

Excerpts from
**Reminiscences of My Early Life Beginning
With Our Move West to Ohio in 1835**

by Elizabeth Ann Kellogg 1898 (age 85)
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If the Wabash & Erie Canal or the 6 locks (one of which is shown here) of the Maumee Sidecut connecting the Maumee River with the canal had been completed in 1835, Betsy Kellogg's move to Maumee, Ohio, would have been much easier.

Photo by Bob Schmidt

When Elizabeth "Betsy" Kellogg and her family left their home in Connecticut in 1835, her father drove a team transporting their possessions, her husband's brother drove another team and her brother Aschel another as they started on a two day trip to Albany, New York, a distance of about 60 miles. Once there they loaded their things and themselves aboard a line boat on the Erie Canal. They only paid 1½ centers per mile and board per person.

Betsy writes, "The Captain's wife was cook. It was a good Christian family. The passage was very slow. Being the first run of boats in the spring season the banks of the canal often gave way, and the boat with a dozen others would have to lie by for two or three days. But this did not much disturb us. We kept hearing the Lake was blocked with ice and no boats were running. I think we were over two weeks on the Canal."

When they arrived at Buffalo on Lake Erie, they found the rates at the boarding houses very expensive since rooms were in high demand by travelers going west. They decided to hire a man and team to take their trunks and them to Erie. On the way they learned that the ice was cleared as far as Fairport and that a boat was starting that night for Toledo. Betsy and Harry A. Kellogg, her husband, boarded the lake boat and went to Toledo. The boat was too large to navigate on the Maumee River so they boarded a smaller boat and went to Maumee, Ohio, to the home of his brother, an unmarried tailor. Harry also had an uncle that had lived for a time in Maumee.

They landed at the Maumee wharf around 11 p.m. There were no buildings around it. The Kelloggs and another man had to walk through "shoe-mouth deep" mud that was very sticky carrying their trunks on their shoulders. Before arriving at the New York House, the other man called out "the baggage cars a-coming!" and a man carrying a lighted lantern stepped from the barroom to show them to their rooms.

After a nights rest, Harry went in search of his brother while Betsy attempted to scrape the mud off. She describes it as being like grease that wouldn't rub off once it had dried. Before long Harry returned with Edward and a dray to carry their trunks to a privately owned residence that was located near Edward's shop. There they boarded for about three weeks. During this time Betsy worked in Edward's shop receiving 50 cents a day, just enough to pay her board.

When Betsy's brother Aschel arrived, he and Harry met Uncle Beebe and went all around the area looking for a home they could afford that was for sale. They even traveled into Michigan. They eventually found two eighty acre plots

of land. It sold for \$17 an acre. They had little money left after each paid \$500. Betsy moved to a log home on the land on June 9, 1837.

Betsy said they then had to have their goods left in storage in Buffalo, shipped to them. Harry went to Toledo to send the order, but the goods did not arrive. Without them she could not set up housekeeping. He sent a second order. Still no goods. Finally he went to Buffalo and discovered that there was trouble between the boat captain and the Warehouse Company. Harry had to have his goods loaded on a canal boat, taken to the wharf, and then put them onto the steamboat.

Once their belongings arrived Betsy did her work and boarded the men in the log house. It had no chairs, only stools and benches. She cooked in the fireplace and on the hearth. The chimney was made of mud and sticks. There was only one window. Candles supplied the lighting. There was a loft for sleeping.

Uncle Beebe came one day and said they were too crowded. He was in the building business and said he would furnish material for a house and barn for them and laborers to do the work. They accepted. They moved into the house on October 10, 1837. Betsy had bought a small cook stove.

About that time Aschel decided to move back to Connecticut. Betsy became homesick. They shared a lonely Thanksgiving with an elderly couple and their 22 year old son from New England. It was not the usual big occasion. They only had enough to make a small chicken pie and a pumpkin pie. The Indian meal pudding had to have wheat flour added to the corn meal to have enough dry ingredients. Mrs. Coe furnished the milk and a little butter. Molasses was substituted for sugar and huckleberries were used for the sauce. Betsy said "we truly felt we had much to be thankful for as we sat down to our First Thanksgiving dinner in our new house in the west." This house was located between Door and Nebraska Ave. Betsy still lived there when writing her reminiscences.