

Timber Framing: A Traditional Approach

Co-Sponsored with Hancock Shaker Village

September 24-28, 2025, Wednesday through Sunday, 9:00-5:00

You can learn the craft of timber framing with 18th and 19th century tools and techniques in a beautiful outdoor setting. Hancock Shaker Village is a restored Shaker community with more than 20 buildings near Pittsfield, Massachusetts. We begin with an examination of the timber-framed buildings there and an introduction to the craft. Then participants will cut a small timber framed building and culminate the workshop with its raising. There will also be evening slide presentations that will cover both old and new timber framing in Europe and The United States.

Aspects covered during the workshop include:

- ◆ Hand hewing timbers from the log, setup, tools, and techniques
- ◆ Timber selection
- ◆ Square Rule and Scribe Rule layout systems (We will be using the Square Rule system)
- ◆ Care and use of traditional hand tools including sharpening
- ◆ Layout and cutting of timber joinery on both sawn and hewn timbers
- ◆ Riving and shaping trunnels (pegs) using a shaving horse
- ◆ Assembly and raising of the frame

The Instructors:

Jack Sobon is a timber frame architect and builder that has been working with both old and new timber framed buildings since 1976. He is author of **Hand Hewn, Build a Classic Timber Framed House, Historic American Timber Joinery**, and co-author of **Timber Frame Construction**.

Dave Carlon is a timber frame builder that has been involved with both old and new timber framed construction since 1978.

Neil Godden has been building timber frames and teaching since he got his start in this very class in 1997.

Registration:

A fee of \$820 includes admission to the museum and a copy of **Build a Classic Timber Framed House**. Lunches may be purchased at the village café. The text, information on accommodations, and a list of required tools will be sent upon receipt of registration. There will be a limit of 22 students. No previous carpentry or timber framing experience is necessary. Special work can be arranged for advanced students. The refund policy is a 95% refund until the end of August, no refunds are guaranteed thereafter. If the

workshop is canceled for any reason, there will be a full refund minus the price of the text.

More Information:

Please feel free to contact either Jack (413-684-3223 days, jacksobon@verizon.net), Dave (413-684-3612, dcarlon01@aol.com), or Neil (413-695-5324, neilgodden@gmail.com) if you have any questions, would like advanced work set up for you, or have any special needs. We have been offering this workshop since 1985 and we are continually improving the quality and scope of it. We are confident that you will find it comprehensive and enjoyable.



Registration for Timber Framing: A Traditional Approach



Name

Address

Telephone

E-mail

Occupation: _____

Would you like special or advanced work set up for you? _____

If so, please contact one of the instructors.

Payment: Please enclose a check for \$820 (\$800 if you already have the text) made out to "***Jack Sobon***". Hancock Shaker Village members deduct 10%.

***Send To: Jack Sobon
613 Shaw Road
Windsor, MA 01270***

Since space in the workshop is limited, it is advisable to register early.