



WHOA-BACK RAKE



RE-BUILT, PAINTED AND READY FOR USE!

In the early years of haymaking in this area, everything was done by hand.....cutting the hay with a sickle or a scythe, gathering it with a wooden hand rake. As fields grew larger, inventions to replace manpower with horsepower appeared. The first recorded improvement to the hand rake was the Whoa-Back rake, introduced around 1825. It was named for the way the operator had to stop the horse when enough hay had been gathered on the tines, then back the horse up to dump the hay for a windrow. The early models would have had wooden tines.

The Whoa-Back rake at O'Hara's was donated by Larry Everall, a farmer in the Picton area. Because it sat outside in a fencerow for years, the wood components were beyond salvage, but enough remained to accurately reproduce them with good lumber.

The long iron rods at each end of the tine bar were hooked to the side traces of a single horse. The operator walked behind the rake, keeping the tines low enough to travel under the cut hay, yet high enough to prevent them from digging into the ground.

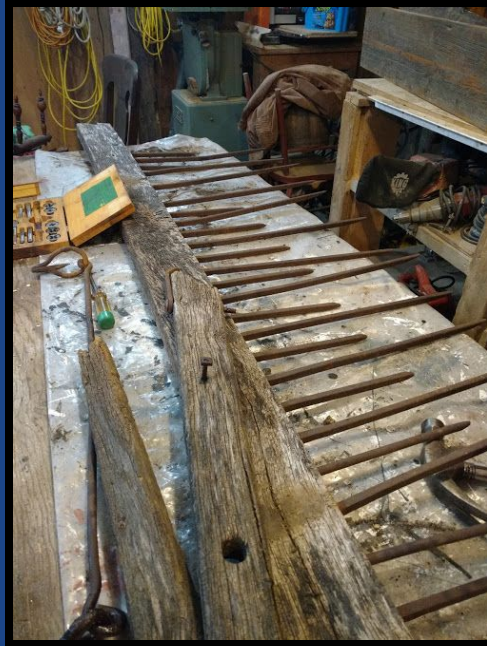
By the 1850s, the invention of the hay mower and the dump rake heralded the beginning of the end of the Whoa-Back rake era.....a new era where the farmer could ride, instead of walking, while the hay was being cut and raked.

As told by Dave Little, December 2018

Whoa-Back Rake Restoration



Brought into the O'Hara shop. It is shown as found. Tines, brace missing. The wood, missing and deteriorated.



Old wood removed. Note holes showing where the handle had been.



New brace, blacksmithed at O'Hara.

Old brace.

