

RACCOON FORKS TRADING CO. NEWSLETTER, NOV. 2016



Emile's gang returns to a new location!

Raccoon Forks Trading Company has a new home at 621 Des Moines St.

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 Raccoon Forks Trading Company not far from our newest and permanent location, at 621 Des Moines Street (in the northeast corner of the East Village).

In our current 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.

Emile and company are back!

Emile Dobby's swashbuckling gang of traders is back! Catfish Bill, Tama Bill, Irish Will and Wapello Jim have been on the road since Aug. 2015, scouring far flung locales to find the highest quality antiques.

Catfish Bill, a direct descendant of Dobby, spent the last year on a riverboat cruising the Mississippi River, fishing for catfish and searching for the finest

American and English furniture and furnishings from the Aesthetic and Arts and Crafts eras; books, maps, prints and works of art; art tiles and pottery, gas and other lighting devices; architectural items and salvage and stained glass windows.

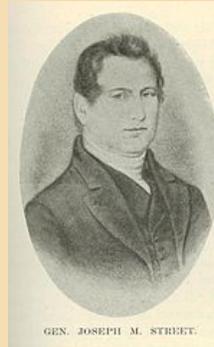


Tama Bill, recruited from the Iowa River Valley, has been zigzagging across the Mid-Atlantic region and the South in pursuit of Civil War era and pre-Civil War era antiques; primitives; advertising items, folk art, quilts, crocs, and other rare items and artifacts.

Irish Will, the most recent addition to the Dodds Family line of traders, has been working backrooms and barstools from the Midwest to the Mississippi Hill Country to the Old Sod, compiling books, maps, vinyl records and phonographs; early 20th century Arts & Crafts and Mission-style furniture, and Mid-Century masterpieces. As RFTC's main buyer, he is carrying on the tradition set by his great, great, great, great Pappy.



Wapello Jim ("The Agent"), a direct descendant of the Indian Agent, Joseph Street, who traded with the Winnebago Indians of Wapello County, spent the last year exploring the Northeast ingratiating himself with old New England money and travelling Iowa's gravel roads with an eye out for select "smalls"-glassware, pottery and china.



You can expect to hear tales of their adventures in the pages of this newsletter each month, along with news of our latest inventory, Wapello Jim's "Pick of the Month", specials and events.

Wapello Jim's 'Pick of the Month'

Sleepy Eye Pottery is one of the most popular potteries today. The name derives from Old Sleepy Eye, a Native American chief, and the original Sleepy Eye flour mill, built in 1883, in Sleepy Eye, Minn., a tiny town in the southwestern part of the state. At the turn of the 20th century, the Sleepy Eye flour mill started a promotional line of pottery and other items.



In 1903, Sleepy Eye created a line of blue and grey Flemish ware made by

Weir Pottery of Monmouth, Ill., including salt bowls, butter crocks, vases and steins. The pieces of pottery were given away with 50-lb. barrels of flour as a promotion. However, the government intervened in the giveaways, perhaps due to the heavy pottery pieces accounting for too much of the weight of the barrels. The stoneware pieces were printed with advertising and sold to grocery stores and other merchants.

Today Sleepy Eye Pottery is highly prized by collectors, and popular among connoisseurs of General Store and Country Store items. Most people identify Sleepy Eye pottery by the prominently featured Indian face on much of the pottery. Many companies have made similar versions of the pottery and some collectors buy according to who made it. The Flemish pieces are harder to find and more valuable.

New inventory: Bookcase, Settee, and Pedestal

Irish Will found this beautiful **Humphrey Leaded-Glass Sectional Barrister Bookcase**, pictured right, from the Humphrey Bookcase Company during his most recent travels. The Humphrey Bookcase Company was based in Detroit, Mich., from approximately 1907-1910, before merging with J.C. Widman & Co. Note the leaded-glass shelf doors and stained middle shelf door. Inside the bookcase, on the top shelf, the manufacturer's label is visible. With the original stain on quartersawn oak, this item stands out in any library, office, or living room.



This **American Aesthetic settee**, pictured at left, was picked up by Catfish Bill on one of his northern expeditions on the mighty Mississippi. With original hand-carved walnut and newer upholstery, the settee is perfect for late night reads, entertaining guests, or an afternoon nap.

Tama Bill unearthed this **rare maple pedestal**, pictured at right, with padauk inlay, from his treasure trove in Montezuma. The origins of this pedestal are a mystery but, refinished by RFTC's own Maple Creek Marc De Jong, the beauty is clear as day. Perfect for displaying statues, such as this late 19th century French bronze, vases, and other decorative items, it is one of three we have in the store today.



Historic façade rehab project underway

We are undergoing a comprehensive historic façade rehabilitation project at the store's new location, at 621 Des Moines Street (built c. 1920), where you can see Catfish Bill's passion for architecture and historic preservation on display.

The American Railway Express Company first occupied our building, which still features some of the building's original and salient features. The storefront has undergone many changes over the years and Renaissance Restoration, out of Galena, Ill., is doing an excellent job of restoring the building's original features that have been lost, including rebuilding the façade with the building's original brick, and recreating architectural detailing. Stop by and check out our progress!



Newsletter subscriber perks: 20% off, or \$10 off first purchase

Raccoon Forks Trading Company will regularly reward our newsletter subscribers with specials, discounts and deals. This month, subscribers receive 20% off any Raccoon Forks Trading Company item, or \$10 off their first purchase of any item in the store (both discounts cannot be used on the same item). To receive this discount, please show a copy of this newsletter at the time of purchase, or mention the promotional code: "Emile Dobby rides again!" The offer is valid until Dec. 15, 2016. Each subscriber is eligible for one of each of the discounts.

East Village's 2016 Holiday Promenade: Nov. 18, 5 pm to 9 pm



Please make sure to stop by Raccoon Forks Trading Company for free refreshments and a look at our newest inventory on Friday, Nov. 18 from 5 pm to 9 pm during the East Village's 2016 Holiday Promenade. The Whole Damn Band will provide the soundtrack during your visit!

Holiday Promenade is an East Village-wide holiday kick-off event with something for everyone: shopping, free horse-drawn carriage rides from 5:30 to 8, carolers, ice skating, live ice sculpting, tree lighting and Santa at Brenton Plaza. Most East Village shops will have extended hours and treats, making it the perfect time to start your holiday shopping.

And don't forget to visit our friends at Plain Talk Books and Coffee for free samples from Plain Talk's menu, drinks and live entertainment.

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Raccoon Forks Trading Co. is an Optimaef LifeServices small businesses. Optimaef 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.optimaeflifeservices.com/our-services/raccoon-forks-businesses/>

RACCOON FORKS
trading company



ANTIQUES, FURNITURE, PRIMITIVES AND PRINTS

Located in the NE corner of the East Village
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-9pm, Sunday-Monday 10am-6pm
621 Des Moines Street, Des Moines, Iowa
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