


RACCOON FORKS
trading company




ANTIQUES, FURNITURE, PRINTS AND PRIMITIVES

Located in the NE corner of the East Village
621 Des Moines Street, Des Moines, Iowa
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-9pm, Sunday-Monday 10am-6pm
515.809.1715 ~ raccoonforks@gmail.com



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Raccoon Forks Trading Co. reopens after construction

Raccoon Forks Trading Co. has reopened and resumed regular business hours after periodic closings in November. The closings were due to construction, as part of our historic facade rehab project, near the building's entrance. But with masonry work done and the roofline rebuilt (awesome job, Renaissance Restoration!), our doors are open to the public seven days a week to meet your holiday shopping needs.



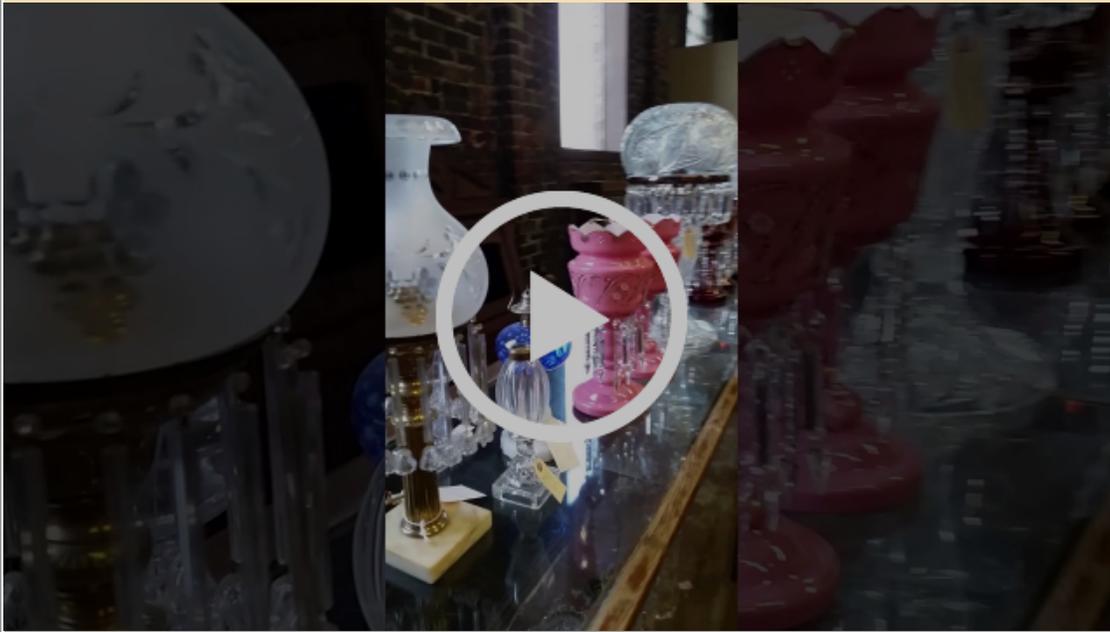
Holiday shopping rewards during Red Ribbon Sale!

Happy Holidays from Raccoon Forks Trading Company! To reward our loyal customers this holiday season, RFTC is having a Red Ribbon sale. Customers receive 20% off in-store purchases of items adorned with a red ribbon. So stop in today and find that one-of-a-kind holiday gift at Raccoon Forks Trading Company.



Video: Take a tour of Catfish Bill's trading room!

Catfish Bill trades in the finest American and English furniture and furnishings of the Aesthetic and Arts and Crafts eras, books, maps, prints and artwork, art tiles and pottery, gas and other lighting devices, architectural items, salvage and stained-glass windows.



Wapello Jim's Pick of the Month: American Brilliant Cut Glass

Wapello Jim ("The Agent"), a direct descendant of the Indian Agent Joseph Street, who traded with the Winnebago Indians of Wapello County, specializes in select "smalls" glassware, pottery and china. Each month, Wapello Jim highlights an intriguing item in Raccoon Forks Trading Company's carefully curated inventory.

Cut glass is glass decorated entirely by hand using rotating wheels. While cutting may be combined with other decorative techniques, cut glass refers to glass decorated entirely by cutting. Cuts are made by artisans holding and moving the piece against metal or stone wheels to produce a pattern.

The origins of cut glass can be traced to 1,500 B.C in Egypt, and artifacts show the Romans, Assyrians and Babylonians had mastered the art of decoration by cutting. Henry William Stiegel, an immigrant from Cologne, Germany, founded the American Flint Glass Manufactory in Manheim, Pa., where, in 1771, the first cut glass was produced in the U.S.

During the Brilliant Period (c. 1876-1915), nearly 1,000 glass cutting shops were established in the U.S. Well-known companies included Dorflinger, Egginton, Hawkes, Hoare, Jewel, Libbey, Meriden, Sinclair, and Tuthill.



As quick as the industry took off in the U.S, its decline was just around the

corner. Since true cut glass is entirely hand-decorated, high labor costs made it expensive and out of reach for most. Competition, domestic and abroad, and the introduction of inexpensive imitations, led to cost-cutting among U.S. companies. Also, the vogue of setting entire tables with glass was passing. By 1908, less than 100 cut glass companies remained in the U.S.

WWI dealt the final blow to the brief birth, growth and decline of a uniquely American achievement: Brilliant cut glass. Lead oxide—an essential ingredient in glass made for cutting—was needed for the war effort. By the end of the war, the few surviving factories used their resources to produce less costly glass.

Brilliant Period cut glass, forgotten for about 60 years, has been rediscovered by collectors and preserved for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

New inventory: Rancoulet sculpture, Carnival glass, stained-glass windows!



Signed Rancoulet Victorian Bronze Statue of a Young Lady in Period Clothes—Ernest Rancoulet (1870-1905), born in Bourdeaux, France, is known for sculptures and busts, in wood and bronze, predominately of women and children but also occasionally of animals. This sculpture weighs over 100 lbs, stands nearly 42 inches tall and features Rancoulet's signature on the base. A well-placed indoor statue like this beautiful Rancoulet adds style and brings art into lifelike dimension for the interiors of your home or office.

Fenton, Northwood and Imperial Carnival glass sets and individual pieces—

Carnival glass, glassware treated to have an iridescent sheen, has captivated collectors for years. Its eye-catching multi-color shimmer, often resembling oil on water, seems to change colors when viewed at different angles. Carnival glass is also known as "Taffeta," "Cinderella," and "Poor Man's Tiffany," as it allowed the average housewife to adorn her home with fancy vases and decorative bowls.

In 1907, Fenton Glass Co. of Williamston, W. Va., produced the first Carnival glass



(called "iridescent ware"), followed by the Harry Northwood company's "Golden Iris" (identified by its marigold color) in 1908. Imperial and Dugan companies soon created their

own lines. But by 1925, Carnival glass was falling out of favor, and many quit production during the Depression.



In total, there are around 2,000 different patterns of Carnival glass. Raccoon Forks Trading Company has recently added Fenton, Northwood and Imperial sets, and individual bowls and vases, to its selection. The Carnival glass in Raccoon Forks Trading Company's inventory dates to the heyday of Carnival glass (1907-1930), which is the most sought after by collectors. Post-WWII, this once-dismissed ware took on the Carnival glass name and became a collectible.



Stained-glass windows (c. 1890)—RFTC has added multiple antique leaded stained-glass windows to its inventory. Whether undertaking a historic restoration project, or looking for a unique and stylish piece, you are sure to find a stained-glass window in our stacks to suit your sensibilities.

Founded in 1812 by Emile Dobby (a French Canadian-Scots Irish fur trader) at the forks of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, our mission for over 200 years has been to bring choice goods in from the wilderness to trade with the local population for whatever valuables they possess (including cash, checks, and credit/debit cards).

Emile immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1800s after being driven out of Scotland for his rogue and wile ways, which had led to charges that included horse thievery. After spending many years fur trapping in the American West, he started the original RFTC near our current location, at 621 Des Moines Street (in the northeast corner of the East Village).

In our present incarnation we pledge to provide our loyal customers with high quality, carefully researched and curated antique and vintage furniture, furnishings, art, prints, etc., etc., etc.



Raccoon Forks Trading Co. is an Optimaе LifeServices small business. Optimaе creates jobs for individuals with disabilities and mental illness by developing and operating small businesses that provide high quality goods, services and economic benefits to communities. For more information, please click here:

<http://www.optimaeliveservices.com/our-services/raccoon-forks-businesses/>



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Forward

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