

scratching of wolves at the blanket. Some settlers built small cabins of easily worked logs of basswood until a more permanent home could be erected; hoping that their stay in these tenements would be short, the builders did not always take great pains to fill up the chinks between the logs.

While the family was merely existing in the shanty the men were chopping out a site for the next building and preparing material to erect it. Most of them did not contemplate in their plans anything elaborate. Settlement duties required the house to be twenty feet by sixteen feet at least.

As many of the pioneer undertakings were performed by means of a bee, so was the erection of the log house. The heavy labour done for nothing spared the settler a great deal of expense. Building one might have cost the settler anything from a gallon of whiskey to £10 or £12.

For some settlers it was a matter of days before their house was ready; for others it was weeks or even months, according to the degree of finish that the owner wanted.

Rev. Angus Mac Kay, of Kergussie, Scotland wrote of his old home on lots 13 and 14 in the 13<sup>th</sup> concession of East Missouri, built soon after 1830: "I cannot tell of the length or breadth of the old log house