

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — FEBRUARY 1, 2021

# WHAT'S IT?



Fig. 1 (left-right): Front, back and side views. PHOTO: © 2019 Norman J. Frisch

## ARTIFACT 21-01

### SPECIFICATIONS:

Material: Forged iron? Overall length = 27.94 cm (11 in). Handle (proximal end side view):

Width = 1.75 cm (11/16 in), thickness, curved cross-section = 0.32 cm (1/8 in);

(distal end face view): Width = 0.95 cm (3/8 in), thickness = 0.64 cm (1/4 in).

Head: Height = 2.22 cm (7/8 in), width = 2.38 cm (15/16 in).

Weight: 384 gm (0.85 lb)

*continued...*

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — FEBRUARY 1, 2021

**WHAT'S IT?**

Fig. 2 (left-right): Closeup of artifact in figure 1, front, back and side views. PHOTO: © 2019 Norman J. Frisch

**ARTIFACT 21-01****CLUES:**

Sometimes the best clue to what the function of an artifact/tool might have been used for, is the context, i.e., where the artifact was found. This tool was found on an 1870s farm that was originally used as a change out station for big draft horses. As the canal was enlarged over time the barges hauling cargo were also enlarged. Bigger loads meant bigger animals to provide more pulling power.

Tools similar to this artifact were used to mold bullets during the Civil War era, so, it's a good bet that this tool was somehow involved with hot metal. Large draft horses and hot metal—can you make a connection that may give you an idea of what this tool might have been used for?

BTW, this tool has been repurposed and is currently being used to lift cast iron lids of off pots of water being boiled on a wood stove - an early version of humidifiers.

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — FEBRUARY 1, 2021

# WHAT'S IT?

## HOW THIS WORKS:

Every so often an artifact will be on display in the Seymour Library near the information desk and also be posted simultaneously on the Museum website. Seeing the artifact in person at the Library is best because there it can be viewed from different angles and distances (touching the artifact is not allowed).

## YOUR GUESS?

Prediction cards can be found near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and on this page. Fill either card out and return it to "Ye Olde Prediction Box" near the exhibit display.

## DEADLINE

All entries must be received by: **Monday, March 22, 2021**

## ANSWERS

Answers will be available near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and published on the museum website around **April 5, 2021** when the next artifact will go on display.

## PRIZES

There are NO prizes, but winning entrants names will be posted. (unless you indicate otherwise on the prediction card).

## ELIGIBILITY

Open to everyone.

## PREDICTION CARD



Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info (voluntary): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Artifact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ What do you think this object might be, and how would it be used?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Continue on back of card, if necessary.



Scan the QR code for more details!



A collaboration of the Brockport Community Museum, Seymour Library and the Brockport Central School District.

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — FEBRUARY 1, 2021

# WHAT'S IT?

## BACKGROUND

“WHAT’S IT?” has been a feature of the BCM website since its inception in 2007. In 2017 Brockport Community Museum board member Archer “Buck” Noble, a Brockport Central School District teacher (now retired) developed “The Mystery of History” school project that encouraged fourth and fifth grade students to use observational and investigative techniques to help determine the type and use of different historic artifacts.

That project was introduced to the general public during a Brockport Community Museum outreach presence at the 2017 Brockport Sidewalk Sale. That success led to this collaboration between the Brockport Community Museum, Seymour Library and Brockport Central School District.

## GET INVOLVED

- **Take your best guess** regarding the current artifact.
- **Do you have an artifact** you would like to know more about? Open your query to a larger audience.
- **Have a suggestion** about how we can improve this project?

### If so...

Leave your contact information in “Ye old prediction box” near the exhibit display.

## CREDITS

*Museum project committee*

Archer “Buck” Noble

Norman Frisch

*Seymour Library*

Jennifer Caccavale, Director