



The good ole' work days - a list of a few daily chores, other work jobs, entertainment & etc. in pioneer days.



Morning rising: Sometime about 4:00 A.M. to 5:00 A.M.
Evening retirement: About sundown after dinner and evening chores.



Animal care: brush and curry the horses as needed; feed the cattle; feed the chicken, feed the pigs; gather and dry straw for animal beds; hitch up the team of horses for work or going to church; hog butchering in the fall; kill and pick the chicken for Sunday dinner; milk the cows; pitch hay for the horses; sheer the sheep for wool, shell corn for feed for the stock; shoe the horses after forging the shoes; tan the hides of wild animals for leather for clothing and other uses



Building /wood related: build a cooking fire every day for meals; build a barn; build/carve the furniture; build and carve hand tools; build a chicken pen; build a hog pen; build and repair fences; build a hitching post; build a porch on the home; build a wagon; build an outhouse; build shutters for the cabin; carved the gun stocks; carved walking sticks and canes; carve a stick and tied straw to it for a broom; carve nails and pins; carve the table service; chop down the tree for the wood; chop wood; dig a large hole in the ground and cover to preserve some food stuffs; gather kindling and wood for fireplace to cook; split firewood

Entertainment: attend a barn raising; attend a family reunion; community picnics; family gatherings for Sunday dinner; games of stick ball; go horse back riding; hay rides; quilting bees; play games; sleigh rides; Sunday school and church picnics and other church related activities; swimming in the creek; young children played dress up



Christmas time: caroling; chop down the Christmas tree; string popcorn for the tree; string; cranberries for the tree; practice and present school programs for parents and other relatives, friends and neighbors; sleigh rides

Death in family: cared for the deceased by bathing and dressing; held the wake; lit candles to ward off evil spirits; built the casket; dug the grave; carried the casket to the grave site; family buried on the land nearby with other deceased family members; carved name on large rocks for a tombstone

Field work: bailing hay; build fences and pens for the cattle and horses; cut down trees to make way for buildings or a home; cut the hay; dig a well; discing the ground to prepare for planting; plant and harvest grain; plowing



Food and food related: bake biscuits and bread from scratch nearly every meal; bake cakes and pies; gather eggs; grind the coffee beans; grind corn for flour; grind the wheat for flour; grind the meat and stuff the sausage links; home made wines; hunting in the woods for meat; irrigate the garden as needed when there was no rain; pick fruit, berries and nuts; pick the vegetables; plant flowers; plant the vegetable seeds; plant and dry herbs for cooking and medicine; ring the dinner bell on the rope for everyone to come to dinner; salt, cure, smoke or cold pack the meat; shell beans and peas; shuck corn; wash canning jars for canning when they were invented;

Handicraft work/textile work: basket weaving; crocheting; bed clothing such as blankets/quilts and pillows had to be made and/or stuffed by hand; decoupage; dipped candles for light; feathers were kept when the chickens were plucked and they were used in a feather tick for the beds; gather straw and dry it for home use' hand sew pieces of fabric together for squares for quilts; knitting; lace making; make shoes, coats and other clothing from the animal hides; mend clothing; needlepoint; quilting; save old clothing and cut up the good parts for patches; sew and mend clothing; spin wool on a spinning wheel if you had the wool; spinning wool; stuff the mattresses with dry straw; tan animal hides; tole painting; weaving on loom; weave roping



Home: build a cabin; build a fireplace in the cabin; carry in water; carry in firewood and kindling; carry



in the buckets of coal for the fireplace; clean the Chamber pot; collect rain water in barrels and strain it for debris;

dig the well for water; gather corn cobs for fire starters; make chinking for plugging the holes; cut leather for hinges for the door; open and close shutters each night

Mechanicals: blacksmith work; forge nails; forge tools; forge wheels; mend tin roofs; rmolded gun bullets and triggers for a gun; molded horse shoes; repair farm equipment; repair wagon wheels; tin work for lamps



Laundry: made the soap when lye was available; carry the water from the well or creek; start a fire to boil the water; stir clothes around in the boiling or scrub the clothes on the wash board; wring the clothes out by hand; left and dip the clothes from the wash water and drain for the rinse water; dry them on bushes or fence posts; some families washed he laundry in the creeks or the rivers; in later years a wringer washer came into existence but it was only a set of rollers on a wood frame - all the water preparation still had to be taken care of; in the winter time the laundry was sometimes done in the barn

Personal cleanliness/ health/habits: bathing was infrequent; carved wood teeth if needed; hair washing was accompanying by bending over a large pan of water for washing and rinsing; a small child was laid on the table while the pan of water was on a high stool and a cup was used to wash and rinse to pour the water; bathing was sometimes done in the creeks or rivers; used an outhouse for restroom facilities; corn cobs or catalogues were used for toilet paper; used herbs for medicine for self treatment

Religious/school training: attend church on Sunday; Baptism in the river; read the Bible; attend school when possible; read the Horn book or McGuffey reader; used chalk and a slate board in school

