



*I pledge allegiance to my  
flag and to the Repub.  
for which it stands*

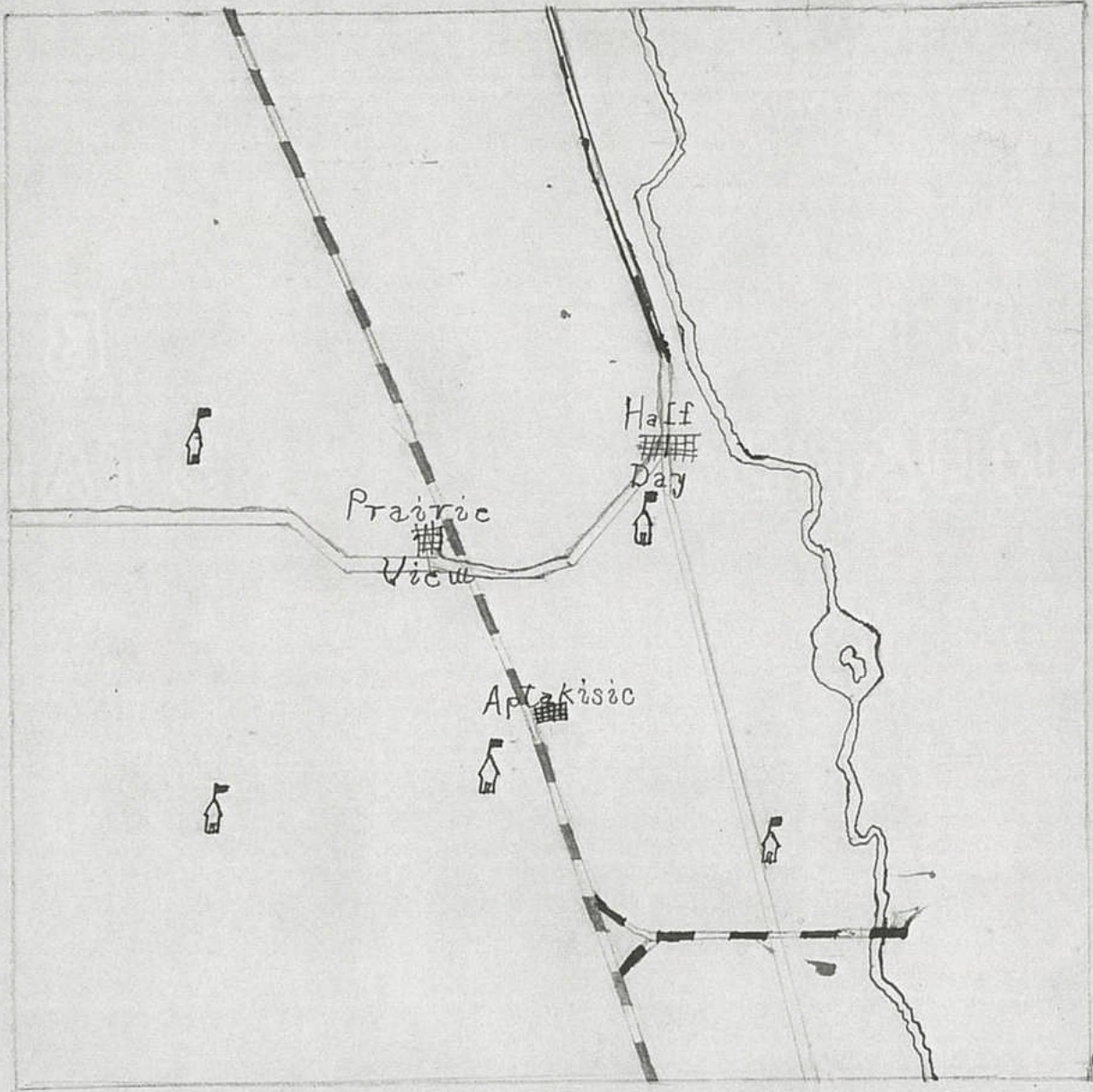
# VERNON




*Not without thy Wondrous Story  
Can we write the Nation's Glory.  
ILLINOIS*





# VERNON




  
Railroad.

  
Abandoned Railroad

  
Sheplains River.

 School house.

  
Road



## Organization of Vernon.

There was a warm contest in adopting a name. Some who came from Rome, N. Y. wished it to have that name. Others wanted Half Day. All other names were finally disregarded and Vernon was chosen taken from Mt. Vernon, the home of Washington.

The first town meeting was held at Half-Day village on the first Tuesday in April, 1850. The following officers were chosen: Capt. James Moore, Supervisor, Orange Brace, town clerk; Philander Stewart, justice of peace, Elisha Bridley, assessor, A. H. Hawkes, Job W. Tripp and Edwin Ruth, Highway commissioners, J. W. Ayres constable and collector, Robert Hamilton, overseer of poor.



The Town Hall.



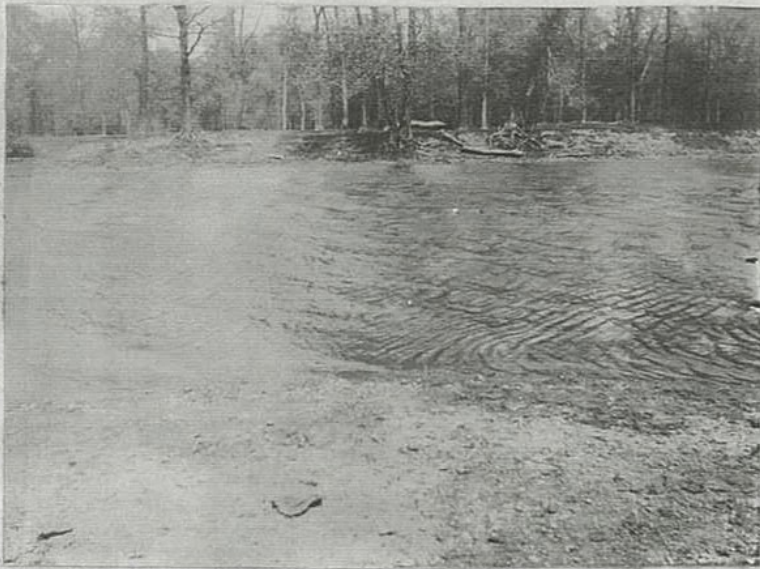
## First Settlers

The first settler in Vernon township was Captain Daniel Wright. He came on horse back and later he went back for his family. Captain Wright came from Ohio. His home was located by the Desplaines River on what is now the William Whigham farm one mile and a half south of Half Day. This, the first home in Lake County was build in the year 1834.

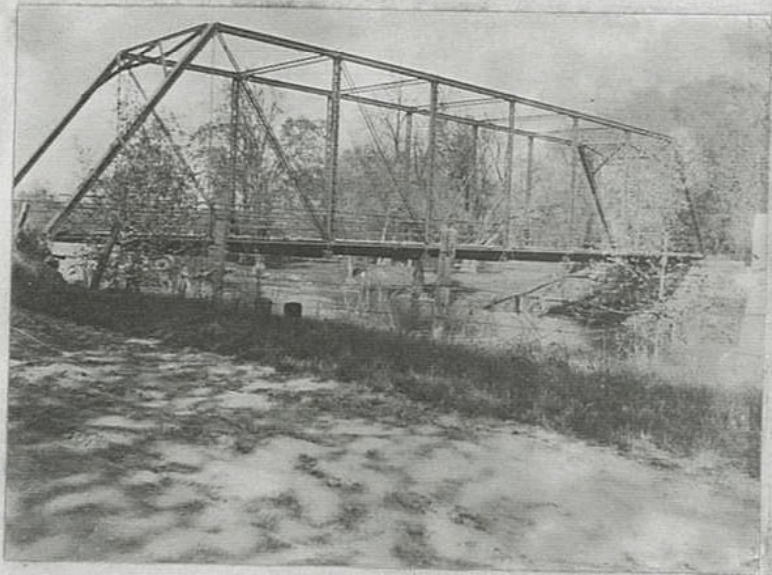
In the fall of 1834 a death occurred in the family of Captain Wright. This was the first death to occur in the county.

Other settlers who took up claims in Lake County were, Hiram Kennicott, Jonathan Rice, Asahel Talcott, Ramsom and Richard Steele, William Cooley, Charles Bartlett, Thomas McClure, Williard Jones, Phineas Jones, and Amos Bennett. All of these settlers came in the year 1834. In 1835 few families came into the County.





*The old ford on the Tripp farm*



*The bridge across Slesplaines river*



## Roads, Fords, and Bridges.

The first road in the early times was the Milwaukee Avenue. This was a stage road running between Chicago and Milwaukee. The stages were very heavy being round on the bottom and having a large rack behind where travelers could put their trunks and baggage. The body of the coach was hung on heavy leather straps. This made the coach bounce, but did not bother the people much.

In the early spring after the heavy rains, the mud on the roads would be very deep, and often the coach would get stuck in a hole. The passengers would then get at the back of the coach and start to bounce it up and down. When this was done all the weight would be lifted off of the front wheels, and these could easily be pulled out of the mud. When the back wheels got stuck the passenger would go to the front and repeat the same process. A coach might often be stuck several hours.

In riding in these coaches the passengers preferred to sit up with the



driver so that he might see the country. The inside of the coach was a poor place to sit because there were few windows and the passenger could see nothing. However they often met many people for every ten miles the driver was compelled to change horses and this gave the passenger a chance to get out and visit a tavern for a few minutes.

#### Bridges.

The bridges of the early times were very rudely constructed; often being made of logs. Several logs would be driven into the river bottom, & other logs would then be layed across these. At each high water these bridges would have to be replaced for the strong current would carry the old one's down stream.

There were several of these old bridges in Vernon; one being on the William Whigham farm about half a mile below the present bridge. Another was located on the farm now owned by John Barrett.



## Fords.

There were often shallow places in the river where it could be crossed without the use of a bridge. These places were called fords. There were fords on what is now the Austin Tripp farm, another on the Shubert farm.



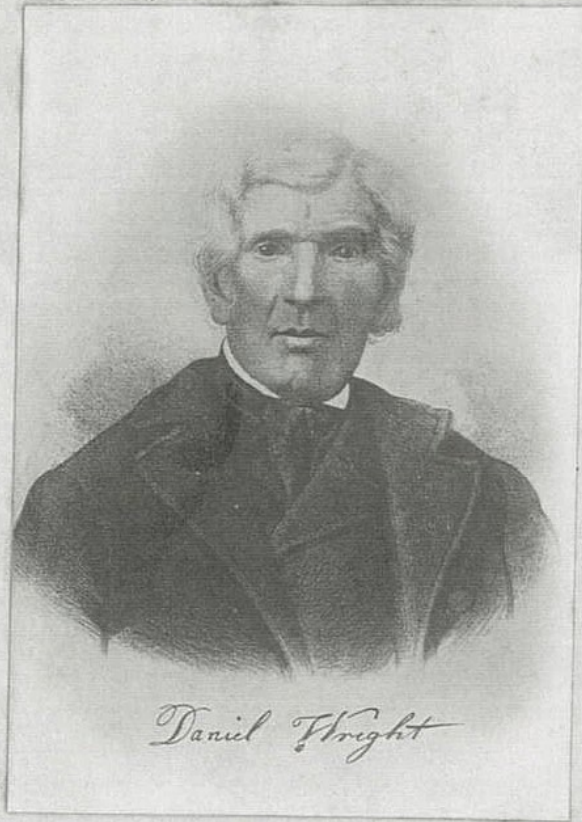
The old Tavern of Seth Washburn.

## Taverns.

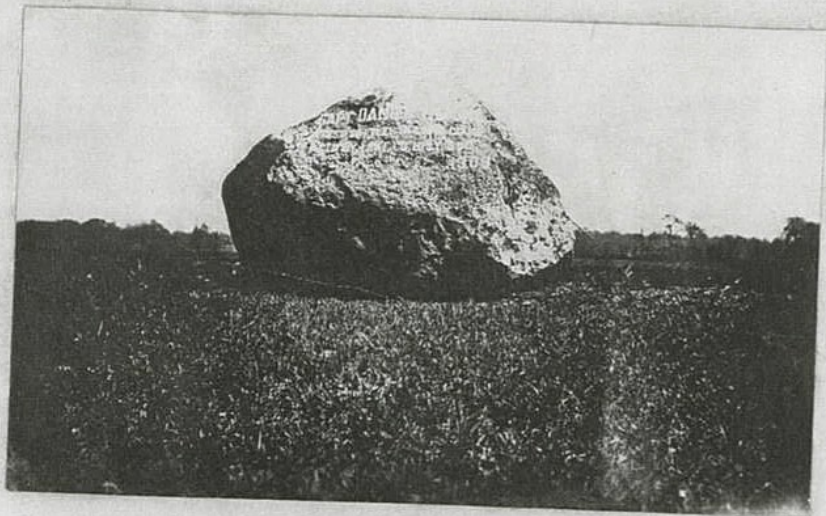
After the stage line was started taverns were build along Milwaukee road, at intervals of about ten miles. One of these old taverns was run by Seth Washburn at Half Day. This Tavern also served as post office. Seth washburn was appointed post master, and was the first in the County.



Early settlers



Daniel Wright



1834

Captain Daniel Wright, the first white  
settler in Lake County.  
Placed by the Lake County Historical Society.  
1909





The location of an abandoned bridge.  
on the Barrett farm.



Churches.



Congregational church  
at Half Day.



Soon after the first settlers came into the county they wished to organize a church. This church was organized in the year 1837. This was a Methodist Episcopal church. One of the members was William Hamilton who led the meetings which were held in an old log cabin, also used as a school house.

In the year 1841 the Congregational church at Half Day was organized. The first minister preaching at Half Day was Reverend Elbridge Howe. However he was forced to leave the following January and was followed by Reverend Joseph Payne.

Early members of this church were Susanna Pelton, Sarah Hawkes, Joshua Pelton and wife, Thomas Pelton, Levi Walker, Liman Walker and Luther Farnham.

The present church at Half Day was erected in 1875.

Other churches in Vernon are located at Prairie View and Long Grove and Buffalo Grove.



## Mills.

A saw and grist mill was located on the Des Plaines River just north of the woods road which runs from Milwaukee Avenue to Deerfield. The mill was so constructed that the water would run under the eastern side of the mill, thus furnishing water power for the mill.

The saw mill was located on the east side of the river and was much smaller than the grist mill.

This mill was owned by Henry Struckmann. It was run by Rhymur Lubbe.

The grains ground most were wheat and barley.

After the mill at Prairie View was built this mill was forced to close down and was later moved up on the Faulson farm. It is now being used as a barn.



## Hunting

In the early of the County considerable game was to be found. Of this game probably the quail and the wild pigeon were the most common.

One could go out for just a short time and shoot enough quail for a meal. This, however, did not last long after the country became more thickly settled since the flesh of the bird was so highly prized as a food and soon all of the quail were either killed or left for some safer place.

The stories are also told about the wild pigeon. These were so numerous that when a flock of them would fly up they would be so thick that it seemed as if a cloud had past across the sun. This bird can now no longer be found.

Another bird now entirely killed off was a bird which stood about four to five feet high. Before this bird would fly it would take a long run and then jump into the air. Then flying in circles it would rise higher and higher till it became but a speck in the sky.



## Organization of the School District.

The first school house was in the back of the Francis Tripp farm. The log house was build for a dwelling house, but they used it as a school house. Around the inside of the school house were benches and in front of these high benches were desks for the older children and in the front of these desks was another row of benches around the room for the small children. At one end of the room was a large fireplace. Every child that came to school was charged fifty cents a term. The teacher would board by the homes of the pupils. She would board one week at a place and then go to the next neighbor. This money from the pupils was given to the teacher and this was how she was paid. Later there was a school build on the Tripp farm on the Milwaukee road, where the present school now stands.

The property now owned by the district was first deeded in 1848. The land was described as follows, commencing on the



South line of the Jobe Tripp farm where the East line of Milwaukee road enters the same, then North sixty feet on the same line of the same road, then East sixty feet, then South sixty feet, then West on the said line to the place of beginning. This property was sold for the sum of ten dollars.

This land was to be held for school purposes as long as it was used. If school was no longer held on this property it would go back to the owner.

The school board making this purchase of land was made up of three men: Philip Wolf, Christian Puttings and Jobe W. Tripp. This deed was witnessed in the presence of Seth Washburn Justice of the peace on the fifteenth day of August 1848.

The earliest records of attendance at the Tripp school date back to the year 1878. Records earlier than this have been destroyed. At this time Lora A. Bailey was teacher. Among the pupils were: Wallace Whigham now Lieutenant Colonel of an Engineer Corps; the Tripp children; other Whigham children; and the Libbie children. The next year Warren & Prague



was teacher. Following Mr. Sprague was James Tripp.

At that time the school contained the old fashioned doubled seats and was heated by a big stove in the center of the room.

In 1912 the old building was raised up and a basement put under it; an entry way added and a furnace installed. This made the school a standard school.



*The Tripp School.*



*The old building.*



*The remodeled building.*





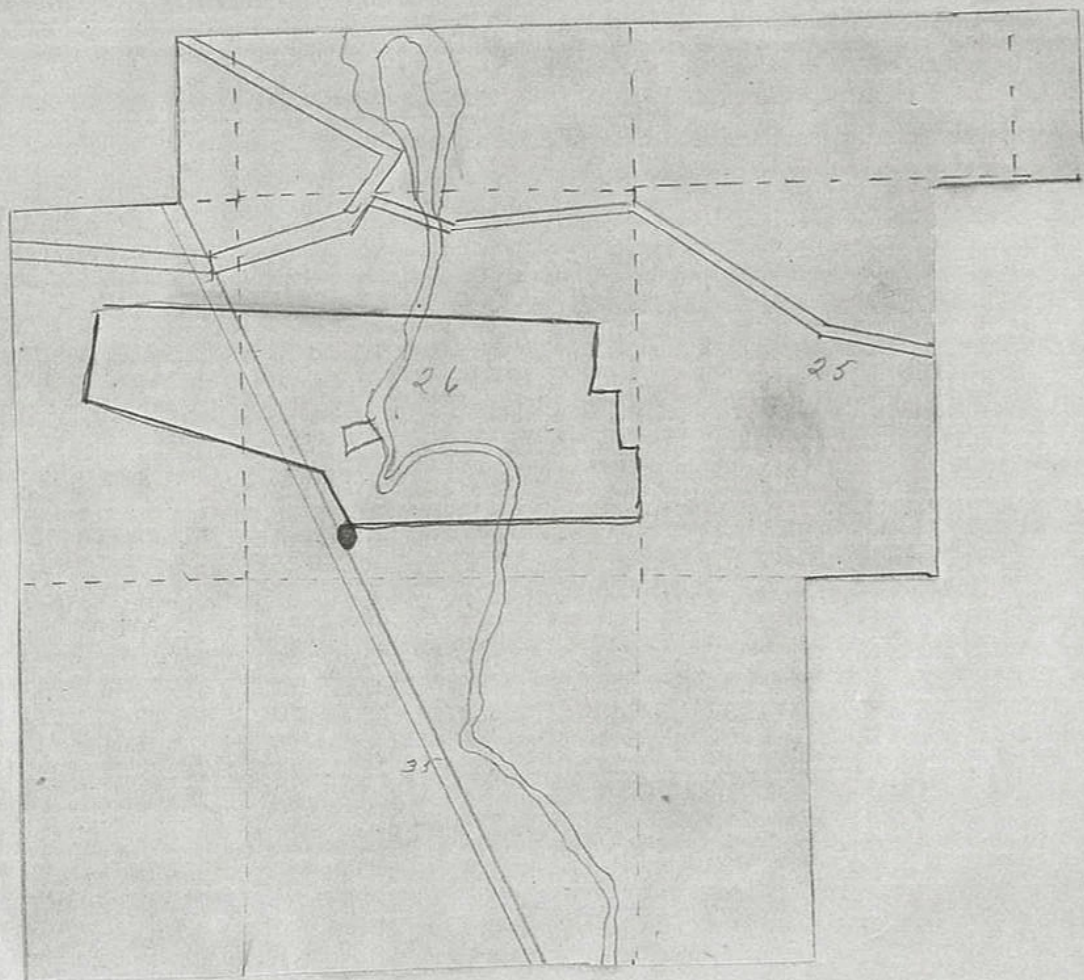
*A future school board.*



*Interior of Tripp School*



District No. 104 Lake County.



□ The old log school house.

• The present school house.

..... sections lines

= roads



Indians.



An Indian chief.



There was an Indian village where the present town of Half Day stands. The Indians used to make their living by hunting and fishing and would often make their way down the river to the homes of the white settlers.

On one of these occasions one of the Indians became sick and lay down beside Mr. Wright's Cabin to rest. Soon a drunk Indian came along and began to beat the sick Indian over the head with a whiskey bottle.

Mr. Wright saw this and went to the Indian and told him that he must stop and go away. The Indian muttered something under his breath but went off toward the woods.



Soon, however, he returned and again beat the sick Indian. Again Mr Wright told him that he must go away. This time he was gone a little longer but returned the third time and beat the sick man.

Mr Wright then lost patience and seizing a fish pole, he rushed out and began beating the Indian with it. The Indian, yelling and shouting ran toward the wood but Mr Wright followed him, beating him every step for about a hundred yards. This time the Indian did not return.

Soon, however, Mr Wright began to fear that he had been too bold and that probably the Indians would seek revenge.



His suspicions were aroused one day about a week later when he saw a party of six Indians approaching the field where he was working. He had no time to get to his cabin so there was nothing to do but to meet them there.

His fears were somewhat calmed when he saw that none of the Indians carried weapons but came toward him with outstretched hands as if wishing to shake hands with him.

Altho he could not understand them well he soon learned that they were congratulating him because he had whipped the bully of the tribe; an Indian, of whom all the rest had been afraid.



altho Captain Wright no longer feared the Indians the women still were afraid of them and would do almost any thing rather than displease them.

This is shown by an incident which took place one Spring just after the sap started to flow.

Several Indian women had come down the river from the village at Half Day in order that they might boil sap. Mrs Wigham happened to be working near the spot where the Indian women were and soon the Indian women came over and ask her to come and see their sap. Of course she went being afraid not to. After she had been there for a short time an Indian came along.

He had caught a muskrat and after skinning it he threw it into the kettle of sap. After this had boiled up for a while the Indian women began tasting it and insisted that Mrs Wigham try some. Being afraid not to she took a taste which she said was as bitter as gall. After this incident she was always careful to stay indoors whenever Indian women were around.



## The Old Log cabin

In the old log cabin there was usually but one room. Above this room there was sometimes a loft where the boys would sleep. In the main room, which served as a kitchen, dining room, parlor and bedroom; there was no floor and at one end there was a large fireplace.

The conveniences of course were few. If the fire were to go out it would be necessary to go to the neighbors and get more fire. The lighting was done with candles. The beds were made of straw or leaves. The chairs were made of logs with three pegs driven in them for legs.

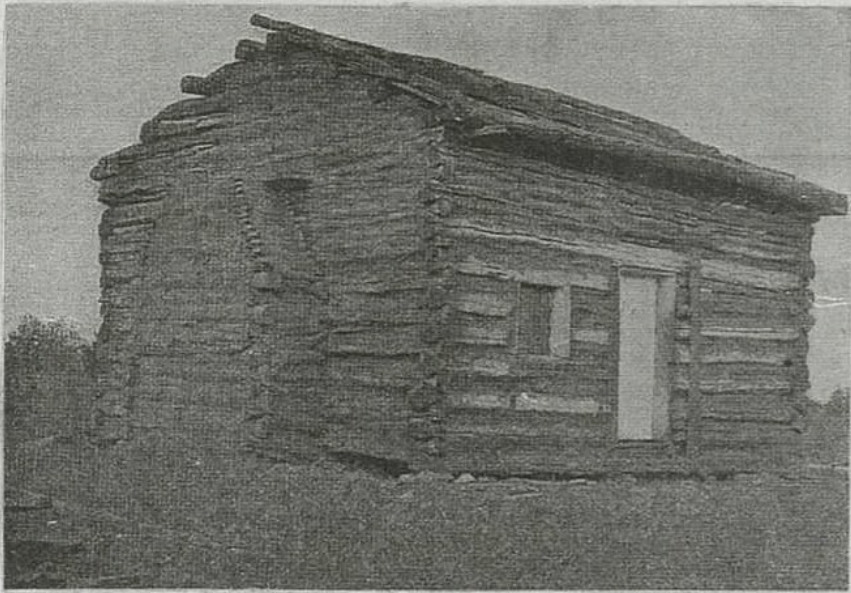
The food of the early settler was very simple usually consisting of corn bread, molasses and different meats either gotten from the hunt or butchered at home.

## a modern Home

Our modern homes have from six to eight rooms in them. The heating is done with furnaces, the lighting with electric lights.

Every convenience is put into these homes. They have hot and cold water, a laundry room and bath room.





*An old log cabin*



*A New Home*



Seventh and Eighth Grades



Ruth Rokenbach

Louis Steen

Lillian Seiler

Maudesa Kitzger

Molly Seiler

Earl Klein



Book made by Seventh and Eighth  
grade pupils of Tripp School 1918.

Ruth Rothenbach 85

Maudesse Vitzger 80

Molly Seiler 89

Lillian Seiler 80

Carl Klein 80

Louis Steen 86

Leslie C. James  
Teacher.