

THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY — APRIL 5, 2021

WHAT'S IT?



Fig. 1 (left): Face view. (right): Side view of same artifact. PHOTO: © 2019 Norman J. Frisch

ARTIFACT 21-02

SPECIFICATIONS:

Handle: Wood. Length = 38.1 cm (15 in); Circumference (max.) = 8.89 cm (3 1/2 in).

Body: Iron. Length = 39.37 cm (15 1/2 in), tapered section is hollow with 0.64 cm (1/4 in) thick wall that tapers to a near knife sharp edge at the slot opening. Slot length = 21.91 cm (8 5/8 in), width at the large end = 1.59 cm (5/8 in), width at the narrow end = 1.27 cm (1/2 in). The large end of the taper = 25.08 cm (9 7/8 in) circumference, the small end = 12.07 cm (4 3/4 in) circumference.

Total weight: 2.015 kg (4.44 lb)

continued...

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Fig. 2 (above): Close up view. PHOTO: © 2019 Norman J. Frisch

ARTIFACT 21-02**TEASER / CLUES:**

Just a reminder, our clue/teaser introduction to all artifacts may include double entendres', paradoxes, and other nonces throughout the hole document that might give a hint as to what it could be. How are y'all doing? Curious I hope! As one BCM member put it, this is a "handsome" artifact. Discovered in a mortise and tenon 1870s barn, this tool was critical in creating the structural integrity of the building. Two simple machines are utilized to perform its function. The business end uses an inclined plane wrapped around a cylinder, a screw, and the handle is a lever that applies rotational force through the center fulcrum. This tool was in every carpenter's tool box involved with raising barns—especially prior to 1870. Besides being handsome, its design is simple, elegant, and functional—an idealized complement of using two simple machines to do work. On an historical note, this device was not used to attach Captian Ahab's made-of-whale bone artificial left leg.

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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.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to everyone.

DEADLINE

All entries must be received by: **Monday, May 24, 2021 !**

ANSWERS

Answers will be available near the exhibit display at the Seymour Library and published on the museum website around **June 7, 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).

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.

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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