Sample recipe from Wild Berries of the West, by Margaret Fuller and Betty Derig

Blueberry Molasses Cake

This family recipe came to Margaret Fuller from her Grandmother Hanford. Auntie Morgan, the proprietess of a boardinghouse for young ladies in the 1890s in Middletown, New York, gave the recipe to Margaret's grandmother. In those days measurements were a little of this and a little of that. In the original recipe, ingredients were measured according to "the size of an egg." The modernized version follows.

1/2 cup sugar1 teaspoon ginger1 1/2 cups flour1 large egg, beaten1 teaspoon baking soda3/4 cup molasses1/8 teaspoon salt5 tablespoons shortening1 teaspoon cinnamon3/4 cup boiling water1/2 teaspoon cloves1 cup blueberries

Sift the dry ingredients into a mixing bowl. Add beaten egg and molasses. Mix until flour disappears. Dissolve shortening in boiling water. Add to batter and mix well. Fold in blueberries. Pour into lightly greased and floured 8-inch square cake pan and bake 40 minutes at 350 degrees.