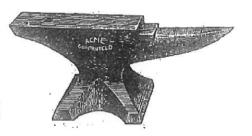
Main forge with blower

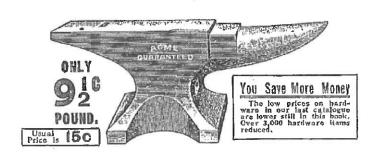
This forge is the main area for working hot iron and other metals. It has a hand-crank blower to provide air flow to the coals, and a ventilation hood and chimney to draw smoke out of the shop. A fire is started in the center with newspaper or small pieces of wood and allowed to catch in the coal. After it starts, it can be tended for a long time by raking, adding new coal and blowing. Look for tools used for raking coals, and the coal bucket and shovel.

Anvils (3)



The anvil is the primary tool used in blacksmithing (besides the hammer) to shape hot metal, including horseshoes. Anvils can be resurfaced on their top face several times by welding a new piece of steel to the surface. Anvils come in many sizes. Look for the small one on the workbench.





Post vices (2)

The post vice is used primarily for blacksmithing but can be used for woodworking. It is very sturdy and is designed to be mounted on the edge of a workbench so the post touches the ground for added support. With this support, it is possible to hammer away at a heavy piece of hot iron while it is clamped in the vise.

Horseshoeing kit (for *farrier* work)

It was a necessity for farmers to have the skills for shoeing horses and mules and trimming their feet. If a farmer didn't do it himself, a farrier could (a farrier is someone who shoes horses).

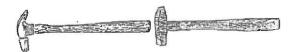
All U.S. farms until as late as the 1940s were powered by horses and mules. After WWII, there was a significant decline in horse-powered farms as draft animals were quickly replaced by tractors. The demise of the farrier began.

It wasn't until the 1950s, with the rise of riding horses for pleasure and show, that the farrier profession would become needed again.

hoof nippers



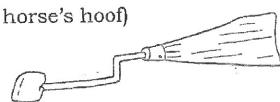




hoof paring knife



hoof buttress (for scraping clean a



leather farrier's apron (hanging)



mule shoes, horseshoes

Notice the narrow shoes compared to the wider shoes... mules have narrower feet than horses. The round shoe is called an "egg bar" shoe, a therapeutic shoe for horses with heel problems. Can you find a shoe with "toe clinches?"

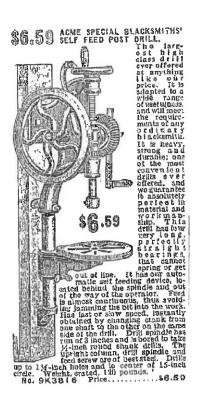
Swage block or "buffalo's head"

This extremely heavy iron tool is used for blacksmithing. Typically it was set up on a big stump or another very sturdy work surface.

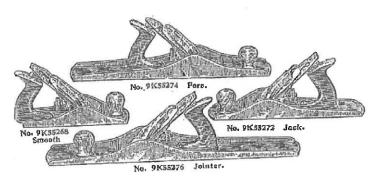
The different shapes located around the edge and in the center are used for shaping metal. By using a hammer or other tool, a farmer could work and shape a piece of metal into any configuration.

Post drill (2)

The hand-cranked post drill could be used for blacksmithing or for woodworking. It was designed to be mounted on a post, hence the name.







Woodworking tools

On the bench you will see:

Fulton Beechwood Bench Planes,

Correctly made of selected straight grained beechwood, the best wood known for planes
tropologically proportioned and titted with high grade double steel cutting from and polished
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Control of the proportioned and the proposed and the prop

to many cheap imitations sold in competition at low prints our Fulton iron and wood bottom planes quoted above.

planes

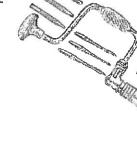




ratchet bit brace (this is a hand-held drill)

draw knives





buck saw



also included is a measuring wheel (also called a tire measuring wheel)

"Tire shrinker"

An unusual tool, the "tire shrinker" was used to resize iron "tires" (the metal rims on wagon and buggy wheels). When a wagon wheel had to be repaired, the tire was removed. Often the tire was worn out (stretched out) or had to be repaired or remade. An iron tire could be heated in the forge then put into the tire shrinker. By working the lever, the tool assisted with forming the tire back to the correct shape and size to fit a particular wheel.

Portable forge

Just a smaller version of the big forge, the portable forge was easy to carry all over the farm wherever the farmer might need to work. It was mainly used for small items such as horseshoes, or for fabricating small pieces like hinges or other

small parts.

Grinding wheel

This wheel is used for sharpening tools like axes, chisels, sheep shears, gardening shears, sickles and scythes, knives, and the like. A person would be seated at the wheel and keep it turning with the foot pedals. The grinding wheel had to be wet to do a better job at sharpening. Sometimes water was used, or a light oil.

Tong racks

The racks on the back wall hold a variety of tongs. Primarily used for blacksmithing and horseshoeing, tongs were fabricated in numerous shapes and sizes, for many different applications.

