



Summer Fun & Games

Iowa kids have lots of ways to have fun outside together. This was true for kids in the past, too! Farm kids had the big Iowa outdoors for play time. Ellery Hancock lived on a farm outside of Waukon, Iowa. When he was 11 years old, he wrote in his diary, "August 19 1861, fair day, Frank, George and I went down to the timber. Frank caught 11 fish and I the same." As a teenager, Oliver Perry lived on a farm near West Chester, Iowa. He wrote in 1873, "May 17 - Hunted and fished. May 18 - Visited. May 19 - Hunted and fished. May 20 - Charlie Payne went with me . . . caught 12 fish weighing about 30 to 40 lbs." When you visit our museum, look along the walking trail for our bubbling creek! Do you see any tiny fish swimming in it? It would take a lot of these little fish to make up 30 pounds!



In the 1800s, when kids got together, there were many games for kids to play outside. An easy tag game was "Drop the handkerchief". Players stood in a circle. Whoever was "it" walked around the outside of the circle carrying a handkerchief. "It" dropped the handkerchief behind any player. That player had to turn around, pick it up and chase the original "it" around the circle back to their place. Lucy Van Voorhis, aged 13, wrote in her diary in 1882, "We have had a splendid time all day. Before school and at recess we played drop the handkerchief." Lucy loved playing pretend with her friends too, saying, "June 14, at noon we played wade in the mud and made mud-pies." On June 15, she wrote, "At noon Abbie and I made a play-house." The schoolhouse lawn at Living History Farms is a great place to play drop the handkerchief. Make sure you ask your adult before jumping in any mud though!



Some outdoor games did need a few pieces of equipment. Even for the loway kids in 1700! Lawn dart games were made from feathers and corn cobs. loway

boys and girls both played games with handmade balls made out of animal hide and stuffed with fur or cattail fluff. For pioneer children, a small wood hoop and four short sticks made up the game of graces. Kids would use the sticks to toss the hoop back and forth. A bigger wood hoop could be rolled on its side with a short stick. Check out these games at the 1875 Tangen House.



As small towns grew, kids might save up to buy games from the local stores. Kids could buy simple clay or fancy glass marbles. Kids used larger shooter marbles to knock the smaller ones out of a circle drawn on the ground. In the 1870s, general stores sold bats and balls for baseball. A favorite, but expensive game, was croquet. Croquet players use long mallets to hit heavy wooden balls through hoops, called wickets. It was a game which girls, boys, and adults could all play together. In 1875, Belle Robinson was 14 years old, living in Dubuque, Iowa. She mentions playing croquet almost every day in August that year! This is a very favorite game to play at the Flynn Mansion at the [Victorian Birthday Party](#). What are your favorite games to play when your chores are done? Do you play outside or inside in the summer? Do you need toys or equipment to play games? Visit the museum this summer to learn more about how kids spent their free time in Iowa's past.



Upcoming Events

Don't miss our LHF Kids' Club Activity Spots. These are hands-on activities for LHF Kids Club members at Living History Farms sites. Bring your [LHF Kids Club passport](#) and get a stamp for joining in on the activity! At the end of the season in October, kids with a completed passport can exchange their passports for a special prize in the Marketplace Museum Store!

Saturday, July 14: Drop by the sitting room at the Tangen House for a look at the indoor games available to kids with a little bit of money. Checkers, tops, and other toys will be out to explore!

Saturday, August 11: Join the Victorian Birthday Party at the Flynn Mansion and try out the lawn games, weather permitting, that kids enjoyed during the summer in 1875.



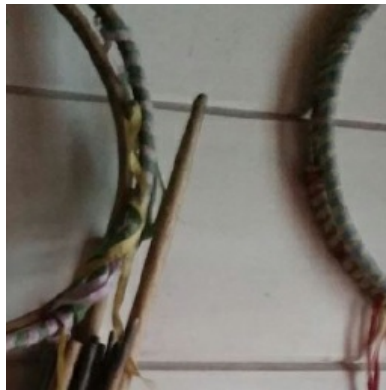
Can't make it on one of the scheduled activity days? Stop in to the MarketPlace

Museum Store any time during the month to get a stamp in your passport.

History Detectives



Clue #1



Clue #2



Clue #3

Good detectives pay attention. They look around and use their eyes to explore every detail. In this newsletter, we've explored summer games and toys! Here are some photographs of small parts of bigger things. Visit the museum this summer to see if you can find these items!

Recipe to Try - Ice Cream!

In the late 19th century, ice cream was a special treat for summer picnics. There were many elaborate recipes for ice cream, but most contained raw eggs and needed to be cooked before freezing. This recipe is a fast, non-egg based alternative. It has been a favorite with Living History Farms Day Campers and hits the spot on a hot, humid day.



- 1 ½ quarts of cold half-and-half
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla

Mix together in a bowl. Pour into ice cream freezer container. Surround with ice and rock salt and turn according to manufacturer directions. Ice cream will be soft serve consistency and can be eaten right away. For firmer ice cream, transfer to an airtight container and place in the freezer section of refrigerator for about an hour. Recipe makes about a quart or so of ice cream; double ingredients to make a half-gallon.

Try this: A Different Kind of Tag

"Hunt the Hare: The players all form a circle, holding each other's hands. One, called the Hare, is left out, and runs several times around the ring and at last stops, tapping one of the players on the shoulder.



The one tapped quits the ring and runs after the Hare, the circle again joining hands. The Hare runs in and out in every direction, passing under the arms of those in the circle until caught by the pursuer, then he becomes the Hare himself. Those in the circle must always be friends to the Hare and assist its escape in every way possible."- From Parlor Games: Amusements and Entertainments for Everyone, edited by Roy Finamore.

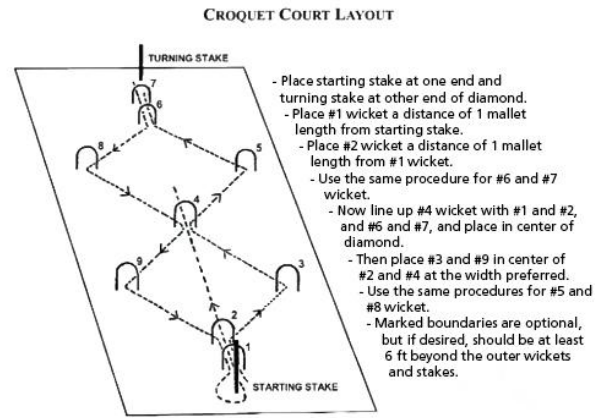
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MALLETT
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GRACES
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WOODS

Design your own Croquet Game

A croquet court usually looks like this. The hoops are called wickets and people lay them out on the ground in a diamond pattern. Players start at #1 and hit the ball through each numbered wicket. Take out a blank piece of paper and a pencil. If you had 10 wickets to use, what would your court look like? Would you put the wickets in a circle or a zig zag? Draw your perfect game on your paper. Number each wicket to show how players would move through the court!



Standard Croquet Court Layout



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