

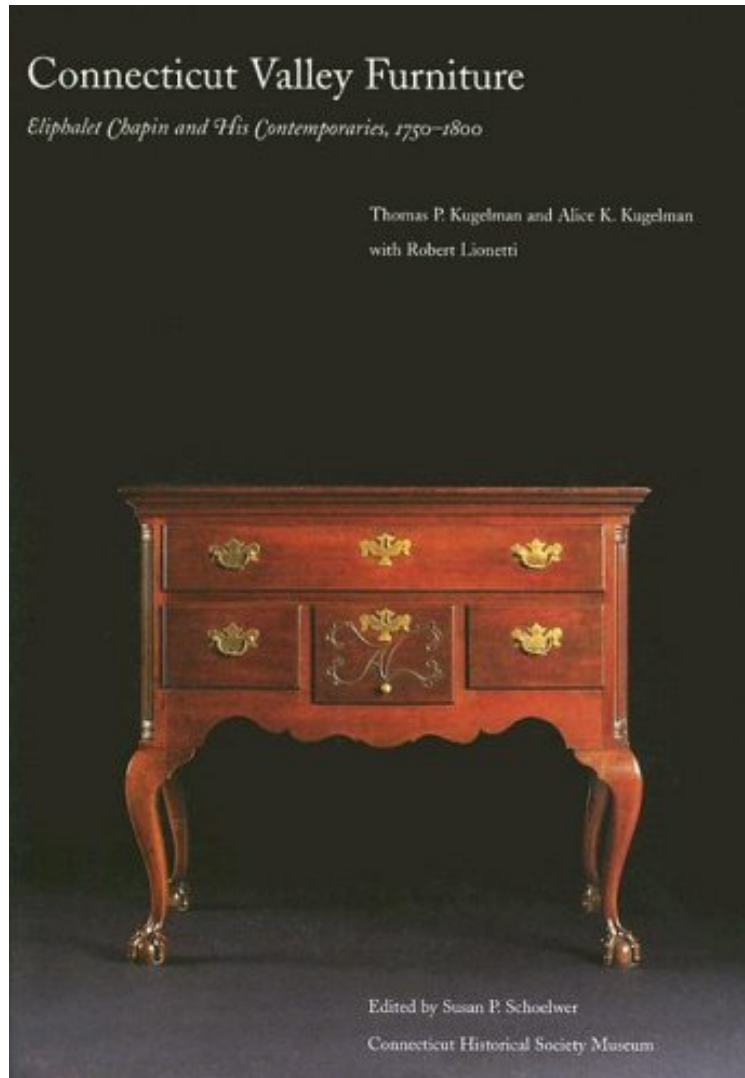
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0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. My AncestorsBy Kenneth NicholsI chose to purchase this book for several reasons. I grew up in Connecticut with a lifelong interest in working with wood. When my grandchildren were born, they slept in rock maple cribs I had designed and built. Only after I had discovered my love for working with

wood did I learn that I had ancestors who had worked with wood. The clincher for me to purchase this book is the fact that I am descended from some of the people featured in this book.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Thankyou!By George L. Hurrell IIFabulous book! Eliphalet Chapin is an ancestor and this book is very useful in understanding the family at that timem as well as the beautiful furniture they created.9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful and scholarly caseworkBy D. WeisgallThis beautiful book is both a labor of love and an important scholarly achievement. In it, Thomas and Alice Kugelman, with Robert Lionetti, have established a framework for the study of furniture built in the Connecticut River valley, from Stonington north to Springfield and Northampton, Massachusetts, during the flourishing of design and craftsmanship in the second half of the eighteenth century. By limiting their examples to casework, pieces with drawers intended at least partly for storage, the Kugelmans and Lionetti, combining documentary evidence with a system of direct observation, have identified several previously unknown makers and their workshops; they have located the origins of unattributed pieces, and they have suggested threads of connection to furniture makers in other colonies. Their scrutiny takes into account elements of ornament and construction; moreover the authors pay close attention to the particularities of each piece and resist the impulse to categorize. They celebrate anomalies, finding in them, ultimately, a key to the beauty of the objects that emerged in this astonishing half century of American domestic artistry. These desks and chests, plain and fancy, remain tangible evidence of the evolution of a new vocabulary to express a new culture--a vocabulary influenced by the urban high styles of Philadelphia, Newport, and Boston, but distinct from them, too, and more suited to the simpler, if not less sophisticated, circumstances of life in these smaller river towns. The Kugelmans bring into focus the richness of invention that existed throughout colonial New England; they discuss this furniture as tangible expressions of an individuality and sense of possibility that came to define a new nation. Connecticut Valley Furniture tells, eloquently, a story that is an important adjunct to the political and economic history of the times.

Connecticut Valley Furniture offers the first-ever systematic framework for classifying eighteenth-century Connecticut case furniture - high chests, dressing tables, desks, bureaus, chests-on-chests. Nearly two hundred illustrated entries present the findings of the Hartford Case Furniture Study, an extensive field study of over five hundred regional examples conducted over fourteen years by independent furniture scholars Thomas P. Kugelman and Alice K. Kugelman and furniture consultant and restorer Robert Lionetti. The book defines four major style centers emanating from the towns of Wethersfield, East Windsor, and Colchester, Connecticut, as well the Springfield-Northampton region of Massachusetts. Over half of the illustrations feature unpublished or little-known furniture pieces discovered in private or small institutional collections, in addition to the extraordinary holdings of the Connecticut Historical Society Museum and other major collections. Complementing the text are period maps, an illustrated glossary, biographies of selected cabinetmakers, and six interpretive essays.

From the Publisher11 7/8 x 9 7/8 trim. 445 illus.About the AuthorSelected furniture featured in this book will be showcased in a traveling exhibition, scheduled to be on view at The Concord Museum in Concord, Massachusetts, January 29 - June 5, 2005, and at the Connecticut Historical Society Museum in Hartford, June 23 - October 27, 2005.