

## Reading for Lesson Plan #1

The first party of settlers that came to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607 included a blacksmith by the name of James Reed. By the end of the very next year another smith was needed, and in 1611, to meet the growing demand for ironworkers, four more smiths were sent over by the London- based Virginia Company. New England towns also acknowledged the importance of this craftsman, as shown in the Derby, Connecticut, town records for 1711:

Voted, that the Town grant John Smith of Milford, blacksmith, four acres of land for a home lot, to build upon, anywhere within one mile of the meetinghouse where he shall choose, in land not laid out, upon condition that he build a mansion house (a dwelling) and a smith's shop, and set up the trade of blacksmith, and follow it for the benefit of the inhabitants for a space of seven years.

*The Blacksmith*  
By Aldren Watson  
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