

In the early days of our locality, about 1837-40, little real money was available to the settlers, "hard cash", it was called, and trade or barter was the common medium of exchange. Garden produce had a fixed value, quail and other game of which there was a great quantity, also had a fixed value. However there were certain articles that must be paid for in hard cash, and hard cash only, of which sawed lumber and shingles were two.

The Ott family had built a fine big log cabin for themselves, but there was only a brush roof and a dirt floor, and no real money for better things to replace them. A family council was held, but as they had not seen any hard cash, for over two years, there seemed no way to get any. Kind neighbors (7 to 10 miles away) gave various suggestions, but nothing looked promising, until one said that he had heard that in the city, the infant Chicago, one was paid real money to take care of children, a nurse maid in fact. It was long, lonesome miles away, but little

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Salome, 11 years old, thought she could do that for her family, and then be proud of the fine roof and floor that she could earn for them.

There was no one going to the city then, and her father had no oxen or animals to drive her on her way, so with her best dress in her hands, and a home packed lunch she started out alone, walking citywards. If she took the Green Bay Trail, there were but three houses between her and her destination, if she went by the beach (a common way, as one did not get lost in the deep woods), there were no habitations. I do not know which road she took, but she arrived safely, got herself a position, and came home in the spring after a winter's work, with her wages intact. In later years she never could remember the name of the people who gladly hired her to care for their children, but she served them for several winters, going home in the spring with her wages in her pocket. All summer she helped her family on the farm and in the fall, back to

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the city she went to earn some more improvements for her home. Think of your little girl of II today, would you like to think of her setting out on such an errand all by herself ?