

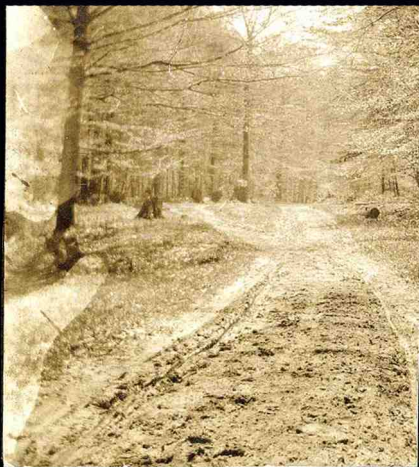
Indians and their home.



Sparta-  
Union Road  
in  
1890.







Sparta -  
Union Road  
Ln  
1890.

## MODE OF LIFE OF PIONEERS

Difficulty that faced our pioneers was clearing of the land to render it fit for crops, the endless chopping of the giant trees - the first of which had to be cut into lengths and used for the construction of the rough, though often comfortable house, with its broad plastered fire-place, its rude settle-beds and benches. In this fire-place were consumed huge logs of timber - sometimes of black walnut or other, now priceless, kinds roaring up the chimney, supplying heat and light for the family in the long winter evenings. Sometimes a "tallow dip" or a rag in a dish of grease added to the illumination.

Bread was baked in a Dutch oven or a Bake-kettle - the kettle set on hot coals with coals on the lid. But to bake bread, flour was required or at least some coarse substitute. A stump hollowed at the top by fire and a rough wooden pestle, formed the ordinary means for grinding the grain into coarse but not unwholesome meal. In a neighborhood where a hand mill was owned it did duty for all the neighbors. For tea - the fragrant spicewood and sassafras answered and roast peas, even toast made coffee.

Coarse linen cloth was made by the settlers from home-grown flax. Later sheep were brought in and our pioneers carded wool, spun it into yarn and wove it into cloth on hand looms and made it into clothing - also made beautiful bedspreads woven into artistic designs.

Butchering time was an event. Hams were really "cured" in the "smoke house" where only certain kinds of bark or corn cobs were used for smoking.

Sap from maple trees "boiled down" in large iron kettles made "rich colored" maple syrup.

Trees were chopped down and rails made for fences to enclose clearings.

For soap making - lye was obtained by leaching hardwood ashes in a barrel.

Quill pens, and ink from the bark of maple and copperas were used.

Money was at first a thing almost unknown.

The grain was hand-sown, raked or harrowed (sometimes a tree top or branch doing duty for harrow). The crops were reaped with sickles - in some cases with only knives or scissors.

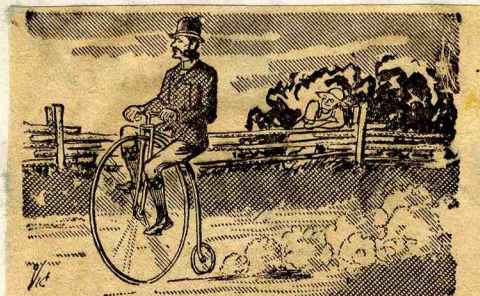


## MODE OF LIFE OF PIONEERS (Cont'd.)

A settler fortunate enough to possess a cow had to keep her within sight while he chopped in the woods by day and tie her to the house door by night if he kept her secure from wolves. Oxen would defend themselves against wolves but sheep were completely at their mercy.

Rattle snakes were much feared but the settlers learned from the Indian the herbs and roots which served as antidotes for the poison of its bite.

The very early settler lived a life almost entirely self-contained. Equipped with axe, sickle and flail, with spinning wheel and iron kettle, he and his family grew the wheat, corn and potatoes made the soap, the candles and the maple sugar, the deer-skin shoes and homespun cloth. They had little to buy or sell. The barrels of potash and pearl ash, leached out from the ashes of hardwood, were the chief source of ready money. The blazed trail was followed by the corduroy road, built of logs and the most bumpy road that was ever travelled. Such were the conditions existing when our forefathers laid the foundation of this prosperous district.



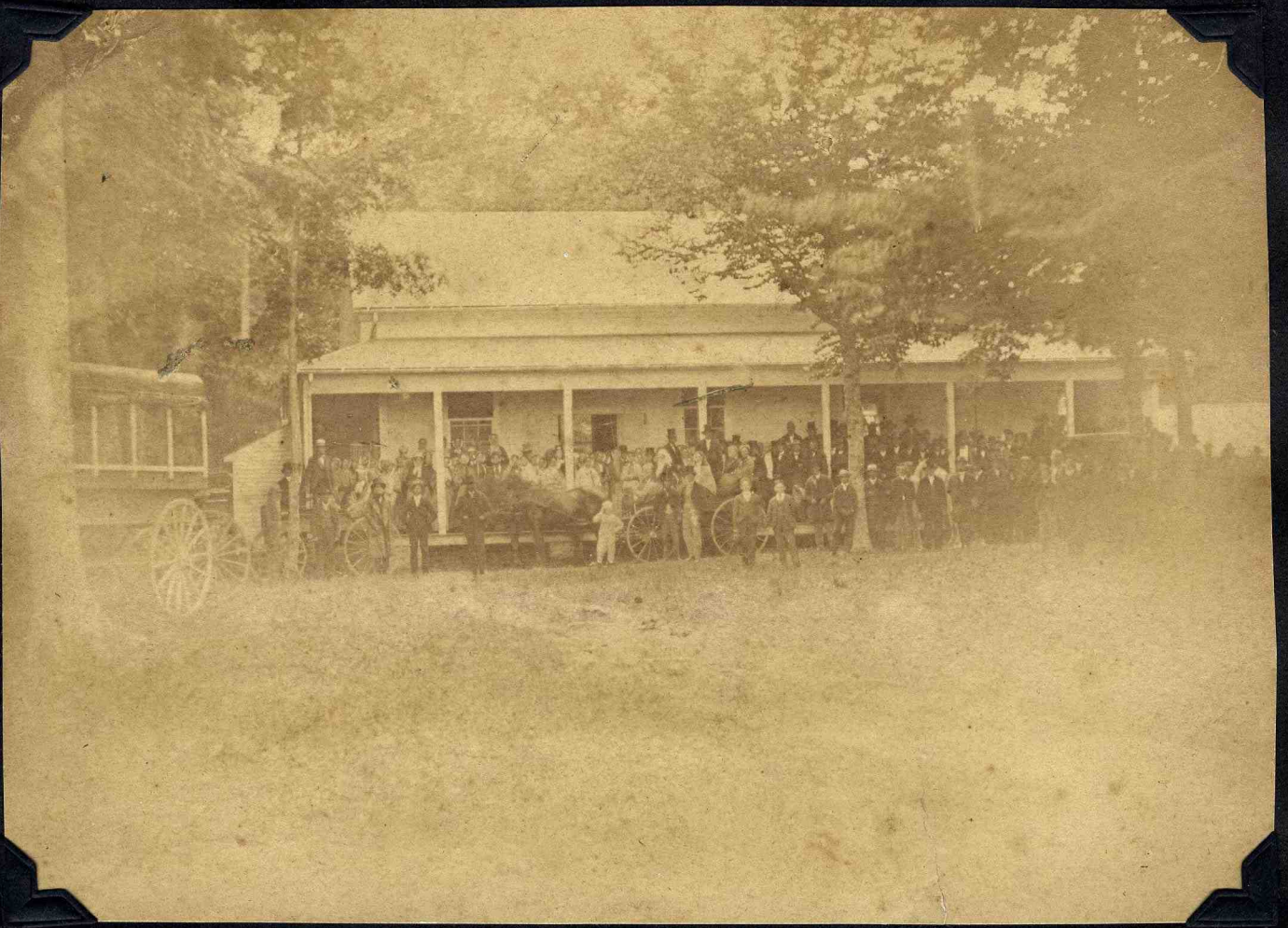
### *"Penny-Farthing" Riders Were Far Off The Ground*

What was the correct name of the "penny-farthing" bicycle? asks John McL. This bicycle, which came between the original "boneshaker" and the "safety" (which is the style in use today) was known as the "ordinary," but gained its nickname of "penny-farthing" because its front wheel was so much bigger than its rear, even as the English penny is so much greater than the farthing. Front wheels of five-foot diameter were not uncommon, and rear wheels of only 12 inches looked small beside them. Riders sat atop the front wheels. The "safety" bicycle was first produced in appreciable numbers in 1885, and within a few years the "ordinaries" were hardly ever seen.

Sparta boys rode this type  
of bicycle in the 1870's.

An 100mile trip taken  
as a holiday.





Yearly Meeting Sunday at the  
Friends' Meeting House.  
in 1874.



United Church and Parsonage.

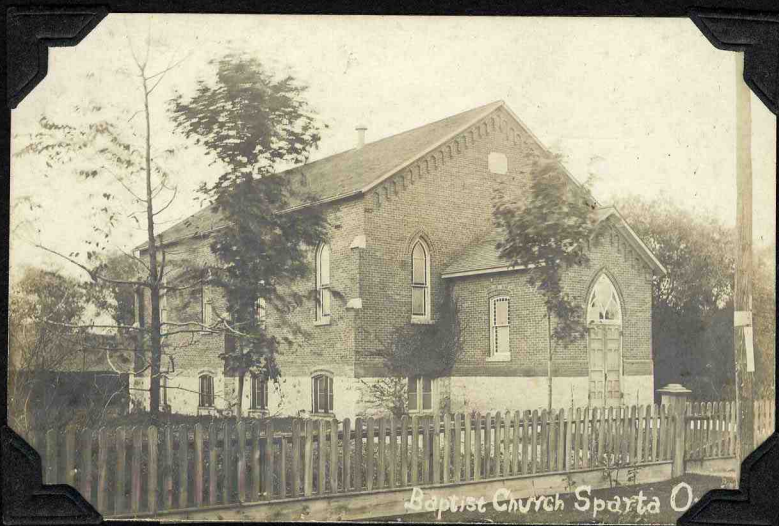




Friend's Meeting House. Built 1865



Methodist (later United) Church. Built 1886



Built 1869.