

1787—The Marlboro Medley, — tune Black Joke

When Marlboro Merchants set out for Pedling,
Made lawful by custom, (let none be meddling)
Barter is legal when trading for grain. —

With Wherry's & Horses, see how they turn out,
Each Pedlar taking his different rout
With notions & things both curious & common,
To please Men & Children & gratify Women,
Which I shall here attempt to name. —
Their Budgets consist of variety —
There's no two Pungs whose loads agree,
Each Pedlar hath his different ware, —

Whirls & spindles, Jews harps & thimbles,
Shoemakers Lasts & Peg-awls & wimbles,
Dippers & Noggins & Cann's to make grog in
To barter for corn— "Have you any to spare" ?
Here comes the Bowls & wooden dishes,
Sleek looking trouts, "most exelent fishes"—

From Marlboro' ponds & holes in the Brook —
Where in winter, a fishing they go,
Up to their waist-bands thro the snow,
There, thro' the ice they cut a hole,
Then, they fish without a pole—
Dexterous Anglers with a hook. —
Lo Hog-yoaks, Goose-Y[o]aks, Taps & fassets

(And Tools to make them, Jack-knives and Hatchets)
To hamper Your piggs, Your Geese, and draw beer, —

With parchment screens to clean Flax-seed
Chees-tongs, wooden fans & weaver's Reed', —
Great spinning wheels & Swifts & Reels
And Snow-shoes strung from Toe to heel
To run on the crust & catch the Deer.—

“Come buy our Bread-trophs, buy our sieves,
To sift your meal from bran & shives, —
Different sorts both hide & hair,—

Half-Bushels and Pecks (all made by guess,)
Two Quart Dippers, (a thousand or less,)
Poaks, Ox-Yoaks, & hobbles for Horses,
Straw-hats & Bonnetts for Lads & Lasses,
Good as the best, the Gentry wear.” —
Now comes the Baskets & the Rakes
Enough to supply the Thirteen States
Besides a large pile of new made Chairs. —

Pails, Pipkins & Tubs, for washing & brewing
Great wooden-platters to take up your stew in
Brooms, Dye-pots & Keelers, salt-mortars, & pestles,
Pudding-sticks, Ladles, whip-stocks & whistles,
Beside, wooden spoons as plenty as hairs. —
Here comes the Turnips & fine Bobbin-lace,
Braided-bark mittens, (your hands to case,)
A rare invention, every one says, —

Saddle-tree-woods & Birch-barrel-bottles,
Shoe-make[rs] spools & Iron-wood shuttles,
Besoms & oven-lids, (handy when baking).
Boxes for flour & Tray's to make Cake in
And Wickopy stay-tape to lace up the Stays—
But now we must leave the ingenious Mechanic,
And sing how Root Doctors pursue their Botanic-
al Rambles thro Forrests o'er Hills & the Plain.

To dig blue Cohosh and sarsaparilla
Green Pettymorrel and purple a[n]geli-
ca Snake-root & Ginseng & modest Wild Piony,
The Root for Consumption & mending old China,
With Poke-root & Blood-root & Ellecampane. —
In early settling the Town, one Year
They'd no luck in hunting the Bear or the Deer,
No Bread to be had, Potatoes were scarce: —

Then had the Small-pox with all its infection
Have pass'd through the Town in every direction,
It could not have touched such dioted Men,
Where dozens could breakfast on Robin or Wren —
Disease disappointed must sneak from the place. —
But now they fare better, they've some thing to eat,
Various fowls & four footed meat,
Pa[r]tridge & Wood-cock & Wild Turkey-hen

Geese, Pigeons & Ducks, Skunks & Woodchucks,
Lusty Rackcoons well fattened with nutts,

Porcupines, squirrels & Rabbits & Hares,
For Beef they [have] moose, for Pork they have bears
And saddles of Venison now an then. —
A Pung or two more brings up the rear,
With Green Spruce-boughs for brewing Beer,
Rosin of Hemlock & Hack metack gum,
 Balsam of Fir & sugar of maple,
Lime, Shingles and Salts, (The Marlboro' staples)
Red-ochre, Sal-Petre, & Butter-nutt physic
Assmart-pills, a cure for the phthiysic
And Candy — Black-Strap* too stubborn to run.
And now my Medley draws nigh a close,
A rap on [my] knuckles, or wring of my Nose,
Shan't hinder my Toast, — I'll out with it here,
 May Manufacturers long abound
In this Mechanical Pedling Town,
And may those Sons whose Sires are dead !
Have as good means to get their Bread
As their [] have had for many years.

(Transcription by Patience Young)