

Beebe's Corners became a stage stop between Detroit and Utica (was called Hog's Hollow back then). The farmers basically had two places to go on Sunday, Church and market in Detroit to sell their crops and meat and to purchase anything they couldn't make or grow. **The State Road (now Sherwood) was full of ruts and either dusty or a sea of mud until it was planked in 1856.** Quite a few years later it was also condemned after the planks rotted then it was paved with gravel. The domesticated animals in the farming days were cows, pigs, chickens, goats, sheep, horses, oxen, turkeys, ducks, geese, cats, dogs.

Cooking was done outdoors until safe fireplaces could be built inside. The hearth provided heat, light, cooking, drying, social area, and fumes but was labor intensive, inefficient and dangerous. It was replaced by the stove.

Daily Activities

The Diary of an American Farmer in Michigan (on Wes Arnold's free DVD) **shows how life was in the late 1800s.** It shows: what was done each day, where they went, what the family did, the weather conditions in Michigan, daily happenings, births and deaths that in some cases were not recorded by the government. It is a treasure of daily information of that era. Farm life in Warren was dictated by the season and the weather. There were no weather forecasts. **Weather just happened when it did with little or no warning.** **Winter** forced everyone inside a lot more. Much time was spent tending the fire. The **chores still had to be done.** That means the animals had to be fed, watered and pens cleaned. **Cows had to be milked twice a day. Wood had to be gathered cut in small sections** and repairs worked on. Why was there a canopy over beds? answer on web site

Winter was a time to do spinning of wool or flax and to do weaving and husking. The family was almost

continually busy with things that needed to be done like husking corn, breaking beans, making and repairing things. Trips to the outhouse were not fun in the winter or bad weather or safe at night due to wild animals like wolves and bears. That is why many had a chamber pot. Not used for cooking. Roofs and buildings had to be protected from ice and snow damage. Children went to school regardless of the weather. it was expected as part of their job.

Spring on the farm was welcomed as relief from the cold and from being indoors. Repairing the tools plowing and sowing were the big items. Hopefully you had enough seeds to do the job. The boys could get out of school if their dad needed them to work but often it was hard work. Preparing tools, ground preparation, cleaning, planting, weeding and fixing had to be done.

Summer on the farm was in the heat, no school, but lots of mosquitoes,

