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The Ohio State University, Ph.D., 1970
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1971
CINCINNATI CABINET- AND CHAIRMAKERS,
1819-1830

DISSERTATION

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate
School of The Ohio State University

by

Donna Largent Streifthau, B.Sc., M.Ed.

******

The Ohio State University
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Please Note:

Some pages have very light type. Filmed as received.

University Microfilms.
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Research Consultant at the Ohio State University Library, was also helpful. Special thanks are due Mrs. Francis Forman, Research Librarian, and Mrs. Ann Shepherd and Mrs. May Jane Neely, Manuscript Librarians at the Cincinnati Historical Society. They willingly searched out material for my examination, and called to my attention items that might have otherwise been overlooked.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There has been a steadily increasing interest in the social and cultural heritage of our country. This interest is reflected by the increased quest for knowledge and by the desire to preserve as well as collect mementos of the past. It is evident in all walks of life and is reflected in institutions and homes throughout the nation.

Interest in historical decorative arts is indicated in several ways. More Americans than ever before are visiting museums each year and more are taking advantage of the educational programs offered there. Numerous historical societies have sprung up in large cities, in small towns, and in the counties—all devoted to preservation and restoration efforts. Historical sites attract a variety of visitors; nationally famous restoration areas, such as Williamsburg, are thronged with interested Americans.

Most evident, perhaps, is the great number of publications devoted to past styles of furnishings. A multitude of books deal with decorative arts, both in a general and specific manner. Some periodicals, such as Antiques, are dedicated exclusively to historic houses and furnishings with an emphasis on regional characteristics. Others, like House Beautiful, devote a portion of their format to furnishings reflective of the past. Many popular periodicals allocate some space to past styles of houses and furniture, as do the local
newspapers. In addition, commercial pamphlets are available and usually without charge. These publications are found in homes and in libraries throughout the land; they command a wide audience that encompasses all strata of society.

Moreover, Americans are incorporating furnishings from the past into the interior design of their homes. Antique shows are well attended by a diverse group of people. Local auctions attract antiquarians. And, many men, women, and even children ply through antique shops in search of treasures from the past. Reproductions and adaptations of past styles are available at all price levels. They, along with authentic pieces, often enhance the decor of American homes.

**Purpose of the Research**

There is a great interest in learning more about regional aspects of past styles of furniture and a resulting need for research to supply this information. The purpose of this study was to obtain information about Cincinnati furniture made and used in Cincinnati, 1819-1830. More specifically, the purpose was threefold:

1. To assemble a written and illustrated record of Cincinnati furniture and its makers, during the period 1819-1830.

2. To determine the nature of the Cincinnati furniture industry during the period of 1819-1830 by the analysis of findings pertaining to craftsmen and by the examination of the Cincinnati price book of 1830.

3. To ascertain the kind of furniture possessed by Cincinnati residents, 1819-1830.
Need for the Study

For the historian, the student of domestic furniture, and the homemaker, information pertaining to southwestern Ohio is seriously lacking. Very little is known about Cincinnati furniture and its use in Cincinnati homes even though Cincinnati was the great urban center "unrivalled by any other in the whole Western Country." There is a need for information to aid in selection of furniture for authenticity of local expression and to provide knowledge from which some inferences of the interiors of homes of this area could be drawn.

Dearth of related literature

Although extensive research has produced comprehensive studies of American domestic furniture in relation to cultural and social history, very little research pertaining to Cincinnati or its environs has been published. Regional studies, particularly in the East, have ascertained the furniture forms popular in the various centers, woods favored, and construction details, as well as stylistic characteristics reflective of the heritage of people who settled in the different geographical areas. In the Midwest, however, little investigation has been undertaken; and in Ohio, extensive research is practically

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1 Letter, William Greene to Abby Lyman, August 10, 1820, Box 1, #171, Greene-Roelker Papers, MSS, Cincinnati Historical Society. Hereafter cited CHS.

non-existent.¹ There were no books, dissertations or theses dealing with Cincinnati furniture. Neither were there monographs of any furniture makers. Several authors, however, commented about Cincinnati furniture in their works.


¹See Ralph and Terry Kovel, American Country Furniture 1780-1875 (New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1965), which includes plates of Ohio pieces and states mid-western characteristics. It is not footnoted, nor is the bibliography extensive. See also Antiques IL (Jan., 1946) which "salutes" Ohio craftsmenship and Antiques LXXXVII (Mar., 1965) devoted to the Arts and Crafts of the Old Northwest Territory.
Philip Adams, Director of the Cincinnati Art Museum, dealt with Cincinnati furniture in a cursory fashion in his article in *Antiques*, entitled "Some Thoughts on the 'Environmental' Arts." He indicated that a version of the Empire style was made in Cincinnati.¹

Drepperd and Guild briefly discussed Cincinnati's role as the center for Greek revival furniture in their chapter on Ohio (five pages) in *New Geography of American Antiques*. They also commented on John Broadfoot Smith's cabinet shop established in 1815 and indicated that it was probably the first furniture factory in Cincinnati.²

Lea indicated that Cincinnati was an important chair production center and that:

The names of Samuel Sibles [Stibbs], Francis Harrison and Joel Perkins appeared in advertisements. John Wilson was a chair painter as well as a manufacturer here.³

Otto mentioned Charles W. James' chair factory⁴ and a few other makers were listed in *Antiques* issue devoted to Ohio.⁵ Drepperd indicated

---

⁵"The Corner Cupboard," *Antiques* XLIX (Sept., 1946), 192-193. Those listed were Clark Crowell, chairmaker; Geyer and Ross, chairmakers; J. C. Roll, chairmaker; Chester Harding, chairmaker; William Milk, chairmaker; Richard Lloyd, cabinetmaker; and Charles Swain, chairmaker. Clark Crowell was probably Clark and Crowell (see page 66) Harding, Milk, and Lloyd were not listed in the directories nor was any other research found pertaining to them. Charles Swain was listed as a chair painter in the *Cincinnati Directory* of 1819, 143.
that more fancy chairs were made in Cincinnati after 1825 than were made in any other city in the country.\(^1\)

The Cincinnati Price Books of 1830 and 1836 were mentioned by Drepperd and Guild\(^2\) and by Montgomery.\(^3\) Otto referred to the Cincinnati Price Book of 1836 only.\(^4\)

In local histories, were discussed Cincinnati's productive furniture industry and statistical figures cited from the early directories concerning its output.\(^5\) Utter, in his history of The Frontier State, indicated that:

Cherry and walnut were the favorite native woods for cabinet work, but the vogue for mahogany in the Eastern States had spread to Ohio, and thousands of feet of this lumber were imported by way of New Orleans.\(^6\)

Importance of regional research

The study of regional furniture is important because a regional piece usually reflects a characteristic expression of the area, for it is made from indigenous materials by local craftsmen. Regional

\(^1\)Carl W. Drepperd, *Handbook of Antique Chairs*, Award Paperback (Carden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1948), 174. Drepperd listed some chairmakers in an Appendix, among which were some apparently compiled from the Cincinnati directories.

\(^2\)Drepperd and Guild, 157.


\(^4\)Otto, 94.


furniture is often "very charming and may be suited to our use because it came out of living conditions which were similar to ours."¹

Cincinnati as the "Emporium of the West" is the logical center for the study of furniture development in the surrounding region. There is a dearth of knowledge pertaining to the regional furniture of Cincinnati. Research is needed to enable the selection of furniture for authenticity of local expression.

**Selected Period for Study: 1819-1830**

The period 1819-1830 was selected for study because it encompassed important years of furniture production in Cincinnati. More specifically, the period was selected because (1) the milieu favored an expanding furniture industry and (2) craftsmanship still prevailed in Cincinnati.

In terms of both population and commercial activity, by 1819 Cincinnati had become a leading river city—a city capable of supporting a growing furniture industry. Mercantile interests prevailed and the public landing was the center of activity. A steady stream of all types of boats—rafts, keel boats, barges, steamers—laden with passengers and cargo arrived and departed regularly. People poured into the city and it bustled with activity.² In 1819 there were 10,283 residents; in 1830, more than 25,000.³ Houses were continually


³Coss, I, 98.
built to accommodate the teeming population\textsuperscript{1} and the facades and interiors reflected the growing prosperity and aspirations of the residents. In 1827, an English traveler indicated that "most of the houses in the city are elegant, many truly beautiful."\textsuperscript{2} In such a setting, furniture makers would undoubtedly "meet with encouragement."

During this period (1819-1830) craftsmenship still dominated the furniture industry. Until about 1825:

Cabinetmaking remained as it had been for almost one hundred years—a craft based on skills learned through apprenticeship and dependent upon the skill and artistry of the cabinetmaker.

But it was not really until the 1830's and 1840's that the use of power machines and large establishments became the norm.\textsuperscript{3}

Even then trends of mechanization started in the East and spread with the growth of the country to inland cities.\textsuperscript{4} Cincinnati, although located on a principal waterway, was some distance from the furniture centers of the East. Thus, the prevailing furniture influences of the East were slower to be adopted in this city for the pace becomes slower the farther one goes from its energizing center.

Examination of the Cincinnati directories indicated that industrialization infiltrated about 1830 but was not significant until 1839-40. This inference was based on terminology used to designate occupations of residents, and on the prevalence of the "manufactory" listings in the directories.

\textsuperscript{1}The Cincinnati Chronicle and Literary Gazette, Feb. 14, 1829. Hereafter cited CCLG.
\textsuperscript{2}Greve, I, 551. Quoting W. Bullock, The Americans As They Are.
\textsuperscript{3}Montgomery, 18.
\textsuperscript{4}Montgomery, 13.
Craftsmanship prevailed in Cincinnati until 1830, and most likely longer. Therefore, the years 1819-1830 were important ones of craftsmanship in Cincinnati.

In summary, interest in local social and cultural American history is steadily increasing throughout the country. Although extensive research has produced fonts of knowledge in various regions of the country, there is a dearth of knowledge pertaining to Southwestern Ohio, more specifically Cincinnati. Cincinnati as the largest and fastest growing Ohio city during the period 1819-1830 should be representative of the region. In this study, the furniture industry of Cincinnati, Ohio, 1819-1830, is reviewed.
CHAPTER II

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

Procedure of Research

A bibliography of Cincinnati history and of furniture research and publications of the 1819-1830 era was formulated from standard bibliographies and from the card catalogs in the libraries of The Ohio State University, The Ohio Historical Society, the Cincinnati Historical Society, and the Cincinnati Public Library. In addition, bibliographies attached to unpublished and published material were scrutinized for added sources. Furthermore, indices of regional history in the libraries of the Ohio Historical Society, Cincinnati Historical Society and the Cincinnati Public Library were consulted. Letters were written to persons of recognized regional authority to enlist their aid in procuring sources of information.

Furniture makers and data pertaining to them were compiled from the Cincinnati directories of 1819, 1825, and 1829.\(^1\) Subsequent directories through 1863 (when the name of the last maker disappeared from the directory) were examined to learn how long the maker worked in Cincinnati and in what capacity.

\(^1\)Mrs. Clayton Sikes, Jr., included cabinet- and chairmakers in a list recorded from the local directories. Mrs. Sikes's list was used as a check-list and the directories were researched to arrive at a final compilation.
Surviving newspapers published from 1817\(^1\) to 1830 and filed at the Ohio Historical Society and the Cincinnati Historical Society were researched. Advertisements of makers were recorded and the length of time each one ran was tabulated. News stories and other announcements or editorials pertaining to the furniture industry were noted.

Manuscripts of the 1819-1830 era and at the aforementioned institutions and at the Cincinnati Public Library were examined for receipts and/or bills of furniture and for entries in accounts. In addition, selected letters were examined in search of comments about Cincinnati furniture or its makers.

Standard manuscript catalogs were consulted and the most promising sources examined. The Wayne Hardware Company ledgers filed at Baker Library, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Cambridge, Massachusetts, were examined; the Oration of John Broadfoot Smith, a local cabinetmaker, was consulted at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

Public records, including deeds, wills, and inventory records at the Hamilton County Court House, Cincinnati, Ohio, were examined, as were the tax rolls of Hamilton County filed at the Ohio Historical Society. The Cincinnati Census of 1817 and the United States Census of 1820 and 1830 were examined to learn if a maker was tabulated and to record his household enumeration.

The Bulletins of the Cincinnati Historical Society were examined to learn of residents who might own or have knowledge of

\(^1\)Two years prior to the period investigated were added to ascertain to some extent the length of time a maker appearing in 1819 advertisements or directories had worked in Cincinnati.
Cincinnati furniture. Help was also enlisted from local authorities and residents. Interviews with selected residents of long standing and with curators of selected local museums were conducted and a written and visual record made.

The Cincinnati Price Book of 1830 was used as a reference for furniture made and used in Cincinnati. To determine whether or not it was unique to Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Price Book of 1830 was compared to the Philadelphia Price Book of 1828 and the Pittsburgh Price Book of 1830.

Sources Used

When this study was begun, it was hoped that diligent search might turn up a maker's account book or some extensive documented material. This was not the case. It is very likely that many of the documents that would have shed light upon the furniture industry were destroyed in one of the several floods that have devastated Cincinnati. In addition, many public records were destroyed in the Cincinnati Court House riot and fire of March 29, 1884. Thus, this study depended upon bits of information gleaned from various sources.

There were several contemporary published accounts of Cincinnati that were invaluable. Of utmost importance were the city directories of 1819, 1825, and 1829. They listed the residents of Cincinnati along with their occupations and addresses. All of the directories gave data of a socio-economic nature and were valuable references in this regard.

Prefixed to each directory was a map of Cincinnati. It corresponded to information given within the volume concerning
geographical aspects of Cincinnati. Relating the map to information from the directories and to information found elsewhere enabled the geographical location of the furniture makers' shops and ultimately identification of the furniture producing section of Cincinnati. However, in this respect, some difficulty was encountered. The street identified as Second Street in the directories and on the maps was referred to by some makers as Columbia Street—a carry-over from earlier times when it was known by that name. The street was officially identified as Second in 1829.

Each directory was unique in its helpfulness. The directory of 1819 reviewed Cincinnati's history since its founding. The 1825 directory included the places of origin of most of the residents. The directory of 1829 gave the divisions of the wards within the city, which was helpful in researching the census of 1830. This enabled cross-checking common names with location to determine their identification.

But most important, the directories served as the point of departure for this study. They yielded the names and addresses of chair- and cabinetmakers who worked in Cincinnati during the period under review. They did not, however, always indicate whether the address listed was the place of business or the residence. Furthermore, there were errors and omissions in the directories, although for the most part, they seemed to be rather accurate.

Subsequent directories after 1830 served to indicate the length of time the maker worked in Cincinnati. Also, they indicated whether a maker was at the threshold of his career, at the apex, or
the decline. For example, a maker might later be listed as owning a factory or as working for someone else, or with no occupation whatsoever.

_Cincinnati in 1826_ by Drake and Mansfield was also very helpful. It dealt with the statistics of Cincinnati along with giving a general description of social, religious, and municipal affairs. The chapter on manufacturing and its potential was an aid in determining the extent of the furniture industry. The publication was quasi-official for the city council appropriated $75.00 from city funds for its preparation.

_Cincinnati newspapers were very important in this study._ Extant papers covered the entire period under review. Although some copies of newspapers were missing, this did not seem to be a serious handicap because so many newspapers were in circulation, and advertisements were often repeated in several issues. Research of the local newspapers added names to the list of makers working in Cincinnati but most important was the information gleaned in the advertisements of furniture makers. In addition, materials available to the trade and other information pertinent to the furniture industry were found in various advertisements and in news stories and announcements.

_Census records of Cincinnati of 1817 and the United States Census of 1820 and 1830 were valuable in establishing a maker in Cincinnati in a specific year and in determining the composition of his household. According to the census the only names listed were "the names of heads of families or of individuals who were not enumerated_
within a family or household unit."\(^1\) Thus, apprentices and some journeymen within the household unit would be enumerated under a maker's name.\(^2\)

A disproportionate number of males and females would suggest that the unit included more than members of the furniture maker's family. There was no way to determine the extent. When there was an apparent relation between size of the household and the maker's business, further evidence such as newspaper and bills of sale were used to substantiate the likelihood of this possibility.

Some makers seemed to have had a large number of girls in the apprentice age bracket. Hill's study of Baltimore craftsmen indicated that it was not unusual for a maker to apprentice girls to learn the rudiments of housekeeping.\(^3\) In fact, it was found in this study of Cincinnati that one maker advertised for a run away indented girl.\(^4\) In the case of chairmakers, some of the girls might have painted or decorated fancy chairs, as was the case in Hitchcock's factory in Connecticut.\(^5\)

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\(^2\) Montgomery, II. From Colonial times and into the nineteenth century, young boys were apprenticed to craftsmen to learn their trade. During this time "they were to live with the master's family, be fed, clothed, and taught the secrets of his trade." Carl Bridenbaugh, The Colonial Craftsmen, Phoenix Books (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1961), 130.


\(^4\) Cincinnati Advertiser, Sept. 29, 1827. Hereafter cited CA.

Common names presented quite a problem of accurate identification. When there were multiple listings of a common name, it was rejected unless (1) the census taker identified the person as the cabinetmaker or the chairmaker or (2) Cincinnati city ward numbers given in the census correlated with the directory address. However, the latter applied to only the 1830 census; wards were not delineated before that. When there was any doubt, the name was deleted or else used with caution and so indicated.

The census of 1820 presented a unique problem because the age spans designated were such that an assumed apprentice might have been counted twice. Column 3 in the census was headed "free white males between 16 & 18," and column 4, "free white males of 16 and under 26."\(^1\) It was difficult to know how many were of apprentice age. However, this census had a unique asset. Column 15 was headed "number of persons engaged in manufactures." There was also a column for agriculture and commerce. This enabled establishment of the person's role in the economy.

Complete tax records for Hamilton County (1819-1830) are filed at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. They served four purposes:

1. Established the furniture maker in Cincinnati in a specific year.

2. Gave precise location of property owned by the maker, and therefore the location of his shop could be ascertained by comparing with descriptive location in advertisements and in the directories.

3. Established ownership of shop.

4. Indicated financial worth of the maker.

Again, there was a problem with common names. A common name was not accepted unless verified in some manner. It was very likely that some makers were not credited with realty taxes due to the problem created by common names.

Very few public records were extant. Most burned in the courthouse riot and fire of 1884. The ones consulted, in all cases, were restored volumes. There was only one volume of restored inventory records, 1809-1828, and some restored wills were available.

The volume of restored inventory records of Hamilton County was the most valuable of the public records. It shed light upon the forms of furniture used in Cincinnati homes. Although the volume covered the years 1809-1828, most of the inventories were dated after 1819 and encompassed all strata of society—merchants, teachers, blacksmiths, clerks, etc. Only those designated as being from Cincinnati were consulted for this study.

Manuscripts added depth to the study. Extant bills were valuable in determining the makers who were most active and those who sold to the most prominent people of Cincinnati. Of the manuscripts consulted, the ones pertaining to the Charles Wayne Hardware Company of Cincinnati were the most extensive and consequently the most valuable. The records provided specific information about hardware and veneers purchased by specific furniture makers. From this, the forms made could be ascertained, as well as who purchased particular pieces of hardware.
Interviews were conducted with families known to have a signed piece of furniture or a piece that had been attributed to a specific shop or maker. No attempt was made to interview all families of long standing in Cincinnati to locate existing pieces. This would be an exhaustive undertaking and was not the focus of the study.

**Organization of the Study**

Most of the material found has been fragmentary. Yet enough can be pieced together to formulate some understanding of the Cincinnati furniture industry. The research was organized in this manner. First, the makers who made up the furniture industry (1819-1830) were identified and a brief summary of each was prepared to indicate their individual importance and consequently their influence upon the furniture made and used in Cincinnati. Second, the industry was discussed in relation to the local market; the export market; services, materials and tools readily available; and labor relationships. Third, Cincinnati furniture was discussed as to style, woods, and forms made and therefore used in Cincinnati. Finally, the role of the craftsmen in the community was indicated.

Some footnotes are seemingly incomplete. The pages in the Hamilton County tax ledgers for the years 1826 and 1830 were not numbered; neither were they numbered in the Cincinnati Census of 1817; nor were advertisements in the Cincinnati directories numbered. Thus, for these sources no page numbers were indicated in the footnotes. In some instances manuscripts were not specifically identified, other than being part of a collection. This explains lack of detailed source information in some footnotes.
When editing was deemed necessary in quoting manuscript material or newspapers, other than an occasional comma, the correction has been placed in brackets. To avoid superfluous use of \textit{sic}, archaic spelling such as "sett of nobs" was not indicated. Furthermore, original capitalization was retained in order to preserve the original emphasis and meaning. This accounts for the frequent use of capitalized words in quotations, especially at the beginning of newspaper advertisements.
CHAPTER III

HISTORICAL SETTING

Résumé of Ohio History

Ohio, part of the old Northwest Territory, became an important frontier soon after the Revolutionary War. The land, which was originally part of the French possessions that encompassed the area between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi river, was ceded to Great Britain by the treaty of 1763 and in turn to the United States by the peace agreement of 1783. The enactment of the land ordinance of 1785 and the famous North West Ordinance of 1787 opened the territory to settlement. In addition, Congress allocated a portion of the Ohio land to settle charter claims of some of the original thirteen states, and thereby to veterans and victims of the Revolutionary War. These men looked to the West as a land of opportunity and a place to regain or make their fortunes. They, and their more enterprising neighbors, migrated in increasing numbers to the Ohio territory making it the important post-Revolutionary War frontier.¹

With the coming of the white man, the Indians who had established villages in the Ohio territory and roamed the woods for provisions were steadily encroached upon. They retaliated with a series

of massacres leading to several pitched battles which culminated in the Treaty of Green Ville in 1795. This opened up the Ohio lands to relatively safe colonization, even though there were isolated instances of bloodshed throughout the years. The renewed hostilities with England and the War of 1812 caused Ohio to be the scene of several skirmishes, although for the most part, they were confined to the northern part of the state. Peace with England restored Indian-pioneer relations in Ohio making the land safe from Indian attack.

The first settlements were established upon the banks of the Ohio river near the end of the eighteenth century. Marietta was founded at the mouth of the Muskingum in 1788 and is the oldest permanent settlement in the state. An association of New Jersey people organized by John Cleves Symmes secured a grant (Symmes Purchase) to the land between the Great Miami and the Little Miami rivers and established Columbia a short distance below the mouth of the Little Miami in November of the same year. Its importance was soon overshadowed by the nearby community of Losantiville, later renamed Cincinnati, which was settled a few weeks later.

Other settlements along the Ohio followed and soon the settlers were fanning northward while some were coming in from the

1 Bond, 312-348. 2 Utter, 78-119.
3 Columbia was annexed to Cincinnati in 1872.
4 Eugene H. Roseboom and Francis P. Weisenburger, A History of Ohio (2nd ed., Columbus: The Ohio Historical Society, 1967), 55-57. Losantiville meant "the town opposite the mouth of the Licking river." Governor St. Clair renamed it Cincinnati in the fall of 1789 when he moved to Cincinnati and designated it as the capital of the Northwest Territory. The capital was subsequently moved to Chillicothe; to Zanesville; and to its permanent capital, Columbus in 1816.
northeast to settle the Great Lakes region. Dayton was founded in 1795 and Cleveland in 1796; present day Columbus the following year.\(^1\) Ohio's boundaries were determined in 1802; in 1803 Ohio had enough settlers to become a state.\(^2\)

The population of Ohio grew steadily over the years and by the third decade people had settled in all parts of Ohio in considerable numbers, but mostly in the southern part.\(^3\) This trend continued during the time under review (1819-1830) and at the end of the third decade of the nineteenth century Cincinnati was becoming ""the largest and the handsomest town' of the entire state, 'the Queen City of the West,'"\(^4\) while Cleveland was still a struggling village of barely a thousand inhabitants.\(^5\)

**Cincinnati: Location and Early Growth**

Cincinnati was destined from the beginning to grow and become a large city. It was on the principal east-west "highway" at a point favorably placed between Pittsburgh and New Orleans. The settlement was on the north bend of the Ohio river in the center of a long valley that afforded plenty of docking space. It was at the apex of the fertile Miami valley and was flanked by two streams, the Great Miami to the west and the Little Miami to the east. On the Kentucky side of the river, a comparable valley graced the banks of the Ohio and

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\(^1\) Roseboom and Weisenburger, 58-59.
\(^3\) Roseboom and Weisenburger, 114.
\(^4\) Roseboom and Weisenburger, 114.
\(^5\) Roseboom and Weisenburger, 112.
directly opposite Cincinnati, the Licking river which penetrated into Kentucky for considerable distance, emptied into the river. Largely due to this location, Cincinnati at an early date became the important city of the midwest. ¹

Furthermore, the surrounding land was inviting to settlers for it consisted of fertile valleys commingled with hills and forests. Natural meadows were equally fitted for raising crops or pasturing livestock. Game and fruit of all types were plentiful ² and the neighboring uplands afforded large stands of a variety of trees. ³

Timber was:

One of the principal resources of the region. The hardwood varieties predominated, and these were abundant. Of the soft woods, the absence of white pine was the greatest want. Fortunately it was possible in large measure, to supply pine timber from the western New York. It was floated down the Alleghany River to Pittsburgh and distributed or brought directly to the western industrial centers. Among the principal trees of the Ohio Valley were oak, hickory, plum, pecan, chestnut. ⁴

Shortly after the settlement of Cincinnati, Fort Washington was constructed nearby to provide a base for military operations against the Indians and to protect the settlers of the area from the various

¹Thomas Senior Berry, Western Prices Before 1861 (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1943), 6; D. Reid Ross and C. W. Wiester, "The Relationship Between Urban Growth and Transportation Development in the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Area," Bulletin of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio XXI (April, 1963), 115. Hereafter cited BHPSO. The Kentucky side was less fertile and more difficult topographically to farm than the Ohio side. Thus, urban growth was suppressed on the Kentucky side of the river.


³B. Drake and E. D. Mansfield, Cincinnati in 1826 (Cincinnati: Robinson and Fairbank, 1829), 27.

dangers of the frontier. The protection it represented further encouraged settlement; it also created a demand for goods which stimulated economic growth in Cincinnati.\(^1\) By 1800 Cincinnati had grown to be the hub of trade and population in the Northwest Territory, and in 1802 her status changed to that of a town.\(^2\)

The town of Cincinnati quickly grew into a city. All types of rafts, barges and boats were increasingly seen upon its waters and many emigrants' arks were generally tied near the public landing.\(^3\) From 1800, when there were 750 inhabitants to 1810, when there were 2,320, the population had increased by 209 per cent.\(^4\) With the coming of the steamboats, the town grew even more rapidly. The first steamboat "New Orleans," arrived in Cincinnati in October of 1811 and in the next years, steamers became increasingly more important in its growth.\(^5\) By 1819 there were seventy vessels linking Cincinnati with Pittsburgh and New Orleans,\(^6\) and the population had increased to 10,283, a 343 per cent rise over 1810. On March 1, 1819, Cincinnati's first city charter became effective and her life as a city began.\(^7\)

**Cincinnati: 1819-1830**

Metropolis it was, the mart of trade and the center of life for the whole, boundless west, throbbing with life and burning with vast ambitions.\(^8\)

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\(^1\) Bond, 750.

\(^2\) Henry Howe, Historical Collections of Ohio (2 vols., Norwalk, Ohio: The Laning Printing Co., 1896), I, 754.

\(^3\) Leonard, II, 678.

\(^4\) Goss, I, 98.

\(^5\) Leonard, II, 677.

\(^6\) Chalmers, 118.

\(^7\) Goss, I, 98.

\(^8\) Goss, I, 131. Description of Cincinnati in 1819 before the full effects of the depression were felt.
Economy

Mercantile interests dominated the public landing which was the center of the city's activities. Buyers mingled on the wharves with farmers from the various settlements who had grain to sell and supplies to buy. Boat masters waited for loads of freight. Pork dealers shipped their processed barrels and awaited newly arrived droves of pigs. Industrialists shipped agricultural implements to the upper Mississippi Valley and sugar mills to Louisiana. Entrepreneurs—commission men, brokers, lawyers, retail and wholesale merchants—directed the flow of whiskey, pork, flour, furniture, hardware, and machinery to and from the city.

Cincinnati carried on trade with all parts of the country. She imported specialities such as lead from Missouri, and salt from the western parts of Virginia or New York and exported agricultural products and manufactured goods. Berry classified Cincinnati trade as being fourfold:

1. that with the immediate trading area;
2. that with other points in the West;
3. that with New Orleans and the Deep South; and
4. that with the eastern seaboard.

Steamers played an important role in freight traffic. In 1826 Drake and Mansfield, the eminent local historians wrote:

Our steam Boats may already be found upon all the navigable streams of the Mississippi Valley; and our Steam Engines, Castings, Cabinet furniture, Chairs, Hats, &c., are sent to Kentucky, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Illinois and Indiana where they are sought after and admired not less for their beauty, than their more substantial qualities.

Although the steamboat was the dominate vehicle of western trade, flatboats continued to carry an important part of the cargo

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1 Berry, 19. 2 Berry, 6. 3 Berry, 18-19.
4 Drake and Mansfield, 59.
In the early twenties steamboats carried only 20,000 out of an estimated total of 70,000 tons shipped down the rivers, and not much more than 10,000 tons annually ascended the falls at Louisville. At that time it was estimated that some 5,000 flatboats arrived each year in New Orleans, of which three-fifths passed the falls of the Ohio.\(^1\)

The flatboat could descend the Ohio during dry spells when steamers could not. With the return of high water, the men who floated the goods to New Orleans could return home by steamer.\(^2\) Thus the steamer added to the effectiveness of flatboat transportation.

Steamboat passenger travel was a booming commercial enterprise. The "General Pike" built in Cincinnati in 1813 was the first steamer made exclusively for passengers. Her accommodations were:

Ample; her apartments spacious and superb. . . . At one end are six and at the other eight state rooms with a large commodious hall in the center large enough for 11 passengers.\(^3\)

A writer in *The Daily Cincinnati Gazette* of February 23, 1829 described the "New Paragon" steamship and its elegant decor. It was the first boat to have a third deck—a promenade with chairs on either side. There were cabins at each end of the second deck and along her large hall were:

...twenty-four wide and convenient births [sic] enclosed by crimson curtains. With settees built for that purpose, beds for sixty additional passengers could be made up, thus providing for eighty-six passengers.\(^4\)

Besides business and vacation travel, parties were often formed for a trip to New Orleans. The event was:

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\(^{1}\)Berry, 23-24. \(^{2}\)Berry, 25. \(^{3}\)CD19, 60. \(^{4}\)Daily Cincinnati Gazette, Feb. 23, 1829. Hereafter cited DCG.
A gala of festivity; dance and song on board for a week; then the gayest and most fascinating of cities with its varied attractions ... 1

According to a travel-log of a Cincinnati lady:

Even the small boats ... were arranged with every comfort which could be needed. The ample cabins and well provided tables ... were pleasant ... 2

Timothy Flint, the well-known commentator on social conditions, said that everything was in a style of splendor. 3

Commerce was encouraged by the building of the Miami and Erie canal, begun in 1825 and completed from Dayton to Cincinnati in November of 1828. However:

Owing to the near approach of winter, it was not navigated throughout until the month of March, when the first boat passed from Cincinnati to Dayton without interruption. This canal commences at Dayton ... passes by the villages of Miamisburgh, Franklin, Middletown, Hamilton ... At Hamilton it leaves the Miami, its principal feeder, and striking into the valley of Mill Creek pursues it to the upper level of Cincinnati ... The canal at present terminates at Main street, on the upper plain of Cincinnati. 4

For several decades thereafter the canal played a very important part by linking the countryside more closely with Cincinnati's marketplace.

Local businessmen were very astute and did their part in encouraging Cincinnati's growth. Not only were they enterprising individuals but in times of stress they cooperated to improve economic conditions. Disturbed by the depression of 1819, they banded together and organized a society for the promotion of domestic economy. They signed a non-importation pledge in order to prevent their currency

1Chambrun, 122.  2Chambrun, 123.
3Timothy Flint, Recollections of the Last Ten Years (Boston: Cummings, Hilliard, and Co., 1826), 108.
4GD22, 169-170.
draining eastward—a pledge reminiscent of a similar agreement among colonial merchants. They agreed to patronize home manufacturers, to not buy or use eastern foodstuffs and clothing, and to practice rigid economy.¹

Local initiative was boosted by federal policy, including the federal tariff:

The manufacture of various articles of clothing, paper, cabinet-ware, and carriages especially after the War of 1812, was of great aid to Cincinnati manufactures. The tariff which was in effect from 1824-1842 was likewise of particular benefit to Cincinnati, which was at that time developing her wool, iron, clothing and linen manufactures.²

In addition, "the high cost of shipping finished goods from the eastern seaboard acted as a protective tariff for "infant" Cincinnati industries."³

The Cincinnati businessman operated under difficult financial circumstances as did all businessmen of the times. However, Cincinnati was far removed from the main centers and it was more difficult to be currently informed of fluctuations in the market. Bank notes fluctuated from day to day and were issued everywhere by state banks under inadequate regulations. Even the United States Bank could not be relied upon. In good times, Cincinnati bank notes were never worth their face value, not even in Pittsburgh,⁴ and when the nationwide

³ Ross and Wiester, 112.
⁴ John J. Rowe, "Money and Banks in Cincinnati Pre-Civil War," BHPSQ, VI (July, 1948), 83.
panic of 1819 hit, they depreciated thirty to forty per cent locally and were utterly worthless outside the city.¹

The coming financial disaster was felt in Cincinnati in the summer of 1818. The United States Bank, concerned about over-extension of credit required the United States Bank at Cincinnati (and in Chilli, the) to collect twenty per cent balance due from State Banks every thirty days. A crisis was in the offering; "specie was drained in wholesale fashion to the East."² Many of the Bank notes of Ohio's State Banks were not even accepted by the state for tax payments.

Furthermore:

Forclosure of mortgages at a time when no reasonable sale could be obtained and a precipitate decline in the prices on all produce were features of this financial crisis, from which Ohio did not fully recover for a number of years.³

The depression of 1819 was strongly felt in Cincinnati.

William S. Merril, a local chemist wrote in his diary:

Little building is done this season, and almost all business is stagnant. The pernicious effects of too great an efflux of Bank paper has been felt in this place probably more than in any other in our country. The people have run a singular race. When Harrison's troops were paid off in the last war money became excessively plenty. And almost everybody formed great designs and undertook great things with no other capital except great loans from the banks, so that when the banks afterwards found it necessary to call in their debts all found themselves building upon one another and none standing upon a firm foundation. Hence a scene of bankruptcy ensued unparalleled perhaps in the history of any trading town.⁴

²Roseboom and Weisenburger, 86.
³Roseboom and Weisenburger, 86.
⁴William S. Merril Diary, 1814-1827, MSS, CHS.
The Cincinnati banks suspended business and Cincinnati had no bank until the United States branch was re-established in 1825.¹

"The business of the city and vicinity was completely prostrated."² Local merchants were unwilling to bring in merchandise and prices went sky high. Farm produce could be purchased very cheaply but due to lack of money, farmers and merchants had difficulty selling anything other than by barter.³

The situation began to improve in 1823 but it was not until 1825 that trade and commerce of the city began to revive.⁴ By 1826 the markets were full and prices cheap.⁵ Capital flowed into Cincinnati and the city brimmed with activity.⁶ An article in the Cincinnati Chronicle and Literary Gazette in February of 1829 indicated that:

During the year which has just ended, many valuable and extensive manufactories have been established,--an amount of street paving greatly exceeding that of any previous year has been effected,--and other improvements made, corresponding with the magnitude of the city. Within the same period, the good health for which Cincinnati is so eminently distinguished, has prevailed in a more than ordinary degree; commerce has been extended, and peace, plenty and prosperity have pervaded all classes of our inhabitants.⁷

Prosperity continued until Cincinnati succumbed to the cholera outbreak of 1832 and to an economic depression.

¹Utter, 295. ²Goss, I, 140. Quoting Judge Burnet.
³Goss, I, 140.
⁴Utter, 295. The return of prosperity coincided with better times throughout the nation. By 1823 trade with New Orleans again became profitable; 1825 marked the great upswing in Cincinnati for (1) the Miami canal was begun (2) the first construction on the National Road within the state begun (3) and the United States Branch bank was re-opened in Cincinnati.
⁵Western Tiller, Sept. 29, 1826. Hereafter cited WT.
⁶WT, May 18, 1827. ⁷CCLG, Feb. 14, 1829.
Agriculture was the backbone of the economy. The rich fertile countryside was increasingly put under cultivation and its produce sent to Cincinnati for sale and distribution. The markets were full of fruits and vegetables in season along with meats and fowl and wild game. Farmers found hog raising to be profitable and sent so many to market that Cincinnati became known as "Porkopolis."^1

Manufacturing was brought to Cincinnati at an early date as a stimulant to trade for the "more industry in Cincinnati, the greater the volume of raw materials to bring in and the more manufactured goods to export."^2 Although many industries were weakened or folded during the 1819 depression, according to the local historians Drake and Mansfield, by 1826 the manufacturing industry of Cincinnati amounted to 1,800,000 dollars in a population of 16,230. 3 Among items manufactured were:

- Flour, distilled spirits, woolen and cotton goods, paper, copperas, linseed and castor oil, salt, castings, iron, steam engines, and a great variety of articles in wood, and the metals adapted to agriculture and the comforts of domestic life. 4

^1Richard C. Arms, "From Disassembly to Assembly--Cincinnati: The Birthplace of Mass-Production," BHPSo XVII (July, 1959), 195. Porkopolis was said to be coined in the 1820's. George W. Jones, president of Cincinnati's branch bank of the United States, often boasted of the 25,000 to 30,000 hogs processed annually. An out-of-town banking associate had two papier-mâché hogs made and labeled "George W. Jones as the Worthy Representative of Porkopolis," and sent them to him. He displayed them proudly and their fame spread far and wide.


^3Drake and Mansfield, 57, 64-66.

The metal industries became of utmost importance and the development of steamboat manufacturing encouraged the building of engines and the supplying of component parts.1

Beginning with the first locally built steamboat in 1817, Cincinnati developed a large boat-building and repairing industry. Steamers were less expensive to construct in Cincinnati and the local black locust was better than any other wood available for shipbuilding elsewhere.2 By 1829, eighty-one steamers had been built in Cincinnati and a large amount of Cincinnati's capital was tied up in steamboat production.3 Boats had a life expectancy of about five years, and in that time they either hung up on a snag in the river, blew up or shook themselves to pieces. Ships were constantly in need of repairs and according to Hall, repairing costs amounted to half the original cost of the boat.4 In addition, related enterprises flourished. Lumbering, rope-making and foundry works prospered as did smaller concerns which serviced and supplied steamboats. River communities such as Cincinnati supplied so many fancy chairs to steamboats that they became known as "steamboat fancies."5

As settlers poured into Cincinnati and its environs, businessmen kept pace endeavoring to supply their needs and to merchandise their excess production. Agriculture was the backbone of the economy while industry was becoming an important factor. Cincinnati was the place for buying and selling, the processing, and the transshipment of

1Lippincott, 103-104. 2Goss, II, 106. 3Lippincott, 109.
5Lea, 26.
exports. Cincinnati was indeed the important mid-western center during the period under consideration in this study.

Society

Cincinnati, a bustling gay city, early attracted clever and ambitious men with its schools, theaters, libraries, museums, and social diversions (in addition to its business potential). By the end of the 1820's Cincinnatians published nine newspapers and periodicals, two of which were dailies. There were twenty-three churches with all their related organizations. There were forty-seven schools, both public and private and even the first attempt at higher education for women in this country had been instigated earlier in the decade. Cincinnati had all types of societies--masonic orders, singing societies, a medical society, a humane society for rescuing persons from the Ohio river, fire fighting societies, and various labor affiliated groups. Cincinnatians celebrated the various holidays with vigor but gave special allegiance to the Fourth of July when the whole town turned out in mass to watch or participate in the parade. The city hosted a stream of important guests along with frequent visitors from other parts of the country and abroad. Perhaps the best known was the infamous Mrs. Trollope who put Cincinnati in headlines with her caustic remarks about their manners.

1Chambrun, 131.
2Leonard, I, 347. The Cincinnati Female Academy was founded by Dr. John Locke in 1823.
3See Cincinnati directories of 1819, 1825, and 1829.
4Greve, I, 574-575. 5Chambrun, 142-154.
The people who settled in Cincinnati were from the beginning a racially homogeneous group. The first emigrants were from New Jersey, followed by those from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New York and the states of New England. Of this group, those from New Jersey and Pennsylvania predominated, a trend that continued throughout the period under review (1819-1830).\(^1\) By 1825 most of the inhabitants had come from the states east of Ohio, although some were from Kentucky and other points to the South and a very few from Michigan and Indiana. At this time, one-fifth of the population were foreign settlers of which close to 40 per cent were from England and nearly 32 per cent from Ireland. Germany accounted for only about 9 per cent\(^2\) although after 1825, the German influx became the most prevalent, with the Irish next in line. In addition, there were settlers from many of the European countries and Canada.\(^3\) Many Negroes migrated to Ohio in the 1820's and in 1829, there were about 2,258 residing in Cincinnati.\(^4\)

The consensus of opinion expressed in letters written about the people of Cincinnati seems to be similar to that of James Farrington, who passed through Cincinnati at the beginning of 1819:

> The privlence [sic] of N. E. manners and customs made my journey much more agreeable, particularly at Cincinnati, I felt the most like being at home. There is a large imporotion [sic importation?] of the inhabitants, young men, most all from the East which creates quite a friendly feeling in behalf of a stranger from that section of the country . . .\(^5\)

\(^1\)Leonard, II, 577.
\(^3\)Harlow, 39.
\(^4\)Weisenburger, Passing of the Frontier, 42.
\(^5\)Letter, James Farrington to a Friend, Jan. 26, 1819, Box 35, Folder 27, MSS, Cincinnati Public Library. Hereafter cited CPL.
There were close cultural and intellectual ties between the urban centers of the East and Cincinnati. As a visitor from New York remarked:

It is in the highest degree absurd to speak of Cincinnati as a provincial place when the most agreeable persons here hail originally from New York, or Philadelphia, Boston, or Baltimore.¹

William Greene, an aspiring lawyer, wrote to his fiancée that the society that "he selected for our enjoyment" is "elegant of manners and of refined conversation." He went on to say:

This is indeed a most extraordinary town . . . I find myself in a splendid City. The objects that strike my eye at every corner remind me of Providence and Boston. Enormous blocks of brick buildings, wide, straight and elegantly paved streets, genteel carriages and fine equipages, all proclaim the reality of that which is hardly conceivable to the most sanguine imagination— I mean the existence of an Eastern City in the heart of a comparative wilderness.²

All types of emigrants came from the eastern states—ministers, school teachers, lawyer, merchants, and mechanics—and all helped to link Cincinnati more closely to the east. Yet, according to Aaron, Cincinnatians stood apart. They accepted eastern social and cultural mores, but they felt that "western problems required western solutions." Thus, they wrote books, published periodicals and newspapers, composed music; and developed industrial innovations to fit their needs. Perhaps most indicative was the formulation of the society of domestic economy, which in effect was a policy of economic isolationism from the East. The Cincinnatians wanted to be socially

¹Chambrun, 138. Quoting a lady visitor.
²Letter, William Greene to Abby Lyman, Aug. 10, 1820, Box I, #171 Greene-Roelker Papers, MSS, CHS.
and culturally linked to the East while remaining somewhat independent in their semi-isolated city.¹

Even though it was a fluid society, there were apparent class differences. Successful businessmen and lawyers occupied the top social stratum and teachers, physicians, and clergymen, if accepted and patronized by the influential, might claim a similar status. This group exercised leadership in Cincinnati. They directed local business concerns; financed local enterprise; formulated public opinion; entered politics; built the fashionable homes; entertained the important guests; patronized the local craftsmen; and sent their boys to eastern schools. Many in this group had risen from humble beginnings to wealth and eminence, for the way to the top of the social ladder was through successful commercial ventures.

Below the "privileged nucleus" was the bulk of the population, the middle class. This group comprised clerks, cabinetmakers, tailors, storekeepers, and minor tradesmen. They lived in the less fashionable districts and enjoyed modest recreations. They constructed the houses and rendered services for the 'better sort.'² Drake and Mansfield considered this group to be the "bone and sinew of the community" who were:


²Aaron, 53-61. Aaron hypothesized social achievement indicating that a settler, often a failure in business in the East, opened a concern in Cincinnati which thrived. Surplus money was invested in land when it was still cheap and then in industry. His sons followed suit, often entering politics too. His daughters often married the rising young men of the community.
Frugal, ingenious, enterprising [sic] ... Indeed the mechanics and manufacturers of Cincinnati are decidedly the most prosperous class of citizens ... 1

In his memoirs, Mansfield had more to say about the mechanics whose homes he visited in taking the census of 1826:

I went into hundreds of houses, at all hours of the day, often at meal times, and saw all conditions of people. In all this visitation into the recesses of society, I never met a single pauper family, not one really impoverished. The great body of people were mechanics with plenty to do, generally owning their own houses, and in fact, a well-to-do people. 2

Class lines were fluid, "no insuperable barriers prevented the mechanic or clerk from merging into the city elite after he had acquired enough property." 3 However, most of the land had been purchased; the professions were crowded. Artisans and mechanics found no mecca in Cincinnati during the 1820's for the hours were long and the wages low. 4

In the lower class were the heavy laborers. These men frequently found work on the waterfront or in menial jobs about the city. And at the bottom of the social heap were the "hated defranchised blacks." 5 According to Hickok:

However ambitious and willing the colored man might be to gain for himself by preserving industry and integrity, respectable livelihood, he was handicapped by the insurmountable prejudice against his race and color, by the constantly recurring refusal of white workmen to be associated with black ones, and by the law making it a penal offense to hire a negro who could not present a certificate of freedom. 6

1Drake and Mansfield, 59.
3Aaron, 79. 4Aaron, 79. 5Aaron, 60.
Cincinnati had all the amenities of an eastern city but was
western in its attitude and outlook. Since inhabitants were primarily
from the eastern states, the eastern social concepts seemingly domi­
nated. There were many English and Irish immigrants and near the end
of the 1820's Germans began to arrive in increasing numbers. Although
class lines were evident, it was a fluid society where financial
success was the means to higher social achievement.

Housing

Cincinnati never seemed to have enough housing to accommodate
the teeming population. Although about 300 buildings were constructed
in 1818, The Cincinnati Directory of 1819 indicated that they were
"insufficient to contain the number of inhabitants."¹ Even in the
lean economic years of the early 1820's houses were continually built
and construction activity went on, although at a slower pace.²

By 1825, there were 1,668 dwelling houses of which 1,096 were
wood; 552, brick; and 20, stone.³ According to Drake and Mansfield,
an additional 180 buildings were built in 1826 of which 128 were brick
and 52, frame. More specifically, the existing structures were

¹ CD 1819, 101.
² National Intelligencer (Washington), Nov. 29, 1821. An
article reprinted from the Cincinnati Gazette indicated that "not less
than eighty buildings will be erected during the present year" and that
many had been erected previously.
³ Harvey Hall, The Cincinnati Directory for 1825 (Cincinnati:
enumerated:

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<td>146</td>
<td>1682</td>
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The Cincinnati Directory for the Year 1829 stated that in that year there were 496 new buildings of which 217 were brick and 279 were frame.\(^2\) There was still a housing shortage, however, and many people were forced to live in hotels or boarding houses.\(^3\)

The Cincinnati Directory of 1819 described the houses as being neat and convenient but lamented the fact that they lacked architectural style and skill. A plea was entered for "one or two good architects [who] would unquestionably meet here with excellent encouragement."\(^4\) Apparently they came, for in that same year the handsome mansion of Gorham A. Worth was built on Mount Auburn and in the following year the Martin Baum house, known today as the Taft Museum, was constructed. The latter is quite sophisticated and is renowned for its Federal architectural style.\(^5\)

There were many handsome homes built in Cincinnati during the era under review. The capitalist Samuel Foote possessed a showplace on Third street and on the corner of Fourth and Broadway was the handsome residence of Edmund Dester, Esq. Nathaniel Pendleton, the Andridges, and the Chases lived nearby as did Judge Este, son-in-law of William Henry Harrison. General Lytle's property took in an entire

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3. Harlow, 30.
5. Harlow, 93.
square; Judge Burnet had a square at Third and Vine which was sold to Mr. Wiggins when Judge Burnet moved up to Seventh street. On Fourth, between Vine and Walnut, the house of George W. Jones was much admired. Facing this were the two stone mansions of Mr. Groesbeck and Mr. Lawler, while farther west, on the same street, lived Caleb and Jonathan Bates.¹

Thus frame, brick, and stone houses dotted Cincinnati's cityscape as did the pioneer log cabin. Chambrun wrote that "in the prosperous year of 1818" many of the families had moved out of their log cabins into houses of frame, brick or stone.² The log cabins were slowly replaced by more refined structures, but they most likely continued to dot the scene for many years as they did in all new communities.³ This would be especially true in Cincinnati, where such a housing shortage existed.

**American Furniture, 1819-1830**

The Federal and the Empire styles were in fashion during the period under review. They, like other styles that preceded and followed, were inspired by European fashions. American Federal furniture, in vogue from about 1788-1825 received great impetus from the English Hepplewhite-Sheraton styles (1785-1800) while the American Empire, popular from about 1810-1830, was greatly influenced by the French

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Empire style (1800-1820). These styles were neo-classic in nature—
influenced by the ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian cultures.1, 2

There were several important furniture producing centers during the early part of the nineteenth century. According to Otto, "Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Salem, and Baltimore" were the main centers. 3 Montgomery indicated that furniture of note was produced in all the major coastal cities and their environs; and with the growth of the country, the craft spread to Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and other cities.4

Pronounced regional differences in the various furniture centers had lessened due to the improvement of roads and transportation facilities. However, regional differences in the use of woods, construction and design were still evident during the Federal period, though to a lesser degree.5

At the time covered by this study, the United States, still agrarian in nature was turning towards manufacturing, commerce and trade. Yet, craftsmanship still dominated the furniture industry and each maker still learned his trade through an apprenticeship system. An apprenticeship usually began at the age of fourteen or sixteen and

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2 Montgomery, 17; Otto, 45. The dating of the inception and decline of styles is very difficult and varies among historians. Furthermore, passé styles were made long after they were fashionable, especially in rural areas.

3 Otto, 8. 4 Montgomery, 13. 5 Montgomery, 13.
terminated at twenty-one. Upon completion the young man went to work as a journeyman, often on piece work and/or for wages in another maker's shop. With time and accumulation of capital he might become master of his own shop or enter into partnership with another maker. In either case, "in all likelihood he soon took an apprentice."^1

Furniture makers were apprenticed to learn a specific branch of the craft. This is evident by newspaper advertisements in which they identified themselves as either a cabinetmaker or a chairmaker. Price books also revealed that cabinetmakers and chairmakers were two distinct branches, for they were published separately or both branches were identified in their titles.2

Hill, in his study of "The Furniture Craftsmen in Baltimore, 1783-1823," found that aspiring makers were apprenticed to learn either cabinetmaking3 or chairmaking4 and that "there were at least fifteen indentures which stated that apprentices were to be taught both skills."5 Moreover, indentures of future chairmakers sometimes specified the type of chair skill to be learned, i.e., "Windsor," "fancy rush seat making," etc. Even the decorating of chairs was a specialized craft. Hill found that ornamental chair painting was designated specifically in indentures of nine surviving documents. He speculated that those learning this specialized trade very likely did not learn the rudiments of chairmaking. He further found that

1Montgomery, 13-18.
2Montgomery, 11, 69. See advertisements and selections from Price books quoted throughout Montgomery's book.
3Hill, 46. 4Hill, 71. 5Hill, 77. See listings of apprentices to the Baltimore furniture trade between 1783-1824, 396-406.
those learning the ornamental painting trade usually went to work for chairmakers at the expiration of their learning periods.\(^1\)

Cabinet- and chairmakers often patronized allied craftsmen whose shops were usually in the same vicinity or close by. Montgomery designated and defined these craftsmen as:

- **Joiners** . . . skilled in the craft of joining wood . . . [They] not only made furniture but worked on the construction and finishing of dwellings.

- **Turners** frequently specialized in the making of turned slat-back, Windsor, and fancy chairs, and turned wood, metal, and ivory for others.

- **Carvers and gilders** made frames for prints and pictures and some looking glasses. They also did carving and gilding for others, and after 1790 they produced much composition work . . .

- **Upholsterers** sometimes made their own chair frames and bedsteads. More often they bought them to be upholstered and sold in their warerooms. Custom work for cabinet- and chairmakers was also done by them.

- **Inlay makers,** were specialists of whom little is known as yet, but in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore there were men with substantial stocks of inlays for sale, some of which they made and some of which may have been imported.\(^2\)

Although craftsmanship was still of primary importance in the 1820's, the trend from craft to large-scale production was becoming evident. As the business in a shop increased the owner became more of a business-manager. He purchased the supplies, supervised his employees, and merchandized his wares. He brought all types of specialized craftsmen into his shop to increase production. His advertisements changed from "made to order" appeal to that of encouraging his potential customers to stop by his warehouse where he

\(^1\)Hill, 71.  \(^2\)Montgomery, 11-12.
"kept on hand" pieces of furniture. He speculated in venture cargoes and consigned furniture to merchants in other parts of the country. In short, he became the owner-manager and sometime producer. His name on furniture produced in his shop represented it as coming from his shop but not necessarily executed by him.¹

Duncan Phyfe and Lambert Hitchcock, cabinet- and chairmakers respectively, were most representative of those who early switched to large scale production. Phyfe, the well-known cabinetmaker in New York City, at times had more than one hundred men specialized in various branches of the craft working for him.² Hitchcock, the first to mass produce the fancy chair, employed more than one hundred men, women, and children in his factory at Hitchcocksville, Connecticut. The men made the chairs, the children applied the first coat of paint and the women stenciled on the decoration.³ Hitchcock’s enterprise was one of the most remarkable examples of early mass production in the furniture line.⁴

Large scale operations were, however, the exception. Although there was a trend towards large operations, craftsmanship prevailed during the third decade of the nineteenth century. Especially was this true away from the main centers of the Eastern seaboard.⁵

CHAPTER IV

CABINET- AND CHAIRMAKERS WORKING AS INDIVIDUALS, AND IN PARTNERSHIPS IN CINCINNATI, 1819-1830

Each furniture maker who worked in Cincinnati during the period under consideration contributed, in varying degrees to the industry as a whole. Some were transient workers, while others were the mainstay of the industry. Some never contracted a partnership while others drifted in and out with rapidity. In order to acknowledge each maker and to verify his relative importance and consequently his influence upon Cincinnati furniture, the following alphabetized list and summary of each cabinet- and chairmaker known to have been working in Cincinnati, 1819-1830, was formulated. Moreover, to show the extent of their involvement in the industry, known partnerships entered into by the makers were included.

BENJAMIN ADAMSON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1819; located at 11 East New Market Street.\(^1\)

JOHN ADDIS, chairmaker from Pennsylvania; worked c. 1817-1831. In 1819 he was located at 27 East Second Street; in 1825, on Second Street between Main and Walnut; in 1829 on Third between Main and Walnut; and in 1831 on Walnut between Fourth and Fifth.\(^2\)

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\(^1\)CD19, 103. Hereafter all Cincinnati directory entries will be cited CD followed by the last two digits of the year.

\(^2\)CD19, 103; CD25, 9; CD29, 10; CD31, 7.
Addis's enumeration in the Cincinnati Census of 1817 and the U. S. Census of 1820 and 1830 reflected a rather large household. In 1817 one male was under twelve; two were twelve to twenty-one, and one was over twenty-one.\(^1\) In 1820, one was between sixteen and eighteen; two were between twenty-six and forty-four and two over forty-five. In 1830, one male was under five; two were between twenty and thirty and one was between forty and fifty.\(^2\) His household composition was such that he may or may not have been master of a small chair shop.

JOSEPH ANTRIM, cabinetmaker, worked c. 1829-1834. In 1829 he was located in the alley between Main and Walnut and Fifth and Sixth Streets; in 1831, on Sixth between Elm and Plum Streets; in 1834, on Fourth between Vine and Race Streets with a residence on the southwest corner of Sixth and Elm Streets.\(^3\) Antrim was not included in the 1830 census; he did not appear on any tax rolls; and he did not advertise.

JAMES ARMOUR, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1820. On January 27, 1820, he inserted an advertisement in the *Literary Cadet and Cheap City Advertiser*. At that time he was apparently tightening his finances for he "respectfully" informed the public that:

> He has removed from his old stand on Front street, to his house on Sycamore street, three doors north of Front street, one door south of the Oil Mill, where he intends to keep an assortment of CABINETWORK. He tenders his thanks ... and he hopes by a strict attention to business to merit a share of public patronage ...\(^4\)

\(^1\)*Census of Cincinnati in 1817, MSS, CHS.* Hereafter cited Cin. Cen. 1817.

\(^2\)*U. S. Cen. 1820, 133A; U. S. Cen. 1830, 10, Appendix A.*

\(^3\)*CD29, 12; CD31, 10; CD34, 11.*

\(^4\)*Literary Cadet and Cheap City Advertiser, Jan. 27, 1820.* Hereafter cited LCCA.*
No other mention of James Armour was found.

JAMES AYRES, chairmaker from New Jersey, worked c. 1819-1853. In 1819 he was located at 7 East Fourth Street; from 1825 to 1840 on Fifty Street between Plum and Western Row; from 1842 to 1846 on the east side of Plum between Longworth and Sixth Streets; from 1849 to 1853 at 181 Longworth Street.¹

Ayres changed to the grocery business in the middle of the 1820's. In 1819 and 1820 he was apparently actively working as a chairmaker but by 1825 he was in the grocery business. He was listed in the directory of that year as a grocer² and paid taxes on a store in 1826.³ He paid no taxes thereafter. In 1829 his occupation was listed as a chairmaker in the city directory⁴—the occupation he retained until his name disappeared from the Cincinnati directories after 1853.

He was enumerated in the census of 1820 and 1830. In 1820 his household comprised a male under ten; one between twenty-six and forty-four; and one male engaged in manufacturing. In 1830, there was a male between ten and fifteen; one between fifteen and twenty; and one between forty and fifty.⁵

¹CD19, 104; CD25, 12; CD29, 14; CD31, 12; CD34, 13; CD36, 13; CD39-40, 96; CD42, 93; CD43, 24; CD46, 82; CD49-50, 25; CD51-52, 17; CD53, 19.
²CD19, 104; CD25, 12.
³Hamilton County, Ohio, Tax Records; 1826. Filed at the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio. Hereafter cited Ham. Co. Tax followed by the year. See Appendix B.
⁴CD29, 14.
⁵U. S. Cen. 1820, 122; U. S. Cen. 1830, 42; Appendix A.
Ayres seemingly owned no real property and he did not advertise. He did, however, work in Cincinnati for about thirty-four years.

EDWARD BANE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; located on Elm Street between George and Seventh.¹

PETER BARNETT, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; he was located on Eighth Street between Main and Sycamore.²

BARWISE & CONCLIN, cabinetmaker partnership, were active c. 1824-1825. (See separate entries for William Barwise and Caleb Conclin.) On March 19, 1824, Barwise & Conclin advertised that they were in the "Cabinetmaking business . . . in all its branches" at 204 Main Street where "FURNITURE of every description can be had, of the best quality and at low prices."³ Less than a year later, on January 28, 1825, they announced their:

Dissolution of Partnership.

THE partnership heretofore existing in the Cabinet making business under the firm of Barwise & Conclin, has been dissolved by mutual consent. Those having claims against the late firm are requested to bring them in for settlement, and all persons indebted are notified to make payment.

WILLIAM BARWISE
CALEB CONCLIN⁴

WILLIAM BARWISE, cabinetmaker from New York, worked c. 1822-1829. In 1825, he worked at 240 Main Street; in 1829 on Seventh Street between Vine and Race.⁵

¹CD29, 16.  ²CD29, 16.
³The National Republican and Ohio Political Register. Hereafter cited NRPR.
⁴NRPR, Jan. 28, 1825. ⁵CD25, 14; CD29, 17.
Barwise was married in Cincinnati in 1822\(^1\) and in 1824 went into partnership with Caleb Conclin; subsequently dissolved at the beginning of 1825.\(^2\) In October 1825, he announced:

**CHAIRS AND CABINET FURNITURE**

No. 240, Main, between Sixth & Seventh streets.

W. BARWISE has for sale a large and elegant assortment of cabinet furniture and chairs, which may be had on the most reasonable terms for cash, or such produce as will suit him. All orders punctually attended to, and the smallest favor gratefully received . . .\(^3\)

The advertisement was inserted only once; thereafter Barwise seemingly did not advertise. Barwise apparently left Cincinnati before the U. S. Census of 1830 was taken.

SAMUEL BEACH, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati, c. 1829-1831. During his stay in Cincinnati, he boarded at "E. Smith's."\(^4\)

PETER BEAIN, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; boarded at S. Lovejoy's on Seventh Street.\(^5\)

BEALL & BROWN, cabinetmaker partnership, were active in 1829. (See separate entries for Edmund Beall and Matthew Brown.) The Daily Gazette of January 30, 1829, carried this terse announcement:

**FIRE.**—A fire broke out about 12 o'clock on Wednesday night last, in the Cabinet shop of Beall & Brown, on Main above Seventh-st. adjoining the new buildings lately put up by D. K. Este, Esq. It is not exactly known how the fire

\(^1\)Independent Press and Freedom's Advocate, Dec. 5, 1822. It was announced that William Barwise was "MARRIED on Thursday last . . . to Ellinor Taylor." Hereafter cited IPFA.

\(^2\)NRPR, Mar. 19, 1824; NRPR, Jan. 28, 1825.

\(^3\)Cincinnati Emporium, Oct. 13, 1825. Hereafter cited CE.

\(^4\)CD29, 17. \(^5\)CD29, 18, 78.
originated, but supposed by accident. The principal part of the property lost, was owned by Messrs. Beall and Brown. The amount, including the buildings, which were recently put up is estimated at about $1000. It is believed the property was all insured. We have been requested to present the thanks of D. K. Este, Esq. to the Fire Companies, for their exertions in stopping the fire, and thereby saving his very valuable buildings.1

The following March, the public was informed of their:

**Dissolution of Partnership.**

THIS day dissolved by mutual consent. Persons having claims against the firm, will please present them immediately for adjustment, and those indebted will please call and make immediate payment to E. Beall, who is authorized to settle the business of the firm.

E. BEALL
M. BROWN

The business will hereafter be conducted by E. BEALL, at the old stand, where he has rebuilt his shop. He tenders his thanks for favors already received, and still solicits a share of the public patronage.2

EDMUND BEALL, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1837. In 1829 he was located on the corner of Seventh and Main Streets; in 1831 on Main Street between Eighth and Wayne; in 1834 on Main between Eighth and Ninth; and in 1836-1837 on the west side of Main Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets.3

Beall was in partnership with Matthew Brown when a disastrous fire destroyed their shop on January 30, 1829.4 The shop was rebuilt "at the old stand" on "Main above Seventh-st," and Beall continued in

2DG, Mar. 20, 1829.
3CD29, 18; CD31, 17; CD34, 17; CD36-37, 18.
4DG, Jan. 30, 1829.
business by himself.\textsuperscript{1} The insurance on the shop was apparently carried by Beall for on February 10, 1829, the following announcement was placed in the \textit{Daily Cincinnati Gazette} by the Cincinnati Equitable Insurance Company:

\textbf{T\textsc{he} following catalogue will exhibit to the member of this Institution, the contribution necessary to be made, to indemnify John Carr, assignee of Edmund Beall, for a loss sustained by fire on the night of the 28\textsuperscript{th} ultimo; which are required to be paid into the hands of the Treasurer within thirty days from this date, subject to the terms contained in the 16\textsuperscript{th} article of the deed of settlement, \ldots\textsuperscript{2}}

Several furniture makers were listed among the 113 members requested to "contribute." The chair- and cabinetmakers listed and amounts sought were: \textsuperscript{3}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
Philip Skinner & \$ 3.17 1/4 \\
Isaac M. Lee & 2.32 1/2 \\
John Lee & .83 \\
Samuel Stibbs & 5.33 \\
Andrew McAlpin & 4.78 1/2 \\
Jonathan Young & 3.11 \\
Benjamin Mason & 5.54 1/2 \\
William Mills & 5.82 1/2 \\
\end{tabular}

Even though Beall was in partnership with Brown in 1829, he purchased from the Wayne Hardware Company of Cincinnati, in his name alone, small successive amounts of hardware for tables, beds, bureaus, commodes, desks, etc. His first purchase after the fire in January (when he was apparently still in partnership with Brown) was on March 6\textsuperscript{th}. He bought "2 sett glass Knobs" for \$4.00." After that he was a steady customer\textsuperscript{4} and in 1830 purchased a total of \$237.24 worth

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{1}\textit{DCG}, Mar. 20, 1829. \textsuperscript{2}\textit{DCG}, Feb. 10, 1829. \\
\textsuperscript{3}\textit{DCG}, Feb. 10, 1829. \\
\end{flushright}
of hardware—a relatively conservative amount compared to that of some other makers. He may have, however, purchased from other sources.

The Census of 1830 listed an E. Beall of Cincinnati. It was probably Edmund Beall for there were no other "E" Bealls listed in the 1829 or 1831 directories. The enumeration reflected a rather large household, heavily weighted with males in the furniture producing age bracket. There were seven males between the ages of ten and twenty; and four, twenty or over. One of them might have been a man by the name of Mulford who was listed in the 1829 directory as being "at E. Bealls."

From the forementioned information, it was concluded that Edmund Beall, after the termination of his partnership with Brown, was master of his own shop and had several apprentices and journeymen under his direction. He apparently prospered for in 1836-37 he had a Cabinet Wareroom on the west side of Main between Eighth and Ninth Streets.

GEORGE BENDER, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; boarded at C. Hales'.

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2See compiled hardware purchases, Appendix D.
3There is no way of knowing if the males enumerated were fourteen or over, the age when most apprenticeships were begun. However, Hill's study of Baltimore craftsmen indicated that of 163 apprentice chairmakers, there were two under the age of ten at the time of indenture; and eleven between ten and twelve. Of 237 apprentice cabinetmakers, there were three below the age of ten at the time of indenture; and ten, ten to twelve years of age. Hill, 57, 73.
4US Cen. 1830, 138. 5CD29, 90. 6CD36-37, 18. 7CD29, 18.
CARTER H. BENTLEY, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829-1831. In 1829 he boarded with Mrs. Mahon; and in 1831 he worked on Eighth Street between Main and Sycamore.¹

JAMES BLACK, cabinetmaker from New York, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1831. In 1819 he was located at 211 Main Street with a residence at 148 Sycamore; in 1825 on Smith Street between Longworth and Sixth; in 1829 on Sixth between Western Row and John Streets; and in 1831 on George between Western Row and John Streets.²

Black was enumerated in the Cincinnati Census of 1817 and the U. S. Census of 1830 but was missing from the rolls of the 1820 census. In 1817, two males under twelve, four between twelve and twenty-one, and two over twenty-one were probably employed in his shop. In 1830 one male between five and ten, one between ten and fifteen, one between fifteen and twenty, one between twenty and thirty; and one between fifty and sixty³ were seemingly similarly occupied. The composition of Black's household seems to indicate that he operated a small shop. Furthermore, the directory listing of 1819 lends support to this assumption because it indicated that his shop was on Main Street while his residence was on Sycamore.⁴

EDWARD BLACKBURN, cabinet- and pianoforte maker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825-1831. In 1825 he was on Fifth Street near East Broadway; in 1829 he was listed as a piano maker on Walnut Street between Fifth and Sixth; in 1831, as a pianoforte maker on

¹CD29, 19; CD31, 18.
²CD19, 211; CD25, 16; CD29, 20; CD31, 18.
³Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1830, 35; Appendix A.
⁴CD19, 211.
Harrison Street. Although the Cincinnati directory of 1829 listed his occupation as a pianoforte maker, he retained the designation of cabinetmaker in an advertisement of May 29, 1820. On that date he and Israel Schooley announced their dissolution of partnership. The notice in *The Cincinnati Chronicle and Literary Gazette* stated that:

The copartnership heretofore existing in this city under the name of Schooley and Blackburn, Musical and Cabinet Makers was dissolved by mutual agreement on the 17th inst.²

The directory of 1831 designated him as a pianoforte maker³ and it was assumed that he must have worked primarily in this capacity from 1829.

Blackburn's will, probated January 22, 1852, left items not specifically designated, to his four surviving children—Thomas Knowlandson Blackburn, Martha Dickson, John Blackburn, and Johnathan Blackburn. He did specify that:

> My books to be equally divided among my children then living with the exception of two folio volumes of Cabinet designs viz.—Chippendale designs published in 1762 and my book of designs published by T. Thenenton in 1804, which said volumes with all my working tools, it is my will that my son Thomas Knowlandson Blackburn shall have and hold.⁴

Blackburn's household was enumerated in the census of 1830. There was one male between ten and fifteen; two were between fifteen and twenty; and one was between forty and fifty.⁵

Blackburn apparently worked on a rather limited scale. His enumeration in the 1830 census correlated with the number of children

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¹CD25, 16; CD29, 20; CD31, 19.
²CCLC, May 29, 1830. ³CD31, 19.
⁴*Hamilton County Probate Records, Cincinnati, Ohio, Will #14327, Vol. 6, 249-251.* Hereafter cited *Ham. Co. Rec.*
⁵US Cen. 1830, 125; Appendix A.
mentioned in his will. He paid no real estate taxes in Cincinnati during the period under review. Although his name was not included in the directories after 1831, he apparently lived in the environs of Cincinnati because his will was probated in Hamilton County in 1852.

JOSEPH BOLLMAN, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 on Seventh Street between Main and Sycamore.¹

WILLIAM BOND, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 on Front Street, east of Deer Creek.²

GEORGE BOWEN, cabinetmaker from Connecticut, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1846. In 1829 he boarded at L. Johnson's; in 1831 his name was not included in the directory; in 1834 he had a cabinet shop on Second Street near Sycamore; from 1836 to 1840 he operated the George G. Bowen & Company cabinetmaking shop on the south side of Second Street between Main and Sycamore; from 1842 to 1846 he was on Sycamore between Third and Fourth Streets and on Third between Smith and Park.³

Bowen was enumerated in the census of 1830. There were twelve males from twenty to thirty years of age in his household.⁴ Bowen apparently operated a shop by 1830.

HENRY BOYD, Negro cabinetmaker-carpenter from Kentucky, worked in Cincinnati c. 1826-1864. From 1831 to 1864 he was located on New Street, presumably his residence. In 1842 his factory was on the corner of Broadway and Eighth Streets, and remained there until 1862

¹CD29, 21. ²CD29, 136. ³CD29, 21; CD34, 22; CD36, 23; CD39-40, 115; CD42, 156; CD43, 45; CD46, 45. ⁴US Cen. 1830, 65; Appendix A.
Boyd was born into slavery in Kentucky on May 14, 1802. At an early age he developed an aptitude for woodworking and was bound out to learn the cabinetmaking trade. Through the understanding of his master he was able to purchase his freedom by the time he was eighteen and in 1826, at the age of twenty-six he migrated to Cincinnati. The proceedings of the Ohio Anti-Slavery Convention held at Putnam, in 1835 gave this account of Boyd:

A young man of our acquaintance, of exceptionable character and an excellent workman . . . on coming to this city, he was refused work by every man to whom he applied. At last he found a shop, carried on by an Englishman, who agreed to employ him—but on entering the shop, the workmen threw down their tools, and declared that he should leave or they would. 'They would never work with a nigger!' The unfortunate youth was accordingly dismissed. In this extremity, having spent his last cent, he found a slaveholder who gave him employment in an iron store as a common laborer. Here he remained two years, when the gentleman finding he was a mechanic, exerted his influence and procured work for him as a rough carpenter.

Boyd soon mastered the carpenter trade and formed a partnership to build houses with a white mechanic. He was successful and "by the time he was 31 [1833] he was worth $3,000 and had bought both brother and sister for whom he payed $900."
By 1836 he owned his own Bedstead Manufactory on the corner of Eighth Street and Broadway, where he worked until 1861. His business grew and he expanded his shop into four large buildings where he made all types of furniture and employed from twenty to fifty workers of both races.  

Boyd "invented" and manufactured the Boyd Bedstead, a corded bed which became very popular, especially in the southwest. Since he was colored, the patent was secured for him by a white man. George Porter, a well-known local cabinetmaker, took out a patent for "Bedstead fastenings" on December 30, 1833.  

Several Boyd bedsteads have survived. They are rather substantial in feeling and design and devoid of ornament. All carry branded identification on the inner part of the bed posts about four to six inches above the level of the mattress.  

The bed shown in Plate I belonged to Henry Thomas Butterworth, an active Quaker of the ante-bellum era who reputedly operated an underground railroad station at his home in Lebanon, Ohio. The bed descended in the family and is still located in the old farmhouse which was built about 1830.

The Butterworth bed was identified on all four posts with the brand, "H. Boyd Cin. O.," shown in Plate II. The posts and head-

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1Williams, I, 139.  
2Hickok, 114.  
4Mrs. Lewis Neuman, interview, Lebanon, Ohio, Nov. 8, 1969.
PLATE I

HENRY BOYD BED BELONGING TO THE BUTTERWORTH ESTATE
PLATE II

HENRY BOYD’S IDENTIFICATION BRAND
and footboards are of cherry and enhanced only by turning details. The top of the posts have seemingly been cut off and a piece of wood added—from the foot- to the headpost. The dimensions are: 82" height; 63" width; and 82" length.

The Boyd bed shown in Plate III is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stout of Mt. Healthy, Cincinnati. The bed was found in the attic of their home when they purchased it several years ago. The house was built about 1840.¹

The Stout bed was branded "H. Boyd Cin. Ohio" on the inner right post only (viewed from the foot of the bed). The posts, head- and footboards are of walnut and quite plain in detail. Small ball finials have been removed from the top of the posts—they were found in the attic along with the bed.² The Stout's added the cornice. The dimensions are: 84" height plus 'about 4" balls'; 63" width; and 82" length.

A low post bed made by Henry Boyd, shown in Plate IV, is in the home of Mrs. Harmon, Lebanon, Ohio. The bed was branded on all four posts, "H. Boyd Cin. Ohio." It was executed in cherry and the dimensions are: 59" height; 58" width; and 82" length.³

The unique feature of the Boyd bedsteads is the manner in which they are assembled. The side rails, shown in Plate V, are round

¹Mrs. Frank Stout, interview, Mt. Healthy, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 8, 1969.
²The finials have been misplaced. According to Mrs. Stout they were round and about four inches in height.
³Mrs. Mary Harmon, interview, Lebanon, Ohio, Dec. 12, 1969. A high post Boyd bed is in a guest room at the Golden Lamb, Lebanon, Ohio. It was executed in cherry and is somewhat less provincial than the two high posts shown. Its posts are reminiscent of the Harmon bed.
PLATE III

HENRY BOYD BED
PLATE IV

HENRY BOYD BED
PLATE V

CLOSE-UP OF THE RAILS AND POSTS
OF THE HENRY BOYD BED
and screw directly into the bedposts in opposite directions in such a manner that as pressure is exerted by the occupant, the screws automatically tighten. The tight bond between the posts and rail was a selling point; it was supposed to be a deterrent to vermin that might otherwise harbor there.¹

Boyd was neither accepted by the colored nor the white segment of Cincinnati. The white segment was jealous of his success; they burnt out his shop three times. After the third fire, insurance companies refused to carry his shop and he terminated business.² He was charged by his own people with favoring the miscegenation of races. It is not known if this were a valid accusation but "his children and grandchildren did marry whites and were lost in the so-called superior race."³

WILLIAM BOYD [Boid?], cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 on Front Street, east of Deer Creek. His name appeared in the 1829 directory with two spellings on two different pages. Very likely it was the same person for the addresses were the same.⁴

ROBERT P. BOYER, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1819. In 1819 he was located on Longworth Street between Western Row and John Street.⁵ According to the census of 1817, his household comprised two males under twelve and one over twenty-one.⁶

¹Charles Cist, Cincinnati in 1851: It's Early Annals and Future Prospects (Cincinnati: Wm. T. Moore & Co., 1851), 204.
²Williams, 139.
⁴CD29, 21, 20. ⁵CD19, 105. ⁶Cin. Gen. 1817; Appendix A.
MATTHEW BROWN, cabinetmaker from England, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825-1829. In 1825 he was on Walnut Street between Fifth and Sixth; in 1829 "on Main above Seventh-st."

Brown was in partnership with Edmund Beall. This was terminated in 1829 when fire destroyed their shop. Because there were several Matthew Browns in Cincinnati during the period of review, it was difficult to determine if he were counted in the census of 1830 or if he paid taxes. He apparently left Cincinnati after the fire because he was not listed in the directory for 1829, nor was the insurance notice concerning the fire directed towards him.

JOSEPH BRUM, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; located on Main Street near Canal.

JAMES CAMERON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1819; in 1819 he was located on Main Street. The census of 1817 indicated that there were two males over twenty-one in his household.

FERGUS CANNON, Windsor chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1819; located at 50 West Front Street.

JAMES CARR, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; boarded at D. C. Penton's.

HENRY CARVER, cabinetmaker from Maryland, worked in Cincinnati c. 1828-1860. From 1829-1846 he was on the north side of Green Street,

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1 CD25, 19; DC, Mar. 20, 1829.
2 DC, Jan. 30, 1829; DC, Mar. 20, 1829. See Beall and Brown, 57-58.
3 See Edmund Beall, 59. 6 CD29, 24. 5 CD29, 110.
6 Cin. Con. 1817; Appendix A. 7 CD19, 113. 8 CD29, 28.
between Race and Elm; from 1849 to 1851, on the north side of Fourth Street between Mill and Park; in 1851-1852 on Lawrence Street between Symmes and Congress; and from 1853 to 1860 at 399 West Fourth Street. In 1839-1840 he worked "at McAlpin's Ware-room."2

Although Carver worked in Cincinnati more than thirty years, he was there only during the last three years of the twelve covered in this study. In 1828 and 1829 he owned property conjointly with the turner, George Carver, which was divided in 1830 with each receiving half.3 His will, probated in 1877, left all his estate "real and personal" to his wife, Mary; there was no indication of extensive holdings.4

JAMES CHANEY, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; he boarded at V. Shalley's.5

CLARK AND CROWELL, chairmaker partnership, were active c. 1822. (See separate entries for Moses P. Clark and Nathan Crowell.)

On March 16, 1822, Jacob Roll, a local chairmaker, announced that he had sold his establishment to "Messrs. Moses P. Clark and Nathan Crowell." He recommended them:

To the notice of his former customers and the public in general, that may hereafter wish to purchase fashionable and substantial Chairs, Settees, etc. From the knowledge he has of their abilities as first rate mechanics, he has no hesitation in saying that he believes that they can, and will furnish their customers with Fancy Rush seat and Windsor Chairs, Settees, etc., of a quality far superior in point

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1 CD29, 29; CD31, 29; CD36, 37, 33; CD39-40, 133; CD42, 240; CD43, 67; CD46, 118; CD49-50, 7; CD50-51, 54.
2 CD39-40, 133.
3 Hum. Co. Tax. 1828, 607; 1829, 741; 1830; Appendix B.
5 CD29, 29.
of strength, elegance and fashion, to those generally made heretofore, at any other establishment in the Western Country. They will shortly have some chairs finished of the latest and most fashionable patterns . . . at the Ware Room, No. 9 East Fourth street . . .

A week later, they advertised on their own behalf indicating:

From their knowledge of the business, together with a stock of materials of the best kind, they flatter themselves that they can make chairs and Settees equal in point of ease, strength and elegance to any made in the western country, at reasonable prices. Steamboats furnished with Chairs and Settees at the shortest notice.

Two months later, on May 18, they announced that "the co-partnership lately existing between Clark & Crowell was dissolved by mutual consent, on the 2d instant."

MOSES P. CLARK, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1818-1822. In 1822 he operated a Chair Factory with Nathan Crowell at 9 East Fourth Street.

Clark may have worked for the local chairmakers, Roll and Deeds in 1818. An extant receipt shows that Jacob C. Roll paid Clark $7.50 "in credit" at Piatt's store in 1818. Roll and Deeds were partners at that time.

CALEB COMSTOCK, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; boarded at Charles W. James, a prominent chairmaker, and very likely worked for him.

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1 Western Spy and Literary Cadet, Mar. 16, 1822. Hereafter cited WSLC.
2 LCC, Mar. 23, 1822. 3 WSLC, May 13, 1822.
4 WSLC, Mar. 16, 1822.
5 Receipt. Jacob C. Roll to Moses Clark, 1818, Piatt Papers, Box 33, MSS, CPL.
6 See Jacob C. Roll, 128-130.
7 CD29, 33. 8 See 82-85.
Comstock was enumerated in the census of 1830. In his home there were two males under five; two between twenty and thirty; and one between thirty and forty.\(^1\) He may or may not have been working for himself at that time.

CALEB CONCLIN, cabinetmaker from New York, worked in Cincinnati c. 1824-1830. In 1824 he worked at 204 Main Street;\(^2\) in 1825 on Seventh Street between Main and Sycamore; and in 1829 on Sycamore near Lower Market.\(^3\) In 1824 he was in partnership with William Barwise, but it was dissolved in January of 1825.\(^4\)

Conclin was listed as a cabinetmaker in the 1825 directory but the 1829 directory gave no occupation. It seems that he was still active in 1830, however, Conclin's enumeration in the Census of 1830 indicated that in his household there were one male between five and ten; one between ten and fifteen; two between fifteen and twenty; and one between fifty and sixty.\(^5\)

JOSEPH CONCKLIN, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1827-1829. In 1829 he was located on Eighth Street near Main.\(^6\)

CHARLES COOPER, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; boarded at J. Pennington's.\(^7\)

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\(^1\)US Cen. 1830, 51; Appendix A.\(^2\)NRPR, Mar. 19, 1824.\(^3\)CD25, 25; CD29, 33.\(^4\)NRPR, Mar. 19, 1824; NRPR, Jan. 28, 1825.\(^5\)US Cen. 1830, 63; Appendix A.\(^6\)CD29, 33.\(^7\)CD29, 34.
JOHN A. CRAWFORD, cabinetmaker from Pennsylvania, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1840. In 1829 he boarded at N. Arthur's; in 1831 his name did not appear in the directory; in 1834 he was located on Plum Street between Fifth and Longworth; in 1836-37, on Longworth Street between Plum and Western Row; and in 1839-40 his residence was on Webster Street. ¹

NATHAN CROWELL, chairmaker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati c. 1820-1829; located on Fourth Street between Main and Sycamore. ²

Crowell may have been in Cincinnati as early as 1820 for the census of that year listed a "Nathen Crowen" of Cincinnati. ³ Since there was no "Nathen Crowen" in the Cincinnati directories of 1819 or 1825, nor were there any similar names, it was very likely that the entry was a misspelled form of his name.

In 1822 Crowell went into partnership with Moses Clark—a partnership that lasted two months. ⁴ At the termination of the partnership, Nathan Crowell inserted the dissolution notice. It said in part that in the future the business "will be conducted by the subscriber, at the old stand, No. 9 East Fourth Street." ⁵ By 1827 his operations had expanded to such an extent that he advertised a "Chair Factory." He indicated that he had:

¹CD29, 36; CD34, 43; CD36-37, 43; CD39-40, 149. There were several John Crawfords in Cincinnati at this time. It was difficult to determine what tax and census records belonged to whom. In that he was just boarding in 1829, it was very likely that the records represented another John Crawford.

²CD25, 28; CD29, 37. ³US Cen. 1820, 136; Appendix A.

⁴WSLC, Mar. 16, 1822; WSLC, May 18, 1822. See Clark and Crowell.

⁵WSLC, May 18, 1822.
A large and handsome assortment of FANCY and WINDSOR CHAIRS, of various patterns, which are finished in the neatest manner, persons wishing to purchase will please to call at his warehouse, on East Fourth Street, near Main.

NATHAN CROWELL

This "Chair Factory" was apparently in operation until August, 1828, for at that time Charles W. James announced in the National Republican and Ohio Political Register that he had "succeeded Mr. Nathan Crowell ... at the old stand, East Fourth near Main street, Cincinnati."?

In 1829 Crowell purchased tools from the Wayne Hardware Company of Cincinnati. On January 29, he bought "1 Best Brace, 18 bits, $5.50."3

He apparently left Cincinnati prior to the census count of 1830. The 1830 census listed no Nathan Crowell in Cincinnati but a Nathan Crowell was listed as residing just outside of Cincinnati, in Millcreek township.4

WILLIAM H. CUMMINGS, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829. He boarded at Lemuel John's,5 a local cabinetmaker,6 and apparently worked in his shop.

JOHN L. A. DANCLADE, cabinetmaker from France, worked in Cincinnati in 1825; located on Sixth Street between Sycamore and Broadway.7

TURPIN DAUGHTERS, cabinetmaker, may have worked in Cincinnati c. 1828-1830. Examination of the Wayne Hardware Company books revealed that Daughters purchased large amounts of hardware for cabinetware.

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His first purchase was on June 13, 1823. He purchased:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 3/4 doz. Small knobs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 2/23 Commode knobs</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 gro. 5/8 Screws</td>
<td>37 1/2</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 gro. 1 3/4 Screw</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 doz. Table Hinges</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sett glass nobs</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sett glass nobs</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 doz. till lock</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 sett Quadrauts</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 m 3/4 Sprigs 18&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 doz. Brass Nobs</td>
<td></td>
<td>.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 gr Scutcheons</td>
<td></td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 pr. Brass hinges</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 pr. Brass desk hinges</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Lock 31 1/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Lock 37</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 #’s Brass Wire 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 #’s Nails 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And, on September 24, 1828, he purchased:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/3 doz. Desk hinges</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Sett Quadrants Hatches</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sett glass Knobs</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 gr. Screws</td>
<td></td>
<td>.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subsequent purchases were made in 1828, 1829 and 1830. Total purchases as taken from the Wayne ledgers are listed below:

- From September 25 to March 24, 1828 $ 62.28
- From July 25 to October 22, 1829 9.16
- From November 10 to June 3, 1830 104.59
- From July 6, 1830 to December 3, 1830 226.52

Daughters was not listed in any of the directories of the period. The census of 1830 recorded a Turpin Daughters in adjacent Clermont County. He may or may not have worked in Cincinnati during the period under discussion.

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JOHN P. DAVIS, cabinetmaker from Pennsylvania, worked in Cincinnati in 1825; he was located on Longworth Street between John and Smith.1

ISAAC DEEDS, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1819 on Fourth Street.2

In August of 1818 Deeds was operating a "chair factory" in partnership with Jacob C. Roll3 and by January of the following year (1819) he was in partnership with Jonathan Young, which was subsequently terminated in May of the same year.4 Isaac Deeds's household was enumerated in the Cincinnati Census of 1817. There was one male between twelve and twenty-one, and were two over twenty-one.5 The U.S. Census of 1820 listed an Isaac Deeds in an adjoining county, Butler.6

PETER DEMOTT, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; boarded at T. Brook's.7

JAMES DENISON, chairmaker from Maryland, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825. His location was on Sycamore between Fourth and Fifth Streets.8 On October 13, 1825, he inserted the following advertisement in the Cincinnati Emporium:

1CD25, 29.  
2Western Spy, Aug. 8, 1818. Hereafter cited WS.  
3WS, Aug. 8, 1818.  
4CA, Jan. 26, 1819; LHCG, May 25, 1819.  
5Cin. Cen. 1817.  
6US Cen. 1820, 23; Appendix A.  
7CD29, 39.  
8CD25, 30.
Chair Making.

No. 240 Main Street, near Seventh Street

JAMES DENISON, informs his friends and the public generally that he has commenced business as above, where he intends keeping an assortment of CHAIRS

And will enlarge his stock so as to be able to furnish chairs of every kind. From his knowledge and experience in his line, he pledges himself that his work shall be done well, and no work shall go from his shop, but what is substantial and well painted. His object is to get custom [sic] and merit a continuance of support. His determination is to have but one price and that price low. Any produce brought by his country friends, which he may want, will be taken at cash price.¹

JOHN DENISON, chairmaker from Maryland, worked in Cincinnati in 1825; on Third Street between Main and Walnut.²

GEORGE W. DOUGLAS, cabinetmaker worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1834. In 1829 he was located on Fifth Street between Elm and Plum; in 1831 on the rear corner of Western Row and Long; and in 1834 on Longworth and Plum.³

SAMUEL DUKE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1820. In 1819 his house was at 36 West Fifth Street.⁴ Duke was enumerated in the U. S. Census of 1820. His household comprised one male between sixteen and twenty-five and one between twenty-six and forty-four.⁵

HENRY DULEY, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he boarded at S. Nun's.⁶

¹CE, Oct. 13, 1825. ²CD25, 30.
³CD29, 41; CD31, 48; CD34, 53. ⁴CD19, 115.
⁵US Cen. 1820, 120; Appendix A.
⁶CD29, 42; CD31, 49.
JOHN DUNN, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he was located on Eighth Street between Sycamore and Broadway.\(^1\)

ALVIN FINNEY, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 and boarded at Lemuel John's,\(^2\) a cabinetmaker.\(^3\) It was very likely that he worked in John's shop.

WILLIAM FLINT, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1819 on Main Street north of the Court House.\(^4\)

JOHN FREE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829. His house was located on Court between Main and Walnut Streets.\(^5\)

JOHN FULLER, cabinetmaker, apparently worked in Cincinnati in 1819. Fuller was listed as the president of the "Journeymen's Cabinet Makers' Society" in the directory of 1819.\(^6\) However, he was not included among the residents listed in the directory.

CRIPPS GASKILL, cabinetmaker and housecarpenter from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1831. In 1819 he worked as cabinetmaker and carpenter at 79 West Front Street; in 1825, as a housecarpenter at 59 Second Street; and in 1829-31 as an engine pattern maker near Deer Creek.\(^7\)

Gaskill was enumerated in the 1817 and 1820 censuses. In 1817 his household included one male under twelve and one over twenty-one. In 1820 there were two males between ten and fifteen and one over forty-five. One of the males was engaged in manufacturing.\(^8\)

\(^1\)CD29, 42; CD31, 50. \(^2\)CD29, 47. \(^3\)See 86. \(^4\)CD19, 119. \(^5\)CD29, 49. \(^6\)CD19, 44. \(^7\)CD19, 122; CD25, 40; CD29, 51. \(^8\)Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1820, 134; Appendix A.
JOHN GEYER, chairmaker from Maryland, worked in Cincinnati c. 1830-1858. From 1830-1840 he worked on the north side of Third Street between Main and Walnut; from 1842-1856 he was at 8 East Fourth Street between Main and Sycamore; from 1857-1858 at 81 Sycamore Street.  

In 1830, Geyer (as part of the firm Kerr, Ross and Geyer) was just beginning his long and successful career as a manufacturer and furniture dealer. He became one of the most important manufacturers of chairs in Cincinnati in the 1840's and 1850's.  

ALEXANDER GIBSON, spinningwheel, chair- and brushmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1819 at 31 Lower Market Street.  

WASHINGTON G. HALLEY, cabinetmaker from Ohio, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1856. In 1829 he was on Longworth between Plum and Western Row and from 1831 to 1842 on Fifth Street between Elm and Plum. In 1843 he changed to the grocery store business and was located on Fifth Street between Race and Elm; from 1846 to 1856 he operated a boot and shoe store at 190 West Fifth Street.  

Halley was enumerated in the census of 1830. His household included one male under five and one between twenty and thirty.
JOHN HARGY, cabinetmaker from Kentucky, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1846. In 1819 he was at 148 Sycamore Street; in 1825 on Seventh Street between Sycamore and Broadway; in 1829 on Walnut between Second and Third Streets; and from 1836 to 1846 on the north side of Seventh Street near Broadway. In 1834 he became a patternmaker and in 1839-40 he was a patternmaker at Hanks and Niles.\(^1\)

Hargy paid small realty taxes from 1826 through 1830\(^2\) and very likely paid them during the rest of the time he was in Cincinnati. His household was enumerated in the 1830 census; he was the only male member.\(^3\)

Very little is known about John Hargy even though he worked in Cincinnati for more than twenty-five years and was there during the entire time covered in this study.

FRANCIS HARRISON, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1826-1834. In 1829 he was on Sycamore Street near Lower Market; in 1831, George Street near Plum; and in 1834 on Fifth Street and Walnut with a residence on Seventh Street between Plum and Western Row.\(^4\)

Harrison was probably in Cincinnati in 1826 because he paid realty taxes from that year until 1830,\(^5\) and probably longer. The

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\(^1\)CD19, 123; CD31, 71; CD29, 58; CD36-37, 76; CD34, 77; CD36-37, 76; CD39-40, 208; CD42, 39; CD43, 149; CD46, 190.
\(^2\)Ham. Co. Tax, 1826; 1827, 748; 1828, 677; 1829, 789; 1830; Appendix B.
\(^3\)US Gen. 1830, 9; Appendix A.
\(^4\)CD29, 58; CD31, 70; CD34, 78.
\(^5\)Ham. Co. Tax, 1826; 1827, 744; 1828, 670; 1829, 785; 1830; Appendix B.
enumeration of his household in the 1830 census included one male under five and one between twenty and thirty.1

GEORGE HARRISON, cabinetmaker from Pennsylvania, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825-1834. In 1825 he was on the corner of John and Fifth Streets; in 1829 on George Street; and in 1831 on Longworth Street near Mound. In 1834 he was listed as a carpenter on Third Street between Smith and Mill Streets.2

Harrison's household was enumerated in the census of 1830 and included two males under five, one between five and ten; one between twenty and thirty, and one between forty and fifty.3 He may or may not have been master of a small shop.

WILLIAM HAWKINS, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1837. In 1829 he was on Fourth Street between Main and Sycamore; his name did not appear in the directory in 1831; from 1834 to 1837 he was on Fourth Street between Main and Sycamore. In 1836-37 he had a cabinet warehouse at the above location and a residence on Sycamore Street near Fourth.4

Hawkins probably worked in Cincinnati from 1829 to 1838, although he may have been absent for awhile around 1830 or 1831. He was not enumerated in the 1830 census nor was he listed in the directory of 1831. However, he purchased hardware supplies from the Wayne Hardware Company in 1830—a total of $244.32. An entry of $67.01 was

1US Cen. 1830, 111; Appendix A.  
2CD25, 46; CD29, 58; CD31, 71; CD34, 78.  
3US Cen. 1830, 52; Appendix A.  
4CD29, 60; CD34, 80; CD36-37, 79.
made in the Wayne Co. ledger in July, and $177.31 in December, 1830.  

Hawkins apparently did work for some of the more prominent people in Cincinnati. A bill made out to Mrs. Lytle, a woman of high social standing, is reproduced in Figure 1. He repaired a sideboard, a table and a sofa in the spring of 1835 and was paid in January of 1836.

Fig. 1.—William Hawkins's bill to Mrs. Lytle, 1836.

A secretary-bookcase c. early 1830's made by William Hawkins is in the Cincinnati Art Museum. The piece, reproduced in Plate VI, is neo-classic in feeling. It is veneered in tiger maple and the secondary woods are cherry and poplar. The piece is made in two sections: the top has glazed doors and bookshelves; the bottom, drawers in the front and on the side, with some concealed drawers in the pillars. The over-all size is: 75" height; 28" width; and 21" depth.

2Bill, Lytle Papers, Box XVII, #349, MSS, CHS.
PLATE VI.

WILLIAM HAWKINS'S SECRETARY-BOOKCASE
Hawkins's identification, reproduced in Plate VII, is stenciled inside the middle top drawer. It reads "William Hawkins, Manufacturer of the most fashionable Cabinet furniture, 4th Street between Sycamore and Main." Superimposed on the stencil is the brand "Cincinnati, Ohio."\(^1\)

Hawkins's will probated on February 16, 1839, provided that the indebtedness on the property in which they lived on Sycamore be paid off with the return on his investments and be replaced with a brick building. It is interesting to note that the property was to be divided equally among his wife, son and daughter but if his wife re-married, she was to receive nothing.\(^2\)

William Hawkins's shop was probably one of the more important cabinet establishments in Cincinnati. He was just beginning his career in Cincinnati during the period under review. He must have prospered for at his death in about 1839 he operated a cabinet warehouse.

WILLIAM HAWKS, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 and boarded at W. Borland's.\(^3\)

DAVID HOFFMAN, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1819, his establishment being at 76 Sycamore Street.\(^4\) He was listed in the census of 1817 and was the only male in his household.\(^5\)

RALPH HOGLAN, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 at a location on Fifth Street, east of Broadway.\(^6\)

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\(^3\) CD29, 60. \(^4\) CD19, 123. \(^5\) Cincinnati Cen. 1817; Appendix A.
\(^6\) CD29, 63.
PLATE VII
WILLIAM HAWKINS'S BRAND
JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829; 1836-1837. In 1829 he was on Walnut Street between Fourth and Fifth. His name disappeared from subsequent directories until 1836-37 when he was on Longworth Street between Elm and Plum.  

PETER HUNT, chairmaker from Pennsylvania, worked in Cincinnati from c. 1829-1850. In 1829 he was on Center near Elm Street; in 1831 in Lodge’s Alley; in 1834 on East Main and Gano Streets with a residence in Lodge’s Alley; and from 1839-1850 he was on the East side of Lodge’s Alley between Sixth and Seventh Streets.  

JACOB HUNTINGTON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 his residence was at 131 Main Street; in 1831 he was located in the rear of Main Street near Third.  

DAVID JACKSON, JUN., cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1819. In 1819 he was on Sixth Street between John and Smith.  

Jackson was in Cincinnati by 1817; he was listed in the census of that year. There were three men over twenty-one in his household. He may have changed his occupation from cabinetmaker to coroner. The directories of 1825 and 1829 listed a David Jackson Jun. in that capacity. Even though the name David Jackson was very common, it was very likely him. It was not a far step from making coffins, which many of the cabinetmakers did, to coroner.  

CHARLES W. JAMES, fancy chairmaker from Philadelphia, worked in Cincinnati c. 1824-1834. From 1828 to 1831 he was on the corner of

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1CD29, 61; CD36-37, 87.  
2CD29, 66; CD31, 81; CD34, 90; CD36-37, 88; CD39-40, 230; CD42, 318; CD43, 116; CD46, 212; CD49-50, 148.  
3CD29, 138.  
4CD19, 128.  
5Cin. Cen. 1817.  
6CD25, 53; CD29, 67.
Fourth and Sycamore Streets; in 1834 he had a wareroom on Fourth Street between Main and Sycamore and a residence on the corner of Broadway and Harrison.¹

James "succeeded" Nathan Crowell at Crowell's "old stand" on East Fourth, near Main Street in May of 1828.² In an advertisement inserted in the National Republican and Ohio Political Register at the beginning of 1829 he informed the public that he was "late of the firm of Stewart & James, Philadelphia" where he had been "extensively engaged" for the past five years in "furnishing Steam Boats and Hotels." He went on to state that he was "prepared to receive orders of that kind of work" in Cincinnati. He offered an assortment of superior:

GREGIAN, FANCY, AND WINDSOR CHAIRS, all warranted good, and of the most modern Eastern and Western Patterns, which he will sell low.³

By August of 1829 he had shifted his location to the large brick house on the corner of Fourth and Sycamore Streets⁴ where he remained during the period under review.

James advertised extensively in the next two years. He enticed the public with fancy and Windsor chairs, lounges, settees, painted toilets, and music stools. Not only did he offer a variety of forms, he advertised curled maple and painted items and "stuffed, cane, flag, or wooden seats." Most of his advertisements ended with

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¹CD29, 67; CD31, 83; CD34, 93.
²NRPR, Aug. 8, 1828. ³CCLG, Jan. 10, 1829.
⁴CCLG, Aug. 29, 1829.
the notation that steamboats and hotels were furnished "at short
notice."¹

James apparently made a wide assortment of pieces, including
items usually made by a cabinetmaker. From the Wayne Company he
purchased on February 10, 1829, a dozen bureau locks (in addition to
other items) and on April 20, one sideboard lock.² It is unfortunate
that all the Wayne Company ledgers did not survive, because enumerated
purchases made after that date would have come to light. It is known
that he made subsequent purchases. Balance statements in another
ledger indicated that he made total payments of $231.95 by July 31;
and by December 31, $181.74.³

Business with the Wayne Company was reciprocal. Charles W.
James sold the Charles Wayne Company six fancy chairs on December 31,
1831. A receipt for $17.00 was given in acknowledgment, reproduced
in Figure 2.⁴

In January of 1830, W. L. Jones moved his looking glass store
to James's Chair Factory. At that time the following advertisement
was inserted:

NEW LOOKING GLASS STORE.

W. L. JONES has removed his Looking Glass Store, from the
corner of Lower Market and Main Streets, to Mr. Charles W.
James' Chair Factory, corner of Fourth and Sycamore Streets,
where he solicits the attention of a generous public.
W. J. intends keeping at the above place, a general assort­
ment of MANTEL, PIER & TOILET LOOKING GLASSES, which he will

¹See Appendix C.
³Wayne Co., Vol. 8, MSS, Harvard.
⁴Receipt, Wayne Co., MSS, CHS.
sell wholesale and retail. All orders (post paid) will be immediately and punctually attended to. A large and handsome Assortment of Fancy and Windsor Chairs constantly on hand at the above place.¹

Fig. 2.--Charles James receipt to Mr. Wayne, 1831.

Charles W. James must have had a rather large establishment. The census of 1830 indicated that it included a male under five; one between ten and fifteen; four between fifteen and twenty; three between thirty and forty; and one between forty and fifty.² In 1829 Jonathan Mullen, chairmaker boarded with him³ and must have worked for him, as did John Oxley, chair painter, and Thomas D. James, furniture ornamentor.⁴ Undoubtedly, Charles W. James was one of the more productive chairmakers working during the period under consideration.

¹DG, Jan. 19, 1830. ²US Cen. 1830, 5. ³CD29, 68. ⁴CD29, 94, 90.
THOMAS JAMES, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1826-1830. In 1829 he was on Fifth Street east of Broadway.\textsuperscript{1}

James was probably in Cincinnati in 1826. A Thomas James paid $7,248 in realty taxes in 1826; $24.05 in 1827; $10.425 in 1828; $14.26 in 1829; and $13.56 in 1830.\textsuperscript{2} This seems like a large amount for a cabinetmaker to pay. However, even though there were other Thomas Jameses in Cincinnati, the tax records apparently represented Thomas James, cabinetmaker, because the ward number given in the tax document corresponded with his address.

James's establishment was enumerated in the census of 1830 and included one male between ten and twenty and one between forty and fifty.\textsuperscript{3}

LEMUEL JOHN, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1828-1831. From 1829 to 1830 he was located on Sycamore Street between Second Street and Lower Market.\textsuperscript{4}

On October 25, 1828 he inserted the following in the \textit{Daily-Gazette}:

\textbf{SIX CENTS REWARD.}

RUN A WAY from the subscriber an apprentice boy by the name of ANDERSON SMEDLEY. Also an apprentice by the name of URIAH SMEDLEY, both came to learn the cabinet making business. All persons are warned against harbouring or dealing with said boys, or they will be dealt with according to the law.

LEMUEL JOHN

\textsuperscript{1}CE29, 68.
\textsuperscript{2}Ham. Co. Tax, 1826; 1827, 75; 1828, 685; 1829, 797; 1830. His 1827 taxes were delinquent which probably accounts for its being high compared to other years.
\textsuperscript{3}US Cen. 1830, 6; Appendix A.
\textsuperscript{4}CD29, 68.
N.B. Three or four journeyman cabinetmakers wanted immediately by L. John, corner of Sycamore and Second Streets.  

In 1829 William H. Cummings and Alvin Finney, cabinetmakers boarded with him and most likely worked in his shop. Perhaps they were two of the journeymen who answered the advertisement of the preceding year.

ENOCH KERR, chairmaker from Pennsylvania, worked in Cincinnati c. 1830-1837. From 1830 to 1836 he was at 277 Main Street; in 1836-37 he was on Third Street between Vine and Race where he had a chair warehouse.

In 1830 Enoch Kerr was part of the firm Kerr, Ross & Geyer. He left the firm in the mid-1830's to become partners with J. D. Westerfield in the warehouse business. In 1838 he was in the grocery business at the corner of Sycamore and Fourth Streets.

KERR, ROSS & GEYER, chairmaker partnership, active c. 1830-1838. (See separate entries for Enoch Kerr, William H. Ross and John Geyer.)

Conteur (writing) in 1923 in the Cincinnati Enquirer about partnerships in Cincinnati, wrote that "in 1830 they were producing chairs at 277 Main Street and on Third, between Main and Walnut." However, in their advertisement which ran from February to November 6, 1830, in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette they gave only one address:

1DC, Oct. 25, 1828.  2CD29, 37, 47.
3CD31, 89; CD34, 99; CD36-37, 97.
4LHE, Feb. 14, 1830.
5CD31, 89; CD34; CD36-37, 97.
NEW ESTABLISHMENT
CHAIR MANUFACTORY
NO. 277, MAIN STREET

THE subscribers take this method of tendering their thanks to their friends and the public for the patronage heretofore received, and of informing them that they are now manufacturing, and intend keeping on hand at the above stand an extensive and elegant assortment of FANCY and WINDSOR CHAIRS, SETTLES, SOFAS, &c. with stuffed, Cane, Rush or Wood Seats of the latest and most fashionable patterns, warranted equal durability and workmanship to any Manufactured in the Western country.

Steamboats and Hotels furnished to order at the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms.

Orders from a distance thankfully received and promptly attended to.

Enoch Kerr left the company of Kerr, Ross & Geyer in the middle of the 1830's. Ross and Geyer continued in business with the latter "still going strong" in 1856.

HENRY KIRKPATRICK, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 and boarded at Gibreath's.

NICHOLAS LANNING, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1828-1829. In 1829 he was on Second Street near Main.

Very little is known about Lanning. He was not listed in any of the directories of the period, nor in the census of 1830. It is known, however, that he was in partnership with Jonathan Young in 1828. Their dissolution notice appeared in the Western Tiller on July 18, 1828.

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1 LJCC, Feb. 1830. 2 Cincinnati Enquirer, Nov. 25, 1923. 3 CD29, 73. 4 CD29, 139. 5 WT, July 18, 1828.
LEE & LEE, chairmaker partnership, were active c. 1825-1829.

(See separate entries for Isaac M. Lee and John Lee.)

Isaac M. Lee, after his termination of partnership with Philip Skinner, took his brother John, a carpenter, into partnership and announced on July 20, 1825, in the Cincinnati Emporium their:

CHAIR FACTORY

ISAAC M. LEE, grateful for the favors received while a partner in the late firm of LEE & SKINNER, respectfully informs the public that the said firm has dissolved, and that he has taken his brother JOHN LEE, into partnership in the Fancy and Windsor Chair Making business. I. M. & J. Lee have taken the shop lately occupied by J. Williamson as a cabinet warehouse, on the north side of Front street, a few doors below Walnut, and directly above the stand lately occupied by Lee & Skinner, where they will manufacture, and keep constantly on hand, for sale, a splendid assortment of Fancy Rush Bottom and Windsor Chairs, Settees, Rocking Chairs, &c. of the newest patterns, and the most approved workmanship. Steam boats furnished to order on the shortest notice. From the knowledge of the senior partner in the business, they have no hesitation in warranting their work equal to any in their line in the Western Country. * * * Orders from a distance thankfully received and promptly attended to.

This advertisement appeared sporadically in the Cincinnati Commercial Register and the National Crisis and Cincinnati Emporium through September, 1828. The partnership terminated in 1828 or the beginning of the next year. In the Cincinnati directory of 1829 Isaac Lee advertised his Chair Factory as an individual. The firm of Lee & Lee paid realty taxes in 1828 and 1829. They paid $4.20 in 1828; $10.925 in 1829. No taxes were paid by the firm 1825 through 1827 (when they were known to be partners) or after 1829.

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1CE, July 20, 1825. 2CD29, 75. 3CE, July 20, 1825. 4See compiled advertisements in Appendix C. 5CD29. 6Ham. Co. Tax, 1828, 691; 1829, 819; Appendix B.
LEE & SKINNER, chairmaker partnership, were active c. 1822-1825. (See separate entries for Isaac M. Lee and Philip Skinner.)

The first advertisement found pertaining to the firm of Lee & Skinner appeared in the Cincinnati Inquisitor Advertiser on May 21, 1822. At that time they announced:

FANCY & WINDSOR
CHAIR FACTORY.

LEE & SKINNER

RETURN their gratitude to their friends and customers for the patronage they have received, and respectfully inform the public in general that they intend keeping on hand an assortment of

Fancy Rush Seat and Windsor Chairs, Settees, &c.

of the latest fashions, and for ease, elegance, and durability, equal to any made in the Western country.

Persons wishing to furnish their houses, will please to call at their Ware Room, No. 50, West Front-street, Cincinnati between Walnut and Vine-streets; or at the Ware Room of Jeremiah Diller, Louisville, a few doors from the corner of Market-street, near the Market House; and select such as may please their fancy.

Steamboats furnished with chairs, Settees, &c. at the shortest notice and at reasonable prices.¹

On March 23, 1825, they advertised in the Cincinnati Advertiser for two apprentice boys who had run away,² and by July of 1825 the partnership had dissolved. Each advertised separately that he had taken his brother into business—forming the firms of Lee & Lee and Skinner & Skinner.³

The tax records for 1827 and 1828 showed, however, that Lee & Skinner paid taxes in those years. In both 1827 and 1828 they paid

¹Cincinnati Inquisitor Advertiser, May 21, 1822. Hereafter cited CIA.
²CA, Mar. 23, 1825.
³CE, July 20, 1825.
§12.075. No taxes were paid during the years that their chair factory was in operation (1822-1825). It was possible that each prospered as brother partnerships so they joined forces to market their wares. The lots on which the taxes were paid, No. 177 and 205, were near the public landing and in the business section of the city.

ISAAC M. LEE, chairmaker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1834. In 1822 he was located at 50 West Front Street; in 1825 on Vine Street between Front and Second; in 1829 at 45 West Front Street; in 1831 on Front Street between Walnut and Vine with a residence on Second and Vine Streets; and in 1834 he was on Front between Walnut and Vine Streets. Isaac M. Lee went into partnership with several chairmakers during the time he worked in Cincinnati. In June 1819 he advertised in partnership with Jonathan Young; the partnership terminated on July 6, 1820. His next partner was Philip Skinner with whom he operated a Chair Factory in 1822. The partnership dissolved in July, 1825 and Isaac M. Lee took his brother into partnership with him. The firm Lee & Lee apparently ceased operation by the time the 1829 city directory listings were compiled. Isaac M. Lee, at that time, placed the following advertisement in it:

Chair Factory.

Isaac M. Lee

1Ham. Co. Tax 1827, 764; 1828, 691; Appendix B.
2CD25, 60; CD29, 75; CD31, 94; CD34, 104.
3WSLC, July 6, 1820. 4CE, July 20, 1825.
5CE, July 20, 1825.
Continues to carry on the Chair making business on Front street, between Walnut and Vine streets, Cincinnati, where he makes, in the most neat and elegant manner,

Fancy Chairs and Settees,

In great variety, of the latest and most improved fashions, from the Eastward. He warrants his work equal to any manufactured west of the mountains, and not inferior to any made to the east. Long experience in his business gives him confidence in speaking thus promptly. He invites the public to call and see for themselves.

Orders from Steam Boat owners thankfully received and promptly attended to.¹

Isaac M. Lee was not listed in the census of 1820. However, Jonathan Young with whom he was in business at that time, was listed. In Young's household there were six males over sixteen, including Young.² One of these was likely Isaac M. Lee. It seems that Lee was the junior member of the firm.

Ten years later when the 1830 census was taken, Isaac M. Lee was enumerated. His household included three males under five; four between fifteen and twenty; four between twenty and thirty; and one between thirty and forty.³ The youngest boys were most likely his children; the males under twenty-one, apprentices; and the others journeymen. One of the latter was probably Isaac Lee and perhaps John Sheed. John Sheed was "at I. M. Lee's" in 1829 and may have been there when the census was taken.⁴

Isaac M. Lee paid realty taxes as an individual and also under the firms of Skinner & Lee and Lee & Lee. In addition to taxes

¹CD29. ²US Cen. 1820, 140; Appendix B. ³US Cen. 1830, 94; Appendix B. ⁴CD29, 109.
paid by the firms, in 1829 he paid a total of $9,315 on lot no. 177 and 205; in 1830, $18.72 on no. 205, 234, and 406. All these lots were ones on which he had paid taxes with his former partners, Philip Skinner and John Lee. By 1830 he owned all the lots formerly owned in partnership, with one exception. He did not own lot 177, although he had the year before. In every known business venture entered into, he ultimately acquired the land holdings.

Isaac M. Lee began to pay taxes under the firm of Lee & Skinner two years after the partnership seemingly ceased to function. The partnership of Lee & Skinner was dissolved in 1825 and they began to pay taxes in 1827. Perhaps they joined forces to merchandize their wares; each (Isaac Lee and Philip Skinner) was in business with his brother at that time.

Undoubtedly Isaac M. Lee was one of the more successful chairmakers of the time under review. He advertised extensively with his partners and as an individual; he entered into realty holdings with them—holdings that he eventually held alone. Isaac Lee, through a series of partnerships, ultimately had his own chair factory.

JOHN LEE, chairmaker and carpenter from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati, c. 1825-1829. In 1825 he was located at 50 West Front Street; in 1829, on Third between Western Row and Plum. He was listed as a carpenter in the directory of 1829.

1 See 89-90.  
2 Ham. Co. Tax, 1827, 764; 1828, 691, 1829, 805, 817, 819; Appendix B.  
3 CE, July 20, 1825.  
4 Ham. Co. Tax, 1827, 764; 1828, 691; Appendix B.  
5 CD29, 75; CE, July 20, 1825.
John Lee worked as a chairmaker in partnership with his brother Isaac M. Lee beginning in July 1825. He apparently was not trained as a chairmaker for the advertisement inserted at the onset of their partnership stated that Isaac M. Lee had "taken his brother John Lee into partnership ... from the knowledge of the senior partner ... they had no hesitation in warranting their work ..."1 Furthermore, after their dissolution of partnership in 18292 he apparently worked as a carpenter.3

JAMES LEE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 and was located on Sixth Street between Western Row and John Streets.4

CHARLES LEHMAN, chair- and cabinetmaker from Philadelphia, worked in Cincinnati c. 1820-1837. In 1820 he was on Seventh Street between Main and Sycamore, and from 1825-1837 on the north east corner of Broadway and Front Streets, with a residence on Broadway near Fourth street.5

Charles Lehman advertised more extensively than most of the craftsmen working in Cincinnati during the period under discussion. His first advertisement appeared on January 22, 1820. He announced:

New Cabinet Wareroom

CHARLES LEHMAN

Cabinet and Chair Maker
FROM PHILADELPHIA

TENDERS his services to the public in the line of his profession, and will execute all orders, upon the most

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1Lee, July 20, 1825. 2See Lee & Lee, 89. 3CD29, 75.
4CD29, 75.
5CD25, 60; CD29, 76; CD31, 95; CD34, 104; CD36-37, 100; Western Spy and Cincinnati General Advertiser, Jan. 22, 1820. Hereafter cited WSGA.
reasonable terms, with punctuality and dispatch, in a style of workmanship equal to any west of the mountains. For satisfactory proof of his abilities he invites Ladies and Gentlemen to his Ware room on

SEVENTH STREET
Between Main and Sycamore—sts.

Next door but one east of Watson's Clock Manufactory, where orders will be thankfully received.

Being well acquainted with newest and most fashionable patterns of Cabinet work executed in Philadelphia, he feels the most perfect confidence in inviting public patronage.1

In April, 1820, he "removed his cabinet Ware Room to the well-known stand of Christopher Smith on Sycamore Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets."2 However, it was not until a year later in April of 1821 that he and Smith announced a partnership which lasted until August 8, 1823.3 At that time he "removed" to the corner of Broadway and Front street opposite the Cincinnati Hotel where he opened his Cabinet- and Chair Manufactory. He indicated that he "hoped that it would meet with approval" and that he would receive "a continuance of the favours of his friends and the public in general."4

On October 13, 1825, he placed the following advertisement in the Cincinnati Emporium:

WANTED

Ten or twelve Journeymen Cabinet Makers. Apply at the corner of Broadway and Front Streets.

C. LEHMAN5

1WSCA, Jan. 22, 1820. 2WSLC, April 8, 1820. 3WSLC, April 2, 1821; LHGC, August 8, 1823. 4NRPR, Sept. 26, 1823. 5CE, Oct. 13, 1825.
Five years later when the 1830 census was taken, he must have still maintained a similar number of journeymen which included one male between twenty and thirty; twelve between thirty and forty; and one between forty and fifty. One of these might have been John G. Scott who was "at Lehman's" in 1829.

By this time, 1830, he must have branched out into the vehicle business for he advertised:

**MAIL STAGES, CARRIAGES & GIGS**

THE subscriber has two large and superior made STAGES, two CARRIAGES and three GIGS, that he will sell on reasonable terms. For further particulars, enquire at the east corner of Broadway and Front street.

**CHAS. LEHMAN**

Lehman made a large variety of items. From the Wayne Company he purchased hardware for various forms of furniture. But most significantly, he bought a quantity of fabric—an item that few other makers purchased. On November 7, 1828, he purchased 45 1/2 yards of 28" wide haircloth for which he paid $96.68. This fabric might have been used on "mail stages, carriages & gigs" or on seated forms of furniture. Whatever its use, he must have employed an upholsterer or upholsterers in his shop.

When Lehman decided to go into the vehicle business, he had need of additional tools. On April 27, 1829, he purchased at one
time, a rather large assortment of tools that could be used for this purpose:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 best Dovetail Saw</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tenon</td>
<td>1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Spring Steel Panel</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Best Brace &amp; 3 Bitts</td>
<td>7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pair Spring dividers</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Slide Bevel</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Awls 2 files</td>
<td>.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Saw 7 pad</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mortice Chisels</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 mortice gauge</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Screw</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Screw Spoke &amp; Shove</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Screw driver &amp; chisels</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Rule 1 Square</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 18&quot; Square</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 web Screw</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pair plyers, 1 hand vice</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\text{Total: 25.62} \]

Charles Lehman prospered in the furniture business in Cincinnati. By 1828 he had acquired real estate and paid more taxes than most of his colleagues. In 1828 he paid $17.55; in 1829, $37.26; and in 1830, $29.52. His taxes on realty holdings in 1830 ranked third highest among those makers reviewed in this study.

Lehman worked in Cincinnati during most of the time under review in this study. He made cabinetware, carriages, stages, and gigs. He advertised extensively and was apparently successful in his endeavors. His concern was apparently one of the more productive furniture enterprises of the period.

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2. Ham. Co. Tax, 1828, 703; 1829, 817; 1830; Appendix B.
3. See compiled tax records in Appendix B.
CHARLES W. L'Hommedieu, cabinetmaker from New York, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825. In 1825 he was located on Western Row between Sixth and Seventh Streets.¹

The L'Hommedieu family was an important early one whose members became known for various achievements. Joblin indicated:

In the summer of the year 1810, Captain Charles L'Hommedieu removed to Cincinnati and established himself there as a merchant and manufacturer. In 1813 he died, leaving five children. Previous to his death he purchased the land now bounded by Central Avenue, Mound, George and Seventh streets... The property was kept intact and divided equally among the five children in 1828.²

When Charles W. L'Hommedieu received his share of his inheritance he apparently went into the merchant business. He was listed as a cabinetmaker in the 1825 directory, but by 1829 he had changed his occupation to merchant.³ In 1829 he paid a firm tax of $23.00 on a store valued at $2,000; in 1830, $24.00. In 1830 he paid a real tax of $7.60 for land that fronted on Seventh and George Streets,⁴ which was apparently part of his inheritance.

L'Hommedieu's decision to go into the merchant business was a logical choice for a cabinetmaker. This was, at that time, a step up the socio-economic ladder, and a quicker means to success.

DAVID LONGWELL, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829, located on the corner of Fifth and Vine Streets.⁵

¹CD25, 61; CD29, 75.
³CD25, 61; CD29, 75.
⁴Ham. Co. Tax, 1829, 961; 1830; Appendix B.
⁵CD29, 77.
ANDREW McALPIN, cabinetmaker from Philadelphia, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1863. In 1819 he was located on East Front Street with a residence on Third between Main and Walnut Streets; from 1825-1829 he was on Third between Main and Walnut (apparently a shop-residence combination); from 1831-1834 his place of business was on Third Street between Main and Walnut and his residence on Walnut Street between Second and Third; in 1836-1837 his cabinetware room was on the north side of Fourth Street between Main and Sycamore and his residence on Walnut Street between Pearl and Third; in 1839-1840 he had furniture warerooms (no address given); from 1842-1851 he was at 10 East Fourth Street and his residence was at 66 West Eighth; from 1851-1855 he had a mahogany wareroom at 103 Walnut Street; in 1856 he was a mahogany dealer at 193 Walnut Street; and from 1857 to 1863 he was in the firm of McAlpin, Himman & Co., at 664 Eighth Street.¹

McAlpin was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1793 and in 1795, as a boy of two, emigrated with his family to Philadelphia,² where he apparently served his apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker.

He served in the War of 1812 and for his efforts received a soldier's land warrant for 160 acres of United States territory.³

¹CD19, 133; CD25, 65; CD29, 78; CD31, 100; CD31, 100; CD34, 113; CD36-37, 113; CD39-40, 70; CD42, 331; CD43, 227; CD46, 276; CD49-50, 182; CD50-51, 173; CD51-52, 162; CD53, 245; CD55, 137; CD56, 171; CD57, 188; CD58, 158; CD59, 185; CD60, 190; CD61, 231; CD62, 219; CD63, 239; CD64, 245.

²In Memoriam. Cincinnati 1881 (Cincinnati: A. E. Jones, 1881), I, 205.

³In Memoriam, I, 205. During the early years of his residence in Cincinnati McAlpin did not pay any taxes. He first paid taxes in 1825. He may have paid taxes elsewhere, or he may have sold his land in order to have money to set himself up in business.
This coupled with the shortage of labor and good wages in Cincinnati prior to the panic of 1819 probably induced him to migrate to Cincinnati—the principal city in the west—where his skills were in demand.

Shortly after his arrival in Cincinnati in 1817 he married Margaret Merrie. Soon thereafter, McAlpin "commenced the manufacture of furniture, all of which was hand-work, as machinery for the purpose had not then been invented."^1

McAlpin was enumerated in the census of 1817 and of 1830. In his household in 1817 there were two males between twelve and twenty-one and one over twenty-one. In 1830 there were one male under five; two between five and ten; three between ten and fifteen; one between fifteen and twenty; two between twenty and thirty; and one between seventy and eighty.^2

His name was missing from the 1820 census rolls. However, a "George McAlpin" was listed.^3 It was surmised that this was Andrew McAlpin's household recorded under his father's name or Andrew's middle (or first) name because (1) there were no other McAlpins listed in the directories of 1819 or 1825, (2) McAlpin's son's name was George and he might have been named for his grandfather, (3) and Andrew McAlpin's census enumeration of 1830 included a man between seventy to eighty.

Andrew McAlpin was an enterprising businessman. On August 10, 1825, Richardson & Company of Philadelphia announced in a Philadelphia paper that they had just installed their "Improved Patent Rotatory

^1In Memoriam, I, 205-206.
^2Cin. Gen. 1817; US Gen. 1830, 95; Appendix A.
^3US Gen. of 1820, 120.
Veneer Cutters, propelled by steam power," and that "Fine Veneers, cut to convenient sizes, can be supplied for shipping on the shortest notice . . . [to] any part of the United States."\(^1\) Less than a month later, McAlpin placed this notice in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette:

Mahogany for Sale.

The Subscriber has just received from Philadelphia, a large and handsome assortment of Mahogany veneers, which he offers for sale at eastern prices, with cost of carriage. Having made arrangements there with an extensive dealer in that line, he will continue regularly to be supplied with the above article, and solicits the attention of those wishing to purchase to call at his ware-room on Third street.

Andrew McAlpin\(^2\)

Not only was he interested in serving the Cincinnati market but also places further south. To the above advertisement he added:

The editors of the Reporter, Lexington; Advertiser, Louisville; and Whig, Nashville, will please publish the above 7 times once a week, and send their accounts to this office for payment.\(^3\)

Veneers were purchased by McAlpin from Richardson & Company in 1828 and 1829. Ledgers of the Wayne Company of Cincinnati showed the following entry on December 8, 1828:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{A. McAlpin} & \\
\text{Carriage of 1 Box 375 \#3 1/8} & 11.72 \\
\text{Carriage of 2 Box 357 \#2 3/4} & 9.81 \\
\text{Freight docket thro River at 50} & 3.66 \\
\text{Shipping Expenses} & 2.00 \quad 27.18
\end{align*}
\]

On January 7, 1829 the following was entered:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{A. McAlpin} & \\
\text{To Carriage & Charge on} & \\
\text{3 Boxes Veneer from Phila to Cin} & \\
\text{by way of N.O. \#2 1/2} & 13.81
\end{align*}
\]

\(^1\) Montgomery, 32. Advertisement of Richardson & Co. from Poulson's Daily Advertiser, Aug. 10, 1825.
\(^2\) LMCC, Sept. 2, 1825.  \(^3\) LMCC, Sept. 2, 1825.
On January 9, 1829:

A. McAlpin  
To Veneers a/c Richardson 399.58 399.58  
Cr. Richardson & Co.  
By their bill of veneers Nov. 6, 1828. 399.58

For their commission on McAlpin-Wayne-Richardson transactions the Wayne Company of Cincinnati received three percent. On January 9, 1829, they credited McAlpin $12.00 for paying his commission on the above cited veneer transaction.

McAlpin received another shipment on January 29, 1830. The following transaction was entered in the ledger:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Bird, Eye Veneers</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Box Contg. 500 feet veneers</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back. [sic?]</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carriage &amp; Drayage a/c</td>
<td>6.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>57.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

McAlpin received several other shipments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 29, 1829</td>
<td>10 [boxes] veneers</td>
<td>10.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 20, 1829</td>
<td>20 mahogany</td>
<td>122.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10, 1830</td>
<td>a Lot of Veneers</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13, 1830</td>
<td>Lot veneers</td>
<td>350.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is possible that veneers purchased by the Charles Wayne Company from Richardson Co. on January 31, 1828, were destined to Andrew McAlpin. The Wayne Company invoice book showed the following purchase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>336 feet mottled venners [sic]</td>
<td>30.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawing 679 feet 3</td>
<td>20.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 maple venners [sic]</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 feet venners [sic]</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

3Wayne Co., Vol. 1, MSS, CHS.
It is unfortunate that more volumes of the Wayne Company operating in Cincinnati 1824 to 1840 did not survive. They undoubtedly would show earlier and later entries of veneers purchased by Andrew McAlpin. It is known that in 1833 McAlpin was still doing business with the Wayne Company. A bill, shown in Figure 3, shows a $4.97 transaction, of which $5.00 was for veneers.

Fig. 3.—Wayne Company's bill, 1833.

Beginning about 1825 and apparently continuing through his long career, McAlpin sold veneers to other craftsmen. In his advertisement in the 1839-40 Cincinnati Directory he offered, in addition to his cabinetware, "a large and general assortment of mahogany Veneers, Boards and Planks; Maple, Rose and Satin-Wood Veneers."\(^1\) From 1853 to 1856 he was listed in the local directories as a dealer of mahogany and as operating a mahogany wareroom. No mention was made of furniture.\(^2\)

\(^1\) CD39-40, 27.  \(^2\) CD53, 245; CD55, 137; CD56, 171.
McAlpin sold and repaired furniture for the leading citizens of Cincinnati. Charles Neave, a leading merchant with close ties to the East, purchased a sofa and two tables from him in 1830. He did repair work for the Lytles in 1837. Figure 4 shows the bill of $4.00 sent for "gobbing [gluing?] & mending" chairs.

![Figure 4: McAlpin's bill to Gen. R. T. Lytle, 1837.]

Andrew McAlpin was one of the foremost cabinetmakers working during the period under review. He began working in Cincinnati in 1817 when furnituremaking was a craft, and worked through the transition age of machine manufacture to the beginning of the age of machines. In 1848 he retired from manufacturing but continued to merchandize lumber until his death in 1863.

McAlpin was characterized in Memorial Services at Music Hall in 1863 as being "careful, frugal, and prompt" in his dealings with

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1 Neaves Expense Book, MSS, CHS.
2 Bill, Lytle papers, Box XVII, #380, MSS, CHS.
his fellow men. He, along with other citizens, "by their honesty and ceaseless industry have made Cincinnati the great metropolis it is."¹

JOSEPH McCAMMON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he was at Christopher Smith's shop; in 1831 on Walnut Street between Sixth and Seventh.² The census of 1830 indicated that he was the only male in his household.³

THOMAS McCAMMON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1819. In 1819 he was on Sixth Street between Western Row and John.⁴ McCammon was listed in both the census of 1817 and 1820. In 1817 in his household there were two males under twelve; two twelve to twenty-one; and one twenty-one or over. In 1830 there were two males under ten; one between sixteen and eighteen; two between sixteen and twenty-five; and one between twenty-six and forty-four.⁵ From the above enumeration, it was surmised that he may have operated a small shop.

In 1821 he moved to Carthage, a village near Cincinnati. "Thomas McCammon & Sons were the first cabinetmakers" in the village.⁶

JAMES McKIBBIN, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829. Boarded at W. Webber's.⁷

JAMES MCLEAN, cabinetmaker from Scotland, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1829. In 1819 he was on Main Street north of the Court House;

from 1825 to 1829 on Sixth between Race and Elm. In 1819 McLean was vice-president of the "Journeymen Cabinet Maker's Society." 

CHARLES C. MACY, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1819 at 196 Main Street.

MASON & ATKINS, cabinetmaker and lumber merchant partnership, were active c.1829-1830. (See Benjamin Mason.) Mason and Atkins were listed in the directory of 1829 as the proprietors of a "lumber yard [at the] elbow of the canal." In May 1830, they inserted their dissolution notice:

**DISSOLUTION.**

THE copartnership of Ben. Mason and Mark Atkins, under the firm of Mason and Atkins, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All persons having claims against said firm, will please present them for settlement; and all persons indebted will make immediate payment to either of the parties.

BENJ. MASON

MARK ATKINS

N.B. The lumber business will be carried on by MARK ATKINS

J. W. MASON & CO., cabinetmaker partnership, were active c. 1819-1831; located at 89 Sycamore Street. (See separate entries for John W. Mason and Benjamin Mason.) The first advertisement found for the firm was on January 1, 1820, in the Western Spy and Cincinnati General Advertiser. It read:

\[1\text{CD19}, 132. \quad 2\text{CD19}, 44. \quad 3\text{CD19}, 132. \quad 4\text{CD29}, 84. \quad 5\text{NRPR}, \text{May 21, 1830.} \quad 6\text{CD29}, 84.\]
CABINET WAREHOUSE

JOHN W. MASON & CO.
Cabinet Makers

Corner of Sycamore & Fourth-strs.

RESPECTFULLY inform the citizens of Cincinnati and the adjoining country, that they have lately supplied their Warehouse with a large assortment of various kinds of

FURNITURE

made in the latest Eastern fashions. The public are invited to call and examine for themselves.

Orders from citizens or from persons in country will be promptly attended to. ¹

The firm must have strongly felt the vicissitudes of the depression of the early twenties for the following fall they took the drastic action of threatening suits against debtors who did not settle their accounts. To encourage payment they made their position known in a public announcement:

NOTICE.

ALL persons indebted to the firm of J. W. Mason & Co. are requested to call and pay or give promissory notes, within thirty days from date, or suits will be commenced without respect to persons.

J. W. MASON & CO.²

William Lytle, a local "land merchant"³ was one of those who must have signed a promissory note. An extant bill, reproduced in Figure 5, shows that it took nine years for him to pay his bill. On September 8, 1824, he paid a $7.00 "Measuring Bill of 1815" along with "5 years interest [of] $23.40."⁴

¹WSCA, Jan. 1, 1820. ²WSCA, Jan. 1, 1820. ³CD19, 130. ⁴Bill, Lytle Papers, Box XVII, MSS, CHS.
Fig. 5.--J. W. Mason's bill to William Lytle, 1824.

The "Balance over--$70.78" listed in the bill of 1824 (Fig. 5) apparently came from a bill dated May 2, 1822, and reproduced in Figure 6. The bill dated May 2, 1822, and paid in 1824, was actually for items purchased in 1819. Thus, it took William Lytle six years to pay for purchases enumerated in the bill of 1822. To be more specific, William Lytle owed on his account with John W. Mason from 1815 to 1824, a period of ten years. (He paid his measuring bill of 1815 in 1824.)¹

The bill dated May 2, 1822 (Fig. 6) shows that in 1819 J. W. Mason & Co. sold to Mr. Lytle several pieces of furniture and a

¹Bill, Lytle Papers, Box XVII, MSS, CHS.
Fig. 6.—J. W. Mason's bill to William Lytle, 1822.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>Large Bookcase</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Readed Bedstead largest size</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Repairing stand new lock</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clock case all Mahogany</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Coffin raised lid cherry</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Including strengthenings etc</td>
<td>$510.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coffin from Ward</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>Fancy Bedstead Cherry</td>
<td>$85.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coffin by Beard by Smith</td>
<td>$68.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

coffin. On April 7th, they sold Lytle a large bookcase for $30.00 and on the 20th of the month, a "Readed Bedsted [sic] largest size" for $30.00. In May, J. W. Mason & Co. furnished Lytle with a coffin that they had in turn purchased from James Ward for $25.00. On October 10, Lytle purchased another bedstead, a fancy cherry one for $8.50. In December J. W. Mason & Company repaired a stand and provided a new lock for $1.00 along with selling him an all mahogany clock case for $45.00. Although the total for the bill came to $139.50, only $70.78 was still owed to J. W. Mason & Company in 1822. Mr. Lytle had settled a bill owed by Mason & Company "by Beard by Smith" for $68.72 which was deducted from the total.
A bookcase was sold to Elnathan Kemper, a local farmer. On February 15, 1820 Kemper entered in his Daybook: "J. W. Mason & Co. to one load of wood by a Journeyman in payment of the book case. 2.25." \(^1\)

On January 2, 1829, the company announced in The National Republican and Ohio Political Register:

NOTICE.

THE partnership heretofore existing between the subscribers in the Cabinet Making business, under the firm J. W. Mason & Co. is this day dissolved by mutual consent—Jno. W. Mason is authorized to settle up the business of the old concern.

BENJAMIN MASON

JOHN W. MASON

JOHN W. MASON is authorized to superintend the Cabinet Making business for me, until the old concern is closed.

BENJ. MASON \(^2\)

Although the partnership was dissolved early in 1829, it must have taken some time for the "old concern" to be closed. They continued to buy hardware from the Wayne Company. On July 1, 1829, an entry of $1079.10 was made in the Wayne Company Day Book; on March 31, 1831, $10.37; and on June 30, 1831, $.50. \(^3\)

J. W. Mason & Company was an active concern which did business with at least one leading family, and very likely with others. It was one of the leading cabinet establishments during the period under study.

BENJAMIN MASON, cabinetmaker and carpenter from England, worked in Cincinnati c. 1802-1843. From 1819 to 1831 he was located on Sycamore

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\(^1\) Elnathan Kemper Daybook, MSS, Ohio Historical Society. Hereafter cited OHS.

\(^2\) NRPR, Jan. 2, 1829

Street between Fourth and Fifth. From 1834 to 1843 he was on Court Street between Race and Elm. In 1819 he was listed as a house carpenter; in 1825 as a cabinetmaker; in 1829 a lumber merchant; and from 1831 to 1843 no occupation was given.¹

Mason worked in Cincinnati longer than most of the makers. According to Leonard he was in Cincinnati in 1802,² and in 1806 he signed a petition for a township division plea.³ It is not known whether he worked as a carpenter or cabinetmaker.

Benjamin Mason was involved in partnerships during the entire time of this study. From 1819 to about 1830 he was in partnership with John W. Mason, operating under the firm of J. W. Mason & Company.⁴ In 1829-1830 he operated a lumber yard with Mark Atkins at the elbow of the canal.⁵

Benjamin Mason may have provided the capital for the partnership of J. W. Mason & Co. Tax records showed that he owned the building in which they did business, lot no. 64, on which he paid $26,533 in 1826; $32,175 in 1827; $32,175 in 1828; $49,335 in 1829; and $51,48 in 1830. Beginning 1826 through 1830 he paid rather high realty taxes. In 1830 he paid $88.60—the largest amount paid by any maker. Furthermore, he owned a lumber yard with Mark Atkins, on which he and Atkins paid $34.50 in 1828.⁶

¹CD19, 132; CD25, 65; CD29, 84; CD31, 106, CD34, 112; CD36-37, 112; CD39-40, 273; CD42, 331; CD43, 224.
²Leonard, II, 579.
³Hamilton County Pioneers sign Petition, MSS, CHS.
⁴See 106-110. ⁵CD29, 84.
⁶Hum. Co. Tax, 1826; 1827, 784; 1828, 835; 1829, 825; 1830; Appendix B.
Benjamin Mason, like other cabinetmakers, made coffins as a sideline. He provided Daniel Foote, a leading citizen with a coffin for $10.00 and the use of a hearse for an additional $2.00. Furthermore, Mason must have acted as an undertaker of sorts. His name was attached to many of the restored inventories of 1819-1828. He apparently distributed monies to others who provided sundry services for funerals.

The 1829 directory referred to the cabinetmaker Washington Mason as being "at B. Mason's." At that time Benjamin Mason was in the lumber business on Canal; he had indicated earlier in the year (January 2) that the partnership between him and John W. Mason had terminated, and that John W. Mason was to manage the firm until it was closed. It seems that Benjamin Mason would have more need for a cabinetmaker in his closing firm of J. W. Mason and Company than in the lumber firm of Atkins and Mason. Perhaps the citizens were in the habit of thinking of the J. W. Mason Company and Benjamin Mason synonymously.

Benjamin Mason was enumerated in the census of 1817, 1820, and 1830. His household included in 1817 one male between twelve and twenty-one and one over twenty-one; in 1820 one male between sixteen and twenty-five and one forty-five or over, one of the males being engaged in manufacturing; and in 1830 one male between twenty and thirty and one between fifty and sixty.

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2 Ham. Co. Rec., Inventories. B. Mason's name is on many of the inventories enumerated in the volume.
3 CD29, 85. 4 CD29, 84. 5 NRPR, Jan. 2, 1829.
Benjamin Mason was a rather important figure in the furniture business in Cincinnati. It seems that by 1819 he had turned toward cabinetmaker-merchant as a means of earning a living. As one studies the later directories, this change becomes more apparent. From 1831 until 1843, no occupation was listed.

JOHN W. MASON, cabinetmaker from Maryland, worked in Cincinnati c. 1815-1843. From 1819 to 1829 he was listed in the directory as a cabinetmaker under the title of "John W. Mason & Co." corner of Sycamore and Fourth Street; from 1831 to 1834 no occupation was given, he was being listed "at Benj. Mason's"; in 1836-1837 he was a pork dealer and sausage maker, boarding at Benjamin Mason's; in 1839-1840 he became Superintendent of the city and resided with Benjamin Mason on the south side of Court Street between Race and Elm; from 1842-1843 he was at Benjamin Mason's on Court Street, no occupation being given. However, an advertisement indicated that he was proprietor of the Fourth Street House.

John Mason worked in Cincinnati about thirty years. He was there as early as 1815 for he did some measuring for William Lytle at that time (Fig. 5, 108). In 1817-1818 he was active in the firm of Ward & Mason, and by 1819 was seemingly the active member of the J. W. Mason & Company. He operated this concern in conjunction with Benjamin Mason during the entire time under review in this study (1819-1830).

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1CD19, 132; CD25, 65; CD29, 84; CD31, 106; CD34, 112; CD36-37, 112; CD39-40, 273; CD42, 331; CD43, 224.
2See 158-161.
3See 106-110.
John Mason was seemingly the junior partner in their partnership.\(^1\) There were no census records or tax records for John W. Mason with one exception. In 1827 he paid $0.36 tax on a horse.\(^2\) And, in the thirties and forties he lived or boarded at Benjamin Mason's house. But most significant, Benjamin Mason owned the property in which John W. Mason & Company did business.\(^3\) Throughout his career John Mason worked on the corner of Sycamore and Fourth Streets. Even in 1843 he was still using the same premises for business ventures.\(^4\)

As a member of Ward and Mason and the J. W. Mason & Company, John W. Mason was a successful cabinetmaker. He apparently operated one of the foremost firms during the time under review.

WASHINGTON MASON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; located at "B. Mason's,"\(^5\) a prominent cabinetmaker.\(^6\) He very likely worked in his shop.

DAVID MEDSKER, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829. No address was given.\(^7\)

JOSEPH MILLER, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati, c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he worked at George Porter's cabinet shop and in 1831 on Main Street near Woodward.\(^8\)

ISAAC MILLS, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he boarded at his father's, William Mills, township trustee and cabinetmaker by trade. In 1831 he was on Fifth Street between Western Row and John.\(^9\)

\(^1\)See 111-112.
\(^2\)Ham. Co. Tax, 1827, 835; Appendix B.
\(^3\)See 111. \(^4\)CD43. \(^5\)CD29, 85. \(^6\)See 110. \(^7\)CD29, 86.
\(^8\)CD29, 87. \(^9\)CD29, 87; CD31, 110.
THADDEUS MILLS, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati, c. 1829; 1834. In 1829 he boarded at the home of his father William Mills, township trustee and cabinetmaker by trade; in 1831 his name was not included in the directory; in 1834 he was on the corner of Fifth and Western Row, but no occupation was given.¹

WILLIAM MILLS, cabinetmaker from New York, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1828. In 1819 he was at 211 Main Street and from 1825-1835 on the corner of John and Fifth Streets. In the 1829 directory he was listed as a township trustee.²

William Mills apparently operated a small shop. The census of 1820 revealed that he was engaged in manufacturing and that his household included two males between the ages of ten and sixteen; one between sixteen and twenty-five; and one over forty-five. In 1830 the enumeration indicated one male between the ages of fifteen and twenty; one between twenty and thirty; one between thirty and forty; and one between sixty and seventy.³ His sons Isaac and Thaddeus, cabinetmakers, boarded with him in 1829 and may have been part of the household in 1830.⁴

In 1829, Mills was a township trustee. He died in 1835; his will was probated in Hamilton County on June 6, 1835.⁵

MULFORD, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 and boarded at Edmund Beall's,⁶ the cabinetmaker. He apparently worked for Mr. Beall.

JONATHAN MULLEN, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in c. 1829 and boarded at C. W. James's, the chairmaker and apparently worked for him.

JOHN MUNDAL, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in c. 1821 at 45 West Front Street. On February 24, 1821, Mundal placed the following advertisement in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette:

Cabinet Making.

The subscriber has purchased the stock of John Williamson & will continue the Cabinet making business at Mr. Williamson's old stand on Front Street, where all orders in his line will be punctually attended to.

JONATHAN MUNDAL.

How long he remained in business at that stand is not known. He was not listed in any of the directories of the time. However, a Jonathan Mundell, age seventy to eighty was listed in the 1830 Census from Anderson township, Hamilton county. The will of Jonathan Mundall of Anderson township was probated on February 5, 1835.

NELSON H. MUSGROVE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829. He was at J. G. Anderson's boarding house.

MATTHIAS OLLIS, cabinetmaker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati in 1819 and was located on John Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

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1CD29, 90.
2LHCG, Feb. 24, 1821; CD19, 90. Mundal indicated in LHCG that he was at John Williamson's old stand. The Cincinnati Directory gave the address cited for Williamson's shop.
3LHCG, Feb. 24, 1821. 4US Cen. 1830, 151; Appendix A.
6CD29, 11. 7CD19, 136.
JOHN ONEAL, cabinetmaker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati in 1825 on John Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. 1

BENJAMIN OSBORN, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he was on Main Street between Third and Fourth; in 1831 on Plum. 2

He purchased a small quantity of hardware from the Wayne Company in 1829. On April 20, he bought "1 Sett Bed Screws $.37 and 1 gro. Screws & Bed Caps $.33." 3

HIRAM OSBORN, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 on Fourth Street between Vine and Race. 4

JAMES OVERSTREET, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 at the Union Hall. 5

NATHANIEL PEAK, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829, and boarded at D. Matthew's. 6

JOHN PEARCE, cabinetmaker from England, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825-1829. In 1825 he was at 200 Main Street, but his name is not found in the directory in 1829. 7 However, he was still in Cincinnati in 1829. He purchased small quantities of hardware from the Wayne Company in 1828 and in 1829. 8

WILLIAM J. PEGG, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he boarded at Mrs. Fullerton's; and in 1831 he was on Lower Market Street near Broadway. In 1831 he shifted his occupation to that of a carpenter. 9

1CD25, 74. 2CD29, 24; CD31, 119. 3Wayne Co., Vol. 5, MSS, Harvard. 4CD29, 94. 5CD29, 94. 6CD25, 76. 7Wayne Co., Vol. 5, MSS, Harvard. 8Appendix D. 9CD29, 96; CD31, 122.
JOEL PERKINS, chairmaker from Massachusetts, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1840. In 1819 he was on Elm Street between Fourth and Fifth; in 1825 on Longworth between Elm and Plum; in 1829 on Plum Street between Sixth; in 1834 his name was missing from the directory; in 1836-1837 he operated a Chair Manufactory on Plum Street between Longworth and Sixth; and in 1839-40 his residence was on Fourth Street near Mill. 1

Perkins was enumerated in the censuses of 1820 and 1830. His household in 1820 included one male between ten and fifteen and one between sixteen and twenty-five; in 1830 one male under five, one between fifteen and twenty, one between twenty and thirty, and one between fifty and sixty. 2

Although Perkins worked in Cincinnati more than twenty years which included the twelve years under review in this study, very little is known about him. He may or may not have had a small shop during the period under review.

WILLIAM PERRINE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1827-1831. In 1829 he was on Seventh Street near Sycamore; in 1831 on New Market Street near Race. 3

On September 29, 1827, Perrine inserted the following in the Cincinnati Advertiser:

ONE CENT REWARD.

RAN A WAY from the subscriber this morning an indentured girl named Sarah Jane Mappon. All persons are forbid harboring,

1CD19, 136; CD25, 77; CD29, 97; CD31, 123; CD36-37, 134; CD39-40, 315.

2US Cen. 1820, 124; US Cen. 1830, 38; Appendix A.

3CD29, 97; CD31, 123.
or trusting her on my account, as the law will be informed against them, and no debts paid of her contracting.

WILLIAM H. PERRINE

JACOB PETERSON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831.
In 1829 he was on Front Street between Race and Elm; in 1831 on Walnut Street between Pearl and Second Street.

ANDREW PITTINGER, cabinetmaker, worked in 1829; located on Sixth Street near Sycamore.

BENJAMIN PORTER, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1815-1819.
In 1819 he was on Main Street north of the Court House.

Benjamin Porter worked in Cincinnati as early as 1815. A bill for cabinetware shown in Figure 7 was made out to General Lytle at that time.

Porter billed Lytle $2.50 for a small table, $12.00 for a sideboard, and $10.00 for a writing Desk. In addition, he mended and polished four tables for $6.00; mended two tables for $3.00; repaired a sideboard and added handles for $9.37 1/2; repaired four tables for $7.00; repaired a wardrobe for $5.00 and a desk and books for $6.00. Porter also billed Lytle $1.25 "for putting up 2 Bedstead & fitting Rod," and $5.00 for two window cornices.

Apparently John H. Piatt & Company acted as middleman for George Porter. A bill, shown in Figure 8, indicated that Porter made pieces of furniture for Piatt's store, some of which were designated

1 CA, Sept. 29, 1827. 2 CD29, 97; CD31, 123. 3 CD29, 98.
4 CD19, 137.
5 Bill, Arthur St. Clair, Jr. Papers, Box E, Folder 2, MSS, CHS.
Fig. 7.—Benjamin Porter's bill to General Lytle, 1815-1816.

for local people, and some of which were seemingly for general sale. Among those pieces apparently made for local residents were a portable desk ($10.00) and a table ($8.00) for Armstrong; a sofa ($80.00) for Yves Grandine; and a portable desk ($8.00) for "old Docts. Hunt." In addition, other pieces were made for specific persons whose names are difficult to decipher: a pembroke table with reeded legs and drawers for P. G. [Philip Grandine?]; a common table for [p._ais?]; a common bedstead for [P._anuiss?] for $3.25. For Piatt's store Porter made a table ($4.50) and a counting room desk ($15.00). On
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>281. Item.</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>Repairs and Repair.</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>1.45. Item.</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>Item.</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 29</td>
<td>Item.</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1817</td>
<td>Counting fees.</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Item.</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Item.</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Item.</td>
<td>141.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 8.—Benjamin Porter's bill, 1817-1818.
general consignment he made bedsteads, small end tables, small dining
tables and work tables. In addition, he repaired a bedstead for
T. Sloo.\(^1\) Since Benjamin Porter billed John H. Piatt & Company for
all the above enumerated items, it was assumed that the store passed
the cost on to the customer plus a small commission charge.

Another bill, shown in Figure 9, indicated that John H. Piatt
apparently purchased furniture from Benjamin Porter for his own use.
On August 22, 1817, Piatt purchased a writing desk for $10.00 and a
Table for $5.00.\(^2\) He was enumerated in the census of 1817 but not
thereafter.

![Image of Benjamin Porter's bill, 1817.]

The Cincinnati directory for 1819 gave the same address for
George Porter as it did for Benjamin Porter—Main street north of the
Court House.\(^3\) It is possible that George Porter was Benjamin's son
and that George was slowly taking over his father's shop, especially

\(^1\) Bill, Piatt Papers, Box 32, Folder 6, MSS, CPL.
\(^2\) Bill, Piatt Papers, Box 32, Folder 2, MSS, CPL.
\(^3\) Cin. Cen. 1817.
since the census of 1817 indicated that George had a large shop.1 Furthermore, much of Benjamin's work after 1818 was repair work, often chosen as easier work in the latter part of life.

Although Benjamin Porter was known to have worked in Cincinnati until 1819, he seemingly was most active about 1817. At that time he was quite productive and worked for the "better sort" of Cincinnati.

GEORGE PORTER, cabinetmaker from Massachusetts, worked in Cincinnati from c. 1817-1849. In 1819 he was on Main Street north of the Court House; in 1825 at 235 Main Street; in 1829 on Main Street between Sixth and Seventh; in 1831 on the corner of Seventh and Main Streets with a residence on Main Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets; in 1834 on Main Street between Sixth and Seventh; from 1836 to 1842 on the west side of Main Street between Sixth and Cane; in 1843 on George Street between Elm and Plum; from 1846 to 1850 on the south side of Third Street between Western Row and John.2

George Porter must have operated a rather large shop. According to the census of 1817 the establishment included one male under twelve; six between twelve and twenty-one and three twenty-one and over; in 1820 there were one male under ten; three between ten and fifteen; two between sixteen and eighteen; five between sixteen and twenty-five; and one between twenty-six and forty-four. One of the males was engaged in manufacturing. The 1830 census enumerated one

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1Cin. Cen. 1817. See Appendix A.
2CD19, 137; CD25, 78; CD29, 99; CD31, 125; CD34, 138; CD36-37, 137; CD39-40, 321; CD42, 319; CD43, 279; CD49-50, 229.
male under five; one between five and ten; two between ten and fifteen; six between fifteen and twenty; and one between thirty and forty.\(^1\) Although it is difficult to break down the number in the apprentice age group, there may have been six or seven apprentices.

One of the apprentices may have been Ebenezer Denham who ran away about April 10, 1821. He was "an indented apprentice, 13 years of age" and worth six and one-fourth cents reward for his return.\(^2\) A more valuable apprentice ran away in 1824. For his return Porter inserted the following advertisement:

Twenty-five Cents Reward.

RAN A WAY from the subscriber, an indented apprentice to the Cabinet making business, named HIRAM FISH aged about seventeen years, small made. All persons are forewarned employing or harboring him, as they will be dealt with according to law. The above reward, but no charges, will be paid for his delivery.

G. PORTER.\(^3\)

Porter again advertised a run away in 1827:

NOTICE.

JOHN NEWCOMB, an indented apprentice to the subscriber at the cabinetmaking business, in Cincinnati, having left his employment, all persons are forbidden to harbor, trust or employ him. He is 17 1/2 years of age--is bound to serve until 21.

GEORGE PORTER.\(^4\)

Beginning in 1823 George Porter always had his name before the public. In November 25, 1823, he listed his shop in the "Weekly

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\(^1\) Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1820, 120; US Cen. 1830, 126; Appendix A. \(^2\) WFA, Apr. 10, 1821. \(^3\) CE, Aug. 12, 1824. \(^4\) WT, Mar. 23, 1827.
Directory Column" of the National Republican and Ohio Political Register. The advertisement ran for more than three years. On January 3, 1824, he listed it in a similar column in the Cincinnati Advertiser for the next six years.¹

In addition to the aforementioned listings he inserted the following in the National Republican and Ohio Political Register on May 1, 1824, where it ran for about a year and a half; in the Cincinnati Advertiser, where it ran for more than a half year; in the Cincinnati Emporium where it ran for more than four weeks. It read:

A New Advertisement.

I WOULD inform the public that having surmounted the difficulties of buying and building--having furnished myself with a stock of the best materials and having on hand a large and good assortment of ELEGANT CABINET FURNITURE--I would invite the public to my

WAREROOM, 231 Main Street

Sign of the Eagle, where they may buy cheap for cash. I return my sincere thanks for past favors, and hope to merit a continuance of them.

GEORGE PORTER²

Another "new Advertisement" appeared in the Cincinnati Advertiser on February 25, 1825. It contained the same wording as the others, only the format was different.³

In 1830 he inserted a new advertisement in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette:

¹ NRPR, Nov. 25, 1823; CA, Dec. 3, 1824.
² NRPR, May 1, 1824; CA, May 29, 1824; CE, June 3, 1824.
³ CA, Feb. 25, 1825.
CABINET WARE.

THE Subscriber has removed his FURNITURE WARE-ROOM to the corner of Seventh and Main streets, where he intends to enlarge his business, and keep constantly for sale a general assortment of CABINET WARE, made of the best materials and workmanship. He solicits a portion of the public patronage.

GEORGE PORTER.¹

The same advertisement was also inserted in the Daily Gazette.²

George Porter owned his shop by 1826. He paid realty taxes on lot no. 4—the location of his shop. In 1826 he paid $7,501; in 1827, $18,416, Delinquent; in 1828, $8,625; in 1829, $13,225; and in 1830, $13.80.³

George Porter's cabinet shop was one of the foremost operating in Cincinnati during the period under review. He must have succeeded financially because he owned his own shop by 1826.

WATKIN POWELL, cabinetmaker from Pennsylvania, worked in Cincinnati in 1825 on Theater Alley between Second and Lower Market Streets.⁴

JAMES W. REED, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 on Sixth Street near Western Row.⁵

CASPER REINIGER, cabinetmaker from Germany, worked in Cincinnati in 1825 on Fifth Street between John and Smith.⁶

JACOB RICE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1834. In 1829 he was on Main Street above Canal and in 1831 on Main Street.

¹LHCC, June 10, 1830. ²DG, May 3, 1830. ³Hamp. Co. Tax., 1826; 1827, 804; 1828, 729; 1829, 843; 1830; See Appendix B. ⁴CD25, 79. ⁵CD29, 101. ⁶CD25, 81.
between Canal and Twelfth Street. In 1834 he operated a "pleasure garden" at the "head of Walnut."  

Rice was enumerated in the census of 1830. His household included one male under five; one between five and ten; three between twenty and thirty; and one between thirty and forty.  He may or may not have operated a small shop.

JOHN RICHARDSON, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1827-1829; located at the Upper Market space. John Richardson paid $9.45 in realty taxes in 1827.

ANDREW ROGERS, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; located on Main Street near Seventh. Since his name was linked with George Rogers in the directory listing, i.e., "Rogers, George, and Andrew," the two must have worked together.

GEORGE ROGERS, cabinetmaker, worked in 1829; located on Main Street near Seventh.

George and Andrew Rogers very likely worked in partnership at the George Rogers's residence. The census of 1830 listed only George. His enumeration indicated that there were two men between twenty and thirty; and one between fifteen and twenty. It is highly probable that he and his brother or cousin [?] lived and worked together.

1CD29, 102; CD31, 130; CD34, 144.
2US Cen. 1830, 133. Appendix A.
3CD29, 102.
4Ham. Co. Tax., 1827, 806; Appendix B.
5CD29, 104.
6CD29, 104.
7US Cen. 1830, 72; Appendix A.
ROLL & DEEDS, chairmaker partnership, were active c. 1818-1819. (See separate entries for Jacob Roll and Isaac Deeds.)

Late in the summer of 1818 Roll and Deeds placed the following advertisement in the Western Spy:

TURNERS.

WANTED, a very considerable quantity of chair stuff, for Fancy and Windsor chairs.—Turners that wish a good Job, and prompt payment, are requested to call on the subscribers, at their Chair Factory, on Fourth-street, as soon as possible, and get patterns. We wish to enter into contract for a regular supply. Wanted, two boys 15 or 16 years of age, as apprentices to the Chair making and plain and ornamental painting. Boys from the country would be preferred.

ROLL & DEEDS

General William Lytle purchased chairs from Roll and Deeds in 1818. The bill reproduced in Figure 10 was for $11.50. On May 9, 1818, Lytle purchased a fancy rocking chair for $5.50 and on June 6th, one fancy [?] chair with scroll arms for $5.00.

Fig. 10.—Roll & Deeds's bill, 1818.

1WS, Aug. 8, 1818. 2Lytle Papers, Box 45, MSS, CHS.
In January of the following year (1819) Roll & Deeds issued a bill to John H. Piatt & Company for $218.50 less the amount of $153.72 for goods on their account. The bill, reproduced in Figure 11, shows that the Piatt Company purchased on their account and for P[hillip?] Grandine an assortment of "Sundies" costing $81.00 and $90.00 respectively. The assortment, probably chairs, might have been earmarked for transshipment since both parties had mercantile interests. Furthermore, a reciprocal arrangement is apparent. Roll & Deeds purchased supplies from the John H. Piatt & Company who in turn merchandized their chairs.¹

Fig. 11.—Roll & Deeds bill.

¹Bill, Piatt Papers, Box 32, Folder 7, MSS, CPL.
In the same bill (Fig. 11) an assortment of chairs for Doctor Hunt was listed. He must have purchased about eight to ten chairs, judging by the price charged General Lytle for his chairs (Fig. 10). One wonders if these too were destined for transshipment because Dr. Hunt also had mercantile interests.

By the end of January, the partnership had apparently been terminated. Deeds advertised on January 26 that he had "commenced business" with Jonathan Young.¹

Roll & Deeds's chair factory was seemingly a highly successful enterprise that reached its apex before the panic of 1819. They sold to important citizens and apparently merchandized their chairs through the Piatt Company. John H. Piatt folded with the depression of 1819 and subsequent political involvement.² Perhaps the Roll & Deeds's partnership floundered in the same milieu.

JACOB C. ROLL, chairmaker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1840. In 1818-1819 he operated a chair factory at 9 East Fourth Street; in 1825 he was on "5th or Upper Market street"; in 1829 on Second between Sycamore and Broadway; in 1831 on the corner of Woodward and Abigail; from 1836 to 1840 on Sycamore Street between Abigail and Woodward. In 1839-1840 he worked at the Ross & Geyer Chair Manufactory.³

¹LNCC, Jan. 26, 1819; CA, Jan. 26, 1819.
²Piatt helped finance the War of 1812 for the government with the understanding the government would repay after the war was over. However, it was not in writing. The government reneged and in fact imprisoned him for debt. He died in prison in Washington, D. C.
³WS, Aug. 8, 1818, CD19, 138; CD31, 133, CD34, 141.
Roll, who was reputed to be working in Lebanon, Ohio, in 1814, was definitely in Cincinnati by 1817. He was enumerated in the census of that year. In 1818-1819 he was partner with Isaac Deeds; terminated in January, 1819.

The firm of Roll and Deeds sold chairs to General William Lytle in 1818 (Fig. 10, 128). When Lytle later needed repair on several chairs, he went to Jacob Roll for this service. In 1820 and 1821 Roll repaired several chairs for Lytle. The bill, reproduced in Figure 12, shows that on the 3rd of November, Roll repaired five chairs for $1.50. The following year on the 2nd of January he charged $2.00 for "putting mats & repairs to two Sewing Chairs."

Fig. 12.--J. C. Roll's bill to General William Lytle for repairwork, 1820-1821.

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1 Rhea Mansfield Knittle, Early Ohio Taverns, Booklet No. 1 Series of 15 issues (Portland, Maine: Anthoesen Press, 1937), 44.
2 Cin. Cen. 1817.
3 Sec 128.
4 Bill, Lytle Papers, Box 48, MSS, CMS.
In April, Roll announced to "The subscribers" of the *Western Spy* and *Literary Cadet* that he had disposed "of his chair establishment in this place to Messrs. MOSES P. CLARK and NATHAN CROWELL." He praised their abilities stating "that from the knowledge he has of their abilities as first rate mechanics," he has "no hesitation in saying that they can and will furnish . . . high quality, fashionable chairs."\(^1\)

Perhaps, both chairmakers worked under Roll in his chair factory. In 1818, Jacob Roll who was operating a chair factory in partnership with Isaac Deeds issued the following draft:

> Messrs, John H. Piatt & Co. Will please let the bearer Moses P. Clark have to the amt of Seven dollars & fifty cents out of your store & to lac [sic] it to acct of you [sic] Humble Ser[.]

*Jacob C. Roll*

10th of Octr. 1818\(^2\)

Little was found pertaining to Jacob C. Roll after he sold his factory to Clark and Crowell in 1822. He did, however, insert the following in the *National Republican* and *Ohio Political Register* in 1825.

> Caution.

The public are hereby cautioned against receiving a transfer of two promissory notes given by the subscriber to James Ayres; one for about sixteen dollars, date not recollected, which has been paid, the other one for about ninety dollars, dated some time last Fall, for which I have received no value, and am determined to pay neither of them unless compelled by law.

*JACOB C. ROLL*\(^3\)

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\(^1\) *WSLC*, Apr. 6, 1822.  
\(^2\) *Piatt Papers*, Box 43, CPL.  
\(^3\) *NRPR*, Sept. 30, 1825.
It could be that Ayres, a chairmaker, worked for him when he had his chair factory.

A rocking chair, "probably fashioned by Jacob Roll" has descended in the Roll family. The rocker is armless, rather provincial in feeling, with caned seat and back.¹

GEORGE ROSETTE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1819 on Sixth between Main and Walnut.² In 1819, Rosette was treasurer of the "Journeymen Cabinet Makers' Society."³

WILLIAM ROSS, chairmaker from New York, worked in Cincinnati c. 1830-1846. In 1830 he operated a chair manufactory in partnership with Enoch Kerr and John Geyer at 277 Main Street; in 1831 the firm was on Eighth Street; from 1834-1842 he was in partnership with Geyer on Third Street; in 1842-43 with Geyer on Fourth Street; and in 1846 he was a salesman at Andrew McAlpin's.⁴

In 1830 William Ross, as part of the Kerr, Ross & Geyer Chair Company, was just beginning his long career as a manufacturer. He became one of the most important manufacturers of chairs in Cincinnati in the 1840's and 1850's.⁵

PAUL RUST, cabinetmaker from Maryland, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1851. From 1829 to 1831 he was on the northeast corner of Plum

¹I. Clifford Roll, "The Abraham Roll Family from New Jersey Pioneers in Hamilton County, Ohio, BHPSO XVIII, October, 1960, 294. The chair currently belongs to a career officer in Hawaii and is not available for photography.
²CD19, 139. ³CD19, 44.
⁴CD31, 134; CD34, 149; CD36-37, 148; CD39-40, 339; CD43, 300; CD46, 325.
⁵Cist, Miscellany II, 187-188.
and Longworth Streets. He worked as a cabinetmaker until 1834 when he changed to the grocery business; from 1836 to 1850 Paul Rust & Sons operated a cabinetmaking and undertaking business.\(^1\) He died in Cincinnati in 1856.\(^2\)

Paul Rust was on the corner of Plum and Longworth Streets during his entire career in Cincinnati. Tax records indicated that he paid taxes on the property in 1829.\(^3\)

The 1830 census indicated that there were one male between twenty and thirty and one between fifty and sixty were in his household.\(^4\) Apparently he worked on a very limited scale or else for another maker.

JOHN SAMPSON, cabinetmaker from New York, worked in Cincinnati in 1825 at the corner of Vine and Fifth Streets.\(^5\)

JOSEPH C. SAXTON, cabinetmaker from Pennsylvania, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825-1837. In 1825 he was located on Third between Main and Walnut Streets; in 1829 on Walnut Street between Second and Third; in 1831 on Walnut between Second and Pearl; in 1834 on Third between Walnut and Vine Streets; in 1836-37 on Longworth between Race and Elm.\(^6\)

\(^1\)CD29, 106; CD31, 135; CD36-37, 149; CD39-40, 341; CD42, 133; CD43, 303; CD46, 326; CD50, 247; CD50-51, 234.
\(^3\)Ham. Co. Tax, 1829, 855. According to the records for 1830, he did not pay taxes in 1830. However, there may have been an error in the records. See Appendix B.
\(^4\)US Gen. 1830, 38; Appendix A.
\(^5\)CD25, 85.
\(^6\)CD25, 85; CD29, 107; CD31, 137; CD34, 152; CD36-37, 152.
Very little is known about Saxton. On February 25, 1830, he seemingly inserted his first advertisement:

CABINETMAKING.

THE Subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he continues to carry on the cabinetmaking business on Walnut street between 2nd and 3rd streets, where he will be punctual in the discharge of his professional duty, whenever called upon by order or otherwise. He has constantly on hand a supply of ready made furniture, which he will dispose of on as reasonable terms as any other good substantial [sic] workman in the city.

J. C. SAXTON

Saxton was very interested in obtaining orders from the east, west, and south for he attached a special notice to the above advertisement which read:

The Louisville Focus, the Natchez Galaxy and the Pittsburgh Statesman are requested to publish the above advertisement six times each, and forward their accounts to this office for payment.²

SCHOOLEY & BLACKBURN, cabinet- and "musical maker" partnership, were active c. 1829-1830. (See Edward Blackburn.)

On May 29, 1830, the following "NOTICE" appeared in the Cincinnati Chronicle and Literary Gazette:

The Copartnership heretofore existing in this city under the name of Schooley and Blackburn, Musical and Cabinet Makers, was dissolved by mutual agreement on the 17th inst. All persons having any claims or demands against said firm, are requested to present them to Israel Schooley who, by the terms of the dissolution, is empowered and required to adjust and settle the same--And all persons standing indebted to said firm in any manner whatever, are desired to make payment thereof to said Israel Schooley who is also fully empowered to give receipts and discharges therefore.

Israel Schooley.
Edward Blackburn.

¹Cincinnati American (For the Country), Feb. 25, 1830.
Hereafter cited CAFC.
²CAFC, Feb. 25, 1830.
I. Schooley would inform the former customers, his friends and the public, generally that he will continue the business at the old stand between 5th and 6th st. on Walnut where all orders in his line will meet with prompt attention.1

The business association between Schooley and Blackburn was apparently entered into early in 1830, or possibly late in 1829. Schooley purchased hardware from the Wayne Company in 1828-1829 yet the firm of Schooley and Blackburn did not purchase from that source until 1830. On January 31, 1830, the first entry of $125.00 appeared and the following July, the last entry, $147.85.2

JOHN SCOTT, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 on Front Street east of Deer Creek.3

JOHN G. SCOTT, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831; in 1829 worked at Charles Lehman's cabinet shop; in 1831 on Front Street between Butler and Pike.4

JOHN SCUDDER, cabinetmaker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1830. In 1819 he was located on Fourth Street between Race and Elm; in 1825 on Vine Street above St. Clair. He was listed as a cabinetmaker in 1819 but no occupation was given in 1825.5

Scudder was in Cincinnati in 1817, and possibly operating a small shop at that time. The Census of 1817 indicated that there were three men (including Scudder) over twenty-one in his household.6 The 1820 census enumeration indicated that he was the only man in his shop and was engaged in manufacturing.7

1CCLG, May 29, 1830. 2Wayne Co. Vol. 8, MSS, Harvard. 3CD29, 108. 4CD29, 108; CD31, 137. 5CD19, 143; CD25, 84. 6Census 1817. 7Census of 1830, 29; Appendix A.
Scudder did not rely solely on his cabinetmaking skill. In 1822 he received from Hamilton County $14.50 for "setting three Franklin stoves, altering fireplace in clerks office, and laying hearth."\(^1\) By the middle of the 1820's he had branched out to steam-boat contracting and building. In February of 1826 he inserted the following notice in the *National Crisis*:

**Steam Boat De Witt Clinton.**

NOTICE is hereby given, that I hold a lien on the above boat for $1,300, in the nature of a mortgage, which is due me as Agent in the building and finishing said boat, and on account. Having used every means in my power to get my claims satisfied by the owners, Messrs. Clark & Green, and others of Cincinnati, and having failed,—Notice is hereby given to purchasers, freighters, and all others that I shall seize said boat at some port or place where I shall be most likely to obtain that justice which the owners have denied me. My lien is under the hand and seal of the owners.

*JOHN SCUDDER*\(^2\)

Frustrated over the controversy of the Steam Boat "De Witt Clinton" Scudder may have left Cincinnati for a while. A John Scudder, cabinetmaker, was active in Harrison, Hamilton County in 1829.\(^3\) He may have been the previously mentioned man whose name was missing from the Cincinnati directory of 1829. There was no John Scudder listed at Harrison in the Census of 1830.

John Scudder was, however, listed in Cincinnati in the census of 1830. His household included one male under five; one between five and ten; two between ten and fifteen; seven between fifteen and

\(^1\) *CA*, March 19, 1822.

\(^2\) *National Crisis*, Feb. 6, 1826. Hereafter cited *NC*.

twenty; twenty-one between twenty and thirty; five between thirty and forty; and five between forty and fifty. There was also one free colored male between ten and twenty-four. Surely this constituted a staggering number of males in one household! He may or may not have been in the cabinet business at that time.

Scudder was also listed in the censuses of 1817 and 1820. In his household in 1817 there were two males under twelve, and three over twenty-one. In 1820 there were two males under ten; one between twenty-six and forty-four. One of the males was engaged in manufacturing.

Very little is known about Scudder and his role in the furniture business. He may have changed to steamboat building sometime after 1819.

JOHN SERMON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1819 on Plum Street between Front and Second.

JOHN SHAW, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 and boarded at the house of J. White.

JOHN SHEED, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he was at Isaac M. Lee's, a prominent chairmaker.

JONAS SHELL, cabinetmaker, worked c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he was located on Longworth Street near John; in 1831 on Sixth Street near Lodge's Alley.

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1 US Cen. 1830, 29. See Appendix A.
2 Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1820. See Appendix A.
3 CD19, 143. 4 CD29, 109. 5 CD29, 109.
6 CD29, 109; CD31, 140. In 1829 there was also a "Jonas Sheel," cabinetmaker, but the directory indicated that he boarded at John White's on Sycamore Street between Third and Lower Market. See CD29, 111.
CHRISTIAN SHOTT, chairmaker from Maryland, worked in Cincinnati in 1825 on Vine Street between Front and Second.  

WILLIAM SIFTON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati 1829 on "Short Market."  

JOHN V. SIMPSON, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1837. In 1829 he boarded at W. J. Fleming's coffee house; in 1831 at Mrs. Perry's; and in 1836-37, was on the southeast corner of Fifth and John Streets.  

P. & C. C. SKINNER, chairmaker partnership, were active c. 1825-1830. (See separate entries for Philip Skinner and Corson C. Skinner) The firm of P. & C. C. Skinner was announced on July 20, 1825:  

FANCY AND WINDSOR CHAIR FACTORY.  

PHILIP SKINNER, late of the firm of Lee & Skinner Now dissolved tak [sic] this opportunity of returning thanks for former patronage shown to the late firm, and of informing the public that he has taken into partnership his brother, Corson C. Skinner, and have opened their shop on Columbia street, just above the Theatre, in the name of P. & C. C. SKINNER, where they intend to keep on hand a general assortment of Fancy, Rush seat and Windsor Chairs . . .  

Not only did they want to serve the local market, they aspired for trade from afar. The aforementioned advertisement ended with the note, "all orders from a distance thankfully received and punctually attended to." Their location on Columbia, very near the river and not far from the public landing, was ideal for trade "from a distance."  

1CD29, 111.  2CD29, 110.  
3CD29, 111; CD31, 141; CD36-37, 158.  
4CE, July 20, 1825.  5CE, July 20, 1825.
A year later on July 6, 1826, they ran the same advertisement again. This time they inserted it in the National Crisis for about five weeks\(^1\) and in the Cincinnati Commercial Register for almost two months. The last advertisement appeared on September 2, 1826.\(^2\)

Sometime thereafter they must have separated their shops. But they were back together again by August of 1828 for at that time P. & C. C. Skinner announced in the Daily Gazette that they:

Take this method of returning thanks to their friends and customers for their liberal patronage to them, and will now inform them that they have joined their two shops together\(^3\) at their stand on Sycamore street, between Front and Columbia-sts. where they intend to keep on hand...

They were still interested in a wide market. They attached to the aforementioned announcement:

Also--houses corniced in the neatest manners, steam boats and hotels furnished with chairs and settees on the shortest notice. All orders thankfully received and promptly attended to.\(^4\)

On November 11, 1828, they confirmed their new location.

CHAIR FACTORY
REMOVED
TO SYCAMORE ST.

P. & C. C. SKINNER take this method of informing their friends and customers that they have moved their chair factory from Columbia street to the new brick building on Sycamore street, between Front and Columbia street, where they intend to keep on hand a large and general assortment of chairs, of the latest, and most improved patronos\(^5\) and fashions...

\(^1\)NC, July 6, 1826.
\(^2\)Cincinnati Commercial Register, Sept. 2, 1826. Hereafter cited CCR.
\(^3\)DG, Aug. 6, 1828.
\(^4\)DG, Aug. 6, 1829.
\(^5\)DCG, Nov. 11, 1829.
Again they appealed for orders from a distance and added that "Steam Boats furnished with chairs and settees on the shortest notice."\(^1\)

Their new shop on Sycamore Street was in an extremely favorable location. They were within 300 feet of the public landing and in the midst of the commercial activity of the city. A short distance from their doors Sycamore Street opened into the center of the public landing—a perfect location for an aspiring chair shop owner with designs on the river trade.

Over the next two years their advertisements appeared regularly in the various local newspapers. They appealed to the steamboat, hotel and mail order trade. They offered a wide variety of seated furniture including fancy and Windsor chairs and settees, and sociables and sofas.\(^2\) They also provided Grecian pier tables and "canalabons" made to order.\(^3\)

P. & C. C. Skinner apparently prospered in their new brick building on Sycamore Street because in 1830 they added another location for the convenience of their customers in the upper part of

\(^{1}\)DCG, Nov. 11, 1829.

\(^{2}\)See Appendix D. The items appear in most of the advertisements.

\(^{3}\)DG, Aug. 6, 1828. Although a great deal of effort has been put forth trying to identify this form, it remains a mystery. This form is not listed in any of the standard furniture works, nor in early nineteenth century dictionaries. It seems not to be derived from the French, German or Latin language. It appeared in this advertisement only; it was not found in any advertisements of any other makers. However, Drepperd indicated that special furniture was designed for passenger travel on canalboats. (See Carl W. Drepperd, A Dictionary of American Antiques, Award Paperback (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., 1952), 62. Perhaps P. & C. C. Skinner coined their own name for a specialty produced in anticipation of the coming canalboat trade. The Miami and Erie canal was completed from Dayton to Cincinnati in November of 1828.
the city. They announced:

FANCY CHAIR STORE.

THE subscribers most respectfully inform their friends and the public that they have, in addition to their large establishment on Sycamore, opened a factory and ware room on Main, a few doors above Sixth street where they intend to keep a general assortment of Chairs, Settees &c. of the latest and most approved patterns. Their friends and customers in the upper part of the city, wishing to purchase, will please to favor them with a call . . . ¹

Their added location was about three blocks from the canal terminus. It is very likely that they had designs on more business "from a distance."

Philip and Corson Skinner operated a rather large chair factory. There were probably about eleven apprentices in their shop. The Census of 1830 indicated that there were seven males between fifteen and twenty in Corson's household and four in Philip's. ²

The P. & C. C. Skinner Chair Factory-Wareroom enterprise was one of the foremost concerns during the period under review in this study. They were advantageously located to take full advantage of the river and hotel trade as well as local needs. When the canal opened in 1829, they opened a location nearby. They offered a large variety of seated forms to the citizens of Cincinnati, to hotels, to steamboats, and persons at a distance.

CORSON C. SKINNER, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825-1836. In 1825 he was "on Columbia street just above the theater"; in 1828-1829, on Sycamore near Second Street; in 1830-1831, on Sycamore near Second Street and on Main Street between Sixth and Seventh; in

¹CAFC, Feb. 25, 1830.
²US Cen. 1830, 97; Appendix A.
1834, Vine, between Second and Third; and in 1836-37 he had a chair warehouse on the south side of Fourth Street between Main and Sycamore Streets.\(^1\)

Corson Skinner was "taken into partnership" by his brother Philip in 1825 and worked with him most of the time under review. He may have worked alone in 1827-1828.\(^2\) He apparently was the junior member of the firm and lacked capital. He did not own land until 1830 while his brother owned land several years prior to then.\(^3\)

PHILIP SKINNER, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1822-1837. In 1822 he was located at 50 West Front Street; in 1825 "on Columbia street just above the theater"; in 1828-1829, on Sycamore near Second Street; in 1830-1831 on Sycamore near Second Street and also on Main Street between Sixth and Seventh; in 1834 on Vine between Second and Third; in 1836-1837 he had a chair warehouse on the south side of Fourth Street between Main and Sycamore Streets.\(^4\)

Skinner was in partnership with Isaac Lee in 1822, subsequently terminated in March of 1825 when he went into partnership with his brother, Corson. They formed the firm of P. & C. C. Skinner in which he worked until 1837 when their company's name disappeared from the Cincinnati directories.\(^5\)

Between September, 1826, and August, 1828, Philip Skinner may have temporarily terminated his partnership with Corson.\(^6\) During the

\(^1\)CD29, 111; CD31, 142; CD34, 158; CD36-37, 158.
\(^2\)See P. & C. C. Skinner, 139.
\(^3\)Ham. Co. Tax 1830; Appendix B.
\(^4\)CD29, 111; CD31, 142; CD34, 158; CD36-37, 158.
\(^5\)See 139.
\(^6\)See P. & C. C. Skinner, 139.
interlude, Philip may have been partners with a Mr. Stewart. His advertisement of April 30, 1828, in the Daily Gazette yielded this clue:

TAKE NOTICE.

THE person I saw, on the evening of the 28th of April, going down Columbia street, opposite the theatre, dressed in blue cloths, umbrella under his arm, carrying two green windsor chairs, is requested to call at Skinner & Stewarts ware room, where they were taken from, and settle for them, to save himself from being exposed to the public. Let him take this as a warning.

PHILLIP SKINNER

Furthermore, entries in the Wayne Hardware Company's ledgers indicated that "Skinner & Stewart" were customers in 1828. Between February 21, 1828, when the first entry was made, and December 23, they purchased $39.13 worth of hardware. No entries were made for P. & C. C. Skinner during this time, with the exception of a gross of screws purchased on December 12, 1828. The latter purchase may have been an indication of the renewed cooperation between Philip and Corson Skinner.

At this same time, Philip may have had an outlet establishment of some kind with his former partner, Isaac Lee. The firm Lee & Skinner began to pay realty taxes in 1828--two years after their dissolution notice was announced in the local newspaper. In both 1826 and 1828 they paid $14,075 in taxes. No taxes were paid by Lee & Skinner prior to 1827, nor after 1828. Isaac Lee was in partnership with his brother during those years and Philip Skinner may or may not have been in partnership with his brother. Perhaps Philip operated a warehouse during the interim.

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1DC, April 30, 1828. 2Wayne Co. Vol. 7, MSS, Harvard. 3See Appendix B. See also Isaac M. Lee, 90-91.
Philip Skinner was an important figure in the furniture business in Cincinnati. As a partner in two productive firms, Lee & Skinner and P. & C. C. Skinner, he was important in the growth of Cincinnati's chair industry.

JONAS SLELL, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; located at John White's boarding house.¹

THOMAS SLINGSBY, cabinetmaker, worked in 1819 at 239 Main Street.²

SMITH & LEHMAN, cabinetmaker partnership, were active c. 1821-1823. (See separate entries for Christopher Smith and Charles Lehman.)

On June 2, 1821, the following advertisement was inserted in the Western Spy and Literary Cadet:

NOTICE.
THE subscribers having entered into copartnership, under the firm of Smith and Lehman (Since the 18th of April) At their stand on Sycamore street, a few doors above Fourth street, offer for sale a general assortment of Cabinet Furniture, At the usual prices: for which they will receive notes on the Miami Exporting Company at par with current money.

N.B. Country Produce taken for Furniture.

Christopher Smith
Charles Lehman³

The partnership dissolved on August 8, 1823, by mutual consent, and Lehman moved to the corner of Broadway and Front while Smith

¹CD29, 111. In 1829 there was also a "Jonas Shell" but the directory indicated that he was on Longworth north of John. See CD29, 109.
²CD19, 142. ³WSLC, June 2, 1821.
continued "at the old stand."¹

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, cabinetmaker from England, worked in Cincinnati c. 1802-1850. From 1819-1851 he was located on the east side of Sycamore Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets. From 1842-1851 he worked as a cabinetmaker and undertaker.² He died in 1853.³

Christopher Smith was one of the earliest cabinetmakers in Cincinnati. Leonard indicated that he was there in 1802;⁴ in 1806 he signed a petition pertaining to township division.⁵

Christopher Smith made cabinetware for Edmund Harrison, a local teacher in 1814. The bill, reproduced in Figure 13,⁶ shows that in 1814 and 1815 he made a dining table for $10.00; a bedstead for $3.50; a field bedstead for $12.00; and a high post bedstead for $16.00. There was also a $.25 charge for another item or service rendered. The total came to $41.75. Smith received from Harrison $10.00 in cash and a $7.00 map of the United States leaving a total of $24.75. He was apparently paid an additional $10.50, leaving a balance of $4.25.

In 1818 Christopher Smith worked for Mr. W. T. Sloo, a local merchant. His bill, reproduced in Figure 14,⁷ shows that he "got of

¹LHCC, Aug. 3, 1823.
²CD19, 140; CD25, 89; CD31, 143; CD29, 112; CD31, 143; CD36-37, 159; CD39-40, 359; CD42, 75; CD43, 325; CD46, 345; CD49-50, 263; CD50-51, 250.
⁴Leonard, II, 579.
⁵Petition signed by Hamilton County Pioneers, MSS, CHS.
⁶Bill, Harrison Papers, Box I, #65, MSS, CHS.
⁷Torrence Papers, Box 33, MSS, CHS.
Fig. 13.--Christopher Smith's bill, 1814-1815.

Fig. 14.--Christopher Smith's bill, 1817-1818.
J. Hurdus" laths for blinds for which he billed Sloo $2.50. Smith probably hung the blinds or repaired them--part of cabinetry in those days. The bill totaled $6.50 which included the balance due on a washstand.

In 1825, Smith bartered a cradle for wood from a local farmer, Elnathan Kemper. Kemper's daybook indicated that on June 14, 1825, Smith made a cradle for him. In payment Smith was "Cr. by one cradle $4.00." Entries in Kemper's ledger indicated that Smith received his wood.¹

Smith was enumerated in the census of 1817 and that of 1830. In 1817 his household included two males under twelve and one over twenty-one. In 1820, only the name was recorded. In 1830 there were two males between fifteen and twenty; two between twenty and thirty; and one between fifty and sixty.² Two of the men enumerated in the 1830 census might have been Joseph McCammon and William B. Smith. Both were listed in the 1829 directory "at C. Smith's."³

Christopher Smith paid realty taxes from 1822 to 1830, possibly longer. In 1822 he paid $1.30; in 1823, $1.50; in 1824, $2.10; in 1825, $1.50; in 1826, $21.938; in 1827, $25.55; in 1828, $25.35; in 1829, $38.87; and in 1830, $40.56.⁴ The latter was a rather large amount for a cabinetmaker to pay. His property was in a good location--about five blocks from the public landing and in the center of the city.

¹Elnathan Kemper Daybook, MSS, OHS.
²Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1820, 151; US Cen. 1830, 22; Appendix A.
³CD29, 79, 112.
⁴Ham. Co. Tax, 1822-1826; 1827, 838; 1828, 849; 1829, 863, 983; 1830; Appendix B.
Christopher Smith was a very stable member of the furniture industry. He worked in Cincinnati about forty-eight years, in the later years adding undertaking to his occupation.

JOHN BROADFOOT SMITH, cabinetmaker from England, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1829. From 1819-1825 he was located on Seventh Street between Main and Walnut; in 1829, he was "at George Porter's," a prominent cabinetmaker.¹

John Broadfoot Smith apparently operated a one-man shop or worked for someone else during the period under review. His enumeration in all three censuses indicated that he was the only man in his household. In 1830 he was apparently between seventy to eighty years old.²

The mechanics of Cincinnati must have felt great reverence for John Broadfoot Smith. In 1819 he delivered the fourth of July Oration at the Methodist Episcopal Church, "before MECHANICS OF CINCINNATI," who had "assembled to celebrate the Forty Third Anniversary of American Independence."³

John Broadfoot Smith's will was probated in Cincinnati August 16, 1831. He left all his books and "utensils belonging to housekeeping" to his daughter, Ann Smith. To his son, Henry Ryder Smith he left:

All my tools of every description, a work bench, a hand Screw and every implement belonging to my business with

¹CD19, 140; CD25, 89; CD31, 143; CD29, 112.
²Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1820, 120; 1830, 130; Appendix A.
³John Broadfoot Smith. Oration Delivered by John Broadfoot Smith, Cabinet Maker in the Methodist Episcopal Church (Cincinnati: Mason & Palmer, Printers, 1819), Frontispiece.
all my stock of materials, Planks, Boards, Veneers, Ec. of every kind & the Bench I work at is the property of McCarmack. [sic]

HENRY R. SMITH, cabinetmaker from England, worked in Cincinnati in 1825 on Seventh Street between Main and Walnut. He was the son of John Broadfoot Smith.

THOMAS SMITH, cabinetmaker from England, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1825 at 239 Main Street.

In 1824 Smith advertised for apprentices who had "RUN A WAY from the subscriber." November 4, 1824, he advertised in the Cincinnati Emporium for the return of "James Henry, about 20 years of age," and on December 9, 1824, for Nathaniel Stout, "near 20 years of age." Nothing else was found pertaining to Thomas Smith.

WILLIAM B. SMITH, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 and was at Christopher Smith's shop.

JOHN SOWARD, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he was in the alley between Sixth and Seventh Streets; in 1831 on Ninth between Race and Vine Streets.

ELIPHALET STEELE, cabinetmaker from Connecticut, worked in Cincinnati in 1824 at 204 Main Street.

STEPHENORE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 and boarded at O. Mathew's.

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2CD25, 89. 3CD19, 142; CD25, 90. 4CE, Nov. 4, 1824.  
5CE, Dec. 9, 1824. 6CD19, 142; CD25, 90.  
7CD29, 114; CD31, 146. 8CD25, 92. 9CD29, 116.
MILLER STEWART, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he was located on Walnut between Second and Third Streets; in 1831 on Sycamore between Fourth and Fifth streets.¹

STIBBS & STOUT, chairmaker partnership, were active c. 1817. (See Samuel Stibbs.)

There was only one advertisement inserted by this partnership. On January 20, 1817, the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette carried the following:

Fancy Chair Manufactory
STIBBS & STOUT

RESPECTFULLY inform their friends and the public in general that they carry on the FANCY FLAG BOTTOM and WINDSOR CHAIR MAKING business in

Main Street,

Nearly opposite Lower Market Street, where they keep constantly on hand a variety of colors, viz. Sattin Wood, Tortoise Shell, Coquillico Green, Cane-color, Brown, Black, Ec. &c. handsomely gilt and ornamented, superior in taste and elegance to any manufactured in the western country, and from their thorough acquaintance with the business they hope to merit a share of public patronage. All orders from the country punctually attended to. One or two JOURNEYMEN, who understand the making of FANCY FLAG BOTTOM CHAIRS, wanted.²

This partnership apparently was short in duration for Stout's name was not included with Stibbs on a bill for chairs issued to Arthur St. Clair Jr. in 1818,³ nor was his name in the Cincinnati Directory of 1819. There was, however, a John Stout listed as a housecarpenter.⁴

SAMUEL STIBBS, fancy and Windsor chairmaker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817 to 1853. In 1819 he operated a chair

¹CD29, 116; CD31, 147. ²LHCG, Jan. 20, 1817. ³See 153. ⁴CD19, 141.
factory at 107 Main Street; in 1825 his shop was on Third Street between Main and Walnut; in 1829 it was on Third at the corner of Post Office Alley; in 1831 on Main Street between Seventh and Eighth with a residence on Walnut between Third and Fourth Streets; in 1834 he was on Masonic alley; in 1836-37 he was listed as a painter, in the alley between Main and Walnut Streets; from 1839 to 1846 he was listed as a chairmaker on Walnut between Third and Fourth Streets; in 1850 boarded at W. P. Stratton; from 1851-1853 he was on Seventh Street, and no occupation was given. ¹

In 1817 Samuel Stibbs operated a chair manufactory on Main Street nearly opposite the Lower Market in partnership with a Mr. Stout. ² In January, 1818, Stibbs, alone, billed Arthur St. Clair, Jr., for chairs produced at his factory. The bill dated January 14, 1818, reproduced in Figure 15, shows that Stibbs sold St. Clair twelve fancy chairs for $60.00, 2 fancy settees for $60.00 and three small chairs for $5.00. The bill totaled $125.00. ³

The study of Stibbs in the census enumerations of 1817, 1820 and 1830 indicated that his factory must have kept pace with the times but also reflected the economic depression of 1819-1822. In 1817 there were four males between twelve and twenty-one and two over twenty-one in his household. In 1820 there were two males between ten and fifteen; two between sixteen and twenty-five; and one between

¹CD19, 142; CD25, 93; CD29, 117; CD31, 149; CD34, 166; CD36-37, 116; CD39-40, 370; CD42, 336; CD46, 396; CD50, 273; CD50-51, 260; CD51-52, 238; CD53, 375.
²LHCC, Jan. 20, 1817.
³Bill, Arthur St. Clair Papers, Box E, folder 3, MSS, CHS.
twenty-six and forty-four. One of the males was engaged in manufacturing. In 1830 his household included five males between fifteen and twenty; one between twenty and thirty; and one between forty and fifty.\(^1\) The number of apprentices in 1817 was about four; in 1820 about three or four; in 1830 about five. In December of 1821, when economic conditions had improved somewhat, Stibbs placed the following notice in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette:

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Apprentices Wanted.

Two or three boys, from 15 to 17 years of age, wanted as apprentices to the Fancy and Windsor Chair making business.--Boys from the country would be preferred.

Samuel Stibbs,
107, Main street

The study of Stibbs's tax records also reflected the hardships of the depression. Stibbs paid taxes from 1818 to 1821; and from 1826 to 1830, and likely longer. In 1818 he had 753 acres of assorted land on which he paid $9.535 in taxes; in 1819 he had 593 1/2 acres on which he paid $10.50; in 1820 and 1821 he had only 266 acres of land on which he paid $2.68. He paid no taxes from 1822 to 1825. From 1826 to 1830 he paid taxes on lots no. 136 and no. 110, a total of 45 feet; in 1826, $8.91; in 1827, $10.80; in 1828, $5.80; in 1829, $16.560; and in 1830, $17.28. With the onset of the depression Stibbs began selling his land until he owned none in 1822, a status maintained until he again purchased land in 1826, which he held until 1830, and very likely longer.

Stibbs was able to ride out the depression and to recover from it to some extent. The sale of land apparently provided funds to maintain his household and factory and he was able to keep pace with the economy. Cincinnati had recovered from the depression by 1825. He owned both his shop (lot 110) and his home (lot 136), from 1826 to 1830, and likely longer.

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1LHCC, Dec. 15, 1821.
2Ham. Co. Tax, 1818-1821; 1826; 1827, 828; 1828, 75; 1829, 867; 1830; Appendix B.
Unlike other chairmakers, Samuel Stibbs seemingly did not advertise his wares in the local newspapers. He did, however, place the following advertisement in The Cincinnati Directory for the Year 1829:

Chair Manufactory
Samuel Stibbs

Respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he still continues to carry on the chair making Business, in all its various departments. His warehouse is on West Third Street, between Main and Walnut, where he constantly keeps a general assortment of Windsor, Fancy Cane and Rush Bottom Chairs. Also, settees of the latest, eastern improved fashions. He warrants his work to be equal to any in the western country. His long experience in his line of business, and the evidence which the patronage he has heretofore enjoyed affords him, fully justifies this assurance.

Orders from Steam Boat owners, and all others abroad or at home, will be thankfully received and punctually attended to.¹

Stibbs was one of the more important chairmakers working in Cincinnati during the period under review. Apparently he was financially successful because he owned his own shop and home by 1826.

CALVIN SWIFT, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in c. 1819-1825, located at 75 West Front Street.² He died in 1825.³

In the directory of 1819 Calvin Swift was listed as working with Reuben Swift. The census of 1820 indicated that he was engaged in manufacturing and was the only man in his household.⁴ His will,

¹CD29.  ²CD19, 142.
⁴US Cen. 1820, 124. See Appendix A.
probated in Hamilton county on April 4, 1825, left to his wife Elenor "all estate both real and personal of every name and nature wherever it may be found."  

REUBEN SWIFT, cabinetmaker and turner from Massachusetts, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1829. In 1819 he was at 75 West Front Streets; in 1825 on the corner of Elm and Longworth Streets. In 1819 he listed his occupation as a cabinetmaker and in 1829 as a turner. He died about 1829. 

Reuben Swift was apparently master of a small cabinet shop. The enumeration of his household in the census of 1820 reflected a somewhat larger than normal number of occupants. His household included a male between ten and sixteen; one between sixteen and twenty-six; and one forty-five or older. The first might have been an apprentice, the second an employed journeyman, and the third, himself. Calvin Swift had been at the same address in 1819 and was likely still part of the establishment. 

Tax records showed that Reuben Swift paid taxes from 1826 to 1828. In 1829 taxes were paid on the same property by his estate.  

GEORGE TAILOR, cabinetmaker from Ireland, worked in Cincinnati in 1825 on Second Street near Broadway. 

JOHN TAILOR, cabinetmaker from Maryland, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825-1831. In 1825 he was located on Seventh Street between Race

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2 CD25, 34.  
3 US Cen. 1820, 124; Appendix A.  
4 Ham. Co. Tax, 1826; 1827; 1828, 828; 1829, 867; 1830; Appendix B.  
5 CD25, 95.
and Elm Streets; in 1829, in the alley between Walnut and Vine Streets; in 1831, on Vine Street near Thirteenth.¹

GEORGE TEMPLETON, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c.1829-1831, boarding at D. Kautz's residence.²

ABRAHAM THORP, cabinet- and patternmaker from Connecticut, worked in Cincinnati c. 1819-1829. In 1819 he was located at 260 Main Street; in 1825, on New Market between Main and Sycamore Streets; in 1829 in Friendship Alley. He shifted his occupation to patternmaker in 1829.³

Thorp apparently operated a one-man shop or worked for someone else. The census of 1817 indicated that he was the only man in his household along with a boy under twelve, a woman over twenty-one, and a female between twelve and twenty-one. By 1830 his household had grown to include a male under five; two ten to fifteen; and one twenty to thirty.⁴

EDWARD TURNER, cabinetmaker from Connecticut, worked in Cincinnati in 1825 and was located on Seventh Street between Race and Elm.⁵

JOHN URWILLER, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1828-1837. In 1829 he boarded at J. Fosdick's; in 1831 he was located on Sixth between Broadway and Sycamore Streets; in 1834 on New Market between Vine and Race; and in 1836-37 boarded at Mrs. Susan Hawkins. In 1836-37 he listed his occupation as a patternmaker.⁶

¹CD25, 95; CD29, 119; CD31, 152. ²CD29, 120; CD31, 153. ³CD19, 145; CD25, 98; CD29, 121. ⁴Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1830, 75; Appendix A. ⁵CD25, 98. ⁶CD29, 123; CD31, 158; CD34, 176; CD36-37, 178.
Urwiller's purchases from the Wayne Company at the end of 1828 indicated that he may have just arrived in Cincinnati and was in need of added equipment for his work. He purchased the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item(s)</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>5/12 Sett Bed Screws</td>
<td>$1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>glue Kettle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>1 gro. Screws</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 panel Screw</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Dovetail Screw</td>
<td>1.21 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Sett chisles</td>
<td>1.31 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 square</td>
<td>.62 1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He made other purchases during the remainder of the year and one lone purchase in January of 1829.²

JOHN VINSHONHALLER, chairmaker from Kentucky, worked in Cincinnati in 1825; located on Plum Street between Fifth and Longworth.³

DAVID WADE, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829 on Elm Street between Second and Front.⁴

WARD & MASON, cabinetmaker partnership, were active in c. 1817-1819. (See separate entries for James Ward and John W. Mason.)

Ward and Mason were apparently in business together in 1817 for on January 31, 1818, they announced:

WARD AND MASON
CABINET MAKERS,
Corner of sycamore & fourth-streets,
TENDER their thanks to their friends and the public, for the encouragement they have received and inform them that they continue their business, in its various branches. Particular attention will be paid to having all orders for furniture finished in a style which shall give satisfaction. The materials, the workmanship, and the fashion of their work is inferior to no furniture made in the western country.⁵

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³CD25, 99.
⁴CD29, 125.
⁵WS, Jan. 31, 1818.
In June they announced that they had enlarged their services to include:

**Upholstering and Paper Hanging**

**WARD & MASON**

**CABINET MAKERS,**

**Corner of Sycamore and Fourth streets.**

WISH to inform the citizens of Cincinnati and its vicinity that they have commenced the UPHOLSTERING and PAPER HANGING BUSINESS. They have employed a young man from Philadelphia where he has served a regular apprenticeship, who is a competent workman, in both professions, and they feel confident that with their own exertions, they will be enabled to give satisfaction.¹

William Lytle purchased $126.25 worth of mattresses from Ward & Mason in May, 1818. The bill, reproduced in Figure 16, listed two curled hair mattresses, one for $48.75 and the other for $52.50 and a straw mattress for $25.00. Attached to the bill was a plea for payment, or "as much as you [Lytle] can spare."²

Their business was a diversified one. Not only did they offer upholstering and wall papering, but also pianofortes. An advertisement in The Western Spy on November 28, 1818, listed pianofortes made by T. L. Evenden from London for sale at their cabinet wareroom. They were "judged by those who have already seen them, to be very good and handsome. They will be sold at a very moderate price for cash."³

In addition, they offered undertaking services. The November 28th issue of the Western Spy carried their advertisement offering "furniture of various kinds, of the latest Eastern Fashions." Ap-

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¹LHCG, June 23, 1818.
²Bill, Lytle Papers, Box 18, #185, MSS, CHS.
³WS, Nov. 28, 1818.
pended to it was the statement: "N.B. They have had made a handsome HEARSE for hire."¹

Moreover, they offered materials for sale. In their advertisement in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette June 23, 1818, they indicated that they had received and had for sale "seven dozen best Russia canvas SACKING BOTTOMS."²

Appended to the forementioned advertisement was the notice:

N.B. Eight or ten Journeymen Cabinet Makers will meet with constant employ by applying as above.³

¹WS, Nov. 28, 1818. ²LHCG, June 23, 1818. ³LHCG, June 23, 1818.
The firm of Ward & Mason terminated before the Cincinnati directory of 1819 went to press. Not only was their partnership missing from the listings, but J. W. Mason was listed in a new capacity—as a member of the J. W. Mason & Co. and Ward was listed by himself, as a cabinetmaker.¹

JAMES WARD, cabinetmaker from Canada, worked in Cincinnati c. 1813-1831. In 1819 his shop was at 205 Main Street; in 1825 at 204 Main Street; and in 1831, on Main Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets.²

Ward may have been in Cincinnati as early as 1813. Goss, in his account of the early events in Cincinnati, discussed the Methodist service held at the Lower Market Space in 1813. He stated that the Reverend Learner Blackman preached; then "brother James Ward gave an exhortation after the manner of olden times."³

Ward was in partnership with John W. Mason in 1817 and 1818; by April of 1819 he was working by himself. At that time he sold a desk to the captain of the Steamboat "General Pike." The bill read:

To; Captain [sic] Desk -- $12
Rec. Payment
April 12, 1819.⁴

In 1817 he was enumerated as the only male in his shop.

He must have been quite successful in partnership with Ward and by himself because by the time the 1820 census was taken his shop had apparently grown from a one-man establishment to a rather large concern. There were twenty in his shop including himself: one male

¹CD19, 132. ²CD19, 147; CD25, 101; CD31, 161.
³Goss, I, 493.
⁴Bill of Lading, General Pike Papers, MSS, CPL.
between ten and fifteen; four between sixteen and eighteen; fourteen between sixteen and twenty-five and one between twenty-six and forty-four. In 1830, the personnel included one male between five and ten; one between ten and fifteen; and one between forty and fifty.¹

On June 17, 1828, he offered six cents for the return of John Nelson, age 19, who had run away. Apparently the young man returned or was returned for the following year he ran away again. At that time Ward inserted the following in both the Daily Cincinnati Gazette and the Daily Gazette:

6 1/4 CENTS REWARD
But no charges paid.

RAN A WAY from the subscriber on the 29th January, an indentured apprentice to the cabinet making business, named JOHN NELSON. He is about 20 years of age, and 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, and of light complexion. It is supposed he will make his way to the upper part of the state. All persons are forbid harbouring or trusting him on any account, as I intend prosecuting all such according to law.

JAMES WARD²

When Ward was with Mason, they advertised a "handsome hearse" for hire.³ Apparently Ward continued in this business. He provided the coffin for which Mason & Company billed William Lytle $25.00 in 1822. (Fig. 6, 109). He also provided the coffin for John H. Piatt for $18.00.⁴ Both of these were very costly coffins. The average cost of those enumerated in inventories was about $5.00.⁵

¹Cin. Gen. 1817; US Cen. 1820, 120; US Cen. 1830, 123; Appendix A.  
Cincinnati Price Book of 1830 priced a plain cherry coffin 6 feet long at $3.00 and pine or poplar at $1.50.\(^1\)

From 1826 on, he owned his shop in addition to other property in the city. In 1830 he paid $25.76 in taxes, comparatively more than most makers.\(^2\) He seems to have been rather successful in his chosen occupation.

SAMUEL WEIR, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829; he was "at George Porter's."\(^3\)

ROBERT WESTLAKE, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1811-1819. In 1818 he was located in the rear of 260 Main Street.\(^4\)

Westlake was in Cincinnati as early as 1811 for he sold furniture to Mr. Lytle in 1811, 1812, and 1813. The bill, reproduced in Figure 17, totaled $52.00, seven dollars of which was for credit received. He sold Lytle a large settee in 1811 for $14.00, twelve Windsor Chairs in 1812 for $24.00 and a large settee in 1813 for $14.00.\(^5\)

THAYER WHITE, cabinetmaker, worked in Cincinnati c. 1829-1831. In 1829 he was located on Sixth Street east of Broadway; in 1831 on Sycamore Street between Third and Fourth Street.\(^6\)

In April of 1829, he made several small purchases from the Wayne Company:

\(^1\)Cincinnati Price Book, 81.  
\(^2\)Ham. Co. Tax, 1826; 1827, 721; 1828, 791; 1829, 909, 1830.  
\(^3\)CD29.  
\(^4\)CD19, 147; Appendix B.  
\(^5\)Lytle Papers, Box 35, MSS, CHS.  
\(^6\)CD29, 129; CD31, 165.
| April 14 | 3 sett glass nobs | 6.00 |
| April 16 | 4 sett Castors | 3.50 |
|          | 2 drawer locks  | .50  |
|          | 2 box locks    | 1.00 |

Fig. 17.—Robert Westlake's bill, 1811-1813.

JOHN WILLIAMSON, cabinetmaker from Pennsylvania, worked in Cincinnati c. 1817-1831. In 1819 he was at 45 West Front Street with a residence at 34 Water; in 1825 on Water Street between Walnut and Vine; in 1829 on Walnut Street near Front; in 1831 he boarded at J. L. Richmond's.  

Williamson's census records indicated that he had his own shop during the period under review and even earlier. The census of 1817 indicated that in the shop were two males over twenty-one; four between twelve and twenty-one; and two under twelve. He may have had a journeyman and four apprentices working for him. In 1820 there were two under ten; one between ten and fifteen; two between sixteen and

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1Wayne Co., Vol. 5, MSS, CHS.
2CD19, 149; CD25, 105; CD29, 131; CD31, 168.
twenty-five; one between twenty-six and forty-four. He may have had five apprentices and a journeyman working for him. The census of 1830 indicated that there were two between ten and fifteen; two between twenty and thirty; and one between fifty and sixty in his house. He may have had two apprentices and a journeyman working for him.¹

One of the apprentices under him in 1820 might have been William Messer. On June 5, 1823, Williamson inserted the following in the Independent Press and Freedom's Advocate:

RAN AWAY

From the subscriber about the 5th ult [sic] an apprentice boy named WILLIAM MESSER. All persons are forbid harboring him under the penalty of the law.

JOHN WILLIAMSON²

ALEXANDER WILSON, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati c.1829-1834. In 1829, he was on Seventh Street near John; in 1831 on Seventh between Western Row and John; and in 1834 near the corner of Abigail and Woodward Streets.³

JOHN WILSON, painter and chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1819 and located at 69 Sycamore Street.⁴

JOHN WINTER, cabinetmaker from England, worked in Cincinnati c. 1825-1837. In 1825 he was on Second between Main and Walnut Streets; in 1829 on Walnut between Second and Third Streets; in 1834 on Front Street near Vine; and in 1836-37 he boarded with James Lowders.⁵

¹Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1820, 134; US Cen. 1830, 92; Appendix A.
²IPFA, June 5, 1823. ³CD29, 132; CD31, 169; CD34, 189.
⁴CD19, 147.
⁵CD25, 106; CD29, 132; CD31, 169; CD34, 190; CD36-37, 191.
From 1824 through 1827 John Winter listed himself as a cabinetmaker on West Columbia Street in the *Cincinnati Advertiser's* Weekly Directory column. Although this address may seem different from the one given in the directory of 1825, it is not. Second Street was originally known as Columbia.

RICHARD WOOD, chairmaker, worked in Cincinnati in 1829, boarding at Mrs. Perkey's boardinghouse on Broadway.

YOUNG & DEEDS, chairmaker partnership, were active in c. 1819. (See separate entries for Jonathan Young and Isaac Deeds.)

Young and Deeds entered into partnership early in 1819. On January 26 the following advertisement appeared in both the *Cincinnati Advertiser* and the *Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette*:

**CHAIR MANUFACTORY.**

THE subscribers beg leave to inform the citizens of Cincinnati and its vicinity that they have commenced business under the firm of YOUNG & DEEDS, three doors west of Vine on Front Street...

Young and Deeds were versatile men who offered many services to the public. Not only did they "carry on the fancy and Windsor chair making, settees, etc.," they also did "wheel making, turning, house painting and glazing."

The partnership of Young and Deeds lasted about six months. The *Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette* of May 25, 1819, carried their dissolution notice.

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1 *CA*, 1824-1827. 2 *CD29*, 133.
3 *CA*, Jan. 26, 1819; *LICH*, Jan. 26, 1819.
4 *CA*, Jan. 26, 1819.
THE firm of Young & Deeds is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All persons having any demands against the said firm will please present them to Jonathan Young for settlement; and all persons to call and pay their bills to Jonathan Young.

JONATHAN YOUNG
ISAAC W. DEEDS

YOUNG & LANNING, chairmaking partnership, were active in c.1828. (See separate entries for Jonathan Young and Nicholas Lanning.)

Very little is known about this firm. On January 26, an advertisement indicated a:

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

THE partnership heretofore existing between the subscribers, trading under the firm of Young & Lanning, was dissolved by mutual consent, on the 8th of July inst. Jonathan Young is authorised [sic] to receive all debts due and settle all demands against the late firm.

JONATHAN YOUNG
NICHOLAS E. LANNING

YOUNG & LEE, chairmaker partnership, were active c. 1819-1820. (See separate entries for Jonathan Young and Isaac M. Lee.)

Young and Lee announced their new partnership on June 25, 1819, in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette:

NOTICE.

The subscriber takes this opportunity to inform the citizens of Cincinnati and its vicinity, that they have entered into partnership, under the firm of Young & Lee, at the old stand of Young & Deeds on Front Street, two doors west of Vine street, where they continue the Fancy and Windsor chair making, settees, &c. together with turning, sign and house painting, and glazing and they hope from the encouragement they have received, that they shall share a part of the public patronage, as they pledge themselves for the faithful performance of the work. All jobs will be thankfully received and punctually attended to.

JONATHAN YOUNG
ISAAC M. LEE

1 LHCG, May 25, 1819. 2 WT, June 18, 1828.
3 LHCG, June 25, 1819.
The partnership lasted a little more than a year. The dis-
solution notice was carried in the *Western Spy* and *Literary Cadet* on
July 6, 1820:

Take Notice,

The firm of YOUNG & LEE is this day dissolved by mutual
consent. All persons indebted to the said firm will call
on JONATHAN YOUNG as soon as possible, and make payment,
as he is desirous to settle up his accounts; and those
having any demand against the firm, will please to present
their accounts for payment.

JONATHAN YOUNG,
ISAAC M. LEE

JONATHAN YOUNG, chairmaker from New Jersey, worked in Cincinnati
c. 1817-1831. In 1819 he was at 64 West Front Street with a
residence at 48 West Front; in 1825 at the rear of the First
Presbyterian Church; in 1829 on Second Street between Main and
Sycamore; in 1831 on Fourth Street between Main and Walnut. In 1819
he was a partner with Isaac Deeds; in 1819-1820, with Isaac M. Lee;
in 1828 with Nicholas Lanning.

Shortly after the termination of his partnership with Isaac
Deeds, Young placed the following in the *Liberty Hall* and *Cincinnati*
*Gazette*:

Chair Making, &c.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform the citizens of Cincinnati
that he will continue the FANCY AND WINDSOR CHAIR MAKING to-
gether with house Painting and Glazing in the shop formerly
occupied by Young & Deeds. From the encouragement he has
received he hopes he shall share a part of the public
patronage.

JONATHAN YOUNG

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1 *WSLC*, July 6, 1820.
2 *CD19*, 151; *CD25*, 106; *CD29*, 135; *CD31*, 174.
3 See 88.
4 *LHCG*, May 28, 1819.
Soon after he went into a partnership with Isaac M. Lee, which was terminated on July 6, 1820.

On the same day (July 6, 1820) he inserted:

Take Notice

THE FANCY AND WINDSOR CHAIRMAKING

WILL hereafter be carried on at the old stand of Young & Lee on Front Street, by Jonathan Young; and as he intends to do no other business, and to keep a good assortment of chairs on hand, he flatters himself, that he will continue to share a part of the public patronage. All orders will be thankfully received and punctually attended to.

Jonathan Young. 1

Although Young indicated in the above advertisement that "he intends to do no other business," he attached to the same advertisement, "N.B. a good workman at the Framing Business will meet with employment if application is made soon." 2 Furthermore, he might have dug Daniel Foote's grave when he died in 1823. The entry in the inventory indicated that Jonathan Young received $2.75 for "digging grave." 3

Young went into business with Nicholas Lanning, an arrangement which was dissolved in 1828. 4 At that time he inserted a notice that he was in the "CHAIR MAKING BUSINESS" at his:

Old stand, in Columbia street, a few doors east of Main where all orders will meet prompt attention. He takes this opportunity to offer his sincere thanks for past encouragement, and hopes to merit a continued and extended business. 5

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1 WSLC, July 6, 1820. 2 WSLC, July 6, 1820.
3 Ham. Co. Rec., Inventories, Daniel Foote, June 26, 1823, 488. There was another Jonathan Young in Cincinnati who might have dug the grave. The inventory indicated that Benjamin Mason provided a hearse and coffin; that John Williamson provided a hearse; and Jonathan Young dug the grave.
4 WT, July 18, 1828. 5 WT, July 18, 1828.
In December, 1829, he:

Removed his chair making establishment and ware-rooms, from the old stand, in Second street near Main, one square east, to the new brick building, two doors east of Sycamore, in Second street . . . 1

Young was enumerated in the census of 1817, 1820 and 1830. In 1817 his establishment included one male between twelve and twenty-one; and three over twenty-one. In 1820 there were two between sixteen and eighteen; four between sixteen and twenty-five; and two between twenty-six and forty-four. One was engaged in manufacturing. In 1830 those listed included: one under five; one between five and ten; three between fifteen and twenty; two between twenty and thirty; and one between forty and fifty. 2 Over the years, he apparently had several apprentices and journeymen under him.

In 1822 he had advertised:

Apprentices Wanted.

THE subscriber wishes to procure TWO APPRENTICES to the Chair Making business, immediately. Boys from the country would be preferred, and must come well recommended.

JONATHAN YOUNG

on Columbia, a little east of Main-street 3

Jonathan Young began paying taxes in Cincinnati in 1824. He owned land prior to this time in Colerain township, Hamilton county; in Ripley county, Indiana; and eight miles from Harrison, Indiana. In 1823 he placed an advertisement that stated the exact location of his holdings indicating that:

1LHCG, Dec. 31, 1829.
2Cin. Cen. 1817; US Cen. 1820, 140; US Cen.1830, 134;
Appendix A.
3CIA, June 25, 1822.
Any person desirous to buy or barter for the above lands, or any part of them, will please call on the subscriber, at his Chair Factory on Columbia Street. [Second Street]¹

He apparently sold or bartered all or some of it for he began paying taxes in Cincinnati in 1824. In 1824 he paid $2.00 in real estate taxes and by 1830 he was paying $25.92 in land taxes.²

Jonathan Young worked during the entire period under review in this study. He contracted several partnerships during this time but also worked as an individual. Census records indicated that he operated a sizeable shop.

These, then, were the cabinet- and chairmakers who made up Cincinnati's furniture industry in the period 1819-1830. Others undoubtedly worked in Cincinnati at this time, but for the most part, the ones enumerated in the preceding pages made up the core of the industry. Some were obviously more important than others, but all formed part of the thriving furniture industry of Cincinnati in the third decade of the nineteenth century.

**Numerical Summary**

Over the span of twelve years (1819-1830) there was a total of 168 cabinet- and chairmakers known to have been working in Cincinnati. Of these, 126 were cabinetmakers and 42 were chairmakers.³ In addition there were 57 allied craftsmen known to have been active in Cincinnati, 1819-1830.⁴

¹CA, Mar. 29, 1823. ²Ham. Co. Tax, 1824-1826; 1827, 792; 1828, 795; 1829, 918; 1830; Appendix ³See compiled lists, Appendix F. ⁴See compiled list, Appendix E.
In 1819, there were 47 furniture makers working in Cincinnati. Of these, 34 were cabinetmakers and 13 chairmakers. The cabinetmakers were:

1. Benjamin Adamson 18. John W. Mason
2. James Armour 19. William Mills
5. James Cameron 22. George Porter
7. William Flint 24. John Scudder
8. John Fuller 25. John Sermon
10. John Hargy 27. Christopher Smith
13. Andrew McAlpin 30. Calvin Swift
15. James McLean 32. Abraham Thorp
17. Benjamin Mason 34. John Williamson

The chairmakers working in Cincinnati in 1819 were:

1. John Addis 8. Joel Perkins
2. James Ayres 9. Jacob C. Roll
3. Fergus Cannon 10. Samuel Stibbs
7. Isaac Lee

In 1825 there were 56 furniture makers working in Cincinnati. Of these, 39 were cabinetmakers and 17 chairmakers. The cabinetmakers were:

1. John Addis
2. James Ayres
3. Fergus Cannon
4. Moses Clark
5. Isaac Deeds
6. Alexander Gibson
7. Isaac Lee
8. Joel Perkins
9. Jacob C. Roll
10. Samuel Stibbs
11. Robert Westlake
12. John Wilson
13. Jonathan Young

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1Charles Lehman advertised as a cabinetmaker and chairmaker. He was listed with the cabinetmakers, however, because it was considered a more skilled trade. See Bridenbaugh, 157. Furthermore, his advertisements tended to emphasize his cabinetware; his only known partnership was with a cabinetmaker, Christopher Smith.
In 1829 there were 123 furniture makers working in Cincinnati. Of these, 96 were cabinetmakers and 27 chairmakers. The cabinetmakers were:

1. Joseph Antrim
2. Edward Bane
3. Peter Burnett
4. William Barwise
5. Peter Beain
6. Edmund Beall
7. Charter H. Bentley
8. James Black
9. Edward Blackburn
10. Joseph Bollman
11. William Bond
12. George Bowen
13. Henry Boyd
14. William Boyd
15. Matthew Brown
16. Joseph Brum
17. James Carr
18. Henry Carver
19. James Chaney
20. Caleb Conclin
21. Joseph Concklin
22. Charles Cooper

The chairmakers were:

1. John Addis
2. James Ayers
3. Nathan Crowell
4. James Denison
5. John Denison
6. Charles W. James
7. Isaac Lee
8. John Lee
9. Joel Perkins
10. Jacob Roll
11. Robert Searin
12. Christian Shotts
13. Gorson C. Skinner
14. Philip Skinner
15. Samuel Stibbs
16. John Vinsonhaller
17. Jonathan Young
23. John A. Crawford  60. Nathaniel Peak
24. William Cummings  61. John Pearce
25. Turpin Daughters  62. William J. Pegg
26. Peter Demott  63. William Perrine
27. George W. Douglas  64. Jacob Peterson
28. Henry Duley  65. Andrew Pittinger
29. John Dunn  66. George Porter
30. Alvin Finney  67. James W. Reed
31. John Free  68. Jacob Rice
32. Cripps Gaskill  69. Andrew Rogers
33. Washington Hally  70. George Rogers
34. John Hargy  71. Paul Rust
35. George Harrison  72. Joseph Saxton
36. William Hawkins  73. John Scott
37. Ralph Hoglan  74. John G. Scott
38. John Hollingshead  75. John Scudder
39. Jacob Huntington  76. John A. Shaw
40. Thomas James  77. John Sheed
41. Lemuel John  78. Jonas Shell
42. Henry Kirpatrick  79. William Sifton
43. James Lee  80. Jonas Stell
44. Charles Lehman  81. Christopher Smith
45. Andrew McAlpin  82. John Broadfoot Smith
46. Joseph McGammon  83. William B. Smith
47. James McLean  84. John Soward
48. Benjamin Mason  85. _______ Stephenore
49. John W. Mason  86. Miller Stewart
50. Washington Mason  87. Reuben Swift
51. David Medsker  88. John Tailor
52. Joseph Miller  89. George Templeton
53. Isaac Mills  90. Abraham Thorp
54. Thaddeus Mills  91. John Urwiller
55. William Mills  92. James Ward
56. _______ Mulford  93. Samuel Weir
57. Nelson Musgrove  94. Thayer White
58. Benjamin Osborn  95. John Williamson
59. James Overstreet  96. John Winter

The chairmakers were:


1 Daughters may not have worked in Cincinnati in 1829. See 70-71.
The number of furniture makers and their percentage of increase from 1819 to 1829 is summarized in Table 1.

### TABLE 1

**NUMBER OF FURNITURE MAKERS WORKING IN CINCINNATI IN 1819, 1825, AND 1829, AND THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE FROM 1819 TO 1829**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Makers Working</th>
<th>Per Cent Increase 1819-1829</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1819</td>
<td>1825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinetmakers</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairmakers</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was a 181 per cent increase in the number of cabinetmakers from 1819-1829; 108 per cent increase in chairmakers; and a 162 per cent in the total number of furniture makers.

There was a greater increase in the number of furniture makers from 1825 to 1829 than from 1819 to 1825—a reflection of the improving economic conditions. Figure 18 illustrates this increase. The number of chairmakers increased only slightly compared to the number of cabinetmakers.
Summary of Partnerships

At least seven partnerships existed among cabinetmakers who worked in Cincinnati between 1819-1830:

1. Barwise & Conclin (c.1824-1825)
2. Beall & Brown (c.1829)
3. J. W. Mason & Co. (c.1819-1831)
4. Mason & Atkins (c.1829)
5. Schooley & Blackburn (c.1829-1830)
6. Smith & Lehman (c.1821-1823)
7. Ward & Mason (c.1817-1819)

Two of the partnerships were contracted with other than cabinetmakers. Benjamin Mason operated a lumber yard with Mark Atkins. Edward Blackburn was in partnership with Israel Schooley, a "musical maker."

The five remaining partnerships were among cabinetmakers. All of them
were of short duration except J. W. Mason & Co., which lasted from 1819 to 1831.

Eight partnerships among chairmakers were found during the period under review:

1. Kerr, Ross & Geyer (c.1830-1838)
2. Lee & Lee (c.1825-1829)
3. Lee & Skinner (c.1822-1825)
4. Roll & Deeds (c.1818-1819)
5. P. & C. C. Skinner (c.1825-1830)
6. Young & Deeds (c.1819)
7. Young & Lanning (c.1828)
8. Young & Lee (c.1819)

Several of the chairmakers were involved in more than one partnership. Young was involved in three while Isaac Lee, Philip Skinner, and Isaac Deeds were in two. Two of the partnerships, Lee & Lee and P. & C. C. Skinner, involved brothers. The partnerships of P. & C. C. Skinner and Lee & Lee were the most stable while the rest were of short duration.

**Summary of the Relative Importance of Furniture Makers**

As was evident from the discussion of individual makers, the furniture makers working in Cincinnati varied in their importance within the craft. The masters, especially those who operated the larger shops, in partnership or alone, really set the pace for the industry as a whole. Their identification was possible because their establishments were more productive than the others and consequently they tended to advertise in the local newspapers. Their advertisements identified the location of their shops, the furniture offered for sale and indicated their focus in the industry. In some cases, evidence of sales to prominent people verified their acceptance
by the socially prominent people of Cincinnati. This type of evidence backed up with census data and tax information helped to establish their relative importance in the industry.

Of the master furniture makers, some were relatively more important during the period under review. Their relative importance was, in general, based upon the length of time they worked in Cincinnati and consequent influence upon the industry; the extent and focus of their advertisements; extant bills; and tax and census records.

To facilitate understanding of the relative importance of the master craftsmen they were ranked within the two branches of the craft--cabinetmakers and chairmakers. Those ranked "1" were considered the most important and consequently the most influential in the industry during the period of review (1819-1830); those ranked "2" less important and influential; and those ranked "3" least important and influential.

Cabinetmakers

From the evidence in the foregoing discussion of the individual furniture makers, it was concluded that the cabinetmakers listed in Table 2 were masters of their respective shops. They were probably the most important and influential of the cabinetmakers working in Cincinnati during the period under review.¹

¹Edward Blackburn and John Scudder were not included because the first advertised as a piano fortemaker, while the latter, as a steamboat agent. They may or may not have operated a cabinetshop during the period under review. William Hawkins was not included because it is not known if he operated a shop during the period under review. He was not enumerated in the 1830 census and there were no Cincinnati tax records. The secretary-bookcase executed by him was dated "early 1830's."
TABLE 2
CINCINNATI CABINETMAKERS KNOWN TO BE MASTERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SHOPS, 1819-1830: RANKED ACCORDING TO THEIR RELATIVE IMPORTANCE DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles Lehman</td>
<td>c.1820-1837</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew McAlpin</td>
<td>c.1817-1863</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John W. Mason</td>
<td>c.1815-1843</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Mason</td>
<td>c.1802-1843</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Porter</td>
<td>c.1817-1849</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Smith</td>
<td>c.1802-1850</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Ward</td>
<td>c.1813-1831</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Williamson</td>
<td>c.1817-1831</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Barwise</td>
<td>c.1822-1829</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Brown</td>
<td>c.1825-1829</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Conclin</td>
<td>c.1824-1830</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Saxton</td>
<td>c.1825-1831</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Armour</td>
<td>c.1819-1820</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmund Beall</td>
<td>c.1829-1837</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemuel John</td>
<td>c.1823-1831</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Mundall</td>
<td>c.1821</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Porter</td>
<td>c.1815-1819</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rank "1": the cabinetmakers considered most important. All those ranked "1", except Lehman, were in Cincinnati the entire time under review and in most cases longer. Lehman was in Cincinnati by 1820.

Most of these advertised extensively in the local newspapers. George Porter advertised most of all; Christopher Smith and Andrew McAlpin, to a lesser degree; John Williamson advertised least of all. Prominent Cincinnatians purchased from all except Lehman.

All, except John W. Mason, paid realty taxes in 1830. Benjamin Mason paid the highest taxes, $88.60, followed by

1 John W. Mason was in partnership with Benjamin Mason. See 111.
Christopher Smith, $40.56; James Ward, $35.76; Charles Lehman $29.52; Andrew McAlpin $21.46; and John Williamson, $15.12. (The highest amount paid by a furniture maker in 1830 was $88.60 and the least $.96.)

Census records indicated that Lehman, McAlpin and Porter had rather large households. Lehman had twelve men in the journeyman age bracket in his household. Smith's, Ward's, and B. Mason's were smaller. J. W. Mason was not enumerated in the census of 1820 or 1830.

Rank "2": the cabinetmakers considered less important. Those ranked "2" were not in Cincinnati as long as those ranked "1", and therefore did not influence the industry over as long a span of time. They were in Cincinnati between five to eight years. During this period of time, they all advertised to a lesser degree than those ranked "1". None paid realty taxes. No furniture bills of these makers were found. Only Conclin was enumerated in the census and apparently operated a rather small shop.

Rank "3": the cabinetmakers considered least important. Those ranked "3" worked in Cincinnati one to two years. All, except Benjamin Porter advertised at least once. No furniture bills were found issued by these makers during the period of review. None was enumerated in the census of 1820 or 1830. Only Benjamin Porter paid realty taxes—$1.68 in 1830.

\[1\] Bills of sale issued by Porter were found, but all were dated prior to 1819.
From the evidence in the foregoing discussion of the individual furniture makers, it was concluded that the chairmakers listed in Table 3 were masters of their respective shops. They were probably the most important and influential of the chairmakers working in Cincinnati during the period under review.

**TABLE 3**

CINCINNATI CHAIRMAKERS KNOWN TO BE MASTERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SHOPS, 1819-1830: RANKED ACCORDING TO THEIR RELATIVE IMPORTANCE DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles W. James</td>
<td>c.1824-1834</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Lee</td>
<td>c.1819-1834</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Skinner</td>
<td>c.1822-1837</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Stibbs</td>
<td>c.1817-1853</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Young</td>
<td>c.1817-1831</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Crowell</td>
<td>c.1820-1829</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lee</td>
<td>c.1825-1829</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Roll</td>
<td>c.1817-1840</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corson Skinner</td>
<td>c.1825-1836</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses Clark</td>
<td>c.1818-1822</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Deeds</td>
<td>c.1817-1819</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Denison</td>
<td>c.1825</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Geyer</td>
<td>c.1830-1858</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enoch Kerr</td>
<td>c.1830-1837</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Lanning</td>
<td>c.1828-1829</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Ross</td>
<td>c.1830-1846</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rank "1": the chairmakers considered most important. All those ranked "1" except Charles James and Philip Skinner, were in Cincinnati the entire time under review in this study. Philip Skinner worked nine years and Charles James, seven years. Both were, however, quite active during the time they were in Cincinnati.
All advertised extensively in the local newspapers. As an individual James advertised most of all. When advertisements in partnerships were considered, Young, Skinner, and Lee advertised almost as much. Stibbs advertised least of all. James, Lee, and Skinner invariably ended their advertisements with a solicitation for steamboat and hotel orders, and orders from a distance. This was apparently an important part of their business.

All, except Charles W. James paid realty taxes in 1830. Jonathan Young paid the highest taxes, $25.92; followed by Isaac Lee, $18.72; Philip Skinner, $16.44; and Samuel Stibbs, $17.28.

Census records indicated that there were a disproportionate number of males in all their households. Judging from the 1830 census, the shops were about the same size.

**Rank "2": the chairmakers considered less important.** All those ranked "2" worked in Cincinnati five or more years. Jacob Roll was there the entire time under review but his importance seems to stem from before the panic of 1819. Nathan Crowell worked in Cincinnati about ten years, but did not advertise as extensively as those ranked "2." All advertised in the local newspapers but to a lesser degree than those ranked "1." Census records indicated that their households were generally smaller than those ranked "1" with one exception. There were eight males over fifteen in Corson Skinner's household. Only Corson Skinner paid realty taxes—$9.60 in 1830.

**Rank "3": the chairmakers considered least important.** Those ranked "3" worked in Cincinnati one to four years. All, except Deeds,
advertised at least once. None were enumerated in the census of 1820 or 1830, nor did any pay realty taxes during the period under review.

To summarize, a considerable number of cabinet- and chair-makers worked in Cincinnati during the period under discussion in this study (1819-1830). A numerical summary of these makers indicates the extent of the industry and reflects its growth from 1819-1830. A summary of partnerships enacted indicates the extent of fraternization within the industry. Determination of the relative importance of the furniture makers serves to indicate those who set the pace for the industry as a whole.
CHAPTER V

CINCINNATI FURNITURE INDUSTRY
1819-1830

At an early date, Cincinnati was destined to become an important furniture producing center. It was settled in December of 1788 and just a few years later in 1795, Campbell and Williams advertised for "a Journeyman or Two, who understand [sic] Cabinet Making . . ."1 Lyon and M'Ginnis informed the public in 1800 that they had desks, escritoirs [sic] Dining and Breakfast Tables, Clock Cases, &c. for sale.2 By 1815 sideboards, secretaries, bureaus, settees, and chairs "elegantly gilt and varnished" were shipped by steamboat to the far reaches of the American frontier.3 The year that Cincinnati became a city, 1819 (the first year covered by this study) the value of furniture made in the nineteen shops was set at $95,000.4

The Local Market

Cincinnatians purchased furniture locally even though they had access to the Eastern market where there were many important

1Centinel of the Northwest Territory, Oct. 8, 1795.
2The Western Spy and Hamilton Gazette, July 9, 1800.
3Daniel Drake, Cincinnati in 1815 (Cincinnati: Printed by Looker & Wallace, 1815), 144.
4CD19, 49.
furniture makers in the early part of the nineteenth century. Among them, Duncan Phyfe and Charles-Honoré Lannuier of New York, John and Thomas Seymour of Boston, and John Shaw of Annapolis. The furniture of these masters could usually be purchased only by the wealthier citizens of their respective areas. Since the financial disaster of 1819 left the city "prostrated" and credit problems remained a factor during the entire time under review, Cincinnatians, for the most part, did not have the money to spend for furniture from the East.

Furthermore, the cost of importing furniture from the East was prohibitive. From ten to fifty per cent was added to the initial cost through the custom of discounting Cincinnati notes. Transportation costs were such an added factor that "the high cost of shipping finished goods from the Eastern seaboard acted as a protective tariff for 'infant' Cincinnati industries." In addition, shipping conditions were very unreliable. Not only might furniture be lost in mishaps on the river, but it might be delayed on the river for months at a time, due to low water conditions, whether shipped out of Pittsburgh or New Orleans.

In 1819 the Cincinnati Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Manufactures and Domestic Economy was formed to help stabilize the economy. This in effect protected the local furniture industry (along with other enterprises). They pledged among themselves not to import items from the East:

1. Goss, I, 140.
2. Rowe, 83.
3. Ross and Wiester, 112.
We will abstain from the use of imported goods of every description as far as may be practicable, and we will give preference to articles that are of the growth and manufacture of our own country, when the latter can be procured.¹

Furniture could be procured in Cincinnati. In 1819, according to tabulations in this study, there were forty-six journeymen working in Cincinnati's fifteen cabinet- and four chairshops.²

Prominent Cincinnatians purchased their furniture from local makers. General William Lytle bought chairs from Jacob Roll and Isaac Deeds ³ and many other pieces from John and Benjamin Mason ⁴ and Benjamin Porter.⁵ Arthur St. Clair, Jr., son of the first governor of the Northwest territory and a politician in his own right, purchased fancy chairs and settees from Samuel Stibbs.⁶ John H. Piatt, a local banker, was a good customer of Benjamin Porter,⁷ Jacob Roll⁸ and Isaac Deeds. Edmund Harrison purchased a dining table and bedsteads from Christopher Smith.⁹ Charles Wayne, a local merchant, bought from Charles W. James.¹⁰ Philip Grandine, local businessman, and Doctor Hunt "bot of" Benjamin Porter.¹¹

Cincinnati furniture was apparently used in one of the most imposing houses in the city, the Lytle Mansion. Amelia Lewis Thomson indicated in her "Recollections" that the Lytle estate "had a whole city square filled with beautiful trees; with a lovely old colonial house in the center." She went on to say that from their house

¹LHCH, Aug. 17, 1819. ²See Appendix E. ³CD19, 49. ⁴See 131. ⁵See 108-109. ⁶See 120. ⁷See 153. ⁸See 121. ⁹See 129. ¹⁰See 147. ¹¹See 85. ¹²See 121.
across the street, she observed only the finest clad citizens calling upon the Lytles.¹

Chambrun described the residence as doing "honor to the community." She indicated that:

Its rosewood mantels, mirrors, and balustrade long remained the finest things in domestic architecture of which Cincinnati could boast. His wife's treasured spinet, dated Padua, 1714, looked well in these surroundings; it had already been her pride in Philadelphia, whence it was conveyed across the Alleghanies on muleback. The parlor was decked with the imported French Wallpaper, now worth its weight in gold: rare paradise birds flit among exotic blossoms on an emerald background. . . . This hospitable mansion was ever open to visitors . . . ²

General William Lytle purchased many pieces of furniture from local makers, including sideboards, tables, chairs and bedsteads.

When William Greene, lawyer and later secretary to Governor Worthington, moved to Cincinnati in the early 1820's, he chose to buy much of his furniture in Cincinnati. He discussed the matter in a letter to his fiancée, Miss Abby B. Lyman of North Hampton, Massachusetts. The letter, dated March 13, 1821, stated that:

I agree with you perfectly in regard to the expediency of ascertaining the sirs [sic] of the house and rooms we shall occupy, before we purchase our furniture.--But rent is so high here, that I think it best not to take a house until our return.--My friend Bosson will engage us a house during my absence: and will supply it with such articles of furniture as we should find it best to purchase here and have it ready for our reception immediately on our arrival. --chairs, tables, bedsteads, bureaus and such bulky articles, I am inclined to think we should find it cheaper to purchase here, on account of the expense of transportation.--Beds, bedding, carpets, looking glasses, china &c.

¹"Recollections of Amelia Lewis Thomson 1799-1903 and her daughter Amelia Thomson Watts." MSS. Copy of the original filed at CHS.

²Chambrun, 96.
we will bring out with us, (or rather have brought) from
the Eastward . . . 1

William Greene was very socially orientated. According to
Chambrun, when the Greenes began housekeeping they:

Found a veritable garden spot beside the socially inclined
Stetsons and the capitalist Samuel C. Foote who possessed
what was then the show place on Third Street. A fine view
commanded the river and the Kentucky hills. The house
presented the aspect of a London terrace, being elevated
above a long low one-story building . . . 2

William Greene, who expected to move in the best of social
circles, apparently felt that Cincinnati furniture was suited to his
needs (and pocketbook). He apparently purchased chairs, tables,
bedsteads, bureaus and other bulky pieces of furniture locally.

Sofas have traditionally been considered somewhat of a
prestige piece of furniture. Yet, when Charles Neave, a Cincinnati
merchant with strong economic ties to the East, purchased a sofa in
1830, he bought it from the Cincinnati cabinetmaker, Andrew McAlpin.
In "Neave's Expence [sic] Book for Housekeeping Commenced Jan. 1,
1829," the entry for June 1830 read, "Sofa & pair Tables from
McAlpin $125.00." At the end of the year (1830), he summarized
their expenses and indicated that the total cost of housekeeping was
$1468.37 1/2, of which $275.00 was paid for rent, $15.00 for Bazaar
Subscription Balls, and $163.00 for furniture, blinds and rugs. 3
Close to ten per cent of their expenditures was earmarked for a sofa
and pair of tables. Mr. Neave was apparently conscious of this

1 Letter, William Greene to Abby B. Lyman, March 13, 1821,
Greene-Roelker Papers, MSS, CHS.
2 Chambrun, 136.
3 Neave's Expense Book, MSS, CHS.
expenditure when he made the following entry in his expenditure book at the beginning of 1830:

I prophesy we shall spend $150 less [sic] this year than we did last—but wife say we shall spend more—we shall see!!
C. Neave.1

Important to Cincinnatians was the willingness of the local furniture makers to extend credit. In 1820, J. W. Mason & Company placed an advertisement in the *Cincinnati Inquisitor Advertiser* asking those who owed them to please pay their bills, or sign promissory notes or "suits will be commenced without respect to persons."2

General William Lytle was one of those indebted to him. He owed on his account from 1819 to 1824. In the final settlement of the bill on September 8, 1824, Lytle paid an additional $23.40 for five year's interest.3

In most cases, however, interest seems not to have been charged. The maker, eager for sales especially in the hard years of the depression, extended credit. He hoped that the purchaser would pay as soon as possible. In July, 1818, Ward and Mason added to their bill to William Lytle:

Gen. Lytle will be so kind as to give the bearer [sic] have the above or as much as you can spare as we have purchased quantity of lumber and obliged yours--Ward & Mason.4

Roll, in his advertisement to sell chairs of April 6, 1822, added:

P.S. Those persons having unsettled accompts [sic] with J. C. Roll will please call on him prior to the first of

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1Neave's Expense Book, MSS, CHS. In 1829 their yearly expenses totaled $1440.93; in 1830, $1468.37; and in 1831, $1651.06.
2CIA, Nov. 21, 1820.
3See 108-109.
4Bill, Lytle Papers, Box 18, MSS, CHS.
April, and have them closed by cash or note, as no further indulgence will be asked or given. J.C.R.

It seems that interest was charged only after bills were long overdue. Then, notes were signed in lieu of payment.

George Porter apparently gave a special discount for cash purchases. In his advertisement of February 5, 1825, in the Cincinnati Advertiser, he stated, "I would invite the public to my WAREROOM . . . where they may buy cheap for CASH."2

Barter was the accepted medium of exchange. Benjamin Porter, cabinetmaker, worked extensively for the John H. Piatt Co.3 Found among the Piatt papers were six notes from Porter requesting the Piatt Co. to "deliver the Bearer" specific sums in goods on his account. The following was typical of the notes:

Mr. Grandin
Please to Deliver the Bearer twenty two Dollars in goods on my account
February [sic] 8, 1818. Benj^ A. Porter4

These were apparently persons owed by Porter for materials or services rendered. They may or may not have been involved in the furniture business.

A closer link is evident in the note issued by the chairmaker Jacob C. Roll to Moses P. Clark. On October 10, 1818, Roll requested that Clark be paid $7.50 "out of your [Piatt's] Store" and charged to his account. Clark, a chairmaker, may have worked for Roll. When Clark and Crowell purchased Roll's chair concern, Roll endorsed them

1WSLC, April 6, 1822. 2CA, Feb. 5, 1825. 3See 121.
4John H. Piatt Account, Box 33, MSS, CPS.
from personal knowledge of their ability.¹

More specific evidence of furniture sold by barter was gleaning from the farm accounts of Elnathan Kemper. His Daybook revealed that on February 15, 1820, J. W. Mason & Company received one load of wood in payment for a bookcase. Kemper also exchanged with Christopher Smith $4.50 worth of wood for a cradle.²

Barter was in fact, the saving grace during the depression. Judge Burnet related that when times were so difficult, cabinetmakers resorted to barter:

A cabinet maker, for instance, would want two pounds of butter, amounting to twenty-five or thirty cents. Without a penny in his pocket he would take his basket, go to market, find a farmer who had some, take two pounds, and give him a table, bedstead or even a bureau, agreeing to take the rest out in truck, as he would call it.³

Firms advertised their willingness to barter. The cabinetmakers Barwise and Conclin, in their advertisement in The National Republican and Ohio Political Register on March 19, 1824, stated that "FURNITURE will be exchanged for Country Produce."⁴ The chair-maker, James Denison indicated in the Cincinnati Emporium on October 13, 1825, that "any produce brought by his country friends, which he may want, will be taken at cash prices."⁵ The exchange of one good for another was still being advertised in 1830. Charles W. James's advertisement indicated that "old chairs repaired or taken in exchange."⁶

¹WSIC, March 16, 1822.
²Elnathan Kemper Daybook, Misc. Vol. 204, MSS, OHS.
³Goss, I., 140. Quoting Judge Burnet.
⁴NRPR, Mar. 19, 1824.
⁵CE, Oct. 13, 1825.
⁶NRPR, Jan. 22, 1830.
The local furniture makers presumably furnished furniture for the many hotels operating in Cincinnati. Although houses were continually being built to accommodate the teeming population, local builders could not keep up with the demand. Between 1824 and 1829, when the population doubled, there was an acute housing shortage. Hotels were built to accommodate those inconvenienced. Even the infamous Mrs. Trollope was forced to spend some time in a hotel before suitable housing could be found. Hotels became quite "elegant" where the best in food and wines and the latest in fashions could be savored.1

The firm of P. & C. C. Skinner repeatedly advertised for the hotel business indicating that "hotels furnished with chairs and settees on the shortest notice."2 Charles W. James also repeatedly advertised for orders from the hotels. He was more specific in his ability to supply their demands. He boasted that:

Having been extensively engaged, for five years past, in furnishing . . . Hotels, in Philadelphia, he is prepared to receive orders of that kind of work . . . .3

Kerr, Ross and Geyer in 1830 indicated that they could supply hotels "to order at the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms."4

Cincinnati was a very important steamboat center, and the local chairmakers were intent on receiving business from the steamboat trade. Of the chair masters who advertised, either alone or in

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1Harlow, 30.
2DG, Aug. 6, 1828. See Appendix C. Code 5 indicates advertisements that carried hotel focused advertisements.
3NRPR, Aug. 8, 1828.
4LHCG, Feb. 14, 1830; DG, April 7, 1830.
partnership during the period under review, about half of them offered to furnish chairs to steamboats on the shortest notice. The firms appealing to the steamboat trade were Clark & Crowell, Charles W. James, Kerr, Ross & Geyer, Lee & Lee, Lee & Skinner, Isaac Lee, and Philip & Corson C. Skinner.¹

One cabinetmaker became an agent in the building and furnishing of the steamboat "De Witt Clinton." In 1826, John Scudder indicated in the National Crisis that he had a lien on the "De Witt Clinton" for $1,300 for building and furnishing the boat and intended to seize it in any port where he could get his claim satisfied.²

It was very likely that some venture furniture was shipped into Cincinnati to compete with the local makers. There were many auction sales which could have comprised such shipments. On September 26, 1823, L. Lyon inserted the following in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette:

The subscriber informs, the public generally that he has opened a Furniture Warehouse next door to his auction and Commission Store, where he is ready to receive all kinds of New and Second hand Furniture Either for public or private sale. His furniture Sale will take place on Friday, the 19th instant, and afterwards the first and third Friday in every month.

I. Lyon, Auctioneer

The Editors of the Liberty Hall, Cincinnati and the Gazette, Pittsburgh will insert the above advertisement 6 times & forward their accounts to this office.³

How much venture furniture was shipped from Pittsburgh or elsewhere for sale in Cincinnati is not known. The only mention found of

¹See compiled newspaper advertisement Appendix C.
²NC, Feb. 6, 1826.
³LHCG, Feb. 14, 1830; DG, April 7, 1830.
furniture shipped into Cincinnati was in 1827.

In the National Republican and Ohio Political Register under the General Agency column, sundry items were advertised for sale as well as solicitations for jobs and help. Listed on February 16, 1827, and running through March 16, was the following:

For sale, a few sets of elegant Fancy CHAIRS, just arrived from New York, and are left at this Office. They are very cheap and very good.¹

No other evidence of chairs or any furniture being shipped into Cincinnati during the years under consideration (1819-1830) was found in the course of this study.²

The Export Market

In 1819 Cincinnati was at the beginning of a long financial depression—one that was nation-wide. Cincinnati's businesses were at low ebb and very little was shipped out of Cincinnati; much of the furniture made at this time was bartered for the necessities of life. It is probably significant that the Cincinnati Directory of 1819, and that of 1825 did not comment about furniture being shipped out of Cincinnati, while subsequent directories did.

Furthermore, Cincinnati furniture makers competed with other locations for the business of the Western Country. Cabinet- and

¹NRPR, Feb. 16, 1827.
²Bills of lading consulted listed no furniture shipped into or out of Cincinnati. However, some might have been shipped in the numerous "boxes" which were designated by weight and name of receiver or sender, none of which were cabinet- or chairmakers.
chairmakers had settled in New Orleans, throughout Kentucky and Indiana,\(^1\) and very likely throughout the southwest. In fact as early as 1819, an Indiana cabinetmaker advertised in the *Cincinnati Advertiser*. He indicated that he had "on hand and will keep all kinds of CABINET FURNITURE." He implored "those wishing cabinet furniture . . . to call and examine for themselves." He went on to state:

Families descending the Ohio River, can be supplied at the shortest notice, by calling at his shop in the town of Levenworth, Crawford County, Indiana, one mile below the mouth of Big Blue river. . . .\(^2\)

He not only inserted the advertisement in Cincinnati, but also instructed the editors of the *Louisville Kentucky Herald*, and the *Pittsburgh Statesman*, to run the advertisement for six months and forward the bill.\(^3\)

In the Indiana newspapers researched, Arthur Whallon found no evidence of Cincinnati furniture makers advertising prior to 1836. Nor did he find any instance of Indiana cabinetmakers comparing their prices with Cincinnati prices before that time. Whallon did find, however, that "in our early papers, [prior to 1830] there were always advertisements from Cincinnati merchants, and manufacturers, etc., and competition was keen." Yet no mention was found in connection with Cincinnati furniture until 1836 when Joseph Peelman advertised

\(^1\) Lists of furniture makers for these areas have been compiled. See Mary James Leach, "Josiah . . . and other Kentucky Cabinetmakers," *Antiques* LXV (Feb., 1954), 138-139; Charles Ravenway, "The Forgotten Arts and Crafts of Colonial Louisiana," *Antiques* LXIV (Sept., 1953), 192-195. Arthur Whallon has researched Indiana newspapers and compiled a list of the furniture makers working there. Whallon's research will be published shortly by *Antiques* Publishing Company.

\(^2\) *CA*, May 18, 1819. \(^3\) *CA*, May 18, 1819.
from Vevay that "one or two good Cabinet Makers wanted immediately to whom constant employment will be given and Cincinnati prices paid."¹

The only known instance of a cabinetmaker advertising in a distant newspaper was gleaned from Joseph Saxton's advertisement for "CABINET MAKING" in the Cincinnati American (For the Country). On February 25, 1830, he attached to his advertisement:

The Louisville Focus, the Natchez Galaxy and the Pittsburgh Statesman are requested to publish the above advertisement six time each, and forward their accounts to this office for payment.²

It was not until 1822 that any of the local advertisements focused specifically on a market at a distance from Cincinnati. However, some advertisements before then did encourage business from the country. J. W. Mason and Company in their advertisement of January 1, 1820, indicated that they had a large amount of furniture in their warehouse and "orders from the citizens or from persons in the country will be promptly attended to."³ It was assumed that they meant customers residing in the country in the adjacent surrounding area.

In 1822 Lee & Skinner contracted with Jeremiah Diller to sell chairs in Louisville. To their advertisement in the Cincinnati Inquisitor Advertiser of May 21, 1822, they added:

Persons wishing to furnish their houses, will please to call at their Ware Room ... Cincinnati ... or at the Ware Room of Jeremiah Diller, Louisville, a few doors from the corner of Market-street, near the Market House; and select such as may please their fancy.⁴

¹Letter Arthur Whallon to Donna Streifthau, Dec. 6, 1969.
²CAFC, Feb. 25, 1830.
³WSGA, Jan. 1, 1820.
⁴CIA, May 21, 1822.
Lee was no longer in business with Skinner in 1825 when he next focused his advertisement on business from a distance. He and his new partner, John Lee, inserted on July 20, 1825, an advertisement for their chair factory. In it they stated that "orders from a distance thankfully received and promptly attend to."\(^1\)

Consistent appeal for orders from a distance began appearing about 1828, and in 1829 and 1830 they appeared regularly in the local newspapers. The chairmaking firms that advertised in this fashion were Charles W. James; Kerr, Ross & Geyer; Isaac M. Lee; Lee & Lee; Lee & Skinner; and Philip & Corson C. Skinner. These firms were probably important exporters of furniture during the period under review. Only one cabinetmaker, Joseph C. Saxton, focused on business "at a distance."

The local chairmakers must have organized to advertise Cincinnati as an important chair center. On April 7, 1830, five chairmakers advertised in the *Daily Gazette*. Their advertisements appeared in one column and are reproduced in Plate VIII. The individual advertisements are shown in Plates IX-XIII, in the order they appeared in the column. Plate IX shows the advertisement of Kerr, Ross & Geyer; Plate X, Isaac M. Lee; Plate XI, P. & C. C. Skinner; Plate XII, Jonathan Young; and Plate XIII, Charles W. James. Perhaps the last advertisement reflects the sentiments of all. James eloquently stated, "THE subscriber most respectfully informs the Citizens of the West . . ."\(^2\)

\(^1\)CE, July 20, 1825. \(^2\)DG, April 7, 1830.
The subscribers take this method of tendering their thanks to their friends and the public, for the patronage heretofore received, and of informing them that they are now manufacturing, and intend keeping on hand, at the above stand, an extensive and elegant assortment of

FANCY AND WINDSOR CHAIRS,
SETTEES, SOFAS, &c.

with STUFFED, CANE, RUSH or WOOD SEATS; of the latest and most fashionable patterns, warranted equal in durability and workmanship to any Manufactured in the Western country.

Steamboats and Hotels furnished to order at the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms.

Orders from a distance thankfully received and promptly attended to.

KERR, ROSS & GEYER.

Cin. March 5, 1830.
CHAIR FACTORY.
ISAAC M. LEE,
CONTINUES to carry on the CHAIR MAKING business on Front street, between Walnut and Vine streets, Cincinnati, where he makes, in the most neat and elegant manner,
Fancy Chairs and Settees.
In great variety, of the latest and most improved fashions from the Eastward. He warrants his work equal to any manufactured west of the mountains, and not inferior to any made at the east. Long experience in the business gives him confidence in speaking thus promptly. He invites the public to call and judge for themselves.
Orders from Steamboat owners thankfully received and promptly attended to.
168-tf.
ADVERTISEMENT OF P. & C. C. SKINNER

PLATE XI

P. & C. C. SKINNER,

TAKE this method of expressing their thanks to their friends and customers for the very extensive patronage heretofore shown them in their line of business; also, to inform them and the public that they continue to keep on hand a large assortment, consisting of GREECE, DRAWING ROOM, FANCY and WINDSOR CHAIRS, with stuffed, cane, flag, or wooden seats;

SETTEES and SOCIABLES to match.

Also—CURLED MAPLE, CHAIRS and SETTEES, of the latest and most improved patterns; FANCY GREECE, PIER TABLES and GREECE SOFAS, made to order—Specimens may be seen at their WARE-ROOM on Sycamore, between Front and Second Streets.

Their friends and the public are invited to call and examine for themselves. The patronage which has already been extended to them, is sufficient proof of the quality and superiority of their work.

All orders thankfully received and punctually attended to.

Cincinnati, Sept. 4, 1829.
CHAIR FACTORY REMOVED.

THE subscriber respectfully informs his customers and the public, that he has removed his chair making establishment and ware room, from the old stand, in Second street near Main, one square east, to the new brick building, two doors east of Sycamore, in Second street; where he has, and will keep constantly on hand, a very large and complete assortment of

Fancy and Windsor Chairs, Settees, &c.

Which are warranted, for durability and elegance, equal to any in the city.  The room having been newly furnished, persons wishing to purchase, are invited to call and examine for themselves, as that will be the most satisfactory recommendation.

JONATHAN YOUNG.

dec 12, 18__
CHAIRS AND LOOKING GLASSES.

The Subscriber most respectfully informs the citizens of the West, that in addition to his very extensive and elegant assortment of CHAIRS of all descriptions, he has just opened a large assortment of LOOKING GLASSES, manufactured by Mr. W. L. Jones, who has lately arrived from New York.

The patterns are entirely new, and the workmanship will be warranted good, and sold by Mr. Jones' Factory is in this City, and he is engaged to furnish a regular supply. Persons wanting CHAIRS or GLASSES, will please visit the Warehouse, corner of Fourth and Symes streets, in the large brick house.

C. W. JAMES.

Jan 16
The chairs depicted in these advertisements were found heading many of the chair advertisements and were used interchangeably by most of the makers. Three of the cuts illustrated were included in J. A. and U. P. James's "Specimens of Type Ornaments and Cuts" used in connection with their publishing business in Cincinnati. One of the cuts was missing from the book, the one illustrated in Plate IX, on the left. Since many illustrations had been removed from the book, it was very likely that the missing cut might have been included among the original cuts.\(^1\)

A fancy chair, similar to the cut in question, is in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones of Lebanon, Ohio. The chair, shown in Plate XIV is very light in weight, constructed primarily of maple, held together by wooden pegs. This fancy chair may or may not have been made in Cincinnati. However, it is representative of the chairs made in Cincinnati during the period under review. The Jones's chair is very similar to the chair depicted in Cincinnati chairmakers' advertisements, and therefore very likely available from Cincinnati makers.\(^2\)

Mrs. Otto, in her discussion of chairs of the era, indicated that fancy chairs were supplied to "hundreds of Ohio River steamboats as well as furniture for hotels."\(^3\) Drepperd stated that:

}\(^1\) U. P. James, "Specimens of Type Ornaments and Cuts," a portfolio of cuts, n.d. Cincinnati, Ohio. James established a stereotype foundry and printing office in 1831. However, the cuts obviously predate 1831.

\(^2\) The chair in question is reminiscent of fancy chairs shown by Kovel and Kovel, specifically Plate 139, page 65. (Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Clayton Sikes, Jr.)

\(^3\) Otto, 54.
Every steamer on the Ohio had saloons and cabins furnished with these chairs. All the passenger barges plying the canals, all the steam-towed barges on the rivers, had these chairs on board.  

Lea referred to them as "steamboat fancies." 

Drake and Mansfield wrote in Cincinnati in 1826 that "considerable quantities" of chairs and cabinet furniture were manufactured in Cincinnati and "exported to the states west and south of Cincinnati." They indicated that, of a total of $1,063,560 exports from the port of Cincinnati, $47,000 was for cabinet furniture. Since there was a total of $67,950 worth of cabinet furniture produced in Cincinnati that year, Cincinnati exported, according to Drake and Mansfield's statistics, 69 per cent of her total production. Yet, at that time no cabinetmaker advertised for business from a distance.

Was the term "cabinet furniture" used loosely to include chairs? In 1826, Drake and Mansfield indicated that the total production figure for chairs and cabinetware was $89,923. If the assumption can be made that chairs were included in the 1826 export figure of $47,000, then Cincinnati exported 52 per cent of her total production. In that there were no specific export figures for chairs, it is highly probable that the chairs were included in the aforementioned export figure for 1826. Even at that, the figure of 52 per cent was quite high for a city that was continually in the midst of

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1 Drexel, Handbook of Antique Chairs, 171.  
2 Lea, 36.  
3 Drake and Mansfield, 64.  
4 Drake and Mansfield, 77.  
5 Drake and Mansfield, 64.  
6 Drake and Mansfield, 65.
a building boom, and where cabinetmakers were in demand. Moreover, competition existed in other parts of the western country, specifically at New Orleans.

According to the Cincinnati directory of 1829, Cincinnati exported cabinet furniture valued at $83,500 wholesale. Yet prior to this time no cabinetmaker advertised for the "export" business. It was not until the next year that Joseph Saxton advertised his cabinet furniture in Natchez, Louisville, and Pittsburgh.

The location of the cabinet- and chair shops in Cincinnati further indicated that the chairmakers were more interested in the export trade. A brief glance at the map (Fig.19) that shows the approximate location of cabinet- and chairmakers' shops in Cincinnati, reveals that many of the chairmakers (symbolized by circles) were clustered about the public landing. Charles W. James (fronted the public landing.) He specifically stated that he had opened a warehouse there, in addition to his location on Fourth Street (in order to supply the persons in other cities and towns near the river.)

All but one of the chairmakers who advertised for business from a distance were located near the public landing. By 1830 Charles W. James (fronted the landing.) Philip and Corson C. Skinner were just a few hundred feet from the center of

\[1\text{CD29, 168.} \quad 2\text{CAFC, Feb. 25, 1830.} \quad 3\text{The circles denote chairmakers and the squares cabinetmakers. The letter within each symbolizes the makers and corresponds to the names listed in the legend. Stars indicate that the exact location has been identified.} \quad 4\text{James moved from the south side of Fourth to the north side, one block west between 1827 and 1830.}\]
Fig. 19.—Approximate location of cabinet-and chairmakers' shops in Cincinnati, 1819-1830.
the public landing. Lee & Lee (LJ) were just a little more than a block west of the landing. Only Kerr, Ross, & Geyer were several blocks north of the landing. They had just opened their factory in 1830 at the corner of Seventh and Main Streets (CNC). However, by 1831 they had a location on Third between Main and Walnut. In addition, Jonathan Young (Y) and Jacob Roll (M) were on Second, just a block north of the landing. Furthermore, two of the shops away from the landing were "other locations." Charles James operated a second shop on Main Street near Fourth (PJ) and P. & C. C. Skinner, another location on Main Street near Sixth (CJ). Some of the cabinetmakers (symbolized by squares) were located near the public landing. Of the shops there in 1819, Andrew McAlpin moved from East Front Street (J) to Main and Third (T); James Armour was on the public landing (A); and Jonathan Mundal on Front Street (M) apparently left Cincinnati shortly thereafter. Only John Williamson remained; he owned the property on which he was located (W). Lemuel John was on Second Street, between Main and Sycamore (B) in 1830. For the most part, however, the cabinetmakers were scattered throughout the city.

Charles Lehman was the only cabinetmaker to move from the upper part of Cincinnati down to the public landing. In 1819, he was on Seventh Street, between Main and Sycamore (H) and in 1825 moved down to the corner of Broadway and East Front Street (D). However, his advertisements of 1830 indicated that carriages, stages, and gigs were a very important part of his business.
The only known instance of cabinetware—a billiard table—
earmarked for shipment out of Cincinnati was gleaned from the ad-
vertisement of October 22, 1825:

**A Billiard Table**

FOR SALE, made of the best seasoned materials, for the lower
country—being disappointed in sending it on, it will be
sold at a very reduced price. Any person about to take
goods down the river would find this a profitable speculation.
Apply at this office.

In only one instance did specific information pertaining to
the shipment of chairs out of Cincinnati come to light. On July 23,
1828, the following was in the *Daily Gazette*:

**TAKE NOTICE**

ON or about the 4th June ult SIX WINDSOR CHAIRS were left
on one of the floating wharves, at the landing in this city,
which were intended to be put on board of the 8 b Messenger,
to go to Fredericksburgh, Kentucky. It is presumed they
went by mistake on board some other boat, as they were not
discovered on the warf at evening. Any information con­
cerning the above, left with CARLISLE & MASON, No. 35 Main
Street, will be gratefully acknowledged. ¹

Mason and Carlisle were merchants in the city who dealt in assorted
goods. ²

Exporting of furniture was increasingly more important as the
period progressed. The statistics of Drake and Mansfield given for
1826 indicated that at least 52 per cent of the city's furniture
production was exported. Advertisements indicated that chairs were
an important export which probably made up a sizeable amount of the
total.

¹DG, July 23, 1828.
²Their advertisements appeared regularly in the local news­
papers. They were part owners of the steamboat "Crusader" which was
for sale on December, 1828, in the *Daily Gazette*. 
It is probably significant that most of those who advertised for business from a distance were chairmakers. It is even more significant that all of the chairmakers who advertised for business from a distance also advertised for steamboat furniture sales. Many chairs and settees were needed to furnish the steamboats manufactured in Cincinnati as well as those produced elsewhere.

It would seem that the amount of furniture shipped out of Cincinnati should be a rather small proportion compared to that used within the city for two reasons. First, there was a tremendous need for furniture to furnish the rapidly increasing number of houses being built in Cincinnati. Second, river transportation was uncertain and could be quite costly. However, according to Drake's figures, more furniture was shipped out of Cincinnati than was used there.

**Services, Materials and Tools Readily Available**

Many of the furniture shops were located near the public landing on Sycamore, Main, Front, and Second Streets. They also ranged north on Main Street to Seventh Street. Clustered about the "furniture district" were related craftsmen and merchants who supplied services, materials, and tools to the furniture makers.

A variety of allied craftsmen worked in Cincinnati from whom the local furniture makers could procure services. There were carvers and turners; fancy painters, gilders and ornamentors; and upholsterers and mattress makers.\(^2\)

\(^1\)See 197.

\(^2\)See compiled list of allied craftsmen, Appendix E.
Advertisements of allied craftsmen were found in the local newspapers and directories throughout the time under review. William P. Physick advertised his ability as an "ORNAMENTAL CARVER" and indicated that "carving will be done with neatness and despatch [sic]." 1 B. and William Orange indicated that they did "upholstery, featherbed & matrass" [sic] work at their manufactory on East Front Street. 2 Representative of turner advertisements was that of T. J. Richards inserted in the Daily Gazette on March 4, 1830:

TURNING AND FILING.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the public that he has commenced the TURNING BUSINESS, back of T. J. Richard's Plane Maker Shop, on Main street above Fifth, where he intends doing all kinds of work in his line, such as Steel, Iron, Brass, Ivory, and hard wood . . . Cabinet work. [italics mine] . . . All orders left with him will be thankfully received and punctually attended to. 3

Upon these men, skilled in crafts applicable to the furniture industry, the local maker relied for specialized services.

While some cabinet- and chairmakers operated their own warehouse facilities, others utilized commission merchants. With the improvement in the economic situation in 1823 commission merchants began advertising their auctions. By 1830, almost every issue of each paper published carried a notice pertaining to auctions. A. B. Roff's notice of June 30, 1830, in the Daily Gazette was typical:

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, CHAIRS, &C.

A. B. Roff, has received on consignment, a large quantity of Cabinet Furniture, Chairs, &c. which he offers on the

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1 CA, Jan. 17, 1824. 2 CD29. 3 DG, March 4, 1830.
most reasonable terms. Most of the articles are made by
the best of workmen, and are warranted ...1

Furthermore, Roff, like other merchants, indicated that he would:

In addition to his regular furniture Aution [sic] Sales,
keep on consignment, at Private Sale, a general assortment
of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, which is made in the best manner,
and will be warranted to purchasers. Orders left at the
Auction Room for any description of Furniture will be
promptly executed ...2

Roff, must have been quite active in promoting furniture
for he acted as agent for a "new and improved piece of Furniture."

On June 26, 1830, the following was inserted:

A CARD

A. B. ROFF respectfully invites the attention of Merchants
and Clerks, to a new and improved piece of Furniture de­
signed particularly for the use of Counting rooms and
stores. It contains in one piece a writing desk, a book
Case with pigeon holes, cash drawers, and a place for a
bed; the whole, (when not in use for a bed,) occupies no
more space than a common merchant's desk. A. B. Roff will
receive orders for the above useful article.3

It seems that the inventiveness of the Victorian era had already
begun in Cincinnati in 1830 and Roff was doing his best to promote
it.

Native wood—Cherry, poplar, maple, oak, walnut, and a
variety of fruitwoods—was available from farmers in adjacent areas.
Elnathan Kemper, who owned a nearby farm was one of those who
supplied wood to cabinet- and chairmakers. His daybook, 1814-1824,
contained numerous entries such as the two cited below:

Feb. 28, 1820 A Chair-Maker to a load of Sugar
Timber [maple] 2.25
Mar. 23, 1820 The chair-man to hauling load of
hickory 2.004

1DG, June 30, 1830. 2DG, Apr. 9, 1830. 3DG, June 26, 1830.
4Elnathan Kemper Daybook, 1814-1824, Misc. Vol. 204, MSS, OHS.
Native wood was of excellent quality. A local blacksmith, B. Day, discussed in his sketches of pioneer life the wood purchased to build their house on the corner of Broadway and Sixth Streets in 1825:

We purchased the timber of Mr. Coonrod . . . This Timber was poplar, and many trees measured from four to five feet in diameter and from fifty to sixty feet in height, without a limb, and straight as an arrow.¹

Mahogany, not available locally, was imported and advertised for sale throughout most of the period under review. The first advertisement appeared in June, 1823, when Ball and Cooper advertised 1000 feet of St. Domingo Mahogany for sale.² Thereafter, the advertisements were for veneers and usually read:

To Cabinet-Makers,
1500 feet mahogany Veneers, for sale by
G.V.H. & C. DeWitt³

On December 31, 1830, veneers, other than mahogany, were advertised for the first time:

NOTICE
To Cabinet Makers
THE subscriber has just received from the East, and has for sale at the house of Dr. Richmond, on the corner of Water and Walnut streets, a large and splendid assortment of MAHOGANY, ROSE and SATIN WOOD VENEERS. Also, a quantity of MAHOGANY BOARDS, which he will sell on the most accommodating terms. Orders will be thankfully received and punctually attended to.

JONATHAN THOMAS⁴

¹B. Day, "Biographical Sketches of Pioneer Life in Hamilton County, Ohio--from 1802-1878." MSS, OHS.
²CA, Jan. 6, 1823. ³LHCG, Mar. 26, 1824.
⁴NRPR, Dec. 31, 1830
Andrew McAlpin, a local cabinetmaker, imported and sold veneers from the Richardson Company of Philadelphia, operator of the first steam powered rotary plant. These veneers were available in Cincinnati just a short time after they were announced in Philadelphia.¹

Other materials and findings were also procurable at the local business establishments. Cane² and glue³ were advertised for sale in advertisements addressed specifically to cabinetmakers and chairmakers. Surviving ledgers indicated that the Wayne Hardware Company was a principal supplier to local furniture makers. In 1824 they announced:

Hardware.

THE subscribers have just opened a Wholesale and Retail HARDWARE STORE, in the house lately occupied by N. & D. F. Reeder, No. 120 Main street where we will keep constantly on hand a large and general assortment of all kinds of Ironmongery, Cutlery, &c. which we will dispose of on the lowest terms for cash or approved acceptances. Being connected with an extensive house in the city of Philadelphia, we will have it in our power to sell at a small advance on cost of importation. We therefore invite the attention of country Merchants, Cabinet Makers [italics mine] Carpenters and Builders, as we shall always be prepared to fill their orders, and supply them with every article in our line on the most favorable terms.

C. WAYNE & CO.⁴

From the Wayne Hardware Company, Cincinnati furniture makers purchased tools, fabric, glue and all types of casters, knobs, hinges, lion pulls, nails, screws, etc.⁵

In addition, tools were advertised for sale occasionally in the newspapers. The following was typical:

¹See 101. ²DG, May 4, 1929; DG, Aug. 7, 1830. ³DG, Jan. 8, 1829. ⁴NRPR, Oct. 8, 1824. ⁵See compiled list in Appendix D.
To Joiners and Cabinet Makers

JUST received, and will be sold, without reserve, by JOHN DILLINGHAM, No. 125 Main street--, on Saturday evening next, May 3, a very general assortment of Joiners and Cabinet Makers [italics mine] MOULDING TOOLS, comprising about 400 article of various kinds . . . 1

Starting in 1820 and throughout the rest of the period under review, the Cincinnati foundry advertised that they kept "constantly on hand, and for sale" cabinet maker's cramps, with square threads. 2 Plane Makers also offered tools. James F. Donaldson kept on hand "a handsome assortment of . . . CABINET-MAKERS . . . Hand-Screws, Bench Screws, and all sizes of Screws." 3

Marble was cut to order in Cincinnati. In the directory of 1829 Henderson & M'Gregor inserted their advertisement for marble "of their own manufacture." They imported Philadelphia marble and made "TOPS FOR SIDE BOARDS, and PIER TABLES," and all other types. 4

Labor Relations: Cincinnati Price Book, 1830

During the first part of this review, the financial situation was such that journeymen were pleased to have work at any price. In 1819-20:

The mechanics, lately so blithe and cheerful, had gone in different directions in search of work at any price to keep themselves and families from starving. Almost any mechanic could be hired for fifty cents a day, working as was the custom from sunrise to sunset; few could get employment at that . . . 5

1NRPR, May 2, 1823. 2CCLG, July 4, 1820. 3NC, Oct. 17, 1825. 4CD29. 5Goss, I, 140. Quoting Judge Burnet.
Those working in Cincinnati considered themselves lucky for although money was short, food and other services could be had by bartering.¹

As the situation began to improve, Cincinnati workmen were somewhat contented with their lot. One mechanic, writing in 1823 to the editor of the Independent Press and Freedom Advocate, stated that:

Perhaps there is no town of equal size in the United States where mechanics are better paid for their work, than they are in Cincinnati; or with more promptness. If many of them have experienced losses, and this is not disputed, it is not more than has been felt by other places; and they are not so great, by half, as those of some of the Eastern cities, which contain a like number of mechanics . . .²

Beginning about 1823, Cincinnatians began to enjoy improvement in the economy and by 1825 the citizens began to be optimistic about the future. With increased prosperity and population in Cincinnati, furniture makers were in greater demand. Between 1825 and 1829 the number of furniture makers increased by sixty-seven whereas the number had increased by nine from 1819 to 1825.³ By 1829, labor problems came to the front; journeymen thought that they were not paid adequately for their labors. On January 27, 1829, the following was inserted in the Daily Gazette.

TO JOURNEYMEN CABINETMAKERS.

HAVING been informed that the employers of Cincinnati are about to advertise in some of the principal eastern cities for a large number of Journeymen, we think it our duty to

¹Goss, I, 140. ²IPFA, Jan. 16, 1823.
³See 176. In 1819 there were forty-seven furniture makers; in 1825, 56; and in 1829, 123. The number of cabinetmakers increased 181 per cent while the number of chairmakers increased 108 per cent.
forward information that in consequence of a considerable rise in the markets, we have asked an advance on our Bill, which being refused, we are now at our leisure, with the exception of a few who have found more profitable employment. 

JOURNEYMEN.¹

The labor problems were ultimately resolved through the publication of a book that contained codified standards of remuneration for furniture work on a piecework basis. On Monday August 16, 1830, the book was announced for sale:

TO CABINET MAKERS.

THE Cincinnati Cabinet Makers book of prices, for manufacturing Cabinet Ware, just received and for sale by

A. B. Roff,
Thoms Row, Fifth Street, first door from Main.²

Cincinnati was not unique, however, in publishing a book of furniture prices. It followed the lead of eastern cities which had in turn followed London. And, in each case the prices put forth in price books were standardized to resolve labor problems.³

The Cincinnati Price Book of 1830 was written by a committee of cabinetmakers who announced in their preface:

At length the Committee are enabled to lay before the Cabinet-Makers the result of their labors; and they hope it will be found of general utility. It has been their study, as much as possible, to dissect and equalize each piece of work; and thereby to prevent difficulties from arising between the employers and the employed. . . ⁴

The Cincinnati Price Book of 1830 was the first price book known to have been published in Cincinnati.⁵ It listed and described

¹ DG, Jan. 29, 1829. The advertisement ran through Feb. 26, 1829.
² DCC, Aug. 16, 1830. ³ Montgomery, 21.
⁴ Cincinnati Price Book, Preface. ⁵ Montgomery, 488.
with variations the pieces of furniture commonly made in Cincinnati and the wages to be paid the journeyman on a piecework basis. It explicitly stated that "all men working by the day, to be paid according to their average wages by the piece, to find their own candles." It also afforded protection for the masters, stating that "all work considered to be done in a workmanlike manner, and when not such to be paid accordingly." 

The Cincinnati Cabinet-Makers' Book of Prices of 1830 was modeled on the Philadelphia Cabinet and Chair Makers' Union Book of Prices published in 1828, as was the Pittsburgh Cabinet Makers' Book of Prices of 1830. Both Cincinnati's and Pittsburgh's organization, format, and plates are the same as Philadelphia's, while the prices vary slightly. However, there are some regional differences, to be discussed in connection with Cincinnati furniture in the forthcoming chapter.

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1Cincinnati Price Book, 1.
2Cincinnati Price Book, 2.
4The Pittsburgh Cabinet Makers' Book of Prices, (Pittsburgh: Joseph Snowden, Printer, 1830).
CHAPTER VI

THE FURNITURE MADE AND CONSEQUENTLY USED IN CINCINNATI HOMES, 1819-1830

The cabinet furniture and chairs, manufactured in Cincinnati, are of the most beautiful kind, and will compare with those produced in any part of the Union.¹

Thus, wrote the contemporary historians, Drake and Mansfield, in their quasi-official publication Cincinnati in 1826. And, to Cincinnatians, their furniture was the "most beautiful kind" for it was suited to their needs and was reflective of their way of life.

Stylistic Characteristics

Federal-Empire style

Cincinnati's furniture (1819-1830) was an up-to-date interpretation of the Federal and Empire styles in vogue at the time. The Federal Period which encompassed the Sheraton-Hepplewhite styles, was popular until about 1825, and as it lost favor, the Empire came into vogue. It was a transition period representative of the Federal-Empire period.

Newspaper advertisements indicated that Cincinnati's furniture makers could provide furniture in the latest patterns. J. W. Mason & Company's advertisement of January 1, 1820, assured their potential customers that they could provide "a large assortment of various kinds of FURNITURE made in the latest Eastern fashions."²

¹Drake and Mansfield, 64. ²WSCA, Jan. 1, 1820.
Many of the advertisements of the period promised "Eastern patterns" of the "latest patterns."

Design books were in widespread usage during the 1820's and Cincinnati furniture makers undoubtedly consulted these publications. Some of the furniture makers very likely owned copies of one of Thomas Sheraton's several publications, George Smith's The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide, or one of the other publications of the period. Cincinnati was an early book trade center where books of all types were readily obtained.¹

In addition to private holdings, copies might have been obtainable in one of the reading rooms or libraries where a preponderance of books of a practical, and educational nature were available.² The Apprentice Library was specifically operated "for improving the minds of the laboring and poorer class of the youth." It contained "about 1117 volumes of well chosen books ... of which number from 90 to 150 volumes" were in constant use.³ Furniture reference books were very likely among the volumes. Two of the directors of the library were John Broadfoot Smith and James Ward,⁴ prominent cabinetmakers.

Only one reference was found that pertained specifically to design books. Edward Blackburn, cabinetmaker, willed his copies of designs to his son. The will, probated in 1852, read:

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¹Walter Sutton, The Western Book Trade: Cincinnati As a Nineteenth-Century Publishing and Book-Trade Center (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1961), 3-60.
²Sutton, 35-42. ³CA, June 2, 1824. ⁴CA, June 2, 1824.
My books to be equally divided among my children then living with the exception of two folio volumes of cabinet designs viz.--Chippendale designs published in 1762 and my book of designs published by T. Thenenton in 1804.

Newly arrived furniture makers brought patterns from the East with them. Charles Lehman, in his advertisement in the Western Spy and Literary Cadet of April 8, 1820, indicated that he was "well acquainted with the newest and most fashionable patterns of cabinet work executed in Philadelphia," since he was "late of the firm of Stewart & James, Philadelphia." Charles James, chairmaker from Philadelphia, offered the gamut of furniture patterns. In his advertisement in The National Republican and Ohio Political Register, August 8, 1828, he stated that he could provide chairs "of the most modern Eastern and Western patterns."

Cincinnati chairmakers considered their products up-to-date and well made; and most advertisements stated this fact. Lee declared that he made chairs:

In great variety, of the latest and most improved fashions, from the Eastward. He warrants his work equal to any manufactured west of the mountains, and not inferior to any made to the east.

Denison was especially proud of his finishing skill and boasted that:

From his knowledge and experience in his line, he pledges himself that his work shall be done well and no work shall go from his shop, but what is substantial and well painted. His object is to get custom and merit a continuance of support.

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2 WSLC, Apr. 8, 1820. 3 NRCA, Aug. 8, 1828. 4 CD29.
5 CE, Oct. 13, 1825.
Many of the advertisements indicated that chairs produced in Cincinnati were comparable stylistically to the western country and a few of them, especially near the end of the 1820's, stated that they were comparable to those in the East. None boasted of surpassing the East in workmanship or stylistic characteristics.

Since Cincinnati was experiencing and then recovering from a financial depression during the first half of the period under review, Cincinnatians generally could not afford extravagant pieces of furniture. They wanted good substantial, utilitarian pieces. Their views were stated in the pledge of "The Cincinnati Society for the promotion of Agriculture, Manufactures and Domestic Economy":

We will observe a rigid economy in every branch of our expenditures, and will, in all our purchases, be influenced by necessity rather than convenience, and by utility rather than ornament.¹

Cincinnatians were a practical group, who in many cases, had migrated to Cincinnati to improve their financial lot. William Greene commented in one of his many letters written from Cincinnati to his fiancée in the east that they "were originally desperadoes from N. England" whose "early education had been neglected."²

Elizah Vance, a traveler to Cincinnati, wrote in her Diary of 1826, "the houses are plain and though not gorgeously furnished show a very neat and handsome interior."³ As late as 1840, an English traveler commented about the relatively plain Cincinnati interiors:

¹LHCH, Aug. 17, 1819.
²Letter, William Greene to Abby Lyman, Oct. 23, 1820, Box I, #178, Greene-Roeiker Papers, MSS, CHS.
³Elizah Vance Diary, Oct. 28-Nov. 13, 1826, MSS, CHS.
Though there is not the same ostentatious display in furniture of the private dwellings here, which is met with at New York especially, every comfort and convenience, mixed with a sufficient degree of elegance is found in all the residences of the upper and middle classes.\(^1\)

Mansfield, in his *Personal Memories* related that parties during the mid-1820's were:

Purely social, not for the mere purpose of display which is too often the case now . . . There was no distinction of old and young, fashionable or unfashionable . . . \(^2\)

In such a setting relatively plain substantial furniture would be quite suitable.

Woods used in Cincinnati

Mahogany was, historically speaking, the preferred wood to interpret the Federal and Empire style and was used in most furniture centers. Its use in Cincinnati, however, was seemingly overshadowed by the employment of native woods.

Cherry was most often used as the primary wood; poplar as the secondary wood. However, poplar was also used as a primary wood. Extant inventories contained more entries of cherry pieces than of any other wood; poplar, mahogany, and walnut were also mentioned. The Cincinnati Price Book priced many pieces in cherry and some in poplar and mahogany; poplar was also listed in tables pertaining to construction details.

When woods were designated in furniture inventories, cherry was cited most often. Mahogany, poplar and walnut were sometimes mentioned. The inventory of John I. Piatt's store taken at his death

\(^{1}\)Greve, I, 675. Quoting Rev. J. I. Buckingham.
\(^{2}\)Mansfield, 186.
in 1822 contained the following furniture:

1 pr. Mahogany Card Tables 25.00
1 cherry Dining Table 5.00
1 pair cherry Dining tables 5.00
1 pair cherry Bedsteads 13.00
1 pair low post Do. 7.00
1 pair high post Do. 10.00
1 poplar low Do. Do. 2.00
1 walnut Kitchen table 2.00
3 Windsor Chairs 3.75
1 Dough Trough .50
4 dark Windsor chairs 3.00
3 yellow Windsor chairs 1.50
6 Vermillion [sic] Windsor chairs 6.00
1 red settee 8.00

There were nine cherry pieces, three tables and six beds; two mahogany card tables; one poplar bed; and one walnut kitchen table.

The inventory of James Tait, a local merchant, was taken room by room. The furniture listed included:

**Front Sitting Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cherry sideboard</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cherry sofa stuffed</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cherry Dining Tables</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 chairs (common) &amp; 1 arm do.</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small table, cherry</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small table, cherry</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Front Bed Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 tent bed Stand</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pembroke (cherry)</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 chairs common</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 do. Rockers</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bureau</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 night stool</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Closet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 tent bedstead</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 chair</td>
<td>.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 washstand</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Middle Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 stock bedsteads (1 very old)</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 chair</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 wash stand</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Ham. Co. Rec., Inventory, John H. Piatt, Aug. 12, 1822, 32-33.
Back Room

1 Stock Bedstead 1.25
1 cherry sofa unstuffed 8.00
1 chair 1.25

Kitchen

1 large table .75
2 small table .75
1 chest .75
2 chair (old) .50

Cellar

1 Bedstead, etc. 10.001

The front sitting room contained mostly cherry furniture, and was their main room. Furthermore, when cited, cherry was the only wood mentioned in the inventory of 1828.

In *The Cincinnati Cabinet-Makers' Book of Prices, for Manufacturing Cabinet Ware of 1830*, many of the pieces were priced in cherry or poplar with other woods charged "extra." In many instances the pieces were designated with cherry in the title, *viz.*, a plain cherry wardrobe, a cherry bookcase, a plain cherry breakfast table, etc. Some of the pieces whose wood was not designated in the title were priced in poplar. A bedstead, for example, cited below:

A HIGH POST BEDSTEAD2

Made of poplar, with a plain scroll head board, pins in do. to receive sacking, put together with eight screws. 1.37 1/2

EXTRAS.

If do. is made of cherry .25
If do. is made of mahogany .50
If do. is made of curled maple .75
If do. is framed together with double tenons, extra . . .

---

1Ham. Co. Rec., Inventory, James Tait, Jan. 18, 1828, 200-203.
2Cincinnati Price Book, 76.
Because the price book was formulated for use within the trade, it can be assumed that it was organized for utility. Thus, items would be priced in the wood most often used for a specific piece of furniture. In Table 4 all the pieces included in the price book were compiled according to the wood in which they were priced. Most of the pieces were priced in either cherry or poplar. However, many of the pieces were not designated as to the type of wood.

TABLE 4
FURNITURE IN CINCINNATI PRICE BOOK: ARRANGED ACCORDING TO WOOD USED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Wood in Which Pieces were Priced in the Cincinnati Price Book, 1830</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain cherry wardrobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry bookcase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain cherry breakfast table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain pillar and claw cherry breakfast table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain cherry dining table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square cherry end dining table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillar &amp; claw cherry end table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillar &amp; claw cherry dining table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry hall table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry loo table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry dressing table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry writing table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry sliding frame table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry sliding framed dining table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry case to hold loose leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square cherry card table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry pillar and claw card table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain cherry work table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry pillar &amp; claw candle stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry basin stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry enclosed basin stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain cherry clock case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry crib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French bedstead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain cherry coffin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 4 (continued)

Type of Wood in Which Pieces were Priced in the
Cincinnati Price Book, 1830

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poplar furniture</th>
<th>Mahogany furniture</th>
<th>Not Designated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plain poplar sofa</td>
<td>Mahogany bureau</td>
<td>Column bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table desk</td>
<td>Mahogany chairs</td>
<td>Secretary drawer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Counting-House desk</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sideboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Counting-House desk</td>
<td></td>
<td>Permanent center sideboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cot bedstead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sideboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trunnel bedstead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open centre sideboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low post bedstead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Drum end sideboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fancy post bedstead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Plain pier table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High post bedstead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pillar &amp; Claw work stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field bedstead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Circular front corner basin stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press bedstead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basin stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cradle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Double scroll sofa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Portable desk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Celleret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Octagon celleret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Music stool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foot Stool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Night table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hat stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hat stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Butler's tray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tray stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Knife tray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bed steps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In comparing the Cincinnati Price Book with the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh books, it was found that the Cincinnati Price Book included cherry and poplar in some procedures of workmanship, while the Philadelphia price Book did not. The comparison of types of wood used, when they differed in some specified work procedure, is shown in Table 5. Cherry and poplar were deleted in Philadelphia's pricing of some "jointing," "thickening up stuff," and "clamping." It was interesting to note that an escutcheon was priced in holly in Philadelphia while it was just a "wooden" one in Cincinnati.

The relative cost of working cherry, mahogany, pine, and poplar can be ascertained by comparing prices quoted for various pieces of furniture. Perhaps, the best indication of the cost relationship can be gleaned from the entry for coffins:

A PLAIN CHERRY COFFIN.

Two feet long or under, with raised lid, $1.00
Every three inches longer .12 1/2
If black band round the bottom, per foot . . .
If coffin is made of mahogany, extra twenty-five per cent.
If pine or poplar, deduct fifty per cent from cherry.¹

Not only was the cost of working mahogany more, but also it was a more costly wood. It was imported from San Domingo and transported up the Ohio river. From 1825 on, when the steam cutting rotary veneer plant was in operation in Philadelphia, some of it came from that source through the cabinetmaker-agent Andrew McAlpin.²

¹Cincinnati Price Book, 81.
²See 100-103.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Tables</th>
<th>in the Cin. P. B.</th>
<th>in the Phila. P. B.</th>
<th>in the Pitts. P. B.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jointing</td>
<td>1-2&quot; pine or poplar flat or grooved.</td>
<td>poplar deleted</td>
<td>1-2&quot; pine or poplar flat or grooved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1(\frac{1}{2})&quot; cherry or mahogany flat</td>
<td>cherry deleted</td>
<td>1(\frac{1}{2})&quot; cherry or mahogany flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If cherry is grooved</td>
<td>cherry deleted</td>
<td>If cherry is grooved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1&quot; pine or poplar, if flat grooved double 1&quot; cherry or mahogany flat</td>
<td>cherry deleted</td>
<td>1&quot; pine or poplar, if flat grooved double 1&quot; cherry or mahogany flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If cherry is grooved</td>
<td>cherry deleted</td>
<td>If cherry is grooved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clamping</td>
<td>1&quot; pine or poplar Cherry or mahogany, from 1 to 2&quot; wide</td>
<td>poplar deleted</td>
<td>1&quot; pine or poplar Cherry or mahogany, from 1 to 2&quot; wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putting on Brass work</td>
<td>Making and fitting in a wooden escutcheon</td>
<td>holly escutcheon used</td>
<td>Making and fitting in a wooden escutcheon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Twist reeding seemingly important in Cincinnati

In most instances, the Cincinnati Price Book was a direct copy of the Philadelphia Price Book of 1828. However, Table V in the Cincinnati Price Book entitled "Of Twist Reeding" is quite different from a similar table in the Philadelphia Price Book entitled "Price of Reeds, &c." Cincinnati's Price Book dwells on "twist reeding" whereas the Philadelphia Price Book does not. Furthermore, Table V of the Cincinnati Price Book includes the notation that "Diamond reeding to be double the price of twist reeding." The Philadelphia Price Book did not.¹

The Pittsburgh Price Book of 1830 included a table of reeding. It was not, however, nearly as extensive as Cincinnati's nor did it dwell on twist reeding.²

According to the Cincinnati Price Book, twist reeding dimensions ranged from one inch in diameter to eight inches; in length, from six inches to two feet three inches. Twist reeding one inch in diameter was to start with five reeds and with nine reeds or less if five inches in diameter.³

Twist reeding was found on several Cincinnati pieces. The legs of the table belonging to Miss Shirlee Kemper, reproduced in Plate XV, represents twist reeding of the larger type. The pioneer Kemper family has kept many of their pieces of furniture; in addition

²Pittsburgh Price Book, 64.
³Cincinnati Price Book, 86.
PLATE XV

CHERRY TABLE
they have purchased pieces from estates of pioneer families. This table came from one of these sources.¹

Plate XVI illustrates a smaller twist reeded application on the posts of a chest. Above it, as an added decorative enhancement, is a diamond motif, reflective of diamond reeding. It was executed in cherry with poplar as the secondary wood. The bureau reputedly belonged to the Oglesby family of Middletown who were early settlers and the first bankers in the settlement. The Oglesbys reputedly migrated from Cincinnati to Middletown in the late 1820's and brought the bureau with them.²

**Cincinnati Furniture**

The study of Cincinnati furniture has been especially difficult because few pieces can be definitely identified as the work of a specific cabinetmaker. However, from the various sources researched, a great deal about Cincinnati furniture can be surmised.

**Cabinet furniture**

The cabinet pieces made and used in Cincinnati can be determined by the study of the Cincinnati Price Book. Table 4 (above) contains all the pieces listed in the price book. All types of tables, bedsteads, and sideboards were listed. Several kinds of desks were indicated, along with a variety of pieces one would expect to find in the home and business establishments. These were the forms made and consequently used in Cincinnati.

¹Miss Shirlee Kemper, interview in Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 17, 1969.
²Mrs. Arnold Boxwell, interview in Middletown, Ohio, Oct. 18, 1969.
The auction of a cabinetmaker going out of business indicated the pieces held in stock. His auction announcement appeared in the Cincinnati Commercial Register on February 25, 1826:

ON Friday 3d of March, will be sold at the City Auction, No. 4, Noble's Row . . . The entire stock of cabinetmaker, who is about quitting the business--among which are Side-Boards, Dining, Pembroke, Card and Elliptic Tables--Book Cases, Bedsteads, Chairs, &c. &c. . . .

These pieces were probably the more popular forms used in Cincinnati.

The forms made in Cincinnati could be had in various sizes and with added enhancements. The entry for a cherry bureau in the Cincinnati Price Book indicated the variations possible:

A CHERRY BUREAU

A plain, straight front cherry bureau, three feet six and a half inches long, three feet high in framing, ends twenty inches wide, with four drawers, $4.40

EXTRAS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each inch more in length, height, or width</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each inch less in length, height, or width, deduct</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If made with half columns, drawers the same as start</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If made with full columns and loose plinth, extra from start</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For thickening up all feet, except with half columns, each joint</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a bead or astragal under the projection in front, per foot</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a bead or astragal under the bottom of frame, per foot</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each mitre in bead or astragal,</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If drawers are scratch-beaded, each</td>
<td>4 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the frieze is veneered,</td>
<td>14 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the tablets are veneered, each</td>
<td>3 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the tablets are filleted, each</td>
<td>$.14 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If front of plinth is reeded</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If Do. is veneered between the blocks</td>
<td>14 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a rail under the projection</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If two or more small drawers at the top, each</td>
<td>41 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the edge of top is rounded, per foot,</td>
<td>1 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a bottom in the frame</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1CCR, Feb. 25, 1826.  
2Cincinnati Price Book, 7.
Comparison of the above specifications for a cherry bureau with the cherry bureau shown in Plate XVI (above) revealed that a definite relationship existed. The dimensions were similar, and stylistic characteristics were representative of those offered as "extras," in the price book. The extant bureau was executed with half columns, turned and reeded, with two drawers at the top.

Some idea of the pieces of furniture used in the rooms within the house can be surmised from the inventory of James Tait, merchant, cited on page 225. Unfortunately only one other inventory gave a room by room enumeration. The furniture enumerated in Michael Flower's inventory of 1827 included the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Drawing room</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Piano stool</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 chairs</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Piano Forte</td>
<td>175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large table</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small table</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bedroom No. 1</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bureau</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Table</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Rocking chair</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bedroom No. 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bedstead</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bed</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Safe</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payner [sic?] Cutting room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 small table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 settee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 table</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flower was listed as a merchant and auctioneer in the Cincinnati directory of 1825. (The purpose of "Payner Cutting room" is unknown.)

\(^1\)Ham. Co. Rec., Inventory, Michael Flower, Aug. 28, 1827, 305-316.
Both of the inventories where a room by room enumeration was given reflected households of the more prominent people.

Three other pieces strongly attributed to Cincinnati are in the possession of Mrs. Richard Whitacre of Oak Hill, Morrow, Ohio. The pieces owned by Mrs. Whitacre descended in the family of her husband. They belonged to his forebear, Luman Watson, a prominent clockmaker who was in Cincinnati c. 1809-1834. Watson married in 1817, and had established a clock factory by 1819. The "pieces were made in Watson's clock factory for his personal use," probably by C. W. Green. The pieces are shown in Plates XVII, XVIII, and XIX. Plate XVII shows a finely carved secretary enhanced with acanthus leaf and a pineapple motif. Plate XVIII shows a marble-top table which matches the secretary. Both are of cherry and seem to have poplar for a secondary wood. The third piece, shown in Plate XIX, was veneered in mahogany.

Seat furniture

Windsor and fancy chairs were very popular forms in early nineteenth century America, and were produced in great numbers

1 Mrs. Richard Whitacre, interview at Oak Hill, Morrow, Ohio, Nov. 8, 1969.
3 Lockett, 46. No other mention has been found pertaining to C. W. Green. Lockett indicated that he was a carver in wood. Watson apparently peddled clocks for Ephriam Downes, Plymouth, Connecticut, during his early years in Cincinnati. A letter from Anson Downs in the Cincinnati Historical Society collection indicated that later when Watson had established his own factory he apparently purchased component parts from Downs (1822). Watson must have purchased his clock-cases locally or employed cabinetmakers in his shop. He later branched out into the organ producing business. Watson died in Cincinnati, December 1, 1834.
throughout the East. Both Windsor and fancy chairs were usually made by the same maker and were invariably named in the same advertisement. It was not surprising then, to find that Windsor and fancy chairs were advertised extensively in Cincinnati and by the same makers.

Of the chairmakers who advertised in the newspapers, all but two mentioned fancy and Windsor chairs specifically in their advertisements. Furthermore, most of the chairmakers headed their advertisement with the caption "Fancy and Windsor Chair Factory." Even the two chairmakers who did not specifically advertise fancy and Windsor chairs very likely featured them in their shop. The one, James Denison, did not mention the chairs, per se, but he did state he kept "an assortment of CHAIRS and will enlarge his stock so as to be able to furnish chairs of every kind." The other, Nicholas Lanning, advertised only once and that was in connection with a dissolved partnership with Jonathan Young. Since Young advertised Windsor and fancy chairs extensively as an individual and in connection with other partners, it is most likely that Windsor and fancy chairs were important items in Lanning & Young's shop.

Cincinnati inventories often included Windsor chairs and usually in quantity, viz., "½ doz. Windsor chairs," "Eight chairs Windsor," "1 Set Windsor chairs," "7 black Windsor chairs (1 with

4 See 168-170.
6 Methodist Episcopal Church, Accounts 1819-1832, Minister's Inventory, MSS, CHS.
arms), etc. However, in all the inventories examined, fancy chairs were alluded to only once. The merchant and auctioneer Michael Flower had "6 F [Fancy?] chairs" valued at $12.00. These chairs were apparently part of his shop goods since they were listed separately from his personal effects.

Although "curly-maple, scroll-back fancy chairs were made in large numbers in both the United States and England from about 1815 through the 1820's and 1830's," they were not advertised in Cincinnati until 1830. In 1830, Charles W. James offered "CURLED MAPLE CHAIRS made to order." No other sources were found that threw further light upon their stylistic characteristics or the role they played in the furniture industry of Cincinnati. Apparently fancy chairs of curly-maple were not prevalent in Cincinnati in the 1820's and that there was, indeed, a culture lag between their inception in the East and their subsequent use in Cincinnati.

In Cincinnati, during the era under consideration, Windsors were by far the most popular style of chair while fancy chairs seemed to be more of a prestige item. The dearth of fancy chairs in inventories coupled with the extensive advertising pertaining to them gives credence to the belief that a great many fancy chairs were made for the steamboat trade.

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1Ham. Co. Rec., Inventory, Bosson Graham, Mar. 19, 1828, 278-279.
2Ham. Co. Rec., Inventory, Michael Flower, Aug. 28, 305.
3Montgomery, 250. 4NRPR, Dec. 2, 1830.
Montgomery, in his discussion of chairs indicated that the simple turned Windsors were often painted plain black, green or yellow while fancy chairs were highly ornamented with fanciful designs executed in varnish colors. In keeping with this, in 1817 Stibbs and Stout advertised that:

They keep constantly on hand a variety of both kinds, [Windsor and Fancy chairs] painted & finished of the following colors, viz., Sattin Wood, Tortoise Shell, Coquillico Green, Cane-color, Brown, Black &c. &c. handsomely filt and ornamented, superior in taste and elegance to any manufactured in the western country ....

More than ten years later, colors and painting technique were still selling points in advertisements and one maker, Charles W. James, indicated that he sold paint and would "keep on hand, for sale, superior Copal and Spirits of Wine Varnish, Gold Leaf, Gold and Silver Powders, with a general assortment of Bronzes of different colors." More than ten years later, colors and painting technique were still selling points in advertisements and one maker, Charles W. James, indicated that he sold paint and would "keep on hand, for sale, superior Copal and Spirits of Wine Varnish, Gold Leaf, Gold and Silver Powders, with a general assortment of Bronzes of different colors."

Advertisements indicated that flag or rush seats were used in lieu of cane until the late 1820's. On January 20, 1817, Stibbs and Stout announced their Fancy Chair Manufactory where "they carry on the FANCY FLAG BOTTOM and WINDSOR CHAIR MAKING business ..." From that advertisement on, subsequent advertisements of Cincinnati chairmakers continually referred to flag bottom or rush seats. Cane was not mentioned until January of 1829 when Charles W. James arrived from Philadelphia and announced that he "has now the pleasure of informing the inhabitants of the West that he can furnish them with ..."

1 Montgomery, 445. 2 LIHC, Jan. 20, 1817. 3 NRPR, Aug. 8, 1828. 4 LIHC, Jan. 20, 1817.
FANCY CHAIRS with cane or flat seats.\textsuperscript{1} By September, P. & C. C. Skinner were advertising cane seats, and by 1830, cane seats appeared regularly in advertisements. In addition, it was not until May of 1829 that cane was advertised for sale by local merchants. On that date the following was inserted for two weeks:

\textbf{CHAIRMAKER'S CANE.}

\texttt{JUST received, a few bales CANE, suitable for chair bottoms, and for sale by C. & J. SCHULTZ No. 74, Main street.}\textsuperscript{2}

On August 7, 1829, C. & J. Schultz ran another advertisement, this time for a month, announcing "CHAIR CANE. JUST RECEIVED per keel boat Canadian, 15 bales Chair Cane, assorted numbers."\textsuperscript{3}

The flag or rush seat seemingly remained in general use in Cincinnati long after cane was in general evidence in other sections of the country. Inasmuch as cane was stipulated for the finest chairs and rush was considered provincial,\textsuperscript{4} cane surely would have been announced in advertisements as a prestige item if it were generally available. In this respect, fancy chairs made in Cincinnati remained somewhat provincial in feeling until the latter part of the 1820's when cane apparently came into general use.

Although the Grecian chair became quite popular by 1810,\textsuperscript{5} it was not advertised in Cincinnati until August, 1828. In that year:

Charles W. James, CHAIRMAKER. (Late of the firm of Stewart & James, Philadelphia) . . . [announced] his intention to keep on hand a very superior assortment, consisting of GRECIAN, FANCY, and WINDSOR CHAIRS . . .\textsuperscript{6}

\textsuperscript{1}CCLG, Jan. 10, 1829. \textsuperscript{2}DG, May 4, 1829. \textsuperscript{3}DCG, Aug. 17, 1830. \textsuperscript{4}Montgomery, 446. \textsuperscript{5}Montgomery, 51. \textsuperscript{6}NRPR, Aug. 8, 1828.
None of the inventories investigated referred to Grecian chairs even though they designated other types of chairs—common, Windsor, fancy and rockers. Nor were any bills for Grecian chairs found.

The Cincinnati Price Book of 1830 described and priced the Grecian chair in detail:

**MAHOGANY CHAIRS**

Plain chairs, front edges rounded, with a pannel on the top rail, a plain stay rail with front of do. veneered, per dozen, $34 65

**EXTRAS.**

- Piercing and shaping edge of stay rails, 1 57½
- Sinking the pannel in top rails, 2 10
- A bead brass or wood line in the top rail, round the pannel, 1 57½
- Moulding chairs, including front rail 3 67½
- A scroll top rail, dovetailed down, with pannel in do., 4 20
- Top rail dovetailed down and veneered all over, deduct, per dozen 1 42½
- Scroll or knee to front leg, 1 57½
- Do. when moulded extra, 78½
- If strips on seat for stuffing 1 5
- A pair of volute scroll arms, 2 36½
- More or less work on do. paid according to time.

A large mahogany arm chair, with pannel in the top rail, a scroll front leg, and front moulded, back made for stuffing, 5 50

A Spanish chair is listed in the same Cincinnati Price Book and seems to be a variation of the Grecian chair:

A plain Spanish chair, arms one inch thick or under, supported by turned stumps, three turned stretchers, a plain straight top rail, one stay rail two inches wide, $ 2 50

**EXTRAS.**

- If worked stumps to support the arms, 25
- Shaping the top edge of top rail circular or elliptic, 12½
- If the front of top rail is veneered, 6½
- If do. is banded to form a square pannel, 15
- If the top rail is thickened up to form a scroll, including scroll, 25

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1Cincinnati Price Book, 59-60.
Sinking a square panel in the top rail, 18 3/4
Scratch beading each edge of sides, 37 1/2
Rounding front edge of chair, 37 1/2

The Spanish type chair was also listed in the Philadelphia Price Book but not in such detail. 2

Apparently some of these chair seats were stuffed, but this extra seems to belong in the latter part of the era under review. Stuffed chair seats were first advertised in 1829 when C. W. James and P. & C. C. Skinner advertised them within two weeks of each other, on August 29 3 and 17 4 respectively. Neither advertisement reflected their nature but the ledgers of Charles Wayne Hardware Company of Cincinnati showed that their company received a large shipment of furniture prints from Thomas Shewell of Pittsburgh on August 10, 1827, totaling 140 yards of "furniture prints" plus one piece of "furniture check 42 1/2 yards" long. 5 It can be surmised that such a large quantity was earmarked for the local furniture trade and was likely used on stuffed chairs, and very likely at an earlier date than what was indicated in advertisements.

Although rockers were mentioned in many of the advertisements and from an early date, no descriptive material was attached to indicate their characteristics. It is evident that a great many rockers were used in Cincinnati in that they were invariably included in in-

1 Cincinnati Price Book, 1830, 60.
2 Philadelphia Price Book, 40. Montgomery refers briefly to Spanish chairs and refers the reader to the Philadelphia Price Book, stating that Spanish chairs "cannot be identified on the basis of the description given."
3 LCLG, Aug. 29, 1829. 4 LHCG, Sept. 17, 1829.
5 Wayne Co., Ledger, Vol. I, MSS, CHS.
ventories. In most cases the rocker was grouped with the bedstead, the table and the common chair.

Common chairs were found in all inventories consulted. For chairs to replace stools quickly in any domicile, even if they must be of home manufacture, was a fact that was very predictable. By this time, however, Cincinnati had progressed far beyond pioneer conditions and it is likely that many of these chairs were made by one of the many joiners or chairmakers that worked in Cincinnati, perhaps on the barter system.

The easy chair was another type of chair made and used during the 1820's. The Cincinnati Price Book priced the easy chair at $4.00 and described it as being:

Two feet four inches wide, from out to out, in front, back three feet high, with one pannel nailed or screwed on the inside, top rail of back straight and shaped, on the upper edge a plain circle or scallop, a loose frame for cushion, framed in the side rails to receive the arms, plain feet with castors.1

Extras could be had for an additional charge, namely:

- If a slide under the frame, to draw out behind with the pan, $0.25
- If the slider is square, mortice clamped, $0.12 1/2
- If made with close stool, extra $1.00

The inventory of Samuel Patterson, merchant, listed one easy chair among his effects, valued at $5.00. Items in this inventory were not listed room by room but the easy chair was grouped with bedsteads and bedding.3 This easy chair may or may not have been

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the type that provided special accommodations under the cushion for a china pot. However, the "1 Easy Chair and Trimmings, $12.00" listed in the estate of John H. Piatt\(^1\) probably did. In the same vein, only one night stool at $1.50 was enumerated and in the inventory of James Tait, merchant.\(^2\) Apparently only the highest strata of society enjoyed the privilege of such luxury items.

Montgomery pointed out that settees and sofas were luxury items before 1810 in the principal Eastern cities but by 1828 their ownership had become more widespread.\(^3\) Both forms were advertised in the local papers, and listed in inventories. However, relatively few Cincinnatians owned settees or sofas and their purchase was reserved for those who could afford some of the luxuries of life.

Settees were advertised extensively during the period under consideration. They were usually linked with chairs and the phrase "Fancy and Windsor Chair making, settees, &c.," was a common occurrence in chairmakers' advertisements. This linkage leads one to believe that the settees were not usually upholstered. Furthermore, the term "settee" was defined in a dictionary published in Cincinnati in 1834 as a "large, long seat with a back." No reference was made

\(^1\)Ham. Co. Rec., Inventory, John H. Piatt, Aug. 12, 1822, 32. The assumption was made that "trimmings" referred to the special "accommodations."

\(^2\)Ham. Co. Rec., Inventory, James Tait, Jan. 18, 1828, 201. A description of this form was given in the Cincinnati Price Book, 70. Without extras it was priced at $2.25.

\(^3\)Montgomery, 291.
to upholstery being a requisite, whereas sofas were defined as "splendid easy covered seats."\(^1\)

There were only four craftsmen known to be working in the upholstering business during the 1820's, and it is significant that none was identified in this occupation exclusively. Two were listed as upholsterer-paperhanger, and two as upholsterer-mattress makers. Adam Hurdus, from England, worked as an upholsterer and paper hanger at 127 Sycamore in 1819\(^2\) and by 1825 he had moved to Fifth street between Main and Sycamore where he was joined by James Hurdus.\(^3\) Both were still listed in the same occupation in 1829.\(^4\) In that same year, Benjamin and William Orange were listed in the Directory for the first time as upholsterers and mattress makers.\(^5\) Their advertisement in the Directory gives insight into their offerings:

\[
\text{B. & WM. ORANGE'S} \\
\text{Upholstery, feather bed & Mattress} \\
\text{MANUFACTORY} \\
\text{EAST FRONT STREET, CINCINNATI} \\
\text{STEAM-BOATS furnished with colours--Cushions Festons, &c.} \\
\text{on the shortest notice.}\(^6\)
\]

It is likely that feather beds and mattresses were an important part of their business, as was the steamboat trade. It is not known how extensively these men worked in the upholstery business.

Five settees and two sofas were enumerated in the Cincinnati inventories examined. John H. Piatt, a prominent merchant and banker,


\(^2\) CD19, 123. \(^3\) CD25, 52. \(^4\) CD29, 94. \(^5\) CD29, 94. \(^6\) CD29.
whose inventory was filed in 1822 owned one red settee valued at $8.00 and one settee valued at $25.00. The former may have been part of store merchandise while the latter was apparently part of household goods; the former was grouped with store merchandise while the latter was grouped with other furniture. Oliver Kelly, Jr.'s inventory of 1824 included a settee valued at $2.00 along with quite an assortment of books. The inventory of James Foster (1826) a Justice of the Peace, listed a painted settee at $1.50 and Samuel Broadwell's inventory of 1827 included a rocking settee valued at $2.50. The extensive inventory of the merchant James Tait was filed in 1828 and listed one "stuffed cherry sofa" in the front sitting room valued at $18.00 and one cherry "unstuffed sofa" in the back room, $8.00.¹

From the inventories searched, which included a cross section of society, it was found that settees and sofas, especially the latter, were owned by the socially prominent people of Cincinnati. And, even among this elite group, many of the inventories examined listed no multi-seat furniture.

Sofas were not advertised until late in the period examined. On August 6, 1828, an advertisement of P. & C. C. Skinner appeared in the Daily Gazette offering "Grecian sophas [sic] and canalabons, made to order." ² Subsequent offerings of sofas by them and others followed but were always tagged with a "made to order" qualification.

From the foregoing discussion, it was concluded that settees and sofas remained luxury items in Cincinnati at a time when their ownership became more widespread in the East. Settees, for the most part, were very likely devoid of upholstery, and were stylistically of the fancy type. Many of the settees were probably made for the steamboat trade and for the hotel trade.
CHAPTER VII

FURNITURE MAKER'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

FELLOW CITIZENS

TIME has rolled on another year— and, through the good providence of God, you are assembled to celebrate and commemorate, an event the most important ever exhibited on the theatre of the Globe. The fourth of July...

It was the fifth of July, 1819. Eight hundred mechanics had "marched from Greenleaf's Hotel to the Stone Meeting House" where they were addressed by the cabinetmaker John Broadfoot Smith. Smith praised his country in further glowing words, and beseeched:

Let me intreat you to live above the contempt of the foolish; follow your laudable avocations; without you, society would sink into savage barbarism. It was justly said, by the orator on the last anniversary, that "mechanics are the bone and sinew of a nation." To you we are indebted for the comforts and conveniencies of our habitations; for our clothing to secure us from the inclemency of the season; for accelerating our commerce on the grand waters of the Ohio and Mississippi, and for the weapons of war to defend our country in times of necessity.

Following Smith's oration, the mechanics attended a banquet in honor of the occasion. In his closing remarks, Smith implored:

May we be preserved from intoxication, swearing or profaning the name of the Lord; avoiding all party disputes and enabled to conduct ourselves with sobriety and

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1 John Broadfoot Smith, "Oration," July 5, 1819, 1. Pamphlet, filed at Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. (Bound into The Cincinnati Cabinet-Makers' Book of Prices for Manufacturing Cabinet-Ware.)

2 The Fourth of July fell on Sunday in 1819, so was celebrated the next day.

3 Greve, I, 575. 4 Smith, "Oration," 6-7.
decorum, and to reject all things that may disgrace the character of the MECHANICS OF CINCINNATI.¹

The fourth of July celebrations were highlights in the furniture makers' life. Shortly before the great day, they met to finalize their plans and to insure full participation. In June of 1822 the following appeared in the Western Spy and Literary Cadet and the Cincinnati Inquisitor and Advertiser:

The Cabinet-makers of Cincinnati

ARE all earnestly requested to meet at Mr. Fox's tavern This Evening, precisely at half past 7 o'clock, on very important business, respecting the celebration of the ensuing Fourth of July. It is hoped none will be absent.²

Lots were drawn to determine the marching order in the parade. Thus, the various branches of the furniture craft did not necessarily follow one another. In 1822, for instance, chairmakers were followed at a distance by the cabinetmakers. They assembled at the Court House and marched, group by group down:

Main to Fourth street, on Fourth street to Broadway, down Broadway to Front street,--where the municipal officers and citizens will take their places under the direction of Col. Borden, Deputy Grand Marshal; the procession will then move on to Main street, and up Main street to the First Presbyterian Church, where the remaining duties of the day will be performed.³

For the most part, however, the life of a furniture maker was one of long hours and hard work--from sunup to sunset.⁴ Mansfield, in his Personal Memories, indicated that "the great body of people

¹Smith, Oration, 8.
²WSLC, June 29, 1822; CIA, July 2, 1822. Subsequent year announcements were found in NRPR, June 20, 1823; NRPR, July 1, 1823; CA, June 19, 1824; DCG, June 29, 1830.
³WSLC, June 29, 1822; CIA, July 2, 1822. ⁴Goss, I, 140.
were mechanics with plenty to do." An article in the local newspaper glorified the toil of the "laborious mechanic." It indicated that "there is no condition in life better . . . for a man to feel and realize a proper sense of his own dignity." It went on to say that a workman:

Retires to his meals from the fatigues of the day, with a full conviction that his sturdy hand has earned the refreshment of his table . . . His time never hangs upon his hands . . . he learns the practical lessons of economy and frugality in his family expenditures. Removed from the vices and gorgeous temptations of a fashionable life . . . he can look without a sigh on the gaudy pageantry of the day.  

When Timothy Flint traveled through Cincinnati in 1819, he commented about the industriousness of Cincinnati mechanics. He indicated that they made up a large portion of society and were the backbone of the economy. He went on to state:

Journeymen mechanics earn from one and three-fourths to two dollars per day. Their board costs about three dollars per week. Most of them dress well on the days they are not at work and some of them keep horses.  

However, the number of furniture makers who apparently kept horses were very few. In 1830, only Charles Lehman, Andrew McAlpin, Christopher Smith, and John Williamson were taxed for horses. And, all were master cabinetmakers, as opposed to journeymen.  

The Emigrants' Directory for 1820 indicated that "house rent for a mechanic is about sixty dollars, but most of them soon get

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1 Mansfield, 200. 2 NRPR, May 2, 1823.  
4 Ham. Co. Tax Rec., 1830. See compiled records in Appendix B.  
5 See discussion of Lehman, 94.
houses of their own. However, by 1830, when the economic situation was far better than earlier, only about 18 per cent of the furniture makers paid taxes on real estate.

A few of the makers assumed various roles in the community. William Mills became a township trustee, and an officer in the Protection Society (for firefighting). Benjamin Mason served as township trustee and he, along with James Cameron and Christopher Smith took inventories of deceased residents for Hamilton County. James Ward was active in the Methodist Church; Benjamin Mason and Christopher Smith in the Methodist Episcopal Church; and Andrew McAlpin in the Presbyterian Church. John Broadfoot Smith and James Ward were Directors of the Apprentices' Library of Cincinnati and John W. Mason rose to the prominent position of Director of the United States Branch Bank. In 1822 John Scudder served on a committee to select a mechanic to be supported at the ensuing election for representative to the State Legislature.

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2 See compiled records in Appendix B. In 1829 124 makers worked in Cincinnati. It was assumed that a similar number was still there in 1830. Taxes were paid by 23.
3 CD29, 37. 4 Greve, I; 544.
5 WS, May 29, 1817; CA, Jan. 25, 1823; CA, Mar. 19, 1823; CCR, Mar. 23, 1826.
6 Ham. Co. Probate Rec., Inventories, 1819-1828.
7 Goss, I, 493.
8 Minutes of Methodist Episcopal Church, MSS, CHS.
9 Goss, I, 493. 10 CA, June 2, 1824. 11 CD29, 161.
12 CIA, Sept. 24, 1822.
The cabinetmakers organized their own society. In 1819 the "Journeymen Cabinet Makers' Society" elected John Fuller, president; James McLean, vice president; and George Rosette, treasurer. The society was not listed in subsequent directories, nor was any other mention of it found. The cabinetmakers did, however, band together to publish *The Cincinnati Cabinet-Makers' Book of Prices for Manufacturing Cabinet-Ware* in 1830.

Some of the more enterprising furniture makers were masters of their own shops. Some ultimately opened warehouses and stores and a few branched out into related enterprises. In general, financial success came through merchandizing efforts and along with financial success, came social achievement. Andrew McAlpin is a case in point. He established his cabinetmaking shop in 1817. By 1825, in addition to his cabinet business, he was importing veneers from Philadelphia and selling them to other makers in Cincinnati and points further south. He was 'careful, frugal, and prompt' and continued increasing his facilities throughout his long career. In 1840 when a group of eminent Cincinnatians went to Washington to bring back William Henry Harrison's body, Andrew McAlpin was on the "distinguished" committee. McAlpin's son, George, followed in his father's path, founding the well-known department store, "McAlpin's."

But the majority of the furniture makers trod the path of the "middling sort" who embraced a life of long hours and hard work.

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1CD19, 44. 2Sec 99-104. 3Goss, I, 96.
They lived in the less fashionable districts "in their plain but independent houses."¹ For the most part they belonged to the "Methodists, Baptists, Campbellites and Universalists congregations."² They celebrated the holidays with great spirit. And it was they who provided the "bone and sinew" of the furniture industry. Mansfield, in his discussion of mechanics in general, aptly summed up the role of the furniture maker in the community when he stated that "it is such a population which makes the worth and strength of the city . . ."³

¹Mansfield, 200.
²Aaron, 60. These congregations generally appealed to the "middling sort," because of their emotionalism, which granted relief from everyday activities. They tended to attract people who were practically inclined as opposed to those intellectually minded. For comprehensive treatment see Francis P. Weisenburger, Triumph of Faith: Contributions of the Church to American Life, 1865-1900 (Richmond, Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1962) and Ordeal of Faith: The Crisis of Church-Going America, 1865-1900 (New York: Philosophical Library, Inc., 1959).
³Mansfield, 200.
CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cincinnati, the largest and fastest growing Ohio city during the period 1819-1830, encompassed a thriving furniture industry according to the evidence obtained and examined in this study. Cincinnati directories, local newspapers, contemporary histories and accounts, furniture price books, manuscripts, and public records were examined, and interviews conducted to (1) assemble a written and illustrated record of Cincinnati furniture and its makers, (2) to determine the nature of the furniture industry, and (3) to ascertain the kind of furniture possessed by Cincinnati residents. Information gained satisfies, to a limited extent, the growing quest for local social and cultural American history. More specifically, the study provides knowledge about regional aspects of Cincinnati furniture which enables selection of furniture for authenticity of local expression and provides some basis from which inferences of the interiors of homes in this area and period can be drawn.

There was a total of 168 cabinet- and chairmakers working in Cincinnati 1819-1830. In 1819 there were 47; in 1825, 56; and in 1829, 123. There was a 162 per cent increase in the number of furniture makers working in 1829 over that of 1819. Most of the increase took place from 1825 to 1829.
The most influential cabinetmakers working in Cincinnati during the period under review were Charles Lehman, Andrew McAlpin, John W. Mason, Benjamin Mason, George Porter, Christopher Smith, James Ward, and John Williamson. The cabinetmakers formed at least seven partnerships among themselves or with other members of the community.

The most influential chairmakers working in Cincinnati during the period under review were Charles W. James, Isaac Lee, Philip Skinner, Samuel Stibbs, and Jonathan Young. The chairmakers formed at least nine partnerships among themselves.

Most Cincinnatians purchased their furniture in Cincinnati because: one, the high cost and transportation of furniture from the East was prohibitive; two, appropriate furniture could be purchased in Cincinnati; and three, sentiment favored purchase of local products. Moreover, local furniture was much less expensive, could be bartered or purchased on credit, and was readily available.

Exporting of furniture was increasingly more important as the period progressed. Advertisements indicated that chairs and settees were important export items and probably were earmarked for the steamboat and hotel trade.

The Federal-Empire style was in vogue during the period under review. Local makers interpreted it in up-to-date patterns obtained from design books and from newly arrived makers who brought patterns with them. The style was executed in a relatively plain, functional manner. Cherry was the favored wood, followed by poplar and walnut. Poplar, a soft wood, was used both as a primary and secondary wood.
Other than the common chair, Windsors were by far the most popular style of chair while fancy chairs seemed to be more of a prestige item. Flag or rush bottom seats seemingly remained in general use in Cincinnati long after cane was in general evidence in other sections of the country. Settees and sofas remained luxury items in Cincinnati at a time when their ownership became more widespread in the East.

Cincinnati furniture makers were able to purchase their supplies and obtain services locally. Wood was abundant, and that which was not available was imported. Hardware, glue and other materials were "kept on hand" in the local shops. Carvers, turners, ornamental painters and other allied craftsmen worked in Cincinnati and their services were readily available to the furniture industry.

In the early 1820's when times were not prosperous, furniture makers accepted their lot, but as the city prospered and they became more in demand, dissatisfaction arose among the ranks of the journeymen. Labor problems, as in other furniture centers, led to the publication of The Cincinnati Cabinet Makers' Book of Prices for Manufacturing Cabinet Ware in 1830. Although some makers attained financial success and rose to positions of importance in the community, for the most part the furniture makers belonged to the "middling sort" who embraced a life of long hours and hard work.

This study represented the first extensive research pertaining to Cincinnati furniture or furniture of Southwestern Ohio. Although the present study established Cincinnati's role as an important center (1819-1830) and indicated the furniture made and
used in Cincinnati, a dearth of knowledge still exists pertaining to the regional furniture of the area.

Foremost is the need to establish the continuum role of Cincinnati's furniture industry—its inception and decline. There are extant newspapers and seemingly many manuscripts covering the periods prior to 1819 and after 1830. After 1830, there seems to be a wealth of manuscripts, including ledgers of the Wayne Furniture Company, in business in Cincinnati in the early 1830's.

By extending the study to include Hamilton County, more information about furniture and furnishings used in homes of the area could be gleaned from the inventories of 1809-1828. The study of this volume should further indicate the amount and type of furniture used, woods favored and furniture used in specific rooms. It seems that many of the inventories that were taken room by room, were of households whose owners resided outside the city of Cincinnati. Furthermore, information pertaining to other furnishings, such as curtains, blinds, fabrics and accessories could be ascertained.

A thorough systematic interview of residents of Cincinnati and the surrounding area, as well as places down river, should turn up more extant pieces of furniture. The pieces attributed to Cincinnati could be studied for similarities of construction details, woods and stylistic characteristics. The pieces could be related to the price book of 1830 and to the one published in 1836. Furthermore, an in depth study of these price books and their comparison
to each other would add knowledge about Cincinnati furniture and the growth of the industry.

This study indicated that in the latter part of the third decade of the nineteenth century, the chairmakers' industry was just on the threshold of the greatest period of productivity. Steamboat production became increasingly more important in the decades that followed and with it the chairmaking business would obviously progress. There is a need to bring to fruition the role of the chairmakers in regard to the steamboat industry in view of the fact that chairmakers were well established in Cincinnati and their role in the furnishing of steamboats should become increasingly more important.

In summary, the furniture industry of Cincinnati, Ohio, 1819-1830, was reviewed. As the urban center of the West during the period of investigation, Cincinnati was the location of a thriving furniture industry.
APPENDIXES
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<td>1 30/40</td>
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<td>(1 in mfg.)</td>
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<td>1 M 4 un/12</td>
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<td>1 M 26/44</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<td>1820 Males</td>
<td>1820 Females</td>
<td>1830 Males</td>
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<td>Young, Jonathan</td>
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<td>4 16/25</td>
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<td>(1 14/25</td>
<td>free col.)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1 40/50</td>
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</table>

APPENDIX B

Compiled Tax Records
### TABLE 7

**CINCINNATI FURNITURE MAKERS' TAX RECORDS, 1819-1830**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Taxes</th>
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<td>1819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayres, James</td>
<td>$8..</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barwise, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beal, Edmund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carver, Henry &amp; George</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carver, Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crowell, Nathan</td>
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<td>Harvy, John</td>
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<td>Harrison, Francis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>James, Thomas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee &amp; Lee (Isaac &amp; John)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee, Isaac</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lehman, Charles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L'Homedieu, Charles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McAlpin, Andrew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason &amp; Atkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason, Benjamin</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mason, John W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mills, William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perkins, Joel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porter, Benjamin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Porter George</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richardson, John</td>
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<td>Rust, Paul</td>
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<td>Scudder, John</td>
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<td>Skinner, Cereson C.</td>
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<td>Sowards, John</td>
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<td>Stibbe, Samuel</td>
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<td>Ward, James</td>
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<td>Young, Jonathan</td>
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</table>

Source: Compiled from the Tax Records for Hamilton County, Ohio, 1819-1830; filed at the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio. Abbreviations for specific taxes (other than realty taxes): C—Cattle; CA—Carriage; D—Delinquent; S—Store; H—Horses; P—Penalty & tax added; S—Store.
APPENDIX C

Compiled Furniture Advertisements
Furniture makers who advertised their wares and/or solicited personnel in the Cincinnati newspapers, 1817-1830, were compiled as individuals and as partnerships. They are listed below along with a chronological listing of their advertisements. Each maker's occupation was identified from the listings in the Cincinnati directories, or in the few instances where their names were excluded from the directory listings, their occupation was gleaned from their advertisements, and was so indicated. Under each advertisement is listed: the name of the paper in which it was found; the date the advertisement first appeared; the number of weeks it ran; and the content of the advertisement. The date the advertisement first appeared and the number of weeks it ran may be a few days off because some issues were missing. However, the number of missing issues were very few. By listing the weeks an advertisement ran in lieu of the number of times it was found, the occasional missing issue was not a great factor in the final tabulation. To facilitate matters, the following code was used:

Newspapers

CA — Cincinnati Advertiser
CAFC—Cincinnati American (For the Country)
CCR — Cincinnati Commercial Register
CIA — Cincinnati Inquisitor Advertiser

1 Two years prior to the period investigated in this study (1819-1830) was added to gain some continuity from the period that preceded the period under investigation.
Content of Advertisement

1--Cabinet furniture for sale
2--Chairs, settees for sale
3--Related items for sale
4--Steamboat orders solicited
5--Hotel orders solicited
6--Orders from a distance solicited
7--Opening of a new shop announced
8--New location of a shop announced
9--New partnership advertised
10--Dissolved partnership announced
11--Listed wares and location of shop in newspaper directory column
12--Journeyman(men) solicited
13--Apprentice(s) solicited
14--Runaway apprentice(s) sought
15--Other, including dunning debtors, stolen goods sought, etc.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1st Ad. Found in Newspapers</th>
<th>2nd Ad. Found in Newspapers</th>
<th>3rd Ad. Found in Newspapers</th>
<th>4th Ad. Found in Newspapers</th>
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<td>9,1</td>
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<tr>
<td>BARRIE, D. CONLIN</td>
<td>NRPR</td>
<td>3-19-24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>BARRIE, WILLIAM</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>10-12-25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELL &amp; BROWN</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td>3-20-29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLARK &amp; CROWELL</td>
<td>LG0</td>
<td>3-22-22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CROWELL, JAMIE</td>
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<td>3-29-22</td>
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<td>7,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEW &amp; WARD</td>
<td>NRPR</td>
<td>1-25-25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9,1</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOHN, LEMUEL</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td>10-25-25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5,12</td>
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<tr>
<td>MASON, J. W. B.</td>
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<td>MASON, JOHN W.</td>
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<td>MASON, J. W. &amp; CO. (SAMUEL &amp; JOHN)</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUNDAY, JONATHAN</td>
<td>LC0</td>
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<td>7,2</td>
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<td>15,12,15</td>
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<td>Porter, George</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>4-20-21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>ROLL &amp; DESB (JACOB &amp; ISAAC)</td>
<td>NSLC</td>
<td>5-23-30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2,6</td>
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<td>SANTINO, JOSEPH</td>
<td>SAFO</td>
<td>2-25-30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2,6</td>
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<td>5-29-30</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHWERIN, PHILIP</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>2-6-30</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>SKINNER, PHILIP &amp; G.C. (SAMUEL &amp; ISAAC)</td>
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<td>SMITH, THOMAS</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>1-14-24</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>9-8-16</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>15,12,15</td>
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<td>8-29-19</td>
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<td>8,10</td>
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APPENDIX D

Compiled Hardware Purchased by Some Cincinnati Furniture Makers from the Wayne Hardware Company
### TABLE 9
HARDWARE PURCHASED BY SOME CINCINNATI FURNITURE MAKERS
JANUARY 1, 1828-MAY 9, 1829
(Compiled from Wayne Company Ledgers, Volume 5 filed at Baker Library, Harvard Graduate School of Business, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Original spelling and capitalization retained)

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<td>1 Gr. Screws 1.00 1 doz. till locks 1.75 1 doz. Table Hinges .75</td>
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<td>Jan. 26, 1828</td>
<td>1/2 gro. 6 in. Bed Screws 2.50</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Feb. 5, 1828</td>
<td>8 nobs .50 2# glue 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Feb. 25, 1828</td>
<td>1 doz. Bureau Locks .68 4# glue 1.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mar. 5, 1828</td>
<td>2 sett caster .75 Bed Screws 2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 24, 1828</td>
<td>2 sett Rolls .75</td>
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<td>April 25, 1828</td>
<td>1 gro. Screws .63</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 7, 1828</td>
<td>4 pair Butt hinges [and] 8 doz. Screws 1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Norford Hatches [and]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 10, 1828</td>
<td>4 nobs .25 1 gross Screws .63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 16, 1828</td>
<td>3/4 doz. Table Hinges .56</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 7, 1828</td>
<td>1 gross screws 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>June 9, 1828</td>
<td>3 Thumb Latches .45</td>
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<tr>
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<td>June 13, 1828</td>
<td>1 5 in. Knob Lock 1.45</td>
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<tr>
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<td>June 16, 1828</td>
<td>to order 1 Gro. Screws .38</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 19, 1828</td>
<td>1 set nobs .50 1 sprigs [sic] .31</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 8, 1828</td>
<td>1 sett Lycimetr [sic] Roller .38</td>
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<tr>
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<td>July 9, 1828</td>
<td>4 glass knobs .62</td>
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<td>Aug. 7, 1828</td>
<td>2 pair hooks &amp; hinges 1.25</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Aug. 8, 1828</td>
<td>1 pair hooks &amp; hinges .75</td>
</tr>
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<td>Aug. 13, 1828</td>
<td>to order 1 pr. Chest Hinges .25</td>
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<td>Jan. 17, 1829</td>
<td>2 sett Bed Screws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 21, 1829</td>
<td>1# Nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 5, 1829</td>
<td>1 Sett Till Lock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 6, 1829</td>
<td>4 Scutcheons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 9, 1829</td>
<td>1 Sett glass knobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 27, 1829</td>
<td>1 Sett glass Knobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 28, 1829</td>
<td>2½# iron wire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 1, 1829</td>
<td>1 gro Screws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skinner, Philip &amp;</td>
<td>Jan. 15, 1828</td>
<td>Left on caster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corson</td>
<td>Dec. 12, 1828</td>
<td>1 go Screws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 27, 1829</td>
<td>2 Quires glass paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 18, 1829</td>
<td>14# glue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr. 6, 1829</td>
<td>10# glue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Date of Purchase</td>
<td>Purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Christopher</td>
<td>Jan. 5, 1828</td>
<td>1 doz. Table hinges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 25, 1828</td>
<td>1 sett Glass Nobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 28, 1828</td>
<td>1 sett glass Knobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 31, 1828</td>
<td>2 sett glass Nob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 12, 1828</td>
<td>1 sett glass knobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 10, 1828</td>
<td>1 sett glass knobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 sett glass knobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr. 16, 1829</td>
<td>3 sett glass Knobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urwiler, John</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 1828</td>
<td>5/12 Sett Bed Screws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 10, 1828</td>
<td>1 glue Kettle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 13, 1828</td>
<td>1 gro Screws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 14, 1828</td>
<td>2 Nails and hocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 28, 1828</td>
<td>1 gro. Screws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 5, 1828</td>
<td>Sett Cut Nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 13, 1828</td>
<td>1 gro Screws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 15, 1828</td>
<td>1 doz. 3 key tilt Locks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 18, 1828</td>
<td>1 Brass Nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 26, 1828</td>
<td>1# Nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 9, 1829</td>
<td>1# Nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 10, 1829</td>
<td>1# 6d nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Thayer D.</td>
<td>Apr. 14, 1829</td>
<td>3 sett glass Nobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr. 16, 1829</td>
<td>4 sett Castors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 drawer locks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Box locks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young, Jonathan</td>
<td>Jan. 23, 1828</td>
<td>to order 1 doz. Parliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hinges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX E

Compiled List of Allied Craftsmen Active

in Cincinnati, 1819-1830
Because craftsmen were known to cross the thin line that separated the crafts, a list of allied craftsmen—men working in closely related occupations—was compiled from the Cincinnati directories in 1819, 1825, and 1829. The names are listed in alphabetical order along with their occupation, origin if known, and the years active in Cincinnati.

3. Carver, George W. Turner, Maryland, 1825.
7. Denison, Marcus. Turner, Maryland, 1825.
12. Garish, Francis B. Piano forte manufacturer, Maryland, 1825-1829.
27. Hubbard, Lewis F. Japanner and painter, 1819.
30. James, Thomas D. Furniture ornamentor, 1829.
34. Mather, ______. Gilder, 1819.
36. McKnight, Benjamin. Joiner, Maryland, 1825.
38. Orange, Benjamin. Upholsterer and mattress maker, 1829.
40. Oxley, John. Chair painter, 1829.
42. Parsons, William. Turner, Virginia, 1825.
43. Parsons, ________. Gilder, 1829.
46. Pierce, William. Turner, 1829.\(^1\)
47. Reed, Samuel. Gilder and looking glass maker, 1829.
50. Schooley, Israel. Organ builder, Virginia, 1825-1829.
52. Spencer, Samuel. Turner, 1829.
53. Swain, Charles. Chair painter, 1819.
55. Weaver, Henry. Turner, 1829.

\(^1\)The Cincinnati Directory of 1829 listed on page 96 William Pearce, turner, Walnut between Second and Third and on page 98 William Pierce, Walnut between Third and Fourth. Apparently there were two men of the same occupation and similar names in Cincinnati in 1829.
APPENDIX F

Compiled Furniture Makers and
Their Partnerships
Alphabetical List of Known Cabinetmakers
Active in Cincinnati, 1819-1830

1. Adamson, Benjamin, 1819.
3. Armour, James, c. 1819-1820.
4. Bane, Edward, 1829.
7. Beain, Peter, 1829.
10. Black, James, c. 1817-1831.
11. Blackburn, Edward, c. 1825-1831. (Also pianoforte maker)
15. Boyd, Henry, c. 1826-1864. (Also carpenter)
20. Cameron, James, c. 1817-1819.
21. Carr, James, 1829.
23. Chaney, James, 1829.
30. Daughters, Turpin, c. 1828-1830.
31. Davis, John, 1825.
32. Demott, Peter, 1829.
33. Douglas, George W., c. 1829-1834.
34. Duke, Samuel, c. 1819-1820.
35. Duley, Henry, c. 1829-1831.
36. Dunn, John, c. 1829-1831.
37. Finney, Alvin, 1829.
38. Flint, William, 1819.
40. Fuller, John, c. 1819.
41. Gaskill, Cripps, c. 1817-1831. (Also a house carpenter)
42. Halley, Washington G., c. 1829-1856.
43. Hargy, John, c. 1819-1846.
44. Harrison, George, c. 1825-1834.
46. Hawks, William, 1829.
47. Hoffman, David, c. 1817-1819.
48. Hoglan, Ralph, 1829.
49. Hollingshead, John, c. 1829; 1836-1837.
50. Huntington, Jacob, c. 1829-1831.
51. Jackson, David, Jun., c. 1817-1819.
52. James, Thomas, c. 1826-1830.
55. Lee, James, 1829.
56. Lehman, Charles, c. 1820-1837. (Also a chairmaker)
57. L'Hommedieu, Charles W., 1825.
58. McAlpin, Andrew, c. 1817-1863.
60. McCammon, Thomas, c. 1817-1819.
61. McLean, James, c. 1819-1829.
63. Mason, Benjamin, c. 1802-1843.
64. Mason, John W., c. 1815-1843.
66. Medsker, David, 1829.
68. Mills, Isaac, c. 1829-1831.
69. Mills, Thaddeus, c.1829-1834.
70. Mills, William, c. 1819-1835.
71. Mulford, ______, 1829.
72. Mundal, Jonathan, c. 1821.
73. Musgrove, Nelson H., 1829.
74. Ollis, Matthias, 1819.
75. Oneal, John, 1825.
76. Osborn, Benjamin, c. 1829-1831.
77. Overstreet, James, 1829.
78. Peak, Nathaniel, 1829.
79. Pearce, John, c. 1825-1829.
80. Pegg, William J., c. 1829-1831.
81. Ferrine, William, c. 1827-1831.
82. Peterson, Jacob, c. 1829-1831.
83. Pittinger, Andrew, 1829.
84. Porter, Benjamin, c. 1815-1819.
85. Porter, George, c. 1817-1849.
86. Powell, Watkin, 1825.
87. Reed, James W., 1829.
88. Reiniger, Casper, 1825.
89. Rice, Jacob, c. 1829-1834.
90. Rogers, Andrew, 1829.
91. Rogers, George, 1829.
92. Rosette, George, 1819.
93. Rust, Paul, c. 1829-1851.
94. Sampson, John, 1825.
95. Saxton, Joseph C., 1825-1837.
96. Scott, John, 1829.
98. Scudder, John, c. 1817-1830.
99. Sermon, John, 1819.
100. Shaw, John, 1829.
### Alphabetical List of Known Chairmakers

**Active in Cincinnati, 1819-1830**

1. Addis, John, c. 1817-1831.
2. Ayres, James, c. 1819-1853.
4. Bender, George, 1829.
5. Cannon, Fergus, 1819.
7. Comstock, Caleb, 1820.
10. Denison, James, 1825.
11. Denison, John, 1825.
13. Gibson, Alexander, 1819. (Also spinning wheel- & brushmaker)
15. Hunt, Peter, c. 1829-1850.
16. James, Charles W., c. 1824-1834.
18. Lanning, Nicholas, c. 1828-1829.

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1, 2 Probably two different makers. They were listed in the directory of 1829 with different addresses.
20. Lee, John, c. 1825-1829. (Also a carpenter)
21. Lehman, Charles, c. 1820-1837. (Also a cabinetmaker)
22. Longwell, David, 1829.
23. McKibbin, James, 1829.
24. Mullen, Jonathan, 1829.
27. Richardson, John, c. 1827-1829.
30. Sheed, John, c. 1820-1831.
33. Skinner, Corson C., c. 1825-1836.
34. Skinner, Philip, c. 1822-1837.
35. Stibbs, Samuel, c. 1817-1853.
36. Vinshonhaller, John, 1825.
37. Wade, David, 1829.
38. Westlake, Robert, c. 1811-1819.
40. Wilson, John, 1819 (Also a painter)
42. Young, Jonathan, c. 1817-1831.

Alphabetical List of Known Partnerships of Cincinnati Furniture Makers Working in Cincinnati, 1819-1830

2. Beall & Brown, c. 1829.
7. Mason & Atkins, c. 1829-1830.
10. Schoooley & Blackburn, c. 1829-1830.
15. Young & Deeds, c. 1819.
16. Young & Lanning, c. 1828.
17. Young & Lee, c. 1819-1820.
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Unpublished Materials

