

CHAINS
Final as of March 19, 2006

CH 4, **Two-pole Gunter Chain, unsigned, c. 1820.**



This chain has round wire handles that were used prior to the early 1800's. It is 33 feet long with 50 links and rings pressed closed. It shows no wear. There are 2 rings separating each link and 4 brass notched or pointed tally tags plus another round tag marked XXV

CH 5, **Two-pole Gunter Chain, unsigned, c. 1800.**

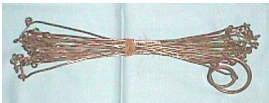


This iron chain has square wire handles that were used prior to the early 1800's. It is 33 feet long with 50 links and rings pressed closed. It has four iron finger-style tally tags and one round iron tag. It is similar in appearance to one used by Thomas Jefferson.

CH-6, **Four-pole Link Chain w/wood handles, unsigned, c. 1830.**



This is a very rare pattern of link chain. The 32 links are each one-eighth pole long (24 3/4"). This variety is described in Vincent Wing's *Geodaetes Practicus - Art of Surveying*, page 215, published in 1664 and there is little information for determining the age of this example. The combination wood & wire handles are also very rare and no other examples have been seen. There are no tally tags.



CH 7, **Vara Link Chain, unsigned, c. 1847.**

This iron chain is 12 varas long with each link being one-half vara long. It was likely shortened from a 20 vara chain to accommodate the U.S. system of measure and is now 33 feet, or two-poles long. The handles are round iron rings of unequal size.

CH 10, **Four-pole Gunter chain**, unsigned, c. 1860.



This is a massive iron 4-pole chain with iron handles. There are no connecting rings between links. It weighs 13 pounds and is made of 1/4" diameter iron wire. The rings are pressed closed. There are 99 links with one missing.

CH 13, **Vara Link Chain**, W. & L.E. Gurley Co., c. 1875.



This chain has steel links with the eyes and rings brazed closed. There are brass handles with the maker's name stamped. There are 5 links per vara for the 10 varas giving a total of 50 links.

CH 14, **Two-pole Gunter Chain**, unsigned, c. 1880.



This is a 33 feet long steel chain with heavy iron handles that are attached to the links by baling wire. It appears to be a 2-pole portion of a once 4-pole chain. There are four tally tags.

CH 16, **Metric Link Chain**, Horr & Choperena, c. 1880.



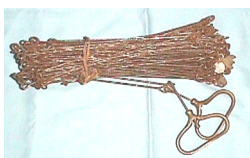
This steel link chain is the type used on Mexican RR surveys and the 50-meter length is particularly long compared to most metric chains. One of the loops on the links is broken off.

CH 17, **Four-pole Gunter Chain**, Keuffel & Esser Co., c. 1887.



This is a nice hardly-used iron link chain with 100 links. It is K&E catalog number 6443 and is of no. 8 wire. The handles are brass and inscribed TESTED K&E IRON NO. 8, K&E COL, N.Y. 6443.

CH 19, **100-Foot Engineers Chain**, Keuffel & Esser Co., c. 1890.



This steel chain has links 12 inches long and links brazed closed. It is K&E catalog no. 6541. The links are of No. 10 steel wire. The chain is complete with tally tags.

CH 20, **100-Foot Engineers Chain**, Keuffel & Esser Co., c. 1890.



This iron chain has links 12 inches long and links pressed closed. The handles are brass and the maker's name imprinted on them. It is K&E catalog no. 6441. It is of no. 12 wire. Two of the tally tags are missing.

CH 21, **D-loop Engineers Chain**, unsigned, c. 1860.



This is an unusual pattern of chain with the links 12 inches long and D-shaped loops at each end of the link. The total length is 60 feet although this may only be part of a longer chain. Other examples of this type link have been seen elsewhere although always in shorter lengths. No handles have been seen with any of these examples. The wire appears to have been zinc plated. The straight section of the link has double strands of wire with a soldered joint in the middle. In June, 2003, one of these chains with 39 links was listed on Ebay auction. The one listed was stamped U.S. 1860.

CH 22, **Four-pole Link Chain**, unsigned, c. 1974.



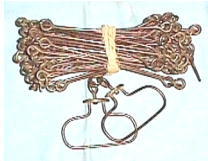
This unused chain has one-inch long steel-wire galvanized links. There are leather handles and steel tallies.

CH 23, **Four-pole Link Chain**, unsigned, c. 1820.



This chain has square wire handles using the same wire as the links and rings. It is complete with all 8 tally brass tags plus one round tag.

CH 25, **Metric Link Chain**, unsigned, c. 1880.



This chain is iron wire with eyes and rings pressed closed. There are single rings between the links with every fifth one being brass. The handles are of the same size wire with brass plates stamped DECAMETER and maybe an L.

CH 26, **Two-pole Gunter Chain**, unsigned, c. 1800.



This chain of lightweight iron wire has rings pressed closed, not brazed. There is a single brass tag marked 4 attached 10 links from one end. The wire handles are a unique design and very unusual.

CH 28, **Two-pole Gunter Chain**, unsigned, c. 1860.



This chain is of steel wire approximately 1/8" diameter with 3/8" steel handles. The rings and loops are pressed shut but not brazed. There are four circular tally tags with holes. Two have one hole each and two have two holes each. There is a heavy swivel joint at 25 links from the ends.

CH 29, **50-Yard Link Chain**, unsigned, c. 1900.



This chain is of iron wire with rings pressed closed. The handles are brass and marked 50Y, and the wire is about 3/16" diameter. There are rectangular brass tallies at 5 yard intervals stamped according to the location of the link, i.e., 5, 10, 15 etc., up to 45. The weight is about 20 pounds.

CH 30, **Two-pole Gunter Chain**, unsigned, c. 1820.



This chain is of iron wire with rings pressed closed. The handles are triangular in shape and of the same wire as the links. It is complete with 4 brass tally tags with either one or two points, and has a circular brass tag at the midpoint. There is also a large swivel in the link next to the midpoint.

CH 31, **20-Yard Link Chain**, unsigned, c. 1850.



This chain is of darkened brass wire with rings pressed closed. The handles are iron and of unequal size. There are 7 of the original 19 brass tally tags remaining. There are 80 nine-inch links connected by either one, two or three rings.

CH 32, **100-Foot Engineers Chain, unsigned, c. 1890**



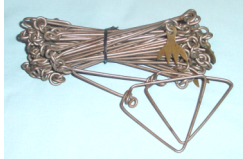
This chain is made of lightweight wire and is unusual in that it has wooden handles, something rarely seen in a commercial chain. It has brass tally tags and the eyelets are brazed closed.

CH 33, **48-Foot Link Chain, unsigned, c. 1820.**



This unusual chain has 24 non-standard links ranging in length from about 22 inches to 27 inches with two oblong wire handles plus a midway circular ring. The ring is actually at the measured midpoint so the chain appears to be complete in its present form. There are no connecting rings other than at the center, and the links are connected solely by the eyes on the links.

CH 34, **Two-pole Gunter Chain, unsigned, c. 1820.**



This chain is of iron wire with rings pressed closed. The handles are triangular in shape and of the same wire as the links. It is complete with 4 brass tally tags with one, two, three and four points, and has a large swivel in the link next to the midpoint. Condition is excellent with a silver color.

CH 35, **Two-pole Gunter Chain, unsigned, c. 1820.**



This chain is of iron wire with rings pressed closed. The handles are triangular in shape and of the same wire as the links. It has no tally tags. There is a large swivel in the link next to the midpoint. It for some reason has an extra link for a total of 51 links. Apparently the maker didn't count. The color is dark with a slight smattering or rust on some links.

CH 36, **Four-pole Gunter Chain, unsigned, c. 1820.**



This chain is of iron wire with rings pressed closed. There is one heavy iron handle that is triangular in shape – the other handle is missing. There are about 4 missing links. The connecting rings show much wear.