

ABOUT OUR COVER

Today one would probably not have the opportunity to see a snow roller except in old pictures or a museum. Instead of clearing the roads of snow as we do now with our modern plows, our ancestors packed down the snow to make a good surface for sleighing.

Another method of snow removal was described in an account dated January, 1778. Ten Tory soldiers and several officers were sent out from Bennington to tread down a path in the snow wide enough for a sleigh and its team of horses to pass along easily. The men were given food enough for three days,

which was the time allotted for their twenty mile snow packing journey to Wilmington, Vermont! If you have ever taken a walk in deep snow, you know that those soldiers had a long, tiring job to do.

In comparison to the account just mentioned, snow rollers seem almost modern. They were generally pulled by four or six horses. The two heavy drum rollers were covered with slats of wood that left a striped design in the packed snow that resembled floor boards. The surface that it created was firm and excellent for sleighing.

