



GRAIN BINDER

BACKGROUND: Terry Phillips, R.R.1 Shannonville, has recently moved his McCormick Deering grain binder to the O'Hara machinery shed. It's in working condition and is part of the demonstrations* of horse-drawn farm equipment at O'Hara.

The grain binder is the next development step up from the grain reaper, the name "binder" referring to it's self-tying knotter.

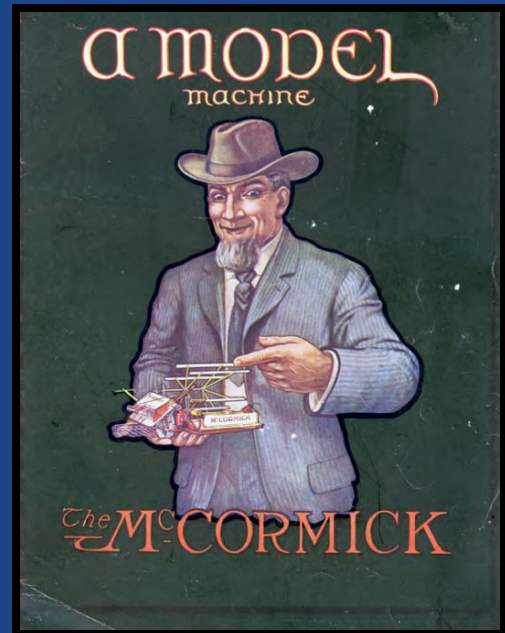
Cyrus McCormick is acclaimed as the inventor of the grain reaper, introducing one for the first time to the public in Virginia in 1831. The reaper cut, bunched, and carefully dropped the grain on the stubble in piles that could be tied into sheaves by hand. McCormick moved his growing machinery manufacturing business to Chicago in 1847, to take advantage of the rapidly developing American midwest farmland. A working knot-tying mechanism was invented in 1875, and by the early 1880's, McCormick was making self-tying binders. In 1902, he merged his business with William Deering, owner of a rival farm machinery manufacturer in Illinois, to form the well known International Harvester company.

Terry's binder shows both the McCormick Deering and International Harvester names on it, so we can assume it was built in the very early 1900's.

Binder Twine:

“With the invention of the twine-tying mechanism for the grain binder, the manufacture of binder twine became big business. International Harvester, like other binder manufacturing companies, had it's own twine mills to supply the rapidly growing demand for grain binders. I-H twine was made from either sisal or manila fibres, or a blend of the two.”

Notes provided by D. Little: October 23,24 2016



*All history points to the fact that wheat is of Asiatic origin. Strabo and other ancient writers assert that it was found growing spontaneously in that country and in India. Egypt claims it as one of the important products of the Nile from the earliest dawn of civilization—a fact clearly proven by the engravings on the tombs at Thebes, twenty centuries B. C. Sicily claims it to be indigenous to her soil—more perhaps because the soil is so well adapted to its successful growth. One thing is certain—from time immemorial it has been known and cultivated as the most important and valuable cereal in all civilized countries."

McCormick Light Draft Binder for 1903

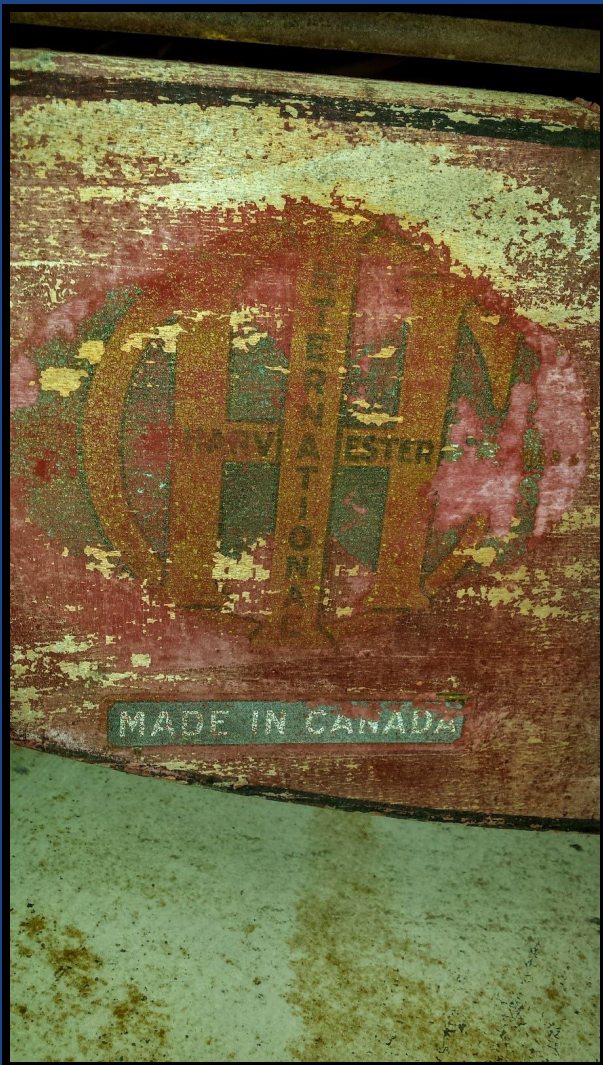
The season of 1902 has demonstrated more forcibly than ever that the new McCormick binder: 's the machine that agriculturists can depend upon for successfully harvesting their small grain crops. The McCormick binder is offered to the agriculturists of the world as a machine with the latest improvements, and one that can be relied upon to successfully harvest and save grain even when it is in the most unfavorable condition. That agriculturists realize and appreciate the sterling quality of the new McCormick binder is attested by the extraordinary demand for these machines, the capacity of the McCormick works having been taxed to the utmost to meet the requirements. Agriculturists require a machine that is easy to operate, for both team and driver—a machine that not only cuts all the grain, but also binds it into well-formed, evenly butted bundles—a machine that is correctly designed and substantially built of the best material—a machine that embodies all the modern improvements in binder construction—a machine that begets confidence alike in the minds of buyer and seller—a machine that requires no other recommendation than its name—such a machine is the new McCormick binder for 1903.

An exact duplicate of this binder is built in a left-hand cut

MCCORMICK

Rear view of the new McCormick right-hand binder.

GRAIN BINDER IN THE O'HARA DRIVE SHED
Note the markings for McCormick and International Harvester



GRAIN BINDER CONTINUED

2019 - The Binder in action! The stooks are created by stacking the sheaves (from the binder) by hand.

