

Danced All Night

We went through Lockhart. Here I taken a notion to hunt up my cousen Wilson Jones, so I turned fur Fredericksburg. I found him not fur from where I had left him, stade about two weeks with him, fishing and hunting. Wilson was still a good shot. After a pleasant time with his family, I once more started fur Bastrop County, going through Auston. Here I got me a nice suite of clouse. When I got in a mild of home, at a one John Liten's house, I seen quite a lot of horses hitched up, so I rode up to find out what was the cause of the crowed. Lo and behold it was a dancing school in full blast. As soon as the crowd found out hoo I was, here they come, all wanting me to get down and dance with them. I had not changed clouse so I begged off till I could go wash up. One of the boys went with me and we put our horses in full speed thar and back.

I had bin wating on one Miss Elizabeth Masters before I had joined the Rangers. However, I learned thar was a Mr. Johnson that was paying compliments to her, so I comenst to hunt her up. I found her seated, talking to Johnson. She rose to introduce me to him. We stood and talked fur some time. I seen that he was getting restless, so I past out of the house, stopping jest outside. I could hear them talking and as they were talking about me, I could not help listening. Johnson says, "You seem to think a-heap of that boy Jones." She says, "I do, he is my ould beau." Johnson says, "It seems you have not furgotten him." "How could I furgot so noble a boy?" Johnson says, "He is quite young, has no experance in life, nothing but his clouse and horse." Then she says, "Mr. Johnson, you are jealous of that boy. You are wanting me to slight

him.” Johnson says, “No, I was thinking of purposeing marrage to you, but if you can be caught with a suite of good clouse I don’t know about it.” Miss Elizabeth then says, “He has more than his clouse to recommend him. He is industrious, honest and truthful.” Johnson then says, “We won’t quarrel any more about him now.”

It dose seem to me at this late date, thar never was a boy that had bin more welcome back than I had bin.

I went to work fur Christian again. He was glad to have me as thar was plenty to do, so I worked every day and made it a point to be among the young people at night.

Thar was a man in the settlement that was moving out West and wanted to take a load of sheld corn with him. He asked the boys to come over one night to help him shell it. His wife asked the girls to help her quilt. After it was dun, we would dance. Every body was fur that.

I started home and met a man that had bought a couple of cows from Scott. He wanted to know if I was going thar, that night. He had toald Scott he would send a couple of niggers down thar to help him shell corn, but he had ben delayed and would not get homé in time to keep the cows up so he would send them the next morning. Asked me if I would please give Scott the message.

The thought struck me, if I could find Reynolds we could have sum fun. As Reynolds was the best Mim-mock I ever sean, he could make a nigger a-shamed, so I set out to see Reynolds. He was rit in fur it. I put on a suit of Reynol’s ould clouse that was about three times two big fur me. Reynolds was to do all the talking. I was to play bashful. So after we had completed our outfit, we started, leaving our

horses and good clouse at the tank, aming to slip off and change clouse, then go back to the dance.

We went up afoot with Reynolds singing a corn song and holloring like a Negro. They were shucking corn when we got thar. Reynolds called fur Scott and told him, "Master has sent us after the cows." He said, "All right boys, pitch in and help us and I will send the little brown judg around fur ther is plenty of snake medison on hand." We got on the oposit side from the crowd, when the light was dim, and Reynolds singing at the top of his voice. Prity soon we had the corn shucked and shelled. The crowd commenst to persuade us to dance. Reynolds told them he could not but I was out of sight on the jig dance. So I had to jig. Reynolds knew what tune I wanted and called fur it. Thar was not a man present but what had sean me dance.

Jim Grimes, a boy I had worked with fur two years, hollo out that he would give ten dollars in gold if John N. Jones was thar to see that nigger dance, that, "Damed if he ain't got evry motion of him!" I weaken in my nees. I tride to change my steps but all to no good. The crowd a-greed we was the best match of a two they had ever sean, if they ever caught Jones and the two niggers together, we had to dance.

Supper was ready. I tride to get Reynolds off. As we had them completely fooled, he wanted to go to the house and wate awhile. We set down in the yard. The first table had et. Scott come and sayd, "Boys, I will bring your supper." He past a goods box where the light would shine on it from the door. I placed my back to it. Reynolds past it so when he would sup his coffee he would roll up the white of his eyes and smack his mouth till you could hear him

fifty yards.

I got tikeled and Jim Grimes knew me at once. He jumped and caught me around the neck and hollowed fur Scott. Scott sayd he would not have treated us that way fur fifty dollars, but could not have hept it when he thought it was Mac's niggers. The boys jest picked me up and carried me in the house fur the ladies to look at. Ould man Johnson was thar. So was Miss Elizabeth. My eyes did not shine with my suite at the dancing school. I went and changed clouse, then Miss Elizabeth had a pardner until sunup and it wasn't Johnson all the time.

Well I will have to pass over many things I would love to tell but time forbids. The Lee boys had a beef contract to furnishe Ft. Smith Shadbern. It was 250 milds North of Bastrop County and prit-near all the way in Indian Country. Nothing would do them but I must go with them. Me and A.P. Lee going a-hed, looking fur Indian signs and locating camp grounds. I will pass over these trips, still that were exciting.

I was helping get up a drov when the ould man Masters started to move up near Waco. We camped at a water hole on Young's Parris. It was my day to get dinner. Lee and Johnson were hearding the cattle when the ould ladie Masters and the two girls drove up to camp. They had come on a-hed in order to get dinner, so I flew round helping them. Prity soon Johnson come up asking me to herd in his place. I toald him Lee had jest asked me to herd in his place. I was a-fraid Lee would think hard of me. In a few minutes Lee rode up. I tould him I had refused Johnson and I did not want to make Johnson mad, so Lee rode back to the herd.

The girls knew I was lying, so I made myself

handy as possible, joying with the girls. I learned that Lee and one of them was going to git married the next winter, so I felt a little like a snake must feel, knowing then, he must have wanted to be with his girl.

Miss Elizabeth tould me that she did not want to talk to Johnson. As the ould man Masters faild to get thar till night, we all camped together. After supper I was setting on the hack tounge, leaning back against the floor gate. Miss Elizabeth come and ask me to get up, me thinking she wanted to get something out of the hack, but she got up and taken a seat on it. So I set back down. The ould man Masters was lying down in the grass with his head on the hack-tounge when Johnson walked up as polite as a French dancing master and asked me to git up a minuet if I pleased. So I did, but clum up and taken a seat bey Miss Elizabeth in the hack. The ould man Masters busted out in a laugh.

Johnson wheeled off and went to bed.

I set up all night talking to Miss Elizabeth.

“Houston - No Superior, Few Equals”

It was in the spring of 1859 and General Houston was running for Governor of Texas. Houston had become unpopular with other southern statesmen because he wanted Texas to stay in the Union. While he served as the Senator from Texas, he voted against the repealing of the “Missouri Compromise.” When that line was run (Mason and Dixon) it was understood that all the territory north of it was to come in as free states, those south as slave states. It was a settled question as far as Congress had to do with it. Christian had bet heavy on Houston being elected, so when he saw that many of his old friends had deserted him, he got un-easy and turned out to electioneer for Houston. Christian had some fast ponies and I had an interest in them, so we took some a-long to trade on and set out to meet Houston. He was canvassing the state, traveling from one county seat to another in a hack, as there wasn't a foot of railroad in the state at that time.

Since our business was simpler, we were soon thrown together. We met him in Palestine, in Anderson county, and traveled together from there to Austin, zig-zagging from one county seat to another. I heard him make seven speeches in clearing up that Senate vote. He said it was the best vote he ever gave in his life and the day would come when it would be so considered.

Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois brought up the bill. Him being a Northerner, he carried a-nuff of the North with a solid south to repeal it. Houston said, “The repealing of this law made war inevitable between the North and the South.” At no distant day, he would point his finger a-round to us boys and tell us we would have to fight battles in that war. It would be a

house-hold divided, father against son and brother against brother. Oh, how fully I have realized this.

We often nooned under the shad of a tree on the road side. Houston would go on and tell what he thought would be the final issue. He knew the Americans were a spaired people and it would almost be a war of extermination. The niggers would be freed and the south subjugated. He shode that, if the south ceceded, she would be in rebellion. The United States would have the backen of all the Civil poneers and the south would be crushed by forse of numbers. He thought the time of war would be soon. He toald us of the strength of the abolition party and how it gained power from one election to another. He thought that as soon as the south got strong a-nuff to elect a President they would ceded and try to establish a Government of thar own and he would show how impossible it would be to have two Goverments in the country. He would quote from George Washington's "Fare Well Address." "In Union thar was strength, divided-weakness." I will say, it came about sooner than he thout, fer when the delegates went to nominate a canidate, they split and run two. Douglas of Illinois and John Breckinride of Kentucky. The ould line whig party had bin in a hopeless condition fer several years, but they rallied and put out John Ball of Tennissee. To devide the vote inshored Lincoln's election. Any man that had two eydes a-bov a toad frog could see hoo would be President. He advised us to stick to the union of our fathers but I would have the reader to know Houston was no ordinary man. He had bin schooled in politics from boyhood, had bin in Congress from Tennissee, then Govenor from that state, Commander in Chief of the Texas forces when She gained her Independence from Mexico. Twice

President of Texas when She was a Republic, and finally a United States Senator. As a Statesman he had but few equals and no superiors. He could delve deeper into the future than any man I have ever seane, show the defects in and tell the consequences of.

I want to give a brief mention of Houston's dress, as it was so different from the men of today (1880). He wore brown linen pants and a coarse linen duster. He wore a calico shirt minus any neck tie. His hat was a homemade beaver. Is it any wonder that President Jackson said of him, "Thar was one man in Texas the taylers had not made."

At Springfield after Houston had made his talk, a young man bey the name of Adcock jumped up and said he was a young man sucking, as it were, from the vary palbs of knowledge, but he could knock the dust from under the oald Senator's feet. Jest as he said this Houston humped up and run his hand over the young man's head and holored out that, "His head is too soft!" The crowd commenst stomping the floor and smacking their hands. He waited until the crowd was a little more silent, then made another effort, but the crowd hissed him down so that was all of his speach that day.

At Waco Houston read from an editorial, where the editor had said, "Houston is in his dotting age and no longer fit to be trusted." They wanted a younger man to be placed at the head of affairs. After reading it, he threw it down and put his foot on it and said he was the smartest man politically in Texas. "Now don't mis-understand me, I may not have the best head or intellect, but I have had the best opportunity of any man in the State." After recalling all the offices he had held, it seamed to sound like it become him to say so.

Houston was elected by a large majority and was inaugurated Governor on Dec. 21, 1859. He continued to warn against the horrors of secession and civil war. This was his stand. He wouldn't take the oath to support the confederat States.

Houston was appraised of the time a committee was coming to pressure him, so he placed a pan of water, bar of soap and hand towel every two feet a-long the wall of the house. When the men came in, he ask them to be seated while he stept to one of the pans and roald up his sleeves, soaped his hands and arms, then washed them. On to the next pan, and so on, till one of the committee men asked the cause of so much washing. He then turned to them and said, "It is to make witness of you. When I came into office, I came in with clean hands and now you can all bair me testimony that I go out of it with clean hands, and I ask you to handle it with clean hands."

This was one of the last official acts of one of the greatest Statesman that Texas has ever had. The abov seems simple, the moral grand and could not have bin conceived in any other brain than that of General Sam Houston.

It has bin 57 years ago sence I have sean him. His featur is plane to me yet. I can almost see him as he would git out of his hack with a Mexican blanket in one hand, to spred down in the shade of a tree. As soon as he would get down, he would commence telling some anicdot.

Home Sick

When we got back and made a few figures, we found our bank account had not growned any. We had run several poney races and had a heap of fun, but it was not good at the bank fur a cent. The only consalation was that we had bin a good company.

Christian began to git up a drove of horses and mules to go to Louisiana. So I fixed to go with him. We soon had them ready to start. We got as fur as the Brases River near the falls. Here we stoped to make camp. Christian was security fur a large det, the parties thinking he was puting his property out of his hands in order to beat it, since he was going across the state line. He got mad when stopped, had to go back to attend a law suit, leaving a man with us to keep us from running the horses, so here we stade three weeks.

The boys agreed to let me off of herd as long as I could keep them in venison and honey. The game was plenty, so I commenst hunting. I kept off of herd three weeks, loved ever minute of it. I sure had a skar. I found some bees close to the bottom and went strat to a large tree that stood two hundred yards in the bottom at the edge. Thar was a dence thicket of dog-wood brush with red bries running over them so thick I could not walk through them. So I lade my gun down and thought I would crale under the vines. I had got some forty yards when a large bair raired up on his hind feet, not more than twenty feet from me, his hair all turned the wrong way. I can tell you fur sure, it did not look as prity as a girl with her hair curled. I tuck hold of a little ceder and lifted myself from the ground, as spri as a monkey. I did not say anything to the boys about finding the bair, but did not bring in any honey that

day eather.

At the end of three weeks Christian come back and had to go back again fur court. I concluded to go on. I had not gone fur til I thought I would go bey and see how the oald man Masters was gitting along. You can bet it was Miss Elizabeth I was thinking about all the time. I found them sixteen milds west of Waco, on the Belton. Thar was two gron boys and two girls.

The boys put at me to stay a few days and they would git up a dance. However, the oald man was going to Waco, and he put at me to go with him. After we got started, he toald me why.

Thar was a man that had a peace of land at Waco that he was forced to sell fur cash. The oald man was not able to bey it bey himself. He wanted me to go in as his partner. The land layd joining the town site. It fronted the river, was a beautiful piece of land. He proposed to slit it eather way, give me all the front on the river or half. I agreed to go in partners with him. He was to go the next day and bey it. He thought it would make us boath rich if we would hold it a few years. Beleave me it would have, as more than half of Waco is on that land today.

When we got back, we had the party, so I spent one more night dancing with the purty girls, as I would ruther dance than to eat when I'm hungry. Now I didn't say how hungry. I spent a lot of my time tolking to Miss Elizabeth. She promest to wate fur me til I went home. She was such a noble girl and I did not treat her right.

After thinking the matter over, I toald the oald man if he would let me off, I would back out on the land trade. So I let a bird go out of my hand, as I counted my money and found if I bought the Waco

land I would have to put off my trip home. I had bin away fur three and a half years, so I had to chuse the land or the trip home.

I let out fur Arkansaw, went through Dallas on the Greenville. I was nooning under the shad of a tree when a man and his son rode up and got down.

After tolking with them, he toald me he had taken the notion to further out since leaving home. As I was goin near his place, he would like to get me to carry a note to his wife. Thar I could rest a day or two and it wouldn't cost me a cent. He lived on Sulpher Rock of Red River. I had to leave the mane road some two milds to get to his place.

I got thar some two hours before sundown, called to stay the night but I was refused. I then toald the lady I had a note from her husband. She then toald me to get down. I found them vary well fixt with two prity girls. They did their best to make me feel at home, toald me I had better stay with them two or three days, but home sweet home was on my mind. I had dun and counted the days that it would take me to see my Mother.

The next morning at the breakfast table i asked my bill. She sayd not a cent. She guess I was like most boys, did not have any more money than I needed to git home on. At this I run my hand in my pocket, got all I could hold and spred it onto the table and remarked, "I have plenty to pay my way." What money I had was gold and loose in my pocket.

She sayd, "You are a boy a-mong a hundred. Your mother ought to be proud of you." She was a good cook, the chuck was delicious, and two prity girls to tolk with, but home was all that was on my brain. So I left the breakfast table fur my horse, with the ould lady and the girls following me to the gate. I bid goodbey, mounted my horse, started on

my way.

As I left, a man rode up to them and tolked a few minutes. He started in the same direction as me, in a lop to ketch up with me. He seamed to be trying to cut me off, so I put my hourse in a lop also. The thought struck me that I had made a vary foolish display of my money and I did not know but the lady had toald him I had a pocket full of gold. He was trying to git a-hed of me in order to rob me. This is the last time in life I have ever made a display of money.

I got to Clarksville and here I left \$50.00 fur new clouse. I wanted to look as good as possible when I got home, so from here on my horse suffered, as I would forget myself and have him in a lope until I notice he was in a lather. Fur his sake, I would have to stop and let him rest, or bring him to a walk. The last three days I rode as fur as I did the first six bey paying close attention to my horse, letting him lope early in the mornings and in the cool of the evening.

The last day of travling, I fell in company with a man who wanted to ride a-long with me, mostly I think to know my business, which I wasn't about to give out. We haden rode fur till questons started rolling out of his mouth like water rolling over a dam. Thinking to myself, "Yu goin haft to git up early to out smart me," and I knew from looking at him, he was a late sleeper. He remarked, "From your dress, guess you-air from Texas." I answered, "You guessed right." He then asked, if they consider me white thar. White or black, I kep good company. He then sayd he was a-fraid I would denide it here in Arkansaw. "You must excuse me, we Arkansaw folks joke rough." He then says he had spent a year in Texas.

I asked, "What part?"

“Walker county near Huntsville.”

At this, I remarked, “Jest as I expected, rit fresh from the pen, or was ye getting a college education?” I then remarked, “We Texans joke prity rough also. We dish it out an can take it in.”

He then wanted to know my name. I toald him as I had the advantage I would keep it. I knew his, had sean him pedlin chickens and eggs, had made him out while tolking to him as ould man Gillum.

(I was riding a Mexican ridged saddle, a bridle made out of buffalo hair, a Mexican blouse trimed in silk tassels, sunburnt as brown as a Mexican, and a pair of silver spurs.)

I rode on and got to the little Missouri at Jones Mill, where my brother Willis lived. Also two Uncles lived thar. It was twelve o'clock. They were eating dinner. I went strat to the door. He asked me to come in, not knowing hoo I was. “This was the Uncle Willis I lived with when I had started to Texas.)

Soon as my Aunt could see me, she hoolowed, “John!”

My Uncle sayd, “How you have changed!” He thought I was some little two bit clerk, sayd, “Ges you have won your spurs! See yu have them on.” (I had on a pair of silver mounted spurs, that had bin taken off of a ded Mexican's heals at San Jacinto by J.M. Christian and presented to me.”)

My brother, Doc Willis, wanted to go to the folks with me, but we would have to waite till night as he had to tend to his store the rest of the day. It was stil some thirty milds to where Father lived.

The next day I was standing behind the counter in my brother's store, when Gillum come in. He hoolowed out in his loud voice. He was even, fur he knew my name. He stude around fur sometime,

telling the boys bout us rideing together and cracking jokes at each other. I didn't want any body to know that I had been sean with him and wished he would get lost. Didn't have to be around him long till you wondered why they ever let him out. It was plane to see he wasn't all thar.

At dark we started fur home. We got to another brother's house at one o'clock (this brother's name was Alford, he was the oalds of us all) he wanted to know why we were traveling so late. Doc sayd we had to go bey Arkadelphia. The weather was so warm we thought we would come that fur that night. Doc introduced me as Mr. Brown. Doc tould Alford that he met a man from Texas that was aquanted with John.

Alford wante to know, "What is John doing? If he stays thar much longer thar is but little hope fur him."

At this my sister-in-law spoke and sayd, "Alford, you are tolking to John now."

He was surprised and wanted to whip me fur fooling him.

I tuck a candle and went to the next room to speek to John Diffee, he was a brother-in-law.

My brother Jo had married, was living about two milds from thar, so we all went to see him. He wanted to know if any-body was sick, since we was all together. He got out of bed and went with us to Father's.

From thar it was ten milds home. All rideing together, four brothers and a brother-in-law, we got thar jest as they were dun with breakfast. I wanted to surprise them, so I stopped about two hundred yards from the house.

The other boys went a-hed to brake the news to Mother. Them getting thar so early, at the mention

of my name she knew I was thar somewhere (It's hard to fool yu mother.) Before I sean her, she had a-hold of me, draging me from my horse. Thar is no words that can give the joy of that meeting.

The news went out over the settlement that I was home. Bey night thar was quiet a crowd thar. Even a preacher was presant.

Father proposed we have preaching, so we did. The Preacher taken fur his tex the Prodigal Son. Every-body was looking at me, making me uneasy. I guess they thought I had bin guilty of evry crime that was possible fur a man to do.

This was July 11, 1859. The old fashion camp meeting was in full blast and I taken them all in, going up to be prayed fur (since they all thought I needed it.) With every little block head praying fur me that I mite have some evidence of my sins being forgiven, all to no purpus.

Every oald Lady talking to me, it seamed as they thought if I could be converted, "The Millenarian would come."

One Parson Denington come and sayd I had religion and didn't know it. He toald me that if a man had a sack of sand on his shoulders and thar was a hole in it, that it would loose out so little at a time that he could not tell where he lost it. Now I don't know what this had to do with me, but he says I ought to join the church. I beged to differ, so I got a-hoult of some Universal books and read them and the Scripturs tel I got to defending them to the sins of my past.

Miss Jane

I had bin going with first one girl then another, likeing them all. One Mr. Henry Wright had bin waiting on one Miss Jane Box. She was considered the pritest girl in the country. Any-body could see that. Wright sayd he would like to see me try to go with Miss Box. I would find that good clouse would cut no ice with her. I thought this a banter, and as it was on my way home I would go bey and give Miss Jane a call. I had no thought of falling in love with her. I was only wanting to show Wright up. I still had Miss Elizabeth on the brain, did not think any other girl could take her place with me, however she was back in Texas.

As I road up, Miss Jane was weaving under a shed at the end of the house, so I went strate to where she was, asking if she knowed me. She sayd she had sean me around. She comminced to git off the bench. I spoke and tould her I had come to take lessons in weaving, fur her to go a-head with her work.

I set fer a spell and watched her, wondering how I could have over looked such a purity girl. I had a feeling that I had never felt before. I toald her I had come fur the purpose of talking to her. I knew Wright was waiting on her. I did not want to interfer if they were engaged. However, since she saw Wright only on Sunday, I would be a-bliuged if I may call on her dureing the week. She sayd they were not engaged and they would never be, as he was not her kind. He was very industrious but rough in his manors. He did not suit her.

I made regular trips to Parson Box's house, calling on Miss Jane. She got puriter each time I saw her. She had beautiful black eyes that would

shine and tell you something each time she looked at you. With a beautiful complexion and black hair that shined like a raven. I knew that I was falling in love with her, but had to git off to my-self to think things over and compair her with my Texas girl, Miss Elizabeth.

My brother Doc wanted me to go with him into the Choctaw Nation. He was selling goods on com-mision. I was to go into business with him if we could find some good locations.

When we got thar, we did not see any Whites or Indians, so we concluded to go further into the Nation to find out where the settlement was. We went into the Nation south of Rich Mountain, crossed the three rivers and it comenst raining a regular downpore fur two days and nights without a break. The streams was up so we had to stay with a full-blood three days. We faired not the best but thar was no choice. It was that or nothing.

When we got to Mountain Fork it was swimming. So we had to put up again fur the night with a Indian and a White man. The white man had married the Indian's sister. All of them lived together in thar filth. A harder looking bunch of humanity I have ever spent a night with.

We were better dressed than the average Arkan-saw man, was riding good horses and sported a nice watch and fob chane.

The next morning they sayd they would show us where we could cross the river, Doc saying we could manage fur ourselves. As we were ready to leave I noted one had gone on a-hed of us. They sayd to pay no attention to the road and follow some blases on the trees. It was switch cane. We struck the over-flow about nee-deep. I toald Doc the river would swim a steam boat.

We got down to where I could see the current of both streams. Looking across the creek, seen the white man stick his head out from behind a tree then jerk it back.

At this I wheeled my horse and threw my spurs into his side, called my brother to get back and run like hell. We got out of there as fast as we could, heading down the river. It was but a few years after this till they were both hunted down and killed for murder by the U.S. Marshals.

We failed to find a location to suit us, so we thought we would buy up some beef cattle, fatten them out through the winter and sell them on the spring market. We got the cattle, bought up some corn and went to work. I tended to the cattle and made regular trips to Parson Box's, calling on Miss Jane. I soon got to thinking Miss Jane was the girl for me. I would compare her with my Texas girl and finally decide that she possessed more of the noble traits that it takes to make a good wife.

In January we got married. This was in the year of 1857. We was so happy and just suited for each other.

I settled on a piece of vacant land adjoining Father's and put in fifteen acres of land, doing all the work my-self. I split rails to fence it. I made two bales of cotton, corn a-nuff to do us. It was in January I had a long spell confined to my bed for two months. I come down with a fever and had the blues in the worst way. Had a pretty wife and baby, me not able to work to support them.

We had the most beautiful spring that year. I can smell the spring mornings yet. Guess it was cause I loved my good wife Jane and our baby girl so much. I told Jane if I could get some-body to plant my crop, I thought I was able to work it. She must have

spread the word around the settlement. About two days later, I looked out the window and saw several men coming with their plows and teams. I called, "The neighbors are coming to plant our crop for us." That was enough of them to lay off the land and break the middles out as they went. She welcomed them as if she was expecting them to come, so I am sure she had something to do with it as they said nothing to me, but went right to work. I have had many favors through life, but I think I felt more grateful for this than any I have ever received.

This proved to be one of those dry years. None of the crops could make it through the hot summer, so we were once again looking for another place with no money.

Jane had a uncle that lived in the lower end of the county. He asked us to come down there as he thought I could get work. This was on the little Missouri River. He reported good crops there. In August we moved in with Jane's uncle for three weeks until we could get a place of our own.

We took a contract to build a "Masonic Hall." We were building it out of pine logs, two stories high. Uncle and I worked early and late so to get done in time to make a crop.

By this time I found there was a good crop of white oak acorns and no hogs to eat them. So I bought two hundred hogs on the shares. I was to get every third hog. I took them down there and tended to them till they got fat. I rode daily after them to keep them gentle and the bears off. I lost but three hogs.

Meat was a good price, six and seven cents a pound. I had 30 head of my own, so the next year I built up to 70 head. The deer had gathered to the mast and the number of deer I killed was immense.

I bought forty acres of land, bought a thousand

rails to fence it. Ten acres were cleared off. I had to grub out the other 30 acres. I paid for all my land in cash from hunting deer and selling vineson, and from the money I made from my hog stock. It did look like at last I was going to get a hold on life.

That year I put in a good crop, but my wife had got in bad health. She grew worse every day. Doctors finally said it was consumption and advised me to travel with her, so I got a hack and we traveled a while, but she soon got tired and we went to stay with her father. She had give birth to a baby boy and it required all of my time to wait on her and the baby.