



Chapter Six by Russ and Kay Hively

As Mr. Howard pulled the tarp off the wagon, Violet could see a spinning wheel nestled in among the bags and barrels of supplies. Violet looked up at her mother with a bright smile on her face. Her mother smiled back and explained that with more sheep on the farm, and Violet getting older, the family thought they needed another wheel.

The spinning wheel they had was almost always in use. Any time someone was done with chores they would go work at the wheel, if it wasn't already in use. The family also had several drop spindles, and they would use them if the wheel was in use, but a wheel was much, much better.

The wheel was beautiful, and Violet asked her father where it came from. Mr. Howard flashed a crooked smile and said that her Uncle Donald had

built it on his farm and left it in town for them to pick up.

Violet giggled at the thought of her uncle. She loved Uncle Donald. He was always fun and would play games with her and Thomas when he came to see them. He always had a small present for her when he came to visit.

Her parents said that it was time to go home. If they stayed in town much longer, it would be dark before they reached the farm. The family climbed into the wagon for the bouncy ride home. Violet found a pretty good spot sitting on a sack of some kind. She guessed it was cornmeal.

Passing through town Violet stared at all the people and activity that was going on. She had been in town many times and was still amazed by all the activity compared to what happened on the farm.

but she just couldn't understand what that would be like.

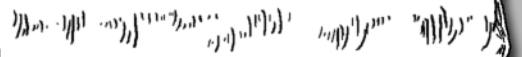
Once the wagon was outside of town, Violet's father calmly began to talk to the children. As he spoke, he held the reins and watched the horses as the wagon rolled along the dusty road. Violet knew her father well and could see that he had something heavy on his mind. She looked at her brother and saw him listening with all his might.

Her father said that while the children had been roaming the town, he and their mother had heard a lot of news about what was happening in the war. He said there had been a battle on Lake Champlain, a big lake between Vermont and New York. Violet suddenly realized that the war had come to Vermont.



She remembered mother telling her about big cities like Philadelphia,

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Learn More

- Uncle Donald left the spinning wheel in town for Violet's family. Why do you think he did not deliver it himself? Would your family leave something at a store for someone to pick up later?
- Headlines in Vermont and New York newspapers probably announced the war news. Look through your newspaper for headlines of important news in your community.
- Is Lake Champlain one of the Great Lakes? Is it one of the Finger Lakes? List all the Great and Finger Lakes and the states that they are in or adjoin.

STANDARDS: G4:4; SS:6; G3:5; SS:7

NEXT WEEK: Chapter 7 – What happened?

