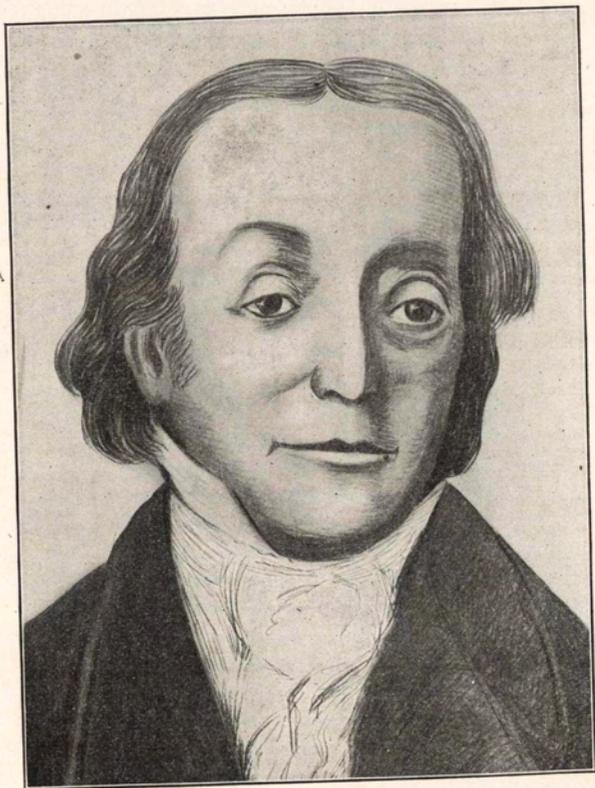


Nowadays, with fashion's changing styles, almost in pace with the moon, there, perhaps, would be some criticism on the hang of the skirt, the fit of the waist and the absence of the crease on the unmentionable worn by the men, but when "ignorance is bliss, etc.," and the garments were accepted, the pioneer woman tailor was never "held up," except for "repairs." Later came the sewing machine and then the "father of all evil gave to suffering humanity, his masterpiece, the "sweat shop."



COL. JARAD MANSFIELD, WHO SURVEYED MANSFIELD AND IN WHOSE HONOR THE TOWN WAS NAMED.

What would have been her delight, if, at the ring of a bell, the voice of her dearest friend and nearest neighbor a mile away in the howling wilderness should have sounded in her ear for a few moments of gossip on family or social affairs, but all this was reserved with the germ of the telephone in the brain of her boy for her sister of a later day.

Bad Indians there were in those days and some good ones, it was said, but this is a matter of considerable doubt.

We may find many, many instances illustrating the bravery of the pioneer women and their resourceful character in bold acts of heroism equal to that displayed by the bravest men of any time.

The block house says there were many lives lost before my door and within my friendly walls three babes opened their eyes on the sorrows and troubles of those times, descendants of whom are citizens of Mansfield now.

More adventurous souls came to the little settlement; more cabins were built; more clearings made and fields cultivated and gradually there grew around me a larger band of brave and true men and women. Soon, the little school house was built and the merchant came with his wares and goods, but the block house was still the refuge and protector of the feeble settlement, and, when in later times the necessity of using my shelter passed away, and I was called upon for assistance in dispensing justice, I gave the best accommodations I had which, in comparison with my towering green and red neighbor of today, were limited and very humble, but I can in good faith affirm that the learned justices of my day never misread the law, juries never disagreed and law and other leagues were unknown.

We have tried to picture the life of the pioneer woman and what she accomplished unassisted in her fight with her surroundings but after all, little do we realize her sacrifices and the bitter struggles she endured. The various accomplishments of the very much emancipated woman of this age are so well written up that further comment seems out of place, but we can dream of the women of the years to come, for we who are now here, will, without doubt, be with them in some shape, not revealed to mortal eyes and rejoice over their grand achievements and sorrow over failures. What a blessing it will seem to housekeepers to know that the dear man has his dinner in his vest pocket—or perhaps in a small, tin box just at present, but when Christmas comes, he is to have a beautiful gift of silver or gold with his monogram. The day of washing will have lost all its terrors, now that it is only to open a door and place the garment in the chamber of compressed air. This same current will with noiseless, unseen brooms, obliterate all particles of dust from carpets and furniture. All will share alike in the bounty of heaven. There will be no vaults filled from floor to ceiling with gold which the owners never see or need. A universal style in all things will be adopted, therefore, no incentive for competition in owning fine outfits of any description. The atmosphere will be so highly impregnated with the elements of knowledge, wisdom and experience that the child will absorb from the mother, and come into the world with a mind full-fledged, so no school houses will be needed and the funds which in this day are required for their erection and maintenance can be used, we will say, to build hospitals (for by that time the world will be fully supplied with Carnegie libraries.) If hospitals should still be needed, which might be a question, as with other improvements, good health will probably have been taken into consideration as an important factor in the revised edition of the higher life.

Query—How will the woman of the future occupy her time?