

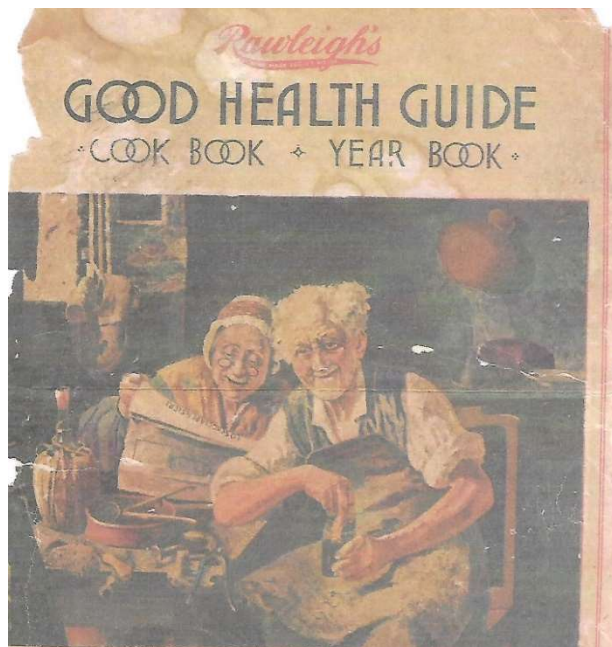
Jerry McKelvy's
WAY BACK WHEN
November, 2025

THE RAWLEIGH MAN

Most older people, especially those in rural areas, remember when the Rawleigh man came to their home selling a variety of products such as liniment, antiseptic salve, spices, and cosmetics. People living on farms appreciated the opportunity to purchase these type products delivered right to their door.

I faintly remember one of these traveling salesmen stopping at our home when I was a child. I'm not sure if it was the Rawleigh man or the Watkins man. Some people preferred Rawleigh products and others liked Watkins products. One of the products my mother purchased from these traveling salesmen was vanilla flavoring. I was surprised the other day when I noticed a bottle of Watkins vanilla extract for sale at Walmart.

William Thomas Rawleigh was born on a farm in Wisconsin in 1870. At age nine, he made ink, bottled it, labeled it himself, and sold it to his classmates and to country stores. At age 18, he turned his mother's kitchen into a small factory where he made various products he thought would be of use to farm families. Later, he was able to rent a small building and expand his business. By 1915, there were 2,000 "Rawleigh men" who traveled around in rural areas selling Rawleigh products to 20,000 customers each day. The company did little advertising preferring to let the products "sell themselves" depending on word of mouth to spread the word about the quality of the products.



Rawleigh also published a booklet called "Good Health Guide Cookbook and Year Book" which was given to customers. Mrs. Zettie Griffith Link sent me a page or two from one of these booklets her mother had received in 1932. The printing on the front of the booklet shows that the W. T. Rawleigh Co. was headquartered in Freeport, Illinois with branches in Memphis, Richmond, Albany, Minneapolis, Denver, Oakland, Montreal, Winnipeg, Melbourne, and Wellington.

I wish I had the whole booklet. The main reason she sent this to me was because one of the recipes printed in the booklet was a bit unusual—Milk of Magnesia Cookies for Children. I have printed that recipe on page 2 in case you want to try it.

WAY BACK WHEN



Milk of Magnesia Cookies for Children

These cookies have been tried out in the Rawleigh Good Health Diet Kitchen and proven very successful. They contain many minerals which are needed by the body and produce alkalinity. A very slight laxative quality would result when the magnesium oxide comes in contact and unites with the moisture in the intestines. These cookies are very acceptable for children's lunches and especially the lunch basket.

The recipe is as follows:

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup shortening	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup Rawleigh's Milk of Magnesia
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. Rawleigh's Vanilla
1 egg	3—4 cups flour
3 tsp. Rawleigh's Phosphate Baking Powder	1 cup raisins or dates
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk	

Cream shortening and sugar, add well-beaten egg and mix well. Sift baking powder and flour together, then add to the creamed mixture alternately with the milk. Add vanilla and fruit and roll out thin. Bake in a quick oven. This makes 4 dozen cookies.

COMPLIMENTS TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM

I have an old book I got at an estate sale called "Compliments to the Bride and Groom" given to couples who were getting married. I don't see a date in the book, but I think it was probably printed in the 1930s. The book has 156 pages and contains all kinds of information about family life, organizing the home, care of babies, care of sick folks, proper etiquette, household hints, and recipes. Several pages in the front of the book were left blank where pictures could be pasted such as pictures of the couple, their first home, baby pictures, etc. Here is a sampling of the information included in this book.

One section of the book has information about wedding anniversaries, some of which were new to me. There is also a three-page article on the history of wedding rings.

ANNIVERSARIES AND WHAT THEY ARE CALLED

First – Cotton
Second—Paper
Third—Leather
Fourth—Fruit and Flowers
Fifth –Wooden
Sixth—Sugar

Seventh—Woolen
Eighth—India Rubber
Ninth—Willow
Tenth—Tin
Eleventh – Steel
Twelfth—Silk and Fine Linen

WAY BACK WHEN

Thirteenth—Lace
Fourteenth—Ivory
Fifteenth—Crystal (glass)
Twentieth—China
Twenty-fifth—Silver

Thirtieth--Pearl
Fortieth--Ruby
Fiftieth--Golden
Seventy-fifth—Diamond

A section of the book tells the proper etiquette when entertaining visitors

ETIQUETTE FOR VISITS

Offering refreshments to callers—It is neither necessary or customary, in cities and towns, to offer refreshments to visitors. But in the country, where the caller has come from some distance, it is exceedingly hospitable to do so.

Calls in the country may be of longer duration than those made in the city. No hostess will ever leave the room, or even arise from her seat, if she can avoid it, except to receive or take leave of other visitors while her visitors remain. Never touch an open piano or walk around the room examining pictures while waiting for your hostess. Never handle any ornament in the room or play with your parasol or cane during your call.

The book has a long list of things husbands and wives should not do if they want to have a happy marriage. Here are just a few of them.

DONT'S FOR NEW HUSBANDS

1. Don't forget that she, too, can be tired out when you get home.
2. Don't pass up your wife's hunches. Some women have second sight.
3. Don't argue. Remember that a woman convinced against her will is of the same opinion still.
4. Don't forget that you took her for better or worse; and there may be no medals on you.
5. Don't keep your wife in ignorance of your business standing. She is your closest partner.
6. Don't promise her that you will do it and then put it off till you feel like it.
7. Don't forget that she is entering into an absolutely new sort of life; and that you are the teacher.
8. Don't forget that she is a very complex creature, and you have a great deal of studying to do yet before you can understand.

DONT'S FOR NEW WIVES

1. Don't forget it is the little things that start the big mischiefs.
2. Don't fail to keep interested in the things your husband likes.
3. Don't fail to look your best. That is the way he learned to love you.
4. Don't fail to learn his special dishes. Try to make them even better than mother did. She'll tell you how.
5. Don't neglect to do the little things for your husband that his mother did for him.

WAY BACK WHEN

6. Don't fail to help him along with his particular hobbies. Next to you, they are his heart's desire.
7. Don't think a man likes to go without buttons or that he can sew them on himself.
8. Don't forget that he thinks right now that you are the finest girl in the world, and only you can make him think otherwise.

The book has several pages of recipes from formal dinners to picnic lunches. Here are a few of the more unusual recipes:

Sardine sandwiches	Diced turnips and carrots
Barbecued squirrels	Pecan salad
Johnny cakes	Frosted sweet potatoes
Arizona chili	Lobster cocktail
Baked milk (for invalids)	
Milk soup (for invalids)	

The book includes a long list of proportions and measurements that might be useful.

MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHTS

1. Sixty drops make one small teaspoonful
2. Two gills equal one coffee-cup.
3. One pint of liquid weighs one pound.
4. Four gills make one pint.
5. Nine large eggs or ten medium eggs equal one pound.
6. Butter the size of an egg equals one-fourth cup.

The book has several pages of useful household hints.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

To remove ink stains—Wash the garment, stretch smooth over a jar and pour hot sweet milk over the spot.

To remove gum – gasoline

To remove blood spots from clothing—Place a folded cloth under the spot and apply a few drops of peroxide and the spot will disappear.

Nettle rash—Put four tablespoonfuls of Epsom salts into a gallon of warm water. Bathe the affected parts freely. One or two applications will cure it entirely.

To clean sink—Clean three times a week with kerosene. To remove the yellow discolorings, sprinkle chloride of lime in the sink and let it remain overnight. In the morning, scrub thoroughly before turning on the faucet; then rinse.

Chow-chow—When you don't have green tomatoes, try watermelon rinds. Use the same amount, grind up, and season the same as you would tomatoes.

Egg shells—Broken egg shells, rubbed over cooking vessels to which food adheres will remove each sticky particle and clean the vessels nicely.

WAY BACK WHEN

Insect stings—Apply a paste made of soda and water. It gives almost instant relief.

To chop nuts quickly—Instead of using a knife, try placing them in a bowl or pan and chop with an ordinary tin baking powder can. They will be chopped better and in half the usual time.

To keep lid on a boiling pot—Drop a teaspoonful of butter into the water in which you are boiling dry beans or other starchy vegetables. The butter acts as “oil on the troubled water” and keeps it calm and manageable.

COMMENTS FROM READERS

This is one of your best publications yet! I loved the plantation story, Don Mathis 10 tips, and especially the humorous articles at the end! You do indeed, bring a lot of pleasure to your readers. —Teresa H.

+++++

I enjoyed the latest issue of the Sandyland Chronicle. I enjoy all issues, but this one included a lot of info to which I related. I remember the Lige Barlow house well. My parents were married there on one Halloween night! Before my time, but I always admired that home and thought about my parents being married there when I passed by. I was pleased to see it restored. —Charlotte W.

+++++

I received this in 2022 about an article in the October, 2008 issue—

I wanted to reach out and thank you for your work on *The Doctor, The Disobedient Daughter and The Preacher's Son*. I came across this article in 2014 during a genealogy project when I was getting my BA in history at the University of Baltimore.

I've always known the story, which was passed on to me by my father, William Graham Marcellus Hayes and my Aunt Betsy (Elizabeth Brownlee Byers (Hayes)). Libby and Will's son, Candler Kilgo, was my grandfather. I went home for Christmas last month and saw the picture of Pastor Hayes and the other leaders of his church, which got my father and I talking about your very article that I came across years ago.

So, thank you so much for your effort. I will cherish this till I die and pray that my children, Elijah Candler McCoy and Josie Hayes McCoy do the same and their children after them. All we have in life is what we leave behind, but we live on through stories and memories, as Libby and Will do with every word in your article. ---Audrey Hayes

+++++

From 1921--

I stumbled upon your Sandyland Chronicles while researching my family's roots and stayed up until 1AM in the morning, reading the stories with utter fascination. Thank you. I am only half-way through, but have learned so much about Nevada county and its people. I even discovered intriguing information about family members. I am looking forward to trying some of the recipes, too -----

I have a million questions, but I shall finish reading the Chronicles first. I am just so grateful for you and your work. I have been thinking about Prescott a lot, and will visit when COVID is over. It holds a special place in my heart, and I would like to strengthen those roots, maybe purchase some land, or contribute in some way. —Lisa Hixon, Gunpowder, Maryland

+++++

I appreciate all the comments. Feel free to send me any old photos, family stories, or anything you think might be of interest to my readers. Email to sandman43@att.net

WAY BACK WHEN

Small Town, Revisited — Don Mathis

A hawk sits atop the same phone pole
every day as I drive to work.
Today, two coyotes made a mad dash
across the road.
I swear, I saw a white one the other day.

Teen-agers kill themselves weekly in car
crashes.
Where are they going to in such a
hurry?
Nothing changes fast in a small town.

People ask what it's like in a small town;
how I like it.

Grass fires share the headlines;
seems it happens every day.
A traffic jam is one driver
on a cell phone or a lone old crone.

Gang graffiti hasn't really caught on.
Thank goodness!
A lot of people smoke cigarettes;
guess they didn't hear, tobacco kills.
Mega-churches encroach on farm
fields.
Other farmlands, now wooded with
trees,
are clear-cut to make new apartments -
it gives me a complex.

A 30-mile drive is nothing for many
commuters.
A big-haired woman teases her locks
relentlessly
as she drives to work,
then throws her lit cigarette out the
window
as she turns in to the Elementary
to drop her daughter off at kindergarten.

It doesn't rain here.
Sure, we had some hail and snow;
sleet sliding sideways at 60 mph.
But not enough rain to fill a bucket.

Funny thing about the trees;
they stand still in the strongest wind.
And the wind blows all the time.
Guess they got used to it.

How long will it take to get used
to scraping the ice
off the windshield every winter day?

So it goes in this small town.
There's a lot of sky here.
It's nice to see the planets and stars.
Goodnight Mars.

Wow, it finally rained.
They call it a gulley-washer.
Fields are now green.
Cows graze, new calves nuzzle
mist the purple flowers.

Amazing how overnight
white blossoms appear on bare trees.
Two more nights
and green leaves materialize.

March came in like a lion,
wind heralding a new season,
but it blows all the time anyway.
Flags must be replaced twice a year.
The wind whips them to ribbons.

And the oil wells pump,
surrealistically,
as if to keep the beat.
And the beat goes on.