

# Exploring the Agricultural History of Ontario: Inventory of Agricultural Implements

## Root Pulper



### FAST FACTS

**Manufacturer:** Peter Hamilton

**Purpose:** Cut up and pulp roots for animal feed

**Period of Use:** mid-late 19th century onward

### Social Relations

This was a machine often operated by the children on the farm, as it was an uncomplicated and relatively quick job to perform. Stories are common of children losing the tip of a finger to the pulper's blade, perhaps due to fatigue or overzealously feeding the roots into it.

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### Background:

In the Spring of 2017 Lang Pioneer Village Museum will be opening a new heritage barn to house its extensive collection of agricultural equipment. In preparation for this event, the museum needs a detailed inventory of the specifications and history of the agricultural collection. This student project is a continuation of this work started in the summer of 2015. The results will both document the history of the collection and provide a resource for the museum's interpretation staff.

In addition to completing the Inventory of Agricultural Implements we are researching the nature of public history and living history museums and using this academic research as a means of evaluating our practical work with the museum.

The research paper is a reflective essay that evaluates our practical work, while also analysing the nature of historical commemoration through public history and living history museums. It serves to explore the ongoing debate that considers the museum's role in remembering the past and this more modern idea of "edu-tainment".

This project is an opportunity to apply acquired practical research methods, an asset when pursuing future work placements in the historical field and outside the classroom setting. It serves as a hands-on learning experience to actually see the research being put to use within the local community as a valuable educational resource which will preserve the knowledge of this equipment for future generations.

## Double Drill Turnip Sower



### FAST FACTS

**Year of manufacture:** ~1899

**Manufacturer:** Peter Hamilton

**Purpose:** Sows turnip seeds

**Period of Use:** early 19th century onward

### Usage

This one horse double drill turnip sower rolls the dirt before sowing, puts the seed in the ground and then rolls the ground after sowing all in one operation. In addition to saving time and labour, the sower also ensured the seeds were planted in neat rows, eliminating unnecessary waste.