

have met, etc. John Hicks, my grandfather, the eldest child of a family of eleven children, was born in Henry Co., Indiana. He married Catherine Showalter 16 July 1835. To this union eleven children were born. All lived to manhood and womanhood, and all married. Two had no children, namely Isaac Hicks and Mary Hicks Clark. Two had only one child each; Elender Hicks Scott had one daughter, Elma Scott, and Austin Hicks had one daughter, Anna Lettie Hicks.

After marriage, my grandfather took up his home on a homestead on the Miami Indian Reservation. He and grandmother worked hard to clear the land and get it ready to plant crops. The land was very swampy and required much ditching, and that cost quite a lot of money for tile to carry off the surplus water. The first railroad come through not far from my grandfather's home. He built a saw mill and made some of the first wooden rails for the trains to run on. He also cut wood for the engineers to burn. Then he put in equipment to grind corn into meal and later made wheat flour. Many times I have heard my father tell how he and his brother John took turns running the mill which was water powered. They ground the meal and flour at night, and grandfather and the three older boys sawed lumber by days.

My grandfather also raised sheep for their wool. Grandmother and her eldest daughter would pick, wash, card, and spin the wool. Then it was woven into linsey and wool cloth for their clothing. Perhaps some don't know what

linsey is. It is made from wool yarn and linen thread which is made from flax straw. It is a long tedious job to prepare flax as they did in that day for the thread, so I guess I won't go into that now.

This is the story as I remember my father telling. Also Aunt Elender told the same story how they all worked and lived. Oh, yes, I must tell of how my father, when he was about 12 years old, built a wild turkey trap out of old rails that were no longer fit for fences. He started with long rails at the botton and kept making them shorter at the top until it was closed in. Then he dug a trench from the out side up into the pen. Then he placed shelled corn inside the pen. The result was three or four large wild turkeys. This is all I remember of Grandfather's family.

Anna Lettie Hicks McBride

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