

veyed by the United States. He was a regular squatter, a typical backwoodsman. He had broken and fenced in a few acres of land, built a log house for himself and another one for his son, also the necessary log stables, cribs, and a good spring house. He owned a span of horses, and a dozen or more of cows and other cattle, hogs and chickens—in fact everything necessary to start a farm, but he did not seem to be very industrious nor fond of work. He devoted more time to trapping and hunting than to farming, and so did his son. His nearest neighbors north were Hamilton's settlement about five miles distant; on the east, not a vestige of a habitation could be seen or was known for miles. On the west, the nearest settler was Hastings, across the river some five miles; but on the south, a few miles away, J. R. Schultz, a Pennsylvania German, had lately made his home, with his wife and children,¹ and a mile or so farther Stephen Armstrong and his wife had located. The old man Lot felt that he was getting crowded, and therefore desired to move farther west, where he would have more room for his pursuits. He was well known to Gratiot and to Hamilton, and to his place we went with a view of buying his claim, if it suited and we could agree. We left the whole matter to our friends, neither my uncle nor I feeling competent to express any opinion. The result was that we bought the place with all his stock of horses, cattle, hogs, and implements for my mother. I do not remember what the consideration was, but I was satisfied with the bargain, the location being quite pleasing.

The houses were built upon a hill and stood in the midst of several acres of cultivated land. To the east was a river-bottom field of about the same size. In front the Peck-

¹ The *History of La Fayette County* (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881), p. 592: "In 1833, J. R. Schultz and Peter Corish settled in the town [Gratiot]. Of Mr. Schultz it is related that he was an honorable and generous-hearted but fire-eating Kentuckian, who taught his children to fight on the slightest insult against their honor, or expect a sound drubbing from him if they did not. He was a highly respected citizen, and lived here many years."—ED.