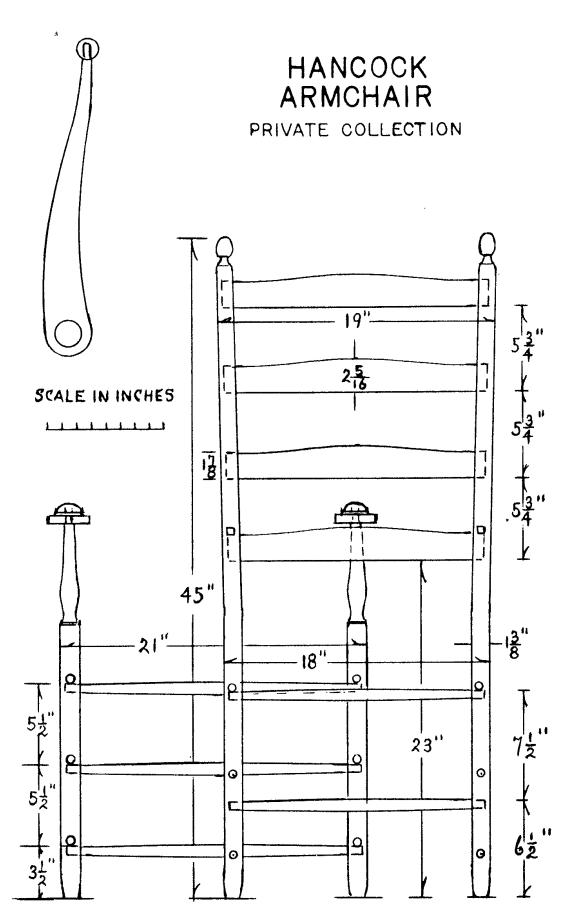
Society * of * Shakers.

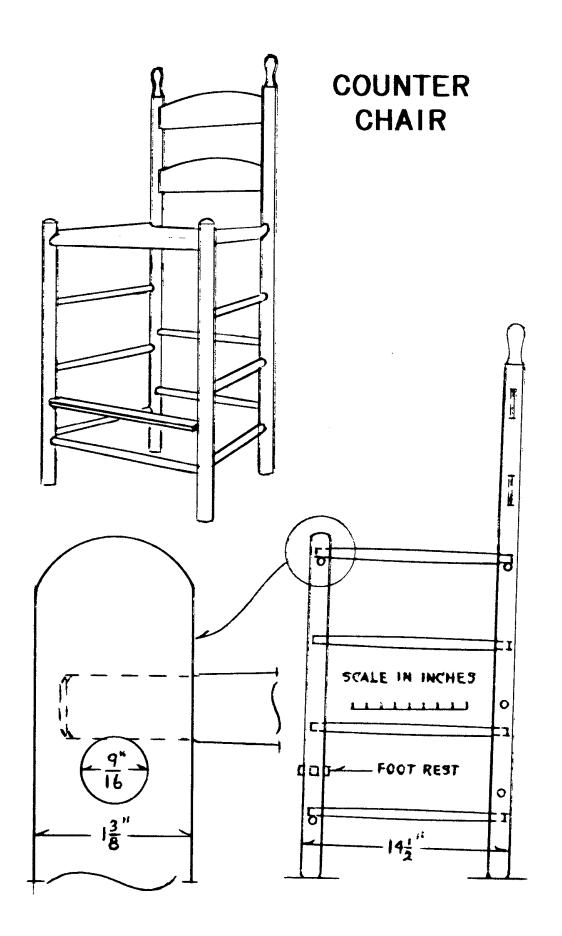
R. M. WAGAN & CO,

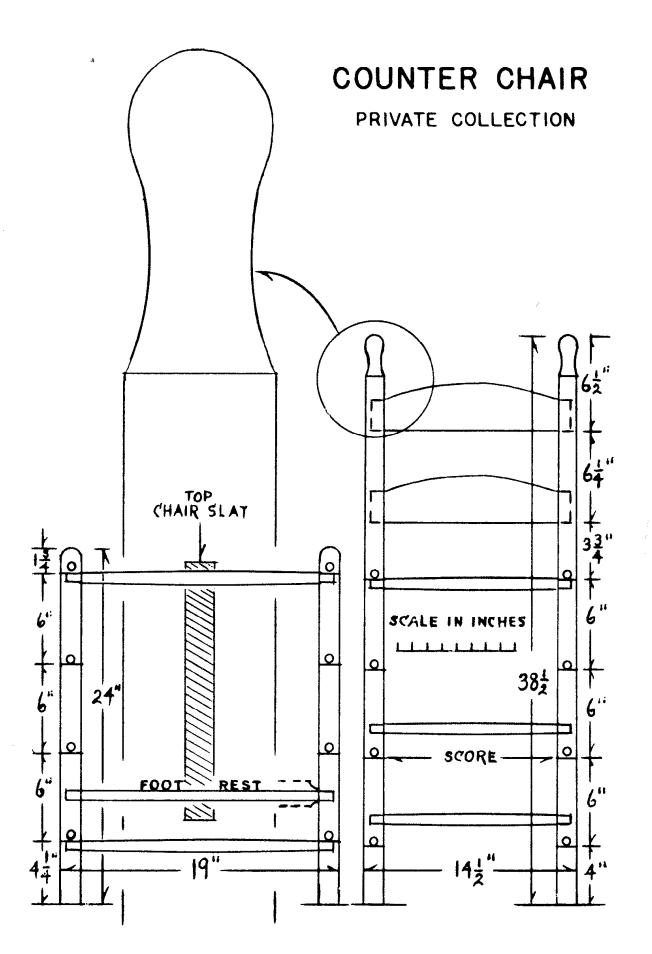
MOUNT LEBANON, N. Y.





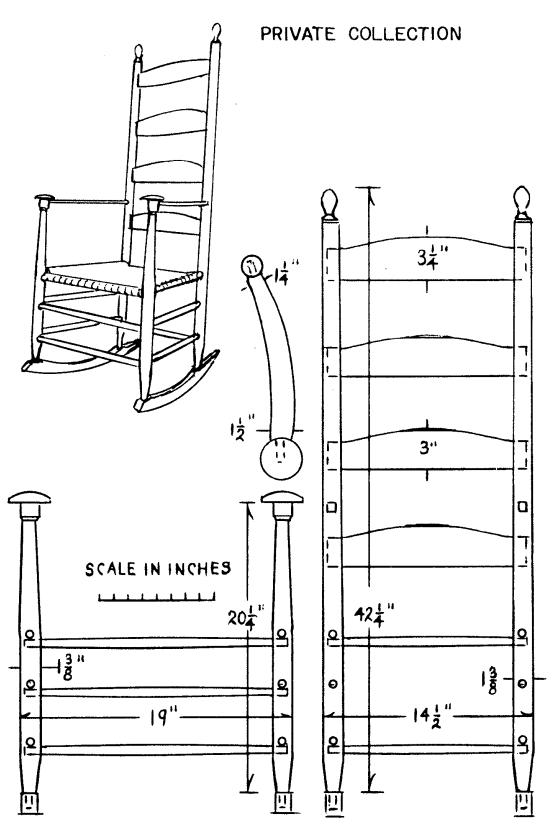


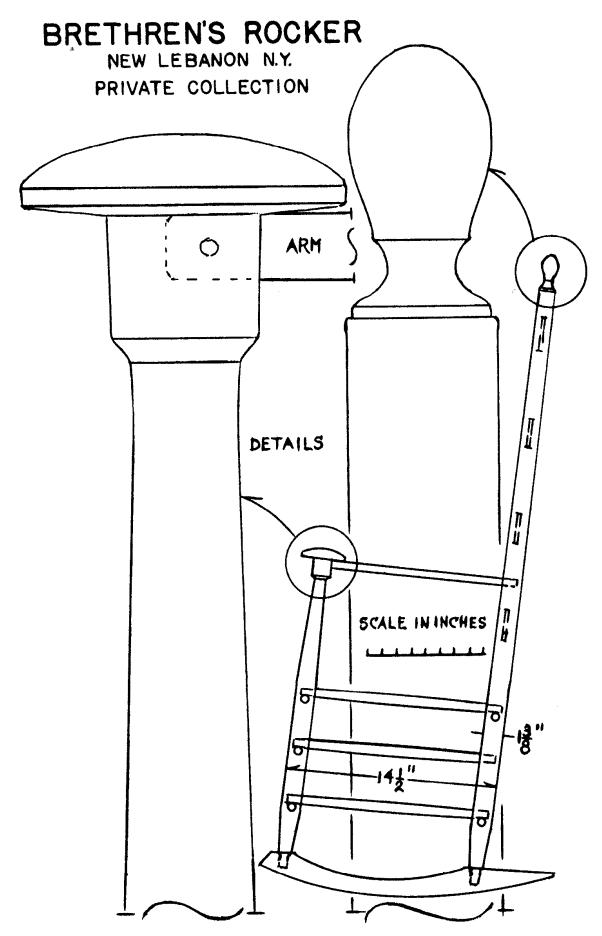




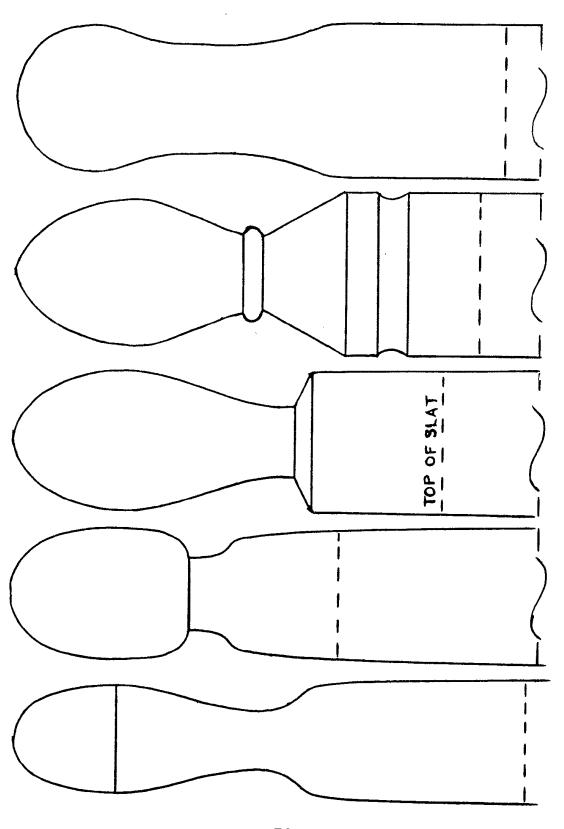
BRETHREN'S ROCKER

NEW LEBANON N.Y.

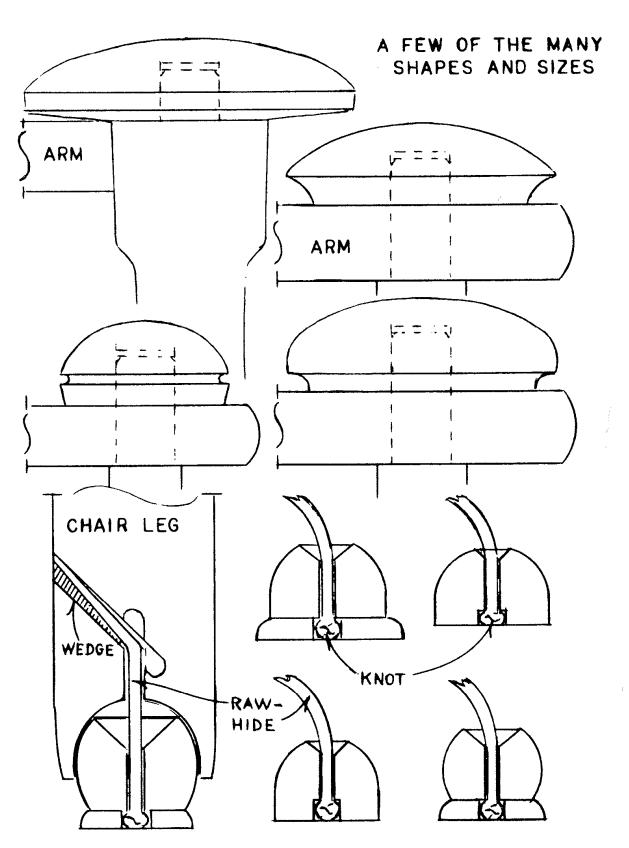




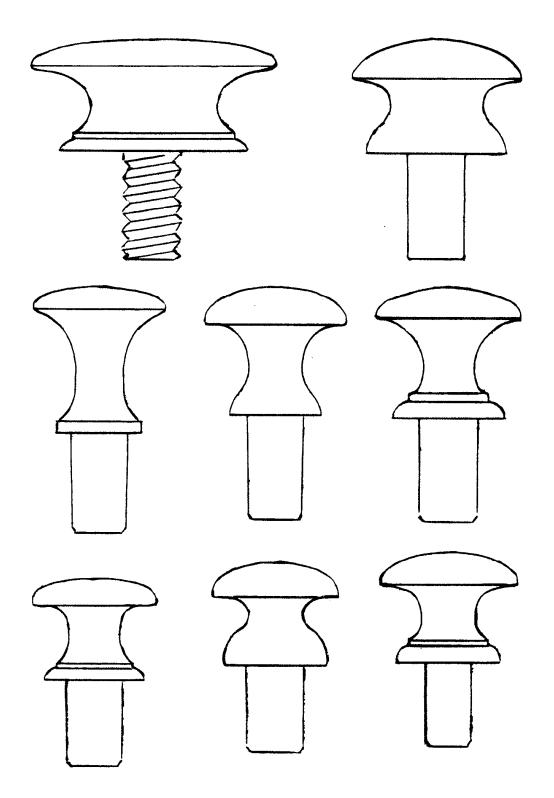
CHAIR FINIALS



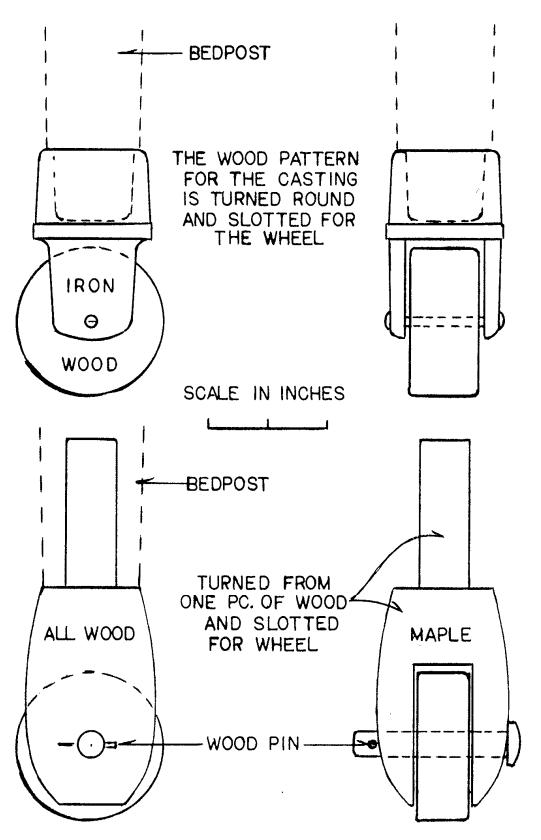
CHAIR MUSHROOMS AND TILTING BUTTONS



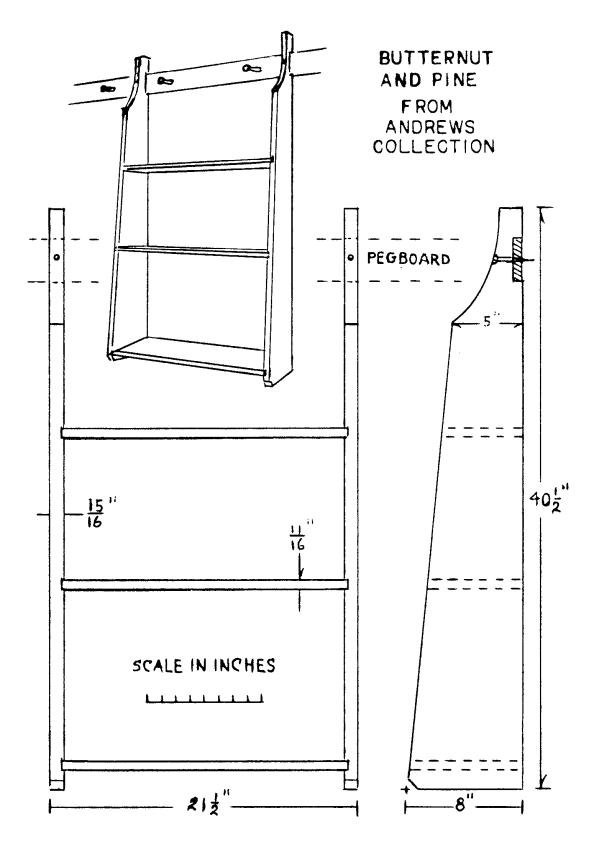
DRAWER PULLS



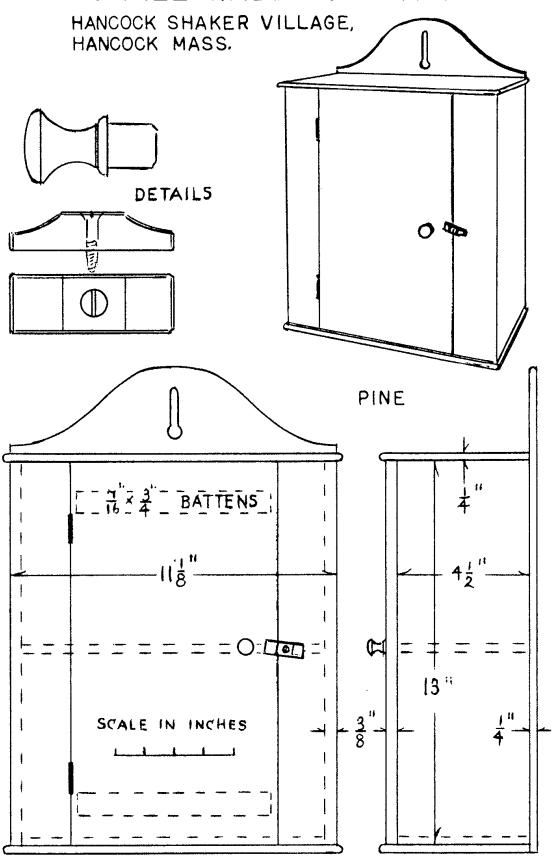
BED CASTERS

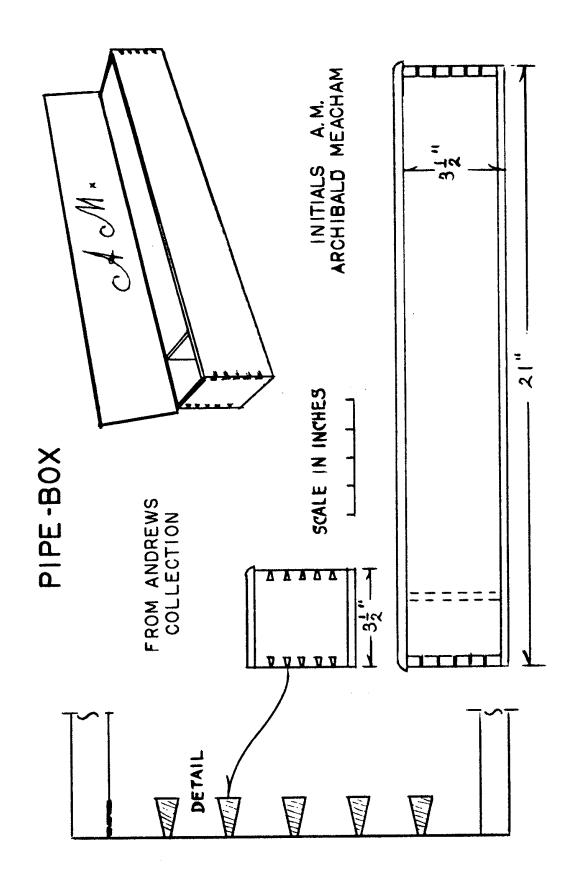


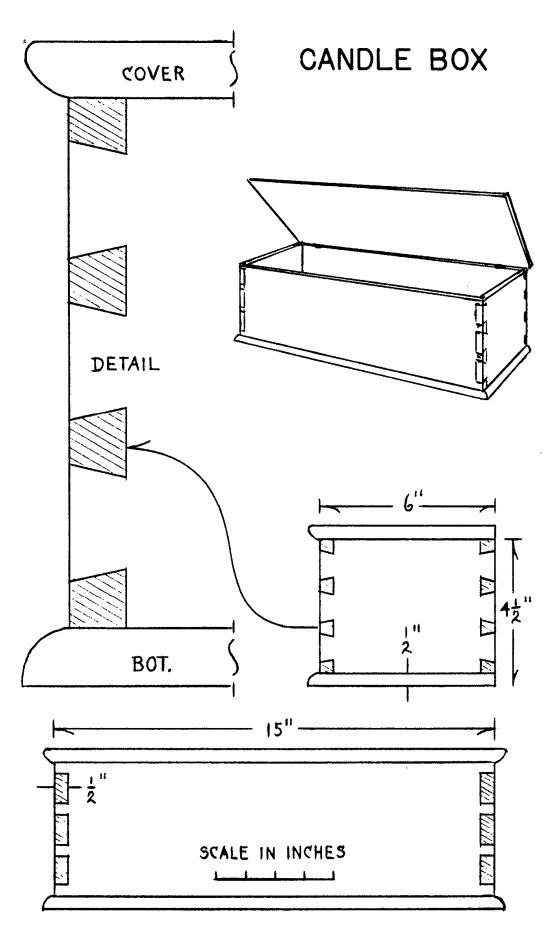
HANGING SHELF

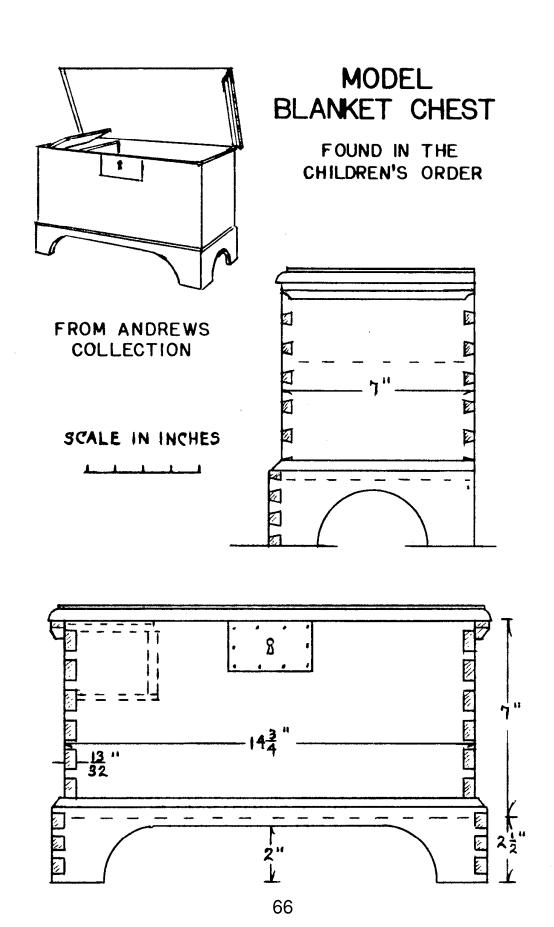


SMALL WALL CUPBOARD



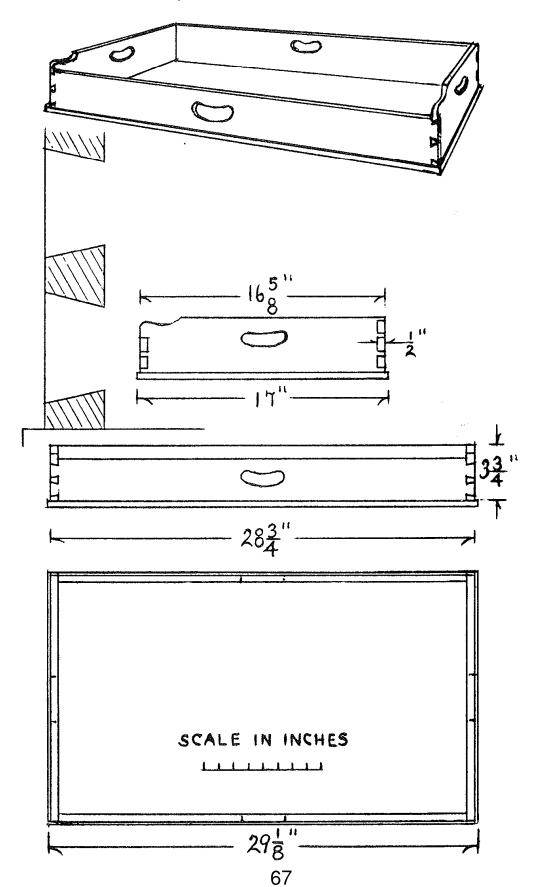




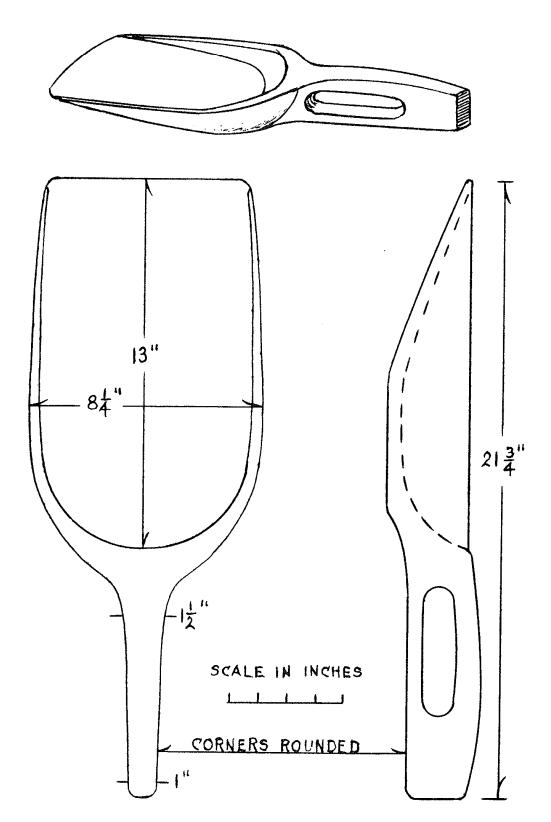


WALNUT TRAY

NEW LEBANON, N.Y. PRIVATE COLLECTION

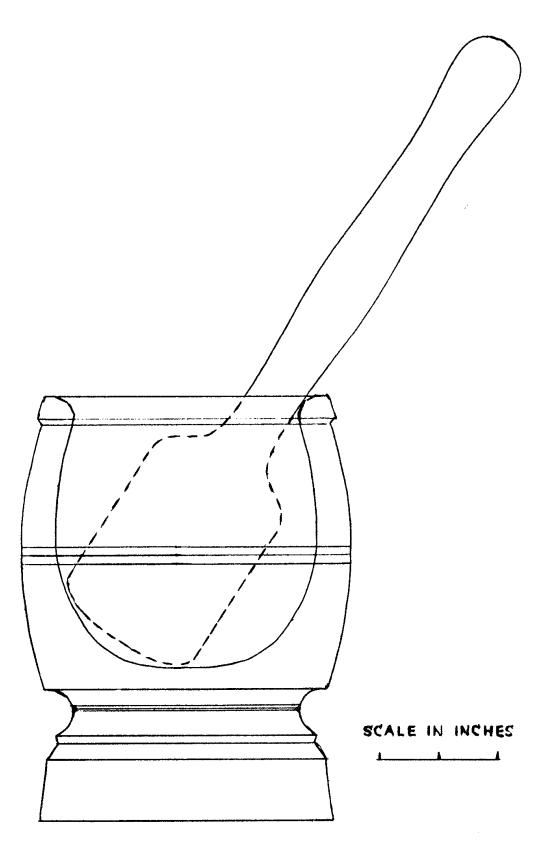


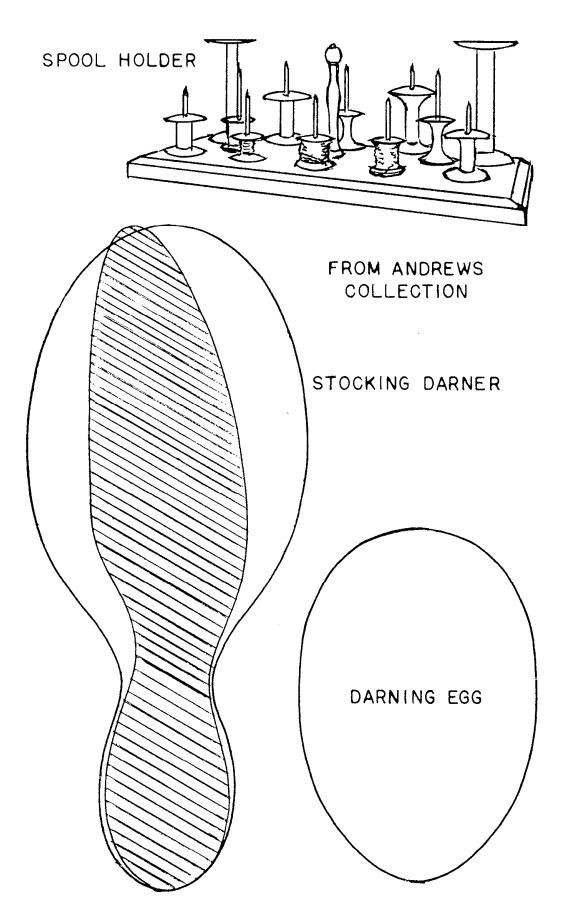
SCOOP PRIVATE COLLECTION

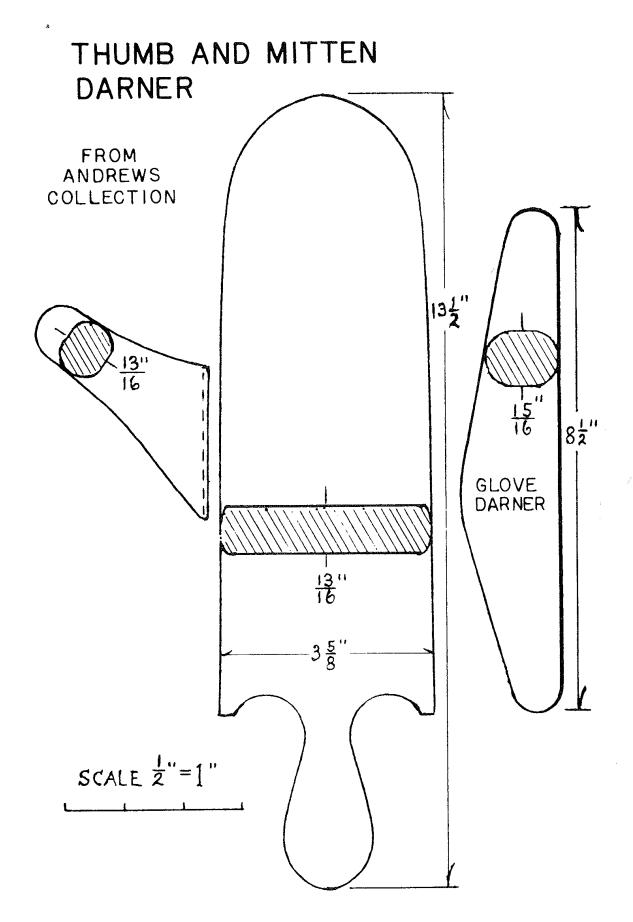


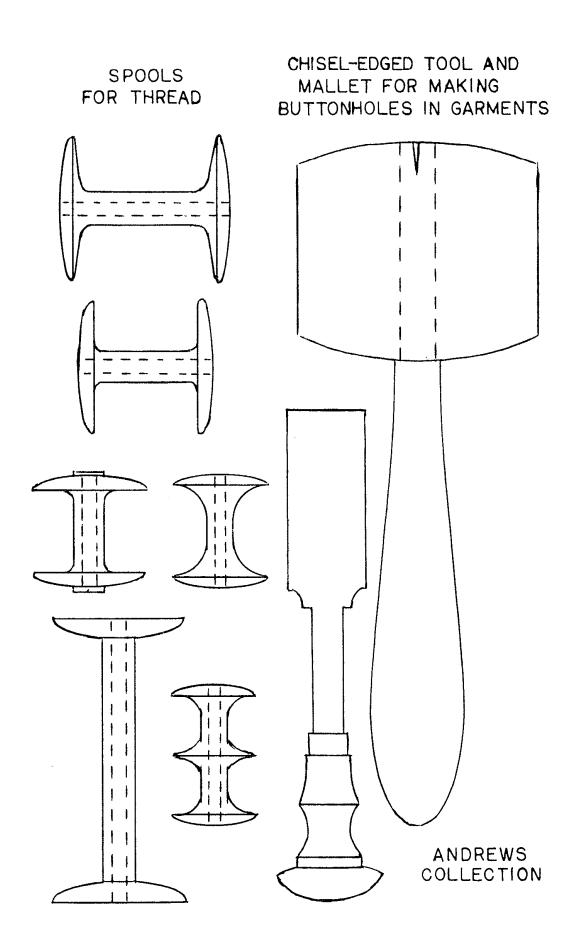
MORTAR AND PESTLE

THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.

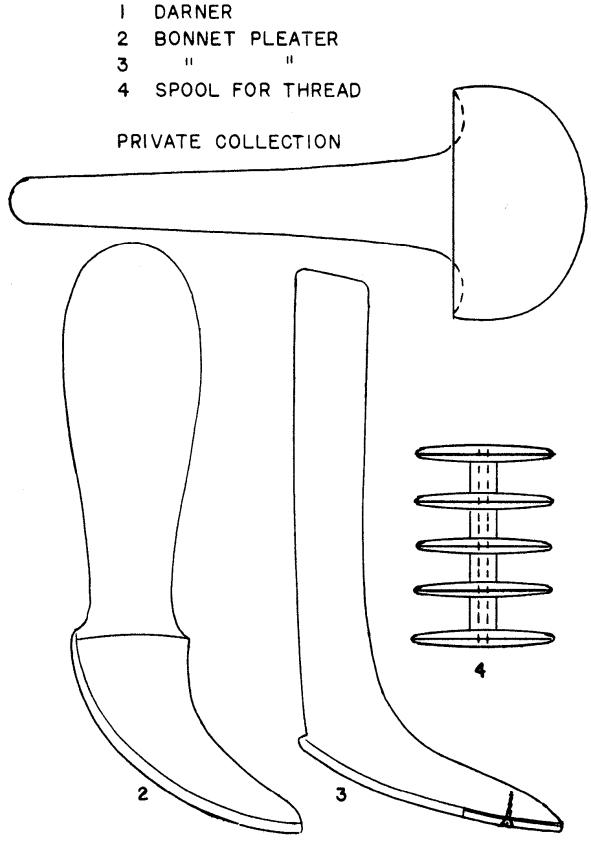


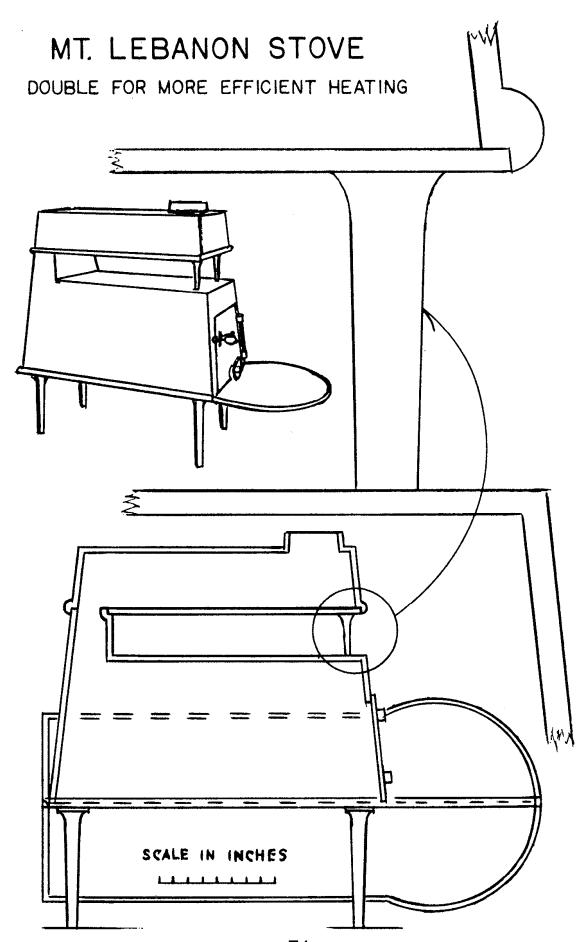




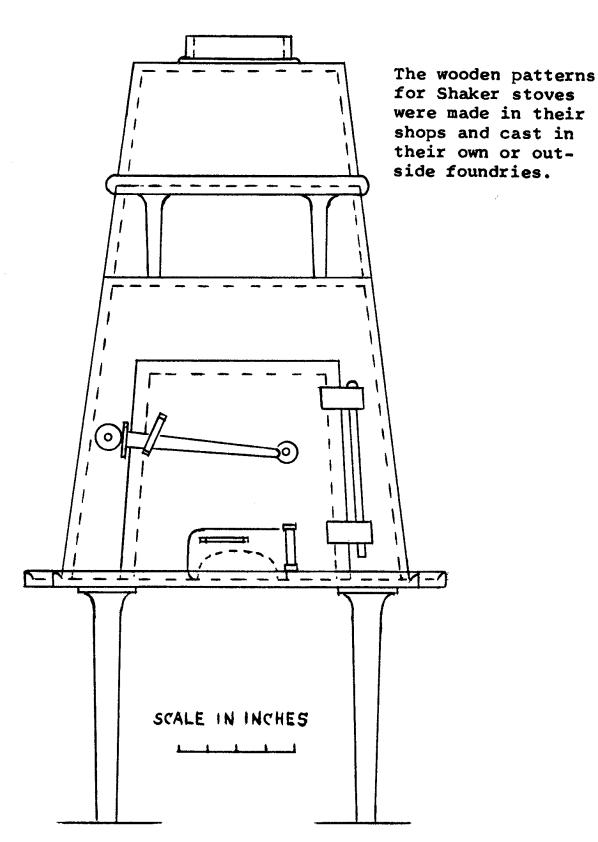


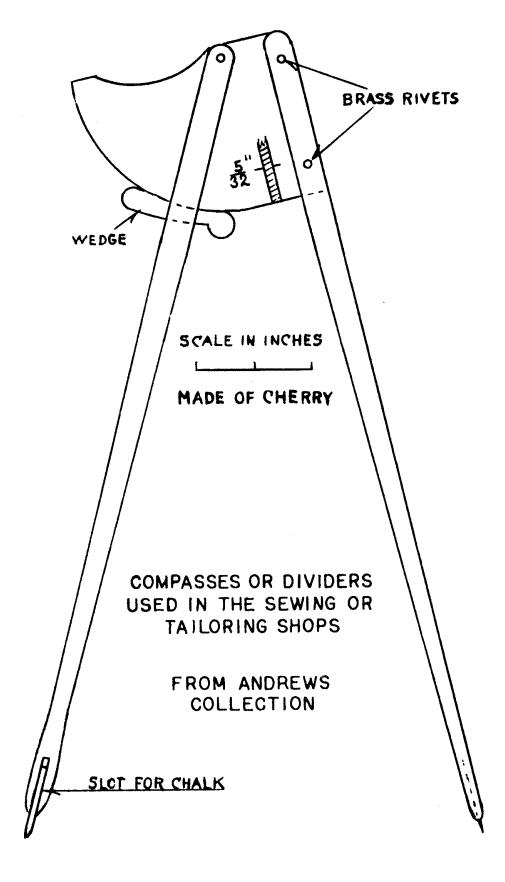
SHAKER MADE ITEMS





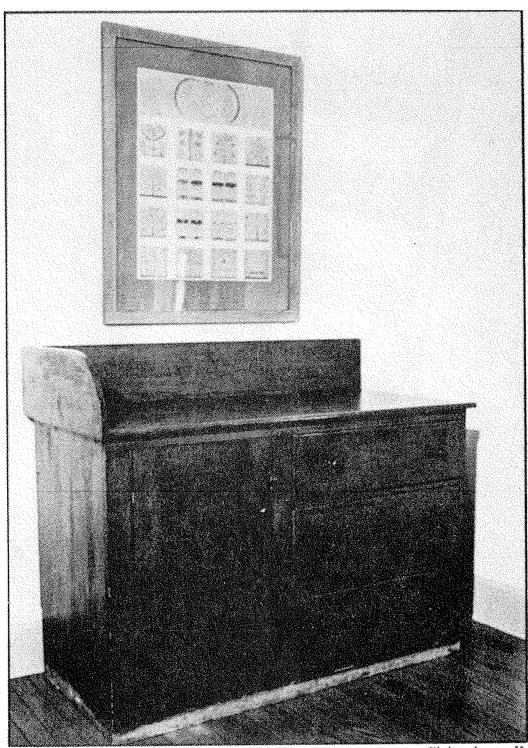
. MT. LEBANON STOVE



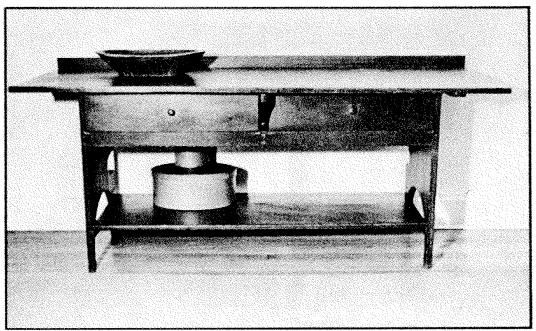




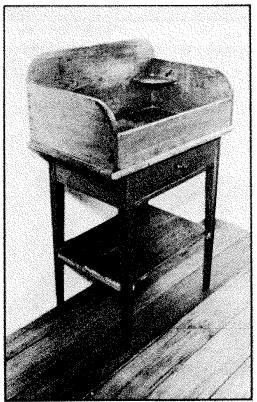
Brethren's Rocker - page 56



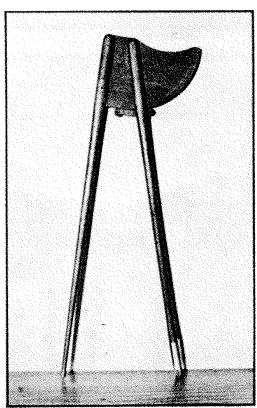
Washstand - page 33



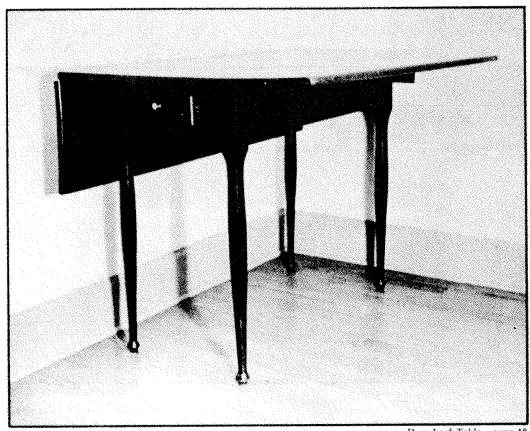
Bake-Room Table - page 16



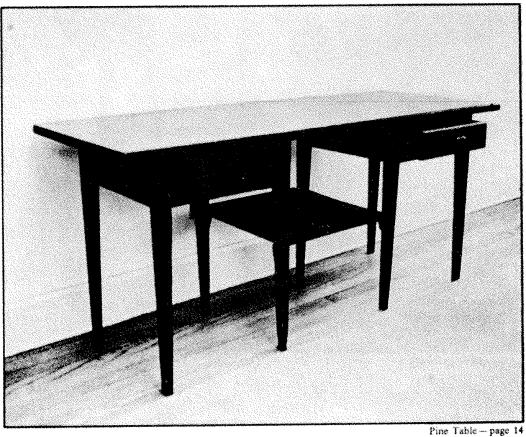
Washstand - page 30

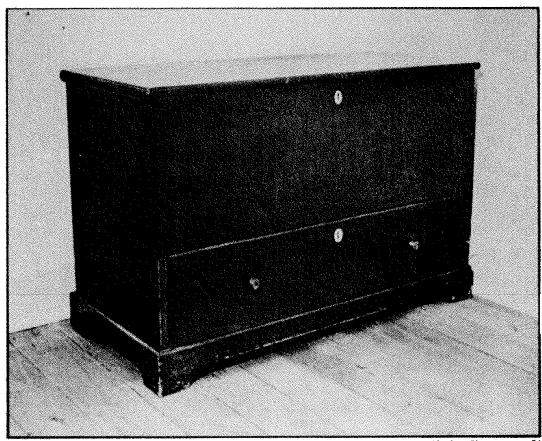


Dividers - page 76

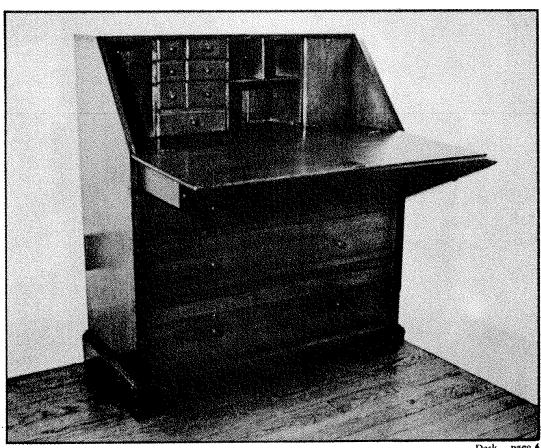


Drop-Leaf Table - page 18

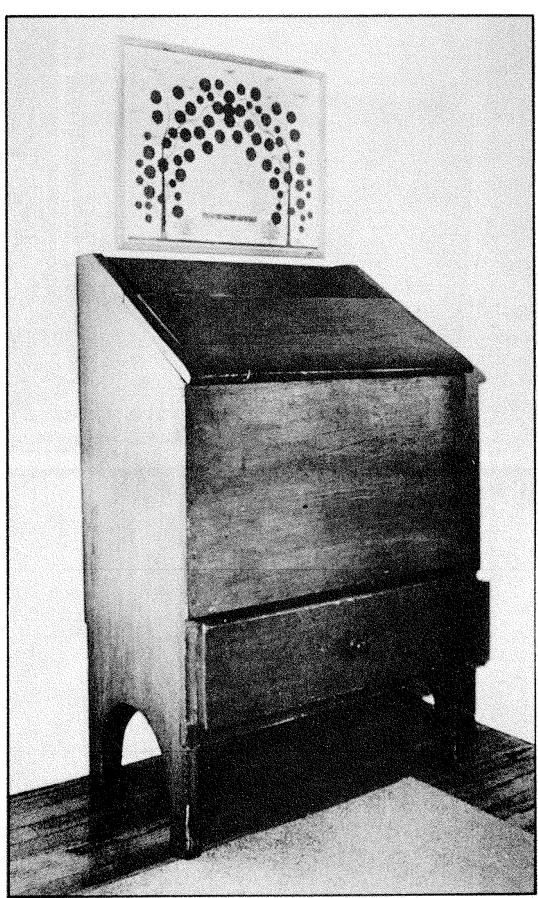




Blanket Chest - page 34



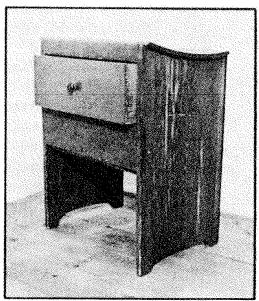
Desk - page 4



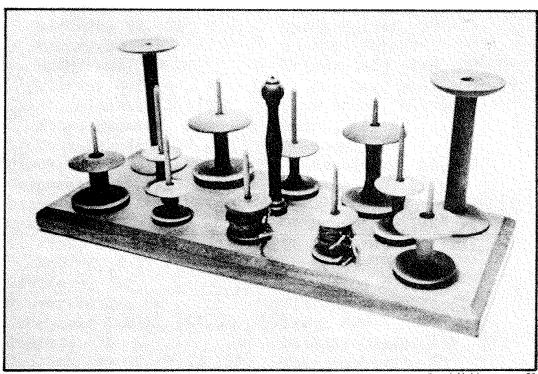
Wood-Box - page 36



Pine Bench - page 40



Loom Bench - page 42



Spool Holder - page 70

INDEX

Asterisks after plate numbers refer to drawings made from pieces in the collection of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Deming Andrews.

Arm Chair, 52, 53	Kitchen Bench, 41
Bed Casters, 61*	Loom Bench, 42*
Bench, Kitchen, 41	Stool, 43*
Loom, 42*	Mallet, 72*
Pine, 40*	Mitten Darner, 71*
Blanket Chest, 34*, 35	Mortar and Pestle, 69
Model, 66*	Pine Bench, 40*
Bonnet Pleater, 73	Pipe Box, 64*
Box, Candle, 65	Pleater, Bonnet, 73
Pipe, 64*	Pulls, Drawer, 60
Wood, 36*, 37	Revolving Stool, 46, 47
Candle Box, 65	Rocker, Brethrens, 56, 57
Casters, Bed, 61*	Scoop, 68
Chair, Arm, 52, 53	Sewing Accessories, 70*-73
Brethrens, 56, 57	Desks, 8-11
Counter, 54, 55	Table, 12, 13
Finials, 58	Shelf, Hanging, 62*
Hancock, 52, 53	Spool Holder, 70
Maker, 50, 51	Spools, 70, 72
Mushrooms, 59	Stands, Adj. Top, 26*-29
Tilting Buttons, 59	Peg-Leg, 24, 25, 28, 29
Chest, Blanket, 34*, 35	Step Stool, 44, 45
Model Blanket, 66*	Stool, 48, 49
Utility, 38*, 39	Loom, 43*
Clock, 2, 3	Revolving, 46, 47
Compasses or Dividers, 76*	Step, 44, 45
Darners, 70*, 71*, 73	Table, Bake Room, 16*, 17
Desk, Cherry, 4*, 5	Drop-Leaf, 18*, 19
Pine, 6, 7	Kitchen, 14*, 15
Sewing, 8-11	Sewing, 12, 13
Dividers, 76*	Small, 20*-23
Drawer Pulls, 60	Tilting Buttons, 59
Drop Leaf Table, 18*, 19	Tray, 67*
Finials, 58	Utility Chest, 38*, 39
Hancock Arm Chair, 52, 53	Wall Cupboard, 63
Hanging Shelf, 62*	Washstands, 30*-33
Kitchen Table, 14*, 15	Wood Box, 36*, 37

Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware

Volume 3

Measured Drawings

by Ejner Handberg

CONTENTS

Pie Safe
High Cupboard Chests 4
Tailoring Counters
Storage Bench
Chest of Drawers
Upright Desk 30
School Desk
Table Desk 36
Sewing Stand
Sewing Tables 40
Washstand
Dining Table 48
Oval Top Table 50
Round Pedestal Table 52
Candlestands 54
Tail Case Clock 56
Wood Box 60
Settee 62
Rocking Chair
Footstools 66
Bonnet Rack 68
Lantern 70
Knobs and Pulls
Dressmaker's Weight and Darner 74
Shaker Type Secretary

NOTES TO THE CRAFTSMAN OR COLLECTOR

The Shakers used local woods for their furniture mainly from their own land, and all lumber was carefully dried. In the Northeast, large case furniture such as cupboards, chests of drawers, blanket chests, wood boxes and washstands were nearly always made of Eastern white pine. Tables, stands and desks (both writing desks and sewing desks) were often constructed of mixed woods such as cherry, maple, butternut and others. Maple, birch and cherry were used in all pieces requiring strength and withstanding wear such as chairs and stools, of which there were many kinds. Hickory and ash were used for parts which were to be bent. Sometimes candlestands, work stands and sewing stands were made of cherry, maple or birch with a pine top. One feature in Shaker furniture and woodenware was the use of quarter-sawn, edge-grained pine which is less apt to cup or warp than flat-grained boards.

Occasionally pieces can be seen made entirely of walnut, chestnut, butternut and also, but not so often, one can find a small stand, table or chair made of birds-eye maple, curly maple or tiger maple. It is not unusual to see a piece of Shaker furniture where more than one kind of wood was used, as for example, the table legs of cherry, the frame or skirt of maple and the top of pine.

The making of freestanding or movable pieces for use in the early workshops and dwelling houses probably preceded the cupboards and drawers which were permanently built into the walls of many buildings. These were usually six to eight feet high and in no particular pattern, sometimes numbering a hundred or more cupboards and drawers on one wall.

Their furniture was not designed and made for show. There were no fancy turnings or mouldings; everything was designed and made for a purpose, for the Shakers had only utility in mind. There is a Shaker saying "that which has the highest use possesses the greatest beauty."

The eventual result was an original and very simple but beautiful style, that was all their own. From the beginning they continued to improve their methods looking only for strength and lightness. Yet there was always a freedom to make new designs and, because of this, it is seldom possible to find, for example, two trestle tables or two sewing desks which are alike.

An Elder from New Lebanon once said "We find out by trial what is best and when we have found a good thing we stick to it."

It is perhaps fair to say that their furniture was the forerunner of our present day functional furniture.

On all candlestands, sewing stands or other stands with a pedestal, the legs are dovetailed to the shaft and the grain should run as nearly parallel to the general direction of the leg as possible; a thin metal plate should be fastened to the underside of the shaft and extend about three quarters of an inch along the base of each leg, with a screw or nail put in the leg to keep them from spreading.

The first furniture made by the Shakers was usually given a coat of paint, such as dark red for the furniture in the workshops. Later

the paint was thinned or stain was used, often so thin that the grain of the wood was visible. Also used was a light umber or raw sienna stain giving the furniture a light brown color. Some pieces were left with a natural finish, then a final coat of oil or varnish was applied. Beds were painted green, almost bottle green, but shades varied.

So far I have only mentioned furniture, but under the heading of "Woodenware," the Shakers made hundreds of very beautiful and interesting items such as oval boxes, sewing boxes, carriers, trays, dippers, cups, scoops, candle and cutlery boxes, berry boxes and hundreds of specially designed tools and gadgets for the use of both the Sisters and Brethren in their workshops and kitchens. Some of the woodenware and other items were made to sell from their salesrooms to the outside world such as the beautiful oval boxes and sewing boxes. The oval boxes and carriers were usually made of maple. The bottoms and covers were fitted with quarter-sawn edge-grained pine. First the "fingers" or "lappers" are cut on the maple bands, then steamed and wrapped around an oval form, then the fingers are fastened with small copper or iron rivets (tacks) after they are dry and sanded. The pine disks are fitted into the bottom and cover and fastened with small square copper or iron brads.

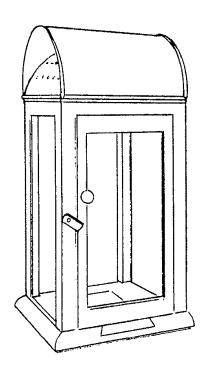
When making a reproduction, I believe you must copy exactly every detail of the original, and use the same kind of wood and finish, because if you change such things as dimensions or profiles of mouldings, or cut-outs, then you are not making a true reproduction, but only a Shaker type piece of furniture.

Although I firmly believe than no one can make an "Antique" you should always mark your copy somewhere on the back or the bottom with your name and date in a way that it can not be erased. Please do not make any attempt to give it distress marks.

All this is not to say that it is wrong to make changes or design your own, but you are then making only a Shaker type piece of furniture. As a matter of fact, I have made for myself a secretary or what the Shakers properly would have called an upright desk, which follows very closely the design of two original Shaker pieces. The bottom section is a chest of drawers and the top section is a fall-front desk with place for papers and books, two small drawers, and above are two shelves with two doors (see pages number 76, 77). I never try to call it anything but a Shaker type of desk.

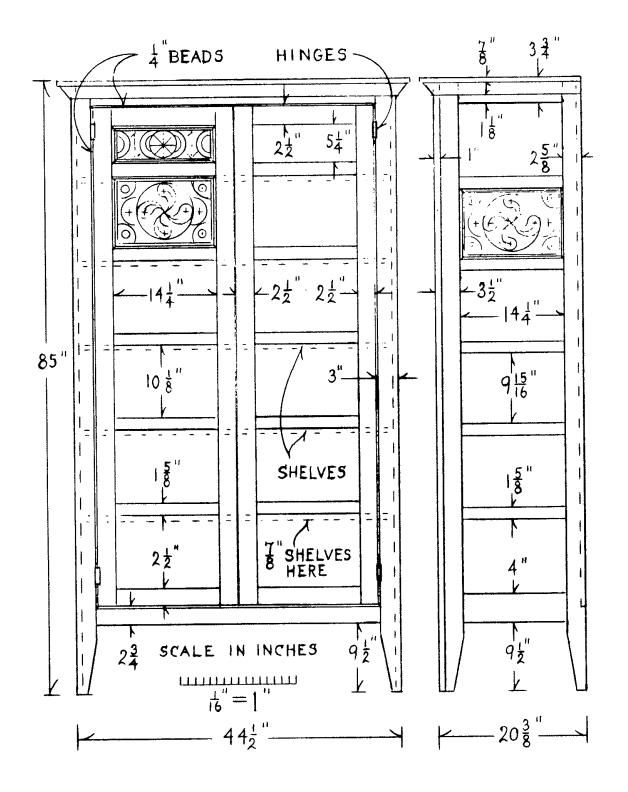
Whether you prefer to copy an original Shaker piece or design your own, I think it most important to carefully select the right kind of wood for the different projects, and be sure it is properly dried before using it. Another important rule is to follow good Shaker design and proportions. This applies to any kind of furniture, because without that, neither good materials nor the best of workmanship will produce good results. Finally you should never start anything before having made a detailed and measured drawing of the piece of furniture or work in mind.

I hope that these drawings will be helpful to craftsmen and collectors alike.

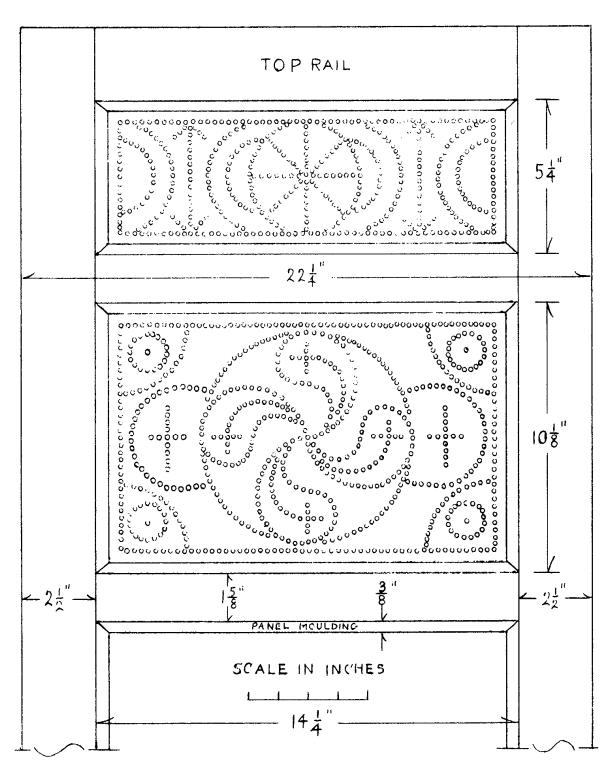


"ALL BEAUTY THAT HAS NOT A FOUNDATION IN USE SOON GROWS DISTASTEFUL AND NEEDS CONTINUAL REPLACEMENT"

PIE-SAFE WITH PIERCED TIN PANELS SOUTH UNION, KENTUCKY

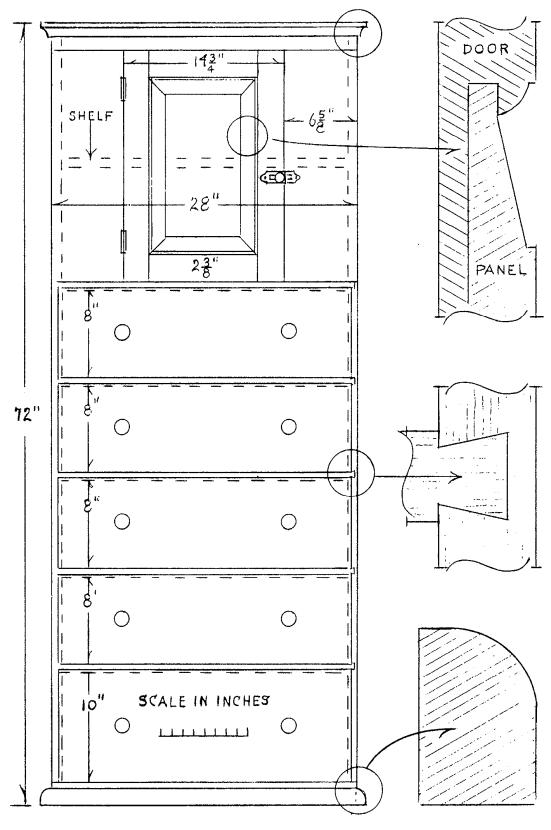


PIERCED TIN PANELS FOR PIE-SAFE PIERCED TOWARD THE OUTSIDE TO HELP KEEP INSECTS OUT SOUTH UNION, KENTUCKY

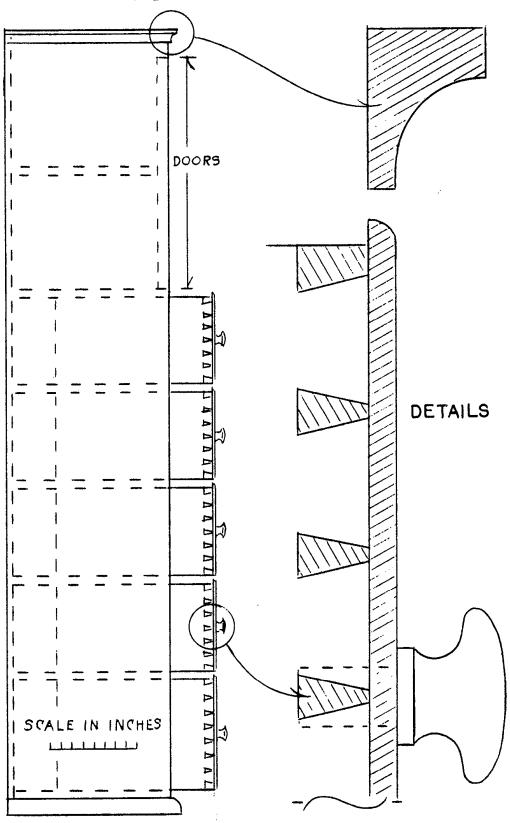


PINE CUPBOARD CHEST

ANDREWS COLLECTION

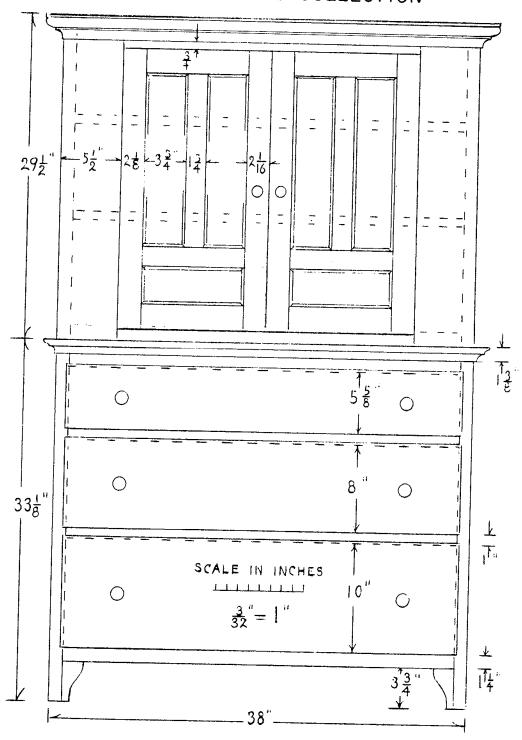


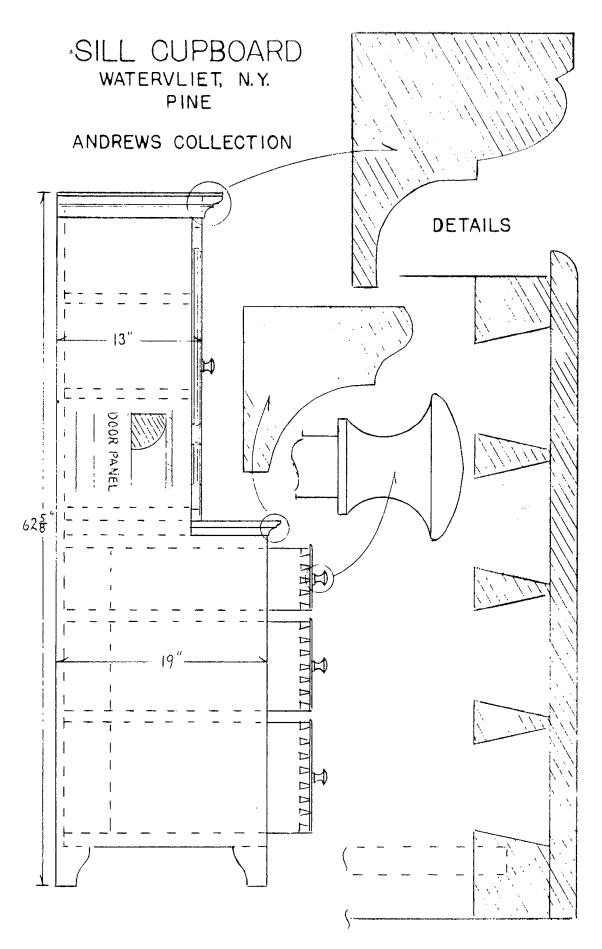
PINE CUPBOARD CHEST LIGHT-BROWN STAIN AND VARNISH ANDREWS COLLECTION

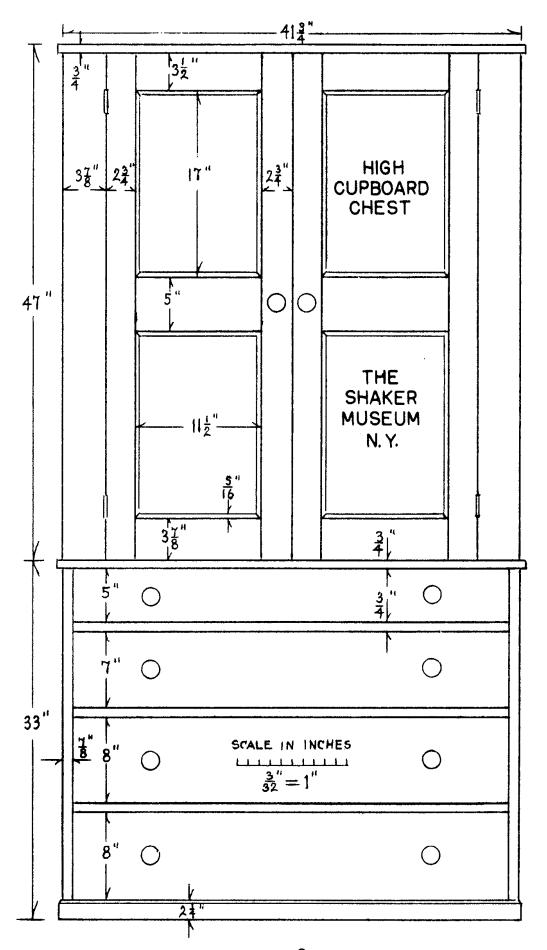


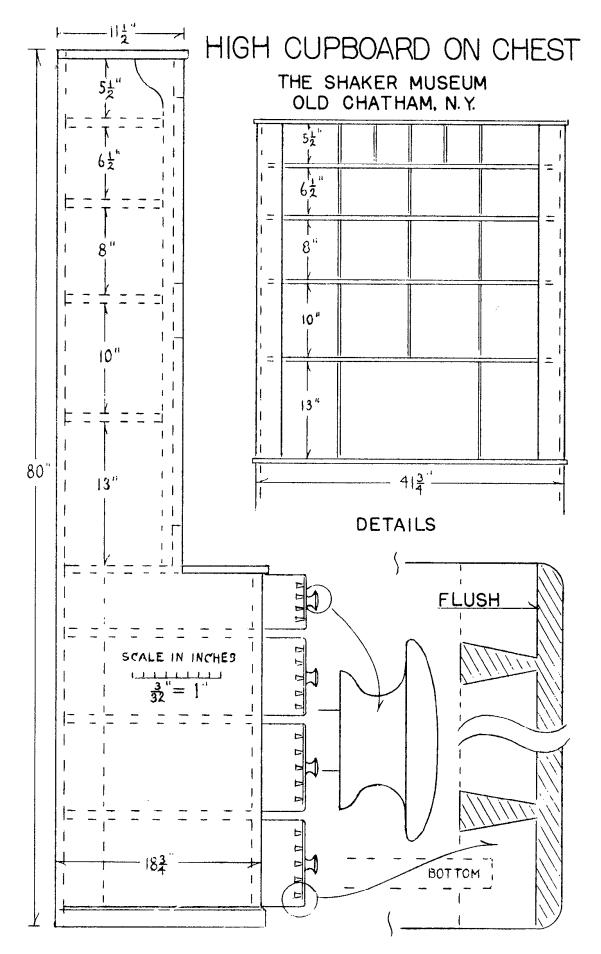
SILL CUPBOARD FROM WATERVLIET COMMUNITY PINE, STAINED LIGHT BROWN

FROM ANDREWS COLLECTION

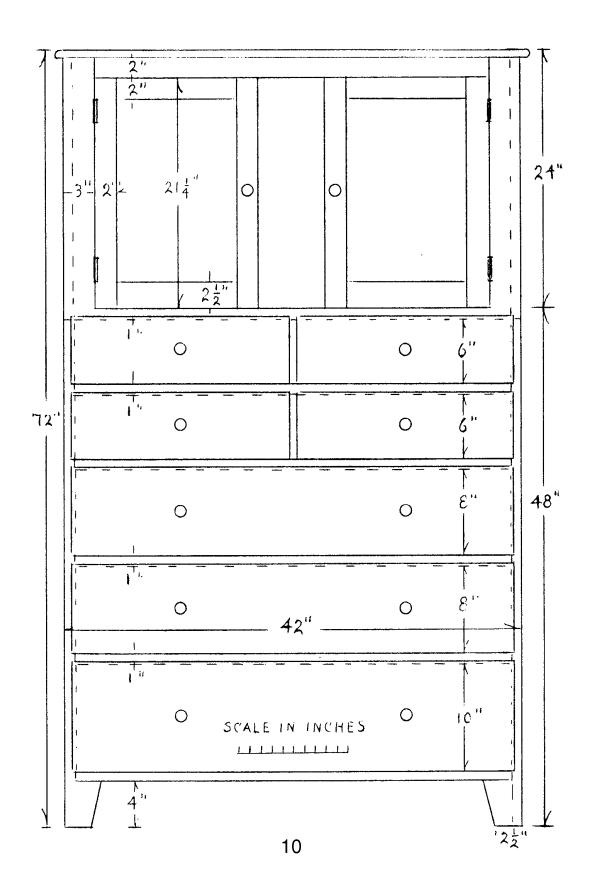


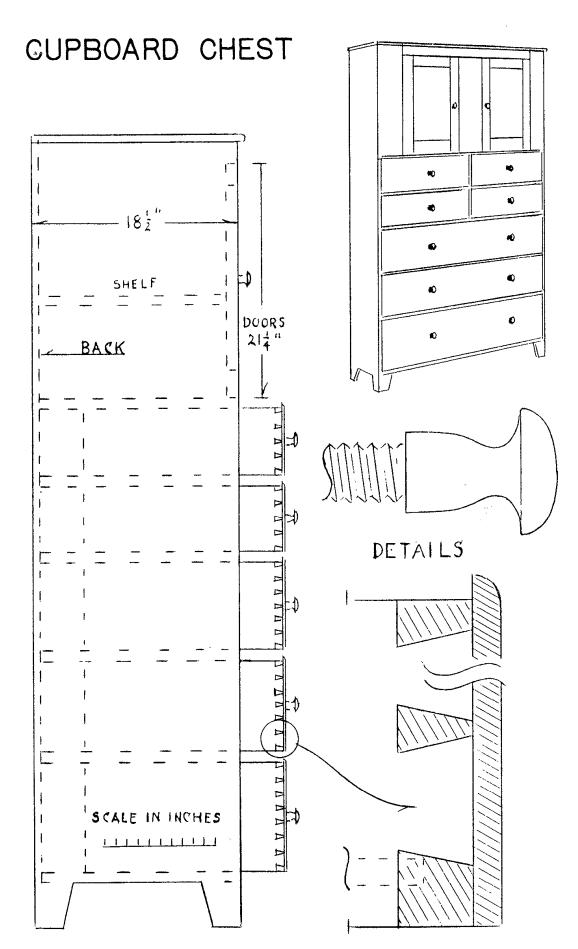




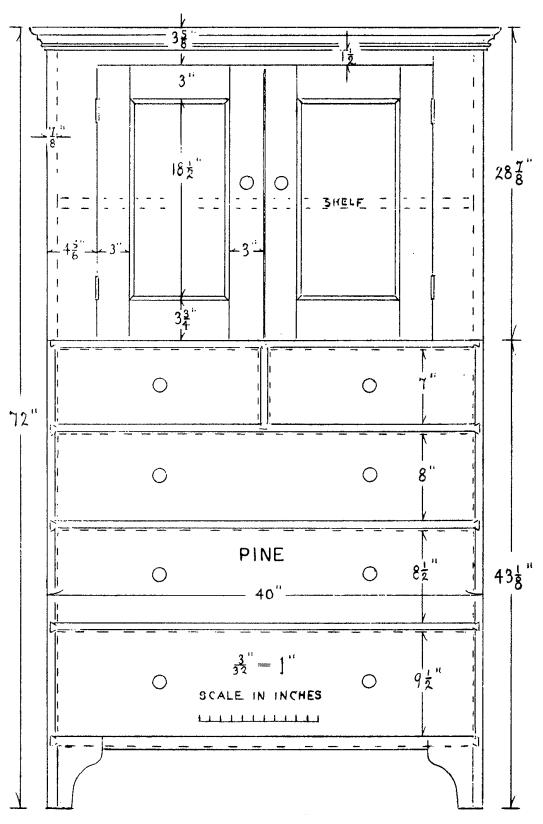


HIGH CUPBOARD CHEST

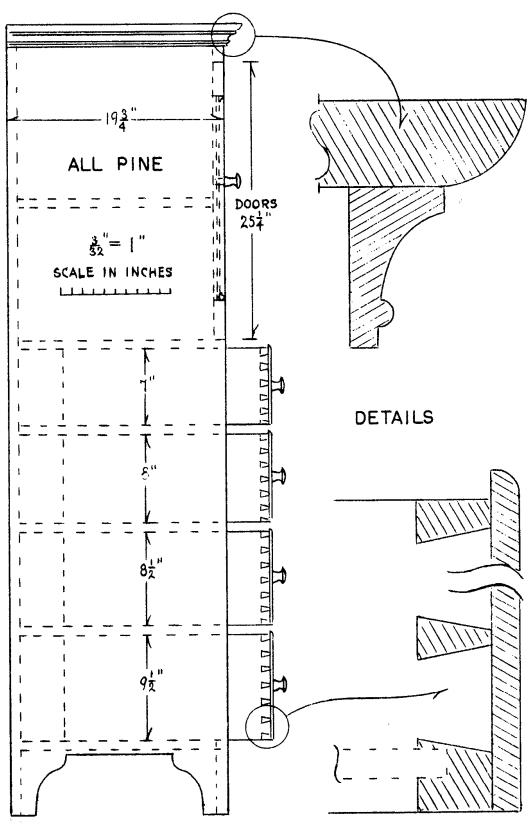


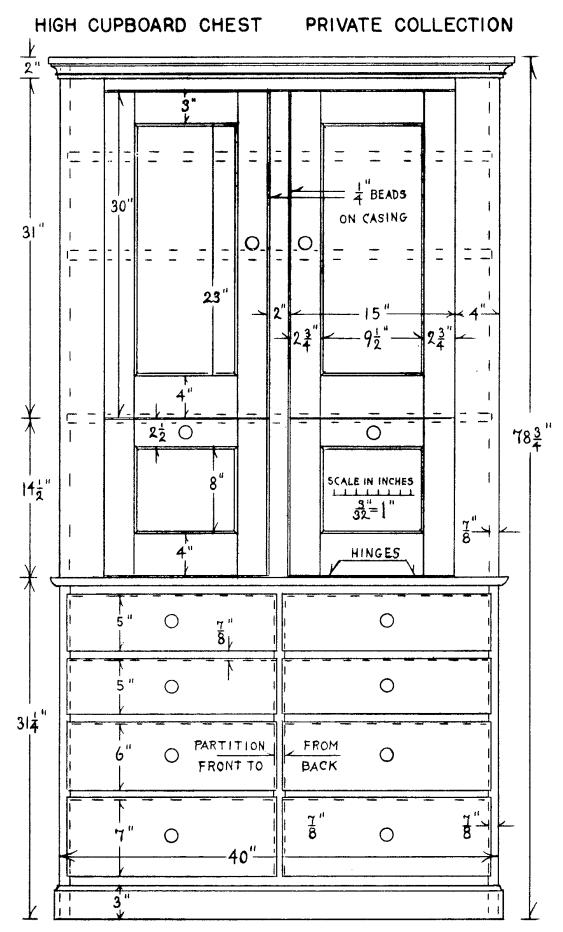


HIGH CUPBOARD CHEST THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.

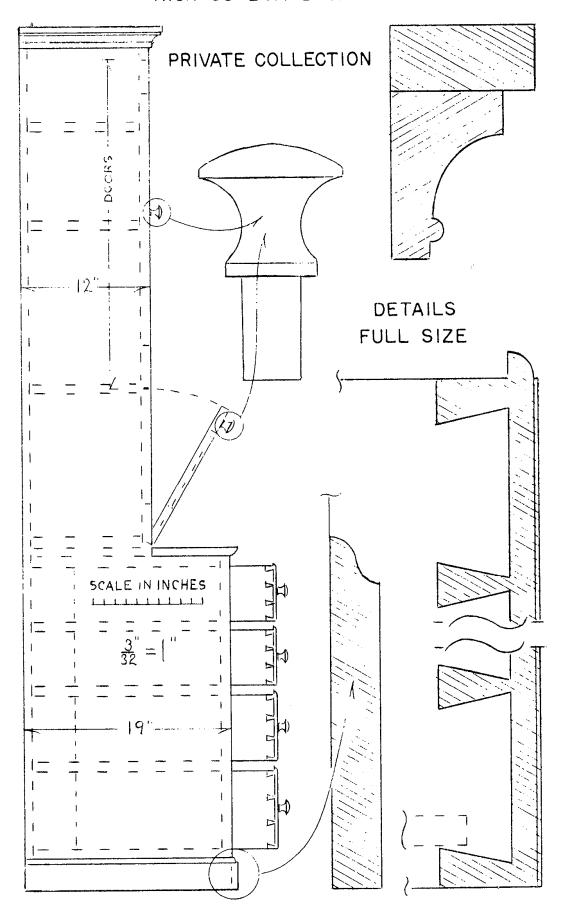


HIGH CUPBOARD CHEST THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.



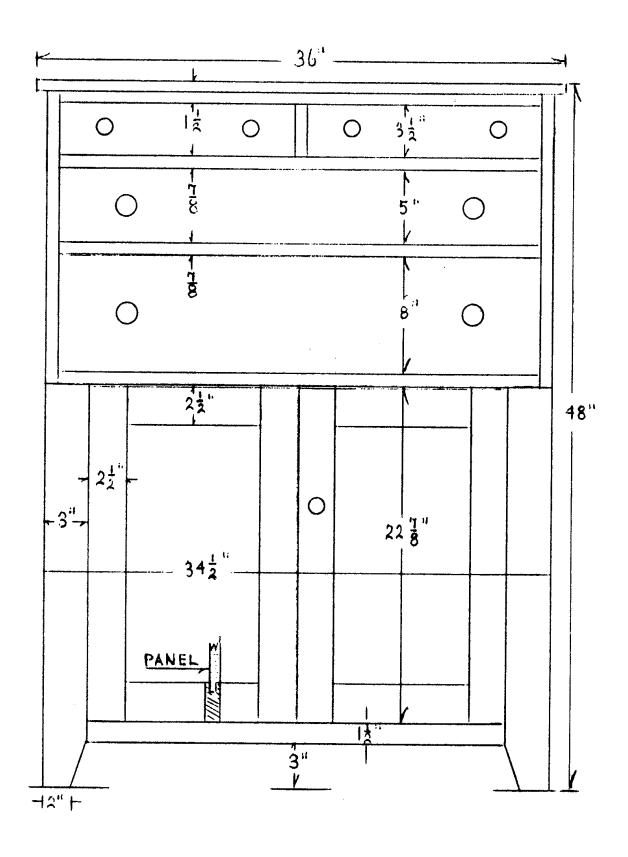


HIGH CUPBOARD CHEST



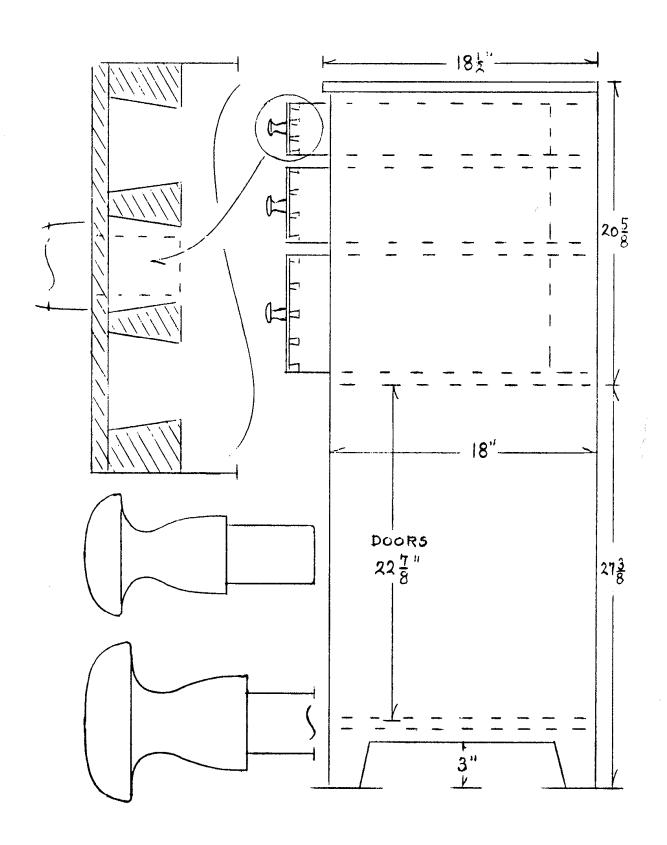
PINE CUPBOARD CHEST

LIGHT-BROWN STAIN AND VARNISH

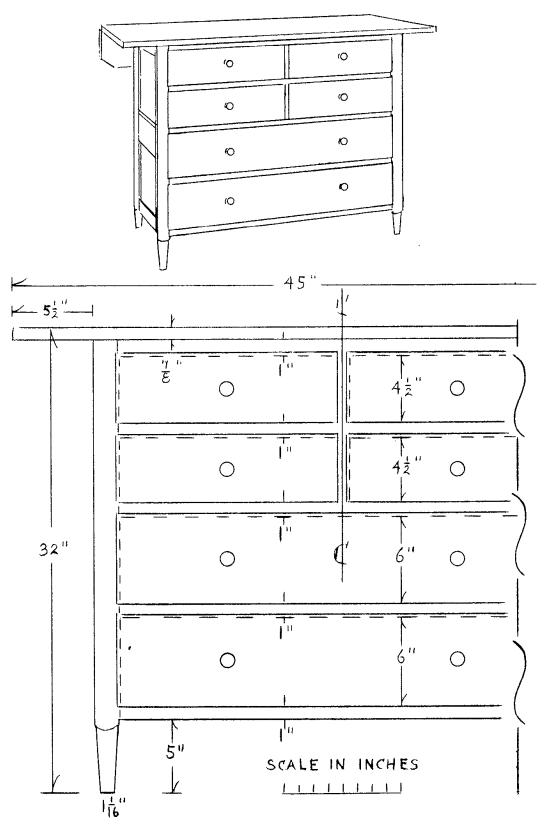


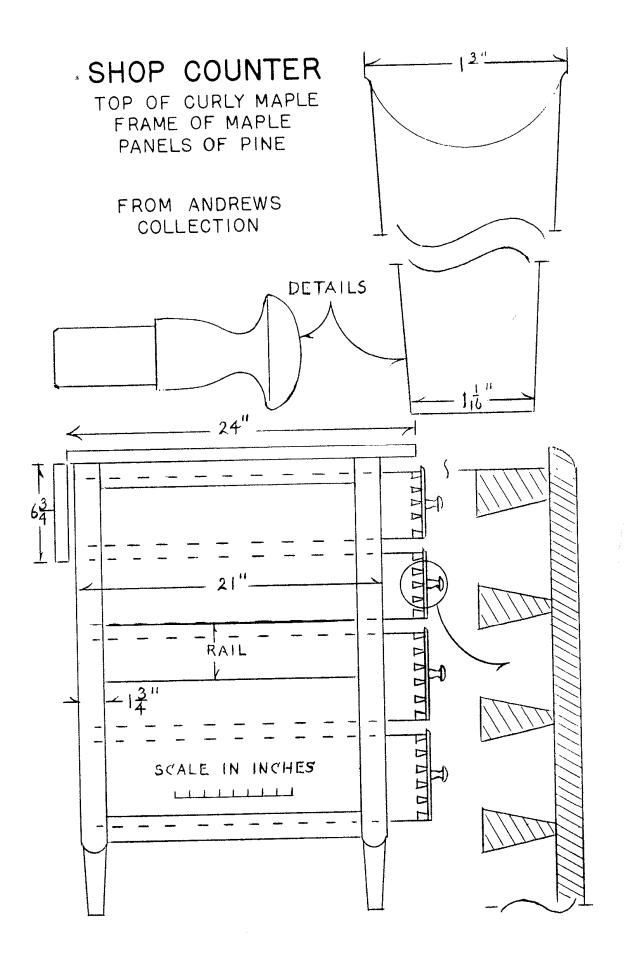
PINE CUPBOARD CHEST

LIGHT-BROWN STAIN AND VARNISH

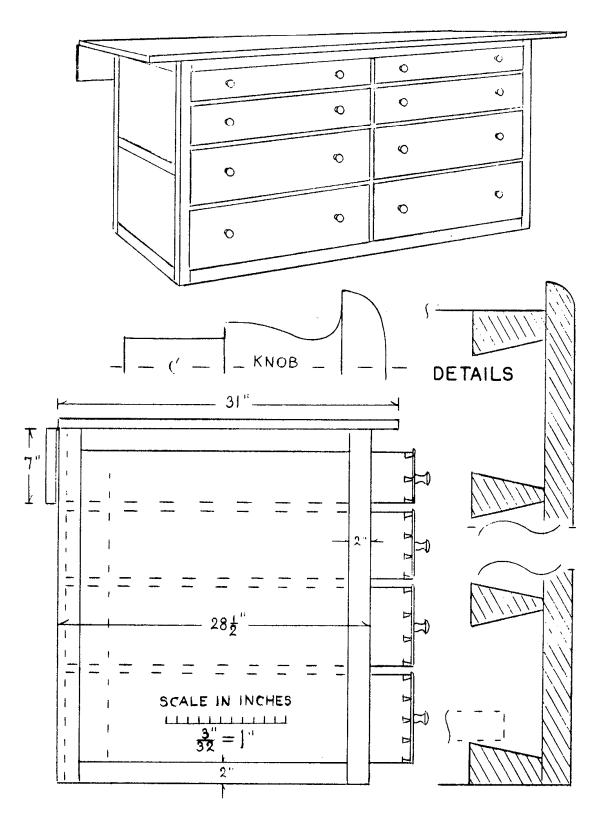


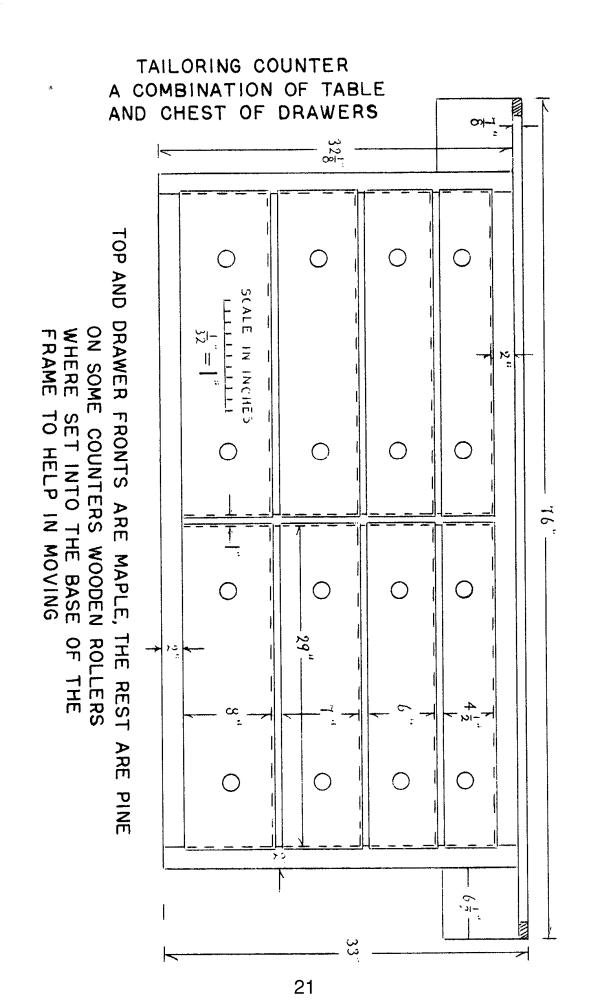
TAILORESSES' SHOP COUNTER

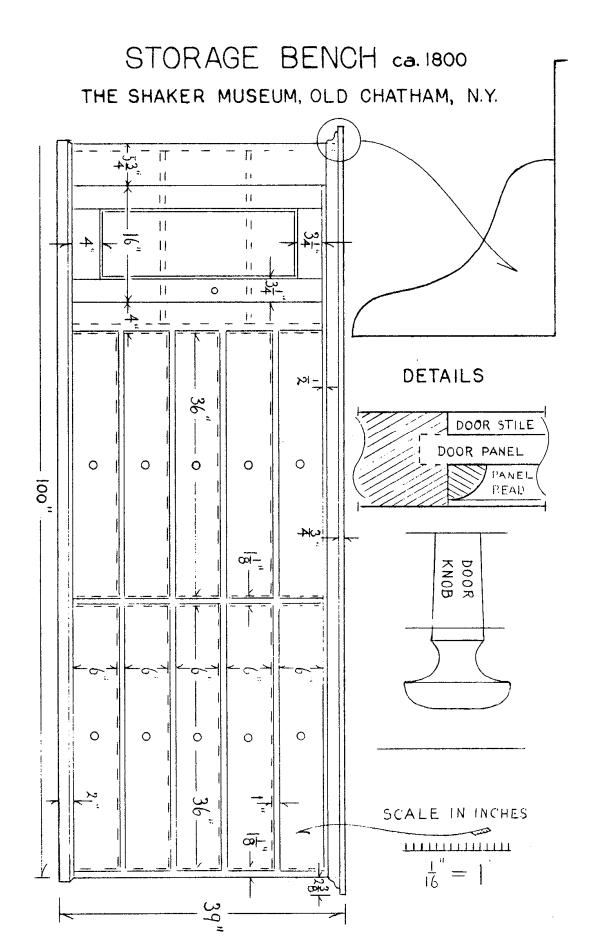




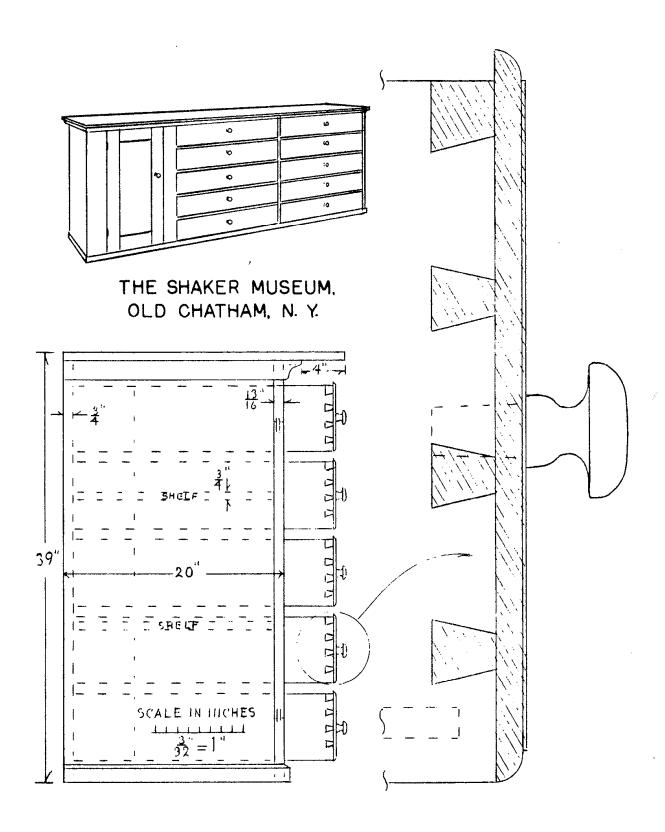
TAILORING COUNTER







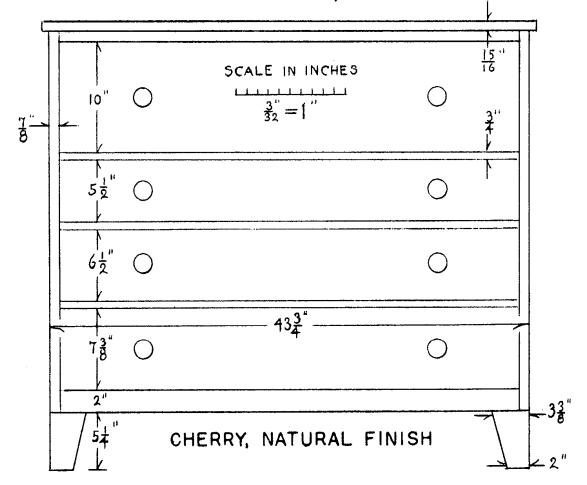
STORAGE BENCH ca. 1800 PINE, PAINTED BLUE FROM CANTERBURY, N. H.

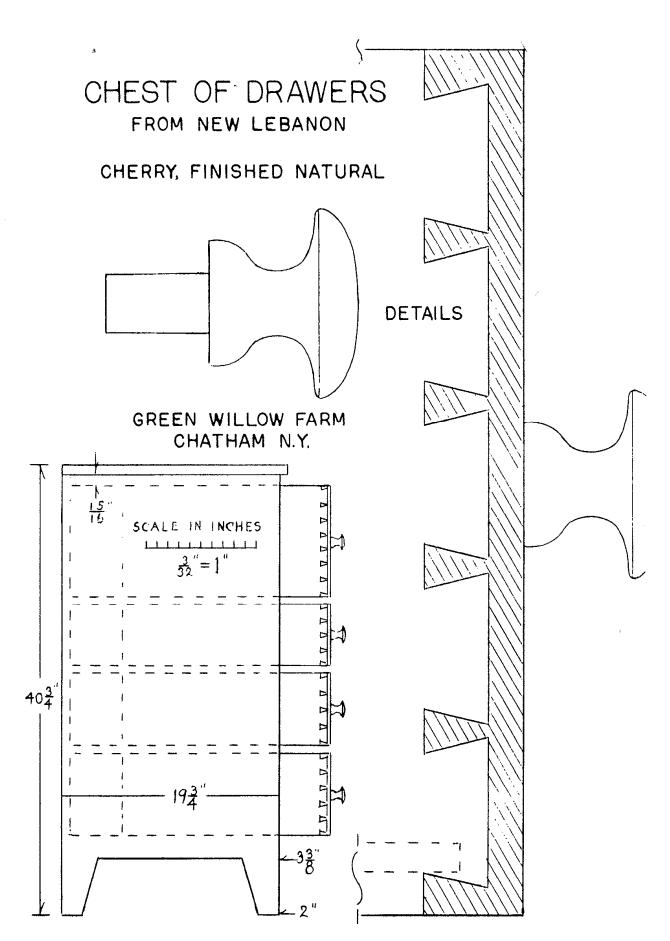


CHEST OF DRAWERS FROM NEW LEBANON



GREEN WILLOW FARM, CHATHAM N.Y.

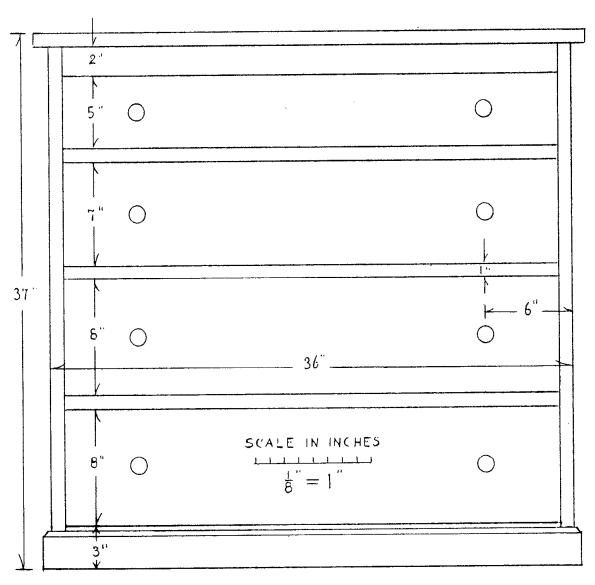




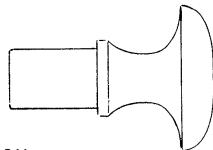
CHEST OF DRAWERS FROM NEW LEBANON



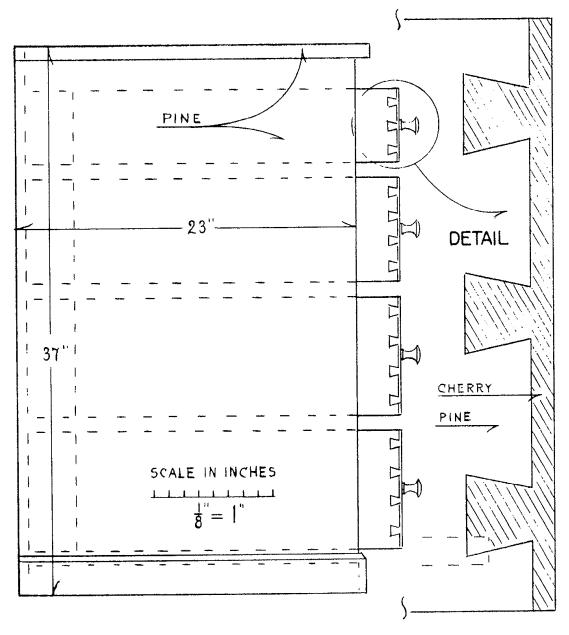
PRIVATE COLLECTION



CHEST OF DRAWERS FROM NEW LEBANON CHERRY AND PINE

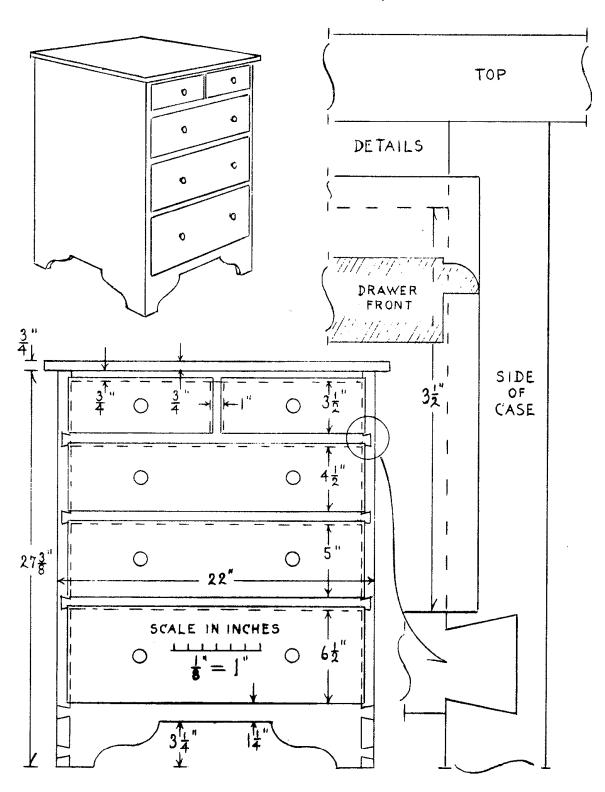


PRIVATE COLLECTION



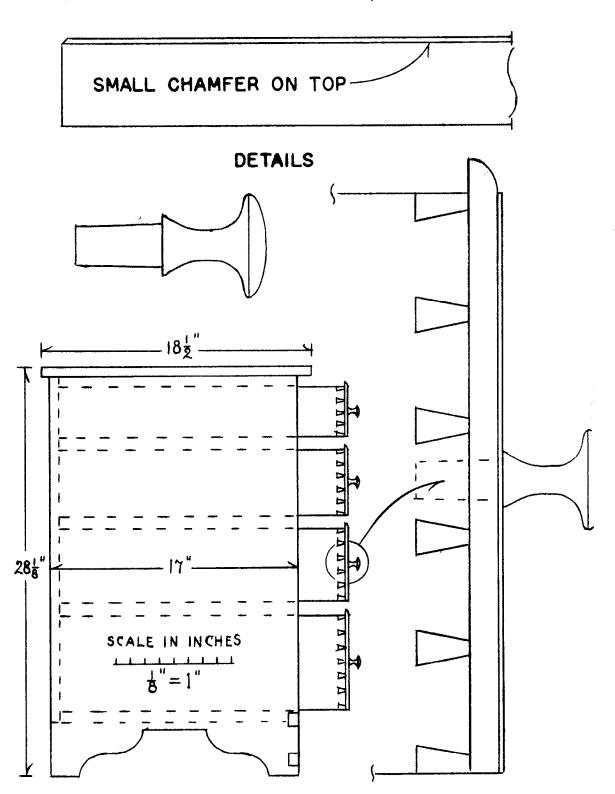
SMALL CASE OF DRAWERS — BUTTERNUT FROM ENFIELD CONN. 1849

BOSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON MASS.



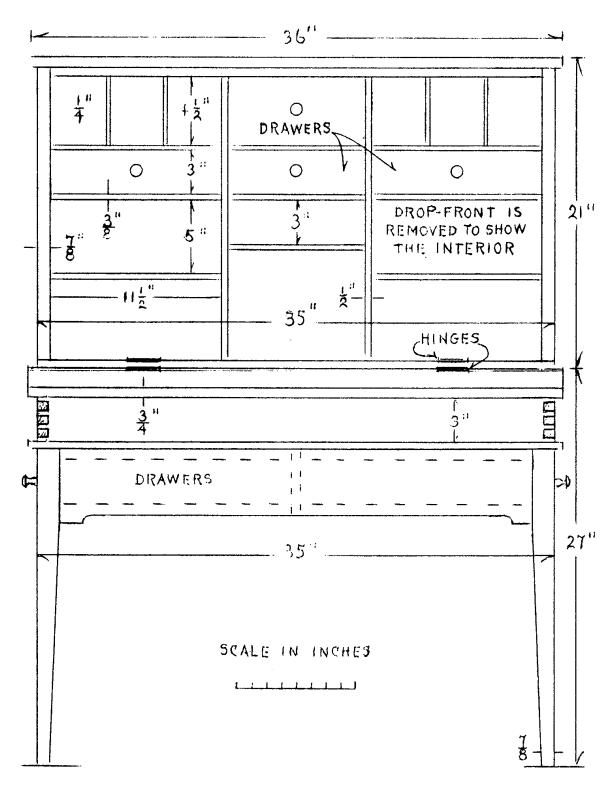
CASE OF DRAWERS - BUTTERNUT FROM ENFIELD CONN. 1849

BOSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON MASS.



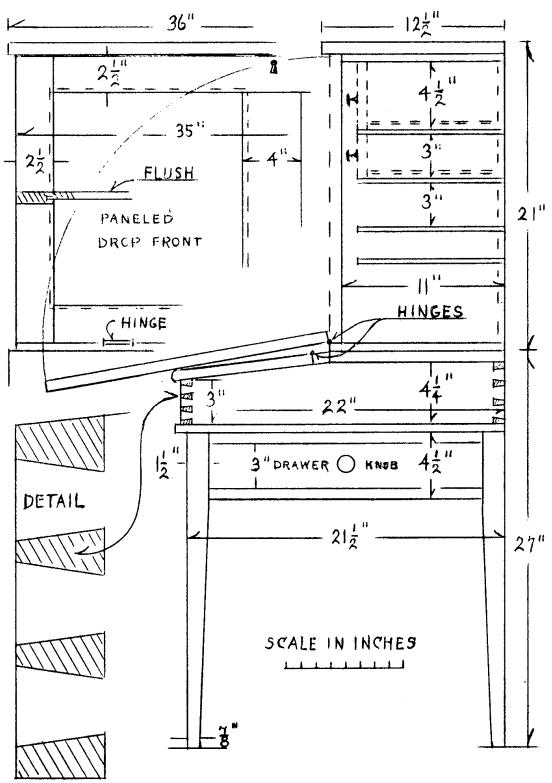
SHAKER UPRIGHT DESK

MAPLE CASE - CHERRY LEGS



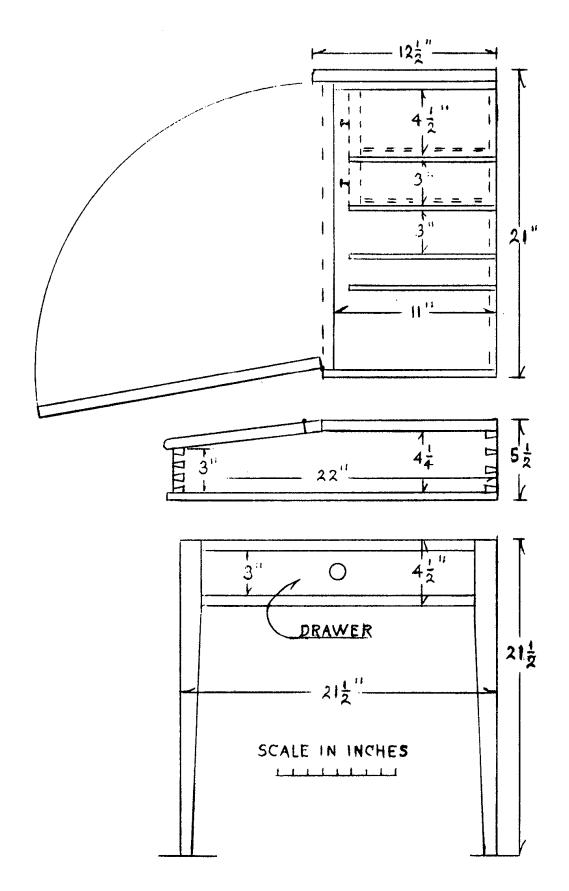
SHAKER UPRIGHT DESK

MAPLE CASE - CHERRY LEGS

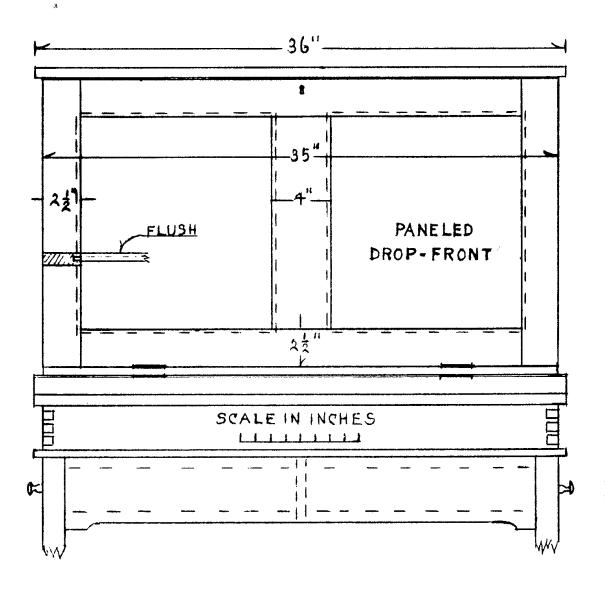


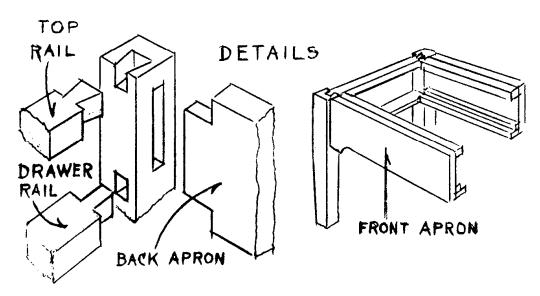
DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE

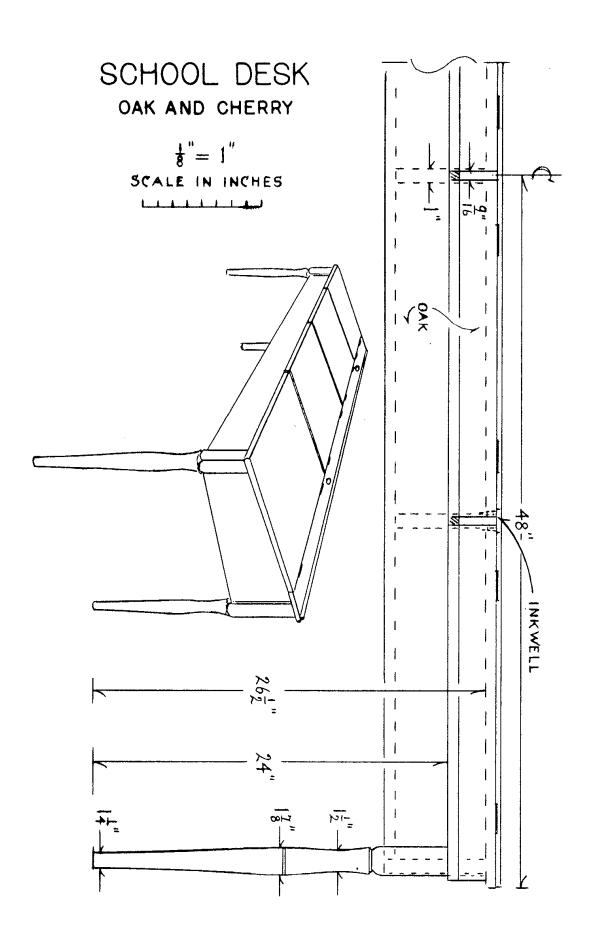
DETAILS OF UPRIGHT DESK



DETAILS OF UPRIGHT DESK







SCHOOL DESK

OAK AND CHERRY FROM ANDREWS COLLECTION

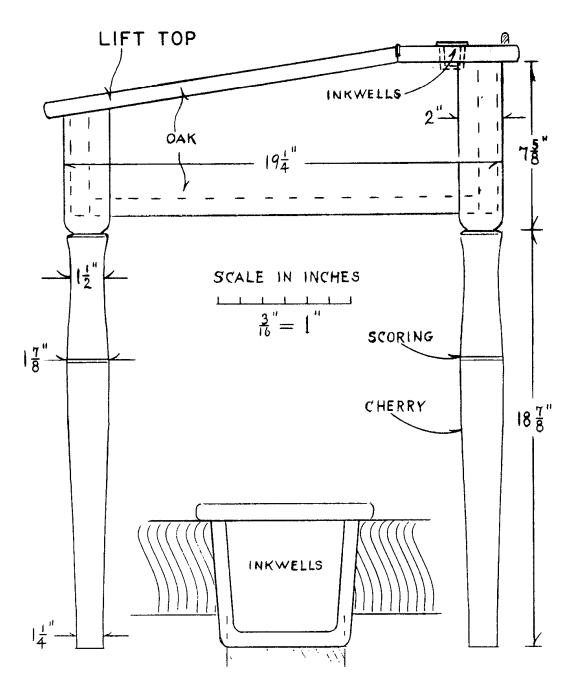
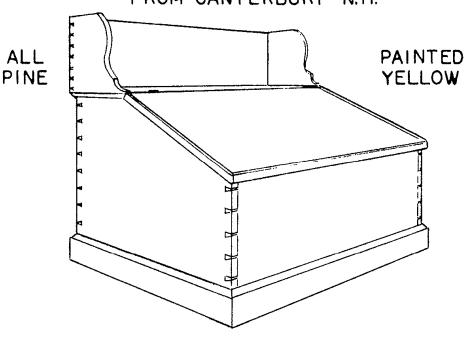
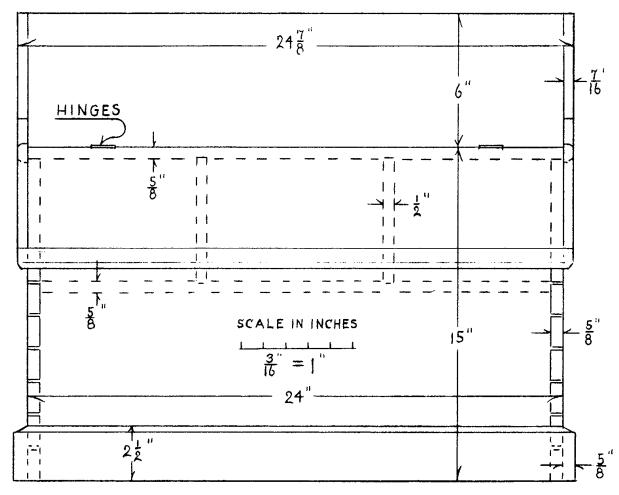


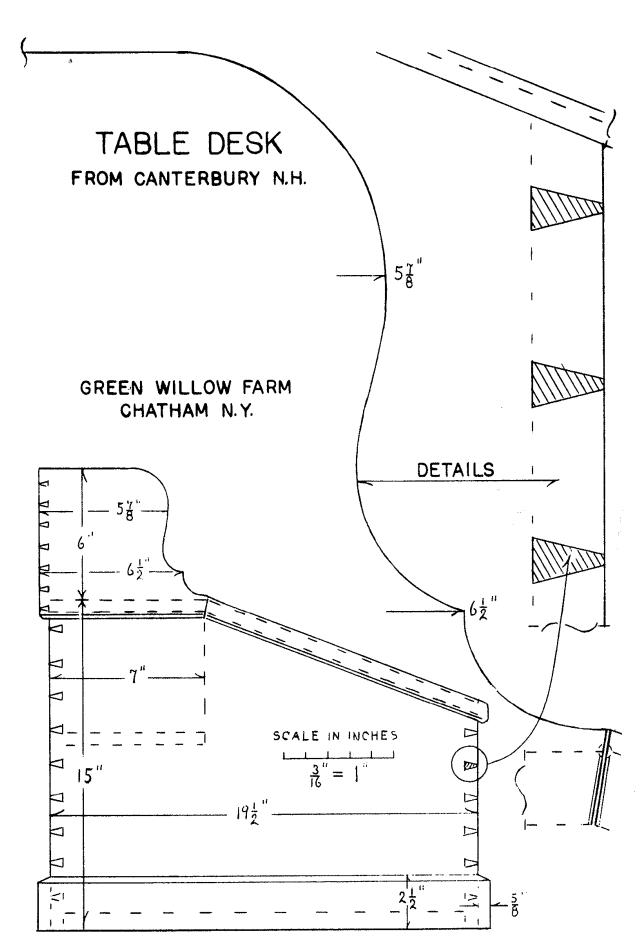
TABLE DESK FROM CANTERBURY N.H.

ALL

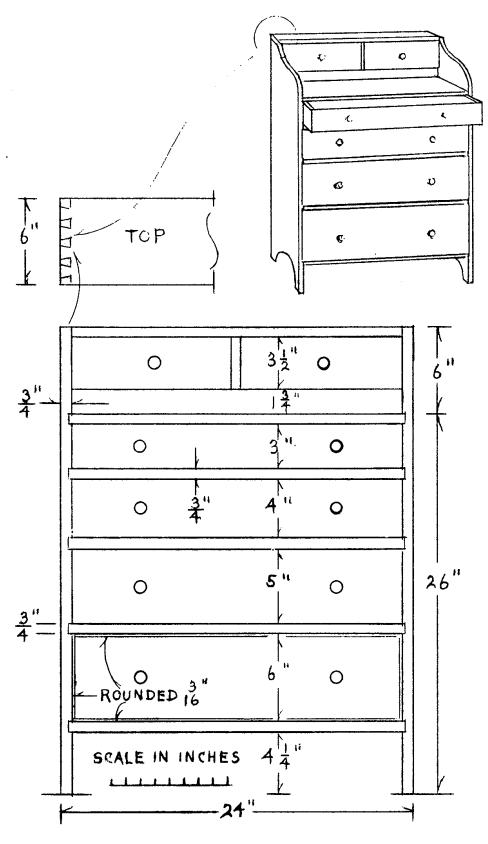


GREEN WILLOW FARM, CHATHAM N.Y.





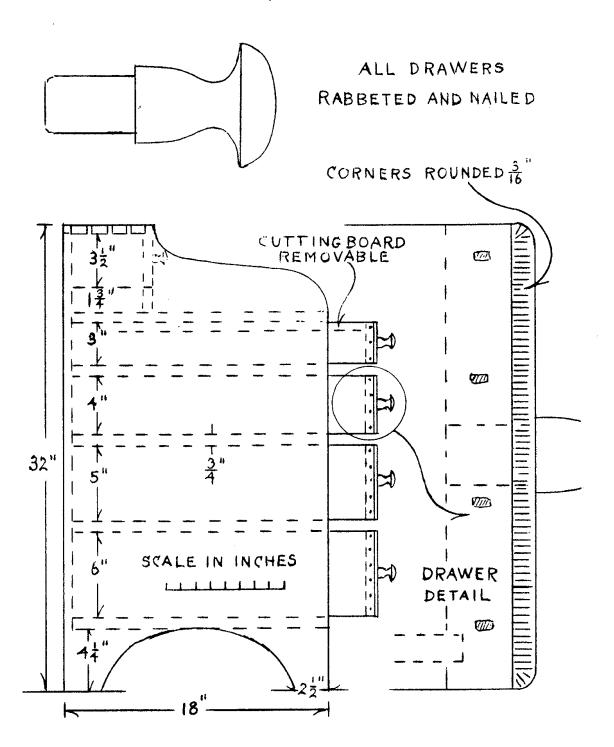
PINE SEWING STAND



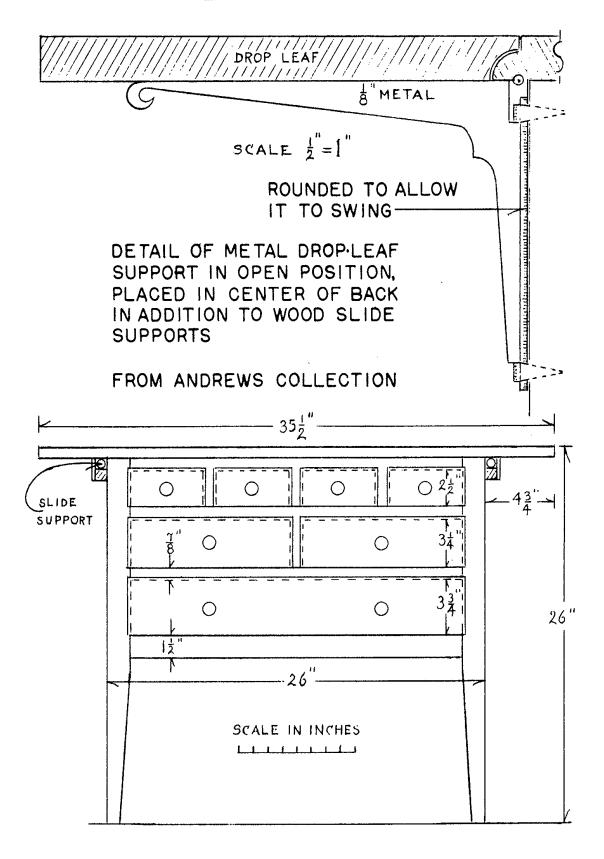
PINE SEWING STAND

LIGHT-BROWN STAIN AND VARNISH

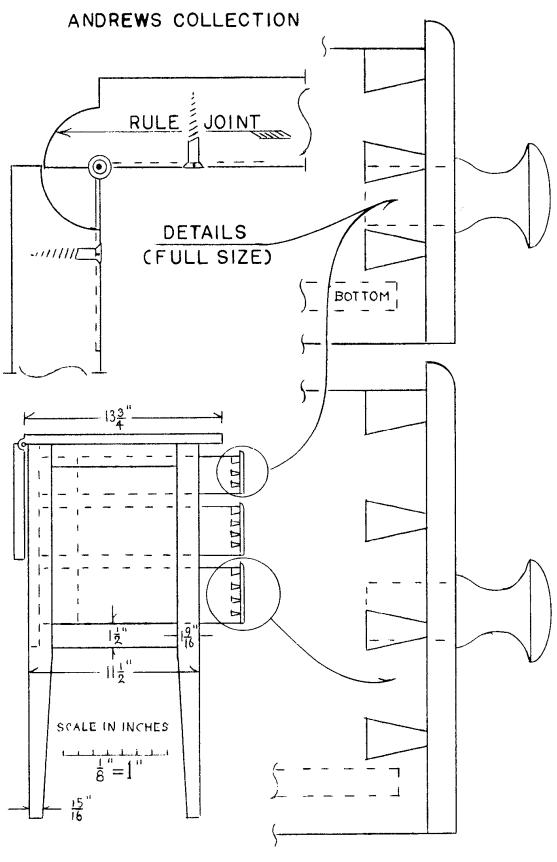
WRITING OR CUTTING BOARD SET IN TOP OF LONG DRAWER, REMOVABLE AT WILL



SEWING TABLE

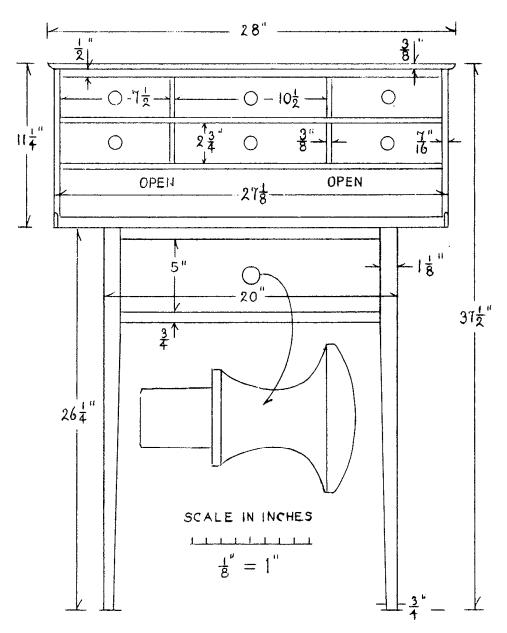


SEWING TABLE CHERRY TOP AND FRAME PINE PANELS

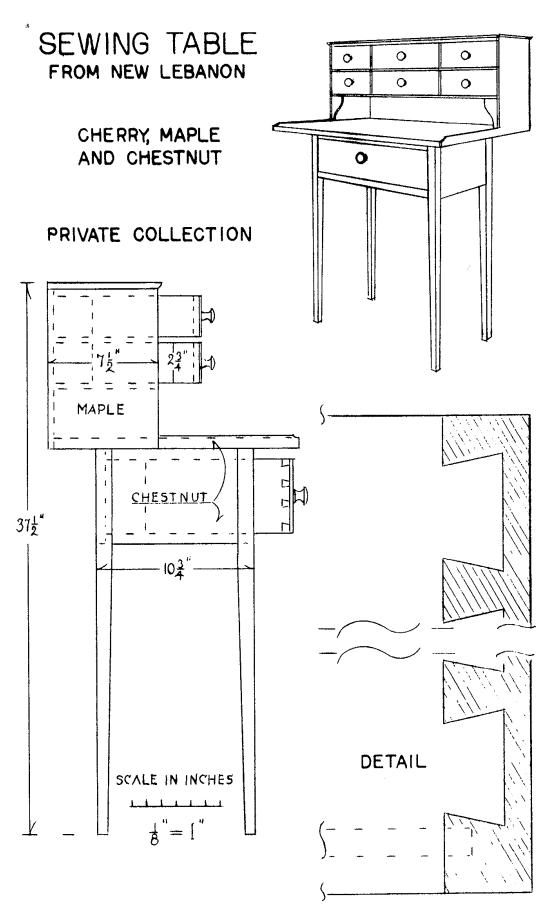


SEWING TABLE TOP SECTION PROBABLY ADDED LATER

FROM NEW LEBANON PRIVATE COLLECTION



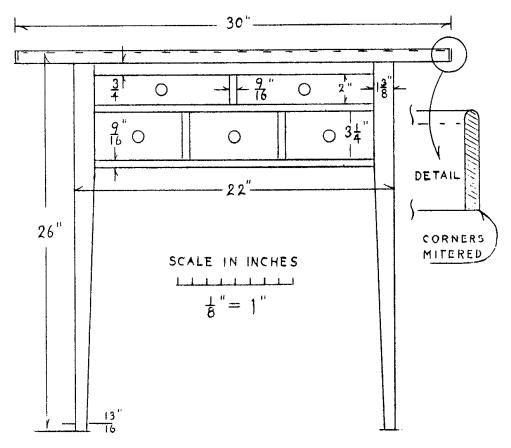
ALL DRAWER FRONTS AND TABLE LEGS ARE CHERRY



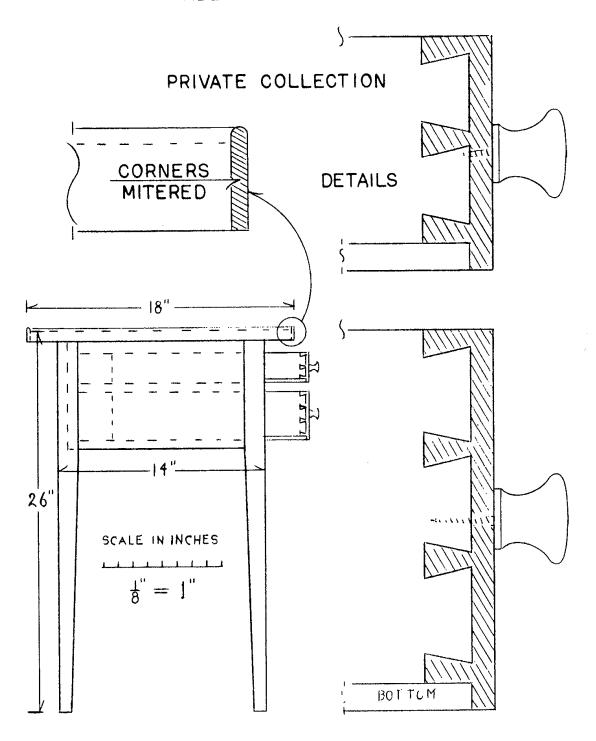
SEWING TABLE MADE OF BUTTERNUT



PRIVATE COLLECTION

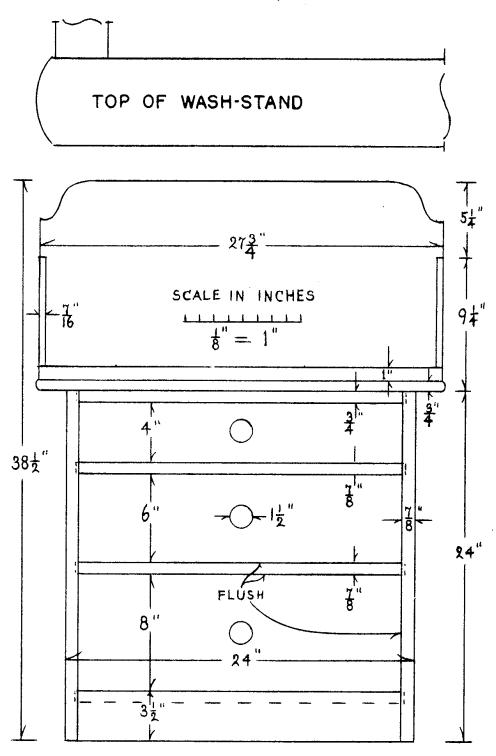


SEWING TABLE MADE OF BUTTERNUT



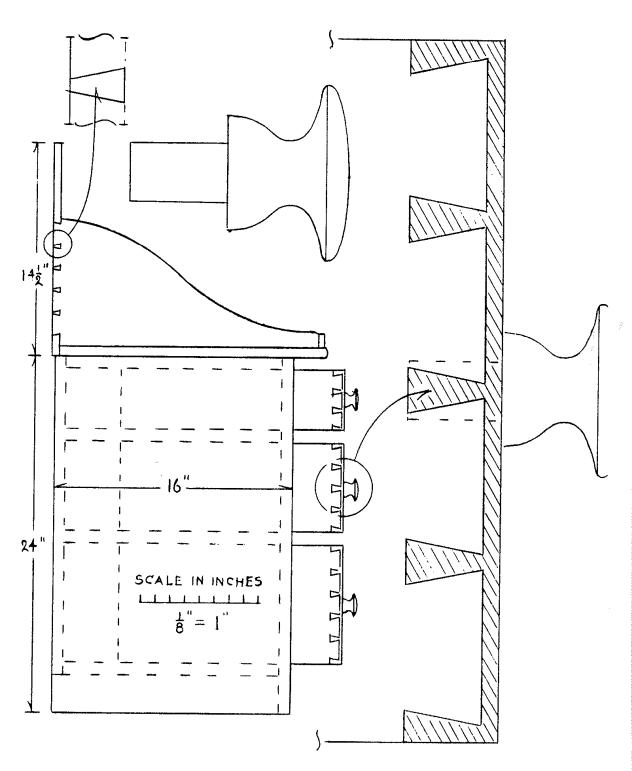
PINE WASH-STAND NEW LEBANON N.Y.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, MASS.



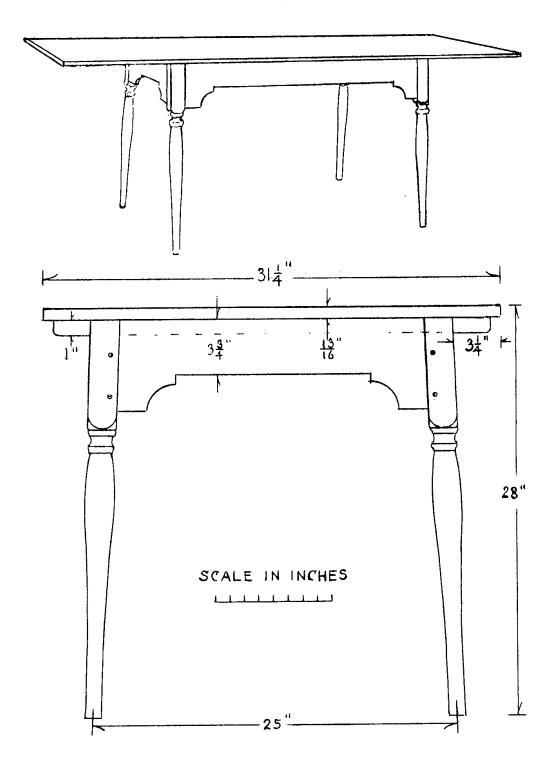
PINE WASH-STAND NEW LEBANON N.Y.

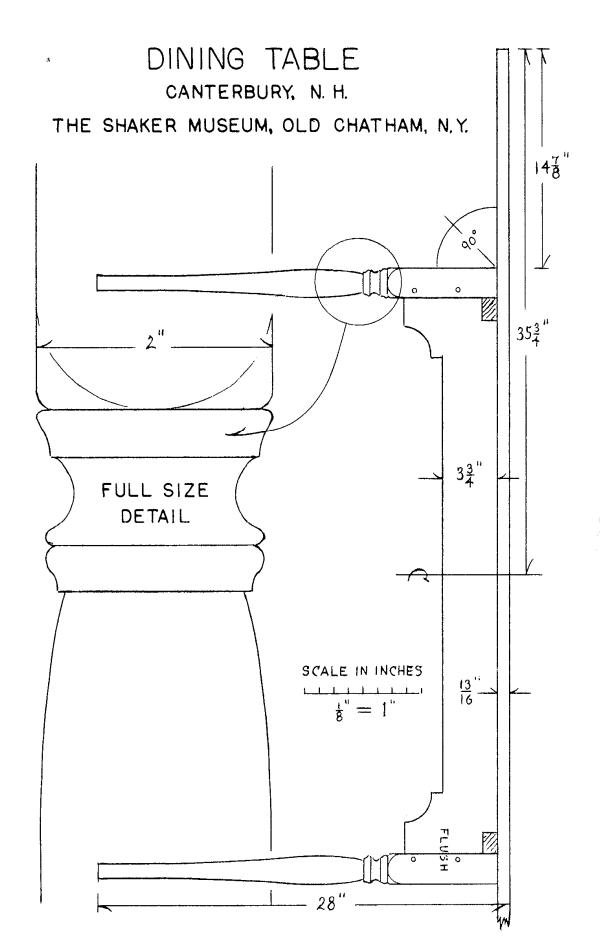
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, MASS.



DINING TABLE

CANTERBURY, N. H.
BIRCH WITH TOP OF BUTTERNUT
THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N. Y.

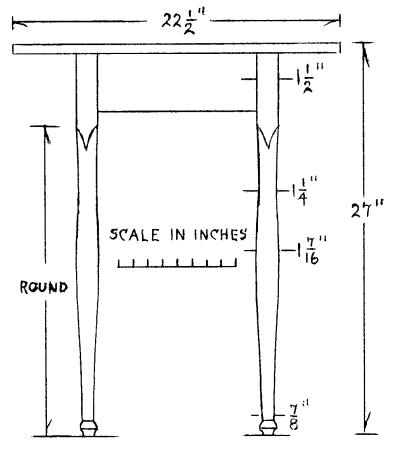




OVAL-TOP TABLE

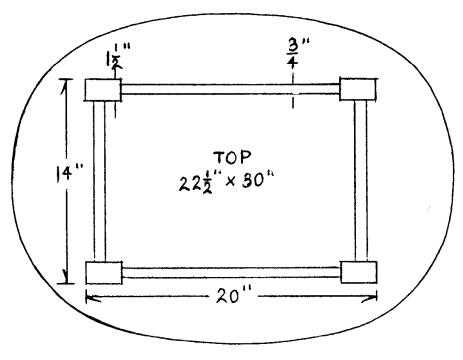
BIRCH WITH PINE TOP

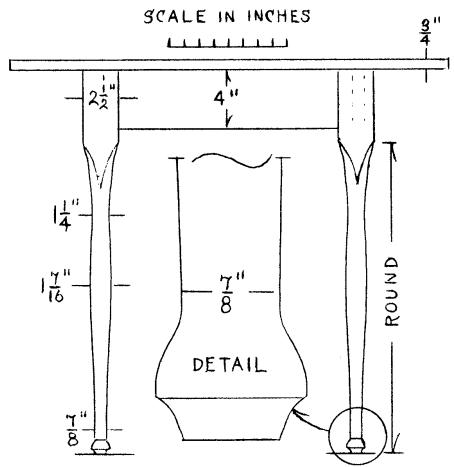




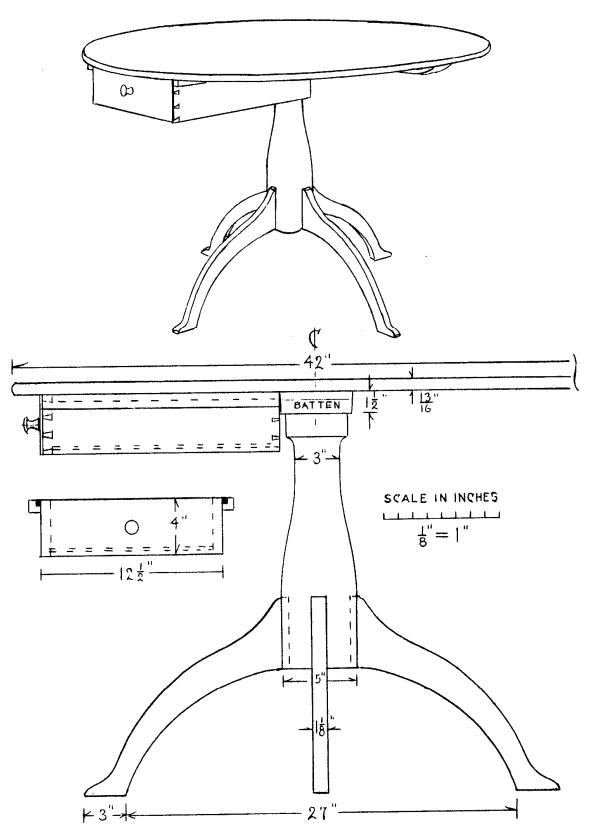
OVAL-TOP TABLE

BIRCH WITH PINE TOP

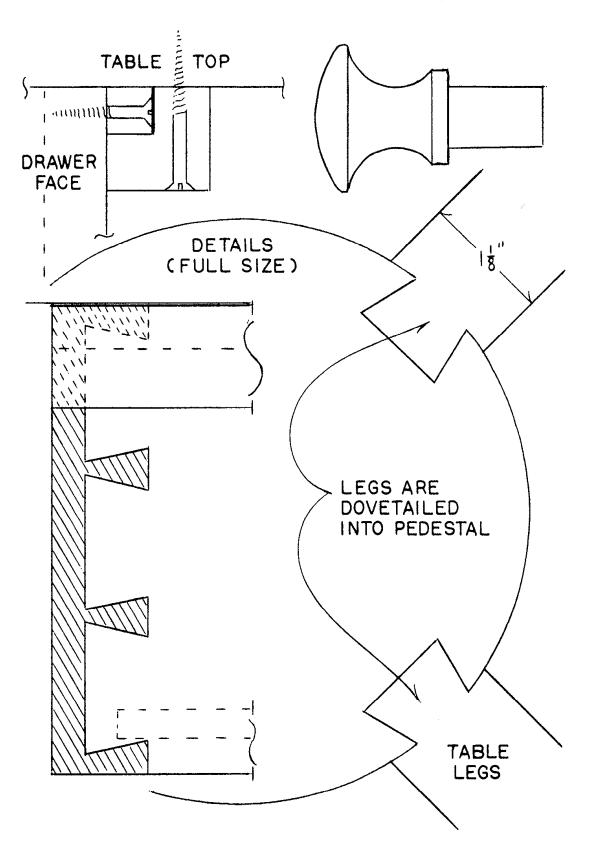




ROUND PEDESTAL TABLE DARROW SCHOOL, NEW LEBANON, N.Y.



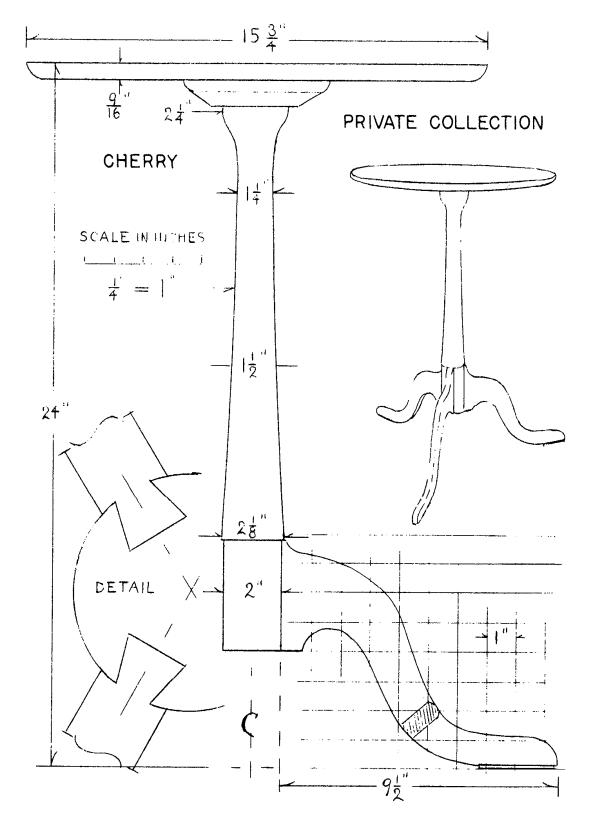
PEDESTAL TABLE DARROW SCHOOL, NEW LEBANON, N.Y.

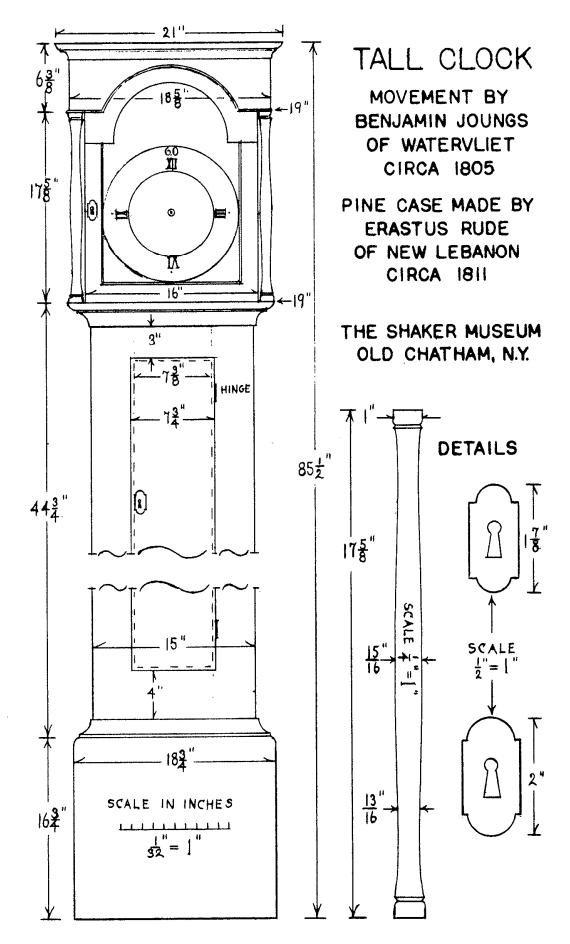


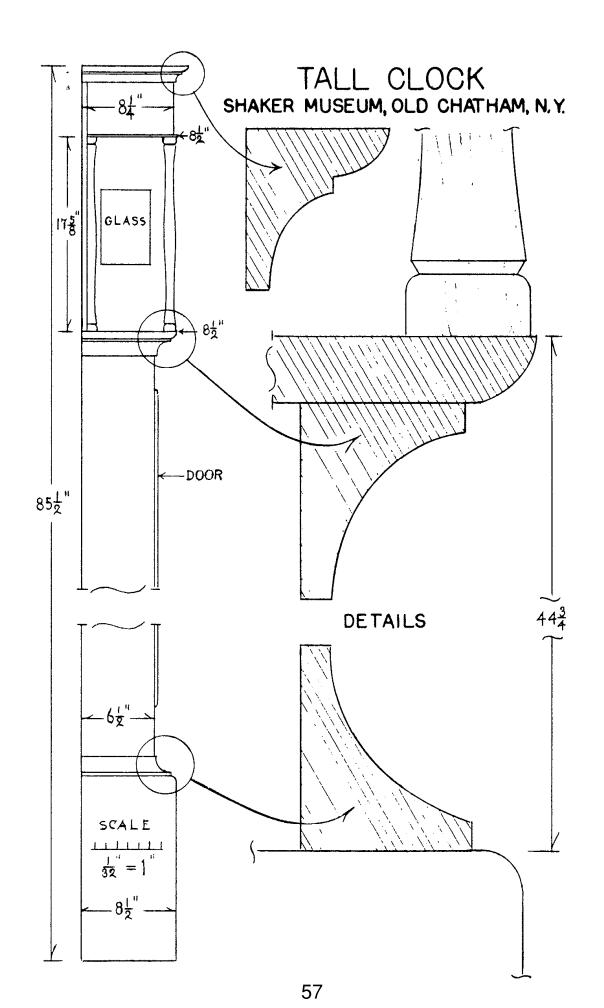
CANDLESTAND

PLEASANT HILL, KENTUCKY - 8½"---वि 12" 26 3="-16 SCALE IN INCHES

CANDLESTAND FROM MT. LEBANON

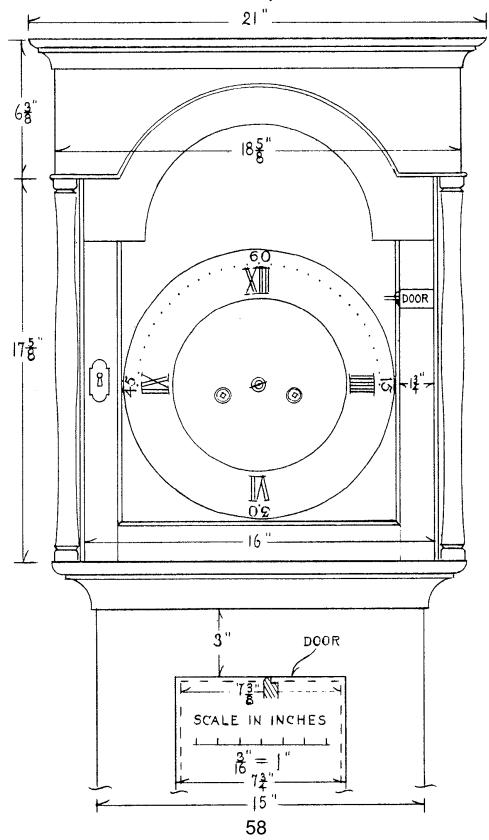




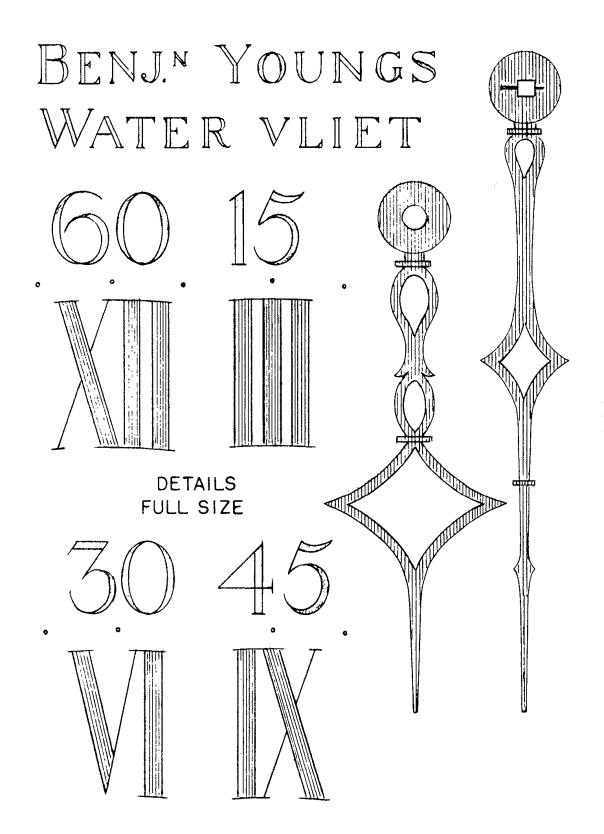


PINE CASE OF SHAKER TALL CLOCK FROM WATERVLIET

THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.

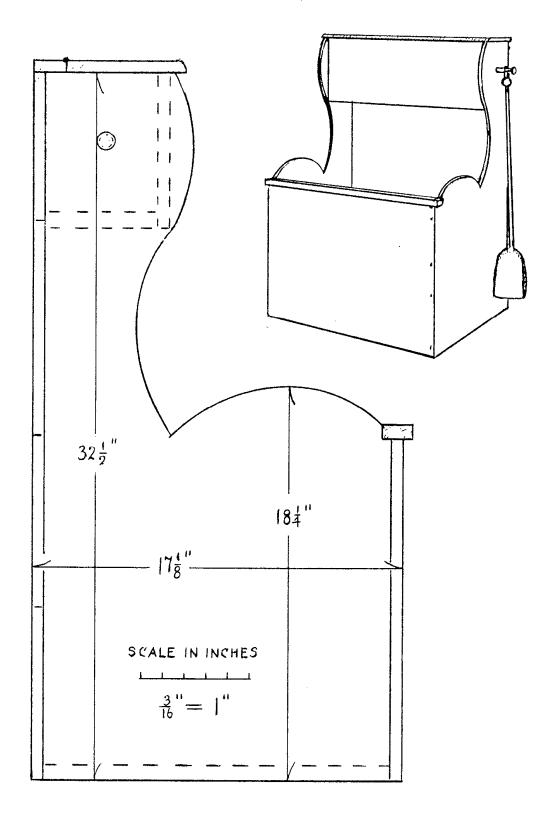


DETAILS OF DIAL ON TALL CLOCK THE SHAKER MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.

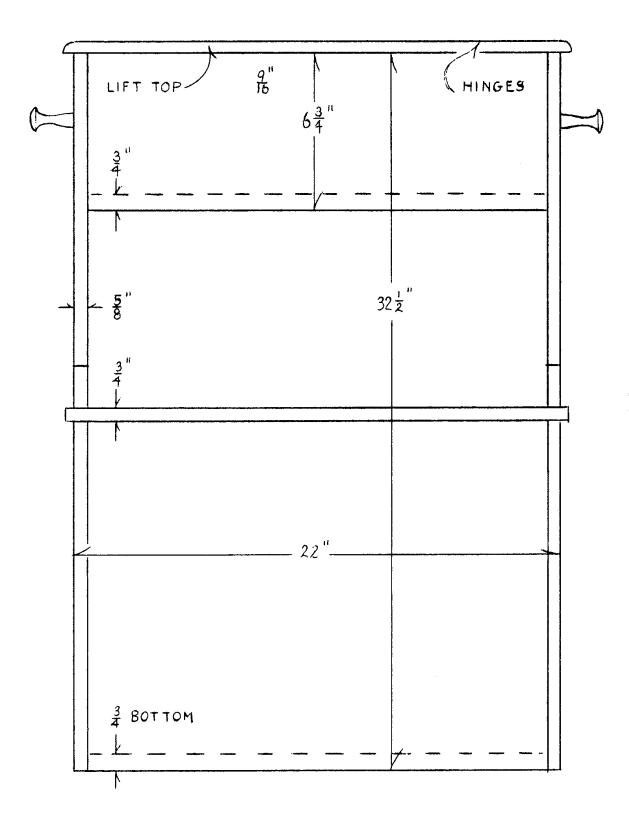


WOOD BOX

PLEASANT HILL, KENTUCKY

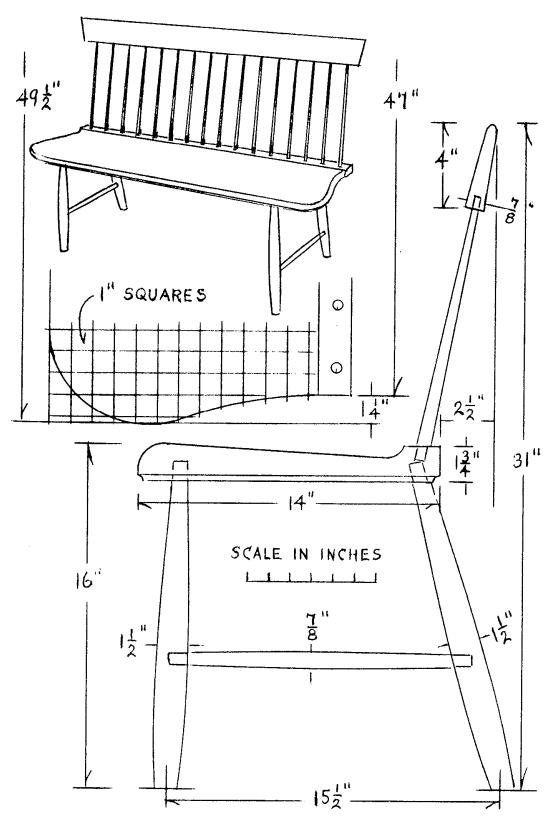


WOOD BOX PLEASANT HILL, KENTUCKY

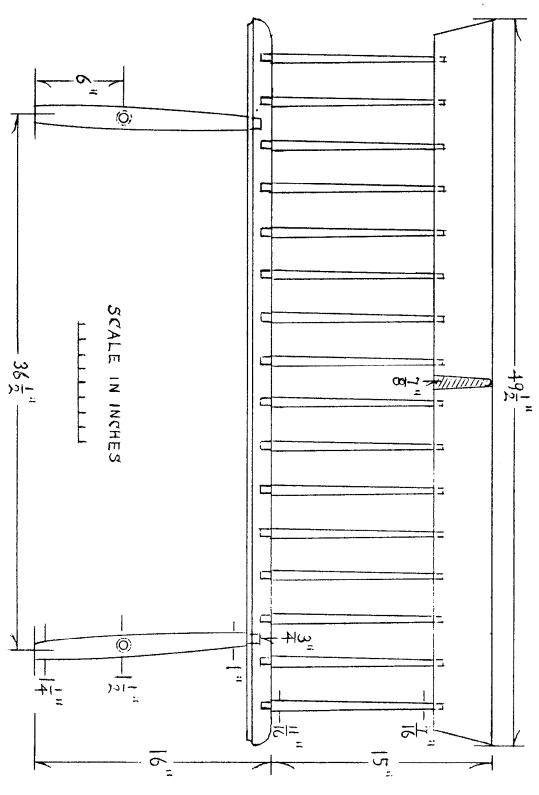


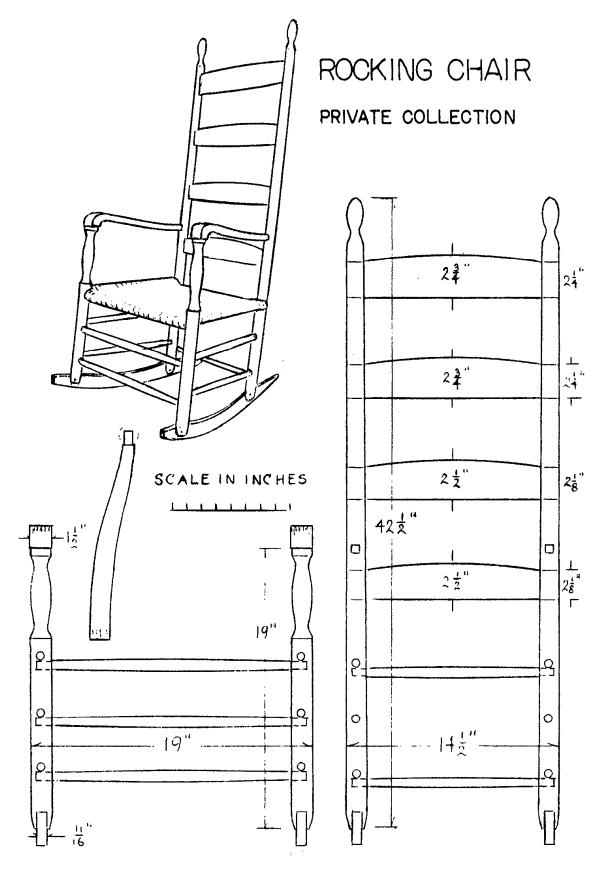
CANTERBURY SETTEE

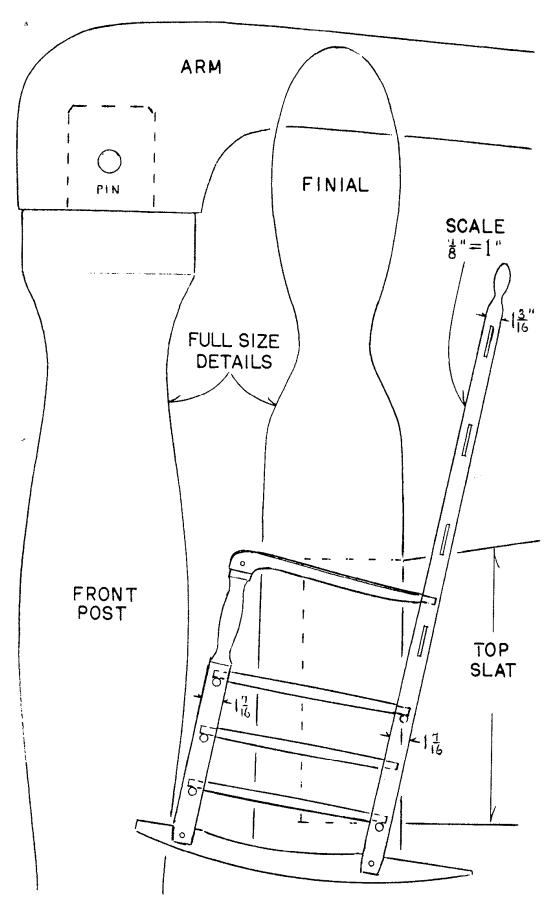
THE SHAKER MUSEUM OLD CHATHAM, N. Y.



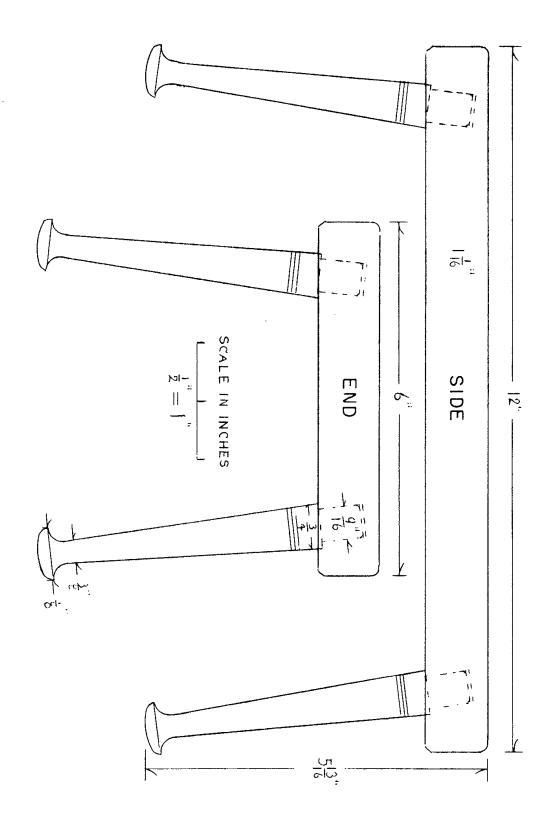
CANTERBURY SETTEE

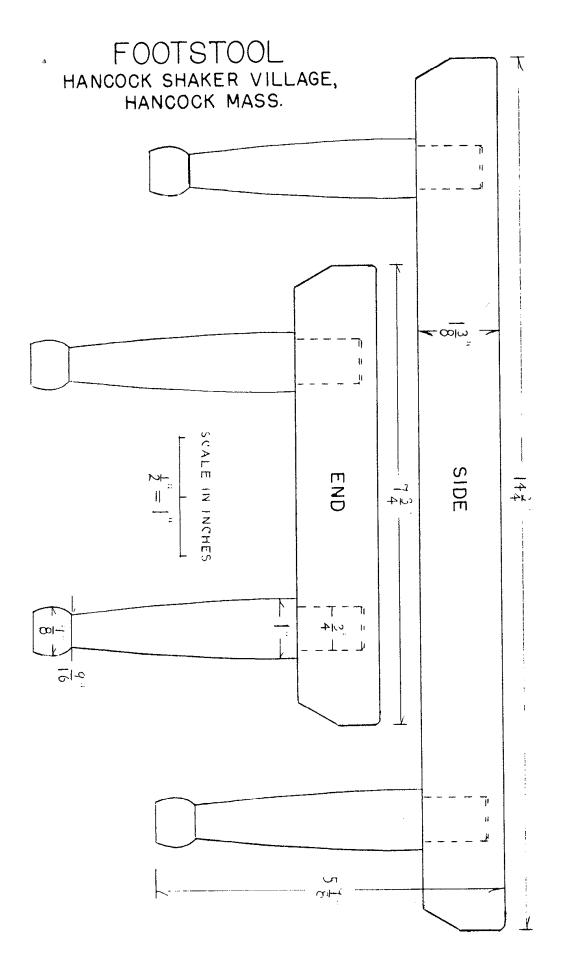


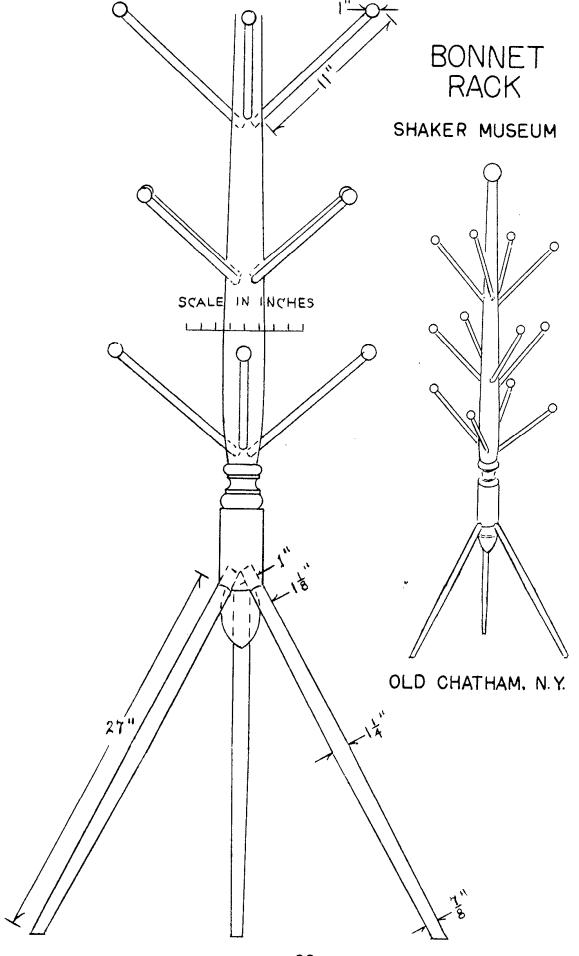


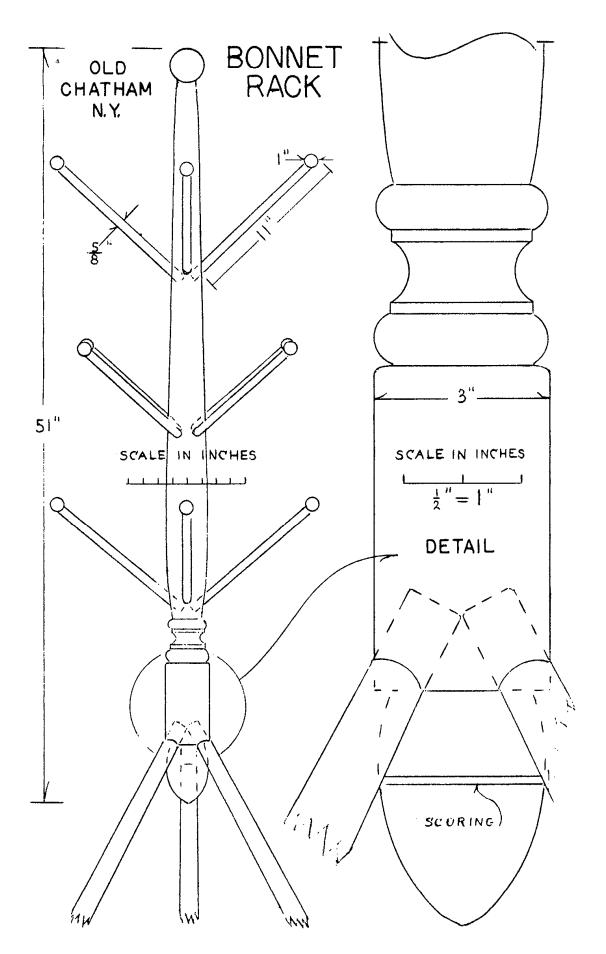


FOOTSTOOL HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE, HANCOCK MASS.

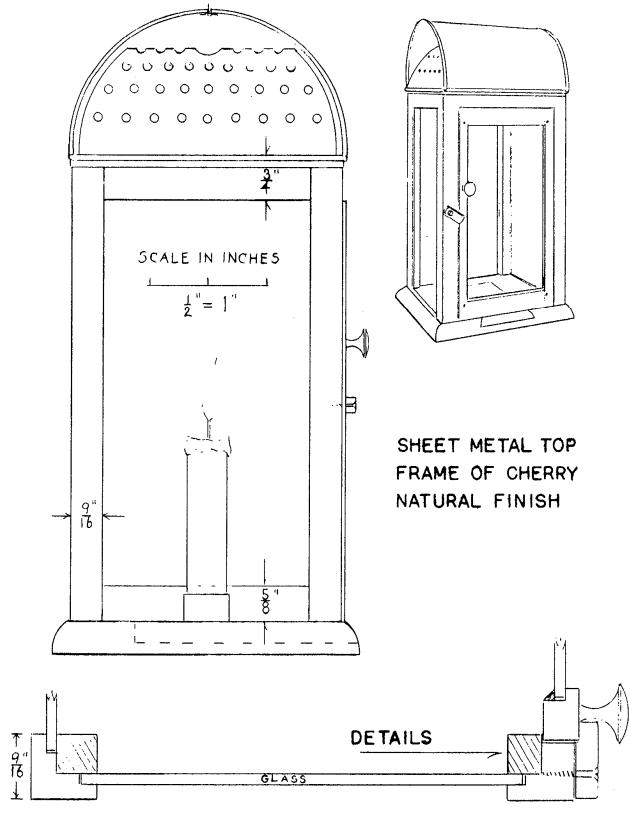




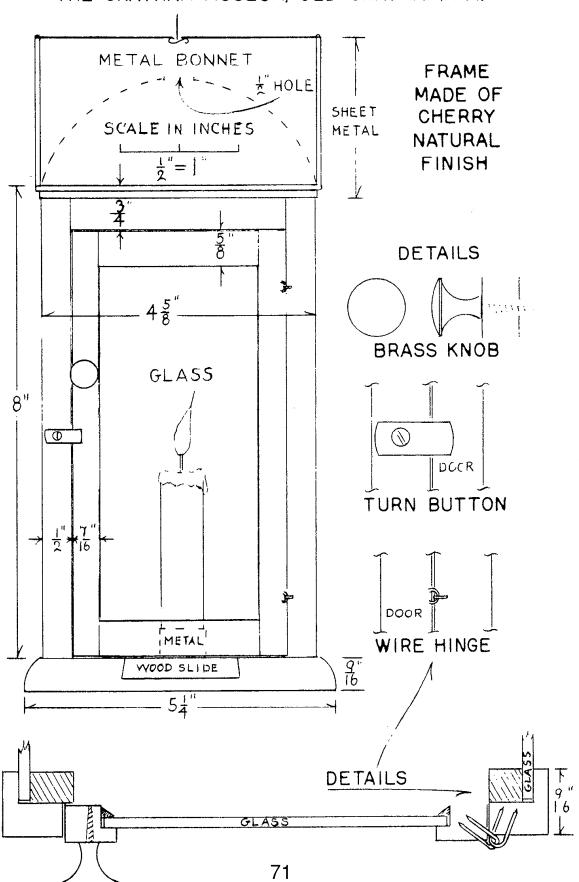




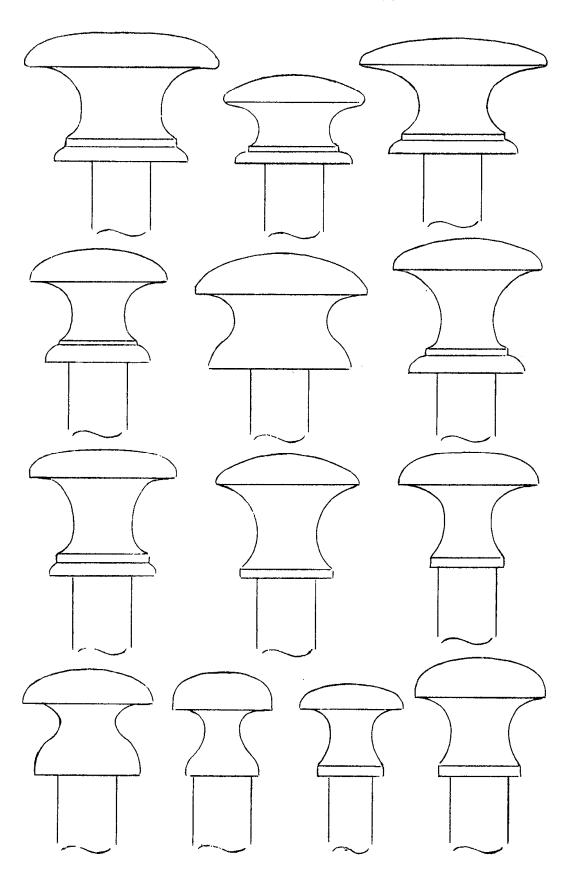
LANTERN THE CHATHAM MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.



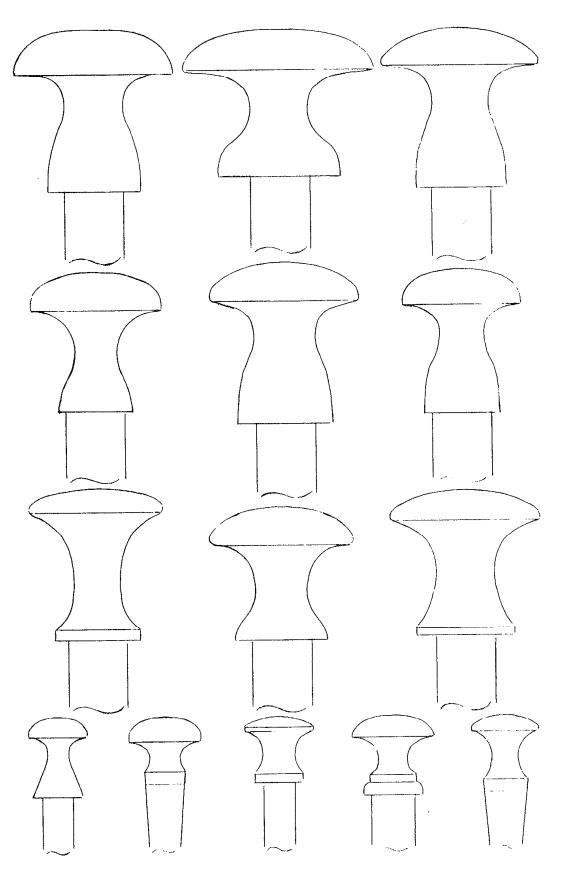
LANTERN
THE CHATHAM MUSEUM, OLD CHATHAM, N.Y.



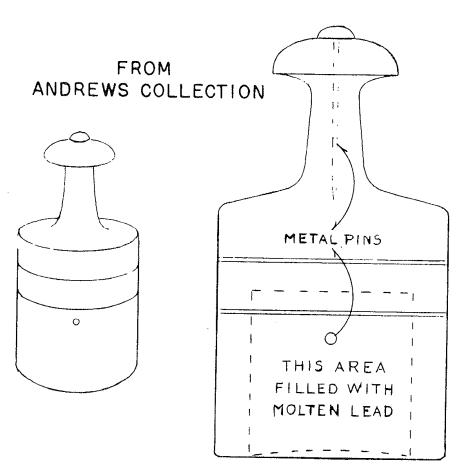
MAPLE BIRCH CHERRY

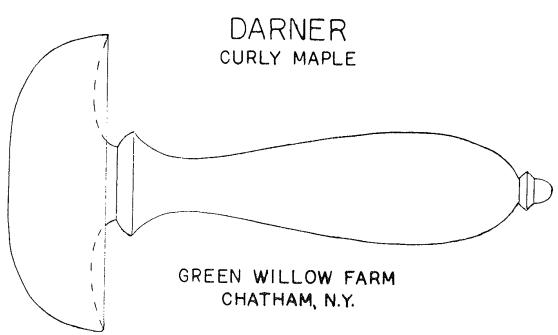


KNOBS AND PULLS



DRESSMAKER'S WEIGHT

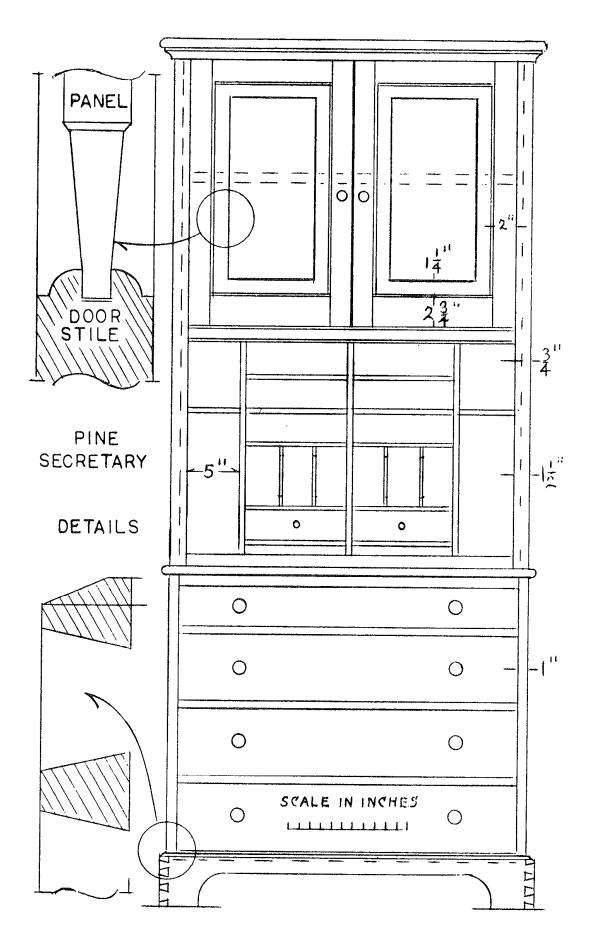


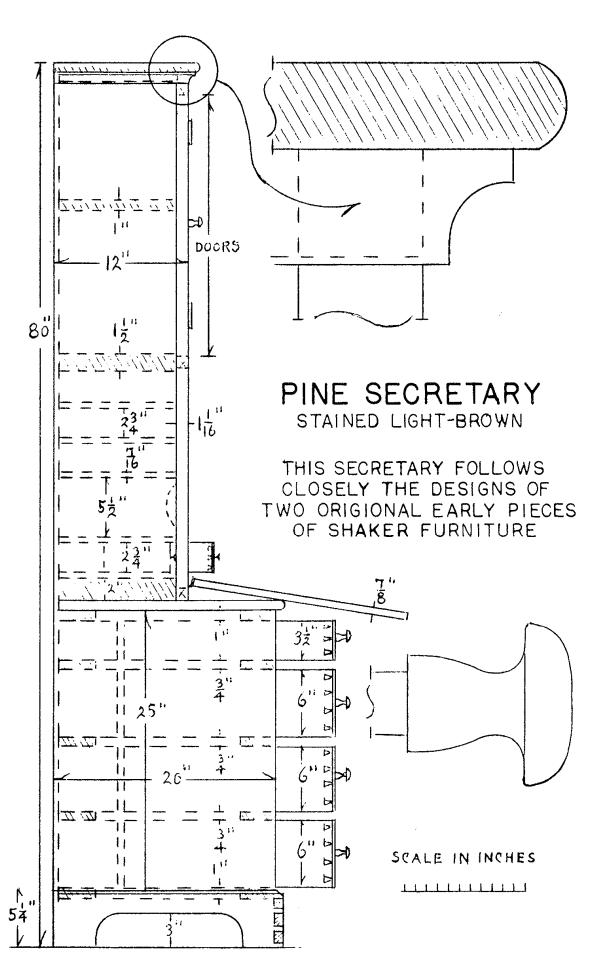


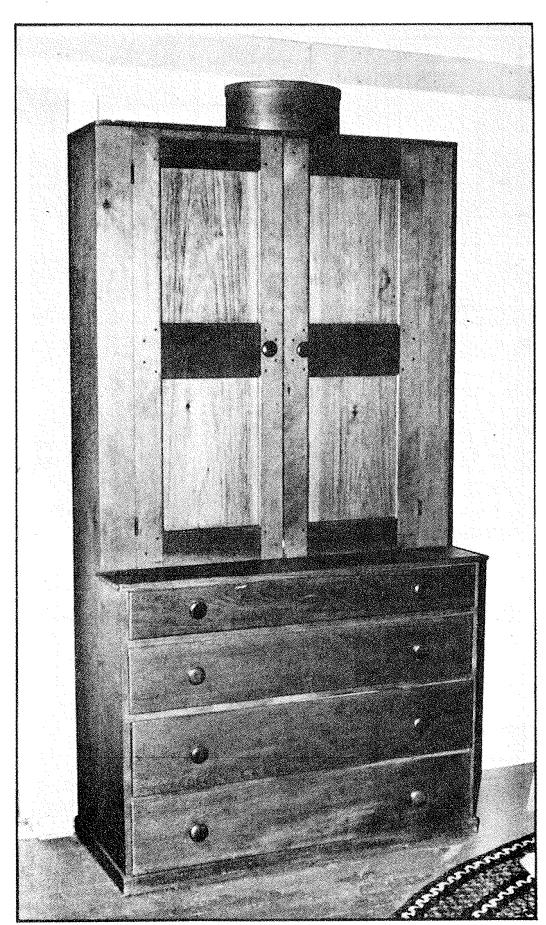
On the following pages are measured drawings of a secretary or fall-front desk which I made for my own use.

It follows closely the design of two original early pieces of Shaker furniture and therefore must be clearly signed and dated as a Shaker type piece of furniture. Photograph on page 84.

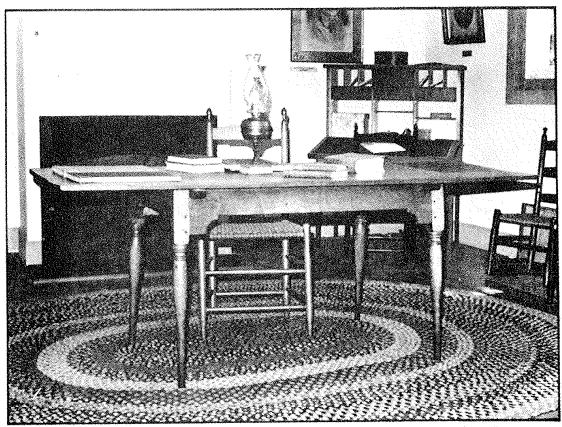
E.H.



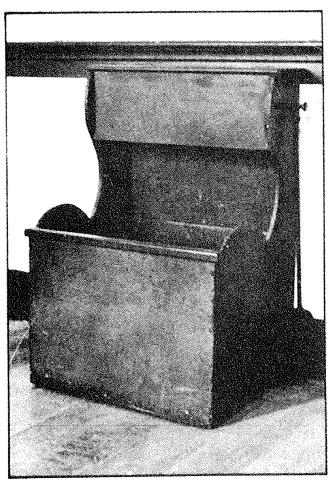




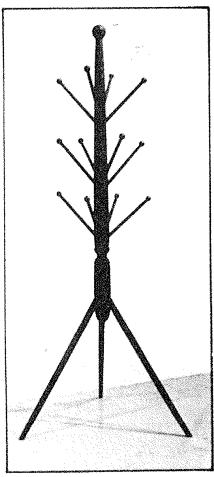
High Cupboard Chest - page 8



Dining Table page 48



Wood Hor page 60



Bonnet Rack page 68

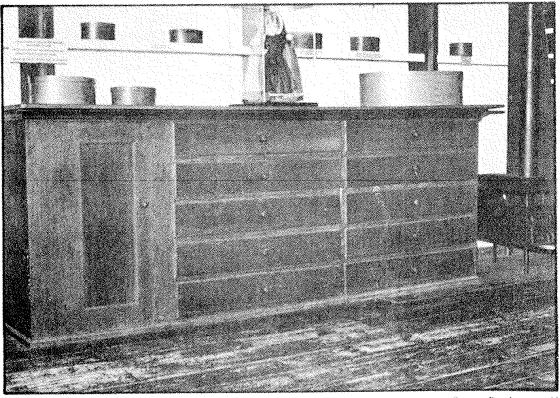


Upright Desk - page 30

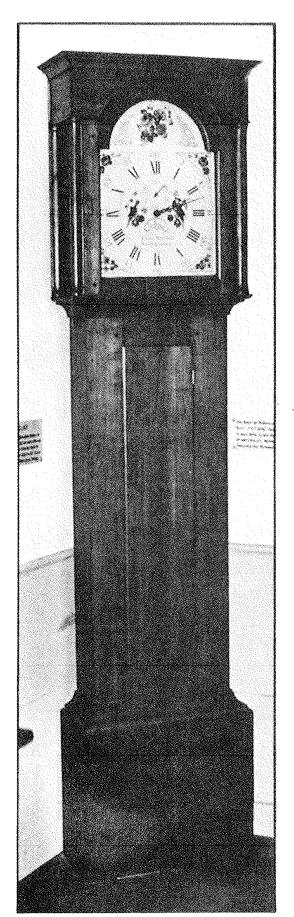


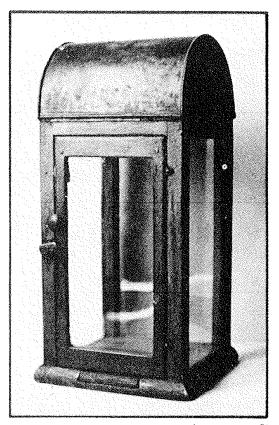
Pinc Wash Stand - page 46

Case of Drawers - page 28

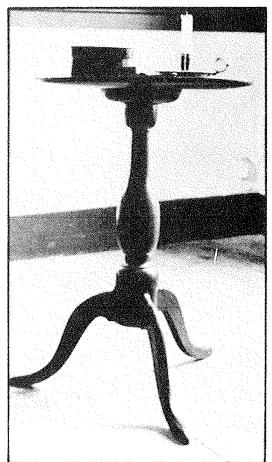


Storage Bench - page 22



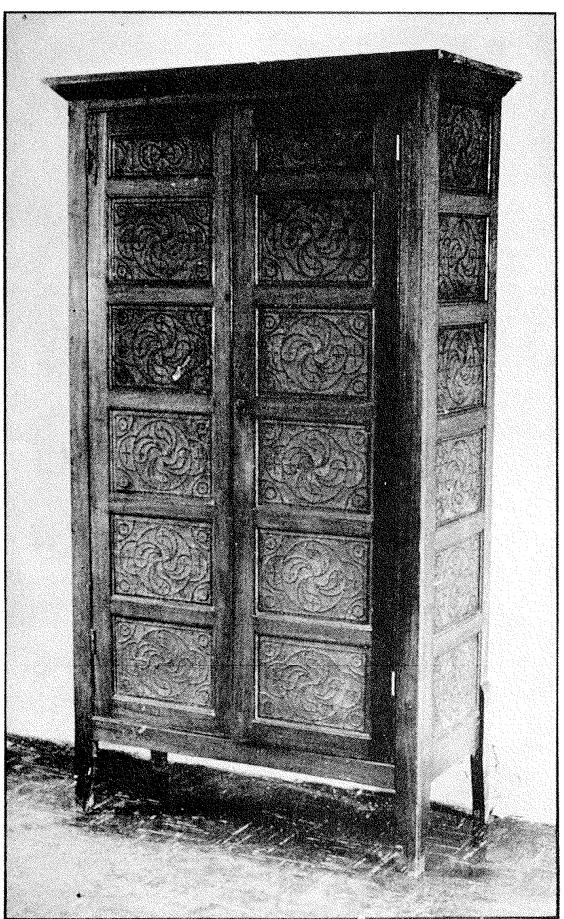


Lantern - page 70



Tall Clock page 56

Candlestand page 54



Pie-Sate page 2

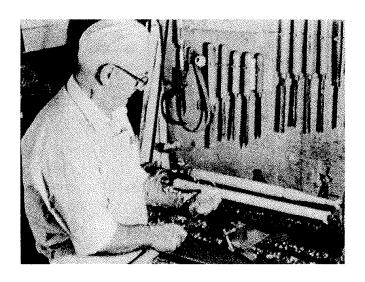


Shaker Type Secretary page 76

INDEX

Bench, Storage 22, 23	Pine Cupboards 4, 5, 16, 17
Bonnet Rack	Pulls, Drawers
Box, Wood 60, 61	Rack, Bonnet
Candlestands 54, 55	Rocking Chair
Case of Drawers 28, 29	Round Table
Chair, Rocking	School Desk
Chest of Drawers 24-27	Secretary, Shaker Type 76, 77
Clock, Tall Case 56-59	Settee
Counter, Tailoring18-21	Sewing, Stands
Cupboard, Chests 4, 5, 16, 17	Tables
High 8-15	Sill Cupboard
Sill6, 7	Stand, Sewing38, 39
Darner	Wash46, 47
Desk, School34, 35	Storage Bench
Table	Table, Desk
Upright 30-33	Dining
Dining Table	Pedestal 52, 53
Drawers, Case of28, 29	Oval50, 51
Chest of 24-27	Round
Dressmaker's Weight74	Sewing 40-45
Footstools	Tall Clock Case56-59
High Cupboard Chests 8-15	Tailoring Counters 18-21
Knobs and Pulls	Upright Desk
Lantern	Wash Stand
Oval Table50, 51	Weight, Dressmaker's74
Pedestal Table 52, 53	Wood Box60, 61
Pie Safe 2.3	

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



This is the third book in the series on Shaker furniture and artifacts by Ejner Handberg.

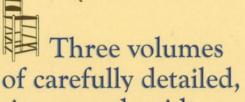
Mr. Handberg was a skilled cabinetmaker with more than fifty years' experience who first became interested in Shaker furniture and design when people brought the valuable Shaker pieces to him to repair or restore. Born in Denmark, he came to the U.S. at 17 years of age and learned his craft from 19th-century cabinetmakers who insisted upon precision and accuracy.

Volume I and II in this series on Shaker Furniture and Woodenware each contain meticulous drawings of many different types of Shaker chairs, boxes, tables, stools, knobs, candlesticks, trays, benches and similar pieces.

Volume III includes many larger items, such as rocking chairs, tables, school desks, sewing stands, cupboards, a storage bench, a clock case, an upright desk, a dining table, a lantern, pine cupboards, a settee, and counters.

In these three books, Mr. Handberg exercised extreme care to perfect measured drawings of these original Shaker pieces for the purpose of reproducing them in his own shop. Each drawing in every book is unique because it is carefully measured from an original Shaker piece. He emulated the reverence that these unusual people had for wood and the purely functional purpose in furniture.

The informed amateur worker in wood, as well as the professional cabinetmaker and the enthusiastic collector will find Mr. Handberg's books a valuable addition to the perpetuation of Shaker qualities.





time-tested guides to building Shaker furniture and woodenware are brought together in this special hardcover edition.

"EINER HANDBERG HAD AN EYE FOR SOME OF THE BEST SHAKER DESIGN. BOTH BEGINNING AND LONGTIME ADMIRERS OF SHAKER WORK WILL FIND PLEASURE AND IN-STRUCTION IN THESE SIMPLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD PAGES."

— June Sprigg, Curator of Collections, Hancock Shaker Village, Massachusetts

In harmony with the Shaker spirit, the three volumes of Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture & Woodenware emphasize simplicity, precision and utility. With more than 100,000 copies in print and more than 35 years of service to cabinetmakers and antiques collectors worldwide, these highly respected books have established themselves as an authoritative resource. No furniture makers, antiques lovers, libraries or museums should be without them.

The three volumes provide accurate scale drawings of such sought-after Shaker items as:

- · Bed
- Sewing table
- · Blanket chest
- · School desk
- Candlestand
- Step stool

- Chest of drawers
- Storage bench
- Dining table
- Shaker stove
- Drop-leaf tables
- Revolving stool
- High cupboard chests
- Round pedestal table
- Lantern
- Tall case clock
- · Mt. Lebanon chairs
- Towel racks

- Oval boxes
- Trestle tables
- · Oval top table
- · Wall clock
- Settee
- Wall cupboard

Ejner Handberg (1902-1985) was born in Denmark, emigrated to America, and was a cabinetmaker in Stockbridge, Massachusetts for many years, where he helped design and build Norman Rockwell's studio.

Jacket design by Deborah Fillion Jacket photo by Rick Mastelli / Image & Word Printed in the United States of America



