



Wagon Wheel Skid Shoes



These are wagon wheel **SKID SHOES**.....one blacksmith-made, one foundry-made.

Coming down a steep hill with a horse-drawn wagonload of hay could be trouble. Hay wagons didn't have brakes. If the load started pushing the horses, the neck yoke at the front of the wagon tongue, between the team, could be pushed up by the tongue, lifting the horses' front legs, losing traction.

Before starting down the hill, a skid shoe would be placed in front of each rear wheel, the wagon moved ahead onto the shoes, the chain at the front of the shoe fastened ahead to the wagon body to keep it in place.

So the rear wheels were dragged down the hill, slowing things down.

Written by D. Little May 2021

