

an act accepting that grant, and authorizing the Governor, Mr. Barry, to make the selection, as Congress had authorized. Knowing that I was a woodsman, he wrote to me, asking me if I would select those lands. Not having much business on hand, I answered that I would, but wished his instructions, or at least opinion, as to what class of lands it would be best to take—whether pine or farming. Much to my dissatisfaction, he said he should leave it entirely to my judgment. Still I accepted the appointment, and prepared for the business. I went to the land office at Ionia to procure the necessary plats. Judge Lovell, who was then the register, politely gave me every facility. Frederick Hall wishing to go out as an assistant, I employed him at twelve shillings a day; and I also took James D. Lyon, then a youth, as cook and camp-keeper. I was then boarding with Judge Lyon, who kept the Bridge Street House, and I had been acting as agent for Junius H. Hatch after Mr. Walker left. But Mr. Yale had come on with full power of attorney from Mr. Hatch, so I passed that business to him, purchased an Indian pony, tents, blankets, etc., and on the 20th of March put into the woods—the ground being as fully settled as in mid-summer.

“Our first trip was up by the Wright settlement, and the west part of Alpine, where we found Coffee and Gooding, they being the last settlers, three miles beyond any others. We encamped the first night on a creek near the north line of Wright. The next day, leaving Lyon to cook supper and see that the pony did not stray, Hall and myself ranged the woods far around to see the character of the land, keeping our reckoning by the surveyed lines and surveyor’s marks, returning weary at night, ready for supper and to wrap ourselves in our blankets. This was repeated from day to day, moving our camp as occasion required. In that trip we explored all that splendid timbered country, in the east part of Ottawa county, down to the Grand River, along which were the only settlers. After some ten or twelve days we came in to get a fresh supply of provisions, and then went out again.

“I had heard of prairie lands up on the Muskegon, so to see them I went out by the east part of Alpine, and there found Mr. Hills, three miles in the woods, making shingles; and his accomplished wife got us a dinner. Hills soon after died. His