

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



VISITORS GUIDE COMMERCE SECTION

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

ITEM #

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.

THE COMMERCE COLLECTION

The COMMERCE collection is arranged to give some insight into the items needed in life that the individual could not provide on their own for the family. Commerce in earlier times relied not only on currency but on barter. The farmer who had to have a miller grind his grain might have paid the miller in grain or other commodity which the farmer could offer in trade.

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ITEM # 601

THE TWO-MAN SAW



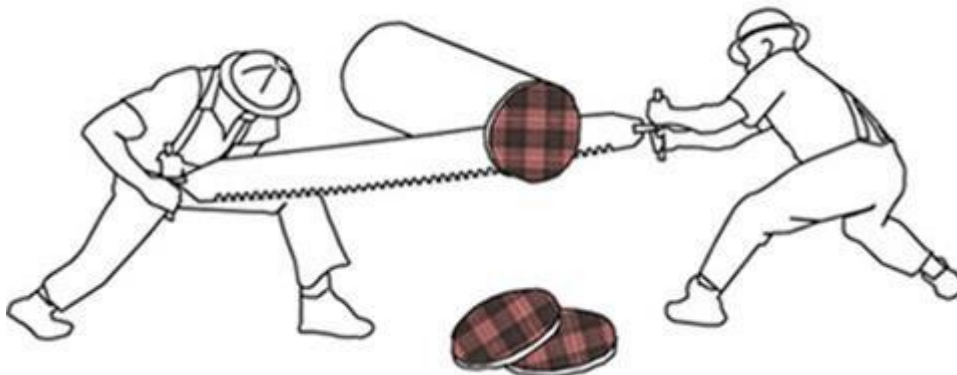
Lumbering in the old days was not for the faint of heart or those with a weak back. For felling trees the preferred tools were the axe and the two-man saw. A two-man saw is designed for use by two logger/sawyers. Two-man saws were designed to cut in both directions. Careful tooth design was necessary to clear the sawdust during the cut. Using a two-man saw involved a logger/sawyer standing at each end. Together they would alternate pulling the saw through the wood.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

THE TWO-MAN SAW



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ITEM # 603

UP and DOWN/PIT SAW



Once the tree was cut the log had to be cut into boards or timbers that could be used for building. Before saw mills, this was done in a variety of ways but one common method was the use of the pit saw.

The pit saw was also known as an up and down saw.

CONTINUED



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PIT SAWING - MANUALLY



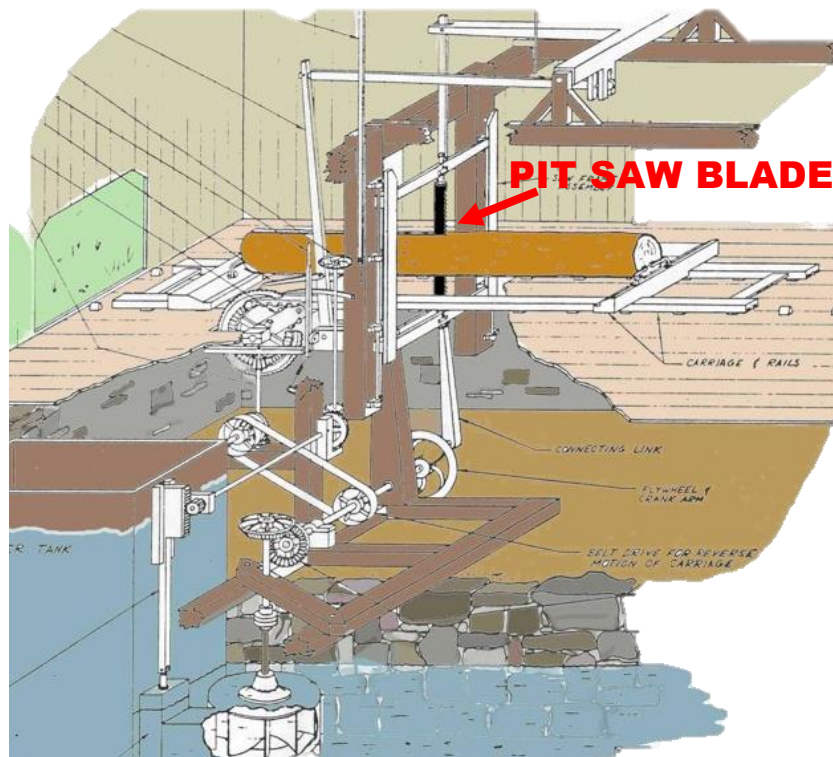
Originally a piece of timber to be cut was positioned over a pit and a long two-handed saw was moved up and down by two men, one standing above the timber and the other below in the pit. The upper sawyer was called the 'Top man;' he followed the marked line to make a straight plank, and the 'Underman' pushed the pit saw upward.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

PIT SAWING – WATER POWERED MILL



As mills harnessed water power the saw was attached to a series of belts and gears that moved the saw up and down so the men no longer had to perform this back breaking work. On old pit-sawn boards you will see the saw marks going straight across the face of the board. In this application the saw was referred to as an “up and down” saw.

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ITEM # 606

CIRCULAR MILL SAW BLADE

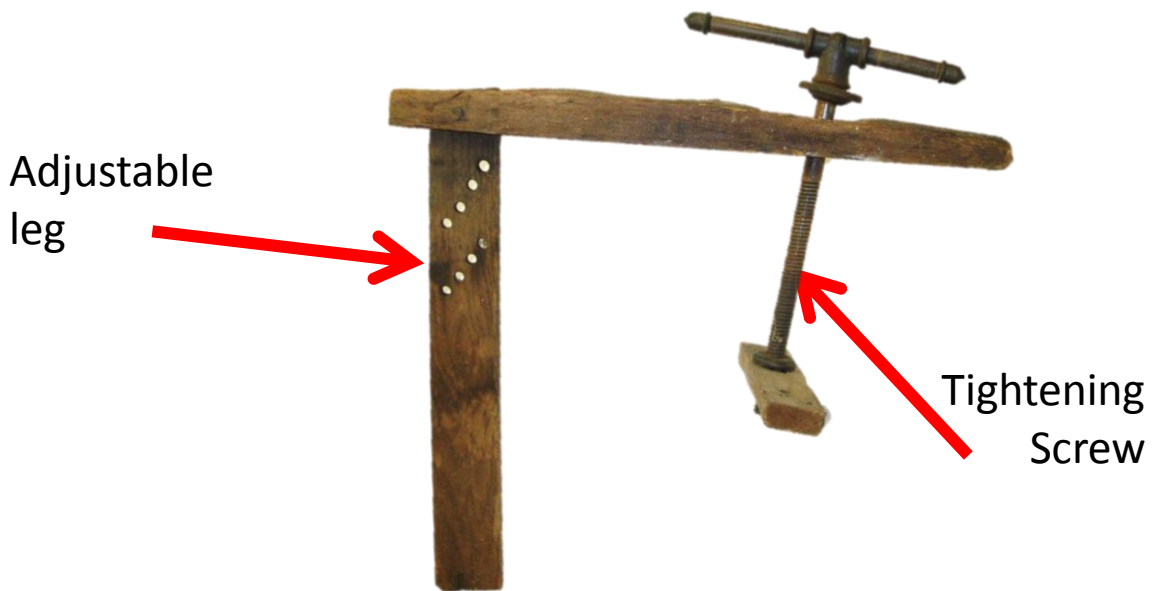


As sawmills became more prevalent the circular saw was introduced. This was common in the local water-powered sawmills. Often referred to as the head saw – this was the primary saw for cutting logs into boards. The earlier sawmills were water powered but once motors became more available they were used to power the mills.

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ITEM # 609

WOODEN BENCH VISE



This device is used to hold an item being worked on to the bench. The leg with the spaced holes is inserted into a slot in the bench top and a peg is placed through one of the holes to hold the vise open to approximately the size of the piece you will be working on. The screw is then used to tighten the piece to the bench and hold it fast.

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ITEM # 612

MILL ROLLER



While water-powered mills made life much easier for workers, a good deal of manual labor was still involved in moving items around. Mills often relied on wooden rollers (single or a series of them) to facilitate the movement of goods.

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ITEM # 615

WHEEL BARROW



Unlike today's modern, mass-produced wheelbarrows of plastic, fiberglass or steel, our ancestor's wheelbarrows were the product of real craftsmanship. The wooden wheel with tight fitting wooden spokes were all made by hand as was the wheelbarrow itself. Quite likely the local wheelwright did this work and was aided by the local blacksmith who made the iron components.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 618

SHAVING HORSE

A common tool for wheelwrights, coopers and other woodworkers. A shaving horse is a combination of vice and workbench, used for green woodworking.

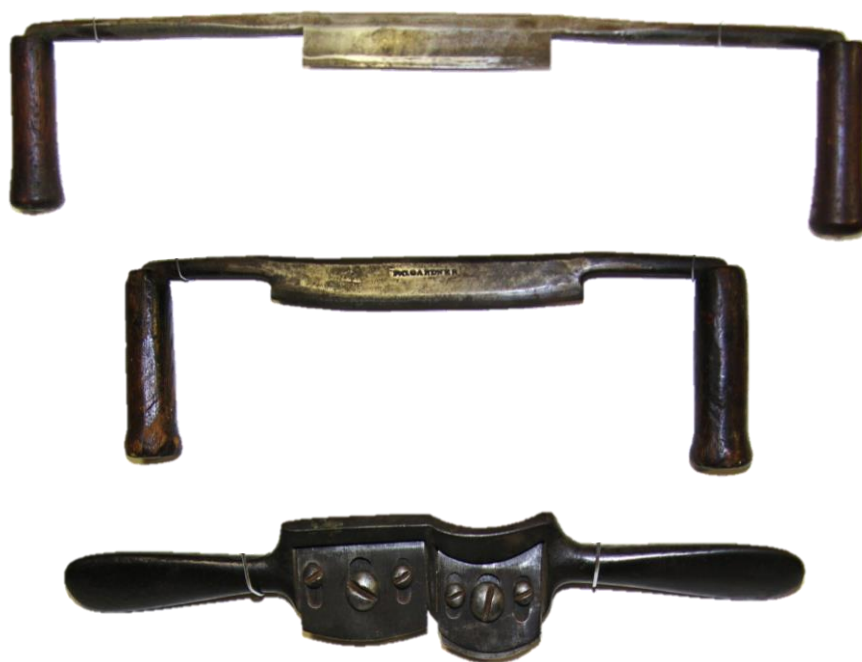
Typical usage of the shaving horse is to create a round profile along a square piece, such as for a wheel spoke, chair leg or to prepare a workpiece for the pole lathe.



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 621

DRAW KNIVES



These stave knives and spoke shave were used by the person (cooper, wheelwright, furniture maker, et al) to shape the square wood stock in the bench vise into the rounded pattern they desired. With the user sitting on the shave bench the handles of the knife were held in the right and left hand of the user and drawn back toward his/her torso along the piece of wood to be shaped.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 624

HARNESS MAKERS VISE



This allows a harness maker to sew leather and have an extra set of hands. The lever on the bottom has a bar that adjusts to allow the vise to be opened and closed.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 627

FARRIERS SHOEING BOX



This box held the various horseshoes and nails needed by the blacksmith or farrier for fitting the animal with the horseshoes.

This is a classic pattern farrier's box with the lower section for shoeing tools and an upper tray for nails and small implements.

CONTINUED



The tools include two patterns of shoeing hammers for driving in the nails once the shoe is fitted (1), an iron working hammer for shaping the shoe to fit the horse's hoof (2), a hoof knife(3) - T.J. Pope's patent of June 24, 1884, a farrier's rasp (file) used for smoothing and evening a hoof after trimming (4) - modified by the addition of a brass handle probably taken from a Hames finial, hoof nippers for removing hoof growth (5), and nippers for removing old hoof nails (6).

1



2



3



4



5



6

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ITEM # 630

ICE SAW



Ice was the first important product of the year, being harvested in January and February. In Frankestown, most ice was taken from Scobie Pond. An ice saw was used to cut the ice into blocks and the blocks were pulled from the pond with ice tongs (see next exhibit). An ice winch (see the exhibit after next) was then used to pull the ice block to shore to be stored in the icehouse where it was packed in sawdust to prevent thawing.



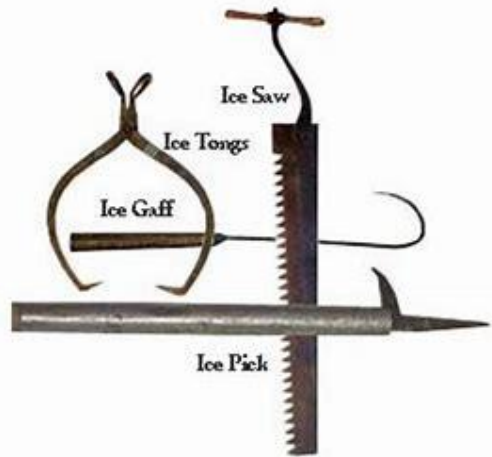
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FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ICE BLOCK HARVEST

In addition to the ice tongs and ice saws several other hand tools were also used to facilitate the ice harvest. This would include an ice pick and an ice gaff.



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 633

ICE CHISLES

Men with the saws did not need to cut out each individual ice block. It was often faster to cut out a line of several ice blocks, then have a man with a heavy chisel jam the tool into the deep groove between two ice blocks and pop them apart. The ice would usually break smoothly along the line.



CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ICE CHISELS

An alternative to using ice saws were large ice plows which were pulled by horses to cut deep grooves into the surface of a frozen pond. Usually one man walked beside the horse to keep it going in a straight line. A second man followed behind the horse and held the handles of the plow.

Smaller ice plows were pushed by one man. These were typically used by a family for cutting ice, and not for large scale commercial operations.

The front cutting edge of each saw made a cut about 1/4" deep in the ice. Each cutting edge that followed cut the ice another 1/4". If a saw had eight cutting edges it would cut a total of 2" each time it passed.

Plows were used to cut through about 2/3 of the thickness of the ice. If the ice was cut too deeply it might break and the horse and men would fall into the pond.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ICE CHISELS

Alas, the Heritage Museum does not have an ice plow. Below is a photo of one from the Woods Hole Museum.



The lines scored in the ice by the ice plow are clearly visible. It was into these lines that the ice chisel was driven to break off the individual blocks of ice which would be stored in the ice house on shore until needed later in the year.

The February 2019 Heritage Museum Newsletter details the ice harvesting operation. A complimentary copy will be e-mailed to you upon request.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 636

ICE BLOCK TONGS



Ice was the first important product of the year being harvested in January and February. In Francetown, most ice was taken from Scobie Pond. An ice saw (see previous exhibit) was used to cut the ice into blocks and the blocks were pulled from the pond with these ice tongs. An ice winch(see next exhibit) was then used to pull the ice to shore to be stored in the icehouse where it was packed in sawdust to prevent thawing.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 639

PEDAL POWER GRINDING WHEEL



This grind stone was used by our ancestors to sharpen hoes, axes, and whatever else they needed sharpened. The wheels were commonly made from sandstone and were meant for slow speed revolution. The box that encloses the bottom portion of the wheel contained water to keep the wheel moist as it rotated.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 642

BARREL LIFTER



This device was used to lift drums and barrels. The hooks on the side slide under the rim of the drum and a lifting device (winch, block and tackle, et al) was attached to the ring at the top.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 645

ROPE BARREL LIFTER



Like the previous drum lifter this device was used to lift drums and barrels. The hooks on the side slide under the rim of the drum and a lifting device (winch, block and tackle, et al) was attached to the ring at the top.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 648

BARREL CART



Of course lifting the drum or barrel is one thing. Transporting it from one place to another was best done by placing the now lifted barrel onto a cart and wheeling it to the desired location.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 651

COOPER BARREL HEADER



The wooden kegs and barrels had tight fitting wooden tops and bottoms. Once the barrel was made a means had to be developed to allow inserting the top once the barrel was complete – hence the barrel header tool. The metal hooks attached to the bottom of the barrel. The screw on the top was tightened against the barrel top to press the top into the groove around the top of the barrel to seal the barrel tight.

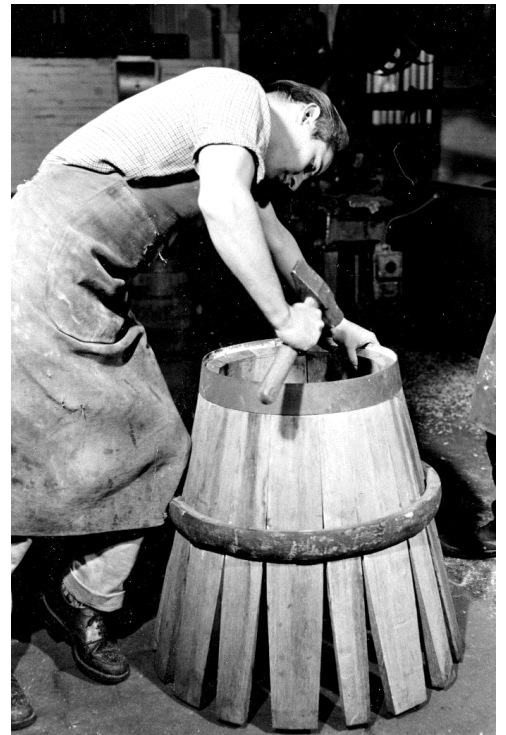
FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 654

WOODEN KEG or BARREL



For our early ancestors, cardboard was not an option for storing or shipping goods. Items with any weight were stored and transported in wooden kegs and barrels. An entire trade arose out of providing for this need. The “cooper” was a maker of wooden kegs and barrels.



**Cooper making
a barrel**

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 657

BARREL CROSS CALIPER



The cross calipers were used to determine the size of barrels and kegs in order to determine the quantity of product contained in them. The barrel or cask was laid on its side and the calipers extended to determine the diameter of the barrel at the widest and narrowest point. The capacity of the barrel was determined from these measurements. Some calipers had built-in factors that accounted for the thickness of the staves.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

BARREL CROSS CALIPERS



A cross caliper in use by London excise agents.



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 660

WOODEN WAGON WHEEL ARCS



A close look at our vehicles with wooden wheels will show that the wood part of the wheel between the metal rim and the spokes consists of a series of short wooden arcs. These were fitted to the spokes. The iron wheel rim was heated by a blacksmith to expand the metal and then it was fitted over the arcs. Cold water was poured on the metal rim to cool it and shrink it onto the wheel and arcs and hold them all onto the spokes and hub. This outer rim of the wheel was known as the felloes.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

WOODEN WAGON WHEEL ARCS



These arcs were held in alignment by a steel spline inserted into a groove in the center of the end of each arc. Once the spokes and hub were in place a continuous steel rim was heated until the steel was cherry red and fitted over the rim of the wooden arcs. Cold water was then thrown on the steel rim which caused it to shrink tightly onto the wooden arcs and the wheel was ready to be mounted on the vehicle. See The Heritage Museum Newsletter for November 2019 for a more in-depth review of how a wheel was made.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 663

WHEELWRIGHT'S MALLET



The wheelwright was essential to the community making a wide variety of wood goods including the wooden wheels for the horse drawn vehicles. This mallet would have been used to drive the wooden spokes into the wheel hub and wheel arcs. The wheelwright was often the community undertaker as the coffins were often made in his shop.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 666

PACIFIC RIM TOOL



This Tool was used when changing a tire on the old "spit rims". Notice the tires and rims on the old Dodge on display on the upper level of the museum.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

PACIFIC RIM TOOL



How to use a rim tool:

- 1. First deflate the tire.**
- 2. Second unlock the split rim. There should be either a bolt, or a twist lever holding the two halves together.**
- 3. Install the rim spreader so that the hook connected to the jack is on the right of the locking device, and the two other hooks are equally spread around the rim. Turn the crank to pull the free edge of the rim inward toward the center of the rim just enough to clear the other edge and slowly, carefully compress the rim enough to pry the tire off the rim.**

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

PACIFIC RIM TOOL



4. When you install the new tire, use a flap with the inner tube inside the tire and put in enough air to keep the tube round. Push the tire on the rim.
5. Reverse the rim spreader so the hook with the jack is opposite the split in the rim and the other two hooks are equally spaced on both sides of the split. The tool should make a Y when properly placed. Now slowly turn the handle the other direction to push the rim back into place.
6. Lock the rim and inflate.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 669

WAGON JACKS



Horse drawn buggies, wagons, etc. did not get flat tires per se but they did get broken wheels which required jacking up the conveyance to change the wheel.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 672

CHEESE PRESS



This cheese press is another example of the many and varied tasks necessary to live everyday life years ago.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

CHEESE PRESS



The cheese press works by pressing curds from the milk of your cows or goats. The press generates approximately 50 pounds of pressure. This force keeps the curds pressed together and is known as “knitting”. While the cheese press provides the force, the actual hardness is determined beforehand by the size of the curds, and the temperature and moisture content when they are stirred or prepared for the press.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 675

MILK DELIVERY CRATE



A bit of nostalgia for our more “experienced” guests – the days when a milkman (although this writer had a milkmaid – Susan Hancock) brought the milk to your house. But gone are those days when the milkman brought the milk to your house and would come into your kitchen to place it in your icebox. Before plastic bottles, milk, butter and cream were bought at the market milk was delivered to your home in glass bottles. The milkman would use wooden crates to contain his bottles on the delivery vehicle while some customers would have such a crate at their back door for the milkman to leave his order.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 678

EGG DELIVERY BOX



The same milkman would also deliver not only dairy products but also your eggs. The eggs were placed in separators and then put in these crates for delivery.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 681

SAUSAGE STUFFER



This is a vertical sausage/meat stuffer. Place the ground meat in the metal canister and push down on the ram forcing the meat through the spout into the casing.

This tin with wood ram stuffer is mounted in a wooden hanger to facilitate use.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 684

LARD PRESS



Lard is derived from the pork rinds and fat of a butchered pig. The fat is cut in cubes and cooked until the liquid comes from the cubes. This liquid lard is poured off and saved (this process may be repeated several times). The remaining cubes are placed in the lard press and squeezed to remove any remaining lard. The lard is strained and saved until needed. The remaining solids are now known as cracklings and can be further heated and eaten.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 687

FORGED WROUGHT IRON GAME/BUTCHER HOOK



Perfect for hanging that prized deer up after a successful hunt. They were also commonly seen in use by butchers back in colonial times. They could be found with four or up to 8 hooks on a single hanger.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 690

CARCASS SCALE



This is an iron long arm merchant hook, weight and balance butcher's scale. This type scale was in common use by local stores and merchants to weigh hanging cuts of meat. This scale was also a hit with hunters who could take it out in the field and immediately establish "bragging rights" as to who had the largest deer.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 693

WIRE STRETCHING TOOL



Wire stretchers are an essential tool when installing or maintaining a straight wire, barbed wire or woven wire fence. The wire end is placed in the grip on the left ring. The right ring is fastened to some type of pulling device (come-along, pulley or even an animal) and drawn tight before fastening to the fence post, et al.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 696

RESTRAINING TRAP MECHANISM



Traps were an invaluable tool for our ancestors. Both for animal control of predators and also as an important part of commerce where they were essential in the fur trade for trapping animals.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 699

BLACKSMITH'S LADLE



Blacksmiths often had a need to melt metal to form various necessities such as shot for muzzle loaders, fishing sinkers, etc. Lead was the metal used to make items such as these. Pieces of lead were melted down in a pot over an open fire. This molten lead would then be ladled out of the pot and poured into a mold or wherever else needed and allowed to harden.

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ITEM # 702

WOODEN JACK PLANE



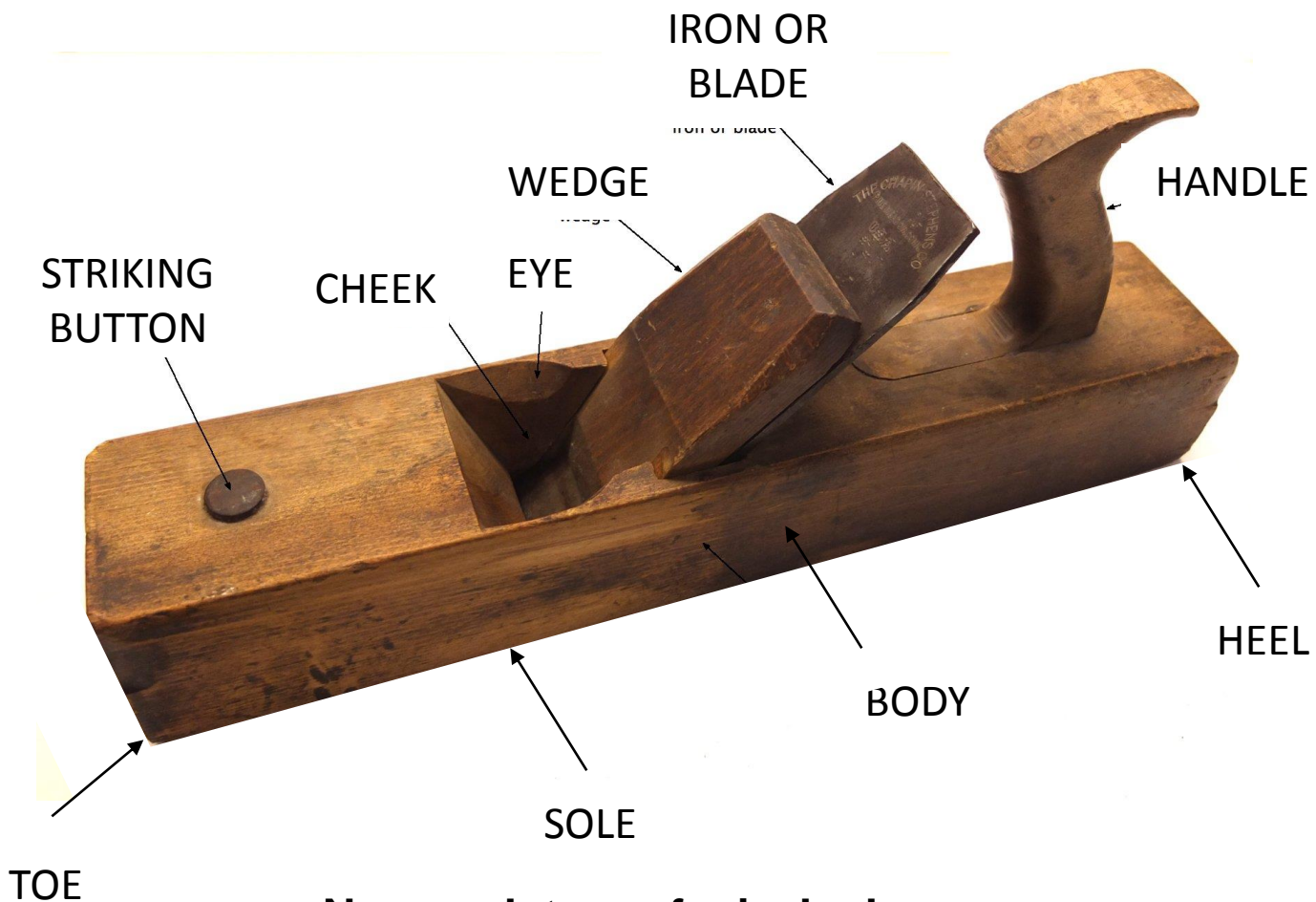
A jack plane is sometimes referred to as a fore plane. It is a general-purpose woodworking plane, used for reducing timber down to the correct size before final preparation for the end use of the timber. It is usually the first plane used on rough stock.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

WOODEN JACK PLANE



Nomenclature of a jack plane

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 705

SHEEP SHEARS



Many sheep farmers today use electric shears. But before electric shears hand shearing was done in the same way as our ancestors.

A hand-sheared sheep will produce more wool than an electric-sheared sheep. Hand-shearing is completely safe and minimally stressful to the sheep.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 708

COBBLER'S SHOE REST



The cobbler's shoe rest was generally used while making a minor repair to a shoe or as a rest while shining shoes. In either case the shoe was still being worn by the person and the rest provided a convenient and comfortable spot for the foot while making the shoe readily accessible to the cobbler. They were not routinely used by shoe makers.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

COBBLER'S SHOE REST



In our ancestors time there existed a definite distinction between a cobbler and a shoe maker (or cordwainer as they were know in England). A shoemaker is a skilled craftsperson working with new leather. While a cobbler used only old leather for the repairs and was considered to be an unskilled person. Indeed cobble is a term that also means to work clumsily or bungle. The coming of the industrial age and mass manufactured shoes forced the two trades to merge as the shoemakers were out of work.

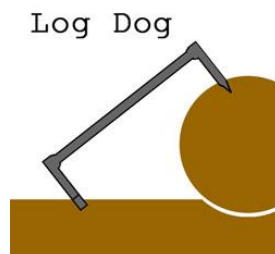
FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 711

LOG DOG



An essential item when building a log home, log dogs were used to hold two logs in place while you worked on them. Sometimes known as “Timber Dogs” or “Spike Dogs” they are little more than big metal staples. When working on a log you need at least two of these – one for each end of the log you are working on.



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 714

WOODEN MALLET a/k/a BEADLE



This wooden mallet is sometimes referred to as a “beadle” and is an essential timber framing tool. The beadle is always needed at some time during the raising of a timber frame or post and beam structure. They are used to help seat joinery together, shift posts or beams and sometimes to drive wooden pegs. This tool was very common at barn raisings and other events where timber frames were assembled.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 717

PITCH FORK



The pitch fork was an essential tool for both picking up loose hay and for placing it where wanted. See the July 2020 issue of the Heritage Museum Newsletter for additional details on haying in the day of horse power before horsepower.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 720

ADZE



The adze is a cutting tool shaped somewhat like an axe that dates back to the stone age. It can be any tool with a sharp cutting edge. Adzes are used for smoothing or carving wood in hand woodworking, similar to an axe but with the cutting edge perpendicular to the handle. Two basic forms of an adze are the hand adze, a short handled tool swung with one hand, and a foot adze, a long handled tool for powerful swings using both hands, the cutting edge usually striking at foot or shin level. A similar, but blunt, tool used for digging in hard ground is called a mattock.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 723

COAL SHOVEL



This coal shovel is from the A.E. Carr farm at the corner of Second New Hampshire Turnpike So. and Cross Road.

As technology and the standard of living improved, heating units that were fired with coal became more common. The labor intensity of burning wood was replaced with that of shoveling coal.

Don't you just love your modern day thermostat?

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 726

WOODEN WHITE WASH BUCKET AND SPRAYER



Used to mix the water and lime that made white wash. The white wash sprayer could then be set in the bucket and the mixture sprayed on the surface to be coated.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

WHITE WASH SPRAYER



We all know the story of how Tom Sawyer tricked a bunch of boys into whitewashing his Aunt Polly's fence. However even though we've all heard of whitewash, most of us probably think it's paint. But in reality whitewash isn't paint at all; it's a very thin plaster, made by mixing water with lime and various other ingredients. About the only similarity whitewash has to paint is that it's used to color walls (or of course fences) and it was applied with a paintbrush or sprayer such as this.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 729

BRUSH CLEARING HOOK



The brush clearing hook resembles an axe, generally with the blade attached to a relatively short handle. It is commonly used by firefighters to clear out heavy undergrowth, as well as by homeowners and gardeners to clear thick brush.

The blade on modern brush hooks is often curved in a hook formation.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 732

POST HOLE DIGGER



This post hole digger combines a single sharpened blade with hinge action that acts like a bucket to bring loose soil to the surface. Also called a “mud bucket”. The digger is able to swivel the blade from its upright cutting angle to the 90 degree angle that will lift the soil out of the hole.

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ITEM # 735

HAND SICKLES

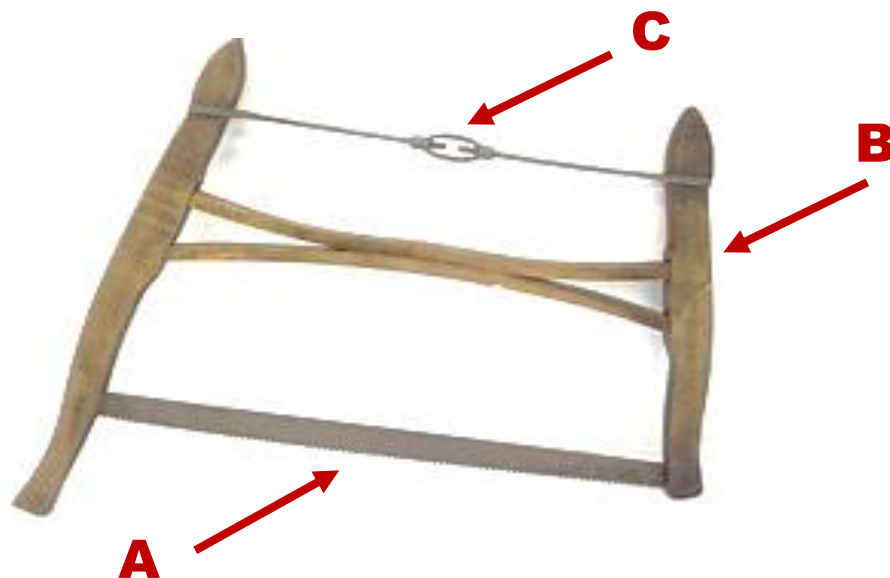


A sickle, aka a reaping-hook is a single-handed agricultural tool designed with a curved blade and typically used for harvesting, or reaping, grain crops or cutting grass either freshly cut or dried as hay.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 738

BUCKSAW



This is an essential tool around the home generally used with a sawbuck to cut logs or firewood to length . Hallmarks of these saws (which are similar to a bow saw) are the wood frame in an “H” shape and a removable blade (“A”) with coarse teeth held in tension by the frame (“B”) and stretched tight by a tensioning system that can be adjusted by a turnbuckle (“C”). It easily slices through the toughest timber. The saw’s square frame maximizes the effective cutting length of the blade, and its long handle permits two-handed sawing.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

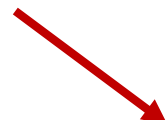
ITEM # 741

TURBINE TYPE BARN ROOF VENTILATOR



This turbine type ventilator was used to help circulate air through the barn loft. This would help in drying the hay and keeping the loft cool. The advantage of this old style turbine roof vent is that it does not require electricity because it uses wind and warm air to ventilate the barn.

See operating details



BARN TURBINE TYPE ROOF VENTILATOR

This type of ventilator is a combination of both a natural and a forced air ventilation system.

- As a forced ventilation system wind pressure forces the air to move through the openings of the ventilator turbine. This causes the ventilator turbine to turn and in so doing it creates a slight vacuum inside which draws air up out of the building.**
- As a natural ventilation system when the heat inside the barn builds up it rises and collects inside the ventilator. As it tries to escape from the ventilator turbine it causes a backward pressure on the vanes causing them to rotate. When the ventilator blades of the turbine rotate it creates a vacuum inside the turbine which draws even more warm air up from inside the barn. As the hot air is thrown out, fresh air starts entering through windows and door openings in the building below. This works to create a perfect exhaust.**

A further benefit of the turbine type ventilator is there is no operating cost as it works on free wind and warm air energy.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 744

PRIDMORE BOOK PRESS

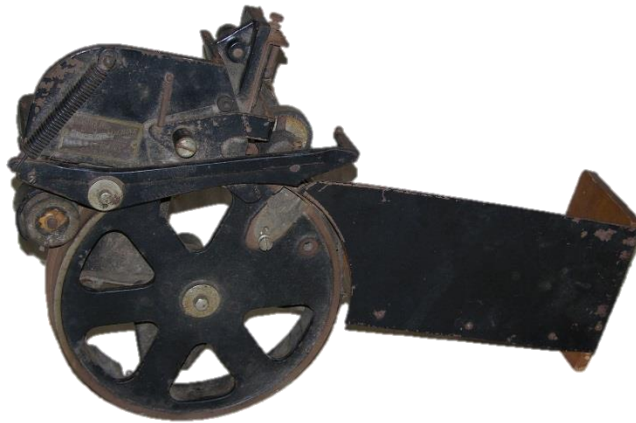


A Pridmore #3 Book Press made by the Pridmore Automatic Screw Company in Chicago, ~1870. This heavy steel press allowed the pages and covers of a book to be pressed together and held in place while the binding was glued and/or stitched.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 747

POST OFFICE CANCELATION MACHINE



For many years the Post Office was a part of the Coburn Store whose final note in history was a devastating fire in 1965 that threatened the entire village.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 750

LEATHER POSTCARDS



Starting in the 1880's people did send leather postcards through the US Mail. It was not until the 1940's that the Post Office no longer accepted them.

Leather post cards were often the same size as a standard postcard and often had some scene or caption embossed into the leather on one side. On the other side was your written note and the address to the recipient.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

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

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 753

EAGLE



This is the original eagle from the top of the Town Hall tower. It was replaced many years ago with the fiberglass replica that currently graces the Town Hall tower. As the story goes, marksmen were in the habit of taking occasional shots at the bird which led to the wings breaking off. A look at the rear of the wings indicated that a good deal of repair was done to reattach the wings and it was felt that it was no longer stable enough to withstand the weather.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

EAGLE



A visitor once asked if Francetown was at war? They went on to say that an eagle looking over the left wing is a symbol of being at war, while an eagle looking over the right wing is a symbol of being at peace.

In checking it was learned that the right/left notion is a common belief and does in fact have some basis in history. The eagle which is our country's symbol is depicted holding an olive branch (symbolizing peace) in its right talon, while in its left talon it holds arrows (symbolizing battle). The original US eagle symbol was looking over its left wing, possibly symbolizing the revolutionary war of the time. However, in 1945, at the conclusion of the Second World War, then President Harry Truman authorized a new version of the symbol with the eagle looking over the right wing (the side holding the olive branch) and the symbol of our country has remained that way ever since.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

THE EAGLE



Since the original Francetown eagle dates to the building of the Town Hall in 1846, it depicts the eagle of that time (the one looking left). So no, the Town of Francetown has not declared war. We are only being true to the history of that time.

The sharp eyed among our readers have noticed our eagle does not have an olive branch in its right talon, nor does it have arrows in the left. While the lack of same probably made securing the eagle to its lofty perch more stable, this is not the US eagle – it is that of Francetown.

For our more inquisitive visitors – The eagle holds 13 arrows in its left talon. There are also 13 leaves on the olive branch. Quite likely this was to represent the original 13 colonies.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 756

LOG SCALE



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 amount of wood harvested per tree. This one has the name of the maker stamped on the stick - L.B. Sargent, Lincoln N.H. Also on the stick is a metal N.H. Department of Agriculture Tested tag number 53.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM 759

PLATFORM SCALE



This was widely used by general stores, hardware and farm supply stores to weigh general merchandise in every form, such as bulky or heavy goods including bags of grain, drums or barrels and many other items.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 762

SHIPPING CRATE



An important link in commerce was being able to ship goods from a willing seller to a willing buyer. Many items not available in Francestown were made in Boston, MA and other more urban areas. Shipping goods was done primarily by railroad and then onto the local stage coach.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

SHIPPING CRATE



The Downe's Store in Francetown used to carry a line of Wedgewood cups which were made in Boston. Carefully packed in this wooden crate they then either went by rail to NH and for the final leg of the journey to town by stage or the entire journey by stage. The thought of a wooden crate full of fragile Wedgewood china bouncing over dirt and corduroy roads is not for the faint of heart.

The markings on this crate clearly indicate that this was sent from Boston with Wedgewood china for the Down's Store.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 765

CEMETERY #3 WATER PUMP



This was the hand water pump from cemetery #3 that was replaced by an electric pump.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 768

OLD MEETING HOUSE SPIRE VANE FINIAL



This bulb came from the tip of the weather vane on top of the Old Meeting House spire when it was removed for repairs in the 1980's.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 771

LIGHTNING RODS



These metal rods were placed high on a structure to conduct electrical current from a lightning strike through a heavy wire directly to the ground, preventing the current from injuring people or animals.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

LIGHTNING ROD

The rods terminate with a sharp point at the top. The idea being to bleed off and prevent any static charge build up before a lightning strike becomes possible.

It was said (?) that the glass bulbs on lightning rods will kind of glow or irradiate a blue ring around them before lightning strikes the barn.

However, as an early warning device it was not very early. There is usually only about 5-30 seconds notice, or lightning may not strike at all.

At any rate, if you are up putting shingles on the roof and you see the blue glow around the glass bulb - GET OFF!



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 774

CASKET



You often hear the terms casket and coffin used interchangeably, but there is a notable difference. The shape of a coffin is hexagonal or octagonal to simulate the shape of a dead body, whereas a casket is rectangular in shape.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 777

ICE WINCH



Ice was the first important product of the year being harvested in January and February. In Francetown, most ice was taken from Scobie Pond. An ice saw (Item # in this catalog) was used to cut the ice into blocks which were pulled from the pond with ice tongs (# in this

catalog). This winch was then used to pull the ice to shore to be stored in the icehouse. The winch was driven by a belt drive from a motor.



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 780

AUCTION SIGNS



Signs for local auctions

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 783

TOWN HALL RESTORATION FUND RAISING SIGN



In 2007 the town of Francestown formed a Heritage Commission whose initial task was to bring about a total restoration of the Town Hall which, having been condemned in part, had been basically unused for years. The Commission embarked on an extensive fund raising campaign and progress toward reaching the goal was depicted on this sign, made by volunteer fire fighter Al Van Cleave and placed on the front lawn of the Town Hall. The restoration was completed in 2017.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 786

TOWN HALL SIGN



This sign was originally over the entry to the Town Hall. At some point it was discarded and many years ago was found rotting in the woods in another part of town. It was salvaged by a local resident and is now on display. The rear of the sign is badly rotted but the front has remained in relatively good condition.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 789

FRANCESTOWN GENERAL STORE SIGN

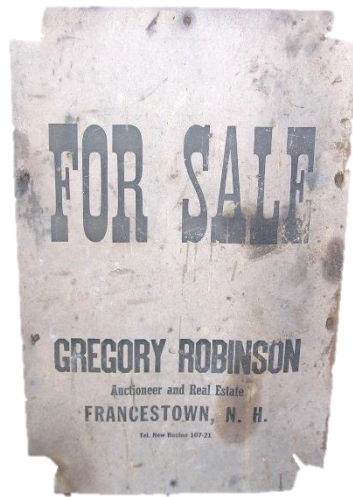


The original sign from the Vadney General Store. The store which opened in 1814 was owned and operated by the Vadney Family from 1944 until 1964. The store became known as the Francestown General Store and was the second longest continually operating such store in the State until July 6, 2017 when it closed.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 792

OFFER SIGN



Early merchants and business folks often wore several hats. This sign indicates that Gregory Robinson was both an auctioneer and a realtor a logical melding of two careers as circumstances could result in the auctioning of real estate property.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 795

WELL WINDER



From the old Bixby Hotel. A rope was secured around the larger wooden drum while the bucket in the well was secured to the smaller wooden drum by a leather strap. By pulling on the rope the mechanical advantage gained by the difference in the drum sizes made it easy to rapidly lift the bucket from the well.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 798

THE WEIGHT?

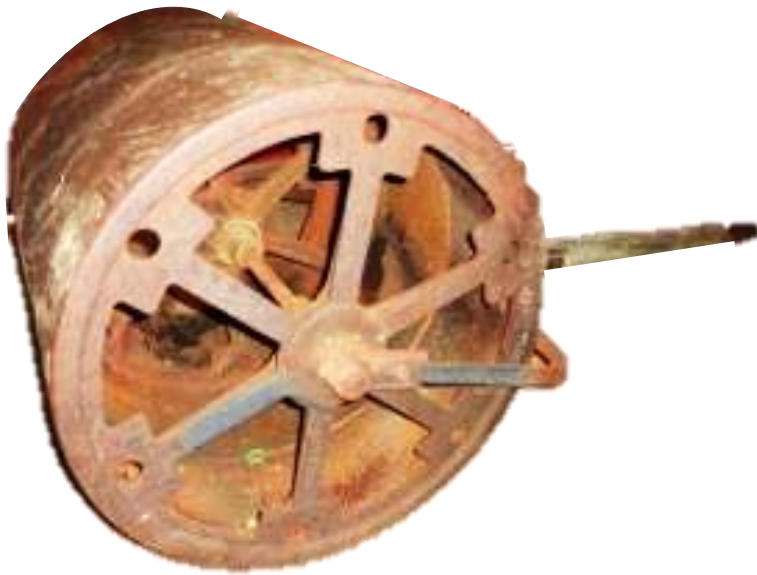


We have no idea what the use of this object was. It appears similar to a weight used in old clocks but could have had any number of applications. We are open to suggestions.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 801

ROLLER



The roller was owned by a local landscaper and is believed to have been used to maintain the several clay tennis courts that were in town early in the 1900's.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM # 803

THE WHATZ-IT



Before the days of modern refrigeration, ice played a crucial role in the lives of the people. Winter ice harvest and storing the ice in icehouses was a significant part of life. The ice then had to be taken from the ice houses as needed and delivered to the user in need. Some of us may still remember the ice man carrying the block of ice in his tongs up to the house and placing it in the “icebox”. This ritual is still carried out in some places. We have no idea what this pictured item is but think it had something to do with ice harvest. If you have any information please let us know.

CONTINUED



FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

WHATZ-IT



The museum received this donation from a local resident who had no idea what it was other than it had been in the barn for years. The photo on the left is the top view of the item which is wooden with a flat bottom and wood sides. There is a lever handle connected to two steel prongs and when the handle is turned the steel prongs protrude downward from the bottom. The photo on the right is of the bottom of the item. This is flat except for a number of small brass wheels that allow the item to be pulled across a flat surface. The trap door in the bottom opens downward which would allow whatever is in the item to fall through.

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM #

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FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

ITEM #

MISC. SOUVENIR MEMORABILIA



These items were sold as fund raisers to commemorate various events – the 75th and 90th Labor Day Celebrations and the US Bi-centennial.