



TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

AMERICAN PRECISION MUSEUM • 2005 REPORT

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The American Precision Museum is open daily 10 am - 5 pm, Memorial Day weekend through October.

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The Cutting Edge: Machines that Shape our World

Through simple explanations of machining techniques, hands-on activities, and historical machinery in motion, the museum's new exhibition, *The Cutting Edge*, introduces the concept of



Barnes pedal-powered lathe, ca 1890s

precision manufacturing. Visitors will be able to learn the fundamental principles of how machine tools work, examine and compare different types of machines, and explore why machine tools are important today.

Precision manufacturing touches us all. The appliances in our kitchens, the cars in our garages, the toys in our playrooms, and the tools in our workplaces all depend, in one way or another, upon the mass production of interchangeable parts. The tiny steel screws that hold together a digital camera can be replaced with any other screw of the same size and type made anywhere in the world. Ultimately, all of this interchangeability is made possible by machine tools: the power-

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Edwin A. Battison American Precision Museum Founder

The American Precision Museum, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, owes its beginnings to the foresight of its founder, Edwin Battison. In 1966, he was nearing retirement from the Smithsonian, when he learned that the Robbins & Lawrence Armory, an outstanding example of mid-19th century factory architecture, was to be razed by the local Windsor Electric Light Company. Aware of the significance of this building from childhood, he enlisted the help of Senator Ralph Flanders and persuaded the company to sell it for a future museum for the sum of one dollar! Battison became the museum's first director, a position he held until 1991.



Ed Battison (center) and founding trustee Fay E. Kingsbury (right) welcome Governor Philip Hoff to the the new museum on opening day in 1966.

Edwin Albert Battison was born on September 28, 1915, in Windsor, Vermont. Coming of age during the Depression, he had to forgo a college education and began working in the machine tool industry, first with the Cone Automatic Machine Tool Company (the forerunner of Cone Blanchard) and then with the Fellows Gear Shaper Company in Springfield, Vermont. Battison read widely and in

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American Precision Museum

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2005

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From the Chairman, Board of Trustees and the Executive Director

This Annual Report edition of *Tools and Technology* gives us the opportunity to look backward over the calendar year 2005, and also forward to what's in store for 2006-07.



Douglas Loudon, Chairman
Board of Trustees

As we celebrate the museum's 40th year, we have a great deal for which to be thankful, particularly the dedication and foresight of our founder Ed Battison. (See related story on page 1.) Not only did he assemble a remarkable collection of historic machine tools, but

Battison also saved an important historic building to house the collection. By seeking the National Historic Landmark designation that was granted in 1972, Ed ensured that others, who cherish the record of economic achievement that lingers in our old 1846 Robbins & Lawrence Armory's architecture, would lend their support to the museum's ongoing efforts to care for these remarkable resources.

Ed's vision has, to some extent, already come to fruition. With the help of a prestigious grant of \$200,000 from *Save America's Treasures*, awarded in 2003, and other grants and gifts from individuals, the museum was able to more than double that amount and complete Phase I of the restoration of the Armory in 2005. Now the board and staff are planning and raising funds for Phase II. This will include much needed interior structural repairs, restoration of more windows, a documentation strategy for the remains of the old mill race in the basement and solving the moisture problem that it causes, as well as resolving some of the safety and access issues attendant to any old building.

We established our new Board of Advisors and in February 2006 held the first meeting. This group is drawn from a variety of constituencies — museum professionals, local and community leaders, educators and business executives — to provide advice and counsel about issues of critical importance to small, rural museums like ours.

What comes next?

While our historic building is one of our most important artifacts, and we still have work before

us in the restoration, it is not the only focus of our attention. In our new strategic plan, updated in January 2006, the board set the direction — to meet professional museum standards in all aspects of our work, with specific goals in collections stewardship, education and exhibits, thus moving us to re-focus on our core mission: *The American Precision Museum is the national center for the collection, preservation and interpretation of the history of precision manufacturing. Our mission is to enhance public understanding of the importance of precision manufacturing, the ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit which drive it, and its effect on our everyday lives.* (1995)

Our goals for the collections include keeping what we have as safe and secure as possible. We are working to develop a collecting plan to focus our broad collection and make its size more manageable relative to the museum's needs. This includes both the machine tool collection itself and our extensive document collection, much of which is in fragile condition.

In terms of education, we have set a goal to develop a plan for school groups that meets Vermont and New Hampshire educational standards and serves area teachers. We hired a highly qualified consultant who has gathered information from all the teachers who brought their classes here in the past five years, researched other area museum offerings to schools, both within our geographic area and in New England and formed a teacher advisory group that has met twice. The teachers will be meeting again soon to help us select, develop and pilot test a new curriculum project.

Our members, supporters and visitors make all this exciting work possible. Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to welcoming you to Windsor during the museum's 40th season.

Douglas Loudon

Chairman, Board of Trustees

Ann Lawless

Executive Director



Ann Lawless, Executive Director

Birthplace of Modern Manufacturing is Reborn

The American Precision Museum in Windsor is more than a treasure trove of manufacturing machinery. It was in this 1840s-vintage brick building that modern consumer society was born.

Not enough Vermonters or others know the local landmark's remarkable story. Now, thanks to the devotion of the nonprofit board of trustees that runs the Precision Museum, coupled with funding from VHCB, a federal *Save America's Treasures* partnership, and other sources, the museum is being saved for new generations to explore. Last year, more than 5,000 people visited this new center for the collection, preservation and interpretation of the history of precision manufacturing.

"I've always seen that building as a special place," says Eric Gilbertson, the deputy state historic-preservation officer and a Precision Museum trustee. "It's the most intact example of early to mid-19th century mill building in Vermont, particularly of that scale. And what went on inside the building is so important."

The tall brick structure sits at the southern end of Windsor's downtown, slightly below modern road level, beside a tumbling-water stretch of the Mill Brook. It was here in the late 1840s, inside what was then called the Robbins & Lawrence Armory and Machine Shop, that skilled machinists and designers created a set of finely engineered machine tools to turn out military rifles made of interchangeable

parts. That manufacturing advance was brand new to the world.

Before the Robbins & Lawrence innovation, a gunsmith needed eight days to make one rifle, crafting each individual part in turn. This was the way all mechanical devices were made. Then, in 1851, the local gunmakers Robbins, Kendall and Lawrence brought a batch of new Windsor-built rifles to London's Crystal Palace Exposition. They took the guns apart, mixed all the parts together on the exposition floor, then reassembled new guns. The British Army quickly ordered 25,000 Enfield rifles and 138 gun-making machines—and thereby imported to England what became known as the "American system" of precision manufacturing.

The techniques and expertise developed at Robbins & Lawrence gave rise to the Industrial Revolution. From the first manufacture of guns, sewing machines, typewriters, and railroad cars until today, virtually all important consumer products have been manufactured of interchangeable parts.

Windsor became the birthplace of America's Precision Valley, from here through Springfield along the Connecticut River. Its machine tool industry, so vital to the Allied success in World War II, is virtually gone today—but its importance lives on.

"It's interesting, geographically: At one end of Windsor there's the Constitution House [cradle of the Vermont Constitution], and on the other end is the American Precision Museum," reflects Bill Ballantyne, chair of the Windsor Downtown



Board. "They represent the two major birthplace events that play a significant role in Windsor's identity."

The Precision Museum houses an amazing collection of 19th century machine tools, set up for interactive display—but the building's own deterioration threatened its survival. Having won a \$200,000 *Save America's Treasures* grant, provided through a partnership of federal agencies, the museum brought in funds from VHCB, the Preservation Trust of Vermont, several foundations, and individual donors to complete Phase I of a much-needed restoration project this year.

Phase I installed a new slate roof that matched the deteriorated original, and renovated 70 of the 166 historic wood windows. Phase II targets the remaining windows, structural elements, and masonry restoration, along with probable safety improvements.

"This year we're going to be launching a new initiative," says museum Director Ann Lawless, "to focus on developing a coherent education program that's based on what teachers need from us, and that references the Vermont and New Hampshire educational standards."

"There are a lot of really good ideas out there," adds Trustee Gilbertson.

—Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), *Annual Report 2005*



Volunteer Mike Riviezzo shows the Blanchard copy lathe to visitors.

The American Precision Museum, founded in 1966, preserves the heritage of the mechanical arts, celebrates the ingenuity of our mechanical forebears, and explores the effects of their work on our everyday lives. The museum, housed in the original 1846 Robbins and Lawrence Armory in Windsor, Vermont, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1972. The museum now holds the largest collection of historically significant machine tools in the nation.

Edward A. Battison *continued from page 1*

his spare time collected artifacts from the American industrial revolution, but especially old clocks and watches. Wanting to know more about his burgeoning horological collection, he contacted the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, where it quickly became apparent that he knew more than the museum staff. He was then offered the Curatorship of Clocks and Watches.

Later, as Curator of Mechanical Engineering, Battison was to travel overseas for the Smithsonian and gain a global perspective on the machine tool industry. Teaching a course on technology at the University of Pennsylvania and now with access to major academic libraries, as well as the national archives, he could pursue his research interests and even challenge some of the wide-spread beliefs held in his field. One such belief was that Eli Whitney invented interchangeable parts in manufacturing muskets for the U.S. government. By personally examining the muskets in question and archives, he was to debunk this and publish the results of his findings in the *Smithsonian Magazine*.

At the American Precision Museum, Battison worked tirelessly to build a first-rate collection of machine tools to rival that of the Smithsonian. He acquired working models, including the famed Aschauer Workshop Collection, as well as rifles, sewing machines, and typewriters of historic significance to Windsor and the Precision Valley. Battison also created a comprehensive library and archive to support the collections; began publishing the newsletter, *Tools & Technology*; and with the support of the Association for Manufacturing Technology established the Machine Tool Hall of Fame. From his Washington years, he learned the importance of recognition of the site's significance as a means of ensuring its long-term preservation. The National Park Service designated the Robbins & Lawrence Armory a National Historic Landmark in 1972. In 1987, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers recognized it as the First International Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site and Collection.

Now in his ninetieth year, Ed Battison still has an enduring passion for the museum. To commemorate his service, the museum will honor him as its Founder, First Director, and Trustee Emeritus at the annual meeting on July 22nd in Windsor.

—Shirley J. Grainger, Board of Trustees

Volunteers Judy and Geoff Shepherd

Because of her husband's interest in machines, when Judy Shepherd saw the ad for a part-time visitor services position at the American Precision Museum, she applied immediately. From part-time staffer to full-time volunteers, Judy and Geoff Shepherd have been important additions to the museum. Fortunately for the museum, Geoff only works part time as Director of Engineering for a New Jersey pharmaceutical packaging company so he is able to join Judy for special events as the museum's official parking czar! The Shepherds have lived part time in Claremont for 12 years and expect to retire to Claremont permanently when Geoff finally retires. Judy served in the Women's Army Corps before moving to New Hampshire in 1970 and with her accounting and retail background her work in the visitors services position was a perfect fit.



She took over management of the museum shop and helped set up on-line museum sales in addition to producing promotional pieces for museum programs. With Judy no longer a museum staffer, she plans to continue as a volunteer with Geoff for special projects and events. They join a wonderful group of museum volunteers, and we feel lucky to have the Shepherds with us!

Museum Volunteers

Sheila Brannan	Judy Shepherd
Roald Cann	Clay Washburn
Ruth Carter	Susan Washburn
Cynthia Day	Herbert Yohe
Joseph Gresser	
Pamela Levesque	
Kelsey O'Connor	
Michael Riviezzo	
Geoffrey Shepherd	

Calendar of Events 2006

40th anniversary exhibit

The Cutting Edge: Machines that Shape our World

Through simple explanations of machining techniques, hands-on activities and historical machinery in motion, *The Cutting Edge* introduces the concept of precision manufacturing, which placed the Robbins & Lawrence Armory in the forefront of industry in the 1840s.

Funding, in part, thanks to Haas Automation and Hypertherm.

Saturday, July 22

Annual Membership Meeting

all members welcome— call re specific times

Saturday, July 22 · 3:00 pm

The Industrial Transformation of the Mill Brook Watershed



How did the early industrialization reorder the landscape of Mill Brook? Using historical images, maps and data about the Robbins & Lawrence Armory, we will explore the transformation of ecological relationships in New England and introduce the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) for place-based learning.

Speaker: Ned Swanberg, Director of the New Hampshire Audubon - Upper Valley Program

Sunday, August 27 · 3:00 pm · FREE MUSEUM DAY

Art by the Yard – Vermont's Painted Theater Curtains

Lake Eden, Lake Willoughby, Civil War battlefields, views of Mt. Ascutney from the West Windsor Historical Society – these and many other images adorn the 150 theatre curtains that



constitute Vermont's largest and most unusual art treasures. Painted for town halls, Grange halls, and opera houses by local artists or scenery companies, these curtains display unusual artistic merit and production techniques giving us glimpses of popular culture, community identity, and technological changes from the 1890s to the 1940s.

Speaker: Michael Sherman, co-author of *Freedom and Unity: A History of Vermont*.

(funded, in part, by the Vermont Humanities Council)

Sunday, Sept. 24 · 3:00 pm · FREE MUSEUM DAY

19th Century American Popular Music

This presentation will examine the phenomenon of American music before electronic amplification. It considers various types of music, the uses to which the music was put, settings and performers, instruments and the significance in American life. Included are songs reflecting, war, religions, work as well as slave tunes. Bye will perform on period instruments adding immediacy and texture to his presentation.

Speaker: Eric Bye, self-taught musician and a player of old-time banjo and mandolin.

(funded, in part, by the Vermont Humanities Council)

Saturday, October 28 · 9:00 am-5:00pm

7th annual Model Engineering Show Windsor Community Center

Successful model engineering combines the skill of working with fine tools and precise measurements with an interest in the history of machines that enables the model engineer to produce an accurate, scaled-down copy of a historical or influential machine. Join the best model machinists in New England to experience fine craftsmanship and engineering excellence together with exhibitors and vendors from throughout the northeast.

special demonstrations throughout the day:

- Bill McCarthy, Museum Trustee and owner/founder, Restoration Millwork, Riegelsville, PA
- Dean Merrill, Queensbury, NY – steam engine demonstration
- Michael Oatman, Troy NY, *Model Citizen*, video of people "who spend part of their day in a small world."



All museum programs are accessible and open to the public.

The museum is open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm from Saturday, May 27th through Tuesday, October 31st.

Board of Advisors

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Preservation Trust of
Vermont*

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David Donath
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Foundation/Billings
Farm & Museum*

Warren Garfield
*Plant Manager,
Lovejoy Tool*

Paul Highberg
*Retired machine tool
executive*

Francis Manasek
*Medical school professor,
emeritus and antiquarian
map expert*

Michael Newbold
*Retired marketing and
planning executive*

Jane Osgood
*Local developer, historic
preservationist*

Clarence Prevo
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Technology Center*

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Lyndon State College*

Peter Zierhut
*Corporate Relations,
Haas Automation*

2005 Highlights

January

The museum received an education grant from the National Park Service to work with Vital Communities' Valley Quest to develop three new quests to be added to this popular community program. Work will begin in 2007.

March

Vermont Humanities Council funded, in part, three speakers for the museum's Program Series for the 2005 season.

April

Mascoma Savings Bank awarded the museum a \$22,500 grant for the building restoration project.

May

The museum opened for the season with a new exhibit, *The Mechanization of Woodworking*, on display through 2006, curated by museum trustee, William McCarthy, founder/owner of Restoration Millwork, Riegelsville, PA. The exhibit featured hand tools, woodworking machine tools, patent drawings and engravings.

June

The 1772 Foundation awarded the museum a \$60,000 grant to restore additional windows.



July

Ken Aiken, noted author on the history of guns and gun making, spoke at the museum's 19th annual membership meeting on July 30th, about *The Gun Shop of Nicanor Kendall*.

Leighton Wilkie, the inventor of the metal band saw, DoAll, now the name of the company he founded, was inducted into the museum's Machine Tool Hall of Fame. Michael Wilkie and Bonnie Wilkie Henrichs with their respective families were present for the dedication ceremony. Other inductees included Thomas Blanchard, the inventor of the

copy lathe (see photo, page 3), Ebenezer Lamson, founder of Jones & Lamson Machine Company; and Robert Gaylord, who led Ingersoll Milling for over 40 years. The museum's Machine Tool Hall of Fame is a joint project with the Association for Manufacturing Technology.

August

Hershenson, Carter, Scott & McGee, a Norwich, Vermont law firm, provided extensive pro bono legal services to guide the museum through a complicated easement project that was one of the conditions for the Phase I building restoration grants from Save America's Treasures and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.

Museum Assessment Program surveyor, Jim Remar, Vice President of Museum Operations, Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, spent two days at the museum working with our staff and trustees. His Collections Management Survey Report and Recommendations is an invaluable resource to guide the museum in improving its collections management. This project is a program of the American Association of Museums and is funded, in part, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Vermont's Governor Jim Douglas and New Hampshire's Governor John Lynch led a tour of the Connecticut River scenic byway, which included a visit to the museum. The tour, organized by the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, visited key 'waypoints' between Cornish, New Hampshire and Bellows Falls, Vermont.

September

Springfield Area Public Access (SAPA) Television presented its Community Partnership Award to the museum in recognition of our role in the presentation of community programming.

October

The 6th annual Model Engineering Show, held the last weekend in October before the museum closed for the season, was a success as a one-day event. Brady Ward of Scale Autoworks, Manchester, New Hampshire discussed the craft of making fine-art automobiles, museum Trustee, Bill McCarthy, demonstrated cutting metal on one of his historic lathes and Dean Merrill, Queensbury, New York exhibited his portable steam engine.

driven machines that make parts to the most precise standards.

At the Robbins & Lawrence Armory—in the building that now houses the American Precision Museum—a new system of manufacturing came of age. In the 18th century, manufacturing had begun to move from cottage and shop into factories. Work was divided among laborers, but parts were still mostly made by hand. Then in the early 19th century, mechanics began to develop powered machines capable of producing wooden and metal parts quickly and accurately, hour after hour, with great precision.

Most of these early machine tools were produced by firearms manufacturers. Before there were machine tools, even guns built by the finest gunsmiths were not uniform. The parts for each weapon fitted only that weapon, and a gun that failed on the battlefield became entirely useless until it could be repaired by a skilled gunsmith. Governments and arms makers recognized a solution to this problem: interchangeable parts—parts so nearly identical that they can be freely interchanged, one for another.

While the idea of interchangeable parts did not originate at the Robbins & Lawrence Armory, the new tools and methods were first shown to be effective and practical by this small firm in Windsor, Vermont

Interchangeable Parts: parts made to such tolerances that they can be freely substituted for one another and still be fully functional.

in 1846. The new method of manufacturing was to be called armory practice, the American system of manufacturing, or precision manufacturing. Once demonstrated in Windsor, this new system of manufacturing would change the world.

The “American System” quickly spread across industries as well as oceans, creating a revolution in the production of consumer goods. In the 1840s and ’50s, the Robbins & Lawrence Armory in Windsor was at the head of this movement, and today the museum in the original armory building holds the largest collection of historically significant machine tools in the nation.

Adapted from exhibit publication, ‘The Cutting Edge,’ by Carrie Brown, Ph.D

Financials

Condensed Balance Sheets*

for the years ended April 30, 2005 and April 30, 2004

	2005	2004
ASSETS		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 68,563	\$ 50,393
Grant receivables	296,326	58,660
Other current assets	6,093	3,948
Property and equipment, net of depreciation	468,016	362,436
Investments	926,528	857,699
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,765,526	\$ 1,333,136
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities	\$ 29,369	\$ 12,341
Unrestricted net assets	514,496	403,501
Temporarily restricted net assets	475,918	173,240
Permanently restricted net assets	745,743	744,054
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 1,736,157	\$ 1,320,795
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,765,526	\$ 1,333,136

Condensed Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets*

for the years ended April 30, 2005 and April 30, 2004

	2005	2004
REVENUE		
Donations	\$ 549,981	\$ 164,188
Admissions	16,881	17,749
Memberships	19,299	27,923
Investment income	30,433	31,174
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	13,518	65,870
Other income, net	5,801	9,859
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 635,913	\$ 316,763
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	\$ 106,574	\$ 108,103
Depreciation	16,067	15,529
Occupancy, insurance and maintenance	18,013	14,573
Office and publication costs	22,503	14,980
Professional services	5,200	6,140
Contracted services	24,347	0
Other expenses	27,847	16,211
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 220,551	\$ 175,536
REVENUES LESS EXPENSES		
EQUALS CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 415,362	\$ 141,227

*Complete reviewed 2005 and 2004 financial statements with accompanying notes and opinions are available at the museum office.

Report on Giving 2005

In the early days our founder Ed Battison's circle of supporters helped develop the museum. Over the years that circle has expanded to include many others who recognize the value of our historic building, the important collections housed within, and the educational opportunities afforded by both. In 2005, we welcomed many new supporters and friends to the museum family and raised \$523,000, a remarkable achievement.

It is with great pride and appreciation that we publicly recognize all who have contributed so generously to the museum. To our donors, our members and our friends it is your legacy of support that makes our work possible. Thank you.

Frederick Roesch,

Chair, Development and Membership Committee

Robbins and Lawrence Society

Association for
Manufacturing
Technology
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Haas Automation
Douglas Loudon*
Dorothy Morris*
The Robert E. Morris
Company
Frederick Roesch*
Michael Wilkie
Peter D. Williamson, MD*

Mill Brook Society

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Eric Rothchild*
Royal Products*
Camiel Thorrez*
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Trans Canada Hydro
Northeast
Robert and Helena Vogel*
Donald Whitney*
E. Hubbard Yonkers*

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Edmond Cooley*
Margaret Hanrahan
John Krehbiel, Jr.
Seymour Lehrer
William McCarthy*

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Peter D. Rebar
Alden and Dorothy
Sherman*
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Michael Newbold*
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Anonymous
Robert Pantel*
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Perkins*
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Kermit Pratt*
Clarence Prevo*
Donald Rising*
Clayton Robson*
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Al and Pam Roberts*
John Rohlf's
Gerald L. Roudybush
David Russell*
Emily Loudon Sands
Sheafe Satterthwaite*
Rudolph Schneider*
Benjamin Schore*
Gerald Seitz*
Jane Sherman*
Gerhardt Sihler*
Ronald Smeltzer*
David Sobel*
Earle Stubbs
Peter Teale
Maurice Weinschenker*
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Howard Andrews
Dietrich Apel

The museum has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this annual report. If there are any mistakes or omissions, please bring them to our attention immediately in order that we may correct our records accordingly. Thank you very much.

James Atkinson*
William Atkinson*
Martin and Marian Baade
Charles Baker*
Dennis C. Bely*
William Beute*
Keith Billado*
Gary Bilodeau*
William Blockley*
David Bono
Roger Bradford*
Miriam Brodsky*
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Alan Bugbee*
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Patryc Wiggins*
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Allen Yale*
Herbert Yohe*

Roger Young*

In Memory Of:
Helen M. Andrews
Dorothy Morris
Casey Cnossen
The Robert E. Morris
Company
Ruth Goodfellow Cook
The Robert E. Morris
Company
Francis E. Courtis
Miles and Pat Mushlin
Ralph C. Cross
Dennis Cross
Paul A. Deubel
Ethel C. Deubel
Joseph A. Eal
Frank and Betsy
Bechdolt
Charles Douglas
Elmore, Sr.
The Robert E. Morris
Company
Sue Gustin
Dorothy Morris
A.J. Hagopian
Blake and Helen
Prescott
Gary and Sue Hagopian
Richard Hagopian
Charles J. Hanrahan
Margaret P. Hanrahan
Kel Lachmann
The Robert E. Morris
Company
Roy L. Manley, Sr.
Roy Manley, Jr.
Norman Morris
Dorothy Morris
Eldon J. Owens
Edith W. Owens
Eugene Putnam
John H. Putnam
Leonard V. Quin
Dorothy Morris
The Robert E. Morris
Company
Alan E. Stubbs
Earle C. Stubbs

In Honor Of
Edwin Battison
Suzanne C. Richardson
Charlie Carter
Philip R. Marsilius

Grants
Cone Automatic Machine
Co. Foundation
Kettering Family
Foundation
Mascoma Savings Bank

Preservation Trust
of Vermont
Price Chopper's Golub
Foundation
1772 Foundation
Vermont Council on
the Humanities
Vermont Division for
Historic Preservation
Vermont Housing &
Conservation Board
Vermont Museum &
Gallery Alliance

In Kind:
Association for
Manufacturing
Technology
Thayer School of
Engineering,
Dartmouth College
Robert M. Eddy,
First Light Studios
Footsteps Computer
Services
Gear Works
Alma Gilbert-Smith
Joseph I. Gresser
Harpoon Brewery
Hershenson, Carter,
Scott and McGee
William McCarthy
Bryon F. McPherson, CPA
Steve Messa
Miller Construction Inc.
John Ordyk
Gary Schoenly
Tasco Securities
Tyler, Simms and St.
Sauveur
VT Link
Brady Ward
E. Hubbard Yonkers

*members

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Supporting the Museum with a Charitable Gift Annuity

Working with the Vermont Community Foundation as our planned giving partner, the museum now offers donors the opportunity to make a gift to the museum that will pay a fixed income to the donor or another beneficiary during his/her lifetime. A charitable gift annuity is a lifetime gift with fixed payments guaranteed by the assets of the Vermont Community Foundation.

Example:

Mark Aldrich is a Professor of Economics at Smith College in Northampton, MA. He and his wife, Michele, are historians of science and long-time supporters and friends of the museum. The Aldrichs were planning to leave a bequest to the museum, but they also wanted to honor their family friend, Marion Root, who had worked in the historic Springfield Armory in Springfield, MA during WWII.

After reading about charitable gift annuities in the museum's fall newsletter, the Aldrichs felt that this would be the most appropriate way to pay tribute to her. "Through this charitable gift annuity, Marion will receive quarterly payments during her lifetime, and the museum will be the long-term beneficiary," say the Aldrichs. "We received an immediate tax deduction and know that a portion of each payment will be tax-sheltered as well. This charitable gift annuity was good for the Aldrich family, Mrs. Root, and the American Precision Museum."

Call the museum for more information.

Ann Lawless
Executive Director
American Precision Museum
802.674.5781



Charitable Bequests are gifts to the museum at the time of death under a will or trust agreement and are fully deductible for federal estate tax purposes. A bequest may be made in the form of cash, securities or real estate.

Here is sample language for an outright, unrestricted residuary bequest: "I give to the American Precision Museum, Windsor, Vermont _____ dollars (\$____), or ____percent (____%) of my residuary estate, to be used for the benefit of the American Precision Museum as the Trustees thereof may direct."



Robert E. Morris And Family

A Life-Long Commitment To The American Precision Museum

It is very appropriate that the story of the American Precision Museum begins in the museum's lobby and east wing, the Robert E. Morris Exhibit Hall, dedicated in 1992 by Dorothy Morris, Robert's widow. The Morris Exhibit Hall honors Robert E. Morris's lifelong commitment to the American Precision Museum along with his leadership support for the museum in its early days.

Robert E. Morris was a pioneer and a visionary in the machine tool industry and had a remarkable career. The company he founded became a leader in the industry and now 65 years later enjoys that same recognition today. Today The Robert E. Morris Company is one of nine subsidiaries of Morris Group, Inc. Both firms are headquartered in Farmington, Connecticut, with over 330 employees supporting innovative products from around the world, along with engineering services based upon regional market needs.

Morris's remarkable career began after a Depression-era apprenticeship with Hardinge Brothers, a lathe builder, in Elmira, New York. He then returned to his native New England to work for his older brother whose business distributed feed fingers, collets and other screw machine tooling. Working with his wife Dorothy from their kitchen, in 1941 he founded The Robert E. Morris Company, offering a mix of machine tools and production tooling.

As Morris's reputation in the industry flourished so did his business and with that came considerable growth. Early in the company's history, he began an affiliation with the machine tool builder, W.H. Nichols, where he was given a unique opportunity to organize a national sales program for this Waltham, Massachusetts builder.



Morris family annual pre-Labor Day convocation, August 28, 2004.

What began as the Nichols-Morris Corporation changed to Rem Sales when the company began to represent T.S. Harrison lathes from England. Today, both The Robert E. Morris Company and Rem Sales continue to thrive in modern facilities not far from where it all began.

The plaque, displayed in the museum's Morris Exhibit Hall where visitors enter, says a great deal about who Robert Morris was and about his role as a museum benefactor and a leader in the machine tool industry. Today, Dorothy Morris continues to play an active role, along with her son Lee, Chairman of the Morris Group, in supporting the work of the American Precision Museum "to keep Bob's wing spit and polished and up to date."

"A man of high intellect, good humor and extraordinary energy, whose accomplishments in the machine tool industry were distinguished by uncompromising principles, acting with integrity, striving for perfection and providing for family."

Robert E. Morris

1913-1988

Become a Member Today!

Name _____

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Enclosed is my check payable to the American Precision Museum for \$ _____

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Signature _____

Expiration Date _____

Mail to: American Precision Museum, PO Box 679, Windsor, VT 05089

The American Precision Museum in the
1846 Robbins & Lawrence Armory is a
National Historic Landmark.



Membership

All members receive the following with special benefits beginning at the Associate level:

- free admission to museum
- 10% discount in shop
- annual subscription to museum newsletter, *Tools and Technology*
- discounted admission to affiliated VT museums and galleries

Individual \$35

All of the above

Family/Dual \$55

All of the above

Associate \$100

All of the above

+4 museum passes for friends/family

1 existing museum publication

Patron \$250

All of the above

+6 museum passes for friends/family

special invitation to events/lectures

Steward \$500

All of the above

+8 museum passes for friends/family

1 museum T-shirt

Benefactor \$1000

All of the above

+10 museum passes for friends/family

1 museum apron

annual reception with Museum Trustees

Photography: Robert M. Eddy



196 Main Street

PO Box 679

Windsor, VT 05089

www.americanprecision.org

Open daily 10am - 5pm

Memorial Day weekend through October

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