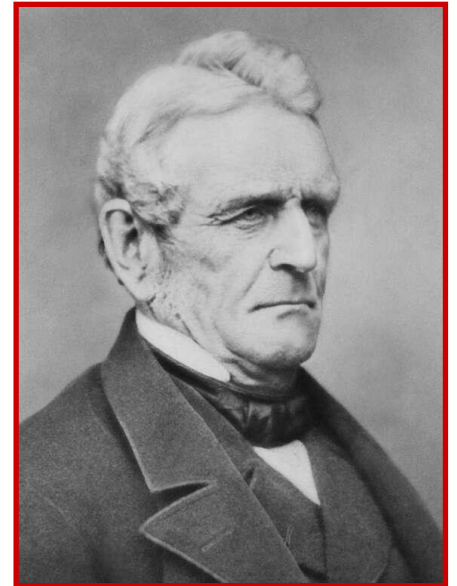
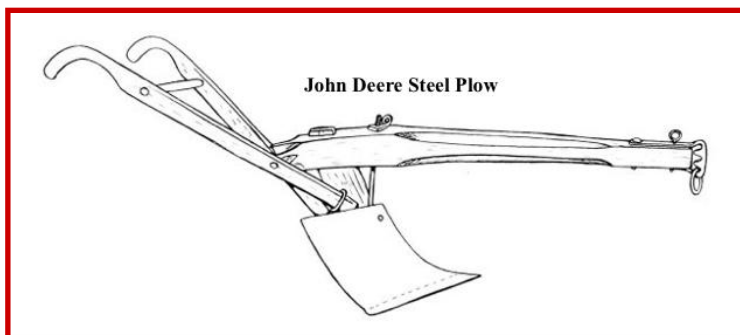


Comparing Inventors: John Deere's Life

John Deere was born on February 7, 1804 in Rutland, Vermont. In 1821, he became an apprentice to a blacksmith. In 1826, he became a blacksmith. John was a hard worker and was smart. He was able to find work easily. There were a lot of farmers who needed him to work on their farm equipment.



In 1836, John Deere moved his family to Illinois. John Deere started his own business in 1837. He named it Deere and Company, and he made farm equipment. As farming spread across the nation, farmers in Illinois had a hard time plowing the heavy, sticky prairie soil. They were using cast iron plows made for Vermont. These plows were made for light, sandy soil.



John Deere came up with the idea for a plow that would work in the sticky soil. It was shaped so that it could clean itself as it cut furrows, or rows, in the soil. In 1837, he created his stainless steel plow using a broken saw blade. By 1841,

John was selling 100 plows a year. By 1850, his company was making about 1,600 plows a year. The company also made other farm tools.

When John Deere's son, Charles, became old enough, he ran the company. John Deere died on May 17, 1886.
