

Two hundred years ago

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As we enter into a new year and a winter season, let us look back 200 years. To see how it really was when our area was in its infancy, we find an account of these early times in Copeland's Clarendon. This local history book full of flavor was published in 1889 by David Sturges Copeland. In one particular reminiscence, we get a feeling of winter time and how in more ways than one the fireplace was the center of living.

"The old fire-place in its day, was a very convenient spot in which to burn the back-log and fore-log with large quantities of wood piled across and the basswood floors would allow the oxen to haul in these logs, which were large enough to keep a fire,

day and night, in the absence of lamps of any character and at first of even candles.

"Here the whole family could sit around, listening to bear stories, or tales of ghosts and witches, as a book, outside of the Bible, English reader or Webster's spelling book, was a rare thing.

"If the fire went out, the children, or some other

member, hied away to the neighbor for a brand to start another, or some tinder made out of cotton or other material was used when the flint from the old musket gave the spark before locofoco matches had been introduced in Tammany Hall.

"The cranes on which to hang the kettles, the spits for the roast meat, the bake-kettles for bread an



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other bakings, the ashes with potatoes roasting under hot embers; the pigs six to eight weeks old, with turkeys, geese and chickens and fine roasts of venison, beef or spare-rib, was a sight, the very mention of which is enough to make even an epicure sigh for the good old times, to say nothing of the effect produced upon the stomachs ad minds of hungry children, and men who had been clearing, logging and bushwacking generally.

Tin ovens came next, and the brick ones were ready to follow if one only had the material."