

## *The Aftermath*

Okona, where we camped. Next day we drove on to Boeffers, where we arrived at noon. After a good meal there, I headed for home, arriving about 2 o'clock. I went to town to a lodge meeting in the evening. On the 19th I went to the saw mill in Morristown.

*Dad and two other men went up the Minnesota River Valley in the summer of 1866. He left a record of all of this trip in a diary, but we know nothing more about it. He evidently never went back up there, at least we have no record of it. In his diary, where he speaks of "running" a line, I think that he would mean to divide a 640 acre tract of land into quarter section tracts of 160 acres each. Every ex-soldier could take a claim of 160 acres. They each took a claim and built three log cabins. They also broke up a little sod, and planted some corn and potatoes. They also mowed some hay with a scythe, and stacked it. Dad undoubtedly figured on going back sometime but he never did. (M.H.B.)*

☆ 1867

Apr. 20th. Went up to the sugar bush today to look around. The snow is all gone and the ground about dry. Apr. 27th. They cleaned the seed wheat. No mention is made of how it was done, or of what kind of a mill they had to do it with. On April 29th and 30th they seeded the wheat. It was probably sown by hand, as no mention is made of a machine at any time. After the wheat was seeded he went up to Sam Lillys to get some seed oats, but no luck there, so he went on to Faribault, where he bought 24 bushels at \$1.10 per bu. Sunday May 5th they went to the Baptist Episcopal church.

*May 6th he finished sowing his oats and on the 7th they finished sowing his Dad's wheat, and commenced on the oats. May 9th they finished the oats for his Dad, but they had been delayed by rain. On May 10th they finished the dragging. At that time the grain was all covered with a drag. It no doubt was a very crude affair, very likely a home made outfit. They only had 24 bushels of oats, and that probably would seed about six or eight acres. This grain, all sown by hand, would mean a lot of leg work as they went back and forth across the rough plowed ground. Then more leg work following the small drag, pulled by a team of horses or a yoke*