

BLOOD AXE

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECT

Repository: Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.

Creator: Isaiah Blood (1810 - 1870)

Title: Blood Axe

Dates: 1837 - 1870

Quantity: 1

Identification: Art & Artifacts

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Isaiah Blood bought out the business of his father, Sylvester Blood. He opened his own factory in 1837, on the banks of Kayderosseras Creek in the Town of Milton, Saratoga County, NY. According to "The Blood Axe" by Karen Bjornland in *Saratoga Living*, Autumn 2007, p. 9, "Blood's factory [eventually] annually produced 12,000 dozen scythes, 8,000 dozen axes, and 10,000 dozen other tools." His mill employed 300 workers, who lived in the village of Bloodville, north-northwest of Ballston Spa (also in Town of Milton). Blood himself became rich and was an honored citizen of Ballston Spa. His scythes were listed in the Business Directory of New York State for many years. His tools were sold all over the world. He served in the New York State Legislature in 1859-60 and was re-elected in 1869. Sometime after his death in 1870, his business was merged with the American Axe and Tool Company.

These axes were made for many years, and continued to be labeled "BLOOD" even when they were being made by American Axe and Tool. Therefore exact dating of this particular axe would require additional research. It is likely that it was made during Isaiah Blood's operation of the company.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Tools
Tools – carpenter's
Tools – agricultural
Industry – Saratoga County NY

Places: Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, NY
Bloodville, Saratoga County, NY

Important People: Blood, Isaiah

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Blood Axe – Artifact Collection
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, October 2015.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT(S)

The Blood axe head measures 11 ¼ inches along the face of the curved blade and 9 ¼ inches from the edge of the blade to the back. The Blood Axe Factory made axe heads in various sizes, which would be fitted with various sized wooden handles. The hole for the handle of this axe is almost an inch thick by two and a half inches wide.

The axe head is stamped:

BLOOD

[Illegible – should be BALLSTON] N.Y.

CAST ST___ (Some axes were stamped “CAST STEEL”)

“Axes were specialized tools made for specific uses. The broad axe was used for shaping logs by hewing. The wide blade helped to create a flat surface for boards or beams. The cutting edge had either a single bevel on one side or a bevel on each side. The double beveled axes produced a scalloped cut and the single edge produced a flat surface.

Single bevel axes were handled with bent handles to create clearance for your knuckles and fingers. They can only be worked from one direction and were referred to as left hand or right hand.

Double-beveled axes were more geared for general purpose and could be used either right or left handed for hewing but could also be used for chopping and notching.”
(Montana Museum of Work History) Oct. 7, 2015.

The axe in the Folklife Center Collection is a single bevel blade.