

tion. Outside of my books and studies, I was the most ignorant fellow imaginable, and of practical agriculture I had not the slightest idea, never having had an axe, a hoe, or any other implement of the kind in my hands. Of course, I supposed I could soon learn all that would be necessary to make a farmer of me, and made up my mind to do so. But I broke down. My constitution would not permit me to labor in the field, and I was assigned to some of the lighter duties, the principal one of which was to supply the family with game, as that was the only chance we had of getting fresh meat. That occupation was particularly well suited to my taste.

The country was full of game; prairie chickens, partridges, quails, ducks, geese, and deer were abundant. One evening while hunting somewhere below where the village of Darlington, La Fayette County, is now situated, I counted more than fifty deer in a herd, but I could not get within shooting distance. Later in the season, when our cabbages in the garden were nearly full grown, they were almost all eaten up one night by a lot of deer which had jumped the fence, within a hundred feet of our dwelling, and regaled themselves at our expense. This was repeated several times.

Still more annoying were the wolves. Every clear summer evening, after sundown, we could hear their whoo-oo-o-oo, in the distance, which would be answered from another direction, and again from another, until the whole horizon seemed to be alive with their howls. Our dogs would answer them, but after we had retired the wolves would venture even on our stoop, and our cowardly dogs, of which we had two, would not dare to attack them, but forsook their post and hid themselves under the house. When the wolves heard us getting up, they would instantly retreat, and I never could get a shot at them. Our neighbor, J. R. Schultz, was awakened early one morning by their howling, and the invasion of his stoop. Jumping out of bed and seizing his rifle, he cautiously opened the door, intending to kill the intruders; but to his surprise he found