

Lesson 4: Broken Dreams

NUTSHELL

In this lesson, students explore the experiences of a family that moves to Wisconsin to farm the cutover. They study photographs, letters, and documents to determine whether their family was able to make it farming the cutover. Students also examine the experience of people living on the Bad River Reservation during this time period. They compare and contrast the experiences of families trying to farm the cutover and those living on the Bad River Reservation.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

- Early logging, the resultant cutover, attempts to change land use, and the reforestation of pre-existing forest lands were activities that contributed to the need for forestry.
- The lumber era shaped Wisconsin's economic, cultural, social, and environmental landscapes. Influences of this time period are still visible in Wisconsin today.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What were the experiences of families trying to farm on the cutover?
- What were the experiences of people living on Indian reservations during and after the days of lumbering?
- How were the experiences of families trying to farm the cutover similar to and different from families living on the Bad River Reservation at a similar time?

"Land health is the capacity for self-renewal in the soils, waters, plants, and animals that collectively comprise the land."

★ Aldo Leopold ★

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast the experiences of farmers and Ojibwe people at the end of the lumberjack era.
- Explain why the soils and climate of northern Wisconsin were not well-suited for farming.
- Understand that fire was used to clear land after logging during the cutover era and many of these fires became catastrophic events.
- Explain why abandoned farmland in Wisconsin in the early 1900s became public land.

SUBJECT AREAS

Act 31, Language Arts, Social Studies

LESSON/ACTIVITY TIME

Total Lesson Time: 110-120 minutes

- Introduction 5-10 minutes
- Activity 1 60 minutes
- Activity 2 40 minutes
- Conclusion 5-10 minutes

STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

Standards for this lesson can be viewed online at the LEAF website (leafprogram.org).

MATERIALS LIST

For Each Student

- Copy of Student Pages ✎ **2A-B, Biographical Information, Farm Dreams, Buying the Farm and Farm Life**
- Copy of Student Pages ✎ **5A-E, Our Family G – Wabuninini & Zhaabiiwose**

For Every 3-4 Students (Each Family Group)

- Copy of appropriate Student Pages ✎ **1A1-1F2, Our Family**
- Copy of appropriate Student Pages ✎ **3A-3F, Buying the Farm**
- Copy of appropriate Student Pages ✎ **4A1-4F2, Farm Life**
- Lesson 4 Family Pictures Slideshow found at uwsp.edu/wcee/wcee/leaf/leaf-curriculum/k-12-forestry-lesson-guides

For the Teacher

- Google resources to support this lesson can be found at uwsp.edu/wcee/wcee/leaf/leaf-curriculum/k-12-forestry-lesson-guides
- Copy of Teacher Key 🗝️ **1, Final Verdicts Key**
- Copy of Student Pages ✎ **5A-E, Our Family G – Wabuninini & Zhaabiiwose**

Teacher Preparation

Prepare copies of all student pages. Due to the contrast in historical photos, you may need to lighten the settings on your printer/copier on pages that include photos.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What would you do if you had a large piece of property you no longer had a use for, and had no means to generate income from the property to pay the taxes? You most likely would try to unload or dispose of the property. As lumber companies cut all the trees from the northwoods of Wisconsin, they were left with vast land holdings incapable of producing marketable timber for another 70 to 100 years. Rather than continuing to pay the property taxes, these lumber companies either put the land up for sale or let the property become **tax delinquent**.

Suddenly **land speculation** was big business in northern Wisconsin. Lumber companies, the railroads, land speculator companies, local newspapers, colonization companies, state legislature, and even the University of Wisconsin recruited and courted settlers to come to the area. In those days, no truth in advertising laws existed, so ads and brochures promised that “a farm in Wisconsin will make you money from the start: crops never fail” (Wisconsin Central Railroad). Enticing photographs filled these brochures. One brochure proclaimed: “These pictures show, plainer than words, what an honest man can do in a few years ... There are neither cyclones nor blizzards in this part of the country to make life miserable to the pioneer; but a healthy bracing climate rich in productive soil where abundant crops can be raised without fear of drought or other undesirable contingencies.” (Wisconsin Central Railroad)

“Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left.”

★ Aldo Leopold ★

Private interests were not the only ones caught up in the promotion of **cutover** lands, and likewise, not the only interests stretching the truth. In 1895, the Wisconsin Legislature established a new Board of Immigration (located in Rhinelander) to promote the sale of northern Wisconsin lands to Europeans. That same year, it mandated that the Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin prepare a bulletin or handbook for homeseekers. The book, entitled *Northern Wisconsin: A Hand-Book for the Homeseeker*, used pictures and accounts of settlers to promote the prosperity possible for those of “sound mind, body, and spirit.” In 1897, 50,000 copies of the handbook were distributed and 60,000 pamphlets, illustrated with pictures from the book, were printed in English, German, and Norwegian.

Although the *Hand-Book for the Homeseeker* was written as a promotional piece, it did provide information on the possible difficulties related to climate, soil type, and the current condition of the land. It also provided ideas on how to generate capital by working for lumber companies during the winter. Thanks to this book and other promotional brochures and ads, 20,000 new farms were established in 24 of the northernmost counties between 1880 and 1900. According to the *Hand-Book for the Homeseeker*, those invited to farm northern Wisconsin included: sons and farmhands of those farming in southern Wisconsin, those farming in southern Wisconsin who wanted a larger farm, those living in the city who are “tired of hand-to-mouth existence,” those from other states, and those from foreign lands who are “law-abiding and willing supporters of institutions of civilization and progress.”

Of these 20,000 new farms and those that followed in succeeding years, stories of both success and failure were common. The factors that contributed to success included picking the right piece of land (soil type, rocks, stumps, climate), prior experience farming, good health,

a family, helpful neighbors, supplemental work availability, frugality, good markets, and a lot of luck. The converse of these all contributed to failure.

VOCABULARY TERMS

Allotment: Small parcels of reservation land that was given to individual members of tribes.

Climate: Weather conditions for a region including temperature, precipitation, and wind.

Cutover: Land that has been logged. This term is often used as “the cutover,” which refers to northern Wisconsin after it was heavily logged during the period from the 1850s to the 1920s.

Immigrant: A person who has moved to a new area from a different country.

Interest: A fee charged for lending money to someone.

Land Speculation: Buying land with the hopes of selling for a higher price and making a profit.

Mortgage: A loan for the purchase of property that is paid back over a long period of time with interest.

Popple: A term sometimes used for aspen trees.

Slash: Branches, leaves, and twigs left after cutting down a tree.

Soil Type: A way to classify soils, such as sandy, loam, or clay.

Tax Delinquent: Not paying the taxes on your property.

Whether they succeeded or failed, life was hard. Some fields still had standing timber on them and all land needed to be cleared of stumps. Fire was commonly used to clear **slash** (the remains of logged trees). Often smoke filled the air for weeks as fires burned on the landscape. Some of these fires became catastrophic as dry conditions and high winds increased the intensity of the fires. Many a settler was burned out; losing the buildings they had worked so hard to build and the crops they had grown. Most people returned the next year to rebuild. Some weren't as fortunate. In 1871, the Peshtigo Fire roared through the woods and took the lives of more than 1,500 people. Although overshadowed by the Great Chicago fire that occurred on the same day, the Peshtigo fire today is considered the nation's greatest catastrophic wildfire event.

In some areas of the cutover, farmers did well. Other regions just weren't meant to be farmed for one or more of the following reasons: the soil was sandy, full of rocks, and the number of days without frost was less than the growing season needed. Often a farm was abandoned, only to be resold to another optimistic immigrant. The last great wave of settlement took place as veterans returned home from World War I in 1918. Shortly thereafter, the Great Depression ended the dreams of many.

Members of Wisconsin's First Nations living on reservations in the northwoods of Wisconsin faced many challenges during this time also. The reservations no longer had forests that could help sustain their families and there were no longer jobs in logging or the lumber mills. The companies that harvested timber on reservations left behind slash piles that were susceptible to fire, and stumps that were challenging to remove. As a result, it was difficult or impossible to farm and many tribes struggled to pass on traditions like maple sugaring, birch bark harvesting, and

even hunting. During the late 1800s and into the early to mid 1900s, Native American boarding schools were established to try to assimilate American Indian youth into white society which added to struggles for many First Nation families.

Boarding schools were opened both on and off Indian reservations for children from Wisconsin's First Nations. Most were funded by the U.S. government and run by the U.S. government or churches. Boarding schools were often overcrowded and had poor sanitary conditions. Some youth became very ill or even died while attending boarding schools. When at school, youth were expected to abandon their language and culture, take on Christian names, wear uniforms, and cut their hair. School lessons only took place for a portion of the day and students were expected to work for the rest of it. Some youth were allowed to go home for weekends and summers while others were not. Wisconsin had 11 different boarding schools throughout the state. It has been estimated that over 80% of American Indian youth in the United States attended boarding schools at some point in time.

Many members of every First Nation in Wisconsin were struggling and living in poverty long before the Great Depression.

As land belonging to either settlers or members of Wisconsin's First Nations became tax delinquent, some county governments quickly became the largest landowners. When a landowner didn't pay taxes, a sheriff's auction was scheduled at the courthouse. The land was sold to the highest bidder. Abandoned farmland often had no buyers. These properties had already proven they could not support a family. Unsold land remained with the county as county property. This set the stage for the return of forests in the northwoods.

PROCEDURE

Introduction

Ask your students if any of them have dreams of doing something someday. Let your students share a few of their dreams. Ask them if they think all dreams come true. Perhaps share a dream of your own that didn't come to fruition. Tell them that during this lesson, they will be learning about the challenges some farm and First Nation families faced trying to live out their dreams. Review with your students that the forests of Wisconsin were cut down to supply lumber for a growing nation. Ask them if they have an idea what the land was good for after the trees were gone. (*Farming, a new forest, recreation property.*) Tell the students that they are going to learn what it was like to farm this land and live on the Bad River Reservation at this time.

NOTE: *The following are fictitious family names, locations, and stories. The hardships and survival strategies presented are based on common experiences of that time period and location.*




Activity 1: Farming the Cutover

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four and have them arrange their desks/chairs so they can work together. Hand out a different copy of Student Pages **1A1-1F2, Our Family**, to each group. If you have a large class, some groups can have duplicates of the same family. Have students study the picture of their family and have someone in each group read the information aloud to the group.
2. After they have read their stories, hand out Student Pages **2A-B, Biographical Information, Farm Dreams, Buying the Farm and Farm Life**, to each student. Ask each group to work together to fill in the biography details on the top half of Student Page **2A** (Biographical Information section). You may need to help the students with the math to answer the last two questions.

3. Now that the students have had time to become acquainted with their family, ask your students to put themselves in the place of a member of that family. Ask them to dream for a moment about the new life they want as a member of that farm family in northern Wisconsin. After they have had a few minutes to dream, ask your students to record their dream. Ask them to write in the space at the bottom of the Student Page **2A** (Farm Dreams section). This statement should describe what they dream will happen on the farm. Once students have written their statement, have them each share their dreams with the others in their group.
4. Hand out corresponding Student Pages **3A-F, Buying the Farm** to each group. Have members of the group study the items on the sheet and take turns reading the information to the group. Once students have studied the information, have them complete the top half of Student Page **2B** (Buying the Farm section).
5. Next, hand out the corresponding Student Pages **4A1-4F2, Farm Life** to each group. Have the members of the group take turns reading the letters aloud. Once they have finished reading the letters, have them discuss the questions on bottom of Student Page **2B** (Farm Life section). Once they have discussed their answers as a group, have each member fill in their student page.


**"Farming looks easy
when your plow is a pencil
and you're a thousand miles
from the cornfield."**

★ Dwight D. Eisenhower ★

6. Give each group time to review Student Pages  **2A-B, Biographical Information, Farm Dreams, Buying the Farm and Farm Life.** Tell them that in a few minutes you want each group to tell the class about their family. They should use Student Pages  **2A-B, Biographical Information, Farm Dreams, Buying the Farm and Farm Life,** as an outline for their presentation. (If time permits and you have the technology, you may want the groups to make a slideshow presentation.) Have each group give their presentation about their family and farming experience to the class. Allow each person to share an image of their family using the Lesson 4 Family Pictures Slideshow from the Google resources. Before you move on to the next group, have the class vote whether they think the family made it farming. Once the class has voted, read the family's fate to the class from Teacher Key  **1, Final Verdicts Key.** Continue to the next group, until all groups have presented and all final verdicts have been read.

Activity 2: Life on the Bad River Reservation

Complete this activity as a class. This topic may be difficult for some students as it highlights the struggles many First Nation families went through. Tell students that what they learn might make them feel bad for the people in the story. Tell them it is okay for them to feel bad for the people in the story but that they should not feel responsible for what happened. Tell them it is important to learn about the struggles of Wisconsin's First Nation families because it helps us better understand what they have gone through to get where they are today. Let students ask questions and do your best to try to answer them. It is ok to tell students you don't know the answers to some of their questions.

1. This activity is a read aloud and discussion. You (the educator) should read the story aloud. Please print copies for students to follow along with as you read. There are five sections to read aloud from Student Pages  **5A-E, Our Family G – Wabuninini & Zhaabiiwoze.** Decide if you want to spend a long time one day reading all sections or if it would be better for your students to spread the readings over multiple days.
2. Before you begin reading, practice saying the Ojibwe names aloud. You may find it helpful to read them backwards, adding one syllable at a time.

Examples

• Wabuninini •

“ni, ni-ni, ni-ni-ni, bu-ni-ni-ni, Wa-bu-ni-ni-ni”

• Zhaabiiwoze •

“woze, bii-woze, Zhaa-bii-woze”

3. As you read, feel free to pause to ask students questions or have discussions as needed. Ask students to think about how the experience of Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwoze are similar to and different from the family they learned about during Activity 1.

Conclusion

1. Discuss the experiences of families A-F as a class. Share some of the similarities in the experiences many families had farming. Ask your students about what factors contributed to success. (*Good weather, good soil, work off the farm, milking cows, family, good neighbors, money in savings.*) What factors contributed to failure? (*Climate – late snow melt in spring, late and early frosts, drought, poor soils, forest fires, lack of family.*) Ask what they think were some of the hardest things about farming.

2. Discuss the experiences of Family G as a class. Work as a class to create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the experiences of families A-F trying to farm the cutover with the experiences of Family G on the Bad River Reservation.
3. Ask students what role fire played in farming the cutover. (*Used to clear land, some got out of control and burned large areas.*) Ask why lands on the reservation may have been more susceptible to fire? (*Slash piles left behind by lumber companies.*) Discuss how some fires became catastrophic when they got out of control due to high winds. Ask if anyone has heard of Peshtigo, Wisconsin.
4. Tell students that in 1871 fires that had been burning for weeks to clear land (and others that were started accidentally by trains passing through dry slash left behind from lumbering) got out of control. High winds and a dry fall helped fuel the fire and it moved quickly burning down forests, farms, and eventually the entire town of Peshtigo. People tried to take refuge in the Peshtigo River. While there are incredible stories of survivors, over 1,500 people died in the fires and it is, to this day, the deadliest fire in U.S. history. (Consider reading or sharing excerpts from the book, *The Great Peshtigo Fire: An Eyewitness Account* by survivor, Reverend Peter Pernin. This book is included in the LEAF 4th Grade Kit.
5. Tell your students that although many factors contributed to a farm's success or failure, the soils and climate had the greatest influence. In many areas, the soil was quite variable. One farm might have sandy soil that wouldn't grow crops, while a neighbor's land was good soil. Some regions of the cutover had soils that were not good for farming. Ask your students what they think happened to most of the land that was abandoned by farmers. (*No one paid the taxes, so the land became public land.*) Ask them if anyone has ever been to the Nicolet or Chequamegon National

Forest. Tell the students that both of these national forests, plus several state forests and many county forests, were established because the land wasn't fit to farm and the people gave it up. Tell them that in the next lesson, they will learn how forests were re-established in Wisconsin.

CAREERS

There are two career profiles in this lesson. One is about Richard and Kathy Wagner, forest landowners in Weyauwega, Wisconsin. The other is about Dr. Mark Powless, the Our Ways Director at Indian Community School. Mark was chosen to highlight because of the work he does with Wisconsin's urban Indian youth and families. These career profiles can be found on pages 112 and 113. A careers lesson that uses this information begins on page 222.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Have students revisit the dream statement they wrote during Activity 1. Ask them to write a one-page reflection paper on whether their family lived out the dream they wrote for them. Have them include where they settled, the hardships they faced, and why the family succeeded or failed.

SOURCES

Books/Articles

A Farm in Wisconsin Will Make Money for You from the Start: Crops Never Fail. Milwaukee, WI: Wisconsin Central Railroad, 1896.

Bawden, T. *The Northwoods – Back to Nature.* In R. Ostergren & T. Vale (Ed.). Wisconsin Land and Life. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1997.

Carstensen, V. *Farms or Forests – Evolution of a State Land Policy for Northern Wisconsin, 1850-1932.* Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Madison College of Agriculture, 1958.

Gough, R. *Farming the Cutover – A Social History of Northern Wisconsin, 1900-1940*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1997.

Henry, W. A. *Northern Wisconsin – A Hand-Book for the Homeseeker*. Madison, WI: Democrat Printing Company, 1896.

Mello, Amarin. (2016, March 5). *First Sawmills on the Bad River Reservation*. Chequamegon History. chequamegonhistory.com/2016/03/05/first-sawmills-of-the-bad-river-reservation/.

Pernin, Peter (2nd Edition). *The Great Peshtigo Fire: An Eyewitness Account*. Wisconsin Historical Society Press, May 1999.

Steen-Adams, M., Langston, N., and Mladenoff, D. (2010). *Logging the Great Lakes Indian Reservations: The Case of the Bad River Band of Ojibwe*. American Indian Culture and Research Journal, 34(1). 41-66. escholarship.org/content/qt8jv6z9gh/qt8jv6z9gh_noSplash_511012cc4ad9b6cb2261c92e29a7792b.pdf.

Volpenhein, S. (2021, August 19). *Wisconsin Had at Least 11 Native American Boarding Schools. Here's What to Know About Them*. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Wisconsin Historical Society. *Historical Essay – Northern Wisconsin – Image Gallery Essay – A Hand-Book for the Homeseeker*. www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS3657.

Wisconsin Historical Society, n.d. *Indian Schools in Wisconsin*. www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2096.

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RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Google Resources

Additional resources to support this lesson have been created in Google format. They may be accessed on the LEAF website at: uwsp.edu/wcee/wcee/leaf/leaf-curriculum/k-12-forestry-lesson-guides.

Websites

Mashkiizibii: *The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*, n.d. www.badriver-nsn.gov.

Wisconsin Forest Tales

Pferdehirt, Julia. *Chapter 3: Calling Papa Home and Chapter 4: Dreaming of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Forest Tales* (P. Harden, Illus.) with input from Frechette, J., Hoffman, M. and the Menominee History Committee (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI: Natural Resource Foundation of Wisconsin, LEAF - Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program, and Wisconsin DNR. *Black Earth: Trails Custom Publishing*, 2004.

In Chapter 3, readers are introduced to Susanna (daughter of Johnny from Chapter 2) as she endures the Great Peshtigo Fire. In Chapter 4, we follow the journey of Will and his family as they move to Wisconsin from Chicago to see if they can have success farming the cutover. Print copies of the book are available to check out through LEAF (leafprogram.org) and a classroom set is included in the LEAF 4th Grade Kit (uwsp.edu/wcee/wcee/kits). All Wisconsin educators can request a complimentary copy from the LEAF program as well by emailing leaf@uwsp.edu. Online PDFs of Chapters 3 and 4 can be found on the DNR website dnr.wisconsin.gov/education/WisconsinForestTales.

Career Profile

Mark Powless, Our Ways Director, Indian Community School

Meet Mark Powless – a member of the Wolf Clan of the Oneida Nation. His Oneida name, Tehalihwa?kháhsyuh, was given to him as an adult. Mark is the Our Ways director at Indian Community School in Franklin, Wisconsin. His job is to ensure that Native language and culture are integrated into all aspects at the school. Mark also supports cultural learning activities including social dancing, pow-wow songs, drums, games, and storytelling. Students also learn about wild rice, deer, and maple sugar harvesting. Mark's job is important because many First Nation people were forbidden to practice their culture or speak their language for three generations – or almost 90 years!*

Mark attended UW-Green Bay and earned a degree in Human Development and Psychology. He also learned more about the Oneida Nation, language and culture. Later, Mark moved to Milwaukee and earned a PhD from Marquette University to become a Licensed Clinical Psychologist. Mark worked for Indian Health Services and the VA Medical Center and also began teaching Oneida language classes. When Mark's children attended Indian Community School he helped the school with research and governance and was a member of the

culture committee. He eventually was hired to be the Our Ways director.

One thing Mark really likes about his job is working with others to benefit future generations. He believes that teamwork is important for making things last. Mark also enjoys learning and improving himself so he can be a good role model for himself and others. Mark has the opportunity to work with First Nation communities in ways that were not possible 50 or 75 years ago. In the past, First Nation people were focused on just surviving, but now they have moved beyond that. Mark works with First Nation youth and adults to help them become healthy and strong leaders.

If you find Mark's job interesting or want to learn more, Mark recommends getting involved and making connections with people. He says that you should never give up when you feel frustrated, but instead, stay focused on your goals and seek out people who can support and guide you.



Mark Powless

* In the late 1880s, the U.S. government enacted laws forbidding traditional Native American practices. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act was passed in 1978 so that Native American people could practice their religious and cultural traditions.

Career Profile

Richard and Kathy Wagner, Tree Farm Owners

Meet Richard and Kathy Wagner. In 1992, Kathy saw a sign that said a piece of land she liked to ride her horse through was for sale. The property was 80 acres and included a woods and a dairy farm. The Wagner's decided to purchase the land.

After talking with a forester from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Richard and Kathy decided to put the land into a program called Managed Forest Law (MFL). This program helped them plant trees on the land. When they saw that the trees were growing really well, they decided to plant even more. They started a small business called Wagner Family Tree Farm, LLC, to do select cuts of their trees. In a select cut, only the best timber is cut and the rest is left behind to continue to grow. They also started a dairy business, Quantum Dairy, LLC, because Richard had experience making cheese and Kathy had experience growing crops.

With three kids and 15 grandchildren, the tree farm is a great place for the family to have fun. They can ride horses, drive UTVs, ice skate, snowmobile, and even hunt on or near the farm. Most of the family lives next to the tree farm or close by. Kathy says, "There's always something to do, so you're never bored." They visit the property almost every day to do maintenance or take a walk in the woods. Today they own over 500 acres of forest and stay busy by planting trees

using an interplanting technique (where you grow trees and other plants or crops together). They also spend time caring for the trees and mowing.

Richard says if you want to start a family business like he and Kathy did, it is best to start small. He thinks that if the older and younger generations agree to work together, they can accomplish almost anything. He also thinks it is important for the older generation to let the younger generation take charge as soon as they are ready. Kathy loves the tree farm and enjoys sharing it with her kids and grandchildren. She believes that being in nature is good for the soul. She also thinks it is worthwhile to have the freedom to explore and wander through the woods.



Richard and Kathy Wagner

FINAL VERDICTS KEY

A - Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman

Twenty years later, Heinrich and Anna are still farming. Their son Herman now is farming with them. They are milking 35 cows and have bought another 80 acres of land. They are proud to be successful farmers.

D - Patrick O'Leary

Patrick had enough with trying to farm. He tried to sell his land, but there was little interest. No one had been able to make it in the Conover area. He just abandoned his farm and moved to Chicago where he laid bricks. He was involved in building many of the tall buildings in Chicago. His farm was planted back to trees by the county. It was eventually sold, and today there are 15 houses around the lake.

B - Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery

Duncan enlisted to fight the Germans in World War I. He was killed in France. Lindsey tried to sell the farm, but no one was interested. She abandoned it and moved to Milwaukee to live with her cousin Adie. Eventually she remarried a man who works in a factory. Their farm eventually became part of the Marinette County Forest.

E - Ole & Kirsten Nelson

Ole and Kirsten continued to farm with his parents. His Uncle Carl eventually bought land near them. The Nelson's continued milking cows and eventually got a contract with a neighboring logging company to grow hay for their camps. They just bought 80 more acres.

C - Ira & Helena Janowski

Ira and Helena continued to farm with their son and his family. Samuel fought in World War I, and came home to farm with his parents. They eventually owned 320 acres and milked 40 cows.

F - Joseph & Martha Craig

Joseph and Martha decided they would get ahead faster if they let the farm go. They bought a house in Tippler and Joseph continued to work in the woods. The farm ended up as part of the Nicolet National Forest and was replanted in 1930.

OUR FAMILY A - THE KUHLMANS

Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman

Heinrich Kuhlman came to the U.S. as an immigrant from Germany in the fall of 1895. He was 23 years old at that time. Heinrich had \$62 when he decided to leave Germany. The boat ride cost him \$32 to get to Ellis Island in New York. He had a brother named Wilhelm, who had written letters to Heinrich to encourage him to come to Wisconsin. Wilhelm lived in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and worked in a sawmill. Heinrich traveled by train to Oshkosh. The trip cost him \$20. Heinrich found a job at the same sawmill where Wilhelm worked. He was paid \$26 a month and lived with his brother. He was able to save about \$15 each month.

While living with his brother, Heinrich met and fell in love with Anna Weichman. Anna was a German immigrant also. She was 17 at the time and still lived with her parents. Both Anna and Heinrich's fathers had worked on someone else's farms back in Germany. Heinrich and Anna had both helped work on the farm since they were kids. They both dreamed of having a farm of their own someday. In May of 1897, Anna and Heinrich got married. By then, Heinrich had saved \$300. They started looking for land to farm.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

May 2, 1895

Heinrich,

You won't believe the work here in Wisconsin. Why, there are near 40 different sawmills in Sawdust City. You should join us here in Oshkosh. You should be able to save enough money in two to three years to buy a farm. The logs we are sawing are coming from the north. They say there's lots of good land up there that will raise just about anything.

Come join us.

Wilhelm Kuhlman

OUR FAMILY A - THE KUHLMANS

Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman



(Left-Right) Beth, Herman, Sarah, Anna and Heinrich Kuhlman
with oxen in front of their cabin.

OUR FAMILY B - THE MONTGOMERYS

Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery

Duncan and Lindsey Montgomery arrived in America in 1910. They were just 18 years old and had been married just a few weeks before they left Canada. Duncan's great-grandfather had been a partner of the Northwest Company. A group of Scotsmen formed this company. The Northwest Company was a 1700s fur trade company that traveled and traded in Wisconsin. Duncan's great-grandfather had made a lot of money as a partner in the company. Duncan's mother had inherited a large sum of money from his estate. She gave Duncan and Lindsey \$1,500 to start a new life in America. The trip to America cost them \$72. They had read letters from Lindsey's cousin that talked about land for sale in Wisconsin.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

November 13, 1909

Dear Cousin Lindsey,

I read a story in a Milwaukee newspaper today that talks about land for sale in northern Wisconsin. I know that you and Duncan have thought about coming to America. I know that neither of you have grown up on a farm, but how hard can it be? There was a picture with the story that showed a family with six kids standing near their garden. The cabbages were as big as pumpkins. You should come to Wisconsin. Don't pass up this chance to be landowners.

Adie

OUR FAMILY B - THE MONTGOMERYS

Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery



(Left-Right) Duncan and Lindsey Montgomery with neighbor in front of their home on the Pike River.

OUR FAMILY C - THE JANOWSKIS

Ira & Helena Janowski

Ira and Helena Janowski live in Poland. It is 1905. Ira is 38 years old and Helena is 31. They have three children – Samuel, 13; Sophie, 10; and Carl, 5. Ira works in a woolen mill, where his father also works. The hours are long and the pay is not great. They have, however, been able to save just enough money (\$212) so they can join some of Helena's family in America. It will cost them about \$205 for the boat trip over and railroad tickets to Wisconsin. Two of Helena's brothers own farms near Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Helena grew up on a small farm. She and Ira dream of owning a farm in America soon. A recent letter from one of Helena's brother's wives has them excited.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

June 27, 1905

Helena,

This has been an early spring. The potatoes are growing well. Looks like the corn will be knee high by the fourth of July. Jon is old enough to help your brother with the milking. Hay crop looks good this year. Church picnic is this weekend. Can't wait for the celebration. You should talk Ira into leaving his job at the mill and coming to Wisconsin. There is land for sale just down the road from us. Samuel and Jon would sure have fun together. Family is important in this country. We would be here to help.

Come to America.

Bertha

OUR FAMILY C - THE JANOWSKIS

Ira & Helena Janowski



(Left-Right) Walter (Helena's brother), Samuel, August (Helena's brother), Carl, Ira, Helena, and Sophie Janowski in front of the family home.

OUR FAMILY D - THE O'LEARYS

Patrick O'Leary

Patrick O'Leary came to America as a young lad of 10. His family was from Ireland. He and his mother arrived in America in 1878. His family had been tenant farmers, renting a small plot of land from a landlord. Patrick's father sold everything they had to buy tickets on a ship to America. On the ride over, Patrick's father became ill and died during the voyage.

Patrick's mother found a job as a cook in a hotel. She was provided a place to live, some meals, and \$8 per month. Patrick helped her in the kitchen bringing wood for the stove and peeling potatoes. When Patrick was 15, he began work for a bricklayer. All day long he would carry bricks. He eventually became a bricklayer himself. Laying bricks was hard work. By age 25, Patrick had saved \$273. He often dreamed of his childhood back on the farm in Ireland. Patrick recently read an article in the newspaper about farming in Wisconsin.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

July 15, 1893

LAND OF PLENTY

Rhineland, Wisconsin - Not more than a few years ago, the land of northern Wisconsin was covered by tall pine forests. Now the northwoods has become an oasis for the homeseeker. Fertile bare land is plentiful. New farmers are striking it rich as this land produces like none other.

An agent of the Wisconsin Central Railroad says that "A farm in Wisconsin will make you money from the start. In this land, crops never fail. All you have to do is remove some stumps and your farm will provide you a fine living."

Some say you don't even have to be a farmer to farm. This land is so fertile that no one can go wrong. Banks are eager to lend the homeseeker money to buy this land. John Jingles, a local banker, says "No one should have a problem paying for their land in just a few years."

Although the land is plentiful, it is being bought up rapidly. Those interested in buying land in Wisconsin should do it now before all the land is sold.

OUR FAMILY D - THE O'LEARYS

Patrick O'Leary



Patrick O'Leary

OUR FAMILY E - THE NELSONS

Sven & Greta Nelson

Ole's family had a small farm in Norway. Ole's uncle worked as a lumberjack and had written letters about farmland for sale in Wisconsin. In 1880, Ole traveled to Wisconsin in search of land with his parents Sven and Greta and sister Sigrid. They had managed to save \$875. The trip to Wisconsin cost them \$205. Ole was 22 years old when he arrived in Wisconsin.

Kirsten Jonsrend was born in 1860 in America. Her family had come from Norway in 1840. Kirsten's father worked in the lumber camps in Maine. As the forests of Maine were all cut down, Kirsten's family moved to Wisconsin to follow the lumber camps. Kirsten was born in Wisconsin.

At this time, Ole and Kirsten have not yet met.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

August 3, 1880

Dear Sven,

When will you give up farming in Norway? That land of yours is just worn out. You are barely making ends meet. You should come join me in Wisconsin. There is plenty of land being cleared for the lumber. Why, in a few short years you could be farming several hundred acres. There will be work pulling out the stumps. You have got Ole to help. In no time at all, both of you can be farming.

Come now while land is cheap.

Carl

OUR FAMILY E - THE NELSONS

Sven & Greta Nelson



(Left-Right) Sven, Greta, Sigrid, Kirsten and Ole Nelson at the farm.

OUR FAMILY F - THE CRAIGS

Joseph & Martha Craig

Joseph and Martha Craig were born in America. Joseph's great-grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. He settled in Kentucky in 1787 after the war. Joseph was born on the homestead farm in Kentucky in 1852. He had five other brothers. A letter from his Uncle Eli got Joseph interested in coming to Wisconsin. When Joseph was 19, he moved to Wisconsin to find work. Many native Kentuckians had moved to Wisconsin around that time to work in the lumber camps. Joseph lived with his uncle and started work as a swamper in a lumber camp. During his first winter of work, Joseph saved \$120.

Martha's great-grandparents had also settled in Kentucky. Martha's family had moved to Wisconsin from Kentucky to work in the lumber camps in 1858. Martha was 6 at the time. When Martha was 19, she worked in a lumber camp as a cookie. During her first winter of work, Martha saved \$90.

Joseph and Martha happen to work in the same camp. At this time they have fallen in love and are planning to get married in the summer.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

February 15, 1870

Joe,

It has been another cold week here in the northwoods. This week we cut the last of the pine near camp. We will have to travel about five miles to work starting next week. Work is hard, but steady. They feed us well.

You should leave Kentucky and join us here. Many are saving enough money to buy cutover land to farm. The land reminds me of back home. It's the place for those missing their old Kentucky home.

Come soon!

Eli

OUR FAMILY F - THE CRAIGS

Joseph & Martha Craig



Joseph & Martha Craig's Wedding



(Left-Right) Joseph and Martha Craig (holding guns) with neighbors, dogs and horses

BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Family Last Name_____

First Names _____ & _____

Children's Names

Where did they come from? _____

What is the current year of the story? _____

Did they have prior farm experience?	Yes	No
1. How many years of experience did they have?		
2. What type of farm did they work on?		
3. What was their role on the farm?		
4. How did they feel about the experience?		
5. Did they learn anything from the experience?		
6. Would they consider working on a farm again?		
7. How did the experience affect their career choice?		
8. Did they gain any skills from the experience?		
9. How did they feel about the work environment?		
10. Did they meet any interesting people?		
11. How did they feel about the work schedule?		
12. Did they learn anything about the industry?		
13. How did they feel about the work conditions?		
14. Did they gain any knowledge about the industry?		
15. How did they feel about the work environment?		
16. Did they learn anything about the industry?		
17. How did they feel about the work conditions?		
18. Did they gain any knowledge about the industry?		
19. How did they feel about the work environment?		
20. Did they learn anything about the industry?		

Was he born in America? Yes No Was she born in America? Yes No

If not, how old was he when he came to America?_____ She?_____

How much money did the family have in savings when they came to America?

How much money does the family have at this time?_____

FARM DREAMS

Write down your dream about farming in Wisconsin.

[illegible]

BUYING THE FARM

How much land did your family buy? _____

When did they buy the land? _____

How much did they pay for the land per acre? _____

Total amount paid? _____

Who did they buy the land from? _____

Did they borrow money to buy the land? _____

If yes, how much did they borrow? _____

How much money do they have left from savings after buying the farm? _____

In what country is their land located? _____

What is their address? _____

Are there things about their land that might make it difficult to farm? _____

FARM LIFE

What hardships did the family face while farming? _____

How well did the crops grow on their land? _____

Did the family have to work outside the farm to pay the bills? _____

What parts of the farm made money for the family? _____

Do you think the family will make it as farmers? _____

BUYING THE FARM A - THE KUHLMANS

Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman

Own Your Own Farm – Land for Sale! Timber Land Company

BILL OF SALE

DATE OF SALE: June 3, 1897

BUYER: Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman

SELLER: Timber Land Company

PROPERTY: 160 Acres Cutover Land in Taylor County near Goodrich, Wisconsin

PRICE: \$4.00 Per Acre

TOTAL PRICE: \$640

BUYER SIGNATURE: *Heinrich Kuhlman*

CO-BUYER SIGNATURE: *Anna Kuhlman*



- Prime farmland in Taylor County
- Hardwood trees remain
- Abundant water
- Many sites to choose from

**You can own 160 acres for
as little as \$640!**

LAND DESCRIPTION

PROPERTY OWNER(S):
Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman

LOCATION:
NW1/4 of Section 6, T31N-R3E

DESCRIPTION OF LAND:
Rolling land with small stream. Pine trees have been logged. Some land wooded with hardwood trees. Soil with some rocks. Small swamp in corner of property. Main logging road connects to property. Located five miles northwest of Goodrich, Wisconsin.

MAIL ADDRESS:
Goodrich, Wisconsin

LAND MORTGAGE LOAN

DATE: June 3, 1897

I, Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman, promise to pay back the Security Land Bank the borrowed sum of \$450 over the period of 10 years for the purchase of 160 acres in Taylor County.

INTEREST RATE CHARGED: 7%

TOTAL INTEREST: \$173.25

TOTAL PAYMENT WILL BE: \$623.25

ANNUAL PAYMENT IS: \$62.32

BORROWER: Heinrich Kuhlman

CO-BORROWER: Anna Kuhlman

BUYING THE FARM B - THE MONTGOMERYS

Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery

Own Your Own Farm – Land for Sale!

Niagara Land Company

BILL OF SALE

DATE OF SALE: February 3, 1910

BUYER: Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery

SELLER: Niagara Land Company

PROPERTY: 160 Acres Cutover Land in Marinette County near Dunbar, Wisconsin

PRICE: \$15.00 Per Acre

TOTAL PRICE: \$2,400

BUYER SIGNATURE:
Duncan Montgomery

CO-BUYER SIGNATURE:
Lindsey Montgomery



- Prime farmland in Marinette County
- Hardwood trees remain
- Abundant water
- Many sites to choose from

Land rates \$12-\$15 per acre!

LAND DESCRIPTION

PROPERTY OWNER(S):

Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery

LOCATION:

NW1/4 of Section 32, T36N-R19E

DESCRIPTION OF LAND:

Pike River is boundary on the east of the property. Land is rolling, with some stumps. Pine trees have been logged. Some hardwoods remain. Property is approximately eight miles south of Dunbar, Wisconsin

MAIL ADDRESS:

Dunbar, Wisconsin

LAND MORTGAGE LOAN

DATE: February 3, 1910

I, Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery, promise to pay back the Security Land Bank the borrowed sum of \$1,200 over the period of 10 years for the purchase of 160 acres in Marinette County.

INTEREST RATE CHARGED: 7%

TOTAL INTEREST: \$508.50

TOTAL PAYMENT WILL BE: \$1,708.50

ANNUAL PAYMENT IS: \$170.85

BORROWER: Duncan Montgomery

CO-BORROWER: Lindsey Montgomery

BUYING THE FARM C - THE JANOWSKIS

Ira & Helena Janowski

Own Your Own Farm – Land for Sale!

Home Land & Timber Company

BILL OF SALE

DATE OF SALE: March 3, 1906

BUYER: Ira & Helena Janowski

SELLER: Home Land & Timber Company

PROPERTY: 80 Acres Cutover Land in Portage County near Polonia, Wisconsin

PRICE: \$10.00 Per Acre

TOTAL PRICE: \$800

BUYER SIGNATURE: *Ira Janowski*

CO-BUYER SIGNATURE: *Helena Janowski*



- Rich land waiting for your crops
- Join your fellow Polish immigrants
- Abundant water
- Many sites to choose from

**You can own 40 acres for
as little as \$400!**

LAND DESCRIPTION

PROPERTY OWNER(S):

Ira & Helena Janowski

LOCATION:

E1/2, NW1/4, Section 13, T24N-R9E

DESCRIPTION OF LAND:

Rolling land with rocks. Pine trees have been logged. Most hardwoods removed. Probably 15 acres is swamp. Tomorrow River runs through the property. Located three miles southeast of Polonia, Wisconsin

MAIL ADDRESS:

Polonia, Wisconsin

LAND MORTGAGE LOAN

DATE: March 3, 1906

I, Ira & Helena Janowski, promise to pay back the Security Land Bank the borrowed sum of \$800 over the period of 10 years for the purchase of 80 acres in Portage County.

INTEREST RATE CHARGED: 7%

TOTAL INTEREST: \$339.00

TOTAL PAYMENT WILL BE: \$1,139.00

ANNUAL PAYMENT IS: \$113.90

BORROWER: Ira Janowski

CO-BORROWER: Helena Janowski

BUYING THE FARM D - THE O'LEARYS

Patrick O'Leary

Own Your Own Farm – Land for Sale!

Pine Land & Lumber Company

BILL OF SALE

DATE OF SALE: October 12, 1893

BUYER: Patrick O'Leary

SELLER: Pine Land & Lumber Company

PROPERTY: 80 Acres Cutover Land in Vilas County near Conover, Wisconsin

PRICE: \$5.00 Per Acre

TOTAL PRICE: \$400

BUYER SIGNATURE: *Patrick O'Leary*

CO-BUYER SIGNATURE: -----



- Abundant, fertile lands available
- Hardwood trees remain
- Abundant water
- Own your own lake

**You can own 40 acres for
as little as \$200!**

LAND DESCRIPTION

PROPERTY OWNER(S):

Patrick O'Leary

LOCATION:

N1/2, NW1/4 Section 9, T40N-R10E

DESCRIPTION OF LAND:

Rolling land with some rocks. Soil sandy. Small 15 acre lake on property. Some swamp surrounding lake. Located seven miles south of Conover, Wisconsin.

MAIL ADDRESS:

Conover, Wisconsin

LAND MORTGAGE LOAN

DATE: October 12, 1893

I, Patrick O'Leary, promise to pay back the Security Land Bank the borrowed sum of \$250 over the period of 10 years for the purchase of 80 acres in Vilas County.

INTEREST RATE CHARGED: 7%

TOTAL INTEREST: \$105.90

TOTAL PAYMENT WILL BE: \$355.90

ANNUAL PAYMENT IS: \$35.59

BORROWER: Patrick O'Leary

CO-BORROWER: -----

BUYING THE FARM E - THE NELSONS

Sven & Greta Nelson

Own Your Own Farm – Land for Sale!

Barron Timber Company

BILL OF SALE

DATE OF SALE: February 3, 1881

BUYER: Sven & Greta Nelson

SELLER: Barron Timber Company

PROPERTY: 240 Acres Cutover Land in Barron County near Haugan, Wisconsin

PRICE: \$2.50 Per Acre

TOTAL PRICE: \$600

BUYER SIGNATURE: *Sven Nelson*

CO-BUYER SIGNATURE: *Greta Nelson*



- Prime land for farming
- Hardwood trees remain
- Abundant water
- Some land cleared

**You can own 160 acres for
as little as \$400!**

LAND DESCRIPTION

PROPERTY OWNER(S):

Sven & Greta Nelson

LOCATION:

SW1/4 of Section 21 and W1/2, SE1/4
Section 21, T36N-R12W

DESCRIPTION OF LAND:

Rolling land with rocks. Pine trees have been logged. Small stream runs through property. Small swamp adjoins stream. Most hardwoods left. Located six miles west of Haugan, Wisconsin.

MAIL ADDRESS:

Haugan, Wisconsin

LAND MORTGAGE LOAN

DATE: February 3, 1881

I, Sven & Greta Nelson, promise to pay back the Security Land Bank the borrowed sum of \$100 over the period of 10 years for the purchase of 240 acres in Barron County.

INTEREST RATE CHARGED: 7%

TOTAL INTEREST: \$42.40

TOTAL PAYMENT WILL BE: \$142.40

ANNUAL PAYMENT IS: \$14.24

BORROWER: Sven Nelson

CO-BORROWER: Greta Nelson

BUYING THE FARM F - THE CRAIGS

Joseph & Martha Craig

Own Your Own Farm – Land for Sale!

Holcomb Land Company

BILL OF SALE

DATE OF SALE: July 3, 1871

BUYER: Joseph & Martha Craig

SELLER: Holcomb Land Company

PROPERTY: 120 Acres Cutover Land in Forest County near Alvin, Wisconsin

PRICE: \$1.50 Per Acre

TOTAL PRICE: \$180

BUYER SIGNATURE: *Joseph Craig*

CO-BUYER SIGNATURE: *Martha Craig*



- Cutover land available in Forest County
- Hardwood trees remain
- Abundant water

**You can own 160 acres for
as little as \$240!**

LAND DESCRIPTION

PROPERTY OWNER(S):

Joseph & Martha Craig

LOCATION:

S1/2, S1/2 Section 24, T41N-R14E

DESCRIPTION OF LAND:

Rolling land with lowland areas. Brule River is north boundary. At least 1/4 of property is swamp. Pine trees have been logged. Popple and hardwoods remain. Located seven miles east of Nelma, Wisconsin.

MAIL ADDRESS:

Alvin, Wisconsin

LAND MORTGAGE LOAN

DATE: July 3, 1871

I, Joseph & Mary Craig, promise to pay back the Security Land Bank the borrowed sum of \$50 over the period of 10 years for the purchase of 120 acres in Forest County.

INTEREST RATE CHARGED: 7%

TOTAL INTEREST: \$21.20

TOTAL PAYMENT WILL BE: \$71.20

ANNUAL PAYMENT IS: \$7.12

BORROWER: Joseph Craig

CO-BORROWER: Martha Craig

FARM LIFE A - THE KUHLMANS

Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman • Letters from the Cutover

June 20, 1897

Wilhelm,

We are finally on our own land. It is both beautiful and ugly here. Areas that were untouched by logging are dark and scary. We can't wait to remove more of the forest. Most of the land is covered with stumps from the pine trees that were logged off the property 10 years ago. Heinrich says it is good land. He is ready to get started on the land, but we don't have enough money to buy the horses and equipment needed to farm. He will work in the lumber camps this winter to earn the money needed to get started.

We have pitched a tent on some high ground. We have selected this spot that looks over a valley for our home. Heinrich purchased some tools to cut some trees to build a small cabin. Our goal for this first summer is food and shelter. We will build a simple log cabin for now. Our time will be split between building the cabin and growing a garden. We hope we can grow enough to feed ourselves the first winter.

Your sister-in-law,

Anna

May 5, 1898

Wilhelm,

Heinrich has been gone all winter. He returned last week from a lumber camp near Merrill. The cabin we built kept me dry and warm. Although I got tired of potatoes, my garden did feed me. Heinrich was able to save enough to buy a horse and harness. Our first payment on the farm is due next month. Looks like we will have enough left to pay it.

The air here is full of smoke. Our neighbors are burning the treetops left behind after logging. I pray that we don't get high winds. About 25 years ago, high winds caused farmer's fires to spread and burn the town of Peshtigo. More than 1,000 people died.

It is still too early to plant the garden, so we have been working long days to remove stumps and rocks from a field near the cabin. Most days we only get one to three stumps pulled. It is a slow process, but we hope to have several acres cleared by late May. A neighbor has a plow and is willing to let us use it when he is done. Another neighbor has oats and corn left that he will loan us to plant for our first crop. Can't wait to see this fall's crop.

Good news, I am with child. We guess it will be born this summer.

Your sister-in-law,

Anna

FARM LIFE A - THE KUHLMANS

Heinrich & Anna Kuhlman • Letters from the Cutover

February 14, 1900

Wilhelm,

Sorry it has been so long since I last wrote. We have been busy carving a farm out of rocks and stumps. It's Valentine's Day and here I sit home alone with Beth. The winters seem long and lonely. Heinrich is back in the logging camp. He has been there since late November. Crops were good this year. We sold the corn we had and were able to buy a milk cow. I now have chores to do morning and night. The store in town buys the milk, so we now have a steady income. It is busy with a small child.

We have now cleared about 15 acres with the help of dynamite and a newfangled machine that lifts the stump out of the ground. We have continued to pay our taxes, loan payment, and have money left to buy seed and livestock. We borrowed money to build a barn last year. About 20 neighbors came to help. We built the barn in about 3 days. All the women came and helped me cook for their men.

Your sister-in-law,

Anna

November 29, 1902

Wilhelm,

Heinrich is back at the logging camp. The camp has moved further from us this year. Good thing he has work. We had a late frost last spring and most of the corn and garden died. We replanted the corn, but it didn't do well. My garden didn't grow well either.

Beth keeps me busy; she is getting big. Soon she will be in school. I am expecting another baby in the spring.

We now have 40 acres cleared. We have planted the remainder of the stump fields to hay and grass. We make hay where we can and let the cows feed on the rest. Our cow herd has grown to 15. That is all I can do on my own during the winter. If we get any bigger, Heinrich will have to stay home next winter.

Your sister-in-law,

Anna

March 15, 1905

Wilhelm,

Today we celebrated. We have done well during the past few years. Heinrich no longer has to work in the woods during the winter. Yesterday, we were able to pay off our loan on the land. We now own it free and clear. Things are going well. Beth enjoys school and does well. Herman keeps me busy at home. We are expecting our third child.

Heinrich and I now milk 20 cows. It takes most of the morning and evening, but it is paying the bills. Several of our neighbors have tried to raise just crops. Without the cows, they are not making it. They are having problems paying their taxes. I am glad we invested in the cows.

Your sister-in-law,

Anna

FARM LIFE B - THE MONTGOMERYS

Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery • Letters from the Cutover

April 3, 1910

Dear Adie,

Duncan and I finally got into our land today. The snow has been too deep to get to the property. For the last 2 months, we have lived in a boarding house in Goodman. During that time, we secured a loan to buy a team of horses, harness, a wagon, and tools to clear the land.

We have located a spot for our home and building site near the Pike River. There are maple trees in this area, so we will have both shade and water. We are currently living in a tent, but hope to start building a small cabin at once. When the frost goes out of the ground later this month, we will start the job of removing the stumps left by the logging. I will write more when I have time.

Your friend,

Lindsey

August 15, 1910

Dear Adie,

The pictures we saw of farms in Wisconsin looked so wonderful. Seems the property that we bought is blessed with many rocks and stumps that take dynamite to remove. We have worked for the last 4 months and have only 3 acres cleared. The cabin is still just a foundation. We haven't found time to work on it and try to grow a crop. Duncan is determined to get five acres ready to plant. The problem is it is too late to plant this year. I have a smaller garden, but am concerned if it will feed us all winter. Duncan says not to worry. I hope he is right.

Your friend,

Lindsey

May 15, 1911

Dear Adie,

Well, we survived the winter. Duncan finished the roof over our head in November. It is a small cabin, only 10 feet by 10 feet. The garden was a little short on feeding us, so we had to buy some food. Duncan says this year will be different.

We still have snow today. Don't know how soon we will be able to plant. We did get 5 acres cleared and plowed by last fall. Money is now short, but we are looking forward to the bounty of our crops.

Your friend,

Lindsey

FARM LIFE B - THE MONTGOMERYS

Duncan & Lindsey Montgomery • Letters from the Cutover

July 4, 1912

Dear Adie,

Sorry it has been so long since my last letter. Last year's crops were not great. We have been able to pay our loan payment and taxes, but not a lot of dollars left. Duncan may have to look for work this winter.

We continue to try and remove rocks and stumps. Land in our area seems to be changing hands daily. We have seen several neighbors give up farming and look elsewhere for a living. Spring came late again. Our first planting of corn was killed by a late frost. The soil is sandy and last summer things dried out. Duncan says our luck is about to change. I pray that he is right.

Your friend,

Lindsey

November 25, 1914

Dear Adie,

A lot has happened since I last wrote you. We have continued to struggle with this farm. The climate just doesn't seem right for growing crops. We have stopped clearing any further land. This year's crop is still in the field. Duncan has taken a job at the sawmill in town and hasn't had much time to farm. I have been trying to harvest the crop myself, but it is slow going. A forest fire burned through the area, but missed our property. It started from fires farmers had set to burn the tree tops left from logging. Several neighbors were burned out. Probably will be the end for them.

The war with Germany will no doubt affect life here in Wisconsin. Many of the men working with Duncan are saying they will fight. I pray that Duncan remains home with me. We are behind on our payments to the bank. Without Duncan's help, we will for sure lose our land. Duncan says not to worry, but I know that down deep he wants to fight.

Your friend,

Lindsey

FARM LIFE C - THE JANOWSKIS

Ira & Helena Janowski • Letters from the Cutover

March 3, 1906

My Dearest Mother,

We survived the long trip from Poland. We are now in Wisconsin with Helena's brother's family. The land here is rolling. Just five miles west of here, the land is perfectly flat. Most of the farmers here are milking cows. The sale of milk is helping them all pay their bills.

Today we jumped into farming with both boots on. We bought 80 acres down the road a mile from Helena's brother's place. We have a great deal of work to do to remove the stumps and rocks on the site. Once we have completed this work, we will be ready to farm.

We plan to live with Helena's family this first year, while I earn money working in town. Stevens Point is about 10 miles away from our land. There are a number of sawmills in town, so it should not be hard to find a job.

Your son,

Ira

December 25, 1906

My Dearest Mother,

Merry Christmas. We are all alive and well. It has been a very busy 9 months since I last wrote to you. I was lucky enough to land a job at a local sawmill, so we are saving the money needed to make our payments on the land. Helena and the children have worked most of the summer removing rocks from the fields. Helena's brothers have let us use a team of horses and a wagon. Some of the rocks are 2 to 3 feet across. I work every night and weekends moving the big rocks and pulling out stumps.

Helena grew a magnificent garden this summer. We plan to continue to live with her brother's family until next summer. They are kind enough to let us live with them as we get the money to start on our own. Samuel helps with milking the cows and Helena's garden adds to our food.

We plan to build a house next spring. I can buy the lumber from the mill I work at fairly cheap. I figure I will have to work full-time at the sawmill for about 3 years. After that I should be able to be a year-round farmer. Next spring I will begin planting some of the land. I should be able to farm and work too.

Your son,

Ira

FARM LIFE C - THE JANOWSKIS

Ira & Helena Janowski • Letters from the Cutover

September 15, 1907

My Dearest Mother-in-law,

Two weeks ago, all the neighbors came to help us build our house. In two days, the house was standing. Ira has a friend that is a carpenter. He is helping us put in the windows and doors. We had to borrow some money to buy the windows and have it plastered. If all goes well, we should be in our new house in another month.

Ira continues to work at the sawmill and on the farm at night. We have 10 acres cleared and have it planted to corn, potatoes, and wheat. We harvested the wheat last month. We have much to sell. We hope the corn and potatoes do as well. My brother sold us 2 older milk cows, so Samuel now has chores at home. The sale of the milk provides us enough cash for most of our needs. Ira looks forward to farming full-time in the next year.

Ira was called to a neighbor's yesterday to help fight a fire. The neighbor had been burning some treetops left from logging and the wind came up. The fire spread and burned one cornfield. Luckily it didn't get to their building site. Many a settler has been burned out by someone else's fire. Glad it didn't get our crop.

Your daughter-in-law,

Helena

December 25, 1909

My Dearest Mother,

Merry Christmas. I hope this letter finds you in good health.

We have all been blessed with health this past year. Things have gone well for our family. We now have 30 acres cleared and crops growing. On some of our land, we have sowed hay to feed the cows. We now have 6 cows. We have saved enough to pay the farm off later this month. I plan to farm full-time this summer. Next winter I probably will work in the woods as a lumberjack. It is hard work, but pays well.

Your son,

Ira

December 25, 1912

My Dearest Mother-in-law,

Merry Christmas. Hope the year finds you well. Samuel and Ira are gone to the northwoods. For the last 2 winters, they both have worked in a lumber camp near Big Falls. Although they are gone on this holiday, we have much to be thankful for. We bought an additional 80 acres so Samuel could farm too. He still lives with us, but I imagine sometime soon he will move out on his own. He has been sweet on a girl who lives down the road. Wouldn't surprise me if she isn't kin by this time next year. Sophie and Carl help me milk the 16 cows we own. If all goes well, we should be able to pay the loan off on the new 80 in 3 to 5 years.

Your daughter-in-law,

Helena

FARM LIFE D - THE O'LEARYS

Patrick O'Leary • Letters from the Cutover

October 12, 1893

Dear Mom,

I am writing to you from northern Wisconsin. I just finished signing a loan at the bank. Today I became a farmer. I bought 80 of the most beautiful acres one could set eyes on. I even own my own lake. I had to borrow some money, but shouldn't have a problem paying it back. The man I bought the land from says if you aren't afraid to work, you will make it big. I plan to start tomorrow at building a cabin. I hope to have a roof over my head by Christmas.

Your son,

Patrick

December 25, 1893

Dear Mom,

I have found that you can't build a cabin by yourself in just 2 months. I have about half of the walls up. Winter came early. The snow is deeper than the walls on my cabin. I have found work as a hay man on the hill at a local lumber camp. My job is to spread hay on the downhill parts of the logging road. The hay helps slow down the sleighs loaded with logs. I can't complain. I get 3 meals a day, a place to sleep, and \$18 a month. Hope all is well in New York. Merry Christmas.

Your son,

Patrick

November 26, 1894

Dear Mom,

Hard to believe, but it has taken most of the summer to finish my cabin. Snow didn't leave us until almost the first of June. I got a garden planted, but haven't cleared much of the land. Much of my land still has maple trees growing on it. I have to cut down trees, remove the stumps, and remove the rocks. This summer I got about 3 acres cleared. Hope to plant my first fields next spring. I am going to plant corn.

I am back at the lumber camp. It is hard work, but I enjoy the company of the other jacks. Many of them also are farmers. Seems like we make our living in the lumber camp and then spend it on the farm. Hope life is better in New York City. Happy Thanksgiving.

Your son,

Patrick

FARM LIFE D - THE O'LEARYS

Patrick O'Leary • Letters from the Cutover

March 17, 1896

Dear Mom,

Happy St. Patrick's Day. Won't be long and spring break-up will be here. That's the time when the rivers open and we send the logs down river to the mill. I think I might work the river run this year. I could use the money.

Last year's crop was a bust. A late frost in June was hard on my corn. Then July and August were hot and dry. If that wasn't bad enough, a fire took my corn. A fire a neighbor started to clear some land got out of control. In the end, the corn patch burned. All 8 acres burned. All that work went up in smoke in a matter of minutes. That fire burned almost 3 miles before it rained and put it out. At least it didn't burn down the town. 25 years ago, a fire like this got fueled by high winds and burned the town of Peshtigo. In the end, more than 1,500 people died.

I am behind on my payments to the bank. I will need a good crop the next few years or I just might as well go back to laying bricks.

Your son,

Patrick

December 25, 1898

Dear Mom,

It's Christmas, but not very merry. Over the past several years I have continued to clear some more land, but don't know why. The climate just doesn't seem fit for farming. By the time that the soil is fit to plant it is mid-June. By the time I get my planting done, it's July. There just aren't enough days left before the first fall frost for a crop to grow. The last 2 years I haven't raised enough to pay for the seed. I am still behind on my payment to the bank. This farming is like burning money for heat. It goes fast and hardly makes a flame.

I hope you are doing well. If things don't improve, I might move back to the city and lay bricks.

Your son,

Patrick

FARM LIFE E - THE NELSONS

Sven & Greta Nelson • Letters from the Cutover

February 3, 1881

Dear Carl,

You were right. There is good land in Wisconsin. Today we became Wisconsin farmers. We bought 240 acres west of Hagan. Ole will be joining you next week to work in the woods. Thanks for lining up a job for him. Greta, Sigrid, and I are staying with friends in Rice Lake until spring. We plan to live in a wall tent until we get a house built later this summer. I have found work at the mill and Greta is cooking at a boarding house. Can't wait to start farming.

Your brother,

Sven

April 12, 1881

Dear Mom and Dad,

Hello from the big woods. Lumberjack life suits me. I am working as a buckner with Nels Hanson. We are getting pretty good at cutting the logs. Speaking of pretty, there is a girl here helping cook that has struck my fancy. Her name is Kirsten Jonsrend. I have been trying to court her, but I am not the only single man here. She comes to dances on Saturday evening with her father. I've been lucky enough to dance a jig or 2 with her. Well, won't be long until this year's logging is done. I should be home in a month. Can't wait to start farming with you.

Your son,

Ole

November 25, 1881

Dear Carl,

Our first year of farming is going well. I don't know if I told you, but the lumber company had already cleared 40 acres of the land we bought. Before they moved the logging camp, they were farming 40 acres to provide hay for the horses and food for the jacks. We were able to buy a team of horses and equipment to plant 25 acres to corn. The other 15 acres is in hay.

Once we got the corn planted, we worked hard on clearing another 10 acres for next year. The crop we got this year was pretty good. We have grain to sell and plan to buy milk cows next year. We got a shell of a house built and will finish the inside next year. Ole will be joining you in a week in the woods. He has been writing a gal named Kirsten who cooks at your camp. Who knows – maybe wedding bells coming.

Your brother,

Sven

FARM LIFE E - THE NELSONS

Sven & Greta Nelson • Letters from the Cutover

December 25, 1882

Dear Mom and Dad,

Merry Christmas. I wanted to let you know that I asked Kirsten to marry me today. She said "YES!" We plan to be married this June, soon as the corn is planted. I think with my wages we should be able to buy more cows. Perhaps next winter we will stay home with you all. Now that we have 70 acres cleared and a new barn, I think it is time to settle down. See you in the spring.

Your son,

Ole

December 25, 1886

Dear Uncle Carl,

Merry Christmas. Our family is doing well, though this year's crop was not good. A late spring melt, followed by an early frost, was hard on the corn. Good thing we have the cows. Milk money will pay the bills. We were lucky buying land that had been already cleared. Many of our neighbors are struggling. Having a crop our first year really helped. Kirsten and the kids send their love. Tell everyone in camp a Merry Christmas from us.

Your nephew,

Ole

November 20, 1884

Dear Carl,

Thanksgiving is coming next week. We have much to be thankful for. We now have 100 acres cleared. The rest of the land we have sown to grass. Glad that work is done. Those stumps were a huge amount of work to remove. Some of them we could pull out without digging out the roots. Several we had to use dynamite on. We've had a fire burning for weeks to help clear the land. Thank heavens the winds have been light. Last spring a fire burnt out 12 settlers in one area when a fire got out of hand.

We now have 25 cows to milk, and money from the milk is paying the bills. We have paid off our loan at the bank, so now own the place free and clear.

Ole and Kirsten are doing well. They are expecting their first child soon. They won't be joining you this year in the lumber camp. We've got enough milking to keep us busy. Hope life is good for you too.

Your brother,

Sven

FARM LIFE F - THE CRAIGS

Joseph & Martha Craig • Letters from the Cutover

July 4, 1871

Dear Mom,

Hope you got home safely from the wedding. I thought marriage was a big step. Guess what? Martha and I just bought 120 acres of land. The land is located on the Michigan border. The Brule River runs along the north edge of the farm. Much of the land is still covered with popple and maple trees. Probably will take a few years to get land cleared for crops. The big pines were logged just last year, so stumps are a plenty. The work ought to keep us both busy. Hope to get a cabin built this summer. We plan to go back to the lumber camp this winter.

Your son,

Joseph

October 10, 1871

Dear Mom,

By now you probably heard of the great fire that burned out of control in northern Wisconsin. They are guessing that more than 1,500 people perished in a fire in Peshtigo 2 days ago. They say it was like a fire cyclone. The forest is burned out for miles. We were lucky, that fire was not close to us.

Long summer days have allowed us to finish our cabin. It is built out of logs and is about 16 feet square. One weekend, all the Kentucks came and helped us. We put the walls up that weekend. Great to have friends from back home to help. We have started pulling a few stumps, but they don't come out easy. I'd guess we got maybe 5 acres cleared. Martha's garden grew well this summer. We have squash and cabbage for the whole neighborhood.

Your son,

Joseph

FARM LIFE F - THE CRAIGS

Joseph & Martha Craig • Letters from the Cutover

July 4, 1873

Dear Mom,

Happy Independence Day! Great-gramps would be proud today. We are celebrating with kin here in Alvin. Sorry to report that farming isn't going so well. We have struggled to clear 15 acres. But if that ain't enough, crops don't seem to do all that well after you farm the ground a couple of years. Several of the neighbors got great crops the first few years, but now that ground won't raise anything. Climate seems to be against us too. The last 2 years, it has been mid-May before the snow melts. Killing frosts as late as June 15 and early as September 1 are common. It's hard to get much to grow in such a short time.

We are trying wheat this year. Some seem to get it to grow. Garden looks good, though. Without much of a crop, guess we'll be back in the lumber camps come November.

Your son,

Joseph

December 25, 1875

Dear Mom,

Merry Christmas! Hope everyone is well in Kentucky. We are back in the lumber camp again. Seems like we work all winter, so we can pay for the chance to farm. We now have 25 acres cleared. I think this might be the last we clear. Soil is pretty sandy. This past summer was dry. Sandy soil and no rain mean no crops. Martha carried water to her garden, so we have something in the cupboard. Several of our neighbors have let their farms go. If you don't pay your taxes, the county ends up with the land. Not many folks wanting to buy more land here. On the bright side, we are healthy and Martha is with child. We should have a little one in a few months. That's my Christmas present to you, Grandma.

Your son,

Joseph

December 25, 1877

Dear Mom,

Christmas finds me in the lumber camp again. Now that we have Everett, Martha has stayed home the last 2 winters. Lumber camp is no place for a young'un. It has been a little over a month since I left them. I sure do miss them and wonder if there is a better way to live. The farm continues to lose money. Hard to believe that we have nothing to show for the hard work we have done on that farm. If it weren't for good neighbors, we most likely wouldn't be farming. Several people have hung it up recently. They couldn't pay their taxes, so the county owns it now. This is a hard life we have chosen. The land companies sure make farming sound easy. Happy holiday.

Your son,

Joseph

OUR FAMILY G - WABUNININI & ZHAABIIWOSE

Wabuninini (Tommy) & Zhaabiiwose (Madeline) Stone

Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose lived near Odanah on the Bad River Reservation. They had known each other since they were children. Wabuninini liked to get up early – before the sunrise. When he grew older, he was given the name “Wabuninini” because it meant “sunrise.” Many members of Wabuninini’s clan, the Bear Clan, thought his habit of being up before the sun helped him become the great hunter that he was. Wabuninini was always the first one ready for a hunt.

Zhaabiiwose was from the Fish Clan. Her name meant “one who walks through water.” Her favorite time of year was late in the summer when she got to go out on the water and help with the manoomin (wild rice) harvest. As Zhaabiiwose was growing up, her grandmother always thought that Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose would be a perfect match. Grandmother knew that together Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose would be able to provide for a family.

Years later, Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose got married. They lived in a small home made from wood from the forest. Their home was close to both of their families. Soon after they were married they had two boys – Miingozwin and Miinaande. The boys loved to run, play, and hunt. The boys spent a lot of time with their grandparents when Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose were busy

hunting, gathering, gardening, or doing other work. The grandparents took the boys on many adventures in the forests to teach them about hunting, trapping, gathering, and how to tap trees in the sugar bush. The grandparents also told the boys many stories to help them learn the ways of the Ojibwe. This made Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose happy but, like all parents, they worried about the future.

When Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose were young, they traveled many different places during different seasons to hunt, gather, and harvest. They could no longer go to many of these places. Railroads had been built near where they lived in Odanah, and that brought more people to the area. J. S. Stearns also built a lumber company in Odanah. White pine in the forests near where Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose hunted, gathered, and harvested were quickly being cut down. Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose worried that in the future there might not be enough resources for their family and the other Ojibwe from their tribe.

Wabuninini knew that on some reservations, the U.S. government was giving American Indians **allotments** of land. Allotments were small 40- to 80-acre parcels of land. Wabuninini wondered if the Ojibwe living on the Bad River Reservation would be allotted land. He and Zhaabiiwose wondered how that would change things for their family.

LAND ALLOTMENT G - WABUNININI & ZHAABIIWOSE

Wabuninini (Tommy) & Zhaabiiwose (Madeline) Stone

In 1903, Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose were allotted Parcel 24. It was an 80-acre parcel of land about eight miles south of Odanah. Wabuninini wondered if the land would be good for hunting and if it had a sugar bush. Zhaabiiwose wondered how hard it would be to clear an area to use for a garden and if it was close to a road or trail. Eight miles was a long way to walk to get to Odanah if there wasn't a good road or trail nearby. They both wondered where their parents' parcels would be located.

Their hearts sank when they found out that Wabuninini's parents had received an allotment about four miles west of Odanah and that Zhaabiiwose's parents had received an allotment a few miles north of Odanah. They didn't know what to do. Miingozwin and Miinaande would be sad if they couldn't see their grandparents daily and Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose did not know how they would manage to provide for the family and raise the boys in the ways of the Ojibwe without their own parents nearby.

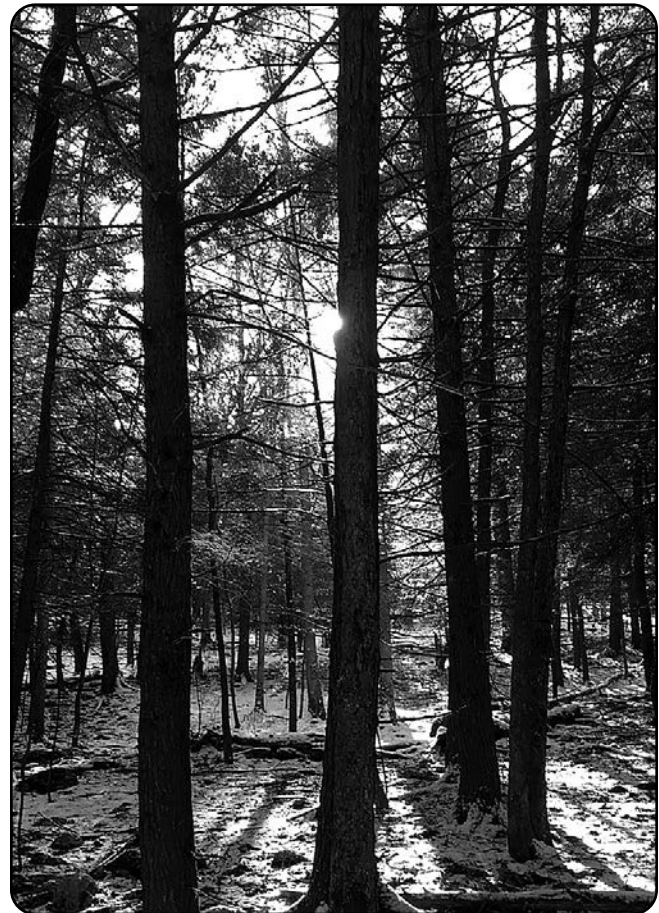
Bad River Reservation Allotment

ALLOTMENT OWNER:

Tommy (Wabuninini) Stone

LOCATION: Parcel 24

DESCRIPTION: Located eight miles south of Odanah. Forested land with small creek. Mostly pine (red and white) with hardwoods including maple, ash, birch and oak. Wildlife includes deer, snowshoe hare, turkey, black bear and squirrels. Several varieties of berries including raspberries, blackberries and blueberries.



LAND ALLOTMENT 6 - WABUNININI & ZHAABIIWOSE

Wabuninini (Tommy) & Zhaabiiwose (Madeline) Stone

Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose talked about what they could do. They shared their worries with their parents and they came up with a solution together. Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose would build a home on Zhaabiiwose's parents parcel. Then her parents would always be nearby to help with the boys and teach them the ways of the Ojibwe. They would be close to town for supplies and only four to five miles away from Wabuninini's parents. Wabuninini could travel south of Odanah to their parcel to hunt in the late fall and if there was a sugar bush on the parcel they could all go camp there in the spring.

Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose told Miingozwin and Miinaande about the plan. The boys were excited that they were going to continue to live close to their mother's parents but sad that their father's parents would be farther away. Wabuninini's parents told the boys they would come to see them often because they had many more stories to share and lessons to teach them.

The families built homes from the trees on the grandparents parcels. The boys were excited to explore their new home and Wabuninini helped Zhaabiiwose dig a garden. Wabuninini was worried because he didn't see many deer on the land where they were living. He hoped there would be more on his own parcel south of town. He decided he needed to make a trip to his parcel the next day.

Wabuninini woke up early in the morning and started his journey. A few miles south of Odanah he came across some reservation land that had already been harvested for lumber. He smelled smoke from piles of burning **slash**. As he got closer to his parcel, he wondered what he would discover.

When Wabuninini arrived at his parcel, he was amazed by what he found. The parcel had towering white pines, a small sugar bush, some birch trees and even berry patches. He did not see too much wildlife right away but he did see signs of deer and other animals – there was a lot of scat. Wabuninini couldn't wait to tell Zhaabiiwose and the boys about their land and make a plan to bring them to the land for a visit. Wabuninini left for home.

On his way home, Wabuninini passed through Odanah. He ran into some members of his clan. They talked about all the changes that were taking place. One of them shared that Stearns Lumber Company wanted to harvest white pine on many of the allotments. He said he was going to let lumber company harvest the pine on his land. He asked Wabuninini if he was going to let his parcel be harvested. Wabuninini said "no" and that he wanted to keep his parcel just how it was. Wabuninini walked the rest of the way home and shared the good news about the parcel with his family.

THE HARVEST G - WABUNININI & ZHAABIIWOSE

Wabuninini (Tommy) & Zhaabiiwose (Madeline) Stone

Things were going well for Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose for the first year or so. The boys loved living next door to their grandparents and were growing quickly. Zhaabiiwose's garden produced a lot of corn, squash and beans, and Wabuninini had some success hunting. The next year, things started to change. Wabuninini started to notice there were much fewer deer and other game animals around. Zhaabiiwose was also struggling to grow food in the garden. It seemed like the soil just wasn't good enough to grow everything they needed and the summer had been very dry. Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose worried about having enough food for the boys and their grandparents and didn't know what to do.

Many men had gone to work for the Stearns Lumber Company sawmill. Wabuninini's brother was one of them. Others had allowed the Stearns Lumber Company logging crews to harvest timber from their land. Wabuninini's parents were thinking about doing this. Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose did not want their trees to be harvested so Wabuninini decided to take a job at the Stearns Lumber Company sawmill. He hoped it would provide him with enough money to support his family.

One day, a nun from Saint Mary's Catholic Indian Boarding School visited Zhaabiiwose. She told Zhaabiiwose that Miingozwin and Miinaande needed to go to school. She said the boys would never be successful if they did not attend school. Zhaabiiwose sent her away. When Wabuninini returned home from work, she told him about the visit. He did not want to send the boys away to school either.

Most of the money Wabuninini earned from working in the sawmill was used to buy supplies and food from the Stearns Lumber Company General Store. The money didn't last long because everything at store was very expensive. As the months turned colder, Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose became more and more worried. They were struggling to provide food for the boys and grandparents.

Together, Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose made the difficult decision to allow the Stearns Lumber Company logging crews to harvest pine from their land. Wabuninini thought if only the white pine were cut, there would be enough maple, birch, and other trees left for the wildlife. The money Wabuninini would receive each month from the harvest would help his family.

Stearns Lumber Company Contract to Harvest

ALLOTMENT OWNER:

Tommy (Wabuninini) Stone

LOCATION: Parcel 24

TREES INCLUDED IN HARVEST: Pine
(White and Red)

PAYMENT: Stearns Lumber Company
will remit payment of fifteen dollars per
month to Wabuninini

AUTHORIZED BY: S.W. Campbell, Indian
Agent, La Pointe

DATE: 24-09-1895

AFTER THE HARVEST 6 - WABUNININI & ZHAABIIWOSE

Wabuninini (Tommy) & Zhaabiiwose (Madeline) Stone

What Happened?

In the late fall, a large logging crew from Stearns Lumber Company showed up and began cutting down all the pine on Wabuninini's parcel. When Wabuninini had time to make a trip to his parcel, he saw many hardwoods with broken branches and others that had been completely knocked over. He was angry and went to talk to the logging crew about it but they didn't care.

The nun from the boarding school came to the house to talk to Zhaabiiwose again. The nun said the boys needed to attend boarding school and that Zhaabiiwose was a terrible mother for not sending them. The nun said if the boys didn't go to school, they would never be successful and would struggle to have a good life. This made Zhaabiiwose worry. She loved her boys and didn't want them to go to boarding school but she also wanted them to have a good life. She didn't know what to do. She talked to Wabuninini later that night after the boys were asleep. Together, they decided to fight to keep the boys at home.

The nun returned again the next week. This time she brought along a man who looked like a U.S. government official. He said the boys must attend Saint Mary's Catholic Indian Boarding School in Odanah or Wabuninini would be arrested and lose his job. Zhaabiiwose didn't know what to do. If Wabuninini couldn't work they would have no money to take care of the boys. The nun and official told the boys they must come with them. Zhaabiiwose wanted to stop them but knew there was nothing she could do.

She sobbed and told the boys that she loved them. When Wabuninini came home from work he knew what had happened and tried to care for Zhaabiiwose.

A few weeks passed and Wabuninini returned to his parcel again. He noticed that the logging crew had started to cut some of the hardwoods they had damaged. When he told them to stop, they said they had orders to cut everything. Several weeks later, Wabuninini returned to his land again and found that the logging crew had cut almost every tree from his parcel. Wabuninini knew this was wrong but there was nothing he could do about it.

Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose were angry and sad, and felt like they had lost everything. Their boys were gone and Wabuninini and Zhaabiiwose were worried about them. They were afraid the boys were going to forget all about their Ojibwe culture and who they are. Their family's forest was gone too. They hoped they could see their boys on the weekend and bring them back home in the summer.

Note

The Stearns Lumber Company shut down abruptly in 1922 leaving many Ojibwe living on the Bad River Reservation with no work.