

Recollections of hard times

BY C.W. LATTIN

The following account by Sally Smith in 1871 is taken from Pioneer History of Orleans County by Arad Thomas.

"I was born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont in 1795. My father removed with his family, including myself, to Leroy, New York, in 1816. We were 21 days on the journey.

"I came to Murray in 1817, and taught school in district No. 8, in a log house in which a family resided at the time. My wages were nine shillings a week and boarded among my patrons. I taught eight months during which time I was happy and fared well.

"While I was boarding at the house of David Gould, in the winter time, his stock of fodder for his cattle gave out and he was obliged to feed them with 'browse,' and to save them from starving on such fare he went to Victor, Ontario County, and bought a load of corn for his cattle. His brother-in-law brought the corn to Murray on a sleigh with two horses, and arrived at Mr. Gould's house late in the evening of a cold and stormy night.

"There was no stable nearer than Sandy Creek, three miles, where the horses could be sheltered. Mr. Gould's house was but one room, but it was concluded to keep the horses there over night. Mr. Gould and wife occupied a bed in a corner of the room, two girls and myself had our bed with its foot at the side of Mr. Gould's bed, and the horses stood in the other corner and ate their corn

"I married Artemas Daggett, February 14th, 1819, and commenced house-keeping on the farm where I now reside, September, 1870.



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"Mr. Daggett died in 1831 and left me with three small children and one hundred acres of land, owing about nine hundred dollars. In two years I raised the money and paid our debts and took a deed of the land.

"About this time I married Isaac Smith, with whom I lived in peace and plenty until his death in August, 1866.

"During a great sickness at Sandy Creek, Mr. Brace, his wife and six children resided there. One of his daughters fell sick and went to the house of a doctress in town to be treated. Others of the children were taken ill. Mr. Brace was notified that his daughter under the

doctress' care was much worse and he went to see here. She died and he was taken down sick and could not get home. In the mean time a son at home died. Mrs. Brace had taken sole care of him in his sickness, and while watching his corpse, the dead body of Mr. Brace was brought home and father and son buried at the same time. The other sick ones recovered.

"At this time Mr. Aretas Pierce, Sr., came and found the Brace family miserably poor and destitute. He went about and got a contribution and next day the pressing wants of the family were supplied by the benevolent settlers around."