

10-23-01

Female Reminiscences

In last week's column you read "William Glidden's Canal Story." This week, also from Copeland's History Of Clarendon, let us continue with Mrs. Glidden's story published in 1889. Her's is as follows:

I was born in 1812, and when three years old moved into Camillus, Onondaga County, and came into Clarendon at 15, in 1927. My father was William Cox, who lived across from Willet Jackson's. Nicholas E. Darrow, in the Cowles district, was one of my teachers, and Calvin Baker in, in Onondaga County. My sister, Fanny Cox, who married Ira Simpson, uncle to Nathan Simpson, at the Two Bridges would go from house to house during the sickly seasons. Mrs. James A. Smith was a very fine woman, and Deacon Chase, of Parma, came to our house, and, after getting her fifteen hundred dollars which we had paid her, he locked her up in a room and passed the food through a window to her. He came here to our house at her death and did not want to pay three dollars for digging the grave and having ten men to dinner.

Our family in Onondaga all had the smallpox, and came through all right. The neighbors would pass the food through the fence, and not come into the house or yard. There was no patent medicine when I was a girl, and peddlers first brought us pills.



before the face.

When I was young tomatoes were called loveapples, and I ate them after I was married. I generally had one barrel of sweet cider each year for pies and for sauce. We made our own currant jelly, also our own currant and elderberry wine; there were not many wild berries. My mother made stuff for grain-bags.

Our shoes were of calf-skin, laced and very solid for every-day wear, and I had about two pair each year, which generally cost twelve shillings to two dollars.

We often rode on horses two at a time, and went to church twelve or fourteen in a lumber wagon, or sleigh in chairs.

At William Glidden's, church was held in his log barn, with board seats, while the minister had a chair. One man would play the base viol, and sometimes we would take out dinner to the service. We ate a good deal of cod-fish and shad in the place of pork. Coffins were mostly made at the "Mills", and the schools would close during the funerals. Doctors would travel on horses or afoot, with saddle-bags, giving calomel and jalap without water. They bled a good deal, and gave panny-royal tea in fevers. I used to run and give my cousin water on the sly from a little brook when she was sick.

some vet. I had one pair of silk stockings and a looking-glass that cost eight dollars.

The first wall-paper I saw in 1812, at my cousins, in Connecticut. It was of small figure, and cost four shillings a roll. Mother had worsted window curtains, plain, with tassels, and they rolled up. We used flints and punk for striking a light, and we went to bed at nine o'clock and arose

at five in the summer, and in the winter 6:30 A.M. Mr. Cook's pocket-book was about six inches long and four inches deep, made of calfskin with a leather band. In this town we would at first get our lime in Holley, which was poor stuff. We had some buckwheat at first, but it was higher than ordinary wheat. We wore sun-bonnets every day, and a Sunday one that cost six dollars, very large

Another woman by the name of Mary Ann Cook writes as well. Here are some excerpts from her story: I was born in Windsor, Hartland County, Connecticut, May 18, 1800, and came to Pompey, in New York in 1818, and to Clarendon in 1830. I made my first rag carpet in 1820, and have paid four shillings per yard for calico. Our first dishes were of blue stone ware and stone china, and have