

Percolator – 2016.018.003



One of the donations received by the Museum in 2016 was a percolator manufactured by “Landers, Frary & Clark” in the late 1800s. The company was incorporated in 1862 and produced a wide variety of products with the ultimate goal of making life easier. It has been said that with the establishment of the Universal Percolator, along with the Universal Bread Maker and Food Chopper, Landers, Frary & Clark became one of the leading companies in the sale of houseware products within America. The company was in operation until 1965 when it was sold to General Electric.

So why did the Museum decide to accept this percolator into the permanent collection?

The percolator, along with other cookware and household objects, came from a cottage within the Point Au Baril area. This cottage had been owned by Ms Lina and Elsie Adamson, two musicians with the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. The two women are credited with building the cottage where they spent most of their summers, roughly fifty years. It was not until the death of one of the sisters that the other was persuaded to sell the cottage, which was finalized in 1959.



Many of Adamson sisters' belongings were sold with the cottage and remained there even after the cottage was resold in 1966. After discovering the history of the cottage and the origin of many of the treasures within it, the new owners brought the objects into the Museum and graciously donated them, along with their story.