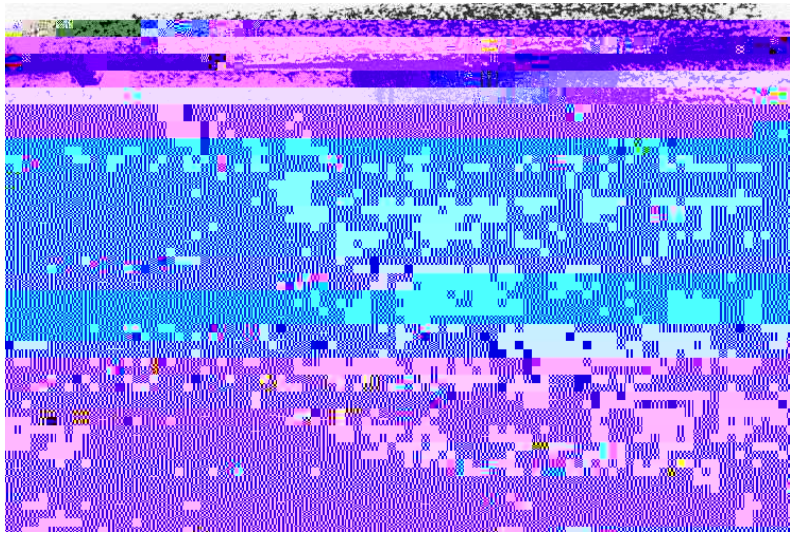


“John Lane and the First Steel Plow.” *Lockport Free Press*. “Old Canal Days” Special, 15 June 1978.

### **John Lane and the first steel plow**

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One of Lockport’s most noteworthy pioneers was John Lane, the inventor of the steel plow. The only monument to Lane is this marker on the site of his farm on 7<sup>th</sup> Street east of Farrell Road. [Staff photo by Rick Etheridge]

would not clear. In other words the soil would stick to the surface of the plow, and frequent stops would have to be made so it could be scraped off by a wooden paddle. A writer in the Prairie Farmer observed, "...a cast iron plow will no more clear itself in most of



John Lane, Inventor of the Steel Plow

set up a forge in Lockport. He made plows, carriages, and implements. In 1856 he operated something called the Lockport Steam Plow Factory. But it is probable that this didn't produce a large number of plows.

In 1850 John Lane Jr. produced 30 plows in his Lockport works. He, unlike his father, was to take out a number of patents on plows, the first in 1857. His most