

In our part of the back hall, Mrs. Daniel Curtis (wife of Captain Curtis, U. S. A.) was killed by lightning three months before, while alone in the house with her three little children. When her neighbors discovered her lying dead on the floor, her babe lay asleep in the cradle, and her two little children were at the table eating; a fourth child was at school. Mrs. Curtis was a grandmother of the wife of Gen. Phil. Sheridan.¹

We found that our goods had arrived, but no servant was to be procured; so we set about making ourselves as comfortable as we could. In those days there were no markets, no bakeries, no one who sold cooked food in any form. Everyone had to do her own cooking, which was all very well for those who knew how; but only think of the plight of those who, like myself, did not! Having always been a petted child, being an only one, my education in the housekeeping line was at first no better than in any other.

We lived alone in the large house nearly two months. My husband's office was near Judge Lawe's place, some two miles away. I was alone all day, with not a human being near me. The nearest house was that of Robert Irwin, Jr., about a quarter of a mile (as I have already stated) through a thick wood. As I did not talk English, speaking only a few words, and understanding it as little, conversation with my neighbors was not interesting to me, and I did not seek them as I would have done had they spoken French. In consequence, my life was very solitary. My husband would mount his horse directly after breakfast, and I would not see him again until near evening. But housekeeping was new and difficult for me, and there was little time left to fret. That I shed many tears I cannot deny, but they were all wiped away and forgotten, as soon as my husband arrived home.

¹ "Captain Curtis's daughter Irene married General Rucker, U. S. A., and their daughter became the wife of General Philip H. Sheridan."—Neville and Martin's *Historic Green Bay* (Green Bay, 1893), p. 193. Curtis, on leaving the army, became a Green Bay school-teacher; but after teaching for a year was succeeded by A. G. Ellis.—Ed.