

feet long, and in the corners on each side was the place where the courting was usually done. Across the other end of the house stood two high old fashioned bedsteads, one for "pap" and mother, and the other for our big sisters, and there were two trundle-beds which were slipped under the beds in day time and drawn out at night. These were for the little folks to sleep in, hence they were called trundle-bed stock. We larger boys usually slept in the loft in the winter. The loft was covered with loose clapboards. On Sunday evenings when our sisters had company we would slip over to a crack and peep down. That is the way the boys saw it. When the young couple decided to get married and the match was opposed by the parents they would run off to Missouri and find a minister to tie the knot so well that it would never come undone. The girl would then write her parents that she would return if her husband would be welcome in the home. In an early day getting married was somewhat different from today in the matter of expense. If a young man had a suit of blue jeans with a row of brass buttons down each side of his coat front, that was all that was required. If the girl had a new calico dress that was all that was necessary. Again, it was not necessary to pay the preacher five or ten dollars for tying the knot. That duty was performed free of charge, the minister considering himself ahead by the good dinner that was served on those occasions.—*Winterset Madisionian, May 19, 1904.*

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THE SEASON.—We have had an unusually cold and wet spring. The earth has been so completely saturated by the constant rains that the progress of the farmer, miner and smelter has been much retarded. For a week past, however, the weather has been delightful; every kind of business has taken a fresh start, and vegetation appears to be making up for lost time.—*DuBuque Visitor, May 11, 1836.*

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