

Donation of the Month

Winter Sled
2009.47.1
Donor: Lena Marchant



Sled used by Lena and her siblings

Let it snow, let it snow! When snow starts falling you know winter has arrived. The white powdery stuff always beckons to children and adults to have a little fun. Of course, one needs to bundle up in coats, hats, mittens and boots to stay warm. Inevitable a snow ball will hit you in the face or a younger sibling will dump snow down the back of your coat, but it's all in good fun. Today, Rogers doesn't receive as much snow as past years; but when the snow does fall people still go out and have fun.

One favorite activity is finding a snow covered hill to sled down. Sleds weren't always for fun. In some areas sleds were essential for getting goods around when wheels didn't work. Horse drawn sleighs using steel runners instead of steel rimmed wheels got people around in snow covered areas. Even Santa Claus uses a sleigh. Traditional sleds like the one pictured here feature wooden runners with steel reinforcements and seat supports raising the rider off the ground. A wooden seat, usually wider in the back than the front, was mounted to the runner supports. Today, sleds come in all shapes and sizes; and are made of plastic.

Winter can be a bleak and cold period when the earth sleeps and nothing grows. However, winter fun can only happen when the snow flies, and as it does the bleak view is broken by cries of laughter. People of all ages get out and enjoy the weather. While Mom worries about you getting sick, your siblings start throwing snowballs at you; and you grab the sled and head toward the nearest hill.