

Whitman, Merton J. ; Collection
Memoirs
1946 (2)

FOLDER 2
BOX
COLLECTION 398

NO. OF ITEMS IN FOLDER: 59

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STAFF PERSON: AS

Ch. Chapter 2

My memories

Have forgotten just where I left
but think it was at the age of 21
When I was 21, Father gifted me
out with a \$10.00 suit of so
clothes and a \$12.00 Over coat
and I started out for myself
at \$17.00 per month. Father &
Milt had a quite a big Lumber
Job that winter had as high
as 24 men at one time. Father
went down to Boston in that
fall & and bought a pair of
horses 4 & 5 years old they
were the biggest pair of horses
that I ever drove. We started
to haul log right after New
Year. My skids had 10 ft
bunks & when the road was good

that was the ²nicest winter that
I ever worked I remember
one night's work that I did
mightily well we used to sprinkle
the road had a tank that
held 60 barrels of water and
there was one hill that we had
to go up that was quite steep
and we had to ice it in order
to haul the load up it, but
when we came down the
horse could not hold the
sligh back so but what
they would be on the men before
they got to the bottom of the
hill for always had a man
ahead so we could see where
to drive and as the horses
had to travel so far with
ever was carrying the lantern
would have got quite away

we would pile ²on every log that
would lay on. I have never saw any
a load of 30 logs we had a 2
mile haul & we made six trips
a day all most every day started
out may a morning at 5 o'clock
started at that time when it was
my turn to load first the always
loaded the first two team by torch
light the first team out would
get through early so that he
could take care of his team early
but the last man out would be
late get in & he would have to
work late to get his team taken
care of we used to curry & rub
the horses until they were dry and
some days when it would storm
that was no small job I hauled
logs for two months & a half &
I have worked in the woods a
good many winters but I think

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hill that I was scared out
of my wits for a few minutes
after we got this hill and the
road man was supposed to
keep the hill sanded so the
team could hold the load
back one morning I was the
first team out and the
night before it had snowed
about one half in and the road
man had not got on to the
job it was not day light yet
I got off the load & thought
I could make it with out
sand it myself as we had
to keep going in order to
make our trips so I got back
& started down the hill and
before I got to the bottom I was
going a mile a minute and
if one of the horse had made

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a head. One of the horses was
good to hold back & the other
one was not so good & the
man a head was far ahead
that I could not see very well
and they got out of the road
and I fell off of the tank
down behind the horses and
when the horse stopped I was
under the sleigh tongue roll
and on top of a small log
if the team had of went 7 ft
farther the beam of the
sleigh would of crushed me
to death we were a scared
bunch for a few minutes
they had to pry the front of
the sleigh up. Before I could
get out but I was not hurt
a bit only scared. I had
another occasion on that same

me he was about as big as Jimmy Cook & I never sawed with any one before that could ride a saw like he could, we just block the wood off as it was continual sawing in the after noon I was getting so tired that I stopped and look over Quinn & said Quinn let me see the bottoms of your boots & he said why do you think I am riding he saw I said I thought that I had ought to pull a little fellow like him if he did not have cork in his boot & he rode the saw harder than ever. The next day Less sawed with me & we sawed twice as much wood & I was not tired a

a misstep it would of killed them & me to. believe me after that if I came to that hell and it was not landed I ^{would} ~~could~~ of landed it my self. About the middle of Feb. I went to Au Sable & Deland settlement to visit my sister Kate stayed there a couple of days then went back to the plains & worked in the woods until the first of March then went to Springfield to work for Lere Champlin for eight months at \$18.00 per month. The first month our work was doing chows and cutting wood. The first day that I cut wood Less had a fellow by the name of Quimby Henderson to saw with.

Lesson put me to plowing the
that field + put Chas Bright
to drawing manure under the
Champlin was an old man then
about 71 or 72 and did no work
only to take care of a few worms
of bee & walk around the place
and allways thought that I
was a little God with a bell on.
The plow that I used was a very
light one could pick it up and
throw it around the stumps
with ease and was doing a
good job and under the
advised it and he went up
where Chas was drawing
manure and he told Charlie
by god meet he is stout and
it made Charlie mad and
when I came to the barn that
night Charlie told me about it

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bit. The first field work was
was picking ^{stone} we picked off
16 acres the piece had been plowed
once + fractured several years
lot of stumps on the piece but
had been fractured so long that
the root around the stumps were
pretty well rotted off there enough
stone so that when we got them
picked off we had a fence 800
long we put the large stone
in the bottom the bottom of
the fence was about three ft
wide and ~~was~~ we laid the
fence up drew the sides in
and when the fence was about
three ft high it would take
just a small stone for the
top so you can see that
there was some stone after
we got the stone picked off

we handle the wheat and oats
after it was cut entirely by hand
whether it was put in the barn
or stack no one threshed out
of the field and the threshing
machine at that time they
used the old straw carries
and it took from three to
seven men to take care of the
straw the machine was fed
by hand & they had to have
a man to cut the band on
the bundles and the grain
was measured up in two
boxes and let me tell you
that some times the man
was attending to those boxes
had to move, the power
was a steam engine they
use wood or coal for fuel
and they hauled the engine

and said by God I don't
suppose that it takes any strength
to draw manure its put in the
usual spring crop and when
the haying time came around
we put up the hay the tools
we had at that time was a
mowing machine & a pillky
rake & a hay fork in the barn
no hay loader side delivery or
hay slings they had never been
seen at that time neither
was there any manure spreader
in existence, the principle crop
at that time was wheat that
year was the first time that
I had ever seen a binder
they had been using them for
a couple of years. Lera had
one of the first binders to
come into Springfield

omitted

The tools that the farmer use were far different from the present day. The soil was plowed entirely with the plow & drag and a float or roller. The spring tooth drag had a wood frame. They had 16 tooth drag for two horses & a 24 tooth for three horses. The spring tooth drag had not been use only about 5 years at this time. Before that the drags they had was a 30 to 40 square drag made in two sections. The frame was of wood and the teeth were made of steel about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches square. Hand dragged many a day to and only dragged five acres per day, we used to leave half but with

from one ¹² place to the other with a pair of horses the crew that ^{was} with a threshing machine was one man to run the engine one man to draw water & two men to take care of the threshing machine. The men that took care of the threshing would change off one would feed for an hour or two & the other one would look after the separator as it was to hard work for any man to feed all of the time. They used to thresh just as much in those days, if not more, as they used to put in more hours. The grain being in the barn or stack could start the first thing in the morning. But it took a lot more help to run the machine

two shovels ^{16th} on it we called
them diggers in fact I took one
with me when we moved to
Au Gres & they were pretty good
at that time as they were light
and one could throw around
among the stump the only
trouble was when you struck
a root you were fast as there
was no spring to the teeth.
never saw a riding cultivator
at work until after we moved
to Au Gres there had been
some made but they had
not got them perfect
enough so that one could
steer them. Along the latter
part of Aug. of that year I
being my first year away from
home I began to get home sick
& it kept growing on me

but with the ^{14th} spring to the drag
we dragged much more as we
never laped only enough to
prevent making a balk the
frame being of wood they were
much lighter than the Drags
we now have and a team
could walk right along all
day. There was no laborers
on them to set them deep or
shallow just the weight of
the drag to make them dig.
I have dragged may a day
with three horses & a 2nd to the
bragge & dragged 20 acres per
day for cultivator to cultivate
the cultivated ^{crop} the best we
had was a five to the wood
frame cultivator & have
cultivated may a day with
a two legged cultivator with

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was no other road, only
Tote road, from there on
Will Lewis stay last night
& Mrs Deland had a small
piece cleared up. Their Gardens
were good & I dug some
potatoes on Mrs Deland & they
were the nicest potatoes I
had ever seen & have never
seen as nice ones since & I
made up my mind right
there & then that I want
some of that land. Made
arrangement with Mr. Deland
and contracted for the 60 acres
that is composed of Our
front forty & the one across
the road belonging to
Walter Penick now, was
to pay \$500 down & \$7800
& interest per year was to pay

and about the middle of
Sept I found a man to take
my place & went home. Uncle
Mr Champlin went with me
my folk built the new
house in the Plain that year
after I had been home a week
or so was sorry that I had
not stayed my time out
worked around helping father
and in Oct father & mother
Uncle Mr Champlin went
down to Au Gue to see Aunt
Mabel & Aunt Zella on this
trip we went straight through
Au Gue to the Bay (This was
the first time I had seen
a body of water that I could
not see across) follow the
Bay to the Turkey road
and went into the road, wood
at the Bessemer place there

except the work on any farm was that I broke up 18 acres of new land & broke up 4 acres of muck land & the last three days picked chickens with a felon on my right thumb and I can show the scar from that felon now. From there went back to the Plains to work for Father a little while when I arrived home I had a sick head ache & a sore thumb, that night was the first time that I ever saw your mother Elsie Herrington. When I was introduced to her ~~at~~ was so sick all I could say was am pleased to meet you. The next morning my thumb pained me so I could hardly stand it and Elsie

\$25.00 per acre & that was where the first fifty dollars that saved went to. After that visit went to work for Father in the cedar swamp I had charge of the crew had from four to six men all winter had one ox that we shidled the cedar out with we kept two teams. Hauling Telegraph poles & fence posts to the rail road six miles away two trips a day the fence posts at that time were worth 3¢ a piece delivered on the rail road with the bark on.

After the winter work was done went back to Springport & worked for Less Champlin 8 months at \$8.00 per month, the only thing about that summer -

would have to fill the coffee
 pot up with water so I took
 the coffee pot to the pump and
 filled up with cold water well
 that coffee was not very good
 started out long before day
 light when I got to Maple
 Ridge one of the wagon tires
 came off I unhitched the
 team & tied them to the fence
 fed the horses some oats and
 took ^{the} wheel to a black smith
 shop & had the tire set. when
 I got thing fixed up hitched
 up team & was on my way
 again. When I got about
 one half way between Ormer
 and Au Gres one of the
 horses had the belly ache
 and would lay down every
 little ways & roll just before

fired up a prairie for it just
 as she always did all of her
 life I thought she was a nice
 girl and good company but
 at that time she was no more
 to me than several girls that
 I knew. worked for Father a
 few days after my hand got so
 I could work took one of
 Father's teams & went to the Deland
 Settlement to put in some logs
 off from the land that I had
 bought that day was one to be
 remembered for ever got up at
 3 o'clock in the morning
 went to the barn & fed the
 team when I got in the house
 mother had been up and
 started my breakfast & was
 sick and had to go back to
 bed she told me that I

The next morning went and got the wagon + then Day + I went + got the wagon and that after noon we went and saw the lines across around the land I had bought and I found out that Mr. Pelland had showed me a lot of land that I did not buy thought that I had bought land with several large green pine trees on and found that I did not have any green pine trees there we went after the long Butte that the lumber had left we worked quite a while and did not find that had any thing in but shingle bolt & they were not worth cutting at that time but we did find several trees that had been

I got to Au Gres the horse got a little better & I got him through Au Gres with out his lying down they had the cross road past Mr. Masons place upon up as far as the E. J. Cole place and I follow an old Cole road across the Cole place & went in to the woods again at the Bessinger place no cut out road from there on in when I struck the road Old Charley was worse than ever & I left the wagon + drove the horses a foot could keep them going better that way when I got about half way through the woods Old Charley got all right & I arrived at Day - about nine o'clock

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to pay \$20⁰⁰ a ton for Hay for
the horses & by the grain for them
I paid day & 3⁰⁰ a week
for my board and my
money was all most gone and
Hay did not have any and he
~~he~~ expected every time he went
to town that they would shut
down on him at the store. Mr
Shelands found out what we
were going to do & he said he
had some logs on the river
that we ~~had~~ could drag in
so we tackled it he gave us
three dollars per m. for putting
them in it was the darrest
slashing that I ever got logs
out I got our horse moved
time after time we worked
a few days & gave it up
& we fix up the hand wheels

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cut down by the lumberman and
cut into 16 ft logs and left
laying and by cutting two ft
of from each end we had a
12 foot log they were just as
round as the day they were cut
down & averaged 7 ft and
I got \$1⁰⁰ per m. for them on
the river bank the bal- of the
log that I cut were mostly
Bass wood & Ash do not
remember just what I got
for them. The most of the
logs ^{that day} cut were Hemlock and
do not remember what he
got for his logs. The snow
did not come so we could
get any logs to the river. We
made up our minds that
I had better go home ^{and wait} until
some snow came we had

While I was down to the store
 cutting logs a fellow by the
 name of Joe Burlingame got
 shining around Elsie he was
 one of ~~the~~ those fellows that
 when ^{he} got to going with a girl
 that he was very attentive they
 said he was there all night
 every night. Joe had tried
 to play a trick on me about a
 year before this I had been
 out one Sunday night to see
 a girl that I had been going over
 for a couple of years by the
 name of Clara Vaughn
 every one went a foot then
 days on such occasions and
 when I came home had to
 go over a narrow foot path
 with water on both sides of the
 path & Joe & a couple ~~had~~

put a box ⁱⁿ on the rear axle
 and a trunge ^{it} and I started
 for the Plain. I did not have
 money enough to get the horses
 shod & the road were very
 slippery there was one hill that
 I went down through Maple
 Ridge that the horses stiffened
 there legs and slid from top
 to the bottom. After I got into
 Ogema to a little ways found
 plenty of snow & when I got
 home found out that our
 folk had been hauling logs
 to the main stream of the
 Kipler river about a six mile
 haul and I went to hauling
 logs with the team that I
 had Father did not have much
 of a crew that ^{consider} we had to
 unload the logs ourselves

sleighing riding + I thought it was a good time to get even with Joe as before Joe got into the house I was out went to the barn + got Geo Lock a fellow that had been working for father a long time. Joe drove his old mare up by the front porch + did not hitch her at all the horse was checked up with an over check + we unwhitish the tugs + unbreckled the belly band + went around the side of the house to see the fun. When Joe + Elsie came out of the house Joe help Elsie in to the cutter tucked the blanket in nice + pick up the lines + said get up. But well all old Kit could do was to pull up her head as she

of other boys stretch a wire across the path + then crawled into the hay mow to see the fun. Well when I came home I just ticked my toe on this wire it did not even throw me off my balance and the boys went to sleep and did not even hear me when I came home one of the boys was working for us + he told me about. One night I got home late from work the rest had their supper + I was eating my supper + Elsie stood in sitting ^{room} door talking to me I heard a set of sleigh bells and they drove right up to our front door + Elsie flew for her room then I knew what was up. Knew that Joe had come to take Elsie

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Am Bros, so took the team and a
pair of sleighs and we to Am Bros
to put in the logs there was a
log road from my place across
Mr. Sheland the Knight John
Webster place & the Spence place
to the river. After we got the logs
in we had to find a buyer & say
about Mr. E. J. Cole bought logs
so we went to town to sell the
logs Mr. Cole was out at
home so we left word and in
a couple of days got word that
Mr. Cole would be at the banking
ground on a certain day we
went down to the river and
waited until all most dark
& when he came he had the
Preacher with him the first
thing that he wanted to know
was how many logs we would
donate to the church as they

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had to pull the cutter by the
over check if she pulled ^{out} at all
he spoke to her & old Kit
did the same thing again
then Joe said Whoa when
something must be the matter
we stood where we could see
the whole thing and pretty
burst our sides laughing
Elaine said she never saw
a madder fellow her life
A short time after that
there was a teachers institute
at West Branch & Joe the
poor fellow took her out the
Branch but ^{fair} made arrangements
with Geo Leek to come after
her & that was ^{the end} of poor Joe
& I had got even and more
to get word from Hay that
they had sleighing down at

I got home got a letter wanting to hire me for the next summer offering \$18.75 per month and as that 75 cents was a big raise ~~accepting~~ accepted the offer + went down there and worked for ~~father~~ them for eight months there nothing out of the common farm work only for the first two or three weeks during that that time had no regular job only doing chores and if we used a team it would be first one team + then another + I thought that I was not going to like it there as I liked to work what ever team I ~~liked~~ worked all of the time. One day Jera Miller came to Crawford

were getting ready to build a church we told him that we were not interested then he wanted to know how much we wanted well of course he got the logs at his own price as we had to sell we had to wait until the scaler came which was a day or two then we had to go to An Greer to get our pay after this was all done was ready to go home Aunt Ell was down there visiting Aunt Kate + Zell and she went home with me going home I got on the wrong road never knew just where I was as it was all wood then but kept going and came all right at Manassas Creek, I think I went through the Melita country soon after

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like the devil and work
them accordingly, and gave
me the best team in the
barn & I worked that team
as long as I worked there
they had seven horses it
was my job to feed those
seven horses clean the stable
~~horses~~ harness my own
team and clean off as many
more as I could did not
hardly go to the other barns
after that if any of the
other men came into the
barn at noon or any other
time & they should want
to feed their team grain
they would ask me what
to ~~to~~ feed. that was the
system that they had
as long as I was there.

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and came along where I
was drawing manure and he
asked me what team I
was going to work & I said
God Dam if I know I have
worked every horse on the place
so far & Etta was out of
doorn and I think she heard
what I said any how the
next day Ora said we will
soon get things straightened
then we will know what
team will be yours up to
this time they had kept
me at the Sheep barn
mostly as it was lambing
time two or three days after
Ward Allen took me to
the horse barn and said
to me Merton there is the
horse & there is the Oat bin
I want you to feed them

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apart & she came rushing
toward us with both hands
stretched and shook hands with
us both at the same time
Elaine & I walked around town
& Father went in to a store
near where we met and
the store keeper said to
Father that was as fine a
welcome as I ever saw any
one get and it must of
impressed me & as I thought
she was a might fine woman
for ever after that. Father bought
a horse of Less Champlin and
Art Waite rode this horse from
Springport to our place on the
plains and as Art knew Ciel
brook I took him over to see
Ciel brook that was where
Elaine was boarding. When
Less Champlin was buried

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After my time was out went
back to Ogema Co & worked
for Father that winter think
that was the winter that we
did not have much snow
and I drew Telegraph Poles
all winter on the wagon had
to unload them alone it was
not hard to unload them
only the three or four ^{me the father} drew
a ^{a lot} quite of Poles 48 & 75 ft
long & when those long Poles
were in the bottom of the load
had to lift many times until
I could see stars. After I
had been home a couple
of week Father & I went to
West Branch & Elaine was
teaching school at Selkirk
and she was out to the Branch
the same day & when she
saw us we were about 10 rods

on the Plains Janet went home the next day after Xmas and Elsie stayed until Sunday and I was to take her back to Red Rock. To go by the way of West Branch it was over 20 miles but to go up the Rifle River it was about 10 miles so we decided to take the River road either way had to travel about 10 miles of Jote road. We had to take the lumber wagon & had to take an ax along to cut out any logs that would fall across the road in fact if we went any where at any time as long as I live on the Plains always took an ax along because one never knew when he would find a log across the road. I worked a half a day to fix

Art told Eva about the trip right before me. He told Eva that we went over there with a horse & cart that Elsie Art & I all rode in that cart & that it was the damnest road he ever saw but he lied but did not say any thing it was not a cart at all it was a buggy & Elsie did not ride with us at all but the roads were just as he said they ^{were} but I thought nothing of them as I had been used to them for seven years. At Xmas time mother got up a good Xmas dinner and invited Janet Swift she was teaching in West Branch & had taught on the Plains & board with mother and invited Elsie she was teaching at Selkirk. They both came and we had a good Xmas there.

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kept blowing harder & harder
and I did not get more than
a mile on my return trip before
I found a log across the road
it was so dark that I could
not see to cut the log out did
not know just what to do
and the trees were falling in
every direction finally made
up ~~my~~ my mind to try
and see if the horses could get
over it & pulled ^{the} wagon over it
so I put the whip to them and
then went over it & never stopped
if they had of stopped they
could never of drawn the
wagon over as the log was so
high up from the ground. The
team was a heavy team but
believe me they went just
as fast I could make them

a spring seat and ^{the} damned thing
broke before we got ⁷ four miles
we cross the River where the old
Ford was then follow the State
Road up the River to Ad. Brock
this Road came out right at Ad.
on the State Road there was
not a house on the road until
we got to within one half mile of
Ad. and the most of the way it
dry pine trees that had been killed
by fire had to seat out one log
about 18 inch. through after we
got part way through the
wind commenced to blow and
the pine trees were falling in
every direction it was almost
dark when we got to Ad. and
we were afraid that the road
would get so filled up that I
could not get through so
I went right back the wind

I took the horse & saddle and went over to see Elsie went by the way of West Branch & when I came back it was pitch dark from West Branch to the Plain. it was just a dirt road with only 3 or 4 families the whole distance of nine miles had a strip of ~~forest~~ hemlock woods to go through about two miles through and it was so dark through those woods that I could not see my hands before me. A while after that got a letter from Elsie saying that she was sick and was going home and would like to see me and that she would be at the Abbot Hotel I made up my mind that she was thinking along the same line ^{as I} so I went out on the night that she

go until I got out of that dry timber many a tree fell with in one reel of the road but the one tree was all that happened to fall in the road my hair stood on end the whole distance with all of the time that I had stayed at Ad Brock but knew if I did not get back that Mother would worry her head off she was just as bad & worry at such times as I was. Elsie said she was worried to death all night. Ad Brock went to West Branch the next day and there happened to be some one out from the Plain and he found out that I got home all right, a couple of weeks or some where near that time there came a fall of snow and

^{#6}
let the old folks take a look
at me as she told me after
wards that one girl from Fenton
that went up north to teach
and married a fellow up there
and when he came to Fenton
had his front legs tucked in
in his boot tops. When it
came time for me to go to
Springport as I had hired
out to Crawford for the unheard
of price of \$2.50 per month
went that way to see her
when I got off the train there
was no one there to meet me
I stood around the depot
until every one else was gone
and began to think that I
was on a wild goose chase and
was thinking of going to
the hotel and put up for the
night just at that time

^{#5-}
said she would go to the Branch
went to the Hotel and enquired
for her as she had left word
that she was at Mrs Abbot
house. Went over there and
she had a high fever did not
look as though she had ought
to be out of bed. He went back
to the Hotel & the sitting room
did not have any fire in it
in a few minutes they had
built a fire and we had the
room to our selves, after a
while I got up nerve enough to
prop. the question she only
gave me a partial promise
said she would write me and
let me know & when I
got the letter she still wanted
to wait until I came down
before she gave me my answer
always thought she wanted to

he was a married man about 10 years older than I was and a good man to but I was getting 2 1/2 a month more than he was and had a better team than he did + to for some reason or other when we were sent out to mowing pieces of work they always gave one instruction what to do I was sort of a straw boss I had no trouble with him myself in fact I think he like me, One night about 3 O'clock he was a plowing and left the team standing and they ran away, the next morning after breakfast Allen went out on the porch to wash his teeth as he always did as we went down the path towards the barn Allen said to have push them old horses along so

saw a man coming walking pretty fast and stepped up to me and asked me my name and he was Elsie's Father and Elsie was in Pontiac writing at a teachers ~~examination~~ examination and would not be home until evening I was pretty well dressed and guess that I made a pretty good impression on the old folks any how they both of them flew around to ~~pick~~ pick them selves up and the house until Elsie got home from Pontiac, Before I left I had my promise, went on to Springfield + worked that season not much out of the ordinary happened except the ~~several~~ several of the other hired men

that he would just as much
 work as most did Allen told
 him that I was earning
 more money than he was
 said to him most is down to
 the barn helping us the with
 the sheep night after night
 when you are in the house toasting
 your skins & they kept after it
 until I gave quit right there all
 I cared about it was that I
 felt that Dave was jealous of
 me & it was no fault of mine,
 Vin Bates was working for
 Otta that summer it was the
 summer before Bessie was
 born and about three week
 before Bess was born they
 hired an elderly lady to help
 with the work & to take care
 of Otta when the Baby came

they will not run away about
 five o'clock tonight Allen came
 in the house laughing I
 was getting a couple of pail of
 milk ready to feed the calves
 when I went down to the barn
 Dave said to me what did
 the old man mean and I
 said I guess he was just
 joking any how he came
 back in house laughing when
 Allen went down to the barn
 Dave took it up and asked
 Allen what he meant Allen
 said I ~~just~~ meant just
 what I said & they went
 at it hammer & tong. Dave
 told Allen that they were giving
 me more wages than he was
 getting & that I had the best
 team but if he would give him
 a new pair of lines & a whip

5-2

not got out of sight of the house before Vin let the cal out of the bag & we all had great sport about it all of the week When Allen came home he stopped in Baton Rapids to his son Mill and Ose and Etta & Nellie went down to the Rapids to get him Nellie was about 5 or 6 years old they said as soon as they got sit down that Allen took Nellie on his lap and asked her if any body had been to Grand Pa house while he was gone and ^{she} said no and he said now you just think and see if there is not some body to Grand Pa house & Nell said no not even the school teacher

5-1

this lady was a good cook & Etta had her take charge of the cooking & that created trouble and I had to take an ear full from both sides when ever I would happen to meet them when the other one was not around I did not want to take sides in the matter and it got to be quite monotonous. And that was the summer that Allen commenced to skine around the school teacher, she was about 24 & he about 60 he went away one time was gone about a week & before he went away told Vin that that Miss King would be in some time to look over the house and wanted Vin to show her over the house, he had

5-4
own the house and they
looked the house over from
cellar to garret he kept
talking her this place &
that and I think that he
was beginning to give it
up as a lost cause any how
that fall he & I were picking
up corn & he said to me
next they say there is no
fool like an old but I
am discontented and am
going to get married and
I am not going to marry
no old broken down woman
either. He said if I would
marry the woman that the
kids want one to could
get married before to-morrow
morning and I think I
could get Miss King if
there was not so much

5-3
came. They said that Allen
face was as red as a beet
A while after that one night
I noticed that he was flying
around to get his chores done
up got through quite a bit
before the rest of us did and
when we went in the house he
was all slicked up we did not
know what was up we
had just got settled down
and in walked Hall Gillett
& his wife & Miss King and
believe me he did every
thing a man could do to
entertain Miss King as
they were getting ready to
go home Allen jumped up
and said it has been a
long time since we have
shown any one over the
house would ^{you} like to look

did not lose a day that
 season or draw a cent of
 my wages until my time
 was up. This was in the summer
 of 1890 went home that fall
 expecting to get married the
 next June. Halted a lot of
 telegraph poles + fence posts
 to the rail road for Father
 and during the winter went
 to Bu. Gus and bought some
 lumber at the mill on the
 old Whitney mill site + drew
 it out to Hill Davis to build
 a house the next spring. In
 April was taken sick with
 what they called Russian
 Grip. Father Shim Goul and
 I were all taken sick the same
 day Mother had been sick
 before and was just getting

difference in our ages did
 not hear any thing more
 about it until my time was
 out + I went home. After I
 had been home a couple of
 weeks got a letter from
 Allen stating that Mr + Mrs
 Allen Brauford would be
 home + such + such a time.
 Every one thought that
 he was crazy but could
 not of got a better wife for him
 if he had of hunted the
 world over his children did
 not like it for quite a
 while but they all liked
 her after wards + every one
 liked her + do to this day

5-8

had a lot of hay to put up
and they were looking for a
fourman to run there haying
crew. Ad. Mock recommended
me to them & I went out to
West Branch to look after
the job but before I went
to see them went to the P. O.
to get the mail (He had no
rural delivery then,) and I
got a letter from Crawford
wanting me to come and help
them in haying & harvest
they offered me \$26⁰⁰ a month
or \$1⁰⁰ a day for common work
and \$1⁵⁰ per day for haying
& harvest so I did not go to
see the Bank & I knew that
Crawford offer was better than
the Bank would pay. I took
the offer by the day did not
lose a bit of time worked

5-7

over it when we were taken down
we were mighty sick all of the
neighbors were sick to there was
48 hrs that there was no one
to feed the stock Ell, Mabel,
& Bill all came home & they
had their hands full had to
put a flax seed poultice on
each of us every half hour there
was days that they did not think
that Father would live when
Shim Gord & I got out we
looked like walking skeletons
After I got strong enough went
to Tenton to see Elsie & as my
sickness had used up my
money we decided not to get
married until fall Shim
Gord & I picked what Telegrapher
poles we had got out the winter
before it took us until about
June The Bank in West Branch

worked until the latter part of Aug. Went home and worked at odd jobs one job I remember was that I lathed the floor in in Mills upstairs and ciled up the side walls it was the only job of Carpenter work that I ever did & I did not do a very nice job but I got \$1.00 a day for doing it this was in the summer of 1891 that fall I shoveled clay to cover the West Branch race track the men that had the job run the West Branch Hotel and I boarded there when we got the track all clayed they turned off all of the rest of the crew & furnished me with a team and had one drive over the track several days with a float and when I had the

floating most done they
 called me in to the Office &
 wanted to hire me to take care
 of the feed barn & said that
 they might want me to
 tend Bar some but I did
 not want the job I
 mention this to show that
 my labor was in demand
 that was ^{the last} work that I did
 before I was married

I was married to Elsie M.
 Herrington Oct 3 1891 at
 Fenton, went to Fenton Quonard
 that night stayed at a
 Hotel expecting to go on to
 West Branch & the next day
 when we got up the next
 morning Elsie said to me
 had you not ought to find
 out what time the train

a quite a sum of money under my pillow and kept thinking about that robbery after I got to sleep woke up and thought that could hear some one coming at the window woke Elsie up, and we finally made up our minds that I had heard the ones. The West Branch fair was on at that time and our folks looked for us all of that day but they all came out the next day we went direct to the fair grounds brother got sight of us first she was sitting on the top of the Grand Stand she soon got out of that Grand Stand and came where we were and she brought a girl with her by the name of Ethel Smith. I knew the girl quite well but when I went to introduce her

leaves and I said we have plenty of time (I had been going over that sail road a couple of times a year and thought that I knew all about it) after we got our breakfast went and asked the clerk what time the train left he said the train had gone and would not be another one until midnight well Elsie Uncle Jim lived in Quosod some where but she did not just where we hunted around and found where he lived and went there and stayed until the train came, he had hardly got into bed and the damned bed broke down and of course they had some fun with us there had been a house robbed a few nights before and had

into the woods ⁶⁴ at the Beasinger
place. Right opposite of the
Oscar Reichle place there was some
corduroy and we broke one of the
Springs to the buggy. They
had the road opened up as far
as the North Kepp place only at
that time the road was on the
1/8 line instead of the Section
line there was 3/4 of a mile of
corduroy with out one bit of dirt
on it. Elsie & I walked across the
Corduroy. & Father & Mother rode
in the buggy that 3/4 mile
was through a black ash
swamp. At this time Mr. Helms
Mrs. Davis Day Corbright, J.
Gouffith Bob Peak L. Edgeman
and George Peterborn were living
in the N. part of the settlement
and Cal. Hall Mrs. Lincoln
and Joe Sibley were living in

63

& Elsie I'll be damned if I could
think of her name & of course
the joke was on me. (While
I was working for Crawford
that summer made a
bargain with them to work
120 acres of their land and
went there instead of going
to Au Gres as we had intended
to and was going to let the
money that I had paid in
on the land go.) He stayed
with Father & Mother a couple of
days. Then we hired a
platform double buggy and
Father & Mother & Elsie & I
went to Au Gres to see Matt
& Zell on our Honeymoon.
We went straight through Au Gres
to the Bay shore and up the
Donkey Road to where the German
Church now stands at west

potatoes. Then we went to
 Springfield. Mr. Crawford did
 not have the house ready for us
 so we stayed with Ell until the
 house was ready and I husked
 corn for Crawford at $2\frac{3}{4}$ cents per
 bu did not husk steady but
 finished up on Xmas day and
 it was nice and warm that day
 along about Dec. 1st the house
 was ready and we went to
 Baton Rapids and bought a
 bed room suite & chairs a
 rocking chair ^{and a ten foot table} a stove and
 cooking utensils and the whole
 outfit cost us about \$100-
 Bought dressed pork for \$4.50
 per 100 weight and potatoes for
 20¢ per bu and 20¢ each (8¢)
 In the winter of 1882 had a flock
 of sheep of about 50 to take
 care of for Mr Crawford on

the south part. Father got a
 piece of plank and put in
 the place of the spring that
 we broke we could ride in the
 buggy all right but there was
 not much spring to that plank
 He hitched up and went over to the
 Hamish fishery it was nothing
 but a trail down the South road
 then turned in to the plains
 opposite of what is now the Sims
 Ranch When we started back for
 the plains Mother was not feeling
 well so Will Davis hitched his
 Open up to a dray and put a
 bed on it and hauled Mother
 across the cordway when we
 got back to the Plains stayed
 there for a few days & then
 went to Fenton and stayed a
 bout a week picked some apples
 and helped take care of the

⁶⁸
furnished us with a flock of
chickens two brood cows and
a flock of 50 sheep & we were
started as our own boss we
had about 100 acres of plow
land beside 20 acres that we
could pasture the most of at
living cost were not so very
high so the chickens and
the two cows pretty near pay
our expenses then in June
we had the wool to sell we
also reared the ewels & in
the fall had the lambs to
sell they sold for \$3 or a
head & we also had the
hog to sell & the sold for
\$3.25 per 100 weight we also had
some hay to sell & that sold
for \$6.25 per ton loose at the
barn or stack our main crop
was wheat but of course

⁶⁷
the plan that we were agreeing
to work, put in the winter for
myself cutting wood on shares
gave 1/2 of the wood for our
summer fuel and Chas Bright
and I cut 50 cord of wood for
Living Wheeler that we got 40 cts
a cord for cutting we made \$1.00
per day at that job and we thought
it a pretty good job as there was
plenty of young men that were
doing chores for their board.
The first of April Mr Crawford
furnished me with a good pair
of horses plow & drags and other
tools that we had in those days
to work land with two cows
at that time was not ~~common~~
considered much as butter
only sold from 10 cts to 18 cts
per pound that was before there
was any creamery so also

70
so we made a yoke to go across
our shoulders. I want to state
right here that for 13 yrs after
we were married that in the
summer time I never took
any mowing and after we got
to Deland did not take any
mowing summer or winter
and so end 1892. ~~Now~~ During
the winter of 1893 had a pretty
easy time all I had to do was to
do was the few chores & to cut
what wood we wanted burn on
stoves and Day Bought and
I cut 50 cords of stove wood
at 70 cts per cord In the summer
time put in the usual farm
crops again all of the help that
I had was in haying & to stack
the grain shocked and cut the
grain my self we handled
the hay all with the fork both

had no wheat to sell in fact
did not sell only one load of
wheat during the whole time I
was on the place held it until
the last fall I was there as the
price was so low sold the one
load to make room for 75 cts
per bu. as I had no harvest that
year only the Oats worked for
Crawford during wheat harvest
all the help I hired was in
haying & to draw the Oats.
I paid \$1.50 per day hired Chas
Bright a man I had worked
with at Lena Champlin and
he was of the old type ready
to work just as early or late
as you wanted him to. The house
that we lived in was about 20 rods
from the barn and when the
jugs were at the barn it was
along way to carry the milk

To stack straw we were
 threshing for one of the neighbors
 there was two men in the crew
 that had stacked straw a lot
 and they refused to stack for
 this neighbor & he came to
 me and wanted me to stack
 the straw and I told him
 that I had never stacked
 straw and I had not at
 that time & he said by
 Jimminy you can stack hay
 and you can stack straw and
 I told him I would try it
 When the thresher got ready
 to start the Boss of the
 threshing crew said to me
 Now we are ready to start
 climb on the wheel stack
 it had been my job for several
 years to place the bundles on the
 table they feed the machines those

in the barn & stack had three
 stacks of hay besides filling
 the barn we also cut three stacks
 of clover seed that year they were
 not large stack any of them
 about 6 or 7 tons to the stack was
 not so lucky that year about
 our help paid the same wages
 as the year before he was a pain
 in the neck all of the time and
 if I wanted him to work ten
 minutes after six o'clock had
 to pay him 15 cts per hour and
 that was when the over time
 started and we have had to
 pay it to some every since but
 not to every one have had several
 men since that if it was necessary
 to work late to secure a crop
 were willing to work as late
 as I did this summer was
 the summer that I started

to his place he ~~put~~ put me
to stacking straw and the cat
was out of the bag & I stacked
straw where ever I went for
3rd years. This was the year
to that Father & Mother left
the Plains they came to our
place and stayed with us
until their house hold ^{gotten} covered
they rented a house about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
from us and Shim worked for
Less Champlin & Ford worked
for Pat Champlin that summer
The winter of 1894 got a chance
to get my years work of Iverin
skedder by cutting the under
bush was the best chance we
had to get our work while I
was in Springfield and after
the 1st of Jan 1895 worked for
Ore Crawford getting out a

days by hand and the thrasher
liked to have ^{them} put on the table
in good shape, I told him
that I had got to stack the
straw he ^{said} that is a hell of
a note to put a good bundle
pitcher to stacking straw but
I stacked the straw and I
put up a beauty and after that
where ever I went it was stack
straw they even tried to get
me to go up on the London
farm to stack straw offered
me \$2.50 per day but I would
not go after I went to Heland
the first to job I told them
that I could not stack straw
but when the machine got to
Still Darwin he had been out
at Springfield one year and
had seen me stack straw
so when he the machine got

76
of the time for Ora Crawford
miped all of the mud off for
the barn wall and worked around
that barn more than one half of
the time worked for him in
haying & had 2+ acres of wheat
to cut of my own did all of the
cutting and shocking myself
had to hire help to draw it
Took a job of cutting 12 acres
of corn of Clarence Lamburn
at 65 cts per acre made \$4.35 per
day at that job then I took
the job of husking this same
piece of corn to husk by the Bu
at 23/4 cts per bu & board my
self but did not husk much
as I did not like the way
that he measured the corn he
look pretty near a bu and a
half for a bu did not say any
thing to him just told him

75
barn frame got 30 cts per day
Good came and did our chore
& went to school what I did
was to skid this timber together
they put a portable saw mill
in the woods just to cut out this
barn fram it was a large barn
and many long heavy logs
there was very few that knew
how to handle such heavy logs
that was the reason that I got
such big wages if it had been
common work they could of
got plenty of help in the winter for
their board In the spring of
1895 we left the farm &
moved in with Mill & Cooper
as he had lost his mother the
the year before & wanted some
one to keep house for him Elsie
kept house for him and I
worked by the day worked most

48
sold it and put the money
in my pocket when I took
the place. was to leave as much
hay + grain as he furnished me
to start with after I had sold
my share of the hay in the
stack told him that I wished
that he would come over and
decide how much hay he
wanted left so that I could
sell my share that was in the
barn when he came over he
wanted to know what I
meant I told and he said I
want my share of the money
for what you have sold. that
was the way that we had
always done instead of dividing
the crop we would divide the
money. I told him that I
would not give up the money
as I was going away and needed

that I had ⁷⁷ got to get ready to
~~move~~ move north would of
hustled it all if he had of
given me an honest Bu. Bought
a two year old colt and broke
him to the harness this was
the first horse that I ever owned
paid \$7.00 for this horse also
bought a new Stud Baker wagon
top box + neck yoke + whiffletree
complete for \$72.50 drew away
over 600 bu of wheat sold the
wheat for 60 cts per bu. sold
what hay that I had drew it
to Springfield for \$6.00 per ton
it was at this time that I
had all of the trouble that
I was had with Allen Crawford
all of the time that I was there
we had three stacks of hay
that were just exactly a like
I found out for some hay and

80
a little ahead of my story and
will put it in here I do this to show
what labor was worth at that time
and also to show what farm
produce was worth. When Mr
Browford found out I was going
south he wanted me to work
the place that summer I told
him that did not want to as
I would have to come back to
harvest the wheat the next
summer then he wanted to
hire to me and I offered to work
for \$26.00 a month and he would
not give it but I made \$26.00
a month that summer working
by the day I only had 12 days
that I did not have work
we got thing in shape and
Erie & I went to Trenton for a
few day visit with her father
and mother and Ray and

the money he said that you
were to market the stuff were
you not and said yes you
find the market & I will market
it. there was not much sale
for hay but I had found
sale for all that I had with
Mr Dale of Springfield he had
a bunch of race horses he said
I can sell hay to Mr Dale just
as well as you I said all right
but I beat him to it and went
to Springfield and saw Mr Dale
and told him what was up
he said all right I will buy
your hay and that will be all
I want and Mr Browford can
not sell me any hay we
finally got the matter fixed
up & Mr Browford hauled it to
the home place and used it up
on the farm I have got

I stayed in Fenton about a week
and Blue stayed two or three weeks
we had made arrangements
with Lay that we would go
to Standish so as to be there
when when he arrived with our
set of goods got there the night
before and stayed all night and
that morning saw some
thing that I will never forget
as long as I live the Bar and
the snow waiting room was
all in one room and along about
nine O'clock for about one half
hour there was no one in the
room but the BarTender and
myself and the BarTender
got out in the middle of the
room and said Christ it is
quite here and commenced
to dance and sing to the top of

Mull Cooper hauled our belongs
to Eater Rapids to ship it north
we bought oats to take with
us at 20 cts per bu and potatoes
were only 20 cts a bu there was
hundreds of bu of potatoes that
were never taken out of the pit
the next spring as there was
no sale what ever for them
Well now I am on my way
to the DeCham settlement and
will describe that trip in my
next chapter.

finally set down & he was
there yet when I left

Day came about eleven o'clock
we unloaded the horses and
wagon and buggy and loaded
up what we thought we could
haul this was before there was
any rail road through Orme
they had the right of way
partly cut out for the rail
road at that time every
thing that went to Au Saus
had to be hauled from
Standish except what came
by boat in the summer time
there was not a bit of frost
in the ground and where
it was sandy the sand was
very deep as there was so much
teaming at that time and
through the Au Saus swamp.

of his voice ⁸³ and it was not
ten minutes before that room
was full and the Bar was
lined with men One man came
in and stood by the stove
and they commenced to coax
him to come and have a drink
he kept refusing to drink
and finally he said let me
get out of here I have been
drunk for a month and
whirled and went out as
quick as he could another
fellow came in with a pair
of children shoes under his
arm & they got him up to
the Bar & he took a couple
of drinks then they wanted
him to play cards and he
said no he had got to take
those shoes right home they
kept coaxing him until he

they had the road surveyed and
 cut out in spots but you could
 not see down that road much
 past Mr. Heland's house. We
 landed at Hill Davis about 7 o'clock
 Nov 23 1893. The next morning
 we took our team and Hill Davis's
 team and a team that L.
 Griffith had and started after
 the rest of our goods. When we
 got as far as the Bessinger
 place it commenced to snow
 and snowed all day long. We
 got loaded up and got back
 as far as Ormer that night and
 stayed there that night. John
 Lewis drove the Lewis team and
 Guy Griffith drove the Griffith.
 When we got up in the morning
 the snow had turned to a
 slush during the night and
 formed a crust on the snow

It was very muddy, at this
 time ~~that~~ they ^{had} the road cut
 across by Mr. Mason place to
 the Turkey road and we
 went that way and went into
 the woods at the Bessinger
 place. We followed the Turkey
 road through the wood and
 struck the corduroy at east 1/8
 line on the east side of the
 Harry Bendred place that went
 north 80 there we struck the
 Heland road and had 1/2 mile
 of corduroy that ^{road} was cut out
 about 1 1/2 rods wide and was
 through a black ash swamp
 and not one bit of dirt on it
 the whole distance from there
 to our west line. The road
 was cut out two or three rods
 wide down the south road

Geo McKnight Billy Cole Alex
Landrie Sam Amos Peter Sibley
Manville Cal Hale Joe Sibley
Wm Lincoln Mrs Roberts Frank
Matt Wm Hurser Old Abe Badon
Geo. Smith Billy Freeman
The Townshipp Officers were for
Supervisor B. Brooks Clerk
B. R. Smith Highway Commissioners
Wm Lincoln, Mr. Deland was
away from there at that time
and Othas Pendred was in
England He decided to build
Day house and live together
until spring He cleared off a
piece of ground and cut the log
for the house and then made
a bee to roll up the house some
of the neighbor I had never seen
before. It took us about 2 mo-
to build the house We kept over

but it had 88 stopped snowing
We started out and had to break the
road all of the way to Au Gres
the stage did not even go out
that day there was not a bit
of frost in the ground and
where it was sand the wagon
would cut threw the snow and
in the sand and where it was
not sand it was mud and
it clogged the teams very bad
we would put first one team &
then another ahead we arrived at
Mr Davis after dark with three
very tired teams it had taken
from early in the morning to
after dark to make the trip
The settlers in Twp 20 at that
time were Wm Davis Geo
Frey Albert Stroutenburg Ike
Burger L. Griffith Mrs Bone
Webster B. R. Smith

had a meeting and made the change. This was my first official duties in Whitney Sup.

After we got the house built we worked ten days on the Bond road that was what they called it at that time it commenced at the corner where the school house now is ran east one mile N one half mile then east one half mile then N one mile the east to Saganaw Bay They cut the right of way out 12 feet wide on one side of the line then dug a ditch one rod from the line all with shovels and spread the dirt around with a shovel to make a road when we commenced to work they were along by Miss Jentzi place and when we got along by Paul Edmonds house

was in Hill Davis stable all winter. When we had the house about half done B. R. Smith served notice on me that I had been appointed to the Office of School Inspector. The duties of that office was to form the boundaries of the several school districts and make out the financial reports to the State we do not have that office any more I wonder at the time why they should appoint one a new man as I just gained my residence I soon found out the boys down the south road were in the Point Look Out district and they wanted to set over into the Deland district and by appointing me they would have a majority on the board in a few days we

so we could work. He sent all of us that had rubber boots to cut the logs out and I was one of them in cutting the logs out the water would splash all over us and we were as wet as drowned rats all of the time and after we had the logs cut out it did not take ^{the} water down one bit. so we went over to the S. E. corner of the sighty and commenced to cut out the road again and on that corner I saw Mr Robert come as near to have a tree fall on him as any one could. they were grubbing out a Juniper tree by the roots and it was hard to tell which way that it would fall. when it was ready to fall the men that were working on the tree gave the warning and Bill ran the wrong way

we had so much water that we could not work you see there was no drain any where to take the surplus water away Mr. Lincoln found a large hollow cedar log and we dug an opening across the road to the north and that took the water away so we could work all right until we got to the corner and as far north to where the ditch now goes east across Bert Rainsberger place from there north the water was foot deep just to the south of where the bridge is that ^{goes} over to the sighty there was a strip about one rod wide that you could see that the water was running away to the north that Mr. Lincoln thought if the logs were cut out of this channel that it would take the water away

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school house and we got the
supplies of our lives. The little
bunch of kids put on as much
a program as I ever saw we
went down with the horses and
wagon and it was so muddy
that it was all that the horses
could do to pull the wagon with
five or six of us in the wagon.
Shortly after Xmas it froze up
and I say I got a job of putting
some cedar paving over to the
Whitney mill dock got it from
Mr. A. Wheeler on the S.W. forty
that Bert Rainsberger now has
the cedar had to be perfectly
sound and it was a slow
job but there was so little during
that winter that one had to
take what he could get what
little they did hire that winter
they only paid \$15.00 per month

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and ran right in the same
direction as the tree was falling
never saw a man run as fast
in life we were all scared. We
grated out the right of way over
as far as the Harmon City road
then they stoped the road job
some were pretty mad I remember
Tom Webster saying that they had
stoped the only way that some
of them had of getting a sack of
flour I told him that as far
as I was concerned that I did
not want the Public to furnish
me away to get a sack of
flour. The most of them thought
that it had ought to of been
stoped long before it was
This was about Xmas time and
it was very muddy. The school
had a Xmas entertainment at

money would get a few dollars at a time and never got all of it this S. G. M. Gates failure came mighty near busting E. G. Cole & as he had bought a lot of logs for Gates & had to wait for his pay the same as we did. When we moved there ^{the} settlement was in an up roar over the book of Mormon and the Latter day Saints were holding meetings Tom Webster had just finished a series of debates with the Saint's Preachers by the name of David Smith and Day & Bell & Elsie & I thought that they were pretty hard on the Saints and thought that we would be neutral so one Sunday night the four of us went the Saint's meeting

we hauled the cedar with the bark on and had to go over and peel it in the spring. He put in some logs off from my place for the Bal of the winter Mr. Cole was buying logs but would not pay any ~~cash~~ cash and Day did not have any money and we both had to buy our seed for what ever we could put in Frank Reid was selling seed a little cheaper than Mr. Cole was so Day wanted to sell the logs to S. G. M. Gates of Bay City they paid cash I thought then he could buy the seed of Reid as Reid had to ^{have} ~~pay~~ cash After Gates had sealed the log and got his mark on them Gates went busted and it was three or four years before we got our

to him but just packed up his books & went out and all of us that were not aunts started out to at this the bunch from the Turkey Turkey was commenced to boo that got under my skin and I whirled around and asked them why they did not stay in there own school house if they wanted to create a disturbance at that Dave Smith yelled at me I was here before you was and I shook my finger in his face and told him that I would give him to understand that I came in there with Mr Deland when he moved in and that I helped to pay taxes to build the school house the next thing that

and this Dave Smith Preached right at us of course we did not say any thing but we came away from that meeting in about the same frame of mind ^{as the rest} shortly after that Elder Birch from the Methodist church came up there to Preach and selected for his Text some passages of the Bible that hit the Saints doctrine pretty hard so one night Dave Smith and all of the Saints from the Turkey Road & the settlement were there to listen to Elder Birch sermon they did not say a word until Birch had finished then Dave Smith jumped up and challenged Birch for a debate and Birch paid no attention

that I heard was Elsie calling
to me then went and Joe
Sibley saying let him go I
looked around and Elsie was
trying to get to me and Joe
was trying to hold her back
Elsie had never saw me in an
argument before and she and
all of the rest thought that
I was ready to fight but I
did not think of fighting just
wanted to give them a piece of
my mind but it gave them
something to talk about for
a few days after that

We built our house in the month
of March this was in the
spring 1896 Lumber was very
scarce but very cheap We thought
that we would have to go to
Omaha to get the lumber. Charles
Pendred had a pile of lumber
but he was in England Mr
Lincoln wrote to Mr. Pendred and
he let us have 2000 ft at \$8 a foot
and we used all but a part of
that lumber was good pine
and when the old log house
was torn down let Marlin
Bates have the lumber that
was in it and he made some
of his window frames out of
the pine that was in the old
log house and the house that
Marlin built is the same house
that Mrs. J. R. Petty now lives in
so when any of you see that house

3

were cordoning along by the
Patched old place the logs were
placed on stringers just the same
as you would build a bridge and
some of the logs were a foot thick
and not a bit of dirt on any of
of the logs and there one strip
of cordoning just south of the
Town Hall that was afloat the
^{year} around excepting when it was
frozen up when ^{they} made the first
road down that way they did not
get it on the right line but
they had a quite a bit of the
right of way cleared out on
the right line the cordoning
between the two Sibley place
was about where Dick road
fence now is they had the
right of way cleared out along
there on the right line and one.

2

you will know that some of the
lumber that is in it was in
our log house that was built
in March 1896 out of that
2000 feet we had enough lumber
left to build a corral. We went
to Standish to get our windows
and nails. Bought shingles at
Au Gres paid 50 cts per m. for
them they were cull shingle but
they were good enough so that
the roof did not leak all of the
time that we live in it and that
was 18 yrs. We moved in to our
house April the first and we
were ready to start on our own. The
first work that we did was to
fence some prairie that we
drew over to Whitney bull for
Mr. A. Wheeler all of the low spots
down as far as the Sibley ranch

5-
and plenty of grass and pasture
there it ^{was} all common there and
every one pastured there have got
up many a morning to at first
believe to go and get our horses
there was also lots of wild
straw berries on these burnings
and there was any amount of
Huckle Berries on the bluffs
along the shore those days and
red Raspberries were plentiful in
the early days. We cleared about
one and one half acres the first
year broke it up with a shovel
plow this shovel plow had a
tongue in it and a scouter
that ran from the point of
the shovel up to the tongue it
would slip over the roots but
I did not think much of it
and only used it that first
year this was the same shovel

right when we came home it
looked dry enough to us as we
thought that we could go down
the new road and come going over
the road but before we got
six rods from where the culvert
now is that cross that road
we mired both horses and we
had a dickens of a time getting
out Our next move was to clear
a little land we were in the woods
could not see any body house
day and I put in every spare
minute we could day chopping
on his side of the road and I
chopping on my side of the road
and it was June before we
could see one another house.
There was no grass in the green
woods had to go to Still Dams
or Mr. Selam to see a bit of grass
there was burning along the river

east of Mr Landie - and cut
a bunch of hoop timber and run
it down the river and took it out
on the land that Mr. Ashley now
own. Day went right at it. Day
was braver up than I was when
we land in the settlement. Day
only had about \$25.00 and I
had about \$100.00. We had never
either one of us made any hoop
still was an old hoop maker
and as we were cutting the
timber Will would tell us that
some pieces would make 500
and some would make 300
and that 1000 was a fair day's work
well I thought that could
make 1000 easy enough. Hoop
were worth \$1.50 per m. and thought
if I could make 1000 a day
that we had a pretty good thing.
After Day had made hoop one

place that we had for so many
years. We had plenty of potatoes
and a good garden that first year
we used the bal- of the clearing
to raise some feed for our horse.
He also worked Bal Hale clearing
that year about two acres put it
into corn to get feed for the horse.
Had no cow the first year. The
drag that we had to fit the land
with was a 80 ton spike drag.
we also dug a well that spring
dug in to the rock as far as we
could. we had good water with
the exception of when it would
break up in the spring or get
a heavy rain. In the fall of 1896
we put in a piece of wheat on
Will Davis. He cleared the land
and I broke it up. Just before I
started to break up the piece on Will.
Will Day & I went up on the river

\$5.00 on and to change the site to the Heland Corner I went to this meeting expecting that of course the Board would carry but when we got there found out that Tom Webster had persuaded the boys down the south road that we could never pay for it and that they wanted to build log houses and that some of them did not want to change the site we argued quite a while before that we took the vote one question that Tom Webster asked me was why that I did not build a two frame house and I told him that I would if

day he came & down to our house that night and wanted me to go and make hoops the next day said it was fun I said I would if I had the wheat in & he said one day would make any difference to the wheat so I decided to make hoops the next day I had never seen any hoops made I work all day like a son of a gun and when night came had 300 hoops and a pile of shavings as big as a load of hay and that was my first hoop making and I had 45 cts worth of hoops. & then I finished putting in the wheat and then went at the hoop again and the best that I could do was to make 500 We had a quite a time that fall over the school They got up a petition to Board for

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14
near getting in a fight on the way
home with Mrs Robert but Chas
Pemberton stopped us After we got
cooled off we got to gether and
made up our mind that we
would Bond for \$2000 and
just put up a shell and that
would do. Day Corbright was Director
at that time and he did not want
to change the ~~see~~ site never could
see why any how he would not try
to sell the Bond and they made
it so hot for him that he
resigned and they put one in
his place and the next day
Joe Sibley and I walked to
A.C. Green to sell the Bond He went
to Mr. E.C. Cole. He said that he
did not have the money but
that he had a friend that
did have and that he would

10
that I was worth as much as
the school that was when we
took the vote only four votes
for the Bond I was mad clear
through As soon as it was
decided that the Bond did
not carry, Mr. Lincoln got up
and made a motion that we
make arrangement to build a
log school house. I told them
that they could not vote on
that proposition that night as
it was not mentioned in the
petition. Then Mr. Lincoln wanted
to reconsider the Bond again and
I was so much mad I told them
if they wanted a log school house
they ~~eat~~ could use the one that
they had that us fellows would
vote with the one that did not
want to change the site I came

money enough to pay for the school
house and money enough to run
the school one year when I got
in to the Office of Director they
were paying the school Officers
thirty dollars a year I got them
to cut the salary to \$10⁰⁰ Hill
Davis did not like it and
resigned as assessor and
they put in C. R. Smith in his
place and he held that Office
several years at the low salary
they were also discounting every
Order 10% to get them cashed
and in three years we
got that stopped. (I see that I
have got the cart before the
horse as there two or four things
that I wanted to mention before
that I mentioned the school affair)
for our work in the winter of

12
see what he could do for us and
let us know in a few days
Elias Reichle heard about it and
said that he would build the
school house and take the Bond
so we let the job to him for
\$2000 only he was not supposed
to call it up. I was on the building
committee and went up there one
day to see how things were coming
and Mr. Reichle told me if I
would give him a school order for
\$7500 that he would call it up.
I did not call a meeting but went
and saw every one in the Dist
and I let him the job and
that is what the old part
cost \$32500 with out the entry
for all that Tom Webb said about
that we could not pay for it
when the Bond came due we had

draw the timber home as this
was the winter before Walter was
born and then I could be home
with Olea. Made a little shop
at home to work in but could
not make over about 500 worth
a day until the frost got out of
timber then soon got so that
I could make 800 and after
the frost all got out could make
1000. Did not average over 700
a day all winter. When Walter
was born the roads were very
muddy and as soon as we were
sure that the time had come
Way took the horse and buggy
and started after the Ls. it
took a long time for the Ls
to get there & of course we were
worried as this was our first
experience but the Ls arrived

14
1896-1897 Day and I got a piece
of 1800 ft timber in Dec. 17 we
walked up there and back would
be at our work as soon as we
could see in the morning and
walk home after dark. The frost
was in the timber and we
did not know then how to
thaw it out and the best that
I could do was to make 300
We made up our mind to build
a camp and stay there instead
of walking so much. We got the
camp up the rafters on and the
bank in and there came a big
thaw and ~~at~~ after the thaw
we went back and there was
18 inches of ice all over the bottom
of our camp all most up to the
trunk, so we changed our
mind again and decided to

two weeks was up and around the house and we let ~~Geo~~ Gertrude go Aunt Gertrude work for us for at \$2.02 a ~~do~~ week.

It was during this summer that the first threshing machine was in the settlement Mr John Gamble of Point Au Lou did the threshing had a plane engine that they revolved around with horses. We had wheat for our flour and went to Stanish to mill Elsie went with me we took our lunch and feed for the horses. When we got about half way between Ormer and Au Lou it commenced to rain very hard we covered the flour up the best we could and thought that when we got to

in time Elsie labored and it seemed at times that she was going to give up and I was scared stiff finally the Dr. called me one side and told me that every thing was coming along all right but that the baby head was so large that he could not deliver it with out using instruments I told him that he was boss of the job to do what ever he thought best he put some chloroform on a handkerchief and had me get on to the bed and hold it to Elsie face and as soon as that took effect the Dr went to work and it was not over a minute before he had the baby and from then ^{on} Elsie came along just fine and in

the morning we got up to and got ready and went right home before breakfast Mr. Sloan wanted us to stay for breakfast. We did not have any money to offer him that was the reason that we did not stay did not know Mr Sloan very well at that time But in about 1 1/2 acres of wheat on our own place in the fall of 1897 and got out some logs off from our own place that same winter got \$2.25 per m for them on the river bank Claude Herrington helped us that winter. He could not get any thing to do in Tazewell that winter and all we were to pay him was to get his tools and mitters and put them and to pay his fare home. When he got

on the river that we would stop at the hotel but we got to the river it stopped raining so we thought that we would go on home if we were wet we had shelter with we had not got past the river only a little way and it commenced to rain again harder than ever when we got to the Cole farm pulled in there we thought that we would drive into the barn when I opened the barn door, found the barn floor full and I went to the house and woke Mr. Sloan up and he came out and sent Elsie to the house and helped me to put the flour in the granary and put the team in the barn. Then we went in the house and stayed until morning as soon as Mr Sloan got up an

ready to go home When he got
 ready to go home we needed ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{more} ~~more~~ ^{on}
 more money than ^{we had} and our logs
 were not sealed yet I went to
 Town and stood around Mr
 Cole Store until all most night
 before I got up never enough to
 ask for the money was afraid
 he would not let me have it
 as I had heard some of the
 neighbors say that they could
 not get money enough to pay
 the postage on a letter, Bill
 when I asked for the money
 Mr. Cole did not ask me any
 questions just called to the
 book keeper give me \$5.00
 and I was relieved I want to
 say right here that I never
 asked Mr. Cole for anything
 that I did not get