

The Davistown Museum

The Ancient Dominions of Maine: An Archaeology of Tools

Answers to the Tool Examination.

Click here to return to the Tool Exam photographs: <http://www.davistownmuseum.org/TDMtoolExam.html>

Location

1 Mackerel plow

TAB1007

Curved wood handle with a slate cutter, 7 5/8" long handle, 13/16" cutter, unsigned, Age unknown.

A tool that would have been commonly encountered on the decks of Maine's 19th century mackerel fleet. A mackerel plow is made of wood and slate rather than wood and iron or steel to prevent rusting on the open ocean. The form has the appearance which is similar to Native American implements such as the crooked knife suggesting the possibility that this tool is Native American in origin, design and perhaps manufacture. It is also called a fish gut. Two additional examples of a mackerel plow may be seen at the Penobscot Maritime Museum in Searsport and the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. The die.net online dictionary says a mackerel plow is "an instrument for creasing the sides of lean mackerel to improve their appearance." A further description is given on www.lostatsea.ca/mackplow.htm: "When the fish has been thrown from the seine to the schooner's deck, men split them down the back with large knives, the operation being performed with one sweep of the hand. The plow is then picked up and in two or three deft slashes less than an eighth of an inch deep parallel to the backbone opens the flesh in such a manner that it looks as if superabundance of fat had burst the mackerel just as it does his more corpulent fellow." Thus the fish looks as a fatter one would: "Everybody connected with the industry knows that a fat mackerel will break open on pressure of the hand after it has been split down the back in process of cleaning."

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Fishing Implements

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tab1007.jpg>

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tab1007_p2.jpg

2 Bark spud

TAB1005

Forged iron, 10 1/4" to the end of the socket, unsigned, 17th or 18th century.

An essential component in the tool kit of the early settlers of the Davistown Plantation (axe, drawknife, sod cutter, spud, bowie knife and frame saw)

Historic Maritime I (1607-1676): The First Colonial Dominion

Woodworking Tools

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tab1005_p1.jpg

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tab1005_p2.jpg

3 Sugar tongs

81801T8

Forged iron, 9 1/2" long, unsigned.

These elaborately decorated sugar tongs are typical of a tool that might have been brought to America by a well-to-do family during the great migration to Massachusetts, 1630 - 1650.

Historic Maritime I (1607-1676): The First Colonial Dominion

Domestic Utensils

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/81801t8.jpg>

4 Crooked knife

81101T14

MHC

Wood and forged steel, 8 1/2" long, 3" blade, unsigned.

Crooked knives are especially common in northern New England where they were used by Native Americans and European settlers for many purposes including basket making and working birch bark. This knife has been reforged from an old file or rasp, one of early American artisan's most important source of recycled forged steel. The crosshatched carving on the nicely fashioned applewood (?) handle suggests a Native American user.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Miscellaneous Primitives

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/81101t14.jpg>

5 Wig blower (bellows)

12900T10

MH

Wood, leather and tin, unsigned, age unknown.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Domestic Utensils

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/12900t10.jpg>

6 Snowball hammer

TCM1005

Forged iron, 9 1/2" long, iron handle 4 1/2" long, 1/2" round face, unsigned.

Locally called a snowshoe hammer or snow knocker, this is a prototypical tool used for removing ice and snow from the shoes of horses. See Eric Sloane's "A Museum of Early American Tools," 1964, for an illustration of another snowball hammer.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Hammers

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcm1005.jpg>

Answers to the Tool Examination

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7 Grafting froe

TCR1001A

Location

MH

Forged iron, 8 5/8" long with a 3 1/4" blade, unsigned.

This tool is refashioned from an old file or rasp. A basic necessity for Davistown residents maintaining orchards in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Agricultural Implements

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcz1006.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcr1001a.jpg>

8 Hatchel

TCR4000

MH

Wood and forged iron, 25 1/2" long x 4 3/4" wide, unsigned.

This flax puller has 108 combs. An essential component of the flax dresser's tool kit.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Flax Dressing Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcr4000.jpg>

9 Flax breaker

TAB1013

MH

Wood (maple?), 45" long, 16" wide, 34" high, .

Made in Connecticut (?) in the late 17th or early 18th century and brought to Detroit, Maine by the first settlers. An essential tool for preparing flax for the weaver. After "breaking" the flax, it would be cleaned and sorted with the help of a scutching knife and board, ripple and hatchel and then wound on a spinning jenny. For more information on this process, see the reprint on flax dressing available at the Museum.

Historic Maritime I (1607-1676): The First Colonial Dominion

Flax Dressing Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tab1013.jpg>

10 Race knife (timber scribe)

100400T18

MHC-F

Cast steel and wood, 6 1/2" long, unsigned.

A typical lumberman's tool for marking and identifying the trees cut by loggers before they would be floated down to the sawmills. It has a leather pouch for it.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Loggers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/100400t18.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/100400t18-3.jpg>

11 Mast shave

51100T2

MHC-F

Cast steel and wood, 24" long, 14" blade, 4 1/2" handles, signed "L & I J WHITE" "BUFFALO, NY" "1837" inside an oval and also stamped "14".

White made adzes, chisels, and drawknives, 1837f. A most prolific maker of cooper's jiggers, drawknives, and other edge tools. DATM (Nelson 1999). Many an L. White tool has been recycled to Maine woodworkers in the last 30 years by the Liberty Tool Co.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Shipwrights' and Mariners' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/51100t2.jpg>

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/51100t2_p1.jpg

12 Early ship's caulking tools (set)

TCX1001

MHC-K

Cast steel and wood, signed "E. A. DEXTER".

The set includes 13 caulking irons, a caulking mallet inventoried separately (second mallet has recently been stolen,) a carrying case and folding stool. It was last used to repair the U.S.S. Constitution. The maker is not listed in DATM. The demise of the cod fishery due to the withdrawal of government subsidies, the spread of railroads after the Civil War and the depletion of forest resources all played a role in the decline of shipbuilding in the ports south and east of Liberty and Montville (Thomaston, Warren, Boothbay, Waldoboro and Wiscasset.) In the boomtown years of Liberty and Montville, a number of ship's caulkers lived in this area and would have used tools similar to these as itinerant caulkers visiting area shipyards as needed.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Shipwrights' and Mariners' Tools

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcx1001_p3.jpg

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcx1001combo.jpg>

13 Sun plane

100400T6

MHC-K

Wood, cast steel blades, 14" long, 3" wide, 2" wide blade, unsigned with an obscure signature on the blade, probably WHITE 1837.

A typical cooper's tool used for barrel-making also called a topping plane. A sun plane is used for leveling the ends of staves after they have been beveled with a cooper's adze. The narrow ledge created by the sun plane serves to hold first the chiv and later the croze to cut the grooves on the inside of the staves to hold the cask heads.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Coopers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/100400t6.jpg>

Answers to the Tool Examination

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Location

14 Froe

100400T11

Forged iron or steel and wood, 17 1/4" long, unsigned.
Extra heavy duty specimen for cutting shakes.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Edge Tools - Forged

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/100400t11.jpg>

15 Clapboard slick

21201T3

Weld steel, 29 3/4" long including a 7" handle, 2 3/16" wide blade, signed "_UGHAN & PARDO_ UNION WARRANTEED".
This is Vaughan & Pardoe of Union, Maine. Working dates for this company are 1844-1868. A gift to The Davistown Museum from Rick Floyd of Newport, ME.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Edge Tools - American Made Cast Steel

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/21201t3_p3.jpg

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/publications/volume10.html>

16 Traveler?

TBE3000

Forged iron, 13" long, 5 1/4" diameter wheel, unsigned.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Measuring Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tbe3000.jpg>

17 Peen adz

72801T4

Cast steel and wood, 10 1/2" long, 4 1/4" wide blade, 31 1/4" handle, signed "Boston Arnold".
No Arnold of Boston is listed in DATM (Nelson 1999). Who was this manufacturer of edge tools?

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Edge Tools - American Made Cast Steel

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/72801t4.jpg>

18 Peel

101400T7

MHwall

Forged iron, 30 1/4" long, 6 1/2" peel, unsigned.
Used for removing bread from an oven.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Domestic Utensils

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/101400t7.jpg>

19 Tho-shot

31901T1

MH

Wood (spruce), 30" long, 3 1/2" diameter shot, unsigned.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Loggers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/31901t1.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioThoShot.htm>

20 Coopers' broad ax

101400T5

Cast steel and wood, 11 1/2" long, 3 1/2" poll, signed "Roxbury _____ EVRETT CAST STEEL".
No Evrett is listed in DATM (Nelson 1999). A typical cooper's broad ax used for trimming staves, etc.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Coopers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/101400t5.jpg>

21 Chamfering knife (jigger)

100400T13

MHC-G

Wood and cast steel, 17" long with a 9" handle, unsigned.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Coopers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/100400t13.jpg>

22 Drawknife

21201T5

Forged iron and steel with a wood handle, 16 3/4" long, 11 1/4" blade, 4 3/4" handle, signed "Hardy" followed by a hatchet touchmark.

Possibly Ephraim L. Hardy of Brookline and Hollis, NH, working after 1821, died 1870. "All tools marked with this last name are not necessarily his." (DATM, 1999, pg. 354).

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Edge Tools - Forged

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/21201t5.jpg>

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Location

23 Race knife

101400T17

Cast or forged steel and wood, 5 3/4" long with a 2" slitter, unsigned.

A timber scribe also used to mark the ends of planks and logs.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Loggers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/101400T17.jpg>

24 Peavey

101900T3

Forged and cast iron, 13 1/4" long, unsigned.

Generic peavey, but with a clearly hand forged handle casing.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Loggers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/101900t3.jpg>

25 Bill hook

42801T8

Wood, forged iron and steel, 13" long, 3 5/8" cutter, unidentifiable touchmark.

The nicely turned handle and early touchmark indicate this bill hook is late 18th century. It is similar to the facines used by Revolutionary War soldiers to cut brush.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Agricultural Implements

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/42801t8.jpg>

26 Butteris

TCF3000

Steel, cast iron and wood, 16 1/2" long, 1 15/16" wide blade, unsigned.

This tool is used by a farrier for paring a horse's hoof. The long handle rests against the shoulder. It is operated with a thrusting movement.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Blacksmith and Farriers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcf3000.jpg>

27 Cobblestone hammer

71401T5

Cast steel and wood, 13 1/16" long, unsigned.

An elegant example of the common cobblestone hammer of the 18th and early 19th century. Probably manufactured after 1800.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Hammers

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/71401t5.jpg>

28 Fid

12900T4

Wood, 15 1/2" long, 2 5/8" maximum diameter, unsigned.

A fid is used to loosen the strands of rope when splicing two pieces of rope together.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Shipwrights' and Mariners' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/12900t4.jpg>

29 Marlin spike

100400T14

MHC-K

Cast steel, 17 1/2" long, 1 1/4" diameter, unsigned.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Miscellaneous Primitives

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/100400t14.jpg>

30 Bed wrench

TBF6003

Cast iron, 5" long with 4" handle, unsigned.

A generic tool commonplace in households in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. A bed wrench was used with an old feather bed. This type of bed would have a wooden frame. The frame did not hold a box spring or wooden cross boards as a more modern bed does. Instead, the bottom of the bed was rope. The long rope would loop through holes drilled in the frame and go back and forth across the opening in the center. This creates a criss-crossed appearance. Bedding such as a straw tick would then go on top of that. The ropes eventually will stretch. The bed wrench is used to tighten the rope.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Wrenches

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tbf6003.jpg>

31 Cobbler's hammer

101900T4

Cast steel and wood, 9 1/2" long, 1 3/8" diameter face, unsigned.

Typical of a cobbler's hammer used in the mid-nineteenth century Liberty and Montville cobbler's shops.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Cobblers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/101900t4.jpg>

32 Plough plane

TCD1007

Wood (beech), 8" long, 9 1/4" fence, signed "J. Kellogg", circa 1845.

J. Kellogg (1835-1867), Amherst, MA. A typical example of a factory made plow plane that might have been found in the working carpenter's tool box in Liberty or Montville. This manufacturer's signature is mentioned in Pollak as frequently found (ff - B mark) (pg. 213); Kellogg was one of the most prolific of all planemakers, probably surpassed only by Greenfield Tool Co. in Massachusetts output of planes.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Planes not made in Maine

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcd1007_p1.jpg

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcd1007_p2.jpg

33 Graining tools (set of 11)

111001T22

Cast steel?, 3 1/2" high, widths vary from 3/4" to 4", unsigned.

Used for grain patterning painted surfaces, especially on blanket chests and other Victorian style cottage furniture.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Miscellaneous Items

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/111001t22.jpg>

34 Burins (5)

102100T28

Steel, brass and wood, various lengths from 2 3/4" to 4" long, unsigned.

Generic tools for copper plate engraving. Please visit the print collection for several examples of prints made with these tools.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Miscellaneous Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/102100t28.jpg>

36 Coopers' hammer

81801T13

Cast steel with wood handle, 4 5/8" long head, 1 5/8" long groove, signed "C. Drew & Co. Cast Steel".

This is a rare Drew tool, the only Drew cooper's hammer seen by the curator in 30 years.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Coopers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/81801t13.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioDrew.htm>

37 Shaving horse (bench)

TAB1012

MH

Wood (maple), 57" wide, 17" tall, 4" wide clamp, unsigned.

A commonplace tool on any working farm in the 17th or 18th century. Used with a drawknife for shingle making, the shaving bench was also used for many other tasks. This is probably 18th century but is of the same design as those used in the 17th century.

Historic Maritime I (1607-1676): The First Colonial Dominion

Woodworking Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tab1012.jpg>

38 Grave digger's shovel

101400T3

MH

Drop forged iron and wood, 84 1/8" long with a 9 1/4" blade, unsigned.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Miscellaneous Tools

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/101400t3_p1.jpg

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/101400t3_p2.jpg

39 Saw set

12801T17

Drop forged iron, 8" long with 7 set sizes, signed "HOE & CO".

DATM (Nelson 1999) lists R. Hoe & Co.'s working dates as 1828 - 1969 in New York and Boston. It did not list this exact mark. Hoe was a major manufacturer of saws, saw tools and later printing presses. This set is probably late 19th century.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Miscellaneous Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/12801t17.jpg>

40 Cat's paw

12801T16

Drop forged steel, 11 1/8" long, signed "C. Drew CAT'S PAW - 277".

This is a (later) 20th century production.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Miscellaneous Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/12801t16.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioDrew.htm>

41 Coopers' adz

12801T7

Cast steel, 8" long, 1 1/4" square striking face, 2 9/16" wide blade, signed "VAUGHAN" "PARDOE & COX" "UNION" "WARRANTED".

This tool shows some evidence of hand work, including hand filing and hand forged bevelling at the handle socket, which protrudes from the adz's body. An essential and commonly encountered tool in a cooper's workshop, used to construct the barrels, kegs, and casks of Maine and New England's fishing and commercial industries and the West Indies and Wine Island trades. This is the first tool in our Vaughan & Pardoe collection with Cox as part of the signature. Donated to the Museum by Rick Floyd.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Coopers' Tools

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/12801t7_p7.jpg

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/publications/volume10.html>

42 Shingle rip

TBL1001A

MH

Cast and/or forged steel, 24 3/4" long with 2" wide rip, signed "C DREW & CO KINGSTON MASS", ca. 1850.

This tool is on display above the fire exit.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Miscellaneous Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tbl1001a.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioDrew.htm>

43 Spokeshave

71401T17

Cast iron, steel and brass, 10 1/4" long, 2 1/4" wide blade, The brass nut holding the blade is signed "Bailey's Pat. July 13 58".

An excellent example of Leonard Bailey's tools before he joined in partnership with Augustus Stanley to form the Stanley Tool Co. See Roger Smith's "Patented Transitional and Metallic Planes" Vol. I pg. 41 - 58 and Vol. II pg. 21 - 38.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Edge Tools - American Made Cast Steel

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/71401t17.jpg>

44 Inclinator level

102501T1

Cast steel and brass, 6" long, 14/16" wide, 2 1/2" high, 2" diameter meter, signed "DAVIS LEVEL & TOOL Co" and "PAT.SEP 17, 1867" with owner's signature "J.F. McCABE".

This tool is also referred to as a mantle clock level. DATM (Nelson 1999, 214) has historical information on this company.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Classic Period of American Machinist's Tools

Measuring Tools

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/102501t1_p3.jpg

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioDavis.htm>

45 Plumb bob

71401T18

Cast brass, 4 3/4" long, unsigned.

Probably an early product of the Stanley Tool Co. and an excellent example of the most sought after of 19th century plumb bobs.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Miscellaneous Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/71401t18.jpg>

46 Surface gauge

21201T12

Steel, 1 1/2" long, 1 9/16" wide, 1 3/8" high, signed "V Oby".

Veikko Arne Oby (b. Worcester, MA 1916, d. 2/25, 2000), of Finnish descent, worked in Whitinsville, MA, and the Watertown Arsenal. This satin steel surface gauge, though not signed by its manufacturer, is similar to L.S. Starrett Toolmaker's surface gauge model 56A with 4" spindles. A contemporary L.S. Starrett catalog indicates this tool "is used in layout work for scribing lines on vertical or horizontal surfaces. A groove in the base adapts it for use on cylindrical as well as flat surfaces." This exquisite tool is a late example of the florescence of the classic period of American machinist tools and is indicative of a proud machinist's careful use of a finely crafted Starrett tool or his meticulous reproduction of the same tool -- a possibility since Starrett surface gauges are rarely unsigned. Every hand tool has its own inscrutable history of manufacture and use.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Classic Period of American Machinist's Tools

Measuring Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/21201t12.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioOby.htm>

47 Patternmaker's tools (4)

42801T3

Brass and steel, 3 are 3 1/2" long with 1 1/2", 1 1/8" & 1" cutters; the other is 2" long, 1 1/4" wide, 1 1/2" cutter, unsigned, ca. 1865 - 1885.

These are all planes, three are shavers and the other is a spoke-shave type rounding plane. They were all found in the Corbett collection; no owner signatures.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Patternmakers' Tools - H A Cobbett Group

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/42801t3.jpg>

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Location

48 Lace cutter

111001T34

Cast iron and steel, 2 1/4" long, unsigned.

This tool is identified as an Elliot Patent (May 3, 1880) lace cutter for cutting shoelaces in Sellen's "Dictionary of American Hand Tools", pg. 270.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Cobblers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/111001t34.jpg>

49 Ship caulker's mallet

TCX1001A

MHC-K

Cast steel and wood, unsigned.

This caulking mallet is part of the ship's caulkers tool set in case K; last used to repair the U.S.S. Constitution.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Shipwrights' and Mariners' Tools

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcx1001_p4.jpg

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcx1001_combo.jpg

50 Gear tooth vernier caliper

30101T1

MHC

Steel in leather box, 4 1/15" long, 4 1/4" high, signed "Brown & Sharpe Mfg. Co. Providence RI USA 20.2DP".

Representative of the florescence of the New England toolmaker and L. S. Starrett's principal 20th century competitor. The English measure caliper is an uncommon LBS product.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Classic Period of American Machinist's Tools

Measuring Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/30101t1.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioBrownSharpe.htm>

51 Gutter plane

111001T9

Wood with cast steel blade, 15 1/2" long, 2" wide, 1 3/4" wide blade, signed "Roberts & Ash" on blade with a clover leaf touchmark to the right of Ash, plane marked "DM".

Goodman's "British Plane Makers" does not list Roberts & Ash as blade makers. He does list a William G. Ash. DATM (Nelson 1999, 664) lists Roberts & Ash as leather tool makers, no date or location.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Planes not made in Maine

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/111001t9.jpg>

52 Patternmaker's slick

TCT1003

Bronze, 7" long, unsigned.

A slick is used for shaping and smoothing sand casts. Patternmaker's slicks should not be confused with the large slicks used by shipwrights (an edge tool).

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Patternmakers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tct1003.jpg>

53 Shipwright's slick

TCC2005

Cast steel with wood handle, 14 1/2" long, 3 1/2" wide, 10" handle, signed "WARRANTED CAST STEEL" and "TINKHAM".

Other than "warranted cast steel," this tool has no manufacturer's touch mark. The slick has an owner's sign (?) "Tinkham" and is part of our collection of Tinkham artifacts and papers, which are on display in the Museum. This slick came from a ship carpenter's tool box discovered in Foxboro, MA, several years ago and was undoubtedly used by one of the Tinkham clan, probably in the shipyards of New Bedford, Fairhaven or Mattapoisset, MA. ca. 1810 - 1850. This slick is similar to signed specimens produced by the prolific Underhill clan of Nashua, NH.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Edge Tools - American Made Cast Steel

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcc2005.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioTinkham.htm>

54 Hoop driver

51201T3

Steel, iron, and wood, 7 3/4" long including a 4 3/8" handle, 2 5/8" wide driver, unsigned.

An iron ferrule is at the end of the wood handle. An excellent example of a coopers' hoop driver or bung with a provenance from a New Bedford cooperage, ca. 1860.

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Coopers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/51201t3.jpg>

Answers to the Tool Examination

Click here to return to the Tool Exam photographs:

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/TDMtoolExam.html>

Location

55 Howell (chiv)

81801T7

Wood, forged iron and cast steel blade, 15 1/2" long, 7 1/4" wide including handle and adjustable screws, signed "H.S.T. H.N.S" and on the blade "Hand Cast Steel".

From southern New Hampshire.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Coopers' Tools

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/81801t7_p1.jpg

http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/81801t7_p2.jpg

56 Turn screw

81200T2

MH

Wood, brass and cast steel, 24 1/2" long, unsigned with owner's initials "C.B.N." on the wood handle, ca. 1820 - 1840.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Miscellaneous Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/81200t2.jpg>

57 Cheese whisk

81801T2

Forged iron and wood, 30 1/2" long, 7" wood handle, unsigned.

A Colonial era variety for mixing the curds in whey in the cheese making process.

Historic Maritime I (1607-1676): The First Colonial Dominion

Domestic Utensils

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/81801t2.jpg>

58 Mortising machine

82500T3

Cast iron, signed M.F.Co. Millers Falls Mass, ca. 1885.

Prototypical mortising machine of the late 19th century. Used in shipyards and for barn building to cut the mortise for tenons.

This tool dates from before the age of electric powered hand tools.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Other Woodworking Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/82500t3.jpg>

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/bioMillersFalls.htm>

59 Pod auger

TBA1004

Forged iron, 26" long, unsigned, 18th century.

Used in the creation of wooden water pipes.

Historic Maritime II (1720-1800): The Second Colonial Dominion & the Early Republic

Boring Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tba1004.jpg>

60 Dibble

TCR1008

Forged steel and wood (beech?), 9" long, 4 3/4" point, unsigned.

This tool has a nicely turned handle. This tool is difficult to date, but is probably late 18th or early 19th century.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Agricultural Implements

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/tcr1008.jpg>

62 Curling iron

71401T16

Cast steel, 10 3/8" long, unsigned.

A typical 19th century curling iron.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Domestic Utensils

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/71401t16.jpg>

63 Cobbler's clamp

33002T8

Steel, 8 3/8" long, 3 5/8" adjustable jaw, unsigned.

This tool has a specific name -- what is it?

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Cobblers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/33002t8.jpg>

64 Leather slitting cutters

63001T10

Cast steel, brass, and wood, 6" wide, 5 5/8" long pistol grip, signed "Osborne Co Newark NJ Est 1826 Pat Aug 13, 76 Reissued July 7, 1877".

A classic example of a factory-made tool from the heyday of the Industrial Revolution. By 1876, Davistown's cobblers were substituting quality factory-made tools for handmade tools. This tool was also used by harness makers to slice leather.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Cobblers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/63001t10.jpg>

Answers to the Tool Examination

Click here to return to the Tool Exam photographs:

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/TDMtoolExam.html>

Location

66 Cross peen hammer

32802T3

Steel, 4 1/4" long, 15/16" wide peen and head, unsigned.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Hammers

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/32802t3.jpg>

68 Yoke puller

32802T9

Forged iron, 10 3/8" long, unsigned.

See Richardson's Practical Blacksmithing, volume II, pg. 16, Fig. 19.

Historic Maritime III (1800-1840): Boomtown Years & the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution

Agricultural Implements

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/32802t9.jpg>

69 Saw set

32802T13

Iron and steel, 8" long, signed "Morrell's PAT. Dec 14 88".

One of a wide variety of Morrell designs for saw sets, DATM (Nelson 1999) lists two patents, Feb. 24 and Dec. 14, 1880. This may not be the only unrecorded saw set patent. This design is rare; the 1880 patent designs were widely produced. Charles Morrell worked in New York city; DATM gives 1851 - 1920 as the working dates of the company with his name.

The Industrial Revolution (1865f.): Other Factory Made Tools

Miscellaneous Tools

70 Shoemaker's lasting pliers

30202T1

Drop forged steel, 8 1/2" long, 1" wide jaws, signed "L. B. Richardson Athol Mass Patented Oct 11, 1859".

Historic Maritime IV (1840-1865): The Early Industrial Revolution

Cobblers' Tools

<http://www.davistownmuseum.org/pics/30202t1.jpg>