

(L2599)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

SECTION OF
AMERICAN AND PREHISTORIC ARCHÆOLOGY.
HENRY C. MERCER, CURATOR.
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.
STATION B.

71897

Lieut. General Pitt Rivers,
My dear Sir

I regret very much that you have not received a copy of my book as I have intended to send you all my publications, today I have ordered a volume sent you from the University.

As bearing upon some of my recent investigation can you tell me anything of the archaeology of the Grain Cradle or Scythe with fingers. The dictionaries are very ignorant. I find it in France in 1762. Secondly who invented what we call the Carpenters hatchet see Fig 1. I cannot trace it to Germany or the continent where it appears the carpenter, as here in the last century, used two tools, the hand ax and the Claw Hammer. see fig 2.

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7199607

The first for cutting and hammering
and the second for driving and
pulling nails. I suppose fig 1
is the hand axe with elongated
hole and nail pull inserted to
do the work of the hammers
claw and make one tool out of
two. How far back ^{can you}
trace figure 1 in England. If
earlier than 1730 it must
have been invented there. ^{rather}
the hitching axe fig 3. I suspect
you must be able to find the
form in England in the 17th
century. I cannot trace it to
the continent and some of my
specimens seem so old as to
include the idea of the tool
having been invented here. But
if this was not the old
English form of Axe as it
certainly was not the French or
German and was not in-
vented here where did it come
from. With kind regards and
remembrances to you household
I am, very, sincerely yours
dictated
H. C. Mercer