

Washing Gadgets

Traditionally washing day was on Monday. Washing the clothes of a large family took all day. The women of the house spent the day boiling, rinsing, soaking, rubbing, soaking, starching and drying clothes. As Sunday was family day, there was always a large meal prepared. Generally there were always leftovers, so a meal did not have to be prepared on Monday.

Washing machines were not generally available until the early 1800's. A washing machine had to be hand cranked. The bottom of the barrel was filled with water and then emptied after the clothes had been washed.

Drying the clothes was more work than washing the clothes. Before being hung out to dry, the women of the home would try to get the clothes as dry as possible. Once the clothes came out of the washing machine they would pass through the wringer to press most of the water out.



An 1843 washing machine found at the Fultz House Museum is seen opposite

Woodworking Tools

People who made a living from working with wood were very important. They included coopers who built barrels, wheelwrights who crafted wheels, furniture made by cabinetmakers and carpenters who built houses. Even though there were different professions in the woodworking field, they all used many of the same tools. Some of the tools included axes, lathes, planes, drawknives and a shaving horse.

The carpenter's bench, also known as a shaving horse was extremely important in crafting finished goods. This allowed the carpenter to sit as they shaped the wood. There was a foot pedal that allowed the wood to be locked in its place as it was being shaped.

The lathe was the main tool of many woodworkers. The lathe spun a piece of wood horizontally and allowed the woodworker to shape it with special chisels.

Planes were used to shave down wood and to make it smooth.

A drawknife was used to carve curves into barrel staves.



A drawknife is pictured above

Useful Objects From the Late 1800's



Sock Driers are seen above and wooden clothespins are pictured below



**FULTZ HOUSE
MUSEUM**

Useful Home, Farm Gadgets and Children Toys

The different gadgets and tools from the past were made from natural materials. Some of the materials included wood, leather, bone, and metals such as iron and steel.

Back in the 1800's there was no gas, electricity or running water in homes. People had to go out to a well to grab their water for everyday activities such as washing dishes and washing their clothes. Individuals would have to light candles to obtain light. Often candles were made from molds made at home. These candles were made by pouring melted animal fat, called tallow, into a metal mold. To stay warm on the cold winter nights a foot warmer was used. They were made out of steel with some wooden detailing in the form of a box. The box opened and they were filled with hot coals. There was a similar gadget that would warm their beds. This gadget was called a warming pan, which would warm the sheets before someone went to sleep.



A warming pan is pictured above

Almost all families had a connection to farming in Sackville. This is because they had to grow their own food. They used every part of the animal. The animals were not just used for a food source, but for milk, their fat for candle making, and for pulling machines such as the plow.

All the tools and gadgets used on the farm were handmade. For the most part, they were made out of

common tools used on the farm including hay forks, a cradle, which is a scythe with three fingers and a blade, a scythe and plows.

Children's toys have changed a great amount since the 1800's. The children back then had very little to play with and had to use their imaginations. They had to use simple items such as a hoop from an abandoned wagon-wheel to provide hours of enjoyment.

A toy that kept children busy for hours was called a whirligig (one is pictured below). All that was needed was string and wood or pewter. Two holes would be drilled in the middle of the pewter or a piece of wood and the string would be strung through it. When the string was pulled tight it would cause the pewter or wood to spin fast up and down the string and provide much amusement.



Another simple toy that kids enjoyed playing with was called a cup and ball. It was usually made out of wood and consisted of a cup with a wooden handle and a string with a ball attached on the end. The goal was to swing the ball up and hopefully get it in the cup.



A cup and ball is seen opposite

Old Medical Gadgets

Doctors from the past knew very little about the human body and what the reasons were for making people sick. This caused a lot of people to die of sickness and diseases that could have been easily cured today. They had very little education and most of them were unlicensed. They often learned from apprenticeships.

Doctors had tools for amputation, bloodletting, cupping, dentistry and for delivering babies. Cupping was thought to get rid of diseases. Doctors thought that if you heated a cup and placed it on the skin, a blister would form and would draw out the disease.

The tools that were used for bloodletting included a scarificator, a fleam and leeches. The most natural way was to use leeches to suck the blood out. A scarificator was cup shaped with spring-loaded blades on the top to cut into the skin. When warmed, it would help draw the blood out faster. A fleam was a tool that consisted of many blades to cut into the skin.

Most doctors also served the community in the capacity of a dentist. If a tooth was rotten, a doctor would most likely opt to pull it out. Later on a drill was invented and doctors realized that decaying tooth structure could be replaced.