

THE CHANGING NATURE OF BLACKSMITHING INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS IN AMERICA AND ITS EFFECT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN: NINETEENTH CENTURY TO PRESENT

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Abstract

The role of the blacksmith in America has changed considerably over the past two centuries, as have the institutions in which blacksmithing has been taught. Similarly, the participation of women in the field of blacksmithing has undergone significant transformations. The relationship of the institutions that produced blacksmiths to the availability of that education to women reflects many of the social, technical and aesthetic changes in America. Although the institutions in which blacksmithing has been taught have changed considerably, it was the greater transformations in our culture that made this trade as accessible to women as it is today.