



11. **WHITESMITH, 1776.** Colonial tinsmithing, called whitesmithing, got its start in the 1730s in Berlin, Connecticut, when Irish immigrants began importing sheet tin from England. This material was really thin sheet iron, plated with tin to prevent rust. By beating out their own kitchen utensils using wooden mallets, these whitesmiths could manufacture a product that easily undersold the spoons, cups, pots and pans that were imported from England. Berlin remained the center of the tin industry until the mid-19th century. Whitesmithing gave rise to another group of tradesmen who became a common sight in early America: itinerant tin peddlers. The smith in this picture is smoothing a cylinder with a wooden mallet on an iron former.

Above: 1. anchored shears 2. flattening hammer 3. tin snips 4. tin candlestick (1760) 5. tin lantern (1775) 6. tin dipper 7. tin Betty lamp (1790) 8. soldering iron.