

Basic Rug Hooking

Hooked rugs have been a popular craft since the 1800s. In 1892, New Glasgow entrepreneur John Garrett began designing and selling printed rug patterns, hooks, and yarn by mail-order catalogue and in department stores across Canada. The business flourished. In 1926, Garrett sold 132,000 “Bluenose” brand patterns with orders coming from as far as Australia and New Zealand.

To Hook a Rug

The hook is held comfortably in the right hand and the strip of wool, which can be any length desired, is held in the left hand, underneath the burlap. If left-handed, reverse positions.

Insert the hook through the burlap and catch hold of the wool strip, bringing the end through to the top side to a height of about 1/8 inch.

Now put the hook through the burlap in the next hole and catch hold of the strip of wool once more.

Now bring it up, and as you do so, twist the hook slightly away from you. This will pull from the length of the strip of wool and not from the previously pulled through loop. A little practice at this stage is very helpful and you will soon find yourself hooking with ease.

When you come to the end of the strip of wool bring it also to the top side of the hooking. These ends are to be cut off even with loops, and they become invisible in the finished work.



A PART of THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM



The left hand holds the wool strip underneath the burlap.



The right hand holds the hook, and pulls the yarn up through the burlap.