

# Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

January 2014



Gerald Franklin , at Honey Springs Civil War Battle , was pressed into service to repair an artillery implement,

Saltfork Craftsmen  
Artist-Blacksmith Association  
Officers and Directors

President/Cones:  
Byron Doner 405-650-7520  
6520 Alameda, Norman Okla.  
byrondoner@esok.us

Vice-President/events: 580-381-0085  
David Seigrist  
P.O. Box 163 Hollis, Ok 73550  
dseigrist2004@yahoo.com

Sec-Treas. Dan Cowart 918-440-0653  
10380 N. 4010 Road  
Wann, Ok 74083  
ddcowart@gmail.com

Director/Editor: Diana Davis 580-549-6824  
23966 NE Wolf Rd.  
Fletcher, Ok 73541  
Diana.copperrose@gmail.com

Director/tool box tools:  
Mandell Greteman 580-592-4460  
Rt. 2 Box 130 Foss, Okla. 73647  
mandell01@windstream.net

Director/swage blocks: Bill Kendall 918-742-7836  
1756 E. 59<sup>th</sup> St Tulsa Ok. 74105  
wwkendall@aol.com

Director: Mark Carter 405-964-5754  
34509 Hazel Dell Rd.  
McLoud Ok. 74851  
mcarteriron@gmail.com

**Assignments:**

Webmaster:  
Dodie O'Bryan  
Pawnee, Ok  
scout@skally.net

Workshop Coordinator:  
Tracy Cowart 918-376-2382  
9911 N. 117th E. Ave.  
Owasso. Ok  
draftsman@cox.net

**2014 Board of directors election...**

Three trustees for Saltfork Craftsmen ABA terms expire this year. They are David Seigrist, Dan Cowart and Diana Davis.

*It is with great sadness that I will not be running for the Board of Trustees this year. It is due to both Pat's and my health. I have enjoyed being secretary/treasurer but I don't think I can continue doing it the way it needs to be done. The club deserves and needs someone who can give it the attention it needs. I will continue serving as secretary/treasurer until someone else is elected from the BOD and help whom-ever takes over .*

*Thank you very much.*

*Dan Cowart*

Anyone that is interested in serving on the board of trustees for the Saltfork Craftsmen ABA needs to send (via email) a request to be put on the ballot that will be in the February newsletter. A short Bio would be nice to put into the newsletter also. Only requirements is that you must be a member in good standing and be considered (by the people who know you) to be a trustworthy individual. You need to be willing to attend at least 4 board meetings during the year and have email access.

The Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association, a non-profit organization Our purposes are the sharing of knowledge, education and to promote a more general appreciation of the fine craftsmanship everywhere. We are a chapter of the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America.

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**Visit our Saltfork Craftsmen Website:**  
[www.saltforkcraftsmen.org](http://www.saltforkcraftsmen.org)

## **Editors notes...**

Well its 2014 and time to start another year. As many of you know that come to our conferences, we ask for suggestions that would make our conferences better, while some of you obviously need to get a life, many of you had some useful suggestions. I thought I would use this time to address three of them.

First let me point out something that some of you may not realize concerning our club dynamics. At this time there are 304 members in Saltfork. Of those, 242 live in Oklahoma. You have 7 members on the board. At any conference you will find approximately 25 members doing most of the work. You have about 20 members that do most of the public demonstrations and teaching of classes. So you can see there is a lot of untapped resources out there. We need those additional resources to help out the club. With that said. Here goes.

### **#1. More variety of classes available to the non blacksmiths.**

I have been trying to come up with ideas for the family classes since the first conference was ever held in Guthrie. We have asked for suggestions more that once and gotten few if any responses. Now that we have moved the conference to Norman, maybe we can find more resources to tap into. But we still need your suggestions. We need someone that likes to organize activities, and has the time, to volunteer their expertise and help out. You don't have to be able to teach a class, just the ability to locate instructors that are willing to come and teach.

### **#2. A contest during the conference.**

I think this would be a great addition to the conference but as I can attest, the conference staff, as it sets at this time, is stretch to it breaking point. We need some more fresh blood to come in and help with implementing any new activities. If you would like to see some form of forging contest at the conference and/or picnic, come to the next meeting of the board and volunteer to take on this project, bring your ideas in writing, with rules etc. we would love to hear from you.

### **#3. handouts from the demonstrators.**

We can only ask for handouts, we can not force a demonstrator to provide them. That is why we suggest bringing paper and pencil. When you were in school and the instructor passed out class notes, did you pay as much attention in class as you would have if you needed to make the notes? You will remember the details more if you have to think about how to put it down on paper than if someone just hand you the work already done. A Demonstrator might word some procedure differently than you would and thus be more confusing when you get home and decide to try to make it. Especially if it has been a while since you watch the demonstrator. It has been scientifically proven that people that take a picture of an event remember less about that event when they get home than ones that watched and paid attention. So sharpen up those pencils....

My 2cents....Diana Davis ,Editor

## **REGIONAL MEETINGS:**

### **January 2014 Regional meetings...**

- ⇒ SE Regional meeting (Jan 04,) open
- ⇒ NE Regional meeting (Jan 11) will be hosted by Bill Kendall at his shop in Tulsa. Trade item is a soup Ladle. Lunch is provided and will be Ham and beans. Bring a side dish to help out. See map.
- ⇒ SC Regional meeting (Jan 18) will be hosted by Gerald Franklin at his shop east of Duncan, Ok. His trade item is a candle holder. Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out. See map. If you need to contact him here is his info...franklin@myrhinomail.com or 580-467-8667
- ⇒ NW Regional meeting (Jan 25) will be hosted by Dorvan Ivy at the Route 66 museum blacksmith shop in Elk City, Ok. His trade item is something with a leaf. Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out.

### **February Regional meetings...**

- ◆ SE Regional meeting (Feb 01) Open
- ◆ NE Regional meeting (Feb 08) will be hosted by Gary Gloden at his shop at 16606 S. 97th W. Ave in Sapulpa, Ok. His trade item is "Horseshoe art". Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out.
- ◆ SC Regional meeting (Feb 15) will be hosted by JJ McGill at the Murry Co. Antique Tractor Grounds (map will be in February newsletter) JJ McGill is working with the Boy Scouts this weekend and would like all the help he can get. The boys are on a quest to kill zombies and need to learn to make anything that they can use to defeat them. This is your opportunity to bring out your inner child and use your imagination to FORGE ahead and help the Boy Scouts defeat the Zombies. You can contact JJ at jjmcgill88@yahoo.com for more information. The trade item is a knife or weapon. Lunch is provided.
- ◆ NW Regional meeting (Feb 22) will be hosted by Gary Seigrüst at the Route 66 Museum in Elk City, Ok. The trade item is a "Grill tool". Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out.

### **March Regional meetings...**

- Se Regional meeting (March 1st) open
- NE Regional meeting (March 8th) will be hosted by Doug Redden at 2050 E. 410 Rd. Oologah. Lunch is provided but he did not designate a trade item.
- SC Regional meeting (March 15th) open
- NW Regional meeting (March 22nd) will be hosted by Mandell Greteman at his home in Foss, Okla. Lunch is provided and his trade items is a soup spoon.

*Directions: exit 53 off I-40 go north on Hyw 44 across the rail road tracks one block turn left go 2 blocks end of the road big ray and while building or follow the signs.*

## 2014 meeting dates....

### SE Region (1st Sat )

Jan  
Feb  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
Aug  
Sept  
Oct  
Nov  
Dec

### NE Region (2nd Sat )

Jan: Bill Kendall  
Feb Gary Gloden  
March: Doug Redden  
April: Ed McCormack  
May  
June  
July  
Aug  
Sept: James Mayberry  
Oct  
Nov  
Dec

### SC Region (3rd Sat)

Jan; Gerald Franklin  
Feb: JJ McGill  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
Aug  
Sept: J.J. McGill  
Oct (SCABA)  
Nov  
Dec

### NW Region (4th Sat)

Jan: Dorvan Ivey  
Feb: Gary Seigrist  
March: Mandell Greteman  
April: Bob Kennemer  
May: Roy Bell  
June: Don Garner  
July  
Aug  
Sept: Ron Lehenbauer  
Oct: Cheryl Overstreet  
Nov: Mandell Greteman  
Dec: Ted Culver

## Saltfork Craftsman Regional Meeting Hosting Form

Region \_\_\_\_\_ SE \_\_\_\_\_ NE \_\_\_\_\_ S/C \_\_\_\_\_ NW

Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ [correct Saturday for region selected above]

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email \_\_\_\_\_

Trade item \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch provided \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Directions or provide a map to the meeting location along with this form.

**\*\*All meeting are scheduled on a first come basis. Completely filled out form MUST be received by editor no later than the 23rd of the month TWO months **PRIOR** to the meeting month.**

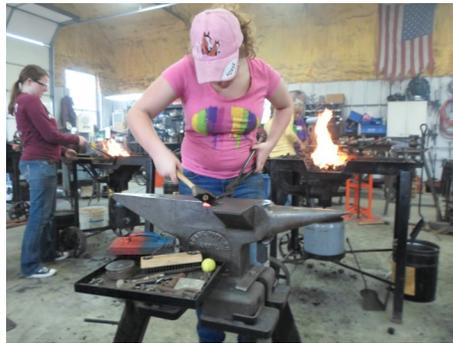
Completed forms can be mailed or emailed.

You will receive a conformation by email or postcard.

A form must be filled out for each meeting.

## November workshops...

There was a beginning Blacksmithing workshop for women held on November 30th at Byron Doner's shop in Norman. It was taught by Diana Davis. There were 6 students with three driving all the way from Tulsa to attend. They arrived at 8:00 AM eager to get started. After discussing shop safety we got started with some basics. I started by teaching them how I light a coal fire and explained that there are as many ways to do this as there are blacksmiths and that they are all the right way. The task is to find what works for you. We soon had the four forges going and were ready to start. I explained that if they learned the basic skills of blacksmithing they would then be able to make most anything they could dream up. All it took was practice to hone their skills. 5 projects were chosen that built on the skills of drawing a taper, bending, curling, twisting and riveting. Some students caught on quickly while others needed more one on one time. As each project was finished we took breaks to discuss the next project and how it used the skill that we had just completed. At noon they were more than ready to eat a lunch of stew and corn-bread. We started back at 1:00 with a cleaning out of the clinkers and getting fresh coal around our fires to start coking up. We finished completing the third project and began the fourth. It was soon 4:00 PM and we had the choice of starting the last planned project or calling it quits. It was a unanimous vote that we were all tired and felt they had learned a lot and discussed plans to continue practicing their newly learned skills. Four projects might not seem like a lot to the men but for a group of women that had never picked up a hammer before, it was a lot. Three of the projects they actually made 2 each of, so they actually made 7 items in 7 hours. They were a great group to work with and I enjoyed teaching them. They all pitched in and before long we had Byron's shop cleaned and tools put back where we had found them.



Students: Teresa Gabrish , Emily Nelson , Bailey Upchurch, Riana Jergensen, Lindy Saunders and Melanie Nelson



## Route 66 Museum Blacksmith shop Intermediate blacksmith workshop.

On Saturday, November 30th I attended the Intermediate blacksmith workshop put on by the Saltfork Craftsmen Association at the Route 66 Museum in Elk City, Ok. The five hour ride from Dallas on my motorcycle was a tad cool with the temperatures when I arrived in the low 30's but other than the dance around a few armadillos and a scare from a crossing doe was uneventful. They welcomed me right in for coffee and donuts which were much appreciated.

I am relatively new to blacksmithing and my experience has been the beginner class at Brookhaven College taught by Kelly Kring. I've since built my own gas forge, have acquired an anvil and can truthfully say have caught "the bug". Any new (to me) information, skill, demonstration etc is valuable. The Route 66 Museum Blacksmith shop is an amazing place and to say I was a bit over whelmed is a gross understatement.

The amount of tools of every kind. How they were displayed and stored was very well done, integrating the displays of a museum with a working blacksmith shop I thought was very well done and intelligently thought through.

The facilities and tools I used for the workshop are first class as was the instruction and support. This was my first attempt at using a coal forge and forge welding. Having only used a gas forge to this point I had no experience in how hot a coal forge could get, how fast it could heat up steel, and how fast you could lose that steel if left unattended. This was also my first exposure to power hammers and while I didn't attempt using them I saw several demonstrations and how they could be used to great effect.

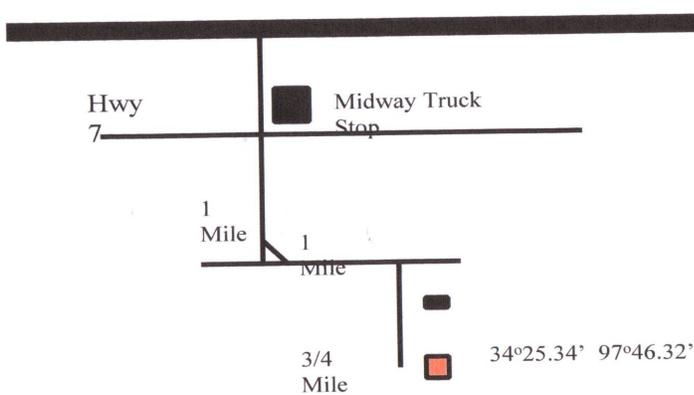
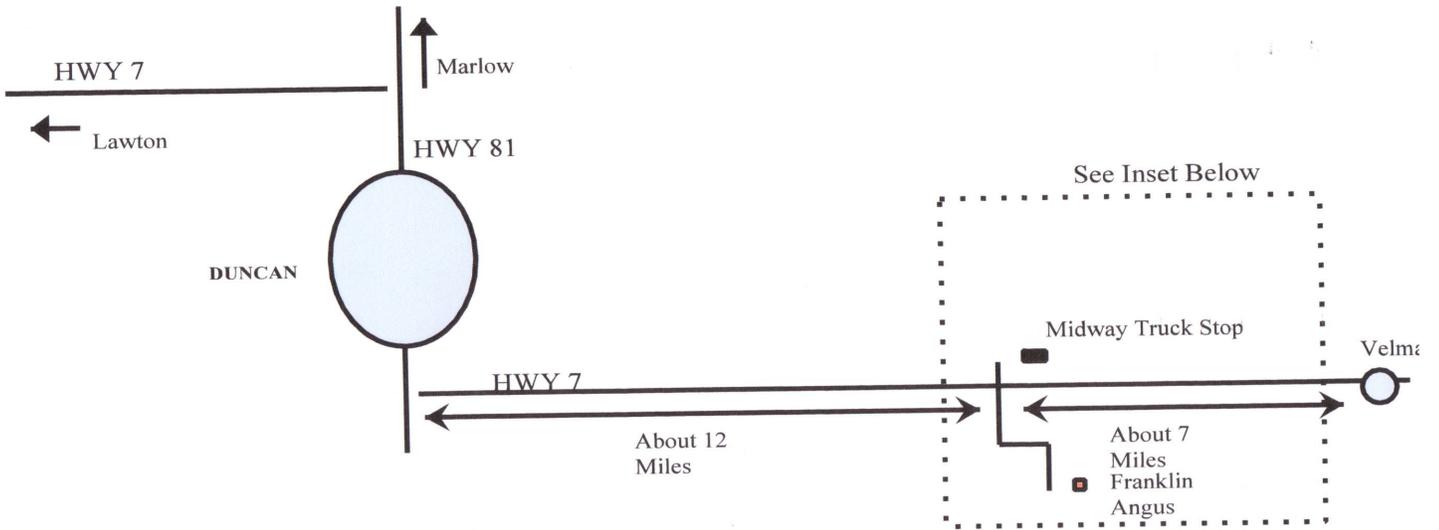
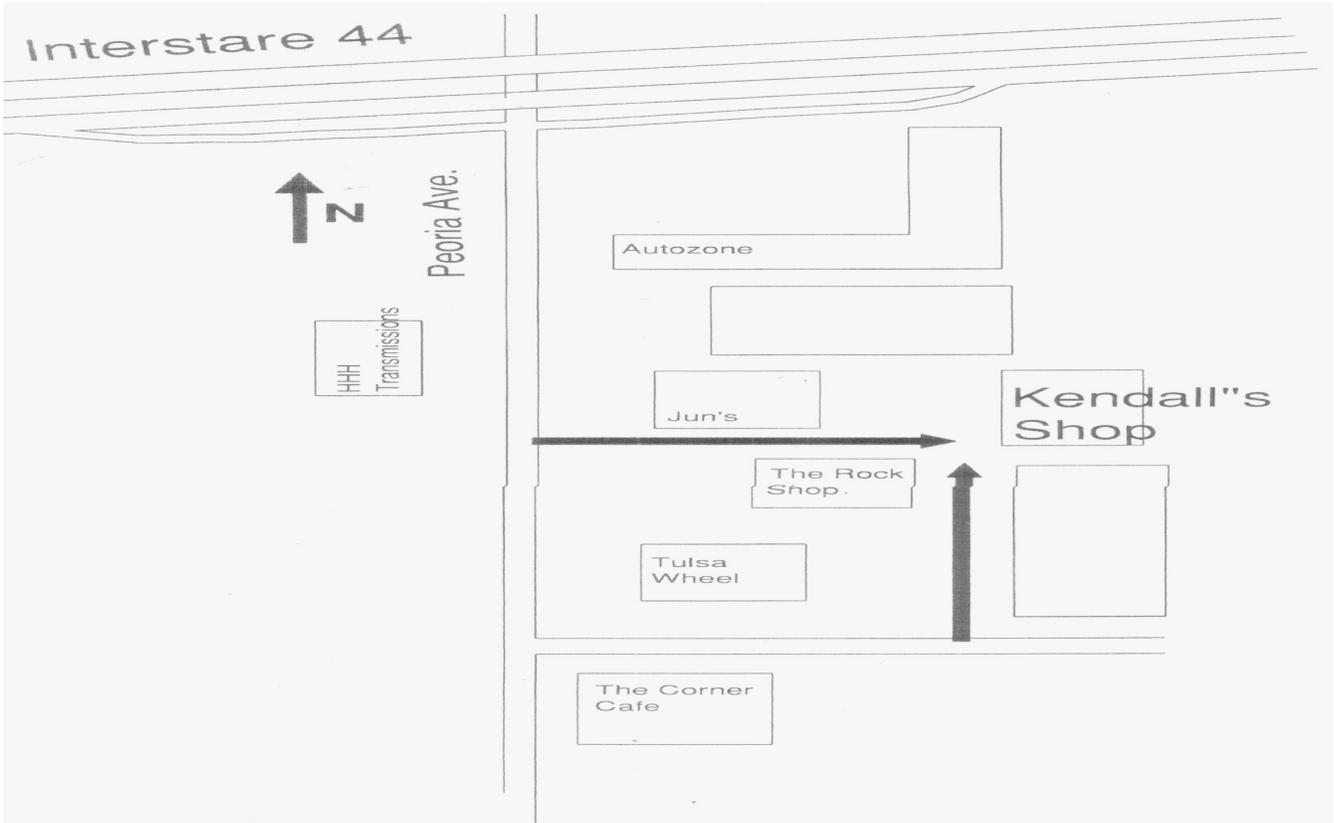
I want to thank the Saltfork folks for putting on a very good, very successful workshop and lunch (excellent stew). Hope to come up there again in the not too distant future.

Fred Cole  
The Colony, Tx

## NW regional meeting in November..

The November meeting for the NW region was hosted by Mandell Greteman at his shop in Foss, Okla. There was a nice turn out for the meeting even though the roads were icy and snow on its way. 18 brave blacksmiths arrived to enjoy the day. The trade item was a dipping spoon. They kept the forges going all day making a wide variety of items. The heat from the forges was nice. Some even enjoyed setting around the wood burning stove and sharing stories. Lunch was homemade Chicken and Dumplings with all sorts of good things to go with it. I would like to say "Thanks" to everyone that came and Thanks for your help with the food.





Franklin Angus  
 Rt 3 Box 239J  
 Duncan, OK 73533

Cell: 580-467-8667  
 GPS: 34°25.34' 97°46.32'

## Traditional Chest: Part 2

Aubrey Washington

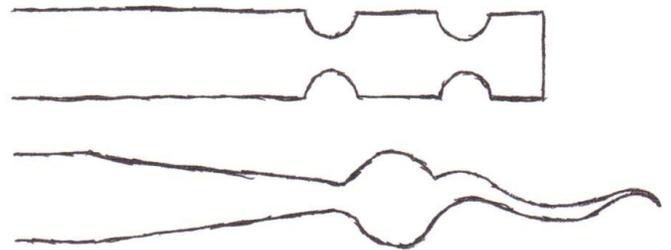
Rock Creek Forge

In the November newsletter I described how to do the wood work for the Traditional Chest project as taught by Bob Alexander and Pat McCarty at the Folk School in Brasstown, NC. In the present article I will describe how we made the hinges and hasp for the chest. The hardware includes hinges, hasp, handles, drawer latches, and tray handle. As with the woodwork, there are many opportunities for you to customize to your own taste. Books on colonial iron work can give you ideas. Colonial Wrought Iron, the Sorber Collection by Don Plummer (1999) shows dozens of hinges, hasps, etc.

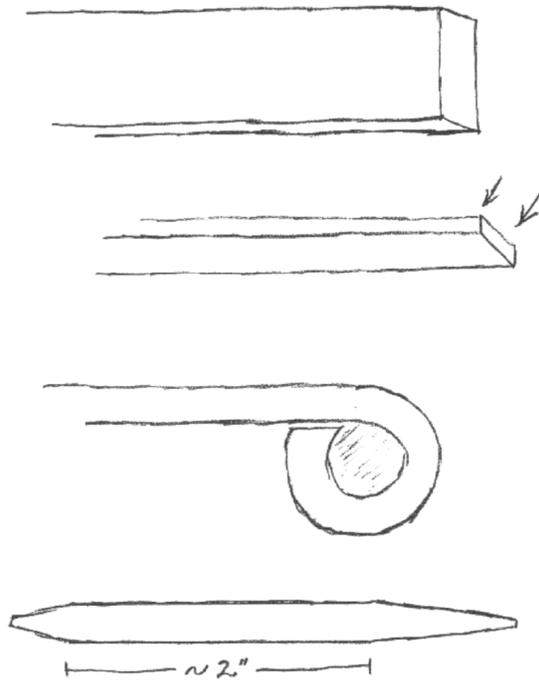


### Hinges

The hinges are made from  $\frac{1}{8}$ " X  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " flat stock. Fuller as needed for your design and draw out tapers. You can use the same design for both the long section of hinge that curves over the top and for the shorter section that goes down the back of the chest. Once you are satisfied with the design elements, cut the two long sections to 15" and the two short sections to 11".



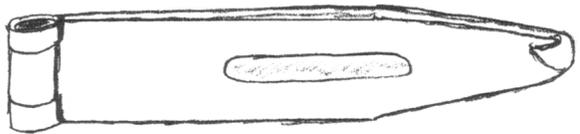
Before rolling the barrel of the hinges, forge a short bevel on the back side of the end of each piece. The barrel of the hinge goes on the front face of the hinge. So, place the hinge piece face down and roll the barrel of each piece, starting over the edge of the anvil. Shoot for an eye slightly under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter, then drift to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". (Note: A drift made from  $\frac{1}{4}$ " mild steel will work fine for limited use. The center full round section of the drift should be about 2" long.) Heat the barrel, insert the drift, and quickly dress up the barrel around the drift. With the drift in place, make sure the eye is perpendicular to the strap so that the hinge will open straight. Knock the drift out before the barrel cools too much or it will get stuck.



### Hasp

The hasp is made from  $\frac{1}{8}$ " X  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " flat stock and is constructed in much the same way as the hinges. The top portion of the hasp can have a decorative element that matches your hinges. It should be cut to 8" before rolling the barrel.

The lower portion of the hasp can have a small scroll, etc. to make it easier to hook a finger under when lifting the hasp. After forging this, cut to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " and roll the barrel.



The lower portion needs a slot cut to accommodate the lock loop. Drill  $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes centered  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and 3" up from the bottom of the piece. Chisel the slot between the holes.

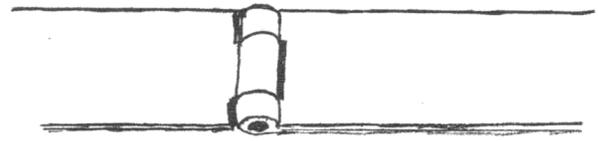
Make a jog in the piece about 4" up from the bottom to accommodate the loop plate. This can be done by placing a piece of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " stock under and another off-set on top of the hasp part. Then use a flatter to set down the jog.



### Cutting Barrels

The barrels of the hinges and hasp can now be cut (with band saw or hack saw and chisel) and filed for a neat fit.

To make both sides of the barrel approximately equal in strength, allow  $\frac{1}{2}$  the barrel length for the center section and  $\frac{1}{4}$  for the two outer sections.

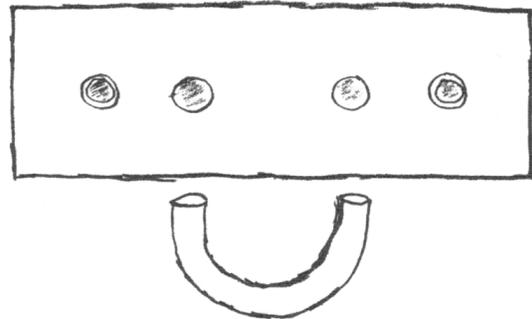


The hinge pins can be made from  $\frac{1}{4}$ " rivets or from  $\frac{1}{4}$ " round stock. But do not install them permanently yet.

Lock Loop

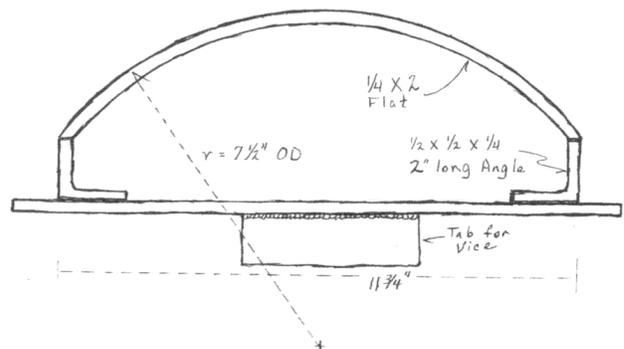
The lock loop can be made from  $\frac{5}{16}$ " round, bent around a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " bending fork. It is welded to a 3" long plate made from  $\frac{1}{8}$ " X 1" flat stock.

Drill  $\frac{5}{16}$ " holes in the plate for the loop; countersink on the back to allow for hidden weld. Drill  $\frac{11}{64}$ " holes for wood screws and countersink on front.



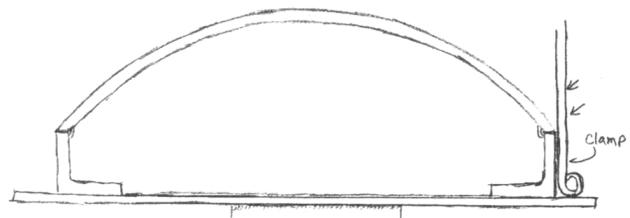
Bending Hinges

You can't bend hot metal over your nice wooden chest. So, when you bend the hinges to conform to the barrel top of the chest, you can use many approaches (bending fork, anvil horn, etc.). In the class we used jigs provide by the instructors. Here is my version. Check the dimensions against the shape of your chest lid.



In using the jig, it helps to have a second pair of hands, because you have to work fast to avoid losing too much heat.

Heat the hinge evenly along its length.



Quickly clamp it to the jig, being careful to insure that the barrel is flat against the bottom of the jig and the strap is vertical. (Note: Draw a centerline down the middle of the jig to help you keep it straight as you bend.) Using hammer and tongs, bend the strap to the curve of the jig. Try to get a crisp corner at the beginning of the arc.

The jig should get you close to the curve of your lid. However, you will no doubt need to do some tweaking to get an exact fit to the contours. Most of that can be done cold.

The top section of the hasp is bent in the same manner.

When the hinges and hasp fit to your satisfaction, you can choose where to place the bolt holes. Place the bolt holes in the center of the slats, not on a glue joint. Pre-drill the wood. We used square head lag screws (about  $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ ) with washers. Each hinge got 5 screws: 3 on the lid, 2 on the box. The hasp got 2 screws. You can decorate the screw heads if you like (file, punch, chisel, etc.).

Wow! You've done a lot for one day! Take a break. In a future article, I will talk about how we made the spring latches for the drawer, the chest handles and the tray handle.

Happy forging!



This is a treadle hammer I just finished building. I ordered the plans for the "Clay Spencer hammer" from ABANA. It is built like the plans except for the hammer guide. The hammer is 2 1/2" OD x 42". The guide is 2 11/16" ID x 22" (hard to find). Since there is a 3/16" difference between the two I installed 3 shims to keep the hammer in the center. I haven't used it yet but look forward to using it.

Also I recently built a traveling forge with a homemade double bellows. Can send pictures of it if you think it might be interesting.

Don Shrunk