

Capitalizing on a heritage blending the eastern seaboard and southern Kentucky, W. Taylor Thistlethwaite has fixed his attention on the past, or at least the relics of the past. The Centre College graduate has honed his eye and his knowledge of America's material past as one of ten graduate students to complete three intensive summer institutes at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts.

Now, Thistlethwaite has chosen to use his expertise by becoming one of the south-east's up-and-coming antiques dealers through his firm, W. T. Thistlethwaite Antiques. He markets his carefully-collected selection of furniture and

## W. TAYLOR THISTLETHWAITE: A Man in Search of the Past

decorative accessories through shows scattered around the eastern United States. His offerings have been lauded at regional shows presentations at the Blue Grass Trust Antiques and Garden Show in Lexington and the Shaker Village Antiques Show and Sale near Harrodsburg.

Taylor has chosen to focus on southern decorative arts with an emphasis on Kentucky and Tennessee. Among some of his prized merchandise at the moment is a Lexington-made linen press, an Adair County bow-front chest, plus a number of items from Virginia and Maryland. He recently explained, "I enjoy the search not only for the piece, but the pieces of the puzzle that tell its history. It's wonderful to be able to tell the story of the piece."

Taylor's interest in antiques began by

living among antiques. "My Mom and Dad (Mary Jane and Bill Thistlethwaite) have collected antiques for years," and he truly grew up surrounded by pieces from the past. He added that his grandfather, James Howard Young, of Wisdom in Metcalfe County has been an inspiration to him and he credits him with endowing him with a keen sense of history. Young is well known throughout the region as a consummate collector of antiques and decorative arts while being a legendary voice for stories of the past. While not promoting his own collection of treasures from the past, he continues to occasionally assist the notable Sumpter Priddy III of Alexandria, Virginia with his displays at some of the country's most high-profile antique shows. W.T.

Thistlethwaite Antiques will be found on the internet at www.thistledecarts.com .





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MAMA LOU'S BAR-B-QUE & GIFTS The lunch and dinner menus include: pulled pork, ribs, shoulder, brisket and ham steak platters; assorted sandwiches, the daily special of white beans and fried corn bread or loaded potato; and sides such as fried potatoes, slaw, baked beans; plus a variety of desserts. The entire menu is carry-out available. Customers can dine in or make their orders to go. The restaurant also offers catering services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (270) 786-4198