

WEDDING CIRCA 1900

When I attend the wedding of my young friends today, I marvel at the seeming ease with which the church is decorated for the occasion; the hotel or club hired for the reception afterwards; the availability of caterers for making and service canapes (works of art), cakes and colorful punch or coffee.

My family had it all to do. The house must be cleaned with broom, dustpan and floor mop. No vacuum cleaners there! A broom handled Brussels carpets fairly well, but on the old "Ingrain" variety which were laid over a loose straw padding, it seemed to me the broom raised more dust than it removed.

All the windows were washed. New paper was laid on pantry shelves. The butry was filled with the delectable odors of sponge cake, angel food, and the traditional fruit cake, heavy with fruit and deeply frosted.

Even the kitchen garret was not forgotten. This was a low room reached by a very steep narrow stairway between the kitchen and the butry. It was hot in summer and cold in winter but useful for the storage of nuts laid out on the floor to dry. Herbs hung in festoons on the low rafters. Pots of honey and cans of maple syrup stood in the corners. This garret, with the butry and a building on the premises called the "Old Granary," relic of farm days, had to provide the household's storage space, there being no cellar--or at least one only large enough to hold a small heating unit.

All these rooms were overhauled and tidied; a chance visitor might just happen to see them.