

HILLSGROVE'S PIONEER HOMES

by
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To write of homes, houses that met my childhood vision, and the ones that I saw built, grow, develop and decay during the course of a period of time, that measured by years is long, but to memory seems but yesterday, fills me with feelings of sadness and regret, and were it not for the pleasure that others may gain from my recollections, I would not have the courage to record them. These homes, whether humble or grand, according to the standard of the age in which they were built, represented nearly always the life work, the savings and sacrifices of their owners. They had their sorrows and their joys, in fact the house and land they owned became their world, a condition which is true no doubt in most small towns, and it seemed to be the established rule in Hillsgrove.

Calling to mind the houses, fills them with living friends that we meet no more in the "Big Parade," but are often with us in the stilly night.

I was born in an old house where Ray Barbour's home now stands, and almost my first recollection is of waking during the night and seeing a red reflection upon the sky, then hearing in the morning that the old tavern located, where the house owned by Frank Darby now stands, had burned during the night.

The houses that beat me to Hillsgrove were: the Sheeley home, the old house owned by Hill which was later built over into the Sadler Hotel, an old house which was later occupied by the company's bookkeepers, the old Sadler log house occupied by Judge Sadler, grandfather of Weldy Sadler, the old Roger's house, the old Philip Phen-sil place, now owned by Peter Huff-smith Sr., an old house across the road which was later occupied by Gus Ludy, the Snell place at Elk Creek and the old Starr home at the grist mill.

An old house which Sam Williams

built, an old house on the Chilson place, the old Green home where Ed McBride lived for many years, the house built by Wheeler Green, the Speaker home, the old house on the rocks occupied by Jacob Galough and the hotel run by Joe Snell, where Frank Darby built a new house forty-two years ago.

The Huckell home, the Lippincott home and the store, the White cabin across the 'Sock, the Henry Brown home, the two houses later bought by John Crawford, an old house where the Ogdonia Club house new stands, the old home occupied by Jack Savidge, the house built by my grandfather, S. K. McBride and later owned by my uncle Henry McBride and his son-in-law, Chas. Haas and now owned by Ernest Norton, the old Biddle home now occupied by Polly Morean Watts and a few cabins on the mountain.

The houses that I saw built are: the Hillsgrove hotel about 1878, the Galough home, the old Jesse Low home, shop and store, the company houses, the Hull home, the house built for Homer Peck and now occupied by Gus Ludy, the Gumble home, Steve Vroman's, Ham Biddle's, the Dutler's and Lucas homes, John Brey's and Gus Ludy's homes, the Dr. Lantz home and fifty company houses.

Jud and Richard Biddle's homes, the tannery boarding house, which was later the home of George Darby, Hoffman's store and home, the Odd Fellows building, the school houses and both churches.

Lyman Norton's home, the "Seven Kitchens" the old Strickland home, Bowman Barrett's, Bill Craven's, Geo. Woodley's and Chris Tuffton's homes. The only one now standing of the original houses is the house occupied by Charles Boyles, the others have been built over or torn down during the three score and ten years.

In passing I would recall the skating rink built by my uncles in the late eighties, when the rink craze swept the country, it was cut up into six apartments and burned down the morning of St. Patrick's Day 1892.