

I will give you some information as to the life of my dad. He was born in Illinois on October 26, 1843, and grew up on a small farm where his mother and older sisters made most of his clothes. His father would go hunting and kill a deer or bear and tan the hide to make shoes for the family.

When Dad got old enough to go out working the only place he could get work was in the pinery. He purchased a team of horses and a logging sleigh and hauled logs from the hills down on the river, where they would float down the river to a saw mill in the spring. At this time there were many wolves in the area of the pinery. In order to haul logs he had to keep his team sharp shod. There were no blacksmith's in his camp so he had to go to another camp where they had a blacksmith to shoe his horses. It happened this time he was very busy (the blacksmith) and, did not get to dad's team until late in the afternoon so when he started for home it was getting dark. He had not gone far, when he noticed a lone wolf setting by the side of the road, as he passed by the wolf let out a howl and the whole woods rang with an answer to this, and soon a large group of wolves were on his trail. Dad let his team run as fast as they could, but all the while the wolves were gaining on him. He said, at one time he could feel their breath on his back. The only thing that saved him was when someone from the camp was late in getting back a group of men with lanterns and guns would go out to meet the one that was late in returning, so it happened this night and when the wolves saw the lights they begin to fall back, because they were afraid of the lights.

Time went on and the Civil war broke out and Dad was in that age bracket and was drafted, so he came home from the pinery intending to go to war but when he got home found that his mother had hired a man to go in his place (as was the practice then) so he did not have to go. And the story goes that this man did not return.

In Dads family there were three boys Oscar, Barnabus, and Perry (dad), Three sisters only one that I heard the name mentioned and that was Matilda, she married Charlie Hillard for a time lived in Lewis Valley but later moving on. They were grown up and married now. They heard there was some cheap land in Wisconsin so they started out to into Wisconsin. The older brother, Oscar stopped off at what is

now known as Holmen and bought a farm about a mile east of there. Dad and Barney were married to sisters. Jenny Briggs was dad's first wife. To dad and Jenny was born Lila, Pearl, Lu Lucette, Elsie, Lester, Chauncey, and Alonzo (Lon) dad later married Elizabeth Mallas of Fountain City, Wisconsin and that is where I came in.

Dad and Barney went on up to Trempealeau County and into a valley called Lewis Valley. Here there was government land for sale or homestead, this land could be bought for \$2.25 an acre. My dad bought 160 acres about a mile up into Lewis Valley and Barney homesteaded 160 acres joining dad's. It was pretty wild country at that time no buildings and the land was grown up to poplar and under brush. Barney had a little experience in carpentering so he helped dad build a house they lived in for a few years while they were grubbing and breaking the land. It was a slow process as most of the field work was done with oxen. Sometimes they became discouraged but there was a neighbor named Carlous Gordon who encouraged them to hang tough. He helped them to purchase a couple cows and some pigs so they could have milk and meat and managed to raise something to feed them.

At this time the closest town was Fountain City where they could get flour and groceries and, that was about 30 miles away with horse and buggy. As time went on the railroad came through from Winona to Green Bay and then the town of Arcadia started up (up until this time there was only a store on the hill above what is now known as Arcadia) with a blacksmith shop. After They got some land broke there became a demand for spring wheat for flour so they could raise a crop that would bring some money.

The first house they built was not a warm house so they later decided to build a better house so dad and Barney built a better and warmer house, the one he lived in until his death in February 1939.

Dad's first wife died at the age of 39 leaving 7 children the youngest only two years old. (this being Pearl) A few years later dad married my mother Elizabeth Mallas from Fountain City I was born October 15, 1892. I grew up on the home farm and attended grade school in Lewis Valley going on to High School in Arcadia, being much persuaded by my mother to keep on, as had to get up in the morning, do chores, get my horse harnesed and drove the cutter to school in the winter and the buggy in the nice weather. I graduated from High School in 1919. I continued working at home until I married Kate E. Gray in 1922. I bought the farm from my dad and build a house across the road from dad's in 1923. Kate and I lived here 33 years.