

Laundry Irons

In the Round Top Area Historical Society Museum



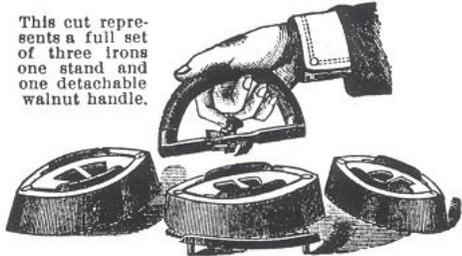
Pictured are three irons donated to RTAHS.

Below is some written history on these types of irons. . Enjoy.

Sad Iron

Mrs. Pott's Sad Irons.

This cut represents a full set of three irons one stand and one detachable walnut handle.



42775 Extra polished, No. 55: weight per set 15½ lbs. (This price is subject to change of market without notice.)	Per set	\$0.65	
42776 Nickel plated, No. 50. (This price is subject to the change of market without notice.)		.70	
42778 Extra handles for Mrs. Potts Irons		.15	
Japanned, Price each		.20	
Tinned " "		.05	
Iron Stands		.05	
42779 Mrs. Pott's Nickel Plated smoothing iron, perforated handle, No. 70; weight each, 5½ lbs. Each		\$0.35. Per dozen	3.90



The sad iron is a smoothing iron, solid and flat, it needed to be heated and reheated on the stove. It says that the word sad once meant heavy or compact. Webster's defines sad iron as a flat iron pointed at both ends and having a removable handle, and dates the term to 1738.

Evidently an American woman named Mrs. Potts invented a removable wooden handle in 1871 that made it easier to iron—it didn't burn your hand (women used rags or potholders but still, those things must have been dangerously hot!), and you could put one sad iron on the stove to heat while you moved the handle to the hot one.

Charcoal Iron with Fluting Plate

Charcoal (i.e. self-heated) heated irons allowed for ironing to be done without having to endure the heat of the woodstove or cook stove, a welcome relief during summertime months. The downside was dealing with the smoke that was exhausted thru the chimney or other vents that were a necessary part of the design.

Fluting irons not only ironed your clothes they were also designed to crimp, ruffle and press little pleats into starched fabric. Used for collars, cuffs, etc. these vintage tools were an invention that saw their heyday in America from the 1860's through the 1880's, but some very rare and unusual ones were made right into the 1920's.



Kerosene Iron



The Akron Lamp Co. patented this iron on Dec. 22, 1936. It is a kerosene model and required preheating with an alcohol torch inserted in the hole near the back. The iron is preheated and can rest tilted back on the tank. The Akron Lamp Co. made this iron for Montgomery Ward who sold it as No. 4045. The pump is built into the handle on these irons. Instructions are on the fuel tank.

Note: The first patented ironing board was in 1858.

Come in to the museum to see, touch, and appreciate how ironing has changed.

Museum is OPEN: Second Saturday each month.

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

* <http://tgmarsh.faculty.noctrl.edu/iron.html>

* http://www.garmento.org/process&skills/history_of_irons.pdf

* <http://historymyths.wordpress.com/2012/09/08/myth-95-they-are-called-sadirons-because-ironing-was-such-a-hated-chore-that-any-woman-would-be-sad-to-iron/>