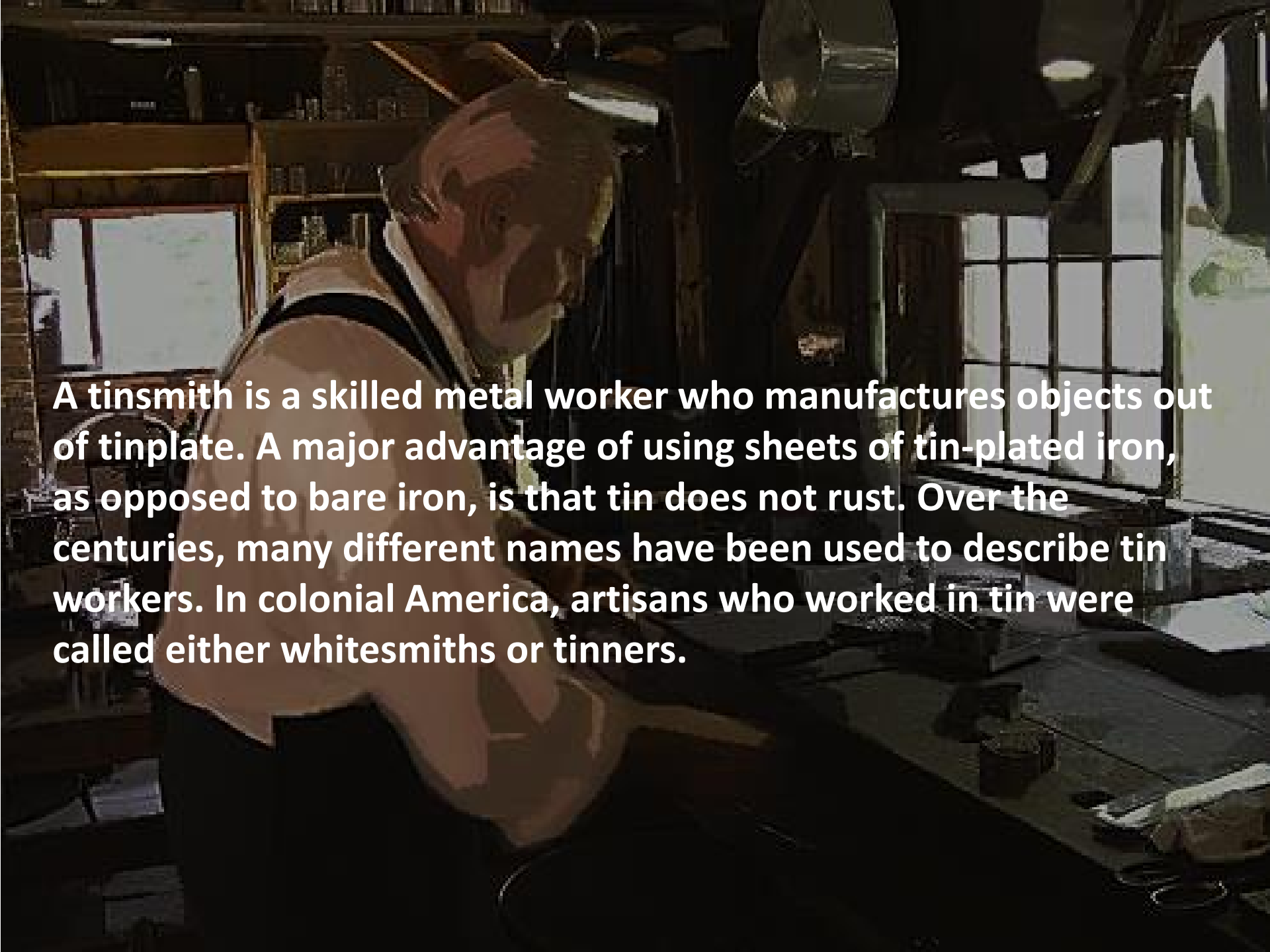


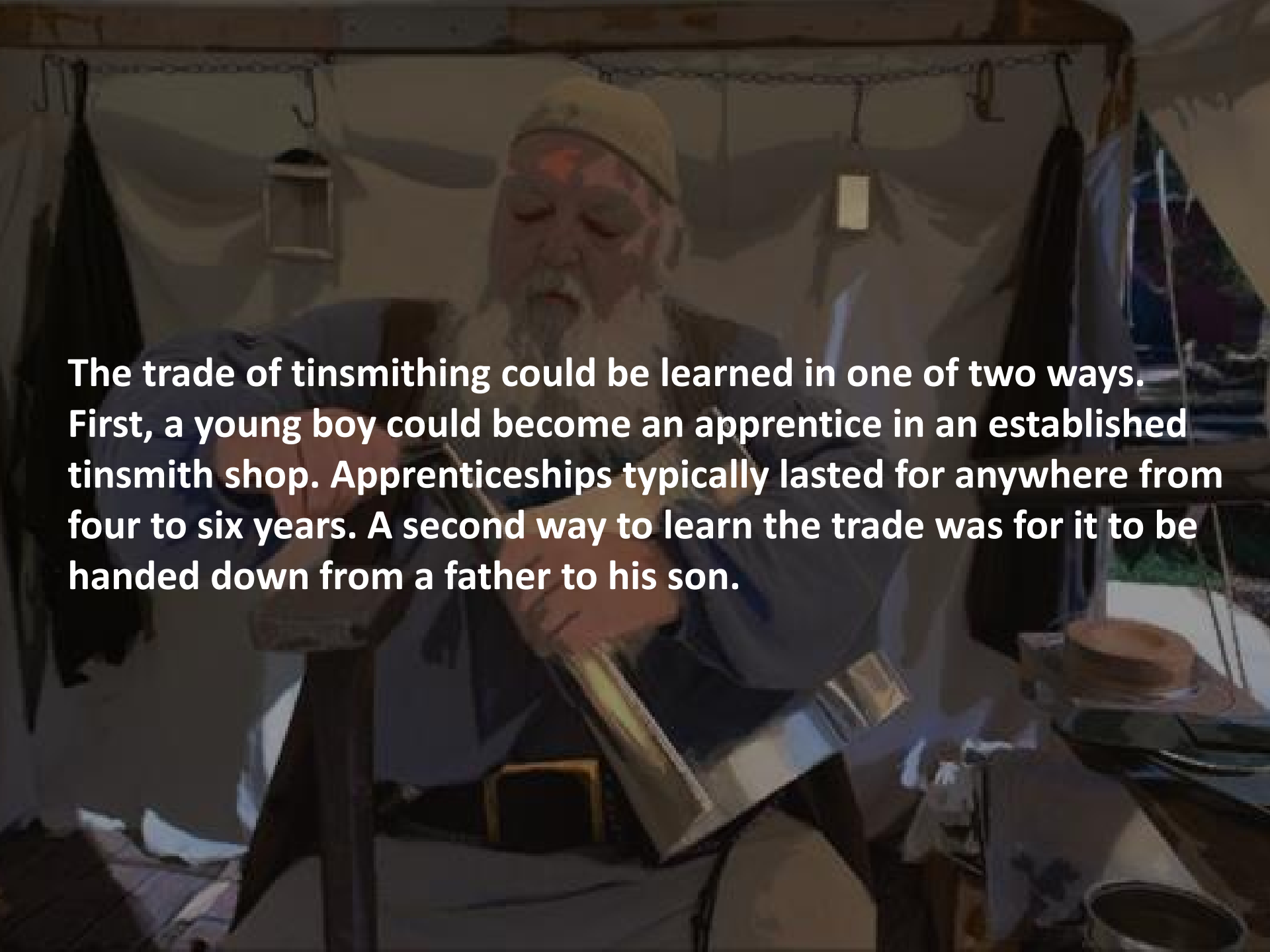


Whitesmith

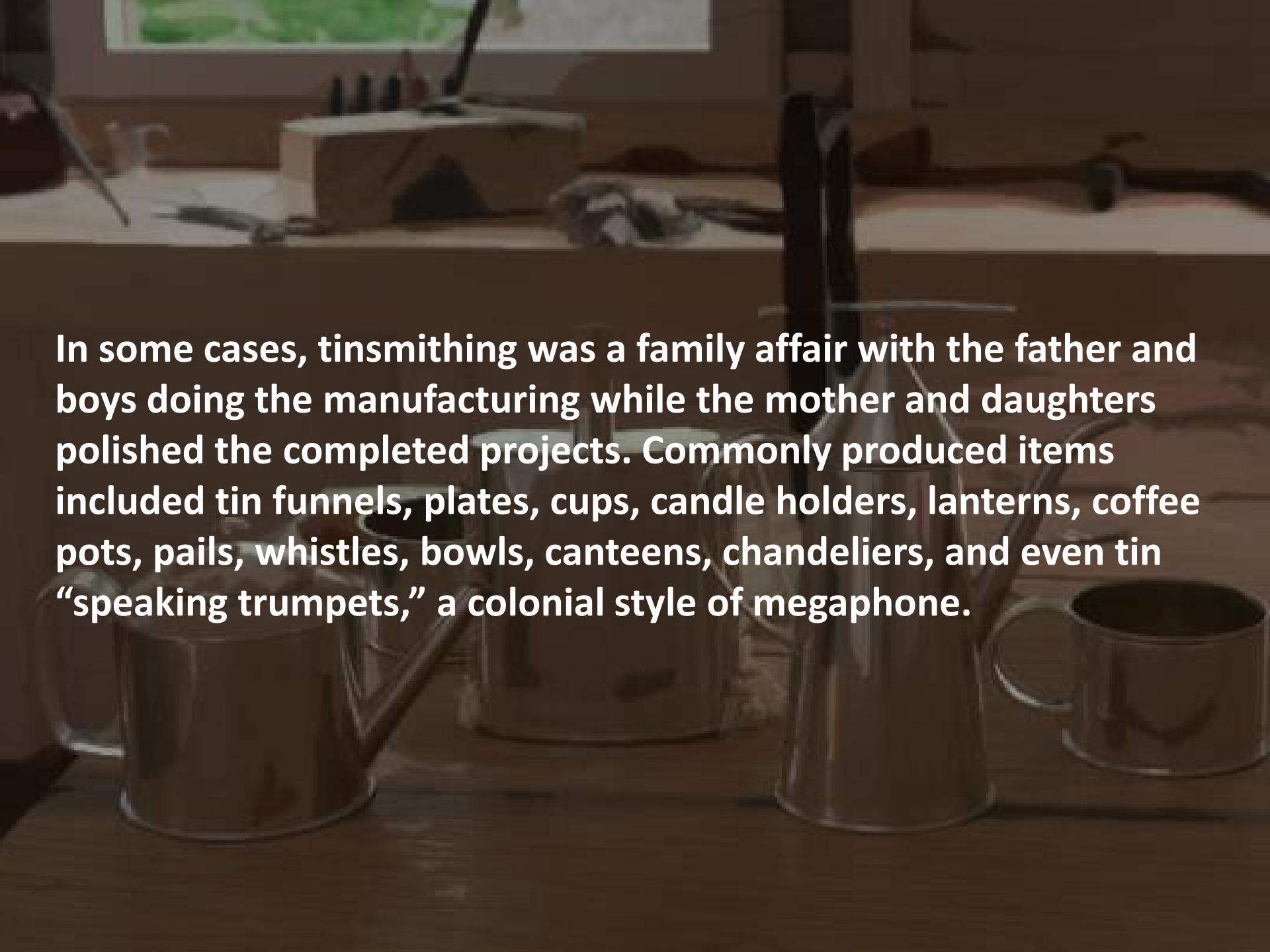
Tinsmithing in America

A detailed illustration of a tinsmith in a workshop. The man, with a mustache and wearing a white shirt and dark vest, is focused on his work at a large workbench. The workshop is filled with various tools, metal pieces, and a large window in the background. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong light source from the window creating highlights on the man's face and the workbench.

A tinsmith is a skilled metal worker who manufactures objects out of tinplate. A major advantage of using sheets of tin-plated iron, as opposed to bare iron, is that tin does not rust. Over the centuries, many different names have been used to describe tin workers. In colonial America, artisans who worked in tin were called either whitesmiths or tinner.

A tinsmith with a long white beard and a cap is working in a workshop. He is holding a large, cylindrical metal object, possibly a tin, and is using a tool to work on it. The workshop is dimly lit, with a lantern hanging on the wall. Various tools and materials are visible in the background.

The trade of tinsmithing could be learned in one of two ways. First, a young boy could become an apprentice in an established tinsmith shop. Apprenticeships typically lasted for anywhere from four to six years. A second way to learn the trade was for it to be handed down from a father to his son.

A photograph of a workshop or tinsmithing area. In the foreground, several finished tin items are displayed on a wooden surface: a watering can on the left, a cylindrical container in the center, a tall funnel-shaped object in the middle-right, and a small cup on the right. The background shows a workbench with various tools, a wooden box, and a window with a view of greenery. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold font.

In some cases, tinsmithing was a family affair with the father and boys doing the manufacturing while the mother and daughters polished the completed projects. Commonly produced items included tin funnels, plates, cups, candle holders, lanterns, coffee pots, pails, whistles, bowls, canteens, chandeliers, and even tin “speaking trumpets,” a colonial style of megaphone.