



Lewis W. Scranton

*Having assembled a formidable gathering of early New England artifacts,
a collector of 60 years decides it's time to sell.*

Photos by Laura Beach and Skinner Inc.

By Laura Beach

KILLINGWORTH, CONN. — Lewis W. Scranton has spent his life reconnecting the past. A preservationist at heart, the 79-year-old Connecticut native has waged a highly personal battle to save, bit by bit, house by house, a once agrarian state now all but overcome by development. He is drawn to early architecture and open spaces, but it is objects, with their power to summon memory, that most compel him, and context, disappearing in our hypermobile society, that animates him.

A Pepperell, Mass., architectural corner cupboard dating to circa 1750 displays selections from Scranton's outstanding collection of redware pottery, including jars from Maine and Bristol County, Mass. Lew holds an exceptional oval plate with tricolor slip decoration that once hung over New Hampshire auctioneer Richard Withington's kitchen sink.





Like Henry David Thoreau, who “traveled a good deal in Concord,” Scranton has journeyed far while rarely straying from home. A rock-ribbed New Englander whose looming stature — he stands 6 feet, 5 inches tall — earned him the sobriquet “the lanky Yankee,” Scranton has lived in Killingworth, a sparsely settled tract in the south central part of the state, for the past 50 years. He grew up 15 miles away on the coast in Guilford, in an 1870s house on State Street, two blocks from the town’s historic green.

Scranton turned a former dining room into an inviting outdoor porch, where he relaxes with a drink most late afternoons when the weather is nice. His crisp New England manner and 6-foot, 5-inch height earned him the nickname “the lanky Yankee.” The folk art dealers Joel and Betty Schatzberg brought him the tavern sign, which, along with the other pieces pictured here, is not for sale.

Skinner Inc will auction Scranton's notable assemblage of New England antiques under a tent on his lawn on Saturday, May 21...

(Continued on page 7C in the E-Edition)

**Read Full Article
on Desktop**

**Read Full Article
on Mobile**

"Several years ago, Lew made me promise that I would sell his collection before I retired. He wanted an old-fashioned onsite sale with no estimates, no reserves and no buyer's premium. Runners will carry the pieces. I told him he had a deal," says Stephen L. Fletcher, right, chairman of Skinner Inc. Scranton, left, got the rare Eighteenth Century wrought iron and brass candlestand out of a house in Norwich, Conn. He promises to share with the buyer the maker's identity, something he alone knows.



Browse More



**Chester County
Antiques Show:
Making Antiquing
Fun Again**



**Xanadu
In Philadelphia**



**The Bedford Spring
Antiques Show
Appeals To Collectors
Old And New**