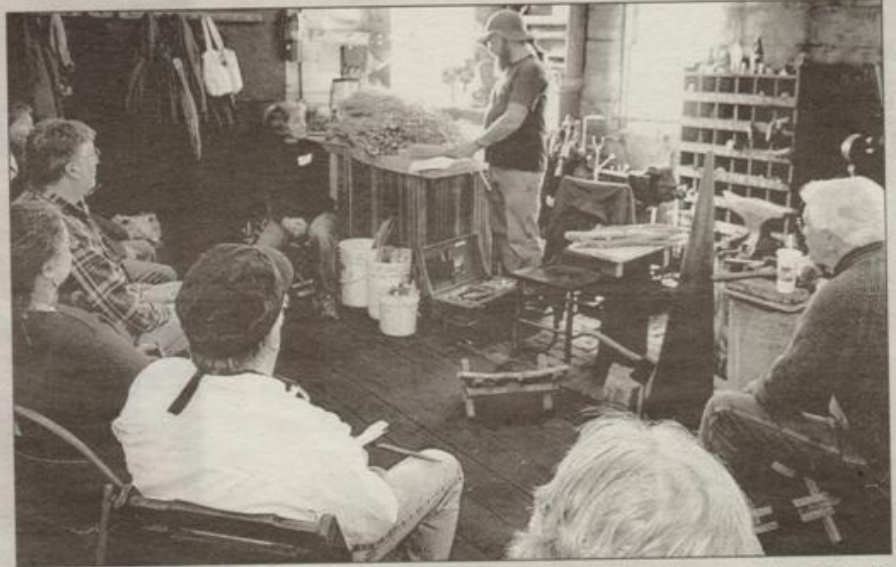




Above: John Holzwart offered instruction on how to create a hand-tied hearth broom. Below: a display of the finished products.



Several people gathered Feb. 18 at the Old Blacksmith Shop in Galena to learn how to create a hand-tied hearth broom as John Holzwart offered instruction. Jay Dickerson photos

An historic skill

Several attend sessions on broom making at the Old Blacksmith Shop

GALENA—During two sessions over President's Day weekend, on Sunday and Monday, Feb. 17 and 18, local residents were offered an opportunity to create their very own hand-tied hearth brooms.

Classes were a bit like stepping back in time.

In classes held at the Old Blacksmith Shop in Galena, John Holzwart, from Sheboygan, Wis., who is known as one of Wisconsin's finest hand-tied broom crafters, shared his knowledge

with participants, who were then able to create a functional and beautiful fireplace utensil. The finished brooms were approximately 22 inches in length overall with the broom fan measuring about 10 inches. Some brooms had wooden handles, while others featured custom-crafted iron handles. The class was hosted by the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society as part of a continuing effort to preserve the cultural heritage and crafts of days gone by.