



On the Anvil NEWSLETTER

PHILIP SIMMONS ARTIST BLACKSMITH GUILD

<http://philipsimmonsartistblacksmithguild.com>

From the President's Anvil:

January 2014



Duke Baxter photograph

The December meeting was held at the historic Edgefield, SC Blacksmith shop. Jamie Stevens is a featured artist at the blacksmith shop and works there every Friday making and selling her jewelry, laser cut trivets and wrought iron ware she produces at the forge. Jamie and her husband were hosts to more than 50 smiths and families. They set up the meeting along with the meal at the adjoining Catholic Church family life center.

Barry Myers was the demonstrator beginning his demo of courting candle by showing us one that he had made at his forge along with the fixtures he produced to fabricate them. Barry is a great demonstrator and made two candleholders that he was not pleased with but everyone had a good time and learned something, I know I did. Barry was forging so hard, flames came out his butt! See Duke's picture.

Jamie and David prepared an out-standing meal by grilling steak and everyone else pitched in with a large spread of sides and deserts. Thanks to everyone involved in the preparation and serving of the food. It was very good!

New Members: Caleb Battle, Eric Clancey, W.D. Dozier, Shane Lotts, Chris Medlin, Glen Owens, and Bruce Parker. Thirty-five new members in 2014 and one lost sheep returned! One of our best years ever for PSABG growth! I must be doing something right! Welcome.

We had a very good Iron-In-The-Hat: \$761.00 was added to our treasury. Thank you for your generosity in both your donations and your ticket buying!

Please check and see if you have paid your dues, we will have members dropped from the roles if their dues are not paid. Ray reminded us that on our newsletter address, the last time our dues were paid is listed. Don't miss a newsletter or you might miss knowing about a meeting!

Thanks again for your support of our Guild with your IITH donations, attendance, and friendship: Jesse

Pay your dues!.....

Iron in the Hat

Item	Donated By	Won By
Small Tomahawk	Todd Elder	Ed Sylvester
Gear Bottle Opener	Todd Elder	Racheal Rodriguez
Troll on a Nut	Jody Durham	Jeff Hatfield
Poker	John Tanner	Harry Wiggins
Drive in Double Hook	John Tanner	Robert Campbell
Christmas Tree Carving	Angie and Peter Mueller	Layne Law
Elf Carving Ornament	Angie and Peter Mueller	Layne Law
Paraffin Wax	Joe Marsh	Chris Medlin
Paraffin Wax	Joe Marsh	Jason Anderson
Copper Bottom Water Dipper	Bill Creek	Perry Thomasson
Drill Bit and Bolt	Duke Baxter	John Tanner
Troll Cross Necklace	Ray Pearre	Karen Wiggins
Duck Oyster Knife	Ray Pearre	Clyde Umphlett
Cody Lundieu Axe Necklace	Chris Herron	Barry Myers
Viking Flint Striker	Chris Herron	Harry Wiggins
Handmade Soaps	Michael McCall	Tammy Hatfield
Wire Brush	Jeff Hatfield	Chris Herron
Wire Brush	Jeff Hatfield	John Tanner
Steak Turner	Jeff Hatfield	Bob Kaltenbach
2 Pair Lg. Gloves	Perry Thomasson	Jeff Hatfield
Bearings	Perry Thomasson	John Tanner
Chain	Perry Thomasson	Jack Ratliff
Chain	Perry Thomasson	John Tanner
Light and Fern	Layne Law	Joe Marsh
Japanese Rice Cutter	David Brooks	Chris Herron
Machete	Ed Sylvester	Harry Wiggins
Copper Bracelet	Jason Jaco	Jesse Barfield
Leaf Key Fob	Jason Jaco	Perry Thomasson
Hot Pepper Relish and Beach Combers' Guide	Linda Creek	Ray Pearre

Item	Donated By	Won By
Steak Turner (aka slaplach)	Jason Anderson	Robert Campbell
Railroad Clips and Spikes	Chris Medlin	Jason Jaco
Railroad Clips and Spikes	Chris Medlin	John Tanner
Railroad Clips and Spikes	Chris Medlin	Jack Ratliff
Snake wood and Cocobolo	Johnny Johnson	Ike Carpenter
George-Herron-Pattern Heat Treated Knife Blanks	Johnny Johnson	Bob Kaltenbach
George-Herron-Pattern Heat Treated Knife Blanks	Johnny Johnson	Joe Marsh
Tool Steel	Jason Anderson	Johnny Johnson
Tool Steel	Jason Anderson	Caleb Battle
Jam	Sharon Alsbrook	Racheal Rodriguez
Candle Holder	Gerald Alsbrook	Tammy Hatfield
Steel Rod and RR Spikes	Robert Campbell	Jonathan Bouknight
ABANA 2013 Reunion Book	Barry Myers	Ray Pearre
Tong Rings	Jesse Barfield	Barry Myers
Foxfire 4 Book	Jesse Barfield	Ray Pearre
Bearing Race	Jonathan Bouknight	Duke Baxter
Christmas Wine	Karen Wiggins	Johnny Johnson
Horse Shoe Rasps	Mackie Bryant	Ike Carpenter
Horse Shoe Rasps	Mackie Bryant	Johnny Johnson
Horse Shoe Rasps	Mackie Bryant	Jason Jaco
Horse Shoe Rasps	Mackie Bryant	Todd Elder
Horse Shoe Rasps	Mackie Bryant	John Tanner
Courting Candle	Barry Myers	Johnny Johnson
Hearts	Jamie Stevens	Robert Campbell
Sterling Earrings	Jamie Stevens	Karen Wiggins
Forged Flowers	Jamie Stevens	Clyde Umphlett

It's Not What You Think

HC on a railroad spike does not necessarily mean high carbon, it may mean highway crossing, and these spikes need to be stronger for this part of the track. The HC means .40% -.45% carbon not the .80% that we would usually call high carbon. The spikes are barely heat treatable and won't hold an edge very long. With this in mind, be aware of a higher carbon content and work with the material accordingly.

The Tuyere, newsletter of the ILLINOIS VALLEY BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

Ryan Callaway is offering Saturday workshop Introductory Welding and blacksmithing class at Creative Iron Works @ 12 Andrews in Greenville S.C. January 17th and 31st, February 21st and 28th, March 7th and 21st, April 18th and 25th, May 23rd and 30th

Battle of Charleston reenactment 30 Jan - 1 Feb. at Legare Farms Johns Island, SC

February 14th Guild meeting in Conway

March 28. Hammer-in at North Augusta Living History Park.

April 10th and 11th South Carolina State Museum
Contemporary Longrifle Show and Sale <http://scmuseum.org/events/>

April Guild meeting on Saturday, April 18th.

Fire on The Mountain April, 25, Spruce Pines, NC

May 8th -10th Artisphere, Downtown Greenville, S.C. <http://www.artisphere.us/>

May 14th -16th Southern Blacksmith Conference, Madison, Ga.
<http://www.sbaconference.com/>

June meeting, Marcengill's. August meeting, Camden will be a class with Shel Browder August 7 and 9, with the Guild meeting on the 8th. October is At Tommy Taylors Shop with Chris Herron demonstrating, Johnsonville.

December, 12 will be at John and ML Tanners home in Swansea.



Wheely Nice!

Here is a quick tip from Marty Zuegar. Marty needs to make all his equipment portable and easy to set up. He says he cannot take all the credit, the design is attributed to Jim Garwood. "Upcycle" that old wheel barrow wheel into something that you will actually use!

Materials:

20" Antique Wheel Barrow wheel
2- 1/4" round rings (to hold hammers)
space 2" apart
1/8" plate cut in 18" circle for bottom with 2" lip
3-Legs, 1/4" X 1 1/2" pipe cut @ 80 degrees

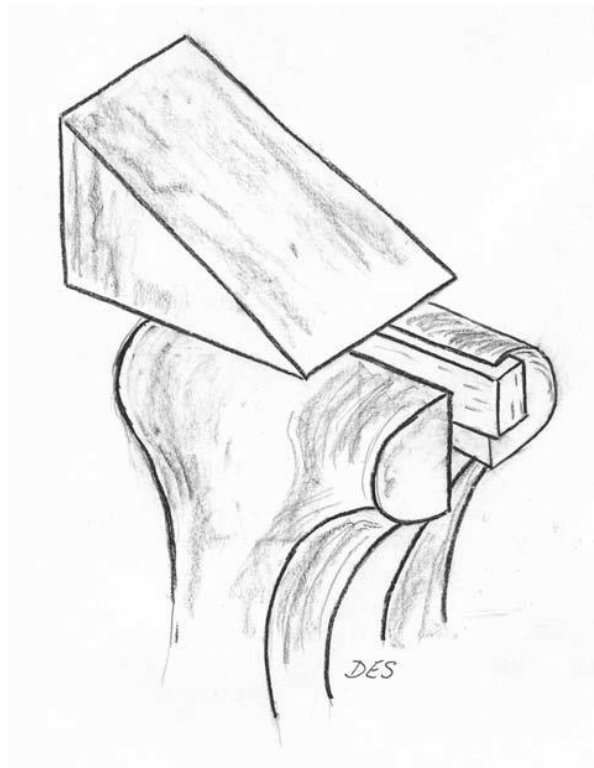
Directions: Assemble according to photo!
Thanks Marty!

Pittsburgh Area Artist Blacksmiths Association

Vise Anvil or Detailing Wedge

by Dave Smucker

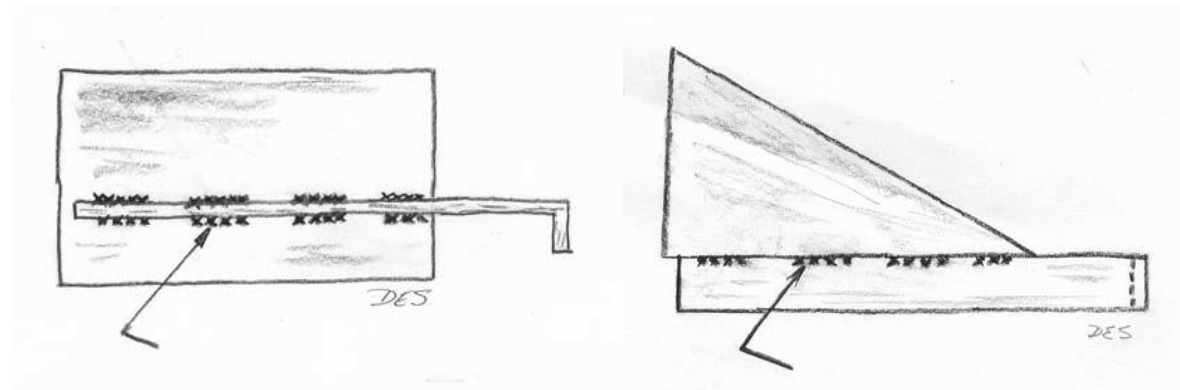
Here is a tool that I consider a "have to have tool". If you are going to do blacksmithing you need a forge, anvil, vise, tongs etc. Once you have collected these tools, a most useful accessory for your vise is what I call a vise anvil or detailing wedge. My wife says it looks like a wedge of cheese set on top of your vise jaws.



What does it do? It lets you clamp hot items in your vise and then use hand held punches, chisels and other tools to put details into the item you are working on. If you want to make things like wizards, dragons etc. it is a tool that is very very useful. (I'm sure someone somewhere works on these items without one but once you make one you will wonder how you ever got along without it.)

As Francis Whittaker used to say, **"if you can't hold it, you can't hit it."** Well, this little tool lets you clamp your work piece in the vise and then presents a solid angled surface for you to work against.

The size of the block is not important nor does the angle of the wedge have to be some exact value – many different sizes and angles will work. Mine is made out of 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 square stock because that is what I had but smaller sizes will work just fine. Mine is cut at a 30-degree angle, and that is about right but other angles will work too. To the bottom of the wedge is arc welded a length of 1/4 x 1 inch bar stock that is several inches longer than the wedge. On the end of this wedge is welded a tab that keeps the block from falling off the vise when open. The extension of this bottom bar clamps both the wedge and your work piece when you close the vise.



will work fine. One of the harder things to do is to cut the angle for this block. It is not hard to saw in a small cut off saw, but it may be hard to hold to make the approx. 30-degree angle cut. Here is a trick that will help. First cut your block to its overall length. Then tack weld it to a length of wide bar stock or plate, setting the angle and arranging the bar stock so that you can clamp it in the saw's vise. This is much easier than trying to angle the saw's vise and still clamp the wedge block. When done you will need to grind off the tack welds but this should be easy. With the saw cut done you should end up with two wedges – so you can make one of these vise anvils for a friend or make one and put it into "iron in the hat" for some lucky blacksmith. If you don't have a cut off saw yourself, find a blacksmith friend that does, do the sawing in his shop and give him the other wedge.

Now to finish the vise anvil all you need to do is weld a length of 1/4 x 1 bar stock to the bottom. It has to extend well beyond the front of the wedge so that you have a surface that will both clamp in the vise and clamp against the work piece. If you use a large block for your wedge like I did you will need to weld or bend a tab on the bottom bar to keep the wedge from falling off the back of the vise when it is opened. If you use a smaller block you will not need to do this.

After welding the bottom bar to the wedge you may find that you need to grind the weld on the backside so that it will clamp well with the top edge of the vise jaw.

I noticed on Steve Williamson's vise anvil that he has a longer extension on his bottom bar than I do and that he has it bent down so that it is out of the way. This gives his a handle that remains "cooler" so that he can pick it up to take it in and out of the vise, without having to use another tool. When I use my vise anvil it gets too hot to handle without picking it up with tongs or vise grips. (I should add a handle extension to mine.)

In use you can heat your work piece in the forge and then clamp the item in the vise – and use a punch, chisel, etc., to work details. As the piece cools you will need to return to the forge for another heat or you can heat it with a torch right there in the vise. I often use the torch if working on a small item or if I want to heat just a small portion of the work piece.

If you don't have one of these tools, make it soon. You will like it and use it a lot

Not seeing the content you want?

Submit requests for the kind of info and articles you are interested in, or better yet,
Submit an article yourself.

Buffer Safety

There was an incident recently that was discussed on *The Forge*, the online email blog that is hosted by ABANA.

A knife maker was buffing a knife and was found with the blade through his heart. Yep, he died.

Jerry Frost, aka Frosty, a smith in Nova Scotia, and Todd Rich did the math: Figure that a 9" buffing wheel on a 3,450 RPM motor results in about 8,130 feet per minute surface speed, or 135.5 ft/sec.

Frosty went on: "What part of a human chest is going to stop that? How much momentum does a 6 oz. knife blade have moving at 135.5 ft/sec? I'm thinking it'd defeat plate armor if it hit end first, either end. Don't think of it as a "thrown" blade, think of it as one fired out of a gun.

"People have been trying to figure out how to make a guard to prevent objects from getting caught and thrown from wire wheels and buffers for centuries, well better than one century anyway, nobody has come up with anything that isn't more dangerous than no guard at all.

"When you say prevent it from traveling 360* you're thinking 180* and that is right back at you. The wheel covers almost guarantee anything that won't stall the motor WILL come directly back at you. Usually aimed at your waist, but it doesn't make a whole lot of difference where something going that fast hits you it's going to take it's pound of flesh if not your life.

"There is only ONE thing I know of that CAN make wire wheels and buffs reasonably safe and that's operator technique. STAY OUT OF THE PLANE OF ROTATION! You guys have probably read me saying this till you're sick of it, but that's it, as safe as you can be using wheels. Heck, grinders catch things once in a while and throw them at the operator. Just don't be in the way WHEN it happens. Learn to operate grinders, wire brushes, buffers, etc. from the side, NEVER in front of the wheel. You've seen water or mud slung off a bike wheel? THAT'S the plane of rotation! Just stand to the side or the steel version of water spray might come to visit.

"Something else for you blade guys to think about: you all know you can build stresses in the blade grinding, you normalize or even anneal after grinding before hardening and tempering to relieve stresses or risk a failure be it outright breaking or cracking. Buffing imparts heat and high frequency vibration to the steel and if there is a potential crack buffing can cause it to appear. Nothing like a crack to grab a buffing wheel, even if you're doing everything right.

"If you're not at least a LITTLE afraid of wire and buffing wheels you're not paying attention or just not aware of what you're doing. You just can't let fear effect how you operate machinery or it WILL get you. "You can't fear the machine but you MUST respect it." My Father said that or a version so many times I got sick of hearing it but no truer words were ever spoken."

I added that the setup of the buffer or grinder in the shop. The machine should be set so that the wheel should be mounted proud from the bench. There must be nothing below the wheel to rebound the knife or what-ever into you. It will fly straight down. Now, you need an **open** plywood box below the wheel to catch the whatever. The guy who showed this to me had 4" of foam in the base of his box as he didn't want his knife to be hurt if it was ripped from his fingers.

So, **stay out of the plane of rotation** and set up your buffer/wire wheel **over nothing**.

Next time we can talk about Kevlar gloves to keep your fingers from leaving your hands...Barry

Here is a cute idea I saw somewhere - Facebook I think - that you might like! Think a flattened scrap piece of angle iron.



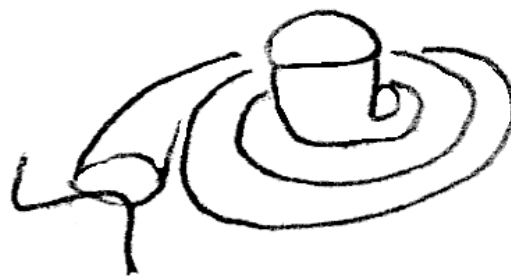
SCHOLARSHIPS

The purpose of awarding scholarships to the PSABG membership is to train and develop new blacksmiths that can share their knowledge within the Guild and general public. These are some of the things the Board and Officers look for when considering a scholarship application.

- Have to have been a member for a minimum of one year.
- Is the applicant attending meetings on a regular basis?
- Is the applicant participating in the Iron-In-The-Hat by donating items? (This is how we generate money to pay for scholarships)

Has the applicant acquired the basic skills, fire building, hammer control, etc., through hammer-ins, Guild sponsored classes, or at meetings after the demonstration is completed.

Here's a Christmas project that you can make for next year! I would probably lose it before October! Reprinted from the Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association newsletter, *The Upsetter*.



Bend the upset end to 90°, then wind 1/4" round stock into a tight coil, stopping about 4" from the end. Heat the entire coil to uniform orange and clamp the end in a vise while supporting opposite side of the largest coil with tongs. Pull upwards on the center with a vise grips. As the first coil separates, use the tongs and a flat bit screw driver to support top of the coil as the next one pulls up. Continue to support, moving up as each coil separates. When the rings do not readily separate, use a flat bit screw driver to coax them apart. Taper the last 3" of the tail end to a two sided taper.

Christmas Tree

By Steve Anderson, a MABA member

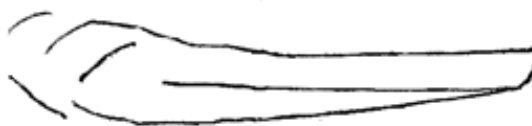
Stock: Large Tree: 1/4" round x 60"

Small Tree: 1/4" round x 40"

Taper down leaving 3/4" on end.



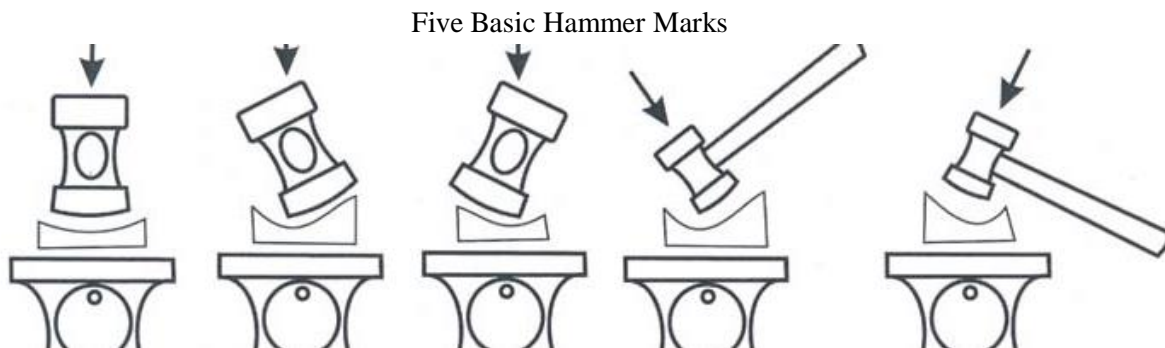
Place in vise and upset the end to about 3/8".



Then complete the last coil on the anvil horn. Heat and flatten upset center to thin. When it's cool, adjust the coils to form a symmetrical cone and file a star, cross or other ornament at the top.

For Sale:

- **Fire Bricks – Brand New, Industrial Grade. \$1 ea. Ed Sylvester 803.414.2487**
- **Hosfield Bender**, with extension bender and 20 attachments on a nice stand \$900.00. **Sewell coal** for sale. 135# for \$45, Layne Law 843-333-9964
- 185 Joy Air Compressor, Diesel, John Deere, \$3000. 185 Sullivan Diesel, 2 for \$5000. Two Milwaukee portabands, \$100 ea. Lincoln flux core Pro-Welder Mig w/2 extra rolls of wire, \$275. Steam Cleaner – Steam Jenny Model 200 Plus 115 Volts, Diesel Fuel, \$200. Trailer, 20' bed, 3' tongue, 2 axles, needs wheels, \$250. 2000 Conquest, Gulfstream 30' Camper, Complete, 4 new tires, \$5800. Trailer for backhoe, 13' Bed, 2' Dovetail, 4'6" tongue, No Ramps, 3 axles, \$500. 1997 Ford Super Duty – Rolling Chassis (only), New tires on Front, Rear very good, \$1000. Wilton 6" Bench Vise, \$100 obo. Motorcycle Trailer for dirt bikes, \$250. Welding Machine Trailer, needs tires, \$200 obo. Motorcycle jack stand, needs finished, \$100. Emglo Shop Air Compressor, 5 hp, 230v, \$500. Contractor's toolbox, 48"x60"x30" w/locks, \$600 obo. Hypertherm Plasma Cutter, Max 42 w/20' torch, \$800. Mini 80 amp complete welding package, Tig and Stick for 3/32 rods, \$75. Charles Meyer, 843-729-5861
- Blacksmith Classes: John Boyd Smith is offering an instructional blacksmithing program at his smithy near Spartanburg. John is internationally known for his realism in forged steel. Call 912-655-9448, email flemingsmith@aol.com, or website JohnBoydSmith.com.
- **Tire Hammer Plans**: Send check/money order for \$30 to Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670-7013. Includes postage to US and Canadian addresses. Other countries e-mail clay@tirehammer.com for price. 256-558-3658. Tire Hammers for sale contact me for current price. Also, **Beverly Shear Blades Sharpened**, \$41 includes return shipping in US. Remove blades and ship to address above. Extra cost for deep nicks or blades sharpened at wrong angles.
- **Big Chuck o' Iron**. 8"x8"x56" 900+ lbs. mass for anvil, treadle hammer, or tire hammer. Price reduced again! \$200. Last chance before the scrap yard. Jeff Hatfield 864-216-3707
- **50# Little Giant Power Hammer**. \$3500. Walter Hill. 843-344-3969
- **25# Little Giant Power Hammer**. Everything works, No cracks. \$2600. Barry Myers



Reprinted from The California Blacksmith (more on this next time)

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<http://philipsimmonsartistblacksmithguild.com/>

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Membership Application

___ New Member___ Renewal

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

email: _____ Sponsor _____

Dues are \$15.00 per person/family, per year. Please remit to: C. Ray Pearre, Jr.
4605 Durant Ave.
North Charleston, SC 29405

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I acknowledge that blacksmithing and related activities are inherently dangerous and involve risks and dangers to participants and spectators that may result in serious injury or death. I have considered these risks and I knowingly assume them. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety during Guild events, including wearing appropriate clothing and protective gear and remaining a safe distance from all dangerous activities. I agree to hold Philip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild and guest demonstrators of our craft harmless from liability and expenses arising from my actions and/or omissions.

When was the last time you paid dues?

There is a note below your address on the last page of our newsletters.

It will say something like...

"Dues Last Paid – 2013" or "Dues for 2014 are due"

This note is updated for each newsletter. We appreciate your prompt payments.

Pay your dues!.....

Officer Ballot

President: Jesse Barfield_____ **Write-In**_____

Vice President: Meck Hartfield_____ **Write-in**_____

Treasurer: Ray Pearre_____ **Don't write in**_____

Board Members

Ryan Calloway_____ **John Tanner**_____ **Josh Weston**_____

Write-in_____ **Write-in**_____

Send this ballot to Ray Pearre at his address above or bring it to Conway!

Frank J. Richtig, blacksmith
turned knife maker (it
happens!) in Clarkson,
Nebraska, testing his knife by
cutting through a wagon axle.



<https://clarksonhistory.wordpress.com/2013/05/06/secrets-of-the-dead-the-richtig-knife/>

Come to Conway on February 14, 10 AM Walter Hill will demonstrate at the Farm!

The Conway Museum's L. W. Paul Living History Farm is located at 2279 Harris Shortcut Ln, north of Conway on US 701.

Bring a side or dessert and something nice for iron-in-the-hat - maybe something you've forged!

Come watch Walter crustify some iron....

