

# FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

## FIRE PAIL EXHIBIT

The simplest of tools was used to hold sand or water with which to extinguish a fire. The fire bucket is a low technology method of fighting small fires. Best of all, they are easy to use, cheap, reliable and quickly refilled. As with the ones in our exhibit – they are typically painted red and stenciled with the word “FIRE”. They generally have a convex, protruding bottom which, since they can’t be set on a level surface, renders them useless for other purposes. This design reduced the potential for inadvertently taking one or the misuse of one. In addition, when filled with sand they can be used to absorb spills of flammable liquids making the liquid less dangerous.

### Heritage Museum Exhibit 211



A variation on the metal fire pail is the leather fire bucket such as the ones on our Hunneman Hand Tub exhibit. These leather pails were used to get water and dump it into the hand tub’s tank so it could be used to fight a fire. A “bucket brigade” of fire fighters and any available citizens were often employed to man this bucket brigade between the water source and the tank on the hand tub – see our exhibit #203.

Donated by the Crotched Mountain Fire Fighters Association