

ient to both. In front of the anvil stood a heavy, iron sledge with a long hickory handle. Two taps of the boss's hammer on the anvil summoned the apprentice, or striker, who must be there ready to strike while the iron was hot. One tap of the hammer gave notice when to begin striking and another when to quit. Wherever the boss's hammer struck there the striker must put his sledge, and it required no small amount of skill to always keep the sledge out of the way of the hammer, especially when quick blows were required, which was always the case when drawing an ax to an edge. In the east end of the building was the waterwheel with its large shaft twenty feet at least in length and three feet or more in diameter. Weight was necessary to prevent the triphammer from throwing the shaft out of its boxing. The triphammer was tilted by iron pins morticed into the shaft at equal distances apart, and as the shaft revolved, these pins would strike the opposite end of the lever from which the heavy iron hammer was mounted, thus raising the hammer, and the interval between the striking of the pins was sufficient for the hammer to deliver its blow. The more rapidly the shaft revolved the more frequent were the blows; in brief, it was a machine hammer and could do the work of a dozen men. It was the curiosity of the times, and people came from far and near to see Parker's triphammer work. One old lady congratulated herself that "she would no longer have to go over the hill to Mr. Tommy Gillis's mill to get her corn ground." Back of the triphammer was the grindstone, which was also run by water power. The first grindstones used came from Vernon or Hartford, and were five or six feet in diameter. The door of the shop had been made very wide on purpose to let the stone in flatwise, and after they had been placed in position they were made true, and brought to the desired size by a process similar to that used in wood turning. One of the largest stones, while being run at high motion, split in two and fell from the shaft. The grinder had a narrow escape for his life. One-half of this stone is in use as a stepstone at my kitchen door. Later, stones of a smaller size were brought from Cleveland or near there. Quite a number of edge tool makers, who had learned their trade with the Parker Bros., would come with a load of axes once or twice each year to grind, polish and fit them for the market. After grinding, all edge tools were stamped "L. Parker, Cast Steel, Warranted, Ohio," and were taken to the polishing room in the second story, which was reached by a flight of stairs outside, where they were polished, blacked and boxed ready for market. Over-production had not been invented and, strive as best they might, the supply was never equal to the demand. Father's forge was on the north side of the shop, directly opposite Uncle Benjamin's, and near by the triphammer, and at his forge all the fine work of the shop was done. My father was an expert and rapid workman, as was William Webber, who had been taught by father. When it became necessary to fill an order quickly, William would be called from his forge to blow and strike for father, and they worked together as though parts of the same machine. The moment William was not required at the anvil he was at the bellows, and by the time father had finished one ax another was ready. Thus they would work for weeks together, turning out more work than the five other forges combined. Father tempered all edge tools when he was in the shop; at other times Uncle Benjamin did this part of the work with equal skill.

As the trade increased, an addition with two forges was built on the northeast cor-