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Social Networking: Then and Now

This digital story illustrates the history and evolution of social networking.

This digital learning object will be used in the Library Web 2.0 Tools course unit on Social Networking to show that social networking originated before computers. It will also be used in a unit on podcasts and videos.
Social Networking: Then and Now

Before the advent of the Internet social networking meant face to face contact. People naturally gathered whenever and wherever the opportunity arose. A trip to the post office. A picnic at the creek. A day in the country. A visit to the general store. Street corners. All were opportunities to catch up on the latest gossip and news.

Sometimes gatherings were formally organized. Churches had socials. Women’s groups had teas. Families sponsored reunions. Clubs had dances. Families gathered for weddings. Sometimes people had to travel great distances to attend these events.

The invention of the telegraph and telephone changed communication forever. No longer did people have to wait for a reply to a letter. A conversation could take place in real time over a distance of many miles in the comfort of their own home.

With today’s high speed internet connections and ubiquitous cell phones social networking has become globally instantaneous.

This is Social Networking today.
References

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Coasting party at Tunnel No. 8, Cripple Creek Short Line.
Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.
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American Indians of the Pacific Northwest.
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On a Sunday afternoon picnic, Milton, North Dakota, 1904 : Mrs. John McCarthy and daughter Doris and friends.
Fred Hultstrand History in Pictures Collection, NDIRS-NDSU, Fargo.
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ngp:@field(NUMBER+@band(ndfahult+b480))

Playing croquet on Highland Farm..
F.A. Pazandak Photograph Collection, NDIRS-NDSU, Fargo.
The Northern Great Plains, 1880-1920: Photographs from the Fred Hultstrand and F.A. Pazandak Photograph Collections
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ngp:@field(NUMBER+@band(ndfapaza+050))

Proprietor of small grocery store weighing dried beans. Near New Iberia, Louisiana. This small grocery store was the center of the social life of the community.
America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fsaall:@field(NUMBER+@band(fsa+8b20762))
"Reading the Bulletin Boards, Chinatown, San Francisco, Calif."

Church social and luncheon, Bristol, Vermont.

Buffalo Hill, Aroostook County, Maine. Farm woman dishing out homemade wild strawberry ice cream, one of the refreshments served in the social period after Congregational church service in a one-room schoolhouse.

Holton Arms School. Tea party at Holton Arms School.

People outside Pazandak farm home.


Ole Myrvik wedding, Milton, North Dakota, 1894.
F.A. Pazandak Photograph Collections
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ngp:@field(NUMBER+@band(ndfahult+b437))

[Jack Binnes, wireless operator, using a telegraph machine at a desk].
DN-0054177, Chicago Daily News negatives collection, Chicago Historical Society
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Wife of ranch owner on party line phone. Quarter Circle 'U' Ranch, Montana.
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[Ms. McPherson talking on a telephone, sitting in front of a bed in a room].
Photographs from the Chicago Daily News, 1902-1933
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n084143))

[George Wallace, a boy, using a telephone].
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Photograph: Laptop on table with MySpace on screen.

Photograph: Cellphone

Photograph: Co-worker at table with laptop.