LINCOLN’S SPRINGFIELD

CHAIR AND CABINET MAKERS
(1831-1860)

Spring Creek Series

Richard E. Hart

Thursday, October 26, 2017
**Front Cover Photograph:**  Painted Windsor Style Bench. Abraham Lincoln had this seven-foot long settee made to his order by Springfield chair maker Sullivan Conant. It was painted to match the Lincoln home at Eighth and Jackson in Springfield. It sat on the back (South) porch where it could catch the breeze.¹

**Back Cover Photograph:**  This sofa was made for Abraham Lincoln on his order, he being unable to find one long enough for his use already manufactured. It is of extra length and was made by Springfield chair and cabinet maker Daniel E. Ruckel, and upholstered by his brother, Jacob Ruckel also of Springfield.

No. _____ of 15.

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1 Lincoln Home National Historic Site, LINO 5403.
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Introduction

Skilled craftsmen were a necessity in early Springfield. They provided items and services essential for living, but not otherwise available. Among them were the blacksmith, the tailor, the shoemaker, the butcher, the carpenter, the harness maker, the potter, the barrel maker, the hat maker, the wheelwright, and the chair and the cabinet maker.

Each craftsman learned particular skills from a master craftsman. While being taught, he was called an apprentice. He acquired and learned to use the special tools that were used in his particular “trade,” and nowhere else. Literally, they were the tools of the trade. Later, the master craftsman would teach others. This apprentice system originated in the distant past and continues today.

Having a skill gave a craftsman certain freedom not otherwise possible. He could make a living by offering his skills and the products for sale to others. This freed him from the drudgery of common labor, domestic service or life as a farm laborer.

Chair and cabinet makers were among these skilled craftsmen. Before the advent of the mass production of furniture of uniform design, chair and cabinet makers were responsible for the conception and production of handmade furniture. They used their woodworking skills and special tools to create chairs, cabinets and other furniture. Some of them specialized in a particular type of chair or cupboard. Most had very unique and distinctive style and their work can be identified by that style. But no two pieces were exactly alike. Each master cabinetmaker creation was distinct and indeed a unique work of art.

To be successful as a cabinet maker, you not only need to be good with your hands, but you must also have good math and spatial skills. A thorough understanding of the tools you’ll use and principles of design are required for a career in woodworking.²

This study of Springfield chair and cabinet makers begins in the very young and small village of Springfield in the 1830s and continues through Abraham Lincoln’s departure for Washington, D. C. in 1861.

Abraham Lincoln must have been a good judge of chair and cabinet makers. As a young man in Kentucky, Thomas Lincoln, Abraham’s father, was trained as a cabinetmaker and he made cabinet furniture in Elizabethtown and Hardin County, Kentucky, Spencer County, Indiana, and Coles County, Illinois. Thomas was a master cabinet maker and his best pieces are equal to or better than those made by any of the Springfield cabinet makers described in this study. Abraham most probably realized the excellent skills of his father compared to most of the Springfield cabinet makers with whom he was familiar.

Abraham Lincoln was personally acquainted with some of those early Springfield cabinetmakers. In 1848, he wrote to Walter Davis from Washington D.C. and as an aside said “Give my good will to Jack…” This was most likely Davis’ partner John A. Hough, also a cabinet maker. Also, Daniel and Jacob Ruckel made a special coach for Abraham.

² https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=cabinet+furniture+definition
Sullivan Conant, Ezekiel Pilcher, John A. Hough and Walter Davis were also friends of Abraham Lincoln. In February 1861, Lincoln invited John A. Hough to accompany him on the train from Springfield to Washington, D.C.

The story of Springfield’s cabinet and chair makers opens a window and gives one a small glimpse of the environment of Lincoln’s Springfield. Cabinet and chair makers played an important role, as did many other craftsmen, in the common day-to-day life of Springfield residents.

The cabinet and chair makers were respected for their skills, but beyond these skills some actively participated in the Springfield public discourse about slavery. Three of them, Sullivan Conant, Josiah Francis and Elisha Tabor signed the Lovejoy Petition calling for a convention of anti-slavery advocates. They were among the earliest Illinois abolitionists. George Strickland was a member of the Springfield Anti-Slavery Society. Charles C. Phelps was a member of the Second Presbyterian Church (now Westminster Presbyterian), known as the abolitionist church because among its founding members were former members of the First Presbyterian Church who broke from that church over the issue of slavery. Charles’s father Ebenezer Phelps was one of the founders and organizers of that church. I do not propose that there is a correlation between chair and cabinet makers and abolitionists, but it is interesting to note the number who were of that mind.

The chair and cabinetmakers left little to document their lives, but they placed wonderfully descriptive advertisements in the two Springfield newspapers of the time. These newspapers have been digitalized and are now searchable thanks to some brilliant souls in Silicon Valley who have developed search technology. It is from those newspapers that I have created this booklet tracing the history of chair and cabinet makers in Lincoln’s Springfield.

Note: The dating in this chronology. Most of the advertisements have a date printed at or near the bottom of the advertisement. It is that date and not the actual date of publication that I have used. Also, it is worth noting that the same advertisement may appear more than once, sometimes every day for a month. Therefore, the presence of an advertisement in a given issue of a newspaper does not mean that is the only date that it appeared.

Thank You

I thank those who have contributed information and encouragement to me during this project. Linda Garvert, now retired from the Sangamon Valley Room of the Springfield Lincoln Library, shared various finds and as always pointed me to an important contribution from the rich treasures of that Room. Erika Holtz, the curator of Edwards Place, shares a love and curiosity about the furniture used not only in the beautifully restored Edwards Place, but Springfield in general. I thank her for sharing her knowledge and always joyful encouragement. Susan Haake at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site is the expert on the furniture of the Lincoln Home and she generously and graciously shared her knowledge with me. Debbie S. Hamm has been most helpful in retrieving materials in the Manuscripts Section of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. James Cornelius has been my eagle-eyed editor and I thank him for his assistance. Finally, I thank my secretary Sheila Sullivan who is the best proof reader I know.

3 The source of the advertisements in this book are from the Springfield newspapers of that time, the Sangamo Journal (1831-1847), Illinois Journal (1847-1855) and the Illinois State Journal (1855-forward) and the State Register. I am indebted to the GenealogyBank web site for its treasure of digitalized and searchable newspapers, including those used here.
1831

**John Moore, Springfield’s First Cabinet Maker**  
(1823-1831)  
Cabinets

John Moore was Springfield’s first cabinet maker, as far as can be determined. He was born on April 20, 1796, in Shoreham, Vermont and came to Springfield where he was married on August 9, 1823, to Mrs. Elizabeth Hawley. I use that marriage date as the date when John is first known as a cabinet maker in Springfield. However, the first written evidence of his being a Springfield cabinet maker appears in the *Sangamo Journal* on December 14, 1831, its first year of publication. In 1831, John was 35 years-old. This study begins from that year.

**James H. Smith and J. B. Moffett**  
(1831-1833)  
Cabinets

On November 9, 1831, James H. Smith and J. B. Moffett, doing business as Smith & Moffett, placed an advertisement in the *Sangamo Journal*. They announced that their cabinet and furniture manufactory shop was on Fourth Street, near the Public Square. They manufactured cabinet furniture in the “neatest manner.”

*Sangamo Journal, November 9, 1831.*

**Smith & Moffett Advertise for Journeymen Cabinet Makers**

TO JOURNEYMEN CABINET MAKERS

The subscribers wish to employ two Journeymen Cabinet Makers, who are good workmen

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4 *Sangamo Journal*, Thursday, January 26, 1832, p. 4.
Randolph Moore & Thomas Walters Form Cabinet Making Partnership
Cabinets
(1831)

On December 14, 1831, Randolph Moore and Thomas Walters, doing business as Moore & Walters, placed an advertisement in the Sangamo Journal. They announced that they had purchased the shop and materials owned by John Moore. It is from this advertisement that we know of John Moore and his cabinet furniture shop located on Main street (now Jefferson Street), one door below Russell’s tavern. I find no further record of John Moore’s presence in Springfield.⁶

Moore and Walters conducted their business at John Moore’s shop site on Main street. They kept on hand sideboards, bureaus, dining and breakfast tables, stands and bedsteads. They advertised that they had a turning lathe and were prepared to execute plain and fancy turning. Plank and produce were received in payment for work.

CABINET MAKING,
IN ALL ITS VARIOUS BRANCHES.

RANDOLPH MOORE & THOMAS WALTERS, having formed a partnership under the firm of

MOORE & WALTERS,

And purchased the shop and materials owned by John Moore, (on Main street, one door below Russell’s tavern,) are prepared to execute orders for any article of CABINET FURNITURE that may be wanted…., They intend keeping constantly on hand, and for sale, all articles in their line, such as SIDEBOARDS, BUREAUS, DINING AND BREAKFAST TABLES, STANDS, BEDSTEADS, &c. &c.

And will at all times be ready to furnish, on the shortest notice, any article of Furniture which they may not have on hand.

Having a Turning Lathe attached to their establishment, they are also prepared to execute every kind of PLAIN & FANCY TURNING.

As both of the firm profess to be well acquainted with their business, they feel confident of being able to render satisfaction to all those who may favor them with their custom. Their terms will be unexceptionable…

Plank and Produce will be received in payment for work.

Springfield, December 14, 1831.

Name: Randolph Moore and Thomas Walters
Date: December 14, 1831
Location: Main street (Jefferson) one door below Russell’s tavern.
Type: Cabinet furniture manufacture and sale; sideboards, bureaus, dining and breakfast tables, stands, bedsteads; turning lathe.

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⁷ Sangamo Journal, December 15, 1831, p. 3, cl. 3
B. C. and Elisha Tabor Advertise Cabinet Work
(1831-1832)

This is the first appearance of the two Tabor brothers, B. C. and Elisha in Springfield. The 1850 Springfield census listed B. C. as a 40-year-old carpenter born in Ohio.

CABINET WORK.
B. C. & E. TABOR
Respectfully inform the citizens of Springfield, and its vicinity, that they carry on the above business, one door north of the Post Office, in Springfield, where they can be found at all times.
They hope from their experience in business, and prompt attention to orders, to share a part of the public patronage. Their work shall be finished in a style not inferior to any in the western country.
All kinds of approved country produce will be thankfully received in payment for work.
Dec. 27, 1831.

Sangamo Journal, December 27, 1831.

In 1832, Elijah Tabor served as a member of the first Board of Trustees of Springfield. In 1833, Elijah Tabor was a charter member of the Christian Church of Springfield.

B. C. and Elisha Tabor Pay Cash for White Walnut

CASH
Will be paid for a quantity of thin PLANK, suitable for Cabinet work. White Walnut is preferred.

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8 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, January 26, 1832, p. 4.
9 Sangamo Journal, January 5, 1832, p. 3, cl. 4.
11 Sangamo Journal, January 12, 1832, p. 1, cl. 1. Juglans cinerea, commonly known as butternut or white walnut, is a species of walnut native to the eastern United States and southeast Canada. Butternut wood is light in weight and takes polish well, and is highly rot resistant, but is much softer than black walnut wood. Oiled, the grain of the wood usually shows much light. It is often used to make furniture, and is a favorite of woodcarvers.
1832

William G. Doyle
(1832-1834)
Chairs

William G. Doyle came to Springfield from Stubenville, Ohio in 1831. I believe that he was the first chair maker in Springfield.

Name: Chair Making
Name: William G. Doyle
Date: April 4, 1832
Location: Old court house on southeast corner of Public Square. (northeast corner of 6th and Adams)
Type: Fancy and Windsor Chair Making.
Age: 28
Origin: Ohio

Sangamo Journal, Thursday, April 5, 1832.12

William Shoop
Cabinets
(1832)

On June 12, 1832, William Shoop placed an advertisement in the Sangamo Journal. He announced that he had commenced the cabinet business. He would trade lumber suitable for cabinet work and furniture. This is the only advertisement placed by Shoop in the Springfield newspaper. Apparently, his cabinet making business was short lived.

Name: William Shoop
Date: June 12, 1832
Location: Building recently occupied by H. M. Armstrong, near Washington Iles dwelling.
Type: Cabinet manufacture and sale.

Sangamo Journal, June 12, 1832.13

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12 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, April 5, 1832, p. 3.
James H. Smith
(1831-1833)
Cabinets

On July 5, 1832, James H. Smith placed two advertisements in the Sangamo Journal. He informed the public that he continued in the cabinet business at the shop recently occupied by Smith & Moffett. A second notice stated that he wished to employ three or four good workmen for several months.

Name: James H. Smith
Date: July 5, 1832
Location: Shop recently occupied by Smith & Moffett. (4th near Public Square)
Type: Cabinet ware manufacture and sale.

The first name of “John” in the first advertisement was an error. It should have been “James.”

B. C. Tabor and Elisha Tabor Dissolve Partnership
(1831-1832)
Cabinets

On September 10, 1832, B. C. and Elisha Tabor placed an advertisement in the Sangamo Journal announcing that they had dissolved their partnership by mutual consent. All persons who had claims against the firm were to make them immediately. Their presence was short, only about 9 months. There is no further evidence of their presence as cabinet makers in Springfield.

Name: B. C. Tabor and Elisha Tabor
Date: September 10, 1832
Age: B. C. Tabor 22
Elisha Tabor
Origin: Ohio

Sangamo Journal, Saturday, January 19, 1833. 14
Sangamo Journal, Saturday, October 6, 1832. 15

14 Sangamo Journal, Saturday, January 19, 1833, p. 4.
15 Sangamo Journal, Saturday, October 6, 1832, p. 4.
16 Sangamo Journal, January 5, 1832, p. 3, cl. 4.
1833

James H. Smith and J. B. Moffett Dissolve Partnership
(1831-1833)
Cabinets

On January 5, 1833, J. B. Moffett placed an advertisement in the *Sangamo Journal*. He announced that the firm of J. H. Smith & J. B. Moffett had dissolved their partnership. All persons who had claims against the firm were to make them to Moffett even though he did not continue in cabinet making business and Smith did.

*Sangamo Journal, Saturday, January 19, 1833.*

James H. Smith
(1831-1833)
Cabinets

On March 2, 1833, James H. Smith placed an advertisement in the *Sangamo Journal* announcing that he had removed his shop to a new brick building and continued to carry on the cabinet business. This is his last advertisement.

*Sangamo Journal, Saturday, November 2, 1833.*

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17 *Sangamo Journal*, Saturday, January 19, 1833, p. 4.
18 *Sangamo Journal*, Saturday, November 2, 1833, p. 4.
William G. Doyle
(1832-1834)
Chairs

On May 3, 1833, William G. Doyle placed a notice in the Sangamo Journal that he had moved his shop from the northeast corner of Sixth and Adams Streets to the shop recently occupied by J. N. Ebey, north of the Public Square on the east side of Sixth Street and now the site of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. He stated that he would continue to manufacture fancy and Windsor chairs there.

Sangamo Journal, May 3, 1833.\(^\text{19}\)

\(^{19}\) Sangamo Journal, May 3, 1833.
1834

Lack of Advertisements During the Year 1834

I have found no advertisements that are dated 1834 and published during that year. There are advertisements that are dated other than 1834. It is a mystery as to why this is the case. Perhaps someone else will find such an advertisement, but for now I have none to share.

William G. Doyle Provides Chairs to County Court Room

William G. Doyle Provides Chairs to County Court Room-April 10, 1834.  

Death of William G. Doyle From Cholera

William G. Doyle, age 30, died of cholera in Springfield in early September 1834. Doyle, formerly of Steubenville, Ohio, had lived in Springfield for almost three years. He was “seized with the complaint of which he died, on Saturday about two o’clock and the next morning he ceased to breathe.” 21 The administrator’s notice of sale states that the sale will consist of: well finished chairs, set of tools, large quantity of lumber, household and kitchen furniture.

Obituary of William G. Doyle
Sangamo Journal, September 18, 1834.  

Notice of Administrator’s Sale
Sangamo Journal, September 27, 1834. 

20 County Commissioners Records, June Term, 1834. IRAD.
21 Sangamon County Probate # 182, dated September 7, 1834, IRAD.
22 Sangamo Journal, September 18, 1834, p. 9.
23 Sangamo Journal, September 27, 1834, p. 9.
Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)

Chairs

On April 25, 1835, 20-year-old Charles C. Phelps placed an advertisement in the Sangamo Journal. It was the first of many to come. He announced that he had moved his shop to the corner of Fourth and Adams Streets. He manufactured fancy and Windsor chairs. He would exchange chairs for two-inch linn plank. He also stated that he would employ two or three journeymen with constant employment and good wages.

Charles C. Phelps was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, on October 24, 1814, and went to school there. Charles’ father, Ebenezer Strong Phelps, was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1788. In 1812 he [Ebenezer] married Anna Wright, who was born in Northampton in 1791. They were the parents of seven children, all of whom came to Sangamon County in 1831 with their parents. [including Charles C. Phelps] They traveled in a colony from Massachusetts by way of the New York canal to Buffalo, by lake to Detroit, by land across the country 160 miles and then by canoes down the St. Joseph, Kankakee, and Illinois rivers to the present site of LaSalle, Illinois, where the party arrived on June 29, 1831. They arrived in Springfield on July 26, 1831. He had some capital at the time of his removal to the west and thus he soon gained a good business footing in Illinois.

Charles learned the furniture business when such work was done by hand. On July 31, 1837 in Massachusetts, he married Sophia Little, who was born in Northampton, Massachusetts. Sophia signed the Constitution of the Springfield Anti-Slavery Society, a badge of her support of the anti-slavery movement.

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Sangamo Journal, May 23, 1835.24

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: April 25, 1835
Location: Fourth and Adams Streets
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale.
Age: 20
Origin: Massachusetts

25 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Manuscripts Section, SC 3632.
Children: Henry Little Phelps (1845 - 1921); Charles C. Phelps (1851 - 1931); Orrin W Phelps (1854 - 1906)

The family remained in Springfield for seven years and in 1838 moved to Princeton, Illinois, save that Charles C. Phelps remained in Springfield. Ebenezer was a watchmaker. After coming to Springfield, he established a jewelry store, which he conducted until he moved to Princeton in 1838, where conducted the same line of business.

Charles established a furniture business on a small scale and was one of Springfield's pioneer furniture dealers. He remained in that business until his death on March 5, 1866, in Springfield, at age 51 years, 4 months, and 9 days. He is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.26 His business was carried on at different locations but remained the longest on East Washington Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

Charles was the second generation to actively participate in the work of the Second Presbyterian Church (now Westminster Presbyterian Church).27 On May 26, 1835, Charles' father, Ebenezer Strong Phelps, was one of the founders and organizers of the Second Presbyterian Church. He “left the impress of his individuality upon the moral development here.” A well educated man and one of considerable influence, Ebenezer put forth his best efforts for the benefit of the localities where he lived, worthy of emulation.28

**Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman Form Partnership**  
**(1835-1840)**

On July 2, 1835, Charles C. Phelps, age 21, and Robert B. Zimmerman, age 23, placed an advertisement in the *Sangamo Journal*. They announced that they had entered into co-partnership to manufacture and furnish Windsor and fancy chairs. The business was located at the corner of Fourth and Adams streets. This was the first appearance of Zimmerman in the Springfield newspapers. The partnership was short lived. Less than two months after this advertisement, a second advertisement dated August 29, 1835 appeared in the *Sangamo Journal* with Phelps operating in partnership with W. B. Powell.

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28 Oak Ridge Cemetery, Block 11, Lot 65.
Robert B. Zimmerman was married on October 2, 1845, in Springfield, to Mary C. Townsend, who was born on November 7, 1821, in Caledonia County, Vermont. They had two children, both died young. In November, 1849, Robert and Mary Zimmerman adopted a daughter, Lizzie, when she was but three months old.

Robert B. Zimmerman and Alexander P. Willard were in partnership as painters and dealers in painters' stock twenty-four years, and until the death of Mr. Willard. In 1876, Mr. Zimmerman was yet in business in which he had been more than forty-one years actively engaged in Springfield. He has seen it grow, and had much to do with its growth, from a very small village to a city of twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and from a county seat to be the capital of the fourth State in the American Union. He has been an active and efficient officer of the Second Presbyterian Church for many years; and in proportion to his ability he has probably been the most liberal contributor to its funds.³¹

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²⁹ Sangamo Journal, August 16, 1836, p. 4.
³⁰ Power says that Robert B. Zimmerman arrived in Springfield on November 18, 1835, four months after the date of this advertisement. History of The Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois, John Carroll Power, 1876, (Hereinafter Power.)
³¹ History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois, 1876, John Carroll Power, p. 797. (Hereafter referred to as Power.)
Charles C. Phelps and W. B. Powell Form Partnership

Chairs

On August 29, 1835, Charles C. Phelps and W. B. Powell placed an advertisement in the Sangamo Journal announcing that they had entered into a partnership to manufacture and furnish Windsor and fancy chairs. The business was located at the corner of Fourth and Adams streets and was operated under the name Phelps & Powell. They sought to employ a good Windsor or fancy chair maker. (1835-1836)

This is confusing as Phelps had already formed a partnership with Robert B. Zimmerman. Was Phelps running several different chair shops with separate partners for each?

Name: Charles C. Phelps and W. B. Powell
Date: August 29, 1835
Location: Fourth and Adams Streets.
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale. Also sign, carriage and ornamental painting and cabinet furniture re-varnished and polished. Looking for one good Windsor or Fancy chair maker.
Age: Charles C. Phelps 20
Origin: Massachusetts

George C. Phelps signed the Constitution of the Springfield Anti-Slavery Society, a badge of his support of anti-slavery in early Springfield. 33

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32 Sangamo Journal, August 29, 1835, p. 4.
33 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Manuscripts Division, SC 3632.
1836

Ezekiel Pilcher
(1836-1842)
Cabinets

This is the first advertisement by Ezekiel Pilcher. It says that he “tenders his thanks to
the public for their liberal patronage and by strict attention to business to merit is continuance.”
This would imply that he had been in the furniture making business for some time.

Name: Cabinet Making!
Name: Ezekiel Pilcher
Date: January 8, 1836
Location: few rods north of Owen’s livery stable.
Type: Manufactures all kinds of cabinet ware,
bureaus, presses, tables, bedsteads
Age: 36 (January 4, 1800-December 16, 1858)
Origin: Kentucky

Sangamo Journal, Saturday, January 9, 1836.

Ezekiel Pilcher, son of Shadrach Henry Pilcher and Sarah Proctor, was born on January
4, 1800 in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. Ezekiel and his brother Moses moved to
Springfield in about 1824 and lived in a house Ezekiel built on Sixth Street, three blocks north of
State House. On May 8, 1825, Ezekiel married Louisa Mossman Ballard who was born on
February 28, 1809 in Grayson County, Virginia.

In the 1830 Federal Census, the Pilcher family was living six houses away from C. A.
Ballard. The head of the household was Ezekiel who was born in January 1800. Also in the
household were his wife, Louisa (Ballard), and their daughter, Mary Jane, who was born on
February 5, 1829. The 1840 census was the same, but their daughter is not listed.

In the 1850 census, Ezekiel was a 50-year-old cabinetmaker with $350 in property.
Louisa is listed as a 41-year-old housekeeper. Their ten children (two sets of twins) were
enumerated. They lived not far from Abraham Lincoln with whom they were acquainted.
Ezekiel, a carpenter, was said to have made furniture for Abraham. Louisa was a staunch friend
of Mary Lincoln and their youngest daughter, Clarissa, born in 1845, sat on Abraham’s lap. They also lived near the home of Deputy Marshall Peter Van Bergen and his wife Clarissa for whom their youngest child was named. Ezekiel died on December 16, 1858, in Woodburn, Macoupin County, Illinois.

34 Sangamo Journal, Saturday, January 9, 1836, p. 3.
35 She was the daughter of Christopher Anthony Ballard and Eleanor Mossman.
37 Time Line of the Mossman & Ballard Relations, compiled by Patricia Peters and Kathleen O’Connell. Information obtained from ‘Time Line of the Mossman & Ballard Relations’ compiled by Patricia Peters and Kathleen O’Connell. Additional information obtained from ‘Ballard’ compiled by P. Davidson-Peters (sunnyann@kachina.net) ID: I3023. Louisa and the family then moved to St. Louis where Louisa was listed in the 1860 Federal Census as head of house. Louisa died on December 22, 1872, in St. Louis and was buried at St. Peter’s Cemetery there.
Charles C. Phelps and W. B. Powell
(1835-1836)
Chairs

On April 30, 1836, Phelps & Powell placed an advertisement in the *Sangamo Journal*. They announced that they had entered into co-partnership and were now prepared to manufacture and furnish Windsor and Fancy Chairs at the corner of Fourth and Adams streets. They also did sign, carriage and ornamental painting and re-varnished and polished cabinet furniture. This advertisement is almost identical with the August 29, 1835 advertisement, different only in its lack of a request for chair makers.

Name: Chair Manufactory.
Name: Charles C. Phelps and W. B. Powell
Date: April 1836
Location: Fourth and Adams Streets.
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale. Also sign, carriage and ornamental painting and cabinet furniture re-varnished and polished.
Age: Charles C. Phelps 21
Origin: Massachusetts

*Sangamo Journal*, Saturday, April 30, 1836.
Edmundson & Weber
(1836-1836)
Cabinets

Name: Joseph Edmundson and Weber
Date: May 4, 1836
Location: Several doors south of the Public Square.
Type: Cabinet making business. Sofas, mahogany parlor chairs, pier tables, side boards, secretaries, book cases, wardrobes, ladies’ work and writing stands, writing and dressing bureaus and tables, pillar and claw, censre, card, elliptic and dining tables, coffins
Looking for two apprentices 12 to 16 years old.
Horse powered lathe; turning of the most admired patterns.
Exchange: plank and lumber for articles manufactured

Advertisement dated May 4, 1836,
_Sangamo Journal, August 13, 1836_.

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W. B. Powell and Charles C. Phelps  
(1835-1836)  
Chairs

The Phelps partnerships becomes even more confusing when in an advertisement dated the same date—May 6, 1836—Phelps advertised with Powell and Zimmerman. Then on June 15, 1835, Phelps advertised that the partnership with Powell was dissolved.

**Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman**  
(1835-1840)  
Chairs

On June 25, 1836, W. B. Powell and Charles C. Phelps placed a notice in the Sangamo Journal. They announced that the partnership heretofore existing between them was that day dissolved. Phelps was to settle all accounts. The partnership began on August 29, 1835.

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42 Sangamo Journal, August 20, 1836, p. 3.
Charles B. Francis and Josiah Francis, Jr.
(1836-1838)
Cabinets

This is the first appearance of two brothers, Josiah and Charles B. Francis. They announced their Cabinet Making business and also sales of eastern made chairs. They also advertised for two journeymen at the cabinet making business and a quantity of cherry plank and bedstead “scantling,” a timber of relatively slight width and thickness, as a stud or rafter in a house frame. From 1836 until 1852, Josiah and Charles manufactured cabinet furniture. In 1852, Josiah began farming four miles northeast of Springfield, near what was German Prairie Station.

Sangamo Journal, July 30, 1836.

Name: Charles B. Francis and Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: July 30, 1836
Location: Building north of Journal printing office; east side of Sixth Street, between Washington and Jefferson. (ALPL)
Type: Cabinet manufacture and sale. They also sold “…a lot of Eastern made fancy cane seat chairs, 2 sets superior curled maple chairs
Wanted: 2 journeymen at cabinet making business
Cherry plank and bedstead scantling

Age: Charles B. Francis 37
Josiah Francis Jr. 35
Origin: Massachusetts
Their chairs were made in the East.

Charles B. Francis

Charles B. Francis was born on October 30, 1799, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He was married there to Roxanna Goodrich. They had two children and moved to Springfield, Illinois, in 1835.

For several years, Charles manufactured cabinet furniture with his brother Josiah. They were distant relatives of Simeon Francis and his brothers, founders of the Illinois State Journal. Charles united with others in building, under contract, fifteen miles of the Northern Cross railroad—from New Berlin to Springfield.

Charles B. Francis died on October 10, 1843, in Jacksonville, Illinois, while attending an Illinois Baptist Convention.

Josiah Francis

Josiah Francis was born on September 2, 1801, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. There on December 2, 1824, he married Fidelia Clark, who was born on January 11, 1803, in Westhampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts. In 1825, they moved to Palmyra, Wayne
County, New York, where they had two children. The family moved to Springfield, Illinois, arriving on June 30, 1836.

Charles B. Francis and Josiah Francis, Jr. (1836-1838)
Cabinets

Name: Charles B. Francis and Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: October 14, 1836
Location: one door north of Journal office; east side of Sixth Street, between Washington and Jefferson. (ALPL)
Type: Sideboards, sofas, secretaries, bookcases, bureaus, ladies’ dressing bureaus, writing and work stands, tables of various description, light stands, bedsteads of all kinds; Eastern made cane seat chairs; coffins
Exchange: boards, plank and scantling and country produce
Age: Charles 37
       Josiah 35
Origin: Massachusetts

Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman (1836-1840)
Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman
Date: December 27, 1836
Location: Corner of Fourth and Adams.
Type: Windsor and Fancy Chairs.
Age: Charles C. Phelps 21
       Robert B. Zimmerman 24
Origin: Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, respectively

Sangamo Journal, October 22, 1836. 46

Sangamo Journal, May 20, 1837. 47

47 Sangamo Journal, May 20, 1837, p. 4.
D. F. Grosh
Athens, Illinois

Name: D. F. Grosh
Date: March 31, 1836
Location: Athens, Illinois.
Type: Cabinet Furniture
manufacture and sale of Sofas, Pier Work, Writing Pillar and claw tables; bureaus and tables, card and elliptic tables, dining and breakfast tables and writing stands and coffins.
Horse Power Lathe.
Cabinets

[Cabinet & Bedstead Making advertisement]

Sangamo Journal, May 20, 1837.48

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Charles B. Francis and Josiah Francis, Jr.
(1836-1838)
Cabinets

Name: Furniture Warehouse
Name: Charles B. Francis and Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: April 20, 1837
Type: Furniture Warehouse.
Manufacture and sale of Cabinet furniture, Sideboards, Bureaus, presses, tables, bedsteads, stands, and Cane Seat Fancy Chairs sale.
Exchange: lumber and country produce.
Age: Charles B. Francis 38
Josiah Francis, Jr. 36
Origin: Massachusetts

Sangamo Journal, April 22, 1837.

Charles B. Francis, Josiah Francis, Sullivan Conant, Elisha Tabor
Sign Petition Calling For Anti-Slavery Convention

In September 1837, Charles B. Francis, Josiah Francis, Sullivan Conant, and Elisha Tabor were among those Illinois residents who signed the Lovejoy Petition calling for a convention of anti-slavery advocates at Upper Alton. Charles B. Francis and Josiah Francis also subscribed to Genius of Universal Emancipation, a Quaker anti-slavery newspaper. Both of these actions are evidence that these Springfield cabinet makers were active abolitionists.

I hope that in view of the fact, that the “Observer” Press has been THREE TIMES destroyed in Alton, in the space of little more than one year, it will not be deemed out of place, for me, in this special manner to call upon the friends of law, of order, of equal rights, and of free discussion, to rally at the proposed Convention in numbers and with a zeal corresponding to the urgency of the crisis. our dearest rights are at stake—rights, which as American Citizens ought to be dearer to us than our lives. take away the right of FREE DISCUSSION—the right under the laws, freely to utter and publish such sentiments as duty to god and the fulfilment [sic]of a good conscience may require, and we have nothing left to struggle for. Come up then, ye friends of God and man! come up to the rescue, and let it be known whether the spirit of freedom yet presides over the destinies of Illinois, or whether the “dark spirit” of Slavery has already so far diffused itself through our community, as that he discussion of the inalienable rights of man can no longer be tolerated.

Elijah P. Lovejoy
Alton, September 27, 1837

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49 Sangamo Journal, April 22, 1837, p. 3.
STATE CONVENTION.
The present aspect of the slavery question in this country, and especially in this State, is of commanding interest to us all. No question is, at the present time, exerting so strong an influence upon the public mind as this. The whole land is agitated by it. We cannot, nor would we remain indifferent spectators in the midst of developments so vitally interesting to us all, as those which are daily taking place in relation to the system of American Slavery. We have duties to perform, as Christians and as Patriots, which call for united wisdom, counsel and energy of action.

The undersigned would, therefore, respectfully call a meeting of the friends of the slave and of free discussion in the State of Illinois, to meet in Convention at Upper Alton, on the last Thursday of October. It is intended that this Convention should consist of all those in the State who believe that the system of American Slavery is sinful and ought to be immediately abandoned, however diversified may be their views in other respects. It is desirable that the opponents in this State of Domestic Slavery—all who ardently long and pray to witness its immediate abolition, should co-operate together in their efforts to accomplish it. We therefore hope that all such will make it a point of duty to attend the Convention, not thereby feeling that they are pledged to any particular course of action, but that they may receive as well as impart the benefit of mutual counsel and advice.

It is earnestly to be hoped that there will be a full attendance at the Convention. Let all who feel deeply interested in this cause, not only attend themselves, but stir up their neighbors to attend also. And let each one remember that this call cannot be repeated. But for the destruction of the "Observer" press it would have been circulated some time since. it is hoped, that it will have some time to circulate in season to bring together a large number of our friends from all parts of the State.

Lyman Washburn

Springfield
Z. Hallock
E. [Eliphalet] B. Hawley
R. [Roswell] P. Abel
Roswell Abel
Isaac Bancroft, Jr.
Jonathan C. Bancroft
Oliver B. Culver
J. [John] B. Watson
J. Stephenson
*C. [Charles] B. Francis
J. G. Rawson
Joseph Taney
Edmund R. Wiley
James Pratt
*Josiah Francis
*Elisha Tabor
Geo. N. Kendall
*S. Conant
E. [Erastus] W. Thayer

*Chair and cabinet makers in Springfield.

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50 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Manuscripts Division, Springfield, Illinois.
1838

Daniel E. Ruckel and Jacob Ruckel
(1838-1839)

Cabinets

On May 16, 1838, two brothers, Daniel E. and Jacob Ruckel, advertised their cabinet making business. This is the first advertisement of an ancillary business, coffin making. This was a natural adjunct to cabinet making and as we go forward, will see that this is true of many cabinet makers. One in fact opened a cemetery to integrate his cabinet business with undertaking.

When the two brothers came to Springfield they engaged in cabinet-making, and about 1840 went to Sangamo Town, west of Springfield on the Sangamon River. There for about three years (1840-1843), they ran a saw mill and manufactured cabinet furniture. In 1843, they returned to Springfield where Jacob changed to upholstery and paper hangings of every variety.\footnote{Power, p. 632.}

Name: Cabinet Furniture and Upholstering Establishment

Date: May 16, 1838

Location: Several buildings south of Public Square. The old stand of Weber, Ruckel & Co.

Type: Cabinet furniture and upholstering establishment. Sofas, mahogany parlor chairs, pier tables, sideboards, secretaries, book cases, wardrobes, Ladies’ work and writing stands. Coffins and hearse.

Age: Daniel E. Ruckel 27

Jacob Ruckel 23

Origin: New York City

Daniel E. Ruckel was born on May 5, 1811, in New York City. Catharine V. G. Forbes was also born there on February 8, 1812. They were married on April 22, 1834, and had one child in New York. Daniel came to Springfield in the fall of 1836, and his wife and child came the next spring with his brother Jacob. Daniel E. Ruckel died in Springfield, on April 9, 1854.\footnote{Power, p. 631.}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{cabinet_furniture_uh.png}
\caption{Sangamo Journal, May 19, 1838.\footnote{Sangamo Journal, May 19, 1838, p. 2.}}
\end{figure}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{upholstering Establishment.png}
\caption{Daniel E. Ruckel}
\end{figure}
Jacob Ruckel

Jacob Ruckel was born on October 27, 1815, in New York City, and came to Springfield, Illinois, in the spring of 1837. He was married near Farmington - now Farmingdale - to Laura A. Stone. They had five children: Samuel, Fanny A., Walter B., John H. and Joseph B.

Daniel E. Ruckel and Jacob Ruckel Make Sofa for Abraham Lincoln

John E. Roll said that Abraham Lincoln and he were intimate friends from the year 1831 to the day of Lincoln’s death. To have a keepsake to remember his old friend, Roll purchased the mahogany veneered, haircloth covered sofa, which Lincoln used in his law office in Springfield. Presumably this was done in 1861 when then-president-elect Lincoln sold much of his furniture in preparation for his move to Washington, D.C.⁵⁴

The sofa was made for Lincoln on his order, he being unable to find one long enough for his use already manufactured. The sofa is of extra length and was made by Daniel E. Ruckel, and upholstered by his brother, Jacob Ruckel of Springfield, Illinois.

The import of this sofa is not immediately apparent; it seems to be just another piece of furniture Lincoln owned, remarkable only because Lincoln once relaxed there. And so it would be, had the sofa been purchased in 1847 or 1857, when Lincoln was an established lawyer with a home of his own and a secure place among Springfield’s social elite. In 1837, however, Lincoln was a stranger in Springfield, untried as a lawyer, unproven as a gentleman, and years away from marriage and homeownership. Sofas, at that time, carried connotations of affluence and refinement (as did all upholstered furniture) and were found only in the homes of the wealthy, where gentlefolk displayed their refined manners through upright and controlled posture while sitting. Why, then, did the man who moved to town on a borrowed horse with all his worldly belongings stuffed into two saddlebags buy such

⁵⁴ On May 12, 1886, Roll sold the sofa to John W. Keys, of Chicago, Illinois, who kept it as part of the Lincoln Memorial Collection until 1894, when it was sold at auction by Stan Henkels. The buyers were William Potter and Lewis Clark Vanuxem. Vanuxem died in 1904, and in 1914 his heirs, along with Potter, donated the sofa to the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Findley bought the sofa from the Society in 1978 and displayed it in his Washington, D.C., congressional office until his retirement.
a monumental, expensive, and elegant a piece of furniture? And why did Lincoln custom-order a sofa long enough for him to stretch out fully, and proceed to ignore—or defy—nineteenth-century standards of deportment by reclining on his sofa in the presence of others?

…Lincoln’s sofa can be viewed as a rhetorical statement expressing his aspiration to gentility. Part of the post-Revolutionary generation, Lincoln was reared in a culture of expanding economic opportunities, where social boundaries were fluid, and good character, motivation, and work ethic supplanted family fortune as the key to success. In this era of the “self-made man,” Lincoln took advantage of the opportunity to make something of himself, completing the transition from a rural laborer to an urban professional before his thirtieth birthday.\(^55\)

**Josiah Francis, Jr.**
(1836-1852)
Cabinets

In August 1838, Josiah Francis bought out Charles B. Francis’ interest in the furniture business they had conducted. Josiah continued to operate the business by himself. This is the first advertisement by Josiah without his brother Charles.

\[\text{Sangamo Journal, Friday, April 26, 1839.}^{56}\]

**Josiah Francis, Jr.**
Chairs

\[\text{Sangamo Journal, October 13, 1838.}^{57}\]


\(^{56}\) Sangamo Journal, Friday, April 26, 1839, p. 1.

\(^{57}\) Sangamo Journal, October 13, 1838, p. 3.
Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman
(1836-1840)
Chairs

Name: Springfield Chair Factory
Name: Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman
Date: November 30, 1838
Location: At the sign of the Large Chair southeast of the Eagle Tavern.
Type: manufacture and sale: fancy, cottage and Windsor chairs; rocking chairs and settees.
Exchange: chair plank in exchange for chairs
Age: Charles C. Phelps 23
Robert B. Zimmerman 26
Origin: Massachusetts

Sangamo Journal, December 1, 1838.58

58 Sangamo Journal, December 1, 1838, p. 1.
1839

Hough & Davis Purchase Daniel E. Ruckel & Jacob Ruckel Cabinet Establishment
Cabinets

On April 4, 1839, Hough & Davis placed an advertisement in the Sangamo Journal. They announced that they had purchased the entire interest of D. E. & J. Ruckel in the “Cabinet Establishment” formally carried on by them.

**CABINET FURNITURE.**

The subscribers, having purchased D. E. & J. Ruckel their entire interest in the Cabinet Establishment formerly carried on by them, inform the citizens of Springfield and vicinity, that they are prepared to furnish any article in their line on reasonable terms.

N. B. Turning neatly executed.

April 4, 1839—St.

Hough & Davis.

Sangamo Journal, Friday, May 31, 1839.\(^{59}\)

Name: Cabinet Furniture
Name: John A. Hough and Walter Davis
Date: April 4, 1839.
Notice that have purchased D. E. & J. Ruckel Cabinet Establishment
Type: Turning
Age: John A. Hough 24
Origin: Virginia

Daniel E. Ruckel and Jacob Ruckel Sell Cabinet Shop to Hough & Davis
Cabinets

**NOTICE.**

This subscribers having sold out their Cabinet Shop to Hough & Davis, respectfully invite all those indebted to them, to come forward and settle the same with J. Ruckel, Jr., at the Clothing Store of R. H. Beach & Co., North side of the public square, who is fully authorized to settle the same.

April 25, 1839.

D. E. & J. RUCKEL.

Sangamo Journal, Friday, September 13, 1839.\(^{60}\)

Name: Daniel E. and Jacob Ruckel
Date: April 25, 1839
Age: Daniel E. Ruckel 28
Jacob Ruckel 24
Origin: New York City

Hough & Davis
(1839-1848)
Cabinets

**CABINET FURNITURE.**

The subscribers have on hand, and continue to manufacture Cabinet Ware of every description, of the latest Eastern patterns and superior finish such as Mahogany Sofas, Mahogany Pier Tables, etc. Also, a supply of Cherry and Walnut furniture, of every description constantly on hand.

Having employed an experienced Turner they are prepared to furnish Mahogany or any other solid pine and Mahogany, Mahogany Pier Tables, etc. Also, a supply of Cherry and Walnut furniture, of every description constantly on hand.

Sangamo Journal, Friday, July 12, 1839.\(^{61}\)

Name: Cabinet Furniture
Name: John A. Hough and Walter Davis
Date: July 10, 1839.
Location: a few doors south of the Public Square
Type: Cabinet furniture; turning; manufacture and sale, mahogany sofas, sideboards, secretaries, book cases, dressing bureaus, pier table, centre tables, card tables, end dining tables, breakfast tables; cherry and walnut furniture of every description. Turner; bedsteads, bed posts, table legs
Age: John A. Hough 24
Origin: Virginia

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\(^{60}\) Sangamo Journal, Friday, September 13, 1839, p. 4.
\(^{61}\) Sangamo Journal, Friday, July 12, 1839, p. 3.
John A. Hough  
(1839-1860+)

Cabinets

Name: John A. Hough  
Date: July 10, 1839  
Location: a few doors south of the public square  
Type: Cabinet furniture; turning; manufacture and sale. 
Mahogany sofas, sideboards, secretaries, book cases, dressing bureaus, pier table, centre tables, card tables, end dining tables, breakfast tables; cherry and walnut furniture of every description.  
Turner  
Age: 24  
Origin: Virginia

Sangamo Journal, Friday, October 9, 1840

J. A. Hough came to Springfield in 1839, and has been continuous in the furniture trade from that to the present time — thirty-two years. He is without doubt the oldest furniture dealer in Central Illinois. His sales amount to about $30,000 annually.

John “Jack” A. Hough, was a cabinet maker in early Springfield. He eventually was a furniture dealer on the west side of 5th Street between Adams and Monroe. He lived on the south side of Monroe, between ___th and 9th. John A. Hough died at his residence, corner Union and Fourth streets, last night, on February 13, 1879 at age 64, after a lingering illness. He was born in Virginia.

Jack Hough had a furniture and cabinet-making shop in Springfield. Mrs. Francis Ide has a memento of those early days in the shape of a mahogany bureau, with quaint, round pillars supporting a long, narrow mirror, larger pillars upholding the drawers. It is, I think, the most expensive piece of furniture in town, since Major Stuart gave Jack Hough the block of land extending from Sixth street to Seventh street, on which are the old Vredenburgh residence, the Edward Keys’ home, and the Roberts’ residence and, of course, all between those buildings both on Sixth and Seventh streets, for it.

Hough & Davis  
(1839-1848)

Cabinets

Name: Co-Partnership Dissolved
Name: John A. Hough and Walter Davis
Date: December 28, 1839.
Age: John A. Hough 24
Origin: Virginia

Sangamo Journal, Tuesday, January 21, 1840

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62 Sangamo Journal, Friday, October 9, 1840, p. 1.
63 http://archive.org/details/historyofspringOOpowe
66 Sangamo Journal, Tuesday, January 21, 1840, p. 3.
1840

Hough & Davis
(1839-1848)
Undertakers

Name: John A. Hough and Davis
Date: 1840
Location: a few doors south of the Public Square
Type: Undertakers
Age: Hough 25
Origin: Hough Virginia

Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman
(1836-1840)
Chairs

Name: Springfield Chair Factory
Name: Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman
Date: November 30, 1838, but still running on January 14, 1840
Location: At the sign of the Large Chair southeast of the Eagle Tavern.
Type: manufacture and sale: fancy, cottage and Windsor chairs; rocking chairs and settees.
Exchange: chair plank in exchange for chairs
Age: Charles C. Phelps 25
Robert B. Zimmerman 28
Origin: Massachussets Phelps Pennsylvania Zimmerman

John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Undertakers

Name: John A. Hough
Date: February 28, 1840
Location: a few doors south of the Public Square
Type: Undertaker
Age: 25
Origin: Virginia

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68 Sangamo Journal, Tuesday, January 14, 1840, p. 1
69 Sangamo Journal, Friday, February 28, 1840, p. 3
Josiah Francis, Jr.
(1836-1852)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Ware Manufacturer
Name: Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: August 23, 1840
Location: Building north of Journal printing office; east side of Sixth Street, between Washington and Jefferson.
Type: Cabinet maker
Age: 39
Origin: Massachusetts

Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman
(1836-1840)
Chairs

Name: Co-Partnership Dissolved
Name: Charles C. Phelps and Robert B. Zimmerman
Date: February 4, 1840
Age: Phelps 26
Origin: Phelps Massachusetts

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: April 17, 1840
Location: corner of Adams and 4th streets nearly opposite new Presbyterian church
Type: Manufacturer of all kinds of Fancy and Windsor Chairs. Settees
Age: 26
Origin: Massachusetts

70 Sangamo Journal Friday, February 28, 1840, p. 3
71 Sangamo Journal Friday, March 13, 1840, p. 1
72 Sangamo Journal, Friday, April 17, 1840, p. 1
Ruckel Brothers Move to Sangamo Town
(1840-1842)

In about 1840, brothers Daniel and Jacob Ruckel moved to Sangamo Town, west of Springfield on the Sangamon River. There they ran a sawmill and manufactured cabinet furniture. In 1842, they returned to Springfield.  

Zimmerman & Co.

Chairs

Name: Zimmerman & Co.
Name: Robert B. Zimmerman, O. Hempstead, and John A. Mason
Date: July 16, 1840
Location: A few doors north of the Journal office; east side of Sixth Street, between Washington and Jefferson.
Type: Chair making, Fancy and Windsor Chairs, Settees, Rocking Chairs
Exchange: furniture exchanged for lumber
Age: Robert B. Zimmerman 28
John A. Mason 25
Origin: Mason Vermont
Zimmerman Massachusetts

Josiah Francis, Jr.
(1836-1852)

Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Ware Manufacturer
Name: Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: August 23, 1840
Location: Building north of Journal printing office; east side of Sixth Street, between Washington and Jefferson.
Type: Cabinet furniture manufacture and sale
Exchange: furniture for lumber
Age: 39
Origin: Massachusetts

73 Power, p. 632.
75 Ibid.
Josiah Francis, Jr.
(1836-1852)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Ware Manufacturer
Name: Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: August 23, 1840
Location: One door north of Journal office; east side of Sixth Street, between Washington and Jefferson.
Type: Cabinet furniture manufacture and sale
Exchange: furniture for lumber
Age: 39
Origin: Massachusetts

Sangamo Journal, Friday, December 4, 1840.76

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: November 13, 1840
Location: opposite the 2nd Church
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture.
Age: 26
Origin: Massachusetts

Sangamo Journal, Friday, November 13, 1840.77

76 Sangamo Journal, Friday, December 4, 1840, p. 3.
77 Sangamo Journal, Friday, November 13, 1840, p. 1.
1841

Josiah Francis, Jr.
(1836-1852)
Cabinets

Name: Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: February 1, 1841
Location: One door north of Journal office; east side of Sixth Street, between Washington and Jefferson.
Type: Cabinet furniture manufacture and sale
Age: 40
Origin: Massachusetts

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: April 2, 1841
Location: corner of Adams and 4th streets, nearly opposite the new Presbyterian church
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale, settees.
Age: 27
Origin: Massachusetts

Hough & Davis
(1839-1848)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hough and Walter Davis
Date: May 10, 1841
Location: a few doors south of the Public Square
Type: Cabinet furniture; turning; manufacture and sale, Mahogany sofas, sideboards, secretaries, book cases, dressing bureaus, pier table, centre tables, card tables, end dining tables, breakfast tables; cherry and walnut furniture of every description.
Age: John A. Hough 26
Origin: Virginia

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78 Sangamo Journal, Friday, February 11, 1842, p. 4.
79 Sangamo Journal, Friday, April 2, 1841, p. 3.
80 Sangamo Journal, Friday, May 21, 1841, p. 4.
Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: July 7, 1841
Location: Moved to the Josiah Francis Cabinet Shop, northeast of the State House
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale. Rocking chairs, settees.
Age: 27
Origin: Massachusetts

Willard and Zimmerman
(18__-18__) Chairs

Name: Painting & Chair Making
Name: Willard & Zimmerman.
Name: Robert B. Zimmerman, ___ Willard
Date: July 1841
Location: corner of 4th and Adams streets, near the Globe Tavern.
Type: Chair making, Fancy and Windsor Chairs, painting
Exchange: furniture exchanged for lumber, shingles, goods country produce
Age: Robert B. Zimmerman 29
Origin: Mason Vermont
Zimmerman Massachusetts

John A. Hough Gives Music Lessons

John Hough’s side business was giving music lessons.

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81 Sangamo Journal, Friday, August 20, 1841, p. 3.
82 Sangamo Journal, Friday, August 20, 1841, p. 3.
83 Sangamo Journal, Friday, December 10, 1841, p. 4.
1842

Josiah Francis, Jr.
(1836-1852)

Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Furniture
Name: Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: February 1, 1842
Location: Building north of Sangamo Journal printing office; east side of Sixth Street, between Washington and Jefferson.
Type: Cabinet furniture manufacture and sale; coffins.
Age: 41
Origin: Massachusetts

Bankruptcy Notices: Daniel E. Ruckel and Jacob Ruckel

In February 1842, brothers Daniel E. and Jacob Ruckel both declared bankruptcy stating in their petitions that they were of the city of Springfield. In the same month, they advertised a new cabinet shop two doors south of the American House. Later, Jacob Ruckel changed to upholstery, and then dealt in paper hangings of every variety, and resided in Springfield.85

85 Power, p. 632.
86 Sangamo Journal, Friday, February 11, 1842, p. 3.
Ruckel, Bilson & Co.
(1842-1843)
Cabinets
This is the first appearance of Thomas Bilson, S. G. Eubanks, J. D. Hessin and John A. Campbell. In the same newspaper, the two Ruckel brothers advertised a new association and location of the Cabinet Making Furniture and upholstery business.

Name: Daniel E. Ruckel, Thomas Bilson, S. G. Eubanks, J. D. Hessin, Jacob Ruckel and John A. Campbell
Date: February 10, 1842
Location: Two doors south of the American House, east side of Sixth Street between Adams and Monroe Streets.
Type: Cabinet making, turning and upholstery and sale
Age: Daniel E. Ruckel 31
Jacob Ruckel 27
Origin: New York City

New Cabinet Shop
The subscribers have taken the shop lately occupied by Jacob Martin, two doors south of the American House, where they intend to carry on the Cabinet Making Turning and Upholstering Business — and will do all kinds of work in their line, in the best manner and at prices to suit the times.

John A. Hutchinson
(1842-1860+)
Cabinets
Name: Cash for Walnut Lumber
Name: John Hutchinson
Date: February 10, 1842
Location: One door south of the Springfield Academy; West side of Fifth Street, between Market (Capitol) and Monroe
Wanted: two thousand feet each 5 3 —1—1-2 and 2 inch black walnut

Sangamo Journal, Friday, February 11, 1842. 87
Sangamo Journal, Friday, February 18, 1842. 88

87 Sangamo Journal, Friday, February 11, 1842, p. 3.
88 Sangamo Journal, Friday, February 18, 1842, p. 4.
Ruckel, Billson, & Co.
(1842-1843)
Cabinets

**Name:** Daniel E. Ruckel, Thomas Bilson, S. G. Eubanks, J. D. Hessin, Jacob Ruckel and John A. Campbell

**Date:**

**Location:** Two doors south of the American House, east side of Sixth Street between Adams and Monroe Streets.

**Type:** Cabinet Furniture such as: Mahogany side-boards, secretaries and sofas, pier tables, card tables and centre tables, breakfast and dining tables, bedsteads, upholstering and paper hanging.

**Coffins** made at any time of day or night

**Turning:** largest lathe in Springfield; for wood, iron or brass

**Wanted:** several thousand feet of cherry, black walnut, lin, sycamore and maple lumber.

**Age:** Daniel E. Ruckel 31
Jacob Ruckel 27

**Origin:** New York City

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Ruckel, Billson, & Co.
(1842-1843)
Cabinets

**Name:** Daniel E. Ruckel, Thomas Bilson, S. G. Eubanks, J. D. Hessin, Jacob Ruckel and John A. Campbell

**Date:** February 26, 1842

**Location:** Two doors south of the American House, east side of Sixth Street between Adams and Monroe Streets.

**Type:** Cabinet Furniture such as: Mahogany side-boards, secretaries and sofas, pier tables, card tables and centre tables, breakfast and dining tables, bedsteads, upholstering and paper hanging.

**Coffins** made at any time of day or night

**Turning:** largest lathe in Springfield; for wood, iron or brass

**Age:** Daniel E. Ruckel 31
Jacob Ruckel 27

**Origin:** Daniel E. Ruckel New York City
Jacob Ruckel New York City

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89 Register, Friday, November 24, 1843, Volume: 8, Issue: 40, p. 4.
90 Sangamo Journal, Friday, April 8, 1842, p. 4.
Ezekiel Pilcher
(1836-1842)
Cabinets

Name: Ezekiel Pilcher
Date: June 19, 1842, Jamestown, now Riverton
Location: one door south of E. R. Wiley’s Clothing Store, on the west side of the Square.
Type: Bedsteads, breakfast and dining tables
At James F. Reed’s Springfield store.
Age: 42
Origin:

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John A. Campbell, Jr.

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John A. Campbell, Jr.

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91 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, August 31, 1843.
92 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, December 23, 1842.
93 Sangamo Journal, Friday, July 29, 1842.
Sullivan Conant
(1842-1859)
Chairs

Name: Sullivan Conant
Date: September 2, 1842
Location: south side of Public Square, on the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets.
Type: Windsor and Fancy Chairs manufacture and sale. Rocking chairs, settees, walnut chairs with rush seats, also with stuff’d seats.
Age: 41
Origin: Massachuttes

Sullivan Conant was born on February 26, 1801, at Oakham, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Lydia R. Hemingway was born November 1803, in the same county. They were married on September 10, 1822, at Shutesbury, Massachusetts, where they had three children, and moved to Amherst, where they had one child.

They returned to Shutesbury and from there started west on November 2, 1830, traveling in wagons to Troy, New York, and from there to Rochester by canal, thence by wagon to Olean Point, where they embarked on a raft and floated to Pittsburg. There they took a steamboat down the Ohio, and up the Mississippi river to Chester, Randolph County, Illinois, where the youngest child died.

In January 1831, Sullivan Conant started from Chester with his family in a sleigh to visit some old friends near Carrollton, Illinois, going by Illinoistown, now East St. Louis. They continued their journey by Jacksonville to Springfield, arriving on February 18, 1831. When they left Chester, the snow was about six inches deep, but when they arrived in Springfield it was on four feet of snow, being the height of the “deep snow.” In September 1837, Sullivan Conant was one of the Illinois residents who signed the Lovejoy Petition calling for a convention of anti-slavery advocates. He was most probably an abolitionist.

Lydia R. Conant died on May 30, 1867, and Sullivan Conant was married again and they had five children born in Springfield.
Hough & Davis
(1839-1848)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Furniture  
Name: John A. Hough and Walter Davis  
Date: November 1, 1842.  
Location: a few doors south of the Public Square  
Type: Cabinet furniture; turning; manufacture and sale. Mahogany sofas, sideboards, secretaries, book cases, dressing bureaus, pier table, bedsteads of every description.

Age: John A. Hough 27  
Origin: Virginia

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1843

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)

Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: October 3, 1843
Location: Old stand, east of the new Market House
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale.
       Rocking chairs, settees.
Age: 29
Origin: Massachusetts

Ruckel, Bilson & Co. Partnership Dissolved
(1842-1843)

The Ruckel, Bilson & Co. partnership dissolved after almost two years. Daniel E. Ruckel continued as a cabinetmaker without his brother and advertised for an apprentice in the “Cabinet Making Business.”

Name: Daniel E. Ruckel, Thomas Bilson, S. G. Eubanks, J. D. Hessin, Jacob Ruckel and John A. Campbell
Date: December 14, 1843
Location: a few doors south of S. M. Tinsley’s, Sixth Street between Adams and Monroe Streets.
Age: Daniel E. Ruckel 32
       Thomas Bilson
       S. G. Eubanks
       J. D. Hessin
       Jacob Ruckel 28
       John A. Campbell
Origin: Ruckel New York City

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99 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, January 4, 1844, p. 3.
100 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, January 4, 1844, p. 3.
Hutchinson Cemetery Established

As seen in prior advertisements, cabinet makers often also make coffins. John Hutchinson was among those so doing. In 1843, Hutchinson took it one step further in offering a private place for burial. The following is a description of the cemetery.

On this site in 1843, John Hutchinson, undertaker, cabinetmaker, and businessman, established the first private burial ground in Springfield. Located on the western edge of the then-newly-incorporated city, Hutchinson Cemetery operated for several decades and received the remains of more than 700 of Springfield’s earliest and most respected citizens, including land developer Pascal P. Enos, Rev. Charles Dresser, and early Springfield merchant Robert Irwin. Edward Barker “Eddie” Lincoln, the three-year old son of Abraham and Mary Lincoln, was buried here in February 1850, as were many other Springfield children who succumbed to infections and diseases no longer considered life-threatening by modern medical standards. The cemetery continued to receive burials through the Civil War, but in 1874 a city ordinance closed Hutchinson. Eventually most of the bodies were exhumed and removed to Oak Ridge Cemetery on Springfield’s north side. The Springfield School District acquired the former cemetery and constructed the present and fourth Springfield High School here in 1917. Built in the Beaux Arts style, the school was considered at the time the most modern public educational tacitly in the state.

There was a connection between cabinet makers and undertakers. Cabinet makers made coffins and the natural extension was to offer undertaking as an extension of the service. This would include hears, gently horses and sale of cemetery lots. John Hutchinson is perhaps the best example of this symbiosis.
Daniel E. Ruckel
(1846-1859)
Cabinets

Name: Cheap Cabinet Furniture
Name: Daniel E. Ruckel
Date: April 3, 1844
Location: south of Post Office, on west side of the street
Type: cabinet furniture
Age: 33
Origin: New York City
Wanted: 15 to 17 year old boy to learn art of making cabinet furniture;

Sangamo Journal, Thursday, January 2, 1845.101

John A. Campbell, Jr.

Sangamo Journal, Thursday, March 28, 1844.102

102 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, March 28, 1844, p. 4.
John A. Hutchinson
(1842-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Undertaker and Proprietor of New Burying Ground
Name: John A. Hutchinson
Date: March 15, 1844
Location: One door south of the Springfield Academy; West side of Fifth Street, between Market (Capitol) and Monroe
Type: Cabinet furniture
Undertaking: Coffins and lots in the new Burying Ground; prior experience in Philadelphia
Wanted: two horses in exchange for furniture

Register, Friday, May 3, 1844.103

John Hutchinson, furniture dealer, lived at the southwest corner of Fifth and Market (now Capitol). 325 S. 5th.

Sullivan Conant
(1842-1859)
Chairs

Name: Sullivan Conant
Date: September 2, 1844
Location: south side of Public Square, on the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets.
Type: Windsor and Fancy Chairs manufacture and sale. Rocking chairs, settees, walnut chairs with rush seats, also with stuff’d seats.
Exchange: lumber and produce for work
Age: 43
Origin: Massachusetts

Sangamo Journal, Thursday, September 12, 1844.104

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103 Register, Friday, May 3, 1844, p. 4.
1845

Charles C. Phelps Moves
(1838-1860+)

Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: September __, 1845
Location: Large white building, two doors south of the American House on Sixth Street
Type: Fancy, Windsor and rocking chairs manufacture and sale.
Exchange: country produce and lumber
Age: 31
Origin: Massachusetts

Daniel E. Ruckel
(1838-1839) and (1846-1859)

Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Maker and Undertaker
Name: Daniel E. Ruckel
Date: July 8, 1845
Type: Coffins and lots in either of the burying grounds
Age: 34
Origin: New York City
Wanted: journeyman and apprentice to the cabinet making business

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105 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, September 4, 1845, p. 2.
106 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, July 17, 1845, p. 4.
1846

Jacob Ruckel

In 1846, Jacob Ruckel was upholstering and hanging wall paper.

On February 25, 1846, Jacob Ruckel advertised his new venture separate from his brother and advertised that he was an upholsterer and paper hanger with a shop opposite the Methodist church at 5th and Monroe.

Daniel E. Ruckel

(1838-1839) and (1846-1859)

Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Maker and Undertaker
Name: Daniel E. Ruckel
Date: March 1846
Location: Old stand south of the Post Office
Type: Cabinet furniture; manufacture and sale.
Coffins and lots in New Burying Ground; hearse and gentle horses and careful driver 9 years in undertaking Cabinet maker and undertaker in Springfield for 9 years-since 1837.
Age: 35
Origin: New York City

Daniel E. Ruckel advertised in the May 28, 1846 Journal for two good journeymen cabinet makers to whom constant employment and liberal wages would be given.

107 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, March 19, 1846, p. 3.
108 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, June 18, 1846, p. 4.
John A. Hough  
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Furniture  
Name: John A. Hough  
Date: July 30, 1846  
Location: Old stand  
Type: Cabinet furniture; manufacture and sale.  
Coffins and lots in New Burying Ground  
Age: 31  
Origin: Virginia

Charles C. Phelps  
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Chair Manufacturer  
Name: Charles C. Phelps  
Date: September 7, 1846  
Location: Few rods south of the American House,  
Type: Assortment of chairs of his own make.  
Chair manufacturer  
Exchange: linn plank and country produce for chairs  
Age: 32  
Origin: Massachusetts

Sullivan Conant  
(1842-1859)
Chairs

Name: Sullivan Conant  
Date: November 1846  
Location: south of Public Square, on the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets.  
Type: Manufacture and sale of Chairs of all descriptions  
Age: 45  
Origin: Massachussets

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110 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, July 30, 1846, p. 2.  
112 Sangamo Journal, Thursday, April 8, 1847, p. 1.
John A. Hutchinson
(1842-1860+)
Cabinets

**Springfield Cabinet Warehouse.**

**John Hutchinson** respectfully announces to the citizens of Springfield and surrounding country, that he has opened a new Cabinet ware-house, 1 door South of the Academy, where he designs keeping on hand a general assortment of cabinet furniture, which he will furnish to customers at reduced prices. Orders for furniture from a distance will be promptly filled. The public are invited to call and examine for themselves.

He also continues the undertaking as heretofore and proprietor of the new burying ground, which is laid off in small lots to suit families. Also, half lots and graves for one person. Coffins of every size and quality ready made, and hearse, gentle horse and careful driver furnished as heretofore. *Springfield, Nov. 5, 1846.*

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**Name:** Springfield Cabinet Warehouse

**Name:** John Hutchinson

**Date:** November 5, 1846

**Location:** One door south of the Academy; new cabinet warehouse
West side of Fifth Street,
between Market (Capitol) and Monroe

**Type:** Cabinet furniture

**Undertaking:** gentle horse and careful driver, Coffins and lots in the new Burying Ground

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113 *Sangamo Journal,* Thursday, January 7, 1847.
1847

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Chair Shop
Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: April 1847
Location: Corner south of American House,
Type: Chairs
Exchange: cash, lumber and produce.
Age: 33
Origin: Massachusetts

Journal, Monday, June 4, 1847.

John Hutchinson
(1842-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Springfield Cabinet Ware House
Name: John A. Hutchinson
New Cabinet Warehouse
Date: June 1847
Location: One door south of the Academy
West side of Fifth Street, between Market (Capitol) and Monroe
Type: Cabinet furniture
Coffins and lots in the new Burying Ground; Hearse and horses

Journal, Thursday, May 18, 1848.

Josiah Francis, Jr.
(1836-1852)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Warehouse
Name: Josiah Francis, Jr.
Date: July 12, 1847
Location: East side of Market House, one door north of Journal printing office; east side of 6th Street, between Washington and Jefferson.
Type: Cabinet Warehouse; furniture manufacture and sale; coffins.
Age: 46 Origin: Massachusetts

Journal, Friday, January 5, 1849.

115 Journal, Thursday, May 18, 1848, p. 2.
John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Furniture
Name: John A. Hough
Date: December 11, 1847
Type: manufacturer; Furniture. Sofas, fine chairs, wardrobes, bureaus, secretaries, bookcases, bedsteads, tables and work stands;
Coffins and lots in the new Burying Ground
Age: 32
Origin: Vermont

Journal, Thursday, December 16, 1847.\textsuperscript{117}

\textsuperscript{117} Journal, Thursday, December 16, 1847, p. 3.
1848

**John A. Hough and Walter Davis Dissolve Partnership**
(1839-1848)
Cabinets

On April 10, 1848, John a. Hough and Walter Davis dissolved their partnership. Hough continued the business at the “old stand” adding that he took only cash “knowing from ten years experience…”

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**Abraham Lincoln’s Letter to Walter Davis**

To Walter Davis [1]

Dear Walter:

Washington, June 26. 1848-

Your letter of the 16. was received last night. I have just separated the business half of it from the other, and sent it to the 2nd. Auditor with the request that he will attend to it and notify me. The papers you express some wish to have returned, I suppose will have to remain on file as vouchers. I will look further into it however.

Your political news is particularly gratifying. Don’t be alarmed by the accounts of whig defection in Ohio, New-York & New England. Barn-burnerism, among the locos, will more than match it. We hear such news as you write, from most all quarters, and we are all in high spirits. Give my good will to Jack, [Possibly Jack Hough, Davis’ partner in a woodworking shop.] and the other friends. Yours as ever A. LINCOLN

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118 *Journal, Thursday, May 11, 1848*, p. 3.
**Walter Davis Helps Abraham Lincoln Build a Scale Model of Invention**

Abraham Lincoln started work on his invention between sessions of Congress in 1848. On his way home to Illinois his boat became stranded on a sandbar. As Herndon told the story, “The captain ordered the hands to collect all the loose planks, empty barrels and boxes and force them under the sides of the boat. These empty casks were used to buoy it up. After forcing enough of them under the vessel she lifted gradually and at last swung clear of the opposing sand bar.”

Herndon observed, “Lincoln had watched this operation very intently. It no doubt carried him back to the days of his navigation on the turbulent Sangamon, when he and John Hanks had rendered similar service at New Salem dam to their employer the volatile Offut. Continual thinking on the subject of lifting vessels over sand bars and other obstructions in the water suggested to him the idea of inventing an apparatus for this purpose.”

Lincoln created a scale model of his invention with the help of Walter Davis, a Springfield mechanic, who provided tools and advice. Herndon recalled, “Occasionally he would bring the model in the office, and while whittling on it would descant on its merits and the revolution it was destined to work in steamboat navigation. Although I regarded the thing as impracticable I said nothing, probably out of respect for Lincoln's well-known reputation as a boatman.”

120http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/education/patent.htm
John A. Hough
(1839–1860+)
Cabinets and Chairs

**Sangamo Journal**, Friday, January 5, 1849.\(^{121}\)

*Name:* John A. Hough  
*Date:* May 31, 1848  
*Location:* corner south of Bunn’s  
*Type:* Manufacture: Furniture. Sofas, fine chairs, wardrobes, bureaus, secretaries, bookcases, bed steads, tables and work stands  
*Coffins and lots in the new Burying Ground*  
*Age:* 33  
*Origin:* Virginia

Charles C. Phelps
(1835–1860+)
Chairs

**Journal**, Friday, July 23, 1847.\(^{122}\)

*Name:* Charles C. Phelps  
*Date:* September 1848  
*Location:* Few rods south of the American House  
*Type:* Assortment of chairs of his own make.  
*Exchange:* Linn plank and country produce.  
*Age:* 34  
*Origin:* Massachusetts

Daniel E. Ruckel
(1846–1859)
Cabinets

**Furniture & Coffin Ware-Room.**  
*name:* The proprietor of the above establishment.  
*Date:* August 1846  
*Location:* Old stand south of the Post Office  
*Type:* Cabinet furniture; manufacture and sale.  
*Coffins and lots in New Burying Ground*  
*Age:* 37  
*Origin:* New York City

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\(^{121}\) *Journal*, Friday, January 5, 1849, p. 1.  
\(^{122}\) *Journal*, Friday, July 23, 1847, p. 1.
John A. Hutchinson
(1842-1860+)
Cabinets

In the last years of the decade (1840)... John Hutchinson had just installed an engine in his cabinet shop.\\footnote{123 Here I Have Lived, Paul M. Angle, Springfield, Illinois, The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1935, p. 160.}

John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Journal, Friday, January 5, 1849.\\footnote{124 Journal, Friday, January 5, 1849, p. 1.}

John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Journal, Friday, January 5, 1849.\\footnote{125 Journal, Friday, January 5, 1849, p. 1.}

Name: New Springfield Cabinet Ware House
Name: John A. Hutchinson
Date: June 1848
Location: One door south of the Academy
West side of Fifth Street, between Market (Capitol) and Monroe
Type: Cabinet furniture
Undertaking: Coffins and lots in the new Burying Ground; Hearse and gentle horses and careful drivers.

Name: John A. Hough
Date:
Location: South Fifth Street
Type: Cabinet furniture; manufacture and sale.
Age: 33
Origin: Virginia

Name: John A. Hough
Date: September 7, 1848
Location: ware rooms corner south of Bunn’s
Type: Bedsteads, tables, bureaus; stands, wardrobes, presses, lounges, sofas, cribs, cradles
Age: 33
Origin: Virginia
Daniel E. Ruckel  
(1846-1859)  
Cabinets

Name: Furniture and Coffin Warehouse  
Date: August 25, 1848  
Location: Old stand 3 doors south of American House  
Type: Cabinet furniture; manufacture and sale.  
Coffins  
Home: directly south of John T. Stuart’s residence.  
Age: 37  
Origin: New York City

John A. Hough  
(1839-1860+)  
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Furniture  
Date: June 9, 1848  
Location: warehouse and work shop; Fifth & Monroe, south of “Bunn’s … big brick store”  
Type: Cabinet furniture; manufacture and sale.  
Age: 33  
Origin: Virginia  
12 years in Springfield as a cabinet maker—since 1836.

Register, Tuesday, January 2, 1849.126

Register, Tuesday, January 2, 1849.127

126 Register, Tuesday, January 2, 1849, p. 4.  
127 Register, Tuesday, January 2, 1849, p. 4.
1849

A. & H. Biedler
(1849)
Chairs and Cabinets

To the lately Married.

Cabinet Furniture and Chairs.
A. & H. BIEDLER,
A few doors South of Hawley & Loose’s Corner.

KEEPS constantly on hand a large and varied assortment of CABINET FURNITURE such as Bureaus, Tables, Stands, Bedsteads, and all other Household Furniture in the Cabinet line. We have also on hand a handsome assortment of CHAIRS of every variety of patterns and quality. Ready made Coffins kept constantly on hand of all sizes. Also a good Hearse and careful driver, with which we can accommodate those who need the services of an undertaker. We are ready at all hours to attend to this branch of our business. April 4, 1849 - dly A. & H. BEIDLER.

Name: A. and H. Biedler
Date: April 4, 1849
Location: Few doors south of Hawley & Loose’s Corner
Type: bureaus, tables, stands, bedsteads, chairs, coffins, hearse and careful driver

128 Journal, Thursday, April 5, 1849, p. 3.
John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)

Chairs and Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Warehouse
Name: John A. Hough
Date: May 3, 1849
Location: Corner south of Bunn's
Type: Cabinet furniture, chairs, bedsteads, lounges, cradles, cribs, work and wash stands, cupboards, presses, wardrobes, sofas, willow wagons
Age: 34
Origin: Virginia

Hough is making and purchasing furniture for sale.

Register, Saturday, May 5, 1849. 129

Journal, Thursday, May 3, 1849. 130

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129 Register, Saturday, May 5, 1849, p. 3.
130 Journal, Thursday, May 3, 1849, p. 3.
John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets (Probably not manufacturing)

J. A. Hough advertised in the *Illinois Daily Journal* of May 11, 1849:

Cabinet Warehouse—Cabinet Furniture, Chairs, Looking-Glass Plates, Mattresses, Willow Wagons, Clocks, etc., etc. of New York, Boston, and Cincinnati Manufacture.

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: July 19, 1849
Location: Corner south of American House, southeast corner of Sixth and Adams
Type: Fancy Cane and Flag Seat Chairs.
    Looking for lot of Flag for Chair seats
Wanted: large lot of flag for chair seats
Age: 35
Origin: Massachusetts

Jacob Ruckel

Jacob Ruckel is manufacturing mattresses that he sells through Springfield Furniture Ware Rooms of J. Hutchinson.

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131 *Journal*, Saturday, September 15, 1849, p. 3. *Register*, Saturday, September 15, 1849, p. 1
132 *Journal* Monday, June 25, 1849, p. 3.
133 *Journal*, Monday, June 25, 1849, p. 3.
Daniel E. Ruckel
(1846-1859)
Cabinets

Name: Furniture and Coffin Warehouse
Name: Daniel E. Ruckel
Date: September 5, 1849
Location: Third door south of the American House
Type: Cabinet furniture; manufacture and sale.
Coffins
Age: 38
Origin: New York City

Sangamo Journal, Saturday, September 15, 1849.134

John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Chairs and Cabinets

Name: John A. Hough
Date: September 15, 1849
Location: Corner south of Bunn’s
Type: Leaving business in hands of Hiram Wood while absent from city
Age: 34
Origin: Virginia
During absence, Hiram Wood in charge of business

Journal, Saturday, September 15, 1849.135

Sullivan Conant
(1842-1859)
Chairs

Name: Chairs!
Name: Sullivan Conant
Date: September 20, 1849
Location: south of Bunn’s, on the corner of 5th and Monroe streets.
Type: Chairs of all descriptions.
Exchange: lumber and produce for chairs.
Age: 48
Origin: Massachusetts

Journal, Monday, February 11, 1850.136

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134 Sangamo Journal, Saturday, September 15, 1849, p. 3.
135 Journal, Saturday, September 15, 1849, p. 3.
Charles C. Phelps  
(1835-1860+)

Chairs

Name: Chairs!
Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: September 21, 1849
Location: corner south of American House, alley on east side of Sixth Street between Adams and Monroe Streets
Type: chairs; walnut, cane and flag; Windsors of various kinds, rocking chairs, settees; manufacturer and sale.
Age: 35
Origin: Massachusetts

Daniel E. Ruckel  
(1846-1859)

Cabinets

Name: Cabinet and Coffin Ware-Room
Name: Daniel E. Ruckel
Date: September 5, 1849
Location: third door south of the American House
Type: furniture and coffins
Age: 39
Origin: New York City

138 Journal, Tuesday, January 8, 1850, p. 4.
139 Journal, Tuesday, January 8, 1850, p. 4.
Josiah Francis, Jr.  
(1836-1852)  
Cabinets

**Name:** Cabinet Furniture  
**Name:** Josiah Francis, Jr.  
**Date:** February 1, 1841  
**Location:** One door north of Journal office;  
Corner south of Bunn’s  
**Type:** Cabinet furniture manufacture and sale;  
coffins  
**Age:** 48  
**Origin:** Massachusetts

John A. Hough  
(1839-1860+)  
Chairs and Cabinets

**Name:** John A. Hough  
**Date:** December 8, 1849  
**Location:** Beidler’s old stand,  
Corner south of Bunn’s  
**Type:** manufacturer and dealer;  
cabinet furniture, chairs,  
looking glass, mattresses,  
willow wagon, clocks; coffins  
**Age:** 34  
**Origin:** Virginia

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140 Journal, Tuesday, January 8, 1850, p. 4.
Newspaper Listing of Business Men of Springfield

Charles C. Phelps, Chair Maker, shop south of the American House. Mr. Phelps has been in business for several years, and the work made at this shop will compare with that made in any shop in the country, of the same description in style, strength, and finish. He is able to supply all demands.

Ezekiel Pilcher, cabinet maker; shop a few doors south of Bunn’s, Residence on 6th street, north

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141 *Journal*, Wednesday, August 29, 1849, p. 3.
1850

John A. Hutchinson
(1842-1860+)
Chairs and Cabinets

On January 2, 1850, John Hutchinson advertised in the *Journal*:
The extensive Warerooms of the establishment will always be supplied with a large stock of FURNITURE, consisting in part of Sofas, Secretaries, Bookcases, Centre and side Tables, Work and Card Tables, Sideboards, Dressing Bureaus, Common Bureaus, Cupboards, Wardrobes, Presses, High-Post, French and Common Bedsteads, Lounges, Washstands, Chairs, Cribs, and Cradles, &c. &c &c: and in order that the public may have a full and fair opportunity of judging for themselves, between our own manufactured articles and those from abroad, we further invite their attention to the following articles, just received from the eastern markets, viz:

- Mahogany Centre Tables
- Plain and Tuffed Sofas
- Cherry Card do.
- Fancy Divans
- Dressing Bureaus,
- Mahogany Wash Stands,
- Common do.
- Plain do.
- Mahogany Toilet Stands,
- O.G. Pillar Card Tables,
- Common do.
- Rocking Chairs, &c. &c.

The patronage of the public generally is respectfully solicited, and all who visit this very extensive establishment will be made satisfied that it richly merits the confidence and support of an intelligent and judicious community, who appreciate the importance of encouraging Home Manufactures, and building up our own region of country, instead of furnishing our means to add to the wealth of St. Louis, Cincinnati, and the eastern cities.

J. HUTCHINSON.

John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Chairs

John A. Mason was moving his chair shop, indicating that he was in that business before this date, January 30, 1850. On July 16, 1840, there is an advertisement in the *Sangamo Journal* newspaper for Zimmerman & Co., Robert B. Zimmerman, O. Hempstead, and John A. Mason.

Name: John A. Mason  
Date: January 30, 1850  
Location: moved to across the street from Francis Cabinet Shop and Journal Office; northwest of the Market House  
Type: manufacture and sale of chairs and settees  
Age: 36  
Origin: Vermont

*Journal*, Monday, February 11, 1850.¹⁴²

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John A. Mason was born on June 14, 1814, in Swanton, Franklin County, Vermont. When quite young he went to Buffalo, New York, and there joined his brother, and came from there to Springfield, Illinois, arriving on May 20, 1837. He learned the business of a chair maker in Springfield, and from that worked into the manufacture of cabinet furniture. He retired from business in 1869, with ample means and impaired health. He is not yet married, and resides at Buffalo, Sangamon County, Illinois, but spends much of his time among his old friends in Springfield.\textsuperscript{143}

City Business Cards Listing Chair and Cabinet Makers

John Hutchinson steam power
Fifth, between Monroe and Market

J. A. Mason, manufacturer and dealer
Sixth and Jefferson

C. C. Phelps
# 3 and 4 Enterprise
John A. Hough employes 12 hands and manufactures a third of stock sold
Fifth between Adams and Monroe

Josiah Francis

J. A. Mason

Sullivan Conant
Sixth, between Adams and Monroe

\textit{Journal, Tuesday, April 30, 1850}.\textsuperscript{144}

\textsuperscript{143} Power, p. 476.

\textsuperscript{144} Journal, Tuesday, April 30, 1850, p. 4.
Daniel E. Ruckel
(1846-1859)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet and Coffin Ware-Room
Date: April 3, 1850 and September 12, 1849.
Location: South of the American House at the sign of the cradle, bedstead and coffin.
Type: Cabinet furniture; coffins; Bureaus, bedsteads, tables, washstands, lounges, cradles.
Coffins
Age: 39
Origin: New York City

John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Chairs

Name: John A. Mason
Date: July 19, 1850
Location: west of the Market House
Type: curl maple chairs, rocking chairs with cane backs and seats.
Age: 36
Origin: Virginia

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Chair Shop
Date: September 12, 1850
Location: west side of square
Type: fancy and Windsor chairs
Age: 36
Origin: Massachusetts

Journal, Saturday, July 6, 1850.
Journal, Saturday, January 4, 1851.
Journal, Monday, January 6, 1851.
Sullivan Conant
(1842-1859)
Chairs

Journal, Friday, July 18, 1851.\textsuperscript{148}

Wood. H 83.7, W 203.2, D 63.5 cm

1850-1860 Lincoln had this seven-foot long settee specially made by Springfield furniture maker Sullivan Conant so he could stretch out on it. It was painted to match the house and sat on the back (South) porch where it could catch the breeze.

John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Chairs

Journal, Monday, January 6, 1851.\textsuperscript{149}

Name: Chairs.
Name: Sullivan Conant
Date: September 20, 1850
Location: south of Bunn’s store, on the corner of Fifth and Monroe.
Type: Chairs manufacture and sale.
Exchange: lumber and produce for chairs
Age: 49
Origin: Massachusetts

Name: John A. Mason
Date: December 21, 1850
Location: northwest of the Market House
Type: fancy and Windsor chairs, rocking chairs, settee; repairs and painting, bedsteads and other furniture.
Age: 36
Origin: Virginia

\textsuperscript{148} Journal, Friday, July 18, 1851, p. 3.
\textsuperscript{149} Journal, Monday, January 6, 1851, p. 3.
Daniel E. Ruckel  
(1846-1859)  
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet and Coffin Ware-Room  
Date: November 23, 1850  
Location: Moved to building north of Hoffman’s Row, opposite of the Post Office; sign of Cradle, Bedstead and Coffin.  
Type: furniture and coffins  
Age: 39  
Origin: New York City

Journal, Monday, January 6, 1851.

Death of Mr. Bilson

Journal, Wednesday, October 30, 1850.

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150 Journal, Monday, January 6, 1851, p. 3.  
151 Journal, Wednesday, October 30, 1850, p. 3.


1851

Hough’s Cabinet Establishment Building Sold at Auction

Two story frame building on the lot, known as Hough’s Cabinet establishment.

Lot 5, Block 22 Original Town of Springfield

Charles C. Phelps Moves Again

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: May 15, 1851
Location: Moved to Northwest corner of the Public Square, west of Freeman & Co.’s store
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale; Walnut, Curled Maple, Cane and Flag Seats, Rocking do., &c. Also Cabinery furniture of most kinds, all of which are warranted to be well made and sold at the lowest prices.
Age: 37
Origin: Massachusetts

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152 Journal, Friday, July 18, 1851, p. 3.
153 Journal, Friday, July 18, 1851, p. 3.
John A. Mason
(1850-1863)

John A. Mason had been a chair maker before this, but he was probably not manufacturing all of his inventory.

Name: John A. Mason
Date: March 26, 1851
Type: furniture dealer, few dozen split bottom chairs
Age: 37
Origin: Virginia

Sullivan Conant
(1842-1859)
Chairs

Name: Sullivan Conant
Date: August 7, 1851
Location: south of Bunn’s store, on the corner of Fifth and Monroe.
Type: Chairs manufacture and sale.
Exchange: lumber and produce for chairs
Age: 50
Origin: Massachusetts

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: August 7, 1851
Location: Moved to Northwest corner of the Public Square, west of Freeman & Co.’s store
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale; Walnut, Curled Maple, Cane and Flag Seats, Rocking, cabinetry, furniture of most kinds.
Age: 37
Origin: Massachusetts

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154 Journal, Wednesday, October 8, 1851, p. 1.
155 Journal, Wednesday, October 8, 1851, p. 1.
John A. Mason  
(1850-1863)  
Chairs

Name: John A. Mason  
Date: August 7, 1851  
Location: Northwest of Market House  
Type: furniture dealer, fancy and Windsor also rocking chairs; small settees; bedsteads and furniture  
Age: 37  
Origin: Vermont

John A. Hough  
(1839-1860+)  
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Ware.  
Name: John A. Hough  
Date:  
Location: Corner south of Bunn’s  
Type: manufacturer of cabinet furniture; chairs, mahogany veneers, varnishes; furniture; coffins  
Age: 36  
Origin: Virginia

Daniel E. Ruckel  
(1846-1859)  
Cabinets

Name: Cheap Furniture  
Name: Daniel E. Ruckel  
Date: August 7, 1851  
Location: Moved to building north of Hoffman’s Row, opposite of the Post Office; sign of Cradle, Bedstead and Coffin.  
Type: furniture and coffins; manufacture and sale  
Age: 40  
Origin: New York City

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156 Journal, Wednesday, October 8, 1851, p. 1.  
157 Journal, Wednesday, October 8, 1851, p. 1.  
158 Journal, Wednesday, October 8, 1851, p. 1.
Abraham Lincoln Loans $300 to Daniel E. Ruckel

On August 15, 1851, Lincoln loaned $300 to Daniel E. Ruckel, a Springfield cabinet maker from whom he occasionally bought furniture for his home. The loan was evidenced by Ruckel’s note for $300, bearing interest at ten per cent from December 25, 1851, until paid. Interest was due annually, and the principal on December 25, 1854, or earlier upon default of payment of interest. To secure this debt Daniel and Catherine Ruckel gave Lincoln a mortgage on four lots in Allen’s Addition, in the northern part of Springfield, and also assigned to Lincoln whatever interest they might have to a part of Lot eight in Block ten, Old Town Plat, located on the northwest corner of Fifth and Washington streets.

Two years later Lincoln made this notation on the margin of the mortgage record: “In consideration of Daniel E. Ruckel having perfected the title to the other parcel of ground included in this mortgage [the property at Fifth and Washington streets] I do hereby release from said mortgage the lots therein described as Lots Nine, ten, eleven, and twelve, in Block Three, in Allen’s addition to Springfield. Witness my hand and seal this 7th day of July, 1853. A. Lincoln.” These lots faced east on Seventh Street, extending south from Edwards Street to the middle of the block.

Daniel E. Ruckel died on April 9, 1854, leaving a widow and four minor children. Lincoln’s loan was unpaid. A memorandum of September 28, 1857, stated that Lincoln had received $300 in full of “a note and mortgage I held of the late Daniel E. Ruckel.” Interest on the loan “due from last Christmas” was to be paid by R. H. Beach, administrator of Daniel Ruckel’s estate.

On the same day, September 28, 1857, Lincoln lent Jacob Ruckel, a younger brother and Daniel’s business partner, $500, taking a mortgage to the four lots on Seventh Street which Jacob had acquired from his brother’s estate. Lincoln endorsed payment of the first year’s interest on November 27, 1858, on the face of the mortgage. He collected two more interest payments prior to his departure for Washington to become President. The Jacob Ruckel note was one of the notes which Lincoln left with Robert Irwin, cashier of the Springfield Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Irwin collected the interest and principal amounting to $667.05 on January 29, 1864, releasing the mortgage on the same day.
1852

Josiah Francis and Charles B. Francis

Josiah Francis manufactured cabinet furniture with his brother Charles B. Francis until 1852, when he engaged in farming, four miles northeast of Springfield, near what was German Prairie Station.

John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hough
Date: March 10, 1852
Location: Fifth street, a few doors south of Bunn’s.
Type: Mahogany sofa seat parlor chair, rose wood sofa, painted and stained sofa chairs, chairs of all sorts; manufacture and sale.
Age: 37
Origin: Virginia

Journal, March 26, 1852.

159 Journal, March 26, 1852, p. 3.
Hutchinson & Powell
(1852–___)
Cabinets

Name: Hutchinson & Powell
Date: March 26, 1852
Location: old stand, yellow brick, one door south of the Springfield Academy (west side of 5th street between Market (Capitol and Monroe)
Type: While we exhibit some of our Furniture Not Made At the East for Auction—But Genuine, Homemade of the Right Sort—every article, warranted of our own manufacture and at prices as low as at any Regular Establishment in the west. As we devote ourselves exclusively to manufacture of Cabinet Ware…

Coffins, lots in Hutchinson’s burying grounds

Daniel E. Ruckel
(1846-1859)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet and Coffin Ware-Room
Date: August 7, 1852
Location: Moved to building north of Hoffman’s Row, opposite of the Post Office; sign of Cradle, Bedstead and Coffin.
Type: furniture and coffins
Age: 41
Origin: New York City

Journal, Wednesday, March 31, 1852.\textsuperscript{160}

\textbf{Cheap Furniture:}

I, R. Ruckel, being enabled to raise a room to the building next to the Hoffman’s, have erected a room where chairs of every description can be had at any time, and are cheaper than the usual ones, also better quality.

Journal, June 24, 1852.\textsuperscript{161}

\textbf{Stop Blowing that Penny Whistle:}

While we exhibit some of our Furniture Not Made At the East for Auction—But Genuine, Homemade of the Right Sort—every article, warranted of our own manufacture and at prices as low as at any Regular Establishment in the west.

At a distance, we will have a regular public inspection, where any article, as required, can be seen in person, and the prices can be determined on the spot.

\textbf{Daniel E. Ruckel:}

Name: Daniel E. Ruckel
Date: August 7, 1852
Location: Moved to building north of Hoffman’s Row, opposite of the Post Office; sign of Cradle, Bedstead and Coffin.
Type: furniture and coffins
Age: 41
Origin: New York City

\textsuperscript{160} Journal, Wednesday, March 31, 1852, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{161} Journal, Thursday, June 24, 1852, p. 1.
Lincoln’s Springfield: Chair and Cabinet Makers (1831-1860)

Sullivan Conant
(1842-1859)
Chairs

Name: Sullivan Conant
Date: August 7, 1852
Location: south of Bunn’s store, on the corner of Fifth and Monroe.
Type: Chairs manufacture and sale.
Exchange: lumber and produce for chairs
Age: 51
Origin: Massachusetts

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs

Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: August 7, 1852
Location: moved to Northwest corner of the Public Square, west of Freeman & Co.’s store
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale; Walnut, Curled Maple, Cane and Flag Seats, Rocking, cabinetry, furniture of most kinds.
Age: 38
Origin: Massachusetts

John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Chairs

Name: John A. Mason
Date: August 7, 1852
Location: northwest of Market House
Type: furniture fancy and Windsor, rocking chairs, small settees; bedsteads and furniture; repairing and painting
Age: 38
Origin: Vermont

162 Journal, Friday, August 27, 1852, p. 1.
163 Journal, Friday, August 27, 1852, p. 1.
164 Journal, Friday, August 27, 1852, p. 1.
Daniel E. Ruckel  
(1846-1859)  
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet and Coffin Ware-Room  
Name: Daniel E. Ruckel  
Date: October 9, 1852  
Location: building north of Hoffman’s Row, opposite of the Post Office; sign of Cradle, Bedstead and Coffin.  
Type: furniture and coffins  
Age: 41  
Origin: New York City

Journal, Friday, October 15, 1852.165

John A. Hough  
(1839-1860+)  
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hough  
Date: June 28, 1852  
Location: Fifth street, a few doors south of Bunn’s.  
Type: Mahogany sofa seat parlor chair, rose wood sofa, painted and stained sofa chairs, chairs of all sorts; manufacture and sale.  
Age: 37  
Origin: Virginia

Journal, Tuesday, September 28, 1852.166

165 Journal, Friday, October 15, 1852, p. 3.  
166 Journal, Tuesday, September 28, 1852, p. 1.
John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Chairs

Journal, Saturday, December 11, 1852.167

John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Journal, Thursday, December 30, 1852.168

Sullivan Conant
(1842-1859)
Chairs

Journal, Thursday, December 30, 1852 169

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167 Journal, Saturday, December 11, 1852, p. 3.
1853

John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Chairs

Name: John A. Mason
Date: January 6, 1853
Type: Cane seat chairs from Boston
Age: 39
Origin: Vermont

Journal, Thursday, January 6, 1853.

Name: John A. Mason
Date: January 6, 1853
Type: Cane seat chairs and rocking chairs
Age: 39
Origin: Vermont

Journal, Monday, January 10, 1853.

170 Journal, Thursday, January 6, 1853, p. 2.
171 Journal, Monday, January 10, 1853, p. 3.
Phelps & Strickland
(1853-1857)
Chairs and Cabinets

Journal, Wednesday, July 6, 1853.172

George Strickland was born on March 29, 1812, in Amherst, Massachusetts. He was married on May 30, 1836, in Northampton, Massachusetts, to Sarah Little -- sister to Thomas S. Little and Sophia Phelps. Sarah Little Strickland was born on November 21, 1814, in Northampton. They had one child, and moved to Springfield, Illinois, arriving in August 1837. They had five children in Springfield, two of whom died young.173

George Strickland was a cabinet maker and carpenter by trade and followed cabinet making in Springfield when work was largely done by hand.

The 1860 census listed George Strickland as a 47-year-old chair maker and furniture dealer. He lived at the southeast corner of 3rd and Wright streets (302 E. Lawrence.)174

They were strict Presbyterians and took a very active part in church work. George died on July 14, 1887, at age 75, and Sarah died on October 10 of the same year, at the age 73.175

George Strickland was a subscriber to the Springfield Anti-Slavery Society. Mary A. Strickland was also a subscriber.176

172 Journal, Wednesday, July 6, 1853, p. 3.
173 Power, p. 694.
175 1904 History, p. 778.
176 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Manuscripts Section, SC 3632.
John A. Hough  
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hough  
Date: April 8, 1853  
Location: at the old and permanent establishment  
Type: cabinet furniture business.  
Age: 38  
Origin: Vermont

John A. Mason  
(1850-1863)  
Chairs

Name: Chairs  
Name: John A. Mason  
Date: July 23, 1853  
Location: northwest of market house.  
Type: furniture dealer, new supply of cane seat chairs, rocking chairs, put up and finished here; chairs, settees, lounges, bedsteads; repairing and painting  
Age: 39  
Origin: Vermont

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178 Journal, Monday, August 8, 1853, p. 2.
Lincoln’s Springfield: Chair and Cabinet Makers (1831-1860)

Daniel E. Ruckel
(1846-1859)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet and Coffin Ware-Room
Name: Daniel E. Ruckel
Date: November 23, 1850
Location: Moved to building north of Hoffman’s Row, opposite of the Post Office
Type: furniture and undertaking, coffins
Age: 42
Origin: New York City

John Hutchinson
(1844-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Ware-Rooms
Name: John Hutchinson
Date: August 23, 1853
Location: old stand, yellow brick, one door south of the Springfield Academy (west side of 5th street between Market (Capitol and Monroe)
Type: furniture and one room devoted to coffins, lots for sale in Hutchinson Burying Ground, undertaking, good hearse with two horse

Journal, Thursday, December 22, 1853.\textsuperscript{179}

\textsuperscript{179} Journal, Thursday, December 22, 1853, p. 1.
1854

Death of Daniel E. Ruckel

Daniel E. Ruckel died on April 9, 1854. See Appendix for his obituary.

Estate of Daniel E. Ruckel, Deceased

Name: Auction Sales: Estate of D. E. Ruckel  
Date: May 13, 1854  
On Monday June 5, 1854, after Daniel Ruckel’s death, those administrating his estate held a public auction to sell his personal assets. The list of furniture is extensive. Most interesting is the list of tools and inventory of the cabinet shop: lathe, full set of turning tools, benches and sets of cabinet tools, lumber for cabinet work.

Journal, Wednesday, May 3, 1854

Journal, Thursday, May 18, 1854

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180 Journal, Wednesday, May 3, 1854, p. 3.  
181 Journal, Thursday, May 18, 1854, p. 3.
Henry Williams, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on July 15, 1824. As a young boy he worked on a farm. His early youth was fraught with many trials and hardships. His mother and brother James came to Illinois in 1840, traveling in a "prairie schooner," and were three weeks making the trip. They settled at Salem, and James, who subsequently enlisted in the Union army, gave his life to the good of the cause. His mother died in Springfield at the ripe old age of ninety years.

Henry Williams took up his abode in Beardstown, Illinois, but after a short time removed to Springfield. He worked at the cabinet-maker's trade in Beardstown and on his removal to this city found employment with J. Hough. Later he began business for himself in connection with Christian Link, their building being located on the present site of engine house No. 3. There their plant was destroyed by fire, causing a total loss. Mr. Williams, however, immediately erected another building and continued the manufacture of furniture on a larger scale than before. He also opened a retail furniture establishment in the center of the city and in connection with its conduct manufactured coffins, billiard tables and furniture. On dissolving partnership with Mr. Link he took the retail store and added an undertaking department. Mr. Williams was the oldest undertaker in Springfield and buried the first body in Oak Ridge Cemetery, about 1861, when there was nothing but hazel brush in what is now one of the most beautiful cemeteries of Illinois. he sold his furniture department and removed the undertaking business, in 1888, to No. 420 East Washington street, where he continued up to the time of his death.

Mr. Williams was married in Springfield to Miss Sarah Wahl, who was born in the north of Ireland and was educated in the Presbyterian faith. They had two sons, James H. and Franklin E. The former was born in October, 1850, was in his father's employ for a long period, and died in Springfield at the age of forty-five years. The family home was on Madison street, between First and Second streets, where the father lived for forty-four years. His wife died March 3, 1888, at the age of sixty-five years. He afterward left the old home and in 1896 purchased the family residence at No. 1027 South Second Street, where he remained until his death, November 1, 1902.

182 Register, Monday, October 9, 1854, p. 2.
Rising like a Phoenix from her ashes come this old chest of drawers, as a reminder of a man and his immorality gained by the mission for which he seems to have been the chosen of an all-wise God.

This “chest of drawers,” as the old Germans called it, from the fact, as we presume, that they were the first to make and use them, is well represented in the picture taken of it by a young lady artist, is now in the hands of a third ownership. This bureau was purchased from Charles Phelps, a furniture dealer, and father of Phelps, the florist, in 1854, and was sold to John E. Roll, Esq., an esteemed friend of the lamented martyr, when Mr. Lincoln was preparing to occupy the presidential chair. Mr. Roll himself informed us the Mr. L. had given him his President of the greatest republic on earth, as Mr. Lincoln had been.

When fancy runs back to that period, when Abraham Lincoln used to sit on “Abe’s log” at Sangamon town, and delight his young companions with his stories, not one of that gallant crowd—for they were all pioneers of civilization—ever dreamed that a Kentucky lady would become the owner by purchase, from the estate of John Roll, “a chest of drawers,” once owned by the captain of that lot of young men. Event upon event in the life of Abraham Lincoln will crowd memory with the history of the times in which they lived and the things that have occupied those drawers: the farous ones who have pulled them out or pushed them back in the years they graced the home of the immortal martyr, or when his co-boat-builder, John Roll, owned them in an humbler home. Those men have passed to the great beyond.
The highboy, which Lincoln kept in his household from 1854 until he left to become president, is a gift to the state...

According to records, Lincoln purchased the piece of furniture from Charles Phelps and later gave it to an old friend, John E. Roll. Through subsequent sales, the highboy came into possession of Post...

Journal, Tuesday, January 27, 1942.

John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Cabinet Furniture Ware Rooms
Name: John A. Hough
Date: November 25, 1854
Location: South Fifth street, west side
Type: general house furnishings; Cabinet furniture;
Age: 39
Origin: Virginia

Journal, Saturday, August 4, 1855.

184 Journal, Tuesday, January 27, 1942, p. 3.
185 Journal, Saturday, August 4, 1855, p. 4.
**John A. Hough**  
(1839-1860+)  
Cabinets

*Name*: John A. Hough  
*Date*: November 25, 1854  
*Location*: South Fifth street, west side, old stand  
*Type*: all descriptions; Cabinet furniture;  
*Age*: 39  
*Origin*: Virginia

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**Sullivan Conant**  
(1842-1859)  
Chairs

*Name*: Sullivan Conant  
*Date*: 1854  
*Location*: south of Bunn’s store, on the corner of Fifth and Monroe.  
*Type*: Chairs manufacture and sale.  
*Exchange*: lumber and produce for chairs  
*Age*: 53  
*Origin*: Massachusetts

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**William S. Conant**  
Petersburg, Illinois  
Chairs

*Name*: Chairs.  
*Name*: William S. Conant  
*Date*: June 12, 1854  
*Location*: Petersburg.  
*Type*: Chairs manufacture and sale.

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186 Journal, Tuesday, August 1, 1854, p. 4.  
187 Journal, Friday, October 27, 1854, p. 3.
1855

As in 18__, the year 1855 newspapers contained only one advertisement for chair and cabinet makers. This is inexplicable, and I hope someone will be able to explain why or find more advertisements.

**Phelps & Strickland**

(1853-1857)

Chairs and Cabinets

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Name: Sangamo Furniture Ware Rooms

*Name:* Charles C. Phelps and George Strickland

*Date:* June 16, 1855

*Location:* No. 3, Enterprise Row, 2nd Story above Richardson & Co. Shoe Store

*Type:* Mahogany chairs, cottage bedsteads (new style), painted chamber sets; mahogany and walnut bureaus; book cases; wash stands; furniture and chairs

*Age:* Phelps 40 Massachusetts

Strickland 43 Massachusetts

“Just received” indicates that they are not manufacturing all of their furniture.

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188 *Journal, Saturday, August 4, 1855.* p. 4.
1856

John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Mason
Date: May 16, 1856

Type: furniture dealer, carpets, looking glasses, clocks, window shades, etc.
Home: boards southwest corner 4th and Monroe: 1860 C.D.
Age: 42
Origin: Vermont

Journal, Saturday, August 2, 1856.¹⁸⁹

John A. Hough
(1839-1860)
Cabinets

John A. Hough placed an advertisement in the Thursday, May 22, 1856, Register wanting two or three journeymen cabinet makers.

Register, Thursday, May 22, 1856.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁹ Journal, Saturday, August 2, 1856, p. 1.
¹⁹⁰ Register, Thursday, May 22, 1856, p. 2.
John Hutchinson
(1844-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hutchinson
Date: April 7, 1856
Location: At the old stand—yellow brick
Type: furniture and one room devoted to coffins, lots for sale in Hutchinson Burying Ground, undertaking, good hearse with two horses

Sale of Real Estate in Daniel E. Ruckel Estate

The Tuesday, August 5, 1856, Journal contained an advertisement for the public sale of the home of the late Daniel E. Ruckel. The house was on 4th Street a short distance south of the Governor’s House.

191 Journal, Wednesday, April 9, 1856, p. 3.
192 Register, Wednesday, January 16, 1856, p. 4.
193 Journal, Tuesday, August 5, 1856, p. 3.
Phelps & Strickland
(1853-1857)
Chairs and Cabinets

Name: Charles C. Phelps and George Strickland
Date: _______, 1856
Location: None given.
Type: Tucker’s Patent Spring Bed for $11; Cabinet furniture and chairs; Tucker’s Patent Spring Beds; cabinet furniture and chairs
Age: Charles C. Phelps 41
Origin: Massachusetts
Age: George Strickland 44
Origin: Massachusetts

Journal, Monday, September 15, 1856.

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194 Journal, Monday, September 15, 1856, p. 2.
List of Furniture Manufacturers and Dealers

J. A. Mason, manufacturer and dealer
Sixth and Jefferson
C. C. Phelps
# 3 and 4 Enterprise Building
J. A. Hough, employs 12 hands and manufactures a third of stock sold
Fifth between Adams and Monroe
J. Hutchinson, steam power
Fifth, between Monroe and Market
S. Conant
Sixth, between Adams and Monroe
Williams & Link
Fifth, between Washington and Jefferson
Ruckel & Little, upholsterers and paper hangers
Fifth Between Monroe and Adams

On Wednesday, July 8, 1857, L. Damours opened a carving shop on Jefferson opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Name: L. Damours
Date: June 13, 1857
Location: Jefferson Street, opposite St. Nicholas Hotel.
Type: carving.

195 Journal, Tuesday, January 6, 1857, p. 3.
196 Register, Wednesday, July 8, 1857, p. 2.
Daniel E. Ruckel
(1841-1859)
Cabinets

**Name:** Daniel E. Ruckel  
**Date:** July 4, 1857  
**Location:** Opposite the Post Office  
**Type:** Cabinet furniture; coffins; bureaus, bedsteads, tables, washstands, lounges, cradles.  
**Age:** 46  
**Origin:** New York City

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Abraham Lincoln Writes Check to Jacob Ruckel

On September 29, 1857, Abraham Lincoln wrote a check to Jacob Ruckel in the amount of $200.\(^{197}\) This was a loan by Lincoln to Ruckel and it was secured by a mortgage.

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Charles C. Phelps  
(1835-1860)  
Chairs and Cabinets

This advertisement by Charles C. Phelps alone indicates that the partnership of Phelps & Strickland was ended.

John Hutchinson  
(1844-1860+)  
Cabinets

An 1857 advertisement showed that J. Hutchinson was still concerned with the competition from St. Louis. It read:

I have also made arrangements for a constant supply of Eastern work .... Persons wishing to fill orders can do so at as reasonable terms as St. Louis or any other western city.

Name: Sangamo Furniture Ware-Rooms  
Name: Charles C. Phelps  
Date: December 17, 1857  
Location: Nos. 3 and 4, Enterprise Row, 2nd story  
Type: Furniture-chairs and cabinet work marble top and mahogany bureaus; marble top and mahogany center and card tables; ottomans and hat racks, sofas, tete-a-tete and rocking chairs, mahogany, cane and Windsor chairs; rosewood and mahogany looking glasses; sink, enclosed and common washstands; secretaries and bookcases, common cottage and misses bedsteads, tin safes, cupboards  
Home: southwest corner of Third and Adams streets.  
Age: 43  
Origin: Massachusetts

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198 Journal, Friday, December 18, 1857, p. 2.
John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hough
Date: September 4, 1857
Location: South Fifth street, west side
Type: Cabinet furniture
Age: 42
Origin: Virginia

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John A. Hutchinson
(1844-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hutchinson
Date: December 1857
Location: At the old stand—yellow brick
Type: furniture and one room devoted to coffins, lots for sale in Hutchinson Burying Ground, undertaking, good hearse with two horses

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200 Journal, Wednesday, December 30, 1857.
Abraham Lincoln Writes Check to J. A. Hough

On September 28, 1857, Abraham Lincoln wrote a check in the amount of $8.50 to John A. Hough.201

Abraham Lincoln Pays John Hutchinson $11

Monday, September 28, 1857.
Springfield, IL.

Lincoln writes two more checks—one for $11 to John Hutchinson, other for $10 to Bailhache and Baker, publishers of “Illinois State Journal.”

Abraham Lincoln Loans Jacob Ruckel $500.

Monday, September 28, 1857.
Springfield, IL.

Lincoln loans Jacob Ruckel $500 and takes mortgage, which he draws himself, to secure debt. Interest is 10 per cent per annum, and loan is to run one year.202

201 Journal, Wednesday, December 30, 1857, p. 4.
1858

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Chairs and Cabinets

Name: Sangamon Furniture Ware Rooms
Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: May 9, 1858
Location: Nos. 3 and 4, Enterprise Row, 2nd story
Type: Furniture: marble top and mahogany bureaus; marble top and mahogany center and card tables; ottomans and hat racks, sofas, tete-a-tete and rocking chairs, mahogany, cane and Windsor chairs; rosewood and mahogany looking glasses; sink, enclosed and common washstands; secretaries and bookcases, common cottage and misses bedsteads, tin safes, cupboards
Age: 44
Origin: Massachusetts

“Have received a large lot of new furniture.” It would appear that he is not manufacturing.

Sullivan Conant
Chairs

Name: E. C. Matheny’s Furniture Ware Rooms
Name: Sullivan Conant
Date: June 26, 1858
Location: on 6th street a few doors south of American House.
Type: bedsteads, tables, sofas, cupboards and other furniture; manufacture and sale
Age: 57

In the 1855 Springfield City Directory, Levi J. Conant, chairmaker (cabinet maker) resided at the northwest corner of 5th Wright streets.
R. B. Bell
(1858-1858)

**Name:** R. B. Bell  
**Date:** May 18, 1858  
**Location:** South of Great Western Depot  
**Type:** Bedstead manufacture and sale; turned stuff: bedsteads, chairs, tables, stair banisters  
**Age:** 44

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Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Cabinets

**Name:** Sangamo Furniture Warehouse  
**Date:** May 27, 1858  
**Location:** Nos. 3 and 4, Enterprise Row, 2nd story  
**Type:** Furniture: walnut and maple cane seat chairs, Windsor chairs and rockers, bureaus, cupboards, marble top wash stands and tables, hall stands, what nots, walnut, cottage and cone bedsteads, sofas, mahogany chairs, dining, card and center tables, looking glasses, tin safes, Tuckers’s spring beds; chairs and cabinet ware made to order.  
**Age:** 44  
**Origin:** Massachusetts

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206 *Register*, Thursday, July 22, 1858, p. 4.  
207 *Journal*, Friday, June 4, 1858, p. 3.
Charles C. Phelps  
(1835-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Sangamo Furniture Ware-Rooms
Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: July 22, 1858
Location: Nos. 3 and 4, Enterprise Row, 2nd story
Type: Furniture; new arrivals sofas, mahogany chairs, centre and sided tables; walnut and maple cane chairs; cottage bedsteads, looking glasses, tucker’s Spring Beds; children’s buggies
Age: 44
Origin: Massachusetts
It would appear that he is not manufacturing

John A. Hutchinson  
(1844-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Fine Cabinet Furniture
Name: John A. Hutchinson
Date: June 12, 1858
Location: At the old stand; south Fifth, opposite the Methodist church
Type: Fancy and Windsor chairs manufacture and sale.
John A. Hutchinson
(1844-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hutchinson
Date: July 30, 1858
Location: South 5th opposite the Methodist Church
Type: cabinet furniture manufacture and sale.
Undertaking: One room devoted to coffins; lots for sale in Hutchinson’s Burying Ground; hearse with two horses
Residence: 2 doors south of shop

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Sangamon Furniture Ware-Rooms
Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: October 14, 1858
Location: Nos. 3 and 4, Enterprise Row, 2nd story
Type: Furniture: walnut and maple cane seat chairs, Windsor chairs and rockers, bureaus, cupboards, marble top wash stands and tables, hall stands, what nots, walnut, cottage and cone bedsteads, sofas, mahogany chairs, dining, card and center tables, looking glasses, tin safes, Tuckers’s spring beds; chairs and cabinet ware made to order.
Age: 44
Origin: Massachusetts

Register, Thursday, February 24, 1858.210

Journal, Monday, January 17, 1859.211

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210 Register, Thursday, February 24, 1859, p. 4.
Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Sangamo Furniture Ware-Rooms
Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: October 14, 1858
Location: Nos. 3 and 4, Enterprise Row, 2nd story
Type: Furniture: walnut and maple cane seat chairs, Windsor chairs and rockers, bureaus, cupboards, marble top wash stands and tables, hall stands, what nots, walnut, cottage and cone bedsteads, sofas, mahogany chairs, dining, card and center tables, looking glasses, tin safes, Tuckers’s spring beds; chairs and cabinet ware made to order; flag seat chairs.
Age: 44
Origin: Massachusetts

Journal, Friday, November 5, 1858.\textsuperscript{212}

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: Sangamo Warerooms
Name: Charles C. Phelps
Date: December 11, 1858
Location: Nos. 3 and 4, Enterprise Row, 2nd story
Type: Furniture
Age: 44
Origin: Massachusetts

Journal, Tuesday, February 1, 1859.\textsuperscript{213}

\textsuperscript{212} Journal, Friday, November 5, 1858, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{213} Journal, Tuesday, February 1, 1859, p. 4.
John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Cabinets

Name: Mason, John A.
Date: January 13, 1859
Type: marble top bureaus, mahogany, walnut and rosewood, different styles; marble top centre tables; centre, card and common tables, fine chamber sets, sofas, tet-a-tetes and lounges; fine chairs haircloth seats; cane, flag and wood seats; office same; spring cane and wood; book cases, writing desks, ladies’ writing desks and what nots; two fine barber chairs; common furniture of all kinds; furniture dealer, carpets, looking glasses, clocks, window shades, etc.
Occupation: cabinet maker
Age: 45
Origin: Vermont

Journal, Monday, January 17, 1859.

Died: March 5, 1866 in Springfield, aged 51 years, 4 months, and 9 days.
Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery: Block 11 Lot 65.
Charter member of Second Presbyterian Church May 26, 1835.
Immigrated, with the other colonists to Princeton, Illinois in May, 1831, but then joined his parents in Springfield and remained there the rest of his life.

John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Mason
Date: April 30, 1859
Type: furniture dealer; beds, bureaus, wash stands, easy chairs book cases, wardrobes, chairs tables, bedsteads, carpets, looking glasses, clocks, window shades, etc.
Age: 45
Origin: Vermont

Agreement with John Hutchinson Regarding Hutchinson Cemetery

September 3, 1859

We, the undersigned, proprietors of lots in Hutchinsons Cemetery, in the City of Springfield, Illinois, constitute and appoint John Hutchinson our agent to take charge, and general superintendence of said Cemetery, until February 1st. 1861---which agent is assured any expenses which he, in his discretion, may incur, in such superintendence, we bind ourselves to pay. Sept. 3, 1859

A. Lincoln Absalom Kalb J. G. Loose
Thos. Moffett George Leggott D. Sherman
E. B. Hawley Isaac A. Hawley James C. Conkling
Asahel Stone Phinias H. Conant Sanford Bell
J. H. Kent Willard & Zimmerman *J. A. Hough
Isaac Lindsay J. Bunn D. Wickersham
*Francis Springer

215 Journal, Friday, May 6, 1859, p. 2.
Williams & Link
Cabinets

Register, Thursday, June 21, 1860.\textsuperscript{217}

Charles C. Phelps
(1835-1860)

Journal, Tuesday, March 13, 1860.\textsuperscript{218}

\begin{itemize}
  \item **Name:** Williams & Link
  \item **Date:** June 2, 1860
  \item **Location:** Warehouse, south Fifth, between Washington and Jefferson; factory South Fourth Street
  \item **Type:** manufacturer: cabinet furniture of all sizes, shrouds, coffins trimmings of all kinds and a fine hearse
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item **Name:** Sangamo Furniture
  \item **Name:** Charles C. Phelps
  \item **Date:** December 29, 1859
  \item **Location:** Nos. 3 and 5, Enterprise Buildings
  \item **Type:** Furniture and chairs; sofas, sofa beds, spring lounges, mahogany chairs and rocking chairs, cane seat and Windsor chairs, book cases, wardrobes, clocks, center, side and dining tables, gilt, mahogany and walnut mirrors; manufacture and sale
  \item **Age:** 45
  \item **Origin:** Massachusetts
\end{itemize}

\textsuperscript{217} Register, Thursday, June 21, 1860, p. 3.
\textsuperscript{218} Journal, Tuesday, March 13, 1860, p. 3.
John A. Hough
(1839-1860+)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Hough
Date: August 15, 1860
Location: South Fifth street
Type: Household furniture: chamber suites, rosewood in Brocatelle suites, sofas, parlor suits of Rosewood and fine mahogany dressing bureaus, black walnut and plain black walnut dressing bureaus, side, center, stand, breakfast, tea and dining tables, enclosed wash stands, book cases, lounges, cribs, parlor, office and cane seat chairs, rocking chairs, split bottom chairs, fine French cottage bedsteads, plain sugar tree, black walnut and trundle, mattresses, and fine enameled chamber suite
Age: 45
Origin: Virginia

Register, Friday, April 27, 1860

\[^{219}\] Register, Friday, April 27, 1860, p. 1.
John A. Mason
(1850-1863)
Cabinets

Name: John A. Mason
Date: November 16, 1860
Location: Journal Building, adjoining Journal office; 6th Street Jefferson to Washington East Side
1854 Hart Map.
Type: furniture dealer, common and parlor furniture; carpets, looking glasses, clocks, window shades, etc.
boards southwest corner 4th and Monroe: 1860 C.D.
Age: 46
Origin: Vermont

William Solle

The 1860 City Directory listed William Solle as a cabinet maker working at John Hutchinson’s.

Gerhart Westenberger

The 1860 Springfield City Directory listed Gerhart Westenberger as a cabinet maker working at John A. Mason’s.

1861

John A. Hough Invited to Accompany Lincoln on Train to Washington

THE LAST DAY AT HOME. SPRINGFIELD, ILL. Feb. 10, 1861.

The President is spending this last day of his stay in Springfield quietly in a select circle of friends. Edward Bates was invited to accompany Mr. Lincoln to Washington, but telegraphed last night that he would not be enabled to go.

Invitations to accompany Mr. Lincoln to Washington have been extended to the following parties. The list comprises prominent republicans and Douglas and Breckinridge democrats:—Governor Yates, Ex-Governor Moore, Honorables O. M. Hatch, William Butler, N. Baleman and E. Peck, J. Grimshaw, William R. Morrison. L. M. Ross, M. H. Cassel, William S. Underwood, William H. Carlin, J. A. Hough, D. H. Gilman and Colonel Burgess. Carl Schurz was invited, but is obliged to decline.\textsuperscript{221}

\textsuperscript{221} The New York Herald, February 12, 1861.
John A. Mason Obituary

**OBITUARY.**

**JOHN A. MASON.**

John A. Mason departed this life at noon on Saturday, Feb. 26, at Buffalo, in this county. Mr. Mason was born June 14, 1814, in Swanton, Franklin county, Vt., and was therefore in his 67th year. Mr. Mason came to Springfield in the spring of 1857, and immediately apprenticed himself to Sullivan Consue, Esq., to learn the trade of manufacturing chair and furniture. He continued with Mr. Consue until 1830 or 1831, and then went into business, forming a partnership with Mr. R. E. Zimmerman, and engaged in manufacturing furniture. This partnership was terminated in 1811 or 1812, and immediately thereafter he embarked in the same business on his individual account. He continued in this business until about 1870, having amassed quite a fortune by careful habits and great attention to business. Upon his retirement from active business he gave his attention to his property and thus has spent the last ten years of his life. For many years he has been in impaired health but with little notice the final summons came. Within a week before his death he was in this city and on Tuesday of last week was about his duties as usual. On Wednesday he was attacked with pneumonia, and he gradually grew worse until the end came. Mr. Mason has always been a faithful, active Christian. On October 1st, 1857, he became a member of the Second Presbyterian Church, and has for these 14 years walked a worthy path with his calling, and always found where duty called and ever was with his means to do what was needful to support the gospel at home and in foreign lands. The Second Church has lost in his death one of its most worthy members.

Mr. Mason has no relatives in this county. A brother resides in Buffalo, N. Y., another brother in Kansas and the balance of the family still reside in Vermont.

His funeral will take place from the Second Presbyterian Church at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. All his friends are invited to attend without further notice.

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*Journal, Monday, February 28, 1881.*

*Register, Tuesday, March 1, 1881.*
Sullivan Conant Obituary

The funeral of the late Sullivan Conant, whose death has heretofore been announced in the Journal, will occur from the Second Presbyterian Church at 3 o'clock, p. m. tomorrow, and undoubtedly will be largely attended. Mr. Conant died in his 85th year, and had been for upwards of 54 years, a respected citizen here.

He was born at Oakland, Mass., Feb. 20, 1800, and was married to Lydia R. Hemingway, at Shutesbury, Mass., Sept. 10, 1832. Mrs. Conant died in this city in May, 1880. They came to the west in the autumn of 1830, and located at Chester, Randolph's county. In 1851, the winter of the celebrated deep snow, Mr. and Mrs. Conant came to Springfield, arriving here Feb. 21. They soon made friends here, and throughout their entire lives had the unbounded respect and confidence of a wide circle of friends.

Their children are Abigail A., wife of Thomas Lee, residing on South Fifth street; William S. Conant, a resident of Petersburg; Susan E. Daugherty, living near Dawson, this county; L. J. Conant, a merchant on North Sixth street; Mary A. Hampton, wife of C. S. Hampton of this city; Phebe B. Oceant, residing on South Fifth street; Carrie A. Dillon, wife of the Rev. Thomas M. Dillon, of Perry, Ill., and Lydia J. Dinkle, wife of George J. Dinkle of Las Vegas, N. M.

Mr. Conant was a friend and promoter of every good cause. He was one of the original organizers of the Second Presbyterian church of this city, and to the day of his death was a steadfast and exemplary member of that organization. He was for many years engaged in the chair and furniture manufacturing business, and did not abandon it notwithstanding his advancing age, till about 8 years ago. He found Springfield a small town when he arrived here; he lived to see it a fine, prosperous city with a great future assured to it. It was discovered yesterday that, when the State Journal was established, he was one of the first subscribers, and he had been a constant reader of it till the end of his life. The mortal remains of Mr. Conant will be peacefully laid away tomorrow, and he will long be remembered as one of the good men who early gave character and reputation to this city.

Register, Thursday, January 7, 1886. 224

Journal, Saturday, January 9, 1886. 225
Jacob H. Ruckel Obituary

Death of Jacob H. Ruckel

A Pioneer Business Man of Springfield Passes Away

Ruckel—At his home ___ North Seventh street, at 7:20 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, 1903, of debility, Jacob Ruckel, aged 87 years, 2 months and 28 days.

Jacob Ruckel was one of the earliest settlers of Springfield, having come to this city from New York in 1837. He at once engaged with his brother, Edgar (Daniel), in the business of cabinet making, upholstering and undertaking; also in selling window shades and wall paper. A few years later Mr. Ruckel established a saw mill at old Sangamo Town on the Sangamon river, near where Salisbury now is. He soon gave this up. Some years later after the death of his brother, Mr. Ruckel continued the business in partnership with Edward Little and E. G. John, successively. After the death of Mr. John in 1863, he continued in the wall paper business alone until 1894, when he sold the business and retired. At this time Mr. Ruckel was the only merchant remaining in business in Springfield, with the exception of E. R. Thayer, who was in business at the time he began in 1837. With the exception of a year or two he was in business in one block for fifty-seven years, and was probably the first dealer in wall paper in Illinois.

Mr. Ruckel was one of the original members of the old Third Presbyterian church, when it was organized out of the First Presbyterian church.

Surviving him are his children, Samuel, Frances A., Walter, John H., and Joseph B. Ruckel, all of Springfield, and one sister, Mrs. W. R. Ludlam of New York City.

The funeral will be held from their residence at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. The Rev. W. Francis Irwin, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Ruckel had been a member for many years, will officiate. The interment will be in Oak Ridge.
**Chair Makers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biedler, A. &amp; H.</td>
<td>1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biedler, A.</td>
<td>1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biedler, H.</td>
<td>1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conant, Levi J.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conant, Sullivan</td>
<td>1842-1859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doyle, William G.</td>
<td>1832-1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Charles B.</td>
<td>1836-1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Josiah, Jr.</td>
<td>1836-1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosh, D. F.</td>
<td>1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hempstead, O.</td>
<td>1840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason, John A.</td>
<td>1850-1860+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phelps, Charles C.</td>
<td>1835-1860+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phelps &amp; Powell</td>
<td>1835-1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phelps &amp; Strickland</td>
<td>1853-1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phelps &amp; Zimmerman</td>
<td>1835-1840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powell, W. B.</td>
<td>1835-1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruckel &amp; Little</td>
<td>1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strickland, George</td>
<td>1853-1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams &amp; Link</td>
<td>1854-1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willard, ____</td>
<td>18__-18__</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimmerman, Robert B.</td>
<td>1835-1841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cabinet Makers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biedler, A.</td>
<td>1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biedler, H.</td>
<td>1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilson, Thomas</td>
<td>1842-1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell, John A.</td>
<td>1842-1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis, Walter</td>
<td>1839-1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmundson, Joseph</td>
<td>1836-1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmundson &amp; Weber</td>
<td>1836-1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eubanks, S. G.</td>
<td>1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Charles B.</td>
<td>1836-1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Josiah, Jr.</td>
<td>1836-1850(2?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosh, D. F.</td>
<td>1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hough &amp; Davis</td>
<td>1839-1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hough, John A.</td>
<td>1839-1860+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutchinson, John A.</td>
<td>1843-1860+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moffett, J. B.</td>
<td>1831-1833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, John</td>
<td>1823-1831 and maybe before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore &amp; Walters</td>
<td>1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, Randolph</td>
<td>1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilcher, Ezekiel</td>
<td>1836-1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruckel, Daniel E.</td>
<td>1838-1839 and 1846-1859 (Sangamo Town 1840-1843)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruckel, Jacob</td>
<td>1838-1839 (Sangamo Town 1840-1843)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruckel, Bilson &amp; Co.</td>
<td>1842-1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoop, William</td>
<td>1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith &amp; Moffett</td>
<td>1831-1833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, James H.</td>
<td>1831-1833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solle, William</td>
<td>1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabor, B. C.</td>
<td>1831-1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabor, Elisha</td>
<td>1831-1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walters, Thomas</td>
<td>1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webber, ____</td>
<td>1835-1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westenberger, Gerhart</td>
<td>1860</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chronological List of Chair and Cabinet Makers

1823
Moore, John 1823-1831 and maybe before

1831
Moffett, J. B. 1831-1833
Moore, John 1823-1831 and maybe before
Moore & Walters 1831
Moore, Randolph 1831
Smith & Moffett 1831-1833
Smith, James H. 1831-1833
Tabor, B. C. 1831-1832
Tabor, Elisha 1831-1832
Walters, Thomas 1831

1832
Doyle, William G. 1832-1834
Moffett, J. B. 1831-1833
Smith & Moffett 1831-1833
Smith, James H. 1831-1833
Shoop, William 1832
Tabor, B. C. 1831-1832
Tabor, Elisha 1831-1832

1833
Doyle, William G. 1832-1834
Moffett, J. B. 1831-1833
Smith & Moffett 1831-1833
Smith, James H. 1831-1833
Tabor, B. C. 1831-1832
Tabor, Elisha 1831-1832

1834
Doyle, William G. 1832-1834

1835
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Powell 1835-1836
Phelps & Zimmerman 1835-1840
Powell, W. B. 1835-1836
Zimmerman, Robert B. 1835-1840

1836
Edmundson, Joseph 1836-1837
Edmundson & Weber 1836-1837
Francis, Charles B. 1836-1837
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Pilcher, Ezekiel 1836-1842
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Powell 1835-1836
Phelps & Zimmerman 1835-1841
Powell, W. B. 1835-1836
Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859
Ruckel, Jacob 1836-1839
Webber, _____ 1835-1837
Zimmerman, Robert B. 1835-1841
1837
Edmundson, Joseph 1836-1837
Edmundson & Weber 1836-1837
Francis, Charles B. 1836-1837
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Pilcher, Ezekiel 1836-1842
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Zimmerman 1835-1841
Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859
Ruckel, Jacob 1836-1839
Webber, _____ 1835-1837
Zimmerman, Robert B. 1835-1841

1838
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Zimmerman 1835-1841
Pilcher, Ezekiel 1836-1842
Ruckel, Jacob 1836-1839
Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859
Zimmerman, Robert B. 1835-1841

1839
Davis, Walter 1839-1848
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Hough, John A. 1839-1860+
Hough & Davis 1839-1848
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Zimmerman 1835-1841
Pilcher, Ezekiel 1836-1842
Ruckel, Jacob 1836-1839
Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859
Zimmerman, Robert B. 1835-1841

1840
Davis, Walter 1839-1848
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Hempstead, O. 1840
Hough, John A. 1839-1860+
Hough & Davis 1839-1848
Mason, John A. 1850-1863
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Zimmerman 1835-1841
Pilcher, Ezekiel 1836-1842
Zimmerman, Robert B. 1835-1841
Zimmerman & Co. 1849

1841
Davis, Walter 1839-1848
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Hough & Davis 1839-1848
Hough, John A. 1839-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Zimmerman 1835-1841
Pilcher, Ezekiel 1836-1842
### 1842
- Bilson, Thomas 1842-1843
- Campbell, John A. 1842-1843
- Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
- Davis, Walter 1839-1848
- Eubanks, S. G. 1842
- Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
- Hessin, J. D.
- Hough, John A. 1839-1860+
- Hough & Davis 1839-1848
- Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
- Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
- Pilcher, Ezekiel 1836-1842
- Ruckel, Daniel E.-1838-1839 and 1842-1859 (Sangamo Town 1840-1843)
- Ruckel, Bilson & Co. 1842-1843

### 1843
- Bilson, Thomas 1842-1843
- Campbell, John A. 1842-1843
- Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
- Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
- Hough, John A. 1839-1860+
- Hough & Davis 1839-1848
- Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
- Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
- Ruckel, Daniel E. 1838-1839 and 1842-1859 (Sangamo Town 1840-1843)
- Ruckel, Bilson & Co. 1842-1843

### 1844
- Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
- Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
- Hough, John A. 1839-1860+
- Hough & Davis 1839-1848
- Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
- Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+

### 1845
- Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
- Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
- Hough, John A. 1839-1860+
- Hough & Davis 1839-1848
- Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
- Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+

### 1846
- Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
- Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
- Hough, John A. 1839-1860+
- Hough & Davis 1839-1848
- Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
- Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
- Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859

### 1847
- Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
- Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
- Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
- Hough & Davis 1839-1848
- Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
- Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
1848
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Davis, Walter 1839-1848
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hough & Davis 1839-1848
Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859

1849
Biedler, A. 1849
Biedler, H. 1849
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
Phelps, Charles C.-1835-1860+
Pilcher, Ezekiel
Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859

1850
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859

1851
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, & Powell
Hutchinson, John A. 1842-1860+
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+

1852
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Francis, Josiah, Jr. 1836-1852
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John A. 1842-1860
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+

1853
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Hough, John A. 1839-1869+
Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Strickland 1853-1856
Strickland, George 1853-1856
1854
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John A. 1842-1860+
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Strickland 1853-1856
Strickland, George 1853-1856
Williams & Link 1854-1857

1855
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John A. 1842-1860
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Strickland 1853-1856
Strickland, George 1853-1856
Williams & Link 1854-1857

1856
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John A. 1842-1860+
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Phelps & Strickland 1853-1856
Strickland, George 1853-1856
Williams & Link 1854-1857

1857
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John 1842-1860+
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
Ruckel & Little 1857
Ruckel, Daniel E. 1836-1839 and 1846-1859
Williams & Link 1854-1857

1858
Bell, R. B. 1858-1859
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John A. 1842-1860+
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+

1859
Bell, R. B. 1858-1859
Conant, Sullivan 1842-1859
Hough, John A. 1846-1860+
Hutchinson, John A. 1842-1860+
Mason, John A. 1850-1860+
Phelps, Charles C. 1835-1860+
1860
  Hough, John A.  1846-1860+
  Hutchinson, John A.  1842-1860+
  Mason, John A.  1850-1860+
  Phelps, Charles C.  1835-1860+
  Solle, William  1860
  Westenberger, Gerhart  1860
# List of Chair and Cabinet Makers by Years Worked in Springfield (1831-1860)

## Six to 25 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maker</th>
<th>Years Worked</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phelps, Charles C.</td>
<td>1835-1860</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hough, John A.</td>
<td>1839-1860</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutchinson, John A.</td>
<td>1842-1860</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Josiah, Jr.</td>
<td>1836-1852</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruckel, Daniel E.</td>
<td>1838-1839 and 1846-1859</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason, John A.</td>
<td>1850-1860</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, John</td>
<td>1831 and before</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis, Walter</td>
<td>1839-1848</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilcher, Ezekiel</td>
<td>1836-1842</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Two Years or Less

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maker</th>
<th>Years Worked</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smith &amp; Moffett</td>
<td>1831-1833</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, James H.</td>
<td>1831-1833</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabor, B. C. &amp; Elisha</td>
<td>1831-1833</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmundson &amp; Weber</td>
<td>1836-1837</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Charles B.</td>
<td>1836-1837</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hough &amp; Davis</td>
<td>1839-1848</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moffett, J. B.</td>
<td>1831-1833</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruckel, Jacob</td>
<td>1838-1839</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruckel, Bilson &amp; Co.</td>
<td>1842-1843</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilson, Thomas</td>
<td>1842-1843</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walters, Thomas</td>
<td>1831</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biedler, A.</td>
<td>1849</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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### Origin of Chair and Cabinet Makers

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<td>Vermont</td>
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<td>Daniel Ruckel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacob Ruckel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Robert A. Zimmerman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Sullivan Conant</td>
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<tr>
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<td>George Strickland</td>
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<td>Elisha Tabor</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>John A. Hough</td>
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<td>Kentucky</td>
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### Abolitionist Chair and Cabinet Makers

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<td>Charles B. Francis</td>
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<th>Second Presbyterian Church</th>
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<td>John A. Mason</td>
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<td>Robert A. Zimmerman</td>
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Richard E. Hart was born in Ottawa, Illinois, and attended school and was raised in Springfield. He attended the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana where he received his B.A. in 1964 and his J.D. in 1967. He was admitted to practice law in 1967 and has been a practicing attorney in Springfield, Illinois for the last fifty years. He is a partner in the firm of Hart, Southworth & Witsman. Hart is married to Ann and they have three children and six grandchildren.

Hart is a past President of The Abraham Lincoln Association and member of the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He is a past President and board member of the Sangamon County Historical Society, past Chairman of the Advisory Board of The Lincoln Legal Papers and past President and member of the Board of Directors of the Elijah Iles House Foundation. Hart was largely responsible for raising the funds and managing the day-to-day restoration of the Elijah Iles House and the Strawbridge-Shepherd House, two 1840 Greek Revival residences.

Hart is also past President of Springfield Preservation, Ltd., a for profit corporation that has restored and leased five Lincoln era houses in Springfield’s German Settlers Row.

Hart suggested the format for the *Looking for Lincoln* project in Springfield and donated his personal historical research and ideas that were used for that project.

Hart and his wife Ann were also responsible for proposing the design for the City of Springfield’s streetscape. Their design proposal and advocacy was adopted in lieu of another proposal for a contemporary design. As a part of their advocacy, the Harts purchased and donated the first period lights for Springfield’s streetscape. Since that first donation, the use of the design has spread throughout downtown Springfield and is now moving into several neighborhoods, including the Iles Park Neighborhood.

In 1999, Hart was given the City of Springfield’s Preservationist of the Year award.

In 2012, Hart was presented with the Logan Hay Medal. The bronze medal is awarded infrequently and is the highest honor given by The Abraham Lincoln Association to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the mission of the Association.

In 2014, Hart was awarded the Illinois State Historical Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions over the decades to promoting the history of the Prairie State.

In 2015, Hart was awarded the Springfield NAACP Chapter’s 2015 Legal and Political Award.

Hart served on the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery and was Chairman of the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery. He is a founding member of the Board of Directors of Springfield Illinois African American History Foundation Museum. Hart remains a member of the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association and the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

For the last ten years Hart has been the editor of *For The People*, a newsletter of The Abraham Lincoln Association, and the *Iles Files*, a newsletter of the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

Hart’s personal interest has been in the history of Springfield during the time that Abraham Lincoln lived there and in particular on the presence there of African-Americans. He is also interested in particular areas of Sangamon County during the period of early settlement. He has divided his published research on these two areas into the Spring Creek Series focusing on Lincoln’s Springfield and the Sugar Creek Series focusing on the early settlement of Cotton Hill and Ball Townships in Sangamon County.
Spring Creek Series

Early Sangamon County Antiques – The Barringer Exhibit (2005) (Editor)
Lincoln’s Springfield – The Underground Railroad (2006)
The Early Court Houses of Sangamon County, Illinois (1821-1837) (2008)
Lincoln In Illinois: The Bicentennial of The Birth of Abraham Lincoln (2009) (Editor)
Lincoln’s Springfield – Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln’s Abolitionist Teacher (2009)
Lincoln’s Springfield – Springfield’s Early Schools (2009)
The Colored Section, Oak Ridge Cemetery (2009)
Lincoln’s Springfield – Greek Revival Architecture on The Prairie (2011)
Circuses in Lincoln’s Springfield (1833-1860) (2013)
Preston Butler: Photographer in Lincoln’s Springfield (2014)
Jameson Jenkins and James Blanks, African Americans in Lincoln’s Springfield (2014)
Lincoln’s Springfield Neighborhood (2015)

Sugar Creek Series

Jones Cemetery Tour: Ball, Cotton Hill & Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2002)
Philemon Stout Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2006)
Christopher Newcomer Cemetery: Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2009)
Sugar Creek Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2010)
David Brunk Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2010)
Cumberland Sugar Creek Cemetery, The Old Burying Ground (2012)
George Brunk Cemetery, Cotton Hill Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2012)
The Strawbridge – Shepherd Farm Site
Thomas Royal Revolutionary War Soldier and Early Sangamon County Settler (2016)
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<td>- cabinet maker-1831</td>
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<td>- cabinet maker-September 1832</td>
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<td>- presence in Springfield-1831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elisha</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- advertises cash for white walnut in <em>Sangamo Journal</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- December 27, 1831</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- forms partnership with Randolph Moore for cabinet making-December 14, 1831</td>
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<td>Westenberger</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Robert B.</td>
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The “Lincoln Sofa,” built by Jacob Ruckel circa 1838, was in the office of former U.S. Congressman Paul Findley, Jacksonville, Illinois.