

They also went south to the high ground where the potatoes were this year. (the other side of where the road is now). It was pretty thick bush, all dead except for the smaller stuff. They didn't find all the good cedar logs in there, though, because afterwards (the next year maybe) I got some good long cedar logs there for the hay barn.

The logs were skidded home, mostly one at a time behind the team Maud and Stella. Straight logs were used for the long parts of the walls. Logs that had a bow in them could be cut up into four foot lengths for short places between windows and doors. They would haul some logs in, hew and shape them, set them up to build some wall. Then they would go and get more logs.

I remember on the day the first logs were laid for the wall - somebody had a watch - and when noon came they said "Look, it's lined up due north and south."

"But it isn't." [R.S.]

"No. Watch must have been wrong."

[Half an hour wrong. The house faces the sun at 11.30 a.m. standard time. R.S.]

Shaping the logs: They would flatten the inside and outside faces of the log with the broadaxe. The top of each log is still its natural shape, except that any bumps were smoothed off. They used a gauge to make a scratch on the under side of the log to show the width of the groove they had to make there. Then they used a regular axe to hollow out the groove. An old axe is better for that than a new axe. An old axe is thicker, and the blade is apt to develop a sort of curve. The builders took boards from a wooden box and cut a pattern for the notch at the end of the log.

"There's nice corners on this house, by gees". [George Maki]

The gable ends are built of logs, not frame. Inch and a half size holes were bored vertically right through the logs. Long wooden pegs were driven through.