

ground laying poles across and spreading hemlock boughs thickly over the whole. This served for a temporary home until he could build a log house and make a clearing to let in the sun. His nearest neighbor was four miles distant.

A branch of the Tioughnioga river flowed a few rods from his house, from which he caught plenty of speckled trout and trapped the mink, muskrat and beaver. Deer and wild pigeon were plenty and furnished him with meat.

Bears, however, destroyed his corn and carried off his pigs when opportunity offered, concerning which he used to relate the following incident. While chopping wood about 100 rods from his cabin, he heard his hog squeal, and running to the pen, he was just in time to see a monstrous bear walking away on his hind legs, with his hog (weighing over 200 pounds), stepping over logs two feet high. He ran for his gun but to his consternation found that he had neither ball nor slug, but feeling in his pocket, he found a piece of a link of a log-chain which he had broken the day before. Though this did not exactly fit his gun, he drove it home with his ax and ramrod.

The bear, though now nearly half a mile away, was soon overtaken. He looked like a huge negro as he walked, and the squeals of the pig were growing faint. When near enough he brought his gun to his shoulder and fired. The piece of chain went tearing through the bear's shoulder and into the pig. He finished them both with his sheath-knife. The hog and bear furnished them with meat and the bear-skin added to their stock of bedding.

He once tracked a she bear to her den in the Beaver swamp, shot the bear, brought home and raised the two cubs, which lived several years, and though kept and led around with a log-chain, were quite tame.

He continued to reside where he first settled until the march of improvement, and increase of population blotted out these scenes of frontier life. He died and was buried near where his first cabin was built.

"There is a house situated on the Scott Road in the town of Homer, N. Y., built by Charles Alvord in 1795. It is at present time (1903) in a good state of preservation and is used as a Grange Hall. His first house was of logs near the same site, on land granted to the Revolutionary soldiers.

"Mrs. Eunice Leaming Alvord was descended from Jeremiah Leaming, an officer in Cromwell's Army, who came to L. I. in 1632. He had a son Jeremiah who settled in Middletown, Conn." (Letter from a descendant).

349. ELISHA ALVORD (*Thomas Gould, Asahel, Thomas,*