

He lived but ten years, leaving his widow and two children. She later married Argalus Sprague, and to them were born several children, among them Ernest and Amanda, now deceased, and the Rev. Fred Sprague, still a resident.

In the item of her expenses after Mr. Scoville's death is "Making of Coffin, \$7.00." Of course wood was all about them.

While there was a great "Michigan fever" down East in 1834-36 by 1837 it had entirely abated, and wild cat money and its accompanying depression was a vivid recollection of these old pioneers. Now, land would sell for no price, and they endured the embarrassments common to the later depression some of us can remember.

Gradually the Vermont families began to come here. It was a three weeks trip, some of the way by blazed trails. A mile an hour was the rate of travel between Bellevue and Vermontville by ox-team.

The classic story remains of Roger Griswold attempting this trip in one day and being caught by darkness before reaching Bellevue. He stopped his team and hallooed thinking he might be within hailing distance of the town. This was after he had vainly tried to find the road on his hands and knees.

To his halloo a wolf answered, and a second wolf answered the first. Mr. Griswold unhitched his team, tied them to the wagon, and then sat there until daylight, gun in hand listening to a widening concert of wolves' howls.

The Old Colony road was cleared by chopping trees, and many of us have heard our grandfathers tell with pride of their part therein.

S. S. Church tells of the first trustees of "the First Congregational Church of Vermontville" being elected Aug. 10, 1838. By 1839 we find a record of a church subscription paper, amounts from \$10 to \$1 being contributed, most of it in work or produce. The Rev. S. Cochrane was their minister. A log building on the northwest corner designated by the colonists housed both Church and School for some time.

In 1843 an academical association was formed. W. U. Benedict had come by that time. A graduate of Williams College, he became pastor of the church and teacher of the academy. A study of his portrait, now hanging in our chapel, but originally from the old William Benedict home, now owned by William Ferris, is a study in New England ideals of "high thinking and simple living." His is a typical Puritan countenance.

Board was \$1.00 to \$1.25 a week. It would be interesting to hear from those who attended this academy, and are still living. We know of but three, Mrs. Anna Marsh, daughter of the Rev. W. U. Benedict, James McCotter, son of Simeon McCotter, and Mrs. Janette