Iron Age Farm and Garden Tools.



A Thrifty Lifestyle

Born to working-class immigrant parents, both Carl Sandburg and Lilian Steichen grew up valuing thrift and resourcefulness. Sandburg's father, a railroad blacksmith's helper, worked 60-hours a week and earned \$35 a month. The Panic of 1893 and the ensuing depression reduced his hours and wages by half. Sandburg was forced to quit school in eighth grade to help support his family.

After Steichen's father suffered ill health from work in copper mines, Steichen's mother supported the family as a milliner (hatmaker). Both families were thrifty due to limited resources. Carl and Lilian Sandburg remained frugal even after he became a famous author.

Buildings, materials, and equipment were endlessly re-used and repurposed, and anything of value was kept in case of future need. What items do you notice inside this shed? How do they compare to the things you save and reuse?

