

saw-mill there; and in the winter of 1837-38, and the spring of 1838, his efforts were devoted in that direction until the mill was completed,—which, I think, was the first one in Jefferson county.¹

By these means and under these circumstances were my father's family transferred from their old home in the state of Vermont to their new home in the Territory of Wisconsin. Our settlement at Lake Mills occurred in September, 1837.

My recollection of these early scenes, and the incidents connected therewith, are as fresh in my memory to-day as though they had just occurred. There were then but very few settlers within the present limits of Jefferson county. There were settlements at Watertown, Aztalan, Jefferson, Fort Atkinson and Lake Mills, comprising only a very few persons at each point.

These early settlers were inspired not a little by the spirit of adventure. They left their homes in New England and New York, where the most of them were born, to better their condition. They had read the wonderful tales which had been told of this splendid country, and came to it to make homes for themselves and their families. They did not at first realize the hardships they would be obliged to undergo, the privations they would have to endure, and the many discouragements that were sure to meet them in every step of their progress. If they had, I believe many of them would have remained at home.

The first thing they had to do upon arriving here was to roll up a log cabin and furnish a place wherein their families could live. But very little furniture could be brought

¹ It is stated in *Hist. Jefferson Co.*, p. 336, that the first saw-mill in Jefferson county was erected during the summer of 1836, at Hebron, on Bark river, and was "completed and ready for work in the winter of 1836-37." Goodhue's saw-mill, at Watertown, previously alluded to, was turning out lumber by December, 1837. Royal Tyler's narrative, in *Hist. Jefferson Co.*, p. 540, says: "The first saw-mill in the village of Lake Mills was built by Capt. Joseph Keyes, which went into operation in the fall of 1839. In the fall of 1842, Captain Keyes erected the first grist-mill in the county of Jefferson, on the same water-power as the saw-mill named above." Enoch G. Darling, however, is credited (*Id.*, p. 336) with erecting the first grist-mill in the county, at Hebron, in the summer of 1837.—ED.