



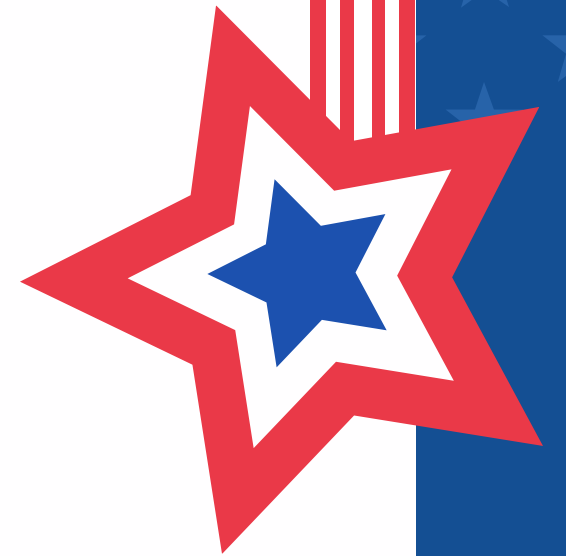
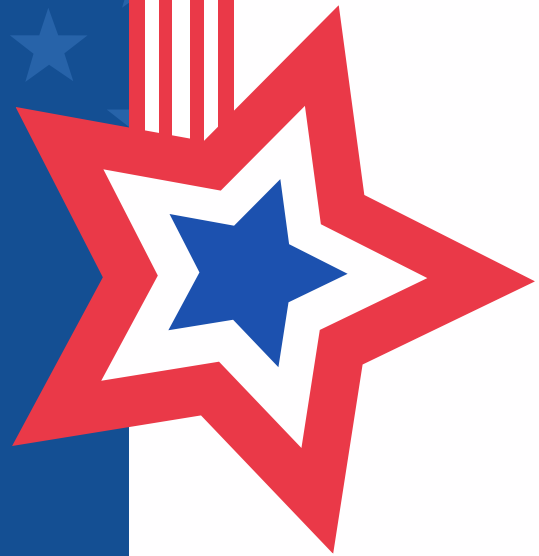
**THE PAST IN PIECES**

**GUESS THE  
AMERICAN  
ARTIFACT**



The Moore-Morris  
History and  
Culture Center  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

# WHAT IS IT?

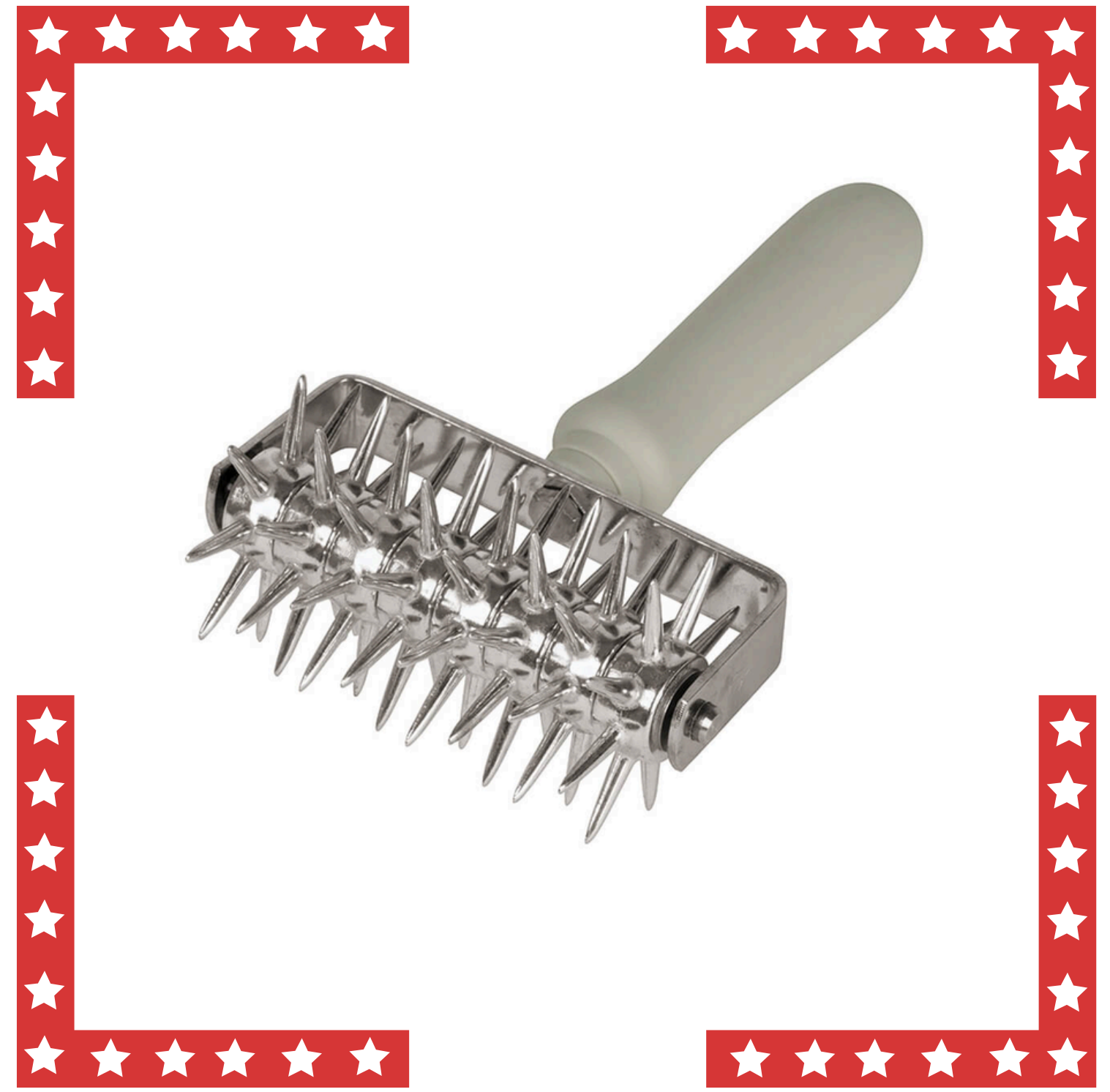




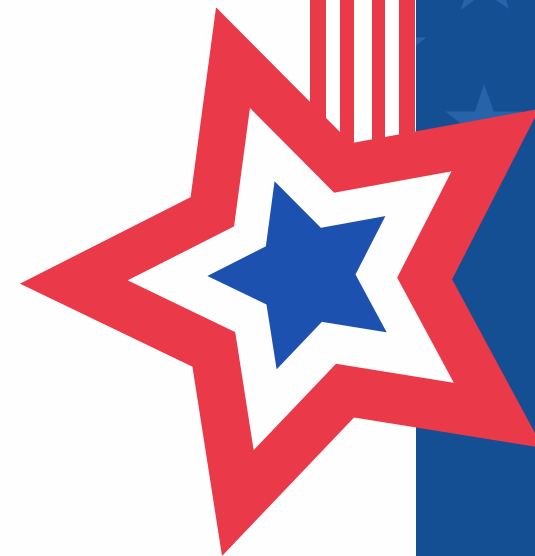
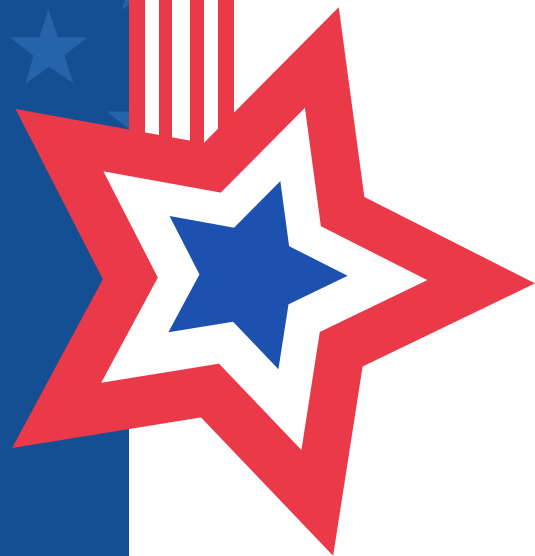
# A DOCKER



This tool is called a docker, and it helped make the holes in hardtack, a tough cracker soldiers ate during the Civil War. The holes kept the crackers from puffing up and going bad, helping them last for years. But there was a catch, hardtack was so hard, soldiers had to dunk it in coffee or soup just to eat it!



**WHAT IS IT?**

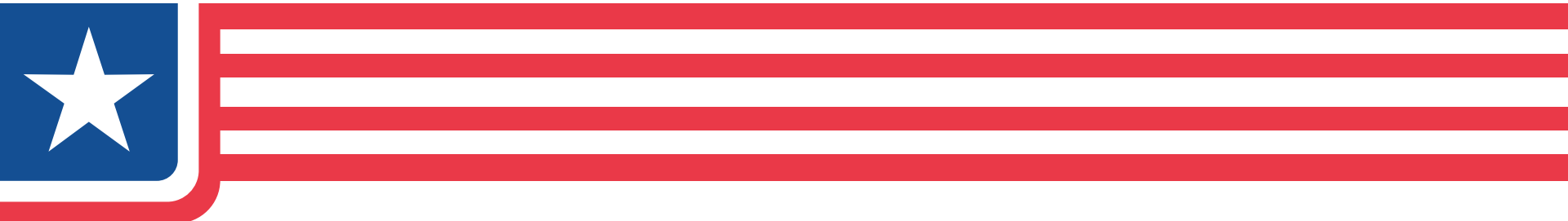
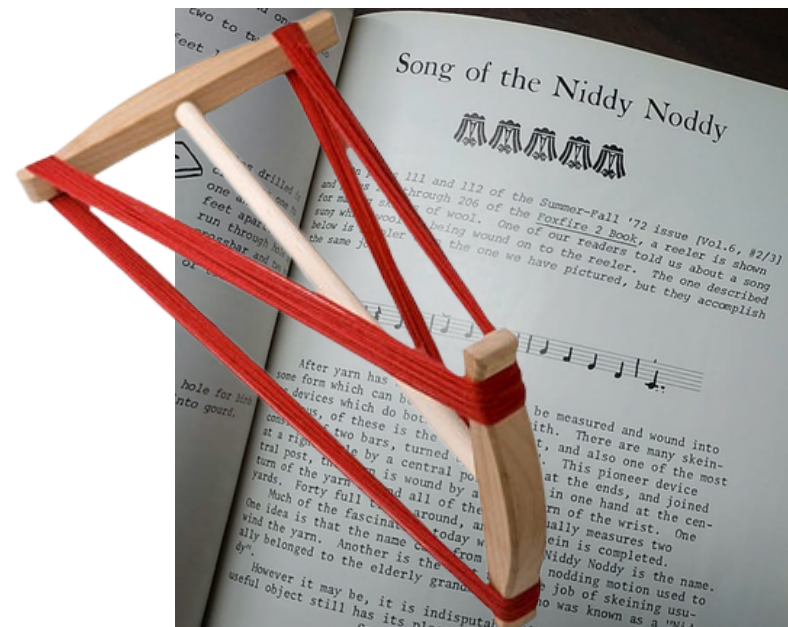




# A "NIDDY NODDY"



A "Niddy Noddy" is a yarn reel that was popular during the Antebellum and Reconstruction time periods. As the weaver wound yarn around it, they would sing a song. One full "niddy noddy" of yarn was a specific length (usually 2 yards), allowing them to measure exactly how much thread they had for a loom.

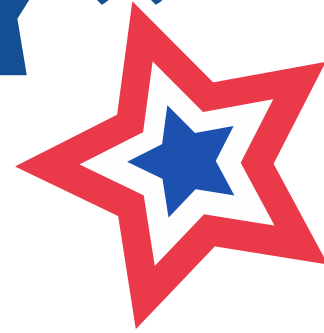


# WHAT IS IT?





# “CHURCH KEY”



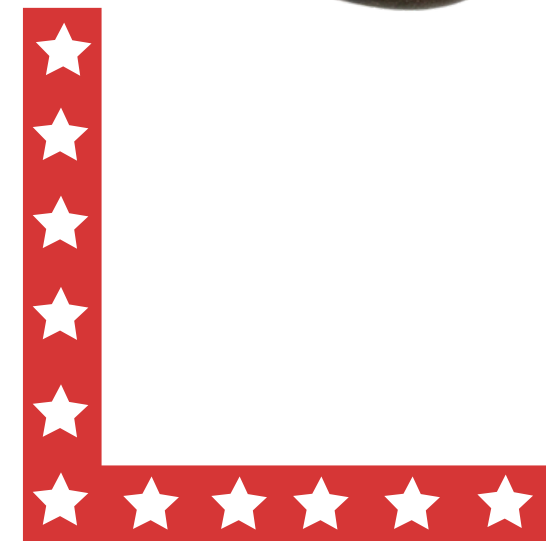
This tool is known as a “church key,” one of the earliest types of bottle openers. It became especially popular during the Roaring Twenties and continued into the postwar era. The name comes from its resemblance to the old-fashioned keys once used to open church doors. Later, a pointed edge was added, allowing it to double as a can opener—perfect for opening the increasingly popular canned goods of the time.



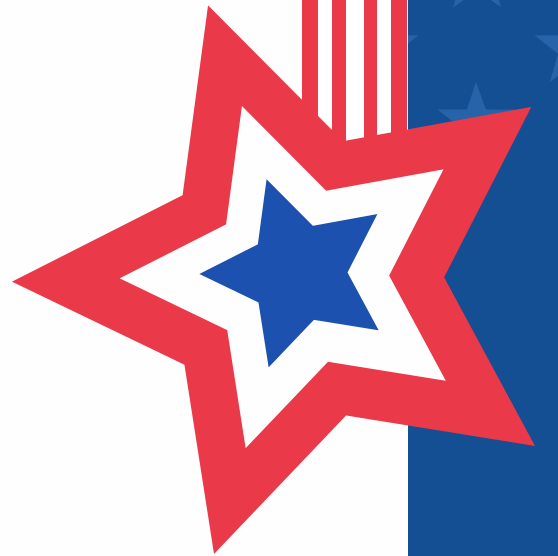
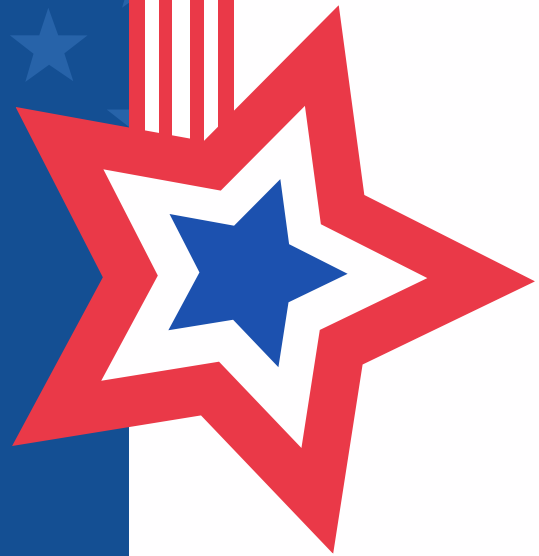
Authentic Church Key

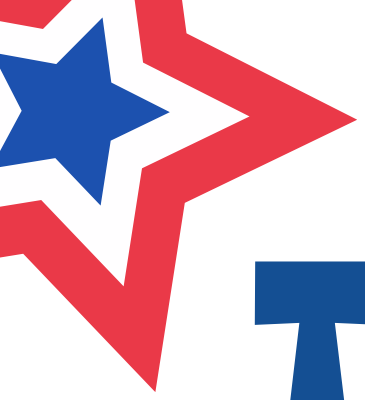


The Sharp Edge



**WHAT IS IT?**

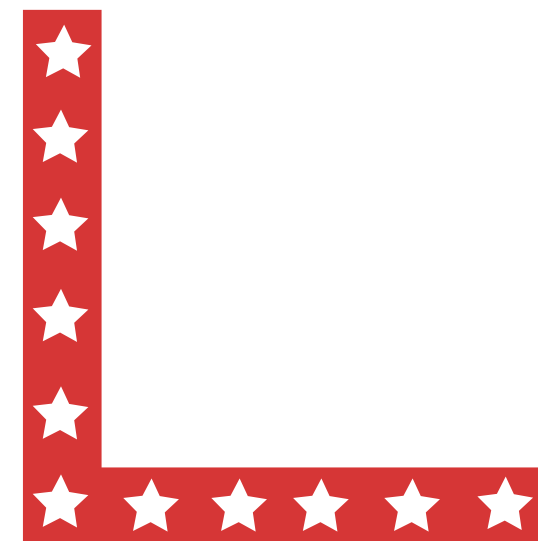
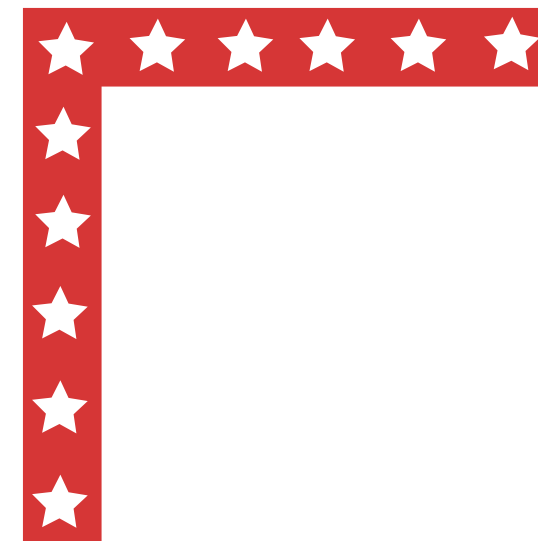




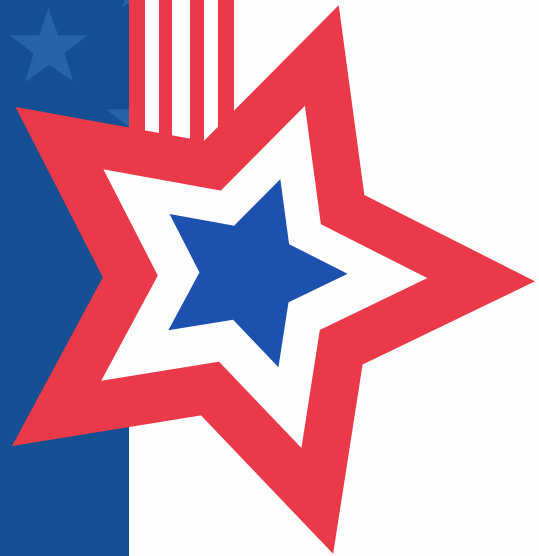
# THE “SUGAR NIPPER”



During the Gilded Age, sugar came in 10 pound bags of hard-packed sugar. These were often in the shape of loaves. The “sugar nipper” allowed you to cut or nip the sugar you needed off the hard loaf.



# WHAT IS IT?

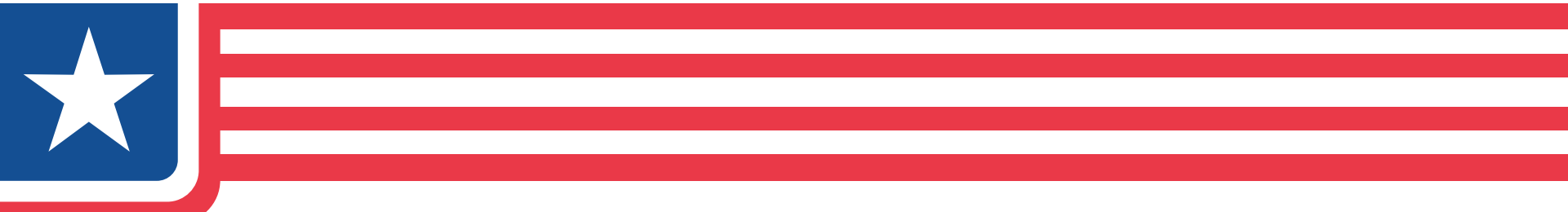
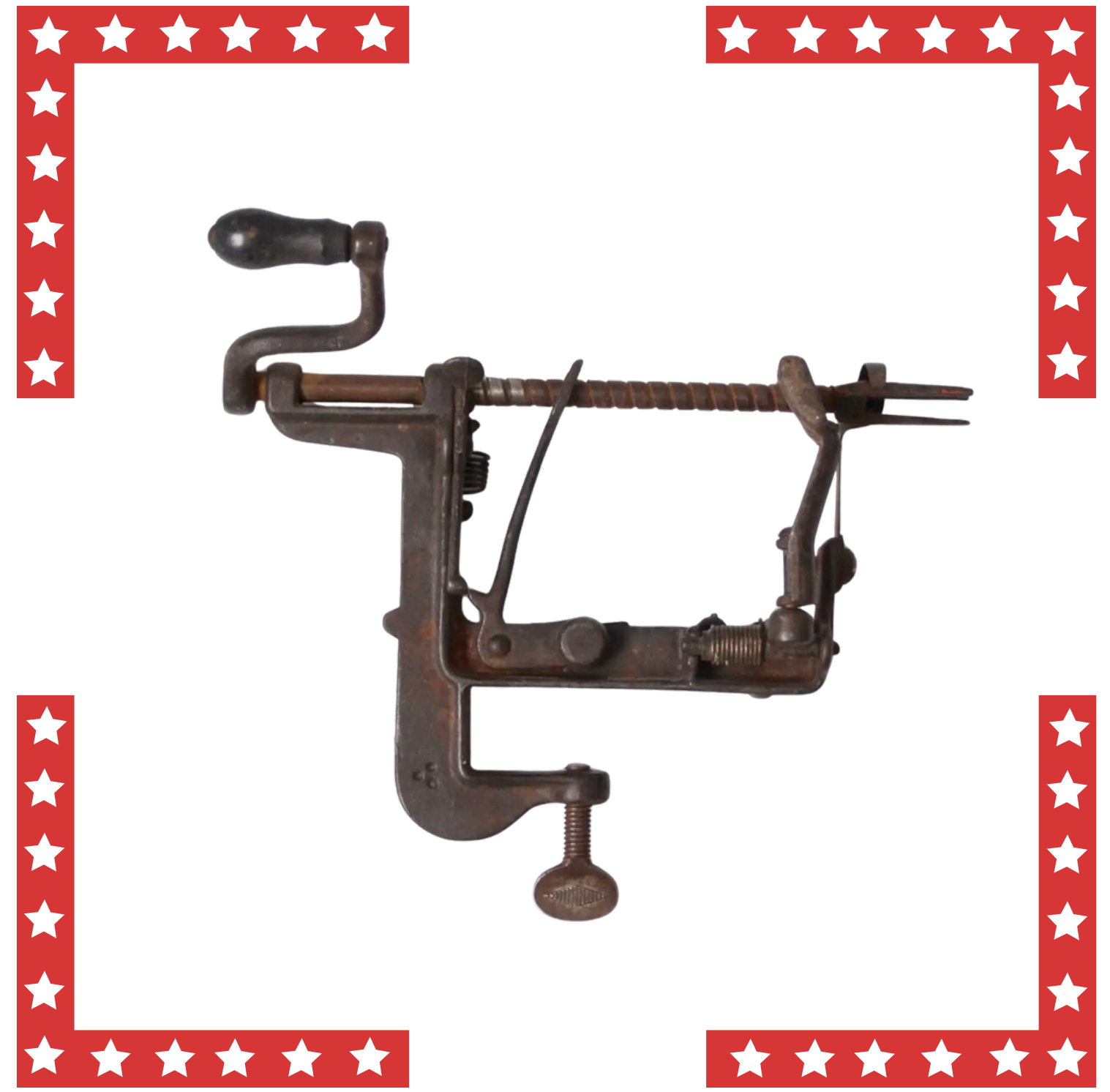




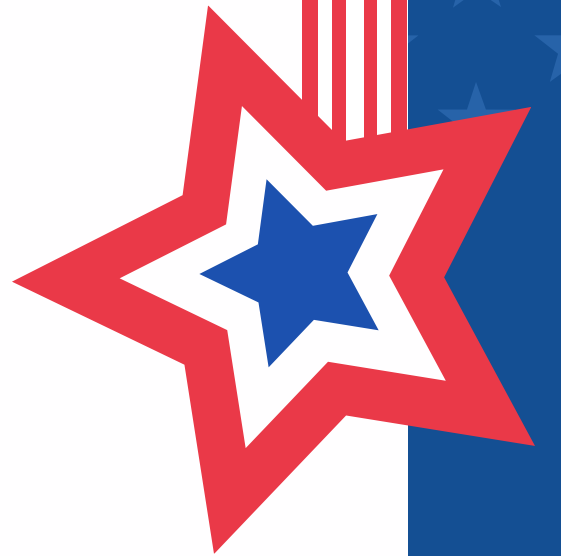
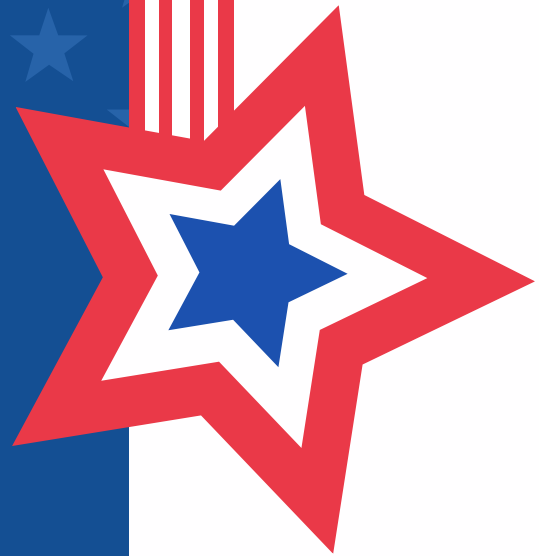
# CASTIRON APPLE PARER

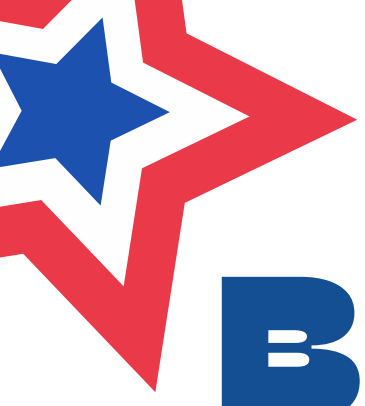


During the Progressive Era, new inventions brought a sense of “scientific efficiency” into the kitchen. This apple peeler and corer allowed cooks to prepare apples in seconds rather than minutes. Before widespread canned goods, making something like an apple pie meant peeling and coring every apple by hand, so this device was a true time-saver and a symbol of modern convenience.



**WHAT IS IT?**

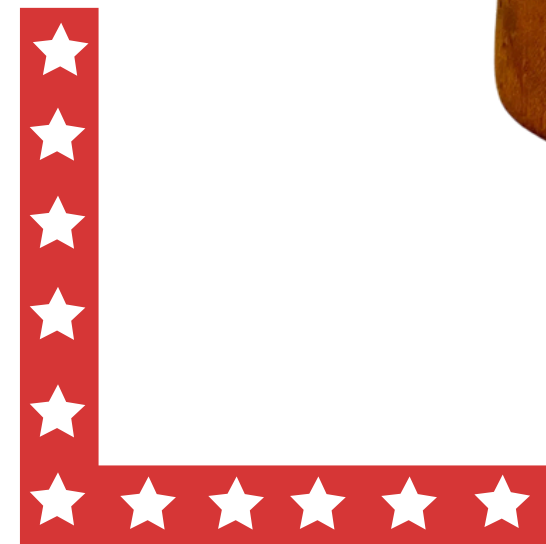
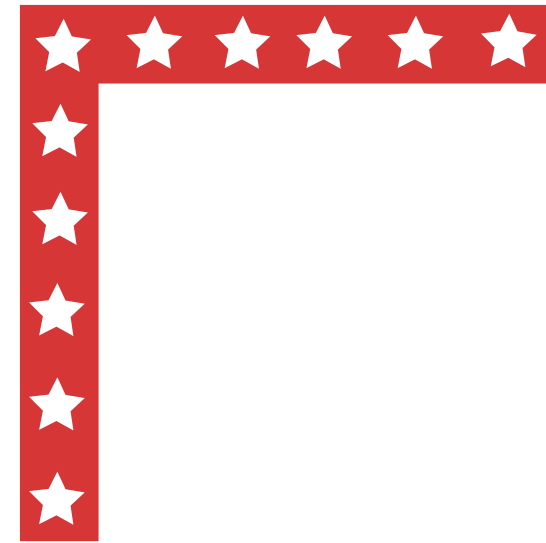




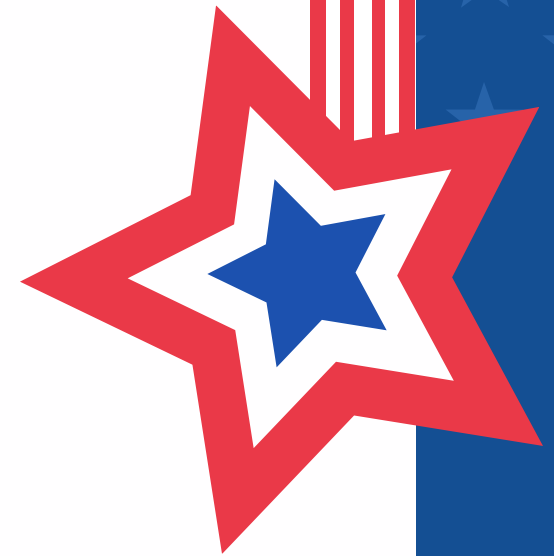
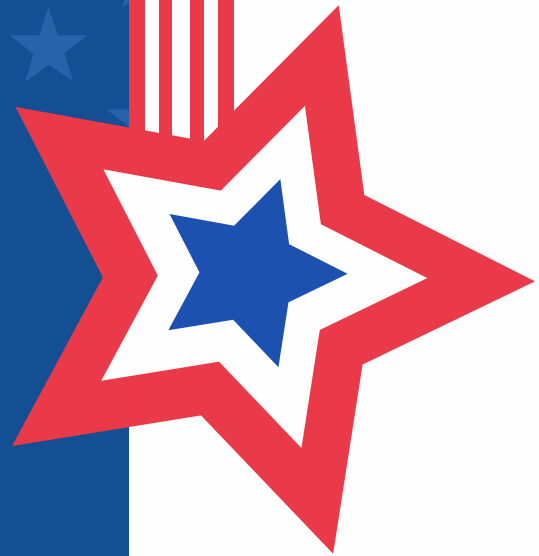
# BUTTER MOLD

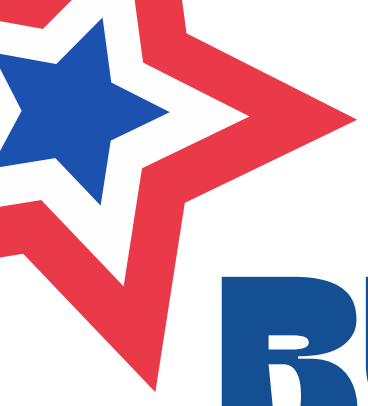


This is a butter mold that would have been used during the Antebellum era to brand a families' homemade butter before bringing it to market to sell. Traditionally the molds featured wheat stalks like the one seen below.



**WHAT IS IT?**





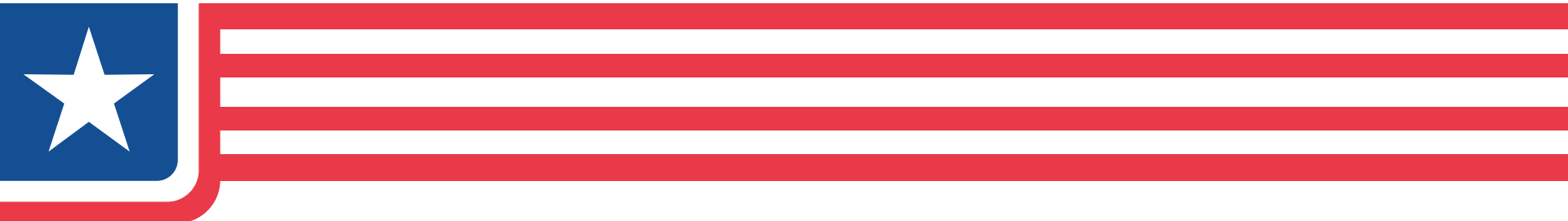
# RUG BEATER



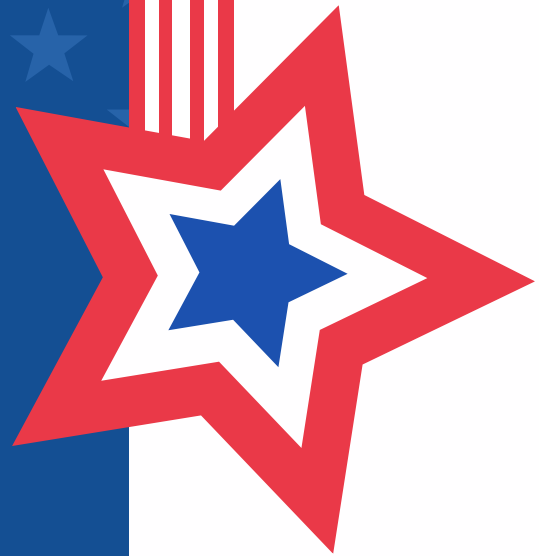
During the Progressive Era, people began placing a much greater emphasis on cleanliness in the home. But without modern vacuums families relied on tools like this rug beater. Imagine taking your rugs outside, hanging them over a line, and quite literally beating the dust out of them. It was noisy, labor-intensive, and very effective!

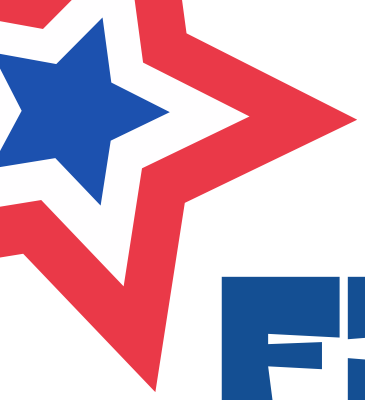


Another version of the rug beater



# WHAT IS IT?





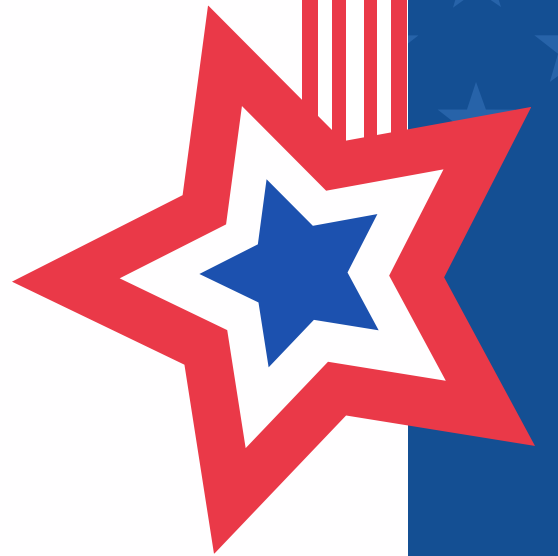
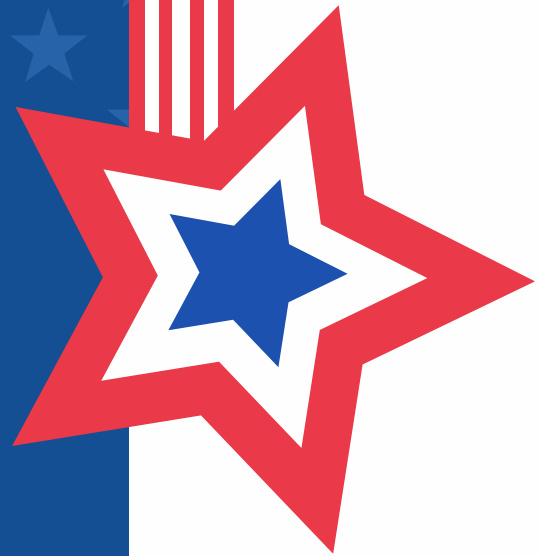
# FIREPLACE TOASTER

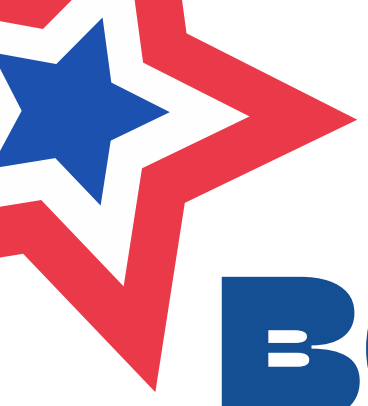


During the Frontier Life of the early 1800's, meals were cooked over an open flame. This device was used to toast bread. If you look closely you can see some resemblance to the modern-day toaster!



# WHAT IS IT?





# BOOT JACK

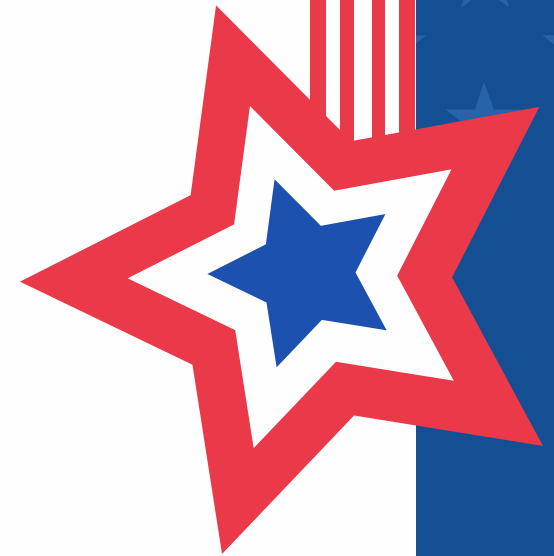
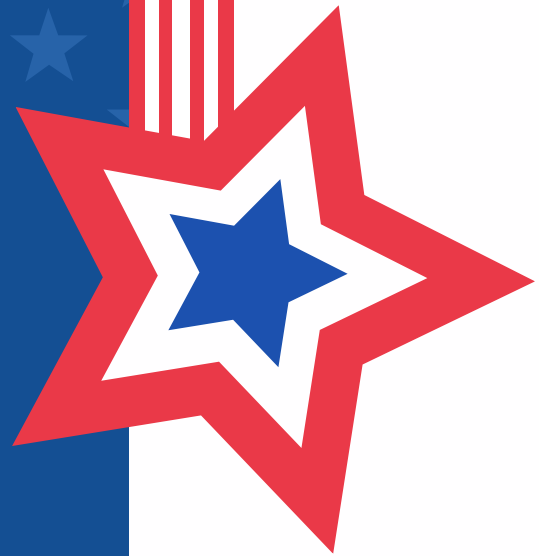


In 19th-century Franklin, the roads were either made of dust or thick, red Tennessee mud. Everyone wore tall leather boots, and after a day of work or marching, those boots were nearly impossible to pull off by hand without help.

You would place one foot on the flat part to hold it down, wedge the heel of your muddy boot into the notch, and pull your foot out.



# WHAT IS IT?





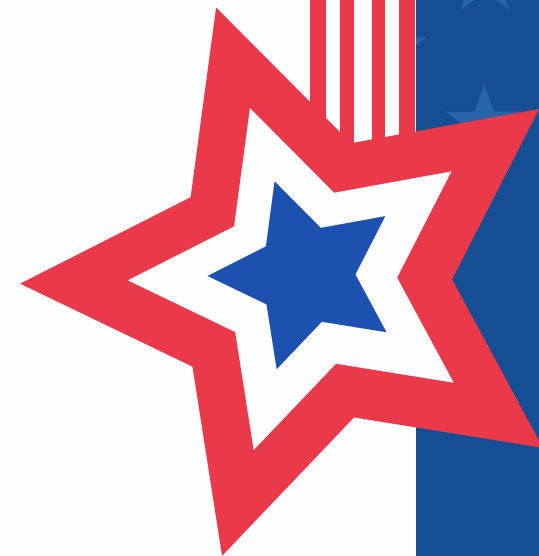
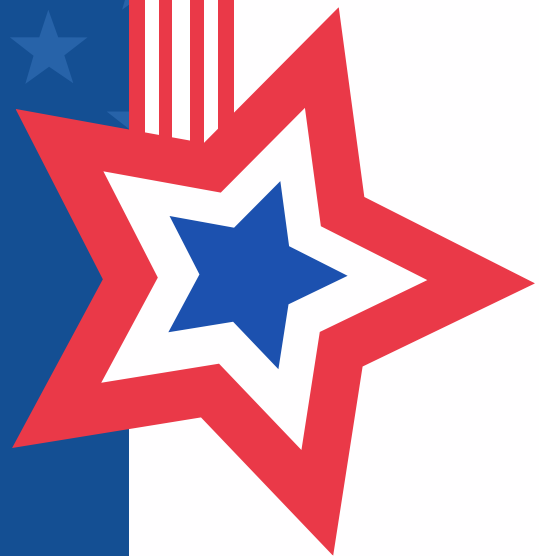
# SPICE GRATER



Unlike the cluttered spice cabinets of today, spices during the Antebellum period were rare and precious. This is a nutmeg grater. The small tins held the whole nutmeg seed, keeping it fresh and protected until it was needed. Because of its cost and importance, cooks would grate only a small amount at a time, preserving both its flavor and its value.



**WHAT IS IT?**

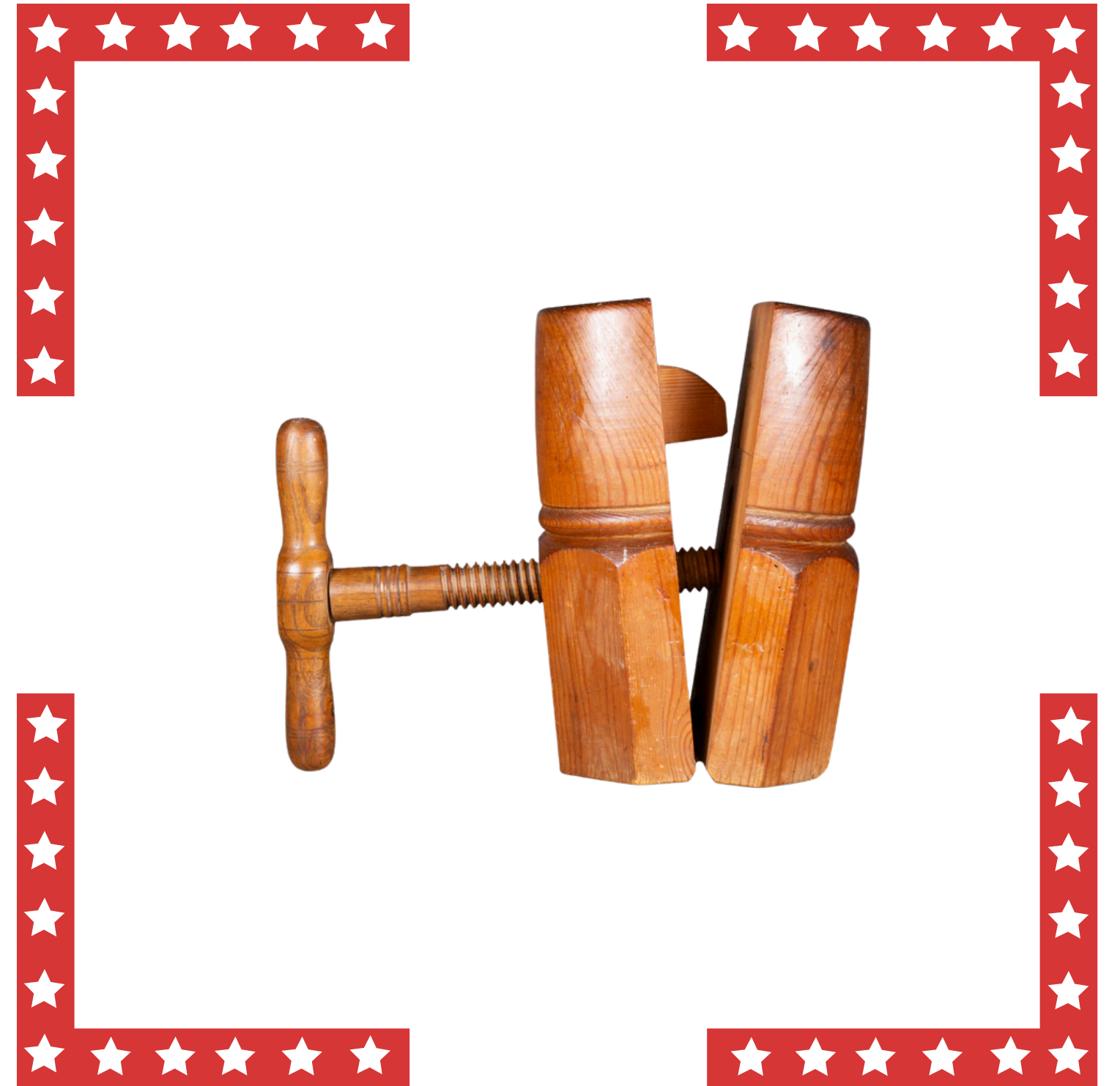




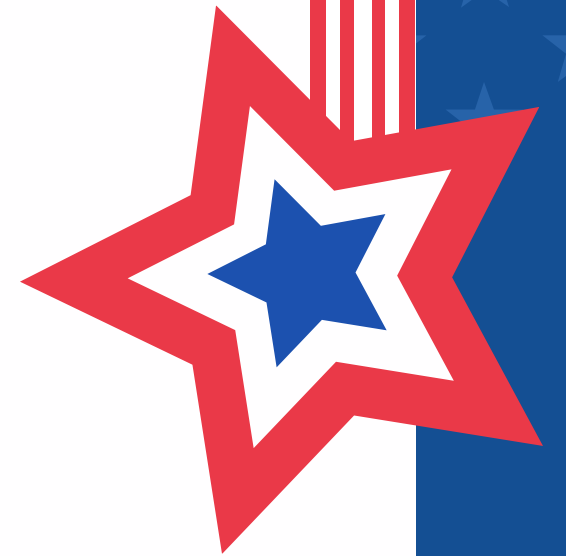
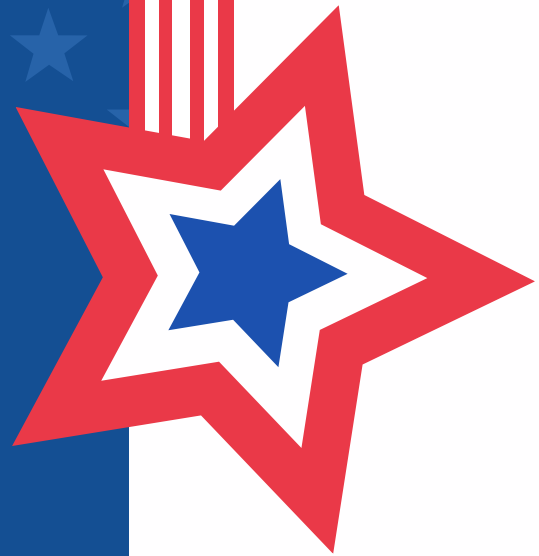
# HAT STRETCHER



During the height of fashion in the 1920s, both men and women wore hats as an essential part of daily dress. While this was not a new trend, the popularity of bobbed hairstyles for women and shorter hair for men meant that hats needed to fit the head more precisely than ever before. This hat stretcher allowed owners to adjust and shape their hats, ensuring a comfortable and proper fit.



**WHAT IS IT?**





# CURLING IRON



In the 1920s, everyone wanted stylish curls and trendy bob haircuts. This is a curling iron they would have used—but look closely... there's no cord! That's because it had to be heated over a stove first. Imagine trying to curl your hair while holding a hot iron with both hands!

