

Recollections of the early settlement
of Jackson County
By James Burcham.

Wm. Fryeinger, Esq.:— Supposing
that some of the readers of the Banner
would be interested by reading an
account of the early settlement of
Jackson County, I send you a few
items for publication.

My father, Samuel Burcham,
settled in Jackson County in
October, 1810, a little north-east of
where M. B. Singer now lives.

It was in the evening when we
landed and struck up camp. We
soon began to clear away the brush
and weeds, when we came on a large
rattle-snake, my brother John, the
same evening, while passing a few
hundred yards from camp, came

1a-2
on another of the same kind, which caused us to move around very cautiously. As the woods abounded with game and the rivers with fish, hunting and fishing occupied much of our time, That is after we erected a log cabin. I might say here, although the building was small, I believe every man who lived in the county was invited to help raise it, and there were none too many at that, for if I recollect rightly There were but eight families in the county at that time. I think there were some families came in that fall; at any rate there were a number more families there the next year. It might be well to give the names of some of the first settlers and their residences. Aquilla Rodgers

was the first. He settled in Vallonia in 1807-8-9, at which place the French had a small improvement. John Berry and James Smith lived on the road, a little south of Henry G. Smith's farm. A little east of M. B. Singers, on Mr. Wolke's farm, lived David Case, who was killed somewhere above Brownstown, by the Indians. If I mistake not it was the party of Indians that slaughtered the inhabitants of the Pigeon Roost. I may make some ~~mistake~~ mistakes as to the location, for there were several changes of residence. This farm was occupied by two families, who settled on it in 1809, and had a crop of corn on it in 1810; but as they left at the commencement of the war, I am not certain as to

their names, but think they were
Shipman and Dunlap. I must
here relate an incident which
will give some idea of the number
of mice that infested the country
just previous to the war. These
families lived a quarter of a mile
apart. After dark, one of the men
crumbled some bread on the floor,
and took a lumber board, set
his foot on it, holding the end in
his hand till the mice would
gather under it, then letting it go
caused a loud crack on the floor,
which the other family mistook
for firing of rifles by Indians,
and ran through the dark some
distance to a neighbors. Case
left this farm in the spring
of 1911, and settled on the bank of
the Muscatituck, on the

Washington County side, and the farm was occupied by McCoy. I will here relate a story told by the family to show how the Indians treated their squaws. There was near their residence a slanting tree, an Indian who was somewhat drunk would ride his horse to the foot of this tree, get off and walk up it a considerable height above his horse's head, and cause his squaw to lead his horse under him, when he would leap down on him; then again ride to the foot, walk up, and perform the same feat, which he would continue for some time.

The farm known by the early early settlers as the Kindel farm, and later as the John Harell farm, was settled by Hazebry. The farm

left by Wm. Graham to young Wm. L. Woodmansee was settled in 1809, I think, by some of the Shipman and Dunlaps. They all left the county before the war. Edward Jacobs, the father of Thomas, deceased, and one of the Doudens, settled on the farm where M. B. Singer first settled, but left before the war.

Kossuth, Ind., May 4, 1874.

II.

Having given the names and location of most of the early settlers, I will give some account of the Indians. Before I proceed, however, I will say that I was not aware that the statements I made to Mr. Long would be published and they were not well considered I therefore will make a few

corrections. First, it was John Griffie, and not Henry Rogers, that lived on the Wm. Woodmansee farm. John Sage lived on the branch, one half mile below the White meeting-house. Griffie's fort was on the Woodmansee farm, and Sage's fort below the meeting house. The Burcham fort was on the farm north of M. B. Singers.

As to the Indians, the woods were full of them in 1810, and up to the war, when they all left the country and went to the Massinaway town, where I believe they made their home till the close of the war, excepting a small party of Delawares, called the Oy Sang. These Indians professed friendship to the whites, and remained in the settlement till

about the taking of The Pigeon Roost, when the jealousy and hatred of the whites became apparent to them and they took the alarm and left. It was commonly believed that Joe Kilbuck and others of that gang assisted in the taking of that place. This company of Indians was the family that McCulloch, a white man, took his wife from. He had several children by her. He fought with the whites. During the whole time the Indians remained in the settlement, although it was believed by the whites, and was true, that they were preparing for war, they appeared very friendly, seldom passing a house without calling in, and often begging for something.

to eat. They would often run footraces and hops and jumps with the whites. The young men would propose to sell them a white squaw, and they would invariably agree to purchase, and would agree to give all they had for her their horse, saddle and bridle, and whatever else they had. They always appeared displeased when they learned that they had been deceived.

Some of them who could not speak Et English would call for favors, and, unless they could see the thing they wanted, they had a great deal of trouble to make the whites understand them. I will give an instance. Father and family had all left home, except my self and

four or five smaller children. We, being alone, were somewhat afraid, as the road leading from Washington county to Vallonia passed near the house, and Indians were passing every day, sometimes as many as fifty at a time. Especially were we afraid because the Indians south of us went that road to John Berry's, where they got whiskey, and nearly, if not always, returned drunk. On this occasion we heard the hallooing of the Indians and knew from their previous practice that they were drunk. So we all ran into the house and shut the doors, and looked out at the window. We soon saw a company of men, squaws and

lads running at full speed. They, however, soon stopped, formed a ring, handed the bottle around, and then danced around and around, ran again hallooing as before, but had not passed the house far when they stopped and went through the same process. They had not gotten out of sight when we saw a company behind them and turning towards the house. What to do was now the question. To bar the door would show hostility; so we concluded that peace was best. We opened the door and received them politely. The company, however, proved to be an old squaw and a number of small children. She wanted something to eat.

but couldn't make us understand what it was. We showed her what we had, but nothing suited her. At last we thought of a sack of ripe plums, and handed the sack to her. When she opened it the little Indians thrust their hands into the sack, when she commenced slashing them over their heads without mercy, which caused a great laugh among us.

Kossuth, Ind., May 25, 1874.

III.

It might be well enough in this communication to say that the land was not surveyed on the north-west side of White river until a little south of Seymour.

Daniel Beem was the only man who lived on the north-west side

of the river until after the war. He was the father of Richard Berr. Mr. Shields was the only man who lived above the boundary line until after the war. He was the father of Meedy Shields.

Congress gave Mr. Shields the section of land he settled on at Congress price - \$2.25 per acre - and I understood he gave his neighbor one half to pay for all.

A little more about the Indians. They nearly, if not all, smoked, and for this purpose they had their Tomahawks made so as to answer for a pipe, the handle serving for a stem. They could throw these Tomahawks fifteen or twenty steps and stick one in a tree nearly every throw. Some of them had very long handles.

When the sap was up they would cut the bark around a tree very high, striking right and left, thus making notches in the bark; then cut it below, peel it off and make small tents. These tents were very numerous when the whites came into the country. They were made by placing four small forks in a square, enclosing seven or eight feet of ground; then the bark was set around, which covered it.

The Indians were not well pleased when they saw our people kill the game. The hunters often accused the Indians of "spelling their guns." What was meant by "spelling a gun" is better understood than explained. I heard one of the hunters say that

after an Indian had examined his gun, he saw him rub his hand over the muzzle, and the first deer he shot at afterwards stood very near and in fair view; and he never touched it, which proved to him beyond a doubt that his gun had a "spell" on it. He did not know that the Indian had dropped a bullet in the gun.

Indiana was under Territorial Laws for some time after the war. I do not recollect that there were any civil officers elected till after the war, except Justices and Constables. If I recollect aright, James McIssee was the first Justice below Vallonia. All that persons who wanted to marry had to do was to write three notices of their intention, and post them

in public places ten day previous
and call in a justice. James
McBee and L. C. Shewmaker were the
first Associate Judges elected in the
county. They were respectable citizens
and good farmers, but knew very
little about law, as the following
statement, made to me by J. B. Durham,
will show: He said that the Circuit
Judge failed to attend on one occasion.
The Court was, however, convened, and
a case called. The lawyer for the
plaintiff opened the case and stated
that the case was so plain that they
were compelled by law to find for the
plaintiff. The lawyer for the defense
arose, stated that the case had been
misrepresented, and so far from
their being bound to find for the
plaintiff, they were bound by the
plainest law to find for the defense,

and if they did not do it he would prosecute them. McGee never said a word. Shewmaker would get up and commence talking, but was so baffled by the lawyers that he sat down and listened to them till he became so perplexed that he arose and put his hand on his breast and said, "God knows my heart," and sat down. This much serves my purpose in this case, but I will relate one more. There were two men whom I will call L and M. M. married the daughter of L. and settled in Brownstown. After some time the daughter of L. complained to her father that she was not well provided for - that she suffered for food. Her father sent and had her brought home without the knowledge or consent of her husband.

Her husband went to see her, but was denied the privilege. He then commenced suit. This case came before the two judges at this or a similar Court. The case was tried and S. was sentenced to jail. A writ was sent to a Justice to have him arrested and taken to jail. This officer, finding he had not time to reach Brownstown, arrested him and summoned five or six men to assist in guarding him till the next day. I will just say that brother Samuel was one of the guards. S. was taken to jail and confined there for several days, when he was released. He prosecuted the judges for false imprisonment, and they were fined \$100 each. It was said that Shermaker & was somewhat displeased with the verdict, and ~~just~~ jerked a large sack of silver.

out of his saddle bags and counted out the money, and remarked that it did not "shake the bottom of his purse"

June 4, 1874.

IV.

I promised in my last to write something about the Forts. I will describe Burcham's Fort and that will answer for the rest. It was built around two cabins that stood with their ends together, leaving an entry of about ten feet between doors leading out each onto the entry. A ditch was dug along each side of these buildings, leaving a space wide enough on each side for a guard. Split puncheons were set in the ditches breaking the joint and extending 14 feet above ground. At the ends were blockhouses extending from one

picket to the other. A block house is built eight or nine feet high, and the logs are cut long enough to extend over the building three or four feet. A floor is laid over the first part, extending over the whole floor of the upper building, which is high enough for men to pass under the roof conveniently. The pickets are joined to the corners of the under building, leaving the upper part of the building outside of the pickets, thus enabling men to shoot along the pickets from every corner. The wall and pickets were supplied with holes to shoot out at, and also the upper foot floor, so that they could shoot down and defend the lower part of the building. There were nine families living in the fort nearly the whole time of the war, and

most of the time there were eight
or ten soldiers stationed there.

For the credit of the fort, I will say
there was not one fight in it. There
were two skirmishes, but no
blood shed. Some of the women talked
rather loud and long. The country
abounded with raspberries, black-
berries, hazel nuts, fox grapes, and
indeed, all kinds of grapes, haws,
and plums. Some of the plums were
large and sweet. The children would
go out and gather this fruit in spite
of all their parents could do. By so
doing they oftentimes gave their parents
great trouble. A messenger would
come to the fort with haste with
alarming news, which would start
men and women running in every
direction, halloing for their children.
The forts were all completed and

lots enclosed for the horses before there was any appearance of the Indians.

Father, however, risked a little too much, for soon after the people had all got into the fort, his horses came running up all in a sweat, and one was missing, from which it was evident that the Indians had him. It was some time before there was any serious alarm. False and momentary alarms were common, one or two of which I will relate. The soldiers would oftentimes ride out in search of the Indians, and because they had to ride under the brush they would tie their handkerchiefs around their heads, much as the Indians do, and leave their hats behind them. One of these scouts left California and came around below Buchanan's Fort where they met with fifteen

men who had gone from Burcham
with Thomas Smith to help him
mill fodder on the farm now owned
by A. T. Tucker. These men mistook
the other Indians, jumped to the
tree and came very near shooting
before they discovered their mistake.
Joseph Smith and myself were on
the rise just north of M. B. Singers.
Most of the children that belonged
to the fort were in the flat just below
before Singers door, gathering turnips.
There were but two men in the fort
when this scouting party was seen coming
up the road; near the children. Just
then hallooing commenced; the
women screaming at the top of
their voices "Run children!" and
the children screaming and throwing
turnips from the patch to the fort. I
might say Smith and I were in

a cornfield, where we considered ourselves safe. After we went to the fort we learned that one of the men had tried to shut the gate before the children got in. But, "said he, "the women threw me about as if I had been a kitten," and held the gate wide open till the last child was safely housed. Then they slammed the gate to and bolted, when they had time to look out after the enemy, and to their great joy saw that they were white men, and had rode out of gunshot, to wait till the people would be undeceived. The other soldier (for both of the men in the fort were sent as guards) ran around perfectly frantic with gun in one hand and nock in the other saying, "What shall I do?" One woman said to him "Fight like

a man." I will give account of
another false alarm in my next.

Kat' Kossuth, Ind., June 11, 1874.

V.

According to promise, I send you
a statement of one other false
alarm, which took place at Burcham
Fort. There were guards required at
night, and as there was some choice
in the time the men would draw lots
for time choice. For this purpose
they had, after it was quite dark,
assembled in one of the center houses.
Some of them had brought their
guns and set them in the corner of
the house. The dogs were barking
furiously. Old Man McCoy stepped
out unobserved and climbed the
gate and was peeping out to
ascertain if the Indians were near.
Henry Farmer stepped out in the

entry fronting the gate and saw McCoy's head over the gate, but could not see his body, and supposing him to be an Indian, cried out in an alarming manner: "Boys the Indians are climbing over the gate!" Every man made a rush for a gun. One man who failed to get one, and had no way to get to his family but by passing the gate, climbed out at the chimney. The women and children screamed and yelled, put out the lights and threw water on the fire. Two or three of the men were ready to fire, when the old man called out: "Boys, what is the matter?"

The alarm was soon over and the cry turned into a big laugh. One man was found hid behind some rubbish, and when pulled out excused himself by saying that he fell in so

light that he could not get out.

It, however, destroyed his peace during the remainder of his term.

Although the Indians never attacked any of the forts, they were frequently around them of nights, never, however, excepting when the nights were dark. They were around every fort in the county at the same time.

Three nights in succession the signal for an alarm was given by firing two guns in quick succession. Between daylight and sunup, when the Indians were known to be in the settlement, before the gates were thrown open or the women and children were allowed to pass out, the men would take their guns and dogs and pass all around the fort. When there no signs of Indians in the settlement, the farmers would get the soldiers to

guard them while they would work their farms, taking it by turns. So, I believe, they all raised a small crop each year.

When the Indians came to Buchanan's Fort they nearly always came out of the brush between Mr. Wolke's and Mr. Bryant's. They would, when coming, invariably howl like wolves, or like some other wild animal. They would always drive the cattle, and keep them close around the forts. If nothing else, the dogs would let it be known when the Indians were about. Because it interested me, a boy at the time, so much, I will tell a dog story. The law of the fort was that no dog should remain inside of the fort after dark. Courtney and young M^r. Coy lived in the same house, and each had a little, now

bound. They would then till all was still and then let them out.

Some of the people got tired of that way of doing. After the sounds were turned out one night two stout men slipped out and caught them by the legs and threw them over the pickets, which made them howl dreadfully.

Out came Courtney and McCoy rolling up their ~~sleeves~~ sleeves, and hallooing half alligator, half beaver, half snapping turtle, all noise, by G—, Nobody said a word, and after they had exhausted themselves they went back to bed.

When it was very dark the Indians would come close around the fort, and although often shot at, there was no evidence that any of them were ever hurt. On one occasion there were two sentinels in the block house left where I slept. One

of them said to the other: "I saw an Indian pass behind the block-house at the other end of the fort, with a coal of fire between two chips." The word was hardly spoken when "bang" went a gun in that direction, and a soldier by the name of Potts halloed out with an oath that he had one Indian down. He said he was looking down through a port hole, and an Indian passed right under the hole, he raised up, set the trigger, passed to the next and fired at random. He did not touch him. The dogs bayed the Indians fearlessly and they were heard fighting the dogs with sticks. They never shot them - not even with arrows - nor did we ever know of their killing any stock. They would jump over the fence so near the fort that

we could hear the quills on their
shot pouches jingle.

June 16, 1874.

VI.

When the news of the capture of
Flinn and the death of his son
reached Buchanan's Fort, they were
nearly all down on the farm owned
by Polly Munden, raising a
house, one mile below the fort.

A boy was put on a horse and sent
post haste with the news. As soon
as the boy came in sight of the
men, they jumped off of the house
and all ran. Some of them never
waited to hear the news, but ran
to the fort. As soon as they got
to the fort, as many of them as
could be spared mounted their
horses and joined the men from
the other fort, for, although there

were but eight families in the county when Burchams arrived there in 1810, there were others who came in the same year, and during the year of 1811 many others came in, so that in 1811, -12, -13, -14, there must have been in the forts as many as forty families, and in Washington County twice that number. With the number and the militia sent to guard the forts, there could always be a small company spared from the forts to pursue the Indians. On this occasion the only followed them a short distance to where they had cut in the bark of a tree the form of a man, which was understood by some of the company accustomed to Indian habits to mean that they had

Flinn a prisoner, and, as it was evident, that the Indians had left the settlement, and that it would be impossible to overtake them, they returned to the fort.

There were several raids of this kind made after the Indians, but as my memory will not permit me to give a full account of these raids, I must content myself by giving a few incidents that occurred during some of them. At one time they were following the trail of a company of Indians, and from some of the maneuvering of the Indians, as seen by the trail, it was thought that they would be attacked. They came to a creek that they had to cross on a log. It was believed by most of the company that they would be

attacked while crossing on the log, as the Indians would secrete themselves within a few rods of the creek by squatting down in the weeds. It was the common belief that the first that ventured to cross would be shot down. Richard Beers, who was afterwards major, said, "I will see whether he will be shot or not," and walked over unhurt, thus proving himself a brave man.

All I remember about the Pigeon Roost disaster is that the inhabitants were all killed and their houses plundered and burned, except one man who defended his house and family and remained unhurt, and I believe a few made their escape by running. At least, I know that two of the Huffman boys - aged about

Ten or twelve - were chased close by the place at the time it was destroyed. One of them crept into a hollow log, unobserved, and made his escape, although the Indians passed right by the hole in the log. The other was captured, taken prisoner, and remained with the Indians till peace was made, when he returned home. When the news of this affair reached the Burcham Fort, it threw the inhabitants into great consternation, as it was said that the Indians were coming on towards the fort in great numbers, killing the inhabitants and burning their houses. The men were immediately called to arms themselves and march to meet them. One of the militia from

Charles County, who had tantalized the citizens for cowards on a former occasion, refused to go, saying his gun was out of order. Several men immediately handed him a gun saying, "Here, sir, is as good a gun as you ever put to your face; take it and go." But he again refused to go, and actually cried and would not go. The Indians, however, loaded their horses with plunder taken out of the houses before they burned them and moved south up the river. A company of men was organized in Washington County, commanded by Captain Ketherton, who joined a company in Jackson County and pursued and overtook the Indians near White River, somewhere above Seymour. When they rushed upon the Indians it threw

them into great confusion. Some ran and plunged into the river and saved themselves by diving and hiding behind logs and in the drift. Others concealed themselves in the bush and weeds. A number surrendered and threw up their hands for mercy; but the men were so enraged that they would not show mercy. Fortunately for the Indians, the men's guns were wet and out of order, for it was said that many of them held their guns right at the backs of the Indians who had surrendered and snapped and snapped till the Indians saw they would receive no mercy, and the best thing they could do would be to get away if they could. They made a sudden rush and all escaped but one. If I recollect

rightly, Richard Beem came upon this Indian, who had a bow and arrow. The Indian jumped behind a tree, and so did Beem. As Beem's company were rapidly moving up, the Indian had no time to tarry.

He called out to Beem, "Shoot, damn you, shoot," and ran. The company came up. Beem and Capt. ~~Walter~~ Natherton each fired at the Indian and he fell dead. But one bullet hit him, and it was not known which of the men hit him.

Natherton got the bow. I think it was five or six feet long. I believe that it was in this skirmish that Hays was killed. The story runs thus: When the Indians were first discovered the company made a rush upon them, and as Hays' horse jumped over a

gully the girth of his saddle broke and he fell from his horse. When he got ready to mount, the company had gone some distance ahead, but as they had made somewhat of a circuit he rode straight and came nearby where an Indian had secreted himself in the weeds. As soon as he was discovered by Hays he shot, wounding him mortally. Hays was taken to Vallonia, where he died.

Kossuth, Ind., June 26, 1874.

VII.

I have a few more items of war news that I think worthy of publication. The inmates of Burcham's Fort heard that a horse had been tied outside of the pickett either at Ketchams or at Huffs fort, in order that they

might kill the Indian that would attempt to take him away. The Indian, however, although seen by one of the sentinels, managed to slip up and unloose and take the horse away without out being fired at. When the sentinel saw ~~had~~ he could not get a shot at the Indian, he raised the alarm. The men in the fort rushed to the gate, opened it and started out after the Indians. Luckily for them, before they got fairly out of the gate there were four shots fired at them from behind, which caused them to hasten to the fort and bolt the gate. The next morning it was seen that the Indians had laid a trap by which they evidently expected to kill the men and take the fort. They had opened a gap in a fence near the fort and

a number of them of them had concealed themselves on each side; and the horse was led through this gap. It is evident that the four Indians were stationed where they could take possession of the gate, but must have become alarmed and fired too soon, which saved the fort. I said this was known at Burcham's Fort. They thinking themselves smart concluded to try the same trick. They tied a horse near the gate, where they could guard him from the lofts of the two blockhouses and from inside of the pickets, so there were at least four or five men guarding the horse. I ought to say the nights were dark. The Indian crawled up to the horse unobserved save by one of the guards. He, as the other had done, tried and

hoped to get a shot till it was too late. The Indian took the horse, but was not followed as in the other case. There were two other horses loose in the pasture near the fort, it being believed that the Indians could not catch them. They took corn out of the field and fed the one they had, and by that means caught one. The other, although they often got hold of it and could be heard distinctly talking to it, they could not hold. They laid the gap wide open where they went out, that it might follow, but to the joy of the owner it was still there in the morning.

When Surgeon was killed it was late in the evening, and although Bushkirk had been killed only the day before, the men

were out, some on their farms and some in the woods. A messenger came to Burchams fort about sundown, and as he passed by where the women and children were milking the cows a little distance from the fort, he called out, "Women, women, what are you doing here! The Indians have killed a man just over the branch!" as he had just crossed over a small branch, they supposed that was the branch he alluded to. It was almost laughable to see the bustle made by the women and children to get into the fort. All the inhabitants were soon safely gotten into the fort except one man, Henry Farmer, was out and got lost in the river bottom and did not get in until late in the night.

until he came in his wife was nearly distracted. Horses were blown and guns were fired, which helped him to find home. One militia man became frantic and after night would climb over the gate and run for Vallonia, saying he came with his captain, who was at Vallonia, and he meant to die with him. The men had to run after him three or four times and then threatened to tie him before he would be reconciled to stay.

When the inhabitants of the Vallonia fort heard the crack of the gun that killed Sturgeon, and his horse ran up bloody, there was quite a bustle till all was made safe, which was not done till after it was quite dark.

As it was only one half mile

to where Sturgeon lay, some of his friends said he must be brought in, lest the hogs might eat him. Jesse Durham was captain of the settlers and it was thought best for him to remain in order to guard the fort. The captain of the militia said not one of his men should go, as he believed the Indians were concealed on the road, expecting them to go after Sturgeon, and would kill the last man of them. Some of his friends asked for volunteers, when Nealy Beem, Richard Beem, Abraham Miller, two Studybakers, James and Phillip Rogers, and I believe, Thomas Ewing made the eighth that went and brought him in. I heard Richard Beem say they took dogs along which

would give them notice if there were Indians near.

There was one man lost away up the river, out of a scouting party, and did not get in for sixteen days. He lived on blackberries and horse flies. He said the flies were the sweetest meat he ever ate.

XI.

In my last I said Congress passed a law for the benefit of the early purchasers of land. The law allowed those who paid half of the amount due for 160 acres to divide it, and the money paid would secure one half if he would relinquish the other half.

The price of land was reduced from \$2.50 to \$1.25, and could be bought in forty acre lots. a great many pieces of good land were

relinquished, and remained vacant till about 1827-8. When these lands began to be re-entered there were all kinds of racing to Jeffersonville. One man would start in the morning to enter one of these tracts; another, hearing it in the evening would start after him and ride all night and get the land.

I will say something about how the early settlers lived, or rather how they starved, for many of them never saw a bite of bread for months and, after the game was driven out of the country, some of them never tasted meat for nearly the same length of time. These hard times did not exist every year. It was only when the corn crop was short. When men with large families

settled in the woods, without house or farm, they had to pack all the corn they used out of a boat on the Ohio river. You will not wonder that little bread did them, especially when we consider that many of them were out of money. Coffee or tea was hardly ever used, not even by the wealthy. Sassafras tea was common at all the gatherings, even weddings. As late as the year 1826 I was at the house of one of the wealthiest farmers in the county, when a young man came home from a corn husking and his sister asked him what he had for supper. Among other things he said they had coffee. "What!" said she, "coffee for corn huskers?"

When there was no corn to be
I had the women would nearly always

have the table well furnished with potatoes, pumpkins, and squashes. When corn could be had the table was nearly always furnished, bread or no bread.

When corn could be had, people generally had some kind of meal, when they could not grate it they would beat it in a mortar or grind it in a hand mill. There was a little mill built by Aquil Acquilla Rodgers on the branch running through Vallonia. If I recollect aright it, in 1810, would not grind more than one bushell in a day. I heard my brother and brother-in-law say they took a little sack of corn to grind on it, and that the wheel turned so slowly, that they would, one at a time, get on the wheel and tramp to make it go faster.

There were soon four or five little mills built. The first was built by John Griffee, just above where Judy's old mill stood. Another by Jaeninger, where Shepard's old mill stood, and a third by Arandal, between the two. After all these mills were built they did not near supply the demand, except when water was flush. Most men kept a standing giest at some of the mills. When they used up one they would send another and expected to bring home one of meal. It, however, is not ground, and will not be for three or four days. The family shifts as best it can till the time expires, sends to the mill again full of hope. The boy returns again without any meal. The water is dried or the race is frozen up. Soon there comes a thaw and a

great rain. A rush is again made for the mill. The dam or race is broken. You gather up one of your sacks and take it to one of the other mills, where you have to go through a similar process.

A story was told of a man who went to one of these mills. He said there was a rooster in the hoppers and when a grain of meal would fall he would pick it up, and turn up his eye and wait for another. Hard as this statement is, it did not cover all the evils the early settlers had to ~~be~~ endure.

There is a stump and top of a burr oak tree on father's old farm that was cut in 1810, and a walnut in 1815.

Kosciusko, Ind., August 19, 1874,

