



## Around Town

In Walnut Hill, it's been cold and wintry, but very busy! Where is Walnut Hill? Walnut Hill is the little farming town you visit at Living History Farms. A town is a place made of houses, stores and businesses. Our museum shows you what it would be like to live in a little town a long time ago! In Walnut Hill, the year is always 1875. That's over 140 years ago, before electric lights, computers, and even telephones! Walnut Hill town might have 500 people living and working in the shops and on farms outside of town. These families would come to town to buy and sell things at the stores and to meet with their neighbors. People went to town to go to church, get their mail, attend school, and shop. People also visited town for fun things such as parades and baseball games and fairs.



Towns had shops to sell things that farmers needed. Good examples of something farmers needed were farm implements, to do work on the farm. Implement is another word for tool or machine. Walnut Hill has an Implement Warehouse where farmers could buy plows to dig up their fields, planters to put seeds in the ground, and mowers to harvest some types of plants. In 1875, these machines were often pulled by horses! No tractor engines back then! Walnut Hill also has a blacksmith to repair these machines. Blacksmiths heat up metal in a fire pit, called a forge. Once the metal is hot, a blacksmith can hammer and twist it to make it

bend. They could straighten, bend, and repair the metal pieces on broken farm machines so that farmers did not have to buy a complete new implement. Farmers had to have tools to do their job and the Implement Warehouse and blacksmith gave the farmer what he needed.

Towns also had shops for fun things farming families wanted. The millinery in Walnut Hill is an example of a place to buy something extra special. Something you want, but don't have to have is called a luxury. The Millinery was a place to buy a lady's hat. In 1875, everyone wore a hat when they went outside. It protected their head and made their outfit look stylish. Men and boys could buy hats at the General Store. Most ladies wanted fancier hats. The milliner designed hats for each lady and sewed things like ribbons and silk flowers onto a hat form. The hat forms could be made of straw or a stiff fabric called buckram.



This year, Living History Farms is celebrating small towns and communities. A community is a group of people that live or work together. The blacksmith was a place to work, but also a part of the community-farmers met there to joke and talk while their machines were repaired. The millinery shop was also a place to meet with friends. Ladies could sit, enjoy tea and talk with their friends while they shopped. Visit us this season to see the ways Walnut Hill families worked and played together as a community in 1875!

## Upcoming Events - Spring 2017

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Your first chance to visit Walnut Hill this year is on March 18, for **National Ag Day!** National Ag Day is a day to recognize and celebrate farming. We will be celebrating with livestock demonstrations, tractor displays, and hands-on activities from several agricultural organizations of Iowa including the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, Brenton Arboretum, and the 2017 Iowa Honey Queen. Selected townfolk in Walnut Hill will open their doors for visitors.

Then, on April 15, bring your whole family to our **Family Easter** event! Enjoy toy hunts, preschool Bunnyland, live animals, horse and wagon rides, and

traditional games. You'll have the chance to explore a few shops in Walnut Hill and grab a tasty breakfast wrap.



## History Detectives

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Clue #1



Clue #2



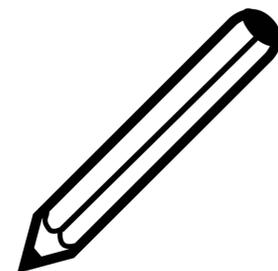
Clue #3

Good detectives pay attention to small things. They look around and use their eyes to explore every detail. In this newsletter, we're exploring Walnut Hill shops like the Implement Warehouse. Here are some photographs of small parts of big things. Come visit us on National Ag Day and see if you can find these small parts in the big places they came from!

## Try this: Needs and Luxuries

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Today we talked about stores in a town - some were places you bought things you *needed* and others were places you bought things you *wanted* but maybe didn't need. Make a list or draw a picture of one store in your town you enjoy visiting. Does it have things you need or things you want - those luxuries? What are your favorite luxuries to buy?



## Word Search

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**Word Search - Printable PDF**

L L T X K V L U X U R Y K F J  
 G L T B B U P O H S T F T S H  
 F M X D B D Q J E E G T F O N  
 X K I Z R M T O W N B L I K M  
 I I W L A V Y N N S X V L K D  
 K Z Z S L H T T E G Q D F A T  
 T C V T V I I S A M Q R D N B  
 W W F K Z D N A R H E E S X T  
 A G P C V S U E D L E L G I O  
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 A V C B L A C K S M I T H I H  
 L B X L H A M M E R D V U U C  
 E Y J V W R O B H G I E N S L

TOWN  
 HAT  
 LUXURY  
 BLACKSMITH  
 COMMUNITY  
 IMPLEMENT  
 HAMMER  
 MILLINERY  
 TOOL  
 NEIGHBOR  
 SHOP  
 NEED

**Coloring Contest**



Download this month's printable coloring sheet, color it in, and bring it with you on National Ag Day or send it in the mail to be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to the MarketPlace Museum Store!

**LHF Kids Club Coloring Contest**  
 Color in the picture above and bring it to Living History Farms on National Ag Day, or mail it to us at the address below to be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to the MarketPlace Museum Store! Next time you visit Living History Farms, you might see your picture decorating the windows of the store! Drawing will be held on March 24, 2017, and winner will be contacted via email.  
 Kids Club Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drop off your finished artwork at the LHF Visitor Center or mail to: Living History Farms, 2600 111th St, Urbandale, IA 50322

Next time you visit Living History Farms, you might see your picture decorating the windows of the store! Drawing will be held on March 24, 2017.

**[Download your Coloring Sheet](#)**




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