



Summer work: weeding, often by hand in the sun and heat, cultivation and hopefully no one got sick. Late June strawberry season and sore backs from picking. July raspberry picking and preserving. **Early August corn was ready to be harvested. Late summer was the most difficult time of the year** with harvesting work. Often from sunrise to sunset. Fourth of July holiday community picnics, food games, fun, fiddle music singing dancing seeing that favorite girl or boy from other farms. Sometimes romance. Wild berries had to be picked, dried or preserved.. **Autumn harvest time** for beans, potatoes, squash, cabbage, wheat, oats, rye, apples, and other crops. **The housewife made preserves, jellies and preserved various foods for the winter.** Various crops like potatoes, pumpkins, and apples were stored in the cellar. Corn had to be cut, shocked and husked often everyone had to help.



Late fall the children returned to school. The sleighs and snow shoes were prepared for use when the snow hit. There were no snow blowers. Sometimes there were winter community events, ice skating, sledding, spelling bees and social gatherings. Sundays there were church services. Some evenings there were singins, sugar socials, hops, dances.



The good of the Good Old Days: In general life was **slower paced and less hectic** than now. Everyone worked even children had chores. There was in most families (not all) **Love and Kindness and cooperation.** It was **thru**

cooperation that they survived. American settlers were for the most part "civilized." **They had respect for each other and acted toward others as they would want to be treated themselves.** We call that the Golden Rule. Children were taught to be responsible for their actions. Everyone had their job to do even children with chores. **Everyone pulled their own weight.** Fathers were strict. Boys and sometimes girls who disobeyed were whipped with a willow switch, or spanked on behind but seldom abused. **Ask old timers they mostly say the results were better than today.** (permissiveness)

The Air and Water were Pure.

People worked harder physically but were usually happier. There were singins, barn dances, barn raisings, plowin, quiltin, harvestin, huskin, loggin, fencing or wool shrinkin bees or courting or social frolics. If you read Daniel Stewart's Diary there was even a farmers traveling band. **If you visited a neighbor you would most likely be invited for dinner.** Train trips on the old Steam trains; Less pressure and stress; Few if any bills to pay. No telemarketers; Good Hunting with lots of wildlife. **Local citizens were aware of what went on in the community** and any threats to it. They could and did muster minutemen to defend the community on a few minutes notice. Today many **local citizens are unaware and uninformed** and many seemingly uncaring about local happenings of community importance and even threats to the community.