

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



VISITOR'S GUIDE AGRICULTURE COLLECTION

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

THE MUSEUM BUILDING



The building in which you are standing was formerly a dairy barn located in Weare, NH. The building is dedicated to O. Alan Thulander who purchased this barn which was slated for demolition. Members of the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department disassembled the building and moved it to this current site where they re-erected the structure. New siding and roof boards were milled from trees located in the Town Forest.

USE OF THE GUIDE

The descriptions in this guide are numbered to correspond to the number on the card of the item you are viewing. If you would like additional information on any item please contact one of the curators or volunteers. There are five broad categories of items:

100 & 200 Series	AGRICULTURE
600 - 800 Series	COMMERCE
300 - 500 Series	DOMESTIC
900 Series	FIRE FIGHTING
1000 Series	TRANSPORTATION

Thank you for visiting the museum.

**PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE
GUIDE FROM THE BUILDING.
Personal copies are available with a
donation suggested.**

Should you have any items that you are considering for donation, please contact one of the curators. We are a non-profit organization and any items donated are tax deductible. Cash donations are always welcome to help cover our operating, acquisition and maintenance expenses.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

As today's farmer sits on the tractor pulling the hay baling machine, it is difficult to imagine doing the same task to as many acres with a hand held scythe, bull rake, pitchfork and horse drawn wagon. But such was the farming life of our ancestors.

Our agriculture collection contains exhibits that were used in a wide variety of farm chores. They will hopefully instill in you an appreciation for how difficult life was for your ancestors and how much our and future generations owe to them.

THE AGRICULTURE COLLECTION

This collection is arranged by season – on your left it is essentially from winter to spring planting through the fall harvest. While on your right are tasks involving the livestock that require year round attention.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 1

PRIVY SEAT



Odor control was an issue with the old outhouses and it was common to have a bucket of powdered lime with a scoop on hand. A scoop of lime is sprinkled into the lid hole to cover the waste. In addition the outhouse seating area often had a lid that could be lowered over the hole(s).

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ITEM # 3



PRIVY SEAT



An essential part of life in olden times.
This seat was quite likely for a
youngster.

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ITEM # 6



PRIVY SEAT



An essential part of life in olden times. Yes, the holes are a different size to accommodate Mama Bear, Papa Bear, and Baby Bear (an item overlooked in the tale of Goldie Locks and the Three Bears).

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



PRIVY ACCONTRMOUNT



Many a privy had a container holding old corn husks - no Charmin in those days.

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ITEM # 9

GRANGE MEMORABILIA



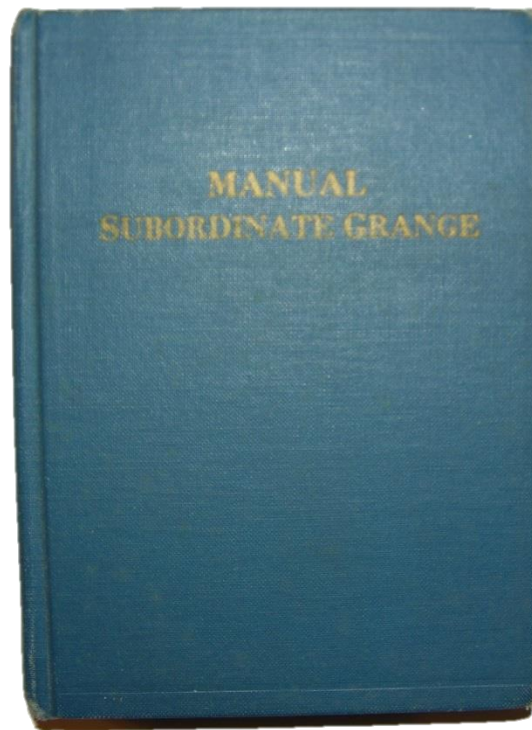
Essentially the Grange is a fraternal organization with roots in rural and agricultural history whose mission is to serve as the unifying and supportive organization for programs of community service, family activities, legislation, et al. The Oak Hill Grange #32 was awarded many accolades for its contribution to citizenship and community service.

CONTINUED

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 9

GRANGE MANUAL



Grange Manuals were sold only to Grange units and were never sold to individuals. The manuals contained “the charges” (which had to be memorized in order) “to perfect the ritualistic work.” As such, manuals could be loaned to members but had to remain the property of the Grange.

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ITEM # 12

WOODEN SNOW SHOVEL



No snow blowers or plows in the old days. No fancy, ergonomically correct and lightweight plastic shovels either. The wooden shovel was the go-to tool.

No doubt you have noticed when going through small New England villages that the houses are built very close to the road. One reason for this was to make possible shorter drives and walks. The shorter the distance the less shoveling was needed.

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ITEM # 15

SNOW SCOOP



Not unlike the scoops we use today except this E. S. Cole scoop is wood and the more modern versions are metal and/or plastic.

The wooden scoop has some advantages over the plastic models.

- The runners and handle are designed to give the scoop operator optimum leverage to facilitate lifting the snow from the pile.
- Components can be replaced when worn or damaged.

CONTINUED



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SNOW SCOOP



- Made in America, right here in New England. It is thought the first snow scoop was made in Maine and for many years continued to be made in Maine by the E. S. Cole Company in Sanford, ME.

The E. S. Cole scoops came in a range of sizes, they even had a children's model.

The most common size was around 3' wide and a little more than 3' deep.

Even today, oiling a snow scoop with snow plow wax keeps the snow from sticking and reduces the friction when inserting the scoop in the snow bank.

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ITEM # 18

KEROSENE OIL LANTERN

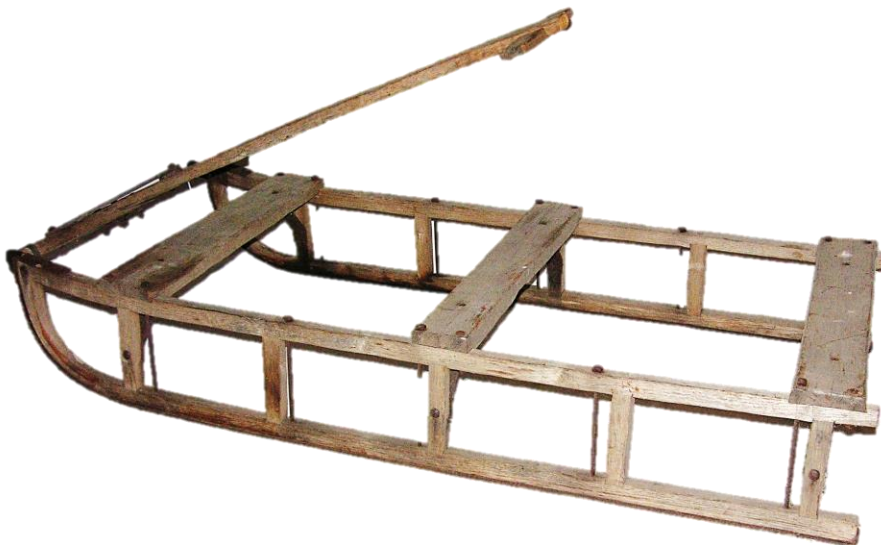


The old kerosene lantern has been common since the 1850's. They had multiple uses from signaling on the railroad to providing illumination when working in dark places. Allegedly, Chicago burned when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over one of these starting the great Chicago fire. They are still widely used in rural areas of Africa and Asia where it is estimated they burn 1.3 million barrels of oil a *day*.

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ITEM # 21

TRAVERSE or TRAVIS SLED



This is also known as a drag sled and was fashioned after the Native American Indian Travois Sled. The Travis sled is a working farm sled used to drag loads (hay, milk containers, feed, et al) around the farm. They range in size from small sleds pulled by man to larger sleds pulled by dogs or horses.

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TRAVIS SLED



While the original use of this sled is unknown, judging from the old photo below it may well have been used in the ice harvest to haul blocks of ice



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 24

TRAVERSE or TRAVIS SLED



This is also known as a drag sled and was fashioned after the Native American Indian Travois Sled. The Travis sled is a working farm sled used to drag loads (hay, milk containers, feed, et al) around the farm. They range in size from small sleds pulled by man to larger sleds pulled by dogs or horses.

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ITEM # 27

MAPLE TREE SPILES



After boring a small hole in the sugar maple tree, these spiles were driven into the trees to “tap” the trees for their sap. The sap would drip from the spile into an attached bucket or bag, and be taken back to the sugarhouse and boiled down into maple syrup. Today the sap flows directly to the sugar house or nearby storage tanks via a system of plastic tubing.

CONTINUED



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MAPLE TREE spiles HOW TO TAP A TREE



On a tree 12" or more in diameter select a spot above a large root or below a large branch on the south-facing side of the tree. Drill the hole 2' to 4' off the ground. Using a 7/16" bit drill a hole 1½" deep and hammer in the spile.



Insert the spile into the hole and gently tap until the hammer begins to bounce back.



Attach your collection container. If the temperatures cooperate, you will need to empty your containers every day.

BE SURE TO REMOVE YOUR SPILE ONCE THE TREE STARTS TO BUD

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ITEM # 30

WOODEN SAP BUCKET & LID



Once the sap bucket was hung from the spile on the tree, sap dripped into the bucket to be collected. Without a lid the bucket would also collect snow and rainwater as well as tree bark and other impurities. Since it can take from 20-40 gallons of sap to make a gallon of maple syrup, the maker wanted to keep everything possible out of the bucket except the sap and to keep rain water from diluting the sap.

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ITEM # 33

METAL SAP BUCKET with LID



The metal bucket eventually replaced the wooden one. This also was hung on the maple tree and the sap dripped from the spile into this bucket. The bucket has a cover to keep rain water and snow from diluting the sap. In use for over 100 years they are starting to be replaced by the plastic tubing which carries sap directly from the tree to storage tanks or the sugar house.

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ITEM # 36

PLASTIC SAP BAG



The metal pail, while long lasting was heavy, had to be washed at the end of each season and took up a good deal of storage space in the off season. The plastic bag was meant to address these issues as at the end of the season it could just be thrown away. However, it was light and subject to tearing, blew in the wind and was harder to empty. It is still in use today, but like the metal pail is being replaced by the plastic tubing.

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PLASTIC TAP and TUBING



Because collecting the sap from a maple tree is such a very labor intensive task and can be difficult based on weather conditions during the season an alternative was sought. A collection system built with plastic tubing running from the trees to a central collection point or the sugar house greatly reduced labor. This speeded up the collection process so sap remained fresh and also increased profitability. While the trees must still be tapped, instead of a spile, a plastic tap is inserted into the hole and is connected directly to the plastic tubing.

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ITEM # 39

SAP GATHERING YOKE



A CRUDE YOKE

This yoke was worn by a person collecting sap from the buckets on the trees (before the days of plastic tubing and pumps when gathering was done by hand). Two gathering pails were hung from the ends of this yoke so the worker could carry two pails at once as he moved from tree to tree to empty the buckets.

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ITEM # 42

SAP GATHERING TANK



This wooden tank was probably set on a sled that was used when gathering maple sap from the trees. The pails of sap were dumped into this tank and taken back to the sugarhouse to be made into maple syrup.

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ITEM # 45

WHEEL HOE a/k/a A GARDEN CULTIVATOR



An improvement over the hand hoe, this cultivator was pushed between the rows in the garden to dislodge the weeds. The US Government supported the S.L. Allen Company to develop one horse farming tools.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

WHEEL HOE a/k/a A GARDEN CULTIVATOR



The Allen Company realized that tools for the small subsistence farm that could be pushed by the farmer were also needed and introduced the Planet Jr. line of push tools in the 1890's. Later versions had attachments. This tool dates to ~1918 and has the removable tines allowing for other attachments such as seeders, etc.



Hanging from the handle is the wrench that went with the Planet Jr. to change the attachments.

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ITEM # 48

HAND HELD CORN SEED PLANTER



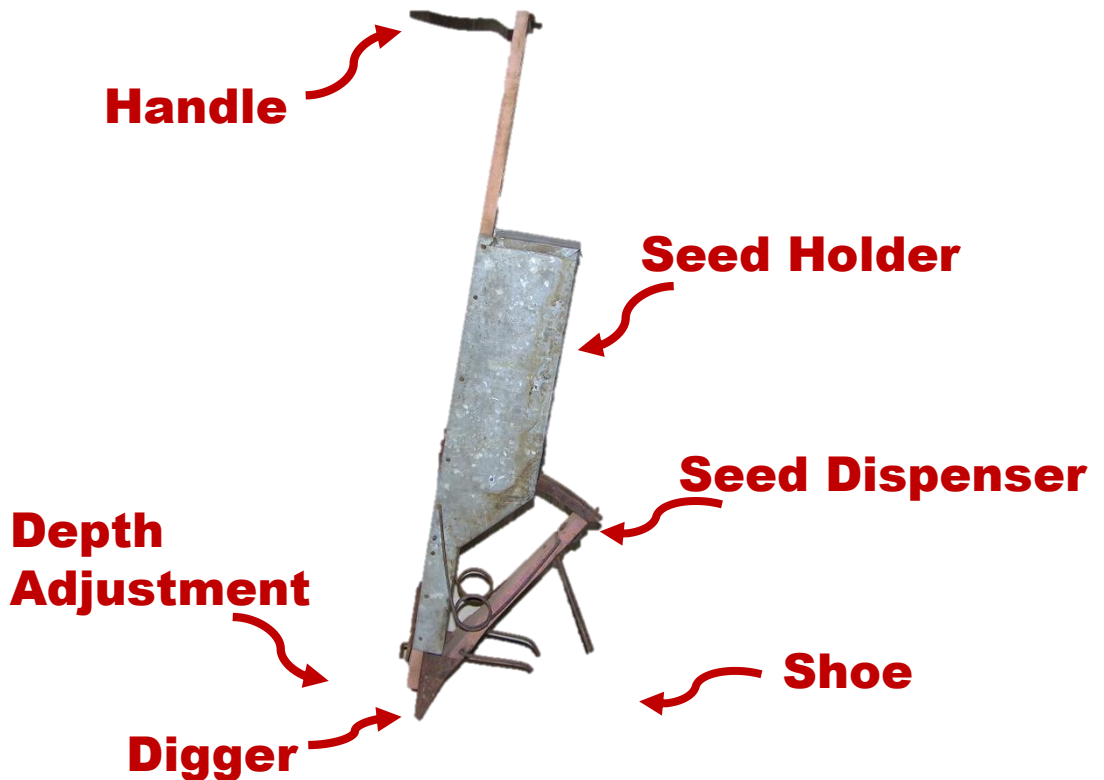
A hand held seed planter with a spring loaded seed release mechanism. Commonly used for planting corn. This is an Acme Corn Seeder made by the Potato Implement Company. Use instructions follow

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

HAND HELD CORN SEED PLANTER



Rows are marked out in areas to be planted and seed is placed in the **seed holder**. The **digger** is placed on the spot where you want to sow the seed. Pressing downward on the **handle** pushes the **digger** into the ground and the **shoe** is pushed upward causing the **seed dispenser** to release a seed down into the hole dug by the digger. Setting the **depth adjustment** controls how deep the digger will place the seed. Once seed is sown, move on to the next seed location and repeat the above.

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ITEM # 51

STONE BOAT a/k/a A DRAG

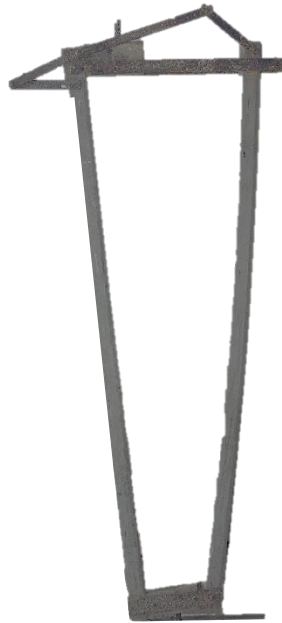


Commonly referred to as “a drag”, this item was used when removing stones from the field. Horses or oxen pulled it along on the ground by the tow ring. Workers would pick up and dig up stones from the field prior to plowing and planting the crops. NH being the “Granite State”, this was a never ending task as each winter the frost would bring stones to the surface.

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ITEM # 54

SINGLE STANCHION



Cows were secured in stanchions which positioned them so they could feed from a trough and obtain water. A common sight was a row of stanchions running down both sides of the barn and separated by a wide aisle that ran lengthwise down the center of the barn. Rows of windows along each side provided light and ventilation, and large double doors at the ends of the barn allowed access to pastures.

See operating details on reverse . . .



SINGLE STANCHION

The stanchion had a fixed and a moveable upright section. When uninhabited, the stanchion was left in the open position which allowed the cow to enter the stanchion. As the cow approached the stanchion from the rear and the food and water was on the other side it freely entered the stanchion. The cow had to put its head and neck through the stanchion in order to eat or drink.

Once the cow had entered the stanchion the farmer would close the moveable upright and latch it in place thus securing the cow during the milking process.

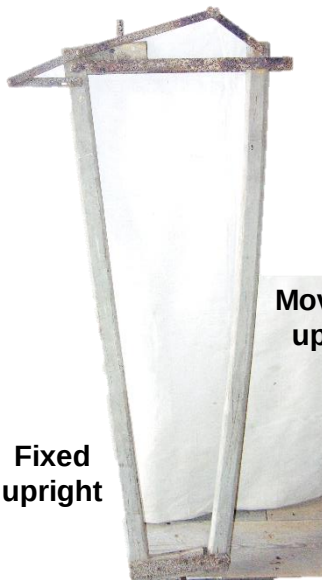


**LATCH
MECHANISM**



OPEN POSITION

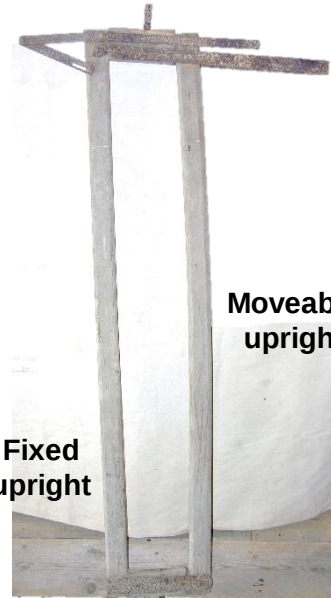
CLOSED POSITION



**Fixed
upright**

**Moveable
upright**

STANCHION



**Fixed
upright**

**Moveable
upright**

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ITEM # 57

GRAIN BIN



The wooden grain bin was common in the 1800's for smaller farms. Used to store grain to keep it clean and free of foreign substances until the grain was used. This is a four compartment, single lid unit. It is not uncommon to find similar bins that have multiple lids to access individual bins.

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ITEM # 60

MILK BOTTLES



These bottles harken back to the day when milk was delivered fresh each morning right to your door and often right into your kitchen by the delivery person directly. Milk was not homogenized in those days so you had a small metal scoop to remove the cream from the top of the bottle.

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ITEM # 63

MILK PAILS AND FUNNELS



These utensils were commonly found in use wherever farms raised dairy cows – both in the barn and in the milk-house. Our early ancestor no doubt did not have these items made of stainless steel but once that metal was available most farms soon switched to these more modern and easier to clean utensils.

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ITEM # 66

WOODEN HAY FEEDER MANGER



This feeder was designed for feeding loose hay with a minimum amount of waste. One of this size was probably used for goats and sheep.

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ITEM # 69

MEAT SCALE



~1880 Chatillon cast iron meat scale with 100 pound capacity. Used on the farm to weigh meat following butchering.

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ITEM # 72

HIGH ACRES FARM MILK CANS



Until the adoption of farm bulk tanks and tanker trucks in the 1940's and 50's milk was stored, cooled and transported in cans. This can has a plug style cover (plug covers had a handle in the middle). Early cans had riveted seams and handles while later (~1935 on) milk cans were welded. This is a ten-gallon can. High Acres Farm was a goat farm located on Poor Farm Road.

CONTINUED



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KILLEY BRACKEN FARM MILK CANS



Until the adoption of farm bulk tanks and tanker trucks in the 1940's and 50's milk was stored, cooled and transported in cans. These cans have umbrella style covers that are smooth on top. Early cans had riveted seams and handles while later milk cans (~1935 on) were welded. These are five-gallon cans.

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ITEM # 75

BARN CORNER FEED PANS



Corner feeds mount to the corner wall in stalls, mangers and other animal enclosures. The smooth edges prevent animals from being injured. They also help to prevent animals from throwing, pushing, or spilling their feed. Having corner feeders and/or hay racks in stall(s) is crucial for the well-being of animals.

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ITEM # 78

CERPACO MILK TESTR



This is a Cerpaco Style C milk tester from The Creamery Package Mfg. Co. in Chicago in 1912. The style C tester is used to determine the % of casein in milk. An especially important test if the milk is to be used in the making of cheese.

It is a centrifuge device that spins the milk samples and separates the casein and fat from the rest of the milk.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 81

MILK TESTER (LACTOMETER)



1800's LACTOMETER for milk with a hand made wooden box. The lactometer is an instrument used to run a specific test – usually done on raw milk at the farm. The milk is allowed to settle so the cream rises to the top and the Lactometer is set in measuring the depth of the cream. This was a measure of the quality of the milk or its richness in butterfat.

Continue for use instructions

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

MILK TESTER (LACTOMETER)



A lactometer is a specific use hydrometer which is an instrument used to measure the specific gravity (relative density) of liquids. It is usually made of glass and consists of a cylindrical stem and a bulb weighted with mercury or lead shot to make it float upright. The milk to be tested is poured into a tall container (often a graduated cylinder) and the lactometer is gently lowered into the liquid until it floats freely. The point at which the surface of the milk touches the stem of the lactometer is noted. Lactometers usually contain a scale inside the stem, so they can be read directly.

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ITEM # 84

HETCHEL



The hetchel (a/k/a hackle) is a board with a bed of nails used to comb the flax fibers after scutching*. The hetchels were fastened to a surface in a series from coarse to fine. A bundle of flax fiber was flipped over the teeth and pulled through. Doing so separated the fibers from the flax plant in order to spin it into linen thread.

* [Scutching is essentially using a scutching knife to separate the impurities from the raw material, such as straw and woody stems from flax fibers].

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ITEM # 87

HAY WAGON aka HAY WAIN

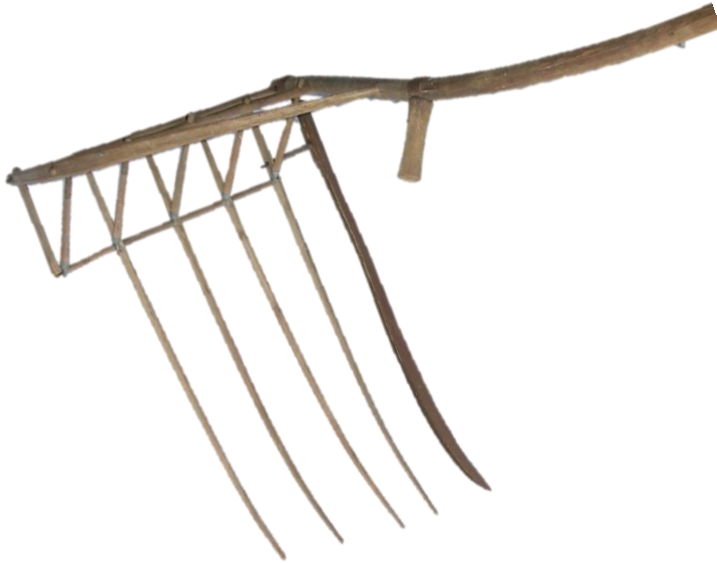


Hay was gathered and pitched into this wagon using the scythes, rakes and forks displayed in the wagon. This dates to a time before they had baled hay and the hay was pitched loose into this wagon. Note the metal strips on the side of the wagon behind the front wheels that prevented the wheel from digging into the side of the wagon when turning.

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ITEM # 90

A CRADLE SCYTHER



The Cradle or Grain Scythe was a part of the early American farm. It is a form of the scythe used to reap grain. It is a scythe with an arrangement of fingers attached to the handle (a/k/a the snath, snathe or snaith), such that the cut grain falls on the fingers and can be cleanly laid down in a row for collection. This concept was introduced by the Quakers in the late 1700's.

With it the “reaper” (as the field hands were known) could cut the grain on the fore-swing and lay the sheaves on the ground on the back swing. It is said that with this device a single reaper could cut 5 acres in a 12-hour day.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 93

SCYTHER



The scythe is an agricultural hand tool for mowing grass or reaping crops. It was largely replaced by horse-drawn and then tractor machinery.

It was one of the most important of all agricultural hand tools, consisting of a curved blade fitted at an angle to a long, curved handle and used for cutting grass or grain. In more modern scythes the handle has a projecting peg that is grasped by one hand, helping to control the swinging motion when cutting grass and grain.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

SCYTHER



A nostalgic quote concerning haying from a reader of the Heritage Museum Newsletter:

When I was a child I could be happy following my father around all day as he cut hay in our fields. I was fascinated hearing the rhythmic swishing sound of the scythe blade cutting through the standing grass. Frequently the scythe blade would need to be sharpened; my father carried the sharpening stone in his back pocket. It was exciting, even awesome, to watch him draw the sharpening stone across the blade and to hear the sound of the stone on the steel. Another rhythmic sound.

Haying was very different back then. The farmers needed at least 3 good drying days for cutting and gathering for the hay to dry in the field before lofting it. (Nothing like a good draft horse for helping.) There were some fine barns that burned down due to fresh cut hay being brought in too soon. The dilemma was about the hay going moldy on the ground if there was rain or bringing it in before it was really dry.

Carol Russel

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ITEM # 96

THE SCYTHER WRENCH



While only 4" long, this small metal wrench was critical during haying and harvest time.

When using a scythe, the constant swing motion tended to loosen the metal blade from the handle. This wrench just fit the nuts that would retighten the blade yet was small enough to not be cumbersome for the worker. These wrenches have become relatively rare as they were easily lost in the hay field during the day's labors.

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ITEM # 99

HAYWAINERS HAY RAKE

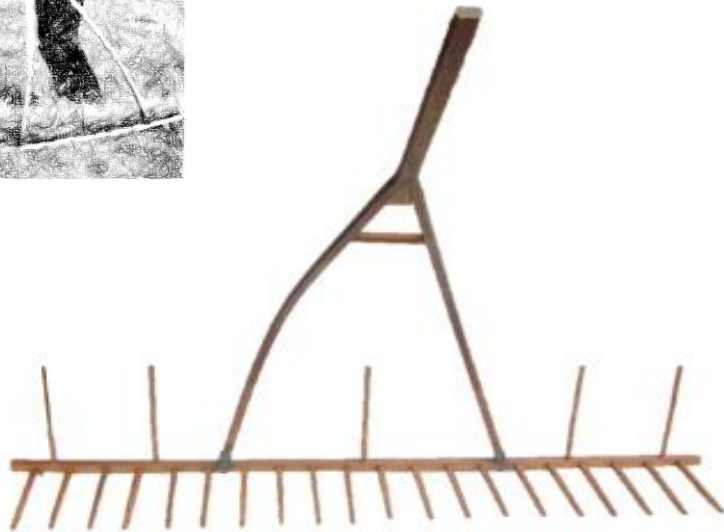


The wooden rake is based on the traditional haywainer's pattern, with a wide head and long reach for gathering or turning straw, hay or grass.

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ITEM # 102

BULL RAKE



The operator would walk with this rake slightly above the ground (enough so the tines would only catch the grass and not dig into the ground). When the rake was full you just lifted it leaving the hay behind. You would do this at each row meaning that you raked in a direction perpendicular to the rows.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 105

SICKLE HAY KNIFE



Also referred to as a reaping or sheaf hook, this tool was used in cutting sheaves which are bundles of cut stalks of grain or hay bound with straw or twine.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 108

BLACKSMITH MADE SICKLE



Hand-held sickle made of forged iron by blacksmith vs. machine-made steel sickles. These forged iron sickles pre-dated the machine-made steel sickles and were used when harvesting cereal grains such as wheat. The curved shape allows you to both cut and gather the grain in one motion.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 111

HAY PITCH FORK



Hand-carved wooden hay fork. Three prongs split out of the original handle. In England these were referred to as a prong and in Ireland, if there were four tines it was known as a sprong. Regardless they were all used to scoop up loose hay and “pitch” it to where it was wanted such as into a hay wain.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 114

LIGHTNING HAY KNIFE/HAY SAW



Before hay was baled or rolled, it was harvested long and placed in hay stacks, or it was lifted up into barn lofts with slings or forks. When this loose hay settled it was very difficult to remove from the stack. The hay knife had two handles and was used much like a saw to cut into the hay piles, hay ricks or silage heaps to cut off small portions of hay that could then be fed to the cows.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

LIGHTNING HAY KNIFE/HAY SAW



The design for this style of hay knife was attributed to Hiram Holt of East Wilton, Maine, who sold them using the name Lightning Hay Knife. The cost for a Lightning Hay Knife was 50 cents in the 1897 Sears and Roebuck catalog.



CONTINUED

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

LIGHTNING HAY KNIFE/HAY SAW



A rebirth – today loose hay in piles or in the mow are seldom seen. Even the traditional square bales are being replaced by the large round bales seen dotting fields and in piles wrapped in a protective cover. Often the user does not want to place the entire round bale out for feeding. The old Lightning Hay Knife has proved more than up to the task. Just push and saw down the length of the bale and cut out whatever size slice of hay you need.



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 117

WROUGHT HAY KNIFE



This is a design variation from the Lightning Hay Knife or Hay Saw. Unlike the Lightning Hay Knife which had a handle that you pushed on to saw through the hay, the Wrought Hay knife was stepped on to push it through the hay and make the cut. As with the Lightning Hay Knife you were then able to easily remove an armful for feeding the cows, horses, goats etc.

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ITEM # 120

FORKED HAY KNIFE



This hay knife was used to cut a section of hay from the pile in the loft. The knife was driven down into the hay and thus cut out a piece of the pile.

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ITEM # 123

HAY HANDLER

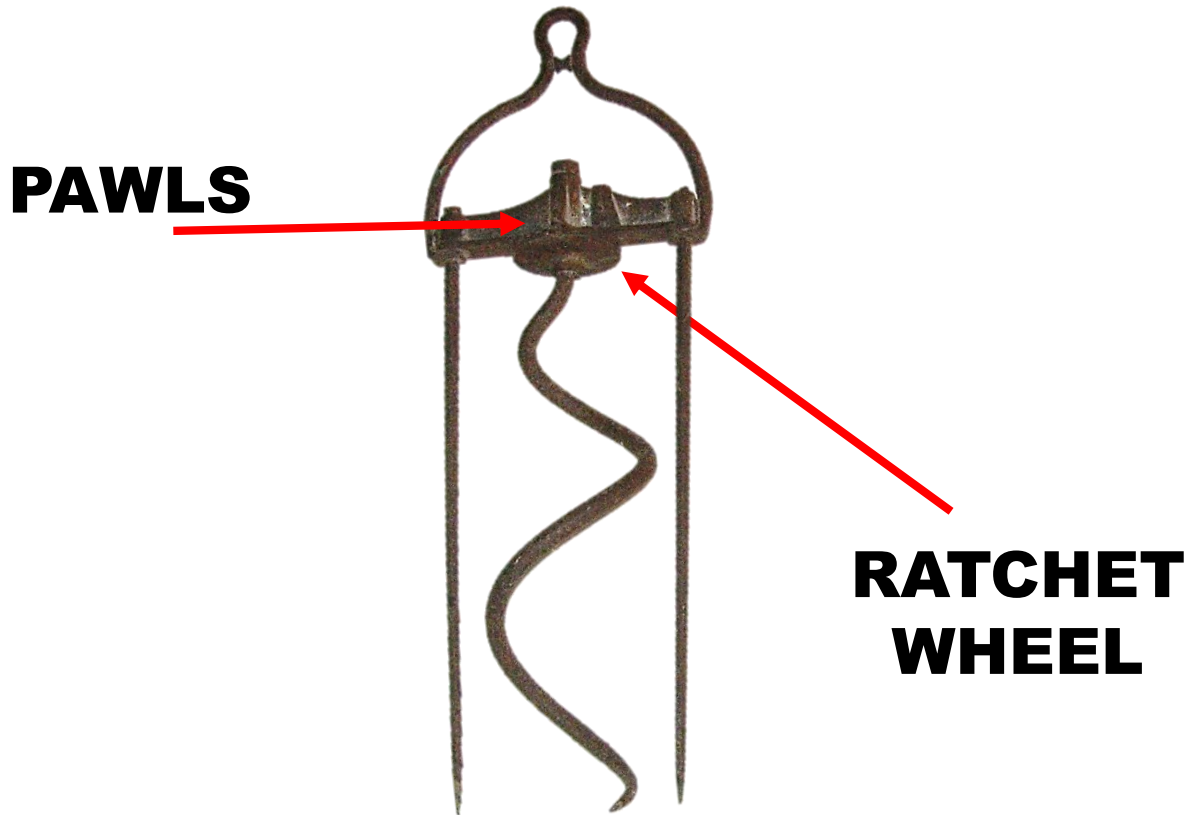


This device was suspended from the hay trolley in the loft of the barn. The handle was used to push the forks into the piles of loose hay and then the load was lifted and moved along the trolley to be dumped down to the floor below. This device was invented by Theodore Foster of Coxsackie, NY and patented September 29, 1863 (Patent #40,098)

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ITEM # 126

SCREW TYPE HAY LIFTER



Screw type - used to raise hay up to the loft of the barn where it was transported through the loft on a trolley. This is a time honored hay lift that was first patented in 1866. Note that the piece of steel below the lifting eye forms a pair of pawls that engage the teeth of the ratchet wheel to keep the screw from turning backward. When the hay was in position you would pull a line attached to the pawls allowing gravity to unscrew the load of hay. CONTINUED



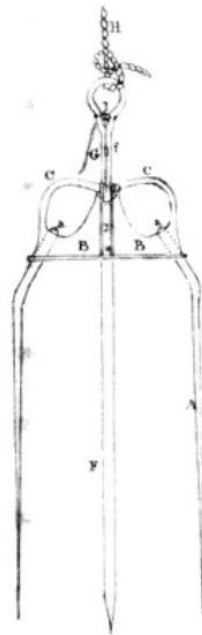
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SCREW TYPE HAY LIFTER

THE SCREW TYPE LIFTER



THE BAILEY'S SILVER HARPOON



This piece of equipment was the inspiration for James Bailey, a blacksmith living in Galt Ontario to pattern his “Bailey’s Silver Harpoon Horse Hay Fork” after. The Silver Harpoon was patented a few years later on May 7, 1870. Patent Number CA-390. The only difference is the screw device is replaced by a single pointed rod

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 129

FLAILING STICKS



The longer stick served as a handle and the shorter, stouter stick is hung loose from it by a cord so as to swing freely.

Used in threshing grain, sheaves of grain are laid on a wooden floor in two parallel lines. The threshers work in pairs and at equal intervals alternately beat the sheaves with the flails.

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ITEM # 132

OX BOW YOKE



This classic wooden yoke is for a team of two oxen (note the large size). These yokes provide better animal control and better management of carts, wagons, plows, et al. This yoke weighs some 50 pounds - note the size of the yoke under the neck and the beam across the top. The hard use received by these yokes caused the metal ring to eventually wear through and had to occasionally be replaced.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 135

LEAD YOKE



This yoke has a wooden handle on the brace portion. This makes it easier for the handler to direct an animal when there is no harness arrangement in use.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM #138

FARM BENT WOOD YOKES



These wooden yoke bows are for single cattle. These yokes provide better animal control and better management of carts wagons, plows, et al. This ox is wearing a single yoke – note the yoke under the neck and the beam across the top.



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 141

OXEN BELLS



Oxen are powerful, intelligent and versatile animals that have for centuries been trained to assist with human needs: from logging, farming, and hauling freight to performing in exhibitions, parades and ox-pulls. The use of bells on an ox helps to indicate where and to caution people that the animal is in the area.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 144

CATTLE NOSE RINGS

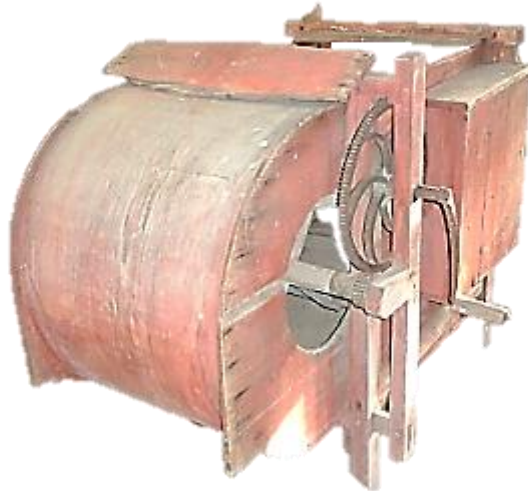


We are not talking about those found in the noses of today's youth. Historically, the use of nose rings for controlling animals dates to the dawn of civilization. They were designed to be installed in the nasal septum of domestic cattle. Control of the animal may be done by holding the ring by hand, looping a piece of rope through it, clipping on a lead rope, or clipping onto a stiff bull pole. The rings shown here are self-locking or spring-closing show-lead nose rings, also called "bulldogs" or nose grips and are removable rings that do not require the nose to be pierced. They are often used on steers and cows, along with a halter, at agricultural shows, or when handling cattle for examination, marking or treatment. They stay shut until released.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 147

FANNING MILL



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

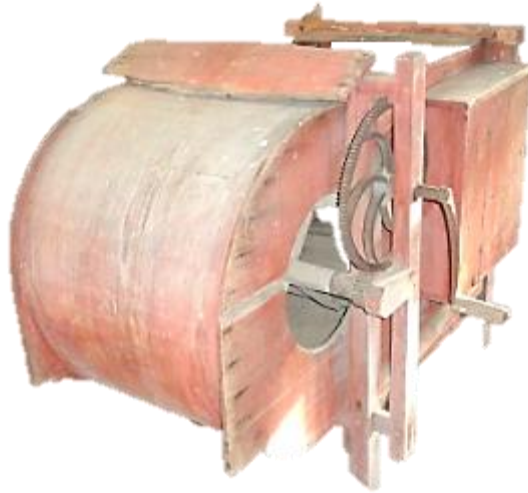
Fanning mills have shaking sieves (screens) over which the threshed grain kernels mixed with bits of straw, stone and soil were rattled. This mill has a fan operated by the crank on the side that blows air across and upward through the screens to float off the lighter debris.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

FANNING MILL



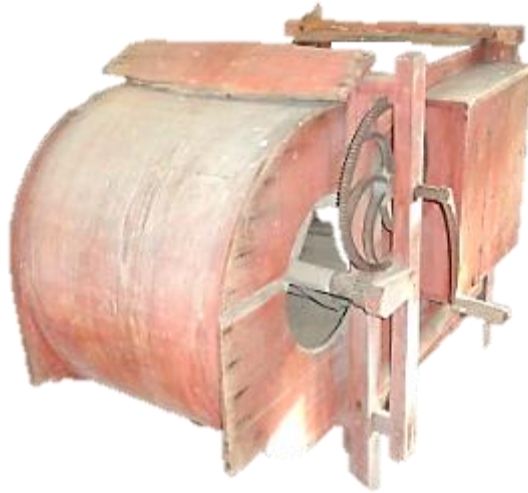
Our ancestors harvested grain, stalks and all, which were then brought to the barn to be threshed. This was done by dragging sledges over it or having the horses systematically trod on it. The grain then had to be cleaned. The grain and chaff were placed in winnowing pans and tossed in the air where the wind would blow the chaff away and the heavier grain would fall back into the chaffing pan. All in all a very labor intensive and tedious job that required a good deal of skill to get all the grain to fall back into the pan. Over the centuries various attempts were made to improve on this process.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

FANNING MILL



It is said that the Chinese developed a winnowing machine (a rotary fan in a box) as far back as 200 BC. The Dutch East India Merchants brought this back to Europe in the 1500's where finally in 1710 a Scottish millwright developed a hand-operated winnower. The clergy railed against these devices as the "Devil's Wind" the thinking being that "wind should only be solicited through prayer". In spite of this the winnower (or fanning machine as it was called) was very popular and by the 1760's the millwright was commercially producing these fanning mills.

The fanning mills used in the old grain mills had 3 screens used interchangeably for the different kinds of grain.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

FANNING MILL

HOPPER

SIEVES



**FORCED
AIR**

Modern grain mills accomplish this by use of a machine known as a separator. Like the fanning mill, using the separator removes straw, chaff, stones, dirt and dust, weed seeds, and light immature seeds from grain. The raw grain is placed in the hopper on top where it falls onto the shaking sieves where it is rattled. The separator also blows air across and upward through the sieves to float off the lighter debris.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 150

PRIMITIVE CORN SHELLER



This was used to remove the corn from the cob. It was probably used for feed corn as the operator would have little control over the shelling. After the corn was shelled the cobs were also collected and placed in a little container in the outhouse and used in lieu of toilet tissue.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 153

HAND CORNSTALK CUTTER



This primitive antique tool was used around the early part of the 1900s and before, to cut the cornstalks - either for harvesting the corn, or to cut the green stalks and feed them to the cattle after the corn became mature.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 156

HAND CRANK CORN SHELLER/HUSKER



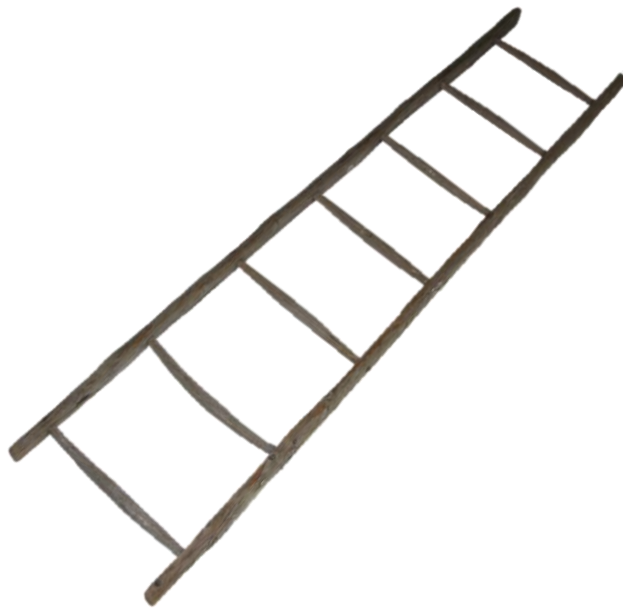
This is an improvement over the “Primitive Corn Sheller”. This device was manufactured in Boston, MA by Nourse & Co. of Merchants Row. The unshelled corn cob was slid down the small chute at the top as the crank was turned. The interior mechanism would shell the corn from the cob and drop the kernels to a receptacle placed below and the cobs were expelled through the opening in the end.

Invented by Joshua Armsby (his name appears lettered on this device) and patented January 7, 1851 (patent # 7881).

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 159

HAND HEWN LADDER



Our ancestors did not have the luxury of being able to purchase a ladder when needed. They had to hand cut, hew and assemble their own. Surprisingly strong even after ~100 years, this ladder is still serviceable.

On the museum's upper level is a ladder such as this that is 30' long.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 162

BLUEBERRY RAKE



The blueberry rake was invented by a Down East man, Abijah Tabbut, and has long been the main instrument used in harvesting low bush blueberries that grow naturally (high bush blueberries are cultivated and a much larger, a different kind of rake is used to harvest them). The user of this low bush rake bends down to the bottom of the blueberry bush and drags the rake up through the bush shaking the rake as they drag it to dislodge more berries from the bush. This allows the user to rake the blueberries from the plant without harming the plant or damaging the blueberry.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 165

CRANBERRY SCOOP



The cranberry scoop is believed to have first been used in the 1850's. This tool allowed the user to dry harvest the cranberries (rather than wet harvest them in flooded bogs). It would allow the user to remove the cranberry from the vine without injuring the vine. This early type scoop was replaced by a "rocker scoop" ~1912. The rocker scoop is similar but has two handles so it can be rocked back and forth as it is lifted through the plant allowing the user to gather more berries.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 168

CRANBERRY RAKE



Unlike the cranberry scoop used in dry harvesting, the rake was used to gather free floating berries from the flooded bog in a wet harvest. This allowed the user to gather the floating berries into one area where it was easier to pick them up.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 171

APPLE TREE PRUNING POLE



Apple trees require constant pruning to control unwanted growth that would take energy away from the growing of the apples themselves. In order to facilitate this pruning and lessen the need to climb ladders, the orchard grower employed these pruning poles. They are very similar to the modern fiberglass poles you see folks using to trim small limbs and other unwanted growth from their own yard trees.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 174

APPLE PICKING POLE BASKET



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 slip the pole basket over the apple and jostle the apple loose into the wire basket. This basket is fastened to the end of a 14' wooden pole.

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

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 177

APPLE PICKING CONTAINER



This was worn around the neck and shoulders of the person picking the apples. Once full it would be emptied into one of the apple crates. The expanded cloth bottom allowed the container to hold far more apples than what could be stored in just the metal bucket section alone.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 180

APPLE CRATES



These are a part of the history of Francestown where in the early days many orchards dotted the town. Ripened apples were picked and stored in these crates which were in turn kept in the many apple barns in the town. Many of these apple barns remain – one being across the common from the museum next to the Old Meeting House.

**THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS
ARE LOCATED ON THE UPPER
LEVEL OF THE MUSEUM**

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 183

GRANGE SIGN



This sign belonged to the Oak Hill Grange #32 (New Hampshire State Grange Of The Patrons Of Husbandry #32). Before merging with the Grange in Antrim in 2010 they annually sponsored ‘Meet the Candidates Night’ prior to town meeting and elections and named a “citizen of the year” which could be an individual or organization. Also in the Heritage Museum collection are additional Grange memorabilia.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 186

1937 JOHN DEERE "B" TRACTOR



This 1937 unstyled "B" tractor was one of the last tractors that needed to be manually started by turning ("cranking") the flywheel by hand. It also has two fuel tanks – this tractor was started using the fuel in the gas tank and once warmed up was switched over and ran on the fuel in the kerosene tank (kerosene was a much cheaper fuel in those days). Purchased in Nelson, NY in 1937 it was then sold to a farm in Oxford, ME before coming to Francetown.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 189

METAL FARM SEAT



This is a vented iron seat manufactured by Walter A. Wood – a leading maker of a wide variety of metal seats for farm equipment. Seats such as this might be found on tractors and some tow-behind equipment where an operator sat. You can use your own imagination to guess the comfort of such a seat while riding over a rough field all day long. The Walter A. Wood company dates to 1852 when they made mowing and reaping machines and eventually other farm equipment such as these seats.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 192

WOODEN BARN RAMP



Ramps such as this made it easier to access barn floors that were not at grade level. Before the museum building in which you are standing was moved here from Weare, NH., this was a dairy barn. This ramp went to a side door in that barn. Due to size it remains on the upper level

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 195

COW STANCHIONS



These were in this barn before it was moved to Francetown and converted into the museum. Due to their size they were not able to be displayed on the lower level and are located upstairs. The stanchion is used to assist in milking cows by holding the cow in place while still allowing them to eat and drink. Since most cows found this to be a pleasant experience, on their own they each went to their own stanchion each time they were milked.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 198

GRAPPLE FORK TYPE HAY LIFTER with TROLLEY



This fork type hay lifter was used to get hay up into the loft of the barn. The grapple would be lowered to the hay wagon and a worker would set the forks into the loose hay. A horse would pull the load up to the loft where the lifter would lock onto the trolley. The worker in the loft could then move the load along a track above the loft. This allowed the worker to move the hay to where he wanted it and then release the forks, dumping the hay.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 201

WOOD MOLDBOARD BOG HARROW



Each blade turned the earth as it was pulled across the ground by horses or oxen. Early American farmers made this V-frame plow that consisted of timbers with shallow blades attached. Especially useful on just cleared fields that often were full of stumps and rocks (sure sounds like NH). The A-frame harrow was strong and would slide around obstructions rather than get caught on them.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 204

APPLE SPRAYER



At the time this sprayer was likely utilized the insecticide of choice was Lead Arsenate, sounds bad - is bad. Not that more modern generations have done much better – remember the ALAR spray debacle.

Francestown had many apple orchards and several old apple barns still remain in town.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 207

THE APPLE PICKING LADDER



This apple ladder was used to reach high into trees so it is narrow at the top. The wide stance at the bottom helps to stabilize the ladder.

REVISE 8/28/2020

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM #

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