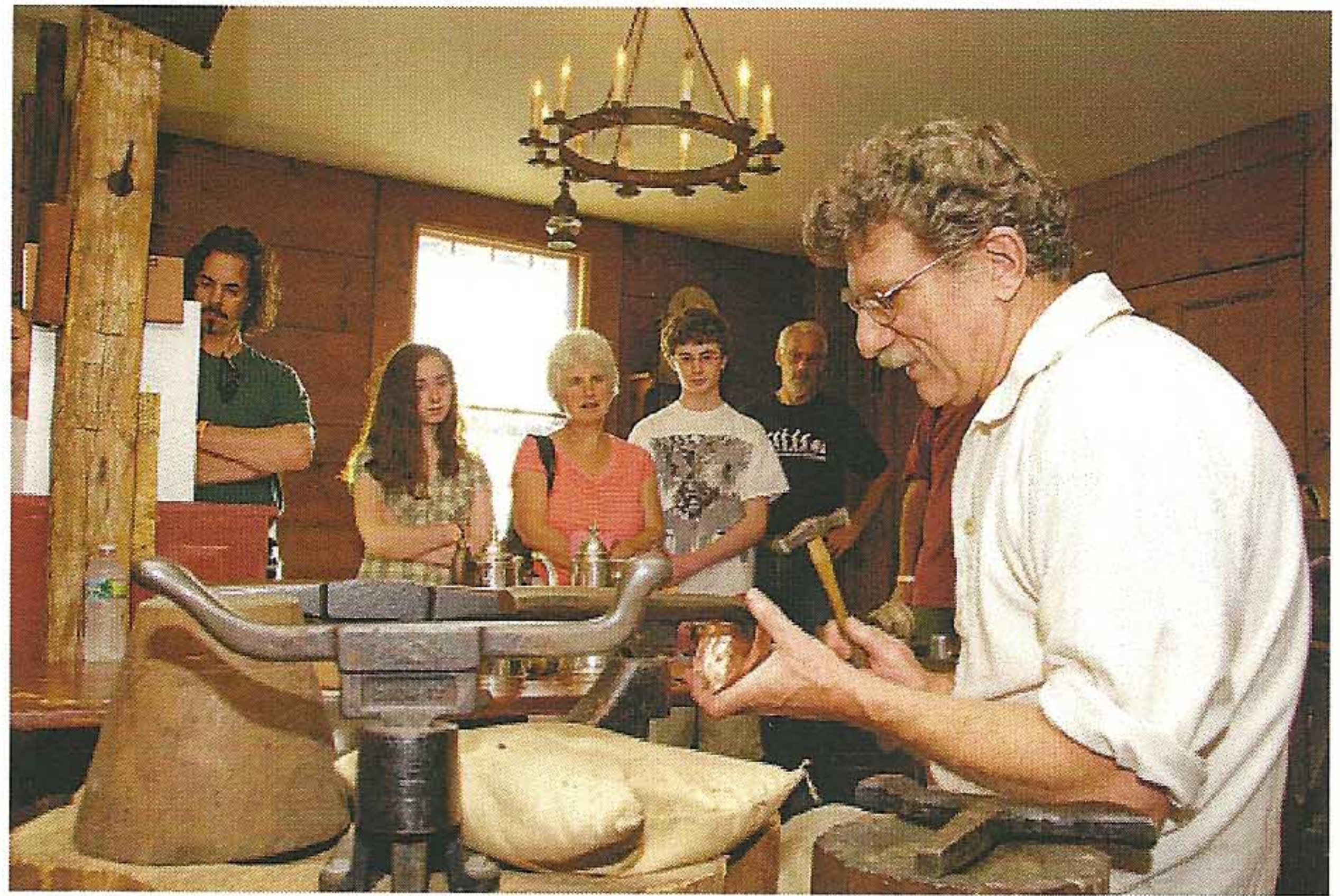




Historic Deerfield®

*Opening Doorways To The Past.™*

## Silversmithing Series



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*July 6 • July 20 • August 10 • October 6 • October 26 • December 14 • Spring 2014*  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. • Historic Deerfield Silver and Metalware Collection  
**General Admission Ticket Required**

Silversmith Steve Smithers will be demonstrating and discussing the making of a (commissioned) set of sterling silver flatware for an early American 18th C. home. Every aspect of the project will be covered, from the initial research and design phase through all the steps in the making of a finished table setting for twelve. All pieces will be forged and hammered from silver stock, using tools and techniques similar to those employed in the making of a period set of flatware. Each place setting will include a dinner fork, spoon and knife.

The trifid pattern design of the set is inspired by several rare surviving English and American examples from the late 17th and early 18th Century. Though spoons were quite common in this period, the fork and silver handled table knife were rarely seen, and not widely used in America until the middle of the 18th Century.

The spoon features a classic tablespoon sized bowl with a rattail on the underside of the bowl from the stem to the middle of the bowl. The knife has a silver handle, with a scimitar shaped Sheffield steel blade made in Sheffield, England. The fork has three tynes, as was typical of the earliest examples of the form.

The demonstration will take place at the Parker and Russell Silversmith Shop on the Street at Historic Deerfield. This authentic recreation of a colonial silversmith shop includes a brick forge, a drawbench for making silver wires and moldings, and a workbench complete with built in leather apron for catching silver filings and scraps. The shop contains a full array of hammers, anvils, stakes, punches and other tools and equipment used in a typical shop of the period.

Since 1975, Silversmith Stephen Smithers has been researching and refining the classic art of silversmithing as practiced by master silversmiths throughout history. Originally a machinist and plater, Steve eventually had the opportunity to work on pieces made prior to the industrial revolution. Through the process of performing restorations on early metal objects, Steve has gained an intuitive sense of the original working methods used, which has influenced the design, construction, and craftsmanship of his own pieces. He acquired an understanding of the craft as it was practiced by hand, and today maintains that pride of workmanship as well as the care taken in the making of quality hand-wrought metal pieces.