
William Hodgson Ellis

pool to Boston and from there went to Illinois, where they bought a farm near Bloomington.

My father wrote several little sketches and stories at this time, and no doubt he here first acquired the love for the woods and wilds which was so marked a characteristic the rest of his life. A curious little incident has been told me of this period. My father's only sister, Mary, had a pet lamb which lived in the house and played with the dogs. One day a hunt was organized for a wolf which had been seen in the neighbourhood. All the dogs turned out, and the lamb went with them!

While in Illinois my father once heard Abraham Lincoln speak, a fact to which he often referred with interest in the later years of his life.

The rough backwoods life of the time was, however, uncongenial to the Hodgsons and Ellises, and still more the anti-English—or at any rate un-English atmosphere. About 1860 they decided to come to Canada. The Hodgsons settled in Toronto, and the Ellises bought a farm near Guelph where they lived for two or three years. Joseph Hodgson died in 1865 at sea on his way to visit England. His wife had predeceased him by two years.

My father went to the Model Grammar School in Toronto, living during the term first with his grandparents, and afterwards with friends, but in 1863 the Ellises left Guelph and came to live in Toronto which was ever afterwards his home. My grandfather rented a farm at Mashquoteh (near St. Clair Ave.) for a short time and then moved down into the town to a house on Brock Street.

In 1863 my father entered the University of Toronto as a student thus first forming the association which was to be almost unbroken for fifty-five years.