

NORTH HAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
F A R M B U I L D I N G
A GUIDE BOOK TO FARM TOOLS & EQUIPMENT



COMPILED BY LYDIA BROWN, 2019

**ORIGINALLY DOCUMENTED BY SAMUEL BEVERAGE IN 1996
WITH UPDATES BY HELEN POPP IN 1999
AND DICK WITHERSPOON IN 2017**

WELCOME TO THE NORTH HAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FARM BUILDING!

Each item on display has an identification tag. This guide, arranged alphabetically, provides further information about most items. Peruse item by item or follow your curiosity and investigate items as they catch your interest.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please let us know.

Thank you for visiting!

NOTE: Please stay on the ground floor. Access to the upstairs storage area is limited to Historical Society employees and volunteers.



Will Sampson and his horses, 1913.

This guidebook is dedicated to Dick and Janet Witherspoon who have so generously volunteered countless hours at the North Island Museum.

While this guidebook provides basic information about items within the farm building, Dick is the best source for practical knowledge and colorful stories!



BARRELS: Barrels have also been called casks, runs, hogsheads, and kegs depending on the region of the world as well as their size and use. Prior to the invention of cardboard boxes and plastic containers, wooden barrels and boxes served as storage for many different items, both liquid and dry. A maker of barrels was known as a cooper and their trade was once in high demand.

A barrel's vertical pieces of wood are known as staves. The staves are bound together by hoops, which were first made of wood, usually willow, and were known as "withies." Hoops were later made of metal, considered stronger and more durable. Well-built barrels could be rolled, stacked, and used repeatedly. One barrel here, with hoops made of wooden saplings, bears the lettering HWB Pulpit Harbor. It belonged to Hanford W. Beverage, a storekeeper at Pulpit Harbor from 1872 to 1901.

BICYCLE: Multiple models shown, including 2 types of 1950s era girls' bicycles; one bicycle built for two riders and manufactured by JC Higgins; one older model with wooden handlebars, mud guard, and accompanying tire pump.

All bicycles displayed are a design initially known as a "safety bicycle," so called because the design reduced the accidents and injuries so common with the high-wheeled bicycles of the 1880s. The safety bicycle allowed riders to gain speed at less risk and its development led to a bicycling craze in the 1890s. Bicycles were fairly inexpensive, easier to care for than a horse, and freed one from the restrictions of train schedules or ticket costs. The safety bicycle became especially popular with women as it gave them a fast and independent mode of transportation. Up until that point, women rarely traveled alone and were often chaperoned by a man. With



Ida Wooster Haskell at age 15 with her bicycle in 1936.

the freedom and independence that came with bicycles, they also became a symbolic part of the women's suffrage movement.

BUCKSAW (3 displayed): Bucksaws were used for cutting trees into logs, often firewood size. The one-man design varied, with older versions having a wooden H-shape frame and newer versions featuring a hollow, steel, bow-shaped frame, commonly known as a bow saw.



Charles Parsons, Chester Dyer, and Herbert Parsons cutting wood, circa 1920.

BUTTER CHURN: This type of churn, known as a barrel churn, was developed in Europe during the 1700s. The hand crank turned a paddle inside the container, which stirred cream around until it formed into butter. While the equipment was fairly simple, making butter took time and energy. It was often among the many tasks women or children did on a farm.

After milking, the fresh milk was placed in containers and left overnight in a cool place where the cream could rise to the top. The cream was then skimmed off to use for making butter and the remaining skim milk could be consumed by the

farm family. The cream was placed in the butter churn and the movement of the paddles or plunger agitated the cream, causing fat globules in the cream to stick together to form butter. The remaining liquid, known as buttermilk, was poured off and used for baking or fed to the pigs.

After churning, the butter was placed in a bowl and rinsed with cold water. Then, using a butter paddle (as seen in the glass display case), the butter was kneaded smooth to press out excess water and incorporate salt. The finished butter could be pressed into a butter mold (also seen in the glass display case), often with decorative designs or stored in a butter crock or tub. Generally 2 to 3 gallons of milk yielded $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 pound of butter, depending on the butterfat content of the milk. Certain breeds of cows, like Jerseys, produced milk with a high fat content. Agricultural census records on North Haven show nearly every farm during the 1850s and 1860s produced butter and some farms reported over 500 pounds of butter made in a year.

CHAINSAW (HOMELITE, MODEL 7-19C): The first gas-powered chainsaw was invented in the 1920s. Early chainsaws were operated by two people and weighed over 100 pounds. While chainsaws would eventually make forestry work easier, it took decades to catch on, mostly because of the weight of the machines, their susceptibility to breaking down, and the energy it took two people to operate one saw. The development of aluminum alloys and forged steel parts led to saws gradually becoming lighter.

In 1949, the Homelite Company invented the first one-man chainsaw. By the mid-1960s, Homelite became one of the largest chainsaw manufacturers in the world. Homelite gained notoriety among horror film fans when it was used in movies like *The Evil Dead* and *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.

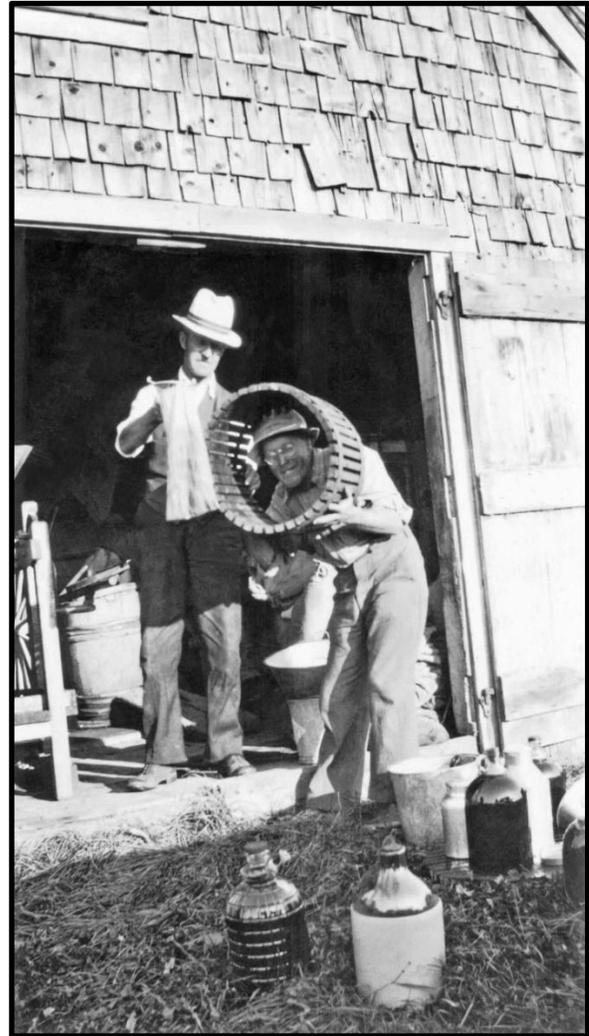
CIDER PRESS: When European settlers traveled across the Atlantic in the 1600s, they brought with them apple seeds and began planting orchards, with the first recorded in Boston in 1630. At that time, apples were valued more for cider production than for fresh eating. Cider became a popular commodity, used either fresh or fermented as hard cider or apple cider vinegar. Pressing apples was a regular fall activity and many towns had a community cider mill or a traveling cider maker who visited rural areas with a horse-drawn press.

By the 1860s, farm supply catalogues sold home cider presses. Cider presses came in two styles, seen here – the two-tub design with a grinder and press or the one-tub design with only a press. The one-tub design on display here was distributed by Joseph Breck & Sons Corp., a garden and orchard supply business in Boston. As designs became lighter and more affordable, many farms had a press. The two-tub press on display here came in several sizes and this one is a “Junior” (shown in stencil lettering on the wooden funnel) weighing about 200 pounds and capable of pressing 2 to 4 barrels of cider a day.

CORN SHELLER: Shelled, dried corn could be used for feeding livestock or for making cornmeal. Before the introduction of corn shellers, farm families manually removed dried corn from the cob. The invention of corn shellers saved in labor but the process remained human powered as a person turned the wheel or hand crank. The large piece of equipment displayed here was mounted atop a workbench. An ear of corn was fed through the cutter blades and the cut kernels dropped into a container directly under the blades. The bare cob came out the end and was collected to use for livestock feed or fuel for the kitchen stove. A smaller, household version of a corn sheller, painted bright red, can be seen in the glass display case on the barn's back wall.

When shelling corn, farmers often selected the best looking ears of corn, set them aside, and fed them through the sheller separately in order to collect seed to plant the following year.

CROSSCUT SAW, TWO-MAN DESIGN (2 displayed): In the days before chainsaws, work in the woods was done with an ax and a crosscut saw. Known for cutting



Cider pressing at the Whitmore Farm, circa 1930.

across the wood grain, crosscut saws were specialized for cutting hardwood or softwood, frozen wood, or wood full of sap.

Generally, crosscut saws are divided into two designs – felling or bucking. Felling saws are used to make the cut on the backside of a standing tree, often in combination with an ax to notch the tree on the opposite side. Felling saws are lighter, more flexible, and have a curved back. The other design, for “bucking” or cutting up felled trees into logs, has a straight back and is heavier in order to provide greater pressure when cutting downward on logs. Historically, two-man crosscut saws ranged in length from 4 to 12 feet and 16 feet for California Redwoods.

CROSSCUT SAW, ONE-MAN DESIGN (1 displayed): A one-man crosscut saw could also be used for felling a tree or “bucking,” cutting a felled tree into logs. The length of a one-man crosscut saw varies from 3 to 6 feet. Often, one-man saws also have a two-man option with a movable handle that can be shifted to the end to accommodate a second person.

CULTIVATOR: Made by S.L. Allen and Company of Philadelphia, this cultivator was among the company’s Planet Jr. line of small-scale farming implements. The cultivator features an adjustable width and attachments for hoeing, plowing, seeding, and cultivating, along with a wrench at hand for easy access. The Planet Jr. line was designed especially for small farms and the implements were known for being compact, lightweight, and easily pushed by hand. Designer Samuel Leeds Allen was awarded almost 300 patents in his lifetime. The most famous of his inventions was the Flexible Flyer, a kids’ winter sled with steel runners that could easily be steered.

DUMP CART WAGON (displayed outside): Located outside the barn entrance, this two-wheeled, ox-drawn, heavy-duty wagon was essential for hauling rocks and dirt and was commonly used on North Haven for building roads. At the front of the wagon are chains, which when loosened, would allow the wagon to dump its load. This wagon was used at the Arthur Beverage Farm, located on the Middle Road and now owned by David and Laura Jermann.

EGG CRATE: This crate held 30 dozen eggs and was used by Hiram Beverage for shipping eggs from North Haven to Boston on the steamships in the early 1900s. The eggs sat in 5 layers with fillers and separators between the layers plus some extra padding on the bottom and top. Freight was paid in one direction and

empty crates were returned free if they came back at all! Profit was small so one had to be careful to ship for arrival on calm, favorable days. Eggs were shipped like this from North Haven to Boston markets up until about 1936.



Steamer J.T. Morse of the Eastern Steamship Line at North Haven's freight shed, circa 1920. Prior to the construction of the wharf and freight shed in 1911, steamships stopped in the Fox Islands Thoroughfare while freight and passengers were ferried to and from the shore.

FODDER CUTTER: Known by many names such as a straw chopper, feed cutter, or chaff box, this simple piece of equipment was used to cut hay, straw, and corn stalks into small pieces as feed for cows and horses. Chopping feed made it more easily digestible for livestock and an 1883 catalog noted:

It is admitted by every practical farmer that it pays to cut feed and that a good feed cutter is necessary to the complete outfit of the successful farmer or stock raiser.

This fodder cutter was sold by Kendall and Whitney Company, a farm supply business based in Portland, Maine. Its design is very basic – essentially a farmer would place an armload of stalks into the trough and push them along with one hand while operating the chopping lever with the other hand to cut the stalks into pieces, much in the same way a paper cutter works. Other cutter designs featured self-feeding mechanisms and a flywheel. As farms grew larger with more

livestock, feed choppers grew as well and became horse powered or steam powered.

FRUIT PICKER: With this tool, fruit could be picked without climbing a ladder. Standing beneath the tree, one positioned the picker so that the metal fingers of the basket pulled fruit off, which then landed in the basket. The pole was then lowered and fruit was deposited in a larger basket.

FUEL PUMP: When automobiles were first manufactured in the early 1900s, gasoline was only available in bulk quantities as a little used by-product of oil refining. To gas up a car, people went to a storage facility, poured off gasoline into a can, and then transferred the gas into their car's tank, a time consuming and often dangerous process. To solve this problem and meet increasing demand, the Gilbert and Barker Manufacturing Company invented the first gas pump, a hand operated model known as T-1 that pumped gas from an underground storage tank directly into a car. By the late 1920s, the company developed electric and computing pumps and the company later became known as Gilbarco. Mechanical pumps could be found curbside at most general stores, drug stores, and repair garages. At one time, North Haven had over 5 different gas pumps, one at Izzy's Store at Pulpit Harbor, another at Sampson's Garage, and at least three others along Main Street.

GRAIN BIN (beneath the glass display case): This large wooden bin was used to store livestock feed, usually corn and oats. Reportedly, it was always a battle keeping the grain safe from mice and rats!

GRAIN FLAIL (2 displayed): A flail is used for threshing, which is the process of separating grain from the plants and seed husks. Made of two sticks of wood attached together with rope, chain, or leather, the flail was used by holding the longer stick, known as the hand staff or helve and swinging it so the shorter stick, known as a swipple or beater, hit against a pile of harvested grain stalks. While simple in design, the precise size and shape of the flail evolved to become specific to the type of grain being threshed.

Often threshing was done in an open area of a barn, known as a threshing floor with tight-fitting boards so that grain was not lost in the cracks. Since the task was done indoors, it could be done on rainy days when fieldwork wasn't possible. As with many farm tasks, threshing was commonly done in groups, with men and

women standing in a circle and working in unison while a leader kept time with commands or songs.

When threshing was complete, the straw and stalks were swept away to use for animal bedding and the grain left behind was winnowed to remove dust and chaff.



Threshing at the Grant Farm, circa 1910. Located on Crabtree Point, the Grant Farm boasted one of the largest barns on the island.

GRINDSTONE: Made of sandstone and mounted on a wooden frame, grindstone wheels were used frequently to sharpen tools such as plow blades, scythes, knives, and axes. Rotary grindstones were powered by a hand crank and later with a foot treadle. Much of the sandstone used for shaping into grindstones came from the city of Berea, Ohio, which became known as the grindstone capital of the world.

HARROW, SPIKE TOOTH DESIGN: A harrow breaks up soil after plowing and smoothes the surface in preparation for planting. In addition, some harrows may also be used for removing clumps of weeds or for covering seed. There are four basic types of harrows – disc harrow, tine harrow (which includes spike tooth), chain harrow, and chain disk harrow. Generally, a disc harrow was used after plowing to break up large clumps of sod. A harrow like this one, with spike or

spring teeth, sometimes called a smoothing or drag harrow, was used to smooth out the soil for planting, essentially acting as a large garden rake. This spike tooth harrow, with 35 points, had an adjustable angle and could be pulled by horse or tractor.

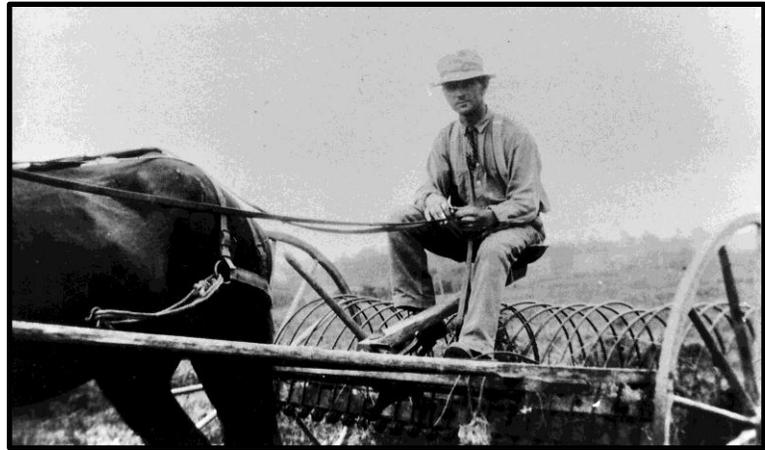


Haying at the Waterman Farm, circa 1900. There were several Waterman farms on North Haven and it is not known which one is pictured here.

HAY RAKE (2 displayed): Two types are shown, a split-handle “swallow tail” rake and a double-bow rake. Either style was used to turn and gather cut grass in piles for drying. Once dry, the hay was pitched into a large pile for storage in the field or into a wagon and transported for storage in a barn. Since making hay was a communal affair requiring the work of many hands, hay rakes were once a common tool in high demand.

HAY RAKE, HORSE-DRAWN (displayed outside): In the 1820s, the horse-drawn hay rake was developed in the United States and for the first time in agricultural history hay wasn’t raked by hand. The horse-drawn hay rake gained popularity through the 1830s because it was able to collect eight times the amount one person could rake by hand. With one or two horses, the hay rake was pulled across a field of mowed, dry grass. The long semi-circular tines were positioned low to the ground and when the rake became full of hay, the metal tines were raised and the hay was dumped into a windrow. With each load of hay, the windrows became longer and longer until they stretched across the field. The

farmer on the rake maneuvered the tines up and down with a lever. This hay rake displayed was originally horse-drawn and later converted by George Beverage to tractor-drawn.



Hiram Beverage on his hay rake, 1917.

HAY TONGS: Used for lifting loose, dry hay into the storage area of a barn's hay loft, hay tongs were fastened to the roof or ceiling of the barn with a rope that ran through a pulley. By using a horse to pull the rope, the hay tongs could be lifted up and down.

HAND TRUCK: With a hand truck, heavy and bulky objects could be moved more easily than by simple lifting. Objects rested on the small lip at the base and a person tilted the hand truck handles toward them and pushed the cart along on the two wheels. Acting as a lever, the hand truck allowed heavy items to be moved more easily than lifting, thereby saving a person's back from doing all the work! Hand trucks were commonly used at North Haven's freight dock when loading and unloading the steamships that stopped at the Thoroughfare.

ICE CHEST: A simple and small design, this chest is lined with tin. Families kept a block of ice in the chest to keep food items cold. Ice was harvested at the Fresh Pond during the winter months and stored in a large icehouse, packed with sawdust. The ice stayed frozen through the year and was delivered around to island homes. Known as



Flo Arey, Preston Lincoln, and Milton Ames loading ice into the icehouse at the Fresh Pond, 1949.

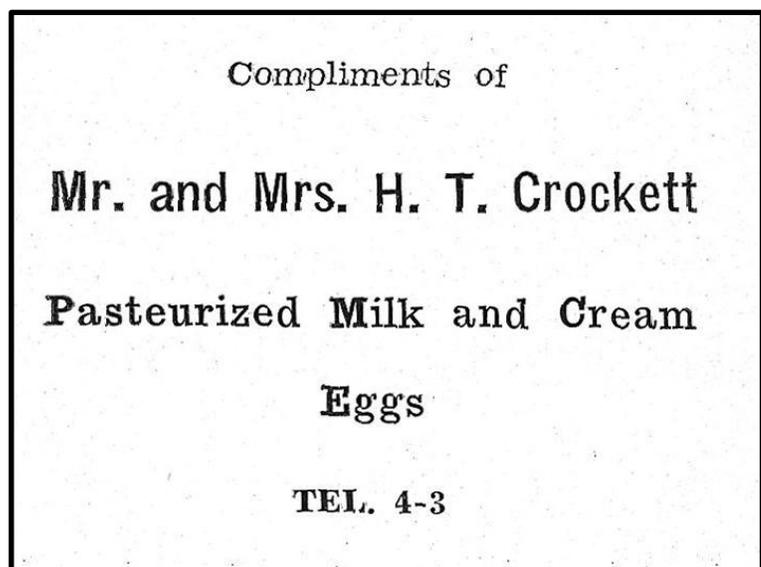
frozen gold, ice was once a big industry in Maine as ice was shipped to cities along the eastern coast of the United States and to ports as far south as the Caribbean.

LADDER: Simple, wooden, and handmade.

LAWNMOWER, REEL TYPE: In the early 1800s, the hand pushed, human powered reel-type lawnmower was invented by an English engineer named Edwin Budding who remarked, "Gentleman will find my machine an amusing, healthful exercise." Prior to lawnmowers, lawn maintenance was done with a scythe, garden shears, or grazing livestock. By 1870, Elwood Mcquire of Indiana introduced an improved reel design that was lighter and easier to handle than earlier models. With his design, lawnmowers grew in popularity and by 1885, the United States was producing 50,000 reel mowers annually. Various models of gasoline-powered lawn mowers were introduced in the early 1900s but did not become widely used until after World War II.

MILK BOTTLES AND CRATE: If a family didn't have their own milk cow, they bought milk from a local farmer who usually delivered it directly to their home. Glass milk bottles first came into use in 1879 and designs soon developed to include a cover and farm names etched into the glass. The farmer or milkman delivered bottles filled with milk, usually leaving them at the home's door, often in an insulated box. Some houses even had a

special cubby or milk box built in for holding milk. At delivery, the milkman retrieved any empty bottles and took them back to the farm for reuse. By the 1940s, when refrigerators became common, the need for milk delivery declined as people did not need milk delivered as often. By the 1950s, grocery stores had large refrigeration units to store perishable goods and people could buy milk there, increasingly sold in single-use plastic or waxed cardboard containers which were found to be lighter and cheaper to ship and manufacture.



Advertisement from the 1941 North Haven High School yearbook.

The wooden crate holding these glass bottles belonged to Hanson T. Crockett, who with his wife Meribah and five children, had a farm across from the Grange Hall, at the site of the present Our Place Inn and North Haven Grocery. Their farm was the first to pasteurize milk in Knox County.

Notice some bottles have a round base and others have a square base. Prior to 1930, most milk bottles were round and then in the 1940s, square bottles became popular because they took up less space in transport and storage.

MILKING STOOL: This simple, low, three-legged stool was used as a seat when milking was done by hand. Three legged stools provided greater stability when the person milking leaned forward. Stools were often made with whatever materials a farmer had available. This stool came from what is known as the Pease Farm, owned by Maridee Stone and family since 1934. The property was once farmed by Samuel and Betsy Calderwood Carver. At the time of the 1860 agricultural census, the Carver's farm, at 260 acres, was the largest on the island.

PLOW (2 displayed): Plows were developed to slice through the soil and turn it over, thereby burying surface plant material, bringing nutrients to the surface, and aerating the soil in preparation for planting. Plows were drawn by horses, oxen, or mules. One animal was sufficient for plowing light soil but a team was



Frank Waterman and Ernest Whitmore plowing, circa 1915.

needed for plowing heavier soil. As the plow was drawn through the soil, it created deep trenches known as furrows. The main parts of a plow include the curved metal piece known as the moldboard. The cutting edge along the bottom of the moldboard is known as the plowshare.

Moldboard plows were developed in the 18th century. They greatly reduced the amount of time needed to prepare a field for planting and as a result, farmers could plow larger areas of ground. The point of the plowshare, known as the chisel, needed to be sharp enough and at an appropriate angle to cut down into the soil. With use, the plowshare became worn and blunt so that greater effort was required to pull it through the soil and occasionally the share required replacing. The shape and angle of a plow's moldboard and plowshare varied based on the soil conditions a farmer was working with and the desired plowing depth.

- **FIXED PLOW:** A fixed moldboard plow only turned the soil in one direction, conventionally always to the right. The plow was worked clockwise around a field, plowing the long sides first and then dragging it across the short sides without plowing.
- **REVERSIBLE PLOW:** With a reversible or turnwrest plow, the moldboard was movable. It could be set to turn a furrow to the right and then at the end of the field, flipped to turn to the left. In this way, a field could be plowed continuously instead of in a clockwise pattern. This plow's owner, Ernest Whitmore, was shorter than average and he created a custom-made lower handlebar height.

POTATO DIGGER: When slowly pulled by a horse or tractor, the potato digger's front shovel ran beneath the potatoes and loosened the soil. The elevator links rotated around, lifted potatoes, vines, soil, and rocks, and moved them along to the rear of the digger. Soft dirt fell through the spaces in the elevator and potatoes dropped in a pile on the ground behind the digger as it moved slowly down the row. Usually one person walked alongside the horse team while another person sat on the digger.

The digger seen here was a Hoover, a popular brand first designed by Isaac W. Hoover of Ohio in 1885. Hoover's potato digger was able to harvest 500 bushels in a day.

POULTRY CRATE: Hiram Beverage, a long-time farmer on the Middle Road purchased this crate, along with several others, from the Sears and Roebuck Company. They came in flat bundles and Hiram assembled them in the winter of 1933-34.

RACK WITH BUTCHER HOOKS: This tool was used for hanging an animal carcass after slaughter. Butchering took place on island farms until the 1940s when new government regulations enacted strict rules about butchering facilities. Most farmers found the cost too great for outfitting their buildings with stainless steel and running water. As a result, many farmers sold off their livestock.

RAKE, 2 TINE: Other than it being wooden and handmade, we know very little about this tool. Perhaps it was used for marking out rows for planting in a garden? What do you think? If you have any ideas, please let us know!

RIDING BUGGY: This riding buggy was the “fast transportation” before automobiles. Farmer Hiram Beverage used this buggy until 1925 when he got a new Model T Ford station wagon.

ROOT & VEGETABLE CUTTER: Nicknamed a “king-size coleslaw maker,” this was used for cutting up roots and vegetables to feed to poultry. An advertisement for an O.E. Thompson & Sons Banner Root Cutter in a 1914 American Poultry Journal reads: *Keep your hens in top notch laying condition by feeding freshly cut roots. Lower your feeding costs and get*



Eda Leadbetter and Leah Waterman feeding hens, circa 1915.

better results! Roots contain egg making material. Keep hens laying in winter. Banner Root Cutter works fast – cuts any vegetables to fine shreds, easy for chicks

to eat. Low priced – easy to operate – pays back its cost quickly. Note the stenciling details on the side!

RUNNERS FOR AN ICE SCOOT: Essentially a giant sled, an “ice scoot” was used at the Lewis Herzog estate on Crabtree Point for moving heavy loads of ice and baled hay.

SCYTHES (LONG & SHORT BLADE DESIGN): Used specifically for cutting grass or grain crops at ground level, a scythe consists of a long wooden shaft known as a snath or sned that has one or two handle grips that can be adjusted to suit the user. The blade for cutting is mounted at one end of the snath. Blade design can vary depending on the use, with a long, thin blade best for grass and wheat and a short, thick blade good for cutting thicker stemmed plants. Use of a scythe required periodically stopping to skillfully hone the blade edge with a sharpening stone. Historically, people gathered to scythe together when cutting a large hay field or harvesting crops. Since grass cuts easier when damp, hay cutting traditionally began at dawn and raking the cut grass happened later in the day.

SCYTHE WITH GRAIN CRADLE: The large claw-like attachment on this scythe is known as a grain cradle. When cutting grain, with each stroke of the scythe, the stalks of grain collected in the cradle. At the end of the cutting stroke, the cradle was tilted to unload the grain stalks into a windrow with all the seed heads facing the same direction, making it easier to gather for threshing. An experienced “cradler” could harvest 2 acres of wheat in a day. American grain cradles were developed in the late 1700s and came to New England by 1800. Charles Vaughn of Hallowell, Maine, reportedly developed the Scotch bow cradle in 1837, a design much lighter and easier to use than previous models. Even after the development of mechanical harvesting machines, grain cradles continued to be used on small farms into the late 1800s.

SEED DRILL: Used for planting grain crops like wheat, oats, and barley, the first horse-drawn seed drill was invented by Jethro Tull of England in 1701. As it was pulled along, the drill drew channels in the soil, dropped seeds from a hopper, and then covered them over with soil. His early design influenced farmers to shift away from hand broadcasting seed. The seed drill design remained largely unchanged over the decades. This one seen here was made by the American Harrow Company of Detroit and features handsome, albeit faded, paintwork and stenciling details. A seed drill was a significant investment and would have likely been co-owned by several farmers and stored in the largest available barn.

SHOVEL: Two versions – one made of wood with a metal edge and another made of metal. Each served endless uses on a farm and beyond! Shovels, in their earliest form, were made from the shoulder blade bones of large animals.

SKIS: The word ski comes from an old Norse word meaning “cleft wood” or “stick of wood.” Like snowshoes, skis allow for travel across snowy terrain. Both snowshoes and skis may have been one way for islanders to access forested areas for cutting trees during the winter months.

SICKLE-BAR MOWER: In 1833, Obed Hussey of Cincinnati created the basic design for a sickle-bar mower, with cutting teeth mounted on a horizontal blade. By the 1860s, horse-drawn, sickle-bar mowers came into popular use. Mowers with a 3½ to 4-foot long cutting bar were typically for one horse, while bars measuring 5 to 6 feet were designed for two horses. The mower seat here reads Worcester Buckeye, which was a type of mower first made in Worcester, Massachusetts, with the name Buckeye as a nod to a design by Lewis Miller of Ohio. Other brand names can also be seen on parts of this mower giving a clue that the seat may have originally been part of another mower. The toolbox reads “New Ideal,” a brand of mower first made in 1905 by Deering, which later merged with several other companies to become International Harvester.



Hubert "Bert" Grant with a horse-drawn mower at the Grant Farm on Deacon Brown's Point, circa 1910.

SLEIGH: North Haven farmer Alton “Tonny” Calderwood of Indian Point Farm used this sleigh on his wintertime milk delivery route. Like the yellow wagon displayed nearby, this sleigh was made at the Maine State Prison and has a small metal plate on the back noting its origin.



Ann and Alton Calderwood, circa 1940.

SNOWSHOES: Snowshoes, worn recreationally or for work, allow people to move across deep snow without sinking through. Designs evolved based on the snow conditions. The oval-shaped bear-paw design was used for maneuvering through thick forests. The very long Yukon snowshoe, measuring 46+ inches was used for traversing open spaces of deep powder, common in the western mountains of North America. The beavertail design, displayed here, was used in all snow conditions. The outer frame was made of durable wood, often white ash that was bent with ends fastened together. A webbing of animal hide filled the frame.

UNIVERSAL FRONT AXLE: This came from a type of horse-drawn low-bed wagon known as a jigger that was commonly used on island farms.



Win Ames traveling on the South Shore Road by the Fremont Beverage Farm, circa 1915.

WAGON: This was one of many wagons built at the Maine State Prison in the 1800s. The seats are not original but come from other types of wagons.

WAGON JACK: A jack was one of the most important tools to carry with a wagon. Thousands of patents for different jacks were issued over the years and their designs influenced many present day models. Jacks needed to be simple, reliable, and safe, although some were known to be “finger mashers.”

WEED CUTTER TOOL: This tool, with serrated edges on either side, could be used in a garden to cut weeds away from crops. The handle was likely longer at one time.

WHEEL HOE: Like the cultivator displayed nearby, this wheel hoe was also made by S.L. Allen and Company of Philadelphia and is among the company’s Planet Jr. line of small-scale farming implements. The Planet Jr. line was designed especially for small farms and the implements were known for being compact, lightweight, and easily pushed by hand. Designer Samuel Leeds Allen was awarded almost 300 patents in his lifetime. The most famous of his inventions was the “Flexible Flyer,” a kids’ winter sled with steel runners that could easily be steered.



Ernie Whitmore with a jigger wagon loaded with pumpkins at the Whitmore Farm, 1935.

WHEELS (BLUE PAIR): These likely came from a jigger, a type of low-bed wagon common on island farms. The characteristic low wagon bed of a jigger allowed for easy loading and unloading of large heavy objects.

WHEELBARROWS: Wheelbarrows have long been an essential piece of equipment for moving things to and fro on farms and were a cheap and effective substitute for a draft animal. The Chinese are credited with inventing the wheelbarrow and it was first used by armies and kept secret because of the advantage it provided in moving goods.

The wheelbarrows displayed here are wooden, one with a metal wheel and another with a steel-rimmed wooden wheel. One is made by Jackson Manufacturing Co., a business started by Caleb Jackson in 1876 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In addition to wheelbarrows, Jackson also made steel carts used at mines, railroads, docks, and coal yards. When Jackson Manufacturing Company was purchased by Ames in 1999, the factory remained in Harrisburg and reportedly produces 85% of the wheelbarrows sold in the United States and Canada.



Benson and James Brown at the farm belonging to their parents, Dalon and Mary Brown, circa 1940.

WHIFFLETREE: Also known as a whippetree, doubletree, leader bar, or equalizer, it consists of a bar with a connecting point at the center and then two connecting points on each end. It was positioned horizontally and used to attach to a plow, harrow, or wagon at the center point and the traces, or straps of the draft

animal's harness were attached to each side. The whiffletree served to balance the pull from the draft animals and also distributed the load of the weight pulled.

WINNOWER MACHINE: Winnowing involves separating the chaff and dirt from grain, dry beans, and berries. Winnowing takes place after threshing which is the process of loosening grains free from the plant material. In its most basic form, winnowing was done by tossing the mixture of grain and chaff into the air on a breezy day and allowing the wind to blow away the chaff while the heavier grains to fell to the ground. A winnowing machine, also known as a fanning mill, improved the process by saving time, labor, and grain. The side handle on the machine was turned to move the screens as well as a fan blade that blew air across the screens. The seeds and berries filtered down through while the chaff and dust blew away.

Winnowing machines were first developed in China. Dutch traders brought the technology home to the Netherlands in the 1500s. By the 1700s, winnowers were brought to North America and became popular in the 1830s as wheat production increased.

YOKES: All yokes shown here are in the style known as a neck yoke, with a wooden beam that rested on the neck of the ox with an attached bent piece of wood known as a bow. Yokes are a simple but strong design, with few parts in comparison to a horse harness, thus making them easy for the farmer to handle. A yoke was made with wood strong enough to withstand the forces used against it but light enough not to tire the ox. Yokes were often made with hardwoods like elm, hickory, and maple, though pine was used for smaller training yokes. Training oxen began when they were calves, with the first yoke being very small in size. As the animal grew, yokes incrementally changed in size, with an ox sometimes using as many as 12 different sizes by the time it was fully-grown.

Double yokes came in two designs – stationary or sliding. Stationary yokes kept the ox team close together, allowing for better coordination but it could prove constraining on uneven ground. A sliding yoke allowed the team to have a greater range of motion but also could allow for challenging behavior if the oxen began to fight or pull in two different directions. One double yoke shown here has an attached barn swallow nest and hangs just as it was found in an old barn!

If you know why the small single yoke has spikes fastened to it, please let us know!



NORTH HAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FARM BUILDING

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2019