

# Animal Trap

## ORIGINS

Date: Unknown

Place: USA

Materials: Iron, handmade



Trap Figure 1

Donated

By: Unknown

## DESCRIPTION

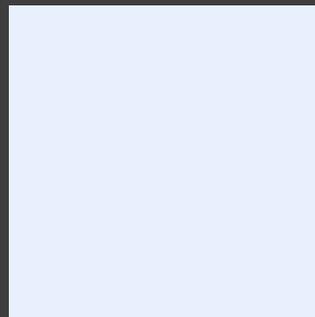
The animal trap is small in comparison to others as it was made for smaller animals. It is a little rusty in some areas. The components include: the trap's jaw which snares the foot/leg, the pressure plate which is set off by pressure, and the base which holds the trap together. Then there is the chain connected at the base which is meant to hold the trap in place with a stake through the loop at the other end. On the bottom there is a carved number "3" which is a number that categorizes the trap to what it was made specifically for otter. It is classified as a "Newhouse" Trap.



Trap Figure 2



Trap Figure 3



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## CULTURE

**Description:** Before the iron-made traps came into being, trappers, Native Americans and White Trappers, used steel traps. The reason to change from steel to iron was because the steel made it too heavy for them to carry multiple traps and far distances whereas iron was lighter. But starting in the mid-1800s, they were made by blacksmiths. In 1823, in Oneida NY, the trapping industry really took flight with Sewell Newhouse. He basically made his own traps out of scrap that he found in his father's workshop and they were very effective. So effective that they became in high demand and when he joined the Oneida Community, they wanted him to make and to sell his traps and they enjoyed widespread popularity. In 1864, a Newhouse Traps factory was built in Sherrill, NY which within 10 years of being open sold about 120 million which were manufactured to go all over the world. In the 1890s, two of every three traps were made around the world were made by Oneida's Hardware Department Building in Sherrill, NY. You can now learn about the Oneida traps in the Oneida Community Mansion House where they have over 100 traps that is open to the public in Oneida.



*Caption:* This is the factory built in Sherrill, NY for the traps.

**Use within Culture:** The trap with the culture is basically to trap animals. Each trap is etched with a number to correspond what animal they are made for. The smaller the number, the smaller the animal it used and the bigger you go the bigger number and the animal. The trap is a milestone in culture because it has been used for thousands of years for furbearers and even for food. Trappers bring their quarry to Trapping Auctions where they sell furs to buyers. Without traps, there wouldn't be a market for furbearers, because shooting the animals damages the fur and become useless. In order to use the traps properly today, you have to go through a course and get a license. There are requirements now for traps, for instance when they have to be a certain height above the ground.

**Report written by:**  
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