

# The TOOL SHED

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## THE CROZE SAW—COOPER'S TOOL by Raymond R. Townsend

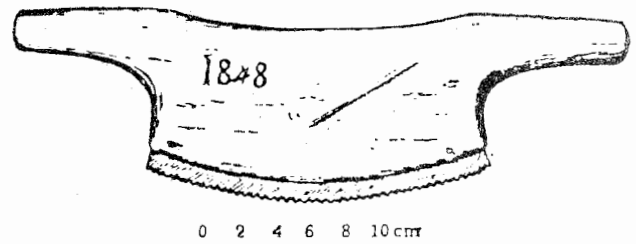
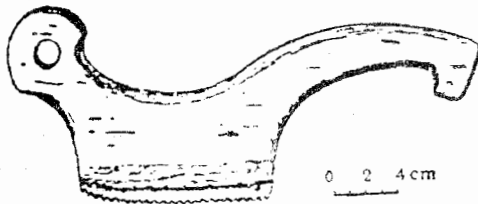


Figure 1: Croze Saws (from Woodworking in Estonia).

The Croze Saw is very similar in appearance and construction to the Stair Builder's and German Dovetail Saws (1). Its distinctive feature is the curved (convex) blade, in order to fit the concave inner curve of the stave. The blade is inserted into the entire length of the stock, and its cutting depth generally does not exceed 1-2 cm.

Although probably not as much used as the familiar cooper's croze, sometimes referred to as the long-handle type croze saw, it was known all over Europe. It is used mainly to cut the croze in boards (staves) of wooden household containers, such as wash tubs, piggins, tankards, buckets, churns, etc. It was possible with the Croze Saw to cut evenly completely across the board.

In conjunction with this saw, a knife and a grooving chisel had to be used for cleaning out the sawn groove (2).

Collectors of Cooper's tools are familiar with the method of first assembling and setting the staves, cutting the croze, and then making the head to fit the circumference of the croze. It is interesting to note that in some districts

of Estonia the coopers made the head first and built the container around it.

It is a common German tool as illustrated by Duden and in German catalogs. (see Figure 2). The only French

(Continued on page 6)

### NOVEMBER 23rd MEETING AT FIELD HOMESTEAD

The next meeting of CRAFTS of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, November 23, from 2:00 to 5:00 p. m., at the Field Homestead, 260 River Road (Rte. 18) in Piscataway.

The program for the meeting will feature a talk by Jim Aber on "Tool Collections and Exhibitions—Ways of Displaying Tools." The talk will be illustrated with colored slides from Jim's collection.

Harry O'Neill will again preside over the "Whatsit?" session, and the meeting will conclude with the "Swap & Sell."

Looking ahead, the remaining meetings for the current year will be held on February 8, April 5, and June 15, so mark your calendar.



**Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society  
of New Jersey**

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Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone interested in early trades and industries, and the identification, study, and preservation of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey. Annual dues are five dollars for the membership year of July 1 to June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: C. Carroll Palmer, 725 Pemberton Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

**The Tool Shed**

Published five times per year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Editors: Larry Fuhro, 417 Bartlett St., Roselle, N.J. 07203; Robert Fridlington, 8 Keith Jeffries Ave., Cranford, N.J. 07016. Contributions, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are welcomed.

## CRAFTS GOES ON A PICNIC

On Sunday, September 21, more than one-hundred-fifty tool collectors, wives, husbands, and children turned out at Alex and Barbara Farnham's farm, near Stockton, for CRAFTS of New Jersey's first all-day, picnic meeting. The setting, in the wooded hills high above the banks of the Delaware, was perfect, and the weatherman cooperated by providing a beautiful, sunny day.

There was good food, good drink, good fellowship—and lots and lots of good tools. Erna Stenzler, Charles and Walter Jacob, Carl Bopp, and Bill Gustafson, all exhibited favorite tools or a special part of their collections; and Alex Farnham had a display of (what else?) signed New Jersey tools. There also was a record number of tools for sale—and probably a record number sold. Many of them were exceptionally fine items, and at least some of them went for bargain prices.

The highpoint of the day came after lunch when Alex opened the doors of his studio and his blacksmith shop, and everyone had the opportunity to see his superb collection of tools and early

weather vanes. All of those who took the studio tour had an added bonus—the pleasure of viewing many of Alex's beautiful paintings. Equally interesting to the kids (and to many of the urbanized adults) was Barbara's flock of sheep.

Of course, there was plenty of tool talk throughout the day and discussion of the CRAFTS programs for the coming year. It was nice to see old friends again and to meet new ones. There was so much catching-up to do: stories of the great acquisitions made over the summer and a few sad tales about the "ones that got away."

By late afternoon the crowd began to thin out. And as darkness approached, even the die-hards headed down the steep hill and toward home, tired and happy—and loaded down with tools.

Among the CRAFTSmen who had a hand in making the day such an outstanding success were Steve Zluky, Harry O'Neill, Bill Gustafson, Herb Kean and Chuck Granick. And thanks are due all of the ladies who prepared that delicious food and the entire crew of amateur chefs who ran the hamburger and hotdog assembly line.

But above all, a very special thanks must go to Alex and Barbara Farnham and their daughter Vivian for their kind invitation and for being such gracious hosts. We had a wonderful time.

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## NAME STAMPS

Lew Cooper advises that he has, after a long search, found a source for name stamps like those used by the old-timers to mark their wooden tools. The cost is about \$18 each, plus carriage, which is very reasonable compared with prices quoted in the U.S. The address is:

Eyre & Baxter (Stampcraft) Ltd.  
229 Derbyshire Land  
Sheffield S8 8SD  
England

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(Continued from page 6)  
Figure 608, page 413.

Sources

A. Viires. Woodworking in Estonia.  
Smithsonian Institution, 1969.

Onni E. Koponen. Pielisen Museon  
Kertomaa. Pielisjärven oloista lähinnä  
1800-luvulta.

Duden. Bildwörterbuch der deut-  
schen Sprache. 3 Bänden. Mannheim,  
Zurich, 1958.

(The editors once again express  
their thanks to CRAFTSman Raymond  
R. Townsend for permission to reprint  
the above article from The Petite  
Gazette, Vol. II, August, 1980. The  
Gazette, which is published by Mr.  
Townsend, disseminates "tid-bits of  
useful knowledge for tool collectors.")

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A WHEELWRIGHT'S  
HOOKED (RINGED?) REAMER  
by James Laurent

A lot of beautiful tools were sold at  
the September picnic-meeting of  
CRAFTS. I did my part to help keep  
money in circulation, and in the process  
I acquired several interesting pieces,  
including an unusual wheelwright's  
reamer.

I have always had a special fondness  
(weakness?) for wheelwright's reamers,  
especially hooked reamers. Just the  
sight of one and my palms begin to  
sweat. So when I saw what appeared to  
be hooked reamer, I pounced on it.

Hand-forged, this particular reamer  
is the type which was used with a de-  
tachable handle. The overall length is  
twenty-four inches, and it is of fairly  
heavy construction, weighing about five  
pounds. It has the typical half-funnel  
blade, measuring fifteen-and-one-half  
inches along the cutting edge, and  
tapering from a width of three-and-one-  
quarter inches at the top to one inch at  
the nose.

The most interesting feature of the  
tool, however, is the hook—which is  
really not a hook at all, but a forged

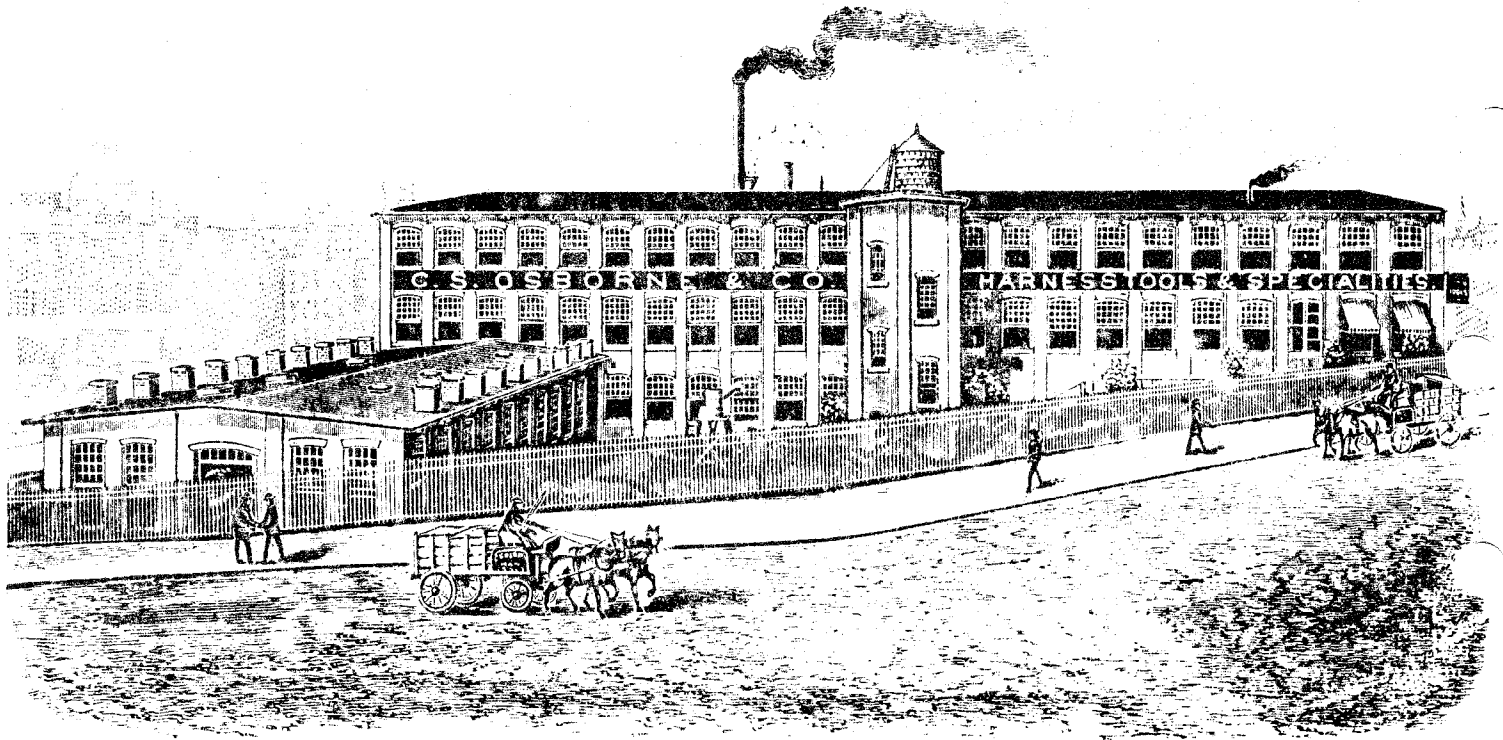
loop curling upward and inward from  
the tip, thus forming an asymmetrical  
ring on the inside of the blade just above  
the nose. As the interior diameter of  
the ring is small (only about three-  
eighths of an inch), it would seem that  
this reamer was drawn by a rope rather  
than having a weight attached directly  
to it—if, indeed, weights were ever  
attached directly to the hooks.



I have no idea as to how common  
this type of "hook" is, but I have never  
seen one before. The standard refer-  
ences do not provide much information  
either. Salaman (p. 38) shows a "hook  
auger" with a ring extending downward,  
below the nose. Iron Horse Antiques  
Catalog No. 12 (1976) lists a pipe-log  
reamer with a ring at the tip, which it  
describes as a "variation of a hooked  
reamer," though from the accompanying  
photograph it is impossible to determine  
the way the ring is positioned.

It seems that a ring, at least one of  
the type described above, would be more  
difficult to forge than a hook and that it  
would be less functional. Did this  
"variation" serve some specific purpose?

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# C. S. Osborne and Company

## Standard Tool Manufacturers

From the C. S. Osborne and Company 1911 Catalog.



bed-piece to which the plane is connected, with the providings for holding the plane securely thereto; also is shown an end view of the bed-piece and an end view of the shooting-board, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 shows the various parts used in the construction of the stop against which the piece to be planed is held."

While space does not permit a description of all of the "improvements" Jones claimed, a couple of items are of interest.

Jones writes: "In the provisions above described for the adjustment of the parts of a shooting-board necessary for angular planing and for the steadiness and security of the plane, I do not confine myself to either metal or wood

in any of the parts, using the one or the other as the workman chooses."

Jones also pointed out that "the placing of a handle upon the side of the plane that is uppermost when performing the operation of shooting joints on the board gives the workman important advantage over the ordinary manner of grasping the body of the plane in the hand."

Whatever advantages Jones' patent offered, his shooting boards are extremely rare today. A Jones shooting board and plane was sold at the Kenneth D. Roberts tool auction in April, 1979. It was tagged "No. 1" and was possibly the original patent model.

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