



Beautiful Music

Chapter Four by Russ and Kay Hively

Mr. Howard told the family they were all going into Bellows Falls tomorrow. Violet almost fell off her stool when she heard him say that. She instantly got excited and asked her father why? He said they needed to get some supplies before the weather got bad. Violet could tell that her father had something besides supplies on his mind, but she knew her parents would tell her when it was time for her to know.

Going into town was a big event for the Howard family. They only went to town a few times a year, and since the war with England started, the family tended to stay home even more often. Mr. Howard did not like leaving the farm and livestock unprotected. He was afraid troops passing by the farm would take the livestock, burn down the buildings or both.

Violet's parents never talked about such things in front of her, but she knew they talked to each other about it. She had seen them whispering to each other with worried looks on their faces.

Just like they had been doing when her father had come in the house tonight.

The war had begun about two years ago. Since then, Violet had heard about battles on the Great Lakes, in the Northwest and farther north in Canada. She hadn't heard about any in Vermont, but everyone was nervous.

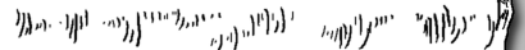
After supper and the evening chores were done, the family sat down in the front room and worked on house chores as they talked about the new sheep and the trip to get them. As they talked, Violet spun wool into thread using her drop spindle, her brother spun on the great wheel and her mother sat at the loom weaving.

Violet's father worked on a piece of tack for the horse. Violet only half-heartedly listened to what everyone was saying. She had too much on her mind. She was always excited about a trip into town, and this was no exception.

However, this time it seemed different, and everyone in the family knew it. There was something going on, and Violet was nervous.

The next morning was beautiful, clear and crisp, and the family was up early. Everyone hurried to get their chores done so they could be on their way. Along with his regular chores, Thomas got the wagon ready. Mr. Howard loaded some things on the wagon that the family would use for trading in town, and Mrs. Howard packed lunch for the family to have during the day.

Finally, everyone climbed into the wagon and started toward town. As they pulled away, Violet looked back at the farm. She waved goodbye to Molly and turned around to face the front of the wagon. Violet wondered what her father had heard on the trip, and what the Howard family would find in Bellows Falls.



Learn More

- The United States of America was at war with England in 1814. What is that war called today? How many U.S. States were there in 1814?
- Molly is a collie. Draw a picture of a collie dog. Find out why this breed of dog was used for handling sheep.
- Can you imagine going to the store only a few times a year? Prepare a grocery list of what you think you would buy. Look through the newspaper for ideas and advertisements for those things.

NEXT WEEK: Chapter 5 – What's in town?



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