

# **“The Way We Worked – The Tools We Carried”**

## ***A Guide to the Artifacts***



### **Shingle Cutter**

Specialty Tool Manufacturers  
Belleville, Illinois

ca. 1940

*Gift of Janet Anderson, 2019*

Hans Scheich (1908-1989), immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1926 at the age of 17. Employed first as a knitter in a hosiery mill, he later became a union carpenter who worked for various contractors in Lower Bucks County. Among them was William Levitt, developer of Levittown. Scheich used this tool to cut shingles for many of the houses in the Levittown development.



### **Knitting Machine**

Gearhart Knitting Machine Company  
Clearfield, Pennsylvania

1920s

*Gift of David Long, 2006*

Used by Elsie Limbach of Pipersville,  
Bucks County.



### **Typewriter**

Royal Typewriter Company  
Hartford, Connecticut

ca. 1930

*Gift of Grover Friend, 2016*

Although an older model, this typewriter was used by the donor during his entire career in the newspaper business, including positions with the *Bucks County Courier* and *Courier-Times*, 1954-2000.



### **Graflex Press Camera of Gene Asro**

Folmer Schwing Company  
Rochester, New York

Ca. 1960

*Gift of Alice M. Deeny 2020*

Born Augustine Rossana, Gene Asro (1922-1998) was first employed as a photographer with the *Trentonian* newspaper. He later operated Asro Mobile Photo, freelancing and contributing images to the AP and UPI wire services. He recorded thousands of scenes of everyday life in Lower Bucks

County and nearby areas from the early 1960s well into the 1990s, a collection recently given to the Bucks County Historical Society's Mercer Museum Library.



### **Physician's Medical Kit and Instrument Case**

ca. 1900

*Gift of Dr. David Rockafellow, 2001*

Used by Doylestown physician Dr. John A. Fell. Dr. Fell served as resident physician at the Bucks County Prison and Bucks County Home (Almshouse), and Assistant Surgeon for the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the National Guard.



### **Manual Lawnmower**

Richmond, Dille &  
McGuire Mfg. Co.

Indiana

ca. 1940

*Gift of Dr. Peter Z. Ingerman, 2001*

Used to mow the Ingerman family's lawn at their home in Wrightstown, Bucks County.



### **Carpet Sweeper**

Bissell Company

Grand Rapids, Michigan

ca. 1900

*Gift of the Estate of Frank Grafly, 2006*

Used by the Grafly Family of Doylestown.



### **Shoemaker's or Cobbler's Hammer**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century

*Gift of Harry and Peg Hinkel, 2012*

Used to make or repair shoes at the Hinkel & Biehn Shoe Store in Quakertown, Bucks County. The firm was in operation from 1874 to 1965.



### **Speedex Wire Strippers**

Whiz-Master Company

Rockford, Illinois

ca. 1940

*Museum Purchase, funds provided by BCHS Collections Committee, 2014*

Used by Virginia Knight at the Brewster Aircraft

Company in Johnsville, Bucks County, to wire Brewster Buffalos and F4U Corsairs aircraft during World War II.



### **Metal Cutting Tool**

Stanley Works

New Britain, Connecticut

1940s

*Gift of Happ Contractors, Inc., 2003*

Early electric-powered tool used by employees of Happ Contractors in

Doylestown in the construction of corrugated metal utility and other commercial buildings in the post-World War II Era.

*Artifact Sponsored By:  
Happ Contractors, Inc.*



### **Mitre Box and Saw**

Langdon Mitre Box Company (box);  
Henry Disston & Sons (saw)  
Miller's Falls, Massachusetts and  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
1875-1925

*Gift of April Ann Bohmler, 2019*



These tools belonged to Granville Bohmler (1930-2010), the proprietor of Bohmler Brothers Custom Builders in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Although a 20<sup>th</sup>-century builder, Bohmler collected and used many earlier hand tools in his work.



### **Jointer Plane**

Barnet Hilpot (1766-1848)  
Tinicum Township, Bucks County  
1787

*Museum Purchase through  
bequests from the Estate of J.  
David Miller and the Estate of  
George M. Hart*

Hil[ ]pot is believed to have both made and used this tool, employed to smooth boards for flooring or other uses.



**Carpenter's Tool Chest of B.K. Knowles**

Morrisville, Bucks County & Trenton, New Jersey  
ca. 1860

*Gift of the Children and Grandchildren of Eldred Knowles*

Benjamin Kinsey Knowles (1825-1885) lived and worked

in Morrisville, Bucks County, as well as in Trenton, New Jersey. He passed his tool chest on to his son, Benjamin Franklin Knowles (1868-1931), also a carpenter. Several of the tools contained in the chest date to B.K. Knowles' lifetime, while others were likely added by his descendants.



**Account Book of Benjamin K. Knowles**

Trenton, New Jersey  
1863-1865

*Gift of the Children and Grandchildren of Eldred Knowles*



**John Muller, Sheet Metal Worker**

United States Steel, Fairless Works  
Falls Township, Bucks County  
1951

*Mercer Library Collection*

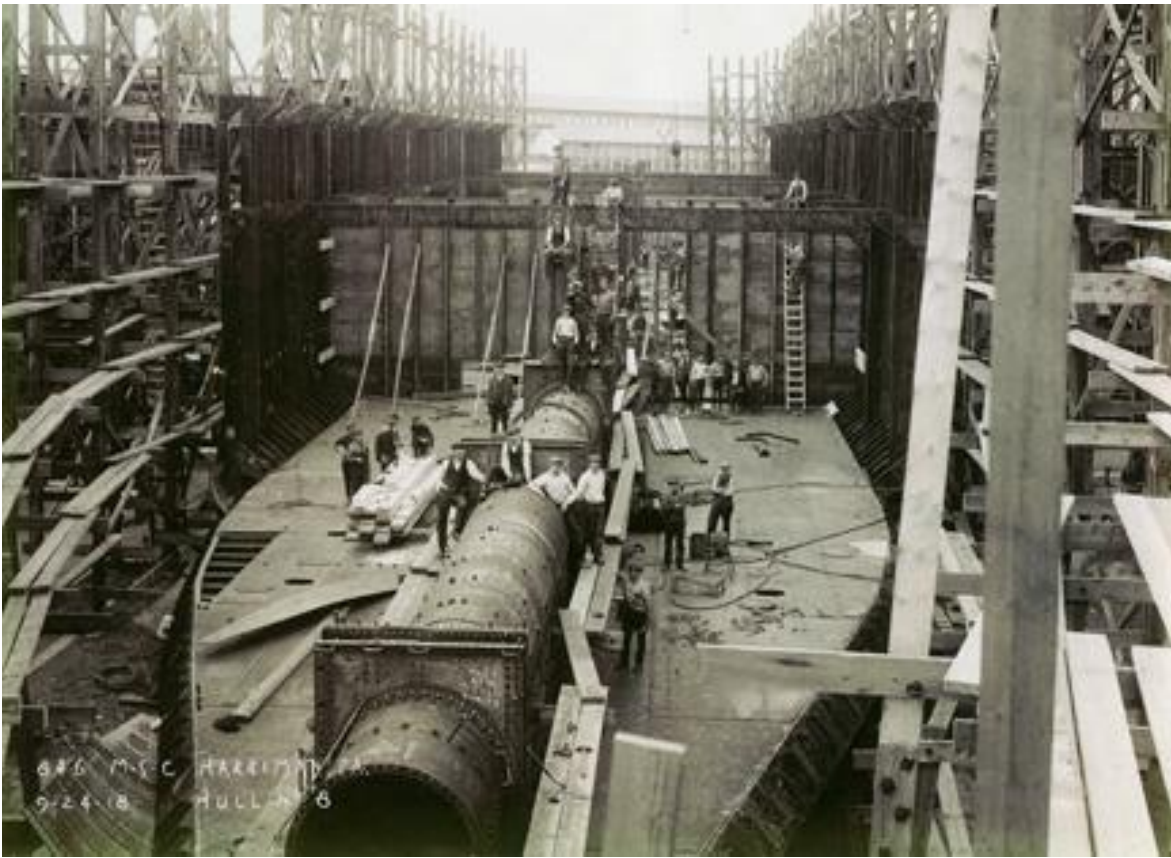


**Pouring Molten Steel**

United States Steel, Fairless Works  
Falls Township, Bucks County  
1969

*Mercer Library Collection*





**Merchants' Shipbuilding Corporation**

Harriman (Bristol), Bucks County

1918

*Mercer Library Collection*