

In 2015, I was approached by Dotty Dill, a member of Pastfinders, asking if I would transcribe a journal that someone had donated to us. The journal was given to the Friends of the Library, who gave it to the Historical Society, who then gave it to Pastfinders.

Inside the book was a descendant's tree. I think I have narrowed it down as to who the author of the journal might have been. She is referred to in the journal as "Corneal". There were a couple of women named Cornelia Munson, but the author seems to be a daughter of Kneeland Joshua Munson (1809-1898). She refers to "father" in the journal when speaking of Kneeland Joshua Munson and "father's father" when speaking of Joshua Munson (1765-1844).

Most of the journal is in ink, some was in pencil that she added to the original. I tried where I could to determine where she added it. Whoever reads the actual journal will need a magnifying glass to read the pencil notes. I think I got it right except for one page and I just wrote what was there. I typed the pencil notations in italics.

The journal is no longer in the possession of Pastfinders. It may have been sent to a historical or genealogical society in Connecticut for their collection, but no record could be found as to where that is.

Transcribed May 2015 by Sandra Bush Oliver, charter member Pastfinders of South Lake County, Clermont, Florida.



Front page

“Written in 1897”

“Father’s Life”

On back of front Page

Father was a man grown before his grandfather died and remembers him well. Caleb Alling was a minister in New Haven (probably Congregational, as his father’s mother was a member of that church.) He lived on the old homestead adjoining Mrs. Hobert Alling’s home, and used to go into New Haven every Sunday to preach. One day while driving into new Haven, (father does not remember whether it was on a Sunday or not) some one saw his horse standing in the road, and he sitting in the wagon. They went to

the wagon, and found that he had had a shock and was dead, or died right there. Father's mother's mother lived some time after her husband died.

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1809 - Kneeland Joshua Munson was born on Canaan *in the town of Canaan, Litchfield Co, Mt., Conn, Dec 1, 1809*. He was descended from Capt. Thomas Munson, the pioneer who came to this country from England ~~in prior to 1637, or before~~. This Capt. Thomas was the son of Sir Thomas, who traces his ancestry back to John Munson, who was living in England in 1378, in the time of Chaucer and Wycliffe. The present representative in England now is *Lord William John Edmund Munson, 7th Baron, also Viscount of Oxenbridge*. The genealogy is as follows. Kneeland, son of Joshua, son of Jabes, son of Stephen, son of Samuel, son of Capt. Thom. Munson &c.

His mother was Eunice Alling, whose father, Caleb Alling, was captain of a militia company in New Haven, at the time of the Revolutionary War. He lived in Hamden, three miles from New Haven; & when the British attacked the city, he fought against them with his company. * See

Kneeland Munson was named after a merchant in

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New Haven, by the name of Kneeland Townsend.

1811 - When two years old, he went to school opposite the old Dr. Root place, below Phelps'. The teacher had a bed under the desk, and would put the little ones to bed there for a nap. When two or three years old, she used to give him and others a certificate for good behaviour every Saturday night. Capt. Timothy Mansfield of Salisbury, brother of Joseph Mansfield, had taken a contract to build the mountain road now in use. Robert Lee, who was working for him on the road that summer told father he would give him a penny for every certificate, and after that he used to ask the teacher for one every day, and she didn't understand it till one day when she was at their house, father's mother told her, and then she gave him one most every day.

Mansfield wanted to take him home to Salisbury with him over Sunday, and his mother let him go once. They had milk & pounded rusk for supper, and when they passed the rusk to father, he said, ---“We don’t eat bran at our house.”

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When father was eight, nine, or ten years old, his father sent him alone down to Lower City after a hired girl. He went out and hitched up a two horse team himself. He wore his old hat to hitch up the horses, expecting to change it before he started, as they had him all dressed up except his hat. After he hitched up, he forgot to change it, and started off, did not think of it until he was nearly down the Mt., so would not go back. The name of the girl he got was Mary Umphry, and she lived with them two years. She used to faint away very easy at everything. Once while she was there, father brought in a dead rattle snake that he had killed. He had it by the tail, and he threw it toward her feet. She ran up stairs, and he after her.

When he got to her room, he found she had fainted away.

In June 1898, Dee was rubbing his chest for a cold on the lungs, & noticed a scar there & asked him what it was. He said that when he was 8 or 9

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1817 – When eight years old he went down to Cornwall and boarded with his half brother, Chester Munson, and went to school there for several weeks. At a spelling school there, he and a girl several years older than he, named Mary North, daughter of Dr. North, spelled down the whole school.

1821 – When twelve years old, he was in Chester Munson’s store at Huntsville for six months. A man near there who was learning to play the clarionet, used to come in the store every night and practice. Father says the squeaking was terrible, and he believes it was there that he first took his dislike to music.

When quite young, he once went with his father and brothers to South Canaan to church in a sleigh the 20th of April. There was good sleighing. There had been a snow

storm the 14th of April, and another near the 20th. His father told them that that was something to remember as long as they lived, to tell to their children.

1823 – When father was fourteen years old, his father sent him off with a pocket full of money to

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buy cows. His father commenced running the saw mill before father was fifteen years old, and as soon as he started it, father began to draw lumber. In this way, he used to buy a large proportion of the goods and provisions used by the family. He said he began to trade young, and his father seemed to have confidence in his judgement.

About this time Joshua Munson, father's father, took two large potash kettles of iron, from Salisbury, Conn., and drove out to Albany with them, to go to Russia on the other side of the Hudson river. The kettles weighted half a ton each & would hold three or four barrels. He started to drive across the river on the ice, as they were in the habit of doing; for there was no bridge. He stood on the back of the wagon driving, ready to jump if the ice broke. All at once the back wheels of the wagon broke through the ice and the kettles slid out the back into the river, taking grandpa with them. The kettles sank, and he hung on to the lines, while people from the shore hurried out and helped get him

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and the wagon out. The horses did not get in. He hired some one to search for the kettles. They finally recovered them several days after he left; but it did not pay, as it cost more than they were worth. Where the ice broke was a weak spot where a team had broken through before, and it had not got strong yet.

1826 – In the fall of 1826, his father, Joshua Munson, bought about 150 young hogs, and turned them into what was called Norfolk woods, to grow and fatten on beech nuts. On the 30th of Dec., a snow storm commenced which lasted four days, snowing steadily and heavily the whole time, leaving on the ground over four feet of snow on the level. When the storm abated, Joshua Munson, with what help he could get, spent several days in

wading in the snow trying to find the hogs. They finally succeeded in finding and getting home about one hundred. The other fifty were left to their fate. It was expected that this snow would make a great flood when it went off; but it lay on the ground all winter, and went off gradually by the sun the last of March and in April,

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without any flood at all. In the fore part of April, 1827, two or three of the fifty hogs found their way out to a collier's hut. He notified Joshua Munson. They then made another rally, searched and found quite a number, perhaps 20 or 25; but they were like wild animals. Some of them jumped out of a high pen after they got them home, and made their escape. The hogs had burrowed under the snow, and lived on beech nuts, roots, etc. They were very thin & their backs were bent like hoops. For several years, there was a large number of wild hogs in that region, until they became so troublesome they had to be hunted down and destroyed. In 1894, the editor of the Winsted Daily Herald sent to father for the particulars of the above incident, as he wished to put it in his paper, and father was the only person living who could give a correct account of it. The article appeared in The Daily Herald of Saturday, Nov 24, 1894.

1825 – When 16 years old, father attended boarding school in Goshen.

1826 – When 17 years old, he attended a quaker

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boarding school in Washington, fifteen miles from Poughkeepsie. In this school, the girls slept in the boarding house and the boys all together in the dormitory over the school room. It was here where father learned to smoke. The smokers would all get together in the schoolroom in the evening and make the air blue with smoke. When father and those who did not smoke would go upstairs to get out of it, the boys below would puff the smoke up the stove pipe hole.

1827 – When father was 18 years old, he attended school at Lenox for two and a half terms, till he was 19. He thought a great deal of Mr. Smith, the proprietor of the hotel where he boarded. He was good company, and was full of fun. Mr. Smith said that at first everybody was named Smith; then as soon as they did any thing bad, they changed their name to something else. One evening, after father was through with his studies, he went in the public room to hear some travelers, who had stopped there over night, tell yarns. They each were trying to see who could tell the biggest. One of them was speaking

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of the extraordinary fertility of the soil in the West. He said a company of men on their way out there, once stopped to take dinner, and accidentally dropped on the ground some pumpkin seeds that they had with them. Instead of picking them up, they scratched a little dirt over them and started on. After they had gone a little ways, they heard a rustling, looked back, and saw the pumpkin vine coming. They whipped up the horses; but the vine gained on them, and went past them out of sight. The vine was so large, and they were so tangled up in it, that they had to turn around and come back; and in returning, they had to climb over the pumpkins as large as hogsheads.

1828 – When father was 19 years old, he kept school under the mountain, for \$10. a month, before the last term that he went to Lenox. Some of his scholars were much older than himself.

1829 – When 20 years old, after leaving the school at Lenox, he kept school in Sheffield for \$12.50 a month, the highest salary paid to teachers at that time. (*Note: some of this line has been removed*) The committee were

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not ready to make the examination before school commenced, but they wanted him to commence teaching just the same. He did so, and had taught two weeks before he was examined. The committee was composed of from five to seven ministers, doctors, and

lawyers. The examination was held at a lawyer's office in Sheffield Plains, a mile above the village of Sheffield Centre. Father was walking from Sheffield Centre up to Sheffield Plains with Dr. Peck, the committee on spelling; and on the way, Dr. Peck remarked that he should endeavor not to ask any questions that he could not answer himself. About the first word he put out at the examination was "fiducial", and it was put out to father, who spelt it right. He had seen the word in Webster's spelling book, and knew how it was spelled, but had never seen the definition, and he told them so at once, after spelling the word. Then Dr. Peck asked all the other teachers who were being examined, and asked every one on the committee, and not one of them could give the definition, and he did not know it himself. Dr. Peck said 'well he could find out what the

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definition was,' and he called for a Webster's dictionary, and they looked it up, and it was "confident; undoubting." That winter he was 20.

Father told me the above incident one evening in the fore part of December 1896, just after the 87th anniversary of his birth. The next morning, he said to me at the breakfast table, --- "Corneal, when you get to be 80 years old, you will remember things that you said and did the first 25 years of your life, better than what happened yesterday and the day before. About that word (fiducial) that you were speaking of last night, every incident in connection with it is as clear in my mind as if it happened yesterday, and it happened (over) 65 years ago."

1830 – The next year, when 21, he kept school in Cornwall Centre for \$15. a month. Among the examining committee at Cornwall *the year before*, were three ministers, two Congregational and one Baptist. Among the teachers examined was one, Isaac Marsh, who had taught many years and was fully competent. One of the ministers

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** This Marsh with one minister two or three doctors & a lawyer were the committee when father was examined & Marsh asked the most of the questions because he was the most competent that winter.*

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asked a question pertaining to future punishment, which had nothing to do with the examination questions. Marsh would not answer it, because he was not obliged to, and they would not give him a certificate; but the school committee, (same as our trustees) told him to go ahead and teach, and they would see that he was paid, so he taught; and at the next town election, they elected him chairman of the examining committee. (**see note on back of page 10*) The following winter, this Isaac Marsh and father were the only teachers who received as high as \$15.00 a month, in that town, or any other. Father did not want to teach that winter; but different ones kept urging him to. Salisbury offered him \$13.00 a month if he would teach there, and Adams offered him \$14.00 to teach in Canaan. He finally said he would teach in Cornwall for \$15.00, as that was a high price for those days, and he thought they would not take him up; but they did, so he had to teach. The next term they offered him \$20.00 a month; but he had made up his mind that he would never again teach school at any price, so he would not accept the offer. He had 60 scholars in this Cornwall school, never less than 45 the

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most rainy days, and some of them much older than himself. He used to make the pens out of goose quills.

In the fall, three or four weeks after he commenced to teach the Cornwall school, he wanted to go to his home on Canaan Mt. to stay over Saturday and Sunday. They were entitled to half a holiday every Saturday, and usually they would teach all of one Saturday, and put the two half holidays together, and make a whole holiday every other Saturday. He was boarding at Mr. Catlins, and he asked him if he had a horse he could take to ride home on. He told him he had one that he was perfectly willing he should take, if he could get on him and keep on him, but that no one had been able either to ride him, or to drive him in front of a wagon, for over a year. The last time any one had tried to ride him was a year before, when some one led him out in a snow bank, and tried to get on his back, and the horse threw him off over his head. He led him back to the stable,

and never tried him again. Father left the school house that Friday night at 4 o'clock, walked a mile to Mr. Catlin's, ate his supper, and changed his clothes. Then he

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Went out and tried to mount the horse. *The men, women and children all gathered around to see him get on.* As soon as he stepped one foot in the stirrup, and began to raise the other, the horse began to plunge and rear, the saddle slipped, his hat flew off, and down he came to the ground. Then he led the horse up to a hitching pole, stepped up on that and gave a spring into the saddle. The horse plunged and reared; but father held on in some way, and the horse had run about a mile before he got his feet in the stirrups. Then he just let him go as fast as he wanted to, until he got to Huntsville, just nine miles, where he stopped and staid overnight at Chester Munson's. He then looked at his watch, and it was 5 o'clock, just one hour since he had left the school house. He said it must have taken him half an hour to walk a mile, eat supper, and change clothes, so he must have ridden the 9 miles in half an hour. The horse had run every step of the way, up hill and down. Father says that after he got his feet in the stirrups, and got placed, he made up his mind that he could ride as fast as the horse could run. The next morning he mounted the horse without the least trouble, and rode the other three miles home; and

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while there, he rode it around considerable to the neighbors, and Monday morning back to Cornwall. That was the last trouble they ever had in riding it. A little later, he wanted to drive it before a sleigh home. Mr. Catlin said he was welcome to the horse; but he would not trust the horse before his sleigh. The last one he had been hitched to a year before, he had broken all to pieces, and thrown the driver and the man who was with him, out. So father got an old sleigh of some one, hitched the horse to it, and drove home on the mountain and back again, without the least trouble either way, and they never had any with him after that. Mr. Catlin afterwards sold this horse and another one, the span, to Chester Munson, who took him out West. The other one of this span was the horse father rode from Louisville to Simpsonville, 24 miles, to overtake Mr. James Guthrie, the first year after he went West

1831 – In June of the year 1831, father drove from Canaan Mt. to New Hartford one day, to buy plaster. He bought a ton of it, and it was loaded on the wagon in bags. The horses were young, four or

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five years old. Once was a strong bitted horse, and he had to keep a tight rein on it to keep it from running away. Father was hindered on the way home by a thunder shower. He stopped under a shed to save the plaster from getting wet. When he reached Norfolk, it was pitch dark. There was a menagerie there, and the wagons of wild animals, together with the whole caravan, were standing in the green. Father waited a while in Norfolk till the rain slacked a little, and then started on. It was so dark the horses couldn't see, and they ran off in the ditch, first on one side of the road, and then on the other; and first he knew he was on the green in the midst of the wild animals. The tigers were roaring and the lions screeching. Then he turned the horses the other way. By this time, he was about opposite where the Eldridge place now is. There was an old negro, a butcher, living there then, and he called to him for a lantern. He brought it, and father started on again. From there the road takes a downward grade for a short distance, and then a sharp turn to the right is made to take the road to the mountain. One hundred yards from this turn was a bridge over a stream of water, swollen by rains.

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Before he reached this bridge one of the lines slipped, and in trying to catch it, the lantern fell from his hand and went out. The horses started on a run across the bridge, and the wheels on one side ran off the edge of the bridge. The wagon tipped bottom side upwards into the water, with father under it. The water was about to his knees. Father was caught under the wagon up to his waist; but before it pinned him down tight, he slid out. If the water hadn't been so deep, it would have held him fast, and probably killed him. He held on to the lines this time, and after he got out from under the wagon, he called again to the negro (who had not yet gone back into his house) to come and bring another lantern and some one to help him. He came with a lantern and two or three men.

They got the wagon out and turned over, and the bags of ground plaster out of the water. When they came, father stood holding on to the horses in the pouring rain, soaking wet, and without a hat. They put half the plaster in a shed, and father took the other half in the wagon. By this time, the clouds had blown over and the moon was up, ~~and~~ so he went home all right. The next day he went back for the rest of the plaster, and

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then found his hat which had washed down under the fence. The plaster of course was hard as stone by being wet. They, put it on the barn floor and broke it up, and put it on the land, but father says if there was ever any virtue in it, it was probably out of it by that time.

1831 – In September of this year when 21 years old, nearly 22, he went West for the first time. There were no railroads then. He went by stage from North Canaan to Albany; and from there to Buffalo on the canal. On the way, he stopped off at Rochester a little while to see Asa Mansfield, who was from Canaan Mt. At Buffalo he went on board a vessel, and found all sick with small pox, so took another steamer to Erie, where they landed on a platform, or pier, out in the lake, two miles from shore. He had to stay there over night, in a little cabin, with no accommodations. Next morning a little boat came and took him ashore. He staid in Erie one day. A german prince with forty attendants, had engaged all the public conveyances *for three days*, so he had to get aboard a wagon, the driver of which was drunk. He went with him, four miles, then changed his trunk

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To a Pennsylvania freight wagon, the freight of which was to be delivered at Meadville, and he himself walked 24 miles that day, and put up at night with sore feet. The next day he reached Meadville. He staid a week or ten days at Isaac Cooper's, ~~an own cousin of father's~~ *whose wife & father's mother were sisters*, and then Cooper took him in a buggy to Johnson, Ashtabula Co., Ohio. He staid there a few days among Connecticut folks, then went with George Root, in an ox team, 14 miles to Warren, *Co. seat of Trumbull Co*, and took stage from Warren to Wellsville on the Ohio river. From Wellsville he took a

steamer to Wheeling, West Virginia. While in Wheeling, it was just time for the small pox to develop, if he had taken it from being exposed on that vessel at Buffalo. He staid in Wheeling over Sunday, then took steamer down the river to within 80 miles of Cincinnati, when the old steamer ran against a snag, and sank to the shallow bottom. He staid there till another boat came along, which he took, and went on to Cincinnati. He inquired there about schools, and found that there was a committee of the public school to meet that night. Some time in the course of the day, he heard a boat whistle and went to the landing. He found people

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talking about Louisville, and he took a boat that night and went there. He landed in Louisville Sunday morning. All the boats were poor and slow. He walked up the street in Louisville, and saw a man in a yard working at some boxes. He found him to be a clock peddler from Connecticut. The man, Mr. Hawley by name, finding that father was from Conn. Also, engaged him at once, and started him off in two or three weeks with a wagon load of clocks. This was in November, 1831, and it was one of the hardest trips he ever made, took him two months. Three of them started out together, Chester Munson, (father's half brother), a Mr. Austin from Colbrook, Conn., and father. They crossed from Louisville, Ky., to New Albany, Indiana, to go back in the state, and then separate. They stopped at Orleans to have the horses shod. They took them to all the shops, but they could not shoe them with calks, so finally Austin put on an apron and did it himself. They staid there over night. Then they crossed the South Fork of White river, where the water came half way up the horses bodies. They staid at Bedford. Then father and Austin

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started a distance of 78 miles to Terre Haute. Five miles of it was through a prairie where they were nearly drowned. The grass was ten feet high, and the water up over the *top of the* wagon box. They finally got through it alive, and stopped at a hotel over night. They had been six days on the road, and were then 21 miles from Terre Haute. In the evening, a doctor, whose brother had moved out there and died, and he had come to settle his

estate, came in and put up at the same hotel. He inquired where they had come from, and where they were going. They told him. He said, "Well, if you want to live, turn around and go back. Ninety nine out of one hundred men who go there, die the first year." They went on to Terre Haute, which they finally reached, the whole trip having taken them eight days. There it rained two or three days, which brought on a big flood, and detained them several days. The water on the bottom lands each side of the river was 10 feet deep. They had to wait a week before they could go on. Then they crossed the river on a flat boat, and father went off to Vermillion Co. in Illinois, and Vermillion Co., Indiana.

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This first year while father was with Mr. Hawley, Mr. Hawley wanted a note indorsed by James Guthrie, a lawyer of Louisville, who had promised to indorse it for him, so he could get the money from the bank. Guthrie was then a Representative, and had to meet the legislature at Frankfort, fifty or sixty miles from Louisville. There was a macadamized road all the way between Louisville and Frankfort, with a toll gate every five miles. Hawley neglected to get Guthrie to indorse the note until he heard that he had started for Frankfort. Guthrie had a good fast horse, and he and his wife had started together by horse and carriage. Hawley heard he was to stop over night at Middletown, twelve miles away, so he asked father to take the note and start after him on horse back. Father started an hour later than Guthrie, and found on reaching Middletown that he had gone right through without stopping, so father went on until he reached Simpsonville, 24 miles from Louisville, there he found him eating supper. He had gained half an hour on them, had ridden the 24 miles probably in less than four hours, the riding being very hard on the macadamized road *and on a hard trotting horse.*

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James Guthrie was in 1853 made Secretary of the Treasury, the second most prominent office in the President's Cabinet. This horse that father rode was the mate to that one he drove when in Cornwall. Hawley owned it now.

1832 - Father has often been over the battle field, four miles from LaFayette, on the Tipicanoe river, between the Tipicanoe and the Wabash rivers, near or at the forks, where the Tipicanoe battle was fought in 1811. Gen. Harrison was general in that battle, and afterward president. Father was personally acquainted with him when he was president. The day he was elected, father traveled with horse and buggy all day, getting voters and taking them to the polls to vote. He was very anxious for him to be elected. Father was at LaFayette early in the spring of 1832, as soon as the river opened. LaFayette had only been settled four years, and it was then as large as Millerton now is. Indiana did not settle as quickly as Illinois for the reason that it was heavily timbered. Any one starting a homestead had to clear the

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underbrush, and then girdle the trees and wait a year or so until they died, so the leaves wouldn't shade the ground. Then they would plow and plant. When the trees would fall, they would burn them up to get rid of them, as timber was not valued there. Father said that a smart young man going in there, would be worn out before he could get a homestead all cleared up. One day father was going through one of these places where old trees which had been girdled stood, and a storm was coming up. He hurried through, and half an hour afterwards there were dozens of trees laying across the road he had just gone over. One of the trees once fell across one of the clock wagons that father owned that one of his men was driving, and broke the top in. along the White river bottom in Indiana, father once got out of his wagon and measured one of the sycamore trees, and it measured 35 feet and some odd inches around the trunk about four feet from the ground.

One time he started from LaFayette, went up along the Wabash river about 15 miles, and then started across land southeast to Wildcat creek. There were three

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forks to it, North, and Middle, and South. They were very rapid streams, especially North fork. He had gone *about* five miles, when he came to a tree that had fallen across the path. It was five or six inches in diameter, and stood up from the ground so the wheels struck it opposite the axletree. The whiffletree broke. The only tool he had with

him was a hammer. With the claws of the hammer he dug the tree in two, and then got it out of the way. He reached the North fork of Wildcat creek. There was one house on this side, but no accommodations, and there was a settlement on the other side. There was a sandy bank in the middle of the river where the water was but two feet deep. He was directed to drive till he struck the bank, then drive up the river on the bank till he came opposite a certain place on the farther shore where he could get out. He reached the bank and drove up; but when he started for the opposite landing, the water was so deep that both horses and wagon floated. They turned down stream till they struck the lower end of the sand bank. He rested the horses a while, then drove to the upper end of the bank, above where the landing was, and drove off again,

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working down stream, and finally he struck the landing on the other side. From here, it was six or seven miles to Middle fork. On the way there, he got off the track. He traveled and traveled till he knew he had gone far enough to get there. He had driven an hour after dark and began to think he would have to stay in the wagon over night, when he saw a light in the distance. He tied the horses, and went for it. He found it came from a house where a Dutch family lived. He made the man understand that he had horses in the woods, and he got a lantern, and they went for them. He staid there over night, sold him a clock, and some to others around there. Then he went to South Fork. There was but one bridge any where in Indiana then. Sometimes he rode on the horse's back, while the horse swam.

Often in such places as this, where he would put up for the night, there would be three or four children sleeping in the bed with him. They would tuck them in at the head, and at the foot and any where that they could find a place.

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Election Notes

1832 – voted for Henry Clay, (Whig) in Bloomfield, Green Co., Indiana, but Andrew Jackson was elected.

1836 – voted for Wm. Henry Harrison, (Whig) in Lexington, Scott Co., Indiana, but Martin Van Buren was elected.

1840 – voted for Wm. Henry Harrison, (Whig) in Madison, Jefferson Co., Indiana,

1844 – voted for Henry Clay, (Whig) in Elizabeth, Harrison Co., Indiana, but Jas. R. Polk was elected.

1848 – voted for Zachary Taylor, (Whig) in Canaan, Conn.

1852 – voted for Gen. Scott, (Whig) in Canaan, Conn., but Franklyn Pierce was elected.

1856 – voted for John C. Fremont, (Republican) in Canaan, Conn., but James Buchanan was elected.

1860 – voted for Abraham Lincoln, (Republican) in Canaan, Conn.

1864 – voted for Abraham Lincoln, (Republican) in Canaan, Conn.

1868 – voted for Gen. U.S. Grant, (Republican) in Claverack, N.Y.

1872 – voted for Horace Greely, (Independent) in Millerton, N.Y., but Gen. Grant was elected.

1876 – voted for Rutherford B. Hayes, (Republican) in Millerton, N.Y.

1880 – voted for Jas. A. Garfield, (Republican) in Millerton, N.Y.

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1884 - voted for Jas. B. Blaine, (Republican) in Millerton, N.Y., but Grover Cleveland was elected.

1888 – voted for Benjamin Harrison, (Republican) in Millerton, N.Y.

1892 – voted for Benjamin Harrison, (Republican) in Millerton, N.Y., but Grover Cleveland was elected.

1896 – Was sick abed with materal bilious fever, and greatly disappointed that he was not able to get out to vote for Wm. McKinley, the republican candidate, who was elected. He had voted at 16 presidential elections, 8 times for the successful candidate, and 8 times for the loser, and he said he wanted to cast his vote once more on the winning side.

1832 – Father was personally acquainted with Henry Clay, the first presidential candidate for whom he voted, as well as with Wm. Henry Harrison, the second and third. During Clay's campaign, father was stopping one day at a hotel in Bedford, the county seat of

Lawrence co., Indiana, where two men were discussing politics, when they saw a drunken man staggering along the street. The Whig man offered to bet with his opponent that the drunkard was a Jackson man.

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The bet was taken, and calling to the drunken man, the Whig inquired his politics. He said, ---“Well, I am a Whig; but I confess I have got the Jackson symptoms.”

Just before the election, father having just come from Indianapolis, he put up at the same hotel, in Columbus, with Henry Clay. There was a political meeting in the court house that night, and they wanted Clay to make a speech, but he would not, he was so tired. He had ridden horse back from Indianapolis, 44 miles, that day. Finally Wm. Herred, a senator, came over and asked him just to go over to the court house, and show himself, and he went. As Clay walked ~~in~~ *on the platform*, some one in the back of the room called out, “Hurrah! For Gen. Jackson!” Some shouted “Put him out! Put him out!” meaning the man who had hurrahed. Clay said, “No: let him stay. Hurrah for Gen. Jackson, hurrah for Gen. Jackson; but where is your hurrah for your country?” and then he went on and made a grand speech. Father says Clay needed something like this to bring him out. Ordinarily he was not a ready speaker. Father knew half a dozen there who could make a better

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speech on ordinary occasions; but let something like this call him out, and he and Daniel Webster were the first orators of the country. Father heard him speak once before this in Indianapolis, before sixty thousand people, also once in Madison after this. He knew him well, having traveled for a long time in the neighborhood of his home. His country seat was named “Ashland”, and was about one and one half miles from Lexington, Kentucky.

On election day, father was in Bloomfield, where he cast his first vote for president. The democrats there were so excited, that all over the place men would mount stumps with their shirts off, to challenge a fight, and yell, “I can whip the best man that ever walked the streets of Bloomfield. Hurrah for Gen. Jackson!” Father says he stood

and watched them for some time, that that was a new kind of program for him. He saw as many as twenty men do that.

During Harrison and Van Buren's campaign in 1840, a steamer was chartered by the Whigs, to go from Madison up the Ohio over to Vevay, to attend a political

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meeting. Father went with them. There were 600 on board. Vevay was the county seat, was twenty miles above Madison. Just before the steamer reached Vevay, a cannon went off on the grounds, killing two men and wounding several others.

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1832 – In 1832 or 1833, a year or two after father went West, there was a man by the name of Dr. Austin, living in Indiana on the ~~Wabash~~ *West fork of White river*, and father used to put up with him whenever he could. If he reached there in the afternoon, he would stay over night; or, if some miles off when night came on, he would hurry up to reach his house, in order to stay with him. Austin and his wife were both good talkers, but his wife was so much greater a talker than he, that he did not say much when she was there; but once when she was away, he told the story of his early life, and father says he was never so interested in a story in his life; and Austin closed his remarks by saying, "If a man wants to make a fortune now, he wants to go to Chicago. That is going to be the great western New York." That was the first that father ever heard of Chicago. It was only a military station then, with a few cabins there. The story of Dr. Austin's early life was as follows. He was born and raised in Sheffield, Mass., and started in business near Fort Edward. *on Hudson River above *illegible**. He had a saw mill, a grist mill, and a store. He went security for some one

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there, and had to pay it. He turned all his property over to them, to make what they could of it, gave up everything except the suit of clothes he wore, and one hundred dollars. Then he went to Baltimore, had only one dollar left when he reached there, but he put up at the best hotel, at ten dollars a week, and got acquainted with the best men in the place,

among them Capt. Custis, a relative of Gen. Washington. (Washington married the widow Custis for his wife.) He saw a new store for rent, inquired the price, and agreed to take it. The owner finished it up in two or three days, and gave him the key. With his dollar, he bought a gallon of rum and a pail, and put them in the empty store. Then he invited Capt. Custis to take a walk with him. He came along to this store, unlocked it, and they went in. Custis said he did not know Austin had such a place there. He said 'yes he had it,' and he treated him to some rum. He then told him his whole story, from beginning to end, as true as if he had been under oath. Custis said "You have taken me for a walk, now I'll take you for one." He took him to a wholesale store, and told the proprietor

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to let him have all the goods he wanted, said "And if he don't pay you for them, I will." And he introduced him to several other wholesale merchants. He filled up his store, and went right on and made money. *He said no one in Baltimore ever knew how he got his start but Capt. Custis.* Afterwards he moved West to Indiana, and settled on the ~~Wabash~~ *West fork of White river*, where father met him. At the time father knew him in 1832, he was a man about 62 years old, and it was probably along about 1792 when he knew Capt. Custis.

1832 – In February, 1832, was the great freshet in Cincinnati, when the steamers ran through 2nd Street of the city. The water filled the cellars in the upper side of 3rd St. There has never been a freshet there since, higher than that. Father was not in Cincinnati at the time, but saw the freshet in other places.

1832 – Father was in LaFayette, the county seat of Tippicanoe co., at the time of the Black Hawk War. The people began to come in on foot, horse back, and every way, saying that Black Hawk was on his way, and would be there that night. They raised 100 men, and went out to meet him; but he didn't come within 80 miles of there,

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Hickory Creek being the nearest place. Father started out alone with his team, tending to his business. He rode for a day or more *in the very direction where they were expecting him*, but saw one Black Hawk, and hardly any one else, the people having fled to the town. At one place, he came across eight or ten men, banded together for protection. They asked him if he had seen Black Hawk. He said, "No".

He traveled in every county in Indiana, from the Ohio river, which divides it from Kentucky, up to Logans port, the county seat of Cass Co., on the Wabash river, which was as far as it was then settled; and he knew almost every public, prominent man in the state. He traveled also considerable in Kentucky and Illinois, as far as they were then settled.

Once while riding in the woods, he met a wild bear in the road.

He stopped one night at a hotel in Crawfordsville, Montgomery co., forty miles northwest from Indianapolis. The landlord lighted him to bed in the second floor, and then took the candle away. After he left the room, father heard something jump in the window, and fall on the

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floor like a quarter of beef. Then it came sniffing up around his bed. Father yelled "Seat!" "Get out!" and everything else he could think of, but could not drive it away. Then he called the landlord, who came with a light, and father asked him what sort of a critter he had there. He found it to be a tame coon, which had climbed up on the roof of a shed under the window, and jumped in where a pane of glass was broken out.

1832 – In the spring of 1832, the next year after father went West, he went from Louisville, Ky., to Elizabeth, Indiana, selling clocks on his way. He sold a clock to the hotel keeper in Elizabeth, and agreed to take the pay out in board. The clocks were wood, and sold for \$20.00 or \$25.00. Grandpa Compton, mother's father, then owned this hotel, and rented it to this man with whom father boarded. He also owned the house where he lived, and he was engaged in the Tannery business. Father was in that county three months, April, May, and June, and boarded at this hotel a great deal of the time, going out from there to different

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points in the county to sell clocks.

This was the first time that he ever saw grandpa; and it was the first time he ever met mother, who was only 5 years old at the time, while he was 23. She had just pulled off her shoes and stockings, and was in her bare feet when he came in, and he took out his jack knife, and pretended that he was going to cut off her toes. I have heard her say how ashamed she was when he caught her in her bare feet. Grandpa was jolly, and was very good company, and father saw him a great deal, as the hotel belonged to him.

1832, July – When father left Elizabeth in June, on the 1st of July, he went to Louisville, Ky., and attended a celebration there on the 4th of July. On the fair ground, where it was held, they had a little track, about half a mile long, laid in a circle. On this, they ran a small engine, about as large as a tea kettle, and a little car that would seat about four persons, and charged 25 cents for going twice around. *This was the first Cholera.* This same day, the cholera broke out on the

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fair ground and some one from Elizabeth, who was there attending the celebration, returned home, & thus spread the contagion; for the cholera broke out in Elizabeth about the same time, and a number died. Only a few days after father left Elizabeth, the hotel keeper and his wife both died with cholera.

1833 – Father's own brother, Myron, who was in Oxford, ~~Indiana~~, Ohio, right in the midst of the worst cholera season, *which lasted two summers*, was sick. (he had consumption) and wanted to get home, so father went up from Louisville to Oxford, and started East with him. They stopped in northern Ohio, among some doctors with whom they were acquainted, and staid some time, while Myron was being doctored, he was much benefited. Then they came on East.

1833, Fall – This was in the fall of 1833, and there was then a railroad from Schenactady to Albany, which they rode on. Each car had four seats crossways, seating four persons in each seat. On the opposite page is a picture and sketch (*see note*) of the first train on this road, which was the first rail road built in the United States

(Note: there was no picture or sketch found in the book)

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After they reached home, Myron was so much better that he was able to ride out, and they thought he would live.

1833, Nov – On the 13th of November of this year, 1833, occurred the greatest meteoric shower on record. Father had got up at 3 o'clock that morning, to drive to New Haven with his mother, to settle "grannie" Booth's estate, and saw it. Some one there said afterward, that they kept their eye on the North star, and thought that as long as that remained firm, they would not give up.

Some time before this, Chester & Luther Munson, father's half brothers, had kept a store in Huntsville, and failed. Joshua Munson, father's father, went security for them, to the amount of a good many thousand dollars, in a bank in Hartford, where they borrowed money, and grandpa had to pay every cent of it. Grandpa owned eleven hundred acres of land in Canaan, and he had given the bank a mortgage on this place as security. It was thought that if he had to give it up and leave the place, it would shorten his life. Samuel Beckley of Canaan, whose daughter Luther had married

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and whose son John afterward married father's own sister Sarah, said that he would raise the money for grandpa, if father would stay there a while and manage the farm. So father staid East two years, collected bad debts that never would have been collected, sold things, and in every way straightened things up, so that almost the entire amount was paid by grandpa at this time, without selling any of his land. The first year, he had one year's shearing of wool on hand, and father took it to Poughkeepsie, and sold it for 60 cents a pound. Next year he started for Middletown with the wool, but finally sold it in New Hartford for 63 cents a pound.

Among the smaller debts that father collected at this time, was one from an old pensioner, by the name of Merrille, who lived on the Dutcher place. He was in the habit of buying things of grandpa on the farm, during the year, and then when he received his pension, he would pay up; but this year, he had bought things to very nearly the amount of his whole pension, and father was suspicious that he intended to slip away without paying for any thing. He suspected

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him all the more from a circumstance which had occurred the year before, in connection with a pocket book that Luther had lost. He had been to Mansfield's, and lost it on the way home, soon after he left there. This old pensioner was there when he left, and came over the same road a little while after he did, and Luther went to his house next day to see if he had found it. He was out in the lot, but his wife was at home, and he asked her. She denied it in words, but in doing so, she made the mistake of assuring them that her husband didn't come that way, before Luther had told her what way he had come, which was an equivalent to confessing that he had found it; for how else did she know what way he had come, or on what road the pocket book had been lost? So he knew that she had it. He said no more to her, but went out in the lot, and said to her husband, "O yes. I did find it." And he told them that his wife knew where it was, and would get it for them, which she did. From their trying to keep this money, father felt the more suspicious of him, that he was trying to get out of paying what he owed. He kept

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a pretty close watch of him. One day he had to go to Norfolk, and told grandpa before he left, to have his brother Henry go over during the day and see that he was there. His pension was due at this time. When he returned, he inquired if Henry had been over. Grandpa said 'No, they had been busy, and he had not been; but he guessed the man had not run away.' Father got on his horse, and went right over, and found everything gone. The man had cleared out, and taken everything with him, cow, pig, and all. Father started after him, and found him over some where near the Housatonie river, where he had stopped for the night. He agreed to turn over property enough to pay grandpa, and to

have the things at a certain place, at a certain time; but he failed to appear. Then father told him that if the things were not delivered at a certain place, at a specific time that he named, he would have the sheriff after him, and then he turned the things over.

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While he was East at this time, helping his father, he lost a thousand dollars through Chester, all he had made during the two years he was West. It was the first money he had ever earned.

1835 – This last summer that he was at home, he made an agreement with Case, Barber & Co., who were also in the clock business, and whose headquarters were in Madison, Indiana, to do business for them for the next two years. There were four men in the company. Ed. Barber went West in September. The rest of the company were East. They kept writing to father, urging him to return West. He wrote them that he could not go while his brother Myron was in so

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feeble a condition. Myron died Oct. 1st, 1835.

1835 – After he died, father returned West to Madison, Ind., starting late in the fall of this same year. He was two weeks on the way out, and it cost him \$75.00. If he had started one day earlier, he would have got through much sooner. He drove from Canaan Mt. to New Haven, and went from there to New York by boat, but a storm came up, and the boat was detained one day in New Haven. From New York, he went down the bay to South Amboy. From there, by cars, to some place *Boardentown* on the Delaware river; then down the Delaware river to Philadelphia, and from there to Columbia. *on R. R. it stopped for supper at ??Castile Ocha?? reaching Columbia & there.* There he stopped for supper. No baggage was checked in those days. Each passenger had to lookout for his own trunk. When he came back from supper, he found his trunk gone from the train. He ran forward and stopped the engineer, and they finally found that the trunk had been carried into the hotel. *They waited while they got the trunk on board.* After leaving

Columbia, they went over the mountains *by stage* on a portage rail way, the cars being drawn up by five stationary engines on each side; then on to Johnstown by stage, passing

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~~through Carlisle, where they stopped for supper.~~ Father's overcoat was strapped on his trunk in the stage. While he was at supper, the whistle blew. He came out and felt in the stage. His trunk was gone. He inquired where it was. They didn't know, and were in a great hurry to go on. He told them that he wouldn't go till he got his trunk. He asked them if they had changed the stage. They said yes, and he went to the barn and found it in the other stage.

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1835 – When he at last reached Madison, Ind., he commenced business for Case, Barber & Co. He did business for them some six or seven months, perhaps eight, and then was taken sick in Washington Co.; but he got back to Lexington, *Scott Co.*, and was sick there at Thomas McCamet's for six or seven months before he was able to do any thing. After he had been sick six or seven months, Barber came there and wanted to release him from his two years' contract, for fear he was going to die, and he have some charges to pay. So father consented, and gave up the papers of the contract, and he said he was a free man again. He was not able to start out traveling again until February 1837.

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~~1836~~ 1833 - *When doing business for Hawley* Father had the measles in the winter of ~~1836~~ 1833, some time after January. He started from Louisville with a load of clocks, and went out into Daviess Co., Indiana, to sell them, about 100 miles from Louisville. As he was going through Martin Co., the county adjoining Daviess Co., he met another man selling clocks. They agreed between them that neither should trespass on the other's county, as father had a license to sell in Daviess Co., and he in Martin co. Whenever father went to a new county, he always tried to find out who was the leading man, the most popular and influential, in that vicinity. Then he would get acquainted with him, and get on the right side of him. He would sell such a one a clock, and would board out

the price of it with him, that is, make their home a stopping place while in that county. He would go out from there around the different points in the county, and when possible would come back to stay with them over night. In this Daviess co., he sold a clock to a Mr. Alling, and agreed to take it out in board. While father was setting up the clock, a lot of children gathered around

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to watch him, and Mrs. Alling said she thought her children were just coming down with the measles. He told her he had never had them, so she kept them away after that, and told him that if he should take them from the children, to come back there and she would take care of him. He went on selling clocks, and in about two weeks he felt the measles coming on, and went back to Mrs. Alling's. He had seen in a doctor book, some where in the mean time, that it was a good thing to bleed a patient, if the measles did not come out. He was very sick, and they did not come out, so after a day or two he sent to Washington, the county seat, two miles from there, for the doctor. When he came, he told him what he had seen about bleeding, and asked if it would not be a good thing for him, he had such a high fever. The water from his eyes scaled his cheeks where it ran down. The doctor said it would be well to bleed, and he did so. Father says this was the only time he had ever bled. The bleeding relieved the fever at once, and the measles broke out, but never very good. He was very sick with them. For a year after, every time he took cold,

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he would taste the measles. About two weeks after he was taken, he heard that that clock peddler in Martin Co. had come over into Daviess Co. selling clocks, when he heard that father was sick. So as soon as he was able to sit up for an hour or so at a time, he got Mr. Alling to take him with his team to a family where he thought he could sell a clock. He would go right to bed. Then after he was rested he would try to sell them a clock in the course of the day. Then this man he sold to would take him to the next place, and so on. He only went to one place a day for a week or more, and in every place, he sold a clock. As fast as he was able, he sold, until he had sold out his load of 18 clocks, three boxes

full, which they called a load. He then went back to Louisville; and from there, back across the river again to Harrison Co., Indiana.

While he was at Alling's, Mr. Alling and another man went out two miles from their home to White river, fishing. They started in the morning and returned the next day at night. They went with one of these wagons called a "prairie schooner," the wagon box of which would

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hold forty or fifty bushels at least, every bit of forty bushels. And they came back with that wagon box even full of fishes. There was an eddy in the river, which when the river went down, was left full of fishes, and they scooped them right up.

At this time, one of the span of horses that father was driving, was a black mare that he had got in a trade. Previous to this, he had been driving a five year old horse of Hawley's, and Hawley told him he must trade that horse off. Father told him he should get cheated if he did; for he had *had* little experience in trading horses, but Hawley insisted on it. One day father stopped over night with a man who was a great hypocrite, though father did not know it. In the evening, the man had family worship. He made a long prayer, and talked awful good; and the next morning he got up and told about fifty lies about and ~~old gray~~ *old broken down bay* mare that he had, *it was a large animal & looked all right standing still*, and father believed him, and swapped horses with him. He had gone but a short ways when the ~~gray~~ mare gave out, and he found it was good for nothing, not worth a dollar. The man

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had totally swindled him out of the full value of the other horse. This was up in Vermillion Co., Ind. There was ~~a fair near by~~, *some public day large gathering at Newport*, and father drove this horse, ~~with the other one~~, under the shed, there, to see if he could do anything with it. He wasn't afraid of getting cheated then. While looking around to see how he could get rid of it, and old Dutchman came along with an old horse, and said he would swap horses and give father five dollars to boot. As he was about to take him up, he said 'or, he had a young bay mare on his place three miles away, and he

would swap that and give five dollars to boot, if he would rather.’ So father ~~drove~~ rode out there in the morning. After the man had tried father’s horse, he backed down on his offer. Father asked him how he would trade. He went in the house and got a pair of saddle bags, and said he would give that to boot. Father accepted it, and went off with the young horse.

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1836 – In 1836, father was traveling up and down the Wabash, and he came down into Johnson Co. He stopped over night at Edinburgh, on the Blue river, a little village about ten miles from Franklin, Johnson Co. It was a very fertile, new country. Grass and weeds dying, made it very unhealthy. A stranger was in the place, looking for a location to buy. He was inquiring of the store keeper about it, and father was in the store at the time. An old woman was also there. The merchant said, ‘Yes: it was tolerably unhealthy, that strangers coming in would have to have a seasoning.’ The old woman said, ‘Yes: that was true. She had been there 15 years, and had taken a seasoning every year; and the last time, she really thought it would kill her’

1836 – About this time, father brought two brothers together, who had not seen each other for 40 years. Their names were James and Thomas McCalment, though Thomas spelled his name McCamet. Thomas kept a first class hotel, set an excellent table. His hotel was temporary headquarters for all the company with whom father was in

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business. James was a farmer; but he also kept travelers, and it was a good house to stop at. There were few regular hotels in those days. James was the oldest. He had a large family. Tom had no family *...but wife & one of the best land ladies father ever knew* ...Both had come from Pennsylvania. James went out first, when he was of age, and settled in Indiana. Then later, his brother Thomas went out, and settled in the southern part of the state, in Lexington, Scott Co. James was about twenty miles west of Indianapolis, and they were some 114 or 120 miles apart. Neither knew that the other was in the same state, had never heard from each other. Father found out where each

came from, and that each had a brother by the name of the other, and their personal appearance &c. They did not look at all alike. Tom was fat, and was a whig. James was lean, and was a democrat. He learned at what time each left home; and after putting it all together, they were convinced that they were brothers. Tom got on his horse, a great big gray one that he had on purpose to ride, as he weighed over 250 lbs., and rode to his brothers. Tom was the one father met

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first, staid with him six or seven months when he was sick. He had made that his stopping place for a year or more, before he met James, in the fall of 1836.

Near where James lived, was a wilderness in which he was lost once, when father happened to stop there. They rallied the neighbors, and with father among them, hunted for him all night. They did not find him, but he himself finally reached a house four or five miles in the woods, and the man there brought him home.

In Lexington, a little ways from Thomas McCamet's hotel, was another hotel *100 feet apart* kept by Elisha English. This English had a son, ten or fourteen years old, who, father says, was the meanest boy he ever saw, and they did not board there much, on account of the boy's meanness. That same boy afterward got to be a congressman at Washington, D.C., and worth several million dollars. Father kept track of him in the papers, because he used to know him as such a mean boy. He died two or three years ago. There was a great deal in the papers about him. His first name was William.

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1837 – It was February of this year before father was able to travel again after his long sickness. He was sick of the country and sick of the business; but there were no rail roads out there, and he did not care to start East in the winter, so he took a horse and rode horse back from Lexington to Madison. Case and Barber were both there then, and they wanted him to take some notes, and go through the southern counties of Indiana, clear down to the point, and collect what he could of them. He was gone three and four weeks, and when he got back, he gave a full report of the whole business down there, what he had collected and how everything stood. Case said, “Now I know something about that

business down there". When Todd came back a little while before, they didn't know any thing about it, and they had paid Todd big wages *then 90 dollars a month*, and they thought he was a great collector. Then they wanted father to take a larger lot of papers and go North with them. Father still designed to come East, but did not care to start till the Ohio river was open, so took the papers and went. He was gone 5 or 6 weeks, and when he returned, they wanted to engage him for a year. They insisted on it. Father said he was sick of the country any way, and wanted to go back East, that he had staid there four years, and had lost all he had made, and if he staid now it would be with the object of making something. He finally agreed to stay with them as collector for a year at 55 dollars a month. Then another company, Beech Bros. offered him \$75.00 a month to travel for them. He would not leave Barber during the year, but told Beach he would travel for them the following year, if he did not come East. At the end of the year Beach came for him. Barber insisted that he belonged to them, so the only way he could get out of it was to leave both and come East. He traveled for Barber at \$65.00 a month for the two months before it was time to start East.

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At one time he had a note of forty or fifty dollars from a man who lived back in the state of Indiana, and was well off. A law had been passed, called the Stay law and Valuation law, by which if any one got judgement against a man, a constable would be sent to his house, who would set out old furniture, wagons &c. The neighbors would appraise it at three or four times more than it was worth. It would be put up for sale, and of course there would be no bidders at that price. Then the constable would send in his report, "No sale for want of bidders;" and that would end it. The courts finally decided this law to be unconstitutional; but this man did not know that the law had been repealed. Father called on him for the money. He said father would have to get it out of the property. Father told him that it would have to be sold then for what it was worth, and he would be there and bid on it if no one else would. The man was mad. He swore he would shoot father if he ever came on the place. Father told him he might find it cheaper to pay than to shoot, and he did. Before father came again, he paid the money over to a justice of the peace, to have him pay father.

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Once he had to go from Frankfort, the seat of the government, up the Kentucky river about 25 miles, to collect money. It was a wild, dangerous road. Just a week before, a pensioner had been to Frankfort to collect his pension, and on his way back up this same road, had been robbed and murdered, and his body thrown over the bluff (*illegible*) 100 feet high. Before starting, father had inquired in Frankfort, if there was any place on the road where he could stay over night. He was told that there was a house six or seven miles from Frankfort, but that if he got as near back as that, he had better not stop there, but come clear through; but when he reached that place on his way back, he thought he had gone far enough, and so risked putting up there, but he says it is the only place he ever staid where he was afraid for his life. He laid awake all night with his revolver in his hand. He said the man acted the meanest of any with whom he had ever staid, kept hanging around him, and asking him all sorts of questions, that he had no business to.

All the while that he was traveling in

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those wild places all over the West, he carried a large solid gold, English watch, that he paid one hundred dollars for; but he always wore a leather string on it, instead of a chain, so no one would suspect its value.

After father bought them out & was collecting their old notes. One time he was collecting money in the southern part of Indiana, in a little territory among the hills, that didn't belong to any one. It was called Salt Creek Hills. It was between Bartholomew and Monroe counties, and was soon after organized into Brown Co., but at this time formed a part of no county. A lot of counterfeiters, horse thieves, hog thieves, and all kinds of villains had settled in there, and one of ~~father's~~ *their* peddlers went in and sold almost every man a clock. They all took one, for they never expected to pay for it. The place was entirely lawless. This gang had got in there, and no one could do any thing with them. They felt that they were perfectly safe. Father says he was asked fifty times

or more, by different ones in the other counties, if he wasn't afraid to go into Salt Creek Hills. He told them that he wasn't afraid to go any where, where his business called him.

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He says that in all his travels, he never saw such ridges, and so hilly a country. At this time, the people up there had found a level place, about a quarter of a mile in extent, where they could have a trotting course, and they were having a horse race, or show, on the day father was there. It was about five or six miles from Nashville, Indiana, the county seat. He had before this, with the help of a constable, accomplished about all he could in the way of collecting, but there were a few men that he hadn't seen, and he thought this would be a good chance to find them, so he went on the ground. He had \$3,000.00 (three thousand) in his shirt pocket, besides what he had in other pockets. He found a man on the ground who owed him twenty dollars. This man said that if father would a change one hundred dollar bill for a man there, the man would lend him twenty dollars out of it, and he would pay father. Father says it was running a risk; for he was satisfied that there were lots of men there who would kill a man for five dollars; but there were twenty dollars at stake, so he took the one hundred dollar ~~note~~ bill, and counted out \$70.00

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of good Indiana money, from his pocket book. The Indiana bank had never failed, and that money was always good. As fast as father got a large amount of Indiana bills, he would, when he was alone, put them in the shirt pocket. It was there that he had the \$3,000.00 of Indiana money. He had only \$70.00 of Indiana money in his outside pocket, and he offered to give the other ten dollars in good Illinois or Ohio money. He says the man didn't think he could change the bill; but when he saw how near he came to it, he said, 'No: he wouldn't take any thing but Indiana money.' Father was in a little building, or shed, ten feet square, where they had a barrel of whiskey, and the men stood around him so thick he could hardly stir his arms. He thought a moment, then he said he guessed he could change it, and he folded up the man's one hundred dollar ~~note~~ bill, and put it in his pocket. He then took out of his shirt this roll of bills, counted out the \$80.00, and

handed it to them. Then he put back his money, and went out on the ground and walked around a while, *but kept a good watch that no one left the group before he did*, after which he mounted his little eastern pony. He said he was

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satisfied there was nothing on that ground that could catch him after he got started. From the ground, the road went almost perpendicular, up a steep ridge. He rode very leisurely until he got out of sight of the den; then he put that horse through at his very best for five or six miles. It was 18 miles from the ground to Columbus, where he was going, and there wasn't a house on the road.

He says this was at a time when the state was bankrupt. Illinois money was a little below par, and afterward wasn't worth any thing, also Ohio money. Everyone was afraid of the different moneys. In collecting money in the different states, he had to manage every way to get rid of it before he lost on it. He says that men who have been through the war of bothering with state bank moneys, would never try to break up this national currency system, that was established during the war, and have state banks again.

The highest price father ever received for a clock was \$75.00. He sold it to a rich man in Bethlehem, ~~Soett~~ of Clark Co. His wife was rather crazy.

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A good many had tried to sell him a clock, and couldn't. Father called on him and asked the privilege of setting up a clock, told him he had a new style brass clock. He set it up, and left it for him to try. The price was \$75.00. He left it there a while, and when he called again, the man gave him his note for it. ~~They usually sold them for \$40.00, never more than \$50.00.~~

Hawley, years before father was in business with him, was once selling clocks in South Carolina for a man by the name of Leavenworth. There was an old Irishman there, pretty well off. A good many had been trying to sell him one of the little wooden clocks for \$40.00. Leavenworth himself had tried. The Irishman said, 'No, he thought those were worthless. If he bought one, he didn't want one for less than \$100.00.' Leavenworth told Hawley about it, and Hawley went there with the same kind, and

offered it to him for \$100.00. He asked him how much reduction he would make for cash. Hawley said he would sell it for \$80.00, cash, and the man paid it. Leavenworth gave Hawley \$40.00 of it, and kept the other \$40.00 himself.

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1837 – Some time during this year, father went to Elizabeth, Ind., again. He had not seen mother since 1832, when she was 6 years old, and he 24. She was now 10, and he 28. Grandpa was now living in the hotel, and keeping hotel, and father stopped with him. Some time after this, and before father went there again, grandpa built a new house on the same street, and moved into it, and this was the house in which father and mother were afterwards married. Dee saw it when she and father were West in 1888, and probably Myron, Mary, Julia, and Elmer also saw it when they were there.

1838 – ~~In April or May~~ *Last of May or 1st June* of 1838, father came East. Barber, Garfield, and one or two others came at the same time. Father had not been home then in three years. After stopping a day or two at home, he went to Hartford to meet the whole company, and Case said to him, “You know more about this business than all the rest of us put together; and if you want \$75.00 a month to go out there and close up the business, you can have it from the day you leave her until you come back.” (That \$75.900 he never received.)

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He told case that was pay enough, as much as any one ought to have, but he dreaded to undertake it, but would.

So in September, the 20th, he, Barber and Westover started. In Albany, N. Y., on the way out father bought the best fur cap he could find for \$15.00 *in Albany highest price*. When he reached Madison, Ind., Mr. Laneer, president of the Madison bank, with whom father was well acquainted, had just bought a fur cap for ten dollars, and he wanted to swap with father, and pay him ten or fifteen dollars to boot; but he said he thought he could afford to wear as good a cap as Laneer, so he wouldn't swap. Father wore it at least six months in the year for six years. Then Ed. Compton wore it three or four years

more. Then Jacob Kessinger took it; and father says he don't know but he is wearing it yet.

1838 – Barber's father lived forty miles from Buffalo; and from Canandaigua he went another way to see him, and joined them again at Buffalo. Father and Westover went on from Canandaigua to Rochester. Then on a canal to Lockport; and from there, on a piece of a railroad to Niagra Falls. A buss from the Cataract hotel, met the train and took passengers

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to the hotel, father and Westover among them. He says he never sat down to a better dinner in his life. They then directed them the best way to go to see the falls, and they went, after which they took a room at the hotel, and cleaned up and shaved. They then took them back to the cars in the buss, all for only 50c each. The other hotel was named The Eagle. How different this is from their charges there now. When father and Dee were there in 1888, they paid a dollar each for some beef steak alone, that was so touch it was perfectly impossible to eat it. They left it.

When father and Westover reached Buffalo, where Barber joined them, they took passage by boat on Lake Erie, from Buffalo to Cleveland. The equinoctial storm came up before they left harbor; but some deck passengers, who were boarding themselves, were anxious to go on. They finally started out. It was the worst storm in years. Father was sea sick. One man offered the captain \$1000.00 (one thousand and dollars) if he would turn around and go back to Buffalo. The pilot said 'no: they were so anxious to start, they would give them enough of it.' Before starting, the

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captain had offered father and the two who were with him to pay back their fare, if they wanted to give up going, as there would probably be a great storm. They finally went in to Dunkirk, about forty miles from Buffalo, till the storm had partly lulled, and were nearly dashed against the stone wharf. Westover, who was an old seaman, and had been on one or two whaling voyages, stuck to the boat, and went on to Cleveland. Father and

Barber got off at Dunkirk, and lost their passage money. They staid at a hotel over Sunday, paid railroad fare to Erie, and then fare on boat from there to Cleveland, where they found Westover, who had reached there before them.

From Cleveland, they went by stage to Columbus. Here a good many who had come across the state from Wheeling, West Virginia, joined them to go by stage to Springfield. It was an extraordinarily dry season, and the Ohio river was not navigable, it was so low. It was fordable in many places. He never before knew the time when they could not get to Cincinnati, and most always to Pittsburg. So the stages were overloaded, and

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horses worn out in consequence. They started out of Columbus, for Springfield, with three stages and forty passengers. They would take but little baggage. One man had two small trunks, these little, low, hair trunks. They would only take one of them free, and charged five dollars for taking the other. He grumbled, but they were firm, and he finally paid the five dollars to have the other taken along. It took them all day to get from Columbus to Springfield, a distance of 25 miles; and all night and a part of the next day, to get from Springfield to Cincinnati. They staid there all night. Next morning, a very small steamer was going to try to get down the river. They paid two or three times regular fare, and started. The steamer got aground two or three times. The hands on the boat got out in the river and shoveled through the bars; and they would unload the baggage on a flat boat, and spar with poles on each side, till they rose enough to get past the bars. They finally came to one place where they could not get across at all. They then changed to another little boat, which took them to within about fourteen miles of

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Madison, and there it stuck fast. They unloaded every thing on to a flat boat, passengers, baggage and all. Barber hired a skiff, and a darkey to row it, to take him to Madison. Many of the passengers went ashore in a skiff. Father and others went ashore here, and walked 2 miles to Carrollton for dinner. They paid for their dinner, and had just begun to eat, when the boat came along, and they had to leave it and go.

1838 – When they reached Madison, Barber *proposed* to father to buy out the other three partners, and go in company with him. Father says he didn't think much of planting himself there; but they overhauled all the papers and talked it over. At the last, Barber said, "Let us tell them that we won't give more than so much". Father said, "No: after spending all this time over it, *4 days*, if I do any thing, I will tell them what I will give them, and not what I won't." They then agreed to give them \$14000.00 (fourteen thousand dollars) for the business, and all their debts for clocks &c. were to come out of that. They accepted this offer. This was in October, 1838. Before father

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was of age, he had once given his note for sixty dollars for a horse; and this note for fourteen thousand, was the second one he had ever given.

They now went to work, collecting debts, and closing up the concern. They were very successful, as the whole state was borrowing money, and investing in canals, macadamized turnpikes, &c., and money was very plenty. ~~They nearly closed everything up that winter;~~ and if they had stopped then, it would have been well for them, as they made three thousand dollars, each of them, in just buying out the other company; but in the spring, Barber was bound to put twenty or thirty thousand dollars in clocks, hire peddlers, and make his everlasting fortune. Barber was not a rich man; but he had good credit.

1839 - In the spring of 1839, Barber came East to buy up, and father staid out there three or four weeks longer, and collected fifteen hundred dollars, or more, to help buy up their outfit. Then father came East, and they bought up their supplies. Among the tools, they bought a dozen hammers in Hartford, and took them

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West. When the company was dissolved, they were divided, and we have two of those same hammers now in Millerton, that were bought nearly 60 years ago.

1839 – In the fall they started West by team, with their grand parade. There were thirteen of them, Barber, his wife, two children, father, and eight peddlers. Barber took care of his family, and father took care of the company and paid the bills. They had eight wagons. Shepherd, one of the peddlers, liked to keep behind the rest, to ask and to answer questions. One man along the way, asked him where they came from. He said “Connecticut”, then, where they were going, and he said “Texas”. Then Shepherd told him they were all brothers. The man said, “Well, I’m sorry for your mother.” Shepherd got out somewhere in Ohio, and pulled up a stalk of corn 12 or 14 feet high, and stuck it in the wagon, letting it stand up outside, above the top of the wagon, and told some one who asked him about it, that it had grown there since they started.

They reached Madison, Ind., the fore part

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of October. By that time the state had failed, and it was very hard to sell anything, or collect anything after selling it. Father staid there in business seven years *after bought them out*. About the time he was married, in 1844, they divided the business

1840 or 1841 - In the spring of this year, he crossed the Ohio river from Madison, Inc., to Kentucky, on horse back on the ice, with a heavy eight day Cass clock under his arm, weighing 35 lbs. It had turned warm, and the water was six inches over the ice. It was after dinner when he crossed. He went twelve miles up the river on the other side, to Carrollton, and staid over night, and the next morning every particle of ice had gone out of the river. On Dec. 4, 1896, when he told me this, he said, “it makes me shiver now to think what a risk I ran.”

1842 – He says that the first time he ever had any idea of mother being his wife, was in the spring of 1842, when mother was fifteen years old. It was the fore part of April, and she was fifteen on the 10th of April.

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Father and a man by the name of Fransisco went down around Elizabeth to buy up horses. Father had hired Fransisco because he was a good judge of horses; but he found out afterward that he was not honest. He under took to pass counterfeit money, and father had to redeem several counterfeit bills that he had passed, and father made him take back the bad bills. He says he don't know how many more he passed that he did not hear of. Shortly before this, Fransisco had professed to be converted, and had joined the Methodist church; but he was a hypocrite. When they reached Mr. Compton's, father said he wanted to have a chance to sit up with mother, and talk with her alone, without this Fransisco being around, and he didn't know how to get rid of him. Finally he told him that he had told Mr. Compton that he (Fransisco) had joined the Methodist church, and that Mr. Compton would be sure to call on him to pray aloud at family prayers that night. That was enough, and Fransisco started for bed in a hurry. Mrs. Compton told him there were two beds in his room, and he said, "Shall I take them both?" So father

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was left alone with mother.

At this time, they bought up 42 horses and brought them East.

1842 – Pa ~~with Westover~~ & 4 or 5 men for first 2 or 3 days started East with them in June, 1842, drove them in a drove all the way by land, *sold 2 horses in Ohio*. When ~~they~~ *reached 30 miles, this side of Buffalo*, they sold one horse there. They paid their hotel bill with some of the money. Next morning they came on, traveled one day, and put up the horses for the night. Soon after, a sheriff came in after them. He claimed that a five dollar bill that they had paid towards their hotel bill, was bad. Father paid the sheriff's expenses, and five dollars in place of the other bill, which he took back *Was East from 1 July to October*. A year or tow after this, in going out, he happened to put up at the same place where the bank issued the bill, and he showed it to the hotel keeper, and related the circumstances. The hotel keeper said he doubted its being counterfeit, said, "Let me take it and see." He went to the bank with it, and found that it was good, and he took it in payment of father's hotel bill.

1843 – They then bought forty more horses out West

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They had about ~~30~~ ~~20~~ *over 20* of them in a hotel stable in Madison, Ind., and the other ten several miles out of town. In some way, these thirty got out of the stable, and scattered in all directions. Father got on another horse, a very hard rider, and rode about thirty miles before he caught them all and got them back in the stable again. It made him so lame, it laid him up in bed. While he was in this condition, a man there in Madison, who had come from Bristol, Conn., and to whom they owed money, came to see the horses with the object of buying, if he found any to suit him. Barber went out and showed him the horses. Among them was one fine sorrel, four year old horse, the best in the lot. It had one white spot as large as your hand, on one hip. It was toward night when the man left, saying he would come again the next day. In the mean time, Barber took the sorrel horse out of town where the ten were, and brought one of those back in the place of it. When the man came the next morning and found the sorrel gone, he was mad. He went up stairs in the hotel where father was in bed and told him that if he was able to get up, and get to

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the stable, he would buy some horses of him, if they could agree; but he said he would have nothing to do with Barber. Father got up, dressed with difficulty, and went to the stable. One of the horses kicked him knocked the cane out of his hand, and knocked him down; but he got up and sold the man twenty horses, *all but 4*, but not the sorrel, as that was not there. He brought the other ~~twenty~~ *twenty* horses East, himself, and sold them. He took them up the Ohio river.*in June reached here 1 July*

In passing back of them on the boat, one of them*low guard 1 foot high stood just back of wheel....* kicked him, and put his left thumb out of joint. It was*if it had kicked body killed him...into river...sure fork of wheel...* the second joint of the thumb. Years before, he had put out the first joint of the right thumb, in playing bass ball.

1844 – On the 14th of Feb., 1844, father was married to Angeline Armstrong Compton, who was born in Elizabeth, Ind., April 10, 1827, so she was not yet 17 years old when they were married. She was 16, and he 34. ~~I have heard that mother did not know that he was worth much of anything, till the next morning after they were married, when he took out of his pockets & showed her fifteen thousand dollars.~~

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1844 – In June of this year, father and mother came East. Father's brother Henry and another man came with them in charge of a drove of horses that father had bought in the West. They left Henry and this man at*all came together to Pittsburg on boat & left Henry...* Pittsburg, on the boat with the horses, and father and mother went by canal boat over to Johnstown; then across the mountain by rail road, thirty odd miles, to Holidaysburg; then by canal to Harrisburg, where father bought mother a silk shawl; then on, still by canal, to Philadelphia. *Henry came another way by highway.* About 2 weeks after they reached Canaan Mt., father told mother that he was going to meet Henry, & he started down the mountain. Just before he got to Julius Pages, he saw Henry coming with the horses, turning down that hill from the Falls Village road and they met right in front of Jule Pages.

1844 – That same summer while they were East, grandpa Munson died, the 19th of Aug, 1844, being 79 years and two days old. *He was feeble when they came east.*

1844 – They returned West in October, in time for father to vote at the presidential election. They had expected to start West one week earlier, but were detained. *Had written to mother's father & mother what time they would start.* Had they gone at the time they first planned, they would

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Have been there just about in time to have been aboard the steamboat *Mopell Cincinnati*, which blew up in front of ~~Louisville~~ Cincinnati, killing forty persons. The boat had just left the wharf, and taken a turn, when it blew up. One man who was on the steamer was

blown clear up into the city, and broke head first through a roof, and stuck there. Mother's folks were ~~waiting at New Albany, fifteen miles below to meet them~~ expecting *then living 15 miles below Louisville on the river & were watching for them*

heard of its blowing ??? 160 miles from there

them on that steamer, and they saw trunks from the steamer floating down past ~~New Albany,~~

??? in the river

trunks there were

And father says ~~he don't know but some of the bodies~~ floated past, and they felt sure that they were killed. Mother's father had moved, after she was married, down on the river, four miles from Elizabeth. When they finally reached there, grandpa met them at the ~~wharf~~ *river opposite* their house; and when the whistle blew, down came grandma herself, who had been sick abed, and how she cried when she saw them, she was so rejoiced. She died the following Christmas, Dec 25, 1844. She was only 40.

1846 – In July, 1846, father returned East with mother and Myron, who was six weeks old when they started, and over two months when they reached here. They

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drove from Elizabeth, Ind., to New Albany, crossing the river to Louisville; then went by boat to Beaver, in the western part of Pennsylvania. From Beaver, they drove 80 or 90 miles in two days, to Meadville, Branford Co., to Isaac Coopers, and rested there a week. *Myron cooper grand son of Isaac & son of Louis Cooper lives at Meadville & wrote to father recently. Levinns Cooper, brother to Louis cooper, was living at the time Myron wrote.* From Meadville, they drove all the rest of the way to Canaan Mt. They came through the southern tier of counties in N.Y. state. It was 60 miles from Meadville to the first county in N.Y., Chautaugua. They were three weeks coming from Meadville home to Canaan Mt. a distance of between five and six hundred miles. In N.Y. state they came through *Co seats, Jamestown, 1st Co seat, Angelica and Bath, Bingamton.* When they reached Canaan, they stopped over night at Uncle John Beckley's, and next morning went on to Canaan Mt.

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1846 – This year, he bought his father's farm of eleven hundred acres, of the other heirs, and lived there for about 21 years, or until 1867.

He owned 3000 (three thousand) acres of land in the West. He sold 80 acres of it to a rail road company, on condition that they would establish a depot and lay out a town, which they did and named it Malcolm. It is in the centre of Powsheik Co., Iowa and will eventually be the county seat. He had land in Johnson, Iowa, Tama, Powsheik, Franklin and Muscatine counties in Iowa. He sold 500 acres in Iowa to Ely P Judd, about 1866.

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1850 – About 1850, father indorsed a bond of \$25000.00 (twenty five thousand dollars) to help John Beckley. John had signed over his furnace business to Luther, to keep it from his creditors, and he found that Luther was running it to destruction. When he wanted Luther to give it up, he wouldn't, without bonds being signed, indemnifying him from any loss. Luther had married John's sister Caroline, in 1824. she died in 1848, and he was going out to Wisconsin to be married again, and things were in such a shape that if any thing was ever done, it must be then. John's friends were anxious for him to get it back, and just before Luther started West, four or five signed the paper, father among them; but none of the others were worth any thing, so the whole blunt of it fell on father. He even signed another bond indemnifying two of those who signed this bond, against any loss in signing it. A year or two after this, Luther commenced suit. Father had started to go to Falls Village with a load of lumber, and had a lot of hides on top of the lumber, and

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he met them on the road, and they attached his horses, load, and everything, and father unhitched the horses and went back. The others reached there first, and when father went in the house, they were eating dinner there. Forbes, Luther's son, who was acting in his place, as he did not want to come, was sick and had to get up and leave the table, father said, because he felt mean he supposed, coming there to attach everything, and stopping

to eat dinner. The attached everything on the place. Father and John Beckley spent two or three thousand dollars in preparing to defend the case. It was tried in Canaan before a referee. Father spent about a month attending the trial every day, in mid summer, during the busiest season on the farm. They had one lawyer from Hartford, Tom Perkins, whom they paid \$25.00 a day, besides two other lawyers, judges, &c. the case was decided in father's favor.

A year or more afterwards, Luther went to Boston, out of the state, and started another suit in the U.S. court. On this suit, father and John spent one thousand dollars, in preparing to defend it; and when the case

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was called in New Haven, Luther and his attorney never appeared at all, and the case was dismissed. That ended it.

1854 – When Luther started this second trial, he sent a state officer up to attach father's property again. This was in the fall of 1854. While the officers were there attaching the things, mother was so worried, she was almost distracted; and in the confusion she gave the baby, who was only a few weeks old, a teaspoonful of paregoric. She forgot all her worry then, about losing twenty five thousand dollars, and was almost wild about her baby. She rushed to the barn where father was, crying, "Oh, I've killed my littlest baby!" Poor mother. The reason she said "littlest", was, that the next oldest one, was less than a year older than this baby. I don't know what heroic remedies they applied; but the "littlest baby" came out all right, and is alive today.

1855 – In October or November of 1855, father went to Iowa, with his brother Henry, and Henry's wife, and then father returned home.

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1856 – Henry died the 25th of the next April, 1856, in Muscatine, Iowa. His wife had telegraphed that he was very sick, and father started right out there. When he went with them the previous fall, Henry had introduced him to a friend of his in Chicago, who had

some work in the depot. Father reached Chicago on a Sunday morning; and finding this same man, he inquired of him if he had heard any thing of Henry lately. He said "Yes: he is here." Father knew then that he was dead. He learned from this man what hotel they were stopping at, and went there. He found Henry's widow there with the body, and a man who was coming East with her to help her. They had reached Chicago the night before, and could not go on until Sunday night, so had to put up at a hotel. Father paid the man, and dismissed him, and came on with her and the body, Sunday night. They reached Albany some time Tuesday night, and Canaan Mt. Wednesday, where Henry was buried. She had started from Iowa Friday morning, and father had left Canaan Friday afternoon.

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1898 - * The 19th of July 3 weeks & one day before father died, father and Delia were going to New Haven from Bethel by way of South Norwalk. After passing Bridgeport while they sat in the car father said to Delia. That that road ~~we~~ they were riding over he was very familiar with for when he was attending the legislature he came down over it every week from Bridgeport to New Haven.

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1856 – In 1856 he represented Canaan in the Legislature, at New Haven, Conn. During the time he was there, his hotel bill was three dollars a day and he received but two dollars a day from the government. *

1859 – Father and mother both visited Indiana in 1859, just before mother's two half brothers and a half sister died of scarlet fever, within ten days of each other. They went in May or June, and stayed about a month.

1855 or 1860 – About this time he went to Kansas to look for Mr. Northrop. Mr. Northrop had been running a tannery in South Norfolk. He also had a cheese factory there. Father used to sell cheese to him. The factory burned down. Some parties from Waterbury told him to build another factory, and they would furnish the money. He did

so, and it cost ten thousand dollars. He borrowed money of banks. These men from Waterbury failed to furnish any, and he got all tied up. He was a very nervous man. He met the company to see if they would raise money to pay the debts he had constructed. They would not. Then Northrop went off suddenly to

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Boston, and then to New York, and that was the last news they had of him. They did not know but he had been murdered. The banks were in a quandary about it. Father was about to start for Iowa on some business of his own. His impression was that Northrop was not murdered in New York, but had gone West. The only clue he had was, that while in Boston, Northrop had written to the Litchfield Enquirer, to have them send their paper to some one in Roxbury, Mass., and also to a friend of his, D. Northrop, at St. Joseph, Missouri; and father believed it was meant for himself. His name was "Samuel" D. Northrop. Father told the Norfolk and the Iron banks that if they would pay his extra expenses from Iowa on to St. Joseph, he would go on there and look for him. They said they would.

So he went to Iowa, and after tending to his business there, he took a boat down the Mississippi river. The water was very low, and the steamer finally got aground. They were there twenty-four hours. He finally landed within two or three miles of a railroad. He then went on the railroad as far as that went, which took him below the rapids. He

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then got on another boat, and went on and landed at Hanibal, Missouri, Sunday morning, could not get away till next day on account of Sunday. Monday morning, he boarded a train and went two hundred miles across the state to St. Joseph, reached there about dark. There was a forty or fifty thousand dollar hotel there, where board was very expensive. Father knew that if Northrop were there, he would stop at that hotel. He took his satchel and made a bee line for it, he said. There was a rough crowd in the office. They gave him the register to sign. He looked back in it to the time when Northrop would have reached there, and found a name that he knew Northrop wrote. He asked the clerk if that

man was about there. He said "No". He asked him how long he staid. He judged he staid one day and two nights. That was all the track he expected to get of him there. Next morning he went to the post office. He says there were probably five hundred miners there waiting for the mail. He waited till the rush was over, then asked the post master if any mail came there for d. Northrop. He said "Yes; but I had

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been forwarded." He inquired where. He said, "To Atchison, Kansas, thirty miles down the river." He went back to the hotel for the night. The next morning he started to go by train; but it was a new rail road, and only one train a day went each way, in the morning, a construction train, and that had already gone; so he had to wait till the following morning, when he went down on the train, and then across the river in an old rotten skiff; but he got across alive to Atchison. He had inquired about the hotels, and decided which one Northrop would be apt to go to, which was the best. He went there, and looked back in the register and saw Northrops own name in full, "Samuel D. Northrop, Board" He asked if that man was boarding there. They said, 'no; that he did for a little while, but had gone, and they didn't know where.' Father did not register, for he did not want Northrop to know he was there. Father went to the post office, and waited fifteen or twenty minutes, partly behind the door where any one coming in would not see him at first glance, when looking out the window he saw Northrop coming down the opposite side of the street. In the mean

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time, the hotel keeper had sent several men scurrying out to let Northrop know that some one was inquiring for him, as he had told him not to let any one who might inquire, know that he boarded there; for he did board there; but father found him first. He came across the road, and father stepped out, took his hand and said, "How do you do," Northrop exclaimed. "How did you come here?" Father said "I am looking for you." Northrop answered, "Well! You are the last man I was looking for, and there is no man I would rather see." He took father back to the hotel, and introduced him to the hotel keeper as his best friend from Connecticut, and told him to give him the best the house afforded.

Then they went to Northrop's room, which was a very nice one, and talked from noon until night. Northrop said he never could, or would, go back to Norfolk. He had taken five thousand dollars West with him, and bought a quarter of a section of land out there in (*space left blank*). He claimed that this five thousand rightfully belonged to him. Father persuaded him that he ought to return, and see that the property went where it rightfully belonged, instead of the Waterbury parties

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getting it, and he finally agreed. He was almost crazy. He told father that he had no recollection of any thing after he left New York, until he reached St. Louis. In Atchison, he gave his money to a lawyer, and told him not to let him spend it, unless he saw that it was all right, as he could not trust his own judgement. At that time, there were caravans of ox teams going from Atchison to Denver, once a month, to take miners. Northrop got the position of overseeing one of these caravans a while before this, and they started; but one night he got up, and went to shooting among them with a pistol, and they saw he was crazy, and sent him back.

Father and Northrop decided that it would be better for Northrop not to return with father; but to have father come on first, and see the parties here. And they arranged how father should word a telegram that would mean for him to come on, and father then started East. In crossing the state to Hannibal, he passed through the old town of Norvese, that Smith, the mormon leader, built.

After father left, Northrop go in a hurry to come East, and he telegraphed ahead to all the hotels

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where he thought father would be likely to stop, and also to the conductor on the train, to have him go through the cars, and call K. J. Munson's name, to tell him that he was coming right on, and to have him wait for him; but father missed them all. St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Balimazo.

Next day after reaching Canaan Mt., he went to Norfolk, and reported at the bank. Just as he was through, Dr. Wm. Welch came in and said, "Hove you seen Northrop?" "Yes." "Where?" "In Atchison, Kansas" Dr. Welch replied, "I have reason to suppose

he is not there” and he went out abruptly. Father followed him and asked, “Why do you say you have reason to suppose he is not there, when I saw him?”, the doctor replied, “I will see you tonight, sir” and he went off in a hurry. Northrop had reached Albany, almost crazy, and telegraphed to Dr. Welch to come. The doctor went, and brought him home the next day; but this day that father was in Norfolk, he went to Northrop’s wife, and gave her some things that Northrop had sent by him, and told her about him.
Northrop

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would not allow the banks to pay father’s extra expenses, which were fifty dollars, but paid them himself.

1864 – Father went West, to Iowa, on business in 1864 and reached home, sick, with diabetes. He went West a number of times on business, besides these times that I have mentioned, but does not remember the exact dates. He went with Julia and Elmer in 1873; and with Delia in 1888, after spending the winter South.

186-- - When father was director of the Norfolk bank, a man from Illinois wanted to borrow twenty thousand dollars of the bank. He wanted to buy a bank in Maine, and wanted this twenty thousand in cash, to hand over to the Maine party. It was merely a matter of form to have the twenty thousand on the spot at the time, and as soon as it was settled, a New York party was to pay it back to the Norfolk bank, and three thousand dollars besides for the use of it; but the other officers of the bank were afraid to take charge of the money, so they sent father with it. He had a satchel with him; but the twenty thousand dollars he had in an inside shirt pocket. The

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Cashier of the bank took father by team to Hartford where he met two of the New York men, who went on with him. When they reached Boston, another New York man joined them. Father left his satchel in the passenger car, and went in the smoking car for a smoke. When he came back, one of the men asked him if he wasn’t careless to leave the

satchel as he had, said that he had been watching it. Father told him the money was not there.

186-- - After this, father was president of the Norfolk bank, and after him were two other presidents. After he was president he saw how things were going, and was afraid the bank would fail. He had ten thousand dollars in stock there, and he sold it for seven thousand and five hundred, so he only lost three thousand, counting interest and all.

1867 – In the spring of 1867, he bought a place in Claverack, Columbia co, N.Y., and moved out there. **See notes on sheet paper, grandma died 1866 & grandpa came. See paper.* He made this change, on account of the fine school that was located there, The Hudson River Institute, where his three oldest daughters had attended school the previous year.

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I have heard Mr. Augustas Munson, of Canaan Mt., say that the last night ~~that~~ father spent on the Mt., before going to Claverack for good, he staid all night at their house, and that he had \$55000.00, (fifty five thousand dollars) in his satchel.

I have heard Mrs. Munson tell about Dine Barns, a poor miserable, old creature who lived near there, who used to get drunk frequently. Whenever he was drunk, he would begin to tell about the treasure he had buried in the cellar of his little old cabin. He would wind up by saying ‘that if the neighbors around there even guessed at half the treasure he had buried ~~on~~ in the cellar of that old house, Kneeland Munson would be thrown completely in the shade’

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Hundreds of scholars attended this school or boarded there. The buildings were immense. The main building was six stories high. It is now a college. *

1867 – About this time, he got into a gold mine in North Carolina, in which he lost nearly ten thousand dollars. Just before moving to Claverack, he decided to put in one thousand

dollars. Mother and Myron wanted him to put in more. Finally, when he went to Norfolk to pay it, he put in two thousand. Then, to save that, he put in twelve thousand dollars in all, and lost every cent of it, except two thousand and five hundred, which Dr. Welch had borrowed of father, and the Norfolk bank had indorsed. The first mine was slated. Smith owned the second. They hired Smith to go down and see to things, and paid his board there.

After we moved to Claverack, while living at the second place, Dr. Wm Welch came there and insisted on father himself going down and seeing to things there. Father had been down once with John Welch, about the 4th of July 1868, he met Dr. John Welch in New

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York, he was sick there, and Welch doctored him, and the next morning they both started South. There had been a democratic convention in New York, for a week, to nominate a president; and all this convention of delegates, red hot, went down on the same train with them. The gold mine was a few miles from Charlotte, North Carolina. They had a spell of extremely hot weather while father was down there.

It was in ~~1870~~ 1868, that Dr. Wm. Welch wanted father to go down, and take charge of things there. Seven hundred dollars more were raised, and he went, taking Myron with him. They never saw a particle of gold, and when they closed things up for good, Myron blew the whistle for half an hour steady. In going down, they went on the coast from New York to South Amboy, then by railroad across the state to Bordentown, and down the Delaware river. They went down the Chesapeake bay to Portsmouth. *Uncle Ed, wife & Addie came summer of 1868. Effie died 1879. See page 92.*

1870 – In 1870, he bought a place in Millerton, N.Y., for \$8000.00 (eight thousand dollars) and moved there in the spring.

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1871 – This year, John Beckley leased the Beekman furnace for \$3000. a year, and father went in with him. The furnace was old and rotten, and they had to build a great deal of it

over. Father furnished the money. He put in, in all, about \$12000. (twelve thousand dollars) which with the interest, made \$13000. Two or three thousand of it was in repairs, and the rest in stock. They paid the lease of three thousand dollars the first year; and in the second year, they both sold out their lease to George Brown, the man who built the Dutchess & Columbia railroad from Millerton to Newburg. Brown paid \$20,000.00 in all for the lease, stock, and everything, just as it stood. He paid father \$14,000.00 for his part, and paid Uncle John \$6,000.00 for his, so Uncle John cleared six thousand, as he had put nothing in; and father only cleared one thousand.

George Brown had a father and brother who were rich bankers in New York, and the father would come up to Beekman quite often to see George. Every time he came, he would give him a fifty thousand dollar check. Once when George took his father all around and was showing him

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his different investments, his furnace, railroad &c., his father said, "Well George, you are rich and I am rich; but if you go on, you will see the end of it," and he did. The rail road used him up, financially.

1872 – Mother died the 14th of April May 1872. Effie, his youngest child died in Claverack, the 6th of Jan, of scarlet fever, in 1869.

1874 – Just before the financial panic of 1874, father put \$18000.00 (eighteen thousand dollars) in railroad bonds, and lost it all. In the course of a number of years, he got some of it back, but no more than the interest would have come to in that time.

1874 – In May 1874, father went West again, and took Julia and Elmer with him. He left them in Indiana to visit with mother's people, while he went on to Illinois. They all returned to Millerton the 13th of June, on a Saturday night; and Uncle John Beckley died in Chatham the next day, the 14th of June, 1874. Father was appointed administrator of John's estate, and executor of Oliver Beckley's estate, Oliver having died only

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two weeks (*blank spaces*) John. He commenced acting as administrator in June, 1974, and it was over two years before it was settled. It was one of the most complicated of estates.

Father went South in Feb. 1880 while in the furnace with Fitch Landon

John's half of the Chatham furnace was sold at auction in October 187-, and father bought it. He paid \$16000. (sixteen thousand dollars) for it, and one thousand more for taxes and insurance. He owned it for six or seven years. He ran the furnace a short time himself; but most of the time he rented it.

1888 – Father has been to South Carolina *big law suit \$14000* and Georgia several times. He and Dee went to Savannah, Ga., and up to Bluffton, and spent the winter of 1888. In the spring, just after the blizzard in the North, they went from there to Indiana on a visit, stopping at Niagra Falls on their way east.

Just before the civil war, whatever gold and silver father received in change, he laid aside in a tin

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box about a foot long, in his trunk, till it was about full. It laid there for years, all the time gold and silver were at a premium. When special payment was resumed, father used it occasionally. In 1888, when he went South, he had sixty dollars in gold still there. He had all the money he wanted to take with him for their expenses besides this; but he thought he would not leave it alone in the house, so took it along for safekeeping. At Cleveland he had that and two or three dollars in change, in one of his pockets. Just as they were going in the car at Cleveland for Buffalo, a very rough crowd came in after them, and pushed up against them, and this money was stolen at that time.

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