Daily Life in Early Kentucky

Late 1700s / early 1800s
Essential Questions
From February 2019 presentation

• How did geography impact white settlement in Kentucky in the 1700/early 1800s?

• How is the impact of geography on modern life the same or different?

• Learn more about ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS from Resor’s online CHARGE presentation
Essential Questions

• How was daily life different in the past?
  • How did 19th century industrialization change daily life?

• What wider trends are changing daily life today?

• Learn more about ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS from Resor’s online CHARGE presentation
Frontier Kentucky

Was it really a utopian or Arcadian paradise??

Thomas Cole's *The Arcadian or Pastoral State*, 1834
Description of Gilbert Imlay (1792), speculator

• An industrious man could succeed and move from being a tenant to owning his own farm
• Only needed:
  • A few essential tools
  • a few fowls,
  • a cow, and a sow
• Even without a horse and plow (but did need a wife and at least 2 children), a man with just a simple hoe could expect thirty bushels of corn an acre.
  • Three acres could easily be cleared for corn the first year, in addition to another half-acre for a vegetable garden.
  • half of the first-year crop would be consumed at home.
  • The rest exchanged for essential items, such as salt, lead, iron
• The 2nd year, with two more cleared acres
  • one acre would be available for hemp or flax for cloth.
  • The proceeds of the second-year crop and surplus of pork could go for the purchase of a horse and plow, paid off in the third year.
• By 3rd year this industrious man might well be in a position to purchase land of his own.
• https://archive.org/details/topographicaldes00imla/page/n13
The reality

• “The countrey in general looks as if [it] Just Jumpt out of the bushes, all Stumps and Dead trees.”
  • New settler in 1792

• But settlers believed that prospects were good for people who were willing to “live low and work hard.”

• “Stately Houses in a few years will be reared where small Log Cab ins have Stood, [and] Wheat Fields & Meadows where Cane Brakes now grow.”
  • Pioneer Levi Todd

• “I must Confess I think it is a good Country, for any poor man who has his living to earn by hard industry.”
  • Settler Alexander Martin
The reality . . .

- Military defense AND farming required mutual aid and cooperation
  - Clearing land for crops
  - Care for and guard livestock
  - Construct house, stable, corncrib, fences
  - Guard against Indian attach
    - Corn planted near the stockade walls:
      some worked, some watched
  - Often had to live in or flee to station

- Not until 1780s:
- the transition started from stations to individual farms

Currier & Ives, c. 1870.
Special conditions: Farming in early Kentucky (late 1700s)

1. defense, farming, hunting, and industry were cooperative in the early years because people had to live in stations for protection
   - But the ultimate goal was the individual family farm
2. focused on corn and hogs
   - To outsiders, agriculture appeared as sloppy or wasteful, but, was rational strategy to maximizing available resources
     - Corn was most productive; hogs could forage for themselves
     - Labor was scarce
3. limited market for agricultural produce
   - At first, not a problem because surpluses were small
     - Hard to sell products for cash for things like coffee, buttons, salt, gunpowder, etc.
     - Commercial markets for tobacco, livestock, whiskey were in the future
The Growth of Industrial Art (1892) By United States Patent Office & Benjamin Butterworth
https://archive.org/details/growthindustria00Unit
Clearing the land and planting corn

• left standing, burned, and girded
  • Except sugar maples (for syrup)
• cleared land of underbrush
  • Hacked by hand with axes, mattocks, grubbing hoes
  • Hard to burn because too damp
• Had to work ground with hoes first years
  • too many roots/trees to use a plow
• Often interplanted beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, squash

• Corn produced more bushels per acre than wheat
  • 50 – 80 bushels per acre was common in early Kentucky
    • three times what eastern farmers tended to produce
  • just as promoters claimed, settlers could clear additional ground and expect some surplus corn for distilling whiskey, as fodder for horses, to sell to new settlers
The garden

• wild plants probably formed only a minor part of the frontier
• Planted
  • lettuce and peas in early spring
  • pumpkins, potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, parsnips, beets, onions, squash, cucumbers, peas, beans, asparagus, cabbage, broccoli, celery
  • Entire patches of turnips and potatoes
    • turnips - “winter apple” because stored well
    • Holes in cabin floors to store veg. without freezing
  • Seeds brought or sent from east coast
Meat

• Relied on wild game in early years
  • turkey and venison were "bread"
  • fatty bear "meat."
• Cattle and hogs too valuable to slaughter until numbers increased
  • dense thickets of cane green through winter – used to feed animals and didn’t have to cut and store hay

• "The people in the fort was remarkable kind and hospitable to us with what they had. But I thought it was hard times—no bred (bread), no salt, no vegetables, no fruit of any kind, no Ardent sperrets (alcohol), indeed nothing but meet. (meat)"
  • Daniel Trabue at Boonesborough on Easter Sunday, 1778

https://teachingwiththemes.com/index.php/primarysourcebazaar/
Clothing

• Settlers tried to get through their first year or two with the clothing from home
  • popular image of pioneers in coonskin caps and buckskin suits is exaggerated
    • Settlers did use hides for some common articles such as moccasins and breeches

• After food crops were established, worked on flax (linen), hemp, and wool production
  • Acre of flax could produce 200-300 pounds of raw fiber
    • enough linen to fill the needs of an average family
  • rotting the flax and hemp fiber and then breaking it was hard work
    • men often did it during the slack days of winter
    • Women "pulled" the strands and bundling them into "sticks" ready to spin

• By late 1700s, hemp cultivation began shift from homespun cloth to the commercial manufacture rope and bagging
  • Ropewalks were one of earliest manufacturing facilities five already in operation by 1800
Wool & Sheep

- sheep easy to lose to wolves, cougars, and other predators
- by the late 1790s, nearly every rural household included wool, equipment such as cards or spinning wheels, or at least a few sheep

- How do we know what pioneer household owned?
1815 Estate Inventory
From
Garrard County, KY
Of
James Demmaree

To list:
- $5.25 burs
- 1.00
- 2.12
- 1.80
- 2.00
- 2.00
- 1.35
- 2.00
- 1.00
- 2.30
- 1.00
- 2.25
- 2.00
- 8.00
- 12.00
- 0.6
- 12.50
- 7.00
- 12.3

$185.06

[Handwritten list of items with their valuations]
Estate Inventories
Primary Source Handout
Estate Inventories

PRIMARY SOURCE:
Government/public documents

Available at YOUR local courthouse!
A List of the Sale of the estate of Abner Hiatt Do. as returned by the executrix. Sold at public sale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchasers names</th>
<th>Amount of Sale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy Hiatt</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Hiatt</td>
<td>$1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>$0.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>$0.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>$0.30</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One bed furniture, stove, &amp;c.</td>
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<tr>
<td>One bed do.</td>
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<tr>
<td>One small bed do.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One table</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One cupboard, fruit, earthenware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six chairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One small oven and pot.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One small looking glass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One rifle gun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One plow and stock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geor. McRae.</td>
<td>$2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismidick</td>
<td>$2.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Price</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One ax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One brown stone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bay horse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bay filly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One brown two-year-old colt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One brown colt 2 years old</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>One cow and calf</td>
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<td>One heifer and one cow yearling</td>
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<tr>
<td>One cow and calf</td>
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<td>One heifer and one cow yearling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seiver Hog</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hudg. Owsley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tho. Huntlow</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>2.11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>3.12.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One Negro girl named Beck
Six Sheep
Five Sheep James Disard

Same 70. 7. 0
Same 2. 11. 0
0. 18. 6
£ 201. 14. 6

The above is the full amount of the sale of the estate of Weber Hitt, deceased, by Allen administratrix.
Primary Sources – Written Accounts: James Wade (1770 – 1844)

• From interview with James Wade (1770 – 1844)
• Wade family came to Kentucky in 1784 (end of Revolutionary War)
• Settled at McGee’s Station (Clark County)
  • James and brother Jones earned living:
  • Guard for station and of corn fields
  • Watch for Indians and cut wood for Bourbon Iron Furnace (today in Bath County)
• Married at 27 (1797) to Nancy Baye; settled in Bath County
  • 9 children
  • Prosperity: measured by land owned 10 slaves on 1830 and 1840 census
• Interview from late 1840s

• See
  • *Buffaloes in the Corn: James Wade's Account of Pioneer Kentucky* by Roseann R. Hogan
1700s – early 1800s

Work & Industry on the Kentucky frontier
Labor

• Wages higher in the new West (Ky) than on east coast
  • field workers were very hard to find
  • Poor men preferred to work on their own as a tenant rather than work for wages

• Slavery even in the earliest years of settlement
  • By 1790, nearly 12,000 slaves lived in Kentucky
    • About ¼ all white households included at least one slave, but very few owned more than ten.
    • an adult male slave valued £70 in Virginia had a value of £100 in Kentucky because of labor shortage – encouraged settlers to bring slaves
  • By 1800, 40,000 slaves in Ky. & about 100 free blacks
    • Nearly 1 in every 5 pioneers was black
James Wade (1770 – 1844) on Fur Trapping

Fur Trapping, Winter 1790 and 1791

My brother and myself spent most of the time that winter in trapping beaver up on Licking still having our home at the station. We were considered the best trappers ever on Licking except this John Bradley, before spoken of. [Bradley] could catch two beavers to any other’s one that might be trapping with us. The tail of the beaver contained an excellent marrow and used to be eaten. The beaver was rarely to be seen in the day time but after sun down or a little before of a warm wet evening they would come out upon the surface of the water and could be heard to strike their tails on the surfaces of the water 2 or 300 yards. Very often just one alone; as if there were no more.
James Wade (1770 – 1844) on growing corn

The Harvest, Fall 1790

The station, after this, was again evacuated till fall. Jerry Poor and my self went down and acted as spies at the furnace. Harry Martin, after the recent interruptions, refusing to go any more. Pay was 5/s.

In the fall my brother having recovered, we went out together to get in our corn. The buffaloes and bears had been in it; the former take great delight in rolling in it. They had not eaten the corn but would come in on the ploughed ground, to roll and mash eight or ten hills at a time. The bears had begun to eat of it considerably. The thirty acres, however, yielded a very good produce. What we could spare, was sent to the furnace, except such as we supposed might be needed for families that were expected in the spring.

American Bison
James Wade (1770 – 1844) on making iron

- The Bourbon Iron Furnace in Bath County – 1st charcoal-iron furnace west of the Alleghenies.
  - blocks of hand-hewn rock brought by oxcart to the site and lifted into place on massive iron supports
  - 20 feet square at the base
  - built against the side of a hill so that the ore and charcoal could be wheeled in by barrows over a small bridge and dumped into its open stack top.
  - Molten iron was drawn out of the mouth of the furnace

- Produced iron from 1791 - 1838.
  - Production at full blast was some three tons per day
  - Iron for ammunition, cooking utensils, axe blades, plow shares

---

**SLATE IRON WORKS**

The furnace is now in full blast, making from three to four tons a day.
Orders forwarded shall be executed with neatness and dispatch; patterns forwarded to my Iron Store in Lexington, will meet a ready conveyance to the Works.

**MARIA FORGE**

Is also now at work—all the fires are well manned and making iron of a superior quality.

**SLATE FORGE**

Is also in high operation, and making a ton a day.
A constant supply of iron will be kept at my store at Lexington, of a quality not inferior to any made in the United States, will be warranted as such by

**THOMAS D. Y. OWSING.**

Lexington, 10th Dec., 1813.
Salt industry in Kentucky

• Salt extracted by boiling the briny water at salt licks in iron kettles.
• Ordinarily salt-makers estimated one bushel of salt from 400 gallons of water.
  • Some areas produced as much as 50 pounds of dry salt to 100 gallons of water.
• Salt-works helped food exports to grow
  • In 1801 - 92,300 pounds of pork
  • 91,300 pounds of bacon
  • 14,860 pounds of beef
  • 2,587 pounds of butter
  • 8,718 pounds of biscuit
    was shipped south from Louisville
  • All of these food products required salt to prepare
• Several Kentucky laws regulating the salt industry
Kentucky Gunpowder Industry

• Gunpowder – crude niter (saltpeter) scraped from floors of caves and boiled to make a powder that was mixed with charcoal and sulphur
  • Part of the reason that Mammoth Cave was explored
  • Many powder mills in Lexington

• 1780 - Earliest recorded saltpeter mining and gunpowder making done by
  • Monk Estill, a black slave of Captain James Estill in Madison County
    • Very little gunpowder at Estill Station – Monk found the cave, purified the saltpeter earth and made enough gun powder
Tobacco

• As early as 1783, settlers petitioned the Virginia Assembly for state system of local tobacco-inspection warehouses
  • helped maintain standards of quality
  • At least 12 warehouses existed by 1800
    • primarily in the Bluegrass region where conditions for tobacco cultivation best

• new Virginia law passed in 1787 that made tobacco acceptable for the payment of taxes

• until 1795, selling barreled tobacco difficult because Spanish in New Orleans controlled Mississippi River exports
  • High export taxes placed on American produce

Images and for more information – see https://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/1_3.html
Hogshead

- Standard hogshead - 48 inches long
- 30 inches in diameter at the head
- Held least 145 US gallons of liquid, depending on the width in the middle
- Fully packed with tobacco, it weighed about 1,000 pounds
Kentucky products

• Tobacco sold in Kentucky in late 1700s sold for $2.50 or less per 100 pounds
  • In New Orleans, sold for $9.50 per 100 pounds.
• Flour and food also a big business
  • Cotton planters and people in New Orleans were the buyers.
    • 1802 – 72,000 barrels of dried pork
    • 2,485 barrels of salted pork
    • 85,570 barrels of flour shipped south
• Boat building also big business in Kentucky

• Manufacturing
  • Southern planters bought “Kentucky jeans” – cheap clothing for slaves from Kentucky
New Orleans: Kentucky’s market

• until 1795, selling barreled tobacco difficult because Spanish in New Orleans controlled Mississippi River exports

• Late 1700s, early 1800s
  • the main route to markets was down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans

• Farmers shipped goods south on “broadhorns” or flatboats.
  • In New Orleans, the goods were sold and the boat took apart and the lumber was sold.

• Most walked back back over the Natchez Trace (440 miles) and the Louisville Boat Road
  • Later known as the Louisville and Nashville Highway
Kentucky Distilling Industry

• Most shipped to New Orleans, then up the Atlantic coast
  • 1789 – many say the process to make Bourbon whiskey was discovered by the Craig-Parker factory at Georgetown (but may not be true)
    • placed in charred kegs to remove foreign particles, change color and mellow the sharp taste
  • Became internationally famous

• 1819 – New Orleans received over 200,000 gallons of whiskey per month from Kentucky

1876 – 100 years AFTER frontier Ky
Kentucky Textile Industry

- 1789 – Danville KY “Kentucky Manufacturing Company” was organized
  - To make cotton and wool cloth and stockings
  - Purchased a British carding machine, spinning machine, and stocking loom

- The machinery went overland from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh and then shipped by river boat to Maysville
  - But on the way the British chief mechanic was arrested for drunken misbehavior
  - When machines got to Danville, no one knew how they worked, but British mechanic finally got released from jail a few months later

- By 1820 – many cotton factories in Lexington and Louisville.
  - Lexington had 12 cotton factories, one that used steam power
Kentucky Hemp Industry

- Nathan Burrows of Lexington invented a machine in 1796 to clean raw hemp
  - A hemp factory opened in Georgetown
  - 1805 – a Ky manufacturer shipped 20 tons of hemp yard in “tight hogsheads” to Philadelphia

- Shipped baling rope, plow lines and other hemp products south

- 1810 – 450,000 yards of course hemp cloth (duck) manufactured
- By 1817 – Lexington hemp manufacturers made 1,000,000 yards of bagging annually

Kentucky hemp harvest, 1895
Lexington Industries

- During the 19th century, Lexington’s economy boomed
  - nail factory
  - center of furniture manufacturing
  - fulling (thickening cloth) mills
  - lard oil factories
  - grist and flour mills
  - Rope walks and hemp mills
Petersburg Distillery (also known as the Boone County Distillery) was originally a steam grist mill started about 1816 and the distillery added in the mid-1830s.
Kentucky industry in 1810

- 15 cotton factories with 23,599 looms
- 13 mills making hempen bagging for cotton bales
- 4 furnaces (iron)
- 11 nail factories
- 267 tanneries
- 9 flaxseed oil mills,
- 2,000 distilleries,
- 6 paper mills
- 63 gunpowder mills
- 36 salt works
Tanning animal hides for leather

Fez, Morocco – tanning hides using traditional methods
George Rogers Clark & Locust Grove

Locust Grove
8 miles from Louisville in 1790
by 1811 – estate was 693 acres
George Rogers Clark – 1752-1818

• leader of the Kentucky (then part of Virginia) militia during Revolution
  • highest ranking American military officer on the northwestern frontier
  • Captured Kaskaskia (1778) and Vincennes (1779), which greatly weakened British influence in the Northwest Territory.
  • called "Conqueror of the Old Northwest" because the British ceded the entire Northwest Territory to the U.S. in the 1783 Treaty of Paris
  • All before he was 30
George Rogers Clark – After the War

• 1784 - 1788 - superintendent-surveyor for Virginia's war veterans

• The Northwest Indian War (1785–1795)
  • Clark led failed campaign to stop Indian raids into Kentucky – accused of being drunk
  • Never led troops again
    • Northwest Indian War - fought between the United States and a confederation of numerous American Indian tribes for control of the Northwest Territory.
      • Ended with U.S. victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794)
      • Indian tribes ceded most of present-day Ohio (Treaty of Greenville 1795)

• Financial difficulties rest of life
George Rogers Clark

• Financial difficulties rest of life
• Given 150,000 acres (Clark County, Indiana) but land rich, cash poor
• 1793 - Planned to lead an expedition to drive the Spanish out of the Mississippi Valley (allied with the French) but scheme collapsed
  • 1794 – Pres. Washington forbade Americans from violating U.S. neutrality
  • Westerener’s needed trade access – Mississippi River
• Deeded lands to family/friends
  • Clark, once the largest landholder in the Northwest Territory, was left with only a small plot of land in Clarksville
  • built a small gristmill which he worked with two African American slaves
• 1809 – Clark had stroke, leg amputated
• Moved to Locust Grove – home of sister, Lucy and brother-in-law, Major William Croghan
Famous Clark Connections

• **John Croghan (1752-1822)**
  • Married Lucy Clark
  • Clark’s surveying partner after war
  • By 1788 – shipping business on Ohio and Miss. Rivers

• **Son- John Croghan**
  • 1892 – struck state’s first oil in Cumberland County
  • Purchased Mammoth Cave (1834)
  • Owned Stephen Bishop (slave who explored Mammoth Cave)

• **William Clark**
  • Brother of George Rogers Clark
  • Joined captain Meriwether Lewis to explore the Louisiana Territory (1803-1806)

• **Neighbors to Zachary Taylor’s father**
  • “Springfield” - built 1785
  • Z. Taylor lived there from 1790 to 1808, held his marriage there in 1810, 4 of 5 children born there
  • Zachary Taylor buried there – now called Zachary Taylor National Cemetery

*Springfield, Louisville*
Land Office Military WARRANT, No. 2292

To the principal SURVEYOR of the Lands set apart for the Officers and Soldiers of the Commonwealth of VIRGINIA.

THIS shall be your WARRANT to survey and lay off in one or more Surveys, for Brigadier General George A. Clarke, his Heirs or Assigns, the Quantity of Ten Thousand Acres of Land, due unto the said George A. Clarke.

In consideration of his services for Three years as a Brigadier General in the Virginia State Line agreeable to a Certificate from the Governor and Council received into the Land Office. GIVEN under my Hand, and the Seal of the said Office, this 26th Day of January in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and 84.

[Signature]

John [Signature]
Aug. 4th 1784 Geo. R. Clark enters 2000 Acres part of a

Military Warrant No. 2292 on the South

de of Cumberland River. Beginning on

de trace leading from Cumberland River
to price's Meadows one mile from said River

tence 1/16 W 500 poles thence eastwardly

to as include Prices improvements.

"1000 Acres withdrawn the remaining 1000 Acres Surveyed"  

Copy Test W. Croghan  

August 19, 1798.
Surveyed for George Rogers Clark 900 acres of land by virtue of an Entry of 2000 acres made 4th August 1796, on part of the Military Tract No. 2192. Lying and being on the South side Cumberland River Beginning at two tee oaks about 1 1/2 miles from the River and a little to the East of a salt and oak, running thence S. 3° W. 400 poles to a stake. Corner to his survey of 100 acres. thence with his line N. 30° E. 100 poles to a stake, thence N. 18° S. 60 poles to an ash and black oak, thence N. 80° E. 200 poles to three pole Pairs on the bank of a Knob, thence running N. 8° E. 488 poles bearing Meadow Creek, thence to two maples thence S. 83° W. 466 poles ending Meadow Creek to the Beginning.

Nov. 10th 1797.
What stories do “antique words” tell?

Analyzing old recipes

Primary Source Activity

Complete instructions here:
https://teachingwiththemes.com/index.php/classroom-activity-how-has-technology-changed-how-we-cook-over-time/
Primary Source Activity: STUDENT

• Read the recipe.
• **Circle** words you don’t know.
• Answer these questions:
  • Have you eaten or are you familiar with this food?
  • Could you follow the instructions in this recipe and prepare this food?
    • Why or why not? (underline sentences/references that would prevent you from preparing this food)
  • Choose 2 ingredients and explain where you would have got each ingredient in America in the 1700s or early 1800s.
Primary Source Activity: Student

• Locate a recipe on the internet similar to your recipe
  • *alternative for teacher to save time – give students modern equivalents of each recipe*

• Compare the old and the new recipe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Recipe</th>
<th>New Recipe</th>
<th>WHY is it different?</th>
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OR
OR

• Compare the old and the new recipe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Old Recipe</th>
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<th>WHY is it different?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other differences</td>
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More American Cookery (1798)

- **American Cookery,**

  or the art of dressing viands, fish, poultry, and vegetables, and the best modes of making pastes, puffs, pies, tarts, puddings, custards, and preserves, and all kinds of cakes, from the imperial plum to plain cake: Adapted to this country, and all grades of life.

- **By Amelia Simmons, 1798**
  - First cookbook written by an American, for American readers
    - Before its publication, only British cookbooks or American reprints of British cookbooks were available
  - Used American ingredients
    - Corn meal
    - Crookneck squash
    - Cranberries
    - Watermelon
    - “Pompkin” puddings
  - Very popular: printed, reprinted and pirated for 30 years after original publication
American Cookery by Amelia Simmons, 1796

• Images of each page
  - https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbc0001.2015amimp26967/?st=gallery

• Or get a modern reprint edition for $2 – 6.
Primary Source Activity: TEACHER Questions

• What topics, lessons, themes could be taught or illustrated with these recipes?
  • In your content area/classes?
  • In other classes your students take?
  • In the “real world” of life outside of school?
Primary Source Activity: Kitchen Technology

• List the appliances in your kitchen
• Read the 1839 recipes
• Circle references to 1839 kitchen technology

FROM *The Kentucky Housewife* by Lettice Bryan

• Originally published 1839

• Conclusion Question:
  • What are the key differences in kitchen technology in 1839 and today?
A PEACH POT PIE.

A peach pot-pie, or cobler, as it is often termed, should be made of clingstone peaches, that are very ripe, and then pared and sliced from the stones. Prepare a pot or oven with paste, as directed for the apple pot-pie, put in the prepared peaches, sprinkle on a large handful of brown sugar, pour in plenty of water to cook the peaches without burning them, though there should be but very little liquor or syrup when the pie is done. Put a paste over the top, and bake it with moderate heat, raising the lid occasionally, to see how it is baking. When the crust is brown, and the peaches very soft, invert the crust on a large dish, put the peaches evenly on, and grate loaf sugar thickly over it. Eat it warm or cold. Although it is not a fashionable pie for company, it is very excellent for family use with cold sweet milk.

FROM The Kentucky Housewife by Lettice Bryan
Originally published 1839
Kitchen cook stove – “NEW” technology!

• Invented in late 1700s
• Cast iron stoves available to domestic cooks in early 1800s
• By 1850s – most middle class homes had a cook stove
From The Shorewood Cook Book by the Ladies’ Aid Society of the Luther Memorial Chapel, (Shorewood, Wisconsin, 1922), 54.
Changing food: from “home grown” to pre-packaged

What’s a shoat?

October 15, 2018  daily life, food regulation, historical cooking, historical recipes, history of daily life in America, primary source images, Primary Sources, historical recipes, pork, primary sources, shoat  Leave a comment

What’s a shoat? Before the Civil War, cookbooks included dozens of recipes for shoat. Today, this word for pork only appears in glossaries for journalists covering agriculture. A shoat (also spelled shote) is a young pig under one year old. Antique words and old recipes, like antique tools or technology, illustrate changes in daily life. Weird old words and old practices can grab students’ attention and connect to wider economic, political, and social themes.

It’s Cold Enough to Kill Hogs
Shoat – a young weaned pig

**SHOTE’S HEAD.**

Take out the brains, and boil the head till quite tender, cut the heart and liver from the harslet, and boil the feet with the head; cut all the meat from the head in small pieces, mince the tongue and chop the brains small, take some of the water the head was boiled in, season it with onion, parsley and thyme, all chopped fine, add any kind of catsup—thicken it with butter and brown flour, stew the whole in it fifteen minutes, and put it in the dish: have the heart roasted to put in the middle, lay the broiled liver around, and garnish it with green pickle.
Essential Questions - REVISITED

• How was daily life different in the past?
  • How did 19th century industrialization change daily life?

• What wider trends are changing daily life today?

• Learn more about ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS from Resor’s online CHARGE presentation
Sources:

• “Buffaloes in the Corn: James Wade's Account of Pioneer Kentucky” by Roseann R. Hogan

• “Farming on the Kentucky Frontier” by Ellen Eslinger
  • *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 107, No. 1 (Winter 2009), pp. 3-32
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