

## ORIGIN OF THE MANUFACTORY

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places since October 1971, the Old Schwamb Mill is historically significant as a picture frame manufactory that survives intact from the Civil War era. When Charles Schwamb started the business of making frames in 1864, much of his business was drawn from customers who wanted oval and circular frames for photographic portraits. Architecturally, the Mill is a rare example of a mid-sized vernacular structure that evolved between 1861 and 1883. The mill converted walnut, oak, cherry, and other North American and tropical hardwoods into finely crafted natural wood and gilded frames. Today visitors to the Mill tour the vintage front office, shop floor and glue room as well as our art gallery, frame show room and history room. The Old Schwamb Mill continues to produce high quality hand-made wooden oval and circular frames using the original mill templates and machinery. Schwamb frames and mouldings are in many major art museums in the United States and are included in the collections of the White House, Buckingham Palace, the Iolani Palace in Honolulu, and the collection of Queen Sylvia of Sweden.



Charles Schwamb

Purchasing a frame made at the Old Schwamb Mill is an investment in historic preservation.

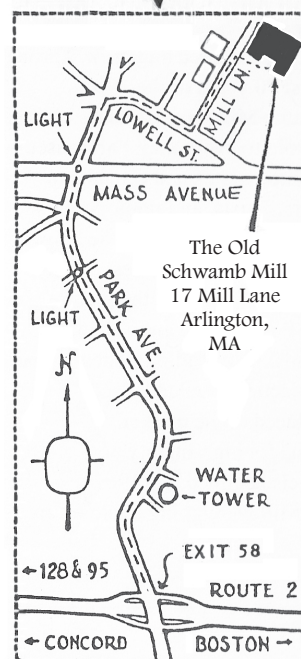
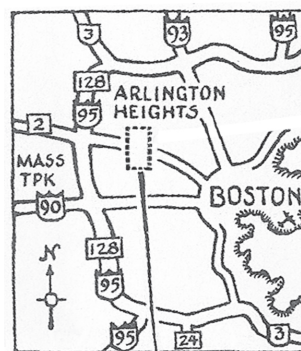


Workers with frames at the Schwamb Mill c. 1873.



VISITORS TO THE MILL are cordially welcomed. The Mill is located on the Revolutionary Battle Route to Lexington and Concord, at 17 Mill Lane in Arlington, Massachusetts. Mill buildings, including the woodworking shop, are open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Machinery demonstrations are given in the woodworking shop.

CONSIDER SUPPORTING the Old Schwamb Mill by becoming a member and receive the annual newsletter, invitations to unique offerings by the Mill including lectures, historic walking tours, art exhibition receptions and concerts. Members also receive a 10% discount in both the museum shop and adjacent Shaker Workshops. An individual membership is \$30/year, and \$40/year for families.

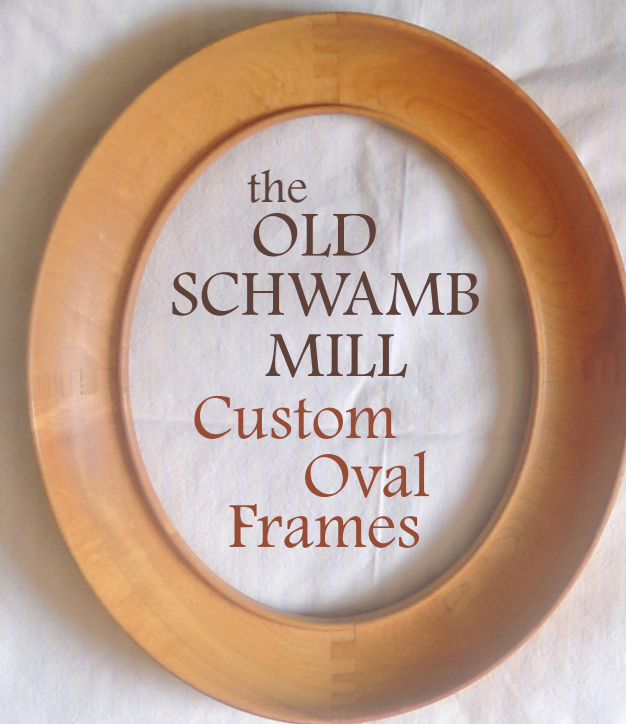


2/2018

The Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, Inc. exists for the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of the Old Schwamb Mill in Arlington, Massachusetts. Begun in 1864 as a picture frame manufactory, the Mill is located on the site of many previous mills built on Mill Brook. It is a rare survivor of the small, family-owned mills that helped define New England, and is the oldest continuously-operating mill site in the United States. The Mill's unique 19th century elliptical faceplate lathes, its original belt-driven shaft-and-pulley machinery, and the original hand-turning process are used to this day to create custom-made oval and circular frames. The Trust preserves and protects the Mill's site, buildings, tools, archives, machinery, and manufacturing techniques as unique cultural and educational resources. The Old Schwamb Mill is run and maintained by the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable, educational organization. Its activities are funded by the generous donations of our supporters.

BROCHURE DESIGN: JENNIFERWHITEGRAPHICDESIGN.COM

## HEIRLOOM QUALITY CUSTOM FRAMES



HANDCRAFTED IN  
MASSACHUSETTS  
SINCE 1864

THE OLD SCHWAMB MILL  
17 MILL LANE, ARLINGTON, MA 02476  
781-643-0554

website: [www.oldschwambmill.org](http://www.oldschwambmill.org)  
email: [frames@oldschwambmill.org](mailto:frames@oldschwambmill.org)





FOR OVER A CENTURY  
AND A HALF SCHWAMB MILL  
FRAMES HAVE BEEN GRACING HOMES WITH  
TIMELESS STYLE, HANDSOMELY COMPLEMENTING  
CHERISHED PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTWORK.



## CRAFTING HEIRLOOMS TODAY

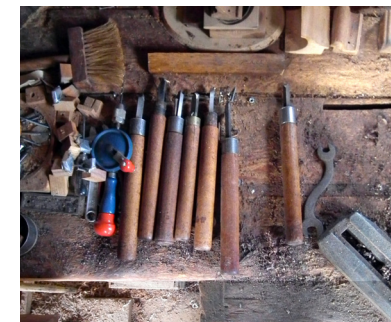
The Old Schwamb Mill is proud to continue a 150-year tradition of excellence offering solid wood, hand-turned oval and circular frames. These heirloom-quality frames are custom made to order, utilizing the original 1860s belt-driven oval faceplate lathes in their original setting. The four oval faceplates lathes, possibly the last of their kind, are capable of producing oval frames ranging in size from 3 inches by 3 inches up to 6 feet by 4 feet.

Representing the intersection of human craft with the machine, the oval and circular frames are characterized by:

- ☛ solid hardwood construction: mahogany, cherry, walnut, maple, oak, poplar, bass, or another wood of your choice.
- ☛ assembly from four straight-grained sections, finger-jointed together to insure strength and stability. The wood is not bent or steamed.
- ☛ shaping of profiles by hand-held chisel, which carves the wood as it is rotated by the original belt-driven, oval faceplate lathes. No router or shaper is used. With this approach, an infinite range of profiles and sizes are possible.
- ☛ availability in any size you wish, with any combination of length, width, size and rabbet.
- ☛ availability in any profile (cross section) you request, with any depth and width. Choose from classic original Old Schwamb Mill profiles as listed in the catalogue on our website, or send us your particular drawing or blueprint. We can match historic moulding profiles or work from drawings provided by architects and designers.
- ☛ in-house finishes including oil, oil and wax, or shellac. Gilding is available on request.

We also offer custom frames in a variety of shapes, including circular frames, arched-top frames, gothic arched-top frames, spandrel frames and shadow box frames.

For further information or a quote please call 781-643-0554, or email us at [frames@oldschwambmill.org](mailto:frames@oldschwambmill.org).



### SAMPLE FRAME PRICES \*

13" x 11"	\$320
17" x 13"	\$400
23" x 18"	\$540
32" x 18"	\$635

\* Frame prices will vary according to choice of wood and frame size. Please contact us for an estimate for your custom frame.

\*\* Old Schwamb Mill members receive a 10% discount.

6/2018