

Eugene Zurbrugg Object Tour

00:00: Eugene talks about the wagon. It was on the farm before he was born. They used it to take feed for the chickens.

00:32: When his grandparents came over and bought the land, it was "basically timber." Their goal was to clear another acre ever winter. It was all done by horses and pick/axes. These are the tools that they used for the "grubbing." There's a grubbing hoe, and an old saw.

1:48: Here are some drills that they would use for building buildings. They build them out of big square hand hewn beams. "They didn't put them together with nails. They had a lot of pegs. They would dove tail them to make the connections. Then they would drill holes in the timbers and make wooden pegs the same size as the hole and drive the pegs in to hold it." The piece in the middle was probably used for boring a hole down through a stump so that they could stick a stick of dynamite inside and blow it up.

2:59: A hand-made rake for raking hay. Next to it is a big flat axe used to make the round beams. The handle was bent on purpose, so you could walk around the round tree, and you would chop one side of that log square. Then you would flip the log onto the flat part and repeat until the beam was square.

4:30: This is a yoke to keep a cow from going a barbed wire fence. The cow likes to put its head a little bit through the fence and eventually it would break through. If they put this on the cow it would hit against the fence and stop the cow.

5:11: An assortment of tools Eugene got out of the farm shop. The big wedge was used for cutting trees. They would first cut a notch in the tree on one side, and then start sawing on the other side. They would drive the wedge in behind the saw with a sledge hammer to stop the saw from pinching.

6:11: A hand-made rope pulley.

7:10: A cheese stirrer. You would have a big cheese kettle, and with the whisk looking end you would stir the whey and stop it from burning along the side of the pot.

7:49: A curved shovel used for ice fishing- more specifically, boring a hole in the ice through with to put down your line.

8:57: A... thing for making sauerkraut. You would take cabbage and slide it along the slanted blades. It would be cut into really thin layers.

9:32: Cheese moulds which you would take the cheese curd out of the kettle and put them into the mould. Then you would take the press and form the curd into a cube.

9:52: This is a butter churn. You'd fill the inside and crank it until you had butter out of it.

10:26: Fill this thing full of... "cracklings?" and turn the handle to press down and lard would come out the hole.

10:37: A Zurbrugg Trunk. When they came from Switzerland, that's what they all packed their belongings in. Later they used them as wood boxes.

Lots of different family pictures afterward.