

Because of its exquisite craftsmanship and rarity the estimates on the value of this chest have run higher than four thousand dollars. It was a Christmas present from one of our sons in 1968. He purchased it from an antique dealer in Litchfield, Connecticut who must have been undergoing a serious psychological deterioration at the time, as the price he charged was eighty five dollars.

Finally, as we come to the end of the taped portion of the tour I wish to state a few more things. I call your attention to the hand made painted sail cloth on a portion of the floor. The forerunner of our present day linoleum, it was tacked down to keep out the winter drafts. The house abounds in fine panelling, valuable panes of Sandwich glass, and Holy Lord (HL) hinges which were hung in combination with Christian Cross doors to keep witches out of New England homes. Down south, where there was no witch problem, the hinges were called Home and Love and Happy Lovers out west. Many of the door and cabinet frames tilt at the top to a considerable degree. They were salvaged from ships, and nothing aboard ship could be built level. Being in the hold the tops of the door frames and cabinets were built directly beneath the deck which has a "camber" or slope for drainage. All construction had to accommodate the ship's hull. This is why the interiors of Cape houses are called "ship shape."

Our round brick cellar, fourteen feet in diameter, was built circular to withstand the equalized pressure of the sand and to provide more space using fewer valuable bricks. Being cool in the summer and cold in the winter, game would keep well as would the root vegetables that were buried in the sand in the fall.

At the end of the tape, I will demonstrate some unusual antiques and, if you wish, answer any questions.

When my wife and I purchased this house in 1944 there was a good deal of land some of which we sold. The contents included many antiques. With the rear building, the property is worth today more than twenty five times the amount we paid which was the grand total of four thousand dollars.

