

Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill.

Too many irons in the fire.

Don't crow too soon.

It's as plain as A B C or as plain as the nose on your face.

A cold hand and a warm heart.

The pioneers often held customs that savoured of superstition and they had peculiar beliefs. The moon influenced their planting season and their time for butchering. Potatoes and peas should always be planted at full moon. If a hog is killed during new moon it will all shrivel away in the pan. A bright red sunset means fine weather tomorrow. It is bad luck to sing at the table. It is bad luck to open an umbrella in the house. It is bad luck to start a journey on a Friday. To find a four leaf clover is good luck. It will surely rain! - if a hen crows; if crows are unusually noisy; if trains can be heard clearly from a long distance; or if there are many women out. A horse chestnut carried in the pocket is a remedy for rheumatism. Dew rubbed on the face before sunrise during the month of May will remove freckles. To cure a sore throat, a sock should be taken off the left foot, turned inside out and wrapped around the neck - the foot the sock next the throat (a red wool sock was best). Apply mud to a bee sting to ease the pain.

Down Memory Lane

"Coal oil Johnny" who delivered coal oil from Belleville for the lamps in the community heralded his arrival with a huge horn which could be heard all around the countryside and the demi-johns (5gallon bottles in wicker cases) were taken out to his one horse wagon to be filled.

"Hippety - Clink" from Tyendinaga was a day labourer who worked for 75¢ a day. He was an excellent worker when he could remain sober, but unfortunately as soon as he had a little money ahead he would find his way to the saloon. His real name cannot be recalled. He moved from place to place only remaining a day or so.

Many of the girls of the neighbourhood learned to play the familiar hymns and the popular melodies of the time on the pump organ from lessons taken from Professor Monroe. Professor Monroe was blind but each week he made his way to the homes of his pupils by walking. He carried a cane which he kept tapping before him.

If it happened that he was at a home at meal time he was invited to share the meal with the family. Many homes entertained the blind music teacher.