

Log Cabins

Families lived in log cabins, one or two rooms sometimes with a loft. The **outhouse**, **kitchen** and **smokehouse** was detached.



The floors were pine boards that were scrubbed every few weeks using **Corn Shuck Brooms** (see exhibit) or sand. People built near springs or creeks, often with a springhouse over the water to cool milk and eggs. Furnishings were few: **corded beds**, wooden chairs, corn shuck mattresses, **grease lamps** and homemade candles.

Everyday Life

Farming

Farmers grew, made or raised almost everything they needed. Mules and horses pulled **wooden plows** to plant and cultivate cotton, tobacco and corn.



Meat came from cows, pigs and chickens; but, hunting deer, turkey and bear was still important.

Women grew vegetables and herbs in garden plots. They preserved their food in **root cellars** and straw lined holes. They cooked on spits, in Dutch ovens and, later, in wrought iron cook stoves.

Women **spun cotton** into thread, and some had looms to make cloth. Their cabins had large fireplaces for light, cooking, and heating.



Everyday Life

Most folks went barefoot April to October. They got up at four o'clock in the morning, worked all day, and went to bed soon after dark. After dinner, men and women smoked **clay pipes** with cane stems.



Free Time

Most social events centered on the church, but there were also **log rollings**, **house raisings**, and **country square dances**, pie socials, plus weddings and funerals.

Christmas included candy or an apple in a stocking. The few books in any house included the ***Holy Bible***, ***Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes*** and the ***Vinegar Bitters Almanac***, plus issues of the ***American Agriculturalist***.

Common Expressions

(Some of these are still used today)

“Jot ‘em Down Stores”

Most stores sold a little of everything including coffee, salt, spices, sugar, rice, shoes, hats, nails and yard goods. The storekeeper sold on credit, so he would “jot ‘em down” what each person owed. Farmers paid when they sold their cotton, usually once a year.

“Peppersauce”

Locally homemade alcohol was known as “peppersauce,” which describes the taste.

“Dogtrot”

A cabin with two rooms separated by an open covered space between them was a “dogtrot.” The opening sheltered the doorways, served as a porch, was a place to stack firewood, and a cool place to sleep in the summertime.

“A come and go”

An open house often for a wedding, funeral or baby shower was a “come and go.”

“All Day Singing and Dinner On the Ground”

About once a month churches would have “an all day singing and dinner on the ground,” or a potluck held outdoors. Members carried tables and chairs outside under the trees and shared their food. Most local churches still have a monthly Fellowship Meal.

Common Expressions

(Some of these are still used today)

“One quarter time”

Circuit riding pastors visited each church they served once a month, or “one quarter time.” Arriving Friday evening, they preached, led Bible study, visited and counseled with the elders through Sunday afternoon.

“Laying by time”

The end of crop cultivation in late August was time off to make repairs, go visiting or attend a Camp Meeting.

“Shelling down the corn”

These were both descriptions of inspired preaching.

Others that need no explanation include:

“Shoot, Luke, or give up the gun.”

“Every man thinks his own dirt's clean.”

“Heaving up Jonah.”

Prices of Common Purchases

- 1828** Straw hats (25 cents each)
- 1885** Store clerk made \$6.25 a month
- 1900** Bushel of shelled corn (56 pounds) cost \$1
- 1901** Bale of cotton sold for \$7 and bought cook stove, tea kettle, Dutch oven, coffee pot, bread pans and kettle
- 1918** 371 acres with big house & 2 rent houses sold for \$3,100
- 1920s** Grindstone from Sears Catalog cost \$20
- 1925** Model A car cost \$70
- 1928** Chevrolet cost \$400 (Perryman Chevrolet)
- 1933** 50 acres cost \$4/acre (\$200) with cabin, small barn, cistern, and spring
- 1934** Cotton (6 cents/lb), small loaf light bread (5 cents), Bologna (10 cents/lb)
- 1939** Electric lines laid and energized (NAEC)
- 1940s** Dentures cost \$35