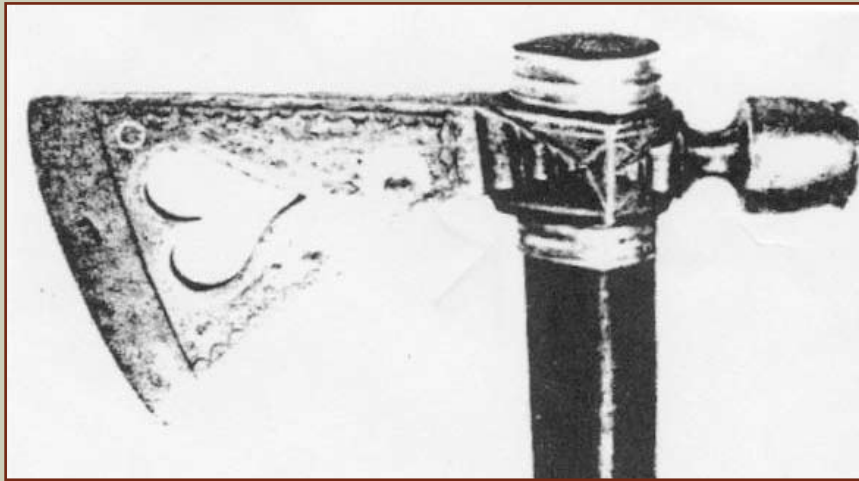


American Indian and Multicultural Connection



Pipe Tomahawk

Prior to the 19th century, American Indians did not work at the art of blacksmithing. All of the ironwork, knives, axes, and tomahawks were referred to as “trade goods” and were made by American and European blacksmiths. A few blacksmith shops have been discovered at known Indian villages, but these were no more than blacksmith shops established by the military or the governments of Europe or the colonies. Blacksmiths were usually employed two at a time to go to a village and set up shop.

At these shops, the blacksmiths would do repair work, make knives, tomahawks, and other tools for the Indians.

During the 19th century, with the inception of the Carlisle School in Pennsylvania, American Indians were taught how to read and write, and were taught trades like farming or blacksmithing. Many American Indians began to assume the lifestyles and trades of their white counterparts.