

# American Cookery 1812

by Lynne Belluscio

There weren't too many cookbooks available in 1812 and one has to wonder if the pioneer women brought cookbooks with them to the frontier.

One cookbook that was available was "American Cookery: or, that art of dressing viands, fish, poultry and vegetables. And the best mode of making puff pastes, pies, tarts, puddings, custards and preserves and all kinds of cakes, from the imperial plumb to plain cake. Adapted to this country and all grades of life." By an American orphan.

The book was published by many different printers, for stores and booksellers including Elijah Brooks in Walpole, New Hampshire. I have a reproduction of the book, and the introduction reads: "As this treatise (the s is often printed as an f) is calculated for the improvement of the rifying generation of FEMALES in America, the Lady of fashion and fortune will not be displeafed, if many hints are fuggedted for the more general and univerfal knowledge ..." Midst all of the "receipts" which was the word for recipes at the time, are instructions for making current jelly, preserving cherries, and tea biscuits. There are recipes for election cake, independence cake, federal pan



cake, and johnny cake.

When I talked with Sean at the D & R Depot about our annual Dinner Auction on March 10, I thought that it might be appropriate to serve a menu that reflected the food of the pioneers. So on page 21 of "American Cookery" is a recipe for Chicken Pie, with layers of chicken and plenty of butter with a thick crust.

What better way to relive the past with a wonderful chicken pot pie from the Depot. A rich gingerbread with a glaze, served with Dolly Madison's ice cream for dessert. The cash bar and the preview for the Silent Auction begins at 5 pm followed by dinner served in candlelit rooms at 6 pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be reserved by calling 768-

7433 or stopping by the office behind LeRoy House.

After dinner, the notoriously famous and entertaining auction will be conducted by the folks from Bill Kent's Auction house. This year there will be a couple of barn quilts, all ready for your barn or shed, and an opportunity to bid on a custom barn quilt created to your specifications.

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