

## Two Places to Park It

Since our very first issue, the **DOG** has been fighting for the eradication of "two-piece camp chairs." I feel strongly that most chairs, if any, found around any camp were brought out from nearby buildings. Actual "camp" chairs were of the folding variety as seen in period photographs and were generally available when wagon space and the campaign permitted. We present two "best possible solution" folding chairs as alternatives.

The Petersheim Army Folding Chair manufactured by Jacob Petersheim and Company of Fredericksburg, Ohio is sold exclusively by The Flying Turtle Mercantile. It is a dark finished oak chair with steam bent, oak arms identical to a Kentucky original. The chair comes with unfinished hardware for a period look, as well as a canvass reinforced tapestry seat, which is tacked.

I "tested" the chair this past July while the Turtle and the **DOG** were neighbors at S. G. Marinos' place on the edge of the Gettysburg battlefield. It is a very comfortable seat. Ladies are reminded that cage crinolines do not easily fit between the sides, so this style folding chair is better suited to work dress situations and not the parlor. The cost of the chair is \$95 plus \$15 shipping if you cannot pick one up when the Turtle is in the field. Allow thirty days minimum if not in stock, but I understand there should be some ready at the end of November for the holidays.

A different style folding chair is available from the Manchester Mercantile (in this case hoops are no problem as long as a gentleman is near by to steady the sitter). The Manchester chair is based on an original found in New Hampshire with an 1850s provenance. It was loaned to Roger and Sue Luckhardt, the proprietors of the mercantile, for their product development. Roger builds the chairs from oak or walnut (the original is oak). The chair is finished with Danish oil, oiled finishes where poplar during this time period. The original chair is not stained and appears to have an oiled finish. The original has lathe chair rungs and so does the reproduction.

The original chair is missing its cloth seat, but does have the tack holes where the carpet material was attached. The Luckhardt's use tapestry and carpet material lined with cotton duck (canvas) on their chairs and are willing to work with customers if they have a particular fabric in mind, say from Family Heirloom Weavers.

The Manchester chairs have also been "tested" by our staff and pass muster. The cost of the chair is \$95 plus actual shipping, which ranges from six to fifteen dollars.

So there you go...two chairs at reasonable prices based on originals. **ARF!** These chairs a "best possible solution" to those "other" chairs, which look they belong on the porch of a 1930s cabin in the Adirondacks or in an 1860s campfire. [1]

**Mr. Christen**

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**NOTE:**

[1] This past summer the World Market stores (a chain found near many larger malls or shopping outlets) were selling a wooden, folding chair made in Indonesia. It has the proper shape, but appears to be a larger and heavier version of chairs similar to the Petersheim chair. The pieces cut rather than steam bent. The wood is an exotic rain forest variety with a reddish color, which fortunately fades quickly in the sun (re-staining is another option). The chair has and a canvas seat, which could be recovered. The cost was \$39 (sometimes clearance priced at \$29 and some store clerks do not realize they come two to a box and have been known to send the customer out the door with an "unofficial" bargain). The jury is still out on this one. It is a reasonably looking alternative to the slat chair, but without papers or a pedigree.



FIG A. The Petersheim Chair



FIG B. Front View

FIGURES B and C. The Manchester Chair (original on the left)

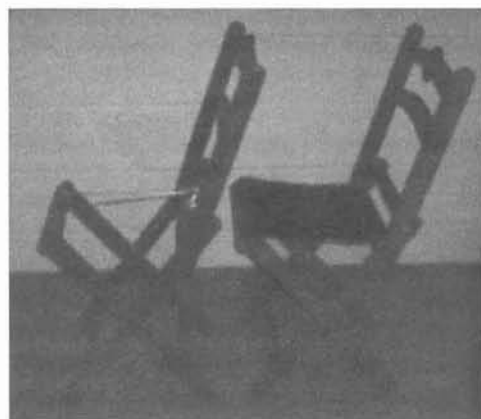


FIG C. Side View