

Making Hay

For

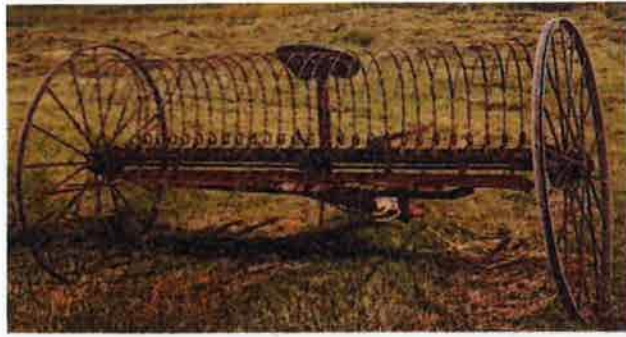
Daisy



This is Daisy. She was a pony that belonged to Charles Taker of Grosse Ile.

In the summer, Daisy ate from her pasture (which you see behind her). However, in the winter her pasture became covered in snow and she had to take refuge in her winter home (the barn you see behind her). During the winter months, there was no fresh grass for her to eat.

For Daisy's diet and her bedding in the winter her family provided her with hay (grass that had been cut and dried). The following pages will demonstrate the process through which Daisy's hay was made.



The hay was mowed by a tractor. After it was mowed, it was left to dry in the sun. It was then raked with a raking machine (pictured above) to facilitate quicker drying. Years ago, the raking machine was pulled by a horse, then eventually a tractor or a truck pulled it.





Before the hay could be taken to the barn, it had to be totally dry. Sometimes this required turning it again (and again) by hand or with a hay fork (pictured above). The hay was then arranged in coils or stacks to make hauling less arduous. (Pictured below is a hay stack).

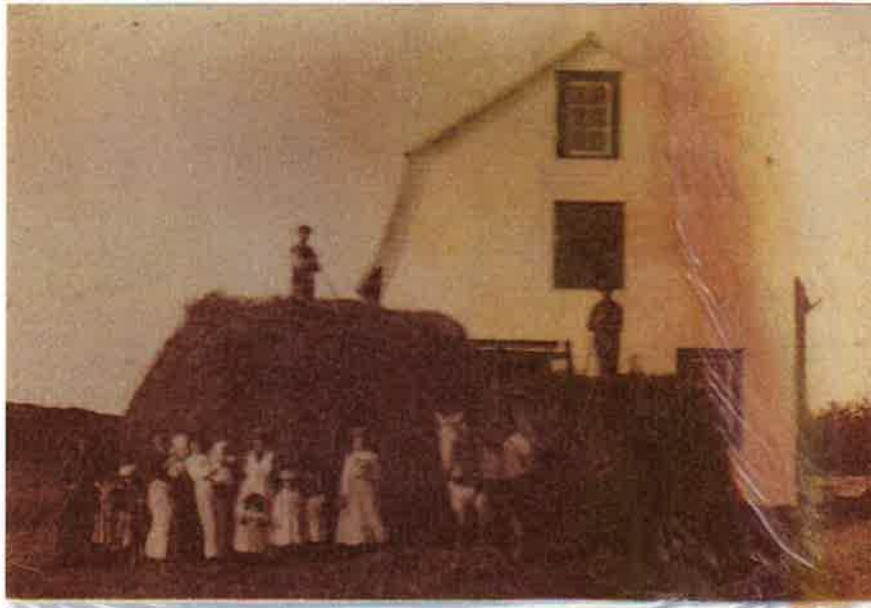




After being dried for a couple of days, the hay is finally ready to be taken to the barn. (Pictured above is this phase of the operation) Three people pitched the hay onto the truck while a fourth person packed the hay and arranged it carefully so it wouldn't fall off during the hauling.

The hay finally arrived at the barn, ready to be pitched into the loft.





In the above picture, hay workers are taking a “breather” (a break) before finishing the final phase of haymaking.

Finally the hay is pitched from the truck to the barn loft. Once into the barn, the hay was carefully packed and arranged to allow the maximum amount of hay to fit in. This is the last phase of haymaking. After the hay was packed in, it was sprinkled with salt to protect it from spontaneous combustion which might have arisen if the hay was damp.

The haymaking process is now complete, ready for the long winter months during which it would have been used as food and bedding for Daisy.

