

or took up a new bush farm in the rear of existing settlements, his first work after selecting the location for his home was to make a small clearing and erect a log house or shanty. In size this was as a rule about ten feet by fifteen feet. Basswood, being the timber most easily cut, split and handled, was commonly used for both walls and roof. As, however, it rapidly decayed when exposed to moisture, some more durable timber, preferably cedar if at all available, was employed for the foundation logs and for the support of the floor slabs. The logs were notched into each other at the corners, this process serving the double purpose of holding them firmly together and bringing each log of the wall into contact with the one above and below it. One side of the log walls was carried somewhat higher than the opposite one, the higher side forming the front, and the lower, the back of the house. In the centre of the front was a door and on one, and sometimes both sides of it, a small window, these being the only openings. As few of the logs closely fitted upon each other, the spaces between them were filled with triangular pieces of split basswood, while over these was plastered as firm a clay as could be had in the neighborhood. At first the chinks or spaces between the logs might be temporarily filled with dry grass or moss.

The first roof might be of elm or basswood bark supported on poles. A more durable roof was made of basswood logs of ten to twelve inches in diameter, split in two and hollowed out in the centres, forming long troughs. These were then laid along the roof in a double row sloping from front to rear. The first row was placed with the hollow side upwards and the other with the hollow side downwards, covering the cracks between the adjoining edges of the lower row. In this way the edges of the upper row joined in the troughs of the lower side, thus furnishing, so long as it remained in good condition, a completely water-proof roof. The fire-place was constructed on the rear wall of the house, with a squared opening through the lower logs, the chimney being built of small stakes imbedded in clay. This fire-place furnished the means of warming the house in winter and of cooking the food for the family. The first bed was made by simply driving stakes into the walls in one corner of the room, thus requiring but one leg for the