

AN UNUSUAL JOINT

Figure 3 shows one of a pair of elm side chairs, perhaps made around the 1770s, with attractive interlaced gothick splats of a kind which was widely copied for the provincial market.

They have two distinctive features, one being the row of six scallop shapes carved in the splat on the bottom edge of the toprail. The other, shown in Figure 4, is that the tenons of the side rails come through the back posts and are held with little wedges from the rear. This through-tenon has been noted on 18th century American chairs; can anyone throw any light on its regional origin on this side of the Atlantic?

Courtesy of Robert E. Hirschhorn Antiques

Christopher Claxton Stevens



Fig. 3 Elm chair with scalloped splats

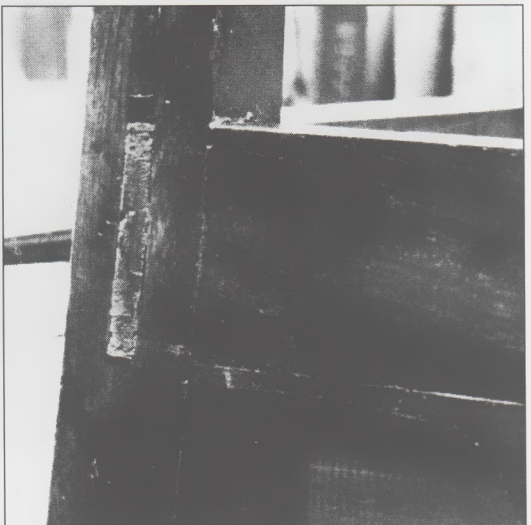


Fig. 4 Unusual through-tenon joint