

Rocky Forge News

Volume 12, Issue 4 - April 2013

Next Meeting (4/13/13)

Our next meeting will be at the Camp Rotary Boy Scout Camp near Crawfordsville. Please see the information submitted by Dan Michael regarding this meeting. I trust that many of you will participate in the event to help the Scouts achieve their metal working badges. We will need all the help we can get. This is a time I am pleading with you to please help on this day. There are several of our active members who cannot make it due to previous commitments so try to make it.

The Rocky Forge will be host to the IBA on April 20th, the Saturday after next and again I hope we have a good turnout for that event. The summary at right was published in the IBA newsletter "Forge Fire" for April. We have a nice agenda for the day, and it should be a lot of fun. I am putting a lot of work into making the billets and other arrangements so you can take home a Norwegian knife blank and the information to complete the knife and sheath at some later date. Thanks to KJ, I hope to be able to convey the information you will need to take a knife blade to completion.

Ted Stout

Spring Camporee (4/13/13)

The Sugar Creek District of the Boy Scouts of America is having their spring Camporee at Camp Rotary on April 13. Rocky Forge has agreed provide the blacksmiths. The Camp is about 45 minutes from Ted's, and please arrive at the camp around 8AM. There is a video that we'll be required to watch dealing with Youth Protection. The first crew of boys will be out around 9AM. Lunch will be provided as well as coal, and metal. Please bring your own tools and forges.

What we will be doing is manning a station where the boys will make something from metal. Things to make include hooks, nails, fire strikers, lid lifters, etc. There are no wrong things. It's up to you and the boy. We do have a time limit, however, so keep it simple. Camp Rotary address is 1745 S 325 W., Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

Dan Michael

Directions to Camp Rotary

Get to US231 in Crawfordsville going south. Near the south end of town take a right (turn west) onto IN32. Travel 3.1 miles on IN32. Turn left on S 325 W/Camp Rotary Road. Travel 0.8 miles. Turn right into Camp Rotary main gate. Look for Dan.

IBA Meeting at Ted's (4/20/13)

Knife Making Program

The next meeting of the IBA will be at Ted Stout's shop on April 20th. The program will be to make a Norwegian sheath knife as taught to us by our Norwegian friend, K. J. Groven (KJ). It is not known yet whether KJ will be here or not. He is in the process of moving back to South Dakota where his wife has a job with the Bureau of Mines.



Norwegian Knife by Fred Livesay

We will go ahead with the program as planned and Ted will demonstrate how the knife blade is made and the importance of the tang design. 1075 blanks will be available for forge welding to mild steel or wrought iron. The annealing and tempering processes will also be shown. Anyone wishing to go home with a Norwegian sheath knife will be able to do so. Dick Fisher, an accomplished bladesmith, will be available to lead the blade profiling, edging and to answer other important issues. If time permits we will also address making the handle and sheath. If his schedule will allow a leather worker will be on hand for demonstrating how to wet the leather and draw the shape needed over a mandrel and how to stitch the sheath on a stitching horse. If you do not go home with a completed knife you certainly can take home one that is well on the way to be a knife and the knowledge to finish it at home. A lot of the plans are still being firmed up, so I apologize for not having a concrete agenda. You can at least go home with a blade (the rest may be questionable).

Lunch will be a pitch in with Carol and Ted providing the table service, iced tea, coffee and water. If you want pop to drink bring your own. Please bring a covered dish to pass around.

There will be a quality iron in the hat so bring some nice treasures to contribute to the pile. Bring your favorite tools for working on the knife. Dan Michael will have bagged coal available for sale at the meeting, otherwise bring some coal. Forges, anvils and three power hammers will be available. I hope to see all of you on April 20th. Coffee and doughnuts will be ready at about 8:30.

Ted Stout

Interesting Web Sites

Fred Livesay, woodworking teacher at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais, Minnesota:
<http://www.northhouse.org/courses/courses/instructor.cfm/iid/70>

Bex Simon: Artist Blacksmith: Beautiful!!
<http://www.bexsimon.com/>

Michelle J. Parker: Master Blacksmith
<http://www.mjblacksmith.com/>

Dates to Remember

April 13, 2013: Camporee at Camp Rotary, Rocky Forge is providing blacksmiths to teach Boy Scouts

April 20, 2013: Rocky Forge is hosting the IBA meeting at Ted's shop.

May 4, 2013: Rural Smiths of Mid-America (RSMA) Meeting at Gary Phillips' shop near Albany, IN.

May 16-18, 2013: ABANA Southern Blacksmith Conference, Madison, GA.

May 31-June 2, 2013: **IBA Conference:** Tipton, IN.

June 14-16, 2013: Rural Smiths of Mid-America (RSMA) Meeting and Demo, Johnson County Park

September 20 – 22, 2013: SOFA QUADSTATE Conference, Troy, Ohio.

September 20 – 22, 2013: Potawatomi Festival, Attica, IN.

October 5 - 6, 2013: Feast of the Hunters' Moon, Fort Ouiatenon, West Lafayette, IN.

October 11-20, 2013: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Parke County, IN.

August 13-16, 2014: ABANA 2014 Conference, "Joinery: Come Make Connections", Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, Delaware.

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Web Site: <http://www.rockyforge.org/> (previous newsletters can be found here).



John Bennett showing his flower and forming tool.

The Versatile Blacksmith

Tips for the Other Stuff We Do

By Roger E. Davis

Blacksmithing was unique among the traditional trades in that the master blacksmith was capable of making all of his own tools. In fact, virtually every other tradesman depended on him for the tools they needed. Today, the smith can buy every tool he can imagine from commercial suppliers, but he had better pack lots of cash. Lacking that resource (or needing something special), every smith eventually needs to make tools. This review is intended to help you locate drawings, instructions and heat treat advice for a range of blacksmith tools in free e-books available online.

Many, many old blacksmithing books are available as PDF's online, and generally for free. I have listed several here by URL, and offered search terms for those available from Google Books, as their URL's are painfully long. Many of the Google titles are available in additional formats for various e-readers, and print copies may also be available. We'll begin the review with some of these online freebies.

The books by John Bacon listed here are second and third editions of the same book, and have the same projects in them. The 1919 edition is significantly longer, with lots of details given, especially on heat-treating, under "Miscellaneous Work."

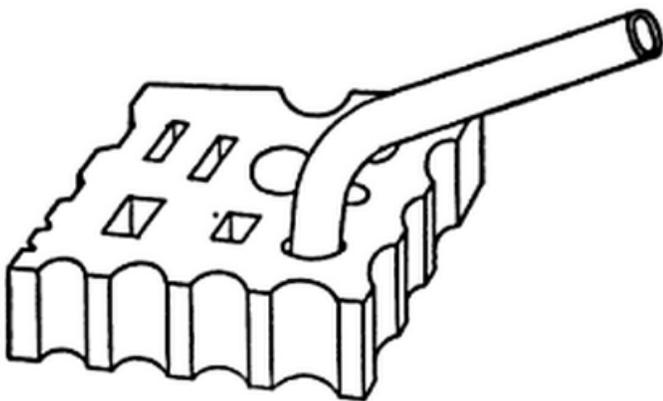


FIG. 268.

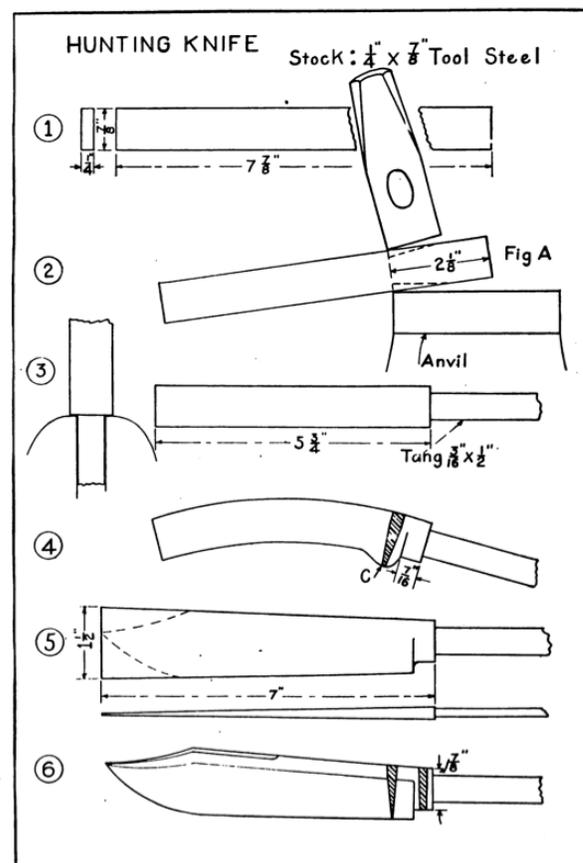
Dimensioned drawings are given for the projects, which include handled and unhandled chisels, two styles of tongs, a flatter and a set hammer, fire tools, and a range of hardware items. A variety of tools

for use on the power hammer are shown in the "Steam-Hammer Work" chapter, but no specific dimensions are given. Tables are given for recommended carbon content and proper tempering temperatures for each type of tool.

Harcourt's book, **Elementary Forge Practice**, includes an interesting range of dimensioned drawings for hammers, handled and unhandled chisels and punches, an axe, a geologist's pick and a few other items. Many of the projects include progress drawings, detailing the required steps from rough stock to finished forging.

Project 44.

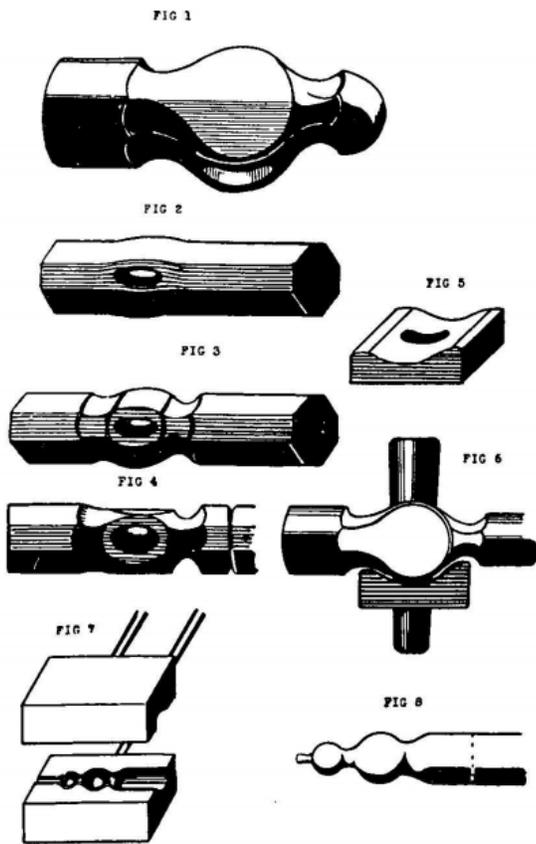
Plate XLIV.



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The two British books, **Blacksmith's Manual Illustrated** and **The Blacksmith's Craft**, are relatively modern books. Each of these books is broken up into several PDF's, eleven and five files respectively. The first book is the older one, and all illustrations are drawings. This book is short on dimensions, but is an excellent "idea book", showing a huge variety of tools for both hand forging and power hammer work.

HAND HAMMER PLATE 9



The later chapters focus on large work (think locomotive), but other sections include lots of progress drawings for smaller projects. There is a ton of good stuff here. **The Blacksmith's Craft** covers a wide range of forge work, all documented primarily with photos. Part Five includes detailed documentation of forging a set of tongs, with photos and sketches (and enough dimensions to get by).

The last of the e-books is Schwarzkopf's book, **Plain and Ornamental Forging**. This is an excellent introduction to general blacksmithing, illustrated throughout with clear line drawings. Chapter X is "Tool Making," and includes dimensioned drawings for handled and unhandled chisels and punches, a hammer and an eye drift for making it. Earlier chapters include tong making, headers, a soldering copper, etc. If you're feeling artsy, there's even fifty pages on "Art Forging." This book is also available as a print edition from Astragal Books.

Bacon, John L., **Forge-Practice (Elementary)**.
John Wiley & Sons, 1908. (Google search from

books.google.com: "forge-practice (elementary) bacon")

<http://archive.org/details/forgepracticeele00baco>

Bacon, John L., Forge-Practice and Heat

Treatment of Steel, John Wiley & Sons, 1919.

<http://www.wkfinetools.com/> Use "SEARCH" tab with "forge practice"

Harcourt, Robert H., Elementary Forge Practice,

Manual Arts Press, 1920. (Google search:

"elementary forge practice harcourt")

<http://archive.org/details/elementaryforgepractice00harciala> (1917 edition)

Lillico, J.W., Blacksmith's Manual Illustrated

http://www.hct.ac.uk/Downloads/cp_blacksmith_man.html

Rural Development Commission, **The**

Blacksmith's Craft

http://www.hct.ac.uk/Downloads/cp_blacksmith.html

Schwarzkopf, Ernst, Plain and Ornamental

Forging, John Wiley & Sons, 1916. (Google

search: "schwarzkopf forging") Astragal Press,

<http://www.astragalpress.com>, (print edition; go to Book Index "P")

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