

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Newsletter

November 2014

New acquisitions highlight activities this Fall

THE FANNING MILL



A gift to the Town and the Museum from Mike and Jane Chase.

This peculiar looking device is usually found sitting forlornly in the back of barns, long since forgotten. The Chase's mill was in surprisingly good condition and will require only some minor restoration work.

Fanning mills removed straw, chaff, stones, dirt and dust, weed seeds, and light immature seeds from grain. It was important to remove contaminants for better preservation during storage.

Fanning mills have shaking sieves over which the threshed grain kernels mixed with bits of straw, stone and soil were rattled. The mill has a fan operated by the crank on the side that blows air across and upward through the sieves to float off the lighter debris.

This particular fanning mill was used to separate blueberries from the twigs and other unwanted debris that was on them following picking.



THE APPLE PICKER

A gift to the Town and Museum from Jennifer Vadney found in the barn at a home she recently purchased.



For those who have ever gone apple picking and stared longingly at the plump, delicious apples shining in the sun at the very top of the tree, you are not alone. You couldn't do much more than make an attempt at climbing the tree or shaking the branch. Leave it to our Yankee ancestors to solve the problem. The apple picking pole allows you to jostle the branch, shaking the apple loose into the wire basket.

Francestown had many orchards in its past and several old apple barns still exist today.

L.B. SARGENT LOG CALIPER #227



Herb Vadney loaned this tool to FIHS who has loaned it to the Heritage Museum.

These log calipers were used to measure the circumference and diameter of logs. Depending on the length of the log it would then allow the user to determine the wood harvested per tree. This one is in very good condition and is stamped on the stick L.B. Sargent Lincoln N.H. Maker. Also on the stick is a metal N.H. Department of Agriculture Tested tag number 53.



ROLLER

A gift to the town and museum by Royal Cleaves.

