

Too Many Irons in the Fire!



One of the first businesses located at Grove Springs was a blacksmith shop owned by **James Wilson**. Other early blacksmiths in early Grove included **C.H. Keith**, **Robert Anderson**, **W.C. Burkhardt** and the **Hopkin brothers**. **T.P. Calfee** had a blacksmith shop before statehood, and was also the city marshal and night jailer for a number of years when the county jail was in Grove. "Uncle Tom," as he was known to everyone, moved to Grove in 1902. He and his family lived in their modest home down near the Grove Spring until the rising waters of Grand Lake forced them to move to higher ground.

Around 1906 **W.M.L. Henson** opened a machine shop. He advertised wagon, carriage and machine works, plow grinding and horse shoeing. About 1910 **Ollie Legg** opened a blacksmith shop which he called "The Village Shop."

For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost; being overtaken and slain by the enemy, all for want of care about a horseshoe nail.

Benjamin Franklin

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ANVILS

A LONG STEP FORWARD

OVER 150,000 IN USE

Solid Forged Steel Top Welded to a Solid Forged Base, making a Solid Forged Anvil.

The Gold Medal Anvil
Omaha 1898 HIGHEST AWARD Pan-American 1901

The Entire Top being one piece of high grade Forged Steel makes a Loose Face impossible.

TEMPERED "JUST RIGHT"

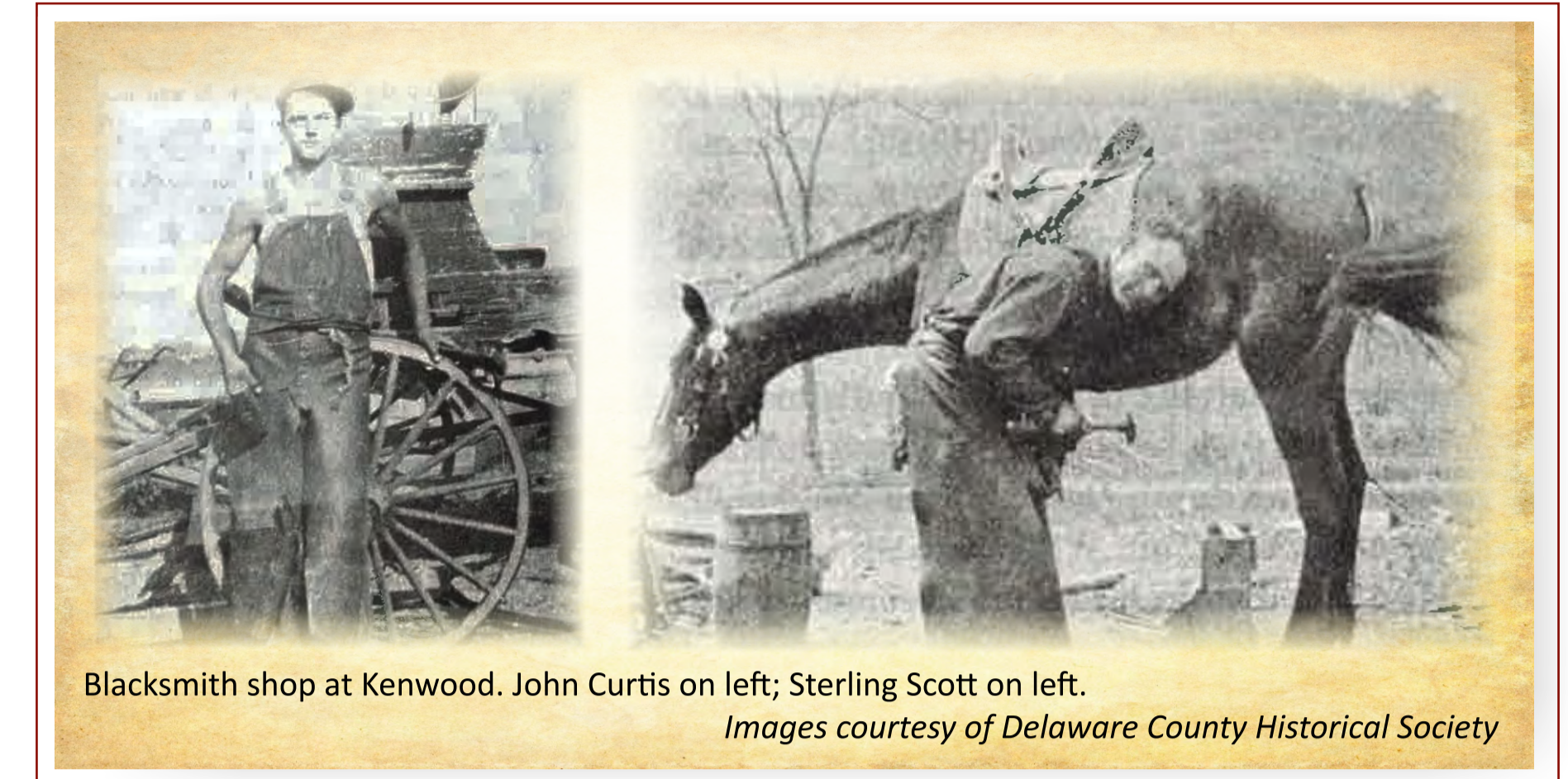
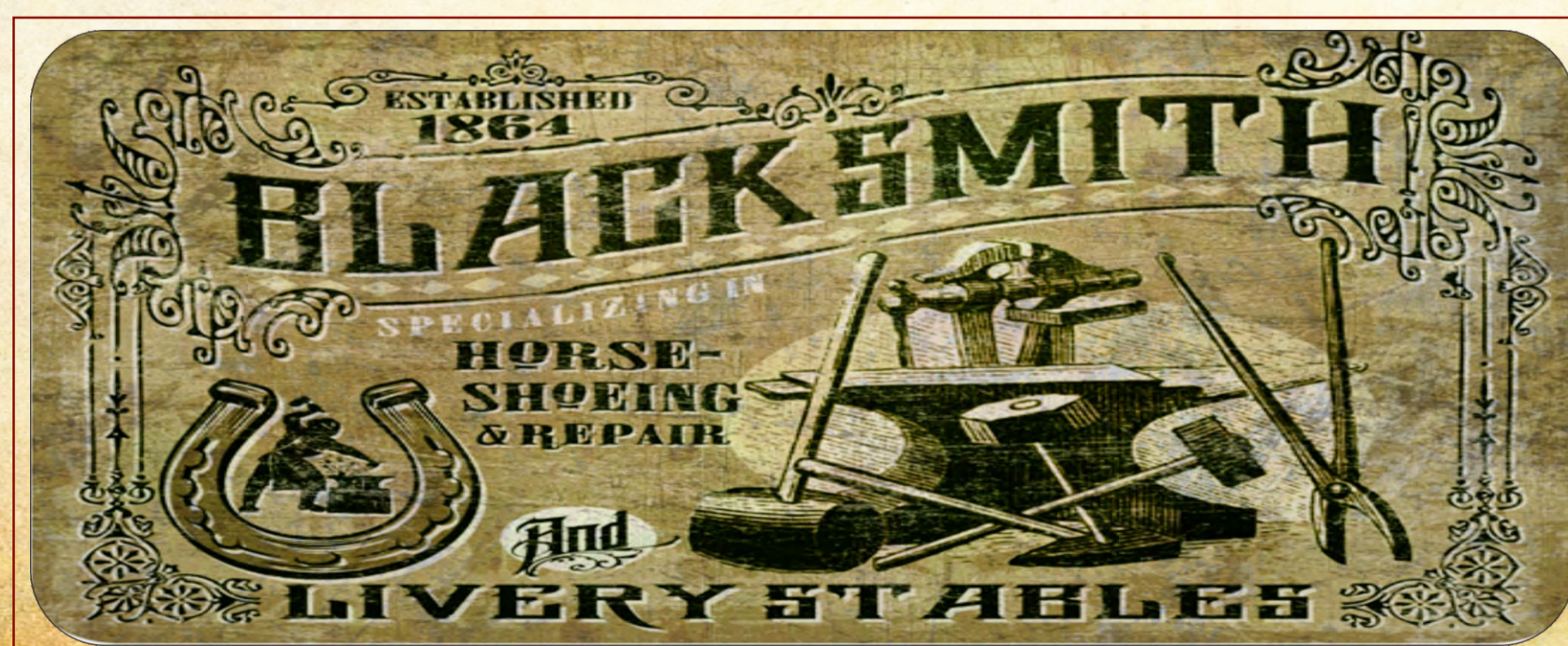
by our own process, the weld at the waist is a Lasting Union. Experience has proved their worth and demonstrated that "Hay-Budden" Anvils are Superior in Quality, Form and Finish to any others on the Market.

234 North
Hay-Budden Mfg. Co., Henry Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The name **blacksmith** refers to iron, known as "black" metal, and "smith" which comes from the word to "smite," strike or hit. Blacksmiths of the late 1800s and early 1900s were an indispensable part of the frontier lifestyle. They repaired household utensils, farmers' plows, weapons and more. Blacksmiths also made new items to replace those that could not be

repaired. They were also known to shoe horses and the occasional ox, even though that was more the work of a farrier. Blacksmith needed the skills to work with many different types of metals when very few resources were available.

Just as service stations and car repair garages are vital to a community today, blacksmiths and livery stables provided very important services in earlier days. Blacksmiths shod horses, repaired wagons, and even did woodworking when needed.



Blacksmith shop at Kenwood. John Curtis on left; Sterling Scott on left.
Images courtesy of Delaware County Historical Society

DELAWARE COUNTY MEMORIES

Betty Ann Fox Roberts of Dodge recalls, *a blacksmith shop operated by "Grandpa" Markle. His large stature using the various tools are very vivid to me now as he would heat the metal in the forge, held by tongs, pound it into proper shape, then dipped into a vat of water.*

Travis Walker and his family lived in the Deerlick School District area, about 4 miles northeast of Jay. To supplement his farm income and keep the farm going during the depression years of the 1930s, Travis would hew railroad cross ties, buy and sell animal furs, sell fruit and help neighbors with needed repairs in his blacksmith shop.

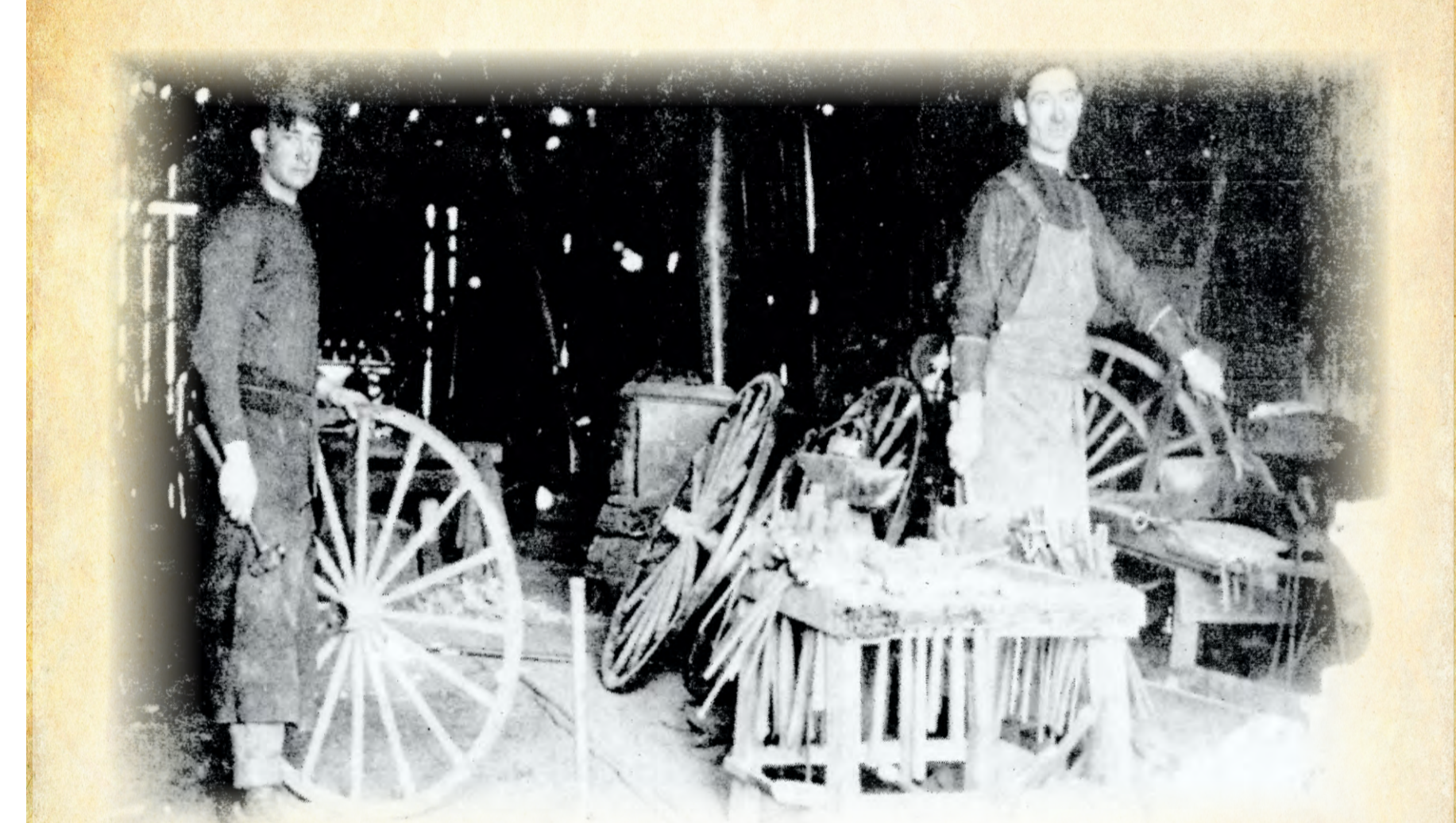
A few weeks ago the old building which was once a part of Ollie Legg's old blacksmith shop was razed to make way for a new garage. It was located just across the branch from the site of the old Frisco depot. This was Grove's last blacksmith shop, another institution that is fast passing from the American scene. There are a few blacksmith shops around over the country, but they are giving way to welding shops and machine shops. My cousin, Chloe Hanna, has a small blacksmith shop at his farm home between here and Afton, and usually keeps quite busy in it, especially during late summer, early fall.

I was over there recently having some work done and he took time out to show me how they used to shoot anvils at Christmas time and on 4th of July. He took an anvil and carried it outside and laid it down on the ground upside down. On the under side there is a small square hole about an inch across and about an inch deep. He filled this hole with gunpowder, and then poured a small trail of powder from the hole to the outer edge of the anvil then took another anvil and set it squarely on top of the first one, and took a long iron rod and heated the end of it in the furnace until it was red hot, and then stood back aways and touched the trail of powder with the hot end of the rod, and the result was an explosion and a loud report like a cannon.

Those old-time blacksmiths could not do much for if you developed ignition or carburetor trouble, but if you broke some spokes in your buggy wheel, they could fix you up in a hurry. Or, if you broke a fifth wheel or a reach, they could put one on for you while you waited. I wonder where people go now to get their horses shod. ... Where would one go now to get a loose wagon tire shrunk, or to get the dish taken out of a wobbly buggy wheel?

Claude Hanna Memories

Below: Ollie Legg's blacksmith shop in Grove, about 1915. His brother Earl is at the left. Mr. Legg learned the blacksmith trade in Muskogee, and opened his shop in 1911. He shod his last horse at age 65.
Image courtesy of Ruby Legg Browning and Delaware County Historical Society



As the need for a blacksmith diminished, Mr. Legg changed with the times and opened a service station.



Above on left is Ollie Legg's service station on North Main Street right after he opened it in the 1920s. Above on right is Ollie Legg in 1944. Notice the frame in the foreground at the bottom—these are the various types of horse shoes Mr. Legg made. He was able to make any type of shoe to correct a problem—and even shod a cow once for a family traveling through Grove! On the bottom right are some of his horseshoes as they appear on display in the Har-Ber Village blacksmith shop.

Top images courtesy of Ruby Legg Browning and Delaware County Historical Society



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