



Many Useful Industries

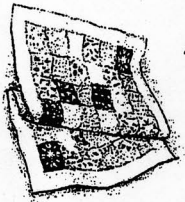


There were "house raisings" followed by a big dinner for all hands.
There were "husking bees" after the corn was all in.

Maple Island - In the Lower Nemahbin Lake was another loved spot which my infancy knew known in early days as Fair Service Island (Mrs. Alden's sur-name). It was covered entirely with Sugar Maples (trees) and in early spring the trees were tapped and Maple Sugar made.

1846 Emigration - from the East and from European countries was in full swing and our hotel was crowded all the time. We had five girls in the kitchen, three hired men around the house besides the mill and farm hands.

Wagon loads of travelers came in profussion and many had to camp on the floor anywhere. Tables were set an re set till late at night. I wonder how dear little mother stood the strain.

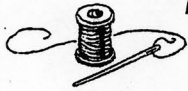


And oh those grand suppers how mother and Parmelia used to prepare for those events - gold and silver cakes, Dr. B's loaf, jelly layer, cakes, sugar kisses, etc.

Sometimes the refreshments took the form of oyster suppers - the oysters came from Baltimore in cans and little kegs.

Quiltings - Mother had a set of quilting frames that were in demand throughout the whole neighborhood same as that sausage cutter of ours.

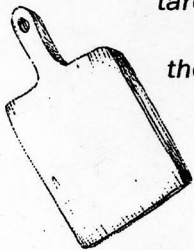
The old ladies of the village used to gather in full force at a quilting. Like the apple-bees of the olden times. These affairs were the advertising medium of the community and very little news escaped their notice and attention.



Those gay patchwork covers were a wonder to me and evidence of patient labor. These quiltings always wound up with a tea, at which the biscuits and jelly were praised and receipts exchanged.



Dipping candles - The ends of the two quilting frames were supported on chairs spread apart about three feet. Candle rods about half an inch in diameter were laid across the frames about six inches apart. On these rods candle wicking was twisted candle length about four inches apart. A big boiler of hot tallow was then brought along side and the dipping of the (wicks) tares began rod by rod and returned to it's place on the frames. Newspapers were spread on the floor to catch the drip. When the whole row was dipped from left to right the left end rod-full was cold enough to receive another dip. So the candles grew in size slowly till they were thick enough to take down. Then they were stripped off the rods, the lower ends cut off, and the candle was made. It was a tedious and messy job. Later candle moulds came in and good bye to dipping.



Many Useful Industries - What would the woman of today say if they had to do one tenth of the work our mothers used to tackle? But when I tell you that in the old times the best women in the land made at home nearly half the things they now buy at stores it seems incredible.

In our day weaving had nearly passed, but Mother used to spin wool into yarn and knit stockings. She made soap, cheese, crackers, currant wine and many other things.



Nelson C. Hawks
Letters to his Sister Fannie

