

KETCHUM MFG. CO. ANIMAL TRAP

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECT

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| Repository: | Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY. 12838 |
| Creator: | Thomas H. Taylor (1854 – 1947) and Ketchum Mfg. Co. |
| Title: | Ketchum Mfg. Co. Animal Trap |
| Date: | 1940 |
| Quantity: | 1 trap, 6 numbered ear tags |
| Identification: | Art & Artifacts |

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas H. Taylor (2 May 1854 – 13 May 1947), of Lake Luzerne, Warren County, NY, was an inventor who held patents on several animal traps. This one is patent number 2,273,738. The patent application is dated 7 September 1940. It states, in part “My present invention is an improvement over the device shown in my Patent No. 1,003,303, September 12, 1911.” Taylor died in 1947 and is buried in Luzerne Cemetery, Section A, Lot 90.

The trap was manufactured by Ketchum Manufacturing in Lake Luzerne. The firm was founded in 1928 by Henry Ketchum, a member of the family that owns Ketchum Manufacturing in Ontario, Canada. Both companies are still in operation, producing livestock identification tags and other specialized i.d. tags. “Ketchum is one of the four major suppliers of agricultural tags in the United States and has customers as far away as Poland, Turkey, Fiji and Australia.” (www.ketchummfg.com “About Us.”) The company is now operated by the fourth generation of the same family.

The 6 small metal objects donated with the trap appear to be numbered ear tags.

The folder for this object includes copies of the patents for this and Taylor’s previous trap, and information on the Ketchum Manufacturing Co.

INDEX TERMS

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| Topics: | Animal traps Trapping Manufacturing -- metal |
| Places: | Lake Luzerne, Warren County, NY |

Important People: Thomas H. Taylor, Lake Luzerne NY
Henry Ketchum, Ontario Canada and Lake Luzerne NY
A. Allison, Warren Ohio

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Animal Trap; Artifact Collection
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donation from Jim Mandell

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, October 2015

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

Rusty metal square coil spring animal trap with 14 inch chain attached. At the end of the chain is a one and a half inch metal circle, intended for use in staking the trap in place. On the penultimate link of the chain is a tag identifying the owner of the trap: A. Allison, Riverview St., Warren, Ohio. The trap itself measures approximately six and one half by 7 and one half inches. It is intended to kill nuisance animals such as woodchucks, skunks and muskrats.

On the trip plate of the trap is the following information:

T.H. Taylor
Pat applied for
Ketchum Mfg. Co.
Lake Luzerne, N.Y.

On the obverse of the plate is the patent number: 2,273,738

Donor suggested that the trap was manufactured in the 1920s, but the inscription of the patent number on the trip plate indicates that it could not have been manufactured before the patent was applied for and the number issued, i.e. Sept. 7, 1940.

Included in the donation are six sequentially numbered metal ear tags (#869 – #874). They are the same shape as the brass ear tags currently manufactured at Ketchum, and are probably intended for livestock.