

Swamp Spice



Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*) is named after the spice because the center fertile spore-bearing fronds become cinnamon-colored, but it is not the source of the spice we use in cooking. The fern has been identified in the geologic record as far back as 180 million years ago. These ferns form groups in swampy areas. This one was found in a vernal pool in Petersburg. Photo by Trix Niernberger.

The Life Of George Holcomb

by George Holcomb • Transcribed by Betty McClave • Edited by Alex Brooks

A Trip To Bennington

Saturday, September 21, 1850: John F. took the one horse wagon and carried his two sisters to Pittsfield. I sent a due bill against Dr. Cluff and he paid it, one dollar and 20 cents. My two daughters paid one dollar and fifty cents each for straw hats without trimmings and paid one dollar and 70 cents for trimmings and 19 yards calico at 21 cents per, and John F. had Dr. Cluff fix in an artificial tooth that he had put in before, and I sent one hundred and ten dollars to the bank and exchanged for Pittsfield bills.

Monday: Today we began to shingle the south side of the barn. Geo P. and John F. and Mr. Yuego shingled, and I carried shingle and Edwin dug potatoes and carried some shingle. At night I carried Sarah over to Simeon Wylie's to carry to Troy boosums. Today I sold fifteen old sheep at 9/6 apiece.

Tuesday: Today Geo P. and John F. and Yuego shingled on the barn and finished. I paid Mr. Yuego 75 cts in cash, he owed me one dollar and 25 cents for turnips, which makes one dollar per day for his work.

Wednesday: Today I and Geo P. went with one horse wagon to look for sheep to buy. We stayed in the north part of Pownal in Vermont to one Mr. Merchant's.

Thursday: This morning I paid our bill for us two, supper, lodging and breakfast and horsekeeping which was 62 cents and then we went on to Bennington Court House to the cattle show and fair. We stayed there about three hours. It was rainy. Tonight we got into York State in to the Town of White Creek and stayed. This morning John F. left home for New York.

Friday: Today we came on towards home. Geo P. collected some money on the way for fruit trees he sold last spring in Petersburg and Berlin. We got tonight to the south part of Berlin and it began to rain, a hard thunder storm and we stayed to one Mr. Davises, his wife Anna Carpenter before marriage.

Saturday: This morning Mr. Davis would not charge us for our supper and breakfast but I gave him half a dollar. We got home today noon and this afternoon we took down staging and picked up old shingle round the barn.

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