

Before the War of 1812, a few persons in the new settlements were beginning to indulge in the luxury of iron stoves. These were imported from Montreal, where they were sent from the iron forges of Three Rivers. In supplementing the fireplace, for purposes of cooking and especially the baking of bread, most of the settlers built out-door ovens formed of brick clay. Thus we find an entry in the diary of August 31st, 1805, "Hauled clay and made a bottom for the oven." The following day the oven was completed. We find also that he built another oven in 1811. In 1808 a separate milkhouse was constructed. These were commonly built into the hillside, or at least partly covered with earth, in order to keep the contents cool in warm weather.

In October, 1807, he began to dig a well for the convenience of the house. Evidently this was near a spring and did not require to extend to any depth, since the work required only two days. He then selected what was known as a gum-tree, being a tree with a hollow trunk from which could be cut a section known as a gum. The commonest trees furnishing these gums were the basswood, the sycamore and the elm, the second being much the most suitable on account of the great toughness and durability of the outer rim. One of these gums was lowered into the well when dug, thus saving the earth from falling in. In 1810, he dug a new well some fifteen feet deep. This was walled up with stone. At the same time he constructed a sweep with a bucket attached for conveniently raising the water. A more primitive device was a long pole with a hook at the end of it, on which was lowered the dipping bucket. Another structure erected at this time was the corn-crib for holding the cobs of husked but unshelled corn. These cribs were commonly elevated on posts, the bottom overhanging the posts, which in later days were sometimes capped with inverted tin milk-pans, the object being to prevent corn-feeding animals, whether wild or domestic, from effecting an entrance to the granary. The body of the crib, which was sided with open-slatted wood to permit of the free circulation of air, widened from the bottom upwards and was covered with a broad roof, thus preventing the rain from drifting in upon the corn.

Hog-pens, chicken-houses and cattle-sheds were also constructed by the farmers. As time and the means at their dis-