

Now and Then
 Newsletter of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild
August 2018

Inside: Club Information Meeting Notes General Information Items of Interest	Editor's Note: As you have noticed, the July SVBG Newsletter is coming out a month late. I just did not seem to have it in me to produce a newsletter during the month of July! Just a reminder - DRINK, DRINK, DRINK... it is important to stay hydrated during these summer months. <p style="text-align: right;">SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com</p>
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Club Information

2018 SVBG Board of Directors

- President...Dewey Baker contact preference through email: chevy38truck@gmail.com
 or message him on Facebook by typing in Dewey Baker and messaging him;
 if you must contact him by phone only call between 8 am & 8 pm at (540) 421-5510; He is
 unable to be reached by phone on Monday evenings between 7 & 9 pm for Boy Scout Meetings
 and the 1st and 2nd Tuesday evenings between 7 & 9 pm for Ruritan Meetings
- Shop Master...Everette Burkholder (540) 879-9260
- Secretary/Treasurer...Karen Robertson (434) 989-2206 email: ksrobertson7@gmail.com
- Librarian...Daniel Burkholder (540) 879-9260
- Safety Officer...Matt Williams (910) 465-0463 email: stonecrestforge@gmail.com
- Web Master...James Spurgeon email: SageBrushBladeWorks@gmail.com
- Photographer...Dirk Gold email: dirkgold@gmail.com
- Coal Manager...Bill Fox email: foxfab78@yahoo.com
- Facebook Administrators... Drew Alexander email: magicdrew88@gmail.com
 Dale Morse email: vulkansmiede@yahoo.com
- Newsletter Editor...Susan Plank (540) 896-1232 email: SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com
- Guild Master - Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing, Dale Morse (434) 960-9718
 email: vulkansmiede@yahoo.com

Club Information - Continued

More information on the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild can be found at these locations:

The Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild website can be located on the internet at
<http://svbg.squarespace.com>

and

On Facebook, like us at Shenandoah Valley Blacksmithing Guild

Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith's Guild Mission Statement:

- | |
|--|
| * Preserve traditional blacksmith and metalworking skills through educational offerings to its members and the community at large. |
| * Serve as a clearinghouse for information, techniques, tools, and training programs for any individual interested in hot-worked metals. |
| * Facilitate educational opportunities and demonstrations for the general public, especially area children. |
| * Share practical skills experiences and techniques with beginner and experienced blacksmiths alike. |
| * Provide a forum for creative problem solving of metalworking issues as well as stimulate and inspire burgeoning smiths. |
| * Provide these services to all who share an interest in blacksmithing regardless of sex, race, age, religious beliefs, national origin, or level of blacksmithing knowledge or experience. |
| * Show and compare completed work or get suggestions on work in progress. |

Club Information - Continued

2018 Calendar of Events

Have already happened:

January	<u>11th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Lanny Campbell's shop with Lanny demonstrated things to make with iron pipe
February	<u>8th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Burkholder Buggy Shop - Everette and Daniel Burkholder demonstrated making a buggy wheel 24th Boone Pasture Party - canceled
March	<u>8th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Al McDorman's shop - Al demonstrated different types of twists, mainly pineapple twists, using forms of metals to do them 30th & 31st - Greater Shenandoah Valley Knife Show at Rockingham County Fairgrounds
April	<u>1st</u> - Greater Shenandoah Valley Knife Show continued <u>12th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Burkholder Buggy Shop - Dirk Gold demonstrated how to make an adjustable fireplace trammel <u>20th, 21st & 22nd</u> - Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac Spring Fling at the Fredrick County Fairgrounds located at 155 Fairgrounds Road in Clear Brook, VA 22624. Demonstrators were Peter Ross, retired Master Blacksmith from Colonial Williamsburg; Richard Sullivan, Master Gunsmith from Colonial Williamsburg; and crucible steel melt by Joshua Fikentscher
May	<u>10th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Bill Fox's shop located at 4263 Eastside Highway in Grottoes, VA 24441 - Bill demonstrated a decorative corner <u>18th Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland 30th Annual Blacksmith Days</u> - setup, potluck dinner and social time <u>19th & 20th Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland 30th Annual Blacksmith Days</u> at the Carroll County Farm Museum located in Westminster, MD. Demonstrators - were Ken Schwarz, Master Blacksmith from Colonial Williamsburg and Randy McDaniel
June	<u>14th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Burkholder Buggy Shop - Beginner/Mentor Night - demonstrators 1. Matt Williams demonstrated hook making 2. Jim Oates demonstrated hook making 3. Al McDorman mentored making a poor man's rose <u>27th, 28th, 29th & 30th - ABANA "Learning from the Past, Forging to the Future"</u> Conference at The Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia 23047
July	<u>12th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Drew Alexander's Shop located at 12697 Mountain Valley Road in Broadway, VA with Drew demonstrated ?

Still to look forward to:

August	<u>9th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Tom Harris' Shop located at 10567 Phillips Store Road in Broadway, VA with Tom demonstrating ? <u>14th through 19th - Rockingham County Fair</u>
September	<u>13th Monthly Meeting</u> - No Monthly Meeting <u>22nd - SVBG Work Day Picnic</u> at Al McDorman's Shop - project to be determined later
October	<u>5th & 6th - Mennonite Relief Sale</u> at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds <u>6th - Dayton Days</u> <u>11th Monthly Meeting</u> - at Lanny Campbell's Shop with Lanny demonstrating ?
November	<u>8th Monthly Meeting</u> - at James Spurgeon's Shop with James demonstrating ?
December	<u>13th Monthly Meeting</u> - Fair-well meeting at the Burkholder Buggy Shop - Ray Plank demonstrating a meat fork

Meeting Notes

September 14, 2017 Monthly Meeting in Pictures - Continued
(oops...the October 2017 SVBG Newsletter had the meeting date incorrect)
pictures by Dirk Gold and short article by Susan Plank



Everette Burkholder was asked to design and forge a stand to hold the engraved dedication plaque for the tree planted in memory of Dr. Harold E. Huffman. Everette forged the stand from stainless steel.



Bill Fox talks about the two knives he made. Ryan Stoltzfus and Bruce Bowman look on.



Close up of Bill Fox's knives



Ray Plank made the Treble Clef and miniature Tomahawk necklaces.

Tom Coker tells about the letter opener he made and donated to our SVBG Picnic auction. Ryan Stoltzfus, Bruce Bowman and Bill Fox in background.



Jim Oates mentors Jacob Andes. Rich Little mentors Sam Clark. Matt Williams mentors Marshall Liskey.



Marshall Liskey, Cole Liskey, Bram Welsh and Kaleb May watch Matt Williams demonstration.



Cory Martin watch Rich Little mentoring Sam Clark and Jim Oates mentoring Jacob Andes.

Meeting Notes - Continued

February 8th SVBG Monthly Meeting in pictures where Everette and Daniel Burkholder repair a buggy wheel pictures by Dirk Gold



Everette Burkholder checks the buggy wheel while Buster Lovegrove, Frank Habay and John Miller look on.



Dewey Baker, Buster Lovegrove and Frank Habay watch Everette Burkholder.



Rich Little, Frank Habay, John Miller, unknown male, James Spurgeon, Buster Lovegrove



Glenn Rhodes, Paul Bisgaard, James Spurgeon, Dewey Baker, John Miller, Marty Miller and Rich Little watch Everette work.



Daniel Burkholder putting rubber on the wheel.



General Notes**Reflections of Peter Ross Demo***My thoughts following the BGOP Spring Fling 2018*

Peter Ross is in my mind one of the best blacksmith alive today. With regards to 18th century colonial ironwork, he excels. So having the opportunity to not only witness his work, but be in a teacher/student setting with Peter this past weekend is something that I place a lot of value in. It is something that I don't take for granted. Without diving into all of the details of what was taught this past weekend, you can read my notes if you're interested, I wish to reflect upon what I learned from Peter.

There is no secret tool, or secret technique that will make you a successful blacksmith.

This was consistently reiterated over and over all weekend by Peter in many different ways. One woman asked him how he kept the piece of iron from twisting as he hammered it. His answer, "Well, I have a special technique that I use which you won't find in any textbooks, I watch where I hit with my hammer, and if it starts to twist I stop doing that and correct my swing." Someone else asked him how he forged his tenons. His answer was simple, "With a hammer and anvil." He remarked that he didn't use a guillotine, which I think surprised a few people. Over and over again his solution to every problem was to use your eye, use your brain, and use your hammer and anvil without special tools. Often times I find myself online ogling over an expensive new rounding hammer or a "Smithin' Magician," or even wishing I had the money to take an expensive class, or buy an expensive book. But what I learned this weekend is that what can be done with simple tools is limitless and is only limited by practice, perseverance, and willingness to try difficult things. A new tool won't make you a better smith, but practice will. Use what you have and don't make excuses. Get out in the forge! Try hard things and you will get better.

Don't let the popular trend dictate your work. Peter uses a cross peen hammer. This was something that jumped out at me right away. Although I started my blacksmithing experience 15 years ago with a cross peen, I have since been swept up by the popularity of the rounding hammer. I think this was generated in part by the strong influence in the blacksmithing community of Brian Brazeal. Brian does great work with his rounding hammer, but does that mean that it should be used by everyone? Not necessarily. I decided to ask Peter what he thought about this. He said that rounding hammers were traditionally used about 5% of the time and all other work was done with a cross peen. If you want to imitate 18th century ironwork you need to use a cross peen. What I took from this was: Use the hammer that is appropriate for the style of ironwork you are trying to achieve. 18th century work is best performed with a cross peen. It also showed me that it's easy to be caught up in what the popular trend is. Just because everyone is doing it, doesn't make it right for you. I love my rounding hammer and will continue to use it, but I have a feeling I'll be dusting off my old hammer now to see with a fresh perspective what it can do.

Just because blacksmithing is popular right now, doesn't mean that there are more craftsmen.

In recent years blacksmithing and bladesmithing have reached national popularity. But what I've found is that the number of craftsman is not actually increasing. Instead we now have hundreds of thousands of enthusiasts who are intrigued by blacksmithing, they may even have a forge, but they are not craftsmen. For me it is a continual struggle to stare through the fog of popular blacksmithing trends and culture to find the pure unadulterated artists and craftsman. There is a whole world of misinformation out there. Let's latch onto the teachings and mentors that we know are sound, like Mr. Ross, and learn from them.

Regard,
Drew Alexander
April 2018

***Note: The next 13 pages (page 7 through page 19) are from Drew Alexander's BGOP Spring Fling 2018 notes**

General Notes - Continued

PETER ROSS



Peter's interest in early ironwork developed accidentally as the result of part time employment at a local living history museum. He spent weekends and summers working in the blacksmith shop, watching the pieces he had just made be put to use in correct historic context. After attending the Rhode Island School of Design and a year studying with blacksmith/whitesmith Dick Everett in East Haddam, CT, he opened his own shop.

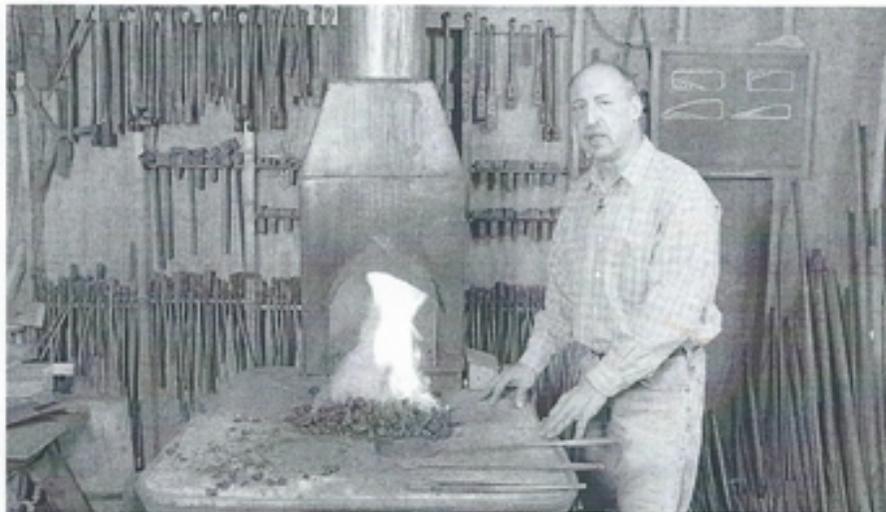
In 1979 Peter was hired as a journeyman blacksmith by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Two years later he took over the shop as Master; a position he held for 23 years. In addition to reproducing hundreds of different pieces of 18th century hardware, utensils, tools, etc, Peter and staff helped re-discover pre-industrial methods long out of use.

For the last 30 years, he has been a frequent demonstrator at ABANA national blacksmith conferences, given hundreds of classes and workshops on historic tools and methods at prominent Craft schools, regional blacksmith conferences, and museum sites.

Peter now operates his own business in Siler City, North Carolina making museum quality reproductions of 18th and 19th century hardware. Recent projects include hardware for the distillery at Mount Vernon, door locks for Monticello and Montpelier, and other private restorations.

PETER ROSS

DEMONSTRATION



My program will consist of two different subjects. One will be the forging and finishing of a common 18th century style thumb latch. While latches are simple objects, they involve some of the most intensive forging per inch of any traditional hardware, and include hot and cold punching, open face die forging, and general anvil work. I will demonstrate a couple of different styles, and make all the parts necessary to install a functioning latch.

The other session will focus on discussion and forging of typical elements from 18th century English architectural work. This style of work, commonly overlooked in the recent revivals of historic styles, includes several basic scroll and leaf types, light and delicate forms, riveted construction. The individual forms are made freehand at the anvil without scroll forms or jigs, and involve forge welding to assemble into the larger components. I will do this demo using wrought iron, and discuss its special working characteristics as well. I will have a small but elaborate table bracket on display as an illustration of the style and workmanship associated with this period.



General Notes - Continued

PETER ROSS 4-21-18
INTERIOR DOOR LATCH

NOTES BY DREW ALEXANDER

① $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} = 5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$

② CUSP - BLACKOUT
BOSS
ALTERNATIVE CUSP SHAPE

③ PENCIL MARK IN BOSS (RETAINING LINE)
LEAVE BOSS THICK ENOUGH FOR $\frac{1}{8}$ " HOLE

④ DRIFT HOLE - Hammer AROUND DRIFT
(DRIFT APPEARS TO BE ABOUT $\frac{3}{16} \times \frac{1}{8}$)

⑤ SPREAD OUT CUSP
* (START IN MIDDLE TO SEPARATE SIDES TO KEEP THEM EVEN)

⑤-B ALTERNATE ARROW SHAPE
USE CROSS PEN TO DEFINE MIDDLE OF CUSP

⑤-C * ANGLE OF PEN * WIDE!

⑥ BLACK OUT BOTTOM CUSP AND FAR SIDE OF HORN ANVIL FACE

⑦ CROWN THE GRASP WITH SWAGE THAT'S NARROW AT ENDS
* MILD STEEL SWAGE

⑧ SPREAD BOTTOM CUSP AFTER SWAGE WORK

⑨-8 LEAVE CUSP UP TO PRODUCE CURVE AND SHAPE BOND
CRISP BOND BOTTOM CUSP

⑩-B AFTER BOND IN VICE RE-DRIFT LATCH HOLE TO CLEAN UP

⑩ SAME PROCESS FOR TOP OF GRASP, BUT IT'S A CRISPER BOND

"USE SHORT PIECES, CUT OFF BAR SO EASY TO MANIPULATE"

"CHAIN LINK TO HOLD TRUSS HANDLES TOGETHER"

"USE SHORT PUNCHES WITH TRUSS - GOES THROUGH WORK FASTER"

* PETER MADE A SECOND LATCH IN THE DEMONSTRATION WITH THIS PROFILE

"PETER SAYS THE VICE IS USED TOO OFTEN BY MODERN SMITHS AND OFTEN BETTER RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED ON ANVIL - FOR EXAMPLE UPSET CORNERS"

BOX SAW TONGS TO HOLD SMALL PIECES

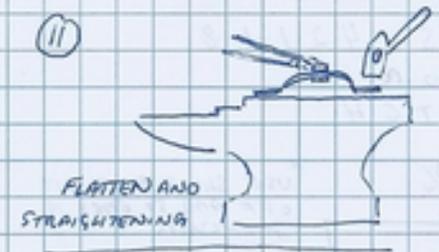
"DOES NOT LIKE TO USE TOO MANY TOOLS - KEEP IT SIMPLE NO QUILTING"

* SEE CORRECTION ON 5-D

IDEAL ARROW SHAPE

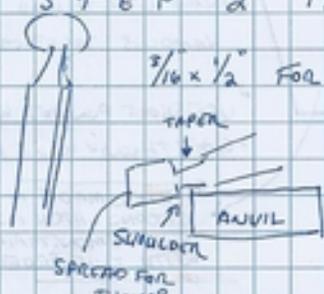
General Notes - Continued

① FLATTEN AND STRAIGHTENING



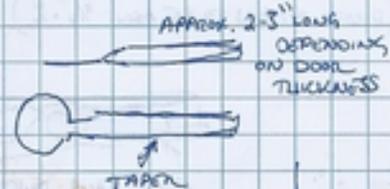
STEP 2 THUMB LATCH

① $\frac{3}{16} \times \frac{1}{2}$ FOR LATCH
TAPER
ANVIL
SHOULDER
SPACE FOR THUMB



② CUT OFF BAR AND TAPER LATCH

APPROX. 2-3" LONG DEPENDING ON DOOR THICKNESS



(PETER FORGED THIS SO QUICKLY THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE THE DETAIL)

STEP 3

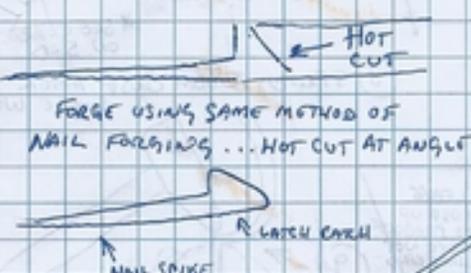
① $\frac{3}{16} \times \frac{1}{2}$ FORGE STRIKE/KEEPER

HOT CUT

FORGE USING SAME METHOD OF NAIL FORGING... HOT CUT AT ANGLE

NAIL SPIKE

LATCH EAR



STEP 4

① FILING IN VICE
MAKE SURE VICE IS SOLID

FILE DESIGNS

(A)

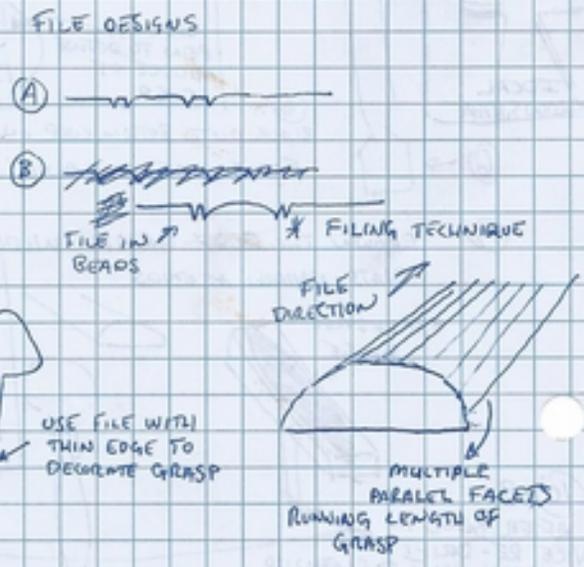
(B) FILE IN BEADS

FILING TECHNIQUE

FILE DIRECTION

USE FILE WITH THIN EDGE TO DEGREE GRASP

MULTIPLE PARALLEL FACED RUNNING LENGTH OF GRASP



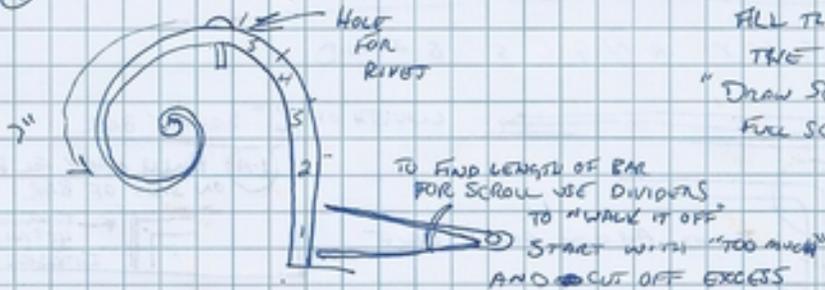
General Notes - Continued

ELEMENTS OF 18TH CENTURY BAROQUE IRONWORK

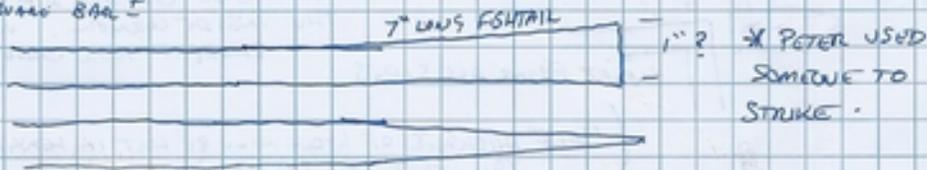
ELEMENTS FOUND IN SCROLLED ANGLE BRACKETS

- "NO OBVIOUS JOINTS/COLLARS"
- "UNINTERRUPTED FLOW"
- "LIGHT & CRISPY"
- "YOUR EYE CAN FOLLOW A LINE ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE PIECE"
- "DRAW SCROLL BRACKETS FULL SCALE DESIGN"

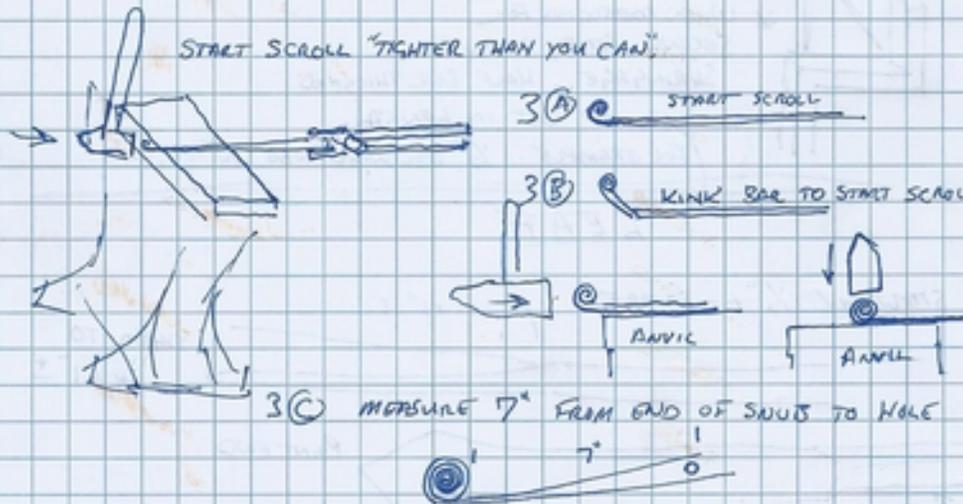
① MEASURE DRAWINGS OF BRACKET FIRST



② 1/2" SQUARE BAR



③ START SCROLL 'TIGHTER THAN YOU CAN'



④ FORM SCROLL:
FORM KINK FIRST THEN BEGIN SCROLL
JUST LIKE IN 3-A - 3-B

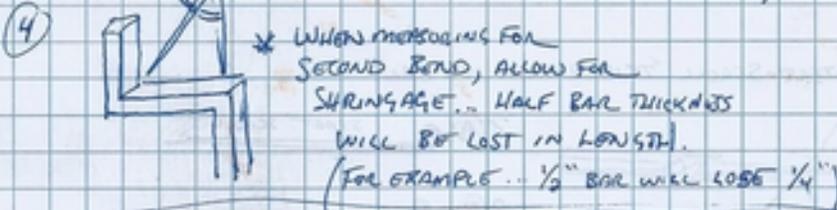
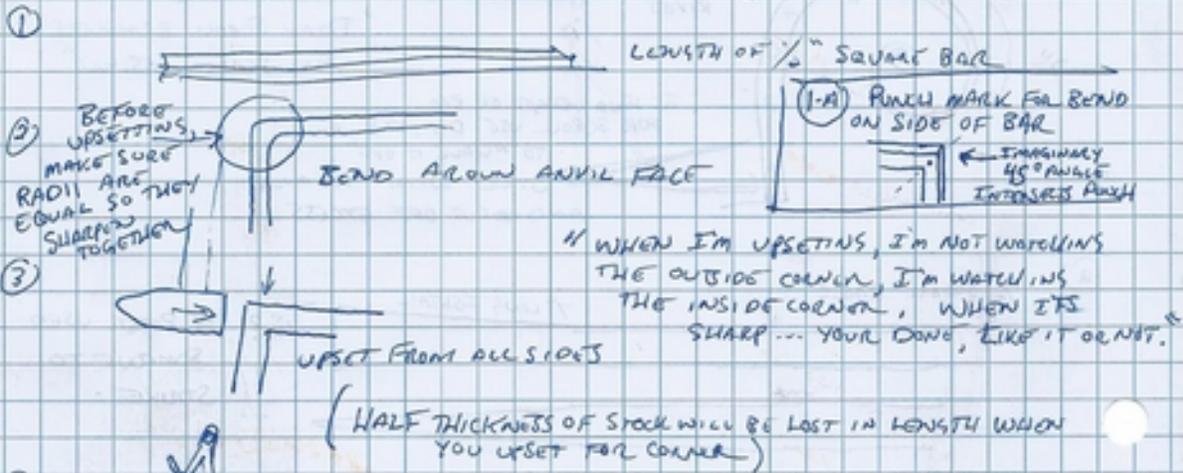


General Notes - Continued

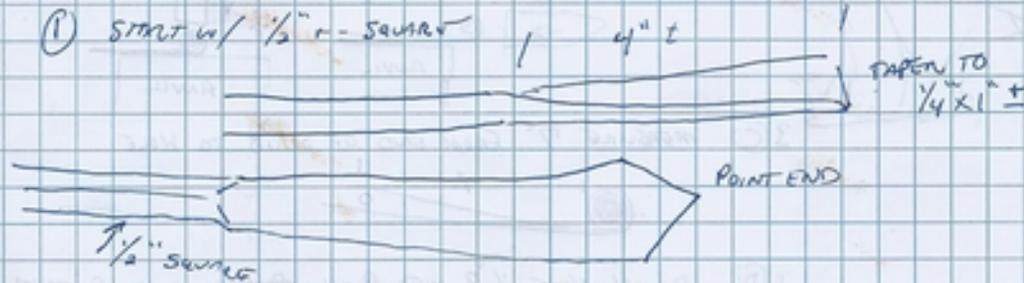
5 SCROLL OVER HORN OF ANVIL AND ON FACE



RIGHT ANGLE BEND

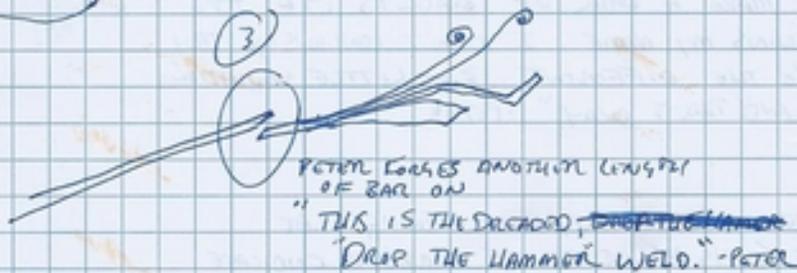
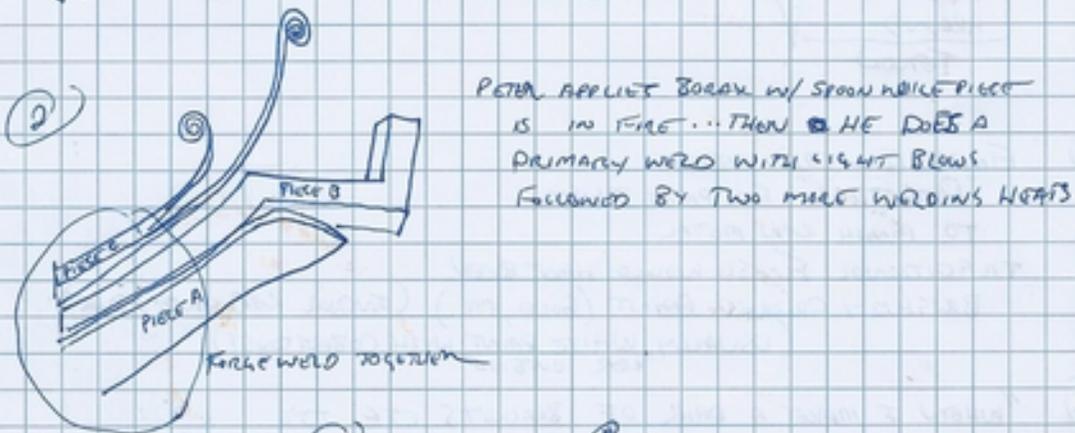
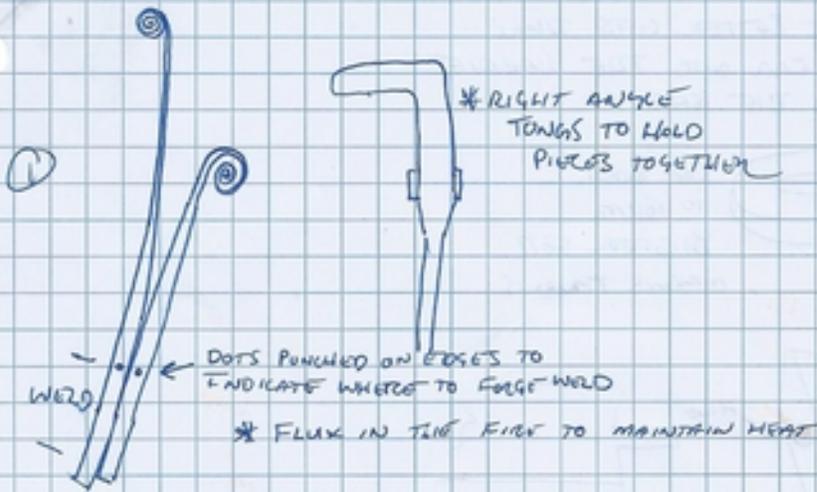


LEAF



General Notes - Continued

WELDING TWO SCROLLS TOGETHER

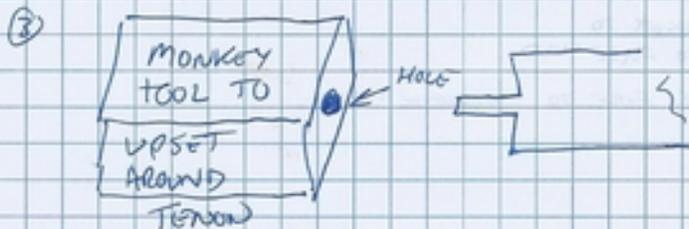


(4) FINISH SCROLLS ETC. THEN CURL LEAF LAST ("BLow" LEAF OVER THEN ADD 1/4 TWIST)

General Notes - Continued

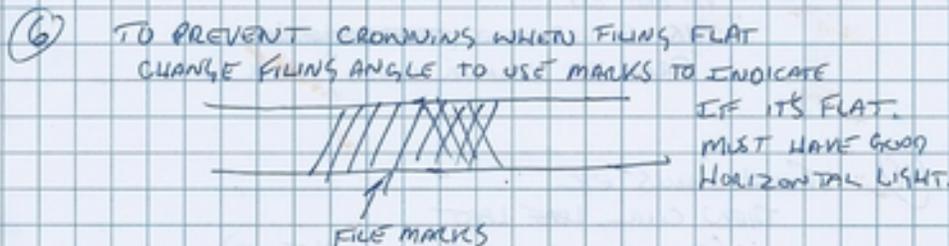
MISC.

① HOT CUTS MAKE BETTER CUTS THAN DRIVING THE EAR ONTO THE HARDIE WHICH DEFORMS THE BAR



④ FINISH FOR IRON INDOOR PENETROL FOR PAINT THINNER TO FINISH RAW METAL TRADITIONAL FINISH WOULD HAVE BEEN BRIGHTLY COLORED PAINT (GOLD, ETC.) (INDOOR RED, GREEN, BLUE) (USUALLY WHITE PAINT WITH COBALT DUST FOR OUTSIDE)

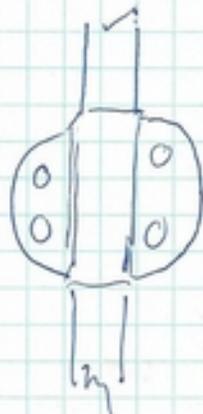
⑤ "WHEN I MAKE A PAIR OF BRACKETS, ETC. IT'S LIKE SIGNING MY NAME. I DON'T CONSCIOUSLY TRY TO MAKE THE DIFFERENT... BUT LITTLE VARIATIONS HAPPEN AND THAT'S OKAY." - PETER



General Notes - Continued

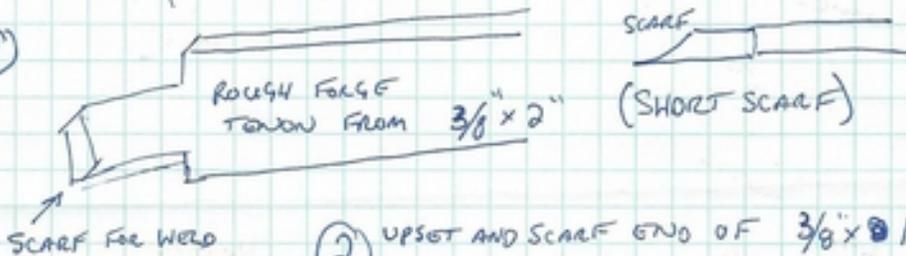
4-22-18

PETER ROSS



HOW TO FORGE MOUNTING FLANGE ON BRACKET

①

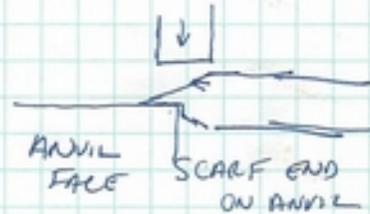
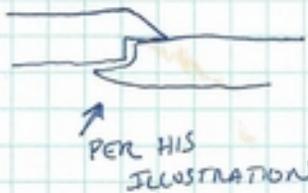


②

UPSET AND SCARF END OF 3/8" x 1" BAR

* THREE REQUIREMENTS OF SCARF

- ① SHORTEST OVERLAP POSSIBLE
- ② ENDS PAPER-THIN
- ③ TOUCH IN THE MIDDLE FIRST



③

FORGE TENSION ON OTHER END OF FLANGE



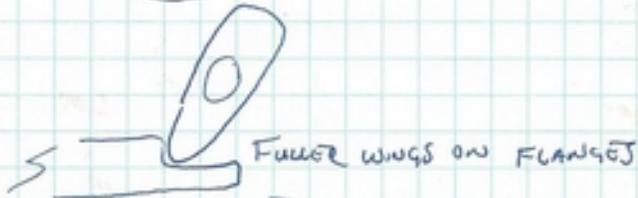
General Notes - Continued

(4) FORGE WELDING STAGE

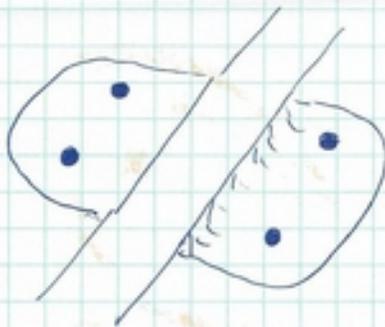
PETER ADDS FLUX WHILE PCS ARE IN FIRE
HE DOESNT SEEM TO HURRY OR OVERHEAT
THE PIECES TO THE POINT OF SPARKING



(5)



(6)

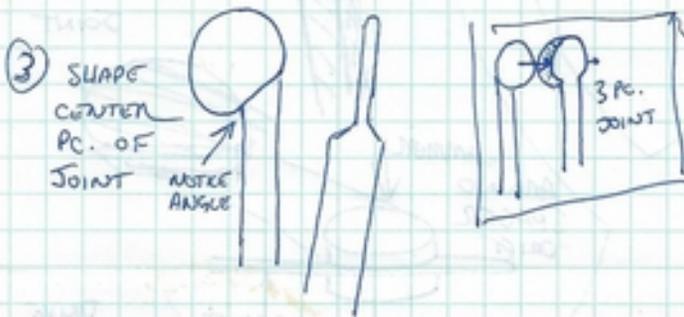


General Notes - Continued

FORGING A COOPER'S COMPASS

WROUGHT IRON BODY W/ HIGH CARBON STEEL TIPS

9/16 SQUARE BAR BY 8 INCHES LONG



⑥ TRIANGULARLY FORGE THE LEGS

⑦ FORGE WELD 1080 TIPS ONTO WROUGHT IRON.

* STEAM BOLLER PARTS ARE GENERALLY REALLY GOOD IRON.

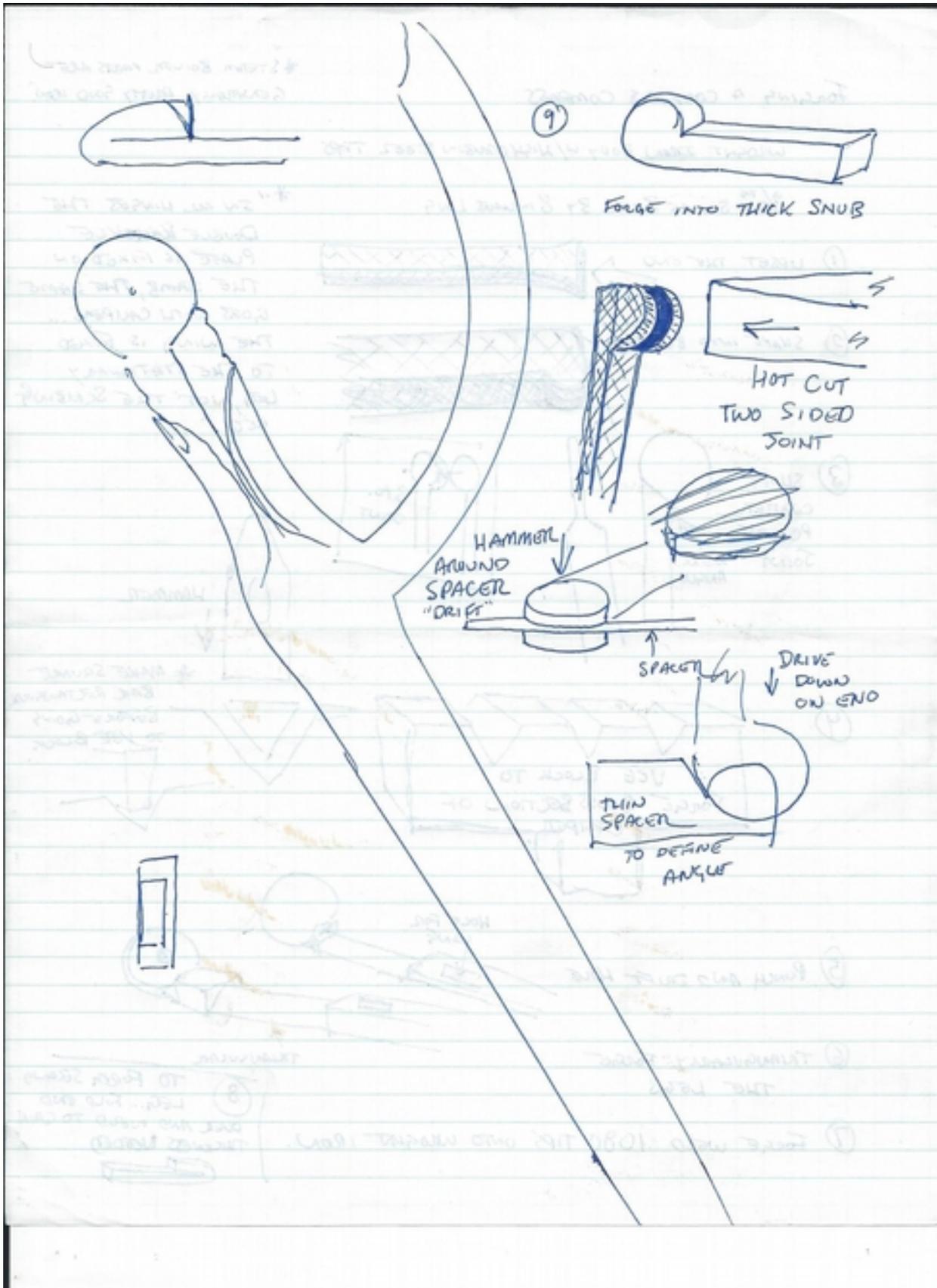
* "IN ALL VINTAGES THE DOUBLE KNUCKLE PLATE IS FIXED ON THE JAMB, THE SAME GOES WITH CALIPERS... THE WING IS FIXED TO THE STATIONARY LEG, NOT THE SCRIBING LEG."

* MAKE SQUARE BAR RECTANGULAR BEFORE GOING TO VEE BLOCK

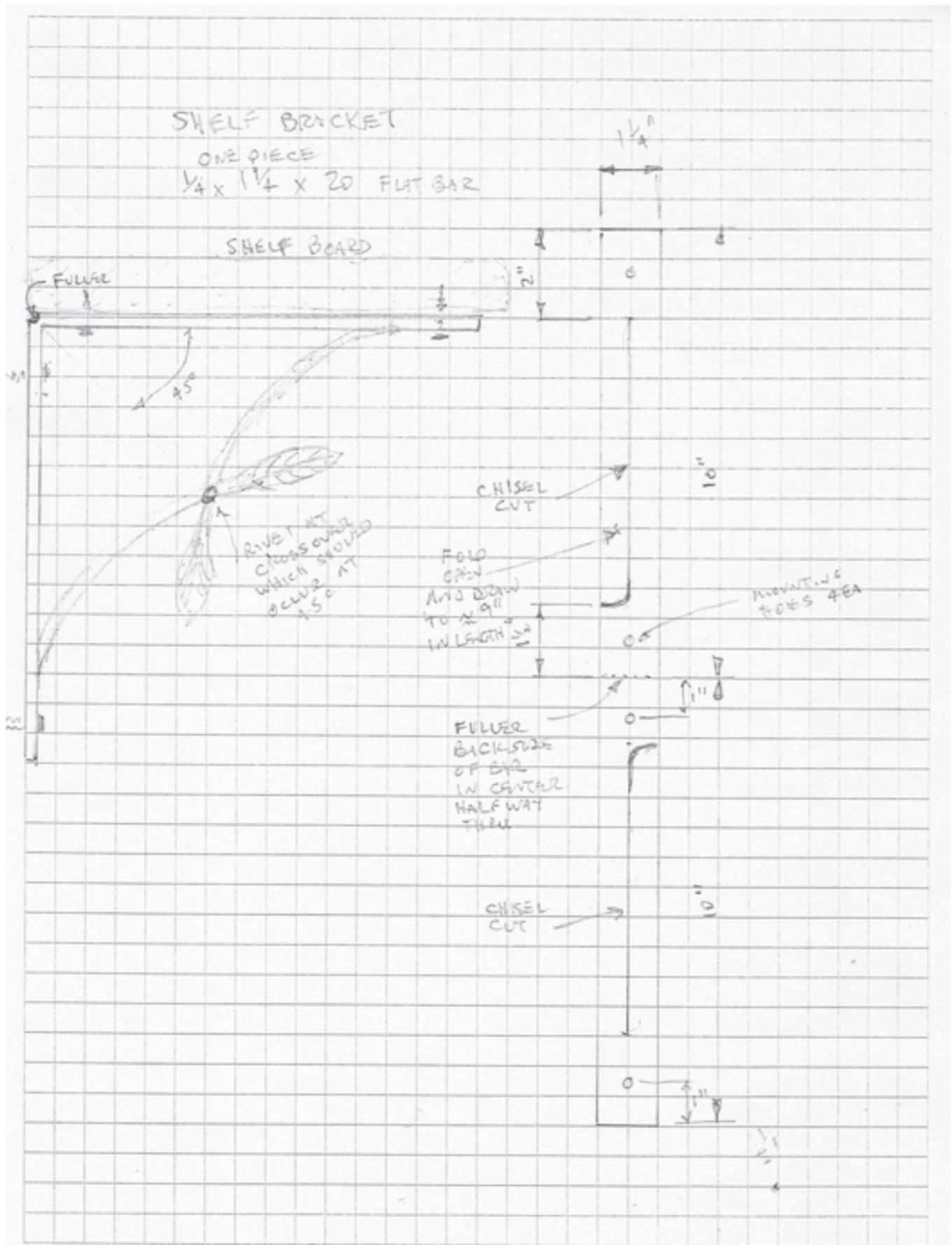
⑧ TO FORM SECOND LEG... FOLD END OVER AND WELD TO GAIN THICKNESS NEEDED



General Notes - Continued



General Notes - Continued



General Notes - Continued

ABANA

Reflections from the Conference by Drew Alexander (July 2018)

Since this was my first ABANA I have a newbie perspective and thought I'd share my thoughts with the guild, some of you may be able to glean some wisdom should you attend the New York Conference in 2020. First of all I will give some thoughts on what to plan for; since I totally *missed the ball* on planning I learned some things the difficult way. I'll touch on the negative things I experienced this year. I have an opinion on picture taking, the distraction of cell phones, and how technology played a role in the conference. This year's conference featured many women smiths and I'd like to put in a plug for them. Finally, I have what I learned from the conference about what make the great smiths great. I hope you find my thoughts useful.

One of our own, Dave Potter, said that learning from the conference was "like trying to drink water from a fire hydrant." He could not have put it better when he used this classic idiom. If you simply count the number of activities in the program there were approximately 153 activities that you could attend. From demonstrations on animals heads, tong making classes with hands on instruction, to business lectures, there was plenty to see and do at ABANA. This doesn't even include the thousands of tools, books and equipment for sale. There is also the constant urge to seek out famous smiths, old friends, mentors, or Facebook contacts that you know roam the ocean of faces around you. Oh yeah...I forgot about the art gallery where some of the finest ironwork in the world is displayed for you to study. Every night there were forging competitions for anyone to enter, and throughout the day you could practice what you'd learned in the open forging tent where at least 20 or more forging stations were set up. I nearly choked on all of the information. Here are a few things you can do to prepare to absorb the maximum amount of information during the 2020 event. First of all you must realize that you won't be able to sit through more than about 12 complete lectures, it is essential that you do some research in advance and plan your itinerary in advance! Have at least one backup demo for each time slot that you can fall back on if the one you're at is a disappointment or if it's canceled. You need to *put on some blinders* and constrain yourself if you are going to enjoy yourself. The alternative of jumping around from tent to tent may seem fun, but you will not redeem your potential. Also, I suggest going to the conference for an absolute minimum of 2 days. The first day is so overwhelming and you will spend a lot of time orienting yourself and meeting people. I didn't really feel like I could concentrate on learning until day 2. I plan to go to the New York Conference and I absolutely plan to go for the entire event after my experience in Richmond. The more you put into it, the more you'll get out of it.

A little side note on some of the negative things I experienced this year. First of all the heat was really draining of my energy. Check the weather in advance and plan for it. Another issue this year was that the tent camping sites were about a mile from the event. They had shuttles that were supposed to be trafficking back and forth every 15 minutes, but they really only did this in the morning and evening. I had to walk to my tent and back the entire distance twice because I didn't have a vehicle with me. Try to avoid the need to go to your tent midday, or ask someone for a ride. Food at this year's event was mostly unhealthy and expensive. If you like to eat healthily and are on a budget, pack a cooler! Finally we come to what was my biggest irritation! Many of the events were moved or canceled due to the demonstrators needing to change their schedule. There was no central message board or place that you could go to get updates on these changes. I wanted to attend the Ellen Durkan demo in the morning only to get there and it wasn't happening. I asked every important looking person I could find throughout the day and no one knew where or when she had moved to. Finally Mark Aspery relayed the proper schedule to me when I asked him. A message board or a cell phone app would really help. Even posting the changes at the registration desk would be great.

This year I was having some trouble with my cell phone. It kept shutting down and being a pain. I took about 20 or 30 pictures of the really nice work on display during the first day and then I ended up just shutting down my phone and throwing it into my backpack. (*Insert plug here for a small backpack, very handy to have.*) I noticed two things after I did this. First of all I was less distracted and was able to open my eyes and soak up my surroundings. I really think that watching the demos through your own eyes instead of through the lens of a camera or cell phone screen allows you to really enjoy and glean from the experience. The second thing I noticed was all of the people who were sitting at a demo but spent the entire time on their phone or taking short videos or pictures. How often do you go onto your computer hard drive at home and look back over the thousands of pictures you've taken at these events? I think that if you get a few pics to share with your friends of the most essential work that you should shut down the device and soak up the experience. I did it, and I am glad for it.

Going to ABANA this year really educated me on how many successful and talented women blacksmiths there are. I think women have something special to offer this male dominant craft that we should all pay attention to. Professional farrier and artist blacksmith Jennifer Horn had her skills on display and I was really impressed with her coffee table project. It is a project that I want to try. Jennifer's execution was great, especially when I consider the patience it takes to complete a project with so many pieces that have to line up in order that the table is simultaneously aesthetic and level to the floor. Ellen Durkan was once again the flashiest performer with her very entertaining mannerisms and less than technical way of explaining things. Despite much unfortunate criticism from some of the blacksmith community at large, she has in her short ten years of experience risen to be one of the most successful female artist blacksmiths in the country. Using her master's degree in art and her love for drawing, she's taken these skills and transferred them to ironwork where it really shines. She has a rare ability to bring concept to reality. She is also not afraid to combine other elements such as copper and leather with her pieces which really make them pop. There is a lot we can learn from this lady. Perhaps one day my own daughters will be interested in blacksmithing and I will do all I can to facilitate them.

"We need a little more tappy tappy, and less smashy smash." This pithy quote, heavy with onomatopoeia stuck in my brain more than anything else at the conference. Ellen Durkan who's not ashamed to make up words for how she feels used this to describe how she used to blacksmith during her first five years and how she has spent her last five years blacksmithing. "I used to be doing a lot of smashy smashy in my shop," she said. But looking at Ellen's work proves that she's moved beyond this haphazard work into something much more refined and under her control. Just look around and you won't have any trouble finding a "blacksmith" that does a lot of smashy smashy. But that's not what the great smiths do. Ross, Aspery, Latane, and Durkan are not in their shops without a plan and 100% of control over their art. This is the number one thing that I've been trying to teach myself this year. It takes prior intentional planning. How often do you go into the shop and set about to forge something out of your head? I'm here to tell you that this is not the way of the master. The more time you spend drawing and planning your piece before you execute the forging the farther ahead you will be. All the greats do it and I suggest we all do. When you get time look at some of Ellen's concept drawings, they are pieces of art themselves. They are responsible for her ability to take what she sees in her mind and translate that into iron. When we have a scaled drawing to work to it gives us much more direction and allows us to have more control over the final outcome.

As we await the next ABANA let us spend the time refining our skills. Watch and learn from those that are better than you are. Plan ahead. Draw pictures. Let's have a little more tappy tappy, and less smashy smashy.

General Notes - Continued**Our Condolences go out to Larry Martin and family**

One of our SVBG members, Larry Martin, lost his wife last month.

McMullen Funeral Home posted this:

Pauline Zimmerman Martin

(June 12, 1937 - July 03, 2018)



Pauline Z. Martin, 81, Rockingham passed away July 3, 2018.

Mrs. Martin was born June 12, 1937, in East Earl, Pennsylvania and was the daughter of the late Harvey B. and Alice Good Zimmerman. She attended Good's School, a one room school house, and later took evening classes at Lancaster Mennonite School. She enjoyed writing, reading and photography all of her life. She also enjoyed traveling to many places, Israel, Nova Scotia, Europe, Italy, Sicily and numerous day trips. She worked as a nurses' aide at Sentara RMH for 31 years and 10 years as a switchboard operator until her retirement at age 70. She was devoted to family and babysat her grandchildren. Mrs. Martin was a member of Park View Mennonite Church.

On September 21, 1958, she married R. Larry Martin, who survives.

Also surviving are two children, Dawn Marie Martin Cousins, and husband Willie H. Cousins, Jr., Lacey Spring, Steve L. Martin and wife Miriam, Rockingham, four grandchildren, Amy Dawn Cousins, April Marie Cousins, Brendon Martin, and Jared Martin, thirteen siblings, Mary Jane (Allen) Kurtz, East Earl, PA, Leroy (Lillian) Zimmerman, Leola, PA, Joyce (Sam) Kulp, East Earl, PA, Harvey (Mary Jane) Zimmerman, Ephrata, PA, Mahlon (Carol) Zimmerman, Leola, PA, Curvin (Lois) Zimmerman, East Earl, PA, Richard (Betty) Zimmerman, Georgetown, PA, Eugene (Faye) Zimmerman, Denver, PA, Leonard (Miriam) Zimmerman, Narvon, PA, Henry (Sharon) Zimmerman, Narvon, PA, Margaret (Earl) Martin, Goodville, PA, Sandra Nolt, New Holland, PA, Lenford (Kim) Zimmerman, Denver, PA, a brother-in-law, Tom Frame, New Holland and many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Martin was preceded in death by a sister, Janet Frame.

Pastors Phil Kniss and Shirlee K. Yoder will conduct a memorial service, Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Mennonite Church. Burial will be private.

Those wishing to view and sign the register book, may do so from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, July 6 at the McMullen Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Park View Mennonite Church, 1600 College Avenue, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802.

General Notes - Continued**SVBG Monthly Meeting Locations and Directions****August 9th SVBG Monthly Meeting**

Meeting will be held starting at 7:00 pm in Tom and Brittany Harris' home and blacksmith shop located at 10567 Phillips Store Road in Broadway, VA 22815 [actually in Mayland].

Directions to Broadway from Harrisonburg, Staunton and Waynesboro areas -

Get to I-81N however you normally do;

Take I-81N and get off at the Broadway/Mauzy exit #257;

Turn left off ramp onto Route 11/North Valley Pike and go .2 miles [you will cross back over I-81];

You will come to a stop light, but you take the curve to the right and yield to traffic, before you get onto Route 259/Mayland Road and go 2.29 miles;

(At the July SVBG meeting, Tom said to look for the old gas station with the Phillips sign and antique gas pumps - that is where you turn left.)

Turn left onto State Route 619/Phillips Store Road and go .97 miles;

Tom and Brittany's house and blacksmith shop is on the right at 10567 Phillips Store Road

Directions to Broadway from areas North of Broadway -

Get to I-81S however you normally do;

Take I-81S and get off at the Broadway/Mauzy exit #257;

Turn right off ramp onto Route 259/Mayland Road and go 2.29 miles;

(At the July SVBG meeting, Tom said to look for the old gas station with the Phillips sign and antique gas pumps - that is where you turn left.)

Turn left onto State Route 619/Phillips Store Road and go .97 miles;

Tom and Brittany's house and blacksmith shop is on the right at 10567 Phillips Store Road

If lost call, Tom's cell phone # (540) 908-6352

September 13th Monthly Meeting - No Monthly Meeting**September 22nd - SVBG Work Day and Picnic:**

The SVBG Workday and Picnic will be held this year on September 22, 2018 at Al McDorman's smithy located at 188 Staymen Lane, Staunton, Virginia 24401. We will be making a medium-sized grill and if time permits parts of a Jack-in-the-Pulpit flower. This Thursday at our August SVBG Monthly Meeting, there will be a food sign up sheet for you to write what you will be bringing to the pot luck lunch and a section for you to write how many hotdogs you think you and your family will eat - SVBG will be providing the hotdogs. On Saturday, September 22, 2018 plan to bring: 1. your own lawn chair(s) 2. your blacksmith tools (hammers; tongs - scrolling, flat stock and round stock; cut off hardy) and safety gear 3. your Iron-in-the-Hat donation item(s) 4. your signed up food or beverage item(s). The SVBG Workday and Picnic will be an outside event, remember to bring your sunscreen and whatever you use to keep yourself cool. 9:00 am to 12:00 noon we will work on designed project(s); 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm we will have lunch and do Iron-in-the-Hat; 1:30ish pm to 4:00ish pm we will complete designed project(s). Directions: State Route 262 loops from I-81 around the west side of Staunton and meets up with I-81 again. You can take the northern most Woodrow Wilson exit or the southern most Staunton exit to get to State Route 262. From the northern exit you go through 3 intersections until you find State Road 720 W which is Morris Mill Road, go west. From the southern exit there are no intersections between I-81 and State Road 720 W/Morris Mill Road. Go west on Morris Mill Road passing Nature Trail, Lone Oak, Blue Bird and Hite Lane. Turn right on Rome Avenue at the Apple Hill Estates sign. Pass York Court. Take a right onto Staymen Lane. Turn left at 188 Staymen Lane. You will be looking for a gravel driveway with Al's Victoria style house up on the hill to the left of the driveway. If lost call Al's cell for directions (540) 746-8708. Hope to see you soon at this SVBG event!



Items of Interest - Continued

Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac Spring Fling

pictures and article by Susan Plank

April 20, 21 & 22, 2018 had quite a few of our SVBG members attending the Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac's Spring Fling. **Drew Alexander, Lanny Campbell, Bev Coker, Tom Coker, Bill Fox, Frank Habay, Al McDorman, Ray Plank, Susan Plank, and Phil Travis** attended this event that is held annually. As usual, the demonstrators did not fail to amaze! Peter Ross from North Carolina, as noted earlier in Drew's article, was a fantastic teacher. Colonial Williamsburg Master Gunsmith, Richard Sullivan, always intrigues us with his knowledge and skill - making everything look EASY. Richard's test firing of the barrel was exciting. Joshua Fikentscher with his crucible melt used all of the hot water from the showers and with the noise, had us looking for the airplanes that had to be landing. This year the BGOP Spring Fling contest was a hand-made Candle Holder. Two of our SVBG members, **Drew Alexander** and **Ray Plank** took up the challenge. Nice job guys! **Drew Alexander** won the contest with a massive candelabrum. The Display Table entries had two winners this year, **Ray Plank** - won with his "Snakes Alive" display and John Fee - won with his metal grinder. Tailgating, Iron-in-the-Hat and the Auction had many choices. For most of the attendees, the meals were good and varied, but I think everyone laughed about me eating Chinese food for almost every meal! You should make plans to go next Spring.



Drew Alexander & his candle holder



Ray Plank & his candle holder



Ray's "Snakes Alive" display



Phil Travis-front R-watching Peter Ross



Bill Fox, Lanny Campbell, Al McDorman & Drew Alexander



Ray Plank cranking the blower for Richard Sullivan



Barrel waiting to be test fired



Drew Alexander, Bill Fox & Frank Habay



Tom Coker, Ray Plank & Lanny Campbell

Items of Interest - Continued

**Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland 30th Annual Blacksmith Days
"A Look Back at Where it Started"**

pictures and article by Susan Plank; except the last picture which was taken by Marty Miller

May 19th and 20th found Ray and I once again in Westminster, Maryland at the Carroll County Farm Museum for Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland's 30th Annual Blacksmith Days. This being their 30th annual event, they decided to bring back Randy McDaniel and Ken Schwarz as demonstrators. Great decision ya'll! The demonstrator biographies stated "Randy McDaniel has been forging for over 45 years and his career began at the Carroll County Farm Museum; Ken Schwarz also started his blacksmithing journey at the Carroll County Farm Museum." Lots of you probably have Randy's first book, Blacksmithing Primer. Ken is now a master blacksmith and the senior master of historic trades in Colonial Williamsburg.

This event never fails to educate and entertain! With two forging demonstration tents and a farrier demonstration tent there is always something to catch your eye. Breakfast and lunch is included in your admission price and Saturday has a prepaid dinner option. This year there were two forging contests to bring entries for. The first was Randy McDaniel's Sample Ring and the second was a wrapped eye tomahawk or colonial axe. **Ray Plank** participated in both of these contests. He got first place with his wrapped eye pipe tomahawk he made for me for Mother's Day. Thanks again honey; I love it! Tim Beachley, won first place on the sample ring with **Ray Plank** coming in second. The farriers had their onsite forging contest on Sunday. Tailgating, iron-in-the-hat and the live auction are good places to relieve your wallet of some cash. This is always a fun time to catch up with our Maryland friends!



Ken Schwarz



Randy McDaniel



First Place winners -
Tim Beachley and Ray Plank



Ray's 2nd place sample ring



Dean Geis (far right)
participating in the
farriers' onsite contest



Ray Plank, Ken Schwarz
and Susan Plank with Ken's
garden mattock Susan bought
at the auction

Items of Interest - Continued



this picture by Ray Plank and article by Susan Plank

ABANA summed up in one word...HOT! Okay, I really meant WOW! This was the first ABANA conference Ray and I have attended. Thanks go out to all of the people behind the scene making it happen. ABANA brought in some top notch demonstrators who regardless of the heat did a fantastic job. There was SO much to do and see - the Blacksmith Gallery on-site had incredible work; the indoor and outdoor tailgating area was chock full of good stuff; there were lots of iron-in-the-hat items; the non-smithing activities like broom making, basket making, painting, leather work, etc. were well done; Wednesday through Friday's nighttime contests were fun; and Saturday night's auction was nice.

Meadow Event Park was centrally located in Virginia, but I have to agree with some of Drew's earlier article in this newsletter - parts of the ABANA conference were well done and parts were so-so. Ray and I camped. We found the campsite check in tricky to find and the campsites to be a bit far away, especially with the shuttles being sporadic. The options on who to watch or which blacksmithing class to take was almost overwhelming. We did plan our days in advance, but still had some difficulty finding certain demonstrator locations. Ray and I do not have one of those smart phones, so I do not know whether the information app ABANA created was helpful.

On Thursday night, Ray and I invited SVBG members and other friends to come eat dinner at our campsite. Quite a few SVBG attendees were able to make it - **Drew, Lanny & Karla, Tom & Bev, Bill, Ed, Al & Claire, Dave & Pam, and Karen.** I did not poison anyone, so the 240 pounds of ice was a good investment!

Kudos go out to two of our SVBG members, **Ray Plank** and **Drew Alexander**, who even with the sweltering temperature participated in the contests. **Ray** entered all three intermediate contests winning 1st in the chain making contest, 1st in the fork contest and 2nd in the scrolling tongs contest with German blacksmith, Peter Brunner taking 1st place. Overall, Ray and I enjoyed the ABANA conference.



Ray had to take these pictures of ALL the stuff I brought from home for our campsite; I even brought a kitchen sink!



picture I took of Ray making chain



picture I took of Drew forging his fork



Ray with fork judges Mark Aspery and Gerald Franklin [to Mark's left]



This is a great picture Dave Potter sent me of himself and Pam in front of the Wedding Arbor created by ABANA blacksmiths as a thank you to Meadow Event Park for hosting the venue for the 2018 ABANA Conference.

Items of Interest - Continued

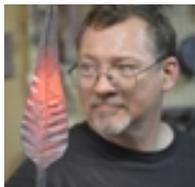
Blacksmith Vietnam Veterans still being Thanked
picture by Jerry Barfield and article by Susan Plank

During the past four years as a member of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild and as a member of the Commemorative Partner - Daughters of the American Revolution Massanutton Chapter, I have had the privilege to Thank and Welcome Home many blacksmiths who served in Vietnam. For the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration 50th Anniversary, the Department of Defense created a Vietnam Veteran lapel pin for each living veteran who served at any time on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of location, during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. The Department of Defense also created a Certificate of Honor lapel pin for Surviving Spouses of Vietnam Veterans. Last year at the BGOP Spring Fling I held a ceremony to present the lapel pins and this year I was able to individually thank 3 more blacksmith Vietnam veterans. This year during BGCM's Blacksmith Days, I was able to individually thank 1 more Vietnam veteran and 1 Vietnam veteran surviving spouse. At ABANA I had the privilege to thank 11 Vietnam veterans and 1 Vietnam veteran surviving spouse. Thanks to all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces!

[picture of Susan Plank thanking Barry Myers and Gerald Franklin]
P. S. Barry, I am glad I finally got to meet you!



Blacksmith classes:



Our SVBG Guild Master, **Dale Morse**, at *Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing* located at 200 West 12th Street in Waynesboro, Virginia 22980 has various blacksmithing classes. The following are classes listed through October 21, 2018. The schedule is subject to change. For any questions regarding classes and fees for open shop smithing time, call (434) 960-9718 or email him through info@vablacksmithing.org

August 2018

9th -- Blacksmithing: Intro to Blacksmithing - Camp Fork
11th - 12th -- Blacksmithing: Campfire Cookset
13th - 14th -- Blacksmithing: Blacksmith's Knife
16th -- Blacksmithing: Intro to Blacksmithing - Spoon
18th - 19th -- Blacksmithing: Build a Spear
23rd -- Blacksmithing: Railroad Spike Novelty Knife
25th - 26th -- Blacksmithing: Build a Hatchet

September 2018

8th - 9th -- Blacksmithing: Shelf Bracket & S hook

October 2018

20th - 21st -- Blacksmithing: Blacksmith's Knife

Items of Interest - Continued

Shenandoah Valley Blacksmiths at Large:



From 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, June 23, 2018 **Mark Thomas**, *Craftsman to the Past*, participated in the Fort Harrison Colonial Trades Fair in Dayton, Virginia. The Fort Harrison Colonial Trades Fair helps us discover how 18th century trades contributed to the early settlement of the Shenandoah Valley. Along with other demonstrators, Mark set up with his handcrafted wares and demonstrated engraving. Throughout the day he also shot off his Flintlock Rifle. Rumor has it that a few other SVBG members, **Daniel Burkholder**, **Rich Little** and **Ed Latham** stopped by the Fort Harrison Colonial Trades Fair.

Earlier this year I, **Susan Plank**, a member of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild and the Massanutton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, combined both interests and entered the 2018 DAR American Heritage Contest. I entered the collage pictured to the right in the the Art & Sculpture category. Here is the main body of the written part of the contest... 'Since blacksmithing became an interest to me later in life it was very exciting to have recently found, while researching my family history for the DAR, that my great, great grandfather, Richard Oliver Knowles, [on my father's maternal side] was a blacksmith and had his shop in Coolville Ohio, down the hill between the village proper and the Hocking River. My husband, Ray, got interested in blacksmithing as a child and as an adult finally was able to develop his skills when we moved into our home in Fulks Run, Virginia. We enjoy planning our vacations around blacksmithing events or where blacksmithing is demonstrated. Luckily for us, Colonial Williamsburg is only four hours away. We enjoy watching and talking with the master blacksmiths, journeymen and one journeywoman, and apprentices in the Anderson Blacksmith Shop and also in the Gunsmith Forge. We have also been blessed to have seen these masters at other blacksmith events. Having watched my husband and other blacksmiths hammer, I had to try it myself. While his skills have improved over the years, I still only tinker with blacksmithing. Honestly, I enjoy watching blacksmiths at work and taking pictures of them much more than I enjoy actually hammering. These unenhanced, natural color photographs were fun for me to take and arrange in my "Exploring the Art of American Blacksmithing from the 18th to the 21st century" 11" x 17" Art & Sculpture collage. In one of the pictures, it shows a Frontier Style Tomahawk and a Rifleman's Knife that my husband made. In that same picture, those items and a couple of other 18th century items are pictured laying on a deer skin that my husband and I tanned. It was also fun to find other things to incorporate into the collage, like the Colonial Williamsburg address label and emblem from correspondence I have had with them and also the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild business card that I created to tell who, what, when and where the meetings are held that we pass out when we do blacksmithing demonstrations. It was also fun creating the parchment paper foundation and the labels and using my quilt cutting supplies to trim the labels before placing them on the collage.' A picture of my entry and excerpts of the write-up were in the Massanutton Chapter NSDAR *Massanutton News* Volume 6 Issue 7 April 2, 2018 Newsletter. Alas, I did not win, but I but I enjoyed creating it and having the opportunity to promote blacksmithing.

