

Whitman, Merton J.; Collection
Memoirs ; History of the Delano Settlement, 1887-1900

FOLDER 3
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NO. OF ITEMS IN FOLDER: 61
DATE COUNTED: 2000-06-14
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memories of Deland
& History of
Chapter one

My first trip to Deland settlement
was made in Feb. 1887 that
was the time Mr. Deland
moved his house hold goods &
other belongs to his place he
had been up before and chopped
down a couple of acres built a
small house & stable My sister
Mabel & her husband had bought
the eighty that was ^{is} owned by
Will Shortwell & they moved from
Au Gres the fall before & lived
in the house Mr. Deland had
built that winter Mr. Deland
knew that I was going to
see Mabel before I went to
Springport to work and he
said if I would go with him
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My memories of Deland
settlement & history Sep.

Chapter one

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2
Down there and back so I went with
him Mr. Deland made a long
sled and put every thing he had
in the world on to it ~~hooked~~ hitched
a yoke of steers on to the sled
and tied a row behind. He
hired a fellow by the name of
Chas Williams to haul the sled
from the plains to Omer as he
thought it would be to much for
the steers to haul the load from
the plains clear to his place. We
arrived at Omer about dark
and stayed there over night (and
by the way there was a big dance
at the Hotel that night & it was
the first lumberman dance that
I had ever seen & a wild old
time they did have) We started
from Omer the next morning
at seven O'clock and arrived
in Au Gres at eleven O'clock

3
We stayed ⁱⁿ Au Gres until
about One O'clock & then started
out for his place. We went by
the way of the river road past
what is now the John Henrich
place there was a road at that
time down the town line as
far as where the Bessinger building
now stands and by the way
that was all the laid out
highway there was in 1820 with
the exception of the old State
Road along the shore, there
was an old lumber camp
on the Bessinger place and
Ges Smith lived there. The
snow was three ft deep and
after we got to Ges Smith place
there had not been only one
team out & back all winter.
Still Davis had hired Len
Loper Talley to haul some logs

for him + he⁴ had been out
+ back the snow wood shove
up ahead of the sled + we
~~had~~ had to ~~traf~~ tramp the
snow so the steers could
haul the sled + Mr Deland
swearing I think he had
been there all winter and no
track out it was woods all the
way from Ger Smith with
the exception of a small
burning near where Harry
Howling used to live the State
road went in by across the
C. R. Smith + the old Griffith
place and we arrived there
about nine O'clock tired +
cold. On the school house
corner was as fine a piece
of Buck + maple woods as
I had ever set my eyes on

5-
I stayed there a couple of days
and then took the stage back
to the Plains at that time the
stage went as far as Omur
then we had to change and
take another stage to Standish.
The road from Au Sine to Omur
was the old State road no
cut out road on any line just
crossed around in every direction
from Omur to Standish. We
went out of Omur up past
Jim Bakie place just as we
do now but from there it was
a lot different route than it
is ^{now} could tell for sure just
where we went but do know
that the most of the way
it was woods right up to
road then took the train
for West Branch

⁶
My next trip was in Oct 1888
Uncle Wm Champlin went up to
the Plains that fall with me
when I went home from
Springport & Father & Mother
Uncle Wm & myself went down
to the Deland Settlement to
visit Uncle Day & Aunt Belle
& Uncle Will Davis & Aunt Kate
We went with a lumber wagon
with a board across the top of
the box it was sand the entire
distance with the exception of a
strip through Maple Ridge We
crossed the Rifle River at the
right of the old ford there was
a bridge at that time on the
east side of the Bridge the bank
was quite steep but it was full
of little springs and it was
covered close up the hill and
there was not a bit of dirt on it

¹⁷
after we got up the hill we came
in to a flock of Norway pine trees
100 ft high + more about 2 ft
through at the stump it was
about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through that
piece of pine then we came on to
a strip of plains for about 2
miles then we came into
a strip of white pine &
it was solid as far as the
eye could see it was about two
miles through that strip of
then we came into a pine
slashing went through about
one mile of that and came to
Mansville Creek that was
a creek about 10 ft wide that
lumbermen used to float logs
out to the Rifle there also ^{was} a
narrow gauge rail road there
that ran from Alger to Pesavott
from there out to Maple Ridge

8
it was a fine slashing all the way at Maple Ridge there was a few quite fair sized farms cleared up & a couple of miles of cut out highways we went through Maple Ridge down to Black Corners then turned there and went towards the Omer

Plains that road had just been cut out for a mile or so we came to a creek don't know the name of it there we stopped and ate our dinner then we crossed over the Omer Plains and came out at Omer then took the old State Road to Au Gres had to go straight through Au Gres to the Bay & followed the State to the Donkey Road & went into the wood again at the Geo. Smith place and road from there in was just the same as it was on my first trip

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it was a full day's trip at that time as we went through the Au Gres Swamp every few rods there would be a partridge cross the road I remember an Uncle wishing he had his gun he went straight through Au Gres & followed the shore around to the Donkey Road the water at that time came up very close to the road much closer than it does now it was the first time I saw Saginaw Bay & the first time I had ever seen a body of water that I could not see across, we follow the Donkey Road up to where the German Church now is & went in to the woods at the Geo. Smith place no road yet only foot road Mr. Heland

Mr Davis & Jay Cortright
 lived there they each had a
 small clearing enough for
 garden & some potatoes. Their
 garden were good I went out
 into Mr Delans potato patch
 and dug some potatoes I had
 never seen as nice potatoes as
 he had before & might say
 have never seen as nice one
 since I made up my mind
 right there & then that I wanted
 some of that land. I had ^{some} up
 \$500 that I could spare Will
 Davis told me about the 80 that I
 bought & Mr Delans was Agent
 for it & he went & showed it to
 me all I paid any attention
 to was the lay of the land and
 the looks of the woods I liked
 the open woods the best ^{and} it was
 then on Mr. Delans as well as

as every where else there was a
 log road that ^{led} down across Mr
 Delans & the piece I bought & into
 the 80 acres east of mine when
 we got away from Mr Delans
 house we came into a strip about
 20 rods wide that the brush were
 very thick and I said to Mr
 Delans is this on the eighty
 we are looking at & he said Oh
 no this on the Heber Land
 then we came into the open
 woods & he did not show me
 any thing more ~~the~~ only then
 wood showed be about 1/2 of the
 eighty east so I made a
 bargain at \$5.50 per acre to
 pay \$500 down & \$780 and the
 interest a year there was a
 quite a few long bolts of log
 4 ft through that looked to
 me as though there was a lot

of good lumber in them + he said they were all good. The next day I took one of Father's teams and went down there to put in some logs for my self & stay & got up a 3.00 Block & went to the barn to get the team ready and when I came in the house Mother had been up and started my breakfast but she was sick & had to go back to bed she told me she had started the coffee but that I would have fill the coffee pot up with water so I took the coffee pot to the pump and filled it up well the coffee was not very good I started out long before day light had an old wagon of Father's & when I got in Maple Ridge one of the tires came off there was blacksmith

near by I unhitched the team and tied them to the fence had some Rye along to feed the horses so I fed them a big feed of that and took the wheel to the shop + had the tire set when got thing fixed up back hitched up the horses and was on the way again when I got about half way between Omer & Au Gres one of the horses was taken with the belly ache had fed them to much Rye Well I had the dearest time every little ways old Charley would lie down & roll I kept him going till I got past Au Gres on this trip I went down the Town line to where Phellis ^{lives} Hemrick to the old Cole place but had to take a tote road across Cole place

it was dark when I struck the
hole place & old Charlie was
laying down & rolling oftener
than but I kept him agony
until I struck the woods there
I left the wagon & went on with
out it when I got about half
in to the settlement the horse
got all right and I arrived
about 9 o'clock. Will mention
here that as I came through
I saw at least 25 yoke of
open in the mill yard there
and only a couple of pair
of horses & the logs were nearly
all maple. The next day went
& got went & got the wagon the
next thing to do was to run the
lines around the eighty and
I found that Mr. Deland had
showed me a lot of land that
was not mine at all there was

several green¹⁵ pine trees with in
three or four rods of my east
line that were four feet at the ~~end~~
stump that Mr. Deland said were
all on the land that I bought and
not one of them was on mine
When we got the lines around the
eighty we were about where Zells
& Miller house now is and the
small hemlock & cedar were just
as thick as they could stand
and I sat down ^{on} a log and said
to Day I will ¹never live long
enough to clear this land
thought that it would have
to be cleared the same as we
had to clear the oak in
Springport & that was to cut
the trees down & pull the stumps
one at a time but learned after
wards wards that the thick brush
cleared much easier than the

open woods after a fire went through. They would tip over and after they had lay for a year or so could put another fire through & then all they was to do was to pick it up & pile the logs up & burn them. I wish to insert one of the most important times in my life although I did not realize it at that time when I came home from Springport that fall was the first time that I met your mother Elsie Herrington. I had a sick head ache & a bad felon on my right thumb the first night I was so sick that all I could do was to say how do you do when I was introduced to her the next morning my thumb was paining me so

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that I could hardly stand it and ^{she} fixed up a poultice for it just the same as she did all of her life & the treatment relieved the pain all most instantly I thought she was a nice girl & good company but still at that time she was not any more to me than many more girls that I knew will reveal more about her & her life as I go a long way. When we got the lines run the next thing we tackled was the long butts of pine that lumbermen had left us spent a day at them & did ^{not find} one that had any thing in but shingle bolt & they were not worth cutting at that time but we did find several large trees that had been cut down & cut into 16 ft logs

laying and left + by cutting
2 ft off from each end had
12 ft log left they averaged at
least 4 ft through + not a
knot or worm hole in them
and after we got them to the
River we got \$1.00 per thousand
The most of the other log that
was cut on my place was
Oak + Bass wood do not
remember what I got for
them. The most of the logs
that Day cut was Hemlock
and do not remember what he
got. He had to pay \$20.00 a
ton for hay to feed the horses
+ had to buy the grain for the
horses + I was paying Day
+ Zell \$2.50 per week for my
board we kept cutting but
no snow came to make

any sleighing + my money
was running out + Day
expected every time he went to
town that they ^{would} shut down
on him at the store so we
made up our minds that
I would go home and wait for
~~so~~ now Mr. Deland found
out what we were agreeing to
+ said he had a job up on the
river that we could dray to
the river + would give us
\$3.00 per M so we tackled it
+ it was the ^{that I ever had} damnest place to
get logs out of in my life. We
worked at that for a few
days + found out that we
could not make our salt
at it. So we quit + I got ready
for home put a tongue into
the hind axle of the wagon

built a box on it and I started
for home did not have any
money to get the horses shod
and the roads were very slippery
one hill I went down at Maple
Ridge the horses both slipped
there legs + slid from the
top to the bottom. When I got
home they had sleighing
and were hauling logs to
main stream of the Rifle
river about a six mile
haul & I hauled logs for
him until I got word from
Day that there was sleighing
in Lee Cres. When I got the
word took a pair of sleighs
& went down & Day & put in what
logs we had cut the log road went
across the Wright place the Tom
Hubster place & the Doan place

then we ² sell the logs
+ went to sell them Day
said I was buying logs.
but he was not at home but in
a couple of days got word that he
would be at the Banking ground
at a certain time so Day + I
went down to the Banking
ground + waited until all
most night before he came.
+ he had the Preacher with him
and they were getting the
material together for a church
and the first thing Mr Cole
asked us was to donate some
logs for the church. He told
him that we were not interested
then he wanted to know what
we wanted for the logs but of
course it was the first time
+ he got the logs at his own
price as we had to sell and

then we had²⁶ to sell the logs
+ went to town to sell them Day
said B. G. Cole was buying logs.
but he was not at home but in
a couple of days got word that he
would be at the Banking ground
at a certain time so Day + I
went down to the Banking
ground + waited until all
most night before he came
+ he had the Preacher with him
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we wanted for the logs but of
course it ~~was the first time~~
+ he got the logs at his own
price as we had to sell and

right away to. It was the first time I had ever seen O. G. Cole and I thought he was a funny man. Went back home & work for Father Aunt Ell was down Au Gus visiting Aunt Mate and she went home with one in going home I got off the road that we had been using never knew just where we were but think we went through the Melita county it was all wood then but we came out all right at Manville Creek. My next trip to Au Gus was made the next fall went down to visit Mate & Zell that was the fall that D. Griffith moved there Geo Peterson live on the Swan place & Lina Ediger live on the Knight place. August Day

and Zell had the mumps and the first morning after I got home came down with the mumps went back to Springfield and worked for Lera Champlin that summer & came home the next fall and at Xmas time Our folks had a big Xmas dinner & invited Janet Swift a girl that had taught school there on the plains she was teaching in that Branch at that time and Elsie Harrington to our place Elsie was teaching at Belkirk they were both there Janet went home on Sat & Elsie stayed until Sunday and I took her home worked a half day to fix up a spring seat as we had to take the wagon well we took the

darned seat before we got
 4 miles + had ^{to} ride on a board
 across the top of the box we went
 down across the river and
 follow the old tote road up the
 river it was all woods not a
 house after we crossed the river
 had to take an ax along
 to cut what ever logs was
 in the road only had to cut
 out one after we got about
 two thirds of the way the wind
 came ^{up} + trees were falling in
 every direction when got to Ad
 Brock. it was all most dark
 + the wind was blowing so
 hard that we were afraid it
 would pile the road so full
 of logs that I could not get
 threw there was trees falling
 in every direction + my hair

stood on end there was one
 tree that had fallen while I
 was gone + it was so dark I
 I could not see to chop it out
 the horses could just climb over
 it + I did not know whether they
 could pull the wagon over it or
 not but they took wagon
 over + that was the only tree
 that fell into the road but
 there was plenty of them fell
 with in a rod or two Blain
 was worried but Ad Brock
 went to West Branch the
 next day + some of the
 neighbors on the Plains was
 out + she found out that I
 got home all right my next
 trip ~~was~~ to Au Gres was made
 in the winter of 1891 we ^{went} down to
 get the lumber to build a
 log house as we were intending

get married the next June, but the lumber at Whitney mill there was no road south from the school house only a log road that led out to Whitney mill. I had a quite sick spell the next April the called the Russian Grip any how the whole neighbor hood was caught sick the whole neighbor hood was sick & some died there was 4 or 5 km that there was not one that could feed the stock Bill & I all came home & they had all they could do. After I got strong enough went to Fenton to see Elsie and as my sickness had used up my money she decided not to get married until fall. She got a school & taught that summer and I pulled Telegraph jobs

until June & Ad mock had sent me a word that the Bank in West Branch were looking for a foreman to put up a large average of hay & that he had recommend me to them I went out to West Branch to look after it but went to the Post Office first and got a letter from Crawford offering me \$26 ~ a month or one dollar a day for common work & one dollar and fifty cents for haying & harvest & I thought that was more than I could get working for the Bank and did not go to see them. Went to Springport and worked for Crawford until the last of Aug. then went home & worked around there one thing I

remember was that I picked up
 Milt Chambers the only job of
 carpenter work I ever did except
 to build our log house. They
 built the West Branch race
 track that fall. The men
 that had the job were running
 the West Branch Hotel the job
 that I was helping to do was
 to put clay on the track they
 hauled the clay with teams about
 1/2 mile + I was one of the shovellers
 after they got the clay down
 they turned off all of the
 crew but myself + gave me
 a team + kept me three or four days
 running a float over the
 track. After I got the track
 completed one of the proprietors
 of the hotel called me into
 the Office + wanted to hire

hire me as barn boss but
 as we were intending to get
 married the next week did
 not take the job. I mention
 this to show that I never had
 to look for a job while at that
 time there was many that
 were looking for a job. I
 was married to Elsie Herrington
 in Fenton Oct 5 1891 We
 went from Fenton to Owosso
 + from Owosso to West Branch
 the fair was on at that time +
 our folk were there we went
 home with them + the next
 week went to Au Gres to finish
 up our honeymoon. Hired
 a platform spring buggy and
 Father and Mother went with
 us there some cording in
 the Jorky road at that time

and in front of the Chas
 Reiche place we broke a spring
 they had the road cut out at
 that time went from the school
 house & it ended up there by
 Harry Pendred place it was
 80 or father west than the
 road now is & it was cordery
 from the Neil Smith place
 to the high ground there by
 Harry place not a bit of dirt
 on it just bare logs & Elsin
 & I ~~walked~~ walked across this cordery
 as the spring would not
 carry us all. At that time Mr
 Deland Day Cortright Still
 Spair. Bob Pierce on the
 place where Neil Lingham now
 lives Geo Peterson lived in
 the north part of the settlement
 & Cal Hale Joe Sibly and

Mrs Lincoln lived in the
 south part of the settlement
 Chas Pendred Mr Roloff & Walter
 Cullif had bought land and
 were around there but they were
 not married yet & had not
 built any houses yet no road
 south from the school house
 only a sort of a trail Father
 took a piece of plank & fixed
 up the buggy so it would carry
 a load but there was no spring
 in it one day while we were
 there we hitched up and drove
 past Sibley & Lincoln & out
 to the Bay to Frank Hamell
 fishery it was a terrible road
 at that time, When we went
 home mother was not very
 well & Still Spair took his
 oxen & a drag and hauled

brother across the border
 While I was working for
 Crawford he talked me into
 working a part of his place we
 knew that Bill & Ray had got
 into to some kind of a quarrel
 with Mr. Delans & thought we
 did not want to get up there
 when they were at the out-
 so we decided not to go on to
 the land & went to Springfield
 instead He found out while we
 were there that Ray & Bell were
 going to move out as Ray
 had bought his land from
 Mr. Delans & after they got
 in a quarrel with him they
 were afraid that Mr. Delans
 would take the place away from
 they did not want to go I
 remember one remark that

Bell made she said some
 day we are going to see good
 turnpike road here well she
 did see just what she thought
 our intention was to let what
 I had paid on the land go
 And we went to Springfield
 stay there four years In the
 spring of 1994 got a letter
 from L. R. Smith he being
 Fowler agent at that time
 asking me what I was
 going to do about my land
 contract with Mr. Fowler we
 paid no att. attention to
 it did not even answer his
 letter. A while after that
 got a letter from Mr. Fowler
 Soumlaw saying that Mr.
 Fowler was in California
 and that he was acting for

for Mr. Fowler and that Mr. Fowler wanted to give me a chance as I had paid in so much but if he did not hear from me that they would have to foreclose I knew of some cases where the parties that he had sold and made a small payment down that Fowler had paid back the payment rather than to foreclose so I thought I would take a shot at it + see if I could get a part of my money back so I wrote him if Mr. Fowler wanted to send me back a part of my money or give a deed of one forty that I would surrender my contract got a letter right back stating that Mr. Fowler wanted me

to go on with the contract I had not paid any interest for five years or paid the taxes I wrote back that I did not want to go on with the contract but if he wanted to give me a deed for one forty all right if he did not want to that the contract was null & void + that he would have to go ahead and foreclose got a reply right back that Mr. Fowler would give me a deed for the north forty and a new contract for the south forty. About that time Day & Bell came down to our house + we told them about it + we made a bargain that he would ~~not~~ buy the north forty from me at \$7.50 per acre on contract and I would take the other

and that would go north the year. So in the fall of 1895. We had every thing packed and Elsie + I were going to go to Fenton to visit her folks. I to stay a few days + Elsie three or four weeks while we were building a house. Elsie + I went over to Father + Mother they were living near Aunt Ell at that time and ~~were~~ we were going to leave the next day for Fenton + just night Day came over + said he could not go as he had lost his pocket book + every dollar he had. Well we were up in the air every thing packed and did not want to go up there alone. Day went back home and in a little while he found

his pocket book and we were O.K. again. We went to Fenton as we arranged to do. I stayed my allotted time + Day + Mill Cooper took our belongings to Canton Rapids and put them aboard the cars. Day had a horse + buggy + his household goods and I had a two year old colt that I paid \$40 for a new Sude Baker wagon double box and every thing complete that I paid \$35.00 dollars for and we each had ^{an} ax and a cross cut saw ^{between} ^{us} and a thirty tooth drag or spike tooth and I had a two legged excavator we also had a shovel plane with a tongue in + a post on it that ran from the point of the shovel

up to the tongue I thought
it would be just the thing to
plow among the roots with and
it was not worth a damn that
was the shovel plow that I had
so many years we took the
long tongue out of it & when
we land in Lee Bros I say
had \$25⁰⁰ & I had \$100⁰⁰
and Rat Champlin owed
me \$20⁰⁰ for a cow that I
had sold him. That is
how we stood when we
landed in the Heland settlement
Nov. 23 1893; the people living
there at that time were Mr
Davis Albert Stantenburg
The Burger H. Griffith Tom
Roberts Mrs Barker G. R. Smith
Geo. McKnight & Billy Cole
Geo. Wier Joe Libby

the Lincoln 39
Mr Robert Geo Fry
Cal Hale Frank Smith Mr
Harnes Old Abe Badon lived
on the John Felsing place and
Geo. Smith lived on the Beasleys
place & there was a family on
the Henry Lohs place near the by
River side school house have
forgot his name In the
Landrie settlement there was
Alex Landrie Peter Brannville
& Sam And Tom Kricklie had
lived there but had moved to
the Turkey Road. The nearest
railroad was Standish every
thing in the winter time was
hauled from Standish in
the summer time some
supplies came by boat there
was no turning or crossing at
that time they had the right
of way cut out for the

rail road through Omer and
 think the ties & rails were
 laid the next summer. The
 highway at that ^{time} consisted
 of a cut out road from my
 west line west to the 's line.
 in Sec 29 then South 80 rods
 from ~~the~~ Mr. Webster west line
 it was corduroy for $3\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile
 with out a bit of dirt on it.
 The Landrie Road was cut out
 up as far as the Joe Swartz
^{here} it was corduroy up as far as
 house on the Ocean place across
 the River they had a wooden
 bridge & the approach to the
 bridge from the south side
 was 10 or 12 rods long they
 built log cribs & laid stringers
 on them then covered the
 stringers with logs from a
 foot to 18 in through and

there was not a bit of dirt
 on it, it was the ruffest piece
 of road I ever road across
 From the school house corner
 the road was laid out south
 as far as where the Iron Bank
 building now are & cut out in
 spots before they laid out the
 road they had cleared out a
 trail which that thought was
 one on the line and had all
 of the wet hole corduroy but when
 they ^{the road} layed out the some of
 the corduroy was on the east side
 of the line & some on the west
 side of the line

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just south of the town hall there was a strip of corduroy that was a float the year around with the exception of when it was froze up. There was not a foot of drainage in the Twp and place to dump the water. The road was cleared out from our west line west to the $\frac{1}{2}$ line in Sec. 29 then ran south on that $\frac{1}{2}$ line $\frac{1}{2}$ mile there was $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles of corduroy with out one bit of dirt on it. After we had landed in the settlement we started the next morning with three teams to Standish to get the bal. of our stuff the ground was not frozen one bit on our way out it commenced to snow when we got as far as the Bessinger place & it snowed all day. We loaded up the stuff & got back a few a ones

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that night stayed there that night when got up in the morning it had snowed about 8 in our team was 3 yrs and a two year colt & Will Haveri & H. Griffith teams were both old plugs and no one came out from Antrim that fore noon & we had to break the track all of the way the ground not being frozen the the wagon would cut right through into the deep sand & where it was not sand it was mud. We would put first one team & then another ahead to break the road and it was dark when we got home & we had three tired teams. Then we commenced to get the material together to build a log house we had made up our minds to build

Lay house first & then build
 mine in the spring. We cleared
 off the site for the house and
 cut the logs & cut poles for
 the sleeper for the floor both
 lower & upper floors and the
 rafters & peeled them & flattened
 them on one side & all so cut
 the rafters out of poles & flattened
 them on one side then we made
 a bee to roll the logs up & lay
 the log frame up. It took
 2000 ft of lumber & 7 or 8 m of
 shingles. Lumber was scarce
 around Ansonia. We could find
 just enough for 2 day
 houses. He paid \$8.00 per m. and
 got all shingles for 50 cts per m.
 Chas. Pendred had a pile
 lumber & Mr Lincoln wrote
 to him in England & he got
 2000 m ft of him at \$8.00 per m.

so I was all out to build my
 house in the spring. The Sup
 Office when we arrived in Ansonia
 were B. Brooks, Sup. B. R. Smith
 Clerk & Mrs Lincoln. ^{They were common} The spring
 before we came they had voted
 to Bond the Sup for I think
 \$15,000 and had sold \$3,000 of
 the Bonds. Mr. Brooks was
 agent for all of that land in
 the N. E. corner of the Sup and
 he made them believe that he
 could locate fifty families if
 they would open up a road to
 Harmon City that was the
 reason that they were putting
 this Bond money in that
 direction they grubbed out a
 strip 1 1/2 rods on the right hand
 side of the line from my west
 line to the corner of Sec 27 & 26
 then 1 1/2 mile to the corner of

Sec 26-27-22-23 then east to
quarter post between Sec 26 & 23
they then north on the 1/4 line
to the Harmon City road there
was a road cut out from there
to the Bay Shore that had been
cut out by the Co. that was
developing the lime quarry they
were working on this road all
of the time we were working on
Lay house. Before we got Lay
house done B. R. Smith served
notice on me that I had been
appointed to the Office of
the school Inspector to fill
a vacancy. In those days they
had two school Inspectors there
two Inspectors & the Sup. Clerk
~~men~~ made what they called
a School Board. The duties
of this board was to form
the boundaries of school dist

and make out the financial
report to the State of the several
school dist in the Twp. I wondered
at the time why they selected
me a new man in the Twp
and I soon found out. At that
time all of the people in the
south part of the settlement were
in the Point Look Out dist
the Lincoln Joe Sibley Cal Hale
& Chas Pandred and they wanted
to get set over in to the Island
school dist & as the most of
them knew me thought that
I would favor the promotion
and by appointing me as
Inspector & with B. R. Smith
Clerk they would have a
majority on the board. In a
few days I got a notice that the
Board would meet the other
Inspector was Dan Porvin up.

made the change at that time
the Deland Dist took in a good
share of what is now Dist # 5.

that Dist was formed afterward
that was the first Offroad business
that I did in Whitney Twp. and I
got \$1.50 for the day work. After we
got Day house done we moved
into his home we all live at
home while we built the house
then we went to work on the
road when we commenced they
were ditching along by the place
that mind J. Antin has there was
no frost in the ground and they
were ~~not~~ digging it with shovels
when we got about as far as
Paul Edmonds house there was as
much water that we could not
do anything and Mr Lincoln
found a hollow cedar and
dug a ditch across the road

and that let the water away
so we got along all right until

we got to the corner and down
the road north to about where
the drain goes into Bert Kainabergs
field from there clear across
the water was foot deep.
Just this side of the road
that goes up to our eighty three
was a strip about one rod wide
that the water seemed have a
quite a current to it and Mr
Lincoln thought if the logs were
cut out of that run that it
would draw the water down
so that we could keep on
ditching. He sent all of us that
had rubber boots down there
to cut out the logs. there was four
or five of us and I was one of them.
after we got ^{the} logs cut out we

could not see as it had drawn the water down one bit they had the road cut out as far as my S. E. corner as Mr Lincoln took the whole crew over there to cut out the bal. of the road and there on that corner I saw ~~Mr~~ Roberts come mighty near getting a good sized tree on to him they were cutting the tree out by the roots and could not tell to just which way it would fall when it started to fall they called the warning and Bill ran the wrong way and ran right out the same way the tree was falling and just got out of the way and that was all I never saw a man run so fast in my life About this Mr. Brooks resigned as Supervisor and

and they put Chas Keihlie in as Supervisor and he came up and told them to stop they the work as soon as they got it cut out as far as the Harmon Road a few were awful mad about it as it was the only place in the County that they could work and get the money for it every thing else that one could get to do one had to take there pay out of the store but the most of them thought it was all right This was just before Jonas in 1895 they had an entertainment at the old Log school house and the minst was since then they had just dished along by Tom Webster and thrown the saw play into the road and when the wagon went over

it the mud and stick to the wheels. We went with the horses and wagon & it was all the horses could do to haul the wagon with five or six of us in the wagon. At this entertainment I got the surprise of my life the people were poorly dressed and so were the children there was more men there with overalls on than there was that were better dressed but they were all clean and well behaved & the children gave us as nice an entertainment as I ever saw before or since. Just before we moved in to the settlement Tom Webster had had a series of debates with the latter day Saints Preacher by the name of Dave Smith over the Book of Mormon. This Dave Smith was a poorly

educated man but a good talker the settlers at that time were about evenly divided between the Saints & the other religious groups and they were all woke up over these debates & Day & Zell and Elsie & I thought we did not want to take side in the ^{matter} so the four of us went down to Saints meeting one night we were the only ones there that were not Saints and this Dave Smith rif. it in to us right and left and we went home not any to well impressed with his preaching shortly after ^{thus} Elder Bink of the Methodist Church came up there & started some revivals and he drew pretty near all of the settlement to his meeting and a part of the time he

54
he took for his Text passage
of the Bible that hit the
Woman's Doctrine so one
night this Dave Smith and
all of the Jonkey Road Saints
came to one of Elder Birtch
meeting and after Birtch had
finished his sermon Dave
Smith jumped up and
Challenged Birtch to debate
the subject with him but
Birtch paid not attention to
him and packed up his
Bible and walked out the
school house was just packed
and every one that was not
Saints started to walk out to
and the crowd from the
Jonkey road started to bro
us and just as we got to the
door the boving got to be more
than I could stand and I

55
whirled around and ask them
if they wanted to create a
disturbance why they did not
stay in there our school house
at that Dave Smith jumped
up and said he was here before
I was & I shook my finger in
his face and told him that
I came in to the settlement with
Mr. Deland when he moved
in & that I helped to pay the
tax that built the school
house every body including
Elsie thought that I was
ready to fight Elsie tried
to get to me and kept
calling to me most hurt but
Jos Sabley got between me &
Elsie & said let him go I
did not think of fighting
but I damned awad & told
them what I thought

the settlement was in a hub but
over religious for a long time.

Day & I got a small job of
getting cedar paving from
Mr. C. Wheeler we cut it on the
forty where Bert Rainberg lives
(this was in 1996) we hauled it
out to the Whitney Mill dock
only got a few cords as the
pavement had to be perfectly
sound. we hauled it over with
the bark ^{on} & then had to go over
there in the spring and peak it
when we peaked at the ground
had thrown out they had the
road logged out in front of
Mr. Lincoln & Joe Sibley but
we had to follow the old road
as that was where the
sceding was about where Dick
Sibley road fence now is. One
night coming home the road

looked dry so we thought that
we would try the cut out road
and just a little ways from
where the drain now crosses
the road we mixed the team
and had a dickens of a time
getting them out. We also got
out a few logs that ^{winter} about 1900
E. G. Cole was buying logs but
did not pay any money on
them S. G. M. Gates of Bay City
was buying logs & paid the
money for them and Day
wanted to sell them to Gates
so we could get the money
for them Day had no money
to buy seed to plant anything
and Hank Reid was selling
seeds cheaper than Mr. Cole was
but Reid sold for cash so
we sold them to S. G. M. Gates
they sealed them and put

5-8
their mark on them and before
we got our scale bill in S. G. M
Gates went Bankrupt and we
did not get a cent that summer
& when what we did get was
just a few dollars at a time
for a couple of years. It came
very near busting G. G. Cole to
as he had bought ^{a lot} of logs and
sold them to Gates & he had
to wait for his money until
they got the Gates affair fixed
up just the same as we did
He built my log house in
March and moved in to it
the first of April the day we
raised our house was the first
time that I saw Eben Sibley
Mr Gully & Eben Norman
they came along just as we were
putting in the overlays for the
chamber floor

5-9
We both dug a well just dug
down to the rock & in to the
rock as far as we could struck
a good vein of water in the rock
and the wood water was good except
when it broke up in the
spring or we would get a big
rain it was several years before
any one in the settlement had
any thing but those dug well. do
not remember whether any one
got a drilled well before I did
or not my first drilled well
was in the spring of 1915
Cheased about 1 1/2 acres that first
year it took me until about
the first of June to clear it and
break it up all of this time
May & I could not see one
another house we each would
cut a strip on our side of the
road as much as we could and

I remember ^{to} it was June before
we could see each other home
that spring the settlement lost
all of the Twp Officers that they
had with the exception of my
self I was elected to school
Inspector & it was either that
year or the next that Mr
Kozzle moved away from Au Gres
and resigned his Office as
Co. School Commissioner and
that created a vacancy in that
Office and it was the duty
of the several Chairmen of
~~each~~ the Twp school Board
in the Co. to meet at the
County seat to fill the
~~was~~ vacancy and as I was the
chairman of Whitney Board
I had to go to Standish to
fill the vacancy that was the
first business that I had

at the Court House I believe
that I have mention about our
selling logs to S. J. M. Gates
and that that Co went
bankrupt we got notice to put
in our claim & we decided that
I was to go to Bay City and I
expected to go down with Mr
David Wiley he was our
Supervisor and also Superintendent
of the Boom When I got to
Bay City the stage was gone and
Mr Wiley was up on the Inf
line west of Mr Lincoln and
that he was agreeing to take
the Boat from Point Look out
that after noon It was an
awful hot day and did not
want to go to Bay City and
have to stay all night as we
did not have any to much
money so I conceived the

That summer I got up a
petition for a school
meeting in the Dist
for \$500.00 and to change the
site onto the Sebald corner.
We went to that meeting thinking
sure that it would carry
thought every one would vote
for it except the one that
did not want to change the
site when we got to the school
meeting we soon found out
that Tom Webster had made
the boys down the south road
believe that we could never pay
for a frame school house. I
remember Tom asked me
why I did not build a frame
house and I told him that
I would if I was worth as much
as the school Dist. When we
finally took a vote there was just

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of hunting up Mr. Wileox
and see if that he would not
take our claim down and put
in for us They just had the
Town line surveyed out for a
road I found him about
 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way through they were
selling some jobs to be cut
out that day I wish this
generation could see what
it was like to give me an
Idea what it was like just
west of Jake Kamersell house
Isadore Brown had a job and
he shoved the log to the side
of the road with a pike pole
Well Mr Wileox said that
he would be glad to present
our claim as he had one
of his ^{own} to put in and I
certainly was relieved

63
That summer they got up a
petition for a special school
meeting to Bond the Dist
for \$500.00 and to change the
site onto the Deband corner.
We went to that meeting thinking
sure that it would carry
thought every one would vote
for it except the ones that
did not want to change the
site when we got to the school
meeting we soon found out
that Tom Webster had made
the boys down the south road
believe that we could never pay
for a frame school house. I
remember Tom asked me
why I did not build a frame
house and I told him that
I would if I was worth as much
as the school Dist. When we
finally took a vote there was just

64
four of us that voted for the bond
I was round clear through, after
the bond was defeated Mr Lincoln
got up and proposed that we
proceed to make arrangement to
build a log school. I told them
that they could not do any
thing more about it that night
as it was it was a special
meeting and they could not
do any business that night
as it was not called for in
the notice & told them if they
wanted a log school house
that we would use the one
we had as we would vote with
the ones that did not want
to change the site everybody
was fighting ^{and} made guess that
Mr Roberts would of had a
fight that night if it had

not of been for Chas Pendred
we got to blowing off going home
+ Bill + I were squared off ready
to fight and Charlie stopped
us it was the nearest that I
ever came to a fight and as

far as I know the only hard
feeling there was between myself
and Mr Robert & Mr Lincoln
was over this school meeting
After we had all got cooled off
over this meeting we got together
and called a special meeting
to bond for \$250 ~ thought we
would put up just a shell and
complete it after wards That
bond carried Day Cortright
was Director and he was one
of the one, that did not want
to change the site can not
see to this day why he did not
want to change the site

Day would not make any
attempt to sell the bond and
they made it so hot for Day
that he resigned and they
appointed me as Director in his
place the next day Joe Sibley
and myself walked to Cu Gree
to try and sell the Bond Mr
went to see Mr. C. G. Cole he
told us that he did not have
the money himself but that
he had a friend that did have
and that he would see what
that he could do for us, before
Mr Cole got in touch with his
man Chas Reichlie heard about
it and came up to see us said
if we would let him build it
that he would take the Bond
for his pay so we let the
job to him He drew the

plans for the school house
and I was one of the building
Committee also in our bargain
with Mr. Delcens for the site
we were put a good board
fence around the school lot
with a barbed wire on the top
he did not ~~was~~ want the
children running all over his
place we let the job of
building the fence to Tom
Webster. I happened to be going
by one day and Tom had
apart of the Post set and I
told him that kind of work
would not do he had some
post set top down and some
set butt down and no three
post were in line he wanted
no what was the matter and
I told ^{him} he could not see why
that made any difference

and was hoping made I
told him that he could build
that way if he wanted to but that
he would not get any pay for
that kind of a fence. He went
and got Charlie Hudson to
help him Charlie took up
all of the posts and set them
over again I believe one when
they got done they had a good
fence and Tom was proud
of it think it was the first
fence that Tom had ever
built. After Mr. Richli had
got the school house pretty well
along went up to the school house
one day to see how he was getting
along and he said if I would
give him ~~an order~~ a school
order for \$75.00 that he would
put ceiling over head and on
the side walls. I did not call

⁶⁸
a special meeting but went and
saw every one in the Dist and
they all said to let him have
the job and that was what the
west part of the school house
cost a Bond for \$250⁰⁰ and an
order for \$75⁰⁰ this did not
include the outside entrance that
was built on several years

latter That spring about 80 rods
of the soddy floated out and
we all turned out except G. R.
Smith and put it back in
place Smith was sore because
he got defeated for Clerk and
said he would not work unless
he was paid for it This was
my first donation on the
road but I put in many days
after that fixing roads for
nothing That summer Will
Davis Day Corbright and I

⁶⁹
went up on the river east of Mr
Landre and cut a bunch of
hoop ~~some~~ timber and dreyed it to
the river and floated it down
the river and took it out on
The land now owned by Mrs.
Ashley Mill was an old hoop
maker But Day and I had
never made a hoop Day was
harder up than I was and
he went right at it I had
started to break up a piece on
Mill Davis to put in to wheat
Day came down to our house
that night and wanted me to
go and make hoops the next
day I told him that I would
if I had the wheat in and
he said Oh one day will not
make much difference with
the wheat said that it
was fun so I went with him

70
the next day to find out what
kind of a job it was as we
were cutting the timber Will Davis
told us several times that such
a stick would make 300 hoops
and such a stick would make
800 and said 1000 hoops a day
was a fair days work and I
said to myself I'll bet that I
can make 1000 hoops a day as
I said before I went with Day
the next morning and worked
like the devil all day and at
night I had 300 hoops and
a pile of shavings as big as a
load of hay & when we got
them to town they brought me
45 cts in trade

1
as I forgot to put down the
page. before I sent out the last
will start with page one again
believe that I had just described
my first hoop making after
that day finished putting in
the wheat on Will Davis place
and then went at the hoops
again I averaged about 500 hoops
a day that made me 75 cts a
day only I had to haul them
for nothing Day & I got a
bunch of hoop timber up in
Sec. 17 for the winter made
out a load & took them to
town the timber was frozen
and we did not know any
thing about thawing the
timber and we wasted a lot
of timber before we learned
how to thaw it out we walked
there & back each day so

we thought that we would
build a little camp and stay
there night. we got the camp
up the rafters and bunk in
and there came a big thaw
and when we went back there
was 18 inches of ice in the
camp all most up to the

bunk & as this was the
winter before Walter was born
we made up our minds to
draw it home then I could
be home with Elsie it was
almost spring before I got
so that I could make over
800 we got \$15.00 per m. at
An Greer and we paid 10 cts
per m for the timber so that
left me 70 cts per day for
my work only I had to draw
them for nothing after the
frost got out of the timber

got so that I could make
1000 hoops if I had a good
run of timber soon after that
got so that I could average
1200 hoop & that paid pretty
well for those times that
was the spring that Chas
Horsdole lost his first
Wife she died from child
Birth and left a little Baby
boy they did not know
much at that time about
raising baby on a bottle, when
Chas Wife died he did not
have any money so Mr.
Deland gave ^{me} 70 cts to go to
Tawas to get the coffin and
I got the coffin ^{sent} 16 cts I went
alone it was my first trip
to Tawas also my first
funeral in the Deland settlement
had to go down by the Lewis

4
March & across to the Hamel
factory it was a very cold day
and it took me all day
The baby did not ^{live} only a short time
Mr. Deland bought a cow so as to
have milk for the baby and this
cow gave very poor milk so he
bought another cow that gave
rich milk & I think they lulled
the baby by feeding it & rich
milk in fact there was no one
around there that knew very much
about feeding baby on those
days - When Walter was born the
roads were very muddy and
Day started after the Dr. just
as soon as we felt for sure that
the time had come and of course
it took him a long time to make
the trip and the Dr. to get there
it was an anxious time for me
as this was my first experience

in child birth mother labored
and I began to get scared to
death finally Dr. Bot called
me one side & said that every
thing was coming along all
right but that the baby head
was so large that he could
not deliver the baby 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 the bed and hold it to
mother face and after it had
taken effect he went to work
and in less than a minute
he had the baby and it always
seemed as though that Walter
eyes were as big as saucers
I will tell you that it was a
great relief to me when it was

all over and she got up and
around as Chas. Horkelen had
just lost his wife just a little
while before. Added about two
acres to our clearing that
summer when I broke up this
piece borrow an old plow of Will
Davis to break it up with it was
a cast mould board and hauling
it over the big hemlock root broke
the mould board went to town
to get a new one & they had to
send for it & as I knew that
Will wanted to use his plow I
bought a new plow of Mr. Cole
for \$12.00 and gave him my note
for one year this was the first
note that I ever gave at that
time there was only three plows
in the whole settlement

Cut the wheat with a cradle
that I had put in the ^{on Will Davis} winter

the fall before. This fall was
the first time that there was
ever a threshing machine in
the settlement. Will Davis had
a small piece of wheat besides
what I put in Mr. Deland
had a small job in Shortenburg
had a small job Geo. Fry
had some & The Burger and
Tom Webster had a little that
he drew to Mr. Deland on a
one horse wagon there was not
over three or four bu. in the
load some thing happened
to the machine just night and
they could not thresh any
more until the next morning
Tom had a long rack on his
wagon ran out eight or ten feet
behind the sled and piled it
up on the hind end so as to
cover it up we all stood around

watching him⁸ as we knew what
it would, when ^{he} had it partly
well piled up on the hind end
up went the front end and
Tom had pile the whole burnt
up on the front end & had a
lot of fun with ~~to~~ Tom they
had come down the south road
but do not know just how
many as know one had enough
so that it took much help but
remember how much of a time
they had getting down there
Mr Gamble got stuck he had
two good teams & they could
not pull the machine and
the horses that were in the
settlement at that time were
not much good at that time
and Mr Gamble began to
talk ^{out} about turning around
and going back it made

house for Father & Mother Father
had some lumber up on the Plain
and I took the team and went and
got it the road was sand two
third of the way and I had a

big load and believe me that
was a long day, work a day &
I built that house alone till
Doris help us one day, but the
1³/₄ acres of wheat with a
cradle and threshed 66 bu
of wheat the wheat was very
nice and sold all of it right
there at the place for seed that
I wanted to sell & kept
enough for my own seed and
our flour this was in 1897 &
the first time a threshing
machine was on the place
John Sells of Point Au Bar
threshed it. Mother & I
went to Standish to mill Walter

Had a baby in² our arms took
our dinner and feed for the horse
it was dark by the time we
got back as far as Omer and
when got about one half way to
Omer it commenced to rain and
just poured and we thought
we would have to stop. stop in
Au Gaea but it stop and did
not rain while we were going
through town we just nicely got
through town and it just poured
all of the way to the Cole farm
so we pulled in to the Cole
farm and thought we would
drive in to the barn opened the
doors & the floor was full Mr
B. A. Doan was foreman there
then we went and routed him
out and Elsie took shelter and
went in the house and Mr
Doan and I unload the flour

and put the ^{1/3} team in the barn
and went in the house and went
to bed When Mr. Doan got up
in the morning he got up to
he wanted us to stay for
breakfast but we pulled right
out and went home with out our
breakfast The reason that we
did not stay was because we
did not have money enough to
offer to pay him for our breakfast
I presume that he would not of
charged us anything but did
not want to stay and not
offer him any thing, He had
covered the floor wth the best
that we could we expected that
it would be ruined but we
did not lose five pounds
he put in about three acres of
wheat that fall and that
was about all that we got cleared

I believe this was the fall that John
Dingman & Dick Andrew home
steaded there land think that
I was the first one of the settlers
to see them I was working on
Cal Hale place clearing a
piece of land for Cal and
^{they} came along on an old road
that came out from the Frank
Mall place they were afoot and
enquired for Mr. Heland they
want to get him to show them
some Homestead land. That
winter Olaus Hodsdon and I
put up 100,000 feet of logs on
skids on a road that we built
across the south end of the front
forty and across the Cook
place to about where the barn
is on the Cook place the central
lumber Co of Saganaw lumbered
that place that year the timber

along the Cook Road was green
hemlock large and thick this
was before Jim Cook bought the
place they paid \$2.00 per M.
on skids and we had to make
a road over to there road this
was a big boat for us as we
had been hauling them to the
river for \$2.25 per M. this
was in the winter of 1898
In the summer of 1898 cleared
a strip through where the lane
now is the timber was mostly
beach from 6 in to 20 in on
the stump there was at least
50 stumps to the acre and when
I broke it up the roots would often
fly back and give me a wallop
across the shin I had $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres
seeded down to grass it was
very heavy cut it with a scythe

and raked it by hand this was the first hay that we had we had to buy up to that time with the exceptions of a little marsh hay that Day & I cut over on the plains one time when we were over there the fire got started there on our road and when we got home there fire was all around our clearing and we all had to fight all of the after noon each one had to fight for his own clearing as we were all in danger all of the time that we were fighting expected that some one was being burned out the smoke was so thick one could not see but a short distance the fire did not get in to any of our building but Mother

and I carried water all of the after noon and put out the fire in the clearing in the green timber there was a turf that would catch catch just like smuck the fire did get in to Day boy stable that after noon but he put it out before it did any damage the threshing machine that we that year came from the Texas way came to our place just night had four horses on the separator and we headed for Point Ag. Tree they did not want to thresh any in the settlement until they came back it was all most time to put in wheat and we scared them until they decided to thresh out ours do not remember how much we had but it was very nice wheat and sold all we had

to sell some came from St. Louis
made hay that winter and
spring. Alas that spring the
neighbor persuaded me to run
for High Way Commissioner
against Paul Beckum but was
defeated the settlement did not
win at all that year this was
the spring that Lessie was born
every thing went fine with us
Millie Stoutenbury worked for us
at two dollars per week, & we had
Mr. Rob the same Mr that
we had when Walter was born
and it was nearly if not the
last trip that Mr Rob made
to the settlement just before
that Lessie was born he had
been called to the Landis settlement
and had to wade in water
up to his waist and he caught

cold and developed into quick
consumption he had to give up
his practice and died in less
than a year cut my hay
that year with a one horse
mowing machine that I borrowed
from Mr. Heland. That year
I sold a wagon load of potatoes
to E. G. Cole weighed them on
a set of hay ~~set~~ scales that
was in front of the store
and drew them down to the
Room and out in to the Bay
about 1/2 mile to a dock that
they had then. When I sold
the potatoes I made a bargain
that I was to have \$6.00 in
cash and before I went down
to the Room stepped up to the
Office and told Mr Cole to
look up my account that I

thought that I could pay up
 when I came back this was
 my first Settlement that
 I had with B. S. Cole when
 I got back from the Boom and
 knew just how much my load
 of potatoes was going to bring
 I gave Mrs Cole the weight of
 the potatoes and asked her
 how much I owed and she
 said thirty dollars I was
 scared to death as I knew that
 the load had ought to pay
 everything up But Will Hain
 had been telling how Cole was
 skinning every body I
 asked Mrs Cole where my net
 were and every thing that I
 was credited with was one load
 of wood and had sold him
 more wood also some four foot

wood in  I mention
the items and she said
that Mr. Cole was in Standish
on a law suit and had one
of the ledgers with him and
that my acct might be in
that book, Well I went home
worried stiff as this thirty dollars
meant as much to me then as
three hundred would many times
since I could not sleep that
night got up the next morning
early and went to Mr. Gue just
as soon as I could when I
got to the store Mr. Cole was
in the Office talking with Mr.
Luke a new Hoof Inspector that
they had this was the first time
that I had seen Mr. Luke but
was destined to see him a good
many times after that Mrs.
Cole came to me and asked

wood in the ²¹wood I mention
the items to her and she said
that Mr Cole was in Stenaleish
on a law suit and had one
of the ledgers with him and
that my acct might be in
that book, Well I went home
worried stiff as this thirty dollars
meant as much to me then as
three hundred would many times
since could not sleep that
night got up the next morning
early and went to see Gus just
as soon as I could when I
got to the store Mr. Cole was
in the Office talking with Mr
Luke a new Hoof Inspector that
they had this was the first time
that I had seen Mr. Luke but
was destined to see him a good
many times after that Mrs
Cole came to me and asked

if there was ²² any thing that I
wanted I told her that I wanted
to see Mr Cole but that I
would wait until Mr Cole
got through talking I stood
there close to the Office and
as soon as Mr Cole got thru
talking with Mr Luke he
did not wait for me to approach
him he turned to me and said
next how much wood did you
pile up behind the store Bob
measured it but forgot to set
it down I told him that there
was nine cords then he asked
me how many cords of four
foot wood there was then went
to Whitney mill said that
he never measured it I told
him there was 23 cords then
he said let me see how
much was that a cord \$1.50

I told him that ²³ it was 75 cords a cord
in the woods and that they drew
~~down~~ it to the Whitney mill them
selves. I allways thought that he
was try me out on that deal to
see if I was crooked then he
asked me if there was any
thing else I told him that
I traded cows with him
and was to have two dollars
to boot made the deal with
Rob Spaul. then he asked
me if there was any thing
else and ~~he said~~ if you
~~have got~~. I said yes there
is two m. of hoop & he said
if you have got that coming
I can find it and he went
and got a bunch of old hoop
orders I guess there was
200 of them the first time
that he went through them

he did not find it I, told him that perhaps I would have to leave it then I told him how there happened to be an order for two m, hoof up to this time I had sold my hoops to James Grimmore and I took a load of hoops down to the boom and if the inspector was not there we would make the hoof to who they were for and I and I marked them for Grimmore I had brought some clover seed from Mr Cole to pay for it at a certain time I told Linc Boringen that I wanted \$3.00 in cash he was running Grimmore Store Linc said to me Good God man you will take all the money there

in this store²⁵ I told him why that I wanted it and Linc said that he would rather Mr Cole to have 2 m hoof and that he would see that Mr Cole got the order for them Well Mr Cole went over the orders again and he found the order and when got all settled up the store owed me \$2.65 did I get the cash no I got a due bill for \$2.65 this is to show you how hard it was to get a hold of any money at that time.

I looked in the Bible to get the date of Father's death and I find that I have got ahead of myself with my story have a quite a bit to put in before Messie was born but we all know that she was born and

and that it was in Apr. 1898
 but now no that I bought
 our first Cow that we had
 in Whitney in 1897 walked
 up there followed the Bond
 road to Harmon City and
 then followed the shore to
 Jawas City. Bought this cow
 \$16⁰⁰ - I followed the High way
 down the State road to the
 Hamel fishery before I got
 "Hamel my right leg hurt me
 just awful it had got quite
 dark but thought that I would
 try and make but after I
 got about twenty rd. past Hamel
 my leg played out entirely
 Hill Griffith was working for
 Hamel and I hobbled back and
 got Hill to⁴⁰ and get a lay and
 he came after me with the horse

and buggy. In the spring of
 1898 put out what cleared
 land that L. Griffith had
 on shore had some corn
 and some Oats do not remember
 whether the Oats that I had that
 year was or Griffith or my own
 but remember that I had some
 peas that year and that the
 stack was wide open the
 morning that Father died
 Mother came down to our
 place that morning before
 breakfast and went right
 back and as soon as she
 got back she came out and
 called just as loud as she
 could I said to Elsie Father
 is dead I ran down as fast
 as I could run and he only
 gasped a couple of times after

after I got there. The whole of us only had about \$6.00 in cash sent a Telegram to Ell. Milt & Gord & Shinn and in my Telegram to the boys said to them bring money. I had done more trading at that time with Mr. Grimore than I had with Mr. Cole and some how felt as though that I would be more liable to get the money from Mr. Cole so I went to Mr. Cole and I told him that I was in trouble he said I hope that your Father is dead. I told him that I wanted to borrow thirty dollars and that I would give him any security that I could give he ^{went} into the Office and wrote me a check for thirty dollars.

I asked him what security that he wanted and he said we will take your note I borrow it for thirty days. as I felt for sure that the boys would bring some money. Well when they came they did not bring a cent of money but they were both dressed pretty fine and Gord was not twenty one yet and Shinn was twenty two Shinn would of brought some but he was working for Less Champlin and I do not think that Less could raise it at that time and do not think that Gord had it coming well I bawled about it and Ell saw me crying she felt sorry for me but she did not offer to help out one cent and

and she could if she had of wanted to and built did not ask any question about it and I did not mention to him doubt if he had any money as he was living on the Plains yet still Father + Mother had a cow and I bought the cow from Mother gave her \$30.00 for it I had a yearling heifer that I sold for \$14.00 + do not remember just how that I raised the Bal, but think that I must of sold some wheat any how I raise it in time to pay Mr Cole the thirty dollars that I had borrowed of Mr Cole in thirty day and Mother paid for Father Burial herself and I want you all to remember that I never

forgot the favor that Mr Cole gave me at that time

Father was buried before the Cemetery was surveyed out and was buried out side he had heard them talk about the water that would be in the grove at Au Gres Cemetery and it was his request that we not bury him in the Au Gres Cemetery Mother buried Oliver Drake and James Cook to take up his body and put it in the Cemetery where Father died there had never been any house in the settlement we used a platform spring buggy that Father had in place of the hearse and ^{there} were not over two buggy in the procession the rest were all wagon

the winter before I had bought a large horse from James Grimore with a crippled foot was sure in my own mind that the foot would get all right was to pay fifty dollars if he got all right and if he did not get all right was to pay him \$25.00 any how then I had a team one weighed about 1100 pounds and one that bought from Grimore weighed 1600 pounds they made a cornical team but they did me a lot of work. In the summer of 1888 made enough Hops to keep us living and cleared land the balance of the time and summer bought my first mowing machine and hay rake we had hay enough to feed our horses & two cows and had our

one potatoes and flour, we got our wheat in about the 20 of Sept and had made about 30 ties

toward paying a small store bill & that I had. And Day wanted to make a logging bee and wanted me to help him fit up the price this price was just across the road from our house we started to saw up a large Hemlock tree and we broke a saw handle and Day went over to our house to get another saw handle and while Day was gone I took the ax and went to the top of the tree to chop off the top log I was chopping first as hard as I could as I wanted to get it chopped off before Day got back there & was a little back wing

that was in the way but I thought that I could chop around it my ax caught the twig and the ax came through my foot cut the sole and upper of the boot but it did not hurt or bleed I thought to myself that it was not possible that to cut a gash like that in my foot and not cut my foot and I sat down and pulled off my boot and my big toe was split right down

Through the middle by this time Jay had got back and I said to him do you think that I can see that damned toe he said that he thought that we could. He took me on his back and carried me to the house and the blood just began to show

as we got there, Elise did the foot up and Jay got the horse and buggy ready and Elaine + I went to an tree to get it fixed up it was the first time that I ever saw Dr J. K. Petty. After he got the toe sewed up he wanted us to stay at the Hotel for a couple of days. He told him that we could not stay the reason that we could not stay was because we did not have an money & we had a couple of Babys at home then he told ^{us} we could go home and to leave it done up a certain length of time then to undo it and ^{it} looked all right to do it up again and to come down a certain day and that he would take the stitches out. When we took the dressing of it looked all right to all of

us, and we went ³⁴ to town on the day
that he told us to come down
and when ^{he} got the toe undressed
it was as black as the stove &
said my God that toe has got to
come off said that he wanted
some help to take it off we told
him to get who ever he wanted to
and he telegraphed to Standish
for Dr. E. C. Warren, there was
no telephone those days Dr.
Warren was to come the first thing
the next morning but he did
not come until after noon and
some of our neighbors were down
town and they said that Dr.
Petty was just what he told
them that if the infection got
far enough that I would lose
my whole foot They arrived
about two o'clock in the afternoon
They placed me on the table

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and I did not know any thing
about what was going ~~on~~ on
until after five o'clock The first
thing that I knew Dr. Warren
was saying to me just how are
you feeling and I said I feel
bully, you see when we went to
the Helms settlement I had
never been called any thing but
ment and there so many that
called me Mr. Whitman and
it was hard for me to get
used to the Mr. Whitman and
when Dr. Warren called me just
I sure was sold on him. He did
not know how much money
Dr. Warren was going to
charge us but went all over the
settlement and borrowed all of the
money that we could we got
in all ¹⁵ 15.00 and had to get

money from these different one
to get that much. As the Drs
were leaving I said to Elsie
did you pray Dr. Warren and
she said yes and I said that
right I want Dr. Warren said
that Petty fellow can wait I
can hear the Drs laughing yet
Dr. Petty had to come several
days every day to look after
my foot as they were afraid
that they had not got all of
the gangrene when they took the
toe off they took it off at the
joint and when they sewed up
the wound one of them had to
hold the skin up while the
other one put in the stitches and
when the wound swelled up it
pulled the stitches out the Drs
sewed it up three different times

and the the skin would not
hold to sew it up any more
and then he put some adhesive
straps up over my foot and
brought them together and tied
a string to it and tied a
flat iron to it and hung it
over the foot of the bed and
and then it began to heal
there was eight weeks that
we could see the end of the
bone. After it got healed up
enough so that I could get
around on crutches Elsie rapped
my foot up in a baby blanket
and then put Oil cloth over that
it was a trying time for Elsie
as well as for me there was
one time that the horses got out
and she had to chase them all
over before she got them back

she put Walter + Lizzie on the bed with me and I kept them quite with a bangs that belong to Shim. Another worry that we had was to get the stable fixed up for the winter for the cows and horses. We wrote to Claude + Gerd and they both had jobs that they did not want to leave. Then we wrote to Shim he had been making his home with Ell and we mailed our letter to Otter Creek that was Aunt Ell address. Shim was working on a threshing machine about ten miles from Ell and she took the letter to him and Shim came just as soon as he got the word. I never forgot that kind act of Shim.

Ray helped us all he could get our wood and helped in many ways. He had his own living to make and had to look after my mother to and we had no money to pay any one. I was very weak when I first got around on crutches as soon as I got strength enough I hauled the tin that I had made to town and by this time Gerd, Claude and Shim all had come and were working in wood-saw on the Landrie road for Mrs Davis and the three of them came home one day and cut wood for us to sell and Oleig helped me to load the wood to town on crutches. Mrs. Gremore would come out and open the gate for me. I just

then the wood out did not pile
 it all this time could not
 put any pressure on my foot
 About the middle of Dec. I began
 to feel strong enough to go to
 work and went to town with
 the wagon and stopped in front
 of the Dr place and called him
 out and asked him when I
 could begin to step on my foot
 he climbed into the wagon and
 told me to stand up but not
 to put my foot down yet
 then he took hold of me to
 steady me and told me to put
 a little pressure on my foot asked
 it hurt I told he no then he
 said to put my whole weight
 on it and I did asked it felt
 as though the bone was coming
 out through the flesh I told

that it did not he said that
 I could walk on it some but
 he said boy you will not do
 any work this winter I said
 my God man what will I
 do. But I kept walking on it
 done up in the Baby blanket
 and Oil cloth then I sent
 away for a pair of Over Shoes
 #12 and put on this over shoe
 and filled it up with woolen
 socks and the first of Jan
 1900 went to work for Hill
 Davis in Camp with my
 team on a drag haul for
 \$2.25 a day and my Board
 and horse feed worked there
 forty days when I started
 to work there was a raw sore
 as big as a penny that would
 and I had dress every night

I cut my toe about the first
of Oct and did no work with
the exception of what I did
on crutches until the first
of Jan the stores at the Green
did not hesitate one bit to
let us have every thing that
we needed and then I found
out what it meant to have
a good credit and friends

the boys down the south road
bolting snaf as they wanted
to get their threshed to as
he stuck to it until he got
through but it was an awful
hole to put a machine through
put in $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres of wheat that fall
and for the winter work put in
some logs off our run place that
winter and Uncle Claude Harrington
came up to put in the winter he
could not get any thing to do at
Fenton so he came to help us all
I was to pay him was to give him
his tobacco mittens + foot wear
and pay his fare home we
only got \$2.25 per m. for the
logs do not remember just how
much we ~~could~~ got out but
they were nice logs when Claude
made up his mind that
he wanted to go home had

^{to have}
\$8.00 more than I had. The log
~~the~~ scaler did not come to
scale our log. so I went to
Toum to see if I could get \$3.00
from Mr Cole I strolled around
the store until all most night
before I got up enough nerve
to ask for the money Mr
Cole did not ask me any question
but first called to the book keeper
to give me \$5.00 and believe me
I was tickled that spring I
was elected as path master and
C. R. Smith was Agent for
the Wentworth lands and he
got the money from Wentworth
to pay there Road Repair work
and he and I worked it out
drawing dirt on to the Corduroy
that gave me a little cash

I think this was the summer
that I lay and I built the log