

stool or bench, sometimes higher at one end than at the other. Astride of the lower or narrower end of this sat the workman, whils through an opening in the bench in front of him projected the head of a clutch swinging on a pin passing from one side to another through the body of the bench or horse. Upon a transverse piece of wood on the lower end of the clutch the operator placed his feet, and by pressing it from him, brought the head of the clutch down upon any article placed under it, thus holding it firmly upon the horse. The operator by using a stout draw-knife with a handle on each end, cut or shaved to great advantage and with considerable speed any piece of wood held under the clutch. With an axe, a saw, an auger, a chisel and a draw-knife, a man skilful in the use of tools could produce a great variety of implements and articles of household service. One of the commonest uses made of the shaving-horse was for the dressing of shingles after they were split from the blocks or sections into which the logs had been cut. The manufacture of shingles indicated quite an advance in the erecting of buildings. From 1805 we find frequent references to the making of shingles, as for instance on March 15th, 1805, and the three succeeding days, "Shaved shingles, John Wilkins and Joseph Larkin rove." Laths were prepared in the same way.

During the winter, entries in the diary show much time spent in getting out timber of various kinds, including shingle bolts, going to the mill, the store, the still and the blacksmith's shop. The dressing and winnowing of grain, washing wheat and breaking flax also occupied many days. An occasional occupation was the quarrying of stone. In 1804 we find Mr. Smith making an eye through a grind stone, after which it was set up in a frame ready for use and for the torture of his successive sons. In 1809 the diary indicates much preparation for the erection of a new frame barn to replace the log one. Much of the previous winter was spent in getting out the timbers for the frame work, drawing logs to the sawmill and bringing back lumber, preparing shingles for the roof, etc. In June, after the spring planting was over, he cut out the stone for the foundation. On July 29, he bade the neighbors to the raising bee, which occupied two days, August 1st and 2nd. With some hired assistance he had the roof on and the barn sufficiently closed in to admit of housing the harvest.