

NOTES ON A VISIT TO MRS. BRAND

by

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Mrs. Brand's Parents moved into the neighborhood of Deerfield when she was 10 years old. They came in 1844. (She is now 94)

They came from Warren, Penn., traveling across the country in an ox cart, with one team of oxen. They crossed Lake Michigan by boat. Mrs. Brand can remember spending one night on the boat.

Her older brother had come into "the wilderness" as it was then called, before this and had been urging the others of the family to join them. In the little party which travelled westward there were nearly twenty persons, members of her family and some friends.

Chicago was then a muddy village, with log houses which seemed like huts to her.

Her brother had bought an eighty acre piece of ground, about two miles west of Deerfield, or Au Plain as it was called. There was a log cabin, belonging to an Irishman, already on the land. It contained but one room. Here the whole party, 21 in all, lived thruout the summer. They helped to build cabins for the other families as soon as possible. And all the men worked to clear the land.

Their first year was very hard. They could find so little to eat. They lived mostly on game.

She never had a chance to go to a school, as there was none near. She taught herself to read and write. There were only four cabins within miles of her home. Her home was near a hickory grove. West of this lay the prairie. She used to be afraid to go thru the thick woods.

Indians often came to their home to ask for food. They always gave them what they asked for. These Indians had no settled villages or homes, but wandered about hunting. Slowly, as the white people settled more and more land, the Indians left their hunting grounds and went further north.

For clothing, she and her family wore mostly linsey woolsey, made at home. They had their own sheep. But they took the wool to Elgin to be carded. One of her brothers was a weaver.

At first she wore wooden shoes. Her first pair of leather shoes was made by a cobbler who moved into a cabin across the river. They were heavy cowhide boots, and cost \$1.50.

She remembered when the road was first cleared to Highland Park in

(This is a copy of an unfinished article found among the papers of Jesse Lowe Smith.)