



THE TIDEWATER BLACKSMITHS GUILD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2013

Special points of interest:

- Keith Hick's Hammer In September 14th 9:00AM
- TBG Board meeting September 15th 11:30AM at Tim Edney's
- TBG Meeting September 15th 1:00PM at Tim Edneys's

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NEW EDITOR IN TOWN

Greetings fellow guild members. My name is Scott Hill. I have been a member since, I think, around 2006. I quickly took the Beginner Class, a knife class, and the Intermediate Class. However, in 2008 I decided to take some time off to spend with my teenage daughters while they still thought dad was cool. I highly recommend that every parent devote themselves to their kids in the early teen years as much as possible. During the pre-teen and early teen years kids are very impressionable and although they may not act like it they need you very much in their lives. Anyway, now that my girls are off in college I am trying to get back in the forge so to speak so I have volunteered to take on the newsletter for the guild. I guess that makes me the editor?

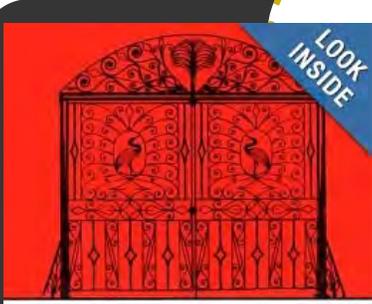
I am not the most proficient on the computer but I can maintain pretty well. In addition I have some handy computer smiths just a phone call away. If I make a mistake, misspell a name, mislabel a photo, or you have any suggestions PLEASE call me or email me to let me know.

If anyone has any suggestions for the newsletter please feel free to contact me. **THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER.** I am just the caretaker of it. I would love to have members contribute articles, photos, recipes, ideas, etc. so that this newsletter is the best it can be. I work shift work and only have one weekend a month that I am off both Saturday and Sunday so I cannot make it to some of the events that take place. Your help with photos, short articles, etc. would help me out quite a bit.

Thank You and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Scott

Charleston Blacksmith



Charleston Blacksmith
THE WORK OF PHILIP SIMMONS

Revised Edition  John Michael Vlach

My wife and I recently vacationed in Charleston South Carolina. We checked in the hotel and decided to take a quick walk in the old town section before conducting the business for which we had planned for the trip. As we walked I noticed a few strap hinges, shutter dogs, and the occasional gate. All of which of course I had to stop and admire as well as shoot a pic with my phone. As we continued our walk the number of gates, railings, and hardware that was present on every building was amazing. Investigation showed that many pieces were hand crafted with forge welds, rivets, and minor hammer marks that meant they were truly hand forged pieces. Many of the pieces date to the 1800's and some in the late 1700's. Others were also hand forged but showed tell tale signs that they were more modern due to the presence of modern fasteners such as bolts and screws but also weld beads indicative of fabrication with a MIG welder. I had no idea that so much iron work could be found in one location.

The next day we happened to walk into a book store where my wife found the book whose cover is depicted on the left. Thumbing through the book I discovered that many of the newer pieces that adorned the buildings in Charleston I was seeing were the works of Phillip Simmons.

Phillip Simmons apprenticed under a master smith named Peter Simmons, no relation, who was one of several smiths in Charleston at the time. Peters shop was in full swing in the late 1800's to early 1900's but Phillip began decorative iron work in 1938. Phillip Simmons crafted over seven hundred pieces of decorative iron work many of which can still be seen along the streets of Charleston. Phillip Simmons house and forge are still open to the public which is where we ended our trip. There we were able to meet Phillip's nephew and see him forge a scroll which he offered to us to keep.

I highly recommend a trip to Charleston South Carolina that includes an opportunity to walk through the streets and see the amazing works of handcrafted art. If interested you purchase the book depicted above through amazon.com for \$16.75 or check it out from the TBG Library!!! Also visit the website

<http://www.philipsimmons.us/aboutsimmons.html>



We Had a Work Party!!!

But only six people showed up!!!!!! We were able to make some progress however by remounting the blower on one of the forges. They must be relocated so the forges can be oriented in a manner to allow two smiths at each forge.

Once the London Broil and onions were ready on the grill we had lunch. Then a little brainstorming session to make up a to do list and a parts list. All in all a good day of fellowship, a hardy meal, and a little more progress.

Tell Your Story Here!!!!!!

I am looking for stories for the newsletter!!!!!! I included a list of potential topics so that if anyone has anything please submit it to me. I think we should expand on anything traditional not just on traditional blacksmithing but also things a traditional blacksmith might need to make his/her life complete. email skadsigns@cox.net.

Tooling	Good book reviews	Project ideas
Shop ideas	Blacksmith sites to see	Shop safety
Patterns	Traditional hunting techniques	Forging techniques
Leather work	Scrimshaw	Camping
Metallurgy	Mechanics	Upcoming events or past events
Food recipes	Field trips	Homesteading/farming

Colonial Williamsburg Gaol

[http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/View/index.cfm?doc=ResearchReports%](http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/View/index.cfm?doc=ResearchReports%20)

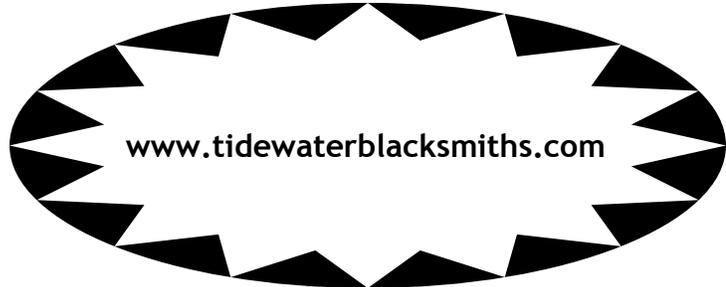
My wife and I also visited colonial Williamsburg again this year along with my youngest daughter and her boyfriend. He had never been before so we thought it would be a fun little trip. One interesting site was the Jail or Gaol as written in colonial times. The construction of the Gaol was completed in 1703. The cells were secured with heavy wooden doors mounted with strap hinges as well as windows in each cell that were heavily fortified with iron grills. The guide stated he thought the window grills and door hardware were original from 1703. So on your next visit to Colonial Williamsburg don't forget the Gaol!!!!





The Tidewater Blacksmith's Guild is dedicated to preserving the craft of blacksmithing and to increasing public awareness of the history of blacksmithing while at the same time demonstrating that in this automated machine world, things hand made still exist and remain objects of art. The Tidewater Blacksmith's Guild is a local member organization chartered under the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America Inc. (ABANA), a non-profit organization.

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2013 Dates to Remember!!!!

Keith Hick's Hammer In	RSVP blacksmith1962@netscape.net	September 14th 9:00AM
TBG Board Meeting	Tim Edney's Forge	September 15th 11:30 AM
September TBG Meeting	Tim Edney's Forge	September 15th 1:00 PM
October TBG Meeting	TBA	October 20th
Blackstone Boy Scouts Demo	TBA	TBA November
November TBG Meeting	TBA	November 17th
December TBG Meeting	TBA	TBA