

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Portage National Monument
PO Box 426, 170 Mile Creek Road
Grand Portage, Minnesota 55605
218-475-0123

Knives



PHOTO TITLE: Dag Fragment - GRPO 3057

DESCRIPTION: Heavily corroded hand dag fragment measuring 19.0 cm long, 5.0 cm wide, and thickness varying from 0.1 to 0.4 cm. This was a popular knife among the Native Peoples trading with the North West Company, as the inventory of 1797 at Grand Portage records 196 dags on hand at the depot.

PHOTO TITLE: Scabbard Clip - GRPO 3167

DESCRIPTION: Brass scabbard clip for a sword or bayonet with two vertically placed rivets for attachment. The object measures 5.5 cm long and 1.8 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Cartouche Knife Handle - GRPO 12607

DESCRIPTION: Cast brass filigree-patterned cartouche knife handle with trace amounts of thinly transparent organic material backing, likely horn. The handle measures 9.7 cm long.

PHOTO TITLE: Cartouche Knife Handle - GRPO 12614

DESCRIPTION: Cast brass filigree-patterned cartouche knife handle complete with thinly transparent organic material backing, likely horn. The handle measures 9.7 cm long. The 1797 inventory of goods at the North West Company depot in Grand Portage indicates the presence of 108 cartouche knives.

PHOTO TITLE: Case Knife Blade - GRPO 13653

DESCRIPTION: 18th century Sheffield case knife blade with a vertically positioned maker's mark that resembles a four-lobed crown over the numeral 2. The knife is broken through the first rivet hole on the tang. It measures 15.5 cm long.

PHOTO TITLE: Razor - GRPO 14959

DESCRIPTION: Over 340 razors appear on the 1797 inventory of goods at the North West Company depot in Grand Portage. This hollow ground example here bears two stamps: "ACIER-FOND" (meaning "steel edge") centered over the cutting edge near the spine; and "G. SMITH" (the mark of Georgius Smith, a Sheffield, England razor-maker in the 1770s) near the brass rivet. The razor is 13.7 cm long and has a maximum width of 1.7 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Table Knife - GRPO 15373

DESCRIPTION: Incomplete table knife with broken dagger-like tip and deteriorated blade. Bone grips are secured by two cupreous rivets. The knife measures 17.3 cm long and is 1.5 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Pistol-Grip Handle - GRPO 15375

DESCRIPTION: Cast white metal pistol-grip style utensil handle fragment, probably for a knife or fork. The handle fragment is hollow on the inside, and forms only half of the handle, as the matching piece was not recovered. The handle fragment measures 8.9 cm long and 1.9 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Crooked Knife Fragment - GRPO 15377

DESCRIPTION: Crooked knife blade fragment measuring 6.1 cm long and 1.0 cm wide. Sixty-six crooked knives appear on the 1797 inventory of goods present at the North West Company depot in Grand Portage. Knives of this style were pulled toward the individual using the blade and were useful for a multitude of woodworking applications, particularly canoe construction.

PHOTO TITLE: Folding Knife - GRPO 17587

DESCRIPTION: One of the most popular knives in the fur trade era, over 2,100 folding knives appear on the 1797 inventory of goods present at the North West Company depot in Grand Portage. This example here has lost its handles, made from either bone or wood. It measures 8.0 cm long, 2.3 cm wide, and has a maximum thickness of 0.6 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Case Knife Blade - GRPO 17617

DESCRIPTION: Unmarked case knife blade with straight back and partially intact heel wrapped with wire. The knife measures 22.0 cm long.

PHOTO TITLE: Clasp Knife Blade - GRPO 17785

DESCRIPTION: Clasp knife blade with flattened hinge element and rivet/hinge pin intact. The knife bears the three character mark of William Parker, a Sheffield cutler active from 1739 to the mid-1780s. The knife measures 12.9 cm long, 2.2 cm wide, and 0.2 cm thick.