

1867

of oxen. They, no doubt had to make many trips back and forth across the field to cover the grain. The land was all plowed with a 14 or 16 inch walking plow pulled by a team of horses or a yoke of cattle. A lot more leg work here.

On May 4th they planted 4 acres of corn. Here again was lots more leg work, as the land was plowed, then dragged smooth, marked both ways then planted by hand. They might have had one of those jabber planters or they might have planted with a hoe, either way was a lot of walking.

May 5th was cold and windy, and Dad went fishing up to the lake. He made no report as to what luck he had.

They must have had some cattle, for he spent several days fixing up the pasture fence. He tells later of building a pasture up near the house. Undoubtedly the pasture fences were made of rails, which were cut and split in the woods. It was many years before there was any barbed wire. On June 10th he was out plowing for Rutabagas, and finished the job on the 11th. He didn't get the ground ready and the Rutabagas (sowed) as he expressed it until June 17th. It sounds like he scattered the seed broadcast and maybe they did; we have no proof to the contrary. There is no record of how the crop turned out or how it was harvested. (M.H.B.)

☆ 1867

A very heavy rain fell on June 23rd. The ground is very wet and the crops suffering.

The corn needs working very badly, but is too wet, June 27th, Cal Jackson, an old army comrade came over and they worked on the corn. Through the whole year Dad was working in the saw mill and in the woods and also attending to his farming. His father went to Faribault on June 29th, and he speaks of hoeing corn about all day. They had a single row one horse cultivator, but a lot of hand work was done with a hoe. They had one of those old wooden beam, wooden shank two shovel cultivators stored over head in the old barn when it burned down in 1955. I think it was one that Dad brought out with him when he came out in 1875. The shovels on it were very large about six by ten inches, and bolted to the wood shank. (M.H.B.)