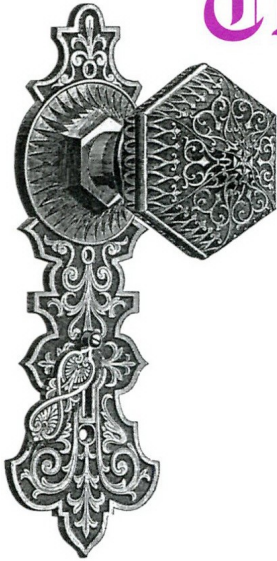


# The Doorknob Collector



Number 207

January-February 2018

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

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

## ADAMS AND WESTLAKE

By STEVE HANNUM

1857 is the year that Adlake, the current name of Adams and Westlake, gives as it's beginning. But it is more interesting than that. John McGregor Adams was born in 1834 in New Hampshire and lived in Maine and in Massachusetts.

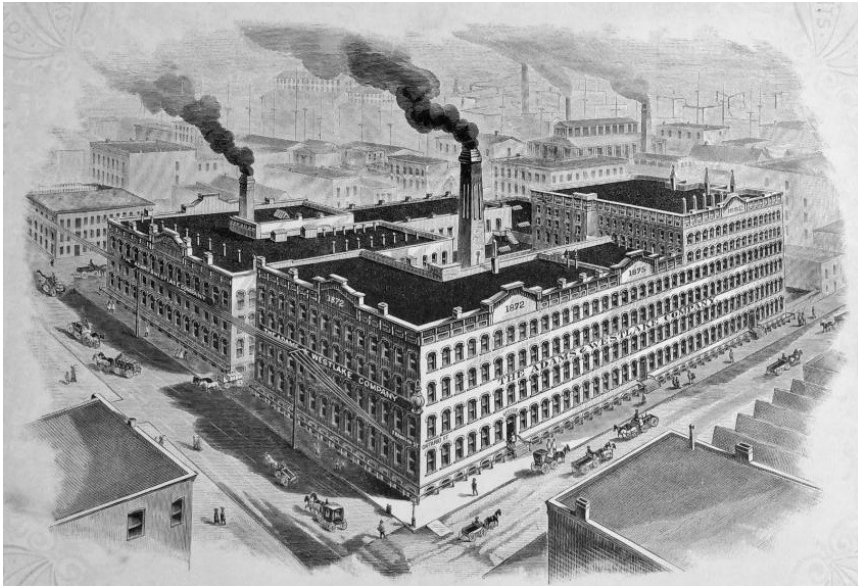
As a young man he went to New York City to make his fortune. Eventually entering the office of Clark & Jessup, the firm dealt in iron and railroad supplies. As the rails moved west Adams was sent to Chicago in 1858 to manage the Chicago branch of what was then Jessup & Co. Another member of the firm was John Chippenwa Crerar, who later joined Adams in Chicago. In 1863 the two of them took over the Chicago office as the firm Crerar, Adams & Co.

This was a time when the railroad business was exploding. Crerar, Adams & Co. dealt in railway supplies and manufacturers of locomotive headlights and car, switch, signal and station lamps and lanterns and also imported iron for railroads. In addition, Crerar and Adams were personally involved in the management of several railroad companies. Crerar is best known today for his establishing the John Crerar Public Library now a part of the University of Chicago.

The Union Brass Manufacturing Company was incorporated on March 26, 1869 by an act of the Illinois legislature. The incorporators were Lyman I. Todd, John Crerar, John McGregor Adams, and John Hall Dow. A plant was built at



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<b>2018 ADCA Convention</b>	<b>July 17-20, 2018</b>	<b>Princeton, New Jersey</b>



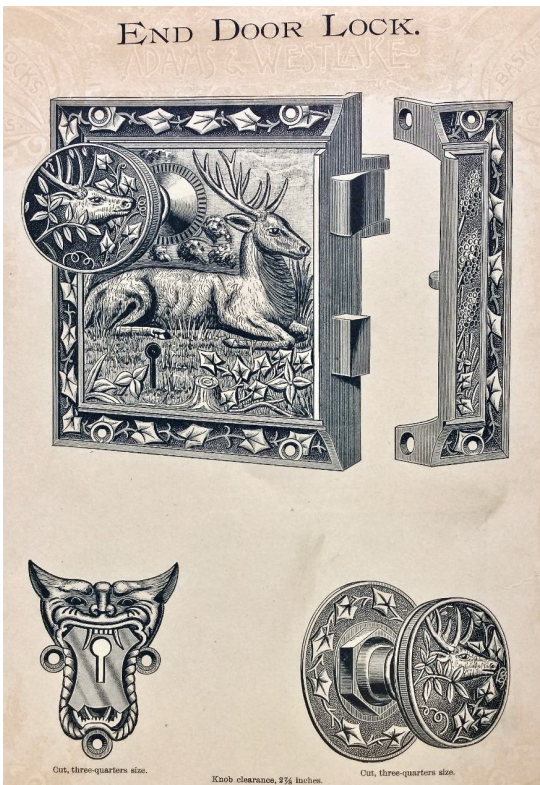
the corner of Ohio and Franklin Streets; 103 to 109 Ohio Street, Chicago, on land purchased from Crear, Adams & Co.

The Indiana Historical Society Library has copies of the 1877, 1880 and 1884 catalogs of Union Brass. The 1877 catalog characterized the company as manufactures of every variety of streetcar and omnibus trimmings. It did not offer any locks or doorknobs. In the 1880 catalog they were identified as brass & iron founders & machinists and manufactures of every variety of railway coach trimmings and fine house hardware. Several car door rim

locks, saloon locks and latches were offered. The car door locks used keys to lock while the saloon locks used a slide to lock from the inside. Note that the term saloon is used for those public rooms on a train. The 1884 catalog offered an even greater number of locks.

William Westlake was born in Cornwall, England on July 23, 1831. Due to family reverses he had to go to work, preventing him from receiving even a common-school education. But at an early age he was learning the blacksmith, clock making and tin smith arts. When he was sixteen, the family moved to the United States and settled in Milwaukee. Two weeks after their arrival his father died and left William, with his mother, at the head of a family of six children. He took a variety of jobs to support the family. In 1857 employed by the La Crosse & Milwaukee railway as its' tinsmith and coppersmith

he began to demonstrate his talents as an inventor. According to his biography in The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Volume II, 1899, he "made several improvements and inventions, some of which were adopted by the company. Among these were the Westlake ventilating car-heater, which, by being attached underneath the car, did away with the risk of setting it on fire should an accident occur. No car has ever been set on fire by this heater, which leaves the fire on the track as soon as the car is struck. The railroad car-duster was another of his



## The Doorknob Collector ©



Published six times a year by  
Antique Doorknob Collectors of America,  
Inc

P.O. Box 803,  
Hackettstown, NJ  
07840

Annual Membership in US \$25.00  
age 18 or younger US\$10.00  
Foreign rates on request.

Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

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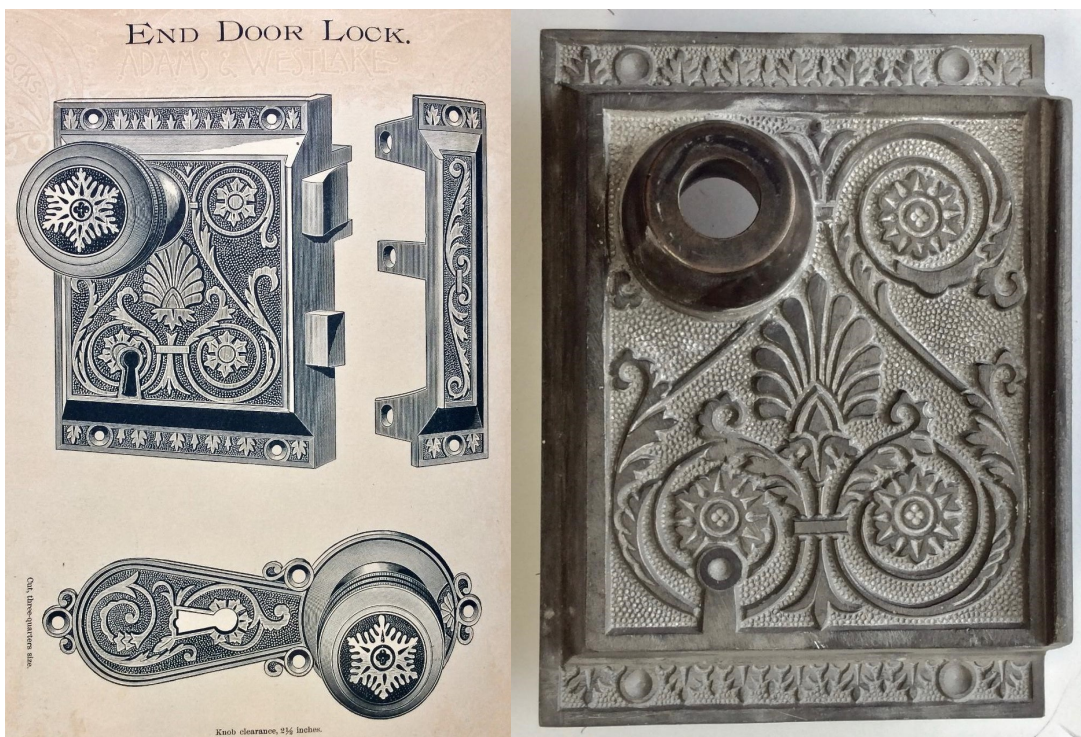
noted inventions, and the first sheet-metal cornice for round-cornered buildings was made by him at this time. In 1859 he suggested the idea of manufacturing seamless tubing, and in 1862 he invented the celebrated loose-globe railroad lantern that is now in use the world over by conductors, and for signal lanterns, having the half-green and half-red globe, which has made the fortunes of a dozen men. In 1865 he perfected the oil stove for cooking, which has proved of incalculable benefit in thousands of families. In 1870 he invented the stove-board, an ornamental device to take the place of zinc and oil-cloth, that, simple as it is, became an article of commerce, and realized for the inventor \$100,000."

"The year 1873 was prolific in inventions, among which Mr. Westlake perfected the first practical oil car-lamp by drawing air from the ceiling. He also invented the first loose-globe car-lamp and the revolving headlight for locomotives, as well as a number of small utensils for domestic purposes, many of which he gave free to the public to use. In manufacturing his inventions Mr. Westlake's genius was often called into action in preparing new tools and machinery in order to make the articles perfectly and economically, and also in training men in the workmanship. From lack of funds many of his inventions remained unpatented, and are today used, without the return of any revenue to him. He has taken out about 100 letters of patent upon his most important and profitable inventions. Mr. Westlake began to manufacture his loose-globe railroad lantern in Chicago in 1863, with a capital of \$200. The demand increasing, he formed a partnership in January 1864, under the firm name of Cross, Dane & Westlake, which in 1868 was changed to Dane, Westlake & Covert."

"The great Chicago fire of 1871 destroyed the business. Resuming business the company continued until 1874 when Dane, Westlake & Covert combined with the manufacturing interests of Crerar, Adams & Co. to form Adams & Westlake Manufacturing Company. According to his biography, Westlake "assigned to the company his patents, and built a large factory fitted with special machinery. Although the business was very successful, and developed at an astonishing rate, it proved unfortunate for Mr. Westlake. He had been unwise in the selection of business associates, and in two years retired from the company without his patents, which had been the means of building up the great industry. Removing to New York in 1877, he began business alone, and, after achieving a large success, withdrew from business life in 1883."

A factory was built in 1872 for the new company directly behind the Union Brass factory. So the pair occupied the block bounded by Ohio, Franklin, Ontario and Market Streets. Adams & Westlake Manufacturing specialized in the lights for rail cars, tin ware for homes, and highly decorated toilet ware but

no locks or door-knobs. Sometime in the late 1880's Adams and Crerar consolidated Union Brass with Adams & Westlake Manufacturing into Adams and Westlake Company. An 1887 Adams & Westlake Company catalog has an added note announcing the Adams & Westlake Company as the successor to the Union Brass Manufacturing Company and the Adams & Westlake Manu-





facturing Company. The combined company produced a large number of locks and doorknobs for use on rail cars, many other rail car lights and fixtures as well many other items for the general public. According to *Iron & Steel Interests of Chicago* by George W. Cope, 1890, "They employ from 900 to 1,000 men, and occupy the block bounded by Ontario, Franklin, Ohio, and Market Streets. The buildings in the block range from one story to seven stories in height, and have an aggregate floor space of 250,000 square feet. Included in their plant is one of the largest brass foundries in the country, having more furnaces though using smaller pots than any other concern. Their products are sent to every State in the Union, and exported all over the world.

In 1922 the company moved to Elkhart, Indiana and changed their name to Adlake. But the Adams & Westlake name is still used today. They continue to make lighting and door hardware for rail cars. In their collection of partly finished hardware are locks and knobs of designs from the 1890's. They also have the design and construction documents to enable them to

reproduce the old hardware when called upon for historical restorations.

I would like to thank the people at the Indiana Historical Society Library, plus Matt Stuch and Mike Rzeszutko of Adlake for their help in preparing this article.

### References (Google Books):

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- *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography: Being the History of the United States*, Volume II, 1899, page 419.
- George W. Cope, *Iron & Steel Interests of Chicago*, Chicago, 1890, Page 77.



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# A Visit to Milwaukee

By Allen Joslyn

The graduation of a granddaughter from college in Milwaukee last summer provided an opportunity to visit some great buildings with snazzy hardware. Of course, the Pabst Mansion is the number one Victorian attraction in the area, a survivor of an era when there were some 40 great Mansions along Grand Avenue and its neighborhood. That Mansion deserves its own article, but here we will discuss three other great buildings which I visited and their hardware.

The first was the original building of the United States Courthouse, a magnificent Romanesque stone structure inspired (as many buildings were) by H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh. See also TDC 139 for a picture and discussion of Richardson's Asylum in Buffalo, recently reinvented as a high-end hotel. The architect was Willoughby J. Edbrooke, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, who designed nearly identical post office buildings in Washington, D.C., St. Paul, MN and Omaha, NE. It was completed in 1899.



The primary function of the building when originally built was as a Post Office, but it housed a number of other federal agencies as well as the Courts, some of which have now disappeared in the fog of history, such as the Oleomargarine Department and Steamboat inspectors. Eventually a new Post Office was erected, other agencies moved or disappeared, and the Federal Court became the primary tenant.



The interior of the building is a magnificent atrium. So, after passing security, I asked to see a courtroom and was directed to the third floor. The old Courthouse did not look like a functioning court – no huddled groups of litigants and lawyers, occasional Judges, etc. All that presumably goes on in the two later additions to the building. On the third floor, I spotted and photographed an interesting variation of a “US” knob, made by Chicago Hardware.



But wait – I was being followed along an empty hall. “Why are you taking photographs?” an official asked. Perhaps casing the joint or planning an attack? I explained the nature of my quest, which apparently sounded sufficiently loopy to remove suspicion. So he unlocked and showed me the ceremonial courtroom. Wow!

It has 27 foot floor to ceiling raised panels, and a ceiling, of select quartersawn white oak, with numerous carved decorative elements and trim, a Federal emblem and seals of the State of Wisconsin and the City of Milwaukee.



It is understandable why the children of a long-serving Federal Judge, J. P. Stadtmueller, used to say that their father “went to work in a castle every day.”

The Milwaukee Public Library presented a hardware mystery. It has great door plates, but any knobs have been replaced by levers, presumably in the interest of handicap accessibility. But what happened to the knobs? James

Tomasello, our Wisconsin member of the Board of Directors, endeavored to find out, and was assisted by a librarian. They searched all over, including the basement. None to be found. But he did locate another local collector who had two plates, one of which had a knob.



The knob is F-25620, which is identified as Norwalk and shown in the 1899 Catalogue. And the illustration in the catalogue shows the plate which is identical to the one in the Library, but without the “M”.

The Library itself is extremely impressive, with a grand entrance. From discussion about building it to occupation of the new building took, however, ten years. The Milwaukee Library and the Milwaukee Museum (separate institutions) decided they needed new quarters, and decided to join forces. The plan was to have, essentially, two buildings but joined by a single front. A competition was decided upon, with a deadline in November, 1893, and then the fun began. There were 74 legal entries, from firms all over the country, from established firms to fledging architects. One entrant was Frank Lloyd Wright, who was so little recognized at the time that his name was misspelled in official lists of entrants.



Mitchell died in 1887 and the house was empty until it was purchased by the Deutscher Club (representing the large German population of Wisconsin) in 1898. When World War One brought out virulent anti-German sentiment, it was renamed the Wisconsin Clyn. (Some may recall a similar renaming in Buffalo brought forth the Liberty Bank and its distinctive knob featuring the Statute of Liberty.) And it has been a premier private club ever since.

So to the hardware. It has a remaining enameled knob, plate and hinge. And I was welcomed to visit the club and photograph them simply by announcing I was a doorknobber and would like to see them. ("Oh, yes, we get one or two of you people every once an awhile"). But rather than picturing them here, in black and white, I suggest you pull up TDC 159 on our website, where they are illustrated, in color, on page 4.

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- Thanks to James Tomasello and to Florencia Acosta for pictures.

## In Memorium

### Jim McLaughlin (Member #809)

Jim McLaughlin of Corrales, NM died peacefully, October 28, 2017, at Presbyterian Rust Memorial Center in Rio Rancho, NM. Born March 17, 1945, in Charlotte, MI., Jim is survived by his loving wife, Sheila (Ortego) McLaughlin, 2 sisters, 1 brother and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim grew up in Vermontville, MI. finishing his high school years in Charlotte, MI. After receiving his Master's degree in Finance from Michigan State University, Jim began a banking career before finding his calling in higher education. Jim served as Vice President-Administration at several universities and colleges across New Mexico, Colorado and Texas. His tenure at Santa Fe Community College included successful service as both Vice President and President of the college prior to retirement.

His interests were helping underserved students through higher education, Bluegrass music, renovating older homes, canoeing, camping, and hiking, cross-country skiing, travel, archeology, Red Wings hockey, the Tigers, and virtually all other sports.

Paul Woodfin remembers first meeting Jim and Sheila at the 2013 convention in Austin and was glad to note that there was another doorknob collector in New Mexico. Jim's collection of wooden doorknobs, from his old house renovation work, was both unusual and educational.





## 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:

Steve Hannum (#620) is seeking the Yale & Towne knob at right. Contact Steve at [hannum1415@comcast.net](mailto:hannum1415@comcast.net) or (317) 429-9516.



Ross MacTaggart (#987) is seeking 23 of the Yale & Towne Austerlitz sash lifts shown above for his house renovation. Contact Ross at [rmactaggart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmactaggart@sbcglobal.net).



Bonnie Otte (#484) is seeking 7 of the P-45650 knobs shown at left which will be gifts for her 7 grandchildren. Bonnie's father, Richard Wise (#269), was a long-time ADCA member and hardware collector. At the King of Prussia convention in 1997, Bonnie purchased one of these knobs from Steve Rowe. While the knob is often referred to as the St. Louis, MO knob (an unconfirmed attribution), St.LM, Steve pointed out that turning the knob upside down, that the letters now looked like 'Wise'. "That's your dad's last name!" he said enthusiastically. I purchased the knob, and took it home as a remembrance for my mom, who, due to illness, was home at the time. I am forever grateful to Steve for sharing his observation of the St. LM knob with me. I keep the 'Wise' on my kitchen window sill over my kitchen sink so that I see it several times a day.

My seven grandchildren never knew Great Grandpa Wise. I would like to have/buy a St Louis/Wise knob for each of them, in honor of my parents and their passion of collecting doorknobs. I want them to know of their Wise heritage. They are too young to appreciate the door knob collection displayed in my home, with many packed away. But they love to hear the family stories I tell, and this knob is one of them." If you have any extras which you can spare to help Bonnie with her quest, contact her at [otewise@comcast.net](mailto:otewise@comcast.net) or (630) 212-5104.

Turn your newsletter back over and go to Page 10. ;-)

# ADCA Memberships

By Allen Joslyn

In the following article, Paul Woodfin introduces the new membership system which he and Faye Kennedy have worked to design and which we will soon be rolling out. This is a final step in releasing the ADCA from its old reliance on paper, although *The Doorknob Collector* will remain a paper publication. To appreciate the significance of this change, consider the old days when the Menchhofers ran the archives. Once a year members could order copies of catalogues from Steve and Barbara. They had to receive the orders, total up the number of copies they had to make, get them copied, truck them back, organize them (who ordered what?), pack each order, truck them to a Post Office and mail each order. Needless to say, this was a major pain, for which the membership was exceedingly grateful, given that the Archives was and is a key resource of the club - but a pain nonetheless. Eventually Rhett took over the Archives, which were digitized (and generously supplemented from Rhett's own archive), and now can be ordered all year around for electronic delivery. (Electrons weigh a lot less than paper and do not need to involve the Post Office).

And so it has gone with the VDA - rather than paper which could only be updated about every ten years, thanks to Steve Hannum and Paul, it can be updated daily, and accessed by anyone with internet access. No need to carry the book around. We now also have a very useful Facebook page where interested folks can trade information, and look for new stuff. And, finally, the membership functions - the absolutely critical "back office" - will now be electronic and semi-automatic. Memberships can be renewed on the internet, as can convention registrations; physical checks will not need to be written, mailed and deposited, etc. (**BUT** if an individual member wants to continue with paper rather than electrons, she or he will be free to do so). Congratulations and thanks to all who made these changes!

## The New ADCA Membership System

By Paul Woodfin

As all members of the ADCA know, Faye Kennedy has for many years been the membership keeper for the club, efficiently keeping track of our members all by herself. Almost two years ago, Faye told Allen that she needed to step back from this responsibility to allow her to have more time for Rich and their family. The Board made the decision at the Indianapolis convention to purchase a secure, economical on-line membership system for the club that will wisely allow more than one person (Mike Smith and Vicky Berol, after some training) to share the responsibilities which Faye has borne.

In the next 2-3 weeks all current and former ADCA members for whom we have an e-mail address on file will be receiving an e-mail from the club entitled "You are invited to the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America membership website." By clicking the "Get Started" box you will enter our new membership system, which has the basic information accumulated in the "Database" that Faye created 20 years ago to help manage all of us. You will be able to access the site any time you wish through the Membership page at [www.antiquedoorknobs.org](http://www.antiquedoorknobs.org). Several features of the membership system will include:

- Your own personal login and password for each member, which will allow you to manage your account. You will be able to update your address, e-mail, phone number or any other information.
- Accepting Paypal payments for all memberships, either using the member's Paypal account or by credit card.

- Ability to set up recurring Paypal payments so that your membership will automatically be charged to your Paypal account when due.
- Reminder e-mails when your membership is up for renewal, for those who do not opt for recurring payments
- Convention registration, including Paypal payment.
- Establish preferences such as whether we wish to receive the Convention packet by mail, or are okay with downloading the packet from the convention registration page.

For those members who still want to pay their membership or register for the convention by mail, that option will remain available.

If you do not receive this e-mail in the next 2-3 weeks, it's probable that the ADCA does not have your current e-mail on file. Contact Paul Woodfin by e-mail at [paul.woodfin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paul.woodfin@sbcglobal.net) and we will update your account and send you an Invitation to the website.



## Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

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You've been invited to join Antique Doorknob Collectors of America! Click the button below to accept.

Get started »

## 2018 ADCA Convention

The 2018 ADCA Convention has been scheduled for July 17-20, 2018 in Princeton, NJ, at the Double-Tree by Hilton Princeton, 4355 US Route One, Princeton NJ 08540. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at (609) 452-2400 and mentioning the ADCA. Rates are \$134.00 per night, which includes breakfast. Nick and Jean Doto are busy planning an active week for all of us. The Theme this year will be "Oval Knobs".

You can rent a car and drive to Princeton from any airport near New York (Newark, LGA or JFK) or from the Philadelphia International, but the easiest would be to fly into Newark and rent a car there, rather than getting involved in New York City or Philadelphia traffic.

A second option would be to fly to Newark, and then shuttle to the hotel in Princeton. There is a shuttle from the Newark Airport to every hotel in the Princeton area, State Shuttle, <https://www.stateshuttle.com/>. A reservation is needed, call 1-800-427-3207. \$46 one way.

It is also possible (but a pain) to get to Princeton from Newark, JFK, LaGuardia or Philadelphia International Airports by public transportation, followed by Uber, Taxi or a Hotel Shuttle. Contact the hotel for detailed directions and/or call Allen Joslyn, (973) 783-9411.

## Our Business Members

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).

<p><b>American Antique Hardware</b>            Owner Keith and Sarah Chilcote            Phone: 503-399-8009            Web Site: <a href="http://americanantiquehardware.com">americanantiquehardware.com</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:contact@americanantiquehardware.com">contact@americanantiquehardware.com</a></p> 	<p><b>Liz's Antique Hardware</b>            Owner: Liz Gordon            453 South La Brea            Los Angeles, CA 90036            Phone: 323-939-4403            Fax: 323-939-4387            Web Site: <a href="http://lahardware.com/">lahardware.com/</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:Shop@LAHardware.com">Shop@LAHardware.com</a></p> 
<p><b>Albion Doors &amp; Windows</b>            Owner: Larry Sawyer            PO Box 220            Albion, CA 95410            Phone: 707-937-0078            Fax: (call first): 707-937-0078            Web Site: <a href="http://knobsession.com">knobsession.com</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:bysawyer@mcn.org">bysawyer@mcn.org</a></p> 	<p><b>Antique Door Hardware Collector</b>            Owner: Thomas Iannucci            16624 Frederick Rd.            Mount Airy, MD 21771            Phone: 240-595-1115            Website: <a href="http://antiquedoorhardwarecollector.com/index.html">antiquedoorhardwarecollector.com/index.html</a></p> 
<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> 	<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> 
<p><b>The Brass Knob</b>            Owners: Donetta George            2311 18th St. N.W. Washington, DC            Phone: 202-332-3370            Fax: 202-332-5594            Web Site: <a href="http://theBrassKnob.com">theBrassKnob.com</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:BK@theBrassKnob.com">BK@theBrassKnob.com</a></p> 	<p><b>The Door Store</b>            Owner: Sam Mirshak            1260 Castlefield Avenue            Toronto, ON, Canada M6B 1G3            Phone: 416-863-1590            Website: <a href="http://thedorystore.ca">thedorystore.ca</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:info@thedorystore.ca">info@thedorystore.ca</a></p> 
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<p><b>Tim &amp; Julie's Another Fine Mess</b>            Owners: Tim Harmon and Julie Crow            2901 East 10th Street            Indianapolis, IN 46201            Phone: 503-399-8009            Web Site: <a href="http://indysalvage.com">indysalvage.com</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:timandjuliestore@gmail.com">timandjuliestore@gmail.com</a></p> 	<p><b>Settlers Hardware</b>            Owner: Susan Neptune            1901 West Alabama            Houston, TX 77098            Phone: 713-524-2417            Web Site: <a href="http://settlershardware.com">settlershardware.com</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:settlershardware@gmail.com">settlershardware@gmail.com</a></p> 