



BLACKSMITH: A smith who worked the “black metal”...IRON

Almost every commercial blacksmith shop contained similar basic equipment, including:

ANVIL



the anvil provided a platform on which to hammer and shape the iron being worked.

BELLOWS



The bellows was pumped to provide a blast of air to keep the fire as hot as possible.

CHISELS, DRIFTS, PUNCHES



These tools came in many shapes and sizes for cutting, punching and otherwise shaping metal.

FIREPOT



The firepot held the burning coal. Air pumped from the bellows entered through a pipe, and ashes could be dumped out the bottom.

FLATTER



As the name suggests, the flatter was held on the work piece and struck with a hammer to flatten it.

HAMMERS



Various weights and shapes of hammers were used, depending upon the size and shape of the metal being worked.

LEG VISE



Work was clamped in the vise for hammering, cutting, filing or other shaping. The leg transmitted the force of the hammer blows to the floor to prevent damage to the vise.

MANDREL



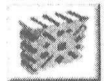
The mandrel was used with hammer and tongs to shape circular pieces of iron of various sizes.

POST DRILL



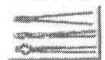
The crank was turned by hand and used with various sizes of bits to drill the work piece.

SWAGE BLOCK

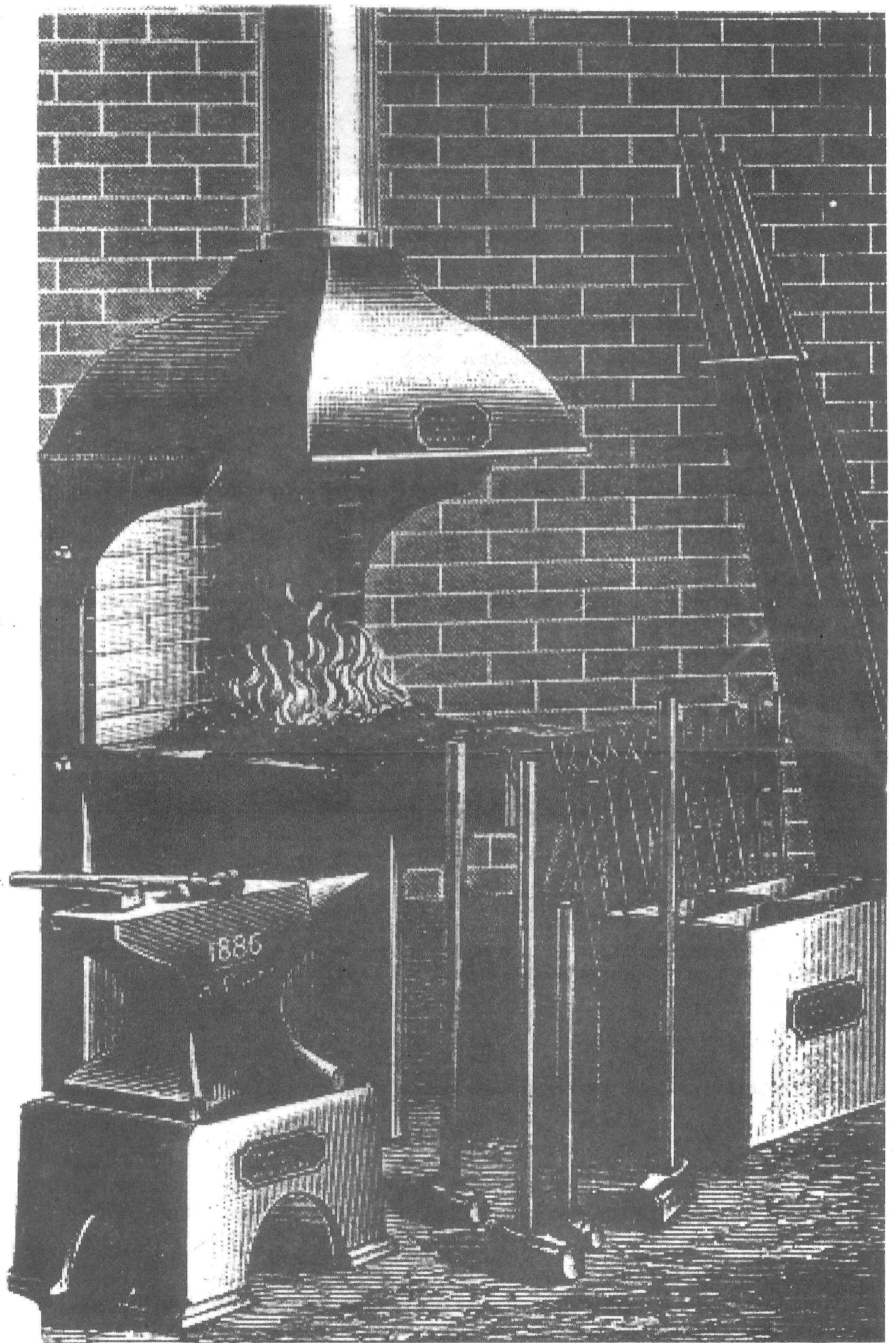


A swage block had holes of different types and sizes, which allowed the smith to hammer his work into a wide variety of shapes.

TONGS



Tongs were used to hold the hot iron while shaping it. Blacksmiths could make their own tongs to fit pieces of work with unusual shapes.



An engraving of a nineteenth century blacksmith shop, showing a coal-fired forge, hammers, tongs, rod stock and an anvil with a bottom swage in the hardy hole.