

Answers to the questions about Sarah "Sadie" Ricahrdson's Journal

1. They traveled by horse drawn wagon or more likely Oxen team. Cars were not yet widely popular, and most people didn't own cars themselves, though they did exist. They hauled large loads of hay and heavy sides of meat, butter and ice to their customers. They would have needed a big, oxen drawn wagon. If they wanted to travel into town they probably had a smaller horse team, and from town they could take the electric car that ran every hour into Portland, or they could go a little further to Cornish and take the train to Portland or up to Bridgton and beyond.
2. Sadie mentions planting peas, and corn, apple trees, weeding the beets, planting and digging potatoes, planting and pulling beans, setting out tomatoes and threshing and shucking corn. She also mentions spreading manure, plowing, lots of hay mowing, cider barrels which means apple picking and cider pressing, killing pigs, and selling various livestock which indicates lots of care in terms of feeding, cleaning, breeding etc. They also grooved and hauled ice, which means cutting it from the lakes and rivers to store in an ice house and keep and sell to use as refrigeration.
3. They sold hay, livestock, butter, meat, and ice as far as we can tell, and sometimes seeds.
4. They needed to pay for their livestock to be shod, for workers on their farm, for clothes and travel expenses and for their farm equipment.
5. Sadie refers to putting the potatoes in the cellar, so they probably had a root cellar. They also cut and sold ice, because people had ice houses or ice boxes that they used, since other refrigeration wasn't available.
6. On Christmas they sold and hauled a quarter of a hog. On New Years day they cut ice. Not much time off.
7. Obviously some things are very different, like refrigerators and phones and cars and electric lines, but the garden chores are pretty much the same. Planting weeding, plowing, spreading manure.