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The Pioneer Life of a Little Girl of the 1800's
Who Still Lives in Highland Park.

Many, many years ago a little girl 10 years old left Pennsylvania to come to Illinois. She became one of the very first settlers of Deerfield. Her home was two miles west of there. It was then called Au Plain. This little girl came most of her way in a Prairie Schooner till she was near a place which is now called South Bend. And from there a schooner or a ferry boat took her across the South end of Lake Michigan and landed her in Chicago on a Sunday morning.

After a few months in Chicago she and her parents started for Au Plain. At noon they stepped at a place which was called Hickory Grove, from there continuing their journey with their team of oxen they reached their destination, where they met her brother who had preceded them and bought 80 acres of land. On the land that was bought by them stood a log house which before was occupied by an Irishman. Into this they moved.

Food was very hard to get, meat was obtained by hunting. The Indians used to come up to the house and ask for milk or bread. The little girl's mother gave it to them gladly. In the evening she would stand in the doorway or look out the window and in the distance she could see Indians dancing around their fires.

Of course they brought some sheep with them so they could have some wool. Her brother was a weaver. When they went to get

their wool carded someone in the family would make a trip to Elgin and bring the wool home carded. When they received the wool she most always used the big spinning wheel because she could go lots faster than she could with the small spinning wheel.

Part Two

In this log cabin they had bows and arrows beside the flint lock musket. Whenever she would go thru the woods the people would say "The tigers will get you", which was not true. She always looked up in the tree to see if there really was a tiger up there.

Another peculiar thing was that in this log cabin there were 21 other people with herself. In those days of 1800 and so on, there were no beds. People had to sleep on the floor. This child had always worn wooden shoes and now she bought her first pair of leather shoes in Chicago from a cobbler. She paid \$1.50 for them which was very expensive. When this little girl whose name was Mary Salome Ott was 18 years old, she was married to Mr. Philip Brand and they built a log house of their own. At this time there were only four houses in Au Plain which name had now been changed to Deerfield.

After a number of years they decided to go to Highland Park or what is now known as Highland Park but was all woods then. When they had worked sometime to clear a road, a terrible

storm came up and rooted the trees out of the ground and spread them all over the road, so that delayed them another week. But they finally completed a road.

About 30 years ago Mrs. Philip Brand moved to Highland Park on North Second Street, where she now lives. She is my great grandmother and is nearly 93 years old. She has many old relics and can tell many more interesting stories and I am sure she would enjoy talking to any of you of her wonderful experiences.

Gerard S. Noerenberg.

This is a copy of an article found among the papers of Mr.

Jesse Lowe Smith.

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