

can travel by steamship from Buffalo to Sandusky and from there by train to Cincinnati and again from there by steamship to St. Louis. I cannot tell you what the price of freight is since I have not yet seen the fare of the new railway. After the closing of the little account above, I received a letter from a farmer who lives in the state of Illinois opposite St. Louis. He is a Hollander by birth but has already lived in America for a number of years. Several weeks ago he visited our colony and observed everything. He was so pleased at the sight of this landscape that he decided to sell his farm in Illinois in order to come here this fall. He wants to buy a farm here and for this reason he wrote. Such facts speak much better for themselves than words and discussions can ever do.

H. P. Scholte.

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## MEMOIR OF THE WILLIAM ARCHER FAMILY

By Margaret E. Archer Murray

*The following history of the Archer Family was handwritten, in pencil, by Margaret E. Archer Murray at the age of 87. A typed copy was made and submitted to the Annals by Murray Work of Des Moines, Iowa, grandson of the author. The punctuation, capitalization and spelling used by Mrs. Murray have remained unchanged for publication.*

*The sketches accompanying this history were done for the Annals by William J. "Bill" Wagner, Iowa architect and artist.*

Murray this is April 27, 1938 I was 87 the 2nd of this month what I am telling you here is in part from memory & from what mother told me years ago

if I make some mistakes you will overlook them especially in spelling as I am quite deficient in education

I do not know a great deal about my parents early life

William Archer my Father was born January 25, 1811 was married to Elizabeth Bushong who was born may 15, 1817 they were married September 15, 1837 they were the parents of 11 children 2 died in childhood one a few months old last 2 twins died at birth

Father & mother both were born in Ohio claimed to be Penn Dutch but neither one could speak Dutch or german or even under stand it



*courtesy of Murray Work*

**Elizabeth Bushong  
Archer**

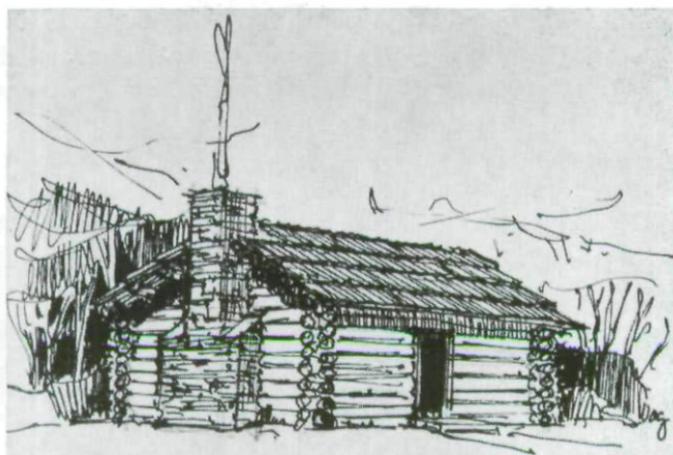


*courtesy of Murray Work*

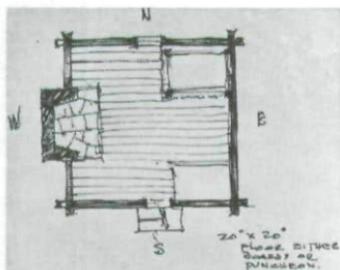
**Margaret Archer  
Murray**

well any way we are a good sturdy race of what ever we are I think both were born on farms as farming was what Father did all his life. They left Ohio in 1846 came to Iowa by team & covered wagon camped by road side all the way had 4 children youngest one year old. crossed the missippi on July 4, 1846 & went to where the town of waterloo is now and took up some land I dont know how many achers

Built a log house that fall not able to get a door they fastened a quilt in the opening to keep out the snow & as much cold wind as possible, the wolves came right up & howeld around



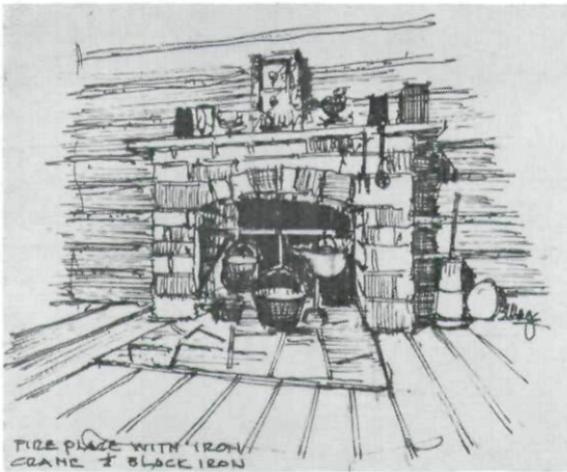
the cabin at night. all the protecion mother had when Father was away was an ax & the dog. as Father always took the gun with him for protecion & to kill what game he might find while chopping fire wood in timber they only stayed there one year as timber was sarce & the winter bitter cold. So they picked up & moved farther East & South to Jones Co & took up or bought 160 achers of land about 4 miles South of anamosa & I think about 50 miles west of Davenport & where there was plenty of timber along the wapsapinican River which was about 3 miles East of us Davenport was their nearest market & it took 2 days with a team to go & 2 to return there they started their permanant home in the west Built & log house from memory I think it was about 20 feet each way had a door in South & window in North about 3 feet square



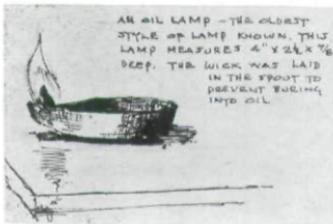
on the East side were the beds 2 big beds & 2 trundle beds pulled out at night & under in day time with a curtain around the 4 poster then on west side was a huge fire place made of rock & rock chimney & chinged with wet clay as was the whole house clay chinking between the logs fire

place was real wide with crain (crane) built in chimney so as to hang the cooking vessels they were all iron with iron lids iron teakettel & for baking bread had a large iron bake

oven with lid always had big back log & smaller one in front had andirons in front to keep wood from rolling out when bake day came had a nice bed of coles to rake out on stone herth (hearth) then set the oven on them with bread raised & ready put hot coals on top & we ate a lot of corn bread too but I dont think she could bake pie or cake & for supper we often had mush & milk. of course a part of our kitchen things were tin & that had to be scoured evry saturday or at least it was when I got big enough to do the scouring



I can't remember if the house had a puncheon (puncheon) floor was either that or boards the roof was covered with clapboards.



for light at first we had grease lamps we had a shallow dish first took a soft rad twisted it then dipped one end in melted lard layed that end up on side of dish pored the melted lard over that then it was ready to light

mother did all her sewing & knitting by that & the light from the fire place & she sure had a lot of it to do as the 2 oldest children died in 49 a girl & boy just 5 days apart & sister Rebecca was only a year old all 5 children had Scarlet fever in that one room house

mother made all our cloths by hand knit all our stockings & mittens by lamp light but later she made candles 6 at a time Set them aside & when they were cold enough to draw she would mold 6 more

they raised sheep & in the Spring after the shearing was done she washed the fleeces then hand picked the wool to get out the burs & the like often had wool picking invite a few women for the day. after that the wool was sent to the carding machine & made into rolls then mother had to spin it into yarn then have that woven into cloth some for jeans for mens cloths & flannel for us children a apart of the yarn for knitting then she did all the coloring

used madder to color red Indigo to color Blue peach tree leaves for green \*dont remember what she used to color yellow we had a few black sheep & their wool was left in its natural color for mitens but for our Peticots & stockings we always had white yarn I never wore colored stockings till after I was married. Sometime they would trade the wool for jeans Father & the boys cloths which mother cut & made I can remember Father had a store suit for sunday only I have often wonderd how many years it lasted him. in the summer time the men wore white toe (tow) linen pants & blue & white stripe hickery shurting shurts now all these things had to have button holes worked think of the stitches she took in those days and only had hooks & eyes & buttons for fastening our cloths no saftey pins or snapfasteners or zippers of cours that is a late thing. we used comon pins even the little babies had their three cornerd pants pinned on with comon pins.

Murray I think of so many things to tell you I am likley to get some of them mixed in the telling Since I began this writing things came to mind I hadent thot of for the last 100 years.

we always had plenty of clothing to keep up comfort able & plenty to eat we always had a great variety of meat for Father loved to hunt & in winter had time & at that time there was plenty of wild game such as Deer wild turkeys Prarie chickens quailles & rabbits & in summer squirls & Buffalos was plenty but he never killed one he always used a kifle (rifle) in hunting & our Pork barrel was never empty of pickeled meat with

smoked hams & shoulders for summer use. we had a lot cattle & sheep but never killed any for meat always used a lot chickens any time we wanted then as they only brought \$2.00 per doz Even when mother dressed them in winter & sent them to market & only 10c for roosters when they were over a year old late in the fall at butchering time they butcherd our next years meat & all the fat hogs we had to sell & Father took them to Davenport & sold them & layed in a big supply of groceries & things we needed in the way of material for making cloths it would take him 4 or 5 days to make round trip with team & all dirt roads & couldent go faster than a walk all day but about every 25 miles there would be a hostelry & tavern had large barns & big feed lots where one could drive in to feed & water or stay the night of course we had small towns with Post office Store BlackSmith Shop & the like, mother sold Butter Eggs & Beeswax & any thing we could spare off the farm in the summer & fall we gatherd Black berries wild grapes & any thing we raised on the farm that would bring money or exchange for groceries She didnt know a bout canning fruit or vegetables dried the fruit & berried the cabbage turnips beet & potatoes made sourkraut by the barrell put up our own pickles in salt and freshened them as we wanted to use them I think when I was real young we only grew tomatoes as anarnament (ornament?) not to eat as for spreads for our bread always the year around we honey renderd & in the comb & maple syerip pumpkin butter & dried pumpkin for pies. we never had many pies till we got a cook stove well speaking wild things to eat we children began to roam the woods as soon as things began to ripen first was wild cherries choke cherries plumbs wild crabs black berries & after frost came black haws were ready to eat but remember we never had a whole day off for play not even ½ day for we girls had to knit so many rounds on a stocking before we were alowed to go out that had to be done each day as soon as we learned to knit & we learned pretty young some things I can remember that happened when I was about 7 or 8 years old one was a Forest fire we lived about 3 miles west of the wapsiepinecan river & it was between us & the river Father & 2 boys were gone most of the time for about 4 days and nights fighting fire the smoke came

up to our house till it almost choked us at times & at night the sky was red as far as we could see men came to the house at any time to get a drink of water or milk & mother kept hot coffee & meat boiled & bread baked so they could have something to eat & some times they would lie down in the yard & sleep an hour

do you know I can remember just how some of the men looked cloths toren into rags & faces & hands black from smoke & dirt

So much of the timbr had been cut for wood & to make rails & the brush left in the timber till it was a dry mass of brush & dry leaves but no lives were lost as I remember & another thing happened at about that same time or a year later was a tornado I may have been 9 or 10 years old at that time this was a tornado the folks had gone to church on a sunday afternoon the church was about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from our house built on one corner of the farm as they came out of church saw the storm coming at a rapid pace we were then living in the 2 story frame house & they closed all the windows & doors but the house shook so we could feel it shake a man came with them & the men braced their shoulders against the doors & the windows the worst part of the storm was 3 miles sough (south) of us & the worst part of damage done was about 4 miles long & from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide in that era (area) not a house barn or building of any kind was left standing. all the stock killed but not so many people as it being sunday alot were away from home. great beams from houses were driven in the ground 3 & 4 feet you know those times we didnt have clyclones or twisters as we call them these days and we always expected our storms & floods in the month of June

I have digressed a little from the way we farmed our crops were corn & wheat a large meddow for hay just wheat enough to bread the family & pay take to have it ground as it took so much work to get it ready for bread the crop had to be cut by hand with a cradle that was real hard work swinging a cradle all day the sheaves were bound by hand. you picked up a hand full of the cut straws for a binder & if the wheat wasent tall enough had to make a double band then it was shocked when all was in shock it was hauled to the slacking

ground near the stable & the thrashing floor was made ready for thrashing a big round ring was scraped with hoes till the ground was clean & hard then the wheat was layed around that with the heads laping & the buttes of the sheaves out 2 such rings side by side was layed then tramped out with horses going round & round till all the wheat was tramped out I cand discribe a thrashing floor so you will understand



MARGARET SCORER. AGE 6-7 RIDING  
THRASHING FLOOR. - RIDING INSIDE  
HORSE & LEADING OTHER.

but some day I can show you just how it was done but the horse on the in side had a bridle & the other one a halter with lead strap well I couldent of been more than 6 or 7 years old when I was elected for the job of riding on the thrashing floor rode the in side horse and led the other one poor little me I rode and cryed & cryed & rode but to no avale had to do my share of what I was able to do that was supposed to be an easy job well I some times droped a sleep & slid off or the boys to hurry the horses would punch a horse with the fork handle he would jump & off I would flap they would take me by one arm and leg up I would go again we all did our share of work big & little they used a pitch fork to turn the wheat over as it thrashed out and take the straw away then gathered up the grain clean it in the wind mill turned by hand then it was ready to take to mill & made in to bread stuff flour not bolted & middlings or shorts we used that for mursh & brand for cow feed always had spring wheat

now in raising corn first plowed the ground then borrowed it then marked the rows with single shouble plow one way

across the field then across the other way then it was ready for planting Father marked the rows & us children that was old enough to cary a gallon bucket of corn followed and dropped from 3 to 5 grains in the cross & one of the boys followed with a hoe & covered it then in time it was cultivated with single shoudeled then in the fall it was cut & shocked later hauled to the stable & husked out as needed corn for horses & fodder for cattle.

in making hay the grass was all cut by hand with a sythe very often neighbor men helped each other in harvest time as I remember they would lay off a land about what they could cut in one day the hay had to be turned over to dry then put up in what was called a hay cock when the meadow was all cut & up the hay was hauled to the stable and stacked mostly in long ricks for winter use our stock was kept on pasture as late in the fall as possible to save feed I use the



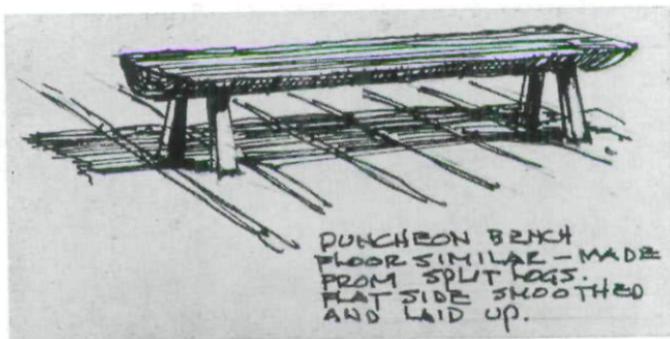
LOG BARN WITH THATCHED ROOF

word stable in place of barn all farm buildings were built with logs & covered with slough grass the roofs were shed roof slanting one way then poles were layed on this tall grass put on beginning at the bottom a laping over as they went up to top of roof

we had horse stable cattle shed sheep shed hog shed & if I remember rightly the chickens roosted on trees & fences or where ever they could and these grass roofs lasted for years as slough grass was coarse & grew tall it doesent seem possible when I think of the way folks lived then of how few things they had to get along with & make a living or the hard work they had in comparison to what we have now we might say in about 90 years time any way my folks lived in these surroundings till 1859 or 60 then father built 2 story house had 5 rooms 3 down & 2 up stairs but there could of been 9 good sized rooms any way we had plenty of room & a cellar size of house rock foundation starting at bottom of cellar rock floor in cellar rock chimney & big fire place in front room

but mother got a cook stove at that time then we got pie to eat & a lot of things we werent used to the fire place had to heat that big room could freese ones back while you got warm in front then father only lived 3 or 4 years to injoy his hard earned new house died at the age of 52 years cause of his death was typhoid fever

you can readily see why children of that time were deprived of an education we only had school 3 months in winter & 3 in summer for the small children that couldnt wade deep snow in winter time. I must of been 10 or 11 years old before I got to go to winter school then I wore a pair of boys boots with red tops & copper toes oh I was proud of them our flannell dresses were made to come to our ankle it was 2½ miles north west to our log school house with puncheon benches to sit on no backs to them no desks in front had a table up where the teacher sat there we went once a day to write in our cobby books our studies were reading writing spelling & a little arithmetic we always in winter time spelling school one night a week at the school house old & young went & all took part it was fun for the children to spell down their perants we always stood in line and when one missed a word had to go to the foot of the class



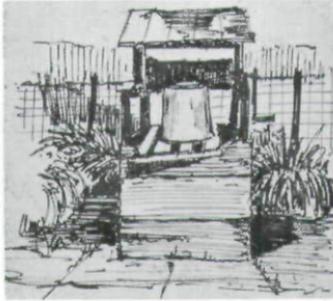
we had a log school house with wood heated stove & had to carry drinking water from a farm well about ¼ mile wooden water bucket & one tin cup to drink from teacher called for some one to pass the water & every hand went up & teacher can I She would name some one then what water was left in the cup a little more water was aded & the next child drank

it was counted quite a privilage to be called on to pass the water

in early spring of 64 my second bother Will decided he wanted to go west he would be 19 years old in June So mother filed him out with blankets & clothing to last a year & what money she could spare & he went with a man that took supplies out to miners Such as boots & such clothing as miners wore & things to eat sugar coffee tea & a good suply of tobacco tools that gold miners used the old man was a batchelor by the name of Micheal Grove he drove a team of horses & Bro Will & another boy name of maroni Bisbee each drove 2 yoke of oxen they went to omaha neb to get their supplies & they joined a big train made up of miners & other hauling suplies there they appointed officers to take charge of the train a captain a major boss a man to ride on a head of the train to select a camping place for each night & men to ride far ahead & scout for Indians which were verry plentiful at that time & each eve a guard of 2 or 3 men were selected to guart the camp by riding the night throu around the camp if possible they selected a place where there was water & grass so that the oxen could grase a little the Indian Scouts were one or 2 days ahead all the time so as to bring back a warning if they found Indian signes along the way as I remember they got to Silver City all O K where they disbanded & where there was gold mining at that early day I dont remember how long they were on the road 3 or 4 months

a day as they never go out of a walk & an ox team can only travel about half that tistance we never used oxen on our farm so I dont know much about them only I have been told that cattle can go much longer with out a drink of water than can horses. Brother Will was gone 9 years at that time Idaho was a long way from Iowa no Rail Roads in that direction no auto mobiles then it took months now with auto takes days & with air plain it takes hours & with Radio we can hear ones voice. Father never road on a train Street never saw a bysckl or auto nor farm machienry as we have now. Then we dident have photographs only tin types.

in Dec. 24, 64 my oldest Brother John was married &



Windless Well

went on a wedding trip to western part of State then mother & us girls had all the farm chores to look after as Brother Ike was only 7 years old each day we drove the cattle to a creek & cut holes in the Ice for them to drink we got water from the well with Bucket & wind less an all day job to carry water to sheep Hogs & chickens but we

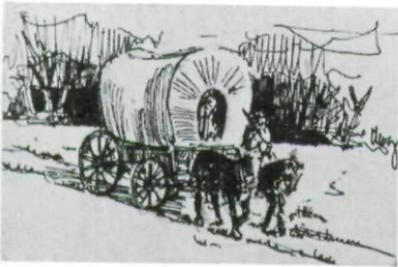
were used to it so didnt mind the work.

that winter there were 400 Indians camped on the wapsie River about 3 miles from our House & they depended a lot on what people gave them for a living as the Snow was so deep & game scarce but they were very friendly & did not seal some men wrote out what they needed most & they took these papers with them in their begging trips was feed for their ponies & meat corn meal or chickens for themselves they mostly went in 4 2 men & 2 squas & road in single file could see them most any day along the roads & oh how our dog hated them he could smell them  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile out on our East road & when they road up to our wood pile mother had to drag him by his collar & shut him in the smoak house till the were gone & were they afraid of him they ran like toe heads from the gate to the house they never sat on a chair Either stood or squated on their hunkers they always amused them selves by using the tongs at the fire place they never stayed after we gave them some thing always wanted the chidken killed & always seemed so great full for what you gave them as soon as they could they moved on to ware there was better hunting they used bow & arrow

& right here I want to say I always felt sorry for the Indians (& do yet) being driven by white people yes they are mean & so would we be if triven like they were

now in the spring of 65 mother & here sister and brother in law who lived about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from us desided they would sell

their farms & go father South where it was warmer in winter where they could have fruit so they put out the crop and began to get ready & by mid Summer had both farms sold & made Sales of stock farm implements household furniture our one team of horses was the one they brought from Ohio. Old Rock & Fly were their names Some horse buyers from cedar Rapids came & bought them & when they went to lead them away oh how us children did cry & put our arms around their necks. mother said the men turned their backs & mother cried too the dear old horses had worked so hard & tailed to raise us children & then had to go among strangers to die I think us children must of felt like they were almost Human we had been so happy to think we were going to move & then that sad day mother had to insist that we hush to think we cried all that day



well they bought young horses John got a team of beautifull black horses & they rigged up 4 covered wagons us 2 & uncle 2 he a aunt mary had 9 children 2 up in the 20s & the youngest 2 years old John & wife drove one team & mother

& aunt Sophie the other she was mothers youngest sister not married but came to live with us after Fathers Death then us 4 children which made 19 in all with 8 horses & 2 dogs to buy feed for on the way all we took was our cloths & some bedding dishes to eat from & pots & pans to cook and bake bread along the way we started Aug 25 didnt stop to look at land till we crossed the mosuri River at Arroock Mo. Just same year the civile war ended & you can emagin the condition of the country that far South the population seemed to be mostly colord people they were verry friendly & kind to us they brought peaches & other fruit to our camp in the evenings & wanted to know about conditions in the North well there wasent any land to be had at any price So all we could do was to turn back the colord folks were so excitid and didnt know what to do had always been under the white in a masters hand & there were so much stealing going on some one

had to sit up every night they drove the wagons in a circle tied the horses on the in side made a fire in the center & one man & one women sat up all night

Brother Johns black match team seemed to be a temptation as 2 men kape on our trail for 2 days at first asked to buy the team & they accused Bro of stealing them he at last threatened them that he would put the Sherrif on their trail that was the last we saw or heard of them we crossed the mo river again at glassgal forded it both times then we headed for Illinoise crossed the Mississippi at Hanibal Mo & went out in Ill as far as Sterling Brown Co but they had war prices on land out there then they decided to come back to all Iowa but locate father South in the State so we crossed the Mississippi again at Keokuk & came about 20 miles out in Lee Co to a little town named Primrose a Family lived there they had knowen for years he had moved from Lynn Co to Lee Co & had bought a farm mother rented rooms in a hotel in town & this man went with her & John to find a place we landed there the 8 of Oct & She Bought a small Farm & we got settled in Nov uncle Thomas & his Family stayed in Ill till the next spring then came over to us he rented a farm & stayed one year then went Hastings neb & took up all the land he & his oldest son could & bought other land with a big stone house on it & became quite well off  
The farm mother bought had a large apple orchard the fall of 66 2 men came & bought the apple crop paid her \$15.00 & picked & barreled the apples right in the orchard

we also had quite a lot of peach trees & a nice vineyard Bro John & aunt Sophie Built a Brick dry kilnn & we dried a large amount of peaches and she sold dollars worth that winter up to that time we dident know much about canning fruit our first jars were Earthen were & had to use sealing wax to seal lids then we got tin cans with big open tops these were also sealed with wax later came the mason jars & rubber rings & was that an improvement & we could have fresh applies all winter long John stayed on mothers farm till Sept 69 then moved to the western part of the state & I was married Oct. 14, 69 & Sister Rebecca was marrie may 9, 70 & Sister Manda was marrie Dec. 31, 74 So mother was on the Farm alone

with 2 boys as Will had came in that time after 9 years wandering She & them stayed on the Farm till Nov. 76 then she rented the Farm & made a sale & she & Bro J F came to live with us in Milton but Bro worked in the Farm in Summer & stayed with us in winter to go to school in town as their country school only had about 10 to 15 scholars in the district he wasnt married till Sept 2nd 82 mother lived with us 25 years She passed away in 1911 I was never away from her till I was 50 years old & these were the first 7 years I was married one can hardly realise the changes that have been made in the years since I was a small child up to now the inventions & improvements & even the Seasons have changed & that is none of our doing we take them as they come we dont have the deep snows we had way back in 1850 & 60

I think of the miles & miles of hard roads & fast travel when in early days when a team with a load of any kind never went out of a walk well some of these things seem to call for a Believe it or not Murray I am wondering if you will see as great a change in the next 75 years as I have in the last 75 July No 1938 Avocations magazine has an artical on Pennsylvania Dutch & that is what my folks were supposed to have originated from but from the 16th centruy till our time they had departed a long way from their belefts & customs but this artical says they were a earnest industrious upright men & women & were expert farmers & in their Religious belief were mennonites but we had never heard of the mennonite church till we came to the Southern part of Iowa my Father & Mother belonged to the United Brethren church & it was that Denomination who Built the church on our Farm well I suppose we are just a mixture of differant nationalities a little welsh a little Irish & a big lot of Dutch well any way I am glad I am what I am

*The second and final part of this memoir will be published in the Fall issue of the Annals.*

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