

Doctor Storm Andrew Vanderzee practiced medicine and lived a very busy life and a hard one driving all over Winona, Olmsted and Fillmore Counties with a pony and buggy in the summer and a sleigh in winter, over all kinds of roads or none at all and in all kinds of weather.

He used herbs a lot in his practice. He had spent three years with the Chippewa Indians before he was married to learn their ways with herbs. Nellie remembered watching him make pills and was fascinated by it. He ground the herbs in a big crock, then in a smaller mortar and pestle and then shaped them. They had no sugar coating and were bitter. She also remembered well hunting for puff balls and many other herbs in the woods with him. He used the puff ball powder for stopping bleeding, etc. Only certain puff balls could be used. He sometimes used the powder directly from the puff ball like a salt shaker. Nellie and her brother, Charlie, went with their grandfather many times in the woods to gather roots and herbs for medicine and slippery elm bark for lung trouble, plasters, etc. The children used to like to chew the slippery elm bark. He gathered mandrake roots, burdock, dandelion, tanay tea, etc. He used to make a salve out of Balm of Gilead. It was very yellow and smelled very fragrant.

Dr. Vanderzee was very fond of cheese and Nellie remembered he was always eating it. They had a separate little cupboard that they kept their cheeses in. They had several kinds.

He told this story to Jesse one time when they were in the woods together and they had sat down to rest. He had a fight with a wildcat in his chicken house. He went in to kill whatever it was. He thought it was a coon and partly shut the door. He had a club of some kind and discovered it was a wildcat. He finally killed it, however, but said he was lucky it was a young one or he wouldn't have been so lucky. He was full of such stories of his experiences.

Nellie remembered her grandmother Vanderzee wearing the dress that we have pieces of (brown shallie with lavender buds). She remembered her wearing the butterfly pin on it and Nellie thought it looked lovely. It was a full skirt, plain at neck. She told of one time walking down the road with her mother and grandmother. She walked in back of them and then beside them and she thought her grandmother was the prettiest woman there ever was. She was a very good looking woman with hazel-brown eyes. Her daughter, Romance, looked like her. She was a kind, sweet and good-natured woman.