

government for doing this. Trees were coming in style here. When the sod for the grove was turned over, perhaps they let it lay over one year, to let the frost act on it. Then it was plowed or backset, as they called it in the spring. This would crumble up the sod and a better place to plant, either trees or crop.

Eventually the trees were planted and the new orchard started — apples, wild plums, grapes and even some mulberries. Their dreams were gradually becoming realities. It isn't very likely that this was all done in one year, or even two. It was slow going with the wooden beam breaking plow, that turned one furrow at a time and was pulled by four horses or oxen. The other tools were just as crude.

It took time and hard, backbreaking work to do the things that they wanted done, but they were stickers. The weaklings were soon weeded out. The two oldest boys were big enough to help and the oldest child, a girl, was a lot of help to Ma. The older children attended the district school which was close by. School was held in the spring and summer, a three months term. Mina Bedford was the first teacher at \$20.00 per month. The reason for this, no doubt, was the difficulty and cost of heating the building in the winter, and the danger of the winter storms. We were lucky to live so close. Many of the kids had to travel a mile or two.

It wasn't always winter here with the snow and cold. The spring, summer and autumns were good because they brought the rain and good crops for the most part. That would mean money to jingle and to buy the necessities of life and a few of the so-called luxuries. Among the luxuries that might have been counted was some coal and wood to burn. This was really luxury for it did away with the everlasting job of twisting hay and gathering the chips, Buffalo, not poker. Ma and the kids likely hailed that with delight. Hay and chips are all right in their place but that place isn't in the house. The new clothes were not really a luxury, but a necessity. I bet they felt pretty luxurious at first. It may be that another lamp or a lantern was obtained, and that was another step up the ladder.

The winter of 1883 was another bad one for snow and storms. But there were better prepared this time. A big load of food and other supplies was brought out early in the fall. There would be plenty of sugar, flour and coffee, with a big jug of the new table