



GENEALOGY

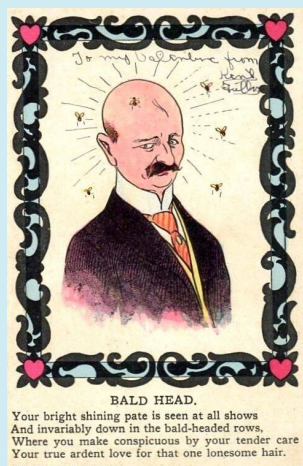
Relatively Speaking

January 2024

THE WINTER ANCESTRY



Formichella, Janice. *Staying warm in the Victorian winter*. Recollections.



Laura Martisiute. *33 Nasty 'Vinegar*

THE VICTORIANS AND WINTERTIME TRADITIONS

By Evelina Podkova

The Victorians had some interesting holiday traditions. Some of them are still around today, while others are no longer popular...sometimes for good reason.

Cards

In England the mail system became standardized. Letters could be sent at any distance for the same price. This enabled more people to have access to the mail system. This occurred in January 1840 where it cost 1 penny to send a letter. If the letter was collected directly from the writer, the cost would increase by a penny. Overtime sending mass-produced cards became popular. The Victorians sent insulting Valentine's Day cards to people they disliked. These cards were sent without a return address.

Food

Among the poor in Victorian England, oysters were a popular food around the holidays. Oysters were cheap and plentiful. Later, they were over-harvested. Eating turkey during this

Valentines' That Victorians Sent To Mock Each Other For Every Fault You Can Imagine. Ati.

time started with the upper classes and eventually became a staple of the middle classes.

Ghosts

Ghosts were associated with the wintertime long before the 1800s, but they held special intrigue for Victorian England. Ghosts were often depicted as characters or plot points in newspapers and novels during the colder months, like in Charles Dickens' famous 1843 novella *A Christmas Carol*. While the origin of these interests could be supernatural, there are other, logical explanations for the popularity of ghosts with the Victorians. As industrialization caused people to cram into crowded town homes, hearing creaks and seeing shadows was not uncommon. Also, the gas lamps of this time emitted carbon monoxide, which can cause hallucinations and other side-effects.

Mistletoe

Commodification of holidays and their traditions is not new, but it looked a little different from today. For example, mistletoe during the Victorian age was especially rare, as it is a parasitic plant only found in apple trees in the south of England. Likely because of its rarity, it became a status symbol and some people resorted to trespassing, stealing and selling this plant.

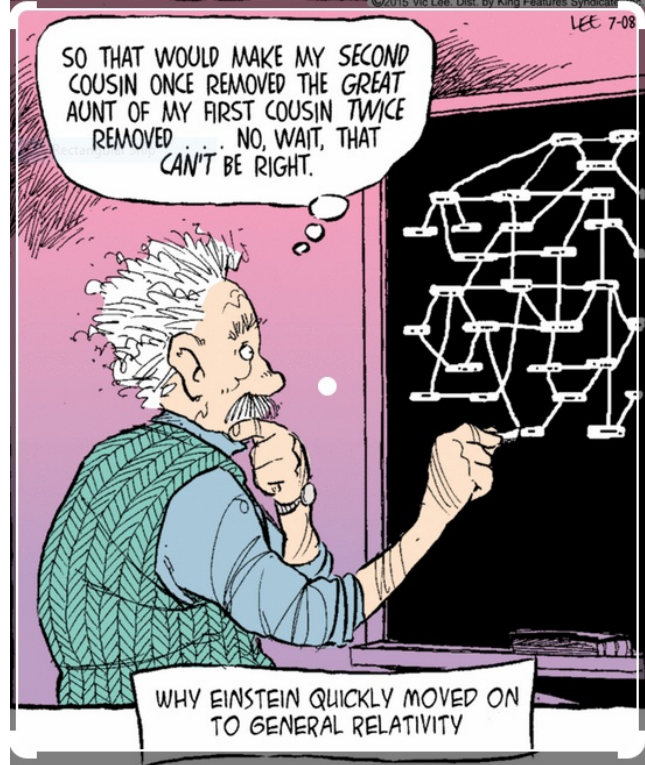
Leisure

The Victorians believed that the activities they did on the last day of the year were significant to how the rest of the year would turn out. Therefore, they would not work and would instead have fun outside the home. The ashes from the hearth would be swept to symbolize getting rid of the year's ugliness. At midnight they would throw a cake at the door to represent a year without hunger.

Resources:

- [Strange and Delightful Holiday Traditions of the Victorian Era](#) (from History Collection)
- [33 Nasty 'Vinegar Valentines' That Victorians Sent To Mock Each Other For Every Fault You Can Imagine](#) (all that's interesting article)
- [Victorian Christmas Traditions: A Historical Celebration](#) (LovetoKnow article)
- [Victorian Postage System](#) (The Victorian School Article)

Pardon My Planet cartoon by Vic Lee. July 8th, 2018.



A Fatal Accident Was Narrowly Averted—The Ascent of the Current—Wag Trips Us on a Humorous Story With a Catch.

A friend of ours, who happens to be a regular Smart Ellick, aroused our latent curiosity as a newspaperman by asking whether we had heard the news that Len Small had met with a terrible accident while on his way to Waukegan to attend trial, and, with a slight blush for being so far behind the times, we reluctantly confessed that we hadn't.

"Came near being electrocuted," shouted this wischelmer.

"Electrocuted," we ejaculated, "and how did it happen?"

The quick and triumphant reply was:

"He stepped on a piece of fruit-cake in the Pullman diner and a currant (current) went up his—leg."

With one of these forced and half-hearted smiles we pretended to enjoy the joke, but quickly changed the subject.

January 7, 1922. Belleville News Democrat, 67 (6), p. Page [Four]. Available from NewsBank: America's Historical Newspapers:

EXCERPTS FROM "A FAMILY 'WHEELS THROUGH THE YEARS"

By Sheila H. Schultz

My family first came to Wheeling in 1956, one of many young families flocking to the new suburbs, excited and a little scared to be buying a new home. It didn't matter that there were no trees, no sidewalks and the streets were a sea of mud. Nor that the lawn had no sod, nor even grass seed. The nearest supermarket was in Prospect Heights, the nearest Catholic Church was in Buffalo Grove. Most of us were stay-at-home moms and one-car families. With over 100

children living on the block, none ever wanted for a playmate. The men shared each other's tools, the women borrowed eggs and sugar from one another, and everyone took his or her turn in the babysitting co-op. Friendships were formed that continue to this day.

Recently, many of the schools have been expanded and renovated. Wheeling's first school, Walt Whitman, was torn down after a new school was built at the opposite end of the property. When we first moved into our home directly in the flight path of Palwaukee Airport, we were charmed by the colorful Piper Cubs buzzing overhead. Several years later, after the construction of the new runway, glasses would jiggle off the table and mirror tiles crash to the floor when the jets roared by at low altitude. Now the planes are quieter, procedures are better, and we once again enjoy seeing planes high overhead. The old intersection of Hintz and Wolf was a four-way stop because traffic lights couldn't be put in close to the runway. A small plane once came in so low that it clipped the top of the southeast corner stop sign, terrifying the motorists stopped there. That entire intersection has been relocated farther away from the runway, a definite safety improvement.

The physical appearance of the village was continuously changing. In 1958, members of the Wheeling Junior Women's Club went door-to-door with shopping bags, asking for "a book or a buck." With those donations, they began the Wheeling Public Library in a small building behind the old Union Hotel. It was soon relocated to the storefront that is now Two Doves Restaurant. Later incorporated as the Indian Trails Public Library District, it was again moved to the former Lutheran Church on Jenkins Court, and finally to the new building on Schoenbeck Road in 1981, which has recently been expanded.

For more Information on Wheeling History, check out *Wheeling through the years : an oral history of Wheeling, an Illinois village.*

A family 'Wheels' through the years. (1999, December 30). Wheeling Countryside (IL), p. 019. Available from NewsBank: Chicagoland News Sources: <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1113858F20622940>.

MALEFICARUM AND MISFORTUNE: RECORDS AND RESOURCES FOR TRACING ACCUSED UK, IRISH, AMERICAN WITCHES

**Thursday, January 18th
7-8 pm**

For over two centuries, individuals accused of witchcraft did not live by the principle of "innocent until proven guilty" – if you made it to trial, the law heavily presumed guilt. Legal documentation generated from these

EXPLORE CHICAGO COLLECTIONS FOR GENEALOGY RESEARCH

**Tuesday February 6th
7-8 pm**

Join staff at Chicago Collections in reviewing how they can assist you in your genealogy search. Explore Chicago Collections is a free, centralized, web-based search engine and record-finding tool where users are able to locate or access over 100,000 maps, photos, and

trials survive for modern-day genealogists. In this lecture, Genealogist Debra Dudek will review witch trial records and resources for ancestors from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland from 1500 - 1717. Registration required.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

letters. Users can explore digital material, archival collections, and manuscript collections by topic — from government, to everyday life, and beyond— and interact with library guides, digital exhibits, and educational materials. Registration required.

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