

Lunch for an 1893 School Day

The lunches taken to school were often carried in simple tin pails. These could have been store bought; however, most lunch pails were “recycled” lard or syrup cans. All students will need to bring a lunch.

How to make a lunch pail**

1. Collect a large coffee can (or shortening can) for each student. Often times, school districts will have large cans in their kitchens.
2. File down any rough spots on the rim
3. Drill two holes near the rim on opposite sides
4. Use twine, wire or string as a short handle.

** If you do not wish to make a lunch pail, lunch can be carried in a large cloth napkin or scrap of fabric. The four corners should be tied together. Lunch can also be carried in a basket. Drinks can be brought in a glass jar or bottle.

SANDWICH

Two thick slices of "homemade" bread

Butter/mustard

Sliced meat - ham, pork, mutton, beef, corned beef, tongue,

chicken or sausage - bologna sausage, salami, head cheese

or cheddar cheese

or apple butter, jam, jelly (strawberry jam, grape jelly, plum preserves)

Wrap sandwich in butcher's paper (or a piece of a brown paper bag), or a cloth napkin.

PICKLE

FRUIT - apple, pear, peach, plum, grapes or dried fruit

DRIED FRUIT

RAW VEGETABLES

PIE, CAKE, or COOKIE

DRINK - water, lemonade, cider

Remember the year is 1892, so do not use or bring: plastic bags, aluminum foil, plastic containers, potato chips, processed meat, paper napkins, chocolate chip cookies (not common until 1940), cans of pop, styrofoam or plastic cups.