

The oldest time telling record that Lincoln has any knowledge of is very primitive- This consisted of cutting notches on the window sill and making a mark on the floor. When the sun got around to such a mark it was such a time and on cloudy days they told time by the shadow. I know that there is one house in the south part of the town that still has these notches on the window sill, which were put there for telling time long, long ago.

Then there were the sun dials and the hour-glass. The dials, made of pewter, consisted of a circular disk upon the outer edge of which were figures to indicate the hours and in the center, an upright, triangular piece called the gnomon. The instrument was tightly fastened to a window stool facing the sun and as the sun moved apparently from the east to west a shadow was cast by the gnomon upon the figures on the dial. In the daytime, when the sun was clear, the dial gave the time correctly.

The hour glass consisted of two wooden cups in form of a tunnel of exactly the same size, capable of holding about a quarter of a pint of fine dry sand. The two cups were united at the small ends. The size of the aperture of the small ends of the cups were so graduated that a cupful of sand would run from one of the cups to the other, in the space of one hour. By inverting position of the cups, the sand in the full one would run back into the other. By enlarging the opening in the small end of the cups the sand was made to run out in two or three minutes, as desired.

The first clocks were the eight day brass clocks and sold for about fifty dollars. Then came the wooden clocks which were

made in Connecticut. Some of them cost about eight dollars. It was a common custom in those days for a peddler to call at a home and ask to set up a wooden clock on trial. When he returned to the house, in two or three months, he usually found the members of the household unwilling to part with the clock and a sale was made.

The first watches came from Switzerland and England. A watch was considered a great luxury in early times.

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## THE STORY OF THE COCOANUTS

Despite the poor means of transportation in early times, tramps and peddlers were quite numerous. Of the two, the tramps were feared more than the peddlers - but often proved less dangerous. Tramps, in those days, wore thick whiskers and sometimes beards. They dressed very poorly and always startled small children by their rough appearance. But tramps were usually good natured and asked only for a chance to sleep in the hay mow and a bit to eat. They were not always begging for money like tramps do now.

Some of the old time peddlers were as clever and cunning as many of our present criminals. The only real difference was that the ancient peddlers did not have the advantages of today. The modern machine guns, automobiles, airplanes and a hundred other inventions were undreamed of then. But even though, some of them got along very nicely. The following story is but one of the many instances in which a peddler deceived the inhabitants of a nearby community:

Sarah Ann, lived at the end of the road and a bit away from the rest of the dwellings. Her husband was a particularly neat dresser, a fine entertainer but shunned the chores and wood box. However, Sarah Ann, never complained, She was proud of her husband and even went so far as to say that no man would ever become a genius by doing menial labor.

On this particular summer's day, the men of the neighborhood had all gone into town to a muster. Sarah Ann, with a sharp ax, was splitting kindling wood in her back yard. She was so intent upon her labor, that she did not hear the gentle knock on the door of her summer kitchen. In fact, she did not know anyone was around until she looked up suddenly to see a tall, rather

nice looking man with narrow spectacles. He carried a burlap bag in his left hand. Bowing gracefully, he explained that he had driven all through the neighborhood that morning and had been successful in selling each of the women one or more ostrich eggs, of which he had only three left. Then he opened his bag and displayed a round, hairy object which was brown in color. It made a gurgling noise when he shook it. THIS, he repeated for the second time, WAS AN OSTRICH EGG.

Now Sarah Ann, had spent her early life in the south and knew right away that the object was a cocoanut and the peddler was a swindler and a rascal. But she kept her thoughts to herself and told him that she would be glad to buy the eggs but she would first have to go to the neighbors to borrow some money. This was perfectly agreeable to the peddler so he put his horse in the barn, fed him a good dinner and then found himself a seat out on the woodpile.

Sarah Ann, hurried off down the road with apron strings flying high in the air. After spreading the news from one house to another, she got the women, ARMED WITH PITCH FORKS AND CROW BARS, to follow her back to where the peddler awaited. Needless to say he was only too glad to refund their money. Besides, he was made to pay for use of the barn, the horse's dinner and a few cents extra for good luck. Then the women chased him far down the road and well out of sight.

It was weeks and weeks before the men of the community found out the REAL TRUTH about the cocoanuts. It was Sarah Ann herself, who finally let the cat out of the bag.

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## THE OLD TIME MUSTER

During the early part of 1840 and 1850, musters were held in the town of Lincoln one day each month during the summer. All men over eighteen years of age were supposed to attend. People living outside of the town had to get up before day-break in order to get their chores done and get into the village in time for the beginning of the big event. It was always a day of great excitement for men, women and children. There would be lights in all the farmhouses long before day-break.

There were the uniformed troupes composed of the trained men and the troupes of untrained men who often came in overalls. Some of them wore ragged coats and breeches. Some were barefoot, came with old tin pails for canteens and meal bags for knapsacks.

The drill was very interesting and there were generally many spectators. Fifes, bass and tenor or snare drums were the principal instruments at first. As the regiment, with the band at its head, marched before the general each officer in passing saluted with his sword.

At first, every infantry-man was required to furnish himself with a flint lock musket, two spare flints, a priming wire and brush, the latter articles being necessary in case the aperture which connected the powder in the pan of the lock with the charge in the barrel of his musket, became foul and obstructed. Oftentimes these guns were old and rusty and were liable to knock an owner down unless he was well on his guard when practicing.

When the general, or some acting high officer, appeared on the scene it was customary to greet him with a salute from a

cannon. It is said that there was once an old cannon around Lincoln many long years ago, and a story has been told about the officer who complained one day of the salute being too faint. He said it was a disgrace to his uniform and rank to receive such a salute. The men said nothing but the next month when the officer approached the field, mounted on a spirited horse, he received such a loud sudden salute that his horse reared and threw him into the mud. That salute echoed for miles around and gave everyone far and near a great start but the general said not a word.

Peddlers sold candy and novelties on the streets during muster days. Often times there would be a dance in the village during the evening or a party at some well known farmhouse.

Sometimes spirituous liquors were dispensed on muster days.

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Note: The following poem is quoted as a token of remembrance in honor of Elias E. Reed, Lincoln's last Civil War Veteran, who once lived in Transalpine. He died at the age of 91 in Lincoln, March 19, 1936.

MEMORIAL DAY

"Bowed are the forms that now close the broken column,  
Fainter are the footsteps that take the martial tread  
And the gay march of life waxes wearisome and solemn,  
For the living roll of honor is outnumbered by the dead,  
Outnumbered by the dead! The peaceful years have sped,  
The bloody sword of carnage has been left to rest and rust,  
But the ruthless scythe of Time ever holds the field instead,  
And ever claims its harvest of dust unto dust.

"Slowly, yet surely, our sturdy ranks are thinning,  
'Hail and farewell' to many this may be  
But, did we see the end from the sorrowful beginning,  
Our hopes at their brightest were not other than we see.  
Not brighter than we see! Our country whole and free!  
And proudly we have borne the trust that we must soon resign.  
Hopefully and humbly may we wait the reveille  
In the fair land of promise beyond the skirmish line.

-Henry Rand Edwards"

## STYLES AND FASHIONS

Soft felt hats for men were introduced in the year 1853. The stiff, round top Derby hat became the fashion about the year 1865 and soon after that time the white, high crown cassimere hat came into use for summer wear. Paper collars resembling those made of linen came into use about 1870. About 1835 the bottoms of the legs of men's trousers were fitted with leather or cloth straps which passed under the soles of their boots to keep the garment in place. In early times the hair of men was cut pumpkin shape. At a later date the hair was shingled and sometimes the foretop was left longer than the rest of the hair. This was brushed up into a point two or three inches above the head.

In 1860 some person discovered that a mixture of nitrate of silver, lac sulphur and water when applied to the hair would change it to a very dark color. Men and women with gray or white locks who used the mixture all at once assumed a very youthful appearance. This treatment was injurious to the health of those who used it and was soon done away with.

Fashions of women have changed very frequently within the last hundred years. For many years their dresses were quite shortwaisted. Sometimes the sleeves were short and close, and at other times they were large and of full length. These were called mutton leg sleeves. The best dresses were made of imported worsted goods, such as thibet or cashmere. Nice dresses were also made of a kind of goods called bombazine. A few of the women who were well off had at least one silk dress. Wide hoop skirts were worn for a few years during the first part of 1800. The dress



of most of the women of moderate means were of home manufacture, until after the year 1826. In the winter, muffs and tippets made of mink, muskrat or cat skins were carried by many women to church. The muffs were five or six times larger than those of modern dates. Soon after, cotton and woolen manufacturing was introduced into the country on a large scale, the dresses of women became much improved in quality. In summer, calico, gingham and white lawn dresses were worn by young women on Sundays and other occasions.

At one time, many young women were foolish enough to believe that a very slender waist was an essential element of beauty, and so the habit of tight lacing became prevalent and the health of many women was ruined in consequence.

Between 1810 and 1835, bonnets which were made of straw, silk or worsted, were extremely high in the crown and front. The Leghorn bonnets or hats made of imported straw were quite costly. In 1828 the Naverino bonnet which was made of a kind of straw-colored pasteboard, stamped in imitation of braided straw, came into fashion. At the same time a peculiar sort of head gear called a celash was worn by many women. It was made of silk, which was taken up into welts an inch or an inch and a half apart into which pieces of ratten, shorter than the silk, were inserted and brought round over the head in the shape of a bonnet. This bonnet was finished with a narrow cape at the neck. When it was worn the top was elevated two or three inches above the head.

In 1860, hoop skirts again became fashionable. Then skirts which were at first of small size, were made of whalebone or ratten. They were soon afterwards made of steel and called watch-spring skirts. In the course of a few years the hoops were made of great size.

About the year 1878, the bustle was first worn. This appendage which was small at first, soon became larger and larger, until at last some women seemed anxious to deform themselves as much as possible.

Jewelry of some kind has been worn to some extent for countless years. Men used to wear brooches, studs or pins of some kind of various degrees of value. Women ornamented their ears, necks and fingers, as well as their bosoms, with jewels of some sort. Some years ago, women in good circumstances wore a string of gold beads. In many cases the beads were conveyed by will to a favorite daughter, sister or other relative as a testimony of their regard. Women also wore breast pins, cameo pins and ear rings with long ear drops.

Regarding fashions for women, it is surprising to note how styles of fifty or a hundred years ago are copied and worn today. Mutton leg sleeves and short waists are very much in vogue for 1937- There are also countless other similarities.

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