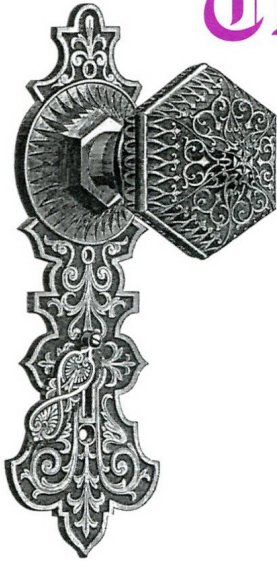


# The Doorknob Collector



Number 205

September-October 2017

**A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America**

*A Nonprofit Organization Devoted to the Study and Preservation of Ornamental Hardware*

**The 37th Annual Convention of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America**

## An Exciting Week at the Crossroads of America

*By ALLEN JOSLYN WITH PAUL WOODFIN*

For ADCA members, late summer always brings our annual opportunity for fellowship with peer collectors, see old friends, meet new club members and first time attendees, and socialize a bit with each other in the hospitality room at the end of a long day. For doorknob collectors, we get to dig through local shops, see what each other has brought for sale or trade, and arm wrestle a bit to try and get what each of us want. Our convention this year in Indianapolis, ably hosted by Diane and Steve Hannum, was exciting and rewarding as always. Culminating with a visit to a secret crypt and brunch, all of us went home with some new treasures, and a few new friends with whom we share our hobby.



The Wednesday tour group at the James Whitcomb Riley House and Museum.

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Wednesday was Tour day, with our first stop at the home of James Whitcomb Riley, known as the Hoosier Poet. He became immensely popular towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, touring first in Indiana and giving readings, then expanding to the East Coast and a visit to England. Many of his poems were set in the pre-industrial world of farms and country living, and often were in what purported to be Hoosier dialect. While the house we visited is known as the Riley home, he actually rented a room there for 23 years and became close to the owners. Since it was conveyed to his foundation only a few years after his and the owners' death, it is a perfectly preserved late-Victorian house, and a delight.



Our next stop was at the Murat Temple, built by the Shriners of Indianapolis in 1909 from lavish arabic architectural plans by Temple member Oscar Bohlen. The Temple features stained glass, mosaic tile, and enameled hardware with a Murat Temple knob (at left) by Russwin.



A walk across the street from the Temple found us at the Socialer Turnverein aka Athenaeum, which was built in the 1890s for the German American community. In the basement we found the Rathskeller, the city's oldest restaurant still in operation. A good feast of German (and American) food was had by all, and we were joined for lunch by the Menchhofers.



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Our next destination was the the home of Benjamin Harrison, the 23<sup>rd</sup> President (1889-1893). He had an impressive lineage – his great grandfather signed the Declaration of Independence and his grandfather, William Henry Harrison, was our ninth President. He worked his way up through Indiana legal and then political circles, and was elected to the Senate. He was the Republican nominee in 1888 and campaigned against Grover Cleveland from his front porch (which we saw), receiving delegations and issuing pronouncements from there. He won with fewer popular votes but more electoral votes than Cleveland, a result he attributed to Providence. (Boss Quay of Pennsylvania remarked that Harrison would never know “how close a number of men were compelled to approach ... the penitentiary to make him President).”



His house, begun 1874, is a grand Victorian, appropriate to his position. To me, the most striking part was a huge bookcase which looks as if it was constructed while the house was being built, there being no other way to get it inside. The Mansion also has a familiar “beastie” on a fireplace.



The visit was an opportunity for those of us whose knowledge of late 19<sup>th</sup> century politics is woefully deficient to investigate Harrison’s accomplishments. He signed the Sherman Act of 1890, which forms the backbone of federal anti-trust legislation, and built up the Navy to one necessary for the emerging world power the United States was. Six new States were added during his Presidency, and the National Parks system was initiated. His administration started flush with money as a result of the protectionist tariffs favored by the Republicans but by the early 1890s the Treasury surplus had evaporated (but public resentment of **EXPENSIVE** imported goods had not). Grover Cleveland won the rematch in 1892.

We had several “first time” attendees in 2017”, (from left) Cindy Drake, Steven Shellenberger (with Rhett Butler), Pete Sabine, and Rick Lepley (not pictured). Zane Mead (right) and Bob Swisher (with



Betty, at right) attended the convention after missing several recent conventions.

Thursday was our opportunity to buy/sell/trade with each other, followed by an Open House Thursday evening, with good attendance by those curious about antique hardware. A couple of visitors from HI ([historicindianapolis.com](http://historicindianapolis.com)) stopped by and inquired about hardware from Indianapolis buildings. They left with a Hume Mansur unit lock and a Newton Claypool doorknob, and promised to write a forthcoming post about the convention and Indianapolis hardware.



The auction on Friday was the usual spirited event. Two full tables of hardware were sold (after everyone created their list of lots to bid upon), including \$815 in donated items (thank you Pete, Patty, and many others).

The banquet Friday night wrapped up the usual convention events for 2017. Our speakers were local salvage entrepreneurs Tim Harmon and Julie Crow (below). They had some entertaining tales to tell, and became our newest business members during the banquet!



And then Steve Rowe presented the awards. Best in Show went to Steve Menchoffer, with his display of Newman hardware. Jeff Orman won for Best Theme Display. Steve Hannum won for most Creative Display. And Mike Smith again won the Ugliest award, after some obvious campaigning.





Allen presents an award to Steve and Diane Hannum for hosting the 2017 convention.



And now to the crypt. The highlight of the Convention (as far as I am concerned) was a visit to Steve and Shelia Menchhofer's house and basement on Saturday morning, with a terrific brunch thrown in. Part of the basement is a perfect replica of a 1955 or so café and dance hall, obviously built with great fondness and care. The other room in the basement houses his display of hardware, the accumulated result of many years' of collecting. Kudos to the Hannums for an outstanding Convention and many thanks to the Menchhofers for opening their treasures to us!

# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS: ANDY STREENZ AND SAVING AN 1885 QUEEN ANNE DELIGHT

By Allen Joslyn

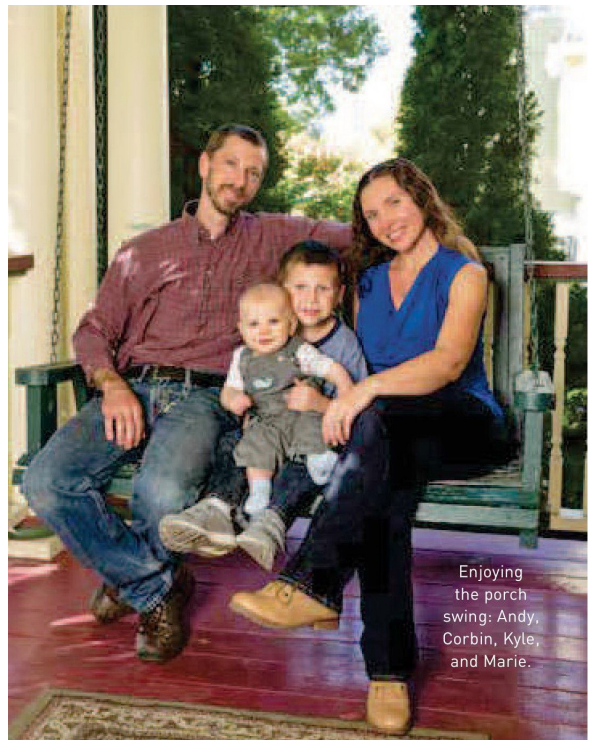
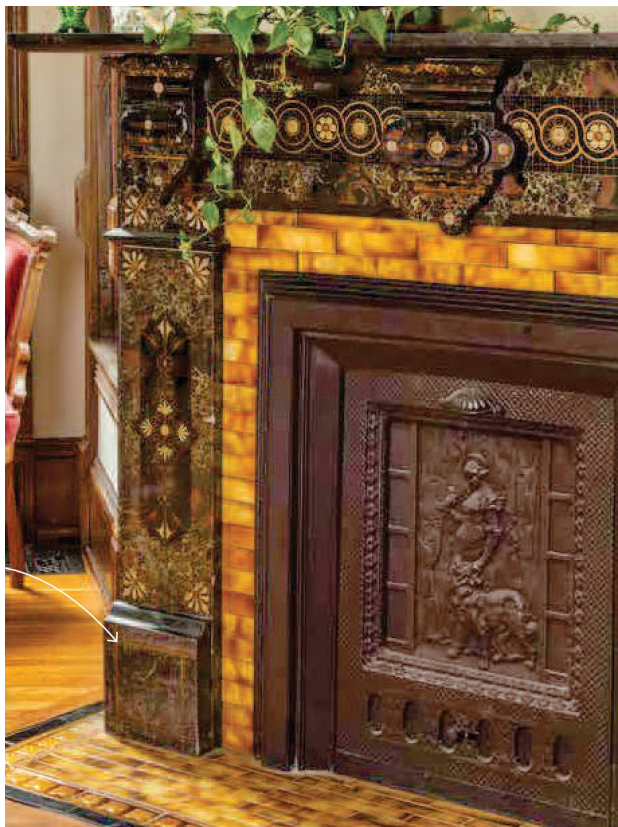


It is fair to say that while only some of our members actually live in Victorian houses, most dream of doing so. But it is seldom as simple as just moving into a well preserved example. More often, it involves one in years of extensive restoration – or as a classic Danish poster, showing a woman with a tuba, announces, “If it is music you want, play it yourself!”

That is what Andy and Marie Streenz did in Bloomington, Illinois, as shown in the lead article in October’s Old House Journal. In addition to being a long-standing member and expert locksmith, Andy administers our Facebook page (which is increasingly popular) and solved the longstanding mystery of the beautiful “Corn Belt Knob”, which turned out to be from the Corn Belt Bank in Bloomington. (See TDC 158).

The house Andy and Marie restored was built in 1884-85 and enlarged in 1897 with a 3 story tower added. The family which built it had departed in the 1940s and, as often happened, it was “repurposed” as a nursing home and many of its original details were covered over, ignored, or removed. But a lot of the original

was left and eventually Andy and Marie bought it. On moving day, water was turned back on and the resulting leaks (and a ceiling collapse) were dealt with by the attending plumbers. Many other adventures followed. If you have ever restored an old house, you also know it requires a long-lasting search for replacements, such as for this house’s double entry doors which had been carted away years ago. But eventually things fall into place, as they have for the Streenz’s home.



Enjoying the porch swing: Andy, Corbin, Kyle, and Marie.

Incidentally, the article also includes Andy’s guide to re-

pairing and restoring old locks, of which I think the most important is that after you have removed the case cover and before you do anything else, photograph the innards lest you forget where things went. . Thanks to William Wright for the photographs.

## Antique Mortise Locks

### REPAIR & RESTORATION

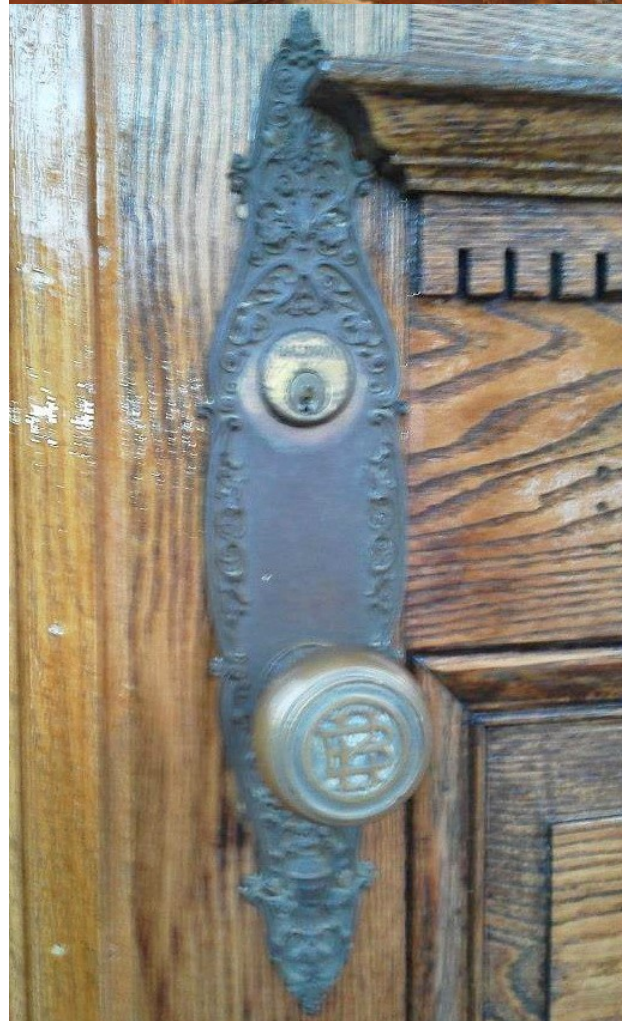
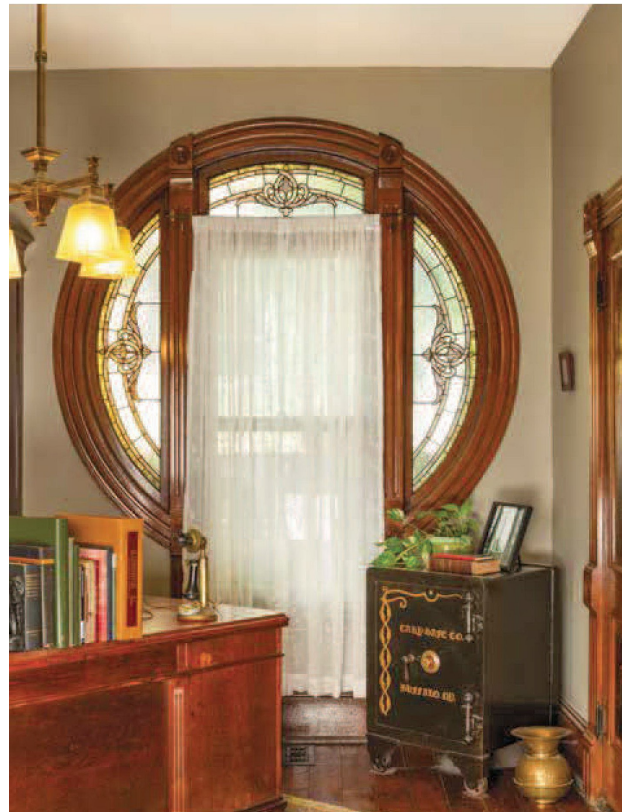
Andy Streenz is a professional locksmith who specializes in antique locks. In his house, he methodically removed and cleaned all existing locks to make them functional. Most problems with antique mortise locks stem from paint buildup, broken springs, and lack of lubrication. Here are Andy's step-by-step instructions to help you renew and keep your old locksets.

1. Unscrew one of the knob set-screws; **remove knobs and spindle from the door.**
2. Remove the wood screws from the mortise lock and **pull the lock body out of the door edge.** If there is excess paint, pry through the spindle or keyhole to aid removal. This is a good time to strip any paint from escutcheons.
3. Carefully **unscrew the case cover** to reveal the mortise lock's inner components. Important: Snap a photo of the lock to aid reassembly.



4. **Remove all paint** from parts, **reassemble them, and apply a light spray lubricant.** If you have any broken or missing springs, you may need to take the assembly to a local locksmith for fabrication or a salvage warehouse to find a replacement.

5. **Reassemble the lock** in reverse order. Take care to replace any shims or spindle washers that may have fallen out on removal of the lock.



## Successful Farming Publishing Des Moines, Iowa

Successful Farming magazine was established by E. T. Meredith in 1902 to provide information and advice for “the best farmers, and those to who aspire to be the best farmers”. Within a few years the magazine was a runaway success, and required an office and publishing plant to serve a growing publishing business. Des Moines architects Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson designed a headquarters for Meredith. Within a few years what would become the Meredith Corporation had expanded their magazine offerings to include Better Homes and Gardens and other magazines.

The Meredith Corporation remains in the media business today, and still publishes Successful Farming magazine along with magazines, television and radio stations. While their corporate campus is significantly larger than the original building, the headquarters remains in use (after much renovation and modernization), and the SF doorknobs are still used on the door of the Board Room today. Thanks to Pete Sabine for e-mailing me the link to the third article below.



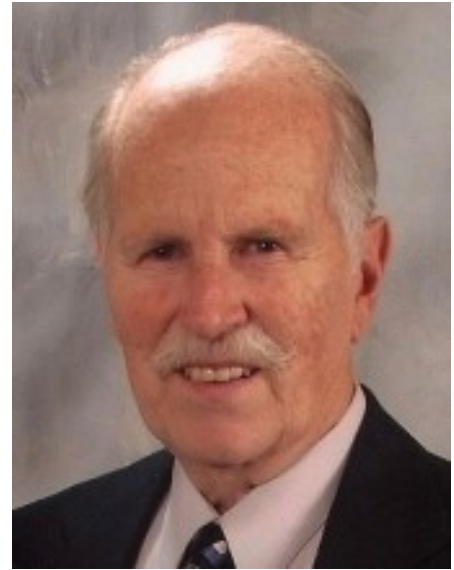
Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meredith\\_Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meredith_Corporation)  
[https://www.agrimarketing.com/show\\_story.php?id=15994](https://www.agrimarketing.com/show_story.php?id=15994)  
<https://tomorrowstodos.com/2016/07/18/on-our-own-turf/>



## In Memorium

### Gene DeLange (Member #94)

Gene DeLange, ADCA member #94, passed away on September 2, 2017 at the age of 82. Gene was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and lived there his whole life. Gene was always self-employed. He and another fellow started a decorating business while they were still students in college. That business was thriving, so when he graduated from business college, he continued it for another 27 years. At the same time, he and his father began investing in and managing rental property. Gene loved that and was a "landlord" for 54 years.



It was through this that he became acquainted with the ADCA. Florence Jarvis was one of his tenants, and after one of the conventions she proudly showed him the treasures that she had purchased and tried to convince him to join the club. Because his properties were in the Historic District of the city, Florence said it would be a perfect fit. Gene was not immediately convinced that he should join, but Florence wasn't deterred and she purchased a one year's membership for him; and that is how it began

The first convention that Gene attended was the one hosted by Janet and Al Still in Des Moines, Iowa in 1987. He thoroughly enjoyed it and attended many conventions after that. In 1996, Gene, along with Florence Jarvis, Jackie Rode and Bettie Madison, hosted a convention in Grand Rapids. Gene loved to work and was always busy.



Florence Jarvis  
Miriam & Gene DeLange

Over the years he had many interests and hobbies besides collecting antique doorknobs. He loved MG sport cars and at one time, owned a '48 TC and a '55 TF; he did silversmithing; stained glass; upholstery; he was an active member of his church, and a very busy volunteer in our retirement community until cancer and Parkinson's and their treatments weakened him and prevented him from getting around.

Gene will be greatly missed by his wife of 62 years, Miriam; his children, Doug DeLange, Kathy & Doug Dunham; and grandchildren, Justin, Trevor and Alexia; two sisters and many nephews and nieces.

## Visit the ADCA on Facebook

In the past couple of months there has been a lot of hardware photo and information sharing, questions from non-members that have been answered, and a lot of hardware education between all of us. Join in the discussion at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/412087788964066/>.

**Michael Boyd**  
September 11 at 12:18pm

The P. F. Corbin Co. "Gothic" hardware collection c. 1885



You, Stephen Rowe, Austin Christian and 17 others · Seen by 72


- Robert McNutt** Letter slit , excellent score !!!, I have some of this stuff too  
Like · Reply · September 11 at 6:08pm
- Michael Boyd** I've got about a hundred pieces of this design altogether, and even a few more items than shown here. I think the prize might be that dingy for the doorbell there at the upper left!  
Like · Reply · September 11 at 6:12pm
- Christine Steinkuehler** I love those too. I have one on my front door that I got in KC. The wonderful thing about it is that most people when confronted with it do not know how to use it, so if you knock on my door I know that you don't know us. It is also loud and can be heard throughout the house, knocking on my front door, which is a solid 3", I only hear if I happen to be standing right next to it.  
Like · Reply · 1 · September 12 at 5:39am
- Robert McNutt** Sash pockets are nice , honestly I was never interested in mechanical doorbells , I have a couple of the really old style pulls that ring a remote bell , but my favored type are the electric ones , a small pull knob on a plate with electric contacts , as I go thru my hardware I'll post pics of my residential hardware , spent my childhood getting that stuff  
Like · Reply · 1 · September 11 at 7:39pm
- Alisha Potter** Is that a doorbell? Lucky! I want to find one that matches my set so bad! Haha  
Like · Reply · September 11 at 8:47pm
- Christine Steinkuehler** Have you looked at the Old House Hardware site? She has had several in the past year.  
Like · Reply · 1 · September 12 at 5:43am · Edited
- Michael Boyd** This particular design can be found offered on eBay almost any time. There are larger and smaller versions of the bell (I'm showing the big one) and lever operated styles (like I'm showing) and pull chain versions as well. Easy to find.

**John Carmer**  
September 12 at 9:16pm

Mallory Wheeler backplate 1880s... Any wisdom on matching knob?



You, Stephen Rowe, Austin Christian and 6 others · Seen by 67

- Stephen Rowe** did you just buy this? (i was watching it) mallory wheeler catalog 1882 should provide you with all the info you need. many knobs and plates by mw are interchangeable. it should be noted there are two size knob shank diameters....the large shank is clearly the higher/better line. early mw knobs were also marked on the end of their shanks and on the spindle. this was done at the factory to clearly mark the knobs/spindle as a set. this allowed the installer to always know which pieces were matched for fit. i have several sets which have matching numbers. guessing this practice began to wane when labor costs became more and competition became greater. i can imagine the pencil pushers (comptrollers/accountants) cutting all the "extras" to squeeze every penny out of their operations. funny how things never seem to change. try h23300--probably the best match. also try h22300, h27300, k20600 and k2500 all appearing to match. all of these knobs are large shank variety. h22600 and k20400 would also match but are generally found with small diameter shanks. happy hunting.....  
Like · Reply · 1 · September 12 at 11:36pm
- Robert McNutt** I have never seen any mw & co knobs marked , it's a line of hardware is see in the top grade homes in Ottawa ( canada ) where I grew up c1885  
Like · Reply · September 12 at 11:39pm
- Paul Woodfin**  
  
Like · Reply · 1 · September 13 at 5:29am
- John Carmer** Fantastic to see in catalog  
Like · Reply · September 13 at 7:32am
- John Carmer** Thanks for all the information folks. This is a great group.  
Like · Reply · September 13 at 10:08am · Edited

## The Doorknob Exchange

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

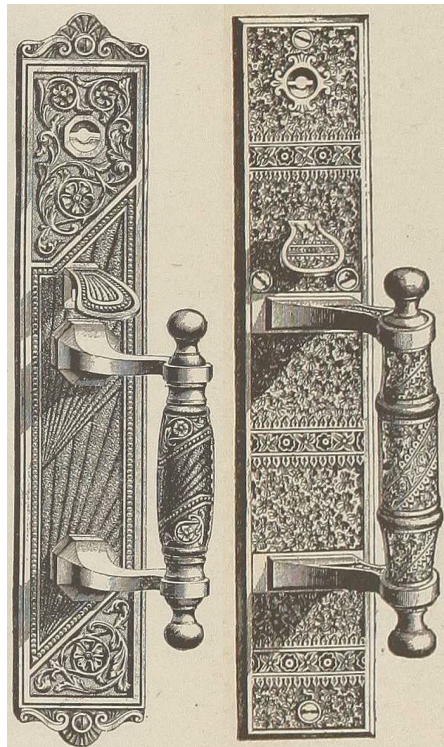
### Wanted:



Michael Boyd (#971) is seeking several of the 9 1/4" Corbin plates at left. Goes with H-24200 and K-20800 knobs. Contact Michael at [thearchitective@aol.com](mailto:thearchitective@aol.com).



Steve Rowe (#287) is seeking the Yale & Towne A-33410 Versailles knob, along with the T handle and plate, at right. Contact Steve at [4narowe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4narowe@sbcglobal.net).



Pete Sabine is seeking the two Branford handles at left. Contact Pete at [solarpowerpete@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:solarpowerpete@tampabay.rr.com).

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These are paid advertisements. The ADCA assumes no responsibility. For further information about these businesses see the Resource section on our website: [www.AntiqueDoorknobs.org](http://www.AntiqueDoorknobs.org).

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<p><b>Bill's Key &amp; Lock Shop</b>            Owner: Andy Streenz            127 E. Beaufort St. Normal, IL 61761 or            402 N. Main St. Bloomington, IL 61701            Phone: 309-827-5522 or 309.454.1713            Web Site: <a href="http://billskeyandlockshop.com">billskeyandlockshop.com</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:locksmith@billskeyandlockshop.com">locksmith@billskeyandlockshop.com</a></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>House of Antique Hardware</b>            Owner: Roy Prange            3439 NE Sandy Blvd./PMB 106            Portland, OR 97214            Phone: 888-223-2545 Fax: 503-231-1312            Web Site: <a href="http://HouseofAntiqueHardware.com">HouseofAntiqueHardware.com</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:Sales@HouseofAntiqueHardware.com">Sales@HouseofAntiqueHardware.com</a></p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
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