

Colonial Foot Warmer

This foot warmer is an ideal example of how an individual could bring portable heat for an outing in the sleigh or wagon and/or providing heat for a long Sunday service at church.

It is composed of an exterior wooden frame to protect from direct contact with the heat, contained in a punched tin box with a door for loading hot soap stones. A wire bail handle is attached for easy transportation and they were placed under lap robes or blankets to keep ones feet warm. History had previously stated putting hot coals or embers in the tin box but the heat did not remain hot enough and is dangerous allowing gases to escape in a closed environment. Stones such as smooth river stones or ideally flat soap stones were heated in the hot coals or on top of a wood stove to provide the necessary heat. They stay hot much longer without the danger of carbon monoxide and are safer to use.