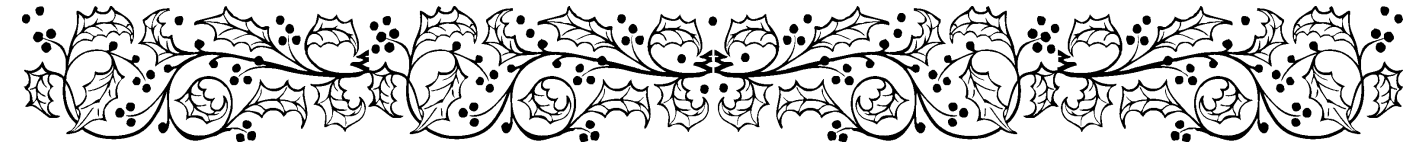


The Randolph LEGACY

The Randolph Historical Society Newsletter



May 25th, 1865. Rec. of Rachael Beans for Ginger Cake
One pint of molasses and one pint of flour. mix well then put in one tablespoonfull of ginger. Take one pint of sour milk or buttermilk and put in to it one tablespoonfull of salaratus or soda and mix well together and put in flour enough to make it as thick as any other cake. One spoonfull of butter if you choose.



Although this recipe doesn't have a name or date attributed to it, it is among the earliest recipes and shares the same handwriting as the Ginger Cake recipe. It is most likely from 1865.

Ginger Snapps

- Two cups molasses
- One cup lard
- One teaspoonfull salt
- One tablespoonfull ginger
- three teaspoonfull soda

Let these ingredients come to a boil then add flour enough to stiffen enough to roll out
Roll out and bake very quick

We at the historical society were lent a wonderful piece of Randolph history: an old, handwritten cookbook from Laura Roger's mother in law, Dorthea Patch Rogers, born 1892. The cookbook was most likely handed down through from Dorthea's mother or mother in law. The earliest recipes date from 1862! Heat temperatures are not given most likely a 350-375 degree oven will work.

The following recipe was given to us by our treasurer, Audrey Smith. It belonged to her maternal grandmother, Myra Goss Keller (1884-1958), who lived on New Milford Road. Audrey said that her grandmother would make the mincemeat in the fall, when the hogs were butchered and probably canned the meat for future use. Audrey uses ground beef and it does nicely.



Mincemeat Pie

- 2 pounds lean ground beef, boiled and chopped fine when cold add:
- 1 pound suet, minced fine
- 2 pounds seedless raisins
- 5 pounds apples, pared and chopped
- 2 pounds currants
- 1/2 pound citron, chopped
- 1 TBSP mace
- 2 TBSP cinnamon
- 2 tsp allspice
- 2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 TBSP salt
- 1 pound brown sugar
- 2 quarts of sweet cider

Mix well. Audrey said that she puts the mincemeat filling into quart size freezer containers and that it should make up to 4 pies (one quart per pie). It can be frozen for later use. When ready, put filling into an unbaked pie shell and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes and then check it.



The Randolph Historical Society
P.O. Box 254
Randolph, OH 44265

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Merry Christmas! As Randolph prepares for the Holiday season, and as you begin to prepare your own home, we thought we would share with you a Christmas from long ago. In 1918, the world was in upheaval. World War I and the Influenza outbreak dominated the news and the hearts of our country. With local boys overseas and those at home

falling ill to a potentially fatal illness, how did families celebrate Christmas? Amazingly, they did. Regardless the chaos that was expressed through the newspapers, those wonderful women, who's charge was all things domestic, made the home a refuge from the uncertainty of the world. There is much we can learn from them.
From Christmas menus

offered in the newspaper to news of families visiting, we wanted to give you a sense of what Christmas in Randolph, 1918, might have been like.
A very special thanks to Mrs. Constance Meacham and Mrs. Mary Wise Cafarelli for sharing their memories of Christmas with us and to Janet Stark, Audrey Smith and Laura Rogers for sharing their family recipes.

By Constance Meacham

An Old-Fashioned Christmas in Randolph

I was born in 1904 and have lived in Randolph for 100 years. I was a high school teacher, Board of Education clerk and secretary for the principal of Randolph. I have been asked to share some of my Christmas memories.

The community park in front of the present day town hall always had a large Christmas tree erected and decorated by the Ladies' Garden Club. People would come from all sections of the township to see the beautiful, traditional display. We were all so disappointed when a parking lot and fire department replaced the park grounds.

It seems that we always had a lot of snow; which meant fun for all the children who made snowmen and snowwomen. We would lie on our backs and make images of snow angels by moving our arms and chase one another around a circular path. Of course, sledding and ice-skating was great fun wherever there was a hill or frozen pond or creek.

Our family always had a large

pine tree put up in the front living room. A couple of times my father



brought in a live tree and after the holiday it was planted in the yard. Some families strung popcorn, but we always made strings of cranberries to hang from the branches along with hand-made paper chains and cutouts of candy canes, stars and other seasonal items. I especially remember little lanterns with a candle in the center which when lit and hung on the branches would shine through colored glass sides like miniature stained glass church windows.

The church choir would stroll around Randolph Center going from

house to house singing Christmas songs. I can remember riding in a bobsled pulled by horses to all the neighbors' houses in the outlying area singing carols.

Our holiday centered mainly around our immediate family. My brother, Frederick (Fritz), was five years younger, my parents and usually my aunt and uncle. My parents didn't really hide our gifts, they put them on top of the piano and covered them with a blanket or sheet. We were told "not to peek" and we didn't.

Children always made gifts for their parents. I remember making my father a pair of pajamas and stocking slippers for mother. We always went to church on Christmas Eve where Santa would hand out candy. There was a program planned around all the boys and girls. We sang Christmas hymns and carols and every one of us had an assigned "spoken piece" or verse to recite.

When Christmas morning finally arrived, we were instructed not

An Old-Fashioned Christmas in Randolph

to come downstairs until summoned by our parents. We had to have breakfast before any gifts were opened; this was usually rolled oats and a large fresh orange or grapefruit.

My mother's folks were Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Battles. They owned a large farm where Mayfair Golf Course is now located. They always wintered in St. Petersburg, Florida (he was also a horseshoe pitching champion). They rode the train to Florida until he purchased a Maxwell automobile. From then on they drove the mainly dirt roads all the way to Florida each year. Naturally, they always sent us a crate of citrus fruit, which we eagerly looked forward to eating.

The gifts were placed on the Christmas tree branches (larger presents were under the tree). We usually received only 4 or 5 gifts. My best present was always a book since I was an avid reader. Maybe a wind-up toy, puzzle or game, but clothes were never considered as gifts. Our stockings always had an orange in the toe and were filled with "sensible" things such as a pencil, English walnuts, and boxes of raisins or dried fruit.

Only one gift could be opened at a time and passed around for all to see and inspect. This was especially time-consuming until mother laid out our traditional Christmas dinner: always chicken, but occasionally a roast turkey, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes and gravy, noodles, homemade bread, apple salad with nuts and raisins, and at least two different kinds of pie—apple, peach, pumpkin or, my favorite, mincemeat pie.

One year my father traveled to an Akron market to buy a big goose. It was roasted and served, but all agreed that "once was enough" when it came to roast goose for Christmas. It was greasy and not as good tasting as turkey or chicken.

After I married Howard, we had four children within six years so I was very busy—Margaret was born in 1928, Eleanor followed in 1929, Mary in 1931 and Howard Jr. in 1934. Most of these traditions were passed to our children. In those days Christmas was very simple compared to today where the real meaning of Christmas is often overlooked.

Christmas news in Randolph from 1918

Just like today, our local papers allowed space for townships to share community news with the readers. The following is Randolph's Christmas news from 1918. If you read closely, you will notice mentions of not only World War I, but the great Influenza outbreak. We will be offering a much more in-depth look at how the Influenza outbreak and World War I affected Randolph in our next newsletter. Family names have been highlighted in Bold type. You just might see your family!

The Ravenna Republican, December 26, 1918:

Randolph

"The Christmas holiday is being celebrated here by a number of family gatherings. The **Sabine** family are enjoying the day at the home of **Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Sabine**. The **Alexanders** are entertaining the Luke family, **Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Alexander** and children, **Mr. and Mrs. Allen Myers** and children and **Mrs. Woolf** of Atwater. **Mr. and**

Mrs. O.F. Meriam have as invited guests, **Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Woolf** and family of Ke(unreadable). The **Royer** family are gather at the home of **Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Royer**.

Miss Lucy Egan of Canton and the misses **Cora Fox** and **Elsie Royer** of Akron are home over Christmas. **Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Egan** and daughter, **Miss Lillian** are preparing to move to Canton the first of the new year. **Mr. and Mrs. Egan** and family will be greatly missed in



FOR YOU!
Christmas Dinner

Grapefruit Cocktail.
Clam Broth.
Celery Ollives.
Roast Goose, Oyster Filling and Giblet Sauce.
Apple Sauce. Cranberry Frappe.
Mashed White Potatoes.
Scalloped Onions.
Tomato Stars on Lettuce Leaves. With Cheese Balls and Crackers.
Mince Pie. Pineapple Mousse.
Rolls. Coffee.
Salted Nuts and Dinner Mints.

This menu was taken from the
Ravenna Republican, December 19,
1918.

Town Hall Issue Passes

The members of the Randolph Historical Society would like to thank the voters of Randolph for giving the trustees the funds to continue the necessary to work on Town Hall.

the community as their lives have been mostly spent here and they have a host of friend who wish them happiness in their new home.

The children of the Christian church presented a pleasing Xmas program Sunday morning. Sunday evening at the M.E. church Prof. and Mrs. Hor (unreadable) of Ravenna sang several beautiful selections and **Mrs. Heaston** gave a reading. Their collection amounted to over \$22.

Anna and Austin Fall are

quite sick from influenza.

Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Brockett have received good news from their son, **Carrol**, a soldier "over there". **O.B. Schmiedel** has also been heard from and is living on a rich French nobleman's estate. **Edwin Croenweth** also writes of the pleasant side of soldier life.

Mrs. D.E. Dannenberg and

daughter, **Miss Mabel**, accompanied by her mother, **Mrs. Amelia Harper**, and sister, **Miss Jessie Jerome**, of Hiram went to Akron Tuesday where they will spend Christmas in the home of **Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Meacham**.

Born to **Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Konkell** Thursday morning, a daughter whose name is **Margorie Adella**.

John Konkell is clerking in

Memories of my Early Christmas

By *Mary Wise Cafarelli*

Christmas was simple but so special. I remember the week before Christmas the school children had a play. Our teachers were the producers. One year I was in a skit. We made artificial snow by cutting up newspapers. The container fell from the ceiling onto the stage but the show went on! Afterward, the pastor gave us an orange and a small bag of hard candy. What a treat! We believed in Santa forever.

Gifts were small - gloves, socks, stocking caps and one year I received a ring. If we received a sled it meant that we were all to share it and take turns. We were delighted with our gifts, which were put on the porch

with a loud shuffle and a Santa roar. We never had a tree until I was out of school. Mom made a big dinner of chicken, dressing, cranberries, pies and cookies.

I can remember getting up very early for Mass, dressing in a cold room and dad driving us to Mass at St. Joseph's. I can still see the clear sky, full of stars and the crisp snow afoot. Before Mass there was a service at the crib and I was an angel once in the procession.

As my brothers Robert, Paul and Clemy got older, they served Mass. It all seemed so real, like it (the birth of Jesus) was happening then.

Mary Wise Cafarelli is now 87 years old. She wrote this in December of 1993 as a Christmas card to her daughter, Janet Stark. Mrs. Cafarelli was born on September 15, 1917 to Clem and Rose (Wohlwend) Wise. She is the third of six children in all... 3 boys and 3 girls. She was born in the historical house on Waterloo Road in St. Joseph. The farm is still owned by the children of Clem and Jean Wise. She currently lives in Tallmadge, Ohio, and has one sibling (Helen). All of the others are deceased.

Here is recipe that was from Rose (Wohlwend) Wise, Mrs. Cafarelli's mother.

BUTTERSCOTCH PUDDING

Put 3 cups boiling water in a saucepan with

1 cup brown sugar
1 Tbsp. of butter
a pinch of salt

1 tsp. vanilla

Simmer this mixture while preparing the batter.

Batter:

1 cup brown sugar

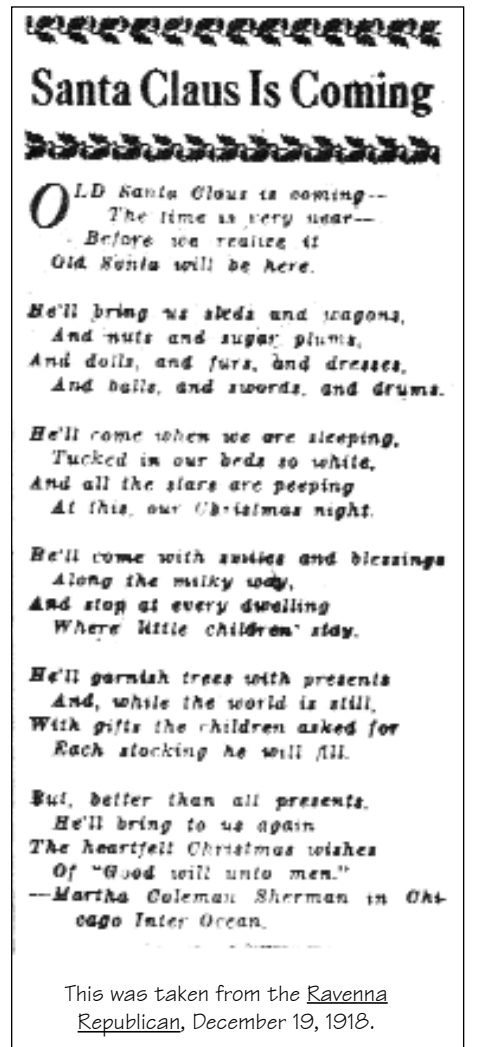
1 Tbsp. butter
1 cup flour (sift flour and baking powder together, then add)
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup nuts or raisins

Place hot mixture in a square baking dish. Then drop batter by spoonfuls over the liquid mixture.
Bake at 400 degrees for 45-60 minutes.

Lang & Konkell's store.

The trustees of Randolph township hold their annual settlement meeting at the town hall Dec.30, 1918 at 9 A.M.

Annual meeting of the insurance company of Randolph will be held at the town hall Jan.11, 1919, at 1 P.M. Ladies Aid at **Mrs. Frank Stanford's** Thursday, Jan.2.



Santa Claus Is Coming

OLD Santa Claus is coming--
The time is very near--
Before you realize it
Old Santa will be here.

He'll bring us sleds and wagons,
And nuts and sugar plums,
And dolls, and furs, and dresses,
And bells, and swords, and drums.

He'll come when we are sleeping,
Tucked in our beds so white,
And all the stars are peeping
At this, our Christmas night.

He'll come with angels and blessings
Along the milky way,
And stop at every dwelling
Where little children stay.

He'll garnish trees with presents
And, while the world is still,
With gifts the children asked for
Each stocking he will fill.

But, better than all presents,
He'll bring to us again
The heartfelt Christmas wishes
Of "Good will unto men."
--Martha Coleman Sherman in Chicago Inter Ocean.

This was taken from the Ravenna Republican, December 19, 1918.

Because of space we cannot print more of the wonderful old recipes that we received we will try to get the rest in our Spring and Summer newsletters

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!!**