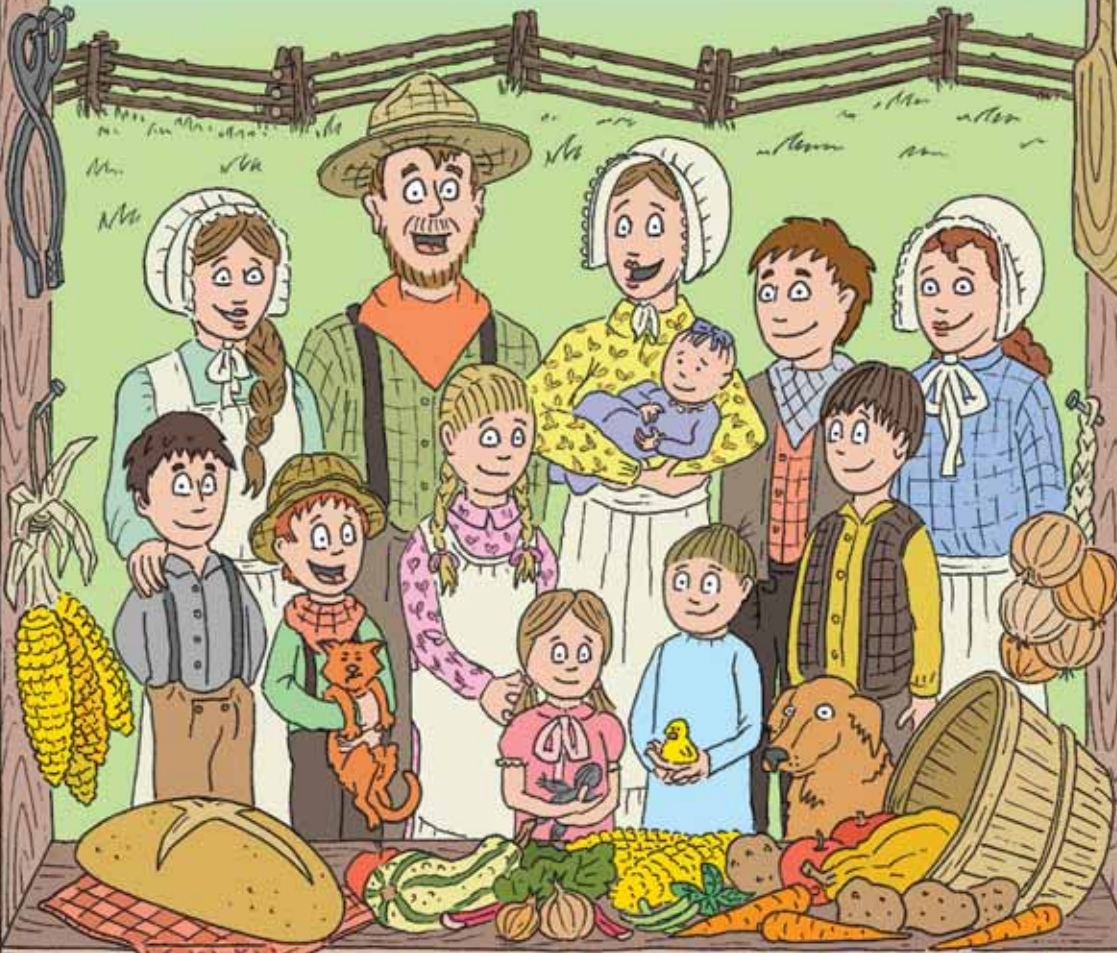




# THE HALLEN FAMILY

EXTRACTS FROM:  
LIFE AS AN EARLY SETTLER  
IN SIMCOE COUNTY



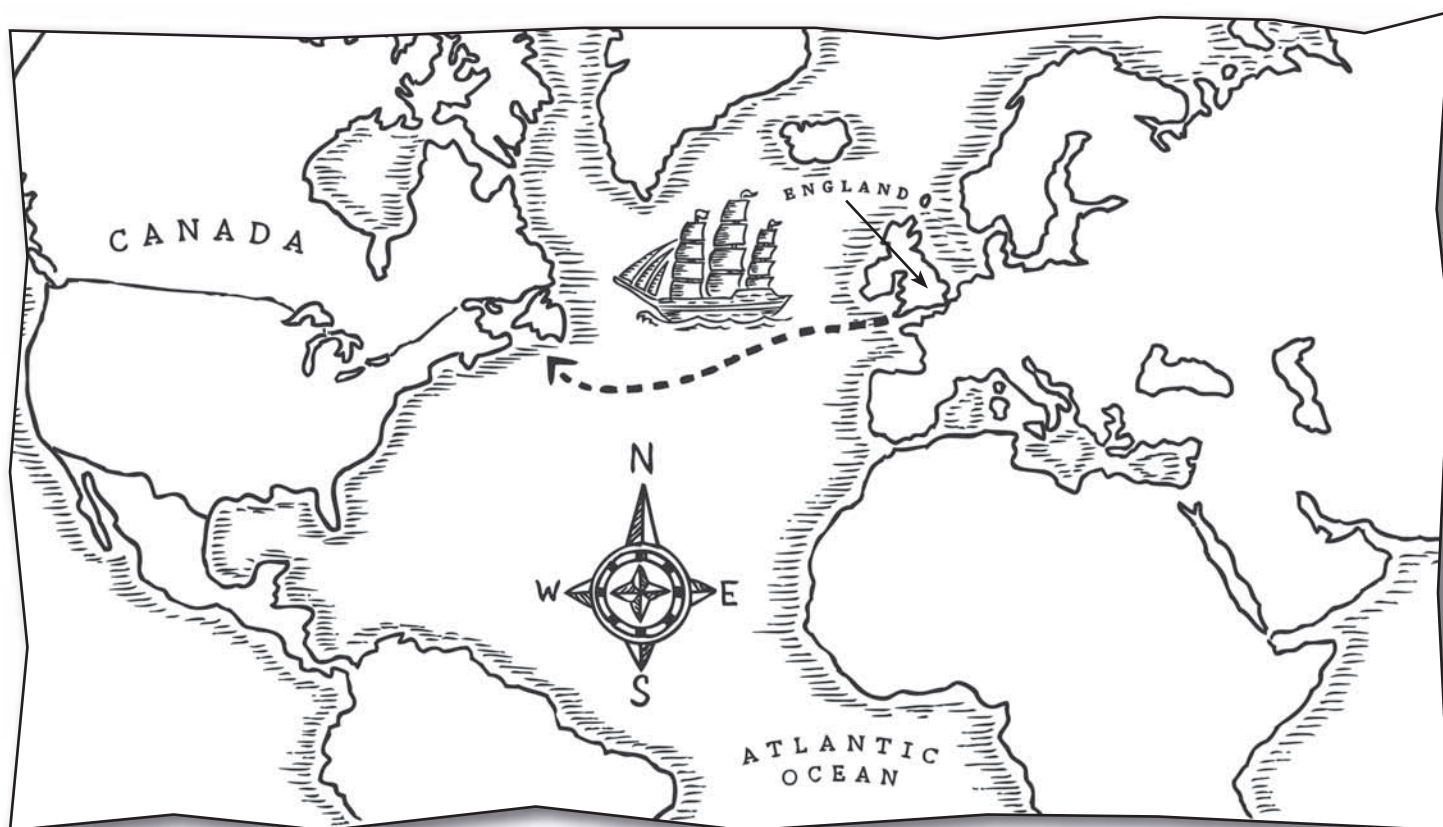
# The Journey Over to Canada

The Hallen Family travelled to Canada on a ship called the Albion. The Albion was a very large wooden ship that housed roughly 300 people on its trips over to Canada. It had three towering masts with four sails on each mast. This allowed the ship to travel across the ocean by wind power and be steered by the Captain.

The trip took them an incredible 51 days at sea, and another 42 days by land to reach Simcoe County. During this time many members of the Hallen family kept diaries of their trip. Through these diaries we know that there were many good times on the ship, but there were also some terrible events that occurred.

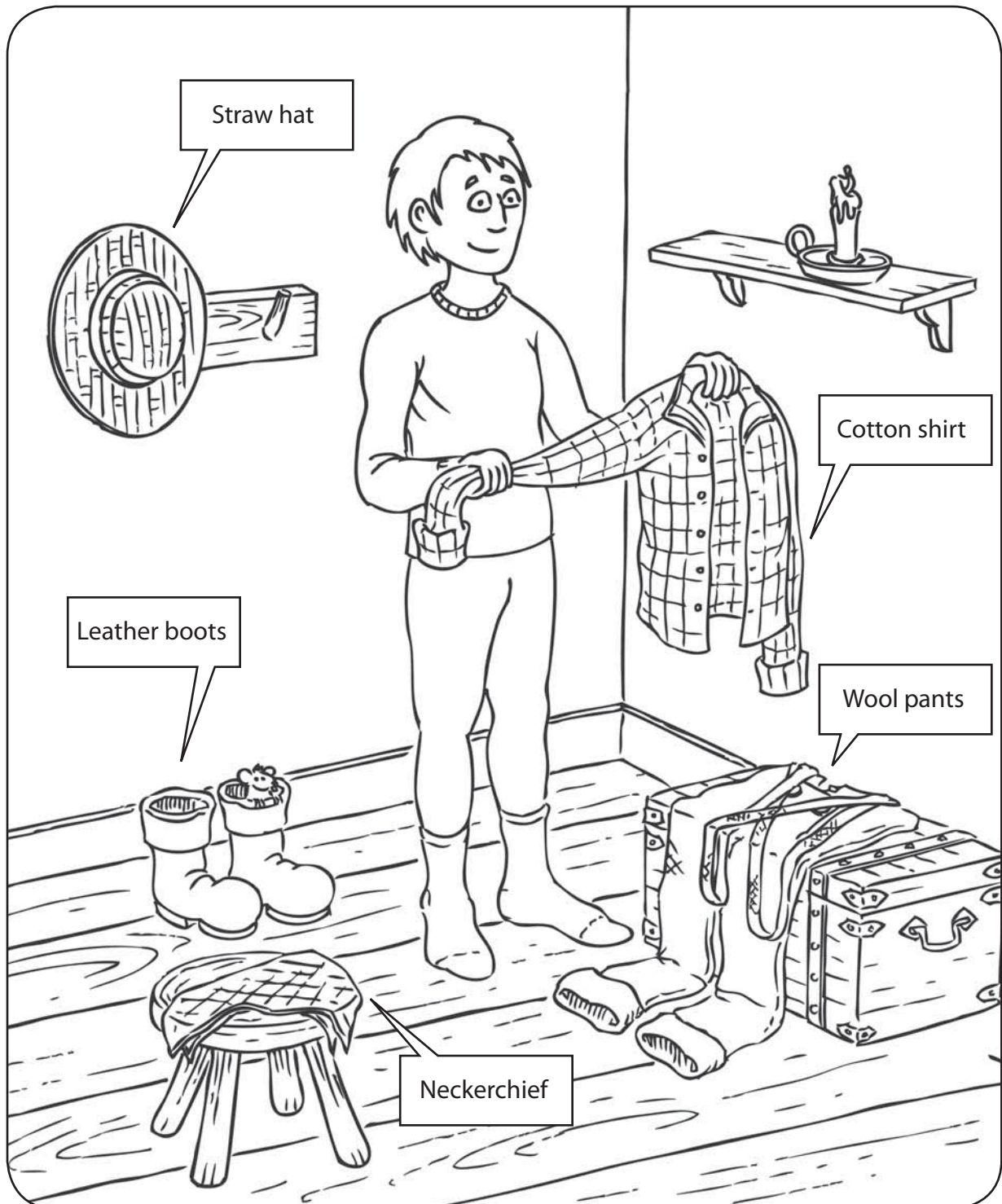
*George Hallen diary entry, May 4th, 1835*

*"Before breakfast I saw a large fish about 10 or 12 feet long, it swam slowly around the starboard side; it made a blowing noise once or twice when it came up; the back was a reddish brown. The mate who saw it said it was a shark or bottle-nose. The captain from my description said it was a whale"*



# How to dress like an Early Settler

See what George Hallen Jr. would have worn as an early settler in Simcoe County!



# How to dress like an Early Settler

Oh look! Let's help Sarah Hallen Jr. get dressed as an early settler in Simcoe County!



# Let's Make Room for the New Home!

When the Hallens came to Simcoe County, they found that the land needed a lot of work before they could start their farm. Much of the land was uneven, with trees and rocks everywhere. First, the family had to clear the trees. They could use these trees to build their barn and house. Next, they had to dig out the boulders and rocks from the ground. These rocks would be saved to build other farm buildings, like a dairy or ice house. Finally, the family could plow and even out the land so they could plant their crops. Everyone in the family helped on the farm, from Mother and Father Hallen down to the second youngest - little 3 year old Agnes!

Can you find 10 differences between the 2 pictures below?



# “Rushock”: The Hallen Family Home

Welcome to the Hallen family home! Eleanora Hallen described the home in her journal as a “little log house with bare logs, three rooms downstairs and two upstairs.” Circle the house that best describes Eleanora’s description if one window represents one room in the house.



## What you’ll need:

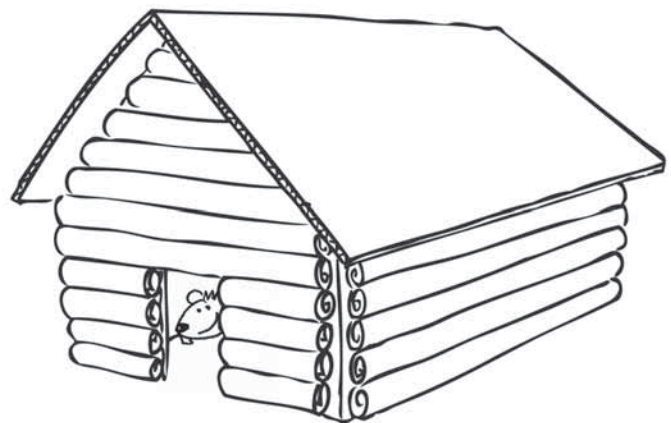
Empty milk carton

Newspaper cut into strips

Brown cardboard paper

Brown paint

Scissors and glue



**Directions:** Roll up the strips of newspaper around a pencil. Take the tubes off and glue them along the seam of paper. Glue the tubes of newspaper onto the milk carton to look like a log cabin. Paint the newspaper brown to look like the wood. Make a fold in the middle of the cardboard and glue it onto the top of the milk carton to look like a roof.

# The Hallen Family Garden

Many of the foods the early settlers prepared and ate were grown on the land they cleared. The early settlers grew many things in their fields and gardens. Usually, the men and boys were in charge of the fields, and the women and girls took care of the garden. Some of the important plants grown in the garden were rhubarb, carrots, onions, and herbs! One of the most important crops for pioneers was wheat. It was easy to grow, and easy to trade for other supplies.

Here are some of the fruits and vegetables the Hallens are growing in their garden. Can you help the Hallen sisters find them all below?

H	W	O	S	P	Y	I	D	G	J	Z	T
S	R	H	Q	N	P	C	W	X	B	H	T
A	C	W	E	B	S	T	O	R	R	A	C
U	I	F	S	A	R	C	X	E	G	Y	V
Q	Q	M	Y	S	T	A	E	L	Y	E	P
S	Q	H	W	O	H	S	B	N	R	O	C
Q	O	F	I	E	I	G	F	U	S	F	U
B	Q	E	R	S	I	U	Z	E	H	K	X
E	G	B	T	G	R	D	L	P	E	R	I
A	S	E	I	D	N	P	N	B	B	R	W
N	R	B	J	G	P	O	N	I	O	N	S
S	X	W	I	A	G	F	E	B	I	M	D

**APPLES**  
**BEANS**  
**CARROTS**  
**CORN**  
**HERBS**  
**ONIONS**  
**RHUBARB**  
**SQUASH**  
**WHEAT**



# The Bread Oven

One special building that early settlers would have been lucky to have on their farm was an outdoor bread oven. In the warm summer months, Mrs. Hallen could finish all of the weekly baking in the bread oven. Not having a big fire going in the fireplace would help to keep the house much cooler.



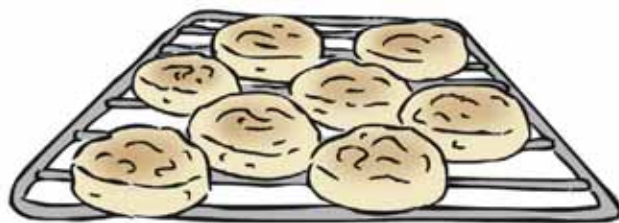
The bread oven was a stone structure made from the rocks dug out of the fields.

Inside the bread oven, Mrs. Hallen would make a fire about two hours before she started to bake. Talk about pre-heating! How did Mrs. Hallen know if the oven was the right temperature, since there were no thermometers? Sometimes, she used her hands! To check the temperature, Mrs. Hallen would put her hand in the oven. If she could keep it in for 2 or 3 seconds, that was a “quick oven” and was very hot (400 to 500 degrees Fahrenheit!). The longer she could hold her hand in the oven, the lower the oven temperature. Many old recipes called for quick, or slow ovens, depending on what was being baked.

Biscuits were a popular item to bake in the Hallen family. They would have been cooked in a ‘quick oven’. Here is how you can make your own:

## Scones Recipe

2 cups flour  
1 cup milk  
2 tbsp sugar  
1 egg  
½ tsp salt  
¼ cup lard  
3 tsp baking powder



Mix ingredients. Roll out and cut into small circles. Bake on greased cookie sheet for approximately 10 minutes at 450 degrees Fahrenheit.





## Hearth Baked Bread Recipe

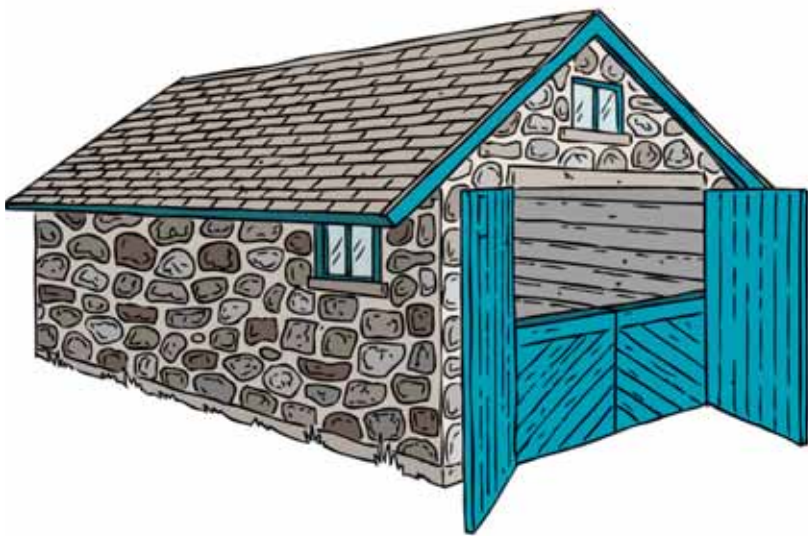
- 4 cups of flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ cups of buttermilk

1. Mix flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda and sugar together.
2. Cut in butter finely.
3. In separate dish, beat eggs and add buttermilk.
4. Mix egg mixture lightly into dry ingredients, add a bit more buttermilk, if needed, to make a stiff dough that can be handled.
5. Turn dough onto floured board and knead until smooth – about three minutes.
6. Shape into a round loaf. Place on greased pan and with a sharp knife cut a deep X in the centre.
7. Bake for approximately 35 minutes at 375 degree Fahrenheit.



# Butter

Who can have scones without butter? Every morning, the Hallen boys milked the cows. The Hallen girls had to skim the cream from the top of the milk before they went to school. The cream was put in the butter churn and turned into butter. The butter churn was a large container with a lid and a stick called a dasher. To make butter, the Hallen girls moved the dasher up and down, so that the cream was sloshed around in the churn. After about 30 minutes, the cream turned into butter.



Fresh churned butter was then rinsed to clean it and remove the leftover buttermilk. Then, it was pressed into a butter mold to make a nice shape. Butter was an easy thing for the family to make. If there was any extra butter, the Hallen family would take it to the general store and trade it for other things that they needed, but couldn't make at home.

## Butter Recipe

2 cups heavy cream

½ tsp salt

A jar

Pour cream into jar and secure lid tightly.

Shake the jar for 30-35 minutes, or until butter separates from the liquid. Drain butter from liquid.

Add salt to taste and enjoy!



# The School House Blues

In the early pioneer times, most children were too busy helping their families on the farm to be able to go to school – that is if there even was a school where they lived! The Hallen children were lucky enough to go to school. School was very different for the pioneers than it is today. There were many rules for the students while they were in class, and the teachers were very strict.

## Classroom Rules:

- 1) Children are expected to be well-mannered and obedient at all times.
- 2) Boys will sit on the left on the classroom, with girls on the right of the classroom.
- 3) Eyes are to be kept forward and there will be absolutely NO talking.
- 4) If you are asked to speak you will respond with 'Sir' or 'Ma'am'.
- 5) You will keep your left hand on your lap and use your right hand ONLY.
- 6) An overall cleanliness must be maintained, fingernails will be inspected every morning.

## Types of Punishments:

- 1) Students will stand in the front of the classroom on one leg with their arms stretched out wide until the teacher instructs them to sit down.
- 2) If a male student misbehaves, he might be told to stand with his nose in the corner. He must remain silent while there. He might have to stay there all day.
- 3) If a female student misbehaves, she might be placed against a wall and told to stand on her tippy toes. Her braids might be nailed above her head to the wall.
- 4) The strap could be used to whack across the hands of naughty students.





