The TOOL SHED

NUMBER 170 December 2012

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Pennsylvania Goosewing Axes

by Jim Bode, Ken Hopfel, John Henson & Bob Garay

Goosewing Broad Axes are named for the unique shape of the axe head, which resembles the wing of a goose in flight. The goosewing broad axes brought to Pennsylvania by German settlers were the earliest hewing axes commonly used in this country. This hewing axe, already fully developed in Germany, was used for squaring up of a log. It's a fine edge tool that creates a finished product. It's not like an early felling axe, which is basically a sledge hammer with a wedge shaped end. It didn't matter how much you spent on a felling axe. It was a three and a half pound soft piece of steel on a handle. A file would cut it like butter and this is meant to be so. These tools needed to be sharpened while in use, several times a day. A hewing axe, with its laid-on hardened steel edge however would take a keen sharpening. A file wouldn't cut it; it would just skid off with nary a scratch. They needed to be sharpened with sharpening stones, just like your plane irons and chisels. The edges are an average of 13" inches long and the average goosewing weighs 7 lbs.

Above - Rohrbach goosewing axe. Left - Triple maker's mark and initial stamp.

The advantage of the Pennsylvania goosewing axe is that it is easier to wield with the weight center being closer to the hands. It also has a canted socket, thus it has no need for an offset or bent handle. The main disadvantage of this goosewing axe is, since the socket is offset you need two axes for right and left work. A regular broad axe has a symmetrical blade in which the offset handle can be installed top or bottom.

When the goosewing axe was used for hewing, it was usually done right where the tree fell. This removed 30% of the weight making the log easier to move. The goosewing axe came in both right and left hand configuration, and a good percentage of left handed goosewing axes are found. A much higher percentage than the 10% of people who are left handed. As you know, now or then, tools made for left handed people are non-existent. These axes were not made for left handed people but for hewing the other side of the log. Logs were typically worked from the top toward the stump where the grain flares outward. It is much easier to work left handed than to flip an 800 pound timber.

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Feb. 3, 2013 - CRAFTS Meeting
HOST Masonic Lodge—Highbridge, NJ
Speaker: John Porritt—restoration techniques

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The purpose of CRAFTS of New Jersey is to encourage interest in early trades and industries, and in the identification, study, preservation and exhibition of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey as an integral part of our heritage.

Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone who shares the above interests. Annual dues per person or couple are fifteen dollars for the membership year of July 1 through June 30.
Membership fees may be sent to: Hank Allen, 524 Harristown Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 (write check payable to CRAFTS of New Jersey).

CRAFTS of NJ meetings are held at the HOST Masonic Lodge in High Bridge, NJ.
Take I-78 to Route 31 exit at Clinton. Go north on Rte. 31 two miles to second traffic light at the High Bridge exit. Turn right and go about half a mile to Dennis Ave. Turn left, then straight to the Masonic Lodge (on the left).
Tailgate sales in the parking lot begin at 10 A.M., meeting starts at 1 P.M.

The TOOL SHED

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CRAFTS WEBSITE
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Containing general information about CRAFTS and its activities including: meeting schedules, Tool Shed articles, etc.

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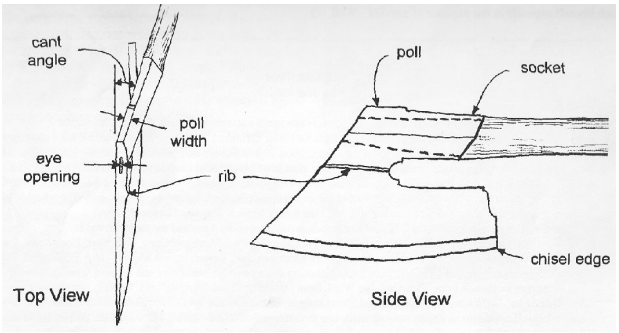
President's Corner

Well it is the time of year tool collectors here in New Jersey are hunkering down for the cold winter. Flea markets and garage sales slow down or are non-existent. Auctions are for the brave of heart, as snow and freezing temperatures keep many of us at home. It is a good time to reacquaint oneself with their collection. Cleaning off the dust, restoring that waiting tool or researching the unfamiliar history of an unappreciated relic. For me it is also the time to take a good look at my collection and make decisions on its direction. As I no longer buy every antique tool I come across, I now try to refine my search. Of course some of my collector buddies don't think this is so. It is a good time to put some of the unguided tools into the upcoming CRAFTS Auction. I actually will have a couple of boxes for these unguided tools. One box for the auction, one for the flea market, and another one for eBay sales.

As I evaluate my collection I realize the investment I have put into it. Of course there is the monetary investment. As I got more serious about collecting tools I also seemed to get more serious about the monetary expenditure of wanted pieces. Now that I am retired I don't have the expendable income I once did so I often look at tools differently. Of course like most collectors I look for a good deal when I can buy a good tool as an investment, where I know I can resell it later for more than I paid for it. It just seems these "finds" are getting harder to find. Thus recently I have looked at collecting tools that fit certain "valued" niches. Like collecting New Jersey tools. Since I was born and raised in this state I find it interesting to collect and research the tools made in this state. Often deals can be found, especially when attending events in faraway places where collectors have no interest in New Jersey tools. Another interest would be the history or story behind the tools. As I enjoy researching the history of tools and their makers, I find myself often buying a tool just to explore the historical story it tells. I often put this into the form of a Tool Shed story to share what I have unearthed. I often am on the hunt to find that certain tool that will fill that missing link that will bring it all together. As I ramble on here I realize there are actually many more reasons for collecting the tools that I add to my collection. But most of all it just gives me great pleasure to get a great tool. One that has the look and feel of great age and the work it has done over the years. Sometimes it is for its beauty while other times it is for it ingenuity. It must be something that resides way down deep in my DNA, as my father was also a collector. He collected coins. I remember him taking his whole paycheck to the bank every week and coming home with a bag of coins to look thru. That's it; I'll blame it on the DNA! What a fun hobby!!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, Bob

Don't forget to get your CRAFTS Auction consignment sheet in by Jan.1st for the spring auction. For more info, call Greg Welsh (908) 439-3266 or glwelsh@earthlink.net, or Steve Zluky (908) 534-2710.



Goosewing ax nomenclature. This is a left handed axe. It is used on the left side of the log, with the left hand forward.

The earliest, albeit crude goosewing type broad axe, appeared around the 9th century. Although, the traditional version, actually shaped like a gooses wing appeared about the 16th century. The symmetrical broad axe that replaced the goosewing was well in favor and standard by the 1830s.

Maker's marks on goosewing axes we have in our collections:

Hess	Peters	J.Weber	S.Wil
G.Sener	I.Brva	W.Addam	F.Roth
H.H.Stricker	G.Shau	Philip His	C.Gilbert
Brady	S.Lenhart	D.Lichty	G.Rohrbach

A right handed G.ROHRBACH is spelled with a variation I am not familiar with. The axe is stamped three times: G.ROHRA and with quite an elaborate spur decoration. My guess it is an early mark. Bill Phillips mentioned seeing spellings of, "G.ROHBA & ROHRBA"

In the article by Bill Phillips in the No.82 Tool Shed of June 1994, he lists these makers that have their names stamped on his axes.

Beatty	S. Cleaver	Dubs	D.Miller
George Miller	M.Seiger	T.Bever	H.Stahler
Wood	J.Bauer	J.A.Seager	J.D.Seidel

More makers' stamps on axes reported by John Caroline during the Tool Shed's No.119 Nov. 2001 Pennsylvania Goosewing Axes article.

D.Ligute	D.Brady	Stohler
C.Kriler	V.Adams	D.Ermold
Bever	A.Hook	V.Hofmann

Above - Rohrbach axe showing the canted socket that angles the handle away from the wood being worked.

American and Continental goosewing axes both get their name from the graphic form of the blade but that is where the similarities end.

Following is a list of differences between Continental axes and Pennsylvania goosewing axes:

1. The top edge of the blade as it protrudes from the top of the hammer poll to the tip of the blade is usually straight and seldom curved as on continental axes.
2. A longer handle socket is a characteristic of Pennsylvania goosewing axes.
3. The Pennsylvania goosewing axe socket is more flat than round as in the Continental axe.
4. Pennsylvania axe socket has a defined ridge that runs the length of the axe.
5. Pennsylvania axe poll is thin. Same length as the continental axe but not as fat.
6. Pennsylvania axe eye is thin, small or almost none existent.
7. The Socket is always canted away from the plane of the blade and bit on the Pennsylvania goosewing axe.
8. The area under the socket is a well-defined and a very calculated form, usually embellished with a distinct design as an ovolo.
9. The bottom or heel of the axe blade on a Pennsylvania goosewing appears to be straight and seldom has a curve or cut out.
10. The back upper corner of the blade body can have an ogee or other design as a quarter round. Most have a 45 degree clip. This feature is often regional and a characteristic of the individual smith, such as a signature. Philip His is recognized by his ogee embellishment.
11. The upper region of the blade between the socket and main body of the blade can be plain, have one small rib or two thin ribs together on Pennsylvania axes.
12. Most Pennsylvania axes are signed; when signed it can be done 1 - 4 times. The maker's marks on Continental axes are almost always in the form of a symbol and seldom the maker's name, as on Pennsylvania axes.
13. The Pennsylvania blade is usually void of designs and decorations, and if they are, it is in the form of parallel ridges.
14. The entire Pennsylvania goosewing axe can have chamfering on all extremities.
15. The thickness of the blade and socket on Pennsylvania axes are seldom as heavy as on Continental axes.
16. The Pennsylvania axes often have rough iron that is a result of the charcoal iron they used in fabrication.
17. The bottom of the handle socket on Pennsylvania goosewings is more often than not at an angle, unlike Continental axes which are always straight.
18. On Pennsylvania goosewing axes the bottom corner closest to the handle is more often clipped or molded as compared to Continental axes.

Continued on next page

Below are examples of Pennsylvania goosewing axes and their maker's marks.

Set of L&R handed Rohrbach axes. left is G.ROHRA maker's mark.

Above is set of L & R handed W.ADDAMS axes. Left is the maker's mark.

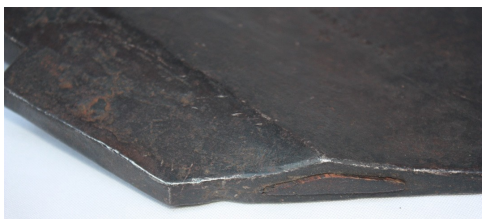
Goosewing axe made by I.BRVA. Left is maker's mark.

Above is C.GILBERT axe. Inset right is his maker's mark.

Above is D.LICHTY axe. Inset right is maker's mark.

Above is J.WEBER axe. Left is the maker's mark.

Above is S.LENHART axe, inset right is maker's mark.



Left is traditional small eye of Pennsylvania goosewing axe.

Above is PETERS axe, inset is the maker's mark.

A pair of Philip His axes. Top is goosewing; bottom is Cooper's axe.

Above is axe by G.SHAU. To right is maker's mark stamped many times, but to the left it is stamped clearly.

Above is axe by F.ROTH. To left is double maker's stamp.

As you looked over the photos of the preceding axes you should have noticed some of the features of Pennsylvania goosewing axes. Of course, many of these early Pennsylvania makers learned their axe making craft in their homelands on the continent before coming to America. They brought with them a tradition that was literally hammered into them as apprentices. Yet they forged ahead to develop an individual style that can be recognized today. The Pennsylvania Dutch area of Lancaster and its surrounding counties were bursting with blacksmiths. In a small booklet titled "A Directory of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Blacksmiths" There are pages filled with names of known blacksmiths. Many never put their names on the products they made. Often the only mark they included on a piece is a stamping of their initials. The booklet lists over 100 blacksmiths that did mark their names on their work, and the authors acknowledge that this list is incomplete. And this is only from Lancaster County. As journeymen spread out to practice their craft in new towns they took with them the learnings and stylings they inherited from their masters. Thus it is easy to understand why an axe that has all the characteristics of a Pennsylvania goosewing would turn up being made by a blacksmith in Ohio.

Thus, break out those goosewing axes in your collection and look them over. They may have some of the features listed here that "may" make them a Pennsylvania goosewing axe. But of course as tool collectors know, nothing is written in stone. As many of the axes we find follow the characteristics we listed here, there are many more made here in America that do not have most of these characteristics. Yet that is half the fun. As one can often hear collectors gathered at any auction, debating the provenance of any given tool.

The late great Bill Phillips with his wall of rare Pennsylvania goosewings.

The CRAFTS Picnic – September 9, 2012

By Dave Nowicki

September can be an awesome month and not just because of the CRAFTS picnic. Of course, that is also a pretty good reason. After a typical hot and humid New Jersey summer, September brings with it a definite cooling trend that just seems to make the picnic something to look forward to. Over the past two years we've endured some pretty iffy picnic weather (rain two years ago and overcast and threatening last year) and it was definitely time for a change. Ken Vliet really must have bargained hard with the weather Gods this year because if there was one word that could sum up the weather for this year's picnic it would be "magnificent".

I arrived at Brady Camp about a half an hour after sunrise and there were already a number of people scurrying around setting up tables and setting out their tools, all the while checking out the nearby offerings of their neighbors. The sky was crystal clear with the last vestiges of ground fog taking flight at the edges of the fields, just a wonderful beginning for the day. If it all sounds a little too idyllic, well, you just had to be there.

Above left - Gloria and Pat Renehan enjoying the day.
Above right - Tony Pellecchia is ready to sell, sell, sell!

Tool trading, seeing old friends and just carrying on with the latest tool gossip are the reasons most folks give for attending the CRAFTS picnic and I admit they're all good ones. But they are not the best ones, at least for me. I know there are more than a few who only come for the tool trading and are gone by the time lunch is served. To me, that's like sitting down to a multi-course meal and leaving before dessert is served. They miss out on the other truly delightful events made available for members to participate in.

For example, this year Rick Vliet set-up a running demonstration of a small hit and miss engine as it might be used to mill grain on an early twentieth century farm. It was quite enjoyable to see and hear the engine running with its large flywheel spinning and the leather belts turning two grain mills, all the while hearing the "pop ca-chunk ca-chunk ca-chunk" sound that gave the engine its moniker. For those who aren't familiar, these are simple engines, gasoline powered, with a pair of massive flywheels storing energy from the combustion stroke and supplying that power to the other three strokes of the piston. These engines were made mostly of cast iron and a few steel parts which made them very heavy for their size. A typical 2.5 horsepower farm engine could weigh 500 pounds or more. A downside of their open design, with a drip oiler for lubrication, was that they typically threw excess oil from the piston all over the place, attracting lots of dirt which required continual cleaning to prevent excessive wear on the moving parts.

Above - Rick Vliet with his "Hit and Miss" engine.

Above - Rare and unusual braces from Bob Garay's collection.

Tool displays are another area of participation. After making the rounds of all the dealers for the umpteenth time it was getting late in the morning when I realized that anyone who had prepared a tool display needed to be sure that it was set-up and ready for judging. Since I had an entry this year in the single-tool category, I needed to stake out a location for my table. The displays are always set-up inside so that rain or shine they are completely protected. This is a great way for members to show off their collections and also compete for some very nice prizes. This year, Lie-Nielsen planes were awarded. Everybody's a winner here with those displaying their collections getting to show them in a no-pressure situation and everyone else getting to see tools that they may never have seen before. Also, for those who'd like to participate, you needn't

Joe Hauck's display of tools made from Applewood.

worry if you don't have a collection to display, some of the best displays in the past were not of collections per se but were educational and show a method or technique. The one that Ed Modugno put together a couple of years ago on "how to mortise a door lock with hand tools", showed the various steps required to fit a mortise lock into a door. It won first prize. Or, for that one tool that you're really proud of, last year we instituted the single tool display category. Other competitive events, are the Ugliest tool, the Most Beautiful tool, the Best Make-Do tool and the Most Unusual tool. These entries are always a lot of fun, drawing lots of comments and questions, with a few laughs thrown in.

For all those who ordered the catered lunch this was a special year, not just because of the food, which is always good and plentiful, but because the weather was absolutely perfect for eating lunch outside. It was so good that even the bugs decided to stay at home and enjoy it.

Charlie Hildebrant with a Whatzit.

Following lunch there was a Whatzit program which has been ably led by Don Wallace over the past few years and assisted by Charlie Hildebrandt. Don announced that this would be his last year to lead the event and that he would be passing the reins to Charlie who will be taking over the program. This is another great learning event, at least for me, and it's always entertaining.

Finally, the awards were handed out. The first one, the President's Award went to Herb Kean and he received a pair of Yankees tickets from Bob Garay. Prizes for the tool displays were then awarded with first place going to Richard Klimas for his amazing display of tools made from files and rasps. I was especially impressed with the two sets of fireplace andirons made from rasps, they were fantastic. Second prize went to Barrett Dalrymple for his display of miniature tools and third prize went to Joe Hauck for his display of planes made from apple wood. I was lucky this year and won the single tool display with a salesman's sample Emmert patternmaker's vise.

Walter Jacob's Stanley display.

Andirons made from rasps.

There were several other displays that didn't win a prize but were easily as well done as the winners. Two that stood out for me were: Bob Garay's display of rare and unusual patented braces, especially the take-down brace and Walter Jacob's unique display, consisting of an enlarged photo of the Stanley Tool display at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition with a sign on the table asking you to match the very rare Stanley tools displayed on his table with those in the photograph. If you collect Stanley tools, you know that Walter Jacob, a student of all things Stanley, always brings some of the rarest and best examples from his collection.

All of the displays were simply wonderful and you'd have to go far to see anything better. I'm already looking forward to next year's picnic and another crop of outstanding displays. For those of you who haven't thought of putting together a display I urge you to give it a try. It's not that hard, it just takes a little planning and you never know, you just might win a prize. Regardless, everyone comes out a winner.

This year's picnic was simply outstanding and with a couple of new tools added to my collection this was as good a day as any that I could have wished for. As always, we all appreciate the efforts of Ken Vliet who certainly organized a winner this year. Ken, next year when you confer with the weather Gods all I would ask for is more of the same, please.

Lunch outside on a beautiful day with friends.

The Stanley Rule & Level Company
by John Walter

In 1857 the Stanley Rule & Level Company was born from the merger of A. Stanley & Company and Hall & Knapp, both of New Britain, Connecticut. The Stanley Works was incorporated in 1852 by Frederick Stanley and his brother, William. The Stanley family played key roles in the growth of both companies, including common investors, directors, and even presidents, although there were no official corporate ties between the two companies until they merged in 1920. But, this is the story of the Stanley Rule & Level Company, and "Stanley" hereafter shall mean only the Stanley Rule & Level Company.

A. Stanley & Co. was founded in 1854 by Augustus Stanley, his brother Timothy, and his cousin Gad. Augustus was the younger brother of Henry Stanley, an investor or partner in several New Britain businesses. With the expertise of rule maker Thomas Conklin, they began the manufacture of precision folding rules from imported boxwood and ivory. They purchased the machinery of Seymour & Churchill (Conklin's former company) and the rule business of Seth Savage. Their 1855 price list offered 81 measuring instruments made of wood (typically boxwood and occasionally rosewood or native hickory or maple), ivory, brass, and German (or nickel) silver. There were rules for engineers, architects, shipbuilders, carpenters, and foresters. The most complicated were the Nos. 12-16 engineer's slide rules, marked by hand with as many as 16 scales. Business was good enough to require sales agents, one of whom was Joseph B. Sargent who later founded J.B. Sargent & Co. of New York.

The Hall & Knapp merger was encouraged by Henry Stanley who was a partner in both companies, and he was named Stanley's first president. He was also involved in the Stanley Works. Hall & Knapp had been in business only four years, but had a line of quality levels, try squares, and bevels. Hall & Knapp employees Frederic Traut and his son, Justus, came to the new firm with the merger. Justus would later develop many of Stanley's more successful products and produce them as a Stanley contractor. By 1859 Stanley's price list included 93 rules, 59 basic levels, and try squares, bevels, and marking gauges. The combined trademarks of A. Stanley and Hall & Knapp produced the eagle trademark which identifies early Stanley levels, try squares, and bevels (and was used later on Bailey wood-bottom planes through 1886). Stanley's earliest patented tool was the1857 Williams marking gauge. Patents flowed thereafter.

Stanley's competitors at this time were: (1) Belcher Brothers of New York, the country's largest rule maker, with a line very similar to Stanley's, (2) Hermon Chapin of Pine Meadow, Connecticut, a wooden plane maker who had added rules and continued to make them until 1929, when the firm was acquired by the Stanley Works, (3) E.A. Stearns of Brattleboro, Vermont, which traced its roots back to 1833,and (4) L.C. Stephens & Son, which started about the same time as Stanley.

Augustus Stanley's 1869 patent brace. Made only in 1870. Stanley didn't offer another brace until 1905.

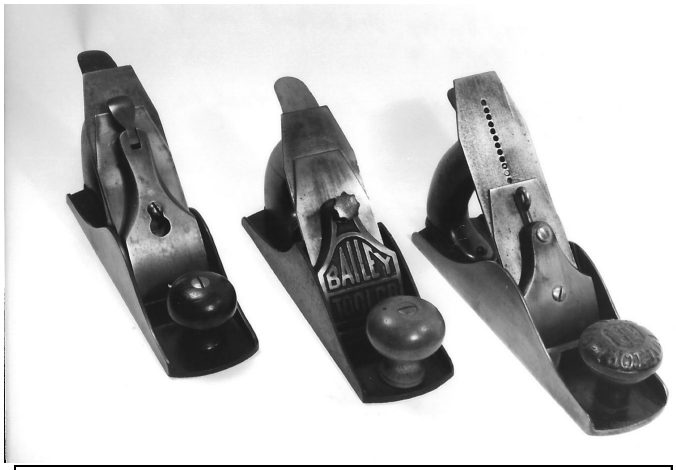
Stanley acquired Stearns in 1863. Stearns was a highly respected rule maker with international distribution. Charles Mead, a man talented in sales and marketing, had earlier acquired the firm from its founder, Edward A. Stearns. Although Mead was serving in the Civil War at the time of the acquisition, he joined Stanley as Treasurer on his return and became its President in 1884. While President he developed and patented Stanley's No. 96 chisel gauge in 1888. So well-regarded were Stearns products that Stanley continued to market them under the Stearns name until 1902.

The Civil War disrupted Stanley's early years, and supply sources and customers alike were affected. While the company was able to maintain their full line of rules and levels, although at substantially lower prices, they also produced a variety of turned wooden novelties for sale and acted as selling agents for others. They returned to their specialization in carpenter's tools after the war, and added to their line with Shelly's No. 24 combination try square and bevel, Traut's No. 71 series mortise gauge design, Brooks 'universal level, Nicholson's metallic plumb and level, and other tools from the production rights acquired from Stearns.

Leonard Bailey's Planes

Leonard Bailey, a skilled machinist and inspired inventor, had been producing carpenter's planes, scrapers, and spoke shaves in Boston since the 1850s. Bailey had solved the age-old problem of mechanically and accurately securing the cutting irons in his tools. His 1867 patent for a cutter adjustment mechanism had such classic utility that it became a standard feature on the majority of bench planes produced ever since. He was one of the first to successfully manufacture a cast iron plane making use of the new ideal of precisely uniform, standardized, and interchangeable parts. A self promoter, Bailey sold licensing

rights and also manufactured his own planes. By 1869 he had developed a complete line of metal bench and specialty planes, wood-bottom or transitional planes, and spoke shaves. But Bailey had difficulties with alliances and financing, so in 1869 he offered to license his seven patents relating to carpenter's tools.



Left to right: Stanley/Bailey prelateral No. 4 Type 4 (1874-84), Bailey Tool Co. Defiance No. 14 (1872-79), and Victor No. 4 smooth plane (1875-88).

Stanley had been seeking just such an opportunity, and the timing couldn't have been more fortunate. Bailey accepted Stanley's offer of $12,500 for his machines and goods in progress, and all were moved to New Britain. Bailey granted Stanley exclusive rights to manufacture under his patents and further agreed to work as a contractor with a 5% royalty. Bailey's three lines were introduced in Stanley's 1870 price list. Just a year later, Stanley announced that 6,500 planes had been sold. Annual announcements followed, and by 1899 over three million Bailey planes had been sold and annual production exceeded a quarter million!

Bailey's relationship with Stanley from 1874-1884 would fill volumes by itself. Here are the high lights:

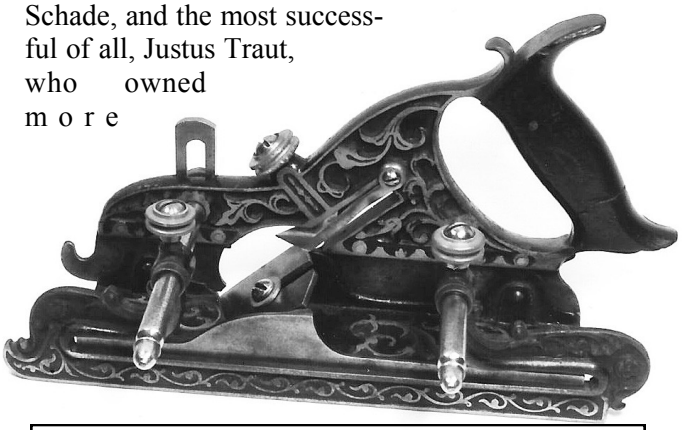
1. In 1874 Bailey began manufacturing bevels and try squares under his own patents in Hartford. He remained a Stanley supervisor but tensions had been building, and Stanley terminated his work contracts in 1874.
2. By 1875 Bailey had set up a new operation in Hartford to manufacture his new Victor line of planes, try squares, and bevels. Bailey and Charles Miller had been working on an improved dado plane at Stanley. When the patent was granted in 1875, Miller assigned his rights to Bailey who manufactured it as the Victor No. 14 combination plane. Suits by Stanley for various patent infringements caused Bailey continuous difficulty with his Victor line.
3. In 1878, the Bailey Tool Co. of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, persuaded Bailey to join with them in the production of their Defiance line of planes, and offered room in their factory for him to continue the Victor line. The company owners had no known family relationship with Leonard Bailey. Around the end of 1879 the relationship was severed, and Bailey returned to Hartford to recommence production of his Victor line.
4. Stanley acquired the Rhode Island Bailey Tool Company in 1880. The entire inventory and machinery were relocated to New Britain. Stanley advertised the Defiance line in an addendum to the 1880 catalog, but the Defiance line with its battle axe trademark was retired when the acquired stock was exhausted.
5. In 1880 Stanley assisted Bailey with his debt to the Sargent Company of New York, perhaps fearing his business would be acquired by Sargent. They also became his sales agent for the Victor line until 1884 when they acquired the Victor plane business for $30,000. The Victor line was continued by Stanley until sometime before 1892, except that they offered the Victor No. 20 circular plane until 1897.
6. Bailey was 59 in 1884. He set up a new business to make hand-cranked letter copying machines based on a design he had patented in 1882. Over the next 20 years before his death in 1905 he was granted 21 additional patents mostly related to letter press machinery.

Charles Miller's Combination Plane

Almost simultaneously with the Bailey license, Stanley acquired a refined version of a metallic combination plane, which served as a plow, filletster, rabbet, and tongue & groove plane. Charles Miller of Brattleboro, Vermont, had secured his patent in 1880, and Stanley moved quickly to obtain the rights to manufacture the plane and also to obtain Miller's personal services. Earlier combination planes were known, but had not been properly introduced or accepted by the trade. The plane was introduced in either cast iron or gunmetal in Stanley's 1871 catalog supplement with its beautiful casting decoration which, while not present in the patent drawings, was probably added to overcome tradesmen's reluctance to replace their prized wooden planes. In 1872 Stanley presented a beautifully illustrated catalog. Bailey's and Miller's products were highlighted with lengthy explanations and complimentary testimonials. Miller developed several other patents and these planes were added to the Stanley line of combination planes.

The Contractor System 1870 - 1900

The contractor system was not unique to Stanley, however during the years 1870 through 1900 it served the company with success. The contractors had a high level of expertise in their product lines and substantial freedom in the management of their departments. They handpicked skilled craftsmen and paid them well. Characteristic of the scientific Victorians, the Stanley contractors and their employees maintained a high art in precision, beauty, and function, using only the best materials. They developed many highly specialized tools and had countless fresh ideas, frequently incorporating customer suggestions. As mentioned above, Leonard Bailey and Charles Miller were contractors for their lines of planes. Other well-known contractors were Thomas Conklin who started with A. Stanley, Christian Bodmer, Edmund Schade, and the most successful of all, Justus Traut, who owned more tool patents than any other individual of his days.



Miller's patent plow plane No. 41 Type 1, cast iron with filletster bed (1870-71).

Justus Traut had come to Stanley with his father from Hall & Knapp when Stanley was created and when he was only 18 years old. Traut became a contractor in 1875, by which time he had supplied 14 patented tools including the Nos. 46 & 47 combination and adjustable dado planes in 1873; the No. 110 block plane in 1874; and improvements in folding rules, adjusting spirit levels, bevels, try squares, carpenter's gauges, and a plumb bob. Traut was prolific throughout his career. In 1884 he patented the workhorse No. 45 combination plane, which was the object of his ongoing improvements through 1906. Traut made several refinements to the Bailey plane, notably his 1884 patent for the lateral adjustment which simplified Josef Nicht's 1876 design and was introduced in 1885. The adjustment was refined in 1888 with a circular disk operating arrangement at the base of the lever, which was used on all subsequent models of Bailey-style bench planes.

The Bed Rock line of planes was first introduced in the 1902 catalog. Their design was the work of Traut and Edmund Schade who each received patents for the basic features in 1895. The first Bed Rock planes used Schade's fine frog (cutter seat) adjustment. A marked "Bed Rock" lever cap was a distinguishing feature. The Bed Rock planes were a big success, and are considered by many to be the finest planes ever put on the market. They were discontinued after World War II.

Logo on lever cap of "Liberty Bell" transitional planes (1875-1918).

Of particular interest are the Liberty Bell planes patented by Traut and Henry Richards in 1876. These were a less expensive interpretation of the Bailey planes, with depth regulation of the cutter by means of a thumb lever and a special cap screw to engage the adjustment. These were advertised as "The Stanley Adjustable Planes" and were made especially distinctive by their lever caps cast with a replica of the Liberty Bell in honor of the Centennial. Also to Traut's credit are the No. 50 combination plane, the No. 55 universal plane and the No. 52 chute board plane both developed with Edwin Schade, the No. 74 floor plane, the No. 57 corebox plane, and many others. Overall he received 141 patents which earned him the title of "patent king of the United States".

(To be continued in March)

Ed: This article originally appeared in the June 1997 Tool Shed. With the growing interest in Stanley tools we are reprinting it in this issue. The article was with the permission of John Walter to excerpt this material from his book: Antique & Collectible Stanley Tools – Guide to Identity & Value. That book is out of print now but is eagerly sought by Stanley collectors at auction. It remains a magnificent book.

The photos for this article were taken by Walter Jacob of tools from the Jacob Collection.

Three Little Tools

by Hank Allen

Some old guys will remember the 1930's song "Three Little Words," which is my inspiration for this title. Of course, most of you will remember Duke Ellington who first introduced the song with the Rhythm Boys.

Three little tools are pictured here. It all started with the top one, which has a T handle and a spear point. That's why I bought it on eBay. I'm obsessive about having T-handled tools, from the smalls to the very large. The handle is 4" and the shaft is 5". The T handle suggests a rotary use. My first thought was that this might be a countersink. But the sides of the point are sharpened on both sides, so that can't be it. My next

thought was that it might be a leather tool for piercing. I didn't give up on that right away.

The second tool appeared on eBay and got my interest because its spear point is identical to the T-handled one, but it has a straight handle. I searched in books and old catalogs but could not find a similar tool. CRAFTS "Tool Wizard" had not seen either tool before, but did search Salaman's *Dictionary of Leather Tools* and found nothing.

I took both tools to Martin Donnelly's auctions in Nashua, but no one there had any suggestions as to their use. When previewing Friday's listed auction I spotted a glass cutter that had the same spear point (with the tip broken) on the end opposite the cutting-wheel. It was marked "Monce" and "Pat Jun 8 – 69". You can see that in the picture.

The June 8, 1869 patent was granted to Samuel G. Monce of Bristol, Conn. It was the first rotary wheel glass cutter, but the patented tool had a straight handle without all the bells and whistles on the pictured tool.

Actually, the idea for a steel, rotary-wheel glass cutter originated with O. M. Pike, a local jeweler who thought that diamonds couldn't be the only way to cut glass. As a jeweler he must have had occasion to provide diamonds for glass cutting, and realized that a steel wheel would be much cheaper. Pike ran into Monce, who worked for Ives Machine Shop. They improved Pike's crude design, and Monce patented it. Monce was known to add stuff to his inventions without patenting them. So, I speculate that the tool at the bottom of the picture evolved from Monce's original patented tool. A second picture shows the other side of the glass cutter.

Finally, I took all three tools to a recent CRAFTS Director's meeting, but initially showed the guys only the top two tools. There were no suggestions as to their use. Same as Nashua. Then I brought out the glass cutter. Seeing the glass cutter, Pat Ryan thought the spear point might be for removing putty from sash. He also thought the rectangular piece across the glass cutter with an adjusting wedge might serve to set glazier's points. I still wonder why a putty remover scraper would have a T handle. But, it's understandable that the point on the glass cutter might break in this use. Nevertheless, anyone want to argue with Pat Ryan? Not me!

The T-handled tool is the least expensive tool in my collection, but it has given me much pleasure including sharing it with you.

The TOOL SHED

CRAFTS of New Jersey
15 N. River Styx Rd.
Hopatcong, NJ 07843

TOOL EVENTS

January 26: York Tool Sale and Brown Auction. York Holiday Inn, York PA. Contact Don Stark at starked@aol.com
February 3: CRAFTS regular meeting, High Bridge, NJ. Meeting starts at 1 PM. Check the CRAFTS website at craftsofnj.org.
March 16: PATINA Spring Auction & Sale, Damascus Fire Department, 10211 Lewis Drive, Damascus, Maryland. Contact Dave Miller at 703-819-6880 or check the PATINA website at patinatools.org.
March 22-23: Live Free or Die Antique Tool Auctions. Clarion Hotel, Indianapolis. On the web at mjdtools.com. Contact Martin Donnelly at mjd@mjdtools.com or 800-869-0695.
March 23: David Stanley's 61st International Auction. Leicestershire, England. On the web at www.davidstanley.com. Contact David at tools@davidstanley.com or 011-44-1530-222320.
April 6: Brown 42nd International Show and Auction. Radisson Inn, Camp Hill, PA. On the web at www.FineToolJ.com. Contact Clarence Blanchard at ceb@finetoolj.com or 800-248-8114.
April 7: CRAFTS regular meeting, High Bridge, NJ. Meeting starts at 1 PM. For information contact Hank Allen at hankallen@verizon.net or 201-444-9440, or check the CRAFTS website at craftsofnj.org.
April 13: CRAFTS Annual Antique Tool Auction. Oldwick Volunteer Fire Co., Oldwick, NJ. Contact Greg Welsh at glwelsh@earthlink.net, or 908-439-3266, or check the CRAFTS website at craftsofnj.org.
April19-20: Live Free or Die Antique Tool Auctions. Holiday Inn, Nashua, NH. On the web at mjdtools.com.
Contact Martin Donnelly at mjd@mjdtools.com or 800-869-0695.

WANT ADS

WANTED – Member's email addresses. If you have not been receiving email notices from Stew May or dues acknowledgements from Hank Allen, please send your email address to hankallen@verizon.net.
HELP WITH TOOL COLLECTIONS – As a retired shop teacher I can assist you with any size tool collection or shop. Putting them in an auction or finding buyers for your tools.
Call Bob Garay - 973-398-5875 or email-takeadip@optonline.net
VINTAGE TOOLS for woodworking, machining, leather working and more. See us at New England area tool meets, the CRAFTS Auction and Picnic, online at www.TimelessToolsand Treasures.com or email jane@janebutler.com.
WANTED – Bell System tools and electrician's pliers.
Ted Davidson 609-731-6915.
NEED HELP disposing of your tools or home items? Entire or partial house clean-outs available. Call Steve Zluky at 908-534-2710.
JIMBODETOOLS.COM – The largest antique tool website on earth buying and selling fine antique tools. Call Jim at 518-537-8665 or email jim@jimbodetools.com.
WANTED – Molding planes made of applewood. Also, better molding planes from Hudson River valley makers.
Joe Hauck 908-236-2072.
THE TOOL EXCHANGE – Australia's home of fine old tools for sale. Our website has over 18,000 photos of tools. We ship to over 30 countries. www.toolexchange.com.au or Stuart@toolexchange.com.au.
CHECK OUT – Jonathan Green-Plumb's website www.earlyeuropeandecoratedtools.vpweb.co.uk/ to view some beautiful tools and to order his new book on the subject.