

IRA RICE (1793-1868)

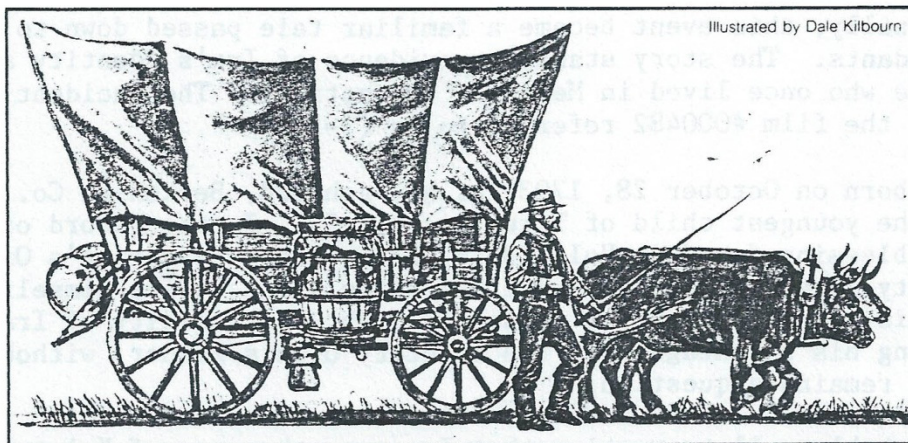
(2) SARAH ANN HARRINGTON (1800- abt. 1846/7)

Several admirable endeavors have been made in recent years to record the incidents and circumstances surrounding the life and works of Ira Rice and his three wives. Some details have been rather illusive but, even so, much has been found in these several accounts to have had common agreement and have thus been very helpful in the writing of this treatise. The many detached bits of evidence now on hand should make for a more complete statement of facts.

It is well that we should consider the great colonizer that Ira was and that he lived during the period of time when the bounds of America's vast western lands were still unrealized.

This treatise must follow Ira in his travels of over three thousand miles of wilderness territory at a time when modes of travel were the heavy wagon wheels of the Prairie Scooner or Conastoga Wagon; when walking was not yet out of fashion and horseback riding was no less than the best to be had.

Conveniences of land travel was counted by what food could be obtained from mother nature's supply of wild animals on her prairies or fish from her streams. Any other provisions could be stored and taken along in the wooden stave barrels that were held together by metal hoops. Not least of the many conveniences was the covered wagon box that served as a home, a shelter for the weary as the miles were passed over, a place to rest on the ground beneath its shade or sleep under its protection during the night. We cannot underate the benefits to be had from the campfires built at mealtime and the comforts that it gave as it lit up a social camp gathering or warmed the heart of each weary traveler.



The day would have been spent, if not riding on the bumpy, heaving wagon seat, walking alongside the outfit to prod the beasts-of-burden when their haul became tiresome. Some rode horseback to ease the weight of the wagon or herd the trailing livestock.

Not all of Ira's time was spent in travel. He subdued the wilderness in

several spots of the good earth. We must consider the times when he cleared the land for farming endeavors. He was building what was later to become a commonwealth of profitable land endeavors and an Empire of towns and cities as we know them today. He left a heritage of immeasurable values, not only for his large family of descendants, but for all who came after to reap the harvest that his labors began. He was a pioneer in the true sense of the word for he was not so much concerned about himself but was a master in the art of helping others in their attempt to plant posterity in the Valleys of the Rocky Mountains. He was to see prophecies fulfilled and assist in exertions that pointed the way for descendants to be a part of one of the greatest plans that the Lord has yet ordained for man on this earth. A Zion was in the making.

As near as was possible, the material for this writing was selected with care. The discourse "Footprints of Ira" by Eva (Rice) Howell and Loretta (Rice) Child Rice was basic to whatever additional information was had. ¹ Extensive notes, letters, and official papers were consulted and then all cross-referenced with family group sheets found in the files of the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City. ² Much additional information is included that has not been recorded before. The travels of the writer to areas of Ira's sojournings were profitable in terms of material evidence of his experiences and accomplishments.

Ira's father, Titus, first married Lois Kellogg by whom he had one daughter, Susanna. This marriage ended in a separation. He then married Rachel _____. This fact is verified by the death record of a daughter, Rachel (see p. 63), who died at age 9. Evidently Titus' second wife died for he called upon his half-sister, Rebecca, Mrs. Jotham Mitchell, to care for the child.

Ira was known to have mentioned having a little sister, Rachel, (actually a half-sister) who had died at the age of 9 years in the flames of a burning house, the home of the Mitchell family. The Mitchell's lost a child also in this incident.

Traditionally, this event became a familiar tale passed down to many of Ira's descendants. The story stands as evidence of Ira's identity as the son of Titus Rice who once lived in Meriden, Connecticut. The incident is mentioned on the film #000482 referred to in (1-5).

Ira was born on October 28, 1793, at New Ashford, Berkshire Co., Mass. (map #14), the youngest child of Titus Rice (1-5). In the record of Ira's Patriarchal blessing found in Vol. 13, p. 277, Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah, his parents are listed as given by Ira himself, as Titus and Lois Rice. We have no reason to doubt the validity of Ira's statement regarding his parentage, but the identity of his mother, without her maiden name, remains a question.

It is probably well to mention that Ira gave the name of Kelsey to one of his sons and Kelsey has appeared as a name for several of Ira's descendants. Such transfer of a maternal name is a common custom. Could Ira's mother have been Lois or Louis Kelsey? However, no document has been found, to date, to substantiate this suggestion. The only record of the third wife of Titus, other than that found on Ira's Patriarchal blessing was a Berkshire Co. land

transaction in which Lois signed her name, Louis Rice, along with that of her husband Titus. It was in New Ashford, Berkshire Co., Mass., that Ira spent his childhood.

The 1790 census listed Titus as head of a family of children; two girls and three boys. It has not been proven whether these were children of Titus or if any of these five children became a part of his household as step-children; children by a former marriage of Lois. We have no record of the exact date of Titus' third marriage, otherwise we could determine which of her children were born to her and Titus. They all went by the name of Rice and according to birth date estimates, they could be the children of Titus if his third marriage took place shortly after his release from military service. We then could state that Ira, who was born in 1793, had brothers and sisters older than he, a half-brother and two half-sisters who were also older. The story of Titus (1-5) lists the family as accurately as is possible at this time.

It is thought that Ira's parents died in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, probably in the area of New Ashford. They were not listed in the 1798 special census of Mass., nor have they been found in any New York records.

Evidence points to the fact that Ira was but a young boy when he was left an orphan, for he is next heard of in the area of Manchester, Ontario County, New York, with his older brothers who had migrated west into the Great Lakes area of Northern New York State. Jacob had made the move with his wife when Ira was a baby. His brothers, Gideon and Jotham, followed later, probably after the death of the parents, and Ira was probably taken with them. The Rice boys have been located upon census and land records in the area of Manchester, only a few miles distance from the town of Palmyra, New York. There seems to be no record to show that Titus and his wife ever left Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

While in New York state, it is possible that the Rices were introduced to the circumstances surrounding the great event of heavenly visitations as they were announced by the young prophet, Joseph Smith. The prophet's translation of the Book of Mormon and the proceedings connected with the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were no less astonishing. The claim of revelation was a far cry from the generally accepted thought of the time so the alarming news of the prophet spread far and wide. One can hardly imagine an avoidance of such news, nor lived so close without feeling the great community arousals of the opinionated people at large. However, thirty years was to pass before the message of the Book of Mormon had any significant impact upon Ira, though we cannot discount the possibility of sympathetic leanings while he was a resident in Manchester and other near towns in New York.

It was during the years 1804-06 that Lewis and Clark traveled their storied trail, enduring some of the most trying circumstances to explore America's northwest. Together these two young men led a band of leather-tough frontiersmen over 8,500 miles of uncharted wilderness. The incident of this exploration gives us an historical landmark with reference to the time of Ira's early years.



Lewis and Clark

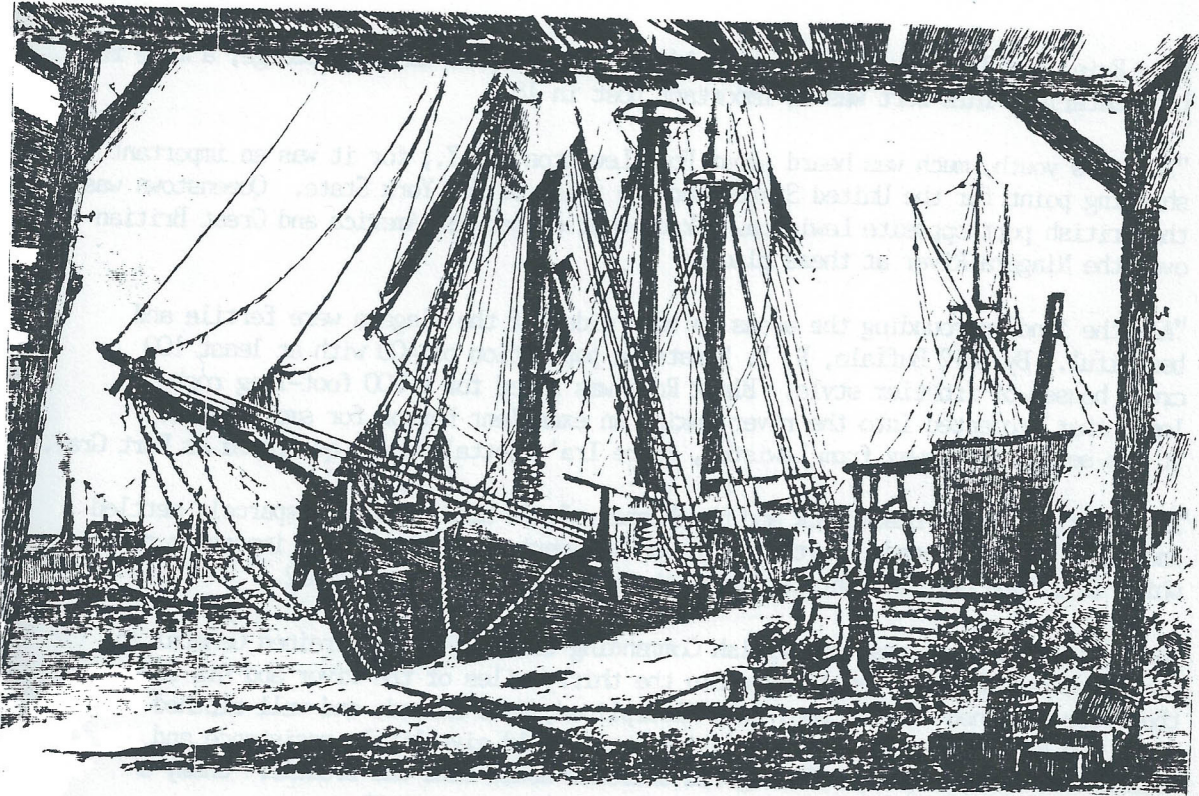
Ira was living in Manchester, New York, where his older brothers had settled with their families at the time of his enlistment (May 13, 1812) in the War of 1812. He was then 19 years of age.

A state of unrest had existed in the New York area, as in all of New England, following the boundary dispute that had been settled after the Revolutionary War.

The British, in that particular area, held territories to the West of the thirty mile distance of the Niagara river between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Ira became familiar with the fertile land that bordered both sides of the river and he, no doubt, had heard much about the importance of waterways to American shipping. The British, holding the opposite bank of the river, were well fortified. For some time prior to the War of 1812, both British and Americans engaged in preparation for a coming conflict.

History tells us that officials of the State of New York called for volunteers even before the United States Government had declared war with England, July 6, 1812. These recruits set out in rainy weather with no camp outfits or supplies. They had to depend on farm families in and near Buffalo, N. Y., for food and shelter.

Ira's enlistment in May tells us that he was among these early recruits or state troops.



At the Docks in Buffalo

His military service is recorded as follows:

"Division of Military and Naval Affairs of the Dept. of the Executive Dept. Office of the Adjutant Gen. WR 055-War of 1812 - Albany, N. Y.

"Ira Rice private, Capt. Daniel Jennings' Co. of Col. Philetus Swift's (Ontario Co.) Regiment, N.Y. State Militia, War of 1812, served from May 13, 1812, to Sept. 13, 1812, in service at Lewiston and Black Rock, N. Y.

"Ira Rice, private, in Capt. Joe. S. Hart's Co. of Col. Peter Allen's (Oneonta Co.) Regiment N. Y. State Militia, War of 1812, served from 1 July 1812 to 1 Oct. 1812 in service at Lewiston, N. Y. - substitute for Ralph Cleveland, from 1 Oct. 1812 in same company in Col. Hugh W. Dobbin's (Seneca Co. N.Y.) Regiment. N. Y. State Militia, War of 1812, from 1 Oct. 1812 to 1 Jan. 1813, in service at Manchester, N. Y.

"Ira's enlistment papers describe him as a farmer, five feet eight inches tall, light hair, blue eyes, having come from New Ashford, Berkshire County, Massachusetts." 4

Eva (Rice) Howell, with the help of notes written by Rhoda Barnes, compiled a review of war incidents as they occurred in the Niagara River area:

"The eastern side of the river was held by the Americans. The river could be easily crossed by boat except for eight miles of rapids above the great Niagara Falls and those of the beautiful Gorge...On the opposite banks of the waters, between Lake Ontario and

Lake Erie, the British continued to hold Forts. One post was Fort George, a mile from Lake Ontario. This fort was an important post in 1812.

"In Ira's youth, much was heard about Fort Lewiston, N. Y., for it was an important shipping point for the United States and the pride of New York State. Queenstown was the British port opposite Lewiston. Trade went on between America and Great Britain over the Niagara River at these places.

"All the land surrounding the areas on both sides of the Niagara were fertile and beautiful. By 1812 Buffalo, N. Y. boasted a population of 400 with at least 100 crude houses of frontier style. Black Rock was named for a 200 foot-long rock ledge that projected into the river making an excellent harbor for small boats. It was seven miles away from Lewiston, where Ira's battalion was quartered at Fort Gray.

"The country between Black Rock and Manchester, Ira's home, was only sparsely settled and not much cultivated. Fort Niagara was in American hands, a most important post which fell into British control during the process of the War of 1812.

"General Isaac Brock was the British Commanding Officer, a well trained General and though he had but 1500 men to maintain the thirty miles of the river and his forts, they were seasoned trained men, well disciplined, well housed, and well clothed and fed. The British were sure that the Americans would give little resistance and the British soldiers, in their flaming red uniforms would find the frontier enemy a push over to the great embarrassment of the American government...

"New York's Governor Tompkins grew restless and on April 2nd, 1812, he began calling for volunteers. These volunteers began slowly to gather at Buffalo, Black Rock, Lewiston and Fort Niagara. It was the 13th of May, 1812, when Ira joined up and was stationed with Daniel Jennings in Lewiston. It was here that Ira found his comrades in a motly mess...Mr. Babcock in his history book quotes a letter from a commanding officer, written to Washington. Pres. Madison became aware of the conditions that existed in the American forces. The letter made references to the fact that the men were all wretchedly disciplined and poorly equipped; no tents of any kind. Matters were so bad that the officer in charge proposed dismissing all the men before dissatisfaction mounted to the point of 'desertion without permission'. He reported little bread could be bought from farmers and cooking utensils were lacking. The men had no uniforms and their only weapons were personally owned. Disease had broken out among the men due to bad food, poor quarters and a complete lack of control. They had few pieces of field weapons; disorder was everywhere. General Brock had a perfect right to presuppose the outcome.

"It is well that the American men didn't know, then, that fellow American citizens were growing wealthy selling beef and hogs to the enemy who ate well while their patriots-in-arms grew ill on salt pork and beans...

"Situated on each side of the Niagara River were these apposing camps; the Red Coats on the Canadian side in plain sight of the ragged American volunteers. Each camp waited, expecting a visit from the other. Each camp seemed to be maneuvering to make bold appearances of 'great business' but every move was a fake unworthy of the making. Weeks went by with reinforcements arriving but under orders on the American side, no firing occurred.

"The American boys grew restless and disgusted with the delays as they watched the British build a battery across the river right under their noses, aimed at killing

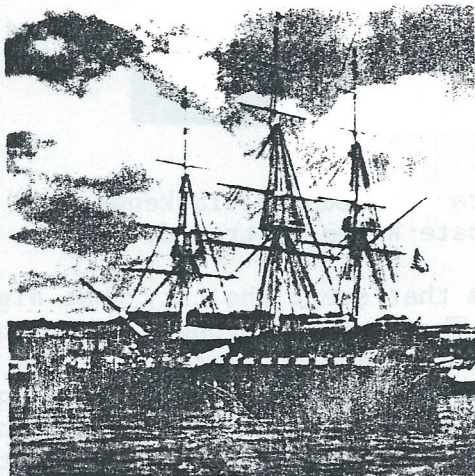
everyone of them, they thought, while they were to stand still and watch."⁵

Mrs. Barnes' account makes statements which indicate that the first moves were made by a few soldiers who took it upon themselves to start some action. They shot to frighten the British and when the dust cleared away they could see the enemy running in all directions like crazy. This maneuver was followed by an official plan as quoted below.

"The men at Fort Gray, Lewiston, were to be ferried across the river, gather at the western side and by morning take the enemy by surprise. Not a bad idea, but poorly arranged... Only 12 boats actually succeeded in making the crossing, and, instead of the British being surprised, they were on hand to greet them. The Americans were fired upon as they were attempting, in the most disorderly manner, to return to the American side. Some took cover at the water's edge under overhanging banks. Some, navigating the river, drifted down stream and were captured by the British. The casualties among these few men were high. It was a case of shooting ducks in a pond at close range. The American men, whether in boats or swimming for their lives, saw the hail of bullets as they fell into the waters around them. Ira Rice, as the story goes, was among the fellows who sought cover at the river's edge until he was carried safely down stream, holding firmly to his broken-off tree branch...

"So far as he knew, he might have been the only one spared, but this is not likely, for others lived to tell the same tale. The ill-advised undertaking had employed every 'don't' in military science and it would seem that it happened as the last war experience for Ira." ⁶

His enlistment period was finished Jan. 1st, 1813 which does not concur with the dates of the above incident but, nonetheless, Ira's story was told by himself many times in later years and remembered by his descendants to find a place of record in several accounts.



THE FRIGATE, U.S.S. CONSTITUTION—MASS. Moored at the Boston Naval Shipyard, "Old Ironsides" was the scourge of privateers and was victorious against the British in 1812. 30,B-4

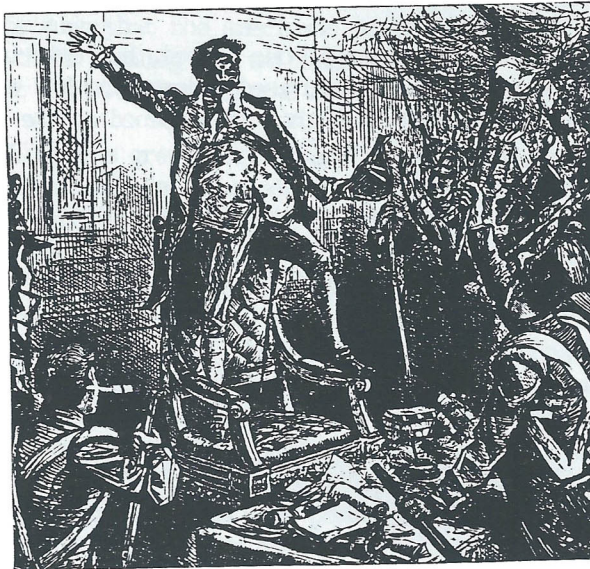
The great naval engagement of the War of 1812 was called the Battle of Lake Erie and took place Sept. 10, 1813, between the United States fleet, under command of Oliver H. Perry and the British fleet under command of Robert H. Barclay.

It ended in Perry's victory--announced in the now famous words, 'We have met the enemy and they are ours'. The name 'Erie' has survived from an extinct Indian tribe who lived along the shores of the particular lake given that name by the English settlers.

A beautiful portrayal of the "Battle of Lake Erie", a painting by Wm. H. Powell, 1871, hangs in the east stairway of the Senate wing in Washington, D.C. It depicts Perry transferring the colors from his battered flagship, the 'Lawrence', to the Niagara in the 1813 engagement.

The British were reluctant to give up in the struggle with the determined Americans. On Aug. 24, 1814, British troops were ordered to "destroy and lay waste", and set fire to public buildings in Washington. The act incensed Americans and shamed many Briton sympathizers. "Cossacks spared Paris, but we spared not the Capitol of America", one English newspaper said.

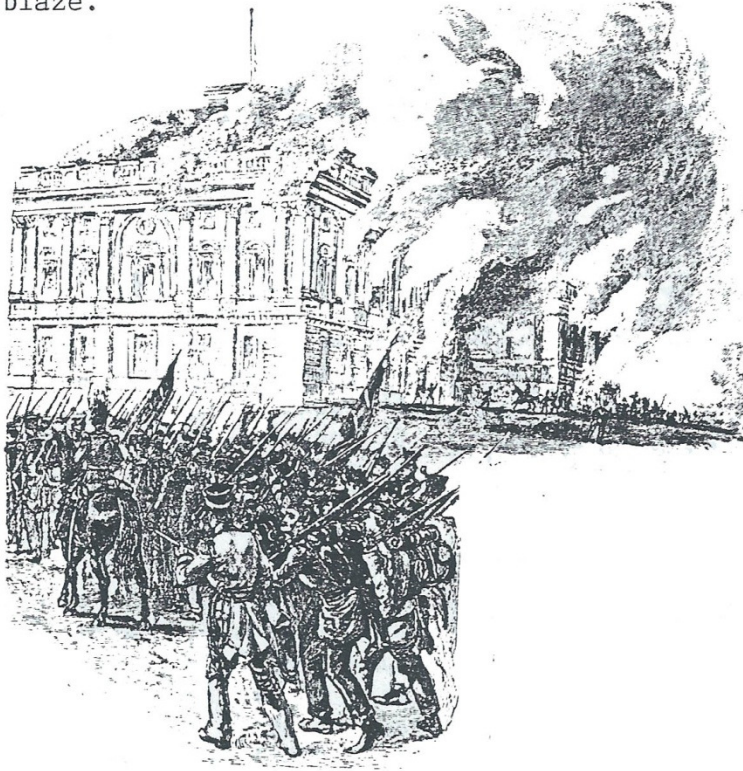
This sketch appeared in London in 1815. Reportedly, Rear Adm. Sir George Cockburn, standing on the House Speaker's chair, asked, "Shall this harbor of Yankee democracy be burned?" The motion carried with a roar of "ayes", from the British soldiers.



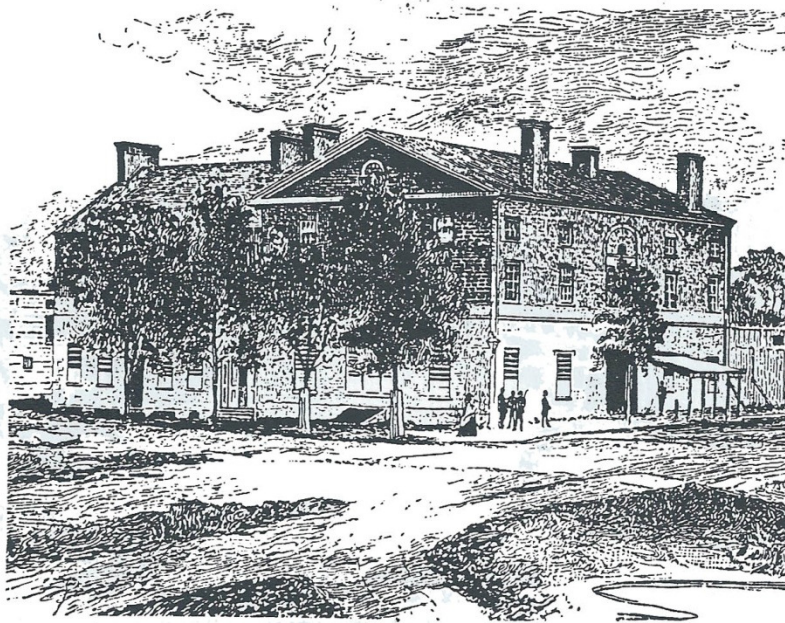
Interiors were gutted, exteriors scarred and blackened, and the wooden passageway between the House and Senate Wings destroyed.

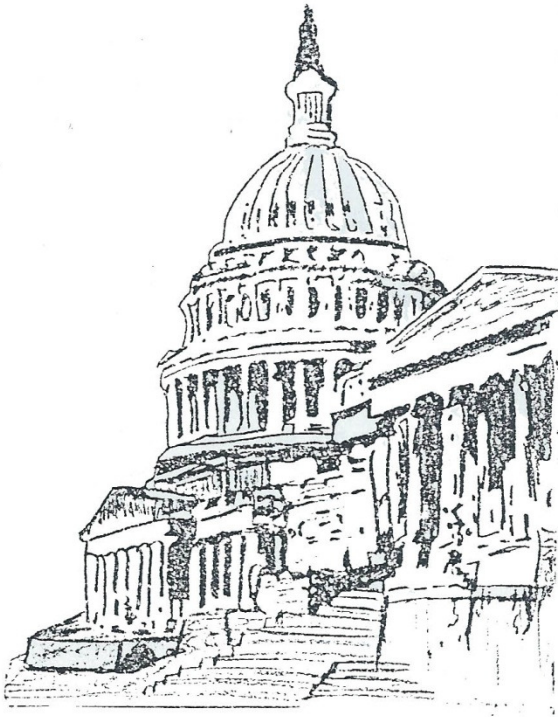
Had it not been for a rainstorm that swept the city that night, the destruction would have been total. The next day brought a violent windstorm. Its force destroyed houses, killed 30 British soldiers, and blew cannons off their mounts. Together with an accidental gunpowder explosion and a false rumor that American troops were gathered to retake Washington, the chain of disasters so shook British confidence that the redcoats moved out, never to return.

The burned-out Capitol stood stark after a rainstorm checked the flames. Piled furniture, books from the Library of Congress, and tar barrels had made tinder for the blaze.



The brick building below became the Capitol's building and housed Congress during 1815-19, while repairs were made to the burned quarters. This building was used as a prison during the Civil War. It stood where the Supreme Court Building now is.



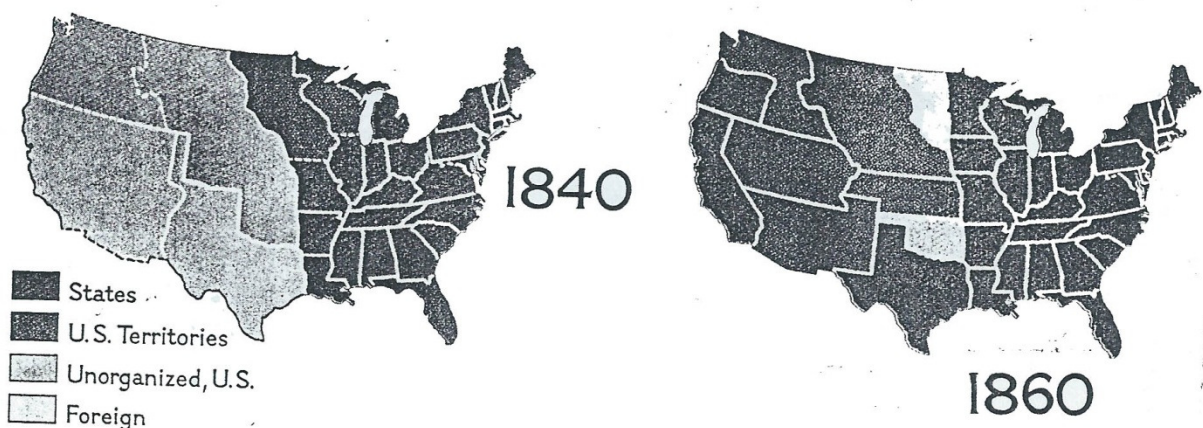


The cornerstone of the Capitol's center section was laid on Aug. 24, 1818, four years to the day after the British bonfire. Through the years the structure was added upon. Dome and Wings added to the Capitol in the 1850's and 1860's brought the structure to the form so familiar today.

The third cornerstone to be laid by a President went into place July 4, 1959, when a decision was made by Congress during President Eisenhower's administration to make further repairs. Deterioration of the original sandstone and other considerations influenced an alteration, and marble replaced the dismantled sandstone. The work of a new face for the building was completed in 1961, nearly a hundred years after Ira's passing.

Little did Ira realize the advancement that this nation would make during his lifetime. Exploding growth saw the Nation fulfill a "manifest destiny" to stretch from sea to sea. The population was to nearly double between 1840 and 1860. With it came heady tales of easy wealth and ample land.

Men dared the dusty plain and the lofty mountain as they spread across the more than a million square miles, linked with events of the Mexican War, and the Northwest boundary dispute. One of the greatest migrations in history was the one in which Ira, himself, was a participant--the 'Mormon Pioneer Trek' to Utah--but we are getting ahead of our story.



EXPLODING GROWTH

After Ira's release from the War of 1812, at the beginning of the year 1813, Ira returned to the homes of his brothers in Manchester, New York. A year later (1814) he married Minerva Saxton. She was born in Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales, 3 Oct., 1796. Ira and Minerva became the parents of five children. The record of the children's birth show that the family lived in Manchester, Franklin and Ontario Counties, New York. One record states that Minerva died about 1824. Ira's granddaughter, Elizabeth (Rice) Bybee, was known to have said that Minerva died at the time of her last child's birth (1822), but, as yet, no death record has been found.

The research done by Eva (Rice) Howell uncovered many illusive details about Ira's family while he lived in New York, as well as recording much more of what is known about his journey across the plains and his life in Utah. We are indebted to her for much that is known of this great man of adventurous character and spiritual fortitude. When new lands seemed ready and inviting, he became a willing frontiersman. His life of service to family and friends proves that his motives were not selfish. He involved himself in a greater cause than self.

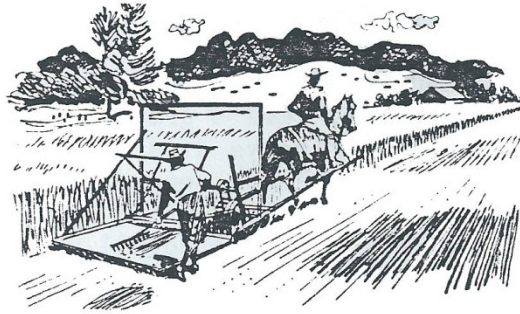
The children of Ira and Minerva have recently been listed in the following order:

1. Ira Rice, b. 1815, Manchester County, New York; died as a child
2. Asaph Rice, b. 13 Jan. 1817, Elmira, Manchester County, N. Y.; md. (1) 5 Nov. 1849, Louisa Busenbark, md. (2) Apr., 1852, Mary Busenbark; died 3 Feb., 1872 at Panaca, Nevada
3. Maryette Rice, b. 1818, Franklin County, N. Y.; md. Orson Cook
4. Juliette Rice, b. 1820, Berkshire, Franklin County, N. Y.; died as child
5. William Kelsey Rice, b. 27 Oct., 1822, Palmyra, Ontarion County, N. Y.; ms. (1) Oct. 8/9, 1845, Lucy Whitter Geer; md. (2) 17 June 1855, Ann Victoria Rose; died 6 July, 1913 7

Ira was married again in 1824 or 25 to Sarah Ann Harrington, the daughter of Benjamin and Ruth (Inman) Harrington. Benjamin and Ruth were originally from Rhode Island but their marriage was recorded in Enfield, Connecticut, (see map #6) and evidently they or their families had moved west, away from Rhode Island into northern Connecticut where settlements were new along the Connecticut River. Evidently Benjamin and Ruth moved further west into New York as many others were doing at that time.

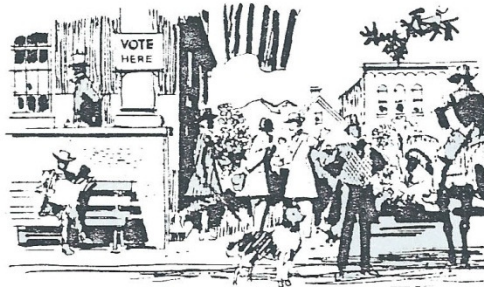
We next find Ira and Sarah Ann with Ira's children living in what is now Wayne and Washtenaw Counties of Michigan. We also find that the Harrington family made this move for they are known to have settled in the same area of Michigan. We lack the verified data and cannot be sure at what area Ira and Sarah Ann were married, whether in New York, Canada or Michigan.

The prevailing conditions of the country after the Revolutionary War can be classified as resembling a child with growing pains. The infant republic had struggled to reach its manhood and now was ready to undertake the real business of an Industrial Revolution. A confidence had grown out of the struggle and the populace was adapting itself to the great changes occurring.

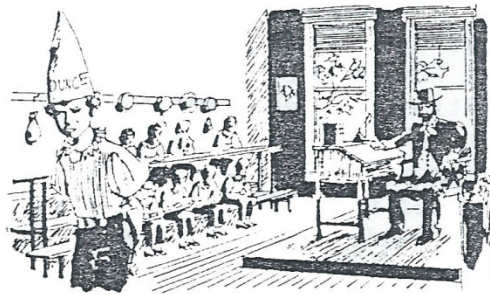


McCormick's Reaper This was only one of hundreds of inventions developed during this period that initiated greater mechanization of labor and paved the way for the industrial revolution.

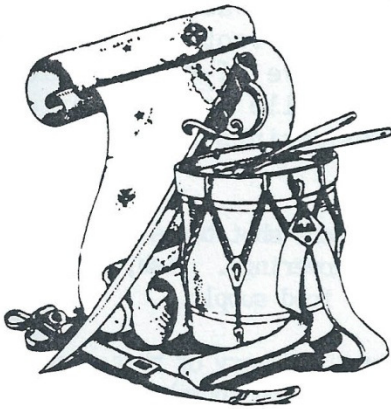
The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 stated that any further attempts by Europe to colonize the Western Hemisphere would be considered an unfriendly act. The security felt by the lay-citizen was multiplied and the future of America seemed filled with opportunities unbounded. In 1824 John Quincy Adams was elected the 6th President of the United States. In 1825 the Erie Canal was opened for travel and the westward movement advanced at a much faster pace. In 1829 Andrew Jackson became the 7th President of these United States.



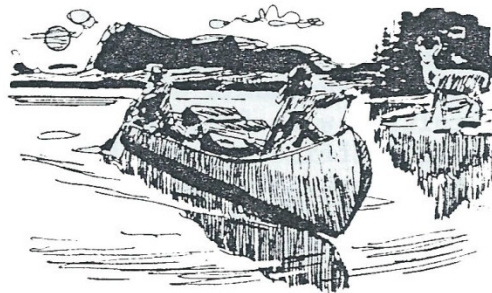
Voting Rights By the time of President Jackson's election, property qualifications for voting had been eliminated and the vote had been extended to virtually all white males.



Public Schooling Americans during this period believed that education was one of the best means for raising the level of society, and free, public education was extended to greater numbers of people.



Political Conventions Modern, two-party politics began with Jackson's election and provided a vehicle for opposing points of view to be heard. Jackson, nominated by delegates at the first national political convention in 1832, was the first President to be truly chosen by the people.



Fur Traders The hunters and fur traders were responsible for the early exploration and development of the west. The fur trade formed the foundation of America's first real corporation and created our first millionaire — John Jacob Astor.

That Ira and Sarah Ann settled in Michigan is understandable for after the War of 1812, President Hayes called for a survey of what was then considered the northern wilderness of Indiana for the purpose of offering land grants to the veterans of that war in payment for active war service and Ira became eligible for a grant.

The earliest reports of the area that is now southern Michigan were very negative in character. One surveyor, Edward Tiffans, stated that the land was unfit for cultivation--not even worth the expense of a survey. The report went on to describe the country as low and wet, with thick growths of under-brush, bad marshes that were heavily timbered with beech, cottonwood and oak. Many lakes undulate the area and, where there are no marshes, the land is barren, sandy and poor; scarcely any vegetation is growing. This report spoke truthfully but without regard for the persistent farmer who dares to face a challenge of the impossible. Men like Ira Rice can make the difference as we, who have since seen Detroit and the surrounding counties, can testify.

The first land office was opened in Detroit in 1818 and shortly thereafter many land grants were allotted in spite of the negative report.

At the early date of 1824, there were no roads between Washtenaw or Wayne County and Detroit. The only means of travel was on foot or horseback over Indian trails. The town site of Ypsilanti was a grove of trees called "Woodruff" in the early years of its settlement. Northville was only an area dotted with a few squat-like huts. In the account "Footprints of Ira", we find these words:

"What was life like in the wilds of Michigan?...Ira and his sons shot bears and their pelts were used as part of their bedding, clothing and floor coverings. Fish, wild game and wild fruits were plentiful and, at times, their only food supply.

"There were dangers on all sides from Indians and wild beasts. History of that period in Michigan states that often bears napped by the side of school and church houses, skulking away when the children came out of the log building...Men tackled the task of cutting down trees, building log cabins, clearing the land and planting crops around tree stumps." 8

Edward Tiffin, Surveyor General, had written in his report that the whole of the area there was "not one acre in a hundred, if there would be in a thousand, that would in any case admit of cultivation". It is the nature of man to face difficulties with fortitude and courage. There were discouragements, of course, but difficulties challenge the pioneer. The small band of surveyor men that moved slowly through Northville's countryside in 1815 were "chaining" the townships that pioneers would one day soon inhabit.

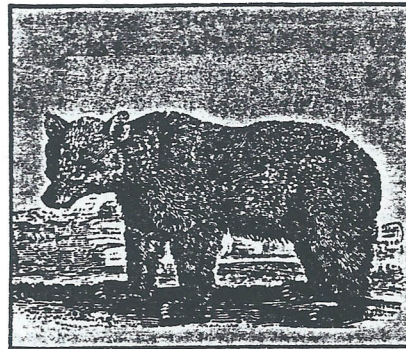
Before the townships were established, the first boundaries of the County of Wayne included all of what is now Michigan and parts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. After numerous boundary changes between 1796 and 1822, Wayne County was given its present boundary by proclamation on Sept. 10, 1822.

The opening of the government land office in Detroit in 1818 signaled a new era in southeast Michigan. This same year the first steamboat on Lake Erie chugged into Detroit with an average speed of 8 miles per hour. There was no terminal at Buffalo at the time and the Erie Canal was not opened until 1825.

Man's great desire to claim his own piece of ground from a new and undeveloped state; ground that lay awaiting for the hands of someone of courage and induring strength, became the challenge of the pioneer.

The first four decades of the nineteenth century have been described as the golden age for the fur trader--a period of the exploitation of the furred creatures of the forests, swamps and streams.

By the end of the War of 1812, only the fur trader dared risk the adventure of the interior and the government favored him over the pioneering farmer in the Michigan Territory despite the fact that the land had been allotted to Veterans of the war. The period following the war saw the splendid forests, the trapper trading posts, the Indian hunting grounds transformed into pastures and farms, sights of the settlements and thriving towns. The trapper, the hunter and the savage, gave way to the man with the ax, and hoe, the lumberman and the farmer.



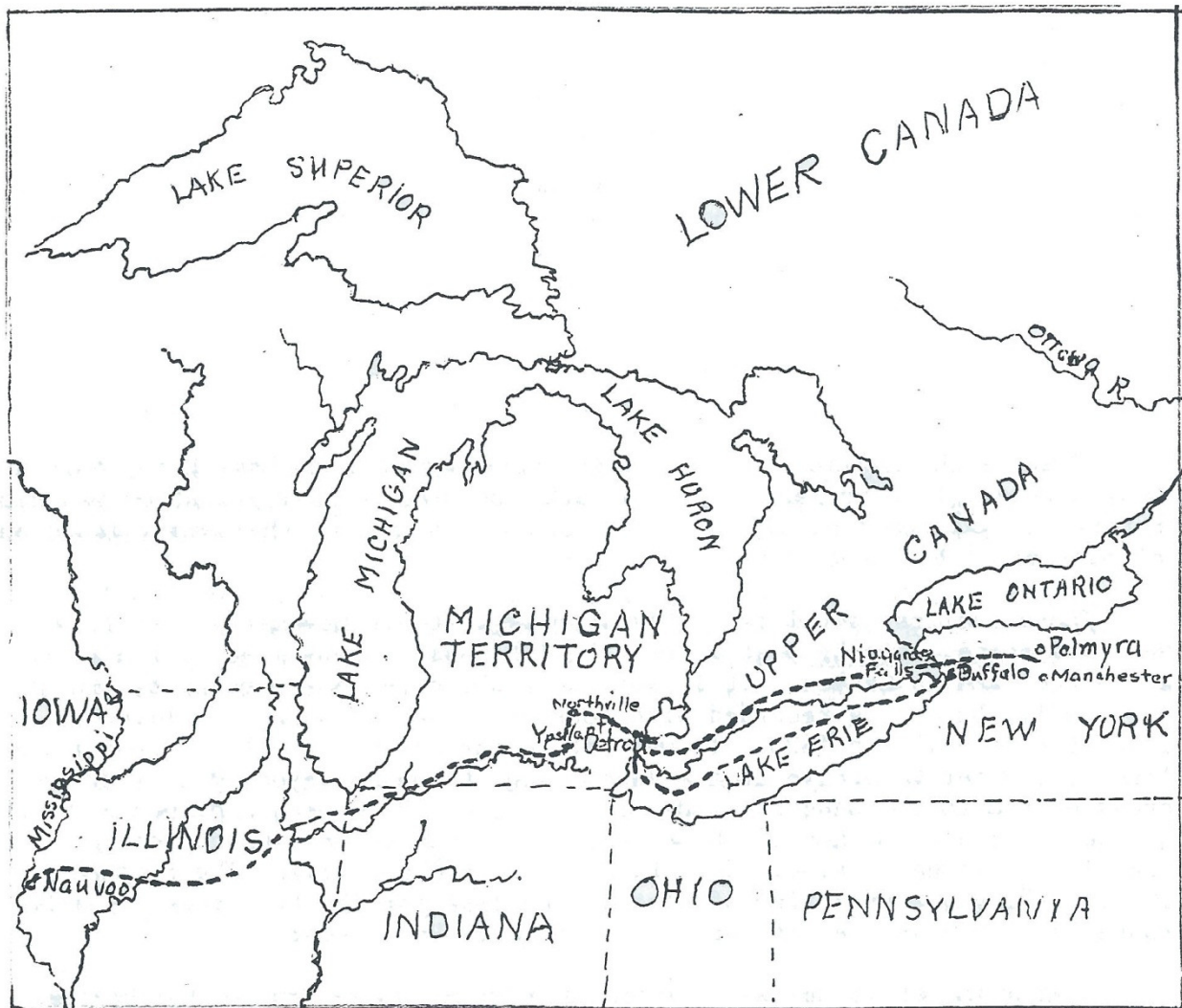
Despite the availability of water transportation on Lake Erie, only a few, however, took up land prior to 1820, and even then immigration was slow. Perhaps it was the fear of the Indian and the fear that the swampy lands and climate might be unhealthy, were deterrants.

Those earliest settlers of Michigan began their movements west from New York state, some by boat across the lake and some by land over a route above the lake in Canada. It is not known which route was taken by Ira and his family, but he is recorded with fourteen other pioneers who filed on land at Northville in 1826. It was not so far for the people of near towns like Manchester to arrive at the lake's edge to be conveyed by boat or to cross over onto the Canadian side of the Niagara River and continue a journey by land. Either of these routes were the prevailing courses of travel at that early time. Jack W. Hoffman in "Northville--The First 100 Years", gives us a view of what it was like for the travelers of either route once they arrived at Detroit, Michigan. He states:

"Most of the settlers arrived in Detroit after having traveled from New York by steamship across Lake Erie and up the Detroit River. Others, however, came by land through Canada and by ferry across the river at Detroit. It was estimated in 1837 that an average of 20 teams of horses, two hundred yoke of oxen, and eight hundred persons traveled to Michigan via Canada each month.

"Once at Detroit and finally on Michigan soil the Northville pioneers faced yet another obstacle as they began the last leg of the trip to their eventual homes.

"Everyone, old and young, who has ever studied topography of Michigan knows that for miles in every direction around Detroit lies a heavily timbered, level, muddy plain, where the soil is alluvial on the surface and a cold, squeezey, heavy clay beneath, through and over which even now transit is almost impossible. But only the early pioneers of the region can tell the horror of travel over the same regions even 40 years ago. Since then, many good roads exist through a forest where elm, beach, walnut, maple, fir and basswood spring to the very skies, shutting out the midday sun, a black, sticky road was first cut. When the rush of emigration commenced in 1830, all those roads were cut up with slough holes, dugways . . . through which it seemed impossible to drag a stage coach or a heavy laden wagon." 9



Though we have no diary to tell us about Ira and Sarah Ann's journey to Northville from Palmyra, New York, we can read of other instances of similar circumstance that have been told by others. Before the death of Sarah Ann Cochrane in 1917 she tells of the same arduous trip from Detroit to Northville

taken with her parents when she was a young girl.

"For days we walked more miles than we rode, my mother carrying a baby on her hip with one arm while with a long pole in the other hand she tested the depth of the mud before each step. My father was obliged to lead his team over 'corduroy' roads where the logs floated and rolled in liquid mud. The poor horses, frightened by the unstable footing, plunged and floundered as they went. Often the extrication of the wagon proved a serious problem if no means of leverage was at hand . . .

". . . Was it strange that my poor mother, never infatuated with the scheme of emigration . . . that in her sheer weariness, would find relief in tears and sobs, while we children would pity though, being young, could not understand." 10

We are given an account by a second generation person whose father William Yerkes had traveled with a friend, Thomas Pinderton, to Michigan from Seneca County, New York, to select a piece of ground and prepare a shelter for the families on their arrival. The journey was made through Canada, then an almost unbroken wilderness. These two families migrated about the same time as Ira and Sarah Ann Rice. The Yerkes descendant wrote:

"I remember well when they started from my grandfather's with their packs strapped to their backs. My father with a gun in his hand and each with a load sufficient for an ordinary mule. The entire journey of the two men required 14 days . . .

"On the following April the family and friends of this pair followed by water. They first journeyed to Buffalo in four days. Then, after waiting about eight days for the ice to move out of the harbor, passage was secured on a 'sailing vessel' that carried them to Detroit in 10 days.

"From Detroit the party of pioneers and their valuables were carried in four wagons, two of which were their own and drawn by their own oxen, and the two others were horse teams belonging to others of the party . . .

"The Yerkes party very likely traveled along a northern route across what now is the area of Farmington . . ." 11

This route also had its heavily timbered and swamp-like areas to be encountered. According to the words of Sarah Ann Cochrane, the journey from Detroit to Northville would have taken several days of difficult travel after having made the first and longer distance either by land or water routes.

The conditions of the Yerkes family differed from the Rices in the fact that they had a crude log shelter awaiting them. Nothing is stated of Ira that would indicate that any earlier preparatory trip had been undertaken to settle upon some land or to build a home, so we assume that he obtained his land after making a selection upon his arrival. He obtained his grant at the Detroit land office and then proceeded to improve upon it, settling his family in Northville. They were not without close neighbors some being the Yerkes family and one A. B. Markham.

According to the Yerkes family account the land was so heavily timbered

that it was some time after they settled on their homestead that they realized that there was a lake on their farm - the only natural body of water in Wayne County now named 'Yerkes Lake'.

In a historical account written by A. B. Markham when he was nearing his 80th birthday and recorded by a more recent author, Mr. Hoffman, we are given a detailed story of Northville's early beginnings. It turns out, upon investigation, that Mr. Markham's land was in the same surveyed section to the southwest of Ira's property. The Markham property was in the west half of the southwest quarter of section ten, just about a quarter mile from Ira's land.

The first task of a settler in any new area is providing a shelter. In Michigan this was done simultaneous to clearing a piece of land for a house. Such was built from the raw materials of the forest close at hand. All first houses were built in a very crude way for there were no saw mills at this early date (1826). With the help of neighbors, houses were raised and ready to be occupied in a few days. Mr. Markham wrote about such early pioneer incidents in these words found in his diary:

" . . . We went to work three of us, and by night we had my building up ready for a roof, the next day the shakes were out and ready for laying. These shakes are used as shingles, they are thin pieces of ash, oak or other timber, about three feet long and as wide as can be had from the tree. They are laid onto poles, which serve the place of ribs. Having finished the roof, work went forward on the inside. The floor was made of logs split through the middle, laid flat side up onto poles and made smooth with an adze. The chimney was built of sticks, then plastered on the inside with clay mortar. The back, or the place for the fire, was made of stone and clay mortar, one or one and a half feet thick. This is the way all the log cabins were made for two or three years of the first settlement of this town (Northville). . . They were good cabins, usually 14 by 16 feet, finished off in good, comfortable style, without a board, nail or glass. The cabin finished, they must next build a shelved loft and some bedsteads. A hole was bored into one wall of the logs in the side of the building, and the end of the same, putting in poles to be held up by legs, then another set of poles over these for a bottom and sides that would be filled with straw, dry grass or whatever was available for a mattress. Bear hides made very warm coverings for the straw. Now the settler was ready to turn in for a good night's rest, a happy free-holder in his own bed, his own house on his own premises . . . Generally he was the most satisfied, and happy of settlers that could be found in the whole country.

"The next thing was to obtain something to eat. Going to Detroit was one way of getting supplies but wild animals; deer, wild turkey and pheasants were plentiful. With a supply of salt pork, flour, and a few other staples one could easily survive and never go hungry." 12

The most serious business was the making of a home. Usually this meant ringing trees, tilling a small area of ground and planting, cutting logs and building a cabin.

For breakfast there was the usual bacon, corn-meal mush, or batter cake, sweet or sour milk, or sassafras tea. The noon meal might offer the same elaborate variety supplemented by Indian corn bread with a thin strip of pork fat on it; and the supper savors gave unmistakable suggestion of an unchanged diet. A vegetable garden was a welcomed sight as soon as one could be had.

Wheat flour was more highly prized than any other commodity, three barrels lasting one family a year. In consequence of scarcities, the land was cleared with feverish activity. Even the women swung the ax, or drove the oxen in hauling stone for the cabin chimney that was being built. Wood was chopped by the acre, rather than by the cord, and by the coming of fall a part of their plot of ground would be cleared and a community grist mill built where grain or corn could be hand ground into meal.

At night lard lamps lighted the interior of the cabins, casting shadowy glows about the walls, where, in dim outline, one could see guns, steel traps, powder horns, ears of corn, skins, steer horns and antlers of deer. Bear hides made fine rugs and bed covers. In the big fireplace the huge black pots were hung, and round about stood the home made furniture. It was comfortable to sit before the fireplace on cool nights and in those days of simple living such a thing as a fuel bill was unknown. Wood was the only thing burned for warmth and for cooking, and all one had to do to get a supply was go out and cut it nearby. Each cabin was equipped with a shelf for utensils, some hand hewn stools and a table made of split logs. Such was the scene of the early settler in Northville.

In the summer of 1827 many new settlers came in, but not so many as in 1826 when the Rices arrived. The crops in 1827 were good, and as recorded by the historians, wheat yielded as high as forty to fifty bushels to the acre. Corn and other crops were equally good. Most of the settlers had little to sell since only a small plot had been cleared of trees and anyway the roads to a market were as one writer stated: "The roads through the country were one continual mud hole and the streets of Detroit were even worse, if possible."

Ira and his family arrived in Northville with several other immigrant families from Ontario and Seneca counties, New York. In Mr. Hoffman's writing we find Ira's name mentioned along with the Yerkes, Boughton, McFarlin, Gannett, Ramsdell and others who settled in what came to be known as the Northville Township. From these writings, we note that Ira's Government grant included much of the area now making up the town of Northville. The 80 acres that he sold when he moved to Ypsilanti in 1830 was only a fraction of what he actually had owned. Evidently he had sold parts of his land prior to the time of his sale on leaving Northville. Mr. Hoffman tells us the following in his history of early Northville:

". . .The country was heavily wooded and it was with considerable difficulty that the pioneer settlement was reached. The trail, which only by courtesy could be called a road, extending through a distance of some 15 or 18 miles from Detroit to a point on the Rouge River, where a little settlement had been made and a mill erected by Luther Lincoln, who, a year or two later built a mill on the stream near Plymouth.

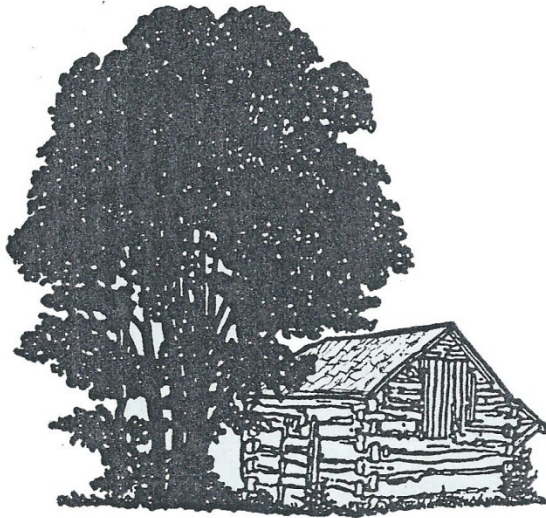
"Beyond the limit of civilization the way through the woods was marked by blazed trees and the difficulty of clearing a passage for oxen and wagon through the thick underbrush and around fallen trees and quagmire can more easily be written about than realized.

"The senior Yerkes, Joseph, a Revolutionary soldier, took up 488 acres on the south side of

Eight Mile Road in Section 2, opposite the homestead of his son, William. John Yerkes took 240 acres in Section 6 (near Napier and Eight mile roads), and two other members of the Yerkes party, Richard Boughton and Stephen Hayward, also settled in Northville.

"Gannett and Dyer Ramsdell, the brothers who would found a thriving community settled in the Northville half of the township as did Ira Rice, who selected land in Section 3 - the heart of what eventually became the village of Northville. (Consult Northville map on next page)

"James D. McFarlin, grandson of Hannah (Yerkes) Griswald, wrote this account of the arrival here by the Yerkes family. "When the family arrived at their destination they ate their first meal down by the spring in a little swail. There is (or was) a large elm tree standing on the spot. But first they had to send some of the men or boys over near Farmington, a distance of six or seven miles, for flour. With this they made a kind of bread or cake of simple water and flour baked in the ashes and coals. Aunt Mary said that was the best meal she ever ate and she was a first class cook, too.



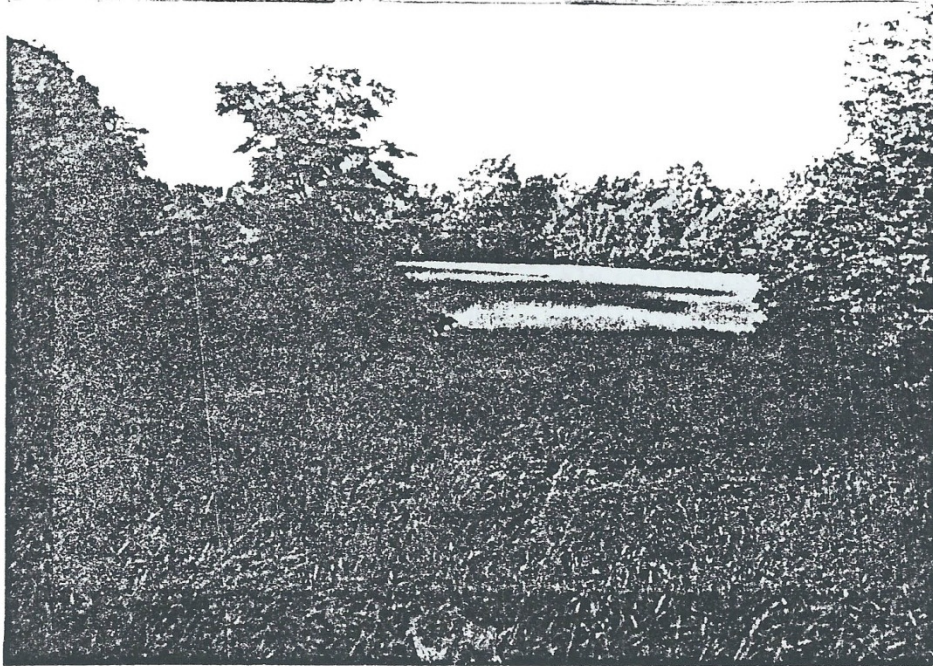
"It was May that they arrived, so they had no opportunity to raise much to live on the first winter. But hickory nuts were plentiful and one of their mainstays for food was hickory nuts." 13

In spite of the many inconveniences that were there for the early settler, Ira Rice prospered and by the 12th of July 1830 he sold his Northville property to Robert Robinson for the sum of five hundred dollars. The deed is recorded in the Michigan land records in Detroit.

By this time Sarah Ann had given birth to a daughter, Harriet born about 1825 and two sons, Benjamin, born about 1826 and Leonard Gurley, born 3 Sept. 1829.

The land survey map of Northville and the deed documents found in the Detroit Land Office made it possible to locate the exact location of the property that Ira and Sarah Ann sold to Mr. Robinson. The deed gave us the following record: "All that tract or parcel of Land, Being the west half of the North East Quarter of Section 10 in Township one South of Range Eight East, in the District of Lands offered for sale at Detroit, Michigan Territory, containing eighty acres according to the official plat of the survey . . . by the Surveyor General." The map shown on the next page was printed in 1977 but the survey had not changed.

My husband, Charles, and I located Ira's property and walked the grounds of the now beautiful park of green lawns and paths. From the roadway at the north west corner or entrance we took the picture shown on the page following the map.

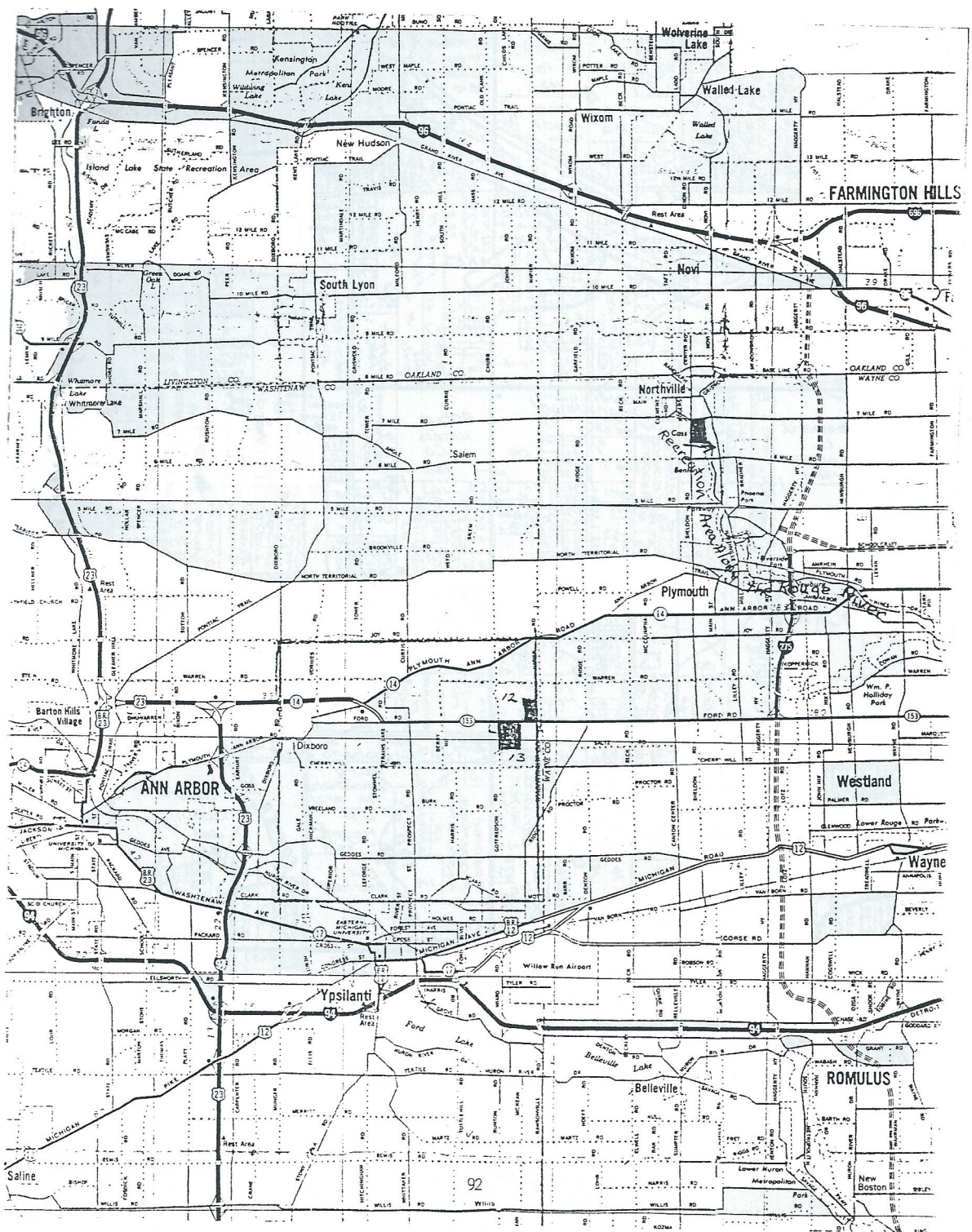


Picture of land from Sheldon Road showing the north west corner of Ira's Northville property.

It is a beautiful piece of property that has been turned back as a public park and recreational area, in fact, it has become a part of a larger wilderness area that has been set aside for public use; a long section of land that follows on both sides of the Rouge River. The land map of the area on the next page shows the particular reserved area of mention. The area shown on the Northville map shows Ira's land enclosed by a darker dashing of lines.

When Ira and Sarah Ann sold their Northville property they moved south and west to Washtenaw County, Michigan, buying an acreage to the north and east of Ypsilanti. Actually the property was located about mid-way between Northville and Ypsilanti. Their new farm was bought from Robert Robinson who had bought Ira's property at Northville and the two property exchanges were made simultaneously on July 12, 1830. The land thus conveyed to Ira and Sarah Ann was described on the Deed as the north west quarter of section thirteen in Township 2 south of range seven east in the district of land offered for sale at Detroit, Michigan, containing one hundred and sixty acres of land, which deed was recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds in and for said County of Washtenaw on the tenth day of June 1831 in Liber B at page 485.

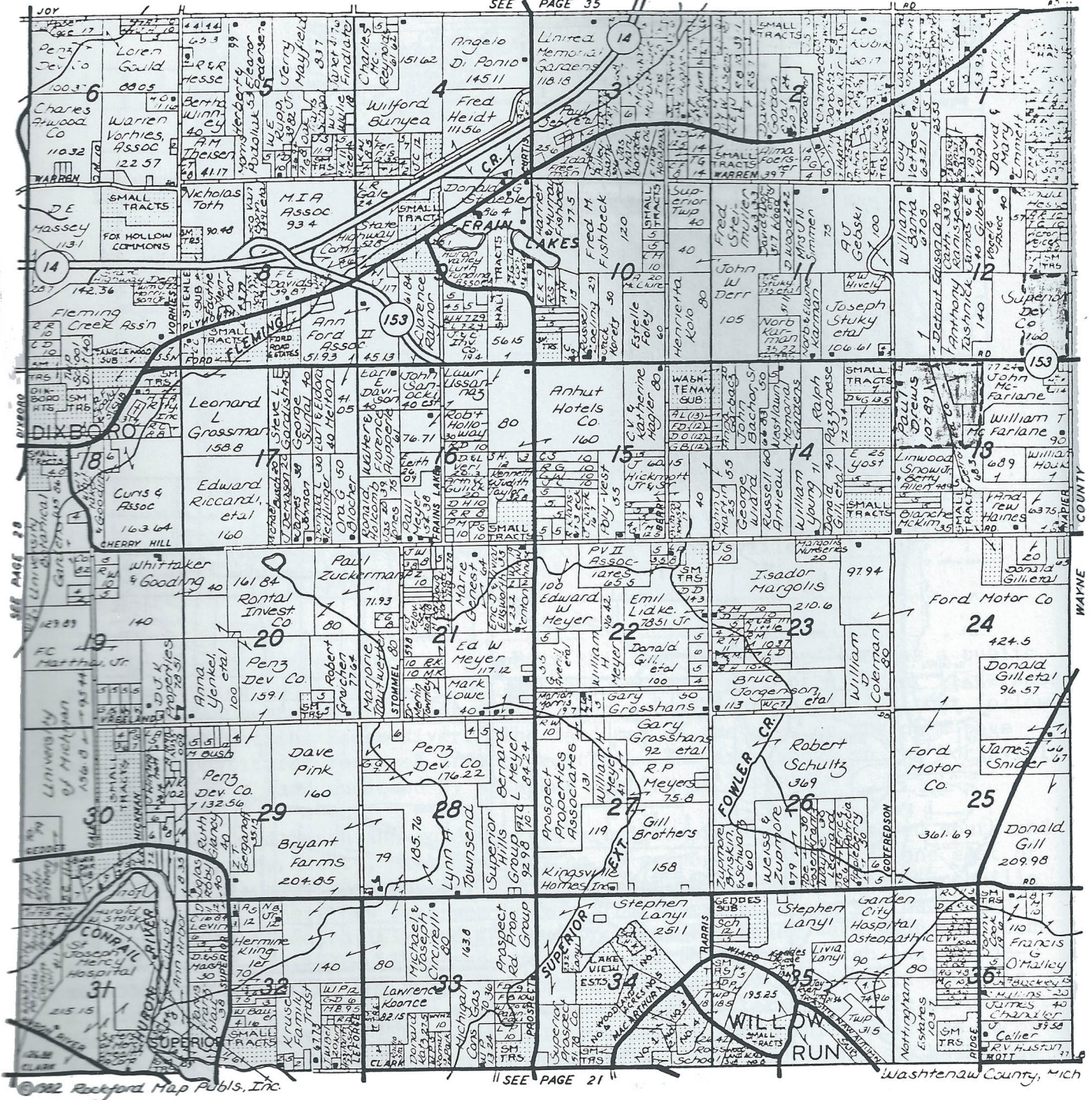
The deed thus recorded had not been witnessed as prescribed by law and when Ira was ready to sell his Washtenaw property in 1842 this error was noticed and before a sale could be carried out Robert Robinson, who had, by then, returned to live again in his earlier home at Manchester, New York, was contacted and the proper deed signed by him. This was accomplished on the seventh day of June AD 1842 but Ira and Sarah Ann had lived and improved this property from 1830 until 1842.



SUPERIOR

T. 2 S. - R. 7 E.

SEE PAGE 35

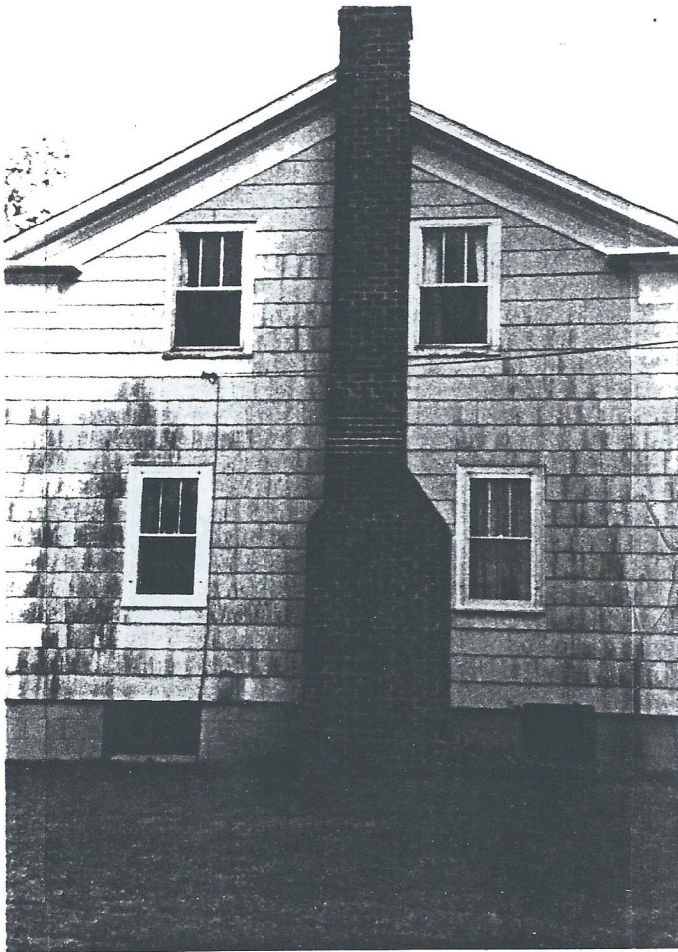


See section 13 for Ira's property that is now owned by Paul Drews and the additional 80 acre plot now owned by the Superior Development Co., seen in section 12.

Ira sold the property described on the maps to Mr. Rooke in 1842. It has since been owned by several parties and is presently owned and occupied by Paul Drews. The owner prior to Mr. Drews was George Kercher.

Paul Drews is an elderly man living alone in the big house and he is assisted in his farm work by his son-in-law, Mr. Zelisse and his grandson, David Zelizze, both of Ann Arbor, Mich. David is an architectural student and he took a great interest in the home that had been built by Ira in 1834. He had watched closely when his grandfather rennovated the old house to its present appearance. While he helped his grandfather do the remodeling he took particular notice of the structure

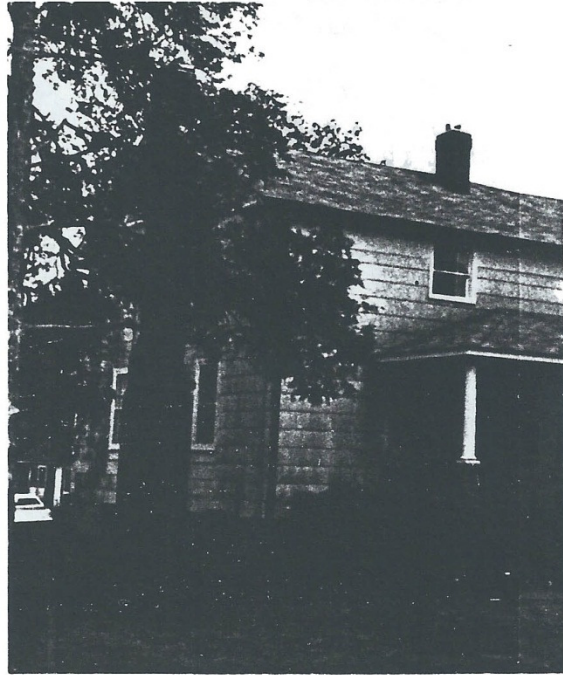
in its original state. He freely and graciously told us a great deal about what the house had been like before modern touches had covered up the antique beauty it once had. Mr. Drew kindly added his comments which gave us a feel of sentiment for a home that is still loved and cared for. It would have been a great joy could a liberal monetary offer been made Mr. Drew - one that he would hardly have declined. A monument to our great pioneer ancestors would be realized could their home be brought back into the family.



The Drew's house taken of its north side.

Charles and I were fortunate to have arrived at this destination when all three men were there to be so kind to us and showed such interest in what we were doing in the way of gathering information concerning a great great grandfather. David, the architect, offered to make us scale drawings of the home which he mailed to us shortly after our visit. These drawings are entered here as a way of preserving what was once the home of Ira, Sarah Ann and their family until the Gospel of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was presented to them by missionaries.

(Our visit was made in 1984, just 150 years after the house was built.)



Front corner of house



Back corner of house

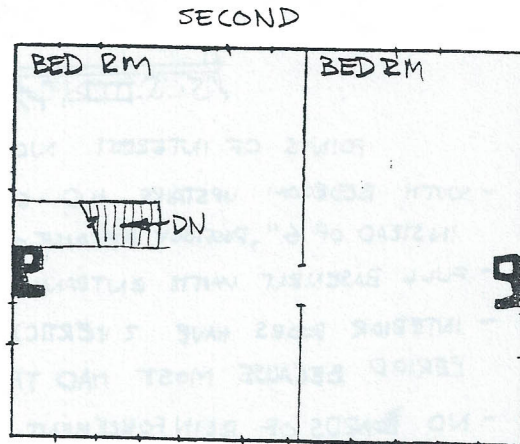
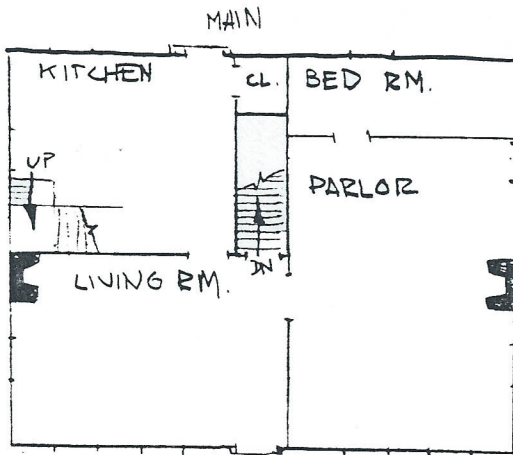
1834 GREEK REVIVAL FARMHOUSE

SCALE: $\frac{3}{16}'' = 1', 0''$ OVERALL DIM'S 28x34



FLOOR PLANS

SCALE $\frac{3}{32}'' = 1', 0''$

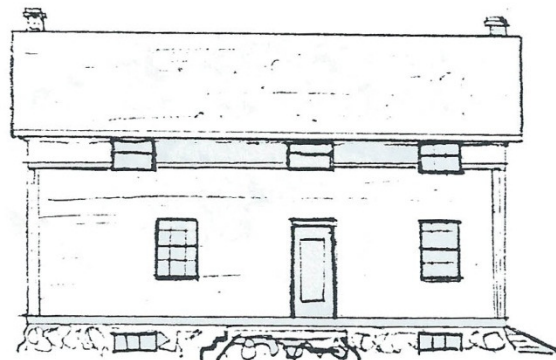
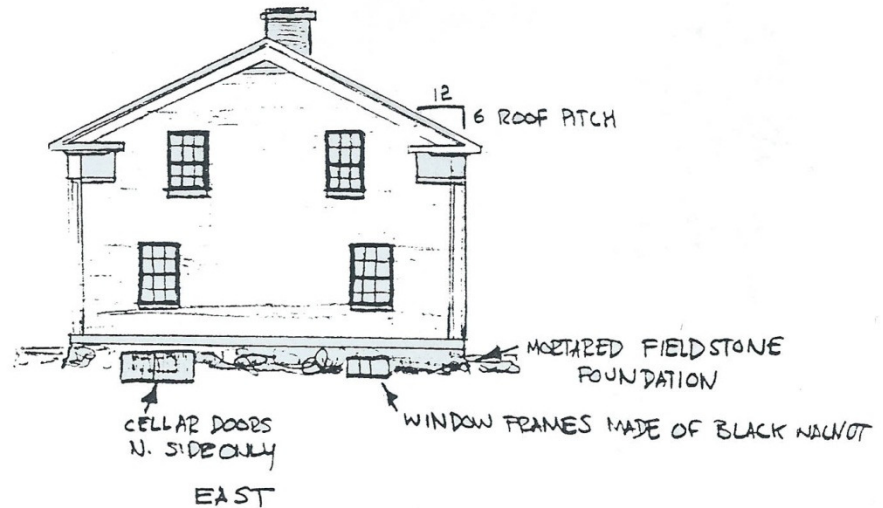


ALL FLOORS $\frac{1}{4}''$ THICK ASHWOOD
ALL STAIRS & RAILINGS $\frac{1}{4}''$ WALNUT


OTHER ELEVATIONS OF 1834 HOUSE

SCALE $\frac{3}{32}$ " = 1', 0"

NORTH AND SOUTH



POINTS OF INTEREST NOT NOTED IN DRAWINGS

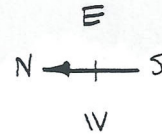
- SOUTH BEDROOM UPSTAIRS AND SOUTHEAST BEDROOM DOWNSTAIRS HAD 8" PLANK FLOORING INSTEAD OF 6", POSSIBLY BECAUSE THESE ROOMS WERE NOT USED FOR ENTERTAINING GUESTS
- FULL BASEMENT WITH ENTRANCE FROM BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE
- INTERIOR DOORS HAVE 2 VERTICAL DECORATIVE PANELS NOT TYPICAL OF THAT PERIOD BECAUSE MOST HAD THE "CROSS AND BIBLE PAGES" DOORS I.E. 
- NO BOARDS OF REINFORCEMENT OTHER THAN FRAMING BEHIND SLIPBOARDS.

D.E. 84

FARM BUILDINGS AND LOCATIONS ^{RICE (1-6)}

1832-42

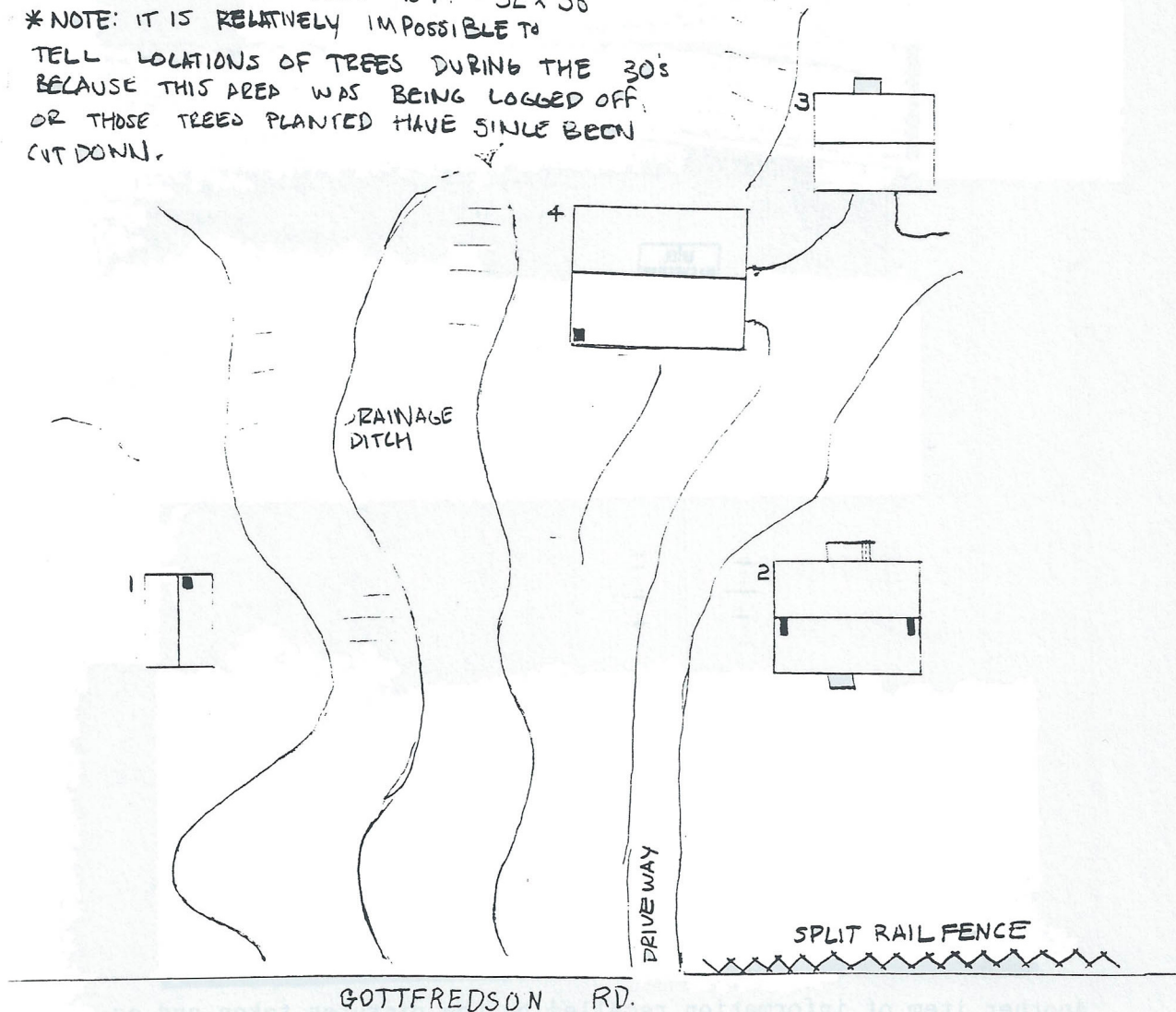
SCALE 3"=100'



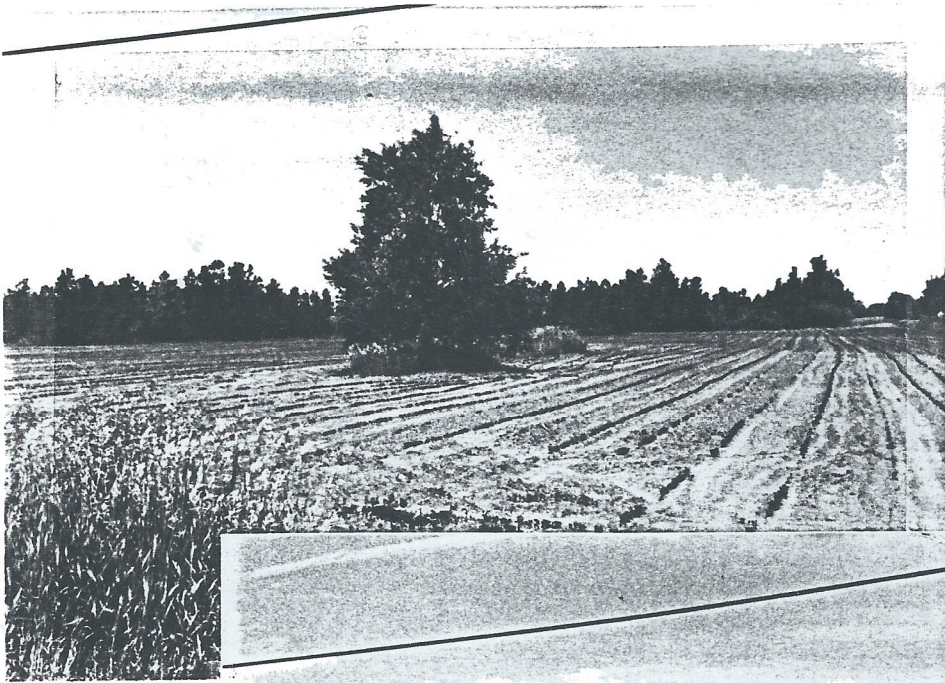
KEY

- 1 ORIGINAL CABIN 1826-188? 15'x20'
- 2 GREEK REVIVAL FARMHOUSE 1834- 28'x34'
- 3 HORSE/CARRIAGE BARN, W/GRAIN BINS 183?- 24'x28'
- 4 LIVESTOCK BARN 183?-187? 32'x38'

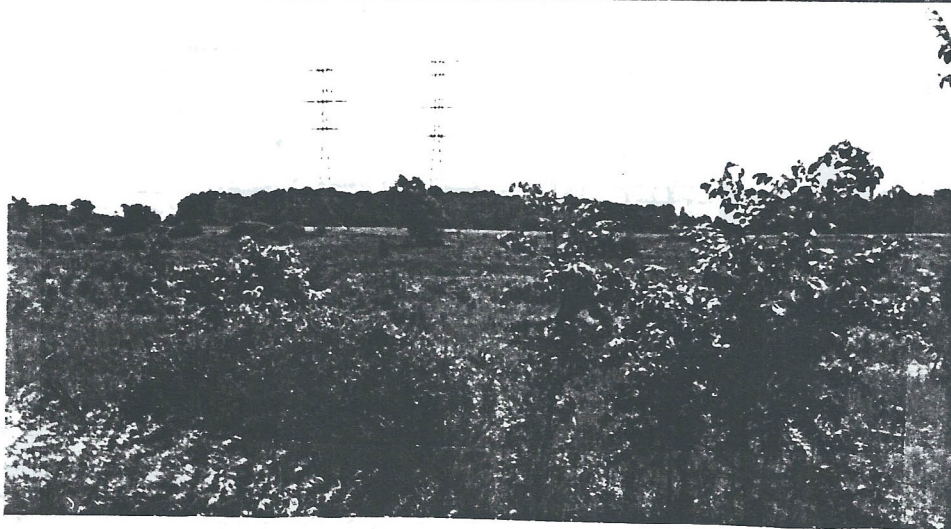
*NOTE: IT IS RELATIVELY IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL LOCATIONS OF TREES DURING THE 30's BECAUSE THIS AREA WAS BEING LOGGED OFF, OR THOSE TREES PLANTED HAVE SINCE BEEN CUT DOWN.



DZ 84



The eighty
acre piece



Another item of information recalled by the pictures taken and as shown on the township map is the fact that the "Detroit Edison Company" now claim a right of way through Ira's 160 acre home property for a main power line.

The original barn and shed buildings still stand and the main or larger outbuilding used for Ira's horses and carriage has an added portion that had been built onto the main building since Ira's time. Our attempts to take camera pictures are mediocre, but they are documentary in our edit of them, regardless.



Taken from the east toward the barn.

The farms of Washtenaw County are both beautiful and productive. What was once a muddy plain shut out from the sun by thick underbrush and tall trees has responded to the ax, the plow and the strong arm of the persistent pioneer. The soil, once rid of the dark shadows, dried up its swamps to make some of the most fertile sod to be found anywhere.

Seven more children were born to Ira and Sarah Ann while they lived on their farm in Washtenaw County; Henrietta, abt. 1831; Sarah Ann, abt. 1833; Oscar North, 19 Sept. 1835; Adeline, 1837; Adelbert, 1839; Caroline, abt. 1841 and Deliah, abt. 1842. Two of their children, Benjamin and Deliah, died during this time and were likely buried either on the home property or in the cemetery that the community had established just across Gottfredson Road, west from the Rices.

Though hopefully walking among the grave markers nothing gave us a clue that the graves of Benjamin Rice, who died some time after 1837 as a lad of ten or twelve and, as is thought, Deliah, who must have died as a baby about 1842, were to be found. Records differ in some details in this matter.

The pioneer struggles of Washtenaw County and Ypsilanti are similar in circumstance to that of Wayne County and Northville. The movement of these pioneers to the frontier was anything but a frolic. Such household goods, as were brought along, were carried in wagons drawn by slow-moving oxen, and men, women and children trudged along generally on foot. Perhaps the roughest part of the whole migratory journey was from Detroit into the interior settlements. In reading some of the private journals of the area, it is found to be true that the wagons often would become deeply mired, and the women and children would have to wait about until the men could procure sapplings to pile for footings in the mud and poles to pry the vehicles out. Brush, fallen timbers and other obstacles had to be cleared as they went along, streams forded and hills climbed. Ascending hills was difficult enough, but coming down was a much more arduous task. At times heavy poles were thrust through the spokes of the wagon wheels to make them slide instead of turn, and the efforts of all able bodied members of the group were employed to keep the wagons from bearing down upon the teams of oxen or horses. At night before the fire of the camp, the blistered and aching feet would be bathed in vinegar and bandaged, and then, too exhausted to keep awake, and almost afraid to go to sleep, the little bands would compose themselves for the night.

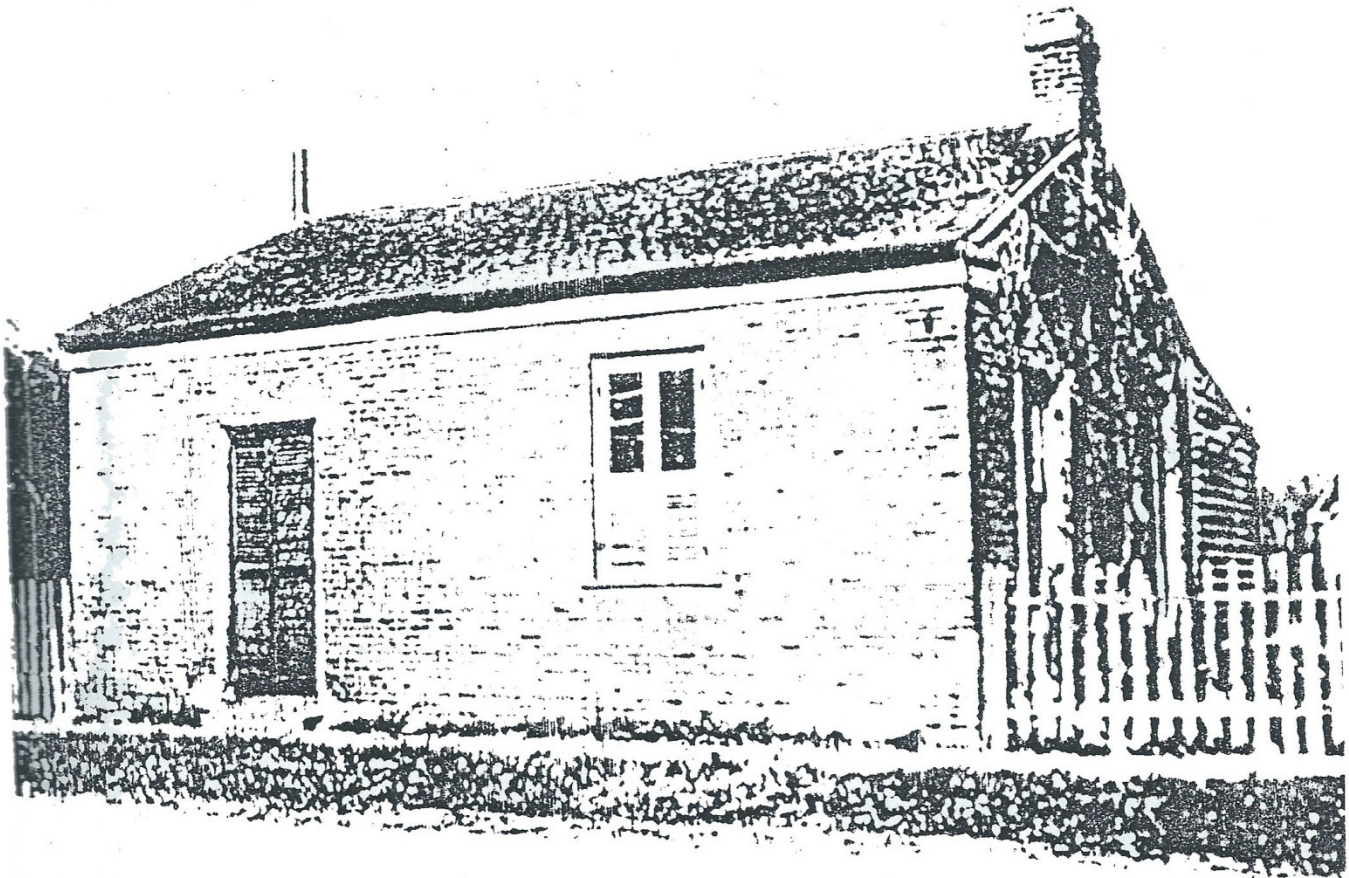
There are similarities in all migratory ventures of the frontiersmen. In most cases the hardships experienced by those who journeyed to new areas were far greater than those encountered in the little settlements at each journey's end, though these were bad enough. There is no migration that can compare in magnitude to the exodus of the Saints across the plains of America to Utah. When Ira left Michigan he traveled under just such hardships across southern Michigan, then Indiana and across Illinois as far as Nauvoo. Ira knew what would be encountered if he chose to uproot his family for further journeys west.

By 1842, when Ira and Sarah Ann left Michigan, Asaph was a man of 25 years and William Kelsey was 20, so Ira had helpful sons who were anxious, no doubt, to own their own land. The move to Nauvoo, Illinois, provided this opportunity. They left Ypsilanti a well-to-do family able to obtain acreages of farms upon their arrival. The children had been growing up in a region of exuberant fertility where the future promised even greater prosperity.

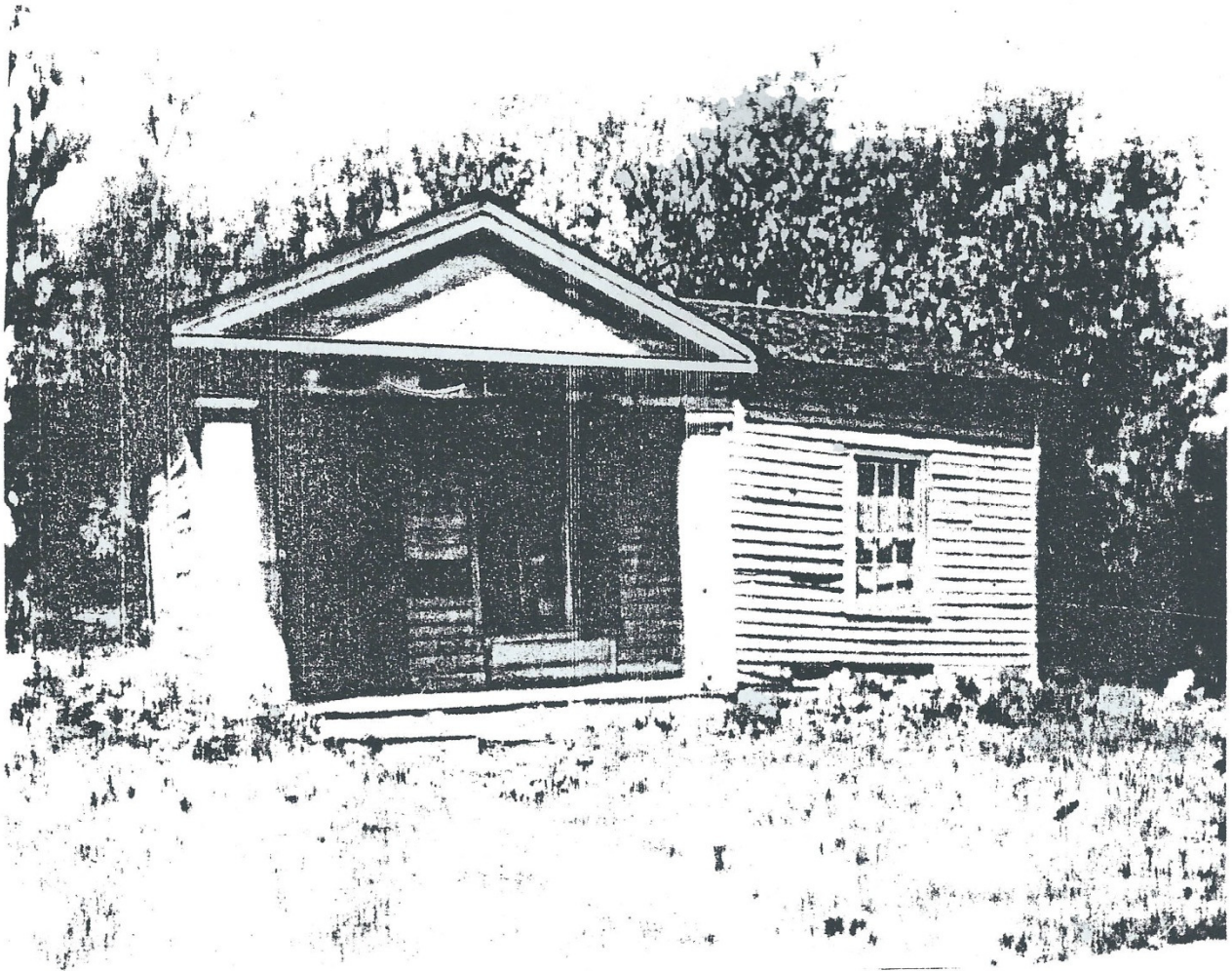
They had lived where nature had scattered her blessings with her liberal hand, where forests had given of her inexhaustible supply and where hard work had become the impress of fine stable characteristics. The spirit of enterprise and independence had filled them with a joyousness of hope. Their experiences must surely have combined to deeply motivate them into a daring for whatever the future might hold.

They may not have had the extent of schooling privileges that could otherwise have been possible, but they surely must have taken many an opportunity to experience the advantages that can come through hard work under pioneer circumstances. One cannot read the letters and journals written by many of those pioneers without a sense of appreciation at the easy manner in which they expressed themselves, and without a certain feeling of respect for their evident grasp of affairs. It is possible that the Rice children had some, though perhaps meager, formal educational opportunities.

The settlers lived at distances that made it difficult to centralize either school or businesses of any kind to an advantage. The scattered families were, in most cases, institutions within the family itself.



The first brick school was built in 1829.



First Post Office in Ypsilanti

Mr. Drew informed us that land documents held by him show that Ira Rice sold a parcel of land for a saw mill on the north west corner of his property facing what is now Ford Road or the county road #153 and in the corner of Ford and Gottfredson Roads. Ira donated a corner, half acre piece of his property, for a schoolhouse. The school was situated, for many years before being abandoned, on the south west corner of the property. Whether the schoolhouse was built during Ira's ownership or during the time of Mr. Rookes occupancy it was not definitely known but Mr. Rooke did enlarge the donated acreage by another half acre. Land documents, copies of which, are included in the sources of material used in the Michigan portion of this writing. ¹⁴

Another land document shows that Ira acquired more property in the area in addition to the hundred and sixty acres mentioned here. It was an eighty acre piece in the east half of the south east quarter of section twelve, township 2 south, range 7 east. The ground is an excellent level piece of farm ground and lays along the county line. Its south west corner is just a quarter mile east from Ira's land and on the north side of Ford Road. This property is now owned by the Superior Developing Company.

The first settler of Ypsilanti was Benjamin Woodruff and his wife and six children. They arrived in July of 1823. Immediately, Mr. Woodruff waited upon the Governor of the Territory, who named the settlement "Woodruff's Grove."

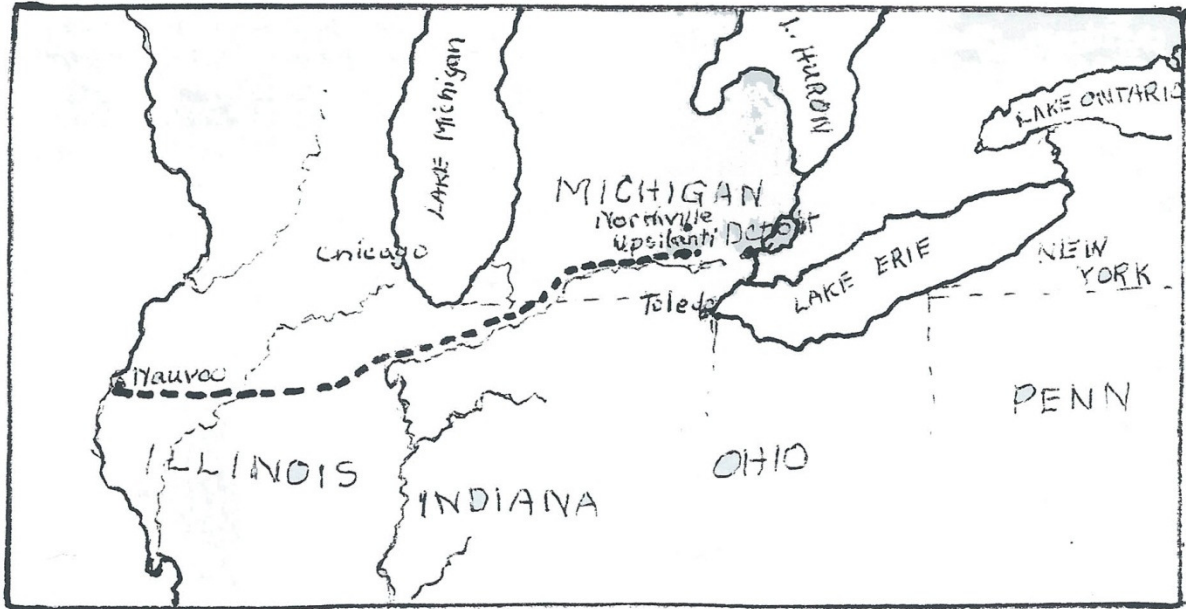
For several years the early settlers of Washtenaw County were compelled to go to Detroit for their flour and meal, requiring almost a weeks time to make the journey. The fever and ague, or "chills and fever" was a disease of which every pioneer was required to have a taste.

The first saw mill was built in 1825. Before that time and even later, houses were log structures built hurriedly with the help of neighbors.



This log cabin was reproduced for the Ypsilanti centennial celebration in 1923. Seth Reed, shown in the doorway, was also 100 years old that year.

Ira first lived in a log house of similar design to the above, but in four years he had erected the fine home that is shown in the previous photos and sketches. It was built of lumber, either from early saw mills of the time, or perhaps from the saw mill built on his property. The old log house stood near the corner of what is now Ford and Gottfredson Roads. The new frame house was built to the south on higher ground facing Gottfredson Road. Mr. Drew used the old log building as a shed for some time, but it is not seen today, though he showed us the spot where it had been.

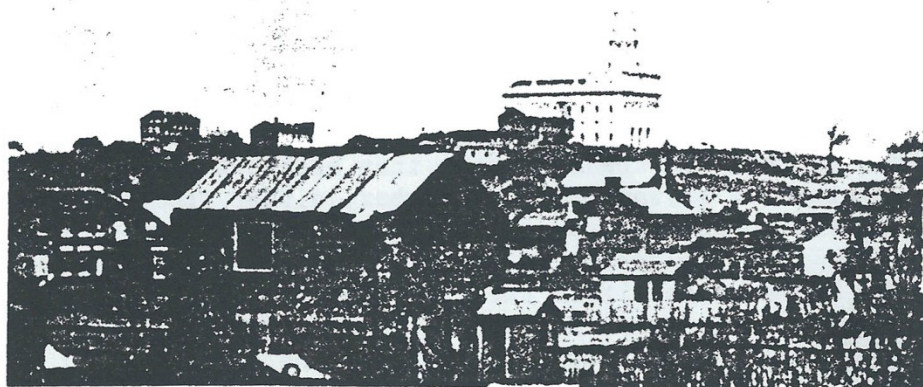


It would be interesting, could we follow the family's move from Upsilon, Mich., to Nauvoo, Illinois, a distance of over 300 miles. Considering the modes of travel at that time and the likely moving of Ira's livestock and machinery, the venture must have been quite an undertaking. Perhaps it prepared them for the arduous journey they would soon make across the great plains to the West. The spirit of gathering must have been a great motivating force.

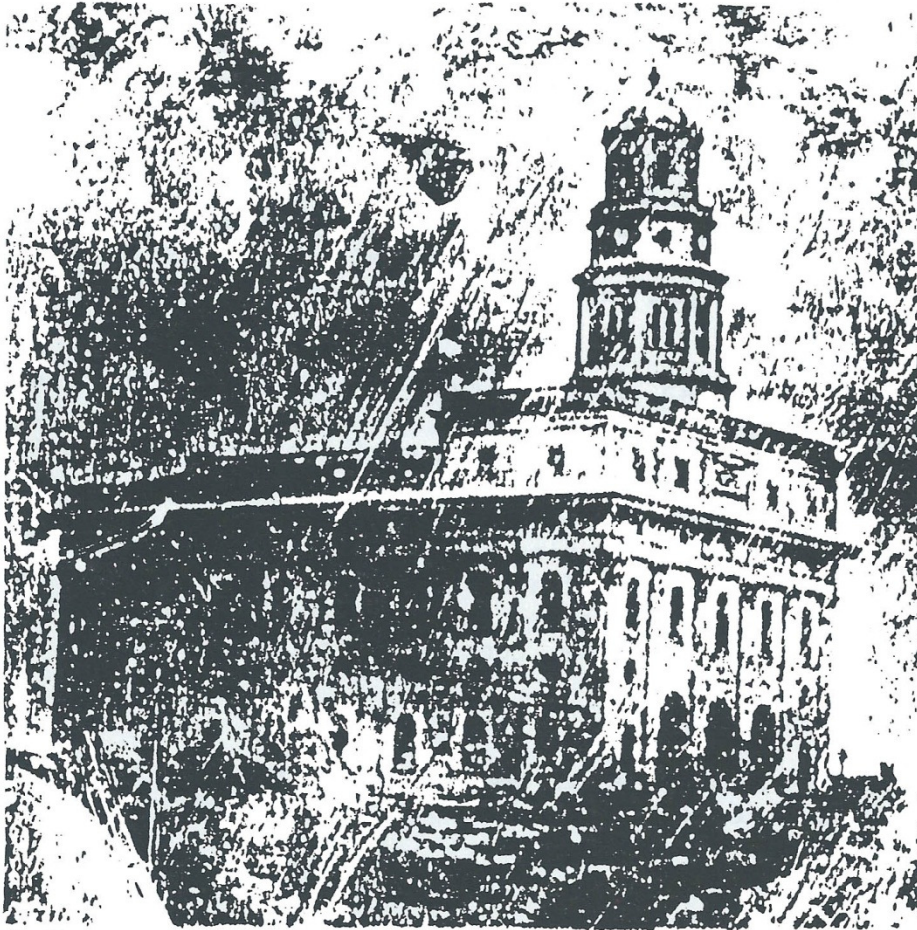
"...By this time their oldest son, Benjamin, had died and their oldest daughter, Harriet, was married to Henry C. Lamoreaux...

"Maryette, Minerva's daughter, who married Orson Cook, has not, up to now, been located on record. It is believed that she settled in New York. Juliette, two years younger, had died as a child. Asaph and William Kelsey were still with Ira and Sara Ann when they moved from Illinois.

"...It is quite possible that Harriet and her husband, Henry, were with them for they are found in Nauvoo and later in Des Moines, Iowa, after being driven, with the body of the Church, from Nauvoo in 1846." 15



Nauvoo and the temple. 1845



The Nauvoo Temple from a doguerrotype, about 1845

Recently through Nauvoo Restoration, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah, Mrs. Dora Duncan found interesting information regarding the properties owned by Ira and his sons Asaph and William Kelsey in and near Nauvoo, including land in Pontoosuc Township, the nearest tract being ten miles northwest from the city limits of Nauvoo. Some of their extensive land holdings were in the southern portion of Hancock County. Deeds to the farm lands, as well as sales, were found recorded, but no record has been found of their lot in Nauvoo which was near the Temple. The burning of their home occurred in Green Plains precinct in the southern part of Hancock County near the head of Camp Creek.

"With the marriage of Henriette (husband's name thought to be Bausworth) and William Kelsey, who married Lucy Whitter Geer, 9 Oct., 1845 in Nauvoo, the Ira Rice family would have become smaller, but the two youngest, Hyrum Smith and Ephriam, born in Nauvoo, kept their number of children at home at seven." 16

The "History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints", Vol. VII, page 522, mentions the burning of the Rice home in Nauvoo, November, 1845, in these words:

"Wednesday 12, — Brother Rice's farmhouse on Camp Creek was burned by about thirty men of the mob who swore they were Governor Ford's troops, which was probably false, John M. Finch and Rollison were with them." 17

In a neighboring farm, four days later, Saturday, 15 -- Edmund Durfee was shot by a mob of house-burners:

"A considerable party of the mob set fire to a stack of straw near Solomon Hancock's barn and concealed themselves. Hancock and others went out to put out the fire which was the only way to save the buildings, when they were fired upon by the burners, and Elder Edmund Durfee was killed on the spot, many balls flew around the rest of the brethren, but no others were hurt". 18

In the footnote, p. 145, this incident is said to have occurred at Green Plains in Hancock County, Illinois, during the time of great mob violences in the month of November when the Saints were making efforts to move west the next year.

Elder Joseph B. Brackenbury died from the effects of poison secretly administered to him by opposers, who afterwards boasted that Mormon elders had not faith enough to stand poison. Before this incident happened, Elder Brackenbury had written a letter to the Twelve, concerning the Durfee murder.

"To the Twelve:

On last night Elder Edmund Durfee was basely murdered by the mob in the Green Plains precinct, what shall be done to avenge his blood? the troops afford us no protection.

Yours

November 16th, 1845

J. B. Brackenbury

"Edmund Durfee's body was brought into the city to be buried..." 19

Orson Hyde wrote the following letter to the state malitia:

'Major Warren,

Sir: Intelligence reached us last evening of the murder of Mr. Edmund Durfee in the south part of the county by the mob who fired a quantity of straw to decoy him out, and while he was engaged in raking the straw so that the fire might not communicate with the buildings, six shots were made at him, one of which took effect in his breast and he died immediately.

"Mr. Durfee was one of the most quiet and inoffensive citizens in these United States and from our acquaintance with him, and from the nature of his business in securing his crops we are persuaded that his murder was wholly unprovoked.

"The burning of the house of Mr. Rice has created wide excitement in the city, but on this occasion, we look to you to take such steps and adopt such measures as you, in your wisdom, shall deem expedient, and that you will make your views public as early as consistent...Shall we send sufficient number of men into the south part of the county to

protect the citizens, or will you send your men for that purpose? Be so good as to inform us so soon as convenient.

"Affidavits will soon reach you of the above transactions.

Very Respectfully, in behalf of the Council.
(signed) Orson Hyde."

"Tuesday, 18 — The Twelve met in council at Dr. Richards'.

"Mr. Brayman, attorney for the State, wrote a letter to the council desiring witnesses against the murderers of Durfee to be sent to Carthage, also affidavits forwarded in relation to the burning of Rice's house, and advising us of the arrest of George Backman, Moss and Snyder, who were charged with the murder of Edmund Durfee.

"The council replied immediately and requested the witnesses to start in the morning for Carthage to perform their part in another judicial farce." 20

Following the burning of the Rice home on the evening of the 12th of November, the mob proceeded to the home of Samuel Hicks.

"...at about half past twelve o'clock, a company of men about thirty in number, made their appearance at the residence of Samuel Hicks, who got up out of bed and went to the door and asked what was wanted, they said they were the governor's troops right from Carthage, and had a writ for William Rice, (this, no doubt, was William Kelsey, son of Ira Rice and his first wife, Minerva) who they said was there, and was told that he was not there. They lay hold of Hicks and forced him away without anything on but his night-shirt. Hicks and his wife and child all being sick with the ague. Some of the mobsters entered the home and ordered the deponent, (that would be William Kelsey whom Hicks had declared was not there) and his brother (that would be Asaph), who were there, to carry out the goods of the house and while his brother (Asaph) was in the chamber, they set fire to the stairs, which prevented him from getting all their goods, and when the fire had got to burning through the roof, they came back with Hicks who had suffered much with cold and ague, and after giving many insults and threats, they went away. Deponent (William Kelsey) recognized in the company Joseph Agnew, John M. Finch, and a young man by the name of Moss..." 21

This report was written by Isaac Higbee, J. P. The one called 'Deponent' was so designated because he was called on to testify in court. His name could have been withheld in the report, either by request or to protect him from further acts of mob violence for having thus testified.

During the meeting of the council held Monday 24, 1848 the following was recorded:

"We have learned that the persons who murdered Edmund Durfee as also those who burned Rice's and Hick's houses were discharged by the magistrate without examination. Our brethren went according to Major Warren and Mr. Brayman's request as witnesses thereby fulfilling their part towards magnifying and making the laws honorable, but returned unheard, and the farce closed sooner than they had anticipated, without even a grand jury on the case." 22

Such incidents of unwarranted persecution were numerous. Church history is replete in the accounts of the sufferings heaped upon the Saints as they hurriedly made preparations to leave Nauvoo for a place of refuge in



MOB VIOLENCE

the West. The above is given in an effort to point out as many details as possible concerning our particular pioneer family of Ira and Sarah Ann Rice, who were left without a place of abode. They planned to leave Nauvoo as soon as it was feasible so building a new home at that time was out of the question. In fact, they were to be homeless for quite some time, traveling as they did across country with only temporary shelters that could be hastily provided. Most often their wagons were the only homes to be had, if such could be called a home.

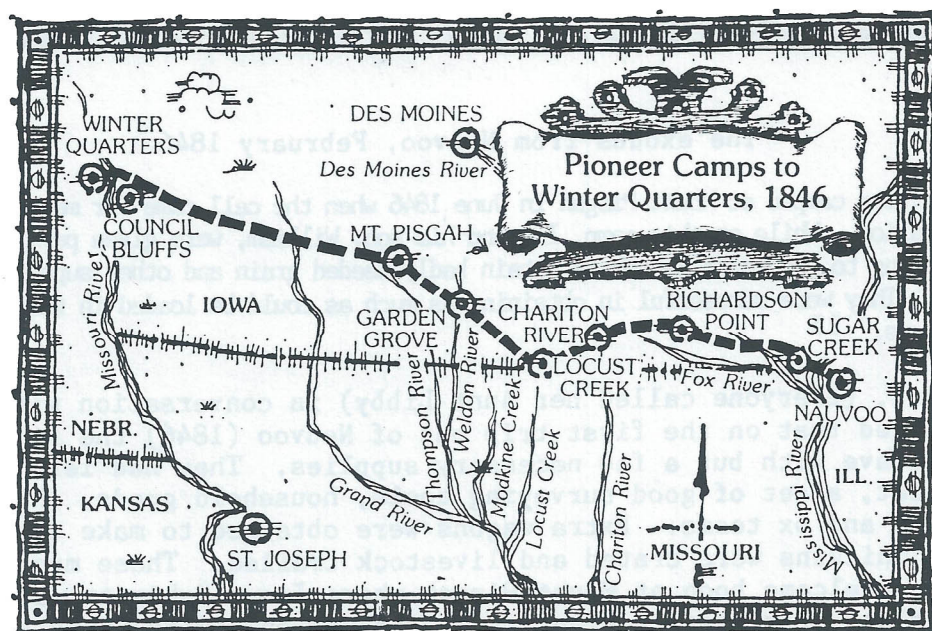
Ira and his family had mourned with the Saints over the death of their Prophet and Patriarch and now they were having to suffer untold hardships at the hands of cruel mobs, experiencing the burning of their home. They had lost two of their children, Sarah Ann and Deliah. Ephriam was a baby in arms and Hyrum less than two years of age, when the exodus of the Saints from Nauvoo began.

"This family fled with others from Nauvoo in the dead of winter making their way across the Mississippi River into a snow-covered wilderness (Feb. 1846). A camp was made a few miles from their beloved city. Here President Brigham Young organized the Saints and made preparations to move westward as soon as possible." 23

From the church book entitled, "My Kingdom Shall Roll Forth", the following words are taken:

"Though the Nauvoo Saints had planned to leave in the spring when water and grass would be available for their teams, anti-Mormon pressure prompted their early departure on 4 February 1846, the same day the ship Brooklyn sailed out of New York harbor with a load of eastern Saints bound also for the West.

"Threats of possible interference in the spring had caused the Twelve to begin the removal of Saints earlier than planned. In February 1846, they decided that the two thousand emigrants who were prepared to go should leave immediately, with thousands to follow within weeks as they completed their preparations. The evacuation began 4 February 1846, and continued slowly and steadily until 24 February, when the Mississippi River providentially froze and many more Saints were able to cross. By mid-February Brigham Young had joined the Saints at Sugar Creek, Iowa, and organized them into camps. Within several weeks the Saints were assembled in temporary camps across Iowa, making their way to scattered winter quarters. Many of them spent the winter in Nebraska at a settlement known as Winter Quarters." 24



Camps of the Saints were scattered across Iowa as shown on the above map. The oldest daughter of Ira and Sarah Ann, along with her husband, Henry Charles Lamoreaux, made camp at Fort Des Moines. Ira was making necessary trips back and forth from Nauvoo to Winter Quarters assisting many destitute travelers and obtaining supplies as directed by Brigham Young. For the time, Ira's family were situated with the older daughter and her husband at Des Moines. We can hardly realize the contributions, sacrifices and services rendered by Ira and his two older sons, Asaph and William Kelsey, at this harrowing time of the exodus out of Nauvoo. Every able-bodied man's strength was tested to its limit in the struggle to relieve the suffering of the Saints. The privation of those at Des Moines was no less severe than in the other camps.



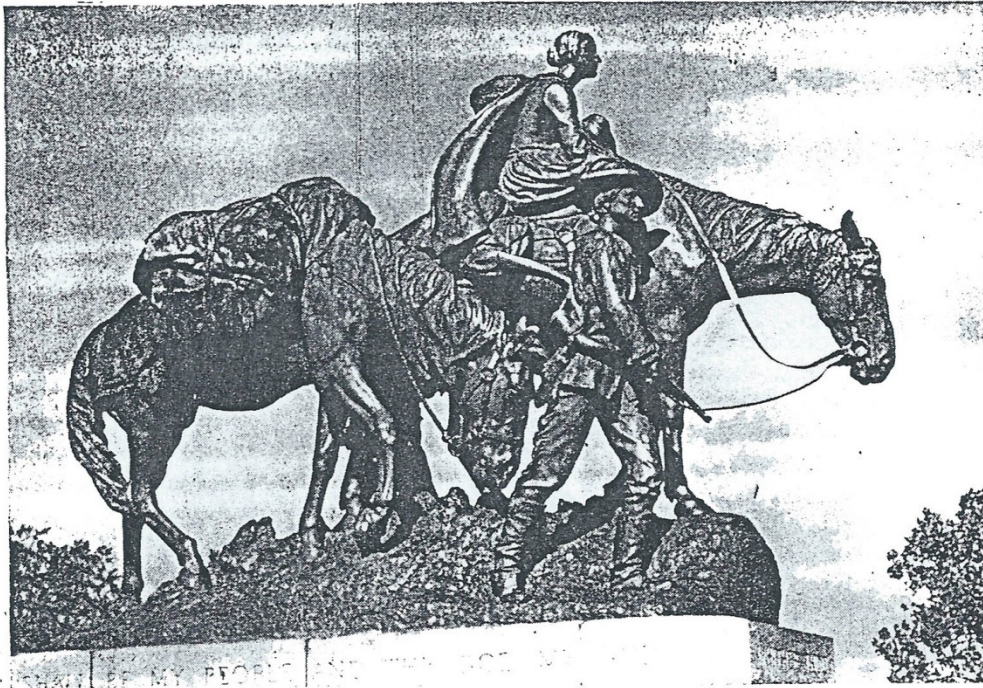
The exodus from Nauvoo, February 1846

"The exiles were camped at Mount Pisgah in June 1846 when the call came for men for the Mormon Battalion. While at this camp, Ira and his son, William, were given permission by President Young to return to Nauvoo to obtain badly needed grain and other supplies from their farm. They were successful in obtaining as much as could be loaded in their several wagons." 25

Libby Bybee, (everyone called her Aunt Libby) in conversation with Eva (Clark) Wilcox, explained that on the first trip out of Nauvoo (1846) the Rices had only been able to leave with but a few necessary supplies. They had left about 800 bushels of wheat, a set of good surveying tools, household goods, chickens, cows, and many horses and ox teams. Extra wagons were obtained to make up their return of supplies. Chickens were crated and livestock trailed. These much needed supplies were a welcome boon at Mount Pisgah where Ira and his two sons, Asaph and William Kelsey, remained to plant crops for the on-coming wagon trains who could reap the harvest of their efforts and then move on to Winter Quarters.

Before they returned to Mount Pisgah, William Kelsey's wife, Lucy, gave birth to their first child, Ellen Mariah, on Sept. 13, 1846. Lucy had been living in a wagon box that was placed into a hillside and banked with dirt. A kind neighbor, Brother Martin H. Peck, had made her bed as comfortable as possible by piling bark and boughs in the wagon box. More larger limbs were used to make a covering for shade. It was here in this crude shelter that baby Ellen was born.

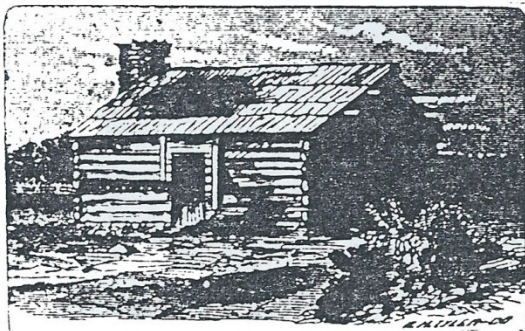
The following photo of the statue, "The Pioneer Mother", located in Kansas City, Missouri, typifies pioneers such as Lucy Rice and her baby, Ellen.



The words around the base are from the Bible—Ruth's beautiful declaration to Naomi—"Whither thou goest, I will go..."

"The call at Mount Pisgah for 500 able-bodied men for the Mormon Battalion made it impossible for the weakened Saints to continue on to the Rocky Mountains as planned. It was necessary to seek quarters where they could prepare for the coming winter. The site chosen was on the west bank of the Missouri River, now Florence, Nebraska, but was, and still is to the L.D.S. people, "Winter Quarters". (map #16)

"Soon crude houses and shelters were made. A grist mill and a council house was built, the latter being used as a Sabbath meeting place. No written account of his activities was kept by Ira, but it is quite certain that Ira and his sons, with Lucy and baby Ellen, were there at Winter Quarters throughout the winter of 1846-7.

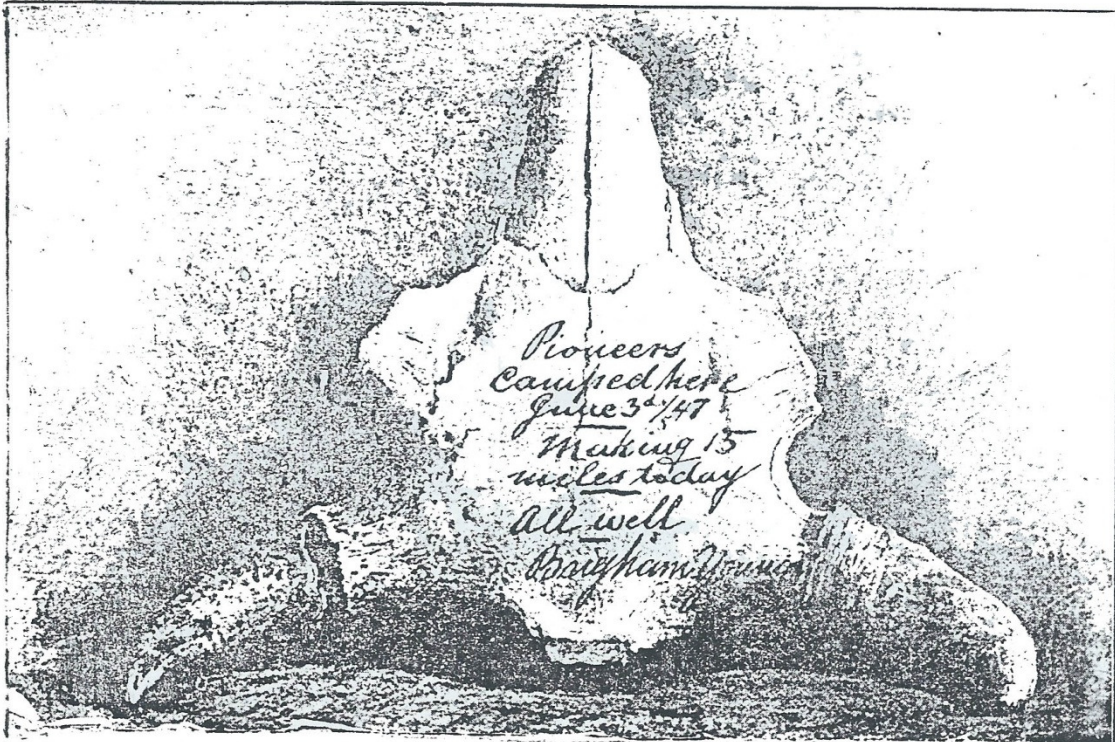


"Across the Missouri on the east bank, another temporary settlement was made, known as Kanesville, in honor of Col. Thomas L. Kane, who had so kindly befriended the persecuted Saints on many occasions. This is now Council Bluffs, Pttwt., Iowa.

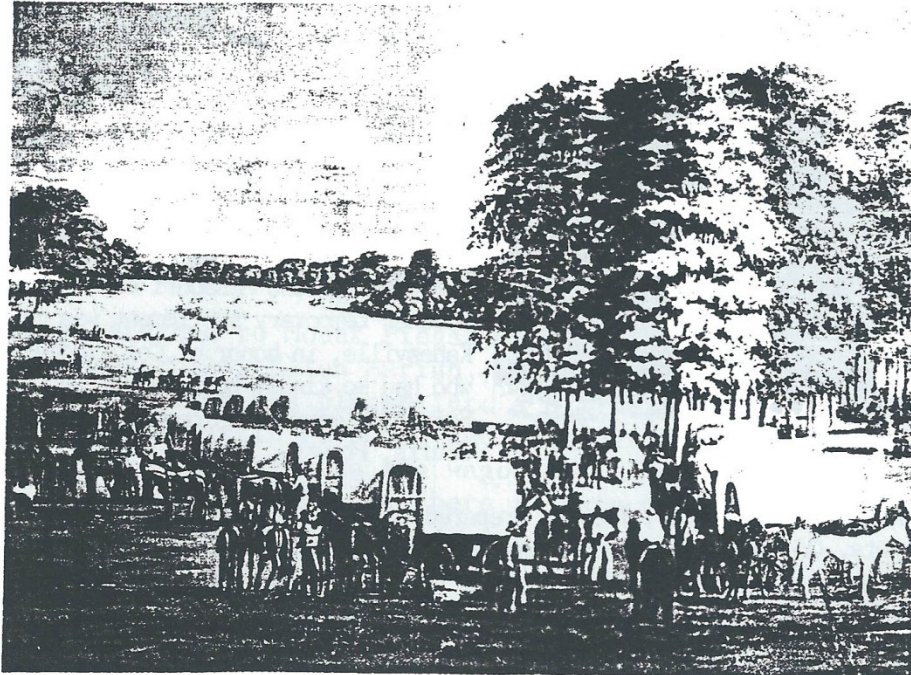
"Early in the Spring of 1847, Ira had prepared to leave Council Bluffs with the first company of immigrants. Once more President Young felt that it would be wise for Ira to return to Nauvoo for more grain and needed supplies. Ira owned good teams and wagons and was able to freight much produce and assist many families to get to Winter Quarters, including the Orson Pratt and Lorenzo Snow families. His acceptance of President Young's request, was the reason that Ira and his two older sons were not accounted in the first wagon trains to get to Zion." 26

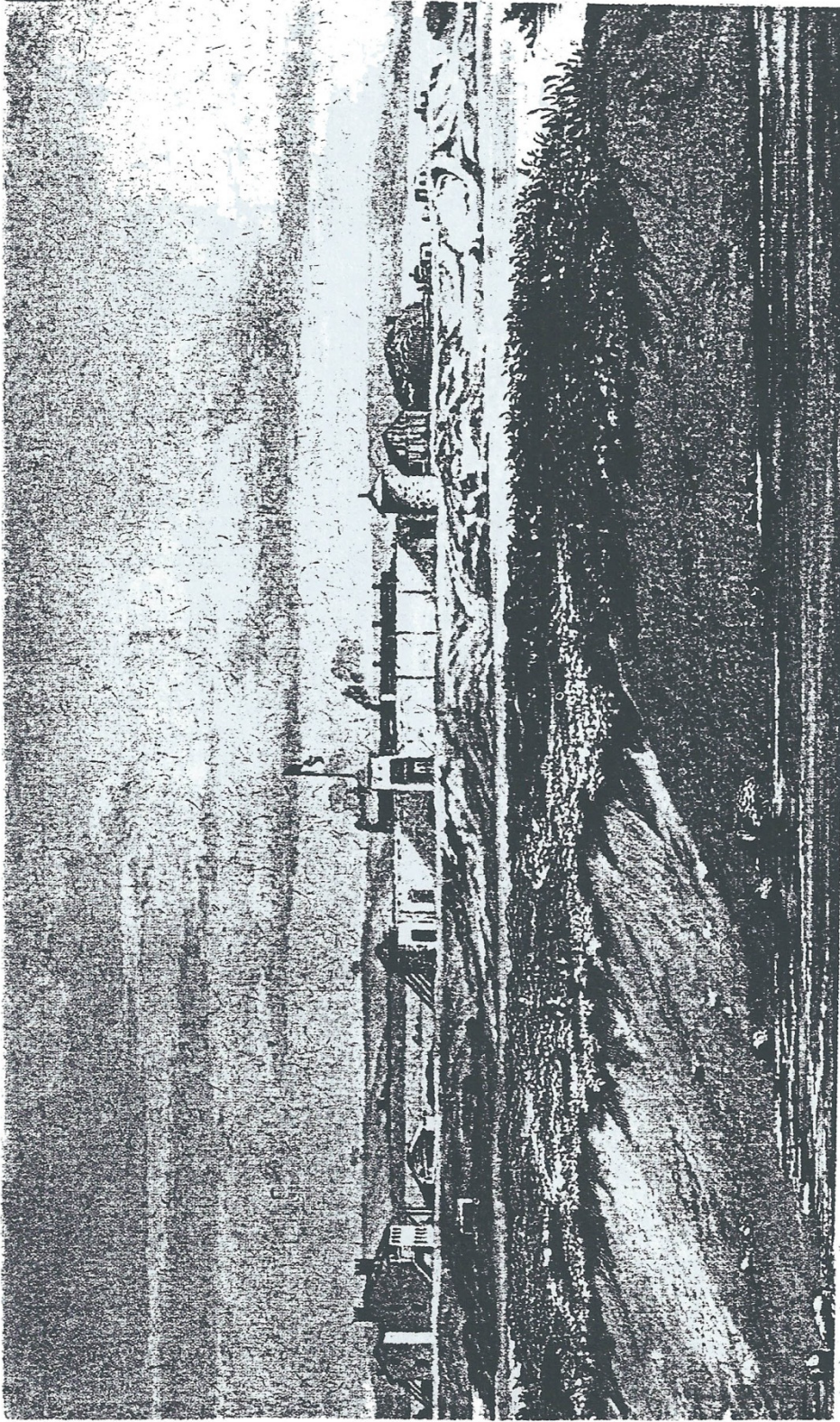
In those early companies it was not unusual for the men to precede their families to the Salt Lake Valley for the purpose of preparing for them to arrive with later companies of pioneers. This was, no doubt, the case with Ira.

A "Mormon" Pioneer Guide Post



The pioneers crossing the Platte River in Nebraska (painting by C.C.A. Christensen, 1831-1912)

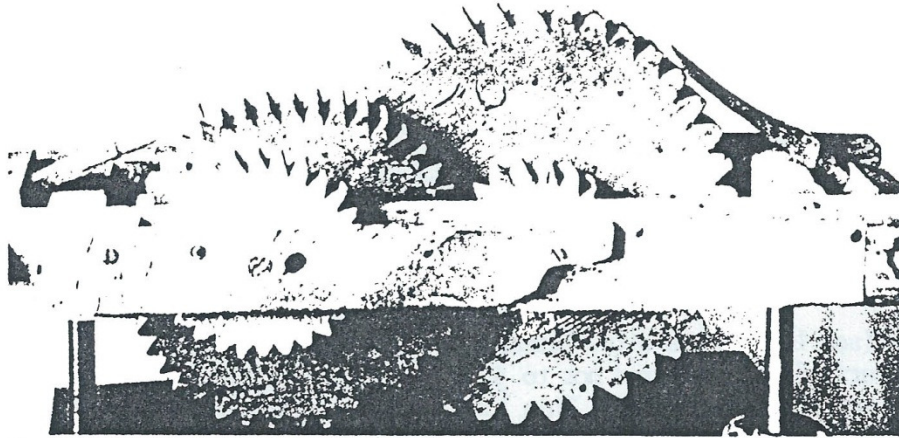




The flat, brown world of Fort Laramie, bordering on the North Platte River, was the halfway stopping point for pioneers crossing the plains.



A sketch of Great Salt Lake City as it appeared in 1853 from an old steel engraving.



An odometer of the type used by the pioneers to measure the distance they traveled

It seems that before reaching Winter Quarters some of Ira's family decided on a more northerly route that took them to Des Moines, Iowa. Des Moines is to the north a short distance from Mount Pisgah. It is understood by some that the children remained with the mother, Sarah Ann, in Des Moines to await their father's call to follow with a later company of Saints. Harriet had married Henry Lamoreaux and Henrietta who married _____ Bausworth, are known to have stayed in Des Moines, as had Sarah Ann and the younger children. It is supposed that Sarah Ann had approved the journey west but she was in ill health and, without doubt, it would seem wise that she should be near her older daughters for the care she may have needed. By 1848, Leonard Gurley, the oldest son of the remaining children, would be 19 years of age and could shoulder the responsibility of teams and wagons for the journey west. The later trip made by Leonard Gurley is told in the following words of the narrative in 'Rice Pioneers'.

"...Leonard's father and his two older half-brothers, Asaph and William Kelsey, had preceded him to Utah. As soon as weather permitted (1848) they went about building a home to the north of Salt Lake City, in what was called 'North Cottonwood', later 'Farmington, Davis County, Utah', and were prepared to welcome the rest of the family who were coming with Leonard Gurley...Leonard, who was then 19 years of age brought only part of the family, namely, Oscar North, 15; Adelbert, 9; Hyrum Smith, 4; Adeline 11, and Caroline, about 7.

"It was a great disappointment to Ira. Sarah Ann, the wife and mother, had, no doubt, passed away as no mention was made of her..." 27

(We are not aware as to whether or not Ira knew, prior to this time, that his wife had died).

In Dora Duncan's 1976 report, article 3 and 4, she states:

"The L.D.S. Emigration records of 1847-1869, pages 16 and 25, states that: Asaph Rice, age 30, member of Daniel Spence's Hundred, arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley 24 Sept. 1847.

"Ira Rice, age 55, from the States, member of Captain Edward Hunter's Hundred, part of which arrived in G.S.L. Valley 29 Sept. 1847—A second entry on Ira states he came as a teamster for Olive H. Walker". 214

Leonard had brought this family of young children--except for the youngest, Ephraim--all needing a home and a mother. Details grow dim, but the children survived the many adjustments that had to be met. Not always did they have the security that their father may have wanted for them and necessarily they were farmed out to others of the family until they were able to shift for themselves.

Leonard Gurley Rice (1-7) made several trips across the Plains to help others in their journey to Utah. In 1851 he returned again and this time he visited in Iowa, hoping to bring his younger brother, Ephraim, who would have been 5 or 6 years of age.

"...In a letter (see 1-7) to his wife, Elizabeth, he wrote that he had seen his older sisters who had married and preferred not to join the Saints in Utah, and that his younger brother, Ephraim, had drowned. This loss grieved Leonard much, for he had been most anxious that all of his parent's family be reunited in Utah." 29

Again, no mention was made of his mother, so we must assume that she had died earlier, probably in 1846 or 1847.

"Sarah Ann had given birth to 12 children under most difficult conditions. The sacrifices occasioned by the cruel treatment of the mobs and the exposures that were endured by the pioneers had undone the health of many. This we know--Sarah Ann died, but the where and when of this event has not been established to date." 30

We, of later generations, need to give Sarah Ann the advantage of our benevolent esteem and say, "She would have crossed the Plains with her family if she could have done so". We must not take it upon ourselves to suppose that there was any possibility that she had become bitter against the Church, while her husband remained faithful, or that she had preferred to stay in Iowa. We owe a great debt of gratitude to this noble 'Mother in Israel'. She earned a title of honor among the women of the world. It seems quite probable that she died in Des Moines, Iowa, sometime during the period that Ira was assisting families to reach Winter Quarters in preparation for the longer journey across the Plains to the Rocky Mountains and the Salt Lake Valley. The condition of Sara Ann's health must have made it impossible for her to travel further and she may have needed the care of her married daughter who remained in the out-post settlement of Des Moines.

Des Moines was then only a Fort that had been built in 1843. The Government of the United States had erected it as a stronghold in the territory of the Sac and Fox Indians. On October 11, 1845, the treaty with the Indian occupation rights ended. Many settlers were already occupying tracts of land and awaiting the valid survey to give them their choice of a portion of property. The Fort contained a trading post and the land showed great promise for farming, sights for mills, and queries of limestone building rock. Mining of coal also seemed inexhaustible. Indians had been expelled from the land at the termination of the treaty and removed to the reservation in Kansas by 1846.

The Des Moines River runs through Polk County and the Fort was built on its bank. The first white child born in Des Moines was in January 1845. The first regular mail route was in April 1846, coming weekly and delivered on horseback. The population of the town did not reach 500 until 1850. The barracks were built for families in the same pattern as the Fort.

The Lamoreaux' arrived at the Fort at DesMoines in its early beginnings and decided to remain, at least for a time. The settlers at this early period were without the conveniences of civilized life. The family may have had a cow, but how to make the butter was a problem unless they brought along a churn from earlier days. The ingenuity of the pioneer was equal to most emergencies. A section of a hollowed out log with a board bottom and a butter dasher made out of a hickory pole could be readily fashioned. Hollow logs were used for the purpose of a smoke house, barrel or bath tub. The dangers of starvation were great and the family was often reduced to very close rations when scanty supplies and provisions gave out. They obtained a little game, roasted wild crab apples and acorns and drank slough water. The Saints in Utah were having similar trials.

"Ira did not remain long in Farmington. When a settlement was opened up in North Ogden, he was given credit for building the first log cabin there. An excerpt in the 'North Ogden Centennial', reads, "On March 4, 1853...Thomas Dunn, who had been President of the temporary Ward (Branch), set up the previous December, became Bishop, with Ira Rice and Edwin Austin his Counselors." It was here in North Ogden that Ira married his third wife, Elizabeth Ann (Morris) Butler, November 20, 1856. Ann was a handcart pioneer of 1856, whose husband, William Butler, a coal digger in South Wales, had died prior to the time that Ann, as she was called, had left her native land of Wales to be with the Saints in Utah. She and her two fatherless children found the security again of a home at the time of this marriage. Ira, too, to some extent, could reunite his own family." 31

After spending about three years in North Ogden they heard glowing reports of Cache Valley, Utah, and Ira and sons Asaph and Oscar North joined a group of men who had explored that country two years before, and in the spring of 1859 they moved their families to this new area. They located in what is now Providence, Cache Valley, Utah. (map #32)

"...During the first few weeks, and until logs had been hauled from the canyons, each pioneer family were sheltered in their wagon boxes. Log cabins were hastily erected and clearing of land commenced. Houses of logs with dirt roofs and rough board floors had cloth covered windows and a fireplace in one end where fires could be started with a flint and tinder." 32

In a local history written by Joel E. Ricks, it is noted that,

"...On November 29, 1859, High Priests came together at a meeting and among those from Providence was Ira Rice.

"By 1866, Providence was a thriving settlement; Ira and Ann were living in comparative comfort. Ira was 66 years of age and his eyesight had been impaired by an infection. When the call came from President Young for volunteers to go on a colonizing mission, called the Muddy or Cotton Mission to the South, under the direction of Erastus Snow, Asaph accepted the call. Ira and his son, Asaph, had remained close associates through the years, living and working together much of the time so, again, Ira chose to accompany him on this mission. Reference has been made, though the source is unavailable, that when they reached Salt Lake City, President Young advised Ira and Asaph to return to Cache Valley rather than continue on to a new settlement in their waning years. But they had already sold their properties in Providence, on the recommendation of their Bishop, and the lure of the trail won out." 33

The exact route of Ira's travel to southern Utah is a matter of conjecture due to lack of details, but the usual trek of most travelers can now be followed

with reasonable accuracy. From Salt Lake they passed Utah Lake and proceeded south to the Sevier River and continued on to Clear Creek Canyon following that stream. They traveled over the mountains that surrounded the present site of Cove Fort. Following the natural route to the southwest, they reached Beaver River somewhere in the vicinity between Minersville and Milford, Utah. From Beaver River their route led them by way of Ash Creek, to the Rio Virgin River down which they finally arrived to the area where Brigham Young had established his desert cotton colony. The route covered a country destitute of any game save a few rabbits. (map #32)

"Dixie of the Desert", published by the Zion Natural History Assn., Zion National Park in 1964, was written by H. Lorenzo Reid. He tells a vivid story of the pioneer effort to settle the area of southern Utah in these words:

"One of the most difficult and perplexing problems that faced the early settlers of the desert of southern Utah was that of transportation. The first highways were mere trails over which the early trappers and travelers passed with saddle and pack animals. The old Spanish Trail was first charted for pack outfits only. With the California gold rush the use of wagons was a frequent sight along many routes from east to west and from north to south...

"Indians often were seen waiting along the trail to either satisfy their curiosity or that they might insure that the caravan understood that the little fields of maize, which were passed, belonged to them. Sometimes they persisted in following the travelers, who found it difficult to decide whether they meant a mere friendly visit, or if it were their object to pillage; and their presence was not only a great nuisance but a source of anxiety. Often their women accompanied the Indian braves for a distance, with some a child in her arms, all of them scantily dressed and all equally dirty. Their filth was revolting.

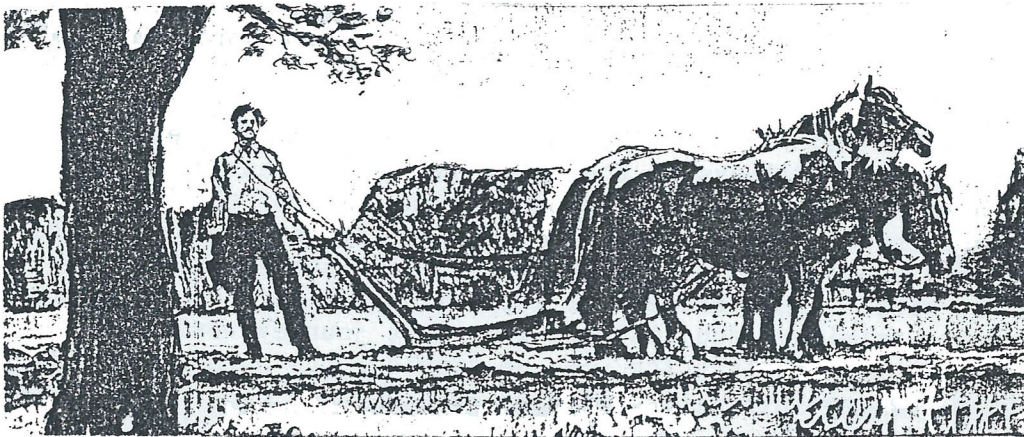
"Much of the country was rough and hilly, cut up in every direction by ravines and deep gorges, and where nothing was to be seen but plants of cactus and some grass, quite dead. Often the ascension of rising ground gave the travelers much difficulty and at the end of sandy plains they often had to pass over slight eminences, over which their wagons were nearly broken to pieces against rocks and boulders that barred the way. Whenever areas of pasturage were found, the travelers would stop to give their animals rest and feed....

"It took about ten days to travel from Salt Lake to Cedar City where they could pause to rest, and permit their animals to recuperate before entering the desert...Some hills were so sandy that the wheels of the wagons sank deep into the sand making it difficult for the horses to pull the loaded wagons and on occasions, the men set to work lightening the wagons by transferring as much as possible of the contents to the backs of the loose mules and horses. At these times their travel was slow and tedious and at the cost of severe exertion to their animals. Often it was necessary to delay their travels for a few days." 34



When the little settlement of what is now the town of Washington was finally reached, it was evident that here was a place where the weary might stop and enjoy plenty of water, grass, and the shade of trees. The clouds of dust made by the wagons and animals could be forgotten for a time. They were in the Valley of the Virgin where Brigham Young had established his 'Dixie of the Desert' for the purpose of cotton industry that was to become a goal for the self-sustaining society of Latter-day Saints.

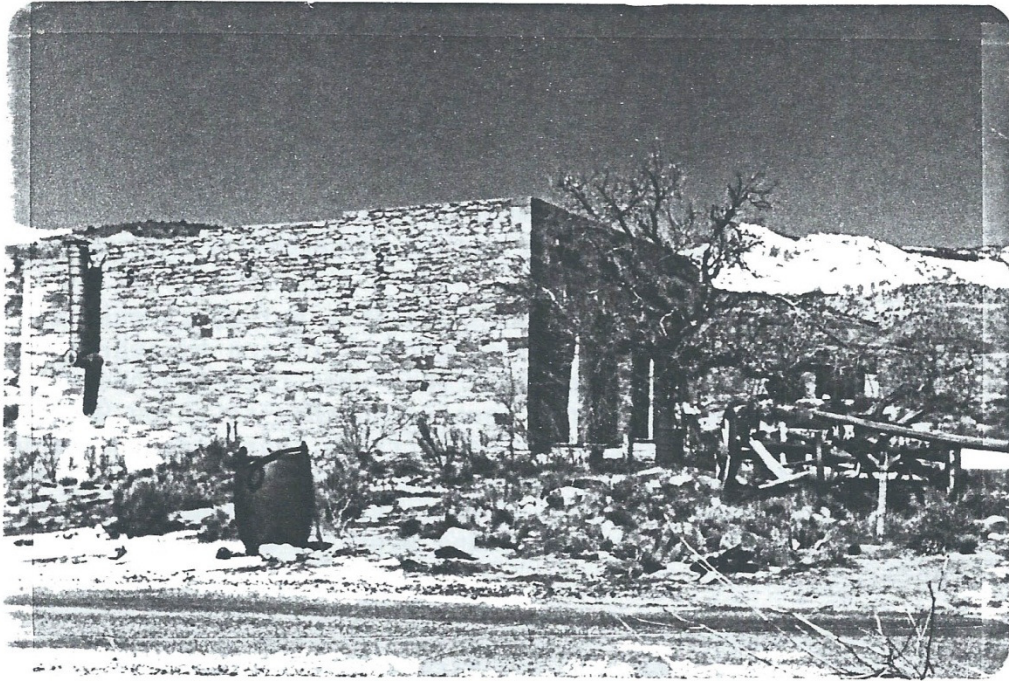
Our traveling group, of whom Ira and Asaph, his son, and their families were a part, had followed this desolate route. The journey had been a real struggle. The summer heat was often intense and rains brought frequent floods. Near the confluence of the Santa Clara and Virgin rivers they entered a valley floor that seemed a most resplendent spot compared to the desert sameness they had encountered for days. The small settlement called Washington, just a short distance from the cotton mission headquarters of St. George, was a delightful oasis. Trees grew along the creeks, springs were prevalent and here the travelers need not eat the clouds of dust turned up by the many wagon wheels and trailing livestock. For a spell at least, the weary group could find rest and be refreshed.



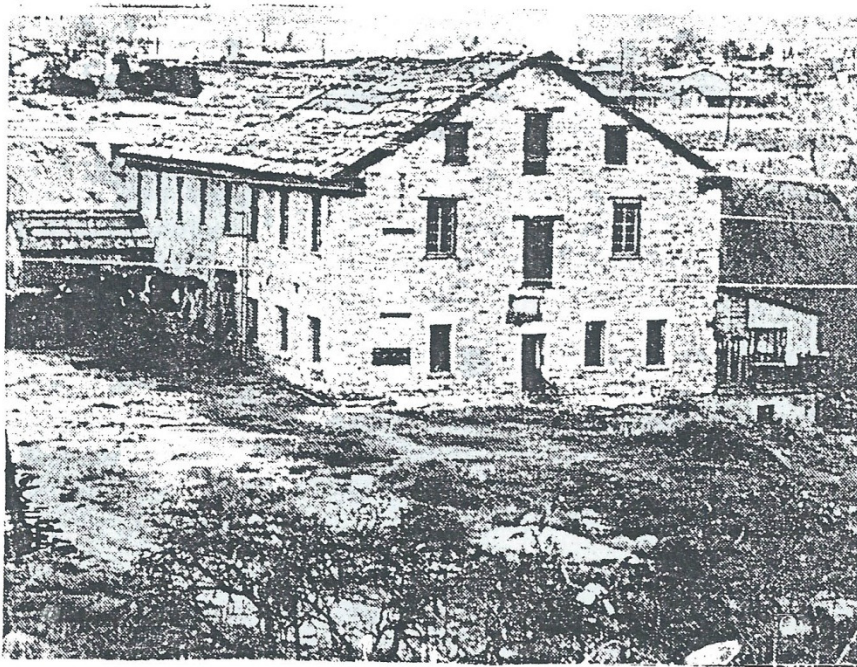


Seen here is a picture that portrays a typical journey of traveling over the desert during the mid-1800s. Hot, dry and dusty are words that only begin to describe the conditions.

By 1866 Ira is known to have traveled the many miles between western Massachusetts and the Valleys of the Rocky Mountains. Lastly, at the age of 73, he makes one last move in response to the call of the Church to extend the bounds of Zion, intending to help establish a colony further south. We might conclude that we have followed our subject and pioneer ancestor, Ira Rice, in his travels of 2000 miles and more when transportation was still quite primitive and tedious. This last journey would seem a great sacrifice at a costly price when we consider the harshness of the circumstances and the infirmities of his age.



Above is a recent picture taken of the old Wells-Fargo Station as it is seen a short distance west of Leeds, Washington County, Utah. It's location is on the old trail from points north and east to California and was passed by caravans of Mormon settlers to colonize southern Utah and the Muddy River valleys in Nevada.



The Old Cotton Mill as seen today

The Cotton Mill was completed in October of 1865 and was dedicated July of '66, the year that the Rices arrived in Washington, Utah. The travelers camped at the Creek near this three-story Mill. This building is virtually the only thing left of any evidence today of the once hoped for cotton industry of the Church. Cotton was raised with success, but the venture was abandoned after eastern textile factories were found to be too competitive. Now, over a century later, a person would be hard put to find cotton growing in Washington County. Abandoned for years by the Church which once nurtured it, the building sits quietly, (1983) a quaint nuisance to the community.

The party was advised by church leaders, at this point, to push on into the 'Muddy' before stopping to settle. From a journal written by Ephriam Hall, one of the members of this party, we understand that when they reached Ash Creek near St. George, President Erastus Snow instructed them to go on 90 miles further south to help settle the Muddy Valley. The settlers there were being urged to grow cotton in support of the operations of the Cotton Mill that had been erected in the St. George and Washington area. Immigrants were needed to increase the man-power in the settlements to the south and west, so once again we see Ira and Asaph moving on.

The journey became even more difficult as they crossed over the plain that lay between high hills to the west of the Virgin River Gorge. The land is described as "an absolute desert with but little grass upon it and here and there only monstrous globe-shaped cactus and scrawney Joshua trees". They were truly in the northern edge of the Senora Desert that reaches into Mexico. It seemed that any advance of this traveling group only brought more and more evidence that the very forces of the desert were against any reasonable thought of habitation.

One can readily understand the feelings of each member of the group when they reached the second oasis of their journey. At what is now Littlefield, Arizona, they found a lovely area of flatland just below the Gorge and along side the Virgin River. Here again was a place of shade trees and fresh water. Most of the company did go on further to the Muddy Valley, but Ira and Asaph, with a few other families, settled here at what became known as 'The Beaver Dam Wash', now in Arizona, Clark Co., then thought to be in Utah. They built their homes and planted a crop. Their hopes were shattered, however, when waters of fall rains from higher ground came down the many ravines in torrents, adding water to streams that followed a course to the Virgin River.

In another journal, William E. Jones wrote:

"On the 23rd of December, 1867, flood waters came down the Beaver Dam Wash and raised to the top of the creek's banks. The next day, the bank where the homes stood, began to cave in. By noon all had moved their goods from their houses to higher ground. Some of the houses went in the flood." 35

The Rices were left homeless. According to several reports, Ira worked so hard helping in the move to higher ground, not just once, but several times, that



D. Eldon Rice and
Elaine Rice Gibb Kimzey

looking over the Beaver
Dam Wash, 1978.



he became severly ill as a result of over-exertion and exposure. As soon as the weather made it possible, Elizabeth Ann, Ira's wife, and her family loaded wagons and made the journey back to St. George and the little settlement of Washington. Ira, as told by descendents of Ann, was too ill to drive and traveled the distance prone in the wagon box and that he never fully recovered from the experience of the flood at Beaver Dam Wash. They found shelter near Ash Creek where they remained to recuperate. Ira died that early Spring, April 14, 1868, while at Washington, where he was buried, and Ann was left a widow a second time.

Asaph and his family settled in Nevada where ranches were available and prospects looked good to his older sons. He, himself, referred to the country as "God Forsaken". They pioneered the settlements of Caliente and Panaca, Nevada. It has been stated that Asaph became somewhat embittered against the church. At least he must have felt disillusionment in his hopes. He and his two sister wives are buried at Panaca, Nevada. The horse ranches of Asaph's sons were situated on land that has since been incorporated into a State Park.

It is understood that when Ira and Elizabeth Ann started back for St. George, their intent was to make the journey back to Salt Lake City to be with the main body of the church, but as the following sketch affirms, Ann's children later moved on to Orderville and Escalante, Utah.

In a life sketch of Sarah Ann (Gates) Shirts, who was a granddaughter of Elizabeth Ann, some of the circumstances of the Beaver Dam Wash flood were reiterated by a descendant, Meleta S. Cottam, in these words:

..While there in Beaver Dam, they had a heavy cloudburst that washed their homes away with the flood. Then they had to move up into the hills and live in a wagon box boarded up for 2 feet with wagon cover for a roof, which answered the purpose of a home. Then all of the company came down with the chills and fever. Sarah Ann Butler had them for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years which left her very weak and delicate.

"Brother Erastus Snow released them to go back to their homes in Cache Valley, but her grandfather (Ira) being in his 75th year, died after getting back to Washington, Utah, and was buried there in 1868. Elizabeth Ann and those of her family lived there for two years." 36

This same sketch told of the time when Sarah Ann Shirts was a child and her father, Moroni Shirts, was killed by a large grizzly bear in the timbered canyons out of Providence, Cache County, Utah in 1863. Ira Rice, afterwards, shot the bear making it the 21st bear that he had killed. Elizabeth Butler, the widow of Moroni Shirts, married David William Campbell of Ogden and they accompanied the Rices and others to Southern Utah.

Elizabeth Ann's history, taken from the book "Our Pioneer Heritage", by Kate B. Carter, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, contains not only the details of Ann's life, but also gives important information regarding Ira's later years. It is very meaningful to add Ann's history to that of Ira's:

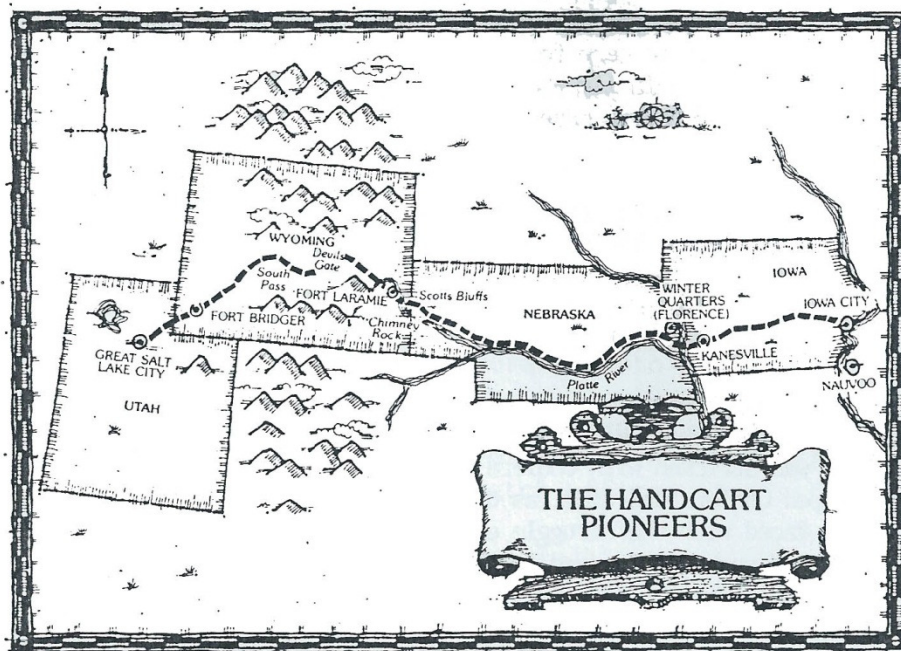
"Elizabeth Ann Morris was born in Ponteat, Carmarthen, South Wales on June 13, 1817, the daughter of Richard and Eliza Jones Morris. In 1841 she married William Butler, a coal digger, who was the son of John and Mary Thomas Butler. William was born June 12, 1816 also at Carmarthen. Ann was the mother of four children, Elizabeth, born June 21, 1842;

William Richard, born May 1848; John Thomas and Jane, dates unknown. When Ann was thirteen years of age her mother died, leaving six children whom she and her sister, Margaret, cared for. Their father married again shortly after the death of his wife, Eliza, and the woman he married had three children. Through her influence, Richard deserted his own family and they were left to care for themselves. When Ann was fifteen years of age, she was given a good home by a family who loved her as their own, and where she was taught household duties, and how to make a living at sewing, which profession she followed.

"Ann and William Butler were among the first people to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Wales. The missionaries who first introduced the gospel to them were Elders John Corrill and Elias Higbee. Daniel Jones and other elders came to Wales about 1843. After prayerful study the Butlers accepted the teachings and soon commenced preparations to cast their lot with the Saints.

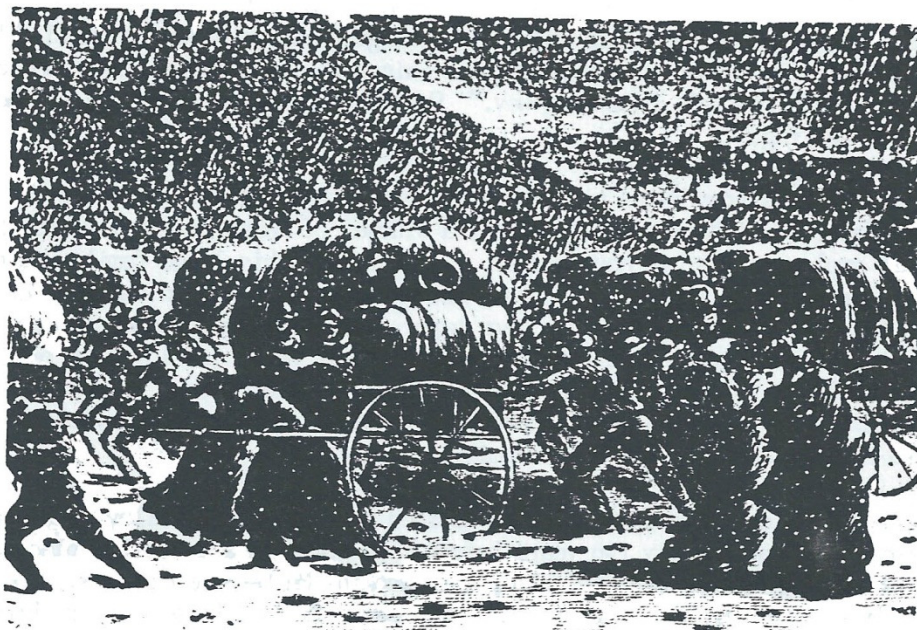
"At last their dream was about to be realized; reservations were made and fare paid for the family to sail to the "promised land". But tragedy struck before sailing time, the husband and father was stricken with cholera and died July 13, 1855. Some time later, John Thomas developed Cholera and died, as did Jane, two days before the ship was to sail. Ann was now faced with the struggle of supporting her two remaining children. For two years they had worked and saved to go to America. Personal belongings had been packed and sent to the port in readiness. If Ann stopped to bury her son and daughter she would give up her chance to leave. Her hard earned savings had been spent for reservations which could not be refunded. Her sister, Margaret Morris, who also planned to go to America, offered to stay and attend to the burial of the children, and then follow them to Zion as soon as possible. This was a heart-breaking decision to make, but Ann decided to go on with Elizabeth and William Richard. They sailed April 19, 1856, on the 'Samuel Curling' under the direction of Elder Dan Jones and landed May 25, 1856 at Boston where the ship was inspected by the health authorities and commended for its cleanliness. They rode on a cattle car from Boston to Des Moines, Iowa, a distance of 1300 miles.

"After three weeks of waiting for their handcart to be made ready, they started the trek across the plains, leaving Iowa June 23, 1856, in Captain Edward Bunker's handcart company just three months since leaving Wales. During the ocean voyage William Richard had observed his eighth birthday. Elizabeth was fourteen years of age. They traveled to Winter Quarters where each received 100 pounds of flour and other provisions. They had progressed some distance when cholera broke out in camp and the daughter, Elizabeth, became very ill. Ann asked the captain if she could stop and doctor her sick child as she was too ill to walk or if she might ride in one of the supply wagons. The captain said, "No, we must go on, your daughter is old enough to walk." Ann and William put Elizabeth on the cart and prayed that something would happen to delay the train. The first wagon had scarcely pulled out when one of its axles broke and a halt was called. It was about nine hours before the wagon was repaired and ready to go, and as it was nearly night, the train did not move until morning. When they were ready to start, Elizabeth was better and able to walk. Their supplies were about gone, except for flour, and this they lived on for days. Many times they stopped for herds of buffalo to pass and some were killed for food. A supply wagon came to meet them or they would have perished, but God was with them. When they arrived in the Valley, October 2, 1856, their clothes were in tatters, the women's dresses were worn out completely across the front and back where the handcart handle had rubbed, and rags were wrapped around their cracked, sore feet. The only distance they rode was on a supply wagon while crossing

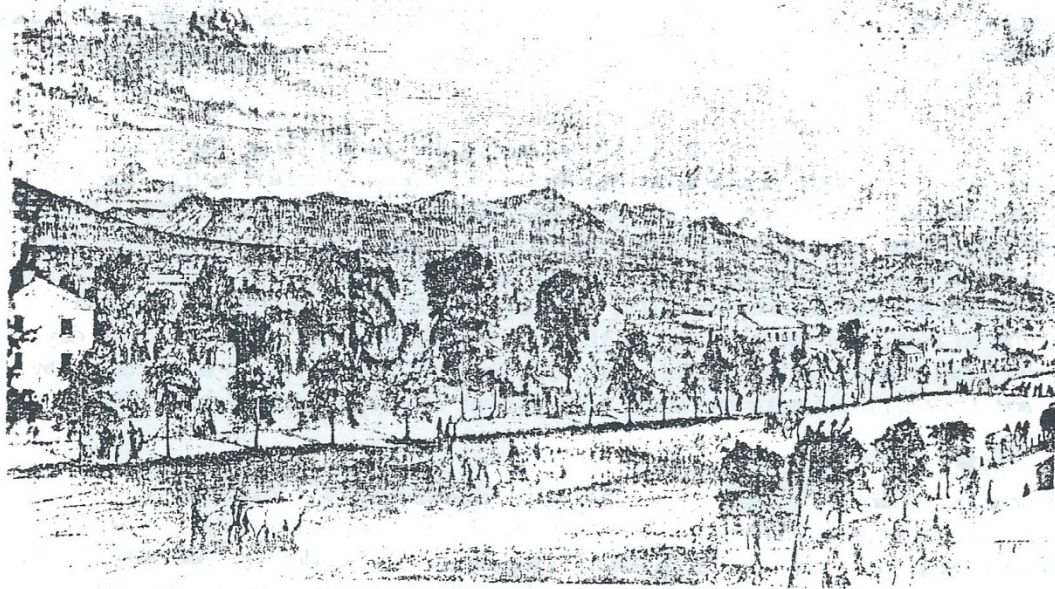


The handcart pioneers (painting by C.C.A. Christensen, 1831-1912)





"Handcart company in a snowstorm" (from Harald Jensen Kent, *Danske Mormoner* [N. P.: *Udvalget for Utah-missionen*, 1913, p. 11])



Sketch of Salt Lake City in the 1850s.
The wide streets were characteristic of all Mormon towns and villages.

the rivers. The children were given a ride on a wagon load of wood from Echo Canyon into the valley by one of the settlers. When the company reached their destination, they found the children had been washed and fed by some of the kind Saints. When Heber C. Kimball saw them as they came into the Valley, singing and so happy, he said, "If anyone deserves a reward in heaven, it is these poor Saints who have pulled their bodies without any shoes on their feet all this long way." President Brigham Young said, "I hope they will keep on pulling."

"One of Ann's friends from Wales took Ann and the two children into her home for a few days, then Heber C. Kimball asked Ira Rice, a widower of means originally from Michigan, if he would employ Ann as his housekeeper. The mother of his large family had died in Iowa. Ira hired Ann to keep house for his motherless children. On the 20th of November, 1856, Ann and Ira were married. They were happy in their pioneer home with their two families, but were never blessed with children of their own. Ira loved to read, and taught the children to read. He was amply rewarded in later years, for his eyesight failed and he could listen while William Richard read to him. Ann was an excellent housekeeper and worked hard to care for her large family.

"After spending a few years in Ogden, Ira decided to go to Cache Valley with a group of men who had explored that country two years before. He found it a beautiful place and moved his family there in the spring of 1859, along with Hopkins Mathews and others. Log cabins were hastily erected and clearing of land commenced. By fall of that year, Providence, as it was called, boasted of more than twenty log houses built in fort style. The winter was very cold, but spring found them ready to plant their crops with their crude, hand-made plows and other tools. Ira then built a second house which was a comparatively comfortable home, but again he had the urge to explore.

"In 1865, the Rice family answered the call to help settle southern Utah. Daughter Elizabeth had married Charles Henry Gates and was the mother of three small children when her husband was killed by a bear in Providence Canyon. Elizabeth later married David William Campbell of Ogden. This family and others went to southern Utah with Ira and settled near St. George in Washington County where they again pioneered. Many hardships were endured in this place. Ann and her children helped in these new communities by carding wool, spinning it into yarn with which to knit stockings, sweaters and shawls. Knitting needles were hard to get so with the quills of turkey and chicken feathers as needles, she taught her children this art.

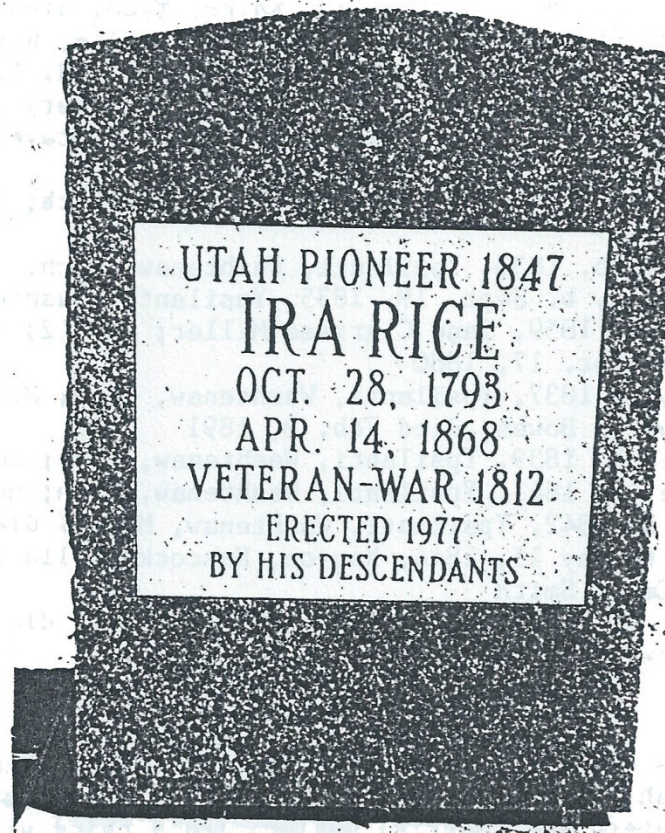
"Ira Rice died on the 14th of April, 1868, leaving Ann with a large family to care for. She had been set apart as a midwife and doctor by Heber C. Kimball before she left Ogden and was known far and wide as 'Grandma Rice'. She helped in Orderville until the Order was finished and made trips all over the country to help the sick. Ann was blessed with discernment and vision, being warned many times in dreams of impending disaster. In one of these dreams she saw her husband, Ira, carrying a load in a blanket, occasionally stopping to rest, and where he placed the load a pool of blood was seen. Some days later, Ira and a neighbor, Charles Willis, were digging a ditch when Willis was crushed by some rock and Ira carried him to the house in a blanket leaving a pool of blood where he had rested.

"Ann brought hundreds of babies into the world without medical assistance — Ethel Baker was the last baby she delivered. William Richard, her son, carried mail from St. George to Beaver Dam, but after he had married Elizabeth Snow Alexander in Escalante, Utah, he moved there. Ann later moved to Escalante where she lived in a small home near them. Taking an active part in Church work, she walked to the meetinghouse each Sunday until

nearing her eightieth birthday when she became too feeble. In her declining years a log cabin was built on the lot of her granddaughter, Sarah Ann Shirts. Here Ann helped make butter and cheese to ship to Salt Lake City in exchange for various materials which she did so enjoy, for previous to this time she had raised, spun and woven her own cloth. For forty years she served as a nurse in this vicinity. Ann died at the age of eighty-one years in Escalante, Utah, on 30 November, 1897." 37 (map #32)

Verification of Ira's death and place of burial was found in Elizabeth Ann's application for a 'War of 1812' widow's pension. Her granddaughter, mentioned earlier, recorded that her grandmother had journeyed back to Washington from Escalante to visit the old cemetery and see friends in the town.

Ira's grave may never have been marked, but if it were, it had long since been obliterated by time. Only by a recent investigation has the location been established and a worthy monument placed. No pioneer is more deserving of words of praise in his memory. His sacrifices for the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ in latter days and for the establishment of Zion in the West can be matched only by a few pioneers. He left an emulative heritage that can only be compensated by posterity through an individual loyalty of faithfulness.³⁸



Ira's monument is located at his grave in the old portion of the Washington Cemetery

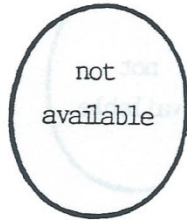
A listing of the children of Ira and Minerva (Saxton) Rice:

1. Ira Rice, b. Jan. 13, 1815, Manchester, Ontario, New York; died when a child
2. Asaph Rice, b. Jan 13, 1817, Manchester, Ontario, New York; md. (1) Apr. 21, 1850, Louisa Busenbark, Md. (2) Apr. 1, 1852, Mary Busenbark; died Feb. 3, 1872. He and his wives were buried at Panaca, Nevada.
3. Maryette Rice, b. Oct. 27, 1818, Manchester, Ontario, New York; md. Orson Cook
4. Juliette Rice, b. 1820, Manchester, Ontario, New York; died when a child
5. William Kelsey Rice, b. Oct. 27, 1822, Palmyra, Ontario, New York; md. (1) Oct. 9, 1845, Lucy Witter Geer, md. (2) June 17, 1855, Ann Victoria Rose; died July 6, 1913

A listing of the children of Ira and Sarah Ann (Harrington) Rice follows as taken from some of the latest research submitted to the Church Archives:

1. Harriet Rice, b. 1825, Northville, Wayne, Mich; md. 1840, Henry Charles Lamoreaux
2. Benjamin Rice, b. 1827, Northville, Wayne, Mich; died before 1842
3. Leonard Gurley Rice, b. Sept. 3, 1829, Northville, Wayne, Mich; md. (1) 18 Mar. 1849, Elizabeth Almira Babbitt, md. (2) Jan. 2, 1853, at Brigham Young's home, Margaret (Buckwalter) widow of Lemmon Wickle, and (3) Jan. 11, 1869, Lucy Jane Stevens; died Sept. 13, 1886 (1-7)
4. Henriette Rice, b. 1831, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, Mich; md.(thought to be Bausworth)
5. Sarah Ann Rice, b. 1833, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, Mich.
6. Oscar North Rice, b. Sept. 19, 1835, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, Mich; md. (1) Apr. 25, 1859, Jane Clarissa Miller; md. (2) Margaret Mathews; died Sept. 17, 1880
7. Adeline Rice, b. 1837, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, Mich; Md. Mar. 15, 1854, Jonathan S. Bowen; died Feb. 8, 1891
8. Adelbert Rice, b. 1839, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, Mich; md. Jane Cottrell
9. Caroline Rice, b. 1841, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, Mich; md. John McGuire
10. Deliah Rice, b. 1842, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, Mich.; died while young.
11. Hyrum Smith, b. May 15, 1844, Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois; md. Dec. 25 1865, Olive Emily Smith
12. Ephriam Rice, b. 1846, Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois; died 1851, age 5 or 6 from drowning, prob. at Des Moines, Iowa 39

Available portraits of the sons and daughters of Ira and his two wives, Minerva Saxton and Sarah Ann Harrington, are shown with their spouses on the following pages. Elizabeth Ann (Morris) Butler, Ira's third wife, is shown without issue. Her children are Butlers.



Ira Rice



(1) Minerva Saxton



Asaph Rice



William Kelsey Rice



(1) Louisa Busenbark



(1) Lucy Whitter Geer



(2) Mary Busenbark



(2) Ann Victoria Rose



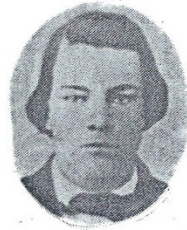
Ira Rice



(2) Sarah Am Harrington



Leonard Gurley Rice



Oscar North Rice



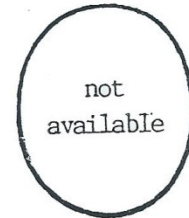
Hyrum Smith Rice



(1) Elizabeth Almira Babbitt



(1) Jane Clarissa Miller



Olive Emily Smith



(2) Margaret Buckwalter Wickel



(2) Margaret Mathews

* * * *



Elizabeth Ann Morris Butler
Third wife of Ira Rice
(no issue)



(3) Lucy Jane Stevens

Memorial services were held following the Ira Rice Organization Reunion in October of 1977, at the time of General Conference in Salt Lake City. A group traveled to St. George where the Memorial was held at the Cemetery in Washington. Oriel Tracy, a descendant of Hyrum Smith Rice, recorded the events of the monument placing at the time in these words:

"The cemetery was in its original state, red sand and mounded graves. Over the many years the cemetery had been cared for by the local townfolks...In this setting on the third of October, 1977, 26 of the descendants of Ira Rice gathered to place a properly engraved brown-tone granite marker on his grave. It was a very appropriate time of the year. 130 years after he came into the Salt Lake Valley, and over 90 years after he had been laid to rest.

"It was a lovely afternoon with a clear blue sky overhead and soft, gentle breezes blowing. We held a short program in which we paid our respects to our wonderful Pioneer. At its close many who were there felt a sweet peaceful feeling as if Ira's presence was there and that he approved of our actions on that day." 40



Those that can be identified in the above picture are from L. to R., Oriel Tracy, Pres. of the Ira Rice Organization; Marguerite Rice Lyman, a descendant of Asaph Rice; Elaine Rice Kimzey, Isla Rice Smith (standing back of monument); Dora Rice Duncan, a descendant of William Kelsey Rice; Eldon Rice, Clarence Rice and his wife, Donna; Sargent Rice (seated) and his wife, Shirley (standing). Five of this group, namely, Elaine, Isla, Eldon, Clarence and Sargent are descendants of Ira through Leonard Gurley (1-7), Leonard Babbitt (1-8) and David A. (1-9)



L. to R. Oriel Tracy, President; Marguerite Rice Lyman, Asst. Historian; Dora Rice Duncan, Research; Charles and Elaine Rice Kimzey, Editors, "The Descendants of Ira Rice"; Eldon Rice, Historian and Record Compiler.

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. #162 | 21. ibid, p.530 |
| 2. #170 | 22. ibid, p.532 |
| 3. #158 and 159 | 23. #162, pp.4, 5 |
| 4. #167 | 24. #183, p.26 |
| 5. ibid | 25. #162, p.5 |
| 6. ibid | 26. #161, p.(1-7) |
| 7. #170, p.(1-6) | 27. ibid |
| 8. #162, p.3 | 28. #158 |
| 9. #220, p.2 | 29. #161, (1-7) p.1 |
| 10. ibid, pp. 2, 3 | 30. ibid (1-6) p.2 |
| 11. ibid, p.3 | 31. ibid |
| 12. ibid, pp.13, 14 | 32. ibid |
| 13. ibid, p.4 | 33. ibid |
| 14. #221 | 34. #169 |
| 15. #162, p.4 | 35. #162, p.9 |
| 16. ibid | 36. #173, p.6 |
| 17. #191, p.522 | 37. #172, pp.1-4 |
| 18. ibid, p.523 | 38. #161, (1-6) p.3 |
| 19. ibid, p.525 | 39. #170, pp. (1-6) |
| 20. ibid, pp.525, 527 | 40. #164 |