

Early Days in Hustletown

We were the first people to move to that part of the country which was later called Hustletown, to start farming. This was in 1892 or 1893. There was one other family living about 2 miles across the trail from where Husteds later. He was a negro and his wife was an Indian, but he was a good old soul.

The road we had to cut on was a tote road to haul supplies to the lumber camps. It was later called the river road. It left the river about three miles from the old dam and passed by Husteds place and went pretty much straight east through to Meadow Lawn. There was not much timber left around where we settled but more east. About where the town hall is there was a logging road that went down to the river. This road was what they called an ice road. It had pretty big ruts in it that were 12 feet apart and they were sprinkled with water and when they were strong enough they would start to haul logs. To sprinkle they had a crew working nights. When the ruts were up too high, they would have to dig out some. They tried to keep the ice to about 3 inches. Their loads were 16 feet wide and about 12 feet high. They hauled this load with 4 horses. The logging on a big scale was pretty much over.

Our house was a log house 20 x 30, it was made of logs some as big as 18 inches at the big end. There was 1 big room 20 x 20 and 2 bedrooms. The logs were not even peeled.

We moved out in the spring so we did not have much crops that first year. During the summer we cleared and plowed what we could. During the winter we did a little logging. Logging was our winters work each year.

There was plenty of game--it was a common sight to see 15 or 20 partridge in one tree. 50 to 100 prairie chickens in a flock was common. But they were pretty well gone in a few years. I do not know where they went, they were not hunted very much.

Next year another family moved out. They settled north of us, land joining. Their name was Glanville. There was a single man on our west, by the name of Wilcox. Another family on the north east side, their name was Gibson. The next year several families came, but they went farther east and settled in what is called Meadow Lawn now.

Then it was time to think about a schoolhouse. My father, gave

5 acres from the northeast corner of our farm . Agnes Glanville was the first teacher. She lives in Minneapolis now.

Prices were very low. We would take a wagon load of mellons to town. They would go about 25 lbs. and sell some for 15 or 20 cents and give the rest away. One year we raised a thousand buhels of potatoes. They were 8 cents in the fall. The next spring we hauled them out on the fields. The next year they were going to be a better price. So we raised more. They were 8 cents in the fall. We hauled about 500 bu. to town and stored them in a basement. In the spring we had to pay to take them out and dump them. Could not give them away. But after all we got by and we had a good time among ourselves.

The fishing was good. We could walk down to the river and catch bass up to 8 lbs. and big catfish, and there were many other kinds. But for sturgeon we would go to the dam and get them up to 150 lbs.

I think the growing season has changed a lot in the last years. The corn we raised would grow 10 and 12 feet high and was well supplied with ears. I am wondering if you e can do that now.

About the name Hustletown. Most all of thr people got together and they liked the name, but I think Jean Wilcox was the promotop. He was always up to something. I think it is a nice name, don't you?

This covers the early years in a general way.

1955.

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