

was divided between the boys. Father's folks had a large mansion in New York City, also a large plantation near New Albany. They spent the winters in New York and summers on the plantation. It was a beautiful place on the Hudson River heavily wooded with all kinds of timber and had orchards of all kinds of fruit and nuts, gardens of flowers and vegetables. I couldn't begin to tell you of the beauty of this place as father used to paint it, but I think it must have been "A thing of beauty and a joy forever!"

I have heard father tell of what grand times they had there, of how the young people used to come for Thanksgiving and stay for a week or so. There were balls and gay times in the house besides hunting. There was plenty of game, deer, and bear, also wolves, pheasants, quail, wild turkey, and blackbirds which were made into pies by the black cooks. The same black cooks were kept busy making all sorts of pastry. Then, sometimes in the evening or on rainy days, the young people would gather in the big sitting room where there was a big fireplace, make taffy, pop corn, eat hickory nuts, butter-nuts, bechnuts, walnuts and hazelnuts. They would have sconces, doughnuts and cider and sometimes dance.

Well, I could go on and on with all sorts of stories but as I must stop sometime, I think "now is the appointed time," so will close with loving thoughts to you and hoping you will derive some pleasure out of this and that you will excuse all blunders and mistakes and well knowing there are many, I dedicate this manuscript --- to Neta Case from her loving grandmother.

Mrs. Amelia Ellis nee Van Derzee

A little history of the family of my grandmother, Cynthia Amelia (Van Derzee) Ellis. She was born in 1852 at Lower Potten, Canada East. The family moved to Minnesota in 1859 when she was seven years old. She wrote the manuscript 68 years later in 1927.

1944 Neta A. Case  
Rochester  
Minn.