

John Rupp and the Painted Furniture
of the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory,
Hanover, Pennsylvania

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Foreword

The nineteenth-century is now more than one hundred years ago and the opportunity to study cabinetmakers of the period with relatively accurate information is slowly dwindling. If documentation survives within families, the guarantee that it is going to continue surviving is not there. Interests change and what one generation believes is important the next may not. The last living relatives who may remember late nineteenth-century cabinetmakers are now octogenarians or older, and for this reason the time to write about cabinetmakers of the period is now!

As with so many cabinetmakers of the nineteenth century, John Rupp lacks documentation, and stories become lore at best. Unfortunately, this makes the accurate and reliable study of his life and his painted furniture a bit more difficult. The majority of his life's history, as well as the history of the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory comes from nineteenth-century articles, editorials, and advertisements in the many newspapers of Hanover, Pennsylvania.

The furniture made by Rupp follows the same story as his life; some is documented through signatures, but many more pieces are lost or have gone unrecognized. This thesis is based on eleven pieces of case furniture and three sets of chairs, all signed by Rupp, and a couple were dated as well. Some comments made on furniture construction or forms are quite general as

only one or two signed pieces of various forms were found. For those forms where several signed pieces survive, more specific comments about style and construction are made.

Since I grew up just outside Hanover, Pennsylvania, John Rupp holds a special interest for me. Very few people have such an opportunity to significantly add to the scholarly work on rural cabinetry and at the same time help create a stronger, more accurate sense of local history. Even though many collectors and antique dealers in Pennsylvania readily recognize the name Rupp and know that he was a cabinetmaker in Hanover, Pennsylvania, few know anything else about his life, his cabinet manufactory, or the subtle nuances that distinguish his painted furniture. Hopefully, this research will enlighten a few people on Rupp and encourage others to learn more about a cabinetmaker, silversmith, glass blower, or any other type of tradesman in their own town.

Chapter One – The Life of John Rupp

John Rupp came from a lineage of large families and German heritage. (Figure 1.1) According to family records, the Rupp family came to America from the Alsace Lorraine region of Germany near the French border in the middle of the eighteenth-century, c.1764.¹ His great grandfather, Jakob Rupp, came to the colonies with some if not all his children. He is listed in Baltimore court records as becoming a naturalized citizen in 1771, and the records also indicate that he had been in the colonies upwards of seven years.²

Michael Rupp, one of Jakob's sons, married Magdalena Tanner some time after 1771. He is listed as a witness in the baptismal records of Zion Church, Manchester, Maryland, as a single man in 1771, probably right before his wedding. Together, Michael and Magdalena had at least ten children of whom Jakob, named after his grandfather, is believed to be the eldest son, born c.1776. Family papers also record a move by Michael and

¹ John C. Tanger, III, Family Collection of Documents, Ephemera, Letters, and Photographs.

² Ibid.

As Rupp was quite a common name, and there are many records of individuals named 'Jakob Rupp' arriving in America throughout the second half of the eighteenth century, exact attributions can become quite difficult. The current research of the extended family history of John Rupp extends in America back to Baltimore and not the other common ports of arrival such as Boston, New York or Philadelphia.

Magdalena's family from Manchester, Maryland, to North Carolina some time between 1771 and 1783, and church records at the Zion Church in Manchester, Maryland, list the Rupp family as members again in 1783.³ This is important because John listed his father, Jakob the younger, as being born in North Carolina in the 1880 United States Census, and John's brother George, who lived in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at the time, listed their father as being born in Maryland in the same census.⁴

Jakob Rupp the younger, John's father, was married by 1798 to Efa (Maria) Kraft. The turn of the nineteenth-century was filled with prosperity for many, including the Rupp family of Manchester, Maryland. Jakob and Maria were starting a family of their own, and between 1798 and 1809 they had at least six children, five boys and a girl. The youngest of them was Johannes Rupp, or as he was better known, John Rupp.⁵

The Early Years

October 3, 1809, John Rupp began his life in Manchester, Maryland.⁶ (Figure 1.2 a, b, c) By the age of thirteen, in 1822, John had already left home. While two of his brothers headed to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and two of his brothers moved south to Baltimore, Maryland, John decided to go

³ Ibid.

⁴ United States Census of 1880, Borough of Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania.

⁵ Tanger. Family Collection of Documents.

⁶ *Evening Herald*, "An Aged Citizen Dead – Close of an Upright and Industrious Life," August 21, 1899.

to Hanover, Pennsylvania.⁷ Upon arriving in Hanover, some twelve to fourteen miles north of his home in Manchester, John gained employment with George Nace, at the Nace tannery on the corner of High and Chestnut Streets. For the next four years John learned the tanning trade and was a chip grinder for the Nace Tannery. He either must not have liked the trade, or possibly his supervisor, because shortly thereafter in 1827 John took an apprenticeship, this time under Conrad Moul, to learn the trades of carpentering and cabinet making.⁸

Like many young men, John must have had quite some difficulty deciding on a career for himself. During this apprenticeship and even after it ended, the newspapers were regularly telling stories and tales of the railroad with which John must have been quite intrigued.⁹ In the spring of 1832 John moved to Baltimore to work for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Mount Clare.¹⁰ Many a story has been told that John Rupp worked in York, Pennsylvania, with Phineas Davis to build the prize winning locomotive, *The*

⁷ The lives of John's brothers and their movements were documented through death announcements in *The Hanover Spectator* and *Der Hanover Citizen* between 1863 and 1888.

⁸ *Hanover Spectator*, "An 80th Milestone," October 10, 1889.

⁹ One such article titled, "Rail Roads," in *The Guardian*, printed in Hanover on February 13, 1828, discussed, "Legislation *authorizing and requiring* the location of a Rail Road from Philadelphia to the borough of Columbia [York County, Pennsylvania]." It goes on to hypothesize that the people of York are assuredly going to move forward to continue the train to the City of York and the people of Hanover most certainly will do the same.

¹⁰ *Hanover Spectator*, "An 80th Milestone," October 10, 1889.

York. While it is stated in Rupp's obituary that during his time with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad John was employed under Phineas Davis in 1833, the truth is that the early records of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad all burned in a fierce blaze; no records ever show John working in York, Pennsylvania; and the only time this idea was ever even discussed is in John Rupp's obituary and a brief in *Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*, which was published after John's death as well.¹¹ It is known, through an article in the October 10, 1889, *Hanover Spectator*, titled, "His 80th Milestone," that John, "In the summer of 1832 [he] assisted to build at these shops [Baltimore and Ohio Railroad] what we suppose was the first eight-wheel passenger car ever constructed in America, which was a double-deck car, with a wire net around the edge of the upper deck; the car was then drawn by two horses."¹² But as for working under Davis, or assisting in building *The York*, there is no documented history that proves the statement to be accurate.

The following year, 1833, John returned to Hanover, never again moving from the town. Once again John took employment with Conrad Moul, whom he had apprenticed with earlier. The Hanover Borough tax records

¹¹ While several articles were printed during John Rupp's life, not one ever mentioned Phineas Davis in them. The only articles to mention this name were published after Rupp's death, first in the August 21, 1899, *Evening Herald*; then repeating the same obituary, *The Hanover Spectator* printed the name Phineas Davis associated with John Rupp on August 26, 1899. Finally, *Leslie's Illustrated Weekly* published a short article with a picture of John Rupp on November 18, 1899, under "People Talked About" on page 395.

¹² *Hanover Spectator*, "An 80th Milestone," October 10, 1889.

show John Rupp for the first time in 1832 – 1833, and list him as a joiner. From the 1833 – 1834 tax year to the end of his life, John Rupp was listed as a cabinetmaker whenever occupations were listed. The interchanging of terms, joiner and cabinetmaker, in eighteenth and nineteenth-century tax records was quite common. Interestingly enough though, Conrad Moul, the gentleman whom Rupp apprenticed under for the trade of carpentry and cabinetmaking was not listed in the tax records as a cabinetmaker except for one year, 1839 – 1840, at which point in his life he was no longer paying an occupation tax.¹³ Prior to 1839-1840, Moul was always listed as either a joiner or a carpenter, often alternating back and forth from year to year in the early 1820s.

Family Life

On the 9th of June 1833, John Rupp wed Mary Rosensteel, the daughter of Michael and Barbara Rosensteel.¹⁴ (Figure 1.3) Michael Rosensteel died when Mary was quite young, and Barbara was left to fend for the both of them on little available resources. For three years, 1820 – 1823, Mary was listed in the *Poor Children* section of the Hanover Borough tax records.¹⁵

¹³ Hanover Borough Tax Records, 1820 – 1847.

¹⁴ St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Records of Pastoral Acts, Transcript of Volume 2, 1831 – 1848*, (Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania, Picton Press, 1994), 175.

¹⁵ Hanover Borough Tax Records, 1820 – 1823.

The following year on the 25th of August, John and Mary introduced to the world their first child, Susannah Cecilia.¹⁶ (Figure 1.4) Susannah was the first of eight children born to John and Mary. She grew up to marry Mr. David S. Tanger and had two children of her own before her death shortly after the birth of the second child. According to her tombstone in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Hanover, Pennsylvania, Susannah died on May 5th, 1859.

Named after John's father (Jakob) and Mary's father (Michael), their first son, Jacob Michael was born on February 3, 1837.¹⁷ He lived a short life, being recorded in only two United States Censuses before dying on Thursday, November 26, 1850, of typhoid fever at the age of thirteen.¹⁸

John and Mary's second daughter, Maria Victoria, better known as Mary V., was born on the 13th of December, 1838.¹⁹ (Figure 1.4 & Figure 1.5) Mary V. played an important part in the Rupp family, as she was the one who ran the furniture shop once her father entered his golden years and after

¹⁶ St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Baptisms 1743 – 1893*, (Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania, 1893), 158.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, 174.

¹⁸ *Hanover Spectator*, Obituary, "Died," November 29, 1850.

¹⁹ St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Baptisms 1743 – 1893*, 185.

his death as well.²⁰ The longest surviving member of the family, Mary V. passed away in 1930 at the age of ninety-two.²¹

The forth child was Florabella Olivia. Florabella was born in July of 1840.²² Like many families of the mid nineteenth-century, the Rups were not fortunate with all their children. Less than one and a half years later, in December of 1841, Florabella passed away.²³

Two years later, in 1842, John and Mary had another daughter, Elizabeth.²⁴ (Figure 1.4 & Figure 1.6) Like Mary V., Elizabeth, better known as Lizzie, stayed at home and resided at 20 Frederick Street with her parents throughout their life.²⁵ As a youth, Lizzie excelled in school where she enjoyed music and the arts. For example, at a recital held by the Girls School, an original composition by Lizzie Rupp was performed.²⁶ A good education was something that John and Mary Rupp believed was important for all their children and gender was no cause for discrimination; all the Rupp

²⁰ *Hanover Herald*, “Death Came Suddenly – John H. Rupp of West Chestnut Street Called Away,” September 2, 1903.

²¹ Tombstone of Mary Victoria Rupp, Mount Olivet Cemetery.

²² St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Baptisms 1743 – 1893*, 192.

²³ St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Records of Pastoral Acts, Transcript of Volume 2, 1831 – 1848*, (Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania, Picton Press, 1994), 225.

²⁴ Tombstone of Elizabeth Rupp, Mount Olivet Cemetery, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

²⁵ *Evening Herald*, “An Aged Citizen Dead – Close of an Upright and Industrious Life,” August 21, 1899.

²⁶ *Hanover Spectator*, “Exhibition of the Female High School,” February 25, 1859.

children went to school.²⁷ In 1919 Lizzie was called away to her final resting place.²⁸

The last three children that John and Mary had were all males. John Henry Rupp, born in March of 1845, followed in his father's footsteps as a cabinetmaker. He started as an apprentice to his father in his teens, and upon completion of the apprenticeship wanted to chase his own desires. At this point John H. moved to Revono, Pennsylvania, for a period of several years to work in the car shops as a pattern maker. And, like his father, the cabinetmaking trade called him back to Hanover where he worked in the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory under his father, and then under his sister, Mary, upon John Sr.'s death, until his own death in September of 1903.²⁹

George Frederick Rupp was the second youngest of the Rupp children, being born on October 26, 1846.³⁰ Very little is known about George, except that shortly after his marriage in 1869, he died of Typhoid Fever, on December 6th, at the vibrant age of twenty-three.³¹ Like two of his other

²⁷ United States Census of 1850 and 1860.

²⁸ Tombstone of Elizabeth Rupp, Mount Olivet Cemetery, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

²⁹ *Hanover Herald*, "Death Came Suddenly – John H. Rupp of West Chestnut Street Called Away" September 2, 1903.

³⁰ St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Baptisms 1743 – 1893*, 224.

³¹ *Der Hanover Citizen*, [Advertisement – No Title], December 18, 1869.

siblings, George was also buried by his parents in the family plot at Mount Olivet Cemetery.³²

Born on October 23, 1849, William Edward was the last child of John and Mary Rupp.³³ Again, like George, not many records have survived pertaining to William. What is known about his life is that at the time of his father's death he was listed in the obituary as living in Baltimore, Maryland.³⁴ Some time between 1899 and 1903, at the time of his brother John's death, William moved to York, Pennsylvania.³⁵ He died in 1914 and was buried in the family plot at Mount Olivet Cemetery.³⁶

In the Community

But there was more to John's life than fatherhood and furniture making. John made a commitment to becoming part of the community after returning to Hanover. Besides tending to his business, he also was active in the faith community. All of his children were baptized at St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church, approximately one and a half blocks from his house and shop. According to his obituary, John also played an active role in

³² *The Hanover Spectator*, "Died," December 16, 1869.

³³ St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Baptisms 1743 – 1893*, 240.

³⁴ *Evening Herald*, "An Aged Citizen Dead – Close of an Upright and Industrious Life," August 21, 1899.

³⁵ *Hanover Herald*, "Death Came Suddenly – John H. Rupp of West Chestnut Street Called Away," September 2, 1903.

³⁶ Tombstone of William Edward Rupp, Mount Olivet Cemetery, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

creating the Mount Olivet Cemetery in 1859.³⁷ This is the same cemetery in which John purchased a family plot on September 1, 1860, and where he buried his mother-in-law, his wife, and three of the four children who died before him, before being buried there himself.³⁸

In addition to the faith community, John Rupp played an active role in politics as well. In 1852 Rupp was elected to the Hanover Borough Town Council for the first time. He was reelected to the position of council member four more times over the next sixteen years: 1857, 1859, 1862, and 1868.³⁹ John was not the only cabinetmaker in town to hold such a position of honor. Often in the years he was not on the council, the name of Francis Renaut, a cabinetmaker and competitor of Rupp in the furniture industry could be found on the council.⁴⁰

In February of 1845, John opened his life up a little more. An advertisement appeared for the first time that did not pertain to his cabinetry business. On February 5, 1845, and running four times over the next month and a half was a classified advertisement that read as follows:

³⁷ *Evening Herald*, "An Aged Citizen Dead – Close of an Upright and Industrious Life," August 21, 1899.

³⁸ Rupp File, Mount Olivet Cemetery.

³⁹ *Act of Incorporation, Laws Regulating Boroughs and Borough Ordinances of Hanover Borough, York County, Pa.*, (Hanover, Pa., Town Council, 1896), 29-32.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 28-34.

\$1,00 Reward!

STRAYED or stolen from the subscriber, residing in the Borough of Hanover, on Monday, the 27th of January, a large

White Setter Dog,

with no particular marks on him with the exception of a few brownish spots on his ears by which he may easily be known. Any person returning said Dog, or giving information of his whereabouts, so that he may get him again, will receive the above reward.

JOHN RUPP.

Hanover, February 5, 1845.⁴¹

What this advertisement shows is that not only did John Rupp have and care for pets, but he gave them a great value. One dollar in 1845 is equal to \$483.39 in 2006.⁴²

In 1857 John finally had the opportunity to purchase the cabinet shop he had been working in, and the store front and dwelling beside it at 28 and 30 Frederick Street, from the estate of Henry Felty. On October 2, for \$715, John Rupp made Lot 77 his business and his home, and he never moved again.⁴³ The 1891 Fire Map for Hanover, Pennsylvania, shows that Rupp

⁴¹ *The Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement] "\$1,00 Reward," February 5, 1845.

⁴² Samuel H. Williamson, "Five Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a U.S. Dollar Amount, 1790 – 2006," <http://www.measuringworth.com>.

The nominal gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was used as opposed to the consumer price index for the simple fact that the nominal GDP per capita measures the economic power of the dollar as opposed to the cost of standard commodities. The nominal GDP per capita tells the true wealth or income of a subject.

⁴³ John McGrew, "Deed References and Lot Rent by Ground Number, Hanover Town," Typed manuscript, 13 January 1994, in the possession of author, 13.

owned two, street front, two-story structures, both with a mutually shared wall. The two main structures, his home and his furniture showroom, were built of wood with small rear sections of stone. (Figure 1.7) The left building, 28 Frederick Street, is listed on the 1891 Fire Map of Hanover, PA, as being *Furn'e* [furniture], which was used as the store front and to the right, 30 Frederick Street, was his dwelling. In the back of the property stood three buildings including a one and a half story shed made of wood and John's two story cabinet shop with a brick room and fireplace built off the northwest corner of the building.⁴⁴ This brick attachment had enough space for one or two persons to work on a single piece of furniture and contained a fireplace required by the use and creation of varnishes, as well as various pigments, which required fire to accelerate the reaction process.⁴⁵ John also had sheds on either side of the shop. The overall size of his lot was 35' by 100'.⁴⁶

One of the benefits of owning his own home was the ability to grow a garden. John Rupp thoroughly enjoyed his garden as was quite evident

Throughout the history of Hanover, Pennsylvania, the street numbers for addresses were changed several times. During the nineteenth-century alone, the address where the Rupp shop and residence were located went by three different street numbers: first 28 and 30 Frederick Street, second 18 and 20 Frederick Street, and finally 48 and 50 Frederick Street. As all these location numbers are used interchangeably throughout this document, they are all used for the same structures only corresponding to the address at the current time in history.

⁴⁴ Sanborn-Perris Map Co., *Hanover, York Co., PA. Sep. 1891*. [Map] (New York, Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Limited, 1891).

⁴⁵ Cynthia Schaffner, *American Painted Furniture*, (New York, Random House, Inc., 1997), 192-196.

⁴⁶ Sanborn-Perris Map Co., *Hanover, York Co.*, [Map].

through the various references in the local newspaper pertaining to his garden. The October 19th, 1860, *Hanover Spectator*, in the “Local Affairs” section lists a brief titled, “Hanover Ahead,” that reads:

The King of Big Tomatoe Stalks – We were shown a few days since, by our neighbor Mr. John Rupp, a tomatoe stalk which was raised in his garden this season, measuring the enormous length of *fifteen feet*. The “*big*” stalks we noticed a few weeks ago sink into insignificance before this “whopper,” who is truly the “King of the Vegetable Kingdom!” Who can beat it?⁴⁷

But vegetables were not John’s only gardening passion. Two months later in December of the same year, *The Hanover Spectator* yet again commented on Rupp’s garden, this time reporting a bottle of wine that he gave the office of *The Spectator* as a holiday gift. Under a brief entitled, “Acceptable Gifts,” the newspaper states:

Acceptable Gifts. Our thanks are also due to our kind and clever neighbor, John Rupp, Esq. for a bottle of excellent Wine, of his own manufacture. It is the pure grape, and although new, is equally as good if not superior to many of the famous “brands” imported from Europe. Mr. Rupp manufactured a considerable quantity of wine this year from the yield of his arbors.⁴⁸

The middle of the century held some tough times for John and Mary Rupp. Besides burying their sons, Jacob and George in 1850 and 1869 respectively, and daughters Florabella in 1841 and Susannah in 1859,

⁴⁷ *Hanover Spectator*, “Hanover Ahead,” October 19, 1860.

⁴⁸ *Hanover Spectator*, “Acceptable Gifts,” December 28, 1860.

Barbara Rosensteel, Mary's mother, passed on February 12, 1867. Barbara had lived with John and Mary since before 1850. She was listed in the 1840 Census living alone as Widow Rosensteel and in the 1850 Census as living at the same address as the Rupp Family. More death was brought to Hanover in 1863 with the Civil War. Unlike his ancestors, who are said to have moved from Maryland to North Carolina to avoid the British during the Revolutionary War, John Rupp kept his family in town when the Union and Confederate soldiers encountered one another.⁴⁹ According to a history of the county:

Some time before the Union cavalry had entered town, a large flag was stretched across Frederick Street between the residences of Henry Long and John Rupp. This flag continued to float to the breeze during the contest and throughout the day. It was too high in the air to be cut down by the Confederate soldiers.⁵⁰

The day in reference is June 30, 1863; when Battle of Hanover took place during the Civil War. John was fifty-three years old at the time of the Battle of Hanover, much too old to participate in the war himself.

John Rupp was a well-respected man in the community. The local newspaper even wrote a brief biography of John in 1889 commemorating his 80th birthday.⁵¹ Only three months later, John was listed under "Our Sick" in

⁴⁹ Tanger. Family Collection of Documents.

⁵⁰ George R. Prowell, *History of York County Pennsylvania, Volume 1*. (Chicago, J.H. Beers & Co., 1907), 441.

⁵¹ *The Hanover Spectator*, "An 80th Milestone," October 10, 1889.

the January 9, 1890, *The Hanover Spectator*, and reported that, “Our venerable friend and neighbor, Mr. John Rupp, the well-known furniture manufacturer, has been confined to the house for several weeks by a stomach disorder, but is now in a much improved condition.”⁵² The health of Mary and John Rupp was slowly deteriorating in the 1890s when they were both octogenarians. John laid Mary to rest in the Mount Olivet Cemetery on April 6, 1895, three days after her death. Mary’s obituary in the *Evening Herald* was a tribute to a well respected and dedicated wife and mother.⁵³ Four years later John also passed away on Sunday, August 20, 1899. The following Monday the *Evening Herald* wrote a full column obituary in the first column of the front page titled, “An Aged Citizen Dead. Close of an Upright and Industrious Life.”⁵⁴

John Rupp Sr., one of Hanover’s oldest and most highly respected citizens, died on Sunday morning at 1 o’clock, after a lingering illness, of gangrene. He was aged 89 years, 10 months and 17 days....⁵⁵

⁵² *The Hanover Spectator*, “Our Sick,” January 9, 1890.

⁵³ *Evening Herald*, “Death of Mrs. John Rupp,” April 3, 1895.

⁵⁴ *Evening Herald*, “An Aged Citizen Dead – Close of an Upright and Industrious Life,” August 21, 1899.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

Chapter Two – Cabinet Making in Nineteenth-Century Hanover, Pennsylvania

Early in the nineteenth century, many of the cabinetmakers in Hanover were part-time cabinetmakers. For some cabinetmaking was a second source of income. For others, it was their primary source of income but they also required additional work or income to assist them through the year. George Throne, for instance, in 1828, advertised his primary business of lumber milling, but he also listed in the bottom fourth of the advertisement that “he still continues to carry on the Cabinet Making, Business in all its various branches....”⁵⁶ (Figure 2.1) Conrad Moul, like George Throne, ran a lumber mill and also made furniture, but Moul did not advertise his cabinet shop.

Nicholas Pyle, however, was quite an entrepreneurial gentleman. Throughout the first half of the century he did whatever was needed. An advertisement in *The Hanoverian* on March 17, 1829, explains much of what Mr. Pyle did, but not all:

Nicholas Pyle
Chairmaker, House and Sign
Painter,
York Street, Hanover.

Returns his thanks to an esteemed
public for the generous patronage enjoyed
by him in his business until the present
time, and solicits a continuance of the

⁵⁶ *Hanoverian*, [advertisement] “Lumber,” June 17, 1828.

same. He has now on hand a handsome assortment of

CHAIRS & SETTEES

Of various fashions and prices, plain and ornamented, made in a durable manner, and according to the newest mode. His long experience enables him to give an assurance, that all orders in the different branches of his profession, will be executed with expedition and faithfulness, and at the most moderate prices. He respectfully solicits a continuance of public patronage.

THE CABINET MAKING BUSINESS

Will be carried on as before.

N. PYLE,

Offers also his services to the public as
DENTIST,

He is prepared to cleanse, to file and plug Teeth when decayed, in a satisfactory manner, for all who will be pleased to employ him.

Hanover, March 17, 1829. 59-6t. ⁵⁷

While in 1829 Nicholas Pyle was a chairmaker, house and sign painter, operator of a cabinetmaking business and a dentist, fifteen years later in 1845, Mr. Pyle changed the direction of his profession. A February 26, 1845, advertisement in *The Hanover Spectator* no longer lists Mr. Pyle as working in any of the professions described in the previous advertisement. The 1845 advertisement reads:

To Cabinet-Makers.

NICHOLAS PYLE, continues to manufacture at his old stand, in York street, a few doors east of Mr. Hershey's tavern, the latest and most improved

ESCUTCHEONS,

⁵⁷ *Hanoverian*, [Advertisement – No Title], March 24, 1829.

of all sizes and patterns, for Cabinet-Makers. They are superior to those made of ivory, both in beauty and durability. KNOBS for Secretaries, Bureaus, &c., made of the same materials. Also, Shoemaker's LASTS and BOOT TREES of the latest fashion and of superior neatness, made of the best materials.

Orders from a distance will be promptly attended to.

Hanover, Feb. 26, 1845.⁵⁸

This advertisement was used off and on for the remaining career of Mr. Pyle, and it shows that multiple career tracks within the field were necessary for some cabinetmakers.

In 1838, the first year that John Rupp placed an advertisement for his business, twenty-three men were listed in the Hanover Borough Tax Records as a joiner, joyner, cabinetmaker, chairmaker, or couch maker.⁵⁹ This list of furniture makers does not take into account any persons who listed their occupation as carpenter who also may have done cabinetry work. The estimated population for the borough at the time was 1,000 persons. Twelve years later, the 1850 United States Census lists the population at 1,210, and only nine persons are listed as cabinetmakers but no joiners, chairmakers, or couch makers are recorded.⁶⁰ Again, carpenters were not taken into account in this review, as many would actually do for the most part carpentry as

⁵⁸ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement] "To Cabinet-Makers," February 26, 1845.

⁵⁹ Tax Records of Hanover Borough, 1838.

⁶⁰ The comparison of tax records with United States Census records instead of with other tax records is due to the fact that for many years during the mid-nineteenth century, tax records for the Borough of Hanover did not record occupations as in earlier years.

opposed to the refined woodworking in cabinetry. A substantial decrease in skilled cabinetmakers was seen over this twelve year period; this became a lasting trend.

As the population grew in Hanover, the number of cabinetmakers in general remained constant. One reason for this is the advances in transportation, especially growth in rail services. For most of the first half of the nineteenth century, furniture that was used in Hanover most likely was made in Hanover or the nearby vicinity. In the February 17, 1829, *The Hanoverian*, all the chair and cabinetmaker advertisements except one were from Hanover manufacturers.⁶¹ The one exception was H. Geatty from Westminster, Maryland, who promoted his hearse and ability to make coffins “on short notice,” more than his cabinetmaking business.⁶² (Figure 2.2) By the early 1860s, the tide of the furniture industry was shifting away from Hanover. *The Hanover Spectator* listed nine different advertisements associated with the cabinetmaking industry. Of those nine advertisements, only five were placed by Hanoverians in the furniture trade, and the remaining four were from Baltimore cabinetmakers and dealers in furniture.⁶³ Furniture making through the end of the century continued to shift from local shops to larger centralized factories that shipped their goods

⁶¹ *Hanoverian*, February 17, 1829.

⁶² *Hanoverian*, “H. Geatty, Cabinet-maker,” February 17, 1829.

⁶³ *Hanover Spectator*, November 23, 1860.

throughout the country. A look at the January 9, 1890, *The Hanover Spectator* again, revealed that seventy-five percent of the advertisements pertaining to the cabinetmaking industry were taken out by customers located outside of Hanover.⁶⁴

Marketing of the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory

The Rupp Cabinet Manufactory was an outgrowth of John Rupp's experiences as a youth. Rupp worked for several entrepreneurs as an apprentice and then again at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. Conrad Moul, the gentleman that Rupp apprenticed under for carpentry and cabinetry was probably the most influential of those entrepreneurs that Rupp worked for.

According to newspaper advertisements, Conrad Moul operated his own lumber company on Frederick Street:

LUMBER,
CONRAD MOUL.
 Offers for sale at his dwelling in
 Frederick street,
An assortment of
Lumber:
- SUCH AS -
 Pine Boards, Planks, Poplar
 Scantling for Bed Posts.
CHERRY BOARDS AND
SHINGLES, &c. &c.
 The public are requested to call and

⁶⁴ *Hanover Spectator*, January 9, 1890.

examine his stock, as it is his intention to
sell very cheap.
Hanover, June 10. 19-tf⁶⁵

At the same time that Conrad operated his lumber stand on Frederick Street, he was also making furniture at the stand and working as a builder in Hanover and the surrounding communities. John learned quite a lot from Conrad in the area of cabinetry and joinery during his four year apprenticeship.

In 1833 when John Rupp returned to Hanover, he returned to work under Conrad Moul. In the mid 1830s John Rupp took over the cabinet shop of Conrad Moul.⁶⁶ The first advertisement for the promotion of the shop under John Rupp was printed in 1838:

Fashionable cabinet
MANUFACTORY.

JOHN RUPP, thankful for the kind encouragement heretofore received, respectfully informs his friends and the public that he continues to carry on the above business, in Fredrick street, Hanover, (at the stand formerly occupied by Mr. C. Moul,) in all its various branches. Persons wishing to purchase, would do well by calling on him as he is prepared to make, at short

⁶⁵ *Hanoverian*, [Advertisement] "Lumber, Conrad Moul," June 10, 1828.

⁶⁶ The exact date is unclear as to when John Rupp took over Moul's Cabinet shop, but it was most likely 1835. Hanover Borough tax records show Conrad Moul as a Joiner until the 1835-1836 tax year. An editorial on October 19, 1889, in *The Hanover Spectator* titled, "His 80th Milestone." states that Rupp, "Entered into business for himself in 1835." Rupp's obituary, which is notoriously a less reliable source, on August 21, 1899, in the *Evening Herald*, "An Aged Citizen Dead." asserts, "In 1837 he [John Rupp] returned to Hanover and went into the cabinet-making business for himself."

notice, all kinds of handsome furniture such as

SIDEBARDS, at various prices; BUREAUS, do. do.; *Mahogany, Maple, Cherry, and Poplar* BEDSTEADS; Card, Elliptic, Dining, Breakfast, and other TABLES; WARDROBES, SECRETARIES, Desks, BOOK CASES, WORK STANDS, WASH STANDS, and every other article in his line of business. An assortment of furniture, suitable for housekeepers and others, is constantly kept on hand.

No pains will be spared to give general satisfaction to all those who will favor him with their custom, and his work in all cases warranted to be finished in the most elegant and substantial manner. His charges will be such as cannot fail to give satisfaction.

Hanover, April 7, 1838.⁶⁷

An analysis of this advertisement reveals several key points about the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory. First, by saying, “He continues to carry on the above business in Frederick street, Hanover,” John is testifying to the fact that either he already owned, or leased, the above business at said site, or at least it existed prior to Rupp’s taking over of the business. If the first is true, then John Rupp owned or leased and operated the business prior to April of 1838, and by using the word “continues,” he is representing a business that existed for some time. If the second half of the suggestion were true, then the advertisement proves that Conrad Moul ran more than a lumber business at his dwelling as he represented in the previously mentioned Moul advertisement. Rupp does directly state in his advertisement that the stand

⁶⁷ *Hanover Herald*, [Advertisement] “Fashionable Cabinet Manufactory,” April 7, 1838.

was “formerly occupied by C. Moul.” So the suggestion that Rupp operated the stand prior to April of 1838 sounds more plausible otherwise he was wasting valuable advertisement space with redundancies.

The April 7, 1838, advertisement was by no means the only advertisement John Rupp ever took out in the newspaper to promote his furniture manufactory. Between 1838 and 1899, Rupp placed at least twelve different advertisements promoting his business, and this does not even take into account the more than a dozen listings for John Rupp as a cabinetmaker and dealer in various city and county directories between 1860 and 1899.

Rupp advertisements ranged from very basic to the elaborate. He placed some of his most elaborate advertisements in the 1840s. A January 1845 advertisement was one such entry where verbosity was not lacking at least by present day standards:

LOOK THIS WAY!

**JOHN RUPP,
CABINET MAKER,**

RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Hanover and its vicinity, that he still continues the above business, at his old stand in Frederick street, where he is prepared to make every variety of Furniture, in the latest style of fashion, of the best materials, and at the lowest possible prices, *viz:*

Sideboards, Secretaries, Sofas, Pier, Pillar, End, Center, Reading, Dining, and Breakfast TABLES, BUREAUS, of all descriptions, Work and Wash Stands, Mahogany Piano

*Stools, Spring Seat Rocking Chairs,
High, French and Low Post
BEDSTEADS, &c.*

Warranted for *strength* and *style of finish*, superior to any heretofore offered in this place.

He hopes by strict attention to business and a disposition to please, to merit and receive a liberal share of patronage.

N. B. COFFINS made and funerals attended either in town or country, at the shortest notice.

☞ COUNTRY PRODUCE taken in exchange for furniture, at market prices.

Hanover, January 29, 1845.⁶⁸

There are several differences between this advertisement and all other advertisement printed for John Rupp promoting his cabinet manufactory.

First, is the language used. Not only is the language more verbose than any other advertisement of his to date, but it is also more formal. The use of *viz*, an abbreviation for videlicet, meaning *to wit or namely*, is not used in any other advertisement of his before 1845, and not even in any other advertisements printed in the *Hanover Spectator* on January 29, 1845.⁶⁹

Another such term used in this advertisement by Rupp was the abbreviation N. B. for the Latin term *nota bene*, literally meaning, “note well.”⁷⁰ N. B. was

⁶⁸ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement] “Look This Way!”, January 29, 1845.

⁶⁹ Noah Webster, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, Volumes 2, (New York, S. Converse, 1828), Signature 107, Leaf 4, Verso.

Videlicet, adv. [L. for *videre licet*.] To wit; namely. An abbreviation for this word is *viz*.

⁷⁰ *New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, (Houghton Mifflin, 2002), s.v. “N.B.,” <http://www.credoreference.com/entry/2442920> (accessed July 22, 2007).

often used during the mid-nineteenth century to emphasize or stress a specific point or idea. The point or idea that John is stressing is unique to this advertisement. Out of all the other advertisements found promoting the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory, no other advertisement promotes the making of coffins or the attending of funerals. John also for the first and only time in an advertisement offers to barter goods; furniture for country produce. Normally it would be understandable for such a trade of goods, but considering this advertisement was first taken out in the *Hanover Spectator* in January of 1845, the timing of the request is oddly abnormal. The earliest country produce to mature is strawberries and they are not picked before the latter half of May in this region of the United States. A possible explanation for the advertising of the bartering of fresh produce for furniture at this time is that with advance notice individuals in need of specific pieces of furniture were able to plant seed to raise additional produce for the trade. Advertising during the harvest season would be too late for many who had already planned their crop needs and distribution lines.

Two years later, on the 24th of February 1847, John Rupp published his first advertisement in German. This was in the *Hanover Gazette* and ran for a total of six weeks, skipping the fourth week in March but returning for a double printing on March 31, 1847. Unlike most of his advertisements in *The Hanover Herald* and *The Hanover Spectator*, his German advertisements in the *Hanover Gazette* and *Der Hanover Citizen* contained images of

furniture, usually a massive sideboard and some rocking chairs. One advertisement even contained a pedestal table as well.⁷¹ Because there was such a strong presence of Germans in the Hanover area, German newspapers and churches also existed. The idea of catering to all the residents of the town through the use of both German and English advertisements was seen as not only respectful, but also good business practice. For example, the Philadelphia looking glass / dealer John Elliott, had his labels printed in English and German. Selling to both groups was a common practice in Pennsylvania.⁷²

The old stand of Conrad Moul was approximately two to three blocks from the public square of Hanover. In 1849 Rupp took the opportunity to move closer to the center of town, and closer to other shops. His advertisement of November 23, 1849 reads:

JOHN RUPP

CABINET-MAKER,

FREDERICK STREET, HANOVER, PA.

Embraces this opportunity of tendering his thanks to the public for the very liberal encouragement heretofore extended to him, and would respectfully remind them that he continues to manufacture at his new shop on Frederick street, 8 down below William Grove's Jewelry Store...⁷³

⁷¹ *Der Hanover Citizen*, [Advertisement – No Title], February 3, 1859.

⁷² Charles Hummel, written notes to author, September 28, 2007.

⁷³ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement – No Title], November 23, 1849.

This advertisement was the only one ever printed that mentioned his move to a new shop. The follow advertisement, printed fourteen months later in the *Hanover Spectator*, was already calling his new stand of 1849 his “old established stand,” in January of 1851.

Not until 1872 did John Rupp publish in an advertisement that he was a “Manufacturer of and Dealer in Fine Furniture.”⁷⁴ This was the first time that he listed himself as both a manufacturer and a dealer, which means he no longer sold only furniture made within his own shop. An eighth of a page advertisement in an 1877 boroughs of York County directory presents an even clearer idea of the furniture that John Rupp sold. The advertisement reads, “John Rupp, manufacturer and dealer in homemade and city furniture, a large and complete stock always on hand, which will be sold at the lowest price. Frederick St., Hanover, PA.”⁷⁵ John Rupp is also listed in the alphabetical listing of businessmen for Hanover Borough as, “John Rupp, furniture, ss [south side] Frederick nr [near] Center Sq.”⁷⁶ His sons John, Jr., and William were both listed for the first time in the 1886 directory, both as cabinetmakers. John, Sr. was listed in this directory as well, but as a furniture dealer. Even though the 1886 listing for John, Jr. says, “Rupp, John, cabinet maker, 20 Frederick,” the reference can not be

⁷⁴ *Hanover Herald*. [Advertisement] “John Rupp.” July 27, 1872.

⁷⁵ *Authentic General Directory of the Boroughs of York, Hanover & Wrightville, York County, PA, for 1877*, (York, Pa, Herman & Miller and Thomas, 1877), 116.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 121.

mistaken for John, Sr. because the listing finishes with, “house, West Chestnut.” which is where John, Jr. lived.⁷⁷ Did John Rupp retire from manufacturing furniture and turn the operation over to his sons by this point in time? In fact, John Rupp’s sons never took over the business, as John, Jr.’s, obituary states, “Since the death of his father [John Rupp, Sr.], he has been employed by his sister, Miss Mary Rupp, who continued the business.”⁷⁸ Interpreting this line from the obituary, John Rupp, Sr., probably did not retire until his death.⁷⁹

Classified and directory advertisements were not the only promotion that John Rupp and the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory received locally. Editorials were written thrice in *The Hanover Spectator* pertaining to his business. Writing editorials about local businesses was not a common practice for the newspaper but did occur from time to time. Only one other man in the furniture industry was written about in such a manner -- Charles Frysinger.⁸⁰ Oddly enough, Frysinger was listed in the 1860 United States Census as a carpenter and by the 1880 Census a “Dealer in Cigars,” never as

⁷⁷ *Young’s York City and County Directory, 1886.* (York, PA, 1886), 300, 310.

⁷⁸ *Evening Herald*, “Death Came Suddenly,” September 3, 1903.

⁷⁹ Without uncovering the records of Rupp’s business, which currently are not known to exist, the facts of when John, Sr., stopped working, or at least stopped making furniture can not be established with certainty.

⁸⁰ *Hanover Spectator*, “Furniture,” August 24, 1860.

a furniture dealer.⁸¹ He placed an extraordinarily high amount of advertisements for “Charles Frysingher’s Cheap Furniture Warehouse”, including some quite interesting ones, in the early 1860s, but he faded from the furniture scene by the end of the decade. (Figure 2.3 a, b) The first editorial pertaining to the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory was printed on March 11, 1859, under the “Local Affairs” column:

Handsome Furniture – We notice with pleasure that our esteemed townsman and respected neighbor, Mr. John Rupp, has recently made some elegant additions to his stock of furniture which may now be said to embrace nearly every article belonging to that branch of trade, and many things not heretofore obtainable outside of the cities, or normally kept for sale in other than the most fashionable establishments. Amongst the most noticeable of the articles which attracted our attention was a magnificent *tete á tete* of modern design and elaborately carved, the work evidently of a finished artist, and in all respects equal in point of workmanship to any that we have heretofore seen, except in places of the most aristocratic pretensions. A visit to the warerooms of Mr. Rupp will not fail to satisfy any reasonable person that he is fully up with the times, and resolved to act his part in adding to the substantial wealth of the town by accelerating thereby promoting its prosperity.⁸²

The fact that the editorial mentions a *tete á tete* is remarkable, as Rupp never advertised *tete á tetes* himself even though he routinely listed the many other types of furniture he made. Also because the editorial describes

⁸¹ United States Census, 1860 – 1880.

⁸² *Hanover Spectator*, “Handsome Furniture,” March 11, 1859.

the piece as being elaborately carved, proves that in 1859, besides making painted furniture and furniture of various woods as described in previous advertisements placed by John Rupp he also sold carved furniture. It was either manufactured in Rupp's Cabinet Manufactory, contracted out to be carved by another shop, or the most likely scenario was that Rupp simply retailed carved pieces manufactured by another shop entirely.

The second editorial, published on May 25, 1860, describes in more detail what other types of furniture were sold by John Rupp:

Beautiful Articles of Furniture – In passing the ware rooms of Mr. John Rupp, a few days since, we saw in front of the establishment some articles of furniture so very beautiful in appearance that we were induced to stop and examine them. They consisted principally of chairs and other parlor furniture, all made and finished in the very best style and evidently by the most skillful workmen but what particularly attracted our notice was a magnificent “*tete á tete*,” more beautifully carved and prettily designed than any other it has been our privilege to see in this town... Mr. Rupp is very largely engaged in the manufacture of furniture of every description and we are pleased to know that his sales during the present season have been more than ordinarily encouraging. His place of business is on Frederick St., next door to the office of the “Spectator.”⁸³

The *tete á tete* listed could very well be the same one listed fourteen months earlier in the previous editorial, but the line, “They consisted principally of chairs and other parlor furniture...,” is one of the two most important lines in this editorial. The first time chairs were actually listed as

⁸³ *Hanover Spectator*, “Beautiful Articles of Furniture,” May 25, 1860.

a product of John Rupp's cabinet shop was in an advertisement only a year earlier, and now this editorial states that the articles seen at Rupp's Cabinet Manufactory, "Consisted principally of chairs and other parlor furniture...." Rockers, stools, sofas, all have been listed, but one of his most popular items, based on the number of pieces that have survived to the present day, the chair, was not listed in any advertisements going back more than twenty years since the opening of Rupp's business.

The use of the word "ware rooms" in the second line is also of great importance since it is the first time this term is used referring to Rupp. It associates the business now not only with manufacturing, but also with the retailing of furniture made by others.⁸⁴

The last advertisement taken out by John Rupp in a Hanover newspaper shows how times had changed over his almost sixty year career. Rupp's first advertisement in April of 1838, started with a patriotic eagle emblem above the words, "Fashionable Cabinet Manufactory," and continued for three paragraphs.⁸⁵ By contrast, his last advertisement in December of 1878 was only four lines long:

Furniture, of the latest styles, in endless variety, at Rupp's Furniture Ware-rooms, on Frederick Street. You can save money by buying Rupp.⁸⁶

⁸⁴ Oscar Fitzgerald, written notes to author, September 17, 2007.

⁸⁵ *Hanover Herald*, [Advertisement] "Fashionable Cabinet Manufactory," April 7, 1838.

⁸⁶ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement – No Title], December 18, 1878.

This late advertisement, printed just over forty years after the first, shows societal changes and how verbosity went to the wayside. The business took a new name: Rupp's Furniture Warerooms which most likely indicated that Rupp principally retailed furniture as opposed to making it all in his own manufactory.

Employment at the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory

Business records have to date not been found for this cabinet manufactory, but various pieces of information allow for the basic knowledge and understanding as to the size of the business operation as well as the number of workmen employed by John Rupp. As early as 1840 it is known that John Rupp already had apprentices working for him. According to the 1840 United States Census, a total of nine persons lived in the Rupp household: five males and four females, all of whom were listed as free white persons.⁸⁷ Of these nine people, three of them, one male and two females, were under the age of ten. This would account for John's three children at the time. Of the remaining six people, two were females between the ages of twenty and thirty. One of these two was Mary, John's wife and the other can be assumed to be a midwife; Florabella Olivia Rupp would have just been born in 1840. There are still four remaining males, two between fifteen and

⁸⁷ United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Sixth Census of the United States, 1840*, (Washington, D.C., National Archives and Records Administration, 1840).

twenty years of age, one between twenty and thirty, and John who is listed as being between thirty and forty years of age. All four of these males are also listed in a column designating their employment in manufacturing and trades. Therefore it seems clear that the three teenagers were in all likelihood apprentices and the adult male living in the Rupp house was most likely a journeyman, all under John Rupp.

In the winter of 1847, John Rupp took out an advertisement for an apprentice. It ran in the December 29, 1847, January 5, 1848, and January 12, 1848, issues of *The Hanover Spectator*, and read:

Wanted Immediately.

AN APPRENTICE to learn the Cabinet Making Business – a young man from 16 to 18 years of age, of good initial habits, will find a situation by applying to

John Rupp.

Hanover, Dec. 29, 1847.⁸⁸

Several other cabinetmakers of the period also advertised for apprentices in the newspaper, and many of them did so quite a few times, but not John Rupp. Another advertisement that ran for three consecutive issues of *The Hanover Spectator* in April and May of 1848 probably explains why:

6 CENTS REWARD.

RAN AWAY from the subscriber residing in the Borough of Hanover, Abraham Houser, an indented apprentice to the Cabinet Making business. I hereby forewarn all persons from crediting said individual, as I am no longer re-

⁸⁸ *Hanover Spectator*, "Wanted Immediately," December 29, 1847.

sponsible for any debts which he might contract. His height is about five feet seven inches, and is between 19 and 20 years of age. His character which is not very exemplary is strongly depicted in his countenance. Strong indignation, cruelty and severity proves his most prominent characteristics.

The above reward will be paid for his apprehension – but no thanks.

April 26. JOHN RUPP.⁸⁹

John Rupp did advertise again for an apprentice, November and December of 1849, but this would be the second and last time Rupp placed an advertisement in the newspaper for an apprentice.⁹⁰

The Rupp Cabinet Manufactory was a shop of roughly twenty by twenty-five foot square, not including the storage sheds for lumber or the attached room with a fireplace.⁹¹ Considering the size of the shop, a limited number of cabinetmakers could have worked for John Rupp. The 1850 United States Census gives an even clearer picture of those who worked for John Rupp. Again, like the 1840 United States Census, in 1850 three additional male hands are listed as living at the Rupp residence. The first, Francis Clunk, age twenty, is listed as a cabinetmaker born in Pennsylvania. The other two, Oliver Rowe, nineteen, and Edward Winebrenner, seventeen,

⁸⁹ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement] “6 Cents Reward,” April 26, 1848.

⁹⁰ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement – No Title], November 23, 1849.

⁹¹ Sanborn-Perris Map Co. *Hanover, York Co., PA. Sep. 1891*. [Map] New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Limited, 1891.

of Maryland and Pennsylvania respectively, do not have occupations listed with their names but can be assumed to be cabinetmaking apprentices.⁹²

By 1860, John Rupp's own children were starting to be old enough to work in the family business. Jacob, William and John, Jr. all became cabinetmakers at one point or another in their life. It is possible that two of his daughters, Mary V. and Elizabeth may have worked in the shop as well. Both names have been found on pieces of signed furniture, but it is still unclear as to whether the pieces were made for them or they made the pieces themselves. Both daughters were spinsters and lived in the family home all their lives.

The Borough of Hanover started selling mercantile licenses in 1851. Even though the licenses were available as early as 1851, they were not required until years later. When they were required, only retailers were required to have a license and because many professions were actually manufacturing as well as retailing, the businesses did not require a mercantile license. Rupp, for the benefit of promotion, did purchase a mercantile license for his business as early as 1860. He continued purchasing the license up until his death in 1899, only missing the years 1865 and 1866. Mary V. continued the furniture business upon John's death at least through 1908.⁹³

⁹² United States Census of 1850, (Hanover Township, York County, Pennsylvania).

⁹³ John McGrew, *List of Hanover Retailer Licenses: 1851 – 1921* typed manuscript, 2003, possession of the author, 42.

John Rupp, Sr., was dedicated to his career. Almost every advertisement he ever placed not only promoted his wares for sale, but also thanked those who encouraged him and provided patronage to his business in the past. Throughout the earlier years of the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory, Rupp specifically promoted the business as a manufactory. However, as early as May of 1860 “ware rooms of Mr. John Rupp” are first mentioned. In an advertisement near the end of his career, Rupp finally called his business “Rupp’s Furniture Warerooms.” This came after two previous advertisements printed “manufacturer of and dealer in.”

John Rupp was able to have such a long and prosperous career in the furniture trade because of his willingness to adapt to the times. Some of his adaptations came in the form of new furniture styles, while others were more economic. By accepting the fact that selling furniture made by others could give him a better return on patronage as well as a better economic return, Rupp was able to operate a business that lasted more than eighty years.

Chapter Three – Painted Furniture and Painterly Techniques

Nathaniel Whittock of London, England, wrote in his painting manual of 1828, “Furniture painting, which is now only done with cheapness and effect in London or other large towns, could be executed with elegance in every village, and would become a source of profitable and pleasing employment.”⁹⁴ Although Fancy painting may have peaked in London, it was at the height of style in America in 1828.⁹⁵ Many large cities, including Baltimore, played an important role in the manufacturing of painted furniture from 1790 until 1840. Whittock’s comment on the process of furniture painting and lack of quality in larger towns could have certainly been said of America by 1840.⁹⁶ But Hanover, Pennsylvania, is not an urban

⁹⁴ Nathaniel Whittock, *The Decorative Painter’s and Glazer’s Guide*, (London, Isaac Taylor Hinton, 1828), 48.

⁹⁵ This era has been characterized by the term of *Fancy*, in Sumpter Priddy, *American Fancy: Exuberance in the Arts, 1790 – 1840*.

“Between 1790 and 1840, Americans eagerly participated in the celebratory and progressive spirit of Fancy... During that period, Fancy came to signify almost any activity or object that delighted the human spirit... Fancy things were generally colorful and boldly patterned, the style possessed no single identity. Rather, it was best identified by intangible means, by the wide range of emotional responses it was able to elicit....” (Priddy, *American Fancy: Exuberance in the Arts, 1790 – 1840*, (Milwaukee, Chipstone Foundation, 2004), xxv.)

For more information on painted furniture of this period, see Cynthia Schaffner and Susan Klein, *American Painted Furniture: 1790-1880*, (New York, Clarkson Potter Publishers, 1997).

⁹⁶ Priddy states, “Americans after 1840 sought clear distinctions between ornament that was acceptable and that which was not. Good decoration bespoke high moral

center, and the German traditions of painted furniture superseded the style trends of urban centers.

The painting of furniture in the rural Pennsylvania communities was not necessarily thought of as a style of *fancy*, but more as a style based on a continuation of European Germanic tradition. Hanover, was not a metropolitan area even with what was in 1856 thought to be by the publisher of the directory, “One of the largest towns, not a county town, in the State.”⁹⁷ The roots of the painterly styles and the styles of painting on furniture commonly found in the Hanover area, can be traced to a Pennsylvania German and Amish heritage, and its outgrowth. However, Hanover, Pennsylvania, was not an Amish community, and even though the ancestral heritage of many of the residents was German, the traditional ideas and culture of the Pennsylvania Germans were by all accounts waning by the middle of the nineteenth century when John Rupp began working for himself in the furniture trade.

The Pennsylvania Germans, and for this matter, Hanoverians in general, were often thought of as stubborn and in many ways backwards. This is just perception, what is thought of as stubbornness is actually a strong pride in their heritage and is what has helped to keep local culture

standards and instructed its viewers... Unacceptable decoration merely titillated the senses and fueled base passions.” (Priddy, *American Fancy*, 212).

⁹⁷ *York Gazetteer Directory, 1856*, 98.

and tradition alive.⁹⁸ Because of desires for tradition Rupp's painterly styles are reminiscent of Pennsylvania German's styles like many other Pennsylvania cabinetmakers of the time. This may seem surprising because of the distance between them, yet it is understandable because the cabinetmakers in this part of Pennsylvania were trained under the same traditions through an apprenticeship system.

Painting styles became increasingly similar among the Pennsylvania German and Amish cultures of Southern Pennsylvania and across into the Ohio River Valley. Howard Gitt, like John Rupp, was a Hanover cabinetmaker of the mid-nineteenth century, and they both painted in extremely similar styles. Also, an unknown cabinetmaker believed to be from the Abbottstown area, approximately five miles north of Hanover, or possibly Abbottstown Street which ran from Hanover to Abbottstown, painted in a manner so close to Rupp that his pieces sometimes can only be distinguished from the furniture of John Rupp by construction techniques.⁹⁹

⁹⁸ Swank, *Arts of the Pennsylvania Germans*, 61-76.

To further understand the shaping of culture and a tradition, refer to George Kubler. *The Shape of Time, Remarks on the History of Things*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1962.

⁹⁹ One such corner cupboard has been found with Abbottstown written on the backside. Unknown is if this was part of a street address or in reference to the town. Conrad Moul, John Rupp's master, had a son Conrad Moul, Jr., also a cabinetmaker / carpenter, who lived at 54 Abbottstown [Street]. See the York City and County Directory: 1894 – 1895. See... p. 266. The similarities in overall construction, minus the fine details, as well as the painterly style and techniques could easily be accounted for if the cupboard was created by C. Moul, Jr.

From the beginning of his career John Rupp was a talented furniture painter. This is not to say that all his furniture was painted, nor was all his furniture painted with exuberance and in the most fashionable graining styles. Some of his furniture was painted basically with a single color. The red and maroon colors he used were quite common for the period and region. Even though Hanover was not an Amish community, comparing Rupp's color and design choices to those of an Amish, Henry Lapp (1862-1904), of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the similarities are quite noticeable. A drawing produced by Henry Lapp, shows a freely painted, book matched graining over a red base coat on the drawer fronts of a slant-front desk.¹⁰⁰ (Figure 3.1) Rupp followed this same technique on many of the drawer fronts for his chests of drawers and door fronts on the lower half of his corner cupboards and on his sideboards.

Another widely known area for Pennsylvania painted furniture is Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and the area of Conenaugh Township in Soap Hollow Valley. Employing the ground paint as a main point of reference, along with the glaze color, Rupp used nearly identical colors and some of the same graining techniques as Somerset and Soap Hollow Valley cabinetmakers. However, Rupp is not known to use stenciling for which the cabinetmakers and furniture painters of the Soap Hollow Valley area are known.

¹⁰⁰ Beatrice Garvan, *A Craftsman's Handbook, Henry Lapp*, (Intercourse, Pennsylvania, Good Books, 1991), Plate 9.

Somerset County was home to more than just Soap Hollow cabinetmakers. A father and son duo, Jacob and Elias Knagy, also came from the county and produced pieces of furniture that are extremely similar to those of John Rupp. Not only is the paint a close resemblance, but the overall look of some of their pieces could easily be misinterpreted as coming from the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory. The legs used by Knagy are nearly identical to those found on furniture signed by Rupp. (Figure 3.2)

Focusing on York County, Pennsylvania, two other cabinetmakers are quite often recognized for their paint finishes: the first being George Hay (1809 – 1879) from North Beaver Street, and the second, N. Helfrich who worked on South Queen Street, both in the city of York, Pennsylvania.

George Hay, like many York County cabinetmakers, painted his plank bottom chairs with either cherries or flowers on the back splat and a dark undertone of graining with bold trim lines often in yellow ochre running down the top edges of the plank seat. Another line worked as a front trim or imaginary frill squaring off the front edge of the plank.

Helfrich on the other hand, was known for his graining techniques. Helfrich's and Rupp's graining, intended to imitate actual wood grain, appear quite similar to one another.

When Rupp was creating his often ostentatious graining, a peacock feather-like curl would often appear on the ends of the painted graining. (Figure 3.3) Even though much of John Rupp's painted furniture looks so

similar in painterly style to those of Hay, Helfrick, Knagy and Lapp, just to name a few, there is no evidence that Rupp ever knew any of these other cabinetmakers himself. Assumptions most certainly can be made that Rupp at least knew of Gitt, and probably knew Gitt quite well as an associate in the same profession since they worked in the same town during the mid-nineteenth century. With so many cabinetmakers in southern Pennsylvania working from the same traditions, understandably there is a large amount of painted furniture that looks so similar.

John Rupp painted in a variety of manners, from austere and solid, to exquisite and exuberant, and everything in between.¹⁰¹ In his early years as a cabinetmaker, his brush strokes were quite refined when creating rosewood or crotch mahogany graining.¹⁰² On quite a few occasions Rupp would create his rosewood simulations with a liberal hand, combing shades of Vandyke brown and blacks over a burnt sienna base. It is unknown what pattern books he may have owned, but both graining techniques for rosewood are pictured in color plates in Nathaniel Whittock's *The Decorative Painters' and Glazers' Guide* published in 1827.¹⁰³ Whittock's book is one of many on the topic known to exist during the early part of the nineteenth century. The use

¹⁰¹ Examples of differing manners of painting can be viewed in the following illustration figures: figure 4.1, figure 4.5, figure 4.10, figure 4.12, and figure 4.13.

¹⁰² One of the earliest signed and dated pieces found was a pie safe dated 1847 which is painted in a very refined, detailed manner almost as if to make sure he did not miss a single grain line in the wood.

¹⁰³ Whittock, *The Decorative Painters'*, Plate X, Plate XII.

of color plates in Whittock's book makes it one of the more detailed books available, but others that may have been more widely used in America include Jacob B. Moore's *The Cabinet-Maker's Guide*, of 1827, who was the second author in America to publish identical texts. (do you mean same book as Whittock's or just similar topics?) And, the first publication of *The Cabinet-Maker's Guide* in America was in 1825, by Ansel Phelps of Greenfield, Massachusetts, who actually copied a London edition of the same year.¹⁰⁴

Rupp's color usage included blacks, browns reds and yellows, often over a white base. The white base was used most often if he was planning to have yellows in the undertones; as the base coat would allow the yellows to visually pop, or jump off the surface of the furniture. Mahogany graining can be attained with the use of many different colors, and each cabinetmaker had his own recipes. One of the earliest American books on graining was *Every Man His Own Painter* by W. & T. J. Towers published in 1830. Towers describes sixteen different colors that can be used to create mahogany graining.¹⁰⁵ An interesting side note to Towers' recipes reads, "Virtually all the pigments on... painted furniture – some of them organic – were

¹⁰⁴ Robert D. Mussey, Jr. *The First American Furniture Finisher's Manual*, (Mineola, New York, Dover Publications, Inc. 1987), p. xiii.

¹⁰⁵ Scott T. Swank, *Arts of the Pennsylvania Germans*, (New York, W.W. Norton), 134.

commercially available in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. None of them had to have been homemade from local materials.”¹⁰⁶

Not until cottage furniture became popular in the early 1860s, did Rupp significantly change any of his painterly palette and techniques. Often the only difference in Rupp’s regular painted furniture and that described as being in the cottage style was the design of the visual effect painted on the surface. On cottage style furniture John Rupp started to do stippling inside an oval or partial oval form to represent an inlay design. This style of painting was almost solely used on his chests of drawers and sideboards, across the front and on the side panels. Unlike true inlays, Rupp’s painterly style for simulating inlay was much more imaginative than nature could ever create naturally.

As with many furniture painters, John Rupp never painted areas of furniture that could not be easily seen. On chairs, it is rare to see the stretchers ever fully painted since usually the underside is missed. The same applies to the back sides of spindles and turned legs. The bottoms of the seat planks on chairs only have paint on them from the painting of the legs, or to test a color to make sure it was of an accurate tint to be used. Other pieces of furniture, such as blanket chests, tables, and chests of drawers are all painted as expected; the visible areas are painted, and those areas typically not seen such as interiors, under sides, and backs are not painted.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

Painted corner cupboards and jelly cupboards by Rupp are rather interesting though. While it is understandable to paint the gallery in a glass front corner cupboard, Rupp also would grain paint the inside of the mullions on his doors. Even on a solid door, because it would be opened and the inside of the door could be seen by persons other than the user, John Rupp would more often than not grain paint the interior of a solid door. Because the corner cupboard is a more expensive piece of furniture than a table or chairs, Rupp would often paint the interior of the gallery to help show off the wares stored inside. This was a common practice among cabinetmakers in the nineteenth century.

Graining and solid colors were certainly the most common styles of furniture painting that John Rupp completed, but on his seating furniture the decoration was a little more complex. It is not known if he painted the floral decoration on the back splats of his chairs and rockers himself or had one of the many chair makers and painters in Hanover do it for him. As with his other furniture, not every chair was painted the same. While some had the floral design centered on the splats, and others had small groupings of cherries on the splats, just as many were grain painted or painted a solid color. Much of the decision on how to paint probably came down to price, as a more elaborately painted surface would take more time to create.

Many of John Rupp's painterly techniques can be found in multiple sources. Where he learned to paint furniture is uncertain. He could have

learned his painting skills during his apprenticeship under Conrad Moul, or possibly on his own. It is known that Rupp carried out his own graining instead of hiring out this task and because he painted his own furniture, painterly techniques of original finishes are of utmost importance to understand and recognize painted furniture from the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ The painter's toolbox of John Rupp was sold in the beginning years of the twenty-first century to an independent cabinetmaker in Thurmont, MD. The toolbox descended through family descendants of John Rupp until this sale.

Chapter Four – Painted Furniture of the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory

John Rupp advertised many forms of furniture. On January 10, 1851, his advertisement in *The Hanover Spectator* included descriptions, albeit general, of over thirty-five different products.¹⁰⁸ Many of these forms have not been discovered and most of them are very hard to find with a signature. Some of the forms he described in the advertisement do exist with signatures, but in limited quantity. The remainder of this chapter is an analysis of such furniture as well as how it fits in the history of the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory.

Bureaus

The bureau, or chest of drawers, was promoted by John Rupp ever since his first advertisement in April of 1838. In this advertisement, Rupp promoted his bureaus “at various prices.”¹⁰⁹ By 1845 Rupp changed the descriptive terms pertaining to bureaus in his advertisement to, “Bureaus, of all descriptions.”¹¹⁰ In 1847, Rupp finally described his bureaus with more detail in a German language advertisement, “Bureaus mit Säulen,” which

¹⁰⁸ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement] “Now is the Time for Bargains!”, January 10, 1851.

¹⁰⁹ *Hanover Herald*, [Advertisement – No Title], April 7, 1838.

¹¹⁰ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement] “Look This Way!”, January 29, 1845.

translates to bureaus with pillars.¹¹¹ By 1859, he changed the wording another time in his advertisement, creating an even more extensive listing, “Dressing bureaus, scroll bureaus, common bureaus as low as \$10.”¹¹² Advocating his low prices again on February 1, 1861, in a list format advertisement promoting the large variety of furniture made in his shop, Rupp states, “Dressing, scroll and common bureaus, very cheap.”¹¹³

The bureau was a mainstay of John Rupp’s cabinet business, as least according to its active promotion in advertisements. But the design and construction techniques that John Rupp used for his bureaus were in many aspects not unique at all. His bureaus are joined panel construction with an overhung top drawer in the Empire tradition, have applied turned ball front feet and include four drawers.(Figure 4.1) The top overhung drawer and the bottom drawer are the largest, often with very similar height dimensions varying only an inch at most. The middle two drawers are graduated to progress larger towards the bottom drawer. Tulip poplar, also known as the American tulip tree, was Rupp’s wood of choice, as both the primary and secondary wood when the bureau was to be painted. Tulip poplar was both readily accessible in the Hanover area and was traditionally known as a fairly inexpensive and common softwood that took paint easily.

¹¹¹ Hanover Gazette, [Advertisement – No Title], February 24, 1847, (Translation by Georg P. Scholz, August 22, 2007).

¹¹² *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement – No Title], February 4, 1859.

¹¹³ *Hanover Spectator*, “Furniture! Furniture! Furniture! Furniture!”, February 1, 1861.

The common bureaus that are advertised by Rupp most often were built with applied half baluster turnings on either side of the drawers below the overhung drawer. (Figure 4.2) Because of the preciseness of the turnings, along with finding nearly identical turning on pieces of furniture by other cabinetmakers in the Hanover area, the evidence strongly supports the assertion that they did not come from Rupp's Manufactory, but were instead purchased from an outside turner in the area. Nearly identical split applied baluster turnings were found on a bureau signed on the back, "Jos. A. Renauts / Cheap Cabinet Room / Hanover, Penna." (Figure 4.3) Renaut apprenticed under his father, Francis Renaut, as a cabinetmaker, and operated his shop, Renaut's Cheap Cabinet Wareroom, on Carlisle Street in Hanover, Pennsylvania, about four and a half blocks from Rupp's Cabinet Manufactory on Frederick Street.¹¹⁴ Joseph Renaut operated the Renaut business from c.1855 to c.1915.¹¹⁵

These same turnings also show up on the top and bottom halves of corner cupboards by a cabinetmaker currently known as the Abbottstown Cabinetmaker. The same assertion is made for the turned ball feet John Rupp used on the fronts of his bureaus. The turned ball feet used by Rupp on his bureaus, identical in all dimensions, were found on the previously discussed Renaut bureau as well.

¹¹⁴ John R. McGrew, "List of Hanover Retailer License, 1851 – 1921," typed manuscript, 2003, possession of author, 42.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 40.

The turned and split balusters used by John Rupp differ from time to time in the number of lower rings, numbering from eight to ten, but it is believe that he always used balusters with only two upper rings, as all the documented pieces had only two upper rings. The balusters tapered and varied in length between sixteen and eighteen inches.

The turned ball feet on all documented Rupp bureaus were between five and seven-eighths and six inches in height, and three or three and one-half inches in diameter. (Figure 4.4) To attain exactness like this on ten different sets of feet, including those on signed Rupp bureaus as well as on those of the signed Renaut bureau, the maker had to be a seasoned and regular turner, or an early version of a programmable lathe would have to have been used. Either scenario is possible and argues against Rupp making his own feet as the equipment to make them would have been too expensive to purchase unless the cost could be recovered in a reasonable amount of time. Because of the variety of furniture produced in Rupp's Cabinet Manufactory, setting one person full time on a lathe also was not financially feasible.

Besides the regularities in the turnings used by John Rupp on his bureaus, there are several other regularities found in his bureau construction. First, looking at the case, the entire carcass is put together with lap, dado, and butt joints. The sides of Rupp's bureaus always have a single flat recessed panel that fits in a lapped joint surrounding the frame.

The tops of his bureaus are nailed onto the case. The rear feet are tapered front to back towards the bottom with an added front wedge of wood on the single posts that make up each rear corner of the bureau. Glue blocks were often used on the vertical inside corners of the case; the length usually averaging six to eight inches. They were rarely used in horizontal joints, and none were found on the bureaus documented for this study.

Drawers on Rupp's bureaus tell more of a detailed construction story. As John Rupp used nails profusely to construct the cases of his bureaus, only dovetails were used to join all four corners of the drawers. The only time nails were used on a drawer built by Rupp was when a molding was placed on the front edge of the top drawer, or to hold porcelain escutcheons on the fronts of the drawers. Dovetails are very consistent in bureaus created by Rupp. Dovetail pins on the front boards of the drawers are consistently three-eighths of an inch wide at their ends with at most a sixteenth of an inch variance. The half pins on the top and bottom measure one-half to five-eighths of an inch in width at the widest point. This is very significant because in comparison the pins on the signed Renaut bureau were all larger than the pins on the Rupp bureaus.

Another identifying detail on Rupp's drawers is that the rear dovetail corner is chamfered along the vertical edge and the back board is always shorter in height than the other three sides; usually by about one-half inch.

The final drawer detail associated with Rupp is that the bottoms are chamfered as well. This chamfering was by either hand plane or sometimes by saw, so a drawer created by Rupp cannot be attributed by its chamfered bottom alone, which was commonly done by many cabinetmakers.

Chairs

Grain painting was Rupp's primary style of furniture decoration, but it was not his only style. The majority of plank bottom chairs that were found for this study were grain painted in Van Dyke Browns, dark reds, and blacks, but they also featured decorative overpaint that included floral designs on the splats and bright yellow stripes, or borders, on the seats. Of the fourteen chairs, including rockers, studied with original paint, two were decorated with only graining, or in a solid paint where the graining may have worn away.

Advertisements placed by John Rupp are an interesting read with reference to seating furniture. On January 10, 1851, he placed an advertisement in *The Hanover Spectator* that pictured a line drawing of a sofa. Besides the picture, he states, "Spendid SOFAS, Hair Cloth covering spring seats, handsomely tuffed, at exceedingly low prices – that can't be beat. Spring seat Mahogany ROCKING CHAIRS, Parlor Rocking CHAIRS, richly covered with plush...." but there is absolutely no mention in the advertisement of dining room, or kitchen chairs whatsoever.¹¹⁶ This is not

¹¹⁶ *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement – No Title], January 10, 1851.

the only time that John Rupp skipped over some of what were his most common products. His very first advertisement on April 7, 1838, makes absolutely no mention of chairs of any type at all.¹¹⁷ And Rupp's German language advertisement of February 24, 1847, includes line drawings of rocking chairs and mentions sofas and rocking chairs in the text, but again, no mention of the dining or kitchen chairs that are quite common to find today, over 150 years after he made them.¹¹⁸

The first mention of chairs in a publication was a German advertisement that John Rupp ran, starting on February 3, 1859, and continuing for several weeks.¹¹⁹ An English advertisement, started one day later on February 4, 1859, is a close translation. After listing fourteen different types of furniture, in a vertical list format, the following verbiage was in sentence form, "CHAIRS of different styles, which I am prepared to sell 15 percent lower than the same kind of article has ever been sold for in this place."¹²⁰ It is known that John Rupp did sell chairs *of different styles* before the advertisement was printed, but what is not know is if he sold

¹¹⁷ *Hanover Herald*, [Advertisement] "Fashionable Cabinet Manufactory," April 7, 1838.

¹¹⁸ *Hanover Gazette*, [Advertisement – No Title], February 24, 1847.

¹¹⁹ *Der Hanover Citizen*. [Advertisement – No Title.] February 3, 1859.

¹²⁰ *The Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement – No Title], February 4, 1859.

chairs when he first went into business for himself.¹²¹ In 1838, the year of his first advertisement, many chairmakers were placing advertisements. By 1860, not a single chairmaker was advertising in the local newspapers anymore. By that time furniture manufacturers and dealers made and sold chairs and other furniture alike.¹²² As customers turned away from chairmaking specialists, John Rupp may not have originally made chairs, but instead started producing them at a later date.

By the 1870s Rupp's advertisements became simpler and more direct, but always mentioned chairs. An advertisement in the *Hanover Herald* on July 27, 1872, read:

John Rupp,
 Manufacturer of and dealer in
 FINE FURNITURE.
 Frederick Street, Hanover, Pa.

All kinds of Furniture on hand, such as
 Bedsteads, Tables, Chairs, Washstands, Bu-
 reaus, Wardrobes, &c.¹²³

Notice how in this advertisement chairs were no longer listed as the last item, nor are the items alphabetical, but instead chairs hold their own

¹²¹ An advertisement that first ran on January 10, 1851, in *The Hanover Spectator* lists multiple types of rocking chairs as well as stating that Rupp's shop, "embraces every article of house furniture..." which would include common chairs.

¹²² *Hanover Spectator*, [Advertisement – No Title,], November 5, 1860. This date was chosen at random for the year 1860, as not a single chair maker advertised in the *Hanover Spectator* during the year even though warerooms and cabinet makers both advertised chairs throughout the year.

¹²³ *Hanover Herald*, [Advertisement – No Title], July 27, 1872.

position in the middle of the list. Finally, by stating “on hand” there is no reference as to which pieces are manufactured by the Rupp cabinet shop and which pieces are sold by the shop and manufactured elsewhere.

In 1877, in the *Authentic General Directory of the Boroughs of York, Hanover & Wrightsville, York County, PA.*, for 1877, John Rupp gave chairs the limelight in an eighth of a page advertisement. The advertisement read, “Homemade and city furniture, a large and complete stock always on hand, which will be sold at the lowest price.”¹²⁴ But for the first and only time there was a line drawing of different styles of seating furniture all floating around a central bench.¹²⁵ These illustrations were probably stock images used in a variety of advertisements, but it was the only time that Rupp even had images of regular side chairs in his advertisement.

An analysis of side chairs, rocking and plank bottom, signed *Rupp* revealed a strong consistency in construction technique. For this analysis, two sets of six, small, plank bottom chairs, one set of large plank bottom chairs, and a rocking chair, all signed, were examined. (Figure 4.5) The 12 smaller chairs and the rocking chair are all in their original paint, while the six larger chairs have later paint on them.

Just as the majority of John Rupp’s painted furniture was made from tulip poplar wood, his chairs were as well. The plank bottoms on Rupp’s

¹²⁴ *Authentic General Directory* (York, PA, Herman & Miller and Thomas, 1877), 116.

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

chairs are always glued up, usually consisting of three boards, but finding four boards is not unheard of. While the plank bottom chairs were often designed with yoke-shaped crest rails, this was not necessarily always the case as can be seen on the set of six chairs that have been repainted. (Figure 4.6) Rupp's rocking chairs are very similar to his plank bottom chairs, but one of the examples examined actually has a Windsor style back with a bowed arch support and five spindles. (Figure 4.7)

A key characteristic found on every chair used in this study is a set of three incised rings on the upper portion of each front leg. These rings, are roughly halfway between the bottom of the seat and the stretcher, and in general, each ring is between one-half and three-fourths of an inch wide, but typically closer to three-fourths of an inch. At times, the bands are more rounded, while others are cut in and are flat on the surface. On the twelve small plank bottom chairs, the turnings are closer to the seat than the front stretcher, and they are also found on the stiles.

The triple bands are not the only bands found on the Rupp chairs. Quite often he would add an additional incised band, or two, on the bottom of the front leg before tapering the end. Bands are also regularly found on the stiles as stated before, but these incised bands vary in size and in number. The final location for bands on Rupp chairs are on the front stretchers. The low end models typically would not have any turnings on the stretchers, but

both the larger plank bottom chairs and the rocking chair in this group of signed examples have such turnings.

The stretchers are actually one of the most consistent parts of all Rupp furniture. Every stretcher examined in this study for the left, right, and back sides of the chairs was three-fourths of an inch in diameter. Rupp always places the left and right side stretchers parallel and lower than the front and back stretchers, which are parallel as well, but because the seat is slanted from front to back, the rear stretcher appears visually higher than the front stretcher.

John Rupp used a variety of forms for his back splats. The three documented sets of chairs studied all have different shaped splats, but one commonality is that they all have straight sides, perpendicular to the crest rail at the point where they enter the crest rail. This is a detail that varies from cabinetmaker to cabinetmaker in York County, Pennsylvania. For example, George Hay always sharply tapered the sides on the top of his back splats before they joined into the crest rail of his chairs. (Figure 4.8) Many York County chairs have the tapered splat, but few taper as sharply as George Hay's splats.

A handwritten postcard from W. Cross, Cross and Duntraces, postmarked Baltimore, Maryland, and dated June 9, 1885, proves that even as John Rupp was getting older, the chair remained an important part of the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory and orders were strong: (Figure 4.9)

Balto June 9th, 1885

Uncle John,

Can you get us some of those County
Rockers, say 1 [one] doz[en] if you
will we will send you check on receipt. Yours
of Cross + Duntraces.

W. Cross¹²⁶

324 W. Balto. St. (written vertically down the left
side)

Notice the use of the word *get* in the first sentence; as M. Cross did not ask Uncle John to *make* some of those County Rockers, but instead get some of those County Rockers. Even though there is some ambiguity with the word usage, this postcard is just one more piece of evidence that not necessarily all that was sold by Rupp was made by Rupp.

Tables

In the dozen or more different advertisements that John Rupp had printed, the table was one of the most prolifically promoted pieces. In the January 10, 1851, advertisement, Rupp promoted, “Mahogany or rosewood pillar or pier tables, mahogany center tables, with marble or mahogany tops... end table, mahogany or cherry, dining, breakfast, and common kitchen tables, all sizes,” With Rupp focusing so much of his space on tables, almost one-quarter of the lines that describe furniture, they must have been a staple of his business. Ironically, only a few signed tables are known to exist; even fewer are painted.

¹²⁶ W. Cross to John Rupp, Baltimore, Maryland, June 9, 1885. Collection of the Hanover Historical Society, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

Two commonalities exist between the known Rupp painted tables that exist. (Figure 4.10) First, the legs are similar. Table legs used by Rupp are turned and have a ring turning with four rings just below the bottom of the table skirt right after the leg turning begins. The legs continue straight down to finish in an arrow foot. Unlike the refined look of a table made in an urban setting such as Baltimore or Philadelphia, Rupp's table has a look of heaviness with the legs having a wider diameter than necessary.

The second commonality found on Rupp's painted tables deals with drop-leaf tables. Where the leaf and the table top join, the inside edges are flat in the butt joint. (Figure 4.11) Many drop-leaf tables would normally have a rule joint to allow the table to look finished with rounded edges even when the leaves are down. Not a single painted Rupp table is known to have a rule joint. The main reason for this is that paint has depth, and depth takes up space. If a rule joint were cut onto one of Rupp's painted tables, first the paint would wear quickly, and second, the leaf would not open completely and properly unless enough space were allowed for the applied paint. Making a butt joint was easier and cheaper than making a rule joint.

Work Stands

The work stands fall into their own category and are only mentioned twice -- in Rupp's first two advertisements.¹²⁷ The two key characteristics of

¹²⁷ Hanover Herald, "Fashionable Cabinet Manufactory," April 7, 1838. & *Hanover Spectator*, "Look This Way!", January 29, 1846.

Rupp's painted work tables are first that the majority of them have the same legs as his drop leaf tables with the four rings and an arrow foot. (Figure 4.12) And second, they have the same three-eighths of an inch dovetail pins in the drawers as his chests of drawers. As with almost every cabinetmaker, there are exceptions to the rule and this is true of Rupp's furniture as well. A quite rare signed work table has been found with legs that do not resemble any on surviving Rupp furniture, yet the dovetail pins and carcass construction are extremely reminiscent of other pieces of documented Rupp furniture. (Figure 4.13)

Corner Cupboards

Many corner cupboards are attributed to John Rupp, yet like with his tables, few are signed. From his second advertisement in 1845, Rupp was already promoting corner cupboards made in his shop.¹²⁸ In south central Pennsylvania, almost every red, grain painted corner cupboard is attributed to John Rupp, most falsely. While Rupp did make quiet a few that still exist today, many of the falsely attributed ones were made by the Abbottstown cabinetmaker, Gitt, Renaut, or one of many other local cabinetmakers in York and Adams Counties.

What is known about Rupp's corner cupboards is that he made the top half with both single and double doors. (Figure 4.14) He also alternated between flat top doors and arched doors, but when grain painted, he always

¹²⁸ *Hanover Spectator*, "Look This Way!", January 29, 1846.

grain painted the inside of the doors like the outside so when a door was opened, there would be continuity with what was visible. The inside of the top was often painted in a robin-egg blue, a cream, or another light color to contrast with the outside of the cupboard and accent the items stored within. The cornice also is flat. It layers like staggered shallow steps with from two to over five separate levels. The most elaborate cornice on a Rupp corner cupboard may have a rabbet cut make up the largest overhanging top level. (Figure 4.15) Overall, the cornice is of quite simple construction, and the only curve in it is a small cove tying the upper carcass and the cornice together.

The lower portion of a Rupp corner cupboard consists of three drawers over a split double door cabinet. The one construction technique that is found on Rupp's corner cupboards, and not on any other cabinetmaker's pieces yet seen, is a small block of wood placed on the front face of the cupboard just to the outside of the upper left corner of the left drawer and the upper right corner of the right hand side drawer. As the front of the lower section of the cupboard follows the line of the upper section, the direct front façade of the cabinet except for roughly the outer two inches, is slightly set back. (Figure 4.16) On the left and right of this set back, on the top of the front façade, is where these blocks are located, yet the interior of the cupboard does not follow the lines of the exterior, and this block is not seen as piercing through

the carcass at all. (Figure 4.17) The only explanation for using this block is as a type of signature that John Rupp used in his construction.

Rupp's corner cupboards, like his bureaus, have ball feet on the front. The feet on the corner cupboards are shorter and slightly more stout than those on a bureau for durability and due to the greater weight they must support. Typically, Rupp corner cupboards are similar to his bureaus in that they both usually use porcelain knobs and escutcheons, but glass knobs and wood knobs and escutcheons have been seen on Rupp pieces as well. One distinct difference between his bureaus and corner cupboards is that while they both have drawer stops, and they both have drawers that sit flush with the surface, the drawers, as well as the doors, on the cupboard are known to regularly have a cock beading. A beading is something that Rupp never placed on his bureaus, but a beaded trim piece around the top drawer was some times used as can be seen in Figure 4.1.

CONCLUSION

While John Rupp lived a long and prosperous life, starting his own business around the age of thirty and running it for nearly sixty years until his death, he also lived a very hard life. Often one hears that the hardest thing to do in life is to bury your own child. John and his wife had to bury four of their eight children, and three of them were reaching towards the prime of their lives: thirteen, twenty-three and twenty-four years of age. The fourth burial was just as hard as Florabella was just a year and a half old when her last breath was taken.

But living in the nineteenth-century was quite different than life in the twenty-first century. What is now considered a slower way of life is misunderstood, for technological advancements are rarely thought of as mechanisms of advancing the current speed at which life is lived; they are most often an afterthought. In nineteenth-century Hanover the horse and carriage was the main mode of travel, at least until the train came to town in the late 1860s. The newspaper was four pages in length, even the week after the Battle of Hanover took place when there was so much news to be reported. Murders rarely if ever occurred. By rediscovering the life of one man, one family, one business, life in small rural Pennsylvania communities and towns during the nineteenth century can be better understood.

John Rupp was not the only cabinetmaker in Hanover during his life, but he is probably one of the only cabinetmakers that collectors of Pennsylvania furniture know about today. Through expanding the knowledge of Rupp's life, business, and furniture, more Hanover cabinetmakers hopefully can be recognized. All too often in the discovery of pieces of furniture only the entire piece is seen without knowledge of the individual parts that makes it whole. The details in these individual parts and nuances in the whole, are what define its unique maker's hand.

Sadly, John Rupp's hand, or at least his signature, has become valuable in the twenty-first century. Those pieces found with original John Rupp signatures are difficult enough to distinguish as to which John Rupp made them. Since many collectors prize the signature on a bureau or a corner cupboard, that they are willing to pay a higher price without authenticating the piece as a Rupp piece. Auctioneers and dealers have been known to alter signatures to hopefully pass pieces of furniture off as being made by Rupp. And if a piece of furniture is found in a similar style as those made by Rupp, attributions are freely mentioned.

In the 1880 United States Census, there were three residents of Hanover with the name John Rupp. More confusing, all three were listed as cabinetmakers. Two of the three are father and son as written about here, but as for the third, living only doors down the street from John Rupp, Jr., very little is known.

All fourteen pieces of furniture used in this study have signatures. Thirty to forty more pieces of furniture were uncovered during the research process that have attributions to John Rupp, but not nearly as many of them turned out to be actually made by Rupp. A few pieces were discovered with altered or forged signatures. Altering a piece of furniture is like removing a little part of the maker's life. Hard work, sweat, and sometimes even a little blood went into the creation of every piece of furniture made at the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory. Rupp's furniture was made by hand and this must always be remembered because in the present age of automation and technology where almost everything is made by machine, the maker's hand is often forgotten. In handmade construction technique and style, there will always be variants.

Through reading John Rupp's advertisements for apprentices and the one runaway, a little door into the quality of life that John lived was opened. *Good moral habits* that he listed in his 1847 advertisement are what he believed in, not *strong indignation, cruelty and severity* as he described Abraham Houser, the runaway he advertised for in 1848. As headlined in the lengthy obituary, printed in both the *Evening Herald* and *The Hanover Spectator*, with his death came the, "Close of an upright and industrious life."¹²⁹

¹²⁹ Evening Herald, "An Aged Citizen Dead," August 21, 1899.

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APPENDIX I: Rupp Advertisements, Articles, and Editorials

- Figure 1: *Hanover Herald*. [Advertisement] “Fashionable Cabinet Manufactory.” April 7, 1838.
- Figure 2: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Look This Way!” January 29, 1845.
- Figure 3: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “\$1,00 Reward.” February 5, 1845.
- Figure 4: *Hanover Gazette*. [Advertisement – No Title.] February 24, 1847.
- Figure 5: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Wanted Immediately.” December 29, 1847.
- Figure 6: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “6 Cents Reward.” April 29, 1848.
- Figure 7: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title.] November 23, 1849.
- Figure 8: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Now is the time for Bargains!” January 10, 1851.
- Figure 9: *Der Hanover Citizen*. [Advertisement – No Title.] February 3, 1859.
- Figure 10: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title.] February 4, 1859.
- Figure 11: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Handsome Furniture.” March 11, 1859.
- Figure 12: *The Hanover Spectator*. Obituary, “Died.” November 29, 1860.
- Figure 13: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title.] February 4, 1860.
- Figure 14: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Beautiful Articles of Furniture.” May 25, 1860.

Figure 15: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Hanover Ahead.” October 19, 1860.

Figure 16: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Furniture.” December 14, 1860.

Figure 17: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Acceptable Gifts.” December 28, 1860.

Figure 18: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Furniture! Furniture! Furniture! Furniture!” February 1, 1861.

Figure 19: *The Hanover Spectator*. Obituary, “Died.” December 16, 1869.

Figure 20: *Der Hanover Citizen*. Obituary for George F. Rupp. December 18, 1869.

Figure 21: *Hanover Herald*. [Advertisement – No Title.] July 27, 1872.

Figure 22: *Authentic General Directory of the Boroughs of York, Hanover & Wrightsville, York County, PA., for 1877*. York, PA: Herman & Miller and Thomas, 1877. Page 116.

Figure 23: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title.] December 18, 1878.


Figure 24: *The Hanover Spectator*. “His 80th Milestone.” October 19, 1889.

Figure 25: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Our Sick.” January 9, 1890.

Figure 26: *Evening Herald*. Obituary, “Death of Mrs. John Rupp.” April 3, 1895.

Figure 27: *Evening Herald*. Obituary, “An Aged Citizen Dead.” August 21, 1899.

Figure 28: *Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly*. “People Talked About.” November 18, 1899.



**Fashionable Cabinet
MANUFACTORY.**

Johnson, in acknowledgement of the encouragement heretofore received, respectfully informs his friends and the public that he continues to carry on the above business, in Frederick street, Hanover, (at the stand formerly occupied by Mr. C. Moul,) in all its various branches. Persons wishing to purchase, would do well by calling on him, as he is prepared to make, at short notice, all kinds of handsome furniture, such as

SIDE BOARDS, at various prices; BUREAUS, do. do.; Mahogany, Maple, Cherry, and Poplar BEDSTEADS; Card, Elliptic, Dining, Breakfast, and other TABLES; WARDROBES, SECRETARIES, Desks, BOOK CASES, WORK STANDS, WASH STANDS, and every other article in his line of business: An assortment of Furniture, suitable for housekeepers and others, is constantly kept on hand.

No pains will be spared to give general satisfaction to all those who will favor him with their custom, and his work in all cases warranted to be finished in the most elegant and substantial manner. His charges will be such as cannot fail to give satisfaction.

Hanover, April 7, 1838.

Figure 1: *Hanover Herald*. [Advertisement] "Fashionable Cabinet Manufactory." April 7, 1838.

LOOK THIS WAY!

JOHN RUFF,
CABINET MAKER,

RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Hanover and its vicinity, that he still continues the above business, at his old stand in Frederick street, where he is prepared to make every variety of Furniture, in the latest style of fashion, of the best materials, and at the lowest possible prices, viz:

Sideboards, Secretaries, Sofas, Pier, Pillar, End, Centre, Reading, Dining and Breakfast TABLES, BUREAUS, of all descriptions, Work and Wash Stands, Mahogany Piano Stools, Spring Seat Rocking Chairs, High, French and Low Post.

BEDSTEADS, &c.

Warranted for *strength and style of finish*, superior to any heretofore offered in this place.

He hopes by strict attention to business and a disposition to please, to merit and receive a liberal share of patronage.

N. B. COFFINS made and funerals attended either in town or country, at the shortest notice.

COUNTRY PRODUCE taken in exchange for Furniture, at market prices.

Hanover, January 29, 1845.

Figure 2: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "Look This Way!" January 29, 1845.

\$1,000 Reward!

STRAYED or stolen from the subscriber, residing in the Borough of Hanover, on Monday, the 27th of January, a large

White Setter Dog,

with no particular marks on him, with the exception of a few *brownish* spots on his ears, by which he may easily be known. Any person returning said Dog, or giving information of his whereabouts, so that he may get him again, will receive the above reward.

JOHN RUPP.

Hanover, February 5, 1845.

Figure 3: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "\$1,000 Reward." February 5, 1845.

Johann Nupp,
Cabinetmacher in Hannover;

Nimmt sich die Freiheit seinen Freunden und Kunden, und dem verehrlichen Publikum überhaupt erachensl. anzugeben, daß er noch immer seine Werkst. Stelle in der Friedrichs Straße fortführt, wo er jederzeit bereit ist

Hausgeräthe

aller Art auf die neueste Weise, und nach der allernuesten Mode zu fertigen, und vertritt sich dafür, daß dasselbe so gut wenn nicht schöner als einiges in der Stadt anachtere gemacht werden soll—bestehend zum Theil aus

Seitentische (Sideboards), Secrétaires, Sofas, Bureaus mit Säulen,

Bureaus mit halben Säulen, Mahagoni Bureaus so niedrig als 13 Thaler, ordinaire Bureaus, runde Tische, Eichen-Tische, Eise-Stände, Arbeits- und Wasch-Stände, Webe-Tische, Mahagoni Piano Stühle, Gschränke, Küchenschränke, Kleiderschränke, &c.

Schöne, französische, und halb französische

Bettläden,

von Eichen, Eichen, Eichen, und andern gezeigten Holze, aufs prächtigste gearbeitet.

Wiegens-Stühle mit Federsitzen, (Rocking Chairs.)

Er macht auch auf kurze Anzeige

Särge oder Todtenläden,

und wohnt Begräbnissen in der Stadt oder auf dem Lande bey.

Er stellt für den bleibet erhaltenen liberalen Anspruch seinen verbindlichen Dank ab, und hofft durch milderbohte Arbeit, geschwinde Bedienung, und möglichst billige Preise sich das Guttrauen oder Verlangen zu erwerben, welche ihn mit ihrer Kundschafft beehren sellen.

Alle Arten von Landesproducte werden für Arbeit in Zahlung anachommen.


Hannover, den 24ten Februar, 1847.

Figure 4: *Hanover Gazette*. [Advertisement – No Title.] February 24, 1847.

Wanted Immediately.
A N APPRENTICE to learn the Cabinet
Making Business—a young man from 16
to 18 years of age, of good moral habits, will
find a situation by applying to
JOHN RUPP.
Hanover, Dec. 29, 1847.

Figure 5: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Wanted Immediately.” December 29, 1847.

6 CENTS REWARD.



RAN AWAY from the subscriber residing in the Borough of Hanover, Abraham Houser, an indentured apprentice to the Cabinet Making business. I hereby forwarn all persons from crediting said individual, as I am no longer responsible for any debts which he might contract. His height is about five feet seven inches, and is between 19 and 20 years of age. His character which is not very exemplary is strongly depicted in his countenance. Strong indignation, cruelty and severity proves his most prominent characteristics.

The above reward will be paid for his apprehension—but no thanks.

April 28. JOHN RUPP.

Figure 6: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “6 Cents Reward.” April 29, 1848.

Hanover, Nov. 30, 1849.

JOHN RUPP
CABINET-MAKER,
FREDERICK STREET, HANOVER, P. M.

TAPESTRY, this opportunity of tendering
 his thanks to the public for the very libe-
 ral encouragement heretofore extended to him,
 and would respectfully request them that he con-
 tinues to manufacture at his new shop on Fred-
 erick street, 8 doors below William Grove's
 Jewell Store.

SOFAS, Centre Tables,
Card do.
Par do.
Sofa do.
Dining do.
Breakfast do.
Bureaus,
Writing Bureaus,
Bedsteads,
Washstands,
Wardrobes, &c.
Malagony Rocking Chairs,
 with many other articles usually manufactured
 in his line of business, made of the very best
 materials, and at prices which will defy com-
 petition.

Persons wishing to purchase good Furniture
 would do well to call on the subscriber before
 purchasing elsewhere.

Hanover, Nov. 23, 1849.

An APPRENTICE to learn the above
 business will be taken, if application is made
 soon. None need apply unless possessing good
 and correct morals.

TAILORING

Figure 7: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title.]
November 23, 1849.



Beinahe nicht zu glauben,
 Aber doch wahr, denn Jedermann wo Augenzeuge war, sagt das
John Rupp,
 in der Friedrich Straße, unterhalb Grobe's
 Stohr
 Das größte, wohlfeilste und beste
 Assortement von
Möbeln-Waren,
 auf Hand hat, das jemals in dieser Stadt zum
 Verkauf angeboten worden ist; und gedenkt
 dieselben sehr billig zu verkaufen. Sein Vor-
 rath besteht zum Theil aus:

Sideboards,	Centre Tische,
Dress Büreaus	Karten Tische,
Scroll do	Ausdehnung do
Gemeine Büreaus,	Speise Tische.
(so niedrig als 10.)	

Edelschränke, Küchenschränke,
 Speiseschränke, von verschiedenen Größen,
 Waschtische von verschiedenen Größen,
 Französische und halb französische Bettladen,
 Trümpfen Bettladen,
 Gemeine do

Ein auserwähltes Assortement
Stühlen,
 von allen Arten und Meden, schicklich für die
 jetzige Zeiten, und werden wenigstens 15 pro-
 Cent niedriger verkauft als irgendwo sonst
 in dieser Stadt.

Setzt meine Freunde, alles was ich noch zu
 sagen habe, ist, kommt und ruft bei mir an,
 und wenn ich euch nicht zufrieden stellen kann,
 soll es gewiß meine Schuld nicht sein. Kommt
 und sehet—das Geben kostet nichts.

Dankbar für bisherige Unterstützung und
 hoffe, durch gute Arbeit und wohlfeile Preisen
 ein Theil der öffentlichen Kundtschaft zu erlan-
 gen.

John Rupp.
 Hannover, Februar 3, 1859.

Figure 9: *Der Hanover Citizen*. [Advertisement – No Title.] February 3, 1859.

**JOHN RUPP,
GABINET MAKER.**

RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Han-
over and its vicinity, that he still continues
the above business, at his old stand in Freder-
ick Street, where he is prepared to make every
variety of Furniture, in the latest style of fash-
ion, of the best materials, and at the lowest
prices, viz:

SIDEBOARDS,
DRESSING BUREAUS,
SCROLL " "
COMMON " " as low as \$10.
CENTRE TABLES,
CARD " "
EXTENSION " "
DINING " "
BREAKFAST " "
CORNER CUPBOARDS,
KITCHEN " "
SAFES of various kinds,
SINKS,
FRILL POST BEDSTEADS,
French, half-French and Common TRUNDLE
BEDSTEADS, CHAIRS of different styles, which
I am prepared to sell 15 per cent. lower than
the same kind of article has ever been sold for
in this place.

Warranted for strength and style of finish,
superior to any heretofore offered.

Hoping by strict attention to business
and a disposition to please, to merit and receive
a liberal share of patronage.

JOHN RUPP.

Hanover, February 4, 1859-5f.

Figure 10: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title.]
February 4, 1859.

Handsome Furniture. — We notice with pleasure that our esteemed townsman and respected neighbor, Mr. James Rapp, has recently made some elegant additions to his stock of furniture, which may now be said to embrace nearly every article belonging to that branch of trade, and many things not usually obtainable outside of the cities, or usually kept for sale in other than the most fashionable establishments. Amongst the most noticeable of the articles which attracted our attention was a magnificent *table à tête*, of modern design, and elaborately carved, the work evidently of a finished artist, and in all respects equal in point of workmanship to any that we have heretofore seen, except in pieces of the most aristocratic pretensions. A visit to the warehouse of Mr. Rapp will not fail to satisfy any reasonable person that he is fully up with the times, and resolved to act his part in adding to the substantial wealth of the town by accelerating its trade, thereby promoting its prosperity.

Figure 11: *The Hanover Spectator*. "Handsome Furniture." March 11, 1859.

On Tuesday the 26th inst., in this Borough,
after a few days of severe illness of Billious
Typhoid Fever, JACOB, son of Mr. John
Rupp, in the 14th year of his age.
"Mourn not for me, dear parents,
I could no longer stay,
My Saviour calls and bids me come,
This call I must obey."

Figure 12: *The Hanover Spectator*. Obituary, "Died." November 29, 1860.

JOHN RUPP,
CABINET MAKER.

RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Han-
 over and its vicinity, that he still continues
 the above business, at his old stand in Freder-
 ick Street, where he is prepared to make every
 variety of Furniture, in the latest style of fash-
 ion, of the best materials, and at the lowest
 prices, viz:

SIDEBOARDS,
 DRESSING BUREAUS,
 SCROLL
 COMMON " " as low as \$40.
 CENTRE TABLES,
 CARD " "
 EXTENSION " "
 DINING " "
 BREAKFAST " "
 CORNER CUPBOARDS,
 KITCHEN " "
 SINKS of various kinds,
 SINKS,
 MILL PORT BEDSTEADS,
 French, half-French and Common TRENDLE
 BEDSTEADS, CHAIRS of different styles, which
 I am prepared to sell 15 per cent. lower than
 the same kind of article has ever been sold for
 in this place.

Warranted for strength and style of finish,
 superior to any heretofore offered.

Hoping by strict attention to business
 and a disposition to please, to merit and receive
 a liberal share of patronage.

JOHN RUPP.

Hanover, February 4, 1860-17.

Figure 13: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title.]
 February 4, 1860.

Beautiful Articles of Furniture.—In passing the ware-rooms of Mr. JOHN RUPP, a few days since, we saw in front of the establishment some articles of furniture so very beautiful in appearance that we were induced to stop and examine them. They consisted principally of chairs and other parlor furniture, all made and finished in the very best style and evidently by the most skillful workmen; but what particularly attracted our notice was a magnificent “*sete a lets*,” more beautifully carved and prettily designed than any other it has been our privilege to see in this town. Persons who are fond of the elegant in art should not fail to visit the ware-rooms of Mr. Rupp and inspect this exquisite specimen of taste and skill. We are very sure it will not remain long in his possession; for the exceedingly moderate charge at which it is offered for sale will soon tempt some one to become the fortunate owner. Mr. Rupp is very largely engaged in the manufacture of furniture of every description, and we are pleased to know that his sales during the present season have been more than ordinarily encouraging. His place of business is on Frederick St., next door to the office of the “Spectator.”

Figure 14: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Beautiful Articles of Furniture.” May 25, 1860.

—*Hanover Ahead.*—*The King of Big Tomato Stalks.*—We were shown a few days since, by our neighbor Mr. John Burr, a tomato stalk which was raised in his garden this season, measuring the enormous length of *fifteen feet*. The “big” stalks we rolled a few weeks ago into our garden before this “whopper,” who is truly the “King of the Vegetable Kingdom!” Who can beat it?

Figure 15: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Hanover Ahead.” October 19, 1860.

Furniture.—We were favored a few days since with an opportunity to examine the large and excellent stock of furniture in the warehouse of our respected neighbor, Mr. John Rupp. They comprised the various articles belonging to that trade, and were all made and finished in a superior style of workmanship. We are convinced from what we saw, that purchasers of furniture will more effectually promote their own interests by entrusting him with their orders than by going to the city. This will be made plain by a visit to the establishment of Mr. R., who is himself a first-rate mechanic and in addition a gentleman of excellent taste. This latter a recommendatory quality of the first importance to a furniture manufacturer.

Figure 16: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "Furniture." December 14, 1860.

Acceptable Gifts. We return our heartfelt
 thanks to friend KEYSER, Confectioner, on
 Baltimore Street, for the very nice Gift which
 he presented us with, on Christmas. The gift
 in question consisted in a bag, containing an
 excellent assortment of the choicest French
 confectionery, - *Champagne, Raisins, Turkish Fig-
 Paste, &c.* We assure friend KEYSER that
 the present was very acceptable, and that we
 shall ever remember his kindness with feel-
 ings of pleasure.

Our thanks are also due to our kind and
 clever neighbor, JOHN HUPP, Esq., for a bot-
 tle of most excellent Wine, of his own manu-
 facture. It is the pure grape, and although
 new, is equally as good if not superior to
 many of the famous "brands" imported from
 Europe. Mr. Hupp manufactured a consider-
 able quantity of wine this year from the yield
 of his arbors.

We are pleased to chronicle the above man-
 ifestations of regard for the printer, and are
 proud to know that there are at least two per-
 sons in Hanover, who do not "forget the
 Printer."

Figure 17: *The Hanover Spectator*. "Acceptable Gifts." December 28, 1860.

FURNITURE!
FURNITURE!
FURNITURE!

THE public attention is respectfully requested
to the following articles of FURNITURE
kept constantly on hand and made to order,
and that it can be sold on as reasonable terms
as any other house in the county, embracing
in part as follows:

SLIDE BOARDS, DRESSING, SCROLL and
COMMON BUREAUS, very cheap; CHAIR
CASE, EXTENSION, DINING and BREAK
FAST TABLES, CORNER and KITCHEN
CUPBOARDS, SOAP, TRIPPLE, TINS, TRIP
TEES, Felt Post Bedsteads, Trundle Bedsteads,
WASHSTANDS, SINKS, Book Cases, CHAIRS
of different styles, &c., all of which is warrant-
ed for strength and style of finish, superior to
any heretofore offered.

All parties in want of anything in any line of
business would do well to give me a call, there-
by saving 15 per cent, and getting an article
superior to any ever offered before in Hanover.

JOHN HUBB

Frederick Street, Hanover, Pa.
February 1, 1861-11.

Figure 18: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "Furniture! Furniture! Furniture!" February 1, 1861.

Died:

On the 6th inst., near Lesbey's Church, in North Ogdorus typ., Mrs. Sarah Senft, aged 74 years, 11 months and 6 days.

In this borough on the 10th inst., after a brief illness of Typhoid fever, George F. Rupp, son of Mr. John Rupp, aged 23 years, 1 month and 11 days.

Stricken down but a few weeks since with this terrible disease, which seemed to baffle all the efforts of medical skill, he resigned himself to its ravages, and patiently awaited the summons of his Divine Master to appear before His throne: Death had no terrors for him, and when the final summons came, his spirit winged its flight to the presence of its Master without a single sigh or regret, and with a smile upon his countenance he fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. He is gone! His warm and genial heart throbs no more! Sorrow has fallen upon his friends; and the home of which he was the pride is now cheerless and gloomy. The deceased was a young man of eminent moral worth;—and on the verge of eternity, whilst his dear friends, who gathered around him, were impotent to aid, he experienced the preciousness of the Redeemer, and was sustained by the vision of Eternal Life. His remains were interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery on Sunday afternoon, followed by an unusually large concourse of persons, which strongly attested the high estimation in which his worth and virtues were held by his friends and acquaintances. His memory will long be cherished by those who knew him.

Gone to rest where the wild flowers bloom,
Sweeply he sleepeth in yon silent tomb,
Where the angels and stars their low vigils keep,
On the spot where brother and sisters peacefully sleep.

Gone from our sight to sleep 'neath the sod,
His spirit to dwell with the angels of God,
Ah! yes, he has crossed death's mystic tide,
Rejoicing and safe to the farther side.

Gone, gone from earth to that peaceful shore,
Where we hope to meet him once more,
To dwell forever in regions of bliss,
Oh! earth has no joy that can equal this.

Figure 19: *The Hanover Spectator*. Obituary, "Died." December 16, 1869.

¶ Der älteste Sträfling im Zuchthause von
 Ohio ist ein gewisser John Galt, welcher im
 Jahre 1836 des Mordes im zweiten Grade
 überführt und zu lebenslänglicher Gefängnis-
 strafe verurtheilt wurde. Seit einer Reihe von
 Jahren „ropelt“ es bei dem Alten ein wenig im
 Kopfe, doch ist er gänzlich harmlos; er hat die
 feste Idee, daß er des Abends ausgeht, und schwer
 beladen mit Gold zurückkehrt. Er zählt kein
 Geld nur nach Tonnen, und Millionen, er hält
 sich für den Reichsten der Erde. Als ihm eines
 Tages geäußert wurde, daß er sich seine
 jüngeren Kollegen nicht erzeue, er arbeite
 nämlich ganz nach Belieben, sprach er sich, geht
 zu Bett, wenn es ihm gefällt, und duldet keine
 Schmälerungen seiner Rechte. Er ist im wahren
 Sinne des Wortes ein „old fogg“, denn er be-
 trachtet nicht nach dem „Jug“ als moderne Ver-
 besserungen. Man hatte seine gestrichelten „Be-
 trachtungen“ gegen einen schwarzen Anzug um-
 tauschen wollen — was man aber schlecht an-
 erkannte, wurde ganz trüblich über diese Idee u. hält
 fest an der alten Mode, wie er sich 1836

Figure 20: *Der Hanover Citizen*. Obituary for George F. Rupp. December 18, 1869.

JOHN RUPP,
Manufacturer and Dealer in
FINE FURNITURE,
Frederick Street, Hanover, Pa.

All kinds of Furniture on hand, such as
Bedsteads, Tables, Chairs, Washstands, Bu-
rrens, Wardrobes, &c.

Figure 21: *Hanover Herald*. [Advertisement – No Title.] July 27, 1872.

JOHN RUPP,
Manufacturer and Dealer in
HOMEMADE AND CITY
FURNITURE,
A large and complete stock always on hand, which will be
sold at the lowest price.
FREDERICK ST., HANOVER, PA.



Figure 22: *Authentic General Directory of the Boroughs of York, Hanover & Wrightsville, York County, PA., for 1877.* York, PA: Herman & Miller and Thomas, 1877. Page 116.

FURNITURE, of the latest styles, in end-
less variety, at Rupp's Furniture Ware-
rooms, on Frederick street. You can save
money by buying of Rupp.

Figure 23: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title.]
December 18, 1878.

His 80th Milestone.—On the
 last, October 8th, our venerable townsman
 Mr. John Rupp, celebrated his 80th birth-
 day anniversary at his residence on Frede-
 rick street, having been born October 8th,
 1809, in the vicinity of Manchester, Md.,
 some 12 or 14 miles South of this place,
 and came to Hanover in 1829 when in his
 18th year. He entered at this early age
 the service of the late George Nace, tan-
 ner, on Chestnut street, as bark grinder,
 remaining with him four years, until he
 was 17 years old, when he apprenticed
 himself to the late Conrad Moul, to learn
 the carpentering and cabinetmaking trade,
 with whom he remained for a term of four
 years. Upon becoming free in the spring
 of 1832, he went to Baltimore and secured
 employment in the shops of the Baltimore
 & Ohio Railroad Company, at Mount Clare,
 then in their infancy. In the summer of
 1832 he assisted to build at these shops
 what we suppose was the first eight-wheel
 passenger car ever constructed in Amer-
 ica, which was a double-deck car, with a
 wire net around the edge of the upper
 deck; the cars were then drawn by hor-
 ses. He came back to Hanover in 1833
 and worked several years for Mr. Moul,
 and entered into business for himself in
 1835. On the 9th of June, 1833, he was u-
 nited in marriage to Miss Mary Rosen-
 steel, which faithful and devoted life part-
 ner still remains to cheer and solace his
 sunset of life. For 54 years Mr. Rupp has
 been successfully engaged in the furniture
 business in Hanover, and has built up an
 enviable reputation for general reliability
 and integrity enjoyed by but few, which
 extends beyond the confines of our own
 State, many of his patrons coming from
 Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick counties
 in Maryland.

Figure 24: *The Hanover Spectator*. "His 80th Milestone." October 19, 1889.

OUR SICK.—Our venerable friend and neighbor, Mr. John Rupp, the well-known furniture manufacturer, has been confined to the house for several weeks by a stomach disorder, but is now in a much improved condition.

Figure 25: *The Hanover Spectator*. "Our Sick." January 9, 1890.

THE EVENTS OF THE DAY

**NEWS ITEMS FROM TOWN AND SUR-
ROUNDING COUNTRY.**

HAPPENINGS IN THIS VICINITY.

Death of Mrs. John Rupp.

Mrs. Mary Rosensteel, wife of our ven-
erable townsman, John Rupp, of Freder-
ick Street, died shortly after 3 o'clock
this morning, in her 84th year, death re-
sulting from the infirmities of old age.
Mrs. Rupp was born in McSherrystown,
but has spent almost all her life in Hano-
ver. She was married in 1833 and is
survived by her husband, two sons, John,
of Hanover, and William, of York, and
by two daughters, Misses Elizabeth and
Mary.

She was a woman of excellent disposi-
tion, faithful and devoted as a wife and
a mother, and by her death the family
is sorely bereaved.

The funeral is to be held on Saturday
afternoon at 1 o'clock, services at the
house, Rev. Charles M. Stock officiating.

Figure 26: *Evening Herald*. Obituary, "Death of Mrs. John Rupp."
April 3, 1895.

AN AGED CITIZEN DEAD
CLOSE OF AN UPRIGHT AND INDUSTRIOUS LIFE
JOHN RUPP, OF FREDERICK STREET
In His 90th Year, Died of Gangrene, Early on Sunday Morning.

John Rupp, Sr., one of Hanover's oldest and most highly respected citizens, died on Sunday morning at 1 o'clock, after a lingering illness of gangrene. He was aged 89 years, 10 months and 17 days. Deceased was of German descent, his grandparents having come to America before the Revolutionary War and settled in North Carolina. During that war, the family met with some thrilling experiences at the hands of the British soldiers and finally moved to Maryland. Their son, Jacob, was John Rupp's father.

John Rupp, Sr., was born in Manchester, Md. October 3d, 1809, and remained in the vicinity of his birth until he was 13 years of age when he came to Hanover and learned the tanner's trade with George Nace at the old tannery which stood at the corner of High and Chestnut Street. At 18 years of age he apprenticed himself to Conrad Moul, father of the late Conrad Moul, and learned the cabinet making and carpenter trades.

In the year 1833 he went to Baltimore City and was employed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. He helped to build the first eight-wheel passenger coach used on the road. During this time he was

the road. During this time he was employed under Phineas Davis, who in 1832 gained a wide reputation for his inventive genius as the designer and manufacturer of "The York," the first locomotive engine in America that burned anthracite coal that was put into successful operation. This locomotive of the old fashioned upright boiler type not unlike a steam fire engine of to-day, was made by Davis at his tannery and machine shop in West York in competition for a prize offered by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Davis was successful in the manufacture of the engine, had it hauled in wagons, over the turnpike from York to Baltimore, and won the first prize of \$3,500.

The Baltimore Gazette of July 1, 1832, says "We are gratified to learn that the locomotive steam engine, The York, constructed by Davis & Gardner, at York, Pa., is now in operation over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, between this city and Ellicott's Mills, under the most favorable auspices. The train which it moves consists of seven cars weighing 25 tons." Soon after this success Phineas Davis became Superintendent and Manager of the B. & O. shops at Baltimore, and John Rupp worked under him for a considerable time. Mr. Rupp was, so far as is known, the last survivor of the persons who saw the original locomotive move out of Baltimore City. This was in the first days of railroading in America, as the B. & O., one of the earliest roads in America, had only a few miles of track in operation, when John Rupp went to work in its shops.

Mr. Rupp was an enthusiastic admirer of Phineas Davis, who, eventually, lost his life, while acting as an engineer for one of his new-made locomotives. He was taking a train load of excursionists over the road toward Ellicott's Mills, when one of the rails broke, flew up and struck him, from the result of which injuries he died.

In 1837 he returned to Hanover and went into the cabinet-making business for himself, in which he continued until the time of his death. For more than fifty years he resided in the house where he died. Mr. Rupp was a public-spirited man, and active in the establishment of Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

In 1833 he was married to Miss Mary Rosensteel, daughter of Michael Rosensteel, of this place; his wife died in 1895. Eight children were born to them, four of whom survive him, John, of West Chestnut Street, William, of Baltimore, and Misses Mary and Elizabeth, at home. Eight grandchildren also survive him, John C. Tanger, of Carlisle Street, Mrs. Samuel Hostetter, of Abbottstown Street, Miss Mae Rupp, of Frederick Street, Beesle, Emily and Carroll Rupp, of West Chestnut Street, George and William Rupp, of Baltimore.

Mr. Rupp was an active member of the Lutheran Church, having for many years been a member of St. Matthew's Church. Of recent years, however, he attended St. Mark's.

The funeral will take place on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, at the house, Rev. Dr. C. M. Stock and Irvin H. Correll will officiate. Interment will be made at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Figure 27: *Evening Herald*. Obituary, "An Aged Citizen Dead." August 21, 1899.

the road. During this time he was employed under Phineas Davis, who in 1832 gained a wide reputation for his inventive genius as the designer and manufacturer of "The York," the first locomotive engine in America that burned anthracite coal that was put into successful operation. This locomotive of the old fashioned upright boiler type not unlike a steam fire engine of to-day, was made by Davis at his foundry and machine shop in West York, in competition for a prize offered by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Davis was successful in the manufacture of the engine, had it hauled in wagons, over the turnpike from York to Baltimore, and won the first prize of \$3,500.

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Figure 27 (continued): *Evening Herald*. Obituary, "An Aged Citizen Dead." August 21, 1899.

= John Rupp, of Hanover, Penn., now in his ninetieth year, was a skilled mechanic as early as 1830. In his early manhood he was an employé and intimate associate of Phineas Davis, who, in 1832, designed and constructed, at his shops in York, Penn.—the first engine in the United States that burned anthracite coal. This engine, when put into successful operation, won a prize of \$3,500 offered by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, which corporation purchased the engine and used it for many years. It was known as "The York," and had an upright boiler, very much similar to the fire-engine of the present day. A model of it was on exhibition at the world's fair at Chicago in 1893. Phineas Davis was made superintendent of the Baltimore and Ohio shops at Baltimore in 1833, and during that year John Rupp, under his employer's direction, managed the construction of the first passenger-coach ever made in this country. This was at a time when there were only a few miles of railroad-track in the world over which the locomotive-engine was in operation.



JOHN RUPP, WHO HELPED BUILD THE FIRST LOCOMOTIVE AND COACH IN THE UNITED STATES.

Figure 28: *Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*. "People Talked About." November 18, 1899.

Appendix II: Nineteenth-century Cabinetmakers, Dealers, and
Manufacturers from Hanover, Pennsylvania –
Advertisements and Editorials

- Figure 1: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement] “Lumber, Conrad Moul.” June 10, 1828.
- Figure 2: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement] “Daniel Spangler, Chair Maker.” June 17, 1828.
- Figure 3: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement] “Lumber. George Throne.” June 17, 1828.
- Figure 4: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement] “F. Renaut, cabinet maker.” February 24, 1829.
- Figure 5: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement – No Title]. March 24, 1829.
- Figure 6: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “To Cabinet Makers.” February 26, 1845.
- Figure 7: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “A Card.” March 12, 1845.
- Figure 8: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Price Reduced.” December 21, 1859.
- Figure 9: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Good News For The People!” April 15, 1860.
- Figure 10: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title]. August 3, 1860.
- Figure 11: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Furniture.” August 24, 1860.
- Figure 12: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “A Capital New Song.” September 14, 1860.
- Figure 13: *The Hanover Spectator*. “Arrival of Furniture.” September 14, 1860.

- Figure 14: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Handsome, Cheap, Substantial!” March 15, 1861.
- Figure 15: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “A Chance for the Girls.” July 26, 1861.
- Figure 16: *The Hanover Herald*. [Advertisement – No Title] July 27, 1872.

LUMBER,
CONRAD MOUL.

OFFERS for sale at his dwelling in
Frederick-street,

An assortment of

Lumber:

—SUCH AS—

Pine Boards, Planks, Poplar
Scantling for Bed Posts.

**CHERRY BOARDS AND
SHINGLES, &c. &c.**

The public are requested to call and
examine his stock. as it is his intention to
sell very cheap.

Hanover, June 10. 19—1f

Figure 1: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement] "Lumber, Conrad Moul."
June 10, 1828.

Daniel Spangler,
CHAIR MAKER.

RETURNS his sincere thanks to his customers and the public at large, for the encouragement he has received in his line of business, and respectfully informs them, that he still continues to carry on the

CHAIRMAKING BUSINESS,
 In all its branches, at his old stand, in York street, in the borough of Hanover, where he will manufacture

Plain, Ornamented and Gilt
CHAIRS & SETTEES,
of all different kinds ;

And will at all times on the shortest notice accommodate his customers on the most reasonable terms. He respectfully solicits a continuance of their favours, and assures them, that no pains shall be spared on his part, to give general satisfaction.

Hanover June 17, 1828. 20—tf

Figure 2: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement] "Daniel Spangler, Chair Maker." June 17, 1828

LUMBER.
GEORGE THRONE.
 RESPECTFULLY informs the public
 that he still continues keeping, and has
 lately received an assortment of

Lumber,
 SUCH AS.

White Pine Plank & Boards, inch
 & 2 inch, Yellow-pine half inch
Pine & Poplar Scantling,
 WALNUT AND CHERRY BOARDS,
PINE SHINGLES, & C.

The public are invited to call and ex-
 amine for themselves, and will find his
 prices moderate. He also informs his
 friends and the public generally that he
 still continues to carry on the

Cabinet Making,
 Business in all its various branches, and
 hopes by attending to business and rea-
 sonable prices to receive a continuance
 of their favours. june 20 20 5ts

Figure 3: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement] "Lumber. George Throne."
 June 17, 1828.

F. RENAULT,
Cabinet maker
 Baltimore street, **HANOVER.**

INFORMS his friends and the public, that he still continues to carry on the above business in all its various branches.—His experience in making every article of Furniture in his line while a resident at *Havana* in the island of Cuba, and in the City of Baltimore, warrants him in recommending his work for durability and neatness to the attention of the community.

FURNITURE,
 Of every description—quality and mode—kept on hand or made up—according to order, at a reasonable notice, in the most Fashionable style and at moderate prices. He requests a continuance of public patronage, and will be glad to receive the orders of his friends—hoping to merit their custom in proving himself a complete workman.

An Apprentice
 To the above business would be taken on accommodating terms, if application be soon made.—A boy from the country would be preferred.

Hanover, Feb. 24, 1829. 56—11

Figure 4: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement] “F. Renaut, cabinet maker.” February 24, 1829.

NICHOLAS PYLE,
*Chairmaker, House and Sign
 Painter,*
 YORK STREET, HANOVER.

RETURNS his thanks to an esteemed public for the generous patronage enjoyed by him in his business until the present time, and solicits a continuance of the same. He has now on hand a handsome assortment of

CHAIRS & SEATERS

Of various fashions and prices, plain and ornamented, made in a durable manner, and according to the newest mode. His long experience enables him to give an assurance, that all orders in the different branches of his profession, will be executed with expedition and faithfulness, and at the most moderate prices. He respectfully solicits a continuance of public patronage.

THE CABINET MAKING BUSINESS
Will be carried on as before.

N. PYLE,
 Offers also his services to the public as
DENTIST,
 He is prepared to clean, to file and plug Teeth when decayed, in a satisfactory manner, for all who will be pleased to employ him.
 Hanover, March 17, 1829. 59—6t.

Figure 5: *The Hanoverian*. [Advertisement – No Title]. March 24, 1829.

To Cabinet-Makers.

NICHOLAS PYLE, continues to manufacture at his old stand, in York street, a few doors east of Mr. HERSHEY'S tavern, the latest and most improved

ESCUTCHEONS.

of all sizes and patterns; for Cabinet-Makers. They are superior to those made of ivory, both in beauty and durability. **KNOBBS** for Secretaries, Bureaus; &c.; made of the same materials. Also, Shoemaker's **LASTS** and **BOOT TREES** of the latest fashion and of superior neatness, made of the best materials.

Orders from a distance will be promptly attended to.

Hanover, Feb. 25, 1845.

Figure 6: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "To Cabinet Makers." February 26, 1845.

A CARD.

Francis Renoué,
CABINET MAKER.

WOULD take this occasion to return his sincere thanks to his friends, and the citizens of Hanover, York and Adams counties, for the kind and liberal encouragement extended to him, for the last ten years, and respectfully informs them, that he still continues to manufacture at his old stand, in Carlisle street, and has constantly on hand, a large assortment of neat and substantial FURNITURE, such as

Book-cases, Sideboards, Secretaries, Bureaus, Breakfast, Dining, Centre and Pier TABLES, Work and Wash-stands, Bessies, Common, French, Half do. High and Low Post BED-STEADS, &c. &c. &c.

All of which are made of the best materials and workmanship, and warranted to be equal in style and finish, to any ever offered for sale in the borough. He hopes by strict attention to business, to merit a continuance of that patronage heretofore received.

He is at all times prepared to manufacture Coffins, at the shortest notice.

N. B. SEASONABLE LUMBER for Cabinet use, taken at all times, in exchange for Furniture.

Hanover, March 5, 1845.

Figure 7: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "A Card." March 12, 1845.

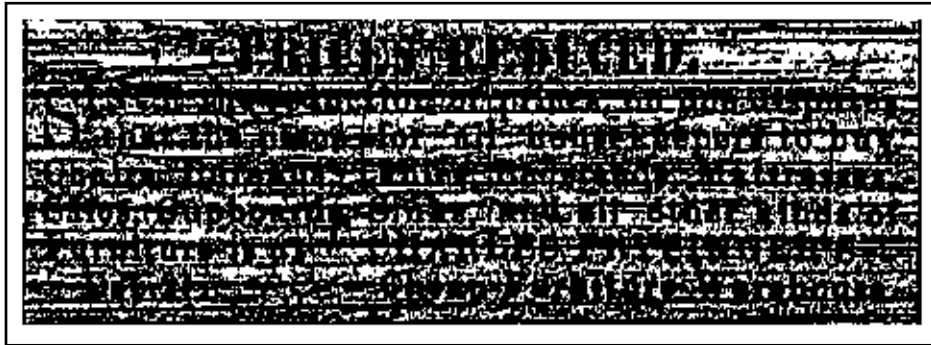


Figure 8: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] “Prices Reduced.”
December 21, 1859.

FURNITURE, &c.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE PEOPLE!
CHEAP FURNITURE AT BENNETT'S CABINET

D O O P R O

THE subscriber would take occasion to return
 his abundant thanks to his friends, and the citi-
 zens of Hanover, York and Lancaster counties, for
 the kind and liberal encouragement extended to
 him, and respectfully inform them that he still
 continues to manufacture, at the Old Stand, in
 Carlisle Street, and has constantly on hand, a
 large assortment of the following articles:

H O W I R N T I I I W I R H

S T E E L I S

**BOOK CASES, SIDEBOARDS, SECRETA-
 RIES, BUREAUS, BREAKFAST DIN-
 ING TABLES, AND PINE TABLES,
 WORN and WASH STANDS,
 DESKS, Common, French,
 Half do. High and Low
 BEDSTEADS, &
 CUPBOARDS,
 CRADLES, &c.**

All of which are made of the best materials
 and workmanship, and warranted to be equal in
 style and finish to any offered for sale in town.
 Hoping by diligent attention to business to merit
 a share of the public patronage.

JOSEPH A. BENNETT
 Hanover, April 15, 1860.

Figure 9: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "Good News For The People!" April 15, 1860.

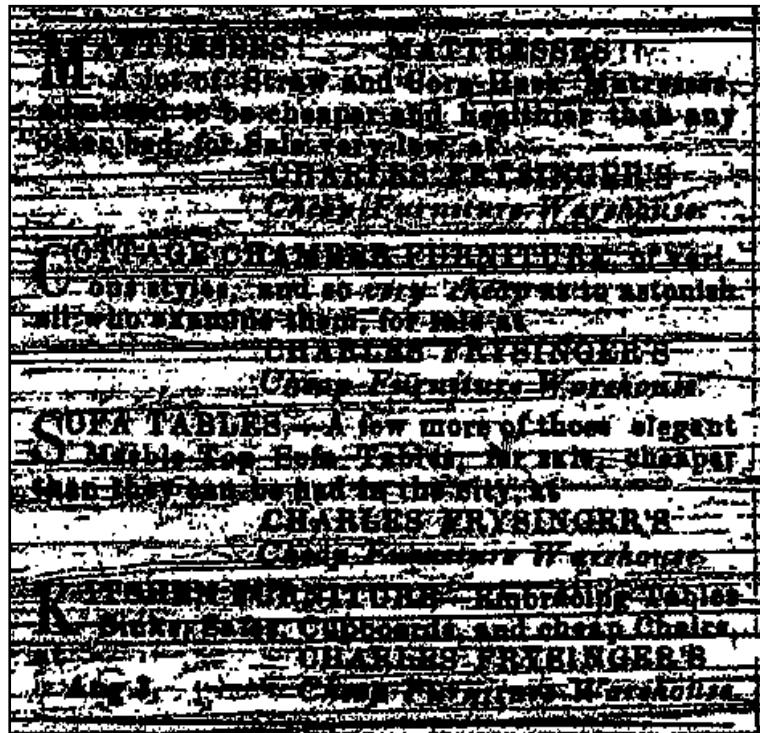


Figure 10: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement – No Title]. August 3, 1860.

Furniture.—We were favored a few days since with an opportunity to examine the large and excellent stock of furniture in the extensive ware-rooms of our friend, Mr. CHARLES FRYSENGER. The assortment comprised the various articles belonging to that trade, and were all made and finished in a superior style of workmanship. We are convinced from what we saw, that purchasers of furniture will more effectually promote their own interests by intrusting him with their orders, than by going to the cities. This will be made plain by a visit to the establishment of Mr. Frysenger, who is a gentleman of an exceptional taste, which is a matter of considerable importance in the selection of furniture.

Figure 11: *The Hanover Spectator*. "Furniture." August 24, 1860.

Arrival of Furniture. We are sure that many married ladies will thank us for calling attention to a new lot of Furniture, which has just arrived at Mr. Charles Frysinger's Furniture Warehouse. Owing to heavy sales in the last few months, he informs us, he was obliged to replenish his stock at least a month earlier than usual. His stock is now complete, and embraces, besides the usual assortment of Parlor, Chamber, and Kitchen Furniture, a number of decidedly beautiful marble top side tables, sofa lounges, crib cradles, &c. We know there is *not a wife all around* who would not be delighted to receive such a present from her "Hige head," and the articles are certainly cheap enough to be within the means of nearly all our citizens. The ladies will be sure to go and see them, *even if they should not intend to buy.*

Figure 13: *The Hanover Spectator*. "Arrival of Furniture." September 14, 1860.

HANDSOME, CHEAP, SUBSTANTIAL!
 at the Depot, in Hanover.
 are admirably applicable to
OF CHARLES FRYSCHE
 ALL ARTICLES
 The Cheap Furniture Warehouse
 KEPT FOR SALE AT
 IN THE CITY
 The Cheap Furniture Warehouse,
 in the immediate vicinity of
 AT THE DEPOT, IN HANOVER.
LET THE LADY BOUGHT THERE
 MEMBERS NOTHING LIKE A WAITRESS
 for preserving a vigorous constitution.
 So says Dr. Hall. Those who wish to profit by
 the hint, can obtain the best Mattresses at
CHARLES FRYSCHE'S
 Cheap Furniture Warehouse.
 EVERYBODY ADMIRES
 EVERYBODY ADMIRES
 EVERYBODY ADMIRES
 EVERYBODY ADMIRES
 THE HANDSOME FURNITURE
 THE HANDSOME FURNITURE
 THE HANDSOME FURNITURE
 THE HANDSOME FURNITURE
 THE HANDSOME FURNITURE
 At the Cheap Furniture Warehouse of
 CHARLES FRYSCHE
 At the Cheap Furniture Warehouse of
 CHARLES FRYSCHE
 Hanover, Feb. 6, 1861.

Figure 14: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "Handsome, Cheap, Substantial!" March 15, 1861.

A Chance for the Girls.
WHO'LL TAKE IT!

It is said there is a handsome and rich bachelor, residing in Chowaga township, Adams county, who is very anxious to get a Hanover lady for a wife, and, as an inducement, offers to furnish his house, in advance of the wedding, with the very best of the handsome FURNITURE kept at

CHARLES FRYSDINGER'S
 Cheap Furniture Warehouse.

June 7.]

Figure 15: *The Hanover Spectator*. [Advertisement] "A Chance for the Girls." July 26, 1861.

J. A. BENAUT,
PRACTICAL CABINET MAKER,
 — Carlisle Street, Hanover, Penn'a.
 New and elegant styles of Parlor, Dining-
 room and Chamber Furniture.
 A large stock of our own make of best and
 most stylish description.

Figure 16: *The Hanover Herald*. [Advertisement – No Title] July 27, 1872.

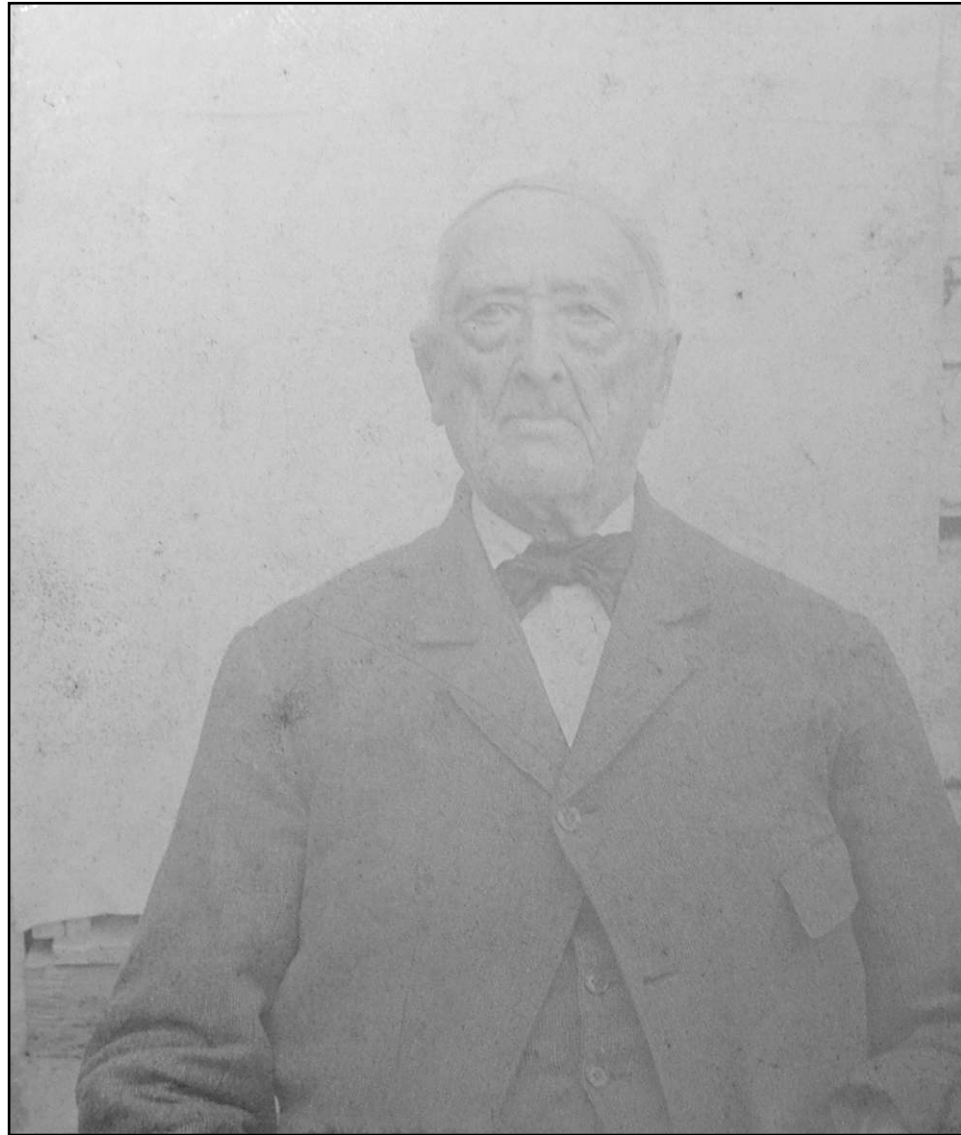


Figure 1.2a – Photograph of John Rupp at Eighty-eight years of age.

Collection of John C. Tanger, III, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

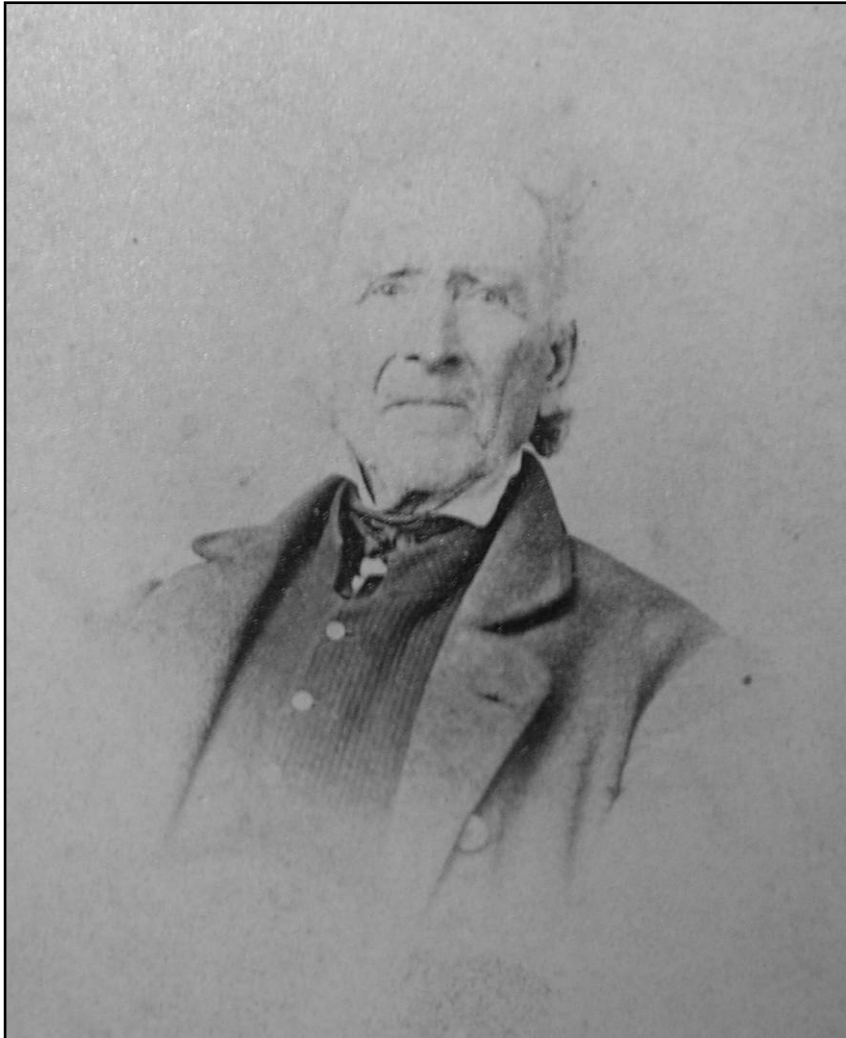


Figure 1.2b – Photograph of John Rupp.

Collection of John C. Tanger, III, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

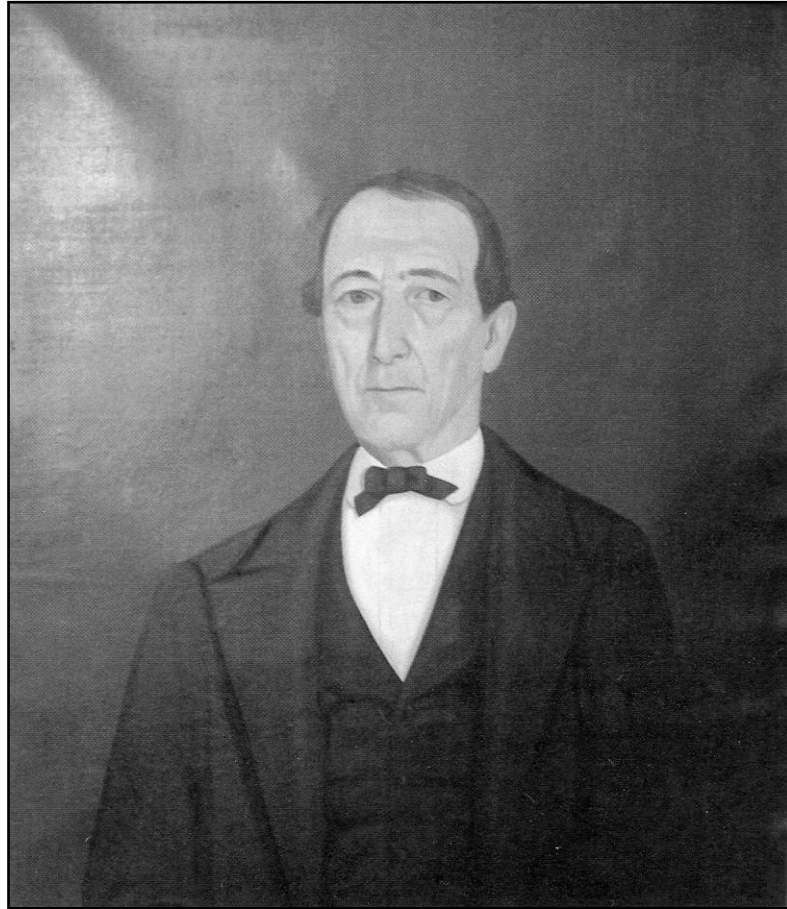


Figure 1.2c – Painting of John Rupp at age sixty-one by Elizabeth Rupp (daughter).

Collection of the Hanover Historical Society, Hanover, Pennsylvania.



Figure 1.3 – Photograph of Mary Ann (Rosensteel) Rupp, taken at *P. S. Weaver's, Baltimore Street, near Center Square. Hanover, York County, Penna.*

Collection of John C. Tanger, III, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

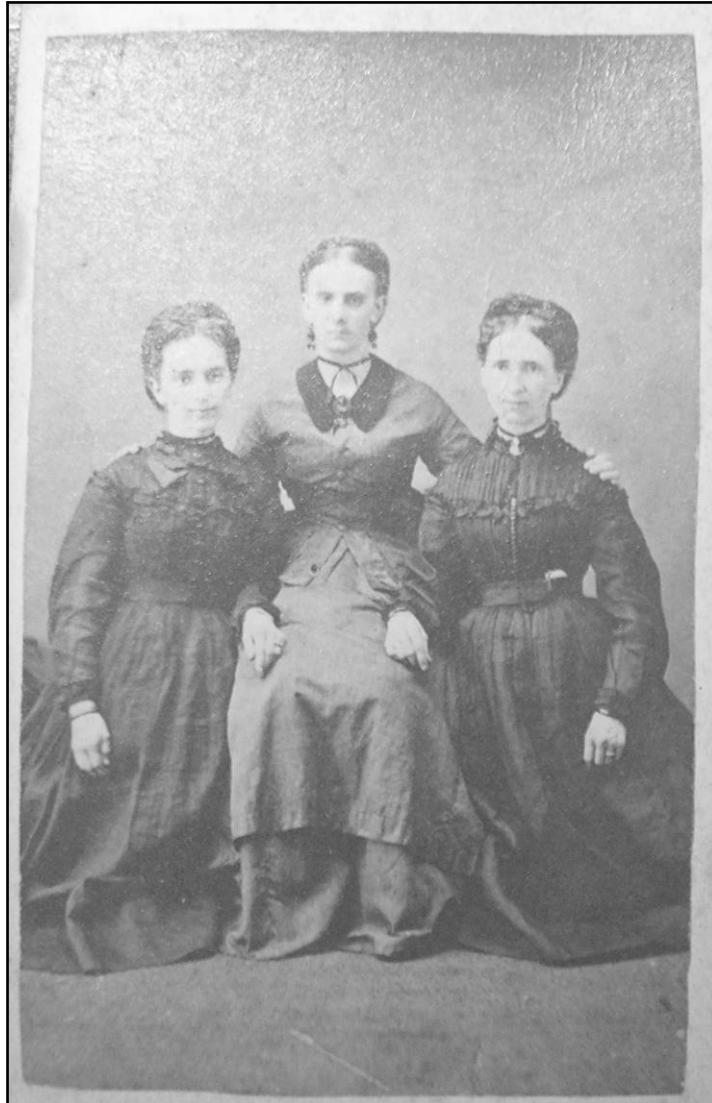


Figure 1.4 -- Photograph of three Rupp daughters, (left to right) Elizabeth Rupp(left), Susannah Cecilia Rupp (center), and Mary Victoria Rupp (right), taken at *P. S. Weaver's, Baltimore Street, near Center Square. Hanover, York County, Penna.*

Collection of John C. Tanger, III, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

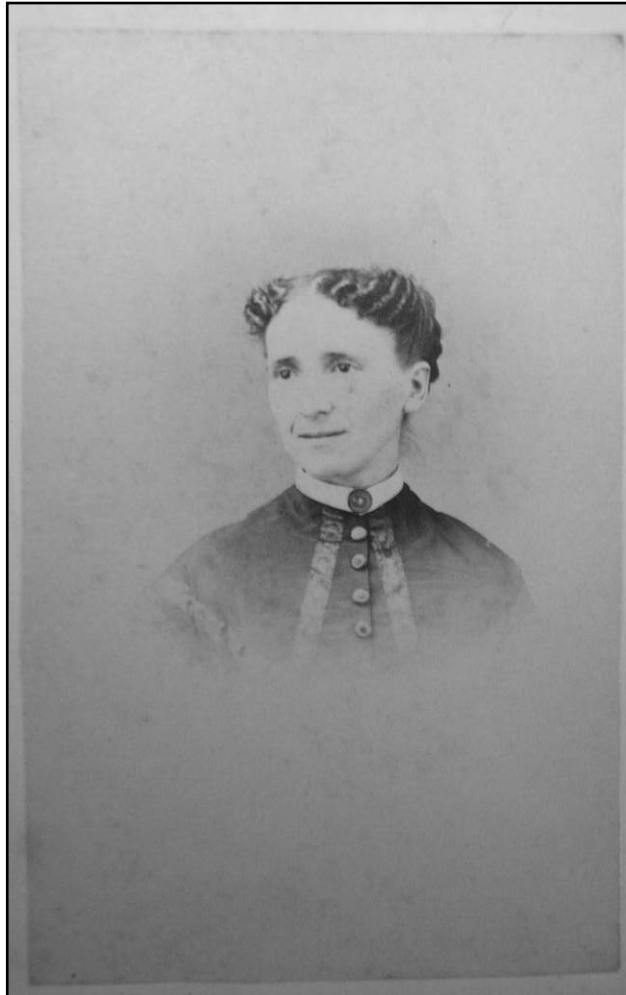


Figure 1.5 -- Photograph of Mary V. Rupp taken at *P. S. Weaver's, Baltimore Street, near Center Square. Hanover, York County, Penna.*

Collection of John C. Tanger, III, Hanover, Pennsylvania.



Figure 1.6 – Photograph of Elizabeth Rupp taken at *P. S. Weaver's, Baltimore Street, near Center Square. Hanover, York County, Penna.*

Collection of John C. Tanger, III, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

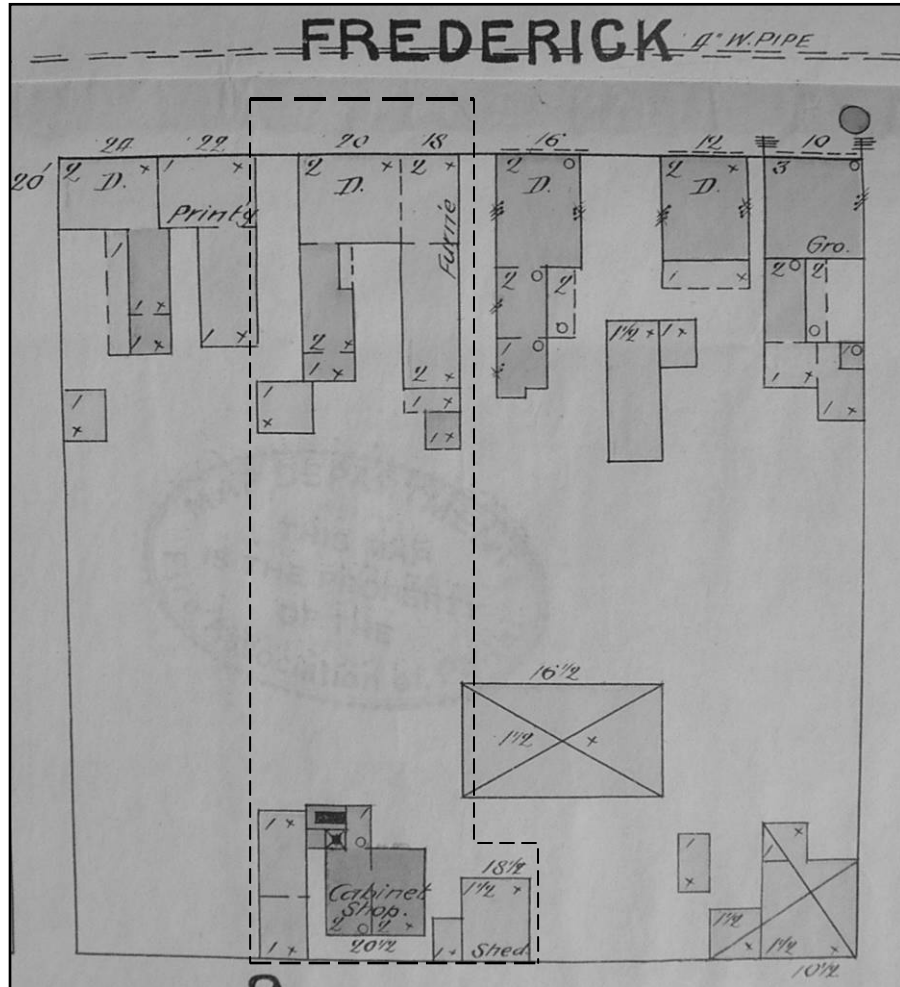


Figure 1.7 – 1891 Sanborn-Perris Fire Map representing the Rupp property at 18 and 20 Frederick Street, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

Hanover, York Co., PA. Sep. 1891. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Limited, 1891.

LUMBER.
GEORGE THRONE.
 RESPECTFULLY informs the public
 that he still continues keeping, and has
 lately received an assortment of

Lumber,
 SUCH AS:

White Pine Plank & Boards, inch
 & 2 inch, Yellow pine half inch
Pine & Poplar Scantling,
 WALNUT AND CHERRY BOARDS,
PINE SHINGLES, & C.

The public are invited to call and ex-
 amine for themselves, and will find his
 prices moderate--He also informs his
 friends and the public generally that he
 still continues to carry on the

Cabinet Making,
 Business in all its various branches, and
 hopes by attending to business and rea-
 sonable prices to receive a continuance
 of their favours. — june 20 — 20 — 5ts

Figure 2.1 – Advertisement for George Throne.

Hanoverian. "Lumber." June 17, 1828.

H. GEATTY,
CABINET-MAKER.
Westminster, Maryland.

INFORMS his friends and the public
that he still continues to carry on the
CABINET-MAKING
business in all its various branches.

Furniture:

Of every description, kept on hand or
made up according to order at the shortest
notice, in a durable manner, in the most
fashionable Style and at reasonable prices.

He is also prepared to make
COFFINS,
On the shortest notice and at all times
and will charge as low a price as any
person in the country.

He has also provided himself with a
HEARSE,
For the convenience of the public, and
if employed to make the Coffin, deliver
the same at the house of the deceased
person, and will convey the Body to
the place of interment without any additional
charge if within 8 miles of his residence.

Thankful for past favours he hopes
to merit and receive a continuance of public
patronage.

Westminster, Md. Feb. 17 1829.

Figure 2.2 – Only advertisement in the February 17, 1829 Hanoverian pertaining to the furniture industry not placed by a Hanoverian.

Hanoverian. “H. Geatty, Cabinet-maker.” February 17, 1829.



Reads:

A Chance for the Girls,
 WHO'LL TAKE IT!

It is said there is a handsome and rich bache-
 lor residing in Conowago township, Adams
 county, who is very anxious to get a Hanover
 lady for a wife, and, as an inducement, offers to
 furnish his house, in advance of the wedding,
 with *the very best of the handsome Furniture*
 kept at CHARLES FRYSSINGER'S
 June 7._ Cheap Furniture Warehouse.

Figure 2.3a – One of Charles Frysinger's more unusual advertisements to promote *Charles Frysinger's Cheap Furniture Warehouse*.

Hanoverian. [Advertisement] "Lumber." June 17, 1828.



Figure 3.1 – Produced by Henry Lapp, this drawing shows freely painted book matched graining over a red base coat similar in style to the work of John Rupp.

Garvan, Beatrice B. *A Craftsman's Handbook, Henry Lapp*. Intercourse, Pennsylvania: Good Books, 1991. Plate 9.



Figure 3.2 – The paint color and overall look of this work stand produce by Knagy of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, is nearly identical to the work of Rupp. One difference is that Rupp is not known to have used stenciling.

Schaffner, Cynthia V. A. and Susan Klein. *American Painted Furniture, 1790 – 1880*, New York: Clarkson Potter Publishers, 1997. p.145, Figure 6.19.

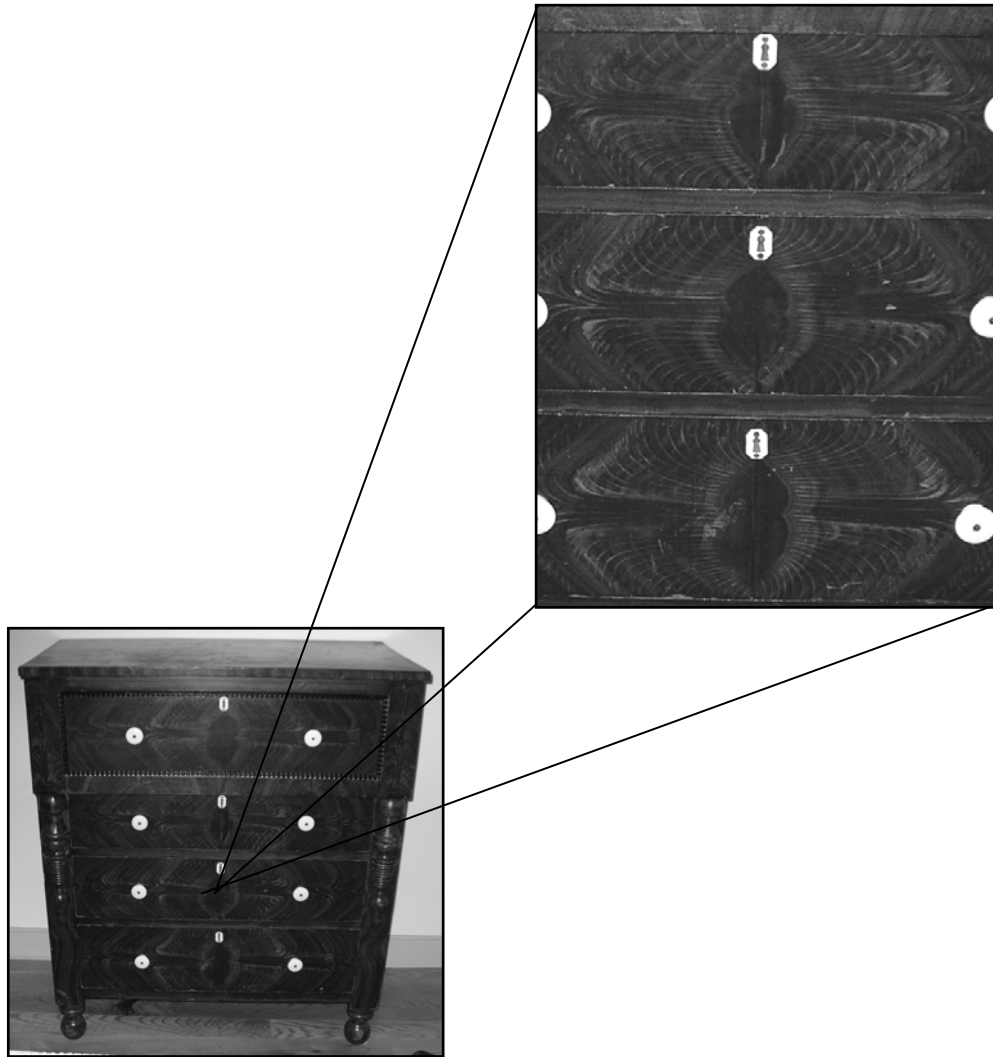


Figure 3.3 – Rupp became quite exuberant at times with his graining techniques. This is an example found on a bureau; notice how the graining actually looks like the ends of a peacock's feathers.

Private collection, Thurmont, Maryland.



Figure 4.1 – Sign Rupp bureau constructed in the Empire style.

Private collection, Thurmont, Maryland.

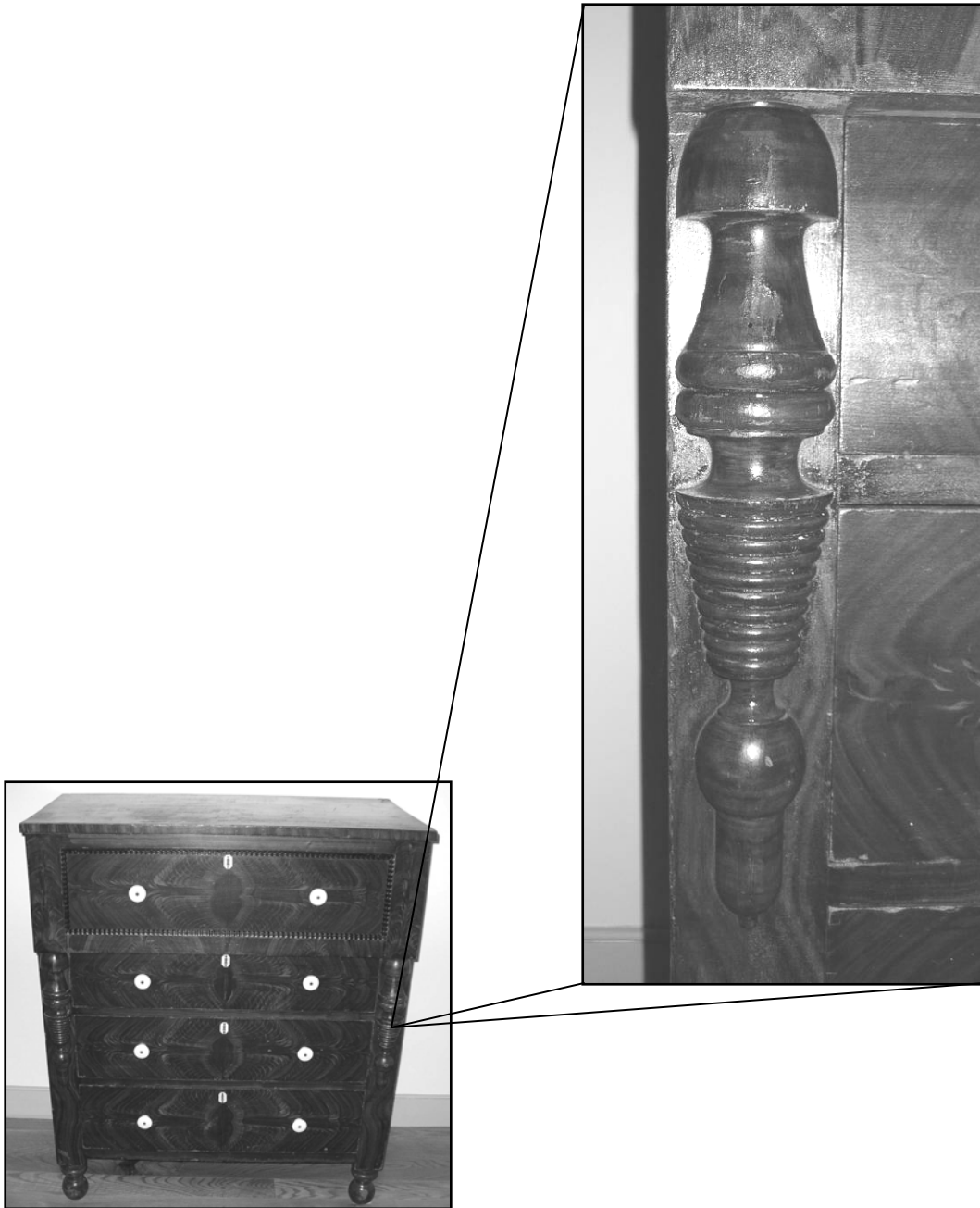


Figure 4.2 – Applied half baluster turning used on bureaus made by John Rupp.

Private collection, Thurmont, Maryland.



Figure 4.3 – Signed Jos. A Renault bureau (repainted) in the same form and look as a Rupp bureau.

Anonymous, New Oxford, Pennsylvania.

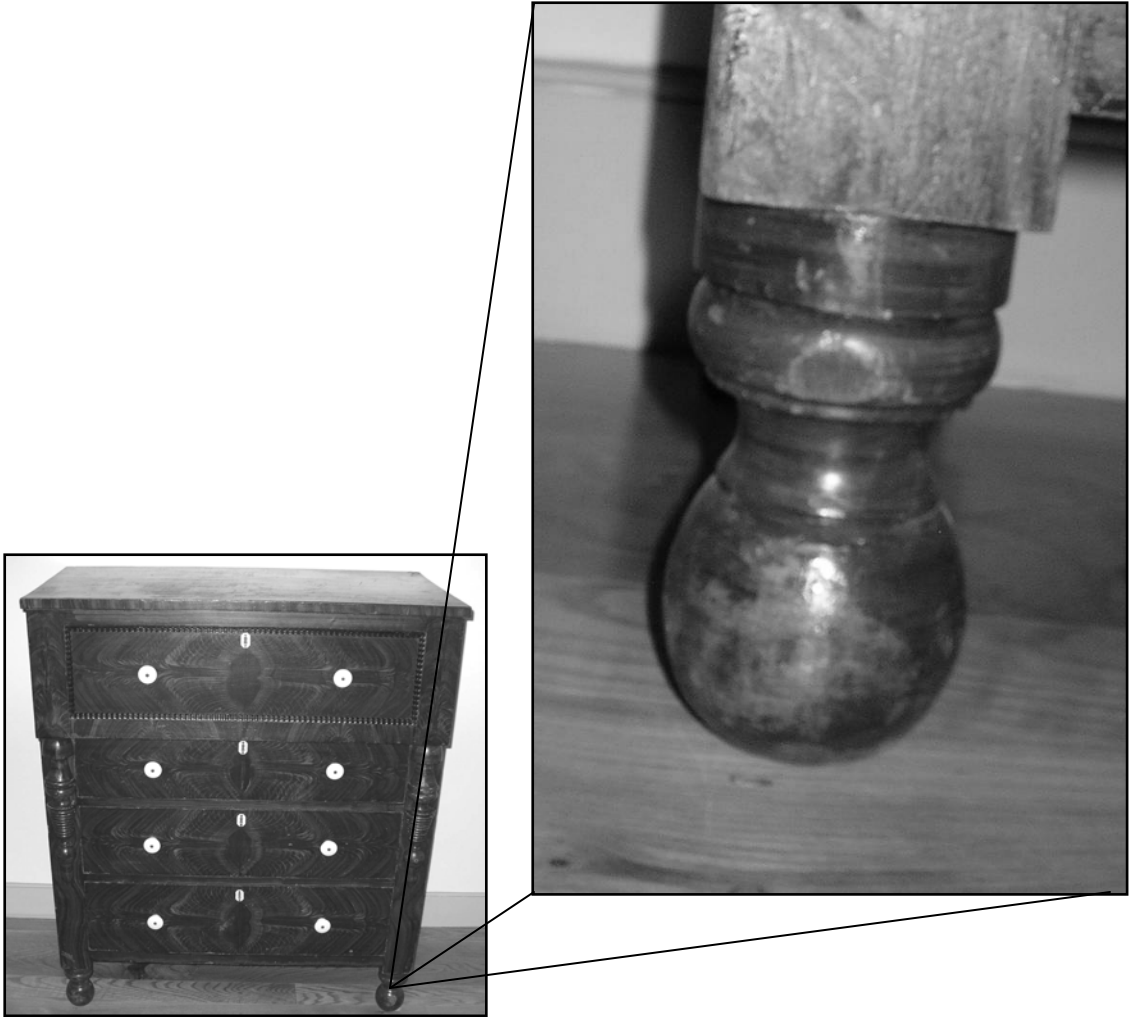


Figure 4.4 – Example of a turned ball foot used on Rupp bureaus, and identical to the foot found on the Jos. A. Renaut bureau.

Private collection, Thurmont, Maryland.



Figure 4.5 – Signed John Rupp plank bottom kitchen chair. This is the smallest size chair made at the Rupp Cabinet Manufactory.

Private Collection, Dover, Pennsylvania.



Figure 4.6 – Example of a mid-size kitchen/dining chair signed: *John Rupp*
Hanover Pa. (newer paint)

Private collection, Dover, Pennsylvania.



Figure 4.7 – A signed Windsor style rocker. Take notice to the curvature of the seat compared with the chairs in Figure 4.5 and Figure 4.6.

Private Collection, Westminster, Maryland. Viewed at the Hanover Historical Society, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

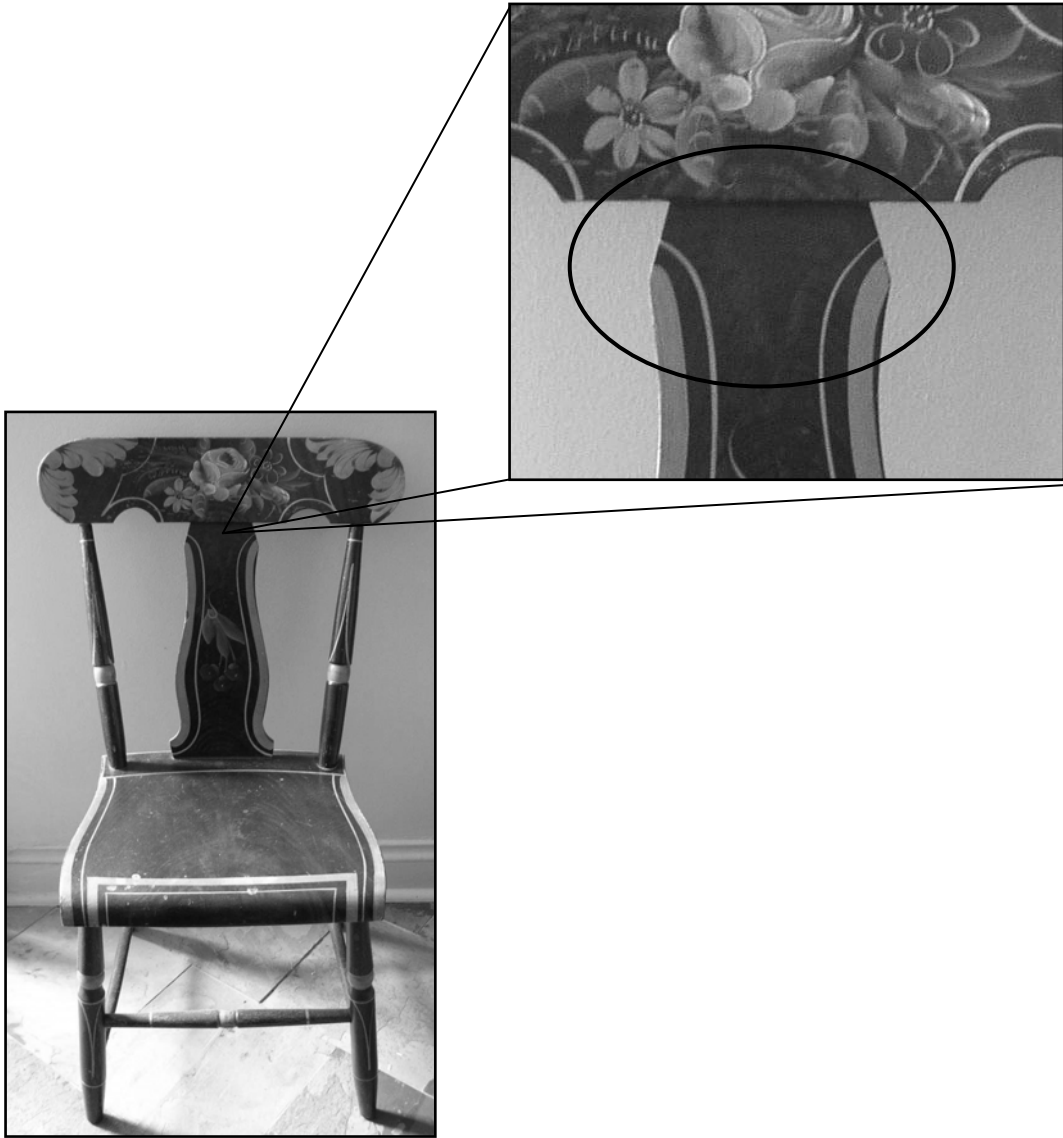


Figure 4.8 – This chair by George Hay, York, Pennsylvania, even though very similar in style and construction to a John Rupp chair, one distinct feature sets it apart: the tapered top on the back splat.

Collection of the Author, Washington, DC.

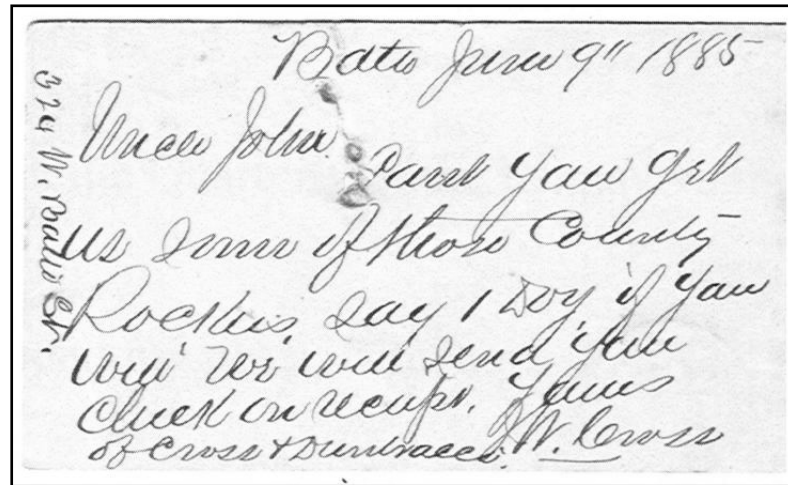
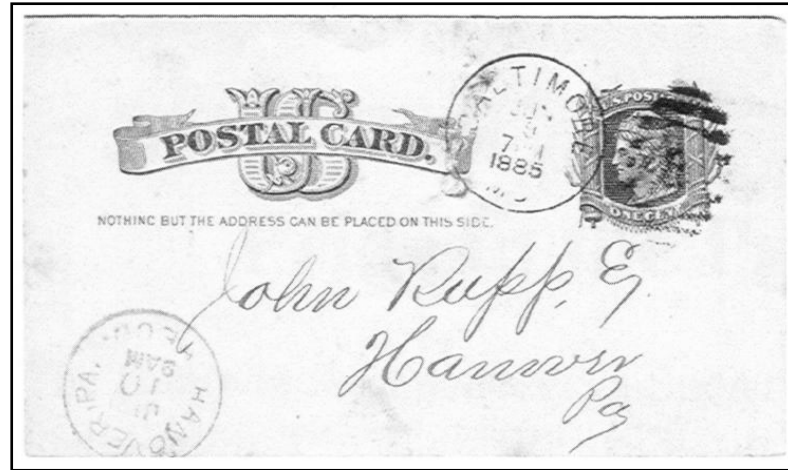


Figure 4.9 – The front and back of a Baltimore 1885, dated postcard from W. Cross to John Rupp, requesting to purchase one dozen rocking chairs through his company -- Cross and Duntraces.

Collection of the Hanover Historical Society, Hanover, Pennsylvania.



Figure 4.10 – Signed John Rupp drop leaf table with turned legs and arrow feet.

Private collection, Westminster, Maryland. Viewed at the Hanover Historical Society, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

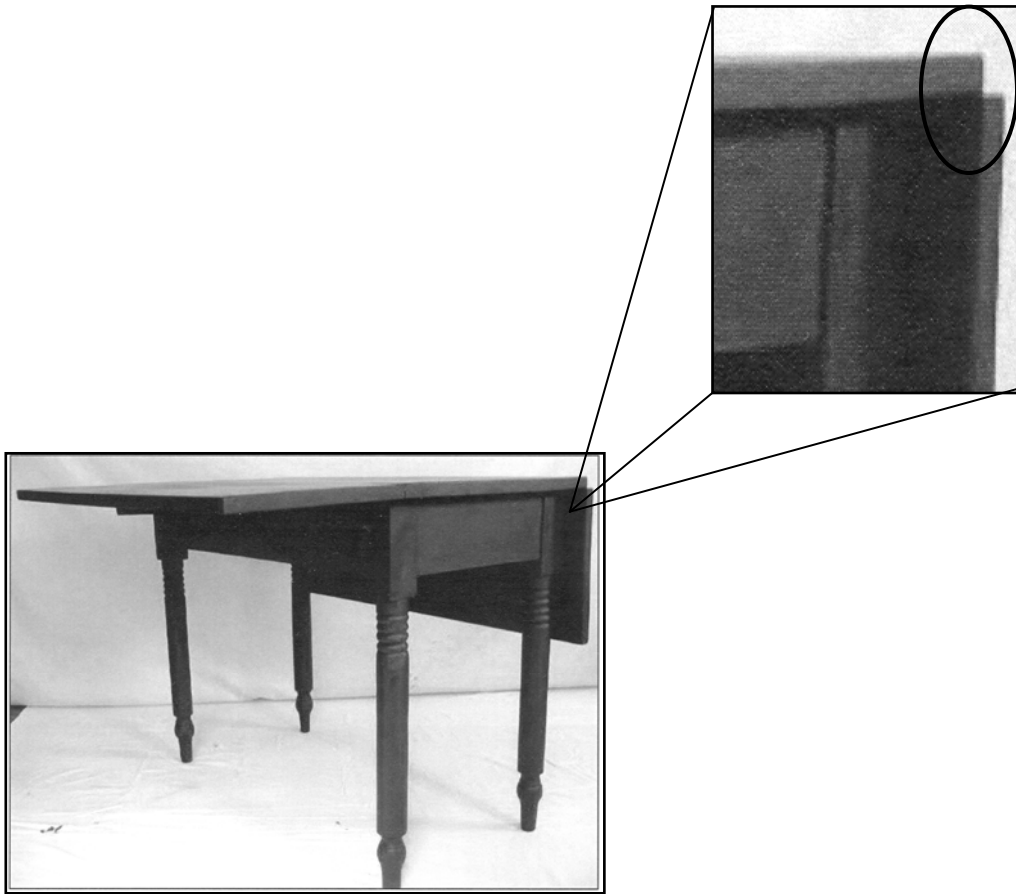


Figure 4.11 – Enlargement of the flat joint between the top and the leaf of the table.

Private collection, Westminster, Maryland. Viewed at the Hanover Historical Society, Hanover, Pennsylvania.



Figure 4.12 – A signed single drawer work stand made by John Rupp.
Notice the legs match those on the table in Figure 4.10.

Private collection, Westminster, Maryland. Viewed at the Hanover
Historical Society, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

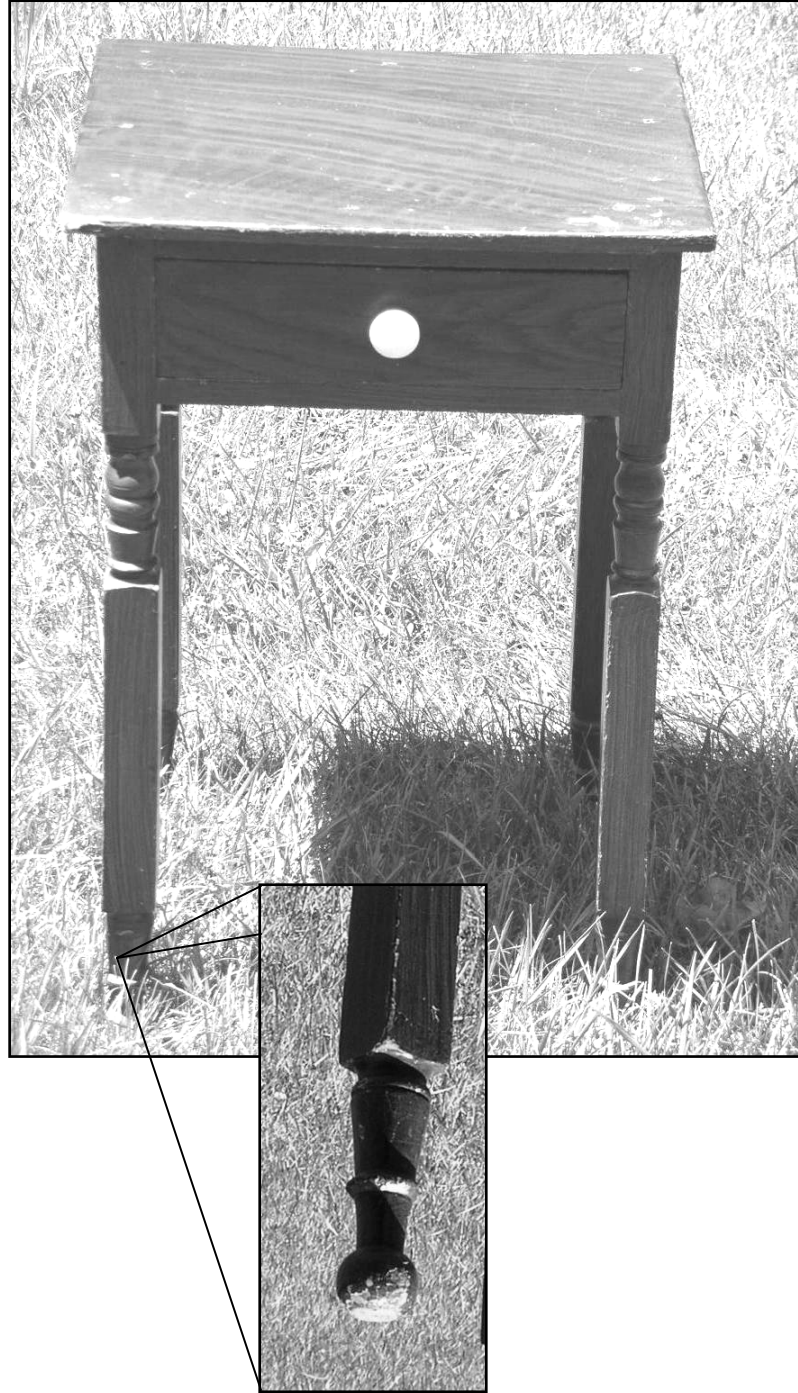


Figure 4.13 – A signed, single drawer work stand with inset of the foot. The turnings on this stand are most unusual for Rupp's furniture.

Private collection, Dover, Pennsylvania.



Figure 4.14 – A double arched door, over three drawers, over two doors, two-piece Rupp corner cupboard.

Private collection, New Oxford, Pennsylvania.

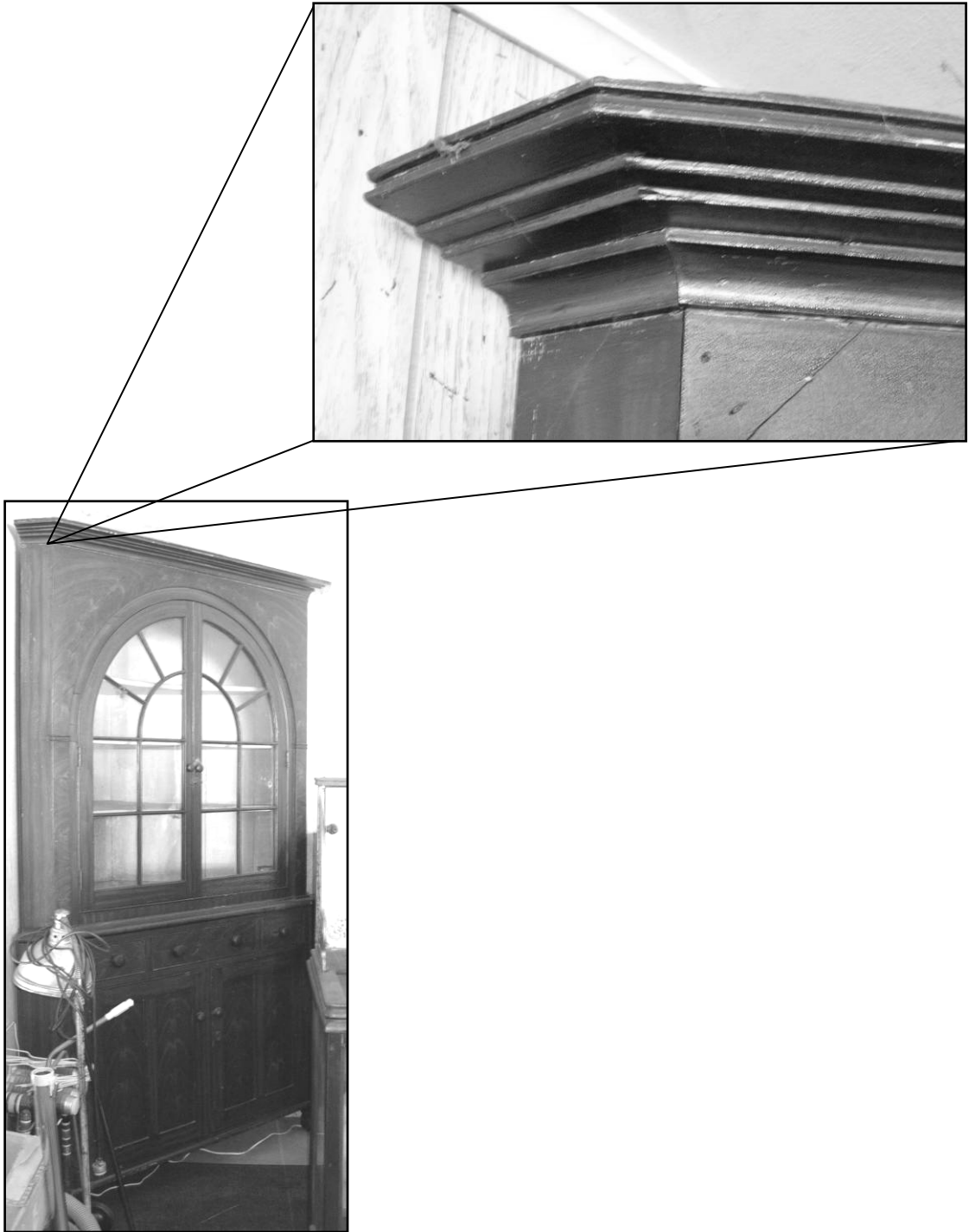


Figure 4.15 – The inset image of the cornice shows one of the most elaborate cornices that has ever been seen on a Rupp corner cupboard, yet overall it is still quite simple in layout and construction.

Private collection, New Oxford, Pennsylvania.

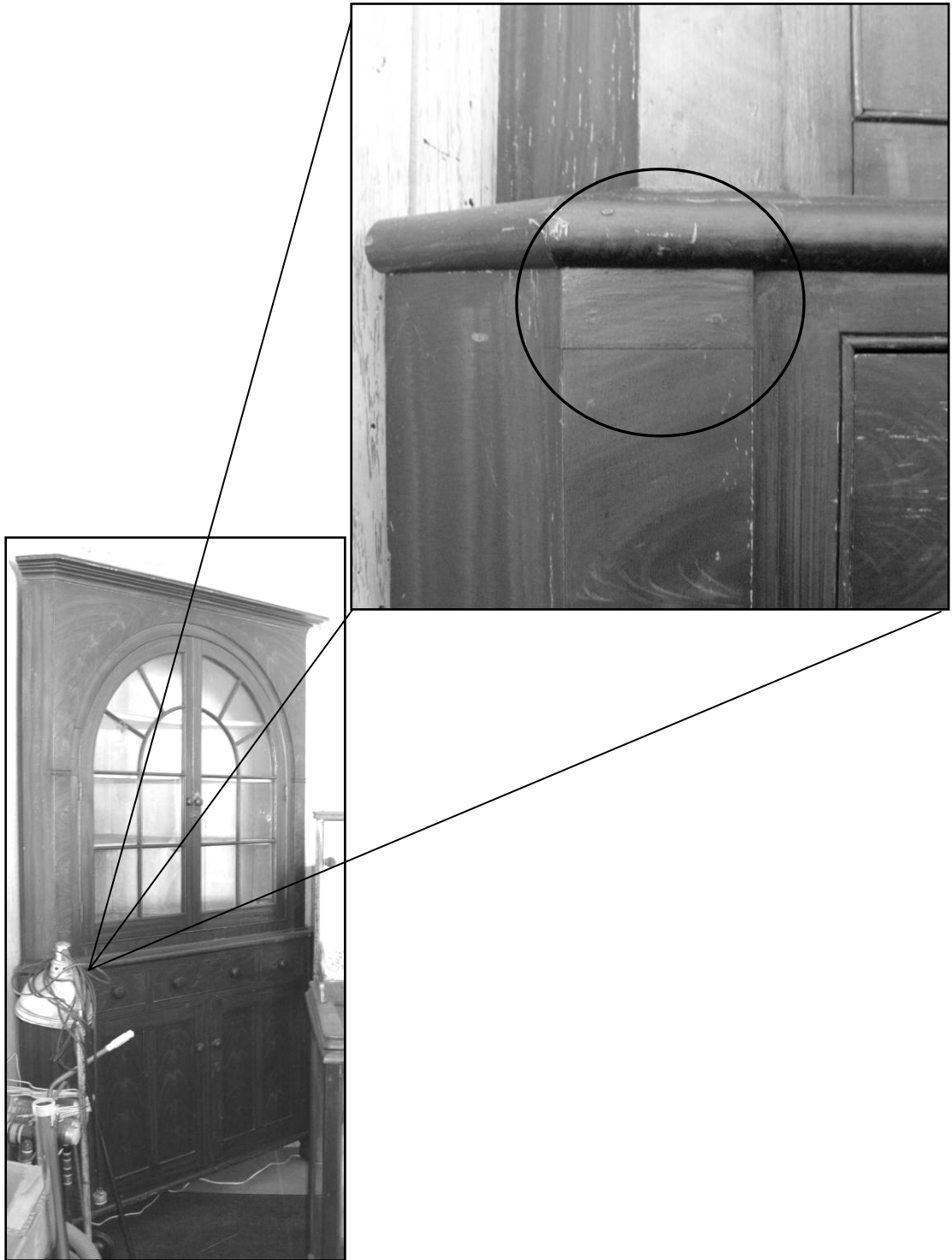


Figure 4.16 – An inset picture of a Rupp signature block, they are found on the left and right front of the cupboard just above and outside the upper outside corners of the outer most drawers.

Private collection, New Oxford, Pennsylvania.

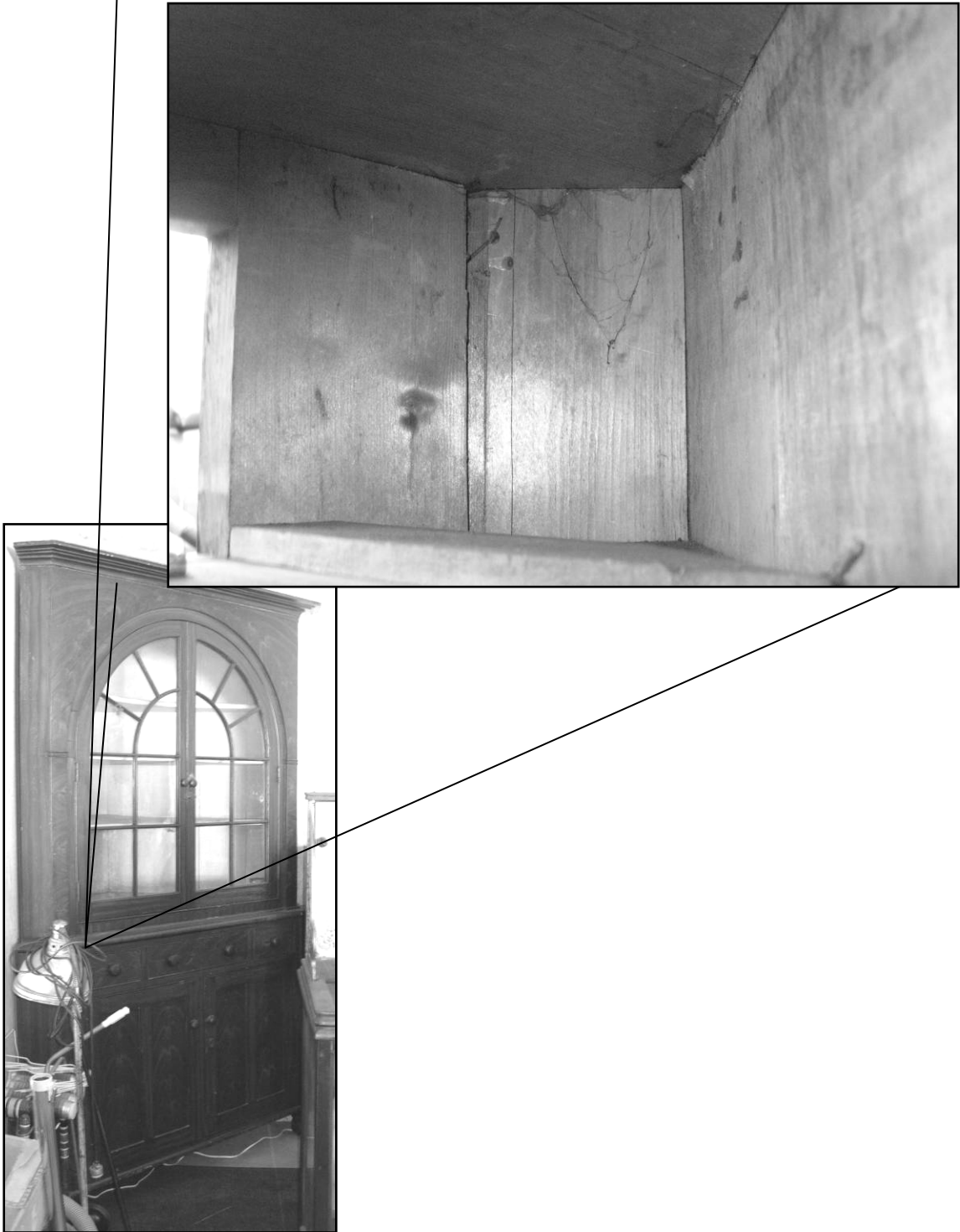


Figure 4.17 – An inset picture of the inside construction behind a Rupp “signature” block. The block is not apparent from the interior whatsoever.

Private collection, New Oxford, Pennsylvania.