

the owners of the other two were hard to find. Our nearest grist mill and post office was at Ingersoll and our nearest saw-mill was at Putnamville. All the buildings were made of logs and covered either with the bark peeled off water-elm trees or basswood troughs made by splitting small basswood trees and hollowing them out with an axe. Our first vehicle for taking a grist to mill was a small tree with a crotch dragging behind. A box was formed on it by boring holes in it and putting stakes in the holes. With these we could go through the woods over logs or anywhere. We also had an ox-sleigh with runners made out of a tree with a natural crook. These were the only vehicles we had for a length of time. This state of things existed for several years and made it very inconvenient to get to our neighbors and mills. When we commenced to raise grain the only way we had of cleaning it was with a hand fan. Any quantity of cattle could be kept in the summer time, the vast wilderness affording them plenty of pasture, but it was very different keeping them through the winter on account of the scarcity of winter feed. We often had to resort to browsing them by felling trees and allowing the cattle to eat the young growth off the ends of the branches. It was impossible to keep a sheep on account of the prowling wolf. Articles of clothing were very dear and hard to be got. On account of the scarcity and costliness of leather, shoes were hard to be got for the winter; boots were not to be thought of. In summer neither men nor women ever thought of wearing any. Of course the