



This morning I reread an Aunt's diary that was written 100 years ago. I believe they did a lot more

heavy work than many of us do today. She was about 20 years old and told of helping the men "heap hay" in the field. They even washed the outside of the house in the spring.

They sold butter which was churned once a week. She mentions that 27 pounds and 31 pounds were sold at one time. And, the large asparagus patch gave them 119 bunches to sell one day in

a nearby town. On other days they picked strawberries and made preserves.

In May they moved to the summer kitchen so that the main house would not be so hot in the summer. Many days she only wrote one word such as "ironed" or "sewed." They seemed to have lots of company that not only ate there but stayed overnight. This lady had several brothers who were going to

college or teaching school. There were many spelling bees mentioned as evening activities.

When they were ill, the doctor came to the house. No mention is made of a specific illness but they were confined to their bed. In the spring they washed the carriage and went for arbutus. I remember doing that with my aunt in the spring.

Her father clerked sales and was

on the school board. He planted a lot of tobacco as that was a money crop even 100 years ago.

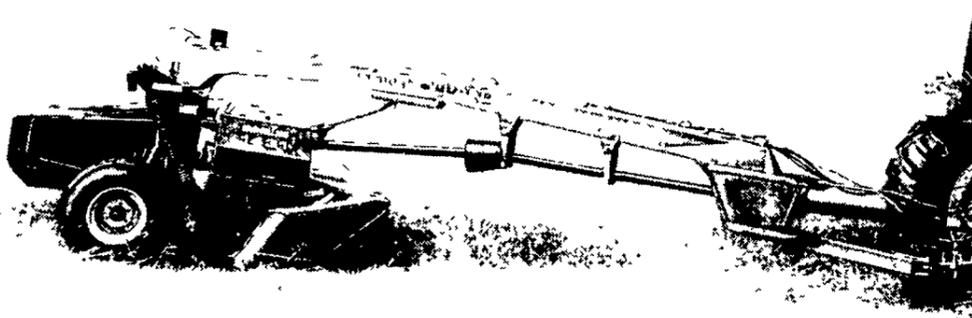
She writes that an "old lady, Mrs. Rutt, died and was 62 years old." Today, she would have been 82 or 92 to be considered an "old lady." Also, mentioned is the fact that a neighbor's barn burned. But, then there were many empty pages when I suppose she was too busy or too tired to write in her diary.

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