



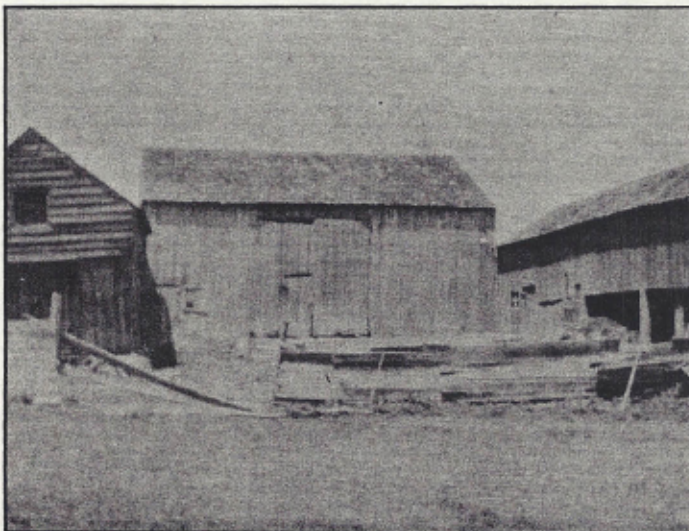
Hay rake showing rake teeth in the up position

When the hay was dry enough, it was loaded onto the hay wagon and hauled to the barn. The hay loader mentioned above was attached to the back of the hay wagon and picked up the hay and unloaded it on the top of the hay wagon. Many farmers did not have a loader, and used pitch forks to throw the hay up to a farm hand on the wagon who spread the hay around for the best load. The picture of a fully-loaded hay wagon was taken on a farm in Weston, about 1912.

When the wagon reached the barn it was unloaded into the hay loft using a hay fork which was attached with rope to a trolley overhead. The hay fork was dropped onto the wagon load of hay which had been pulled into the center of the barn. A large 'bunch' was picked up and pulled up to the top of the barn. Then the hay was pulled along the trolley rails until it was over the hay loft. A trip lever was released and the hay dropped into the loft. In some of the early barns, the hay was forked into the loft by the farmer and his help. The method described above explains the way it was done in the barn at the Coley Homestead. The power to pull the ropes in the various parts of this operation was supplied by horses pulling the rope. In some cases, the power was supplied by engine.



A full load of hay



Old barn on Kettle Creek. The hay barn is in the center. The hay wagon was pulled in thru the doors and the hay lifted to the right and left to the hay lofts.

Dairy cows will eat about two-three pounds of hay per 100 pounds of body weight every day. The same is true for oxen, horses and sheep. With maybe twenty animals on the farm in 1900, it would take 250-300 pounds of hay per day, or ten to fifteen tons of hay for a six-month period.

Just getting the hay in for the winter season took the Weston farmer a good part of his summer. Some years he did not get enough hay in the barn, and to keep some of his livestock healthy, he had to sell others, or, buy some hay from other farmers who might have some extra.