



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Papers, ca. 1896-1913, 1965. Call Number, Stevens Point SC 60

Salter, George H., 1826-ca. 1906

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/HHKIAFGDLPVIR8O>

This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, US Code).

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

THESE TWO MONUMENTS, one in Necedah and the other between that village and New Lisbon on Hwy. 80, have an interesting bit of Juneau county history behind them. Be sure to read the article about them by Robert Gehl of the La Crosse Tribune staff. (Staff Photos)

Two Monuments In County Tell Tale Of Revenge Slaying Of 18 Indians

(Editor's Note — The following story was written by Robert G. Gehl of the La Crosse Tribune staff, and it appeared in that paper last week. It tells the history behind an interesting monument in the Necedah cemetery, and is another example of Gehl's fine reporting for the Tribune. He has also done stories on the history of Mauston and New Lisbon, and various other items of interest.)

By Robert G. Gehl

(La Crosse Tribune Staff Writer)

Old Gus Nooney added a colorful and somewhat bizarre page to local legend and history.

Gus was a boy of 13 when he played a part in the grim but

dramatic "Salter Affair" which motivated "Daddy" Salter to avenge the axe-handle murder of his wife on June 13, 1863, at their cabin home about six miles north of New Lisbon.

Salter reputedly killed 18 Indians to wreak revenge for the murder of his wife Emma by two "drunken Indians."

Salter and his wife ran a highway inn called "Hells Delight" because no one who entered was allowed to leave until he was drunk.

Salter had gone to work on his field three miles distant that tragic day after warning his wife not to sell liquor to the Indians.

* * *

One story has it that when she

refused them liquor the Indians killed her and got themselves "gloriously drunk."

A local history records that Gus Nooney entered the drama when, as a 13-year-old boy, he found Mrs. Salter's body with her baby, Jimmy, lying unharmed at her side.

One source reports that Gus was there when Salter killed the Indians and that he held the lantern while Salter cut off their heads and hoisted them atop a bean pole as a warning to other Indians.

On June 13th of every year, Gus would rap on the doors of the village and say: "This was

(Continued on page 6, col. 1)

Monuments --

(Continued From Page One)

the day old Salter killed the Indians — don't forget it."

* * *

In the late 1920s or early 30s, Gus, who couldn't read or write, realized that he would soon be gone, too, and then no one would remember the "Salter Affair."

The story goes that he then asked a country school teacher, Clarence Kolk, to make markers for him which would commemorate the tragic affair. One marker was placed off the road under a clump of trees.

The latter marker bore the inscription: "Hell's Delight."

An old and weathered stone marker with the imprint of an axe handle carved into its face stands today along Highway 80 about six miles north of New Lisbon.

The marker is crudely inscribed: "Mrs. Salter killed here by the Indians June 13, 1863. Two Indians, Jo and Jim Dandy, killed by Salter and buried here. This axe handle killed two Indians and Mrs. Slater. Puch-A-Gee." The latter, translated, means "go on," or "beat it."

* * *

Another colorful story about Gus is that it bothered him that so many old settlers were buried in the Catholic Cemetery here "with no markers to bless their graves."

So with the help of the same Clarence Kolk, Gus moved a big wooden hog-head into the cemetery, filled it full of cement and when the cement set knocked off the barrel staves.

And, as our source says, "There for everyone to see is a big whisky barrel setting plump in the middle of the cemetery."

"The Catholics didn't thank him for it, and every one felt that Clarence should have known better, but it is still there."

The marker is located near the front and to the left of the entrance and main road into the cemetery.

Nooney and his family resided for a time in Cork, a section of Necedah. He later made his home with his daughter, Minnie Nooney Stout, in Milwaukee, and died in 1936 at the age of 86.

"DADDY" SALTER CROSSES DARK RIVER!

Avenged Murder of His Wife
Killed Eighteen Indians Since '63

Last Sunday morning George Salter Sr., commonly known as "Daddy Salter", answered the long roll call and passed away from this earth at the home of his son George in this city. His life was strikingly eventful and especially since 1863. He was a native of England and was born May 16, 1826 in the county of Wiltshire. In June 1847 he was joined in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Gilbert, of the Island of Guernsey. She bore him a son who died in infancy. One year after marriage he was run over by cars and his back broken. His physicians predicted he would die inside of twenty-four hours but he said he would fool them, and he did. Three months afterward he was fully recovered. He whipped his employer in the Island of Guernsey because he would not pay him wages that were due, and was arrested for it and sentenced to jail for four days, two of which were to be spent in solitary confinement and two days on bread and water. While serving his time he and the other inmates captured the jailor and locked him in a cell for one hour. For this they were thrown in a dungeon and kept over night. They yelled and sang the whole night thru and the next night the jailor was glad to get rid of Salter. As soon as he was freed he went back to his employer and compelled him to pay up. He and his wife then went to Liverpool and on July 1, 1852 sailed for America. They went to Geneva, where his wife died two years later. He next went to Burlington, Wisconsin, where he married his second wife, Miss Emma Caucutt, daughter of a Vernon County farmer. She was murdered by Indians in the town of Clearfield, this county July 13, 1863, six months after they moved there. About one year later he married Miss Elizabeth (Betty) Caucutt, a sister to his second wife. They lived happily together until she died January 4th, 1897. Daddy made a steamboat trip down the Mississippi to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1856 and in describing his journey, said they had a fine time fighting and wrestling all the way there. June 3rd, 1856, in company with his wife's parents and family and George Carters parents and family he started for Vernon Co. where he and Caucutts had entered government lands. When they got to Portage the Carters left them and came to Clearfield. (Daddy and the rest went via Reedsburg for Vernon county. On the way they were overtaken by a violent thunderstorm. Lightning struck trees on every side of them. Their oxen bellowed the women screamed and "Daddy" and Caucutt swore a blue streak. After putting up some log houses Salter started for Burlington to get married. At a small station the train stopped in order that the passengers could get dinner. "Daddy's" order was the last one to be taken by the waiter, he ordered beefsteak the waiter brought him a small slice of roast meat. Salter placed the whole piece in his mouth and called for his beefsteak order. Soon the waiter appeared with about half a pound of steak and collected for the dinner. Then the conductor yelled "all aboard". Salter was hungry, so he grabbed his beefsteak, two fat pies, plates and all and entered the train

where he quietly finished his meal, much to the amusement of his fellow passengers. When he arrived at Burlington he sold the plates for a quarter a piece. When his second wife was brutally murdered by drunken Indians, Salter was at work in the fields three miles distant. His first information of the tragic event was brought by a man on horseback. Salter ran breathlessly to his home and found his wife cold in death.

Herewith we give Daddys own statement of what happened afterwards. It was taken from his autobiography: "When I arrived at the house there were two or three hundred people there and among them the county sheriff who had a drunken Indian in custody. As the officer was about to place the prisoner in his wagon old Nooney said "let old Salter look at the Indian and see if he knows him". Just then a women present said, there is one of the Indians. To which I replied, don't take him to jail, I'll save the county the expense John T. Kingston grabbed me but I got away from him, he didn't hold me long I got one kick at the Indian and then got him down and then Tom Naughtin, the sheriff, got hold of me but I got away from him, and went into the house and got the ax-handle that the Indians killed my wife with and went after the Indian who was now lying in the middle of the road, and some of the folks was going to stop me from killing him, but Mr. George Burch of Necedah told the people to stand back and let Salter do as he had a mind to with the Indian, and that he would shoot the first man that interfered, and so they let me alone and I went at him with the ax-handle and fixed him right there and left him right in the middle of the road. Then I went and took a drink and was having a gay old time when Mr. Burch and Dr. Canfield came into the house and then they and a few neighbors counseled what to do with the dead Indian. Some proposed that we take him to Mr. E. S. Minor for him to bury, but while we were consulting about the matter my neighbor John Miller was cutting the Indian's head off to take to Mr. Minor, but before he had severed the head Mr. Burch and Mr. Canfield drove away and we had no team, so Miller said "I'll fix him", and he went and cut a ten foot pole and putting the Indians head on it planted it in the middle of the road, and then we all took another drink. The next day some of the women wanted to go home and George Carter was chosen to escort the school teacher Miss Mills and Miss Sieger, to there homes, and when they got about a mile from the house they spied an Indian and George told the women to walk on and he would go and see what the Indian was doing. He grabbed Mr. Indian and asked what he was looking for. The Indian said he was looking for his brother. John Carter said that Salter wanted to see him and the Indian went until about eighty rods from my house and he saw something in the middle of the road and he asked George what it was. George told him it was John's head. The Indian refused to go farther, but George grabbed him and after a big tussel got him to the house. I wanted to get at him but Tom Nooney said "let him alone we will see what he has got to say". I was ready with the ax-handle and another man had a double barreled shotgun loaded with buckshot. I told him to put the gun down and get a rope and Bill (the Indian) would tell the truth about it, and he said if we would let him go he would show us where the three Indians were that committed the murder. I told Pat Babe to put down the gun and tie him, but as soon as he put the gun down the Indian jumped for it and fired one barrel towards us when we grabbed for the gun and let the Indian get away, as we knew there was another load in the gun, the rest were afraid ~~he would~~ he would kill some of us, but I took after him with the ax-handle and overtook him in about fifteen rods. I hit him but once and that finished him, and then we had two dead Indians on our hands.

My friends asked me what was to be done with him? I said, dig a hole

in the middle of the road and let all the teams drive over them that came to the funeral. Then I took a drink to their health and wished them a happy journey to their happy hunting grounds. I tell you it was a sorry looking place that day July 14, 1863. In the month of August there was a dead Indian found on the bank of the Little Yellow River, that was blamed on to me, and in October there was two Indians killed at one shot. I know who done that because I took a drink out of their bottle. And then in the spring of 1864, there was an Indian found dead in Whitetown, Vernon county, but no one ever found out who did the deed. There were lots more Indians killed and a good many people think I killed all of them, and more besides. I will say that I had two or three fights with Indians but was never killed. If I live until 1896 I shall be seventy years old and I leave this as a record to be true. Since Salter wrote the foregoing, I have had several conversations with him in regard to the number of Indians he killed. The total number was eighteen. He promised to give more definite information but his life ended without his having done so. Nearly all his victims were killed with a trusty rifle which he named Black Hawk, with it he could take an Indian's eye out at twenty rods, for fun, money, or marbles.

Salter was arrested for killing the first two Indians and taken to Milwaukee but afterward discharged from custody, the case being in court four years, but no jury could be found to convict him. He lived on the Necedah road about six miles from this city and during the civil war kept a grog-shop and served meals and lodging to travelers. He called his resort "Hells Delight" a name which he deemed very appropriate.

Salter did not believe in a Supreme Being. "There was no heaven or hell" said he, but if "Daddy" is mistaken, and there are such places, "it does not matter to which one I go after I am dead, if there are no Indians; if there is trouble will begin at once, neither place will be large enough to hold "Daddy" and Indians at the same time. At the time Mr. Salter's second wife was murdered there was great excitement at New Lisbon and a company of soldiers were ordered there. Guards were stationed at the outskirts of the village and many of the citizens were in mortal terror for a week fearing massacre. It was during this exciting period that the soldiers killed a traveling man from Milwaukee named Peter Bellinger, a fine man, proud of his family, but who was indiscreet in voicing his political opinions to some of the rather hot-headed soldiers. !

With the passing of "Daddy" Salter an old familiar face has disappeared. Though gruff and coarse in his outward appearance and actions, he had a good warm heart in his bosom. To his family he was ever kind and affectionate. He loved every one of them. As a neighbor he did innumerable acts of kindness. He enjoyed mirth and song. Years ago his family gave periodical concerts in the several towns and villages in the county under the name of the Salter Concert Troupe. They drew large audiences and gave entire satisfaction in every instance. For the last year Mr. Salter made his home with his son George in this city where he was tenderly cared for. He was a man of rugged honesty. Those persons who accepted generous hospitality at the home of "Daddy" and "Betty" Salter, before his wife died, know what genuine hospitality is. In the early days all freight and passengers for Wausau, Grand Rapids, Stevens Point, and the rest of north central Wisconsin came to New Lisbon. The freight was hauled by Wagons from here and the passengers went through by stage coach. All that passed near "Daddys" place, and he has served refreshments and succored many a weary person among whom were men of note and wealth.

His place was the rendezvous for deer hunters and when the prairie chicken season opened it was the headquarters for many sportsman. He and his good wife delighted in making their guests happy and comfortable. "Daddy is gone--and died an unbeliever--let us cast the mantle of charity over his past for his many good deeds will greatly overbalance his faults and will ever remain keen in the memory of his friends. The funeral took place from the home of his son George H. Salter in this city yesterday afternoon and services conducted by Rev. A. J. Arn, for whom "Daddy" always entertained great respect. The burial was in the family lot at New Lisbon cemetery.

Eight children survive him, viz: George H. Salter of New Lisbon, James Salter of town of Lisbon, and Fred Salter of Necedah, Harry Salter Necedah, Frank Salter of Fountain, Mrs. Mary Fish and Miss Carry Salter of Clearfield and Mrs Emma J. Rummo of Lone Pine, California, all of whom attended the obsequies except Mrs. Rumro. We extend sympathy to the children in their sorrow.

Weathered Stone Marks Murder of Ex-Burlington Woman.

by George C. Paulsen

Most modern-day travelers on busy Highway 80 near its junction with Juneau County Trunk Q about six miles north of New Lisbon speed by without noticing a weathered concrete marker; all that is left to remind them of a pioneer tragedy that befell a former Burlington woman more than

110 years ago. The marker tells of the murder of Mrs. Emma Salter by Indians and of the revenge her husband took when he killed Joe and Jim Dandy with the same ax handle they used to murder his wife. The full text of the inscription on the stone is as follows:

"Mrs. Salter killed here by Two Indians--June 13, 1863-- 2 Indians, Jo and Jim Dandy, killed by Salter and buried here -- This ax handle killed 2 Indians and Mrs. Salter -- Duck-a-Gee."

An imprint of the weapon used in the three deaths was put in the marker by Gus

Nooney, a pioneer neighbor of the Salter family. It is believed that Duck-a-Gee refers to the tribal name of the Indians involved.

The story goes that Joe and Jim Dandy came to the Salter home while Mrs. Salter was alone with a baby, James, whom she had put to sleep on two chairs facing the kitchen wall. Salter and three other men were haying about three miles away. An older boy and girl were at school. Early in the afternoon, a settler who stopped at the Salter tavern to water his horse, told Mrs. Salter he had seen Indians skulking about the place, but she told him she was not afraid.

"I just drove two away," she said, according to a report of a Madison newspaperman who interviewed James in 1931. "They wanted whiskey, but George told me not to sell to Indians when he was away. They got ugly, but I drove them out."

Before the settler reached New Lisbon, a man on horseback overtook him and shouted, "The Indians have killed Mrs. Salter; I'm going for the soldiers."

The newspaper reported the Indians had returned and become more insistent in their demands for whiskey. Signs of the following struggle indicated Mrs. Salter had grabbed an ax handle to defend herself, but the Indians had taken it from her and used it on the woman. Her skull was crushed and her forearm broken in two places when she apparently tried to ward off blows. The Indians broke open a keg of whiskey, looted the

tavern and fled.

One, Joe Dandy, was left behind in a drunken stupor. He was killed by Salter on the spot, and the pioneer and his friends posted a watch over his body. The next day, they saw an Indian dodge behind a bush. He was Jim Dandy, a brother of the slain man. He was captured and brought back to face Salter who promised him his freedom if he would tell who killed Mrs. Salter. Instead, he broke free and was killed by Salter.

Later, a neighbor named Miller from down the road, cut off the heads of the two Indians and set them on the gateposts. Their bodies were buried in the road outside the tavern. Salter launched a cam-

paign against the rest of the clan he blamed for his wife's death, and the Indians warred on him. Salter stayed at the tavern for a few years after the tragedy, and more than once it was fired on in the night.

Salter carried on the war for several years, tracking down Indians with "Old Black Hawk," his muzzle loader. Two were killed near Mather at the western edge of Juneau County, and one was located by Salter near Meromonie. The avenger filed a notch in his gun for every Indian that fell. Some said Salter killed upwards of 50 Indians, others

(Continued on Page 8)



Viewing a concrete marker of a pioneer tragedy are two young travelers. They are among the few who note the weathered reminder of the murder of Emma Caucutt Salter and the revenge her husband took on Joe and Jim Dandy more than 110 years ago. The stone stands just a few feet from the edge of Highway 80 south of its junction with Juneau County Trunk Q about six miles north of New Lisbon. The tragedy caused an Indian scare among central Wisconsin residents for several months because it happened scarcely a year after a massacre at New Ulm, Minn. Though plans have been voiced to move the marker back from the highway and protect it with an iron fence, it stands exposed, but often unnoticed by those who pass on the busy highway. The imprint of an axe helve used to kill three people still is visible, but time and the elements have worn away part of the inscription.



Here is the way George "Daddy" Salter and his wife, Elizabeth Caucutt Salter, looked in a picture taken at New Lisbon in the late 1880's. Elizabeth was born in Burlington on Feb. 19, 1846. She died in January, 1897.

Marker Unnoticed

(Continued from Front Page)

said 18 Indian lives were taken by Salter. Still others contended Salter's reputation as an Indian Killer was largely myth, but he did kill Joe and Jim Dandy "for certain."

His son, James, recalled Salter killed no less than 11 Indians.

According to the New Lisbon Centennial book published in 1954, the Salter story began when George "Daddy" Salter was born on May 16, 1826, in Witts County, England. He grew to manhood in England, and in June, 1847, married Elizabeth Gilbert of the Isle of Guernsey. A year later, his back was broken when he was run over in an accident, but he fooled the doctor who gave him less than 24 hours to live. He recovered and later spent four days in jail for whipping an employer who owed him wages.

Salter and his wife sailed for America on July 1, 1852, and they settled in Geneva, where Mrs. Salter died. Salter moved to Burlington and married Emma Caucutt.

Emma and Elizabeth Caucutt were daughters of Thomas Caucutt who once held some land in Vernon County with Salter. Their brothers were Thomas, Henry and James Caucutt. Salter later gave up his claim to the Vernon County land when he traded a team of horses to Nooney for the farm in Juneau County. Though records do not say so, Nooney apparently lived in this area too. Later, he moved to Necedah and lived near the Salters.

In a personal chronicle of his life, Salter mentions travels to Portage, Reedsburg, Kilbourn City (now Wisconsin Dells) and to the Mississippi River. He wrote he dug a number of wells and cisterns in the Burlington area.

was away, and all of the possessions, including "Old Black Hawk" and a chronicle Salter had written about his war with the Indians, were destroyed.

Miller's shack, taken over by a group of hunters from Milwaukee and Chicago, became infamous as a rendezvous for the drinking bouts. According to James Salter, a sign above the door proclaimed a \$25 fine for "anyone who leaves this place sober."

Another version says the Salter tavern burned about 1889. Nooney reportedly erected a marker on the spot with the simple inscription -- "Hell's Delight." According to one local authority, the tavern stood on a knoll behind the present site of a highway department wayside, even though this is some distance from the marker where the Indians and Mrs. Salter are said to have died. If the "Hell's Delight" marker still stands, its whereabouts has been obscured by time and Juneau County underbrush, but an area man once told me a tale of a plot to steal that marker and of its safekeeping by immersion in a secret place in the Yellow River.

"It's safe," he said, but he wouldn't tell me where it was hidden.

Mrs. Carl Riley, a granddaughter of George and Emma Salter who still lives in Madison, says members of the family always understood the "Hell's Delight" marker stood across the road near the mark of the slayings, but they were never able to find it. It was Mrs. Riley who furnished the picture of George and Elizabeth Salter for this article.

Salter died about 1906. According to one account, he didn't believe in a Supreme

It was Emma Caucutt Salter who was killed by Indians after the Salters settled in Clearfield Township in Juneau County. Salter was arrested and taken to Milwaukee after he killed Joe and Jim Dandy, but he was freed when no jury would convict him.

Salter married Elizabeth Caucutt, his second wife's sister, about a year after Emma Caucutt Salter was murdered. This wife died in January, 1897.

The pioneer settler ran a tavern near his home. He called it "Hell's Delight," but others knew it as Half Way House. The tavern prospered while the stagecoach ran between New Lisbon and Necedah and "points north." It was a favorite meeting place for deer hunters, and Salter, who had a reputation for being kind to his family and good to his neighbors, entertained them royally. He and his family were noted for the concerts they gave around the country as the Salter Concert Troupe. No performance was complete without their interpretation of the "bear dance."

According to one version of the Salter story, the tavern was abandoned about 1890, and Salter built a new home about a mile away. This version says the home burned about 1906 while the family

Being.

"But," he is supposed to have said, "if I am mistaken and there is a hereafter, it does not matter where I go as long as there are no Indians."

His funeral services were held from the home of a son, George, and he was buried in the New Lisbon cemetery.

He was survived by eight children. Some prospered as farmers and businessmen in Necedah and New Lisbon. They were George H., Fred, Harry, Frank, Miss Carrie Salter and Mrs. Mary Fish of Clearfield, Mrs. Emma Rumro of California and James who moved about 1911 to Madison, where he was a liveryman for many years. Two of James's sons, James E. and Ben, were longtime Madison grocers. Mrs. Riley has many of the family papers that tell the story of her grandparent's pioneer life.

That rugged life is far removed from those who fail to spot the concrete marker as they whiz by. They have little in common with "Daddy" Salter and others like him who brought what they thought was needed civilization to a raw and untamed land, even though their methods may have been wilder and more savage than the people and the lands they thought they were taming.

George Salter started from England on the night of September the 20th, 1843 for poaching. Walked to Salbrey for breakfast twenty-one miles from Deviges; got to Southhampton for supper; got aboard the steamer for the Island of Guernsey; got there for breakfast next morning. Looked around for work; could not find any for a week. Got some work digging chickory for two weeks and then a farmer by the name of Bonaney Martell came and saw me and wanted to know if I knew how to farm. I told him I did not and he asked me if I wanted to learn. I told him I would try. He said he could not pay much wages. I asked him how much he was willing to pay and he said that I could come and stay one month, and he would see how we got along. I had been there two weeks when he asked me how I liked it. I told him that I was satisfied. He told me I suited him and that he would give me one shilling per week and board, washing and mending for one year and after the year is up he would give me more so before my year was up he wanted to know if I wanted to stay another year. I told him if we could agree on wages, so he said that he would give me two shillings per week and washing and mending. I told him I had been offered more. He wanted to know by whom. I told him Mr. Hosone, and he wanted to know how much more. I told him sixpence. He said that he would give me the same if I would stop as we knew one another. When that year was up he wanted to know how much more wages I wanted. I told him that I wanted three pounds for the next year; if not I should leave. He said that is more than he could afford; but he said that he would give it as I had been so long with him, so we got through that year alright and then he wanted me another year but then the wages was as he wanted; I could do as much work on the farm as any man he hired and he was paying them one shilling per day and board. I told him that he had to pay me the same as he was paying them or give me five pounds another year. "Alright", he said "I shall expect you to do as much work as any of the men." "Alright", I said.

We had a man he hired every day all the year round whose name was Peter Balley. We went out to mow. It is the custom for the best man to go ahead so he started and told me to come along and you bet I did, as he was telling at the table he would give the Englishman enough before night in French. He did not know that I understood what he said so I followed him up until lunch time and Mr. Martell came down to look at his little Englishman. Balley and he walked off to one side and came back again. He said, "George, you must take your time and do your work well." I told him that he would have more hay cut if Mr. Balley would let me go ahead. He said I did not do my work good. I got my English up about that time. I put down my scythe and told him to do the same; I would fight him for my year's wages. If he licked me I would work one year for nothing, but Mr. Martell came up to me and said that he was my master and I had to do as he said. I told him that was alright as long as I did my work well I was not going to be put upon by no damn Guernsey

man. I picked up my scythe and went to the house and packed up my duds. By dinner time Mrs. Martell was crying and the hired girl was in the same fix. I asked them what was the matter with them. They said they did not want me to leave. Mrs. Martell said if I left she would not do with another hired boy the same as she had with me. She said that I was like one of her own children. She said, "I was telling Mr. Martell that Balley was talking too much about George as he knew that it was putting him out of Mr. Martell's if George stayed." But when dinner time came, no Mr. Balley came, and then I was in a fix. Mr. Martell came to me and said that he and Mr. Balley had a talk together and he said he would have a talk with George and see what he is going to do as this was his busy time. He came to me and we had some hard words but he said that Balley had left him and if I left him what was he agoing to do. I told him that I was telling of him the truth about the hay. He told me I was a fool to do as much as he did for the wages that I was getting when I could get more at Mr. Hosoner for he was speaking to him about me. I told him that I hired out to Mr. Martell for another year and I meant to stick to my bargain if we could agree. If he does not like me he must give me a month's notice or I must do the same to him, so I went to work in the afternoon and stayed my year out. That made me three years I had been with them, and then he wanted me to hire for two years more, but I thought I wanted a wife.

I told him that I would stay with him as long as we could agree, but he wanted me to work by the month. That did not suit me. He said that if I wanted to get married I could do so and live with him the same as we were doing, as it was the hired girl I was courting at the time. I told him that I did not intend to marry before the spring so we went along first rate for another six months.

I then heard of the Public Works at Alderney and they were paying big wages so I gave Mr. Martell notice that I should leave. He said, "Allright," I could go any time as Mr. Balley was waiting for the job, so I left on the 16th day of May, 1847 and got work for three shillings per day and made two days extra every week. I got married to Elizabeth Gilberts, a Guernsey girl, on the 21st day of June, 1847, went to keeping house. I took in lodgers. We got seven. The boarded themselves, and we charged them one shilling per week to do their cooking and sleeping. We did very well until one payday the whole lot left us and did not pay. I was in a pretty fix; my rent due and I had been buying things for the house and spent my money what my wages came to so the landlord gave me notice to leave. So there I was--could not get a house in town. I heard of one but that was four miles from my work, so I could not do any better so I took that for three months, and I had to pay in advance. That was the first day of January, 1848. I managed to get four lodgers and did very well, kept working on until the 9th day of June, 1848 when I got my back broken. The cars ran over me; that laid me up. The doctorssaid that I could not live twenty-four hours, but I told them that I was not going to die this time, so there

I was with a wife and one child two months old, and me on the broad of my back. So I laid there for three months and we spent all the money that we had saved, and we moved back to the Island of Guernsey to be nearer the doctor. I had to go on two crutches for over a month. The woman would go out to wash every day, and I would take care of the baby and we got along first rate. I commenced getting stronger every day. I could walk without the crutches but I could not go very far at a time, but managed to get some work of breaking stones close by. I was paid by the ton. The quarry men were very good to me. They showed me how to break the stones. There is quite a knack in hitting them in the right place as it is all blue granite and if you did not strike them right you could not break them. You had to have a cast steel hammer and there were but very few blacksmiths that could make one that would stand it as they only weighed about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound and then the handle about two feet long and about as big as your finger. It was generally the black thorn and you had to pay one penny each for them as I did not know where to get them myself. The hammer cost two shilling and we had to have another one that weighed four pounds which cost four shillings so that is your outfit. Some old men had cushions to sit on but I had to stand up and then the first month I earned six pence per day. I tell you I felt proud. I kept on gaining every month until I could do as much as anyone in the quarry, breaking my ton of stones every day now.

I'll tell you how these stones must be broken. First they must go through a two inch ring and then they have to be sifted and get all the dirt out of them. They are then all weighed and put aboard the vessels for ballast. We get two shillings and six pence per ton and then the master of the quarry took a liking to me and asked me if I would run the quarry for him as he was old and could not do any work himself. I told him I knew nothing about quarrying and did not want anything to do with it. He said that I knew as much about it as he did. He said that if I would take hold of it he would give me a good layout. I spoke to several men with whom I got acquainted and one of them said, "George, I will take a hand with you." I said, "Allright, I will take it." I went to the old man Collings and asked him what his layout was. Well he said, "I want one shilling per ton for stones that leave the quarry." I said that was allright and then I said about the tools. He said that the tools are all there. I had to keep them in repair and find my own powder and fuse. I said that was allright.

We commenced on the next Monday and did first rate as it was the time for the vessels to bring coal to the Island, and stones back for ballast. We squared up with the old man and had five pounds our own. The next month we started in bigger thinking to make a big haul but that broke us. We lost every penny we made before ~~xxxxx~~. That discouraged me and I sold out to my pardner. The next month he told me he made ten pounds clear of everything. I told him I was glad of it and went on the Island of Herm to farm. An old Guernsey man owned the whole Island, and

he hired me to run the farm and see to everything. He would give me twelve pounds a year and find everything that I needed. My wife was to see to the dairy and I the farm. We got along first rate.

There were plenty of rabbits on the Island, and the old man reserved these and rented them every fall to men on the Island of Guernsey for twelve pounds the season. So after the first year I could not stand it any longer. I must have some rabbits so I asked the old man to rent them to me. I would pay him one pound more than he was getting. "Oh no, George," said he, "There would not be one left to breed from." So then I was bound to have some and you bet I did. The old man suspected me and commenced finding fault with the woman and saying that I was killing all of his rabbits. Then my little girl took sick and died. We had to take her to the Island of Guernsey to bury her.

While I was there I saw my old master, Mr. Martell. He asked me what I was doing. I told him I was working for Mr. Fallow on the Island of Harm. He said that the old man was hard to please and said that if I did not like it he wanted me and the woman to come and work again for him. He had a lot of threshing to do and he would give it to do by the hundred bundles. I asked him what it would give. He said that he would give me two shillings and six pence for wheat and two shillings for oats, ~~xxx~~ and twenty pence for barley. "Allright," I said, "I will and see you next Sunday." That was on a Thursday, so I went back to the Island which is three miles across the channel, and saw Mr. Fallow. He said he was very sorry for my loss. I told him I was too. "Well, George," he said, "You have got a gun." I said that I had. Well he said I must leave it in his possession. I told him I would not do any such thing. "Well then you will have to leave the Island," he said. I told him that is just what I wanted but he said that I could not have his boat to go and that he would not pay me. I told him I thought he would. I had not received but one pound and I had been there one year and a half. He said that he had not got the money. I told him that was allright. I would take his word so he said come in the house. He went in the sitting room and went to the cupboard and fetched out the decanter of brandy and told me to take a drink and go to work like a good boy and not shoot any more of his rabbits. I took a good snifter out of the bottle and told him that I wanted the boat Sunday. He was tickled--thought it was allright so I told the woman where I was going. She said she was getting tired of the old fellow's abuse so I told her to keep still until I got back. I got back Monday night. The old man came over to the house as soon as I got there and wanted to know what kept me and Tom Cuelbey so long. I told him that I got drunk Sunday and Tom would not go without me. "Well," he said, "You do not look like you had been drunk but Tom does." I told him that I had been out to my wife's father and bought me some land, and I had to pay for it next Saturday,

and if he could pay me what he owed me I would like it very much. He asked me how much land it was. I told him the wife had five verges, which is two acres and a half, and I had bought five more. Then he wanted to know how much I had to pay for it. I told him I was to pay down twenty pounds and the rest in five years with three percent interest. He said if I would like he would pay all the money down and I could work it out for him. I told him I would talk to the wife about it and let him know in the morning. Now you see I was in a fine fix. I had told him a dam lie and how was I to get out of it. I had hired out to Mr. Martell and we were to go in a week or ten days, and he would meet me with his team for my furniture. I was to go out to his place to get the house ready. I did not know what to do as I knew if he found me out in a lie I would have a time in getting my money so I and the woman made up a good big lie. You all know when a woman makes up her mind to lie she can do it in good shape. It was the time we were cutting sea weed for the land so in the morning the old man was there by five o'clock. We had our bitters. He wanted to know what the woman had said about what we were speaking about the night. I had it all made up, you bet. I told him that the wife had thanked him for his kindness but thought that we had better not run in debt any more to pay down the twenty pounds and let the balance remain on the land because if I was to be taken sick we should lose everything as we did on the Island of Alderney. So that satisfied the old man. He said probably that would be the best way to do. The wife by this time had got up and came out where the old man and I were talking. He told her that he was glad that George was putting his money in good use. "Yes," she said, "It is about time he thought of some thing as he would have sold that five verges of mine, but I told him that perhaps if we had good luck we might have a chance to buy the five verges joining and that would make us a home if we could pay for it and keep out of debt." He said that is just how he started in but then I knew better than that because his father, when he died, willed Thomas Fallow fifty thousand pounds and Peter one hundred thousand pounds, and he had paid fifty thousand pounds to the English Government for part pay for the Island and the other half Peter was to pay which was fifty thousand more, but he was to give his brother Tomas one fourth of what he raised on the Island as his brother had but one farm and was a big drunkard and had to have guardians over him. He had no wife; he was a bachelor like his brother Peter. They had two sisters married but well off, and Peter and one of his brothers-in-law were appointed Thomas's guardians so they let Peter have Tom's money and he was to pay his board and had so much spending money every week. Sometimes it did not last out and then there was fun. Peter would not have him on the Island with him so he paid his board on the Island of Guernsey every week. When Thomas felt like it he would hire a boat and someone to fetch him over to see his brother Peter to get a little money, and Peter would pay the boat man every time, but he would tell him that if he ever fetched

6 him anymore he would never pay another half penny, but the man knew better and he would say allright, I will not take your brother back and pretend to go away. Then Peter would call him back and pay him and then Tom would not go without so much money. Sometimes he would get him started with two francs and sometimes Thomas would have more. One time when Peter would not give him what he wanted he nearly killed him. He had him down in the old man's parlor and had the door locked and the key in his pocket. My wife heard the old man holler ~~xxxxxxx~~ murder and run out and call for me. I was out in the field. I did not know what was up. I ran like the devil, got there and broke the door open. Then Thomas and I had a set-to. He gave me a beautiful black eye, and Peter cleared out and left us two to settle the question. I tell you we were two beautiful birds to look at when Peter came back washed up. My wife had taken him in our house. When he came he said, "Ha, ha, Thomas, you have got your master this time. I told you that I would get George Salter to give you a dam good threshing some day for your abuse because I knew he could do it as I saw him fight with a sailor for over half an hour, but George did not know me then."

Thomas wanted to go for Peter again, but I told him to stop it, or I would settle with him. "Yes," said Peter, "I shall leave it to George to settle with you." Well I said, "Tom, come with me and we will talk the matter over." Well he said, "I want two francs and I will go." "Allright," said Peter, "If you told me that before I would have given it to you without all of this fuss but you said you wanted five francs and would have it or kill me and you would have done it if George Salter had not come when he did, or why did you lock the door and put the key in your pocket." Tom said, "I wanted to scare you a little because I knew you would give it to me, but when you grabbed the poker I knew you would not do it, and then that is when I knocked you down and got on top of you. I did not mean to hurt you but I saw when that little devil came I knew I had to fight. I thought I could soon do him up but dam him, I could not strike him. When I struck at him he was not there. I thought I had him once when I knocked him over the table, but he was on top of me before I knew anything, but then, I will forgive him. For his pluck, Peter, you give him five francs for me and I will not come over for one month." That put an end to Tom and Peter quarreling for over six months but after I left it was just as bad.

The next morning Peter came and paid me the twenty pounds, you bet. I thanked him very kindly for it. Tom Curbey and I went over to the Island of Guernsey on Sunday and I went out to Mr. Martell's and told what I had done. He said that was allright and I should let him know and he would come to pick me up anytime. He said, "how are you going to get away?" I told him that I had made it up with Tom Curbey that he would bring us over in the night time, that I was to get the old man drunk and we would be allright for that night. The woman was to peck up all she could in the daytime and the balance while he and I were drinking. Then

Tom and the man that wanted my place would put the horse in the cart and take the things and stow them away in the boat. By eleven o'clock the old man wanted to go to bed. I wished him good-bye and good night, and away I started. They had everything all ready to start when I got outside, but I went back to see if the old man was in bed, but everything was quiet and dark. I tell you we made a quick trip as the boys got back before the old man was up. I told the boys to come out and see me. They said they would be out in a week from Sunday. I told them I would give them a good time and they should bring me the news. Sure enough, they came and we had a big time of it. They said that the old man was up about five o'clock in the morning and they watched him. He went to the house that I had lived in and knocked at the door. Then he opened it. They said that you would have laughed to see him: he pulled off his hat, slashed it on the floor and jumped on it and kicked it out of the door, and went around the yard. Then he went to the boys and asked them if they had seen anything of George Salter. They said that they had not. He called them all dam liars and said that he would send them all away that very day and have me arrested as I had made him drunk and robbed him of twenty pounds. Tom Curby was the first to go to him to settle up with him. He swore that he did not owe him anything and told him to go away, and said that it was all his fault that I was gone and that he saw him fixing up the boat the day before. He knew there was something up and so he took another drink of brandy as he always kept a good supply on hand. So the boys did no work that day.

I went to work all that summer and all the winter did not lose a week, and made my two shillings and sometimes six pence more per day and boarded myself, thinking that was big wages. The next summer I worked all around, first to one farmer and then to another. They gave me eighteen pence and my board per day. I had saved up quite a little sum of money and the woman worked around and got enough to pay rent and keep the house.

There was an old rich farmer who owed me one pound and the wife five shillings. He lived about a half mile from our house. I told my wife to put my supper on the table and she could go to Peter Prevow and get that money as I was very tired as I was threshing early and late. I had eaten my supper and gone to bed when I heard my wife coming and crying. I thought she was fooling me. I asked her what was the matter. She told me that old Prevow had shut her in the house when she went in and swore he would kill her if she ever asked him for money again. That raised the English in Salter. I got up and put some of my clothes on and started for Mr. Prevows, but the wife said he would kill me. I told her if he did he would be the first man that did it. I had heard he was a hard nut to handle. I told my wife to stay home but no, she said if he killed me he would have to kill her too so away I started. We were not long in getting there either.

I knocked at the door. Mrs. Prevow came to the door. She asked me in. I said no, I wanted to see Mr. Prevow. He came to the door and I grabbed him and pulled him outside and I let him have it, you bet. He managed to crawl inside the door on all fours and his wife barred the door against me. I kicked the panels of the door in and then the wife and I went home, and went to bed but did not sleep much. I went to my work the next morning and told Mr. Martell all about it and then he told me he was afraid I should have trouble with him about the money as he had broken a Guernsey man's arm for asking him for money due him, so as we were talking Mr. Prevow drove by in his carriage. Mr. Martell said he was agoing to get the law on me. I asked him what I had better do. He said I should stay where I was and he would see about it. Sure enough, as Mr. Martell said, the next day out comes a warrent and constable. He came where I was at work and read the warrent, to appear at the Judge's office the next day. Mr. Martell told him he would see that I was there you bet. It was a big trial. The Judge's office was full. That old rascal up and swore that he did not hinder my wife from leaving his house and that I came and knocked at his door and he came to the door with the child in his arms, and I grabbed him by the throat and pulled him out of his own house. His wife took the child out of his arms or it might have been killed in the tussel as I knocked him down and broke the door in. His wife went to fetch his gun. The Judge asked him if I left then. He said that I did not and the Judge asked him the reason he did not shoot. He said that he had no powder nor shot. The Judge said, "That will do now. Mr. Salter please tell me all about the trouble with yourself and Mr. Prevow." I told him that I worked for him twenty days and he paid me ten shillings. He agreed to pay me one shilling and six pence per day, and he was owing my wife five shillings. She went and asked him for the money as I wanted to use it. I told the Judge that the woman would tell him the balance, so she told the judge the same as I had told, and then the lawyers got up and I had a great talk. ~~XXXX~~ His lawyer said that if they did not convict that man we have no law on the Island of Guernsey. This man Salter could get redress if he applied for it without taking it in his own hands, and I ought to be banished from the Island. He said that if a Guernsey man has to be pounded and set upon by an English man we better all leave and let the English run the Island to suit themselves. My Lawyer got up and asked the worthy gentleman that if a man done his work as Salter has, he wants his pay and not be bullied out of it as that man has tried to do but he has found the wrong man this time. We can prove that has been his way in doing with his hired men and women. How did he serve his own nephew. He broke his arm and then had to pay him and the doctor besides. "Now, Gentlemen, look at this man and woman. Because he did not want to leave his work and go for the money he sent his wife for it and then this man--but he is not worthy to be called a man--went and abused her and now he comes here and swears that this man Salter has threatened to take his life. Gentlemen, I think to look at this man and woman, they do not look like murderers. Look at the man that accuses them. Looks more like one than ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ anyone I can see in this courtroom. Here is Mr. Martell with this man's character. He has worked for him this six years. Now Mr. Martell will

please tell the Judge what he knows about Mr. Salter and wife." "About telling the truth," he said, "I never found George in a lie ever since he has worked for me. He is the best hired man that I ever had and minded his own business but will not be put on if he is small he will take his own part in any crowd." The Judge then asked Mr. Martell if he would go my bondsman for fifty pounds to keep the peace again for six months. He said, "Yes sir, and more if you wish." He said that will do and then my lawyer got up and asked the judge if he meant that Mr. Salter was not to speak to Mr. Prevow. He said, "Yes." "Then, Mr. Judge, I ask you to make this man Prevow pay this man and woman before he leaves this court room and that will stop any more law." The Judge said, "Mr. Prevow pay this man and woman what you owe them." He paid it right there and then the Judge said, "Mr. Salter, this court has got to punish you for breaking the law. Therefore, I sentence you to four days in the jail, two days on bread and water and two days solitary confinement and not to come before me again or I will put a heavier punishment on you." I Thanked him and was turned over to the jailor to be locked up. After I got in the jail I was searched and everything was taken away from me. Then he asked me which two days I wanted to be confined. I told him if he please, I would take the two first days. Allright, he said, if I was a good boy he would let me out of the cell every day until eight o'clock in the morning and then shut up until four in the afternoon, so I thought I could stand that for two days. Then the third day my wife bought me a basket full of one thing and another. There were seven more in the jail with me and I tell you we had a good time the other two days I was there. The wife was in both days until four o'clock. The first day the old jailor gave us a pack of cards to play with and we got into a sham fight and the old jailor came up in the gallery to see what was the matter, and all of us grabbed him and put him in one of the cells, and locked him in. He swore when he came out he would lock us up in the dark cell. We kept him there one hour. He said that he would be mean enough to put us in dark cells on the ground floor that night, so we let him out at three o'clock and at five he sent his wife up with our suppers and she said that Mr. Hosone had gone to get some men to punish us for using him as we did, so when it was time to be locked in our cells we all agreed that the whole lot of us would bolt in one cell and barricade the door with the bedsteads so that the old jailor could not get in the cell to separate us, so sure enough along he came with six men but they could not get at us so we stayed there all night and we sang and raised the devil all night. The next morning he came up at the usual hour to let us out and after we were all out he went and locked all the cells and put the keys in his pocket. He gave me the devil and said that it was all my fault that the rest carried on so because they were all quiet before I came and said that he was very glad that my time was up for If I had to stay one month he would have to lock me up all the time. He said that if it was not for my wife he would keep me longer for my carrying on so yesterday. So my wife came in at three o'clock and brought me some clean clothes. The old man let me out at five o'clock and I went home and got to work again once more. I finished Mr. Martell's

threshing which made me eighteen months and then I went in to town and hired a coal store. I did first rate, made from one to two pounds per week and I walked four miles to and from my work every day except Sundays as Saturday nights I did not get home till between eleven and twelve o'clock. It was through renting the coal store that I heard about America. He was an old captain that I rented the store from and he was in to see how I got along. He said that I ought to go to American. He said that I would soon make a fortune; land was only five shillings per acre, and make our own candles and soap. Beef was one and a half penny per pound; pork the same, and wheat about two shillings per bushel. I inquired more about America but I had rented the store for one year and could not leave that because I had paid the rent for the year, so I had to stay my time out and as soon as my time was out I was bound to move from the Inland. There was a great boom for Australia, to go to any port for two pounds. I had all my papers made out for Sinee and want to be examined by the doctor. He would not give me a certificate and there I was: sold everything I had what I could not sell I gave away so then I went to the Captain Leroy. He wanted to rent his coal store to me again for one pound less than before but I told him No, I had made up my mind to leave the Inland of Guernsey and I would try America, hit or miss, so I inquired and saw how much it would take me and wife. I found that it would take fifteen pounds to take me and wife and then we had a little boy three months old. He was taken sick with the cholera marvus and died in two hours. That delayed us three weeks and the wife was taken sick. I was nearly given up in going to America but the wife said that she could not stay on the Inland no longer. I said allright here's for America.

I wrote to Liverpool and engaged passage for America. We could get passage in the steerage for six pounds each and second cabin for seven pounds each so I engaged the one in the second cabin and were to be there the first of July, 1852. Got to Liverpool and sailed the next day. Went on board the same day that we got there, slept on board that night, got up early the next morning and the vessel was toled out in the stream. Then all on board had to walk before three doctors to see if we were sound but they found one woman and two were coming down with the smallpox. They very soon hustled her and the children ashore and the vessel started. We had been out two weeks and the report came from the cabin that smallpox had broken out there, but it was kept very quiet for one week when there were three cases in the steerage. I tell you it was a sight to see; the poor children and no one to look after them. I think there were fifteen children down with it and no one could tell how many grown up persons were down with it as no one was allowed to go where they were but the nurses and the doctor. When one died we were called upon deck to see the poor devils tipped overboard. There was a family of man and wife, and three children, two of them were thrown overboard and the other one got to New York, but he was taken to Straton Inland and he died there. It was through this family that me and wife came to Wisconsin as the husband had two brothers living in Geneva, Walworth County. They ~~xixxx~~ said that his brothers were coming to meet them at Kenosha which was called South Port then and said that me and my wife had been so kind to them that we should lose nothing by it. If I would let them have some money as all they had was two pounds, they would have to stop in New York until they could send to their

brothers. We had been in New York one week and their little one was dead and buried over on Staten Island. They went over but the authorities would not let them see the child so they came where we were staying and asked us to go along with them. We said, "Yes." So we went to the station and paid our fare to Buffalo.

We started the next morning for the west and glad to get out of the city for it was costing us one dollar per day each and my little pile would soon be gone at that rate so we got as far as Albany the first day. That was Saturday and then we had to stay over Sunday. There was another expense. Then we went out to take a look around the city in the afternoon of Sunday. I tell you soon found plenty of friends who told us that we were going to a damn poor state. A man could get plenty of work but no money--had to take just what the farm raised if he did not raise nothing we would get nothing for our work. One of the men was an Irishman who said that he knew a place for me and my wife as the farmer wanted a man and wife to tend to the dairy and a man to work around the house. He knew we would just suit him as he was in the city Saturday and told him to send him if he see anybody that answered that description, and he would pay good wages to send them along. He lived twelve miles from Albany. I told him that if he would go and show me the place I would hire a team and pay all expenses. I called for some more whiskey and we had a good time of it. He agreed to meet me Monday morning by five o'clock. We all stayed up until eleven o'clock. I went to the landlord and spoke to him about it as the Paddy was gone and I had made it up with the folks that if I got the place they could take my tickets as they had only paid their fare to Albany. I had given the Paddy one dollar to begin with. The Landlord came in just as we were going upstairs and wanted to know what damn lies that Paddy had been telling. I told him my story and he said that you cannot believe one word that he says as he only wanted to get all he could of us. He said, "Man you had better keep on your journey and listen to no one that you see in this country as he was served the very same trick when he landed in New York five years ago." He was a Yorkshire man so we were to start the next morning at eight o'clock but did not see Mr. Paddy. Went to the depot and loaned the man and wife money to buy their tickets as he had but one pound left to buy grub with to last them through, so you see I had two families on my hands to look after. We got up to Buffalo and then we had to take the steamer to Kenneau. Got there alright but no brothers, there to meet us. The Hotel that we stopped at was the place that his brothers gave directions to stop at and they would be there to meet them with a team. We went and saw the landlord. He said that the two brothers had been there a week and gone back yesterday, and said that if they should come to let them stay until they should come again, and they would pay all expenses. There was a man and wife and three children so that encouraged me and I said that we would get out as soon as we could get there. So we went to a livery stable. They asked us twelve dollars to take us to Geneva. I told the man that was too much and we were poor, but I would give him ten. He said that he could do it no cheaper as he and team would be out all night. So we went back to the hotel and told the landlord of what we had done. He said that

was too much and said he would look around and see what he could do for us. He was not gone five minutes before a farmer had just come in with a load of wheat and said that he lived about four miles from Geneva and he would take us there for six dollars and give us our dinner. You bet I soon made a bargain with him so we settled up with the landlord and were soon on the road.

I learned a good deal about Wisconsin and about farming and wages. When we got to his place we sat down to the best dinner since I left the Island of Guernsey. He showed me all over his farm and his stock and said he was poor when he came there ten years ago and now he did not owe anybody a cent. He had one hundred and sixty acres of land and owed for the land when he went on it. He had no team nor anything to do with and had to hire everything done as he had no wife for two years after he had been there. He said that he worked around for other farmers and turned in and they helped him break up some land and got some crops in. Then he said he thought he was allright and then he worked one month for a cow. He had to go and show us the cow and said that he was going to keep her as long as she lived, that no money would buy her from him so we started after dinner and got to Geneva about five o'clock. One of the brothers lived in town so we soon found him and he took us to the hotel and he and his brother had to talk things over all about how he got along in coming and where were the children. He told him he did not know what he would have done if it had not been for Mr. Salter and wife. They had not enough money to leave New York if it had not been for me so the next day was Sunday, we walked all around Geneva and saw a lot of English folks. I began to feel like myself once more so at night there was about twenty men and their wives. I tell you we had a big time of it, telling stories and all about England. I told them that I did not know much about England as I had not been there, only as I came through to come to this country since 1843 and how here it is 1852. Then I had to tell them all about my poaching and how I got along on the Islands and there was a Welchman by the name of Jones, a blacksmith. He heard me say that I had worked in a shoeing smith's shop and he came and asked me if I could shoe a horse. I told him I could clinch a horseshoe and he said to come down to his shop in the morning and see him. I inquired about him. They say he was a good mechanic but would have his spreeds once in a while. I went down to the shop in the morning and there was an old man by name of Rutter. He asked me if I was a blacksmith. I told him I was not but I had worked at it some. He said that he and Jones were in company and they wanted a helper. He thought I would be just the man for them as they had so much to do with winter coming ringt along. I asked him where Mr. Jones was. He said that his wife was sick but he would go and call him so he came. He said that Mr. Rutter thought if you could use the sledge and clinch up horses we could get along without hiring another blacksmith if we could agree on the wages. I told them that I did not know anything about wages. I asked them what they were willing to give me because I had a wife to keep so Mr. Jones said that I should come down this evening and they two would talk the matter over and bring my wife with me. So me and wife went down to Mr. Jones just as they were going to supper and so we had to sit down tith

(13)

them. We told them we had been to supper but we had to sit down with them and after supper Mr. Jones said, "Come, Mr. Salter?" I told him that was not my name; it was George. Allright he said, you will excuse me that your short acquaintance did not look right to call you George, but he said that he noticed all of them last night a calling me George but I thought that they were some of your acquaintance. He said that Mr. Rutter agreed to meet us up town tonight so we started. I left my wife with Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Rutter came. They were Americans but Mrs Jones was English and we went up town. We found Mr. Rutter so the two went one side about five minutes and they came over to where I was sitting and said that they had made up their minds for me to come and work, commencing tomorrow morning. I told them I had some business to do with the Forbes as I had let the brother and wife have some money on the road ~~far~~ and I agreed to meet them Tuesday. Mr. Jones said that was allright. They were good for any amount so when I got back to Mr. Jones my wife had agreed to stay with Mrs. Jones one month so that would give us time to look up a house to live in and get some furniture so I went and meet the men and they paid me every cent and said they were very thankful, for what I had done for their brother when he was in trouble, and if ever/ I wanted anything they had I was welcome to so I thanked them for their kind offer. I went to work the next morning and did first rate. I liked the two masters as I called them. Then I tell you we lived like fighting cocks. I told the wife this was the country to be in and so Mr. Jones wanted to know how I liked the place. I told him that I was suited first rate. He said that they were and now how much wages do you want. I told them that I was a greenhorn and did not know the ways of the country. I would leave it to them to give me what they thought I could earn so he said that they would give me twelve dollars for the first month and board and stay at Mr. Jones for the first month, and then they would see how we got along together. I agreed to try it. I thought that was a big price for me to the woman and myself founded everything and twelve dollars a month I thought I should soon get rich and buy a farm of my own. We looked at a house the man wanted one hundred and fifty dollars for it so I told him I would let him know in three weeks whether I would take it or not so I told Mr. Jones about it, and he said for me not to be in a hurry just yet, that the man offered the house and two lots for one hundred and twenty five dollars so the man was down in two days saying that there was another man that wanted the place. I told him that I would come up and see him Sunday as we worked until seven o'clock nights. He said allright, bring your wife along, and take dinner with us, so I said that I would so I told Jones what he said and Jones said that he wanted to sell the place bad and not for me to give him any more than one hundred and twenty five as he knew there had not been anybody else there to see him as he had a farm in the country and wanted to move out in the spring on it and had nothing to go on with no team. He and wife went to his house on Sunday and took dinner. They were very good and after dinner the house question came up and he wanted to know if I wanted that house and lot. I asked him if there was more than

one lot. He said that there were two lots but his wife owned one of them and she did not want to sell it. I told him that if I bought I should want the two lots and I should like to have a garden as I had been used to work on a farm, and if I stayed in Geneva I should put up a good house and barn on it so I could keep a few cows as my wife was used to work a dairy. Well he said that he would speak to the wife about it. I said alright, but he said he should have to ask more money for the house and two lots. I asked him how much more he would want. Then he began to praise the lots up and that one on the corner where the house stands he said in two or three years will be worth one thousand dollars. But he said that he must sell as the man that took his farm to work has let everything run down and he has got to go out on it. I ~~had~~ ought to go out on it this fall and fix it up this winter so as I could get ready for the ~~spring~~ spring work. I told him that if I bought the place I would like to get it by the first of November as me and wife had only hired out to Mr. Jones one month on trial. Alright, he said, if we could agree on the price as he would have to go right out to the farm and build a house so he could move in. I told him I did not care for a week or so that me and wife could stay where we were a week or two. Mr. Jones told us so he said come up here tomorrow night and we will talk things over. I said alright, so when I got back to Mr. Jones I told him what Mr. McFadden had said. He asked me if I knew anything about the Irish folks that they would lie for a dollar. Now he said you take my advice. Before you go any farther with that bargain you go to the town clerk and get the numbers of his lots and then you and I will go up to the county seat at Elkhorn and see if there is anything against the lots as I would not take his word so you put him off but do not say anything what I have told you and we will work tomorrow night until eight o'clock because he knows that you are just come over and do not know anything. You tell him that you will come up next Sunday and we will go up to Elkhorn Friday and see for ourselves, and not ~~xxxxxxx~~ tell anyone about where we are going. You must tell him that you intend to buy some place in town somewhere so Mr. McFadden was down to the shop before noon to see me and I told him that we were very busy and got to work nights to prepair for winter. Mr. Rutter was to quit on New Years and then Mr. Jones was going to run the shop himself so that satisfied him. He said he was going out to his farm in the morning to see what he wanted to get and if I had ten dollars to let him have it. He would give me good security for it. I told him that I had let Mr. Jones have every dollar that I had to spare to send for a new stock of iron and steel and then he wanted five. I told him to go and see the woman so he started to the house. He told my wife that I sent him to ask her for five dollars so she let him have it so I did not see him anymore until Sunday and then I was ready for the Paddy but he did not come. Paddy put one over me but he would have done it if it had not been for Mr. Jones we went up to Elkhorn and found fifty dollars mortgage given to a man by the name of Samuel Stafford in May the first, 1852 so I went and saw Mr. Stafford and asked him if the mortgage had been paid. He said no. He wanted to know what for I told him I thought of buying it. He said if you buy it do not pay him any money

before seeing him. Make him give you a warranty deed of the lots and I will turn the mortgage over to you and I will make you a present. He said it was a store bill he had been owing him for five years and he could not get a cent out of him. He had to take that mortgage or nothing so I keep still and went up Sunday. He said that he was just coming down to see me. I asked him if he had made up his mind what to ask for the two lots and house. He said that he wanted two hundred dollars for them. I told him that was bigger than my pile. Well he said what are you willing to give cash down. I told him that I did not know what property was worth in this country. Well he said that the corner lot is worth the money what he asked for it but he said as you are a stranger here I will let you have it for one hundred and fifty dollars if I pay all the money down and then I was in a pucker about the fifty dollar mortgage. I asked him if he would give me a good deed of the lots. He said that he would allright. I said make out the papers tomorrow and I pay you the money. I asked him who he was going to get to make out the papers as I would leave the money with him. He said Esq. Rich. So Mr. Jones and I went and saw Sam Stafford and told him what I had done. He said that is allright. I will go and see Lawyer Rich myself and make the arrangements with him. You can bring the money and I will take it to Rich and put him on the trade. Monday morning along came Paddy and his wife. I put out of the shop and told Mr. Rutter that I was going up town with Mr. Jones and away they put and just then in came Mr. Stafford and said that he had fixed it allright. I asked him what about my five that I let him have. He said that is all O. K. After dinner I walked up town to see how they made out. I saw Esq. Rich. He said Mr. Salter have you got time to go up to my office? I said no. He said that there was a deed up at his office in my favor allright. I said I will be up in the evening. He said, When you come go and bring Sam Stafford with you as I want to see both of you about the deed and mortgage so as to have things all cleared up and so I and Mr. Stafford went up in the evening. We heard lots of fun how he had fixed Paddy and wife. He came and asked me if Mr. Salter had left any money with him. He ~~said~~ said he has left one hundred and forty five dollars with me. That is allright he said. Make out the deed for the two lots and house and I will go and get my wife so I asked him how much I am to put down in the deed. He said two hundred dollars as I was going to pay him fifty more next spring. He fetched his wife and two men and signed the deed. After the two men were gone Mr. Rich asked him how about the mortgage that is on the lots. Oh, he said that he was going to see Sam Stafford and pay him. He said that I have got the mortgage. Mr. Stafford sold it to me. Well he said I will pay you in the spring when Salter pays me the other fifty dollars and give you good interest for it but he said how can you give Mr. Salter a warranty deed

(16) "Oh," he said, "that does not make no difference for two or three months. "Oh, yes," said Mr. Rich, "Salter could send you to State prison for that offense but he said that Salter would not know anything about it. "Oh, yes, Salter knows now all about it well," he said. Esquire, cannot you help me? That dam debt of Sam Stafford's, it was some dam old stuff he had in his store ever since he opened store in Geneva. Well, what did you give him this mortgage for. Well, I tell you, he kept donning me about it because when I got the dam old rubbish, he said that I could pay him anytime. One day last May he got at me and threatened me and got me drunk. That is the time I gave it to him. But, Mr. Rich said, you must have been sober because your wife signed it. Mr. Rich said for him to go and see me and get a mortgage from me for the other fiftyxxx dollars and I will take it from Mr. Salter and give him all the time he wants as long as he pays me interest on it. So poor Paddy went away with ninty dollars cash but he never came to see me. I seen him the next Saturday night drunk. He told me dam lot of lies as ever I hear. How that dam Esquire Rich and that dam rascal of Sam Stafford had cheated him out of Seventy Dollars for nothing. I told him I was very sorry for him as I had paid all the money that I agreed to pay. Yes, he said, I do not blam you but he said that he had sold the place Fifty dollars to cheap. Well, I told him that I could not help that. So he said be you not agoing to treat one. Yes, I said, come up and have what you want.

So I had hired out to Mr. Jones and Mr. Rutter for three months. They was to pay me twelve dollars and board per month or they would allow me three dollars per week for board. I thought that was big wages and Mrs. Jones was pleased with the wife. She said that if she would stay until spring, she would give her one dollar per week and she could do my washing and mending just the same if we lived in another house and we could rent the house that we bought. So you see we was agoing to get rich quick if we had good health as we had clothes enough to last us two or three years what we brought with us. So that money we got, we could lay by as I had about fifty dollars left out of my pile but that was not to be long.

As about three weeks my wife took sick and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ died so there was another pull back for me. I did not know what to do. I thought I would go back to the Island of Guernsey again but John Jones said I could stop with them and make my home with them. They would hitch up their team every Sunday and go to some English peapole until I got acquainted with nearly all as was round there for thirty miles around. I sold my house and put the money into stock and horses until I got quite a lot of stock. I stayed with Jones three years and then I went on a farm. Took a farm with a man I got acquainted with. His wife died in a week after mine and he was keeping my stock. He had two sisters-in-laws keeping house for him. I used to go every Sunday. It was just across the lake from Geneva but he had no money to buy the seed wheat so I had to purse out for that. When the crops was all in he said I would buy a horse, he would tend to the corn and I could go to work until haying and harvest time. He would see to everything. I should have my equal share the same as him as that would be one-third each. I had four cows. I told the woman that they could

Y
have all the butter that the cows would make only raise the calves. Then I had four four-year-old steers and three sows with six pigs each and I bought two horses, left one for him and one I took with me as I got in with a man digging wells. He had the machinery and I found the horse and wagon and went halves with him. I done very well. We would hire from five to six dollars per day, quit digging and went to help harvest the grain. After the work was done, I went at the well digging again as I could do better at that than anything else. Had plenty of work. More than we could do.

I wrote Jack Waton, that was the man's name as was my partner, told him that for him to do the work and I would pay my share of the expenses as I could not leave my work as we had two wells to dig and deep ones at that. I could not leave before it froze up. He did do all the work in good shape. He got the wheat and oats thrashed and sold the whole dam lot except thirty five bushels that he was to keep for his bread and my share of the corn he had fed all and kept his own. There I was with twenty hogs and nothing to feed them and they was about half fat. Resold all the hay. There I was in a dam pretty fix with eight head of cattle and two horses and nothing to feed them. I went and got two teams and took what wheat and oats left and my hogs and moved to Lynesday, in Walthworth county, with a widow by the name of Marshall as she had a big farm and plenty of hay. She wanted to buy one of my horses and then she had a daughter 18 years old but the Old Lady caught us writing to each other. As the Old Lady thought I would marry her but I thought more of the girl than her. So the Old Lady sent the girl off to Fond du Lac where she had a son by the name of John Marshall, a preacher. But the girl took sick and died so in the Spring as soon as the frost was out of the ground I started adigging wells, and cisterns.

I done very well, got more work than I could do. That was in the ye r of 1855. Went to Burlington, Racine County, xxxxxx acquainted with a lot of English folks. Done quite a lot of work around there and saved a snug little sum of money. I got acquainted with my present Father-in-law and that fall him and me went and bought Government Land in Bad Ax but now Vernon County, Wisconsin. When I came back from La Crosse, as that was the land office for that District, at that time, I bought three forties and my Father-in-law premped quarter section.

X
I must tell you now that his name is Thomas Caucutt. He had a family of girls. I took quite a fancy to them and the mother done all my washing, mending, and the old man said that I had better make my home there with him as I had no particular place to stay. I told him I would as long as I stayed around there. I told him that I thought of going to Oregon before the spring opens as I had some acquaintances there and they kept writing to me to come. They had been there 18 months and they had sent to their father seven thousand dollars in gold. So they thought I would start after New Years.

So I got acquainted with about all the English and a family by the name of Norris. He had a lot of boys and he said that some of his boys would like to go along with me to Oregon. Two of them was down at La Salle, Illinois, so I wrote to them. They said that they would go along with me if I would accept of their company, and if I would come down to La Salle.

I could get plenty of work until it was time to start south, so after the holidays was over, I started for La Salle, Illinois. I got work the next day loading Tee boats for the South and after we had filled them, the captain came to me and said that he heard that I was agoing to Oregon. I told him that was my intentions. I told him that there were five of us going. Well, he said, that we could help him down the river as far as Baton Rouge and he would pay us Twenty-five Dollars per month and commence right off. He said there was nothing to do until the Tee got out of the slush where the boats lay only to cut fire wood enough to do the cooking down the river and keep the boats pumped out until ready to start. If some of us could get work anywhere else, we could do so but he would pay us right along and then we could divide up among us but said that he wanted us to be sure not to disappoint him. If we did not want to work it was just the same to him.

Me and the four boys went and got work chopping wood and splitting posts for a farmer in La Salle. He lived about five miles in the country. We stayed there until until Captain Man, as that was his name, sent us wordx a week before it was time to start to give us time to get the wood. So when we got back, there was about twenty five more men. I tell you, we had lots of fun ~~W/X/X~~ fighting and wrestling every day. The captain was as bad as any of us. He thought he could throw any of his crew but there was one little Yankee by the name of Simson that could take any of the thirty down collar and elbow.

We used to make bets. Some days we had from four to five gallons of whiskey. One of the boys that was with me by the name of John Row, brother to Henry Rowe now living in the Town of New Lisbon, he weighed 211 pounds. I got the other boys that was with me to put up a job on Yankee Simson. They wanted to know what that was. I told them that I would get John Row to put him on his back for one Gallon of whiskey. So there was four gallons bet. Each one put up his money and the captain bet one gallon. Four men was sent after the whiskey as we had to go across Illinois river to Peru. After dinner, all of them thought they was agoing to have great sport. I told John Rowe as soon as Simson took hold of him, he must take him by the collar and put his other hand around his legs and lay him on his back. That was all he had to do, not to say any more to him. If there was any fighting to be done, that we four would have a hand in.

You ought to see the fun. We all took a good horn apiece and then the ring was made. Time was called and John done just what I told him and had Simson down on his back before he knew what was up. He jumped up and grabbed Jack but Old Salter was there as quick as he was. I told him that he was put on his back and that was the bet. He said that was not fair play. I told him that I

could give him fair play if he would just step out. Captain Man said that Salter was right. He did not bet on wrestling, he only said that John Rowe would put Yankee Simson on his back and you all seen it done. So boys, better take another drink and call it square. Salter has beat us and the Yankee.

This is no lieing as one of the men is living now in Burlington, Racine County, today by the name of George Harris. As all of the Carters know them well. This is in the Year of Our Lord, 1891. If I am lieing about the matter, any one can refer to any of the parties and John Rowe is living, I think, in Kansas. His brother is now living in Juneau County, Wisconsin.

We started down the river. We had four flat boats loaded with tee. We got them out of the sluch into the Illinois River and Captain Man hired a steamboat to take the boats down as far as Caro, Illinois and there he tied two boats together and hired more men and two pilots and started down the Mississippi river to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Got there on the first day of April 1856. Had green peas and new potatoes that day for dinner. Stayed there four days. It was a nice place, some fine buildings. Paid twenty five cents to go see the penitentiary. It was about two miles out of the city.

After seeing all the sights to be seen, four of us started for New Orleans. John Rowe would not go. He stopped to help unload the tee but we was a going to as we intended to go to Oregon but we got banked. There was no vessels running as they had a great fuss on the Ismus with the Mexicans. So there we was. If we wanted to go, we had to go by the way of New York and I had not got money enough to go that way so we all made up our minds to go ~~xxxxxx~~ North.

George and Henry Norris stopped at Baton Rouge and John Adams and John Rowe and myself back to Wisconsin. So I thought I would settle down on my land and make a farm. Came back to Burlington, Wisconsin. Made arrangements with my Father-in-law as is now, to go up with him on our lands and he help me and I would help him as he did not know anything about farming as the land that we bought was very heavy timber. And then he wanted me to help him move as he had two yoke of steers. So I told him I would as he said it would not cost me nothing for my board. So I thought it would be a good chance to get acquainted with the girls.

So the Old Man and the Old Lady thought I would be a good thing for the Older girl by the name of Ellen as she was just turned eighteen years of age but that was not the one I wanted. It was the next one. She was just turned Sixteen. So I did not say much but when there was any party or dances or spelling schools, the Old Man said if George was going, the two girls could go but if I was not going they had to stay at home. So sometimes I promised to go and did not mean to go, anyway the Old ~~W/W~~ Lady would come to me to tell Father you will go with the girls.

The two older girls got places to live out as the Old Man was very poor and needed all their help as he had nothing to start with.

We was getting ready to start and Mr. Carters and his family was going to move up on their land in Juneau County, Wisconsin, and they was going up as far as Portage with the Caucutts. So we all started on the third of June, 1856. We had had a good time when we was all together as far as Portage. We all camped about two miled out from Portage, stayed there two days, went to town every day and the women and children stayed in camp. Mr. Carter and three boys and Mr. Caucutt and myself came to camp every night, got our kegs filled up. We crossed the Wisconsin River at Portage. Mrl Carter and family kept straight up the river as far as Kilbourne City and we went to Reedsburg and from there Torn Town.

You bet we had a beautiful time of it. One yoke of steers was baukey. Some places we had to unload the wagon and cary the biggest part of the things up the bluffs. At last we got to Coopers Tavern. We stayed there one day and a half, got drunk. We had four miles to go to our lands. We got on a side hill and over went wagon & all its contents, broke the stove and a lot of other things. We righted the wagon up again and picked up all the things we could find. So with hard work, we made three miles that day. The next day we had to cut a road the rest of the way. We could have gotten there before night if the man would let us through his potato patch but no, he told us we could cut a road around his fence. So there we was in a peetty fix. There was only three settlers down that valley and no roads and no one to make them. I told him that I would pay him what damage we would make but he said no. Sometimes we had to stop two hours to get the trees out of our road but we got through at last. Got on the land that we thought it was his and I think to tell the truth that it came up the biggest thunder storm that I was out in in all my life. No shelter to get under and the cattle running every way bellowing and the lightning stricking trees all around us. You bet, I wish I was out of that mess, wet through as drowned rats and the Old Lady on her knees praying and me and the Old Man swearing.

After the storm was over, I went and cut a set of logs for a shanty. Just as I had enough logs cut, a man by the name of Wanger came along and said that was not our land. He said that he would go and show us where the land was and where there was a good building spot and a good spring beside it. He would help the Old Man and he had three big boys as was brought up in the woods. I told the old man that it was his best way to hire them and I ~~would put off down to Burlington and get some money and send it back to him as I had but little money with me.~~

So I went up to my old friend Phillip Brooks and stayed one night and he told me that he was coming down to see me if I had not come that morning. He said that there was a man by the name of

Stilden wanted to buy some stock as Cooper said that I had some to sell. I told him that I had two three year olds heifer with calf. He said that he would go up and tell him ~~that~~ and he would be down in the morning and see me.

21/ I sat down and wrote a letter to the Girls that I should be down there by the Fourth of July and for Emma to get her dress made as I told Mrs. Norris to get her what things she wanted and I left her Ten Dollars and told her if that was not enough, I would pay her when I came back. So I sold the two heifers to Mr. Stilden for eighteen dollars and started for Burlington. Went up as far as Mr. Coopers that night. Next morning started for the nearest railroad station, I could make.

I had to make Masuaminica. Got within four miles that night. Heard that the train did not get there before noon. Stop there for dinner. I took my time. That was the first of July. Got there just as the train pulled in so I thought I would get my dinner with the train hands so I went in, sat down to a table and the waiter came along. Tickets sirs, please. I asked him how much. He said thirty-five cents. I paid him and away he went. I seen the train men all eating all this time. Pretty soon another waiter came along and wanted to know what we wanted, Beef steak or roast. I told him I was very hungry and a good piece of beef would do me. So he fetched a very thin piece of roast. I took it on my fork and put it all in my mouth at once. I told him to fetch me some more beef so he said if it is beef you want, you can have it. So he took my plate and brought me about one and a half pounds of beef. By that time the conductor called out all aboard so I grabbed two pieces of the beef and got aboard the train. The conductor said, "My man, do you bring your dinner along with you." I said when I pay for a dinner, I calculate to get it. I said you would not stop for me to eat it at the Hotel so I brought it on the train. He said that was right. It is just such men as you that ought to be along every day that they would do better for the passengers that comes along. I asked him if he would take back the three plates. He said no. He said I could trade them off to the newsboy so I did. He give me ten cents worth of papers so my dinner only cost me twenty five cents after all. The conductor said that when he came along to Morrow he would ask the landl~~ord~~ if he had any more dinners to sell aboard the train as he seen one man aboard the train yesterday with three dishes full and sold the dishes for twenty cents.

Got to Burlington that night. Stayed there all night and went out to Mr. Norris's next morning. He wanted me to do some ditching for him. I told him that I wouldn't until after the Fourth. So I went over and seen Emma. She lived at Mr. Fisk. It was about eighty rods across the road from Mr. Norris farm and I told her to ask Mrs. Fisk if she would let her to to the Fourth of July as George wanted her to go to Racine and of course, all the girls was goin'. She said yes but be sure to come back in the morning. So Mrs. Norris had her fixed up like a little lady. The other girls did not know where she got such fine clothes from but Mary Ann Norris told them that George had given her Mother money when he came back from the South to get Emma some good clothes and not tell her father about it, but her mother knew it.

We went to Racine on the Fourth. There was ten couples of us and all of us was coming back to Burlington that night because there was to be a dance at the Hotel, kept by Jones. But they all got back except Emma and myself but the dance fissioned out so Emma and me took the train the next morning and met the balance of our company and all went home happy next day.

Mr. Rogers sent for me to see if I would dig him a well so I went and dug him one. Then he wanted to know what I would work for on the farm two months. I told him if he would give me Fifty Dollars, I would work for him two months although I could do better at well digging but he told me as soon as I had finished the well to begin work. He said that he wanted me to take care of the barn and tend to the horses before breakfast in the morning and see to the other men as there was eight Irishmen working for him. He paid them from Fifteen to Eighteen Dollars per month. I told him I would do so but when I was working in the harvest field, I wanted a lunch in the forenoon and afternoon because it was too long between meals. He said alright, I should have it and a glass of rum besides as he said he knew that I would earn it.

So everyday that I worked there, you would see the Old Gentleman coming or his Son Henry at ten o'clock in the morning and four in the afternoon with the lunch and the bottle of rum. I tell you, the Irish men praised Old Salter up and said that they would not had have that if it had not been for me. I told them if they would work, they would have got the grub before. One of them by the name of Paddy Rafferty said that he done enough for the wages he was getting. He was getting Fifteen Dollars per month. I told him that if he worked along with me, he would have to do his share or go some other part of the farm by himself. And then there was hell struck up. He went and told the other men that Mr. Rogers had hired me to make them all do as much work as I did. So Paddy went to Mr. Rogers and wanted his time. Mr. Rogers wanted to know what the matter was. He said that he was not going to work under that Salter. Mr. Rogers wanted to know what I had said or done. He said that I told him that I would have to work on another part of the farm as I could not work by the side of him. So Mr. Rogers told him that he would see to it. After supper, Mr. Rogers came in the kitchen and said that he wanted to see me. He said, "George, you come in the sitting room, I want to talk with you." I said alright as soon as I tend to the horses and the barn, I would be there.

As soon as I got through I went up to the house and when I went in the sitting room, he put me a chair and told me sit down. He wanted to talk to me. He said, "George, there is something to drink in the decanter and there is a glass and some crackers. I took a good horn of rum and then he began asking what was the matter with Paddy Rafferty. I told him just what I told Paddy. He said that I done just right and to send him in the morning and he can get his pay and no more fuss about it. If any of the others did not do as I bid them, they could come and get their wages.

In the morning I got up and went to the barn and done my chores. At breakfast time I told Paddy Rafferty that he

had occasion to come out in the field that Mr. Rogers wanted to see him. As soon as he gets up he looked at me and said, "Salter, I will settle with you for all this alright, anytime! I just live settle now if he has any settlemen to make.

Just then Henry Rogers called me and said that his Father wanted to see me. I went to see what he wanted. He told me not to have any fuss with Paddy. He would pay him off this morning and let him go so that was the end of that fun for a while.

3/ Now I tell you how I got along sparking. I had been about two weeks at Mr. Rogers and had only seen Emma but once, so I ask Henry Rogers if he would ask his Father if I could have the horse and buggy Sunday night as I wanted to go to Burlington to see the Caucutt Girls about sending their Father some money. So we all three chipped in and sent him Ten Dollars. I thought that was pretty good as the girls was only getting one-half Dollars per week and they had drawn their wages ahead so Ellen put in Five and Emma and myself put in the other Five. So Emma and me stayed at John Trebridges, that was the place where Ellen was working. So we stayed there until ten O'clock that night and then we started to Mr. Fisk place, Emma's place. It is about one mile from John Trebridges place. When we got there, the door was locked so I told her to get in the buggy and she could go down to the Tavern and stay there and I would pay her expenses. The tavern keeper was an English family. It is where I made my home when I went that way first because I was well acquainted with them when they lived on Spring prairie. Their names was Hams, they came from England nearly the place where I was born and they knew some of my folks. That was one mile from Fisk.

When we got there, they was not gone to bed. I told them what I wanted. They said that was all right, anything they could do for me they would. I lived about forty rods from there, so the next night I went up and seen my girl. She had been up to Mrs. Fisks and she give her a terrible going over and said that she ought to be ashamed of herself to be out all night with men and that she did not want her employee. So she fitched her dry goods away from there. I told her we would get married and get a home of our own and then Ellen could make a home with us.

So it soon got round that George Salter and Emma Caucutt was agoing to be married so I went to Mr. & Mrs. Norris and talked to them about it. They said that it was the best thing we both could. Then I went to my Old Friend Ham and asked his opinion about it. He said the same as Mr. Norris did and then all the Rogers got at me. Mr. Rogers said that he would give one gallon of rum. Old Mrs. Rogers said that she would give a big ham and Henry said that he would give one box of and Mr. & Mrs. James Rogers said that they would make the wedding cake. So I told Emma that I would like to be married on the 28th, so that was soon settled. I told her to go up and tell Ellen about it and I wanted her to go along with us next Monday, 28th day of July, 1856. She asked her if she was agoing to get married. She said that was the calculation. She was very mad, wanted to know if she had asked her Father about it. She said

~~no nor did she intend to.~~

no nor did she intend to. Emma said, "Ellen, George told me to

(24)

ask you to come with us." Yes, she said, I will go but you ought to have asked Father about it before this. Well, Emma said, it is too late to get a letter there now. It is Tuesday and George wants to get married next Monday and everything will be ready. He has ordered supper for ten couples at Mr. Ham's and we will be here by one o'clock and there will be a dance at night as George has engaged two fiddlers at Burlington. You can go with us or you can go with Mr. & Mrs. Norris as they are going to town with us all right. She said she would be with us, so sure enough, everything was got ready by Monday.

X

You bet we got married at three o'clock and started back so far as Mr. Norris's place. Had some wine and something to eat. The fiddlers had gone by before we started. I told Mr. Norris and all their folks to go ahead as I would stop and take Mr. & Mrs. Duckett and their Son in our buggy. So they started. The boys had strung a fence across the road in two places. They was laughing to think what a time I would have in getting along so when Mr. Norris drove up to the tavern, they thought it was me but when Salter and wife came along, the road was all clear. I did not know anything about it until I went to supper and we had a big laugh. Mr. Norris was saying what a time he had in getting from his house down to Mr. Hams in moving fences. He said that it took him nearly one hour to get through and George Salter and his wife came right along. Did not have to get out of their Buggy before they got here. So the boys was not so smart as they thought they were. I said that the boys was alright. They wanted a good time and you bet they had it. All they could eat and drink and all the dancing they wanted. We kept it up until three o'clock in the morning. They were all satisfied. Came and shook hands with us both and bid us much joy. Well, I got clear of that fixing for Twenty-five Dollars. That was cheap enough. I was satisfied with my bargain.

Pitched right into work. Mrs. James Rogers hired Emma to work for her so we was both in the same house until my two months was up and then Mr. Rogers wanted me to stay another month but I had promised Mr. Amos to dig him a well before it froze up. So I went and dug his well seventy-two feet and stoned it up in three weeks and cleared my seventy-five dollars. Then there was another man after me to brick up his well before winter set in but my wife did not want me to go as there was a Dutchman buried in a well close by. I told her I would do that one and then I'd quit it all together.

I had bargained for her Father's old place, a log house and two acres of land and bought me an old plug of a horse and wagon. And then a man by the name of Ben Fox the Millerd from Burlington, wanted me to make him a cistern and he wanted to pay me in flower. I told him that was just what I was looking for so I done the job and then I chopped cord wood on shares. Got wood enough to last me two years. Got down on my place in the spring, put the two acres in to potatoes and corn and other vegetables. After that started off well digging again. Had plenty of work but everytime I would go home, Emma would be at me not to dig anymore. I promised her it should be the last summer I would work at it.

(25)

She said that I could work Mr. Rogers farm if I would see to it in time. I told her that I would see Mr. James Rogers about it as I had no team nor plows or anything else to work on a farm with. She said that Mr. Norris told her that Old Mr. Rogers wanted to let the farm and all the farming tools and a team and find all the feed and seed that is wanted on the place and give him half what is raised on the place. I thought that would strike me in the right spot. Him and his son James had a vevil of a quarrel. James had ordered his Father & Mother and Brothers out of the house and the Old Gentleman moved up in Town. The Old Man owned all the farm except forty acres where James lived. He could not get him off so the Old Man and Henry worked the farm that summer and hired men by the day to work for him. He had got a man from New York to look after his stock and horses. The mans name was Wallen but he knew nothing about farming so the Old Man and Henry seen me working in my garden. They stopped and talked to me wanting to know what I was doing. I told him it was rather to hot for my work and I thought I would rest for a month. He asked me if I would come and help him cut his hay. I asked him what he would pay me/a ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ day. He said he would give me more than any other man he had. I asked him what he was paying. He said that he was paying stock and Tom Webber One Dollar and Fifty cents a day and Tom Coles and Henry Hilderbrooks One and a quarter a day and two drinks each every day. But you, he said, if you will stop and help me cut all my hay, I will give you One Dollar and Seventy Five Cents a day as long as the haying lasts and if you want to work longer, you can all right.

I said I will be down in the morning. He said you can stop until Henry and me come along in the morning. They had to come four miles so I got my self rised up all ready by the time they got along. So I kept working on until fall after haying was done. He give me one dollar and half per day and this man he got from New York, he sent him away the next spring so he wanted me to take the farm to work on shares and he would leave everything there as it stands now. I told him I would let him know in a weeks time. He said that would do as he said that he was tired of farming but he would come and help me all he could. He said that there was a nice young cow I could get cheap. I asked him how much he wanted for her. He said Twenty Dollar. I said I would take her.

Before I would take the farm, I would have a talk with James Rogers and he said yes, George, take it and I will do all I can for you. Get the papers made out alright so and let father sign them but only take it for one year for there is agoing to be an alteration here inside of one year.

So I worked the farm and done very well. Bought me two more cows. That was in the year of 1857. So then the next year I took James Rogers forty and the Old Mr. Rogers was selling off all his land that he owned there so James and the Old man made up good friends. So he left James to sell everything on the farm. So I bought all the hogs that was there and two cows and a span of three year old colts and harnesses. The old man went to Chicago. A cashier in a bank so that done up his farming. I never seen him after that.

5/ So I took what land he did not sell from James Rogers for One Dollar per acre and took all the crops and pasture for my stock as everything was fenced up. I wanted to rent the farm for five years but no, he said, I could work it on shares and he did not care where I took it or not. There I was in a pinch, had taken out nearly all of the stumps that was on the place and had all my wheat and oats on hand. I told him I would give him two shillings more per acre but no, he would not listen to me. He said that he intended to hire a man and him and the man could do a good deal of the work. I told him, alright, I got a living before, I could ~~xxxxxx~~ seen him and could know, I asked him what was the reason he did not tell me in the fall before I done so much plowing. Well, he said, that he thought it would not make much difference to me. He would pay me for the plowing and his Father had sold another forty of the land on the land that I had broken up and had in winter wheat and when I took it to break, I was to have the use of the land for three years or three crops of it. He said that he would pay me for breaking. I told him that I would take that crop this year and we would get three men and what they said we would stand by their decision. There was about seven acres. This was the first of March 1858, and there we was expecting a baby every day and sure enough, we did have a boy George H. Salter on the Sixth. Then he said that he would have to charge me one shilling a head for any cows every week for pasture. So you see how I was fixed. Had five cows and three calfs. Could not let them run on the road. And then I had to cut my hay on half. I did not know what to do. Could not sell my place and did not want to sell my stock and horses, and could not stay there longer.

My father-in-law got mad at me because he thought I ought to have married Ellen so I sold and traded off my land in Vernon County. So I worked round with my team for anyone and done very well that summer and winter and started out in the spring adigging wells and cisterns. But the woman was always fretting about me, thought she would see me coming home dead some day. So I did not do much that summer. So I thought that I would pull through that winter and go look what a place in the spring. I got acquainted with an Irish man by the name of Nooney. He wanted to buy my horses. Wanted to know what I wanted for them. I told Two Hundred Dollars. He said that he would give me a good trade for them. I told him I would rather have the money as I intended to move away in the Spring. He said that he had a farm in Juneau County he would sell or trade for the horses but he said it was just the place for stock. All the run I wanted, all the hay I wanted for cutting and a good market for everthing I could raise.

I went home and spoke to the woman about it. She said I better have nothing to do with him as all the folks say he is a rough. Well, I said, we will go and see your Father as he said he was agoing to give you a licking the first time he see you for getting married so young. All right, she said, she would take it. So we put a cover on the wagon and started up. George was agoing on his second year. So we got up there in four days. Got down to the Old Mans about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Old Man was off to work for one of his neighbors for a pair of gees so one of the boys was started after him. He was so tickled he said he did not know when he got here. The Old Lady was sick in bed but she did not stay in bed long when she seen Emma, you bet.

The Old Man took hold of Emma hugged her nearly to death. So that was the licking she got. That was in September, 1859. So we stayed up with them two weeks but the Old Lady took to her bed after we left and very soon was under the sod. So there he was in a pretty fix, all the children was young. Charlotte was the Older one, about thirteen years old and the youngest thirteen weeks. There was five of them left besides himself and all he had left was a yoke of cattle and wagon. No cow but his crops was very good and there was lots of ginseng fitch ten cents per pound in the dirt and the old man and children could dig as much per day that would bring five dollars. I bought some when I was up there. That brought me fifty, did not cost one tenth so I took it home with me and I went to James Rogers and asked him to send it to New York for me and then I told him what I paid for it. He said what a fool I was as I did not buy more of it. I told him I had no more money to spare then. He said you could have sent to me, I could send you Fifty Dollars and whent my half on the profits. I told him I was agoing up next fall again. All right he said, I will let you have some money and give me half what you make.

And then he asked me what I was agoing to do this winter. I told him that Mr. Lick wanted me to haul some cord wood to Burlington for him. He said that he had a lot of trees in the woods. If I was a mind to I could haul them to the railroad crossing for him. I asked him what he would give me. He asked me what I would take. I told him two cents each. All right he said, I could have the job. So I worked all that winter and made a living for mayself and team and then in the spring he wanted me to take some of his land to work. I told him I would take that twenty acres along the road and give him Twenty Dollars in gold for the use of it. All right, he said, I could have it. He said he would like for me to help him in the Spring. I told yes I would as soon as I put in my own crops. He said that would do so Old Nooney was at me about the horses.

I told him if he had two Hundred Dollars cash he could have them. after I had put in my Spring crops and not before as I had took some land to work of Jearns Rogers. He said that if I would trade with him, he would put in my crops for me. I told him no, I would keep them until I done my work as I had fed enough to keep them. So he did not bother me any more until about November 1861.

James Rogers would not let me have the land to work anymore on the terms as he did. He said that I made to much on him. I told him if I could not take it on the same terms, I would not take it at all. I told him my place was to small and my family increasing. You see, we had a girl come in May and I was getting tired of working land on shares. So I told the woman I would trade with Old Nooney if he would give me a good trade. But she said how can we move without a team. I told her that I would see about that.

So that Saturday Nooney came up to see me about the team and said that he would give me a yoke of cattle and one yearling colt and an old buggy and one hundred bushels of number one wheat in the Elevator at Kenosh. I told probably that a good trade in his eye. I told him I should have to buy hay that he would through in about three tons, I said I will drive down in the morning and look the stuff over and ell him what I would do. I told him that I was owing James Rogers two Fifty Dollar notes of the colts and if he would take the wheat, I would trade for them on his farm in Juneau County.

Mr. Lynch was down in the Spring as he had the mortgage on the farm and said that if he, Nooney, could get those horses of Salters, he would allow him Three Hundred Dollars on the farm. So I went and seen James Rogers about my notes and if he would take the wheat as it was worth One Dollar for bushell at the Elevator. He said he would take it but he said that I must bring the receipts to him before he would give me my notes as he said that he would not take Old Nooney's word for nothing. He told me to be very careful what I was going as he was tricky as the devil and be sure of getting everything before giving the horses in his possession.

So I went and traded with him and the first thing I found out was instead of One hundred bushels of wheat it was twelve bushels short. He said that the men at the Elevator had made a mistake but he would pay the balance in money. I told him that I had promised one hundred bushels to Mr. Rogers but he said what was the difference if he got it in money. Yes but he said that it was not his property, it was his Fathers. I said I will see him again and see what he says about it but Nooney said that the notes were not due yet. Yes, I said, If I pay them now it will stop interest on them. Well, he said that he would pay Mr. Rogers before the notes are due. I told him that I wanted my notes all right. He said that I could pay the Twelve dollars now as he had not got the money by him now. He had to write up to John Lynch to let him know if he could depend on the horses and then he, Nooney, said that he had to take the horses up to John Lynch and I could go along with him, hitch on my old buggy and it would not cost us much and I could look at his farm and he would let me have it one year for paying the taxes on it.

By that time I could look for myself as I knew the Carters and Rowes and Wm. Coles. I told him I would see what my wife said about it. He wanted to know if it was a trade. I said if the wife said trade, all right, so I went to Mr. Rogers and told him. He said what did I tell you. So I told him what Nooney had said. He said that he would not take his word for a cent but I could do as I thought best. I told him that I would be their Saturday night and settle up with him. Alright, George, just as you say. I can take your work but Nooney I would not and said, you look out for him.

So I went and seen Nooney but did not tell him what Mr. Rogers had said about him made the trade with him. Got all my truck home, come to find out the Yoke of cattle was a yot of stags but I not care. I thought I could get even with him and the Twelve Dollars I never got yet.

So I agreed to go with him. We started about the 15th of December 1861. Took us four days to get to Quincy-Adams County. It was very cold. Stopped at Quincy all night. Could not cross the Wisconsin River as we had to get to John Linches place. There we had to stay at Quincy or go back to Kilbourne City to cross the bridge but the landlord said it would take us all day and be a big drive for the horses and said that if the weather kept like it is we could cross at Germantown in the morning as the Gee had jammed up and it would help the horses up in the morning. I told Nooney that was the best thing we could do so he said you stay here and I will go afoot to Linches. Alright, I said, I would take care of the horses and I might get over there this afternoon as it was only six miles to Mr. Linches and there was no company for me.

So after dinner I told the Landlord to feed the team at night and in the morning and I would pull out for Linches. He said that he would tend to them so I started. Got to Germantown by two o'clock. Got my bottle filled and started for the Buck Horn as Linches place was called at that time. Got there by 4 o'clock. Got drunk that night so Linch and Nooney started in the morning for the horses. Got back by noon. The Carters got wind that Salter and Nooney was at Linches and by five o'clock that night, Will and his Father was up to see us and wanted us to go to their place but Nooney and Linch fetched one gallon of whiskey with them and we had to drink that before we leave so we had a good time of it that night singing and dancing and a big drunk in the bargain.

So Mr. Linch said he would let us take the team and go to Necedah and New Lisbon if we take good care of them. I told him that I would be responsible for them. He said that we could have them for two days, that would give us all the time we wanted to look around. I told him I thought it would as I had but very little money and Nooney had less. So Mr. Carter said that we had better go down to his place as it was noon then and stay tonight and go to Lisbon in the morning and to Necedah the next day. And then Mr. Linch could meet us there and take the team and Will come up with the steers as I want to get some lumber. So we all agreed to that and had dinner and started for Carters.

Got as far as my old place. A man by the name of Pettett kept it. Then we stopped and took some whiskey and got pretty well warmed up and he treated freely and said that he wanted to sell out. He said that he would take stock or most anything. I asked him what was the reason he wanted to sell. He said he was sick of keeping tavern. I told him I would talk to him in a day or two as we was agoing to Necedah tomorrow or day after and I would see him as I had no money but had some stock. All right, he said, come and see me and I will trade with you. So he treated and set up the whiskey and we all got pretty full.

So we started and got to Mr. Carters by supper time in good order. Went to bed in good time. Went to New Lisbon next morning. Got a good train there before we got started so we made out to get to Mr. Carters by 10 o'clock. Mrs. Carter had got up a good supper of venison for us.

So next morning we was up and ready for our days work at Necedah. You bet we put in good time singing. Got acquainted with Doctor Canfield. He invited us down to his house. I told him that I was agoing to start for Burlington day after tomorrow as I was agoing to stay with Mr. Carter one day. So we started. Will, he started with the lumber. We told him we would overtake him before he gets to Pettetts but that was the last we seen of Will that night. We got to Pettett one hour after Will started. Got on a good start before we left Necedah. Got to Pettetts and finished it up in good shape. Did not cost us anything. Mrs. Pettett got us up a good supper of venison. I tell you we blowed out our kites and I came within one cow of making a trade with Pettett.

Mr. Carter started for home in the night and left Old Mooney and myself there. Well, we got up and washed and had some more whiskey and had something to eat and started for Mr. Carters but before we started Pettett asked me if I mean to trade. I said what I would do and I would do no more. He said what was it. I told him to ask Mooney. Well, your honor, Salter said that he would give you that yoke of cattle he got from me and six cows for your place you leaving the two stoves as they stand and the four bedsteads and ticked quilts enough for two beds and the decanters and glasses that is in the bar room and you to stay in the house two weeks with Salter so to make him acquainted with the teamsters on the road.

I was to take possession on the 15th day of January or as soon after as I could make it convenient and Pettett was to go down to take the stock with us and him to pay his own expenses. So we started the day after Christmas 1861 and Pettett came along and looked at the stock and was well satisfied and he took possession of it and started back the day after New Years day, 1862. After that I went to work and sold off what other stuff I had, sold some and give the balance away. What I did sell I may as well give away as I got nothing for it. So you see, all who read this and as had to move away and all your neighbors knows it, they want what you got to sell for nothing or there about.

So I got started the 10th day of January, went to Milwaukee by team. Stopped in Milwaukee one day and one night and bought what things I wanted to take along. Got to New Lisbon on the 13th day of January at 12 o'clock. Everybody gone to bed. Had to walk up in town and route out John Leight to let us in as he kept hotel at that time. There was no Hotel at the depot at that time and it was very cold that night. John Leight got up and built us a good fire and give us some hot whiskey but he had no beds for us. He said that every bed in the house was full so he give us some quilts and we bunked on the floor in the sitting room until morning. Got up and washed and had breakfast and I started out for Mr. Carters for his team to get our stuff from the depot and get my wife and family out to Carters. There was me and wife and Mrs. Stanley as is now and my Son George and my Daughter Emma. That was all the family I had at that time.

So we stayed at Mr. Carters two days to get rested before we took possession but Pettett found out that I was out to Mr. Carters to get rested before we took possession. He sent the boy down to let me know that his father was agoing to move out the next day. I told him that was not the contract so I spoke to Carter about it. He heard the bargain but I said that would take my things up after dinner. So Mrs. Carter got dinner at noon and my wife said that we had better all go up and get things fixed up. So after dinner we loaded up my things and started about 2 o'clock that afternoon. We arrived there just as Pettett and his wife was getting in his wagon to leave. He had just started but I called him back. He said that he could not stop, he had waited for me one week. I asked him what was the bargain. Well, he said that he could not stay any longer and he would come down in the morning and have a talk with me. I told him alright.

- 31 -

So there we was, nothing cooked and nearly dark and the cook stove on the wagon. So we got round and got the cook stove put up and Mrs. Carter give us two loaves of bread and I bought a quarter of beef and a fat hog of Mr. Carter so we soon got our supper. Tapped a barrel of whiskey as I got two when I was in Milwaukee. Had a good time that night.

Next morning went and examined what things Pettett had left me. Found out that he had took the two new bedsteads and left four old ones instead of two. Carter said that if he was in my place he would make him bring them two new ones back but I told him that I did not want any law suit with him. But I thought I would get even with him if he stayed around these diggens as he had all his potatoes in the cellar and two or three bushels of oats and ten cords of stove wood but he did not come down the next day as he said he would but his wife and one of his boys came down in two days for some potatoes and wanted to know if I would buy them of Mr. Pettett. I told them I would and buy the stove wood and the oats as there was no hay. I soon got some as no teams would stop on account of hay. I did not keep them many days with out hay.

You bet, after I had been there three days the house was full ev ry night. I then found out that they would not stop as long as Pettett kept the place. After I got acquainted I done very well. So I had been there three weeks, I told all the folks that live around here that if they would come with their teams and haul me some wood, I would give them a free dance and supper. It was about one week before, I seen Mr. Pettett. I bought his potatoes, wood and oats. I thought it would be about the price of the two new bedsteads. I told him that I would settle with him some day as I had not much money by me just now. He said it was all right. I thought so too. He was pretty sharp. He thought he wanted me to give him my note. I told him it was no use for a week or two. I told him that I was agoin to give the neighbors a free dance to get me up some wood and I would like for him and family to come. He did not said where he would come or not but when the time come, the two boys came and help me with the wood and in the evening the mother and daughter came.

I had a big crowd the house was full. I got well acquainted with all as come. They all enjoyed themselves. Bell, & wanted me to get up another dance and they would pay me. While they were dancing, Mrs. Pettett came to me and asked me to dance with her. I told her I would dance with her on the next set so sure enough, she and me was at the head of the set and she was a woman that would weigh about 250 pounds. They all laughed at me dancing with that big woman. So after we got through with that set, Mr. Shomaker came to me and asked me who I was dancing with. I said in a joking way, it was a big heifer and Mr. Lynch heard me and said that I would have to treat for dancing with that big heifer. So, I told them all to come and take a drink on me on the dance. So I did not think anything more what I said to Mr. Shomaker about Mrs. Pettett but Lynch went and told Mr. Pettett that I called his wife a big heifer.

He came down two days after the dance and wanted the money that I owed him. I told him that I did not have it to spare just then so he treated me and in two days he was along again and spent another treat. He kept coming every other day and I kept putting him off until he got mad and wanted to know if I meant to pay him or not. Then I got up my English and told him that when he fetched back the two bedsteads I would pay him the Eight Dollars I owed him. He said that he left all the bedsteads that he agreed to. Yes, I said, you did leave the number but not the ones that I bought with the place as I could prove by Mr. Carter and Mr. Nooney. He said, will you pay me the money that you owe me. I said yes when you bring back the two new bedsteads that you stole from the house. He said that he would make me. I told him all right. Yes, he said, you called my wife a big heifer, you little red-headed woodpecker.

I used to buy my whiskey by the barrel in Milwaukee and I used to let Mr. Shoemaker bring it from New Lisbon for me. So Mr. Pettet went and seen Mr. Shoemaker and asked him if he did not bring Salters whiskey from New Lisbon. He said yes he fetched one barrel last week. Well, he said, if you will tell me when you are going to get another one for him, I will give you one dollar. So Mr. Shoemaker came and told me of it. I told him to tell Mr. Pettet that I shall have one there at the depot next week and rye whiskey at that. He said, now I know what kind of a man he is. So I seen Mr. Pettet the very day I got the bill for my rye. I told him that I had a barrel of whiskey at the depot as he wanted to know but he talked off and said nothing, and never said anything more about whiskey or money, no sircree. So you see how I got even with the Yankee. It was a good deal better then a law suit as I got at the value of the two bedsteads and he went about a dollar doing me for the money.

So I got along very well. Got plenty of trade and made plenty of friends. Had another son born on the 12th day of February, 1862. That is my son James. I thought I was doing well, had two sons and one daughter, done all my own work, cut wood for three stoves and tended to the barn. So you see, it kept me pretty busy and in the summer cut my own hay. Had to walk four miles to the marsh and when I had enough for a stack, I had to hire a team to stack it for me. My wife and her sister would tend to the house. I would take my dinner with me, start early in the morning and would not get home until after sundown. That was the first year I was up here. Had little money laid up and fifteen head of stock. Hired a man the next summer to help me cut my hay. Commenced right after the Fourth of July. Had a big stack down in the cock, commenced stacking on the 12th day of July. Hired Nooney's team and wagon.

Just got one small stack put up when one of the weights broke and I was just taking it home when a man came galloping on a horse hollering that the Indians had killed Mrs. Salter. I ran to ask him what he was saying but I could not make him stop. He started as fast as the horse could go and Nooney came to me and said that the man said that the Indians had killed Mrs. Salter. I was about three miles from the house. I started on the run. I tell you I was not long before I was home. There I found the mans words true.

And between two and three hundred people there. They had one of the Indians there. As soon as they seen me and the Sheriff was among the crowd, he took charge of the Indian and was going to put him in jail and was putting him in a wagon. I was in the house at that time. Old Mooney spoke up and said, let Old Salter see the Indian to see if he knows him. Just at that time some of the women said there is one of the Indians now. They was going to take him to jail but I told them that I would save the county that expense. Mr. Kingston was the first one to take hold of me but he did not hold me long. I got one kick at the Indian and got him down. Then Tom Worthon, the sheriff at the time, I got away from him and went for the Indian that laid in the middle of the road. Some of the folks was going to stop me from killing him and Mr. George Birch of Necedah told the people to stand back and let Salter do as he had a mind to with the Indian. He would the first one that interferred, he would shoot him. So they let me along and I went at him with the axe handle and fixed him right there and left him right in the middle of the road and went and took a drink.

Was having a gay old time when Mr. Burch and Doctor Canfield came in the house and the few neighbors that was there had council that to do with the dead Indian. Some purposed that we take him to Mr. Miner for him to bury him but while we was consulting about it, my neighbor John Miller was cutting the Indians head off to take up to Mr. Miner but Doctor Canfield and Mr. Birch started off and I had no team to take it up so Mr. Miller said I fix him. He went out in the woods and cut a pole ten feet long and put the Indians head on it and stood it up in the middle of the road and then we all took another drink at this time. The women that was there was preparing my wife for burial the next day and some of them wanted to go home and get ready. So George Carter was chosen to escort the school teacher Miss Mills and Mrs. Seiger home. When he got about one mile from the house, there he saw one Indian. He told the women to go on and he would go and see what that Indian was doing there. So he went and grabbed Mr. Indian. George asked him what he was looking for. He was hunting his Brother John. George told him that Salter wanted to see him and he came along with George until within eighty rods of the house and he saw somethin in the middle of the road. He asked George Carter what it was. George told him it was John's head. He said that he would not go no further but George grabbed him and had quite a tussle with him and brought him to the house. There was seven or eight of us.

I wanted to go for him but Mooney said let him alone and we will see what he has got to say. I was ready with the axe handle. and another man with a double barrel shot gun loaded with buck shot. I told him to put the run on and get a rope and bill would tell me the truth about it. He said that if we would let him go, he would show us where the three Indians was that did the killing. I told Pat Babe to put down the gun and tie him but as soon as he put the gun down, he jumped for it and got it and shot it off among the whole of us. But only one barrell went off and they all grabbed for the gun and let the Indian go as they knew that there was another load in the gun and it might kill some of us.

But I put after the Indian with my axe handle and overtook him in fifteen rods; I did not hit him but once and that finished him and there he was, two dead Indians on our hands. They asked me what was to be done with them. I said dig a hole in the middle of the road and let all the teams drive over their graves that comes to the funeral. So I drink a health to them and wished them a happy journey to their hunting grounds.

I tell you, it was a sorry looking place that day being the 11th day of July, 1863, and then in the month of August there was a dead Indian found on the Little Yellow River that was blamed to me. But in October there was two Indians shot at one shot. I know who done that because I took a drink out of their bottle and then in the Spring of 1864, there was an Indian found dead at Whitetown in Vernon County but who done the deed, that was not found out. That is since my wife was killed by the Indians, there is a good many folks think that I killed all of them and more besides those. I will say that I have had two or three fights with some Indians but never been killed yet. Now if I live until the 16th day 1896, I shall be seventy years old. I leave this as a record to be true.