

Spinning Wheels and Reenactments of the Past

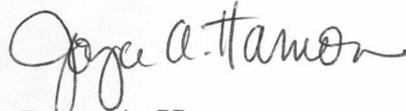
by

Kelly S. Kuchenbrod

Capstone Project

Fall 2001

Accepted by the following advisors in partial
fulfillment of the degree of Masters of Arts and Liberal Studies

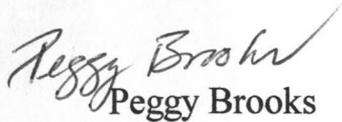


Joyce A. Hamon

Chair

Assistant Professor

Department of Education, University of Southern Indiana



Peggy Brooks

Historic Site Curator

Colonel Jones Historic Site



Kathleen Crews

Group Sales Coordinator

Lincoln Amphitheater

Capstone Project

My father was born 150 years too late. His interest in the 1830's and that way of life has sparked excitement for me also. He is an excellent woodworker and has built and repaired several log structures. He built a spinning wheel from scratch and then challenged me to learn to use it. The capstone project focused on the spinning wheel he built.

The main component of the project was a children's book. The book was written from a five year old prospective, as if my daughter were telling the story. It was illustrated with pictures taken by me or of me as I learned to spin and showed the art of spinning to others. The book illustrates some of the aspects of spinning and preparation of wool yarn. The behind-the-scenes work of historical interpreters was also shown. My hopes are that the book will find a niche at state parks, museums, and interpretive centers to illustrate and explain spinning and pioneer reenactments.

While working on the children's book, a journal, travel log, and scrapbook were kept. These served as my personal records of my time and effort spent working on the project. The scrapbook contains pictures and other memorabilia of the places I have visited as I advanced as a spinner and demonstrated to people the art of spinning.

In order to learn to spin, process the wool, and make yarn, I have interviewed several experienced spinners. These people were excellent resources for my spinning project. I also got a subscription to Spin Off, a magazine for spinners. It gave tips to beginners and advanced spinners as well as historical information and interesting stories and reviews. A bibliography of several books is included. The books, magazines, and interviews helped me with the basics and taught me history and folklore associated with spinning. Joyce Hamon, my chair,

was my source of guidance and information concerning readability and age appropriateness for the children's book.

After spending the summer and the fall of 2001 spinning, volunteering as a demonstrator at various events, visiting other spinners and spinning at home, I obtained enough pictures to complete the children's book. I traveled 1819 miles and volunteered 82 hours demonstrating the art of spinning. This does not include the many hours spent spinning in my living room as I tried to master the spinning wheel.

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Interviews

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- Young, Diane. Historical Interpreter at Spring Mill State Park. October 13, 2001.

TRAVEL LOG

DATE	DESTINATION	MILES ROUND TRIP	PURPOSE
3/13/2001	Gentryville	38	Met Peggy & Kathleen
4/21/2001	New Amsterdam	142	Spun 6.5 hrs
4/22/2001	Spring Mill	199	Spun 5 hrs
5/19/2001	Patoka Lake	121	Spun 5.5 hrs
5/26/2001	Wyandotte Woods	152	Spun 5.5 hrs
6/15/2001	Col. Jones & Buffalo Run	46	Met Peggy & Kathleen
6/17-18/01	Cedar Farm, Morgan Elem.	186	Took Pictures & Spun 1 hr
6/22/01	Richland United Methodist	0.6	Spun 0.5 hrs
7/4-8/01	Corydon and Wyandotte	197	Spun 18 hrs
7/12/01	Lincoln Amphitheater	42	Spun 1 hr
7/13/01	Lincoln Amphitheater	42	Spun 1 hr
8/4/01	Spring Mill	201	Spun 7 hrs
9/1-2/01	Wyandotte Woods	152	Spun 10 hrs
10/5/01	New Amsterdam	142	Spun 5 hrs
10/13-14/01	Spring Mill	199	Spun 12 hrs
12/8/01	Buffalo Run	44	Spun 4 hrs.

Papaw Built

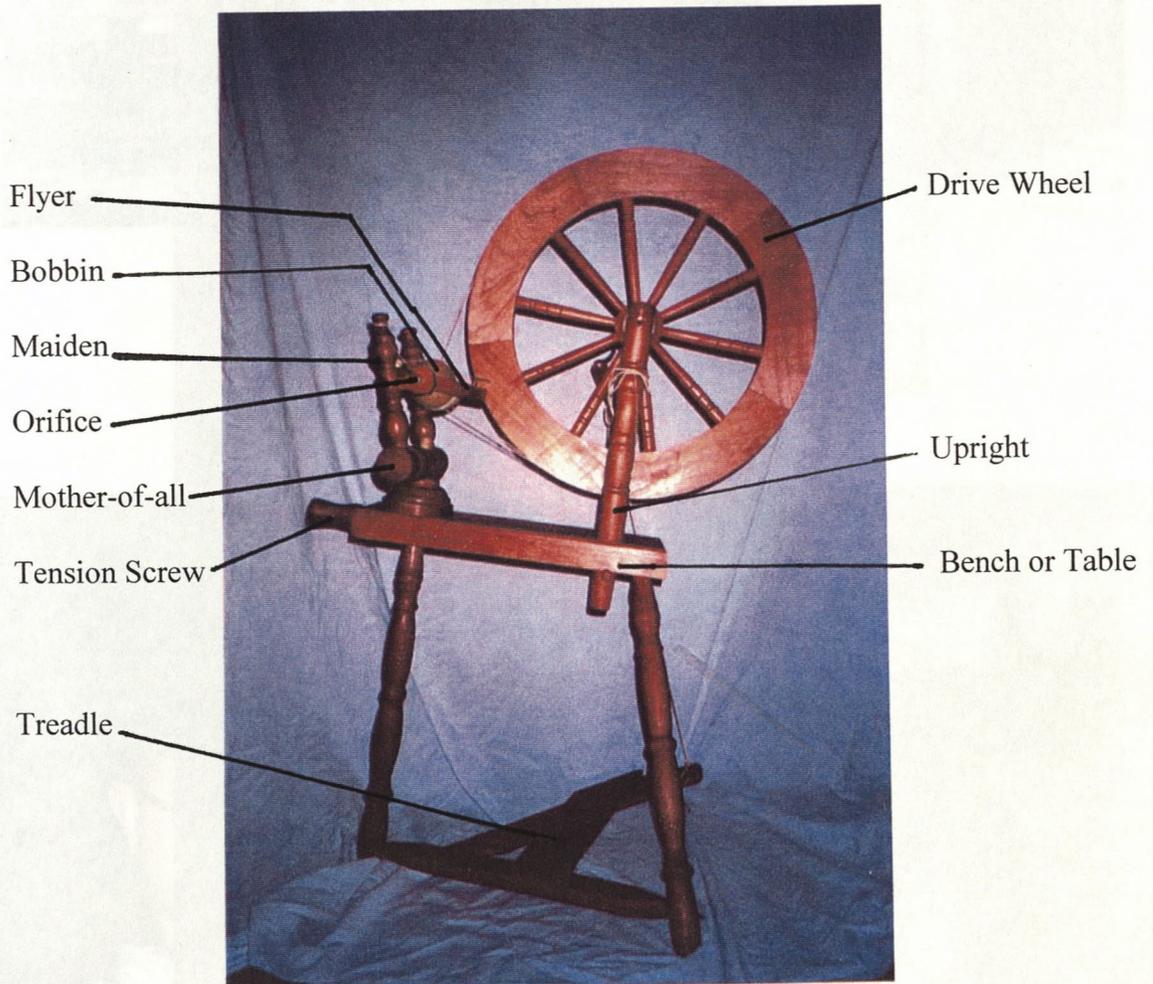
A



Spinning Wheel

Kelly S. Kuchenbrod

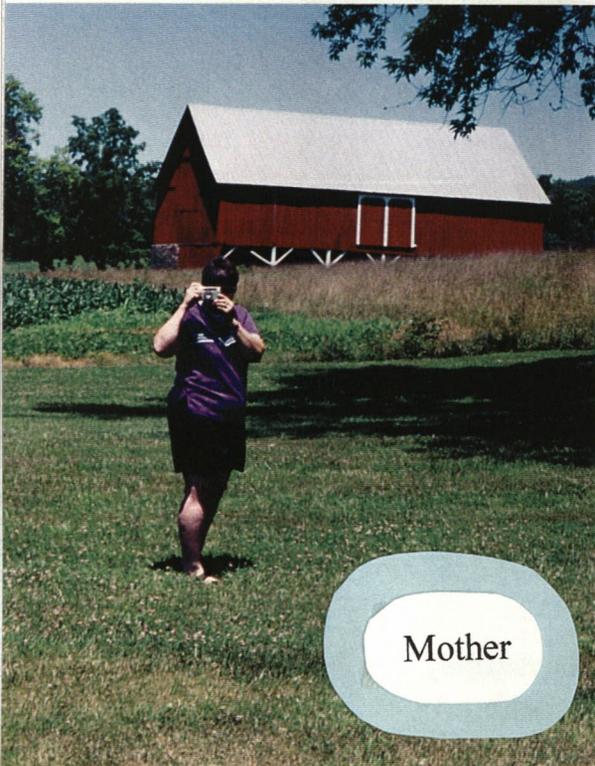
Papaw Built a Spinning Wheel



Kelly S. Kuchenbrod



For Daddy and Aleks



Mother



& Tom

Papaw built a spinning wheel. He was talented that way.



At first it didn't look like much, but as Papaw worked, the more it came to life.



It was made from the wood of a cherry tree. The wood was pretty and red unlike most other woods. Papaw and Mommy chose cherry because it doesn't break easily, and Papaw could shape it on the lathe.



At first it didn't look like much, just a bunch of pretty wood. But, the more Papaw worked, the more it started to look like a real spinning wheel.

After Papaw finished it, Mommy brought it home. I couldn't wait to get started. I really wanted to make wool into yarn.



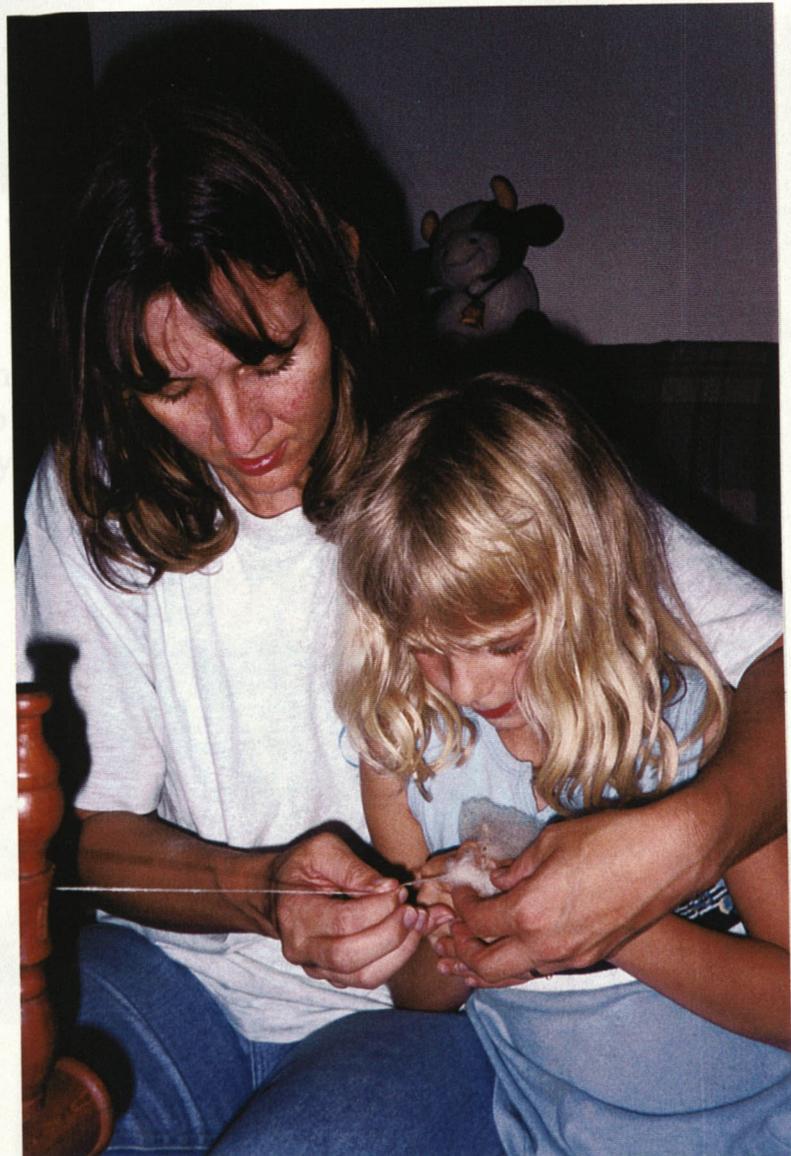


Mommy tried to learn to spin. The thread kept breaking in the beginning. She made changes, read some books and magazines, and called some people for advice.



I helped Mommy by spinning the wheel. When I spin the wheel, Mommy doesn't use her foot to move the treadle. Sometimes I would spin the wheel too fast, but I was learning too.

At first Mommy spun some white wool. The wool was from a sheep and had been cleaned and prepared in a factory. Mommy said sheep are smelly so the wool has to be washed.



She filled a whole spool with the white wool. It was kind of lumpy at first, but she got better. It didn't look like the yarn from the store, but I could pull on it and it did not break.



Memory
of the wheel



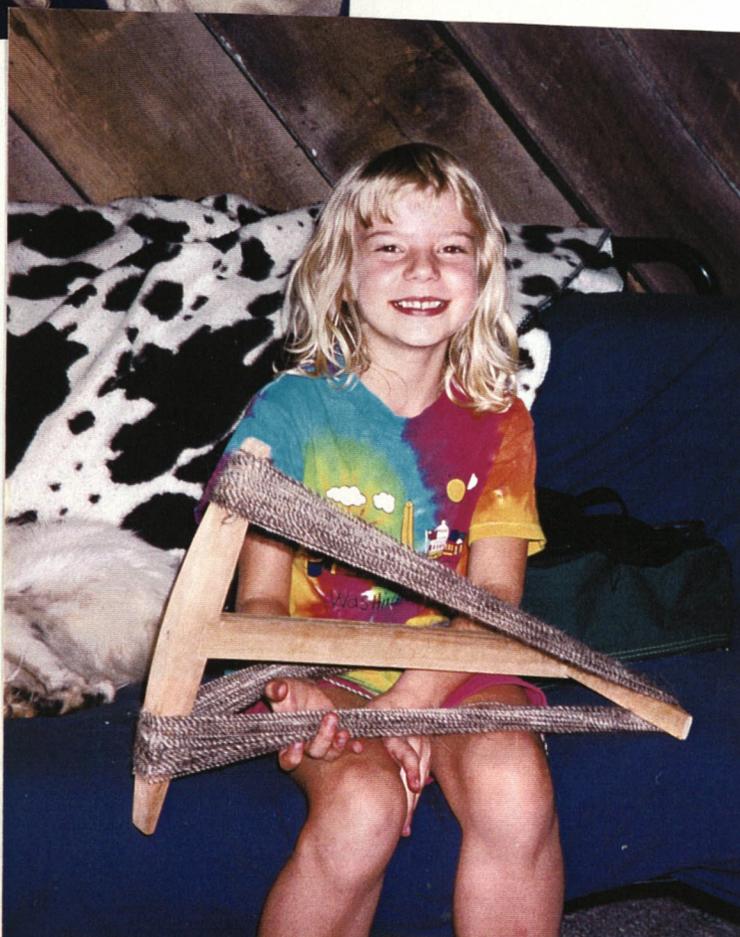
After finishing the sheep's wool, Mommy got some brown llama wool. I even got to visit the llamas that the wool came from. The wool hadn't been to a factory and had straw and twigs in it.



Then Mommy made the wheel spin the opposite direction. When she did this, the white string from the sheep and the brown string from the llama made one string. This made yarn that was thicker and stronger.



When she was done, she showed me a niddy noddy. I helped her sand it before she wound the wool onto it. Pioneers would use the niddy noddy to measure the wool.





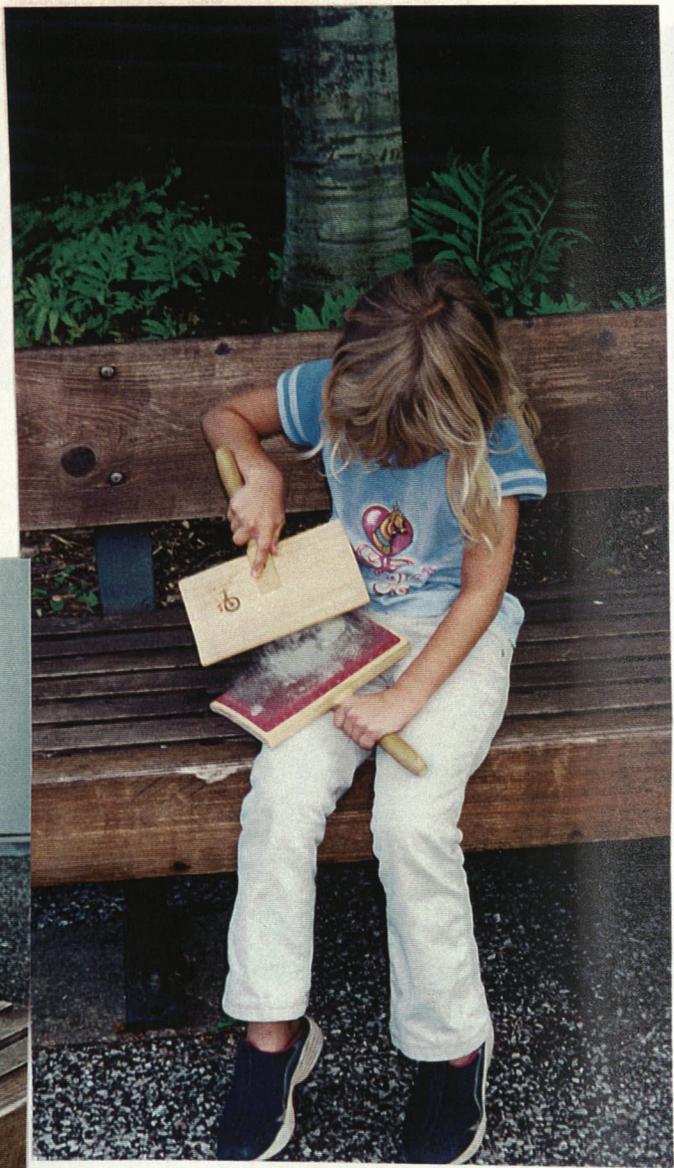
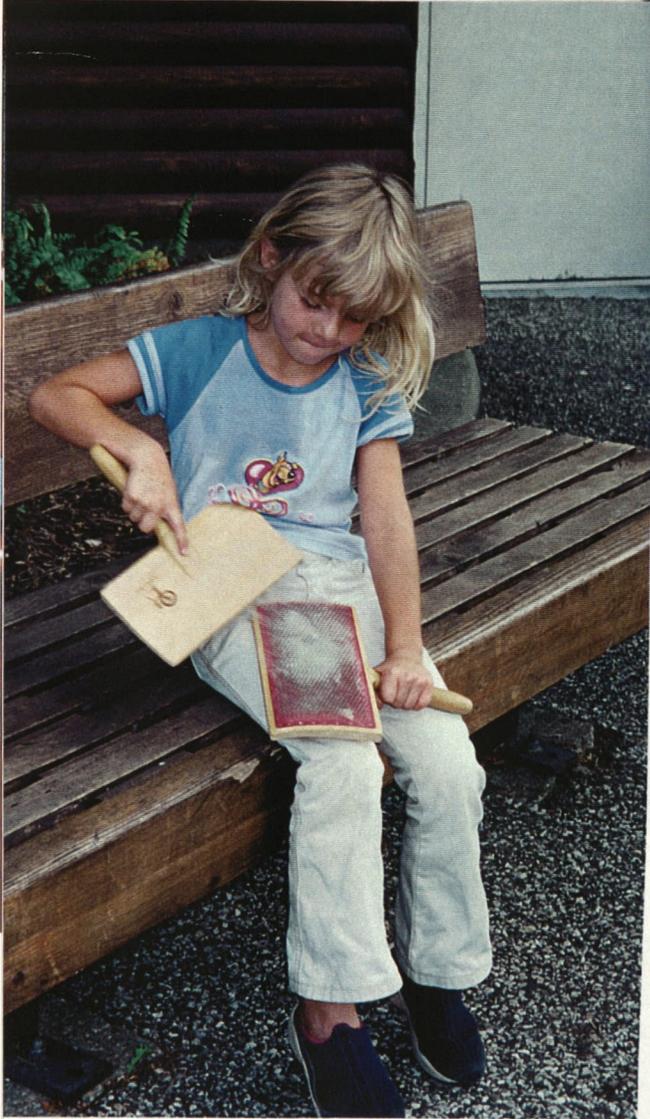
When she was
before she was
because the w



Grandma took the yarn and knitted me a hat. I think it is cute.



Mommy got a sheep's fleece from a farmer. I helped Mommy wash the wool. Sheep are really dirty. When we were done, we let the wool dry outside on the swing.

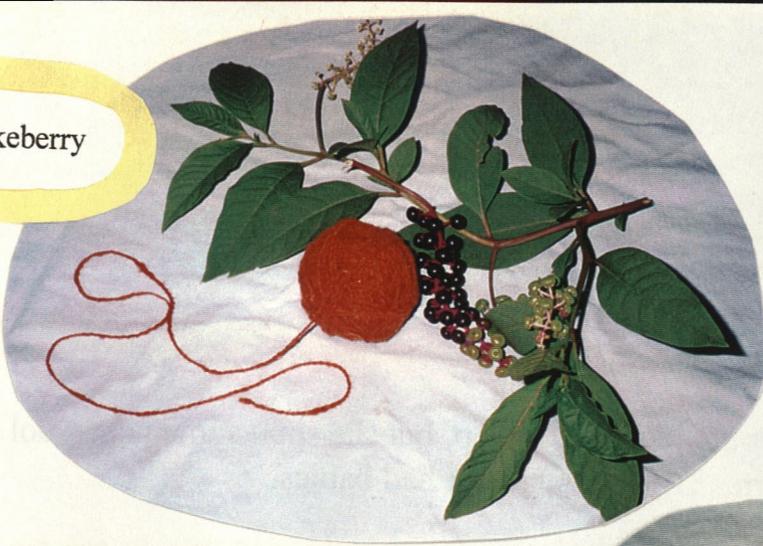


Then she let me card it. It was fun to comb the wool one way and then the other. I had to card the wool so it would be straightened out and easier to spin. The carders take lots of muscles to use. Mommy said pioneer children helped their mothers card wool too.

Mommy not only spun llama and sheep, but she spun some goat wool too. I visited the goat farm. The momma goat had babies.



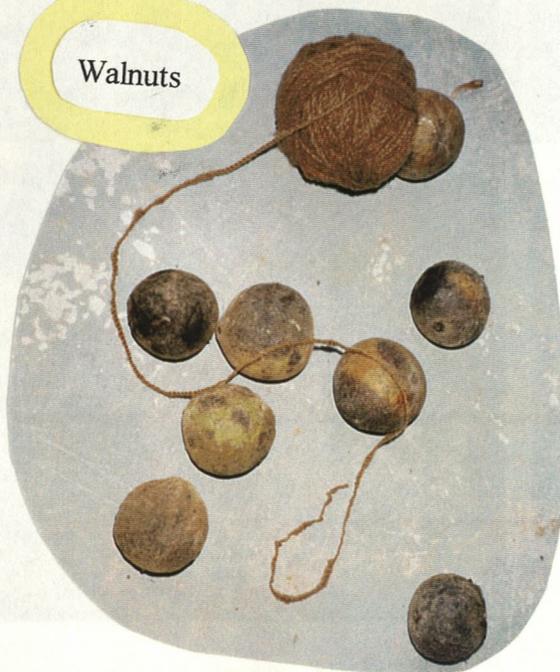
Pokeberry



Beets



Walnuts



After Mommy had spun a bunch of wool, we dyed it different colors. It was fun. We dyed it like the pioneers would have with things that came from nature.



Daddy used some of the yarn to make a rug on a loom.



When Mommy ran out of lamb, llama and goat wool, I would brush our dogs. They have long hair and Mommy spun it too. Daddy thought it was funny.



One time Mommy even spun the wool from a long haired rabbit. The rabbit sat on Mommy's lap, and she gently pulled the hair out and spun it.



One day I asked Mommy how people got the wool off of the animal, and she took me to watch them shear some goats.

The goat looked funny with their wool cut off. The wool from a goat or a sheep before it is washed is called a fleece.



The goat looked funny with their wool cut off. They were called sheep before it is washed it is called a goat.

As Mommy got faster on the spinning wheel, we went to different places to demonstrate. We would load the van and go.





Papaw calls
toy. I liked



When we went to the different places, we pretended like we were living 150 years ago.



Grandma made the dresses that we wore. She made the dresses alike. I think it is neat that we match.



Papaw came sometimes and made wooden bowls or showed the kids pioneer toys. I liked the toys the best!



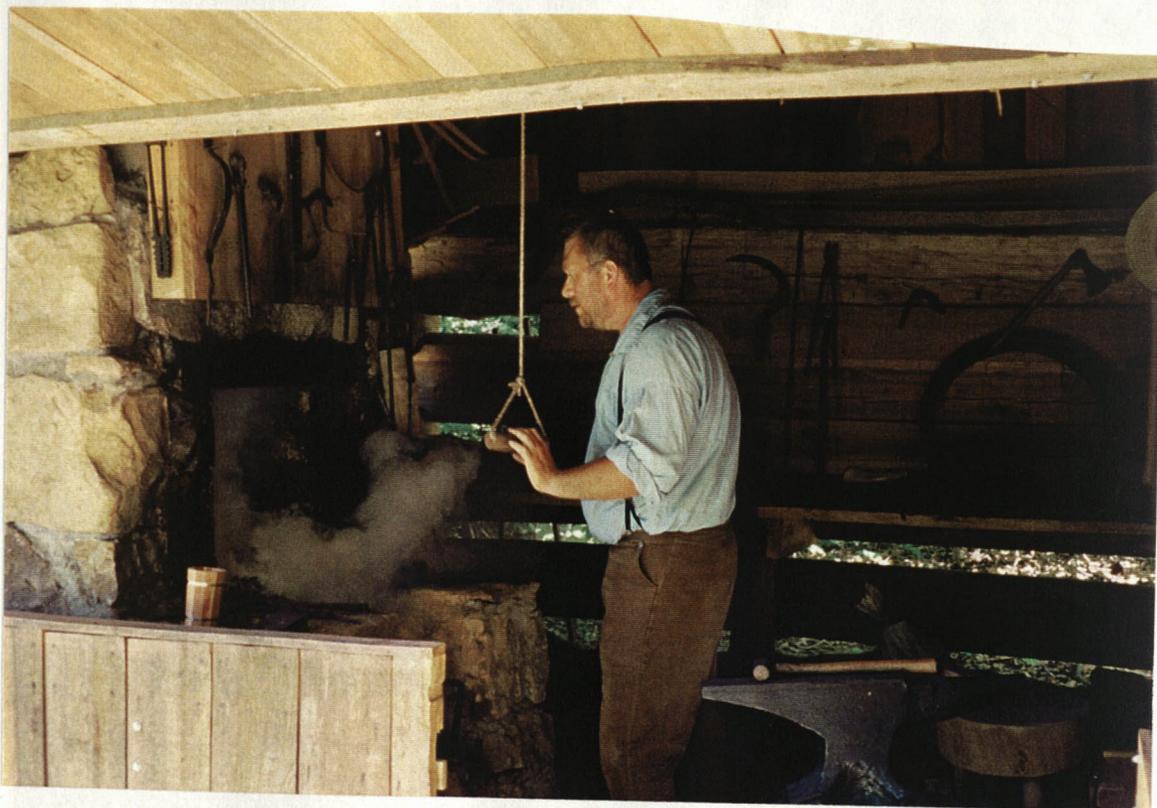


Daddy came along and he would whittle or help Papaw. He likes to play with the toys too.



Grandma likes to make quilts.

There were lots of people pretending to live in olden days. Some were blacksmiths, farmers, pioneer cooks, or carpenters.





I really like to go with Mommy and help her spin. I like to pretend I am a pioneer. When I grow up, I want to learn how to spin too. I am really glad Papaw built the spinning wheel.

