



Bringing Northwestern Virginia's History
into the Classroom

It happened near me . . .

Pieces of the Past from Where I Live

County: Loudoun

Date: 1860

Topic : Impact of industrial & transportation revolutions

Background: By 1860, the impact of industrialization in the U.S.

was beginning to make big changes in daily life. Purcell's store in the tiny western Loudoun village of Purcellville was 38 years old that year. Near the intersection of two turnpike (toll) roads, it had easy access to bigger towns such as Alexandria and Baltimore with factories and ships that went 'round the world. By turnpike and railroad, Purcellville was five hours from Baltimore (it's under 2 hours by car today). Here is their 1860 price list at the store. Note what's being sold in a country store--and what it costs. A free man earns \$.40-1.00/day in 1860 if he's a working fellow.

cheese.....12.5 cents/lb.
 cone sugar.....15 cents/lb
 crackers.....12.5 cents/ lb.
 tea.....\$1.00/lb.
 coffee.....12.5 cents/lb.
 molasses.....\$1.00/gallon
 candy.....31.25 cents/lb.
 cantaloupes.....6 cents each
 tobacco.....50 cents/lb.
 cigars.....\$5.00 per box of 100
 wine.....50 cents/bottle
 port wine.....\$1.50/bottle
 whiskey.....\$4.00/gallon
 Jamaica run.....37.5 cents/pint
 brandy.....50 cents/pint

coffee pots.....30 cents each

hats, wool.....\$3.87
 hats, felt.....\$5.00

shirt collars.....15 cents each

cotton suspenders....60 cents/pair
 men's ready-made dress shirts...\$1.25
 bonnet.....87.5 cents
 gloves.....\$1.00/pair
 ready-made coats...\$2.25 to 4.00
 shoes, men's.....\$.62 to 1.40 per pair
 silk Vail.....\$1.50
 cotton socks.....33 cents/pair
 men's boots.....\$6.50 pair

ready-made work shirts...65 cents each
 ready-made nightshirts...\$.75-1.00
 panama hats.....\$2.50
 vests, silk.....\$4.50 each
 ties.....35 cents each
 vests, cotton.....90 cents ea.

tea kettles.....75 cents each
 Crocks.....12 cents each
 Gallon jugs.....25 cents each
 brooms.....31.25 cents each
 water buckets.....31.25 cents each
 candles.....2 for 5 cents
 iron shovels.....75 cents
 soap.....6 cents/lb.

ball of thread.....10 cents
 calico cotton cloth...9 cents/yd.
 cashmere.....\$1.23/yd.
 cotton.....12.5 cents/yd.
 gingham.....12.5 cents/yd.
 muslin.....55 cents/yd.
 ribbon.....55 cents/yd.
 scissors.....50 cents/pair
 sewing needle.....6 cents each

Making Sense of Evidence from the Past.

1. What is “ready-made” clothing? Where would it be made? Is it expensive? How can you tell?
2. If there is now “ready-made” clothing, what differences will that make? Name 3.
One--

Two--

Three--
3. Are people *only* buying ready-made clothing by 1860? How do you know?
4. Think of going to a small store with a little bit of everything today—then look at what is for sale in the *only* store in the little village of Purcellville. *More* is for sale in the county seat, or in the big city reachable by train. But still—what **beverages** can be purchased at a store for America’s largely rural (farm-based) population?
5. Where would an “iron shovel” be made? How did it get here? Is it expensive?
6. To which items did slave labor likely contribute? How do you know?
7. Which items have disappeared today sold in 1860?



Purcell's Store, built 1822, Main Street and Hatcher Ave., Purcellville VA