

WILD ANIMALS THAT WERE KNOWN

Before we leave this interesting story, something should be said of the wild animals that were common in the early days. Some of them were a great nuisance, particularly the wolves, which made great havoc among the sheep.

There were bears, wolves, mink, fox, beaver, lynx, and wild cat. Bears used to eat the oats, standing on their hind feet and gathering the grain in their arms, so that they could munch the heads. One man took advantage of this habit, and erected a small platform within gunshot of the place where Mr. Bear was accustomed to take his meals. By this means the man was able to get a good shot at the bear and supply himself and the neighbors with a large quantity of meat.

Wolves have a great liking for each other, and if one of them was shot, the others in the pack showed their liking by gobbling him all up. In doing this they spoiled the appearance of the hide considerably. John Rolph says that he was anxious to get a wolf skin, but that he must have shot forty wolves before he secured a whole hide.

The following story is told of Reuben Crandell, Sr. One evening he went out as usual to hunt his cow. He listened for the bell, but could not hear it. So he kept wandering farther and farther away from his cabin. Still there was no sound of the bell, but soon another sound was heard—the howl of a wolf. Presently another wolf spoke up. One by one they joined the chorus until the whole pack were in full cry. Just about this time Reuben woke up to the fact that he had strayed from his usual paths, and was lost in the woods without a gun.

Back in the cabin his wife could hear the wolves, too; and she knew that her man was wandering about somewhere out there in the bush without axe or rifle. So she took the big old musket and laid it across a log outside the cabin door, after having put in an enormous charge of powder. Then she tied a yarn string to the trigger, and passed