



## Simple Chores can be Fun!

It's a great feeling to do a job well. Simple jobs like making your bed are work, but they can be fun too! The pillows can be soft to touch. Clean sheets smell good as you put them on the bed. Think about how neat the sheets look when you fold them just right! This chore can be a simple pleasure! Each person is different though. Some people hate wrestling with fitted sheets or getting blankets to lay flat. Things that are fun for one person are not always fun for someone else. Are there chores at home that you don't mind doing, but someone else really hates?



Let's look at some jobs from the 1800s that seem fun for us, even though they can be hard work. In the Broom Shop, museum workers bind broomcorn onto handles using wire and foot-powered machines. They take a lot of pride in making these brooms thick and even. In the Millinery, museum workers learn to sew fabric and feathers onto ladies' hats. The milliners enjoy choosing colors and making the hats neat and pretty. At the 1900 era farm, farmers have many chores to do! They

enjoy harnessing the big Percheron horses, planting straight rows in the fields and picking corn by hand.

What about workers long ago? Did they enjoy doing these jobs? Thomas Terrill was a farmer in Greene County, Iowa. He wrote in his diary in 1899, "Oct 17, At home all day. The boys stayed out of school and we began gathering corn in the west field. We gathered in one wagon and got four loads, about 100 bushels. It is a white corn and turned out reasonably well." Do you think picking corn was fun for Thomas and his family? Well, his sons got to stay home from school to help pick corn. That might have been fun! Working outside with their Dad might have been fun, too! But, waking up early to go out in the cold might not have been fun for everyone. Do you like to get up early? Thomas sounds pretty happy. Even if it was hard work, he was proud of the results!



And the broom makers? In 1875, a worker in a broom shop might work 10 hours every day doing the same work over and over. Some people did like it. Factory workers said they liked earning a good wage—each worker could make \$1.50 a day! Also, they worked in a warm shop with other people instead of outside in bad weather. They learned to

use their special tools very well.



Milliners must have liked their work, right? They were hat artists! Actually, many hat makers liked having their own store because they could be business women, not because they liked to sew or design hats. Just because someone is good at a chore, they might not always like doing it. In her book, Little Town on the Prairie, Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote a story about her mother making a dress. Ma knew how to sew well, but Laura realized that, “Ma was nervous about this best dress. . . . Laura had never before known that Ma hated sewing. Her gentle face did not show it now, and her voice was never exasperated. But her patience was so tight around her mouth that Laura knew she hated sewing as much as Laura did.”



Many jobs are fun for one person, but not someone else. At Living History Farms, we need to do many kinds of chores to show how people lived a long time ago. When you visit, you can try many of these things for yourself to discover which of these jobs seem fun for you to do and which ones you are glad you don't have to do again! Think about which of these chores might have been fun, even if it was hard work, for someone long ago.

## 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, September 8:** Small jobs are important. Drop into the Advocate Print Shop and learn how to sort printing type! This common job made sure letters were in their proper place. Simple, yet a very satisfying skill!

**Saturday, October 13:** It's Folk Heritage Expo Day! Visit the Broom shop in Walnut Hill and do some product testing! Try out the kids' brooms hanging in the shop. Are they made well enough for sale?

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.

[Download Your LHF Kids Club Passport](#)

# History Detectives

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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 been talking about work and tools! Here are some photographs of small parts of bigger things. Visit the museum this fall to see if you can find these items!

## Try This: Chore Lists

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In September 1885, Sarah Jane Kimball, who lived on a farm near Iowa City, Iowa, wrote in her diary, "Saturday lots of work to do for mother and I. We churned, made bread, dressed a chicken, made sweet pickles, made up a pail of apples into applesauce, cleaned my bird cage, then the rooms, and did the work upstairs and it was nearly milking time. Tired at night." Make a list of your chores from this past Saturday. Sometimes we do a lot more work each day than we realize! Were any of your chores the same as Sarah's? Did you clean your room or clean up after a pet, for example?



## Recipe to Try: Make Your Own Butter

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Farmers used special tools called churns to make their butter. A dasher or agitator moved cream up and down and around in a jar or crock. When agitated, the fat in the cream would separate from the liquid part of the cream to form butter. You can do this too—even without a special churn!

- heavy whipping cream
- a glass jar with a good lid—baby food jars or mayonnaise jars work really well!



Put cold, heavy cream into your clean jar, until the jar is one half to three-quarters of the way full. Leave room at the top so the cream can slosh around. Put the lid on very tightly! Make sure the jar doesn't leak! Start shaking the jar up and down. Keep shaking! Dance

around or roll the jar back and forth! Don't stop shaking. You need to "agitate" the cream. After 15+ minutes or so, the cream should start to separate into solid butter fat and milky liquid buttermilk, as it does in the churn. Keep shaking the jar until the butter and buttermilk are completely separate. When it is done, pour the buttermilk off into another bowl or down the sink. After you pour off the buttermilk, some people like to add a sprinkle of salt to the butter. That is up to you!

## Word Search

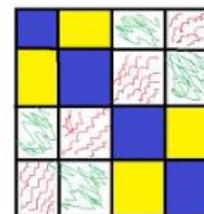
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## Quilt Square Designs

Some jobs are fun because we can be creative while we are working. Making a quilt was a job that needed to be done in the 1800s. Quilts were needed to keep families warm! Designing them could be fun though!

1. Take a square piece of paper. Fold it in half one way and then in half the other way. Crease the lines tight so you can see them.
2. Now unfold the paper. You should see four squares. Fold each edge to the middle line and crease each fold. Now you should have 16 squares.
3. This is now a quilt block. Use crayons or markers to design the pattern of each square. Will you have a checkerboard? Or a crazy quilt with each square different?





Join the LHF Kids Club