

in early or mid-May, 1885 and began proceedings at once to claim a quarter section not far from the original Roach claims. Daniel and his two children and William and Maggie Roach Burns may have arrived about the same time. This may be when Mary Quinn Roach filled Daniel in on the events concerning his wife's death down in Furnas County. I always remember hearing our family tell that "the Quinn sisters were really mad at my grandfather Roach for Catherine's death". The fact is, the other sisters were quite small children at this time, and they never saw or had any communication with Daniel Roach as far as I know, about Kate's death. It was a sister and of course it had to be Mary. She probably brought it up nearly the minute he stepped down off his wagon after arriving—I'm sure his relationship with her had never been too congenial and now, she was really telling him. This must've been an extremely painful reunion, and how they managed to live so close can only be guessed at. Whether or not Mary Quinn Roach was beginning to have the first signs of tuberculosis is not known for sure, but certainly after having 5 children and traveling around in a covered wagon since she had married William Patrick Roach, her health may have begun to wane.

While Daniel and his children settled in with Bridget in her 9'x 18' sod or frame house, * and began to help around the place, fixing up things and working in the fields, William Patrick was beginning the procedures to claim his new homestead. He had come north to Dakota quite well off, compared to the time he left Indiana in 1879 for Nebraska. He had a claim down in Furnas County which he first claimed or got a patent on in the spring of 1882. He evidently sold it before leaving and coming up to Dakota. His land records tell a good bit more about what he had and did than most of the other members of our family, for some reason. On one of his personal affidavits he tells what kind of furniture and other personal belongings he had and also his animals, and their worth.

He chose the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 26, Twp. 108 N. of Range 64, West of 5 P.M., to claim. On May 27, 1885 he began improving this land by laying a stone foundation for a frame house; he then built a barn and granary; dug 2 wells and broke a fire-break; gave the value of it all as \$950.00. He established his residence on this land at the Mitchell Land Office on May 28, 1885 and paid his \$2.00 Register's and Receiver's fee.

He plowed about 25 acres on his claim and planted flax, wheat, corn and garden vegetables—told the amount he harvested and was about what was average for others in that area. While he was getting his own house ready, he said he had resided with his mother one half-mile away from his claim. He described his personal property; he had 1 bed and bedstead and bedding; dishes, clock, trunk, stove, and stove furniture and valued them at \$100.00.

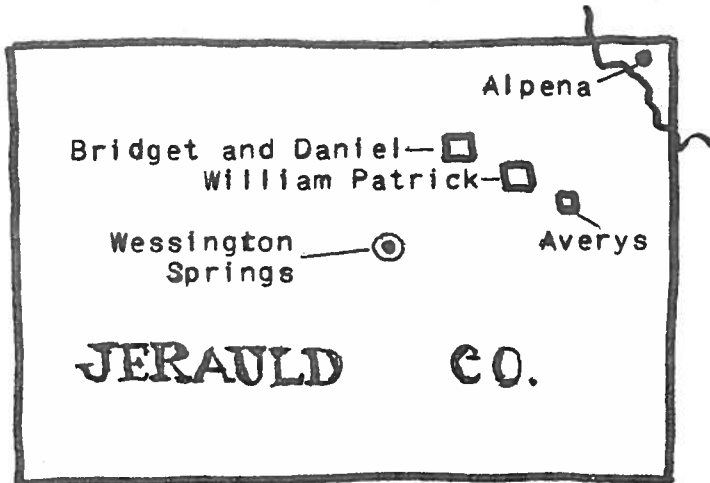
He describes his belongings on his land from his personal affidavit; the day after I filed I moved a small shanty on the land. I commenced living in this shanty as soon as I moved it on the claim—its value was \$40.00. I am now residing in a house on this land which I have since built, size 14'x16', one story and a half on a stone foundation, wing 10'x16'x8'. I have dug 2 wells and built a granary 10'x12' and barn 16'x36' and planted a few trees.

Additional household furnishings were one set of chairs, bedstead,

* Mame Roach, then about 3, remembers how she and her family spent that first winter of 1885 in a lean-to and nearly froze to death.

stove, safe, carpet, stove furniture, dishes, etc.. Value of all these belongings, \$150.00. He also had a span of horses, a wagon, 3 cows, a cultivator and a plow.

Just exactly when James Roach and Sarah McCormick were married is uncertain, but it had to be sometime in the late fall of 1885. He had sold his claim there in Jerauld County on Sept. 11, 1885 to a John J. Barnes for \$800 less a \$300 mortgage. They may have gone back down to Woonsocket from Hyde County to be married by Fr. Ahern at the mission church in Woonsocket; various Catholic services and Mass were performed every two weeks or monthly in a big furniture store on main street; lent by a local businessman who was kind enough to lend this space, as there was no other large place. It was served from St. Charles Catholic Church at Diana, a small town east of Woonsocket. They may have met at these church gatherings; Sarah McCormick's brother Richard McCormick, may have been living and working or renting a claim in Sanborn County and Sarah came from Minnesota or Iowa to live with him and his family.



Land records show that Thomas Roach finally sold his first homestead in early October, 1885, and was a single man when he transferred his land for \$200 to Isaac Crawford. If there was a mortgage on the land, it is not known how that was handled; in any case, it could very well be that Mr. Crawford had rented and worked Tom Roach's land for some time-or the Crawfords had been on someone's land in the neighborhood of the Roaches claims, as Joseph Dennis met and fell in love with Isaac Crawford's sister, Mary Ann, and married her, also in 1885. His original claim was next door to his brother Thomas's where the Crawfords came to live. Joseph Dennis Roach's pension records tell he married Mary Ann Crawford in Huron, D.T. by a Rev. or Fr. Pomeroy in September, 1885.

Thomas Roach, Jr. married Sarah E. Chapman in late 1885 or early 1886. She was born in Michigan, and that was gleaned from the census records. It could be she belonged to one of the families close by the Roaches claims-possibly one of the several witnesses the Roaches named in making proof.* Thomas and his bride may have been married along with his brother, Joseph, at Huron-there are no records on these marriages. The Roach family as a general rule, had no time for Thomas's wife; she was a shrew; those who remembered her just said she was a wretched person-her name had not lasted in their memories.

Thomas Roach, Jr. married Sarah E. Chapman in late 1885 or early 1886. She was born in Michigan, and that was gleaned from the census records. It could be she belonged to one of the families close by the Roaches claims-possibly one of the several witnesses the Roaches named in making proof.* Thomas and his bride may have been married along with his brother, Joseph, at Huron-there are no records on these marriages. The Roach family as a general rule, had no time for Thomas's wife; she was a shrew; those who remembered her just said she was a wretched person-her name had not lasted in their memories.

In November, 1885, William and Maggie Roach Burns had their 2nd child and 1st daughter, whom they named May Theresa Burns; Highmore was always given as her birthplace but I'm sure she was born on the Burns's claim which was far from there-24 miles to be exact. But it was where they may have gotten their mail and shopped and was the only town of any size in the county at that time. Her birthdate was November 3.

* One of these witnesses who gave his address as Elmer, D.T. and may have lived close by the Roaches was named Eli W. Chapman.

On November 3, 1885, Daniel Roach bought his Mother's claim; a Warranty Deed issued to him for the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 in township 108 N of Range No. 64 W, 5:00P.M. shows he paid her \$25.00 for it—it had a mortgage of \$275.00 on it through Wilkes and Wells of Sioux Falls, D.T. so Daniel apparently assumed it, or paid it off for her. She had to sign it with her "mark" which was an "X" as she could not write her name and this had to be witnessed.

In actuality then, he paid his Mother \$300.00 for her claim and he became a transferee. Just how this process worked I don't know. It seems he should have gotten credit for the 2 years she had worked this claim and been able to file final papers to "prove up" this land in his name in 1888 or 1889. He always told he never "proved up". In the early months after purchasing this claim from his mother, he had considerable trouble with some lawyers or land office men who came repeatedly to see him at his claim. They said they had papers, etc., that he was not legally a rightful owner of this land or owed money; something seemed to be not quite right with the transaction he had made with his mother. Possibly it had to do with the mortgage. In any event, he was sick in bed one time when they came and finally, tiring of this whole affair and getting angrier by the minute, he got his rifle out and held it on these men and told them to "get before he fired"; they left forthwith and never returned according to family stories. Daniel Roach finally sold this land in March of 1890—he had not lived on the land all those years officially but his mother stayed on and continued to make it her home all those years while periodically taking in this son or daughter and that son, helping to raise a number of grandchildren along the way.

Immediately after Daniel Roach bought his mother's claim, he and his two children probably moved in with her. The original house they had put up on the claim was 9' x 18'; by the time he came out to Dakota Territory the original house may have been improved and made larger. William and Maggie Roach Burns may have lived there with them awhile until they decided to go up to Hyde County to claim land near Joseph Dennis Roach and the other Roaches.

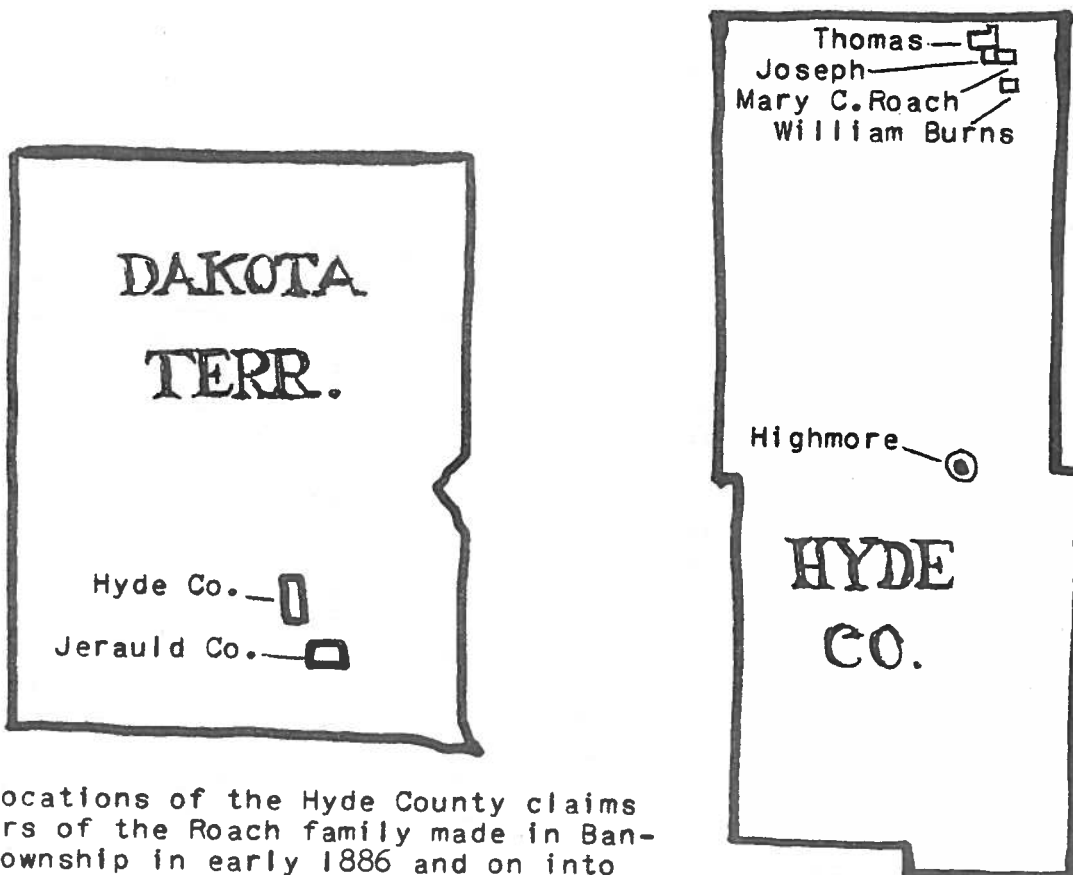
Mame Roach was a small child about 3 or 4 along with her older brother Tom, 5 or 6 when they lived in this house with Bridget Roach. They were more or less let go to do whatever they wanted to; played here and there on the prairie; had a secret hiding place under the floor somehow, a little "cubby" hole they got into when they wanted to hide. Mame's memories of this time was that her grandmother spent most of her time in the fields "pitching hay" and "pitching hay". They weren't old enough for school at these ages, if there was one in their area. They became, over the period of time they lived on that claim, like a couple of little wild animals. Daniel worked the claim even though he had that crippled leg; but as time went by, he evidently looked into going back into harnessmaking as he had done in Indiana before coming West. He finally located in a shop or went to work for a man there in Alpena, a small village about 6 miles N.E. of their claim. Bridget stayed on at the claim, caring for Mame and Tom while Daniel went into Alpena to work at the harnessmaking trade. This shop in Alpena had living quarters in the rear, so Daniel may have stayed there for several days at a time and come home out to the claim once or twice a week. Bridget worked her vegetable garden and may have done a few other farming chores, but her other sons may have kept an eye on her and pitched in helping out with the crops on her and Daniel's land.

In January, 1886, Joseph Dennis Roach started living on the land he planned to claim up in Hyde County leaving Jerauld County. Whether

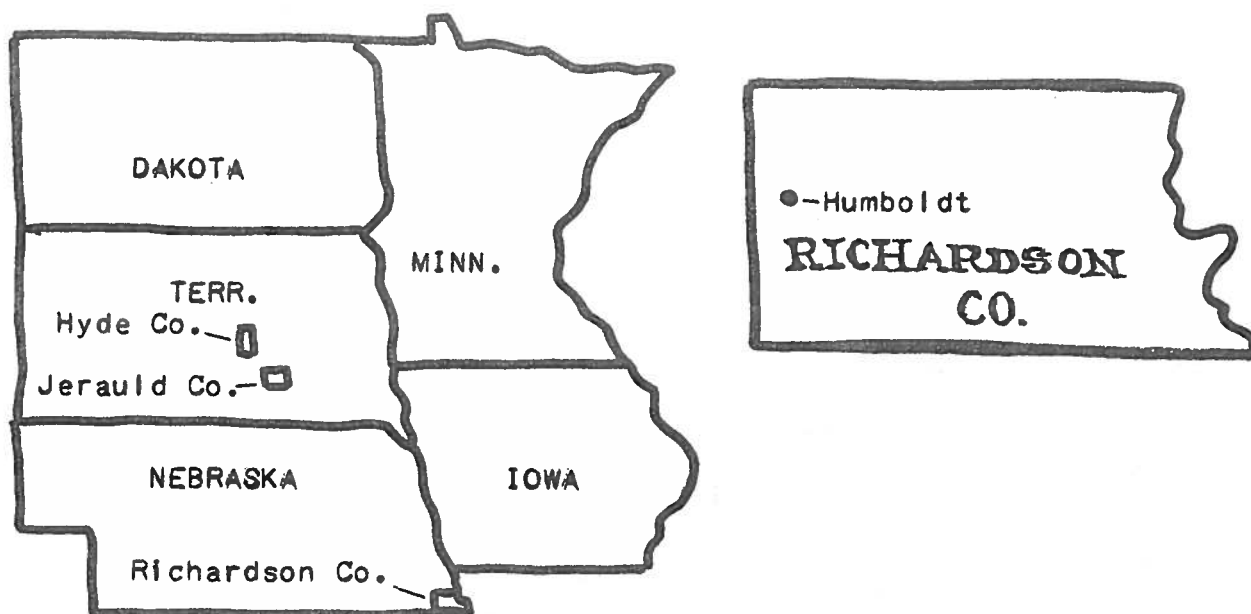
it was the same land he was on in June of 1885, 6 months earlier, no one knows; his land records in Hyde County indicate he didn't be in claiming his homestead until January of 1886. He had either built some kind of shelter before winter set in or planned to do so in early spring.

Family stories tell that Mary Quinn Roach suffered with a "caked breast", perhaps in this period of time. She would still have been nursing Tommy, her last child, even though he was about 11 months old—descendants of Maggie Roach Burns Roach tell that Maggie helped Mary Quinn Roach out and took this baby and nursed him until Mary got better. It may have been that Mary's tuberculosis was becoming worse or flared up on occasion and thus caused this as she had a baby (May Theresa) who had been born in November, and was now 2 months old.

On June 4, 1886, an Edward Roach bought a homestead from a George Brewer who was then living down in Red Oak, Montgomery County, Iowa. This claim was right next door to the William Burns and Maggie Roach Burns were claiming. Upon the sale of Edward Roach's land several years later, he was listed as having a wife named Mary A. so this is not our Edward Roach. The Edward Roach that was to later become a member of our Roach clan lived with his parents, E. Lawrence Roach and Maggie Riley Roach, down in Jefferson County, Nebraska and had been since about the time the John Kelly family moved out there. These families and ours lived near one another in Indiana or Illinois around 1870 and later, in Nebraska. There was a good friendship between the families. Family stories tell that Maggie saw Edward when she was 19; this means she must have gone out to Nebraska in the spring or early summer of 1880 when the E. Lawrence Roaches were living next to the Kellys where John and Mary Kelly Roach were staying at that time. She



The locations of the Hyde County claims members of the Roach family made in Banner Township in early 1886 and on into 1887.



may have gone out there on the train to visit her older brother John, from Indiana.

Joseph Dennis Roach, John and Mary Kelly Roach's 5th child and 4th son was now about 10 months old, having been born August 28, 1885 near Humboldt, Nebraska in Richardson County. He had been born about 6 months after his older brother Thomas died of choking on food. The John and Mary Kelly Roach family now consisted of James, 5; Mary Martha, 3; John, 4; and Joseph Dennis, 10 months. They were farming in Humboldt Township near Humboldt-John apparently renting a farm and/or working for shares of the crops. He never did claim a homestead; the family either rented or worked a farm on shares and lived near the Kellys.

About this time, too, Joseph Dennis Roach's wife, Mary Crawford Roach began procedures to claim the quarter-section next to her husband. I don't know quite how she was able to do this-nor him, either. He still officially owned his claim down in Jerauld County. Records show he did not sell it until December of 1887. Whether or not he had kind of walked away from it or what, he most certainly would rent it and would also check on it from time to time, or plant enough on it to qualify for continuous habitation. It may be his brother William Patrick worked it or Thomas. No one reported him "absent from the land"; there was never any trouble over "suspension" concerning Thomas or Joseph Dennis Roach such as their brother James had. Soon after Mary Crawford Roach chose her land, Thomas Roach got the ball rolling on claiming his new homestead near by in Banner township. He chose the $S\frac{1}{2}$ and lot 1 N. E. of Sect. 6, township 116 W on Range 71, west of 5:00 P.M..

It is possible that at this same time, William Burns and wife, Maggie Roach Burns also chose a claim, the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 17, township 116 N of Range 7; west of 5:00 P.M.. They had arrived in Dakota in late May of 1885 and were in Hyde County June 1-it may be that they began choosing their land immediately thereafter and made final proof in June of 1886.

This was to be a difficult year for the settler farmers, the beginning of what was to be about a 10 year dry period-poor crops, heat,

etc.. Many homesteaders struggled through several years and threw in the towel; some stayed on, hopeful in those early years that the next year would be better.

In September of 1886, William and Maggie Roach Burns had their 3rd child and 2nd son. He was named James Frederick Burns. It may be that William Burns had been ill off and on with what we now know to be diabetes. He was a large man and was heavy; there must have been times when he didn't feel well--showed the symptoms of his disease, unknown to him then. The diet typical of those days was not one too kindly to a person suffering from diabetes.

If it had been a hot, dry summer there probably wasn't much of a harvest that fall. What the folks lived on when their crops weren't good can only be guessed at; accounts by older settlers remembering those days and writing of them, tell how the men or the fathers of the families left and went to towns or wherever they could get a job earning some money to buy their winter supplies. Many worked on or for the railroad. They certainly helped each other; may have pawned or sold treasures or belongings of value to get some cash. In these hard times it is possible Joseph Dennis Roach went a little further west to get a job and maybe some of his brothers went too. In a pension affidavit, he told that he had once lived in Montana.

On October 8, 1886, Thomas and Sarah E. Chapman Roach had their 1st child, a son whom they named Franke Francis Roach.

Sometime now in late fall, 1886 or early winter, Mary Quinn Roach may have had a serious bout with her tuberculosis. The house that William Patrick Roach had built for his family was quite nice and up-to-date. While most of the rest of the family were living in the sod houses they had built, his 1½ story frame house was really swell. When he had got it built and finished up on the outside he decided to plaster the inside walls--he began doing this while the weather was rather cool outside--it may have been early spring with summer coming on, or in the fall with winter coming on. Family stories tell that due to the dampness of these plaster walls inside the house and the stove not being able to warm it enough, Mary Quinn Roach became ill from this. Some felt that this was the beginning of her tuberculosis and it may be that it aggravated it and made it flare up. In any case these damp plaster walls were blamed for her worsening health. She may have had to go to bed and be there for a time, but did recover enough so that she was able to be up and around again.

On December 20, 1886, Jesse and Dea Roach Ice had their first child, a daughter, whom they named Olive Annette Ice. Birth records in Benton County only indicate her 1886 birth; her parents were listed but her name and gender were not. She was apparently not named after anyone in the Roach family but surely from the Ice side.

William and Maggie Roach Burns purchased their claim on January 22, 1887, making final proof. They had waited a little longer than most to do this. The usual \$200 was paid and the notice had run in the local paper in Highmore for the required 6 weeks.

William Patrick Roach sold his claim in Jerauld County to a Grant McLean on January 20, 1887. What plans he had made in order to do this is not known--this lovely house he had built and spent so much time and money on, had only been lived in by he and his family about a year at the most. Perhaps due to Mary Quinn Roach's health and the

expenses the family incurred, he needed the money that the sale of their house and acreage would bring. He stayed in the area as he was a witness for one of his brothers final proof. Possibly they moved in with his mother, Bridget Roach—she was caring for Daniel's 2 children at the time—if Daniel worked and lived part of the time in Alpena there could have been room for them. If the house Bridget lived in with Tom and Mame was the original one, it was 9'x18'; a little crowded with them and William Patrick's whole family. James Roach is the only one who told how he lived in a "soddy" and burned twisted hay in the winters. And it could be that William Patrick Roach moved his family up to Hyde County to live with one of his brothers or sister.

In April of 1887, the 10th to be exact, Daniel Roach married Mima Alice Long in Woonsocket, D.T.. They were married by a priest—possibly Fr. Ahern who served the missionary -type catholic church there in a furniture store every other week. There is no record of this wedding or who their witnesses were. Mima Alice Long, who was known by her middle name, Alice or "Allie", had come out to live on one of the adjoining claims (80 acres) east of the Roach clan, with her mother, Matilda Wallace Long Avery; brother, John C. Long, 14; stepfather, William H. Avery, and 2 step-brothers, Albert Avery, 20, and Charles Avery, 12, in the early summer of 1885. Her only sister, Carrie L. Baker had been married since she was 14 in August of 1882 to a William S. Baker and was still living in Iowa or Michigan where the family had come from to homestead in Dakota.

Mima Alice Long was born in Berrien County, Michigan, near the village of Three Oaks on January 13, 1871. Her father, Christian C. Long was a veteran of the Civil War; returned home with broken health after 4½ years of service—married Matilda Wallace and in the following 7 years had three children. Finally, in the spring of 1876 following a tragic accident, he died of pneumonia brought on by his advanced tuberculosis. His family was left destitute and struggled along until in 1879, Matilda married a man named William H. Avery. They moved to Cass County, Michigan to live and farm for a time and then headed west to Hancock County, Iowa where a number of his family had settled.

When Alice Long Roach was married, she had only been 16 a short time; Daniel Roach was 32 and had 2 small children so she not only gained a husband, but got a ready-made family in the bargain. Tom was 8 at this time and Mame, 6. They most likely met through neighboring activities, and her parents no doubt, had a hand in encouraging this marriage. She was 16 and this was the time to start serious moves for her future and someone to care for her the rest of her life. Again, we see how families made sure their 14-16 year old daughters were settled; it seems as if a young woman past 16 she was almost an old maid—certainly by 22 or 23 there was much anguish over her future. How different times are now. Back then, love seemed to be a minor matter.

So Alice Long Roach went to live with Daniel Roach, possibly Bridget, Tom and Mame, too, for awhile. Soon, they moved into Alpena to take up residence behind the Harness Shop he ran or worked at, but apparently Tom and Mame stayed on with their grandmother for a time. Family stories tell how one evening soon after supper, Alice Long Roach went into their bedroom and there, standing in a long, flowing white robe with her hand on the dresser was a young woman—it was Catherine Quinn Roach, pointing towards the claim. Alice immediately ran out of the back to the front of the shop to summon Daniel to tell him what had happened and for him to come. He and she went back to the bedroom and he saw Catherine, too, and they knew she was telling them

that they must go out to Bridget's and get Tom and Mame and bring them into town to join them and be a part of the family. Frankly, I think this was Alice Long Roach's conscience bothering her after being told the story of Daniel's first wife. This seeing ghosts and visions and believing them was a constant part of our Roach family's lives. One did not question nor make light of these happenings-this was not the first nor the last of the ghost business with Alice Long Roach. Joseph Dennis Roach always claimed the Indian woman he killed, haunted him; Mary Kelly Roach had these experiences, too. Kate Roach saw an angel come to her while she was sleeping the night her mother, Mary Quinn Roach died and told her of her mother's death. How many others did, I do not know, but it is possible a number of them did and never told anyone or the events have been discounted or forgotten by their families. This was a true Irish trait. Maggie Roach Burns Roach heard knocking somewhere in their house about the time her sister-in-law or mother-in-law died in Nebraska or South Dakota and she and the children were along in Loveland, Colorado. Her husband, Edward had been called away to this emergency earlier-she gathered all the children together in the big bed and son Eddie got the rifle. Also, when William Patrick Roach died in Denver, his daughter Delia who was then living in Iowa swore she heard his footsteps walking around upstairs in her house, telling her of his death before they called her.

When Alice and Daniel Roach went out to the claim to tell everyone they planned to bring the two children to town to live with them, Tom and Mame crawled under the house in this little "hidey-hole" they had and hid. I guess it was sometime before they could get them to come out. In Tom's case, he may have felt resentment at first towards his new "mother" as he was old enough to remember his real one-Mame was too small. But they did go to live as one family; in later years Tom and Mame came to love Alice Long Roach as their own; she was always good to them and loved them, too. In the beginning she would sew clothes for them, Tom in particular refused to wear these outfits. He was spoiled by his father, Daniel, being the first child to live and a boy; Irish men tended to favor their sons many times.

This certainly was a new and different experience for Tom and Mame living now in town and not out on the prairie. Being summer was coming on, there was no school so what they did and where and how they played would be different. They also did not now have all their cousins to play with and be entertained by-surely they missed this, but it is likely there were other children soon discovered in town. Visits out to see the clan were probably often-only 6 miles. The cousins were "Willie" Roach, 11; Lizzie, 9; Kate, 5; Delia, 4; and Tommy, 2.

No one seems to remember much about what kind of a person Bridget Roach was to her grandchildren. Several existing family stories of her show she had a stong will and held firm to her convictions, but apparently was a quiet and kind person. Kate Roach remembered her once baking some cookies and while Bridget was busy somewhere else, Kate and her sister got into them and ate some. They were in a trunk, to keep them safe-some little cracker-like goodies. Well, it didn't work and when she caught them in these goodies, she gave a pinch on Kate's ear or hit her there and Kate's newly pierced earlobe swelled way up and got real sore for awhile.

Another story tells that Bridget wanted to go into Alpena once and visit Daniel and Alice Long Roach but did not have a horse and buggy; or wanted to go when there was no one around to take her. So

she started walking-before she could get there it got dark so she stopped at a house on the way and asked if she could stay the night. These people had a large family of mostly boys and a small house or "soddy" so all they could offer her was a place on the floor or share a bed with these boys. Well, she wasn't about to sleep with these kids so she slept on the floor and continued her trip to town the next day. While in town visiting she caused an embarrassment when she went to the outdoor toilet out back of the Harness Shop and left the door wide open. Details will be spared here, but some men working on the street in the front of the shop could see her and evidently pointed and made remarks, laughed, etc.. Alice Long Roach heard this and went out near the street and told these men off and to stop it "right now". Bridget Roach was so used to being out on the prairie that she evidently forgot her couth for a time while in town. Family members tell Bridget Scahan Roach in her later years was a plump, pleasant, tiny gray-haired lady with blue eyes. She was very quiet. Alice Long Roach liked her and got along well with her.

On February 15, 1887 John and Mary Kelly Roach had their 6th child and 5th son and named him Daniel Patrick Roach. He was born near Humboldt, Nebraska as was his brother Joseph.

While all the Roach families lived in Hyde and Jerauld Counties, there were Indian reservations or beginnings of them fairly close to where our families lived-the James River seemed to be a dividing line of some kind. East of the river was supposed to be for settlers and certainly some of the Indians roamed around and may have come looking for handouts, etc. in the years our people were there. Several family members tell how their mothers or fathers were children then and remembered going to the Indian camps. Whether these were trips out of curiosity or for entertainment; going to look at the savages, as it were, or if our families bought/sold or traded with the Indians for various items is not known. One time when part of the family was going along in a covered wagon, moving, possibly, Indians came alongside and tried to climb on board or up in the back. People riding in the wagon knocked them off with chairs and sticks and brooms, etc. to get rid of them.

One of Patrick Roach's family remembers the Roaches going over to the Indian camps; they thought it was mostly out of curiosity to see how they lived and what they were doing. They always had stuff cooking in big pots over campfires-they boiled dogs in these big kettles full of oil or water-once, one of the little Indian boys stuck his finger in this hot liquid and burned his hand. The Roach children who were there and saw this were real impressed.

On May 10, 1887, Joseph Dennis Roach sold his own claim to an Edward Wason for \$1,000 and the assumption by Mr. Wason of a \$500 mortgage. His wife, Mary Crawford Roach still had the claim next door so they probably worked that and lived there. One of his brothers may have been sharing his home and helping him work his claim.

James Roach lived up near his brothers all this while, but no land records have been found for him nor in Faulk County, either. He lived near Zell in Faulk County in his first year of marriage and he and Sarah McCormick Roach had their first child, Matthew Edward in September of 1886. Then they moved into Hyde County nearer his brothers and sister. He had an improved claim and a going concern down in Jerauld County which apparently was lying fallow or being rented. Why he was up in Hyde County renting or living with a relative is strange somehow. Possibly Sarah McCormick Roach had family in the area. Unbeknownst to James Roach, the government was beginning to send him notices concerning this claim and these letters were returned always, to the Govern-



About a half-mile beyond the trees were the Roach family homesteads in Jerauld County, D.T. in the 1880's.

ment Land Office in Mitchell or Sioux Falls. No one seemed to be aware of these letters or where James was, so they could be forwarded.

The weather had been bad for a year; dry in the summers and hot-winter weather may have been unusual, too. Times were hard and the Roaches seemed to be struggling to stay ahead of the game and keep their land and families going. The spring of 1887 may have begun drier than usual, too. Crops and grass certainly were not doing well.

On December 9, 1887, Joseph D. Roach sold his homestead claim down in Jerauld County to a C E. Thayer. That ended his farming activities in Jerauld County where he had started his life on the prairie. He and his wife Mary Ann were now living and working the 160 acres in her name in Hyde County; Banner Township.

The new year, 1888 came upon the scene and on January 13, that winter was the famous blizzard of 1888 everyone talked about and still does. What personal events occurred involving our family is not generally known. James Roach told his family in later years that he was caught out in it but came through okay. It caught everyone by surprise-started out as a fairly warm, balmy day. Children went to school without their heavy clothes, as did others on errands to town. By early afternoon it began to change and out of the northwest began to appear this huge black cloud and it moved steadily and menacingly towards the southeast. In a matter of minutes a hard driving sleet-like snow began, cutting into anyone out in it like grains of sand. And the temperature plummeted 50 to 60 degrees in a short time. Many people died in this terrible storm-lost their way between house and barn and froze to death, sometimes within a few feet of shelter. Children tried to make it home from school and lost their way-were found huddled near roadsides or fences, or clumps of trees, etc., dead.

In mid-February, 1888 Daniel and Alice Long Roach had their first child-a girl whom they named Nell-something was not quite right with this baby and she died about 2 weeks later on February 27, 1888 and was buried on February 29, 1888. Where this took place; Alpena or at the home of her mother and step-father is not known. It is my guess Alice's

mother, Mathilda Avery came into Alpena to help with this birth and later when this poor little thing died, Daniel Roach may have made a coffin for it in the shop and buried it in a cemetery in Alpena. There is one on the southeast side of town named Rest Haven Cemetery, that was formerly the Odd Fellows Cemetery. Records show no lot owned by any Roaches or any burial of Nell Roach in late February, 1888. She may have been laid to rest on one of the family's claims in Dale Township. The facts of her very short life are written by her mother in the Daniel and Alice Long Roach family bible.

On February 22, 1888, James and Sarah McCormick Roache had their second child and first daughter; Loretta Roache, in Hyde County—they give Highmore as her birthplace but it may only be because it was where they shopped and got their mail. I'm sure they lived near the other Roaches, 24 miles northeast of Highmore.

For some reason, about this time, February 23, 1888, William and Maggie Roach Burns sold their claim in Hyde County. His health may have been having its ups and downs; I wonder if because of the two dry summers and poor crops and lack of money, they found making mortgage payments and expenses for the necessities just becoming too much. If they sold out they would get a little money ahead, eliminate their debts and then rent it from the new owners or a place near-by. Or move in with relatives. They sold this claim to an Amanda Goudy for \$1,000 plus the assumption of a \$600 mortgage—the interest rates ran from 8% to 12% on many of these mortgages and the Burns's had the largest mortgage of any of the family so the monthly payments were probably fairly high for those times.

April 2, 1888 John and Mary Kelly Roach had their 7th child and sixth son named Timothy Francis Roach and he was born in Richardson County near Humboldt, Nebraska.

Thomas Roach, Jr. sold his Hyde County claim to a Liuenens(sp.?) O. Jefferies for \$700 plus assumption by the buyer of a \$450 mortgage on June 30, 1888.

After Thomas sold his claim, only one original claim was still in the family—the one owned by Mary Crawford Roach—they couldn't all live on this one claim together—how did they get along? They stayed on in the area as subsequent children born to nearly all of them were born in or near Highmore. They must have lived in tents if it were summer or rented near-by claims. 1888 was proving itself to be another hot, dry one. Sometime this year, Thomas and Sarah Chapman Roach had their 2nd child and 2nd son and named him Fred Roach. Family stories tell that once when Thomas and his family were moving from one place to another, they had loaded all their belongings on a hayrack and at the last Sarah Chapman Roach came out and slammed these little kids of hers down on this hayrack and hard. No one had any time for her and remember her as a miserable woman and mean to these boys.

Possibly in this period of time when the greater part of the family lived in Hyde County, stories tell about three Englishmen who came to the homestead where one of the Roaches lived, looking for one of them for a crime committed back in Ireland. This is what Franke Roach told: "This Great Uncle of his had lived in Ireland with his mother; he did not know where, and it was in the winter time. They had got 1 day behind in the rent and while the Great Uncle was at work, his mother and their furniture was thrown out into the street. When he finally arrived home, he found all of this and his mother was very cold. He got her

to a place where it was warm but she died from this exposure, anyway. He looked up the "Johnny Bull" that had done this and shot him and then fled to America. He was here for a long time before that government tracked him down, living in Dakota Territory working on a farm. It was quitting time and he was feeding his mules in the barn when two Englishmen came up to him to arrest him. He told them to wait until he finished feeding his mules and he would go with them. He reached down into the feeding manger and got out 2 pistols he kept hidden there and shot both of these men." Franke never knew what happened to this Great Uncle after that.

This is an interesting story. It may be one of the family's entertaining tales; but it may also be a combination of several events that supposedly happened to some of our family. This great uncle would have been a brother of Thomas Roach, Sr.-he did come on the sailing ship with a Daniel Roach. Thomas Roach, Sr. always feared someone would come for him for beating his master in Ireland many years before, and our own Daniel Roach had trouble with men coming from the land office trying to take his claim away and he finally ran them off with a rifle. We'll probably never know what really transpired here, but these stories are very interesting and sometimes have been proven to have a basis in fact.

Later in the year, 1888, Daniel Roach and his wife Alice Long Roach decided to give up their lives in Dakota and go to Iowa where Alice's sister, Carrie Long Baker was living with her family. She had lived in this area before coming to Dakota in 1885. What finally prompted this move may have been the death of their baby born after the terrible blizzard; hot, dry summers and poor crops; poor business in Alpena with the harness-making and repairing. Whatever, they left in the summer of fall for Goodell, in Hancock County, Iowa, taking their belongings and Tom and Mame. The rest of the families up in Hyde County clinging to the hope that they'd make it but possibly giving serious thought to leaving if times didn't get better.

In late 1888 Alice Long Roach's mother and step-father made plans to leave Dakota, too, and go back to Iowa to be with their daughters and the Avery relatives. They had had an 80 acre claim east of the cluster of former Roach claims; they had started the paperwork on the sale of this land and took it with them to Iowa and had a notary in Hancock County put his seal, etc. that the deal was good-so they sold their land eventually in "absentia" as it were. Records show they arrived or were in Goodell by January 6, 1889.

A week earlier, on New Year's Day, 1889, Alice Long Roach and Daniel Roach had another child; this one lived. It was their 2nd baby and first son whom they named Daniel after his father. He had no middle name; was baptised on January 15, 1889 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Belmond, Iowa; Wright County by Fr. John Egan. His sponsor was Nick C. Madigan. Family stories tell the priest gave him a middle name of Michael-Daniel vehemently denied this in later years and you could really get him going by bringing this up.

On May 25, 1889, Jesse A. and Dea Roach Ice had their 2nd child and 2nd daughter, Golda Adelia Ice, in or near Otterbein, Indiana. A number of Jesse Ice's family had gone out to Indian Territory in 1885 to land-runs and one or two others were getting ready to go again. Jesse A. and Dea Roach Ice were going on with their lives-Jesse farming or doing farm work in Benton County and their oldest child Ollie Annette

was now almost 3 years old.

The same for the Roaches up in Dakota and out in Richardson County, Nebraska; the John and Mary Kelly Roach family had another child; their 8th, a son they named Nicholas. Something went wrong with this little baby and he didn't live very long and died as an infant. He is buried somewhere near Humboldt, Nebraska; possibly at St. Marys missionary church where the family may have gone, in Humboldt.

In August, 1889, Daniel and Alice Long Roach bought a lot in Goodell, Iowa from an Albert White and his wife for \$50.00. They began to build a house on this lot which was on the main street of town. Alice Long Roach helped her husband build this house.

Off and on during these years homesteading Joseph Dennis Roach kept on applying to the Government for a pension for the rheumatism and sciatica he got while in the Army. On some records his brother-in-law William Burns signed his name as a witness and Justice of the Peace. Evidently besides homesteading, he seems to have qualified to be the local Justice of the Peace which may have brought in a little extra money now and then. But he was only acting as a witness when in August, 1889 he wrote out a short affidavit in shaky and labored handwriting stating his brother-in-law was indeed ill and had been since he first knew him in December, 1875 and was only able to do half the work of a healthy man. He signed and dated it in August, 1889. He was not to live much longer.

During the threshing in late August or September, 1889, William Burns became ill apparently after working in the fields or with the machinery—it was hot and this was hard work. He was a large, heavy man and he suddenly began to lose weight; he finally took to his bed and lay ill for about 2 weeks and then he died. During this time, his wife Maggie Roach Burns wrote Edward Roach down in Jefferson County, Nebraska of William's condition and Edward came up to Hyde County and was there to help Maggie and be there through William's illness. This leads one to believe that she had few family members near that were able to help her; it isn't clear just where they all were as I've written before. There are no records of his death in Hyde County and no church records exist either, including where he is buried. One can only guess that he was probably buried on the land where they lived or more than likely, the claim belonging to Joseph Dennis and Mary Crawford Roach. Many of these family deaths were handled quickly by their own members. Sometimes a simple coffin was made—the body prepared and if it had to wait very long and it was warm weather they put a cloth or cloths soaked in vinegar on the face and other parts to keep the skin nice. Some were only wrapped in a quilt and laid in a grave dug by the men in the group.

At the time William Burns died there was only one organized cemetery in that area and it was a Bohemian one. It does not seem likely he would be laid to rest there. Families not having much money did their own funerals and burials and the body was buried as quickly as possible.

If Edward Roach was there with Maggie, she did have some help arranging her affairs and deciding what to do. Since they did not own the farm or house where they were living, leaving would be easier. Family stories tell that Edward was there when William Burns died and it is my guess that since it was fall, this would be the time to make a move and leave Dakota. I believe that Maggie decided to pack all her household belongings and load it on a wagon and go down to Nebraska to live. She must have written the members of the family that lived away of Will-

iam's death; Daniel Roach received some kind of a letter such as this and from it got the feeling his sister was in desperate straits and did not know what would become of her. He wrote back offering her and the children a place to live with or near he and his family in Iowa and also sent \$15.00 to help pay for her trip to Goodell. She did not go to Iowa, needless to say, but did go to Jefferson County, Nebraska near Daykin. Here, she may have moved in with and lived for a time with Edward's sister Nell Roach Atkinson or Kershaw who lived there. That side of the Roach family tell events etc. that lead one to believe this could be so.

A little more on this money that Daniel Roach sent to his sister so she could come to Iowa-he never heard anymore from her and may have thought that she would appear in Goodell soon-time went on and on and when he did hear from her about a year later, she wrote telling she had married in Nebraska instead. He always joked that he paid for her train fare and paid for her wedding instead.

Early spring found Daniel and Alice Long Roach heading out to Dakota on the train to sign papers for the sale of his land; he had not sold it before he and his wife left Jerauld County in 1888 and now he had a buyer and was finally selling it. It is not clear whether Bridget was still on it or not-certainly she had been living there all the while. It is my guess that Patrick and his family had been living with his mother on this property owned by his brother but was now making plans to go down to Nebraska to his brother John's in Richardson County.

Records show that both Daniel and Alice Long Roach were there in person and on March 11, 1890 they sold their land to a Charles C. Fletcher-this man lived in Minnesota and paid \$200.00 for Daniel's land. Possibly about the time they were out there Thomas and Sarah E. Chapman had their 3rd child and 3rd son whom they named Harry. He was born in Hyde County, South Dakota in March of 1890. Dakota Territory had become a state in 1889.

This was also a good visit with the family remaining in Dakota, but they would soon have to return to Iowa as they had left their 14 month-old son, Daniel, with relatives. And so this would be the last time Daniel would see some of his family. A nice reunion, but a sad parting.

James Quinn, father of Mary Quinn Roach and Catherine Quinn Roach, died in Furnas County, Nebraska on March 29, 1890 and was buried March 30, 1890 at Orleans cemetery where Catherine had been laid to rest, also. There is no marker on his grave. He had been injured in a fall down in a hand-dug well sometime before this and was rescued-but never recovered from his injuries.

Weeks later, on April 16, 1890, Joseph Dennis Roach and his wife Mary Ann Crawford Roach had their first child and son whom they named Earl Joseph Roach. He was probably named after someone on his mother's side of the family-his grandfather, perhaps?

Down in Benton County, Indiana at this time or perhaps in March, plans were being made in the Jesse and Dea Roach Ice family to go out to Indian Territory to get in on a land-run scheduled for June of 1890, in the Rogers County area. Some of the Ice family had already gone out and surely some were going along with Jesse and his family. When Ollie was about three and Goldie 9 months old, the Ice family packed a wagon and headed for Indian Territory in what now is northeast Oklahoma.



Maggie Roach Burns Roach with her two sisters-in-law, Kate Roach & Maria (Nell) Roach Atkinson Kershaw taken in Fairbury, Nebraska in about 1890.

They must have stayed with one of Jesse Ice's brothers or his parents near Chelsea or Claremore—he and his brother Howard made the run and got some land, but as the family stories tell it, Jesse never followed through on it. Apparently they had hard, hard times at first and were needing work and a place to stay when Jesse heard of an elderly man named James Black needing someone to work his 250 acres and live in his house to care for him. The Ice family agreed to the deal. As it turned out, they must have been given little or no money in this venture. Just their shelter and food from the farm, but had been promised early on in the deal that if they farmed and cared for Mr. Black until his death, he would give them 150 acres of this farm for their efforts and faithfulness. There was just one catch—this was Indian Territory and officially no white person could own land here unless he had an Indian connection. Some Indians did sell their land and rights to the whites, but in the Black case, this did not seem to be the case. Years before, James Black had married an Indian woman named Florence Bible—the Bibles lived next door to the Black farm and Florence had died either in childbirth or from some disease in the early 1880's. She was buried on the Bible property in a family cemetery. She and James Black had had a daughter, Susan, who at age 13 had expired from Small Pox and was buried in a small graveyard on one corner of the

The State of Nebraska, } ss.
JEFFERSON COUNTY

To and Person in said County Legally Authorized to Solemnize Marriage. GREETING

You are hereby authorized to join in the holy bonds of matrimony Mr. Edward Roach
and Mrs Maggie Ruess , white persons. The said Edward Roach
is 24 years of age, a resident of Jefferson County , in the State of Nebraska ; he
was born in the State of Illinois ; his father's name was Lawrence Roach
and his mother's maiden name was Maggie Riley . Mrs. Maggie Ruess
is 26 years of age, a resident of Dayton , in the State of Nebraska ; she was
born in the State of New Jersey ; her father's name was Thomas Roach , and
her mother's maiden name was Bridget Skene . You are required to return this license to me
within three months after the solemnization of such marriage, with a certificate of the same appended thereto and signed by
you, under the penalty of five hundred dollars or imprisonment not exceeding one year.

[L. s.] of October 1890 In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 14 day

S. M. Hundley County Judge.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

The State of Nebraska, } ss.
JEFFERSON COUNTY.

Be it Remembered, that at Fairbury 1890, I joined in marriage Mr. Edward Roach , in said County, on the 14 day
of October 1890, aged 24
years, and a resident of Jefferson County , and Mrs. Maggie Ruess
aged 26 years, a resident of Jefferson County , in the presence of Miss Katie Roach ."
resident of Fairbury & , and Miss Katie Talon , a resident of Fairbury
witnesses present at said marriage.

Dated this twentieth day of October 1890

M. M. Murke
Ministry of the Gospel

Black farm. This little graveyard was across the Verdigris River as the Black farm was split kitty-corner by this river. In this small family graveyard were 6 bodies, and 2 or 3 were marked with stones.

Mr. Black owned this farm as long as he lived, and a sizeable frame house for those days and the Jesse Ice family was very excited going there after some hard months living in poorer quarters or possibly a tent as many did in that time. As they went along in their wagon Goldie remembers that the cow they had tied on behind got so tired, it went down on its knees and they had to wait a while until it could be coaxed to its feet to go on. When they arrived there, they found they were to be living in what had been a porch on this house-it was enclosed, but long and thin and they all had to live in this one room. Mr. Black had the rest of the house, of course; a living room, a kitchen, a breakfast room, and a bedroom. The upstairs was an unfinished attic.

Whether Mr. Black was bedridden or not, I don't know, but he was not well and evidently needed quite a lot of care. There was a log barn on the place and a few other small buildings, plus a shallow, hand-dug well. A small orchard was on the place as well, and a peach tree was a favorite of the Ice children. The Ices soon settled in and before too long, Ollie got big enough to help some with Mr. Black and do errands for him so she became his favorite. There was this open well on the place and being so close to the Verdigris River, the mosquitoes were intense. It was a hard life living there and they were ill off and on from this water which was full of all kinds of minerals, plus "Swamp Fever" the mosquitoes brought.

In Hyde County, South Dakota, a third child and second son, James Leo Roache, Jr. was born to James and Sarah McCormick Roache on September 19, 1890. Matt was now 4 and Loretta, 2.

On October 1, 1890, Daniel and Alice Long Roach had their third child and first daughter that lived-she was named Grace Roach and was born in Goodell, Iowa-Hancock County.

Edward Roach and Maggie Roach Burns were married in Fairbury, Nebraska-Jefferson County-on October 14, 1890, by a priest named Fr. Merke of St. Michaels Catholic Church. His sister, Kate Roach and a friend, Katie Faloon were their witnesses. They went to live near Daykin and Edward continued to work for his father on the family farm. E. Lawrence Roach had purchased a good-sized farm and needed help to work it. He liked Maggie, his new daughter-in-law and they always got along, but Edward's mother, Maggie Riley Roach, never got along with our Maggie very well.

Now, in the fall of 1890, I believe the Roaches still trying to make it in Dakota finally decided to leave. They had struggled on for so long with poor crops, family tragedies and it just seemed pointless to continue. Several of the group had already gone. Then a truly upsetting event took place-Sarah Chapman Roach, Thomas's wife and the mother of his 3 young sons just left them one day. Walked away from him and Franke, 4; Fred, 2; and Harry not even a year old. The circumstances surrounding her abandonment of her family are vague; she may have hated the prairie and her life on a claim so much that she would even give up her children. Family stories tell she left and ran off with a Protestant minister. Sometime later, family members or Thomas, himself, read in a local newspaper of bodies of a couple(a minister and his wife) traveling along in a buggy or sleigh in a winter storm out in the middle of nowhere that were seemingly attacked by wolves and/or froze to death.

It was awful. Whoever read this found enough similarities in the description of these people to think it was Sarah E. Chapman Roach and her minister companion.

In late fall of 1890 those Roaches left in Dakota of the original group were Thomas and his 3 small sons; William Patrick and Mary Quinn Roach and their 5 children; their mother Bridget Scahan Roach, now 62; Joseph Dennis and Mary Crawford Roach and their infant son, Earl Joseph Roach, and James Roache, his wife Sarah and their 3 children.

I believe that sometime in the fall of 1890 or spring of 1891, all these people packed everything they owned in wagons, said good-bye to one another, neighbors, and friends, and left Dakota for kinder places. Thomas, his sons; William Patrick and Mary Quinn Roach plus their five children; Grandmother Bridget Roach went down to Richardson County, Nebraska or Holt County, Missouri; Joseph Dennis and wife Mary Crawford Roach with their son, Earl, went west to Montana or Idaho, and James and Sarah McCormick Roache and their 3 children travelled east to Minnesota to be nearer her family. Joseph Dennis and Mary Crawford Roach still owned her claim and were unable to sell it before they left—they may have rented it, but in any case, they decided not to stay in Hyde County any longer and left for the West. In later records, possibly a brother or relative of Mary's bought it from her in 1905, named Alexander Crawford, who evidently had been living previously up in Westhope, North Dakota near the Canadian border.

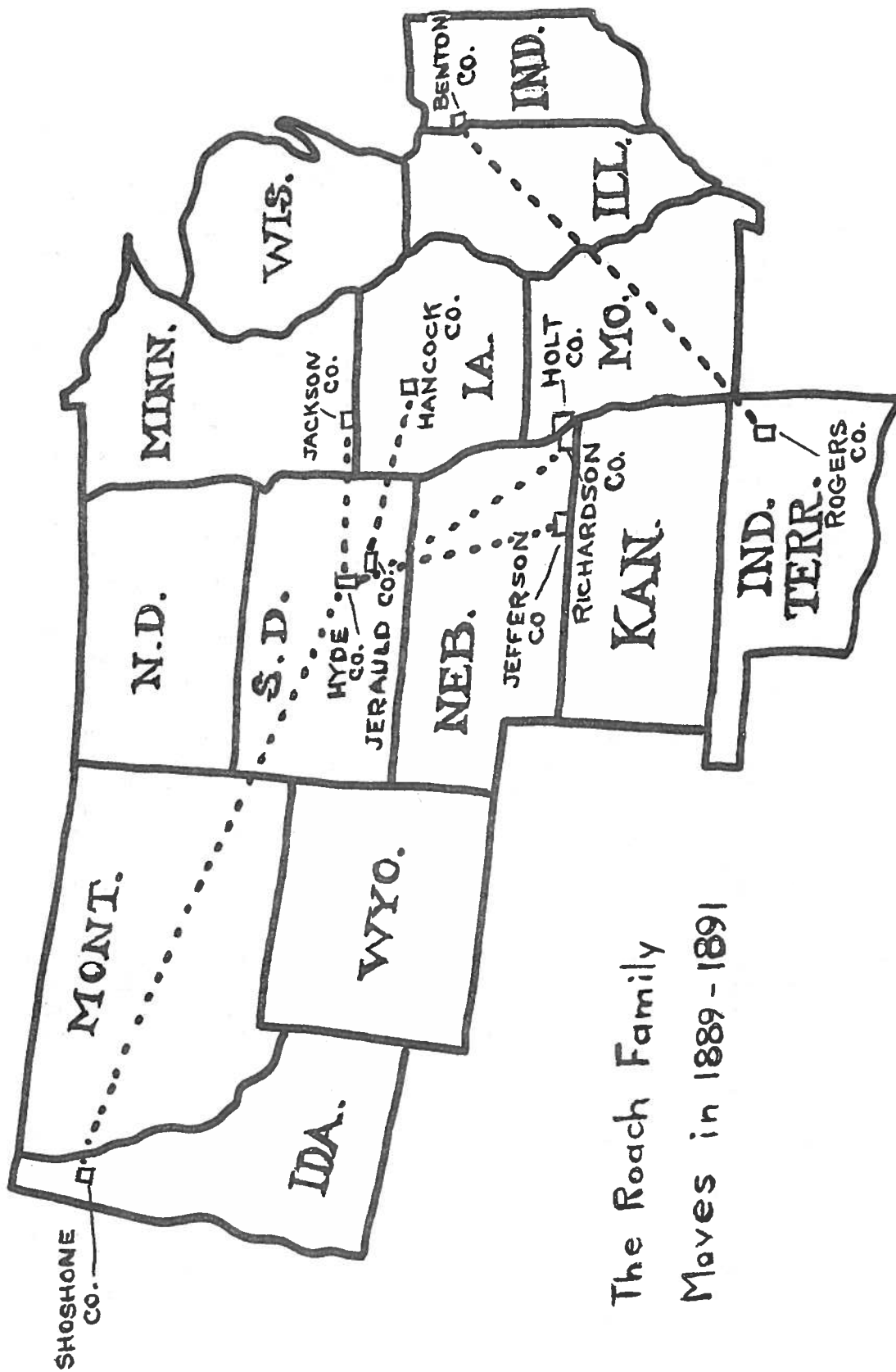
So the last of the Roach clan left Dakota—James and Sarah McCormick Roache went east to southern Minnesota—Wisconsin Township in Jackson County, to be nearer her own family. Matt and Ellen Finley McCormick, her parents, were then living and farming in Faribault County, two counties east of Jackson. In the wagon going to Minnesota were James, Sr., Sarah, James, Jr., a few months old, Loretta, almost 2, and Matt, 4.

Going down in loaded wagons to Richardson County, Nebraska or Holt County, Missouri, just across the state line was Thomas Roach and his 3 sons; Franke, 4; Fred, 2; and Harry, about a year old and William Patrick and Mary Quinn Roach and their five; "Willie", about 14; Lizzie, 12; Kate, 8; Della, 7; and Tommy, 5, plus their Grandmother, Bridget Scahan Roach, 63.

It is difficult to know just when most of these early people made these long moves—they were certainly talked about in advance and planned on—my own idea is that they would go in the fall when any work they might get helping people with their harvests was over and they had earned some money, or, if they harvested and threshed their own, they would wait until they sold it and had the money and some saved for next year's seed. The roads would be dry and solid and easier to travel and they possibly wanted to get away from the colder, severe weather in the north. Why spend another winter on the prairie? They would hopefully get where they were going in order to find a house to rent before winter came.

Leaving in early spring, they had to deal with muddy roads where there were any, and soft, wet surfaces which the heavy wagon wheels cut through and sunk down in. Horses were up to their knees many times in the mud, too, and it was messy trying to cook along the way and camp if the ground was damp.

At this time, John and Mary Kelly Roach had their 9th child and 2nd daughter, Anna Roach, born on March 22, 1891 in Holt County, Miss-



The Roach Family
 Moves in 1889 - 1891

ouri, near Forest City. When she was baptised on May 25, 1891 at St. Patricks Catholic Church by Fr. C.P. Hurley, the sponsors were Patrick Roach and Mary Roach, which means the Dakota clan had evidently arrived in Missouri at last. Where they were all living is unknown as it may have been a little early for tents, but that may be what they were forced into using.

On March 23, 1891, Edward and Maggie Roach Burns Roach had their first children, a set of twin girls who were named Florence and Floss. Floss was the smallest and was frail-looking. Maggie dwelt on her and Edward took over the care of Florence. He claimed jokingly, that Florence was larger because he was caring for her. They were born near Daykin, Nebraska and baptised 5 months later at the catholic church near Alexandria, Nebraska on August 23, 1891. This church was served from St. Michael's in Fairbury by a Fr. E. F. Dooley; Florence Maria Roach had sponsors Lawrence Roach, Jr. and Marguerita Roach, her aunt. Floss Adelia had sponsors Maria A. Roach Kershaw, her aunt and Lawrence Roach, her grandfather.

In late April, William Patrick and Mary Quinn Roach had their 6th child and 3rd son, whom they named Joseph Leonard Roach. He was born April 23, 1891 near Forest City, Holt County, Missouri. Evidently, Mary Quinn Roach was pregnant when they left South Dakota and it was probably a long, uncomfortable trip for her. Her health was steadily worsening and this last pregnancy must have really sapped her strength. Joseph was to be their last child.

Later family stories tell how William Patrick Roach and his family, his brother Thomas Roach, Jr. and his 3 boys, and Bridget were living in some log shacks or old buildings in the woods somewhere in north-western Missouri in those months after they came down from Dakota. The "Panic" was going on and times were getting tougher day by day. What these folks did to get work must have been as hired help on near-by farms or working on building railroad road beds as day laborers.

The Joseph Dennis and Mary Crawford Roach family went to Shoshone County, Idaho to the Kingston area. In his pension records, Joseph tells of living for a short period of time in Montana, too. Joseph evidently got work in the mines or timber in this area. It was a hard, rough life in the little timber and mining towns of Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon. It may be Joseph was a cook in the work camps as he was later on, for the railroads. These were hard times so he may have had to take whatever jobs he could find.

In June, 1891, Daniel Roach was doing well enough at his harness making business or thought he would continue to do well, so he purchased 1½ lots down the street from his house in Goodell from a Jennie Reed and husband for \$100. He evidently purchased the harness shop or a building he planned to have a harness business in. He may have taken in a partner, named Loughlin at this time to aid him in the book-keeping end of the business. Daniel Roach had some schooling but wrote poorly, so he had to have someone to write letters, make out orders, pay bills and keep the books. This partner would eventually cause Daniel Roach much difficulty and money troubles.

Summer of 1891 found the addition of Jessie A. Ice to the family of Jesse A. and Dea Roach Ice. She was their 3rd child and 3rd daughter, born in Rogers County, Indian Territory on the James Black farm where the Ices were living and working.

During the balance of 1891 and into the winter of 1892, Mary Quinn