

Fort at Number Four: Job List

Blacksmith ~ The blacksmith worked with metals such as iron and steel to make products for the community. He would heat the metal in a special oven called a forge to make it very hot, and then hit it with a hammer to force into the proper shape. The blacksmith had to be strong and very creative. Most towns had a blacksmith because if they needed something metal fixed, the blacksmith was the only person who had the tools to do it. Many blacksmiths started out as young boys and were trained by an older blacksmith. Today this job is often done by machines, but there are some blacksmiths who still work by hand. The blacksmith's workshop was usually near his house because the fire from the forge would be too hot to have in the house.

Carpenter ~ The carpenter made things out of wood for the townspeople. He would carve and shape trees into posts and beams for houses, repair roofs, and design special tools for the use of the community. He would also make tables, chairs, and beds. Carpenters were important because they knew how to make houses and barns, and they could help the people of the town by building things for them that they could not build on their own. If you wanted to be a carpenter, you would have to start young and learn from another carpenter. Carpenters usually worked in a workshop near home or in their barn, and they worked with hammers, chisels, and a tool called a plane to make things out of wood. Today carpenters can be found building houses and making furniture.

Teacher / School Master ~ In colonial towns, children learned either from a teacher in the home or a School Master in a special school house. A teacher would be someone in the town who could read and write, and who would teach children math and history in their house. A School Master would have to graduate from a college such as Harvard and would be hired by the town to teach all the children, and to prepare some of the boys for college by teaching them Latin and Greek. Teachers and School Masters were important because it was important to the town to have children who could read, write, and do math so that they could help run the town when they grew older. Children learned from hornbooks and textbooks such as *The New England Primer* and *The Blue-Back Speller*. Today some children learn from teachers in a school, and some learn at home from their parents.

Shopkeeper / Merchant ~ A shopkeeper or a merchant was someone who lived in the town and provided goods to the townspeople. He could order special things from other merchants in far away towns; and he could even trade things he had in his store for things that people would bring him, if they didn't have any money. For bartering, people would bring him eggs, homemade clothing, honey, and other things to get dishes, needles and threads, and anything they would need for their home but could not make themselves. A merchant or shopkeeper would have to be good at math, know how to write, and have a good memory. Some shops were run in the merchant's own house, while others might be in a separate building. Merchants learned their job from a parent or were sent to live with another merchant to learn. Today there are many types of merchants and stores, from clothing stores to gas stations.

Weaver ~ A weaver had an important job because not everyone knew how to make cloth for clothing. After the wool was sheered from the sheep and the flax was harvested from the fields,



they would be taken to a weaver to spin into yarn and cloth to make clothing. When the cloth was finished, the weaver could sell or trade it for goods at the store. Weavers worked with a special tool called a loom. They would attach pieces of yarn to it and weave the threads together until they made a full piece of cloth. Weavers would learn their techniques from older weavers, and they would start very young. They would work in their home with their looms and spinning wheels. Today most weaving is done by machines, but there are still a few people who like to weave their own cloth and make their own clothes.

Farmer ~ Most people on the frontier were farmers because people needed to grow food. Farmers would have to get up early in the morning to start their work. They would milk cows, feed chickens and pigs, and plant and plow their fields. Some farmers kept bees for honey. Farmers would grow corn for food and flax to make linen for clothing. A farmer's entire family would help with the chores. The boys would help their father in the fields and the girls would help their mother with the inside chores and with the animals. Sometimes girls who were too young to help were taught to sew and embroider, and their work could be sold or traded at the town store. Every member of a farmer's family was important to helping the farm run smoothly. Farmers would teach their children how to be farmers, and often the children would take over the farm when they grew up. Today farmers in our country grow so much food with the help of technology that they are able to send it to other countries to help people who can't grow food. Some families in New England still work on small farms today that have been in their families for more than one hundred years.

Minister ~ The minister was a very important person in the town. Ministers had to graduate from a college such as Harvard or Yale where they learned about religion, had to speak Latin and Greek, and be able to talk in front of large groups of people. They preached all day on Sundays, although they did get a lunch break. They also led meetings and studies during the week. People from the town would ask advice from their ministers, and ministers were often asked to give opinions on town and colony problems. A minister would have to be friendly with people and be a good listener. Each town would build a meetinghouse for the minister, and they would also build a house and give land to the minister. Today there are many different types of ministers for many different religions.

Doctor ~ Doctors were important to the town because they were trained to help people who got sick. A doctor could either go to college to study medicine or learn from another doctor by working with him. Doctors would have to know about which medicines were used for which sicknesses, know about the human body, and be able to tell what illness someone had from their symptoms. A doctor would have to be a good listener and would have to know a lot about plants, because most medicines came from plants. A doctor might even grow his own herb garden to make medicines. Doctors would work from home, although they would also go to the house of a sick person if the patient were too sick to get out of bed. Doctors also traveled around to different towns that did not have doctors of their own. Today we have many types of doctors who each heal a different part of the body. You can go to a special doctor for an earache and another special doctor for a sore arm.

*The Fort
at No. 4*

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