

A Step Back in Time By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas



Ella Taylor Moore

In the May, 2010 Eagleville Times an article was included about a remarkable lady, Mrs. Ella Moore, who had celebrated her 104th birthday. Mrs. Moore was former resident of the Rover area, but has lived in Nashville for the last several years. Below are some of her memories, which were printed in the "History of Rover and The 10th District of Bedford

County". This book was a Tennessee Homecoming project was compiled in 1986 by several Rover citizens.

LIVING IN THE LATE 1800's AND EARLY 1900's

My dad, James T. Taylor, raised sheep and when late spring came, sheep were sheared for wool and for comfort. Some of the wool was marketed and some, kept for family use. The processing took some time. First the wool was washed, laid out in the sun and dried. Then it was pulled off into small batches, was then pulled back and forth until all dirt had dropped out leaving it spotless.

My mother, Susie had cards, which were small pieces of wood, which were square and fastened together. On top were handles; the wood had very sharp teeth that would connect when closed. Pieces of wool placed between the cards and were worked with precision and wool rolls were made which were approximately 1 inch in diameter and 2 to 3 feet long. Mother would spin these rolls of wool on a spinning wheel into a thread.

This thread was used to knit our gloves, stockings, which she dyed black, but Dad always wore white wool socks.

In the year of 1914, eight children of Jim and Susie Taylor were in bed with red measles and in much need of cough medicine, which at this time was whiskey. With prohibition in effect, it was scarce. Ira, the oldest son, was able to ride, so he and his uncle Wilkey Vaughn, left early in the morning and came in at dark with one pint of whiskey, found in Williamson County. None was to be found in Bedford or Rutherford Counties that day by them. All children recovered with help from the pint of whiskey.

In the early 1920's during prohibition, two brothers from Nashville, Tennessee were boot-leggers and hauled whiskey from Winchester Tennessee, where it was made,

to Nashville through Rover in an old dodge touring car. Their trip was delayed on one of these daring runs, by a roadblock set up by Sheriff Frazier and deputies from Rockvale. The huge log chain used, only slowed the old Dodge, which infuriated Frazier. His next plan was a log, supposedly perfect for stopping any type vehicle going through Rover. They rolled on through and stopped at the tollgates briefly and certainly no one questioned them there; so Frazier gave up as being out maneuvered by these brothers. They continued to haul whiskey through Rover, but were caught years later in Nashville and served time, so crime really doesn't always pay.

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Our only means of soap—First an ash hopper was built of wood, made in a V shape, 6 or 8 feet tall, with a raised top, so ashes could be poured into the hopper. All winter, wood ashes from fireplaces were poured into the hopper. When spring came, my Dad Jim Taylor, would pour water over the ashes by the buckets, which would seep through the ashes. This was pure lye, dripping out of the V shape through in the bottom of the hopper, which extended a few inches. An iron kettle hung on this to catch the lye.

When enough lye was accumulated, Mama would put all old lard, meat scraps, etc. into a big black kettle with the lye. A fire was built under the kettle and the grease and lye mixture was stirred until it would form into a dark brown jelly. This was soap that was used for washing clothes, dishes, shampooing hair, baths and for medicinal purposes, such as sore cow and horse feet—no other soap was available and this was free.

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In the 1800s, Rover had a shoe shop where everyone near Rover had shoes made by Richard Nance Davis and his wife's brother, Har Wade. They owned and operated the shop until the late 1800's or early 1900's—when ready-made shoes came on the market.

In 1895 my mother, Susie Davis Taylor, was married in a pair of shoes made by her Dad and Uncle. In 1890 Susie's sister, Rebecca Davis Loyd also married in homemade shoes.

These shoes did not have steel tacks or nails but tiny wood pegs or sprigs of different sizes. The shop and contents were sold in 1924.

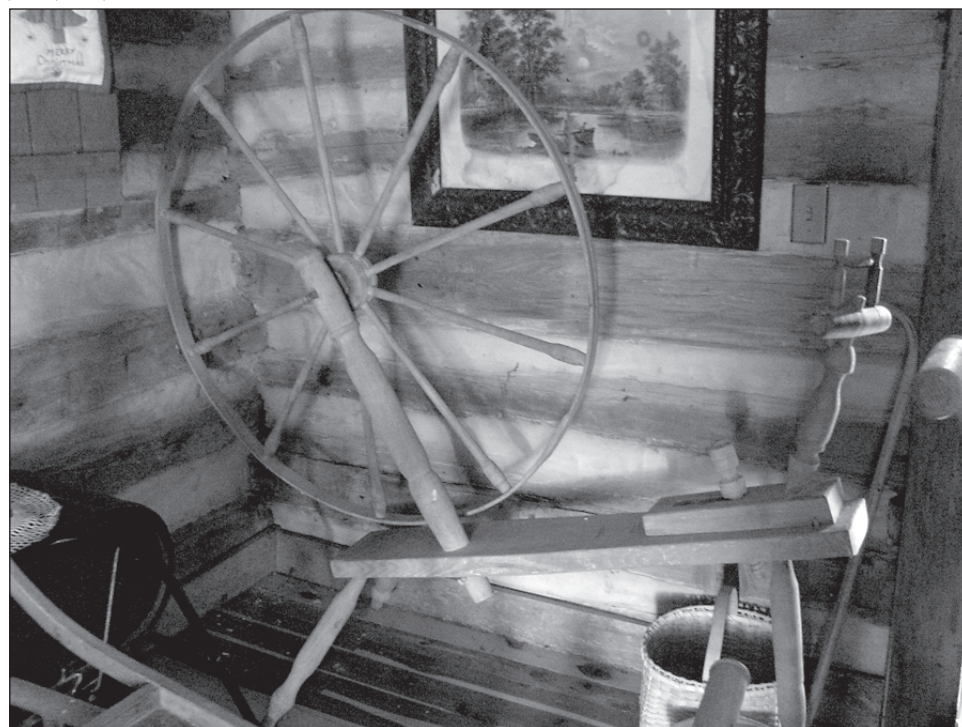
Happenings In Early 1900's



Wool Cards

HOME REMEDIES

In pioneer and colonial days, there were few doctors; so home remedies were often used. Colds were treated by rubbing the patient with hot goose grease, soaking their feet in hot water and/or drinking catnip and ginger tea. Vinegar, butter and sugar were used for coughs. A sore throat was rubbed with turpentine, coal oil or lard and wrapped with a piece of flannel. Sulphur and molasses were given for a spring tonic to clean out ones system. The juice from roasted onions was given to babies for the hives. Burns were covered with butter and flour. Turpentine was used on cuts. A piece of fat port was used to draw out a splinter, or bring boils to a head. A saying was "feed a cold, starve a fever."



Spinning Wheel Used In Early Days To Spin Wool