

is fair to presume that he had prepared as well as he could for the comfort of his permanent home.

At the time of his arrival with his bride in 1780, except the little improvement he had made, his cabin stood in the midst of an unbroken wilderness. There were several other families who settled in different parts of the town about this time, or a little later, among whom were Eliphlet Gaston, John Nelson, Burnijah Lampher, James Angel, Robert Bratten, Nathaniel Davis, and Leonard Pike. The hardships of those early settlers were very great, but these pioneers were men of strong constitutions, determined wills and brave hearts.

Mr. Pike settled about two miles west of the centre of the town. He had twenty-eight children, all living to become men and women. They had a very hard struggle to sustain themselves in this new country. They could not procure shoes or proper clothing, and it is related that the boys used to split from the trees large flat pieces of wood, heat them by the fire, and stand upon them with their bare feet while doing their out-door work. We well remember some of these hardy sons as they frequently called at our father's house while on their way to the centre of the town.

We remember with what wonder and delight we listened to our grandmother while she related to us facts and incidents of her early life in the wilderness. According to her description, their first cabin was very crude, having neither windows nor doors. For several years the howling of the wolf was heard about their humble dwelling, and in the night these ferocious animals often came so near that she could see the glare of their eyeballs reflected by the light of the fire, which was continually kept burning, and which was perhaps the best protection, for wild animals are always afraid of fire.