



BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

SPRING CLEANING: GUESS THE ARTIFACT ANSWERS!

1) If you thought it looks like a vacuum, then you got it. This is a vacuum that is hand-powered. Suction is still used, but instead of a motor creating the suction, the wooden handle at the top was pumped by hand and dust was sucked into the bottom cylinder. Did you think it was 1910s? Then you got it again! This is “The Reeves Suction Sweeper” from Reeves Vacuum Cleaner Co of Milford, CT. While electric vacuums were also invented around this time, electricity was not fully installed into homes, especially those in rural communities, until closer to the 1950s.



2) Did you guess it they are for chimney cleaning? No, not a house chimney, but an oil or kerosene lamp chimney. Since the light was fire, smoke and soot would build up on the inside of the glass chimney. Cleaning them allowed for better light quality. Do you have an oil or kerosene lamp in your house?



3) It is quite broom like. But it is not for the fireplace or woodstove. Too short to be used to sweep floors. Have you checked your windows? Are their corners full of cobwebs or the sashes dusty? Well, then grab a **Window Brush** like this and have at them! This window brush is shaped to get into corners without scratching your glass or wood while the soft bristles can get into the nooks and crannies. Dust bunnies beware!

