

- Heavy crockery bed pans and decorated chamber pots (potties) in to-day's antique shops, although filled with vines or flowers, take me back in time to my detested chore of "emptying the slops" and washing similar vessels at home. Trimming coal-oil (kerosene) lamp wicks with scissors and cleaning their glass chimneys (first by blowing in one's breath, then rubbing the inside with newspaper) was another daily chore.
- Dad's habit of leaving, in my opinion, much too early to go somewhere often proved a godsend. We never missed the weekly train, even though once the car's gas line froze; and one Easter, driving through a trackless & deep snowfall, the car slid into the ditch. The worst time was when the car's axle broke 2 miles from home on the morning of my final examination at Renfrew in Mechanics. However, a phone call brought D.N. Bell to the rescue and I was but 20 minutes late for the exam. Another time, Dad waited but a few minutes when my Aunt & three children weren't ready for their weekly buggy ride to Ross Sunday School and Church. (He was Superintendent and knew Rev. Craig would pick them up later. He did.) Need I add they were always ready for us after that? My habit of allowing less time failed the test, when it caused a friend to miss the train! A sudden thunderstorm with a driving rain stalled the car. When we got it dried off, 'twas too late. Dad would have made it in time!
- I was expected to come when called for meals. Mother's loud "Trilling" call from the clothes-line platform, carried over the water when the meal was almost ready. Being tardy meant doing without, but I never went hungry for there were always garden vegetables in summer and the apple barrel in winter.
- A whole cheese, 100 lb. of butter in wooden boxes (firkins), were 'laid in' each Fall and stored in the summer kitchen along with the tall, round canister holding 100 pounds of flour. Sugar, too, was bought in 100lb. bags. The winter's supply of carrots, beets, onions, turnips and parsnips was stored in the cold cellar, -potatoes in burlap 100 lb. bags the others buried in sand. Eggs were sometimes wrapped in newspaper, and stored small end down. Tomatoes wrapped in newspaper kept till Christmas. Cobs of corn hung from rafters in the loft out of squirrel's reach (by pulling the husks back & tying to form a 'Handle' from which to hang them) served as the next year's seed. Beans, peas and corn were 'put up' in glass sealers. (A can of peas or corn from the store was a special treat.) Wooden barrels filled with apples, preserved wild strawberries, blueberries, chokecherries, plums as well as bought pears & peaches, along with pails of honey (with handles), cans of Maple Syrup & bottled raspberry vinegar supplied our sweet-tooth needs. Before Ice Cream became available in the stores, we made our own from cream, eggs and vanilla. Turning the freezer's handle ('twas filled with coarse salt & ice from the ice-house where it had been buried in sawdust the previous winter) proved worth the effort! Frozen fish, caught in winter thro' the ice of Muskrat Lake, was available in our stores. Candy was a treat - when approached, Mother might give me a cent but Dad could usually be counted on for 5¢ - provided one didn't ask too often...fortunately for my teeth. We bought licorice pipes, & sticks horehound, and various coloured & flavoured "Mixtures". (Nelson Bell could always be counted on to slip in an extra one.) We also ate the gum drops put on the spout of a coal-oil tin. Grandfather Kirk always had a supply of the hard, medicinal-type licorice sticks, and cut off