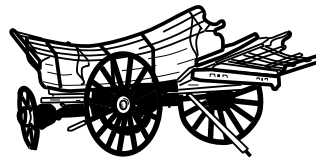


The Wheelwright's Shop

Location: in the Tilford Building

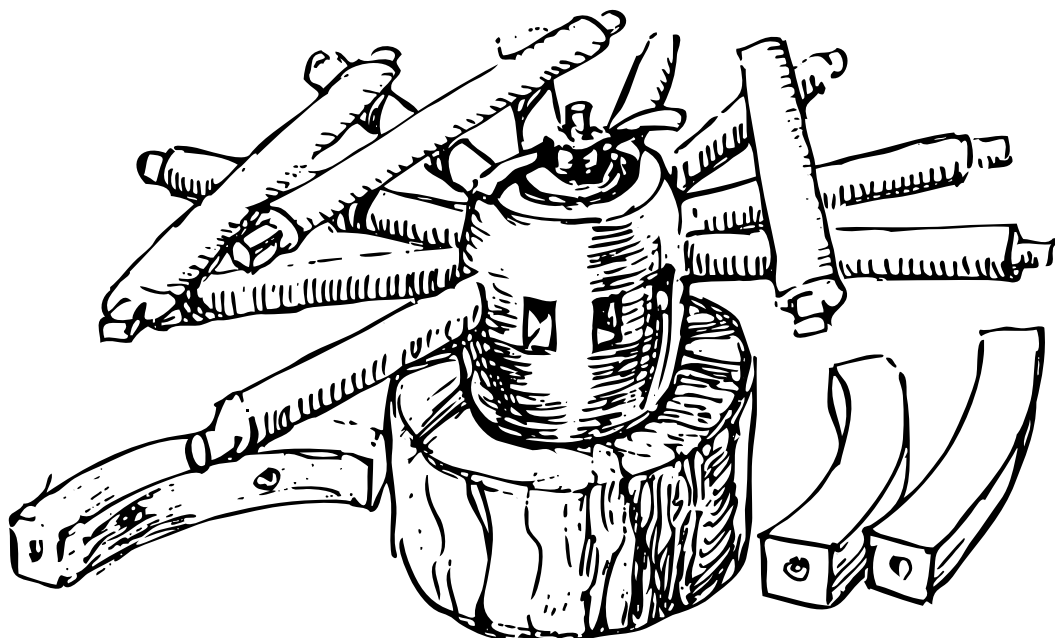
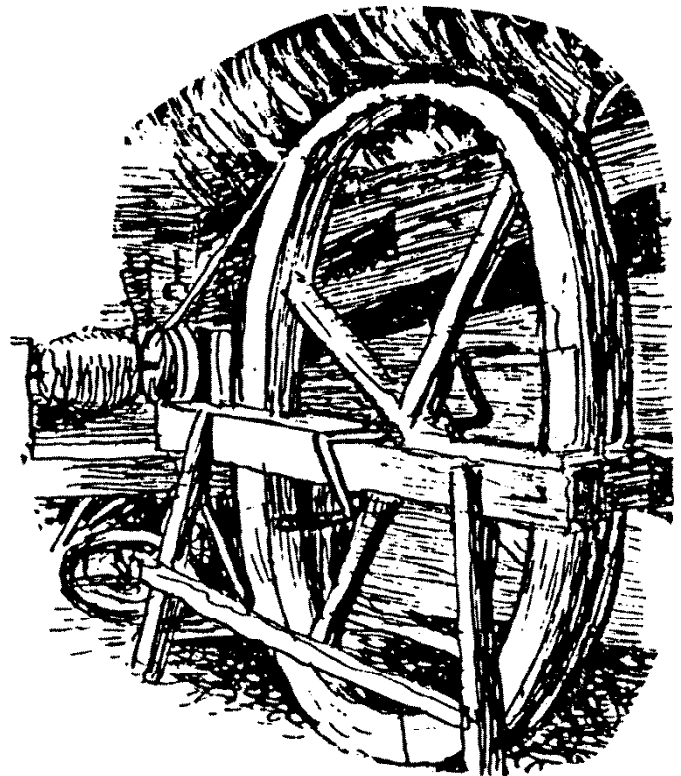


Rural
Life
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On the right is the wheelwright's lathe – note the handles for working it. Who do you think would have had the job of turning these?

Below are the component parts of a wheel — **hub**, **spokes** and **felloes**. Label one of each on the drawing. Could you fit them together?

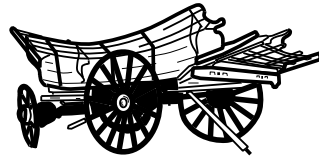
You would need to look carefully at the spokes and remember the tenons fit into the mortices on the hub, and the tongue on each spoke fits into the felloes.



The first drawing over the page shows you a completed wheel.

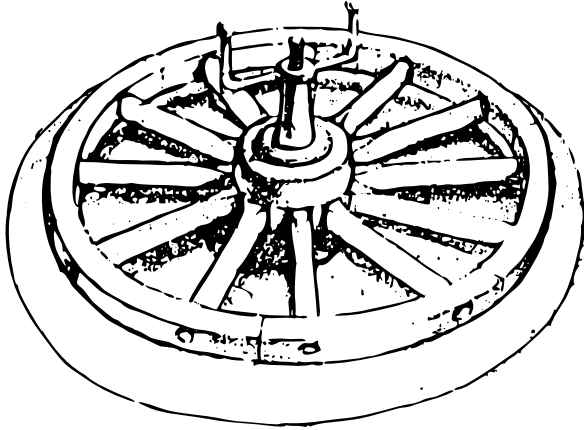
The Wheelwright's Shop

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Processes in tying a wheel



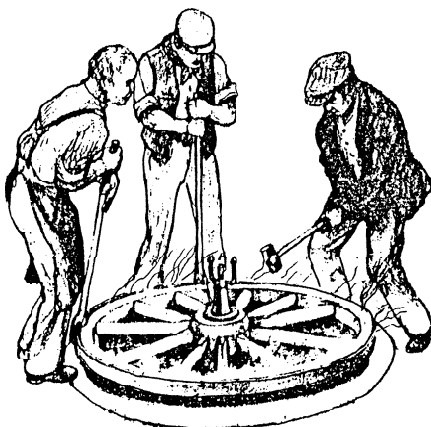
The completed wooden wheel is clamped to the tying platform — a circular metal plate fixed in the ground.

Can you find the museum's tying platform? (Hint: it is not inside a building.)

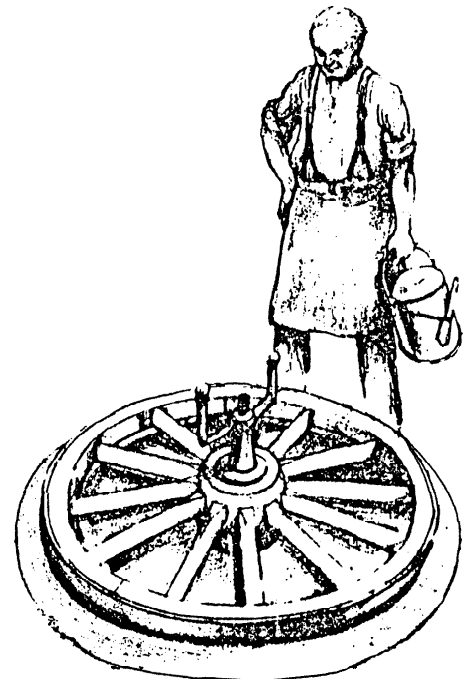
The iron tyre (from the blacksmith's shop, usually next door) is heated to the correct temperature, often on a bonfire (right), then quickly and carefully removed with clamps and placed round the completed wheel on the platform.



Tying irons are used to lever the metal hoop of the tyre over the wheel rim (below). The final alignment is made by tapping.



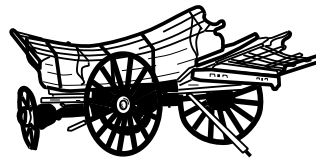
The fitted tyre is quenched (cooled) with water (right) to ensure a tight fit around felloes and spokes.



Over the page you will find some of the tools the wheelwright uses.

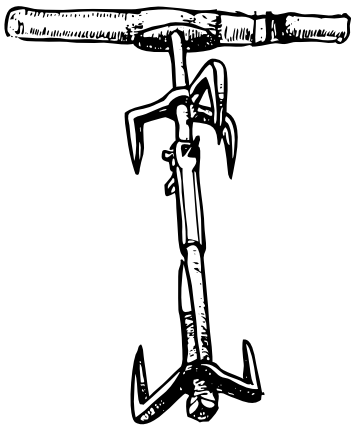
The Wheelwright's Shop

Location: in the Tilford Building



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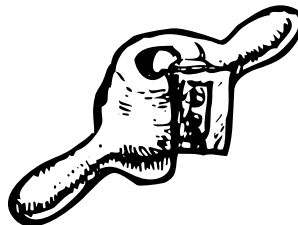
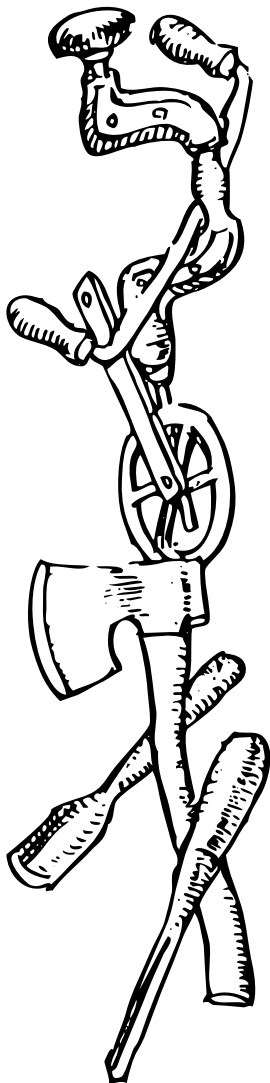
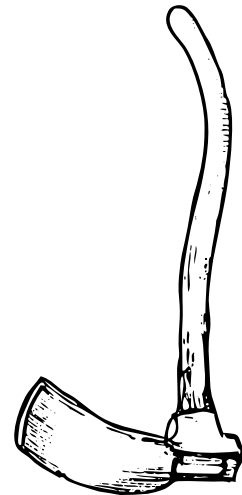
Wheelwright's Tools



A boxing engine for cutting out the centre of a stock.

An adze. How do you think the wheelwright would have used it and what for?

.....
.....
.....



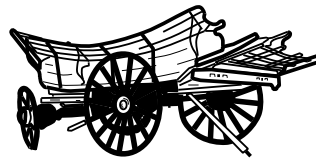
A rounding plane for shaping spoke ends.

On the left is a jumble of tools. Below are listed their names, but not in the right order. Can you sort them out and label which is which?

- | | | |
|----------|------------|-------|
| Side axe | Traveller | Brace |
| Gouge | Draw knife | Buzz |

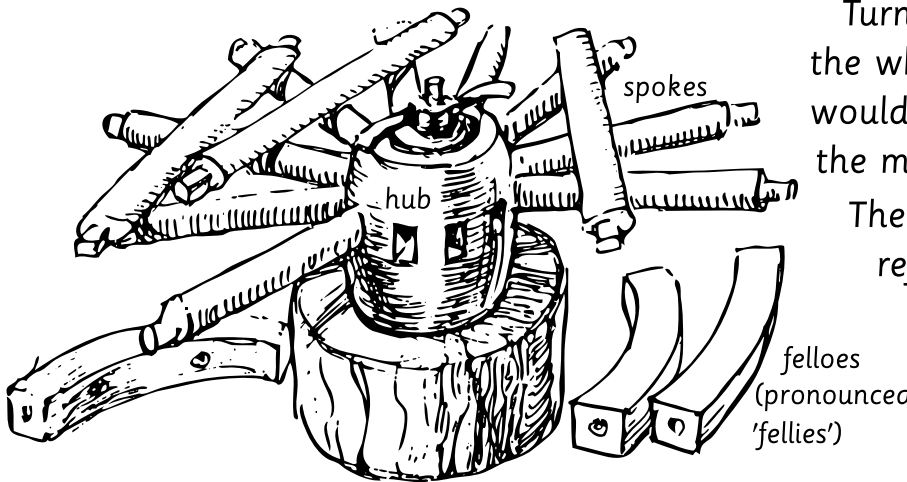
The Wheelwright's Shop

Location: in the Tilford Building



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Teachers' Notes



Turning the wheel to power the wheelwright's lathe would generally be the job of the most junior apprentice.

The hub was sometimes referred to as a 'nave' or 'stock'. Notice also the strange pronunciation of the word 'felloe'

Wheelwright's Tools

The adze was the waggon builder's principle shaping tool for heavy wooden parts. He would stand astride the timber to be carved and swing the adze back and forward between his legs, gradually lowering the sharp blade to cut away more of the wood.

