

THE DIARY OF JOHN VOGEL

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Mr. Fred C. Hirzel, Moorestown, Mich., copied the following notes from The Diary of John Vogel, just as he received them from Mrs. Charles "Bess" Robinson of Grand Haven, a grand-daughter of John Vogel, the first man to establish a home in Missaukee County.

Mrs. Robinson is the daughter\* of the first white child born in Missaukee County. Her husband, Charles Robinson is a Veteran of World War I and II. Her son is also an officer in the A.A.C. of World War II.

\*Apparently a mistake --see Page 15

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Partial description of the principal adventures in the life of John Vogel, written by himself, according to notes and memory, and translated for the family in the year of 1931, by Benjamin G. Costerbaan, of Muskegon, Michigan.

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My father was Frans Vogel, born August 15, 1804, in the province of South Holland, Netherlands. My mother was Derkje Beesemer, also born in the Netherlands, whom I never knew as she died when I was two years of age. My father was married again in the year of 1843, to Geertrui Van Weenen.

I was born at Giessen Nieuwkerk, a province of South Holland, Netherlands, on September 8th, 1839. I attended school from my 6th to my 8th year at Giessen Oudkerk. Moving with my parents to Noordeloos, I attended school there until my 12th birthday, during which time we experienced pressing poverty caused by sickness of my father, as well as the depressing conditions of the time.

At the age of 12 I began to assist my father in the support of the family, but after a period of approximately six months, assisted by my father, I secured a position in a Carpenter Shop as an apprentice, my purpose being to learn the trade. The name

of the shop keeper was Hermanis Diepenhorst, residing at Noordeloos. A contract was made for three years in accordance with the following terms: The first year my board provided by my parents; the second year I was to earn my board, and the third year to receive board and as much compensation as my ability warranted. This contract was terminated at the end of two and one half years on account of the immigration of H. Diepenhorst and his family to Holland, Michigan, United States of America. I had a strong inclination to accompany them and assisted by Diepenhorst brought every possible influence to bear upon my parents. My father's mind had for a long time been inclined toward America, but due to lack of funds was unable to carry out his plan and considering that I was his only living son, this first caused him serious thought and apprehension. Yet after serious consideration he finally reached the conclusion to permit me to sail, hoping that at some future time it might provide the means to bring about his own opportunity to make the trip. He manifested full confidence in the treatment that would be accorded me by Diepenhorst, as well as in my future welfare. Diepenhorst assuming my transportation expenses, we departed on August 6th, 1854, A. D., from Noordeloos and were accompanied by my parents and sisters as far as Gornichem, where we took passage to Rotterdam to sail, by way of Hull and Liverpool, destined for New York. The means of transportation was a sailing vessel, and as a result of some delay in England, we finally arrived at New York on September 20th, and about eight days later at Holland, Michigan. I became 15 years of age aboard ship on September 8th.

After a casual survey of the dense forests, we settled six miles north of Holland, and called the name of the place Noordeloos. After a courageous battle to conquer the forest, courage waned and we moved on to Grand Haven, with the purpose in mind to engage in carpenter work at (as had been represented) good wages. But in the fall of the year (1856) there occurred a financial revolution which resulted in the decline in value of paper money; therefore, I had worked for money which had no value. However, having been employed by Diepenhorst by the month for about two years, I had earned and was able to pay off my obligation to him for transportation by the 1st of November. Unable to agree with him further in regard to wages, I went that same winter to Zeeland, Michigan, and remained there until the spring of 1857. That winter at Zeeland, while I lived with a man named K. Schoemaker, there occurred to me (which is my constant hope) the most important adventure in my life. While this adventure during my eighteenth year will not end with the annals of time but is destined for Eternity, to answer the object of our Maker, and that object, namely; to bring about the glorification of God, ought constantly to be our first and highest aim in all of our performances. The hope is in me that then a covenant was made in accordance with Hosea, Chapter 2.

On April 1st I left for Grand Rapids, intending to continue my carpenter work and to improve my knowledge of the English language.

I received my religious instruction at the Holland Seceder Congregation at that place. Soon receiving at a shop by the month, I worked there during that summer until fall when I accompanied my boss to Jamestown, Ottawa County, where I remained until the following spring, 1858.

After that I worked as a carpenter for a certain Jan Rabbers at Groningen, Ottawa County. In this family I enjoyed all the privileges of my parental home. This hospitality continued into the following year in 1859, during which time I was working for myself at \$1.00 per day. But in 1860 Jan Rabbers became ill and died on August 12th, assured of a glorious prospect for the hereafter. Next to my parents I was most attached to him.

During the summer there was a passionate ~~political~~ political struggle between the Republican and Democratic parties for the presidential election. In November, 1860, the Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, was elected President of the United States. In December was the beginning of the great rebellion, breaking out first in South Carolina, and due to the perfidious democratic government was left unopposed until March, and then taken in hand under the strong and just administration of President Lincoln. I remained at my carpenter task, although there was much excitement throughout the entire country due to the increasing strength of the southern rebellion. In September, 1861, President Lincoln issued a patriotic call for 300,000 volunteers, with a request for loyalty to preserve the nation. With unbelievable dispatch, this call was answered by volunteers. As a result of which, I too, on the 18th of September, together with twenty-five other Hollanders, volunteered our services and enlisted in Company D, 2nd Regiment, Michigan Cavalry. I left a half finished house to be finished by a Democrat, whose wrath appeared not to be seriously disturbed on account of the unjustified and destructive assumption of his southern party brothers. Presently on September 20th at Grand Rapids, I entered camp at the Fair grounds. We remained there until November 14th, on which date the 2nd and 3rd Regiments, Michigan Cavalry, twenty-four hundred strong, departed for St. Louis, Missouri. Thousands of loyal citizens escorted us to the depot. Many a hearty and touching parting took place, and for many, to be the last. Upon our arrival at Detroit we were served a bountiful meal prepared in the D. & M. depot. We continued our journey via Alton & St. Louis to Alton, Ill., and from Alton, by boat on the Mississippi River to St. Louis. As we continued our journey, we were accorded hearty receptions at various places and a very excellent farewell as we departed. But as we reached the southern part of Illinois, our reception was less welcome until we arrived at St. Louis in 1861. Here we met many black slaves and their inwardly blacker so-called owners, who had soiled their bloody hands mistreating human creatures, and were adding to their bloody task by lifting their already soiled hands against a lawful government in an attempt to perpetuate their abominable system.

In Camp Benton near the city, all our time was occupied in military training. Immediately weapons were furnished, consisting of Colt revolvers, six shooters and side arms, Colt 5 shooting revolving carbines. In February 1862, about forty thousand men, well drilled and well equipped commanded by General Halleck, were there in camp. On the 22nd of this month the War Department ordered the entire army of the United States to move south by boat down the Mississippi. The object being to reopen navigation for commercial purposes to its outlet at New Orleans, and also to cut the forces of the rebellious South in two, east and west of the Mississippi. But, many long and bloody battles were to be fought before this became a realization in 1863.

On February 23, we landed at Commerce, Missouri and went from there on mounted forces to New Madrid, at which place we had our first real encounter with rebel forces. After a short battle we were ordered to camp and remained there until early in March of 1862. While there we could daily hear the heavy bombardment on Island #10, and were also occasionally attacked by rebel bombers, who attacked our forces out of Fort New Madrid. On March 13th a general battle was fought under the Union Commander, General Pope, which resulted in a retreat on the part of the rebel forces the following night. We followed up their retreat, crossed the Mississippi in Tennessee, and at Tiptonville captured twenty-four hundred of the rebel forces.

Early in April we embarked on the Mississippi via boat to near Memphis, but due to our inability to land and being in need of rations at Pittsburgh landing on the Tennessee river, we returned. After the battle of Shiloh, we assisted in the siege of Corinth, Mississippi, and engaged in other battles until joined by two other regiments; the 2nd Iowa and the 4th Kansas Cavalry. In the later part of May went around the Rebel Army to Boonville, thirty miles south of Corinth. We destroyed railroads and bridges, burning them upon our return. After being absent about four days we found Corinth abandoned.

We spent most of this summer in different places in Mississippi along the Mobile and Ohio Railroad south of Corinth. I took part in a battle at Blackland on June 4th, and was slightly wounded in the leg just below the knee.

In the month of September, 1862, our detachment went by railroad through West Tennessee and at Paducah, Kentucky, we embarked by boat destined to go, by way of Cincinnati, to Louisville for the Rebels were assembled in great numbers throughout all Kentucky, which resulted in our encountering the enemy early in September at Elizabethtown. On October 8th, we fought a heavy battle near Perryville, known in history as "The Battle of Champlain Hills", whereupon the enemy army retreated to Tennessee. Early in December, together with two other Cavalry Regiments, the 2nd Iowa and the 9th Pennsylvania, we went to Nicholasville, Kentucky, to West Virginia and East Tennessee to destroy the Knoxville and Richmond Railroad. While at Murfreesburg in Tennessee the battle of Stone River was fought, our troops being commanded by General Rosencrans. Colonel Carter was with our command. We had several engagements and on December 31st and January 1st, 1863, took many prisoners, burned bridges, captured trains and burned many supply depots. We were engaged 26 days in this cavalry raid of which 18 days were spent within enemy lines, and escaped by a very narrow margin over the

Cumberland Mountains by way of Krank's Gap.

Toward the last of January, 1863 we were ordered to Louisville and from there via Railroad to Nashville, Tennessee, thence as mounted forces to Murfreesburg, where we remained for a time. In the month of March we moved to Franklin, Tennessee, the enemy being in advance of our force all the time. We engaged in many skirmishes with the enemy at different points, including Spring Hill and Columbia. In July we proceeded with the entire Army Corps known as "The Army of the Cumberland", a major movement through the center of Tennessee, the objective being to capture Chattanooga. We engaged the enemy July 27th, fighting what proved to be a desperate battle at Shelbyville, and captured the place, taking many prisoners. From there we proceeded to Pollahona and Winchester, experiencing much rain, which compelled us to find shelter in the corn and cotton fields, during the nights sleeping in mud and water covered fields. Finally we arrived at Bridgeport, Alabama, on the Tennessee river, which we together with other Cavalry were forced to cross swimming one-half mile harassed by the enemy on the other side, who were held back and opposed by sharpshooters and artillery. A pontoon bridge was constructed which enabled a large part of our army to cross. From there the Cavalry forces proceeded to Rome, Georgia, at which place we encountered the enemy under General Longstreet waiting for us, strongly entrenched and ready for battle. The best of our rations consisted of very large sweet potatoes. Two Hollanders were taken prisoners, one of whom, Albert DeGroot, of Vriesland, Ottawa County, died in Andersonville prison. We soon were forced to return, and after strenuous marches day and night arrived in the forenoon of the 19th of September on the Battlefield of Chickamauga, where the battle was already on and continued with fury during the following day. We were on the right wing and lost many men, and our right with other Cavalry forces experienced great difficulty in the evening to stem the retreating army and wagon trains, in an effort to "cover" them. Fortunately, the night was dark. We arrived at Chattanooga the next forenoon. Soon the rebels took their position Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. We presently crossed the river and all the rebel Cavalry appeared, under General Wheeler, attacking our rear and succeeded in completely destroying our wagon trains. Our Army, with all the Cavalry, went in pursuit, capturing a few prisoners. After the battle I, with 19 others went under the protection of a flag of truce inside their lines and remained for one and one-half hours engaged in conversation and eating. We pursued them the next day, took a few prisoners, continued in pursuit near Florence, Alabama, returning to McMinnville, Tennessee, and from there by way of Kingston to Knoxville, East Tennessee, which was surrounded by Longstreet. We fought many battles during the fall and winter in vicinity and farther east in East Tennessee, among them at Strawberry Plains, Mossy Creek, Sevierville, New Market and other places.

On March 29th, 1864, I re-enlisted with many others for another three years, or during the duration of the War. I was granted a thirty day furlough and immediately departed for Michigan to visit friends, returning after 30 days to report to Jackson, Michigan. Was ordered to Nashville, Tennessee, then to Franklin where soon

the rebel Cavalry was observed: Our Cavalry was ordered in pursuit to Huntsville, Alabama, following the course of the Tennessee River, if possible to intercept the march of the Rebel Army under General Hood while General Sherman was continuing his famous "March to the Sea".

On October 7th, 1864, I was wounded by a gun shot on my forehead, three inches above my right eye. I fell from my horse, was assisted to safety, my wound cleaned and treated and as a result of skillful treatment by the Regimental Surgeon it was possible for me to report for duty at my Regiment the following month. At this point we were daily forced to retreat before the Rebel Army, under General Hood. Many cavalry battles took place, under on November 30th, 1864, a general engagement resulted, in which at about 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon I was shot by a musket ball through my left leg four inches above my ankle. Together with my good Holland friend Martin Degroot, who was also slightly wounded, drove 14 miles that evening on horseback and lodged that night at the home of a rich planter, quite against his wishes, but we had our weapons and here "might was right." We ordered food and service of his negro slaves. The following morning we proceeded to cover the four miles to Nashville, but experienced great difficulty in riding on account of our wounds. Here we surrendered our horses and were received in a hospital. Hundreds were received in the hospital, having been injured in the Battle of Franklin. The city was surrounded by the Rebel Army while our Army was within it.

It was necessary to make room in the hospital for others and after two weeks we were transferred to Louisville, Kentucky. After a stay of two weeks it again became urgent that we be removed in order to make room for the injured in the three day battle before Nashville. I was placed on a boat destined for Keokuk, Iowa, but arriving at Cairo, Illinois, my wound was most serious, having developed gangrene, which caused my immediate removal to Post Hospital. I had lost my mementoes, consisting of a hat, socks, boots, all marked with bullet holes. I regretted the loss of these bloody reminders very much.

My wound became worse at times it appearing that amputation would have to be resorted to. The splendid care and treatment I received contributed very materially to my recovery making it possible to be transferred to Detroit near the end of March. I was obliged to use crutches during the summer. On August 1st, 1865, the was being closed, I received my discharge as a Sergeant, while I was still at Harper Hospital, Detroit. I was named a Corporal immediately after the Battle of Perryville, in Kentucky, in 1862, and shortly thereafter promoted to Sergeant. After my discharge I remained two weeks with friends at Zeeland and vicinity and left August 15th for New York on the way to pay a visit to my parents, sisters and other relatives in the Netherlands, arriving at Rotterdam on September 8th, my 26th birthday.

The next day I reached the home of my parents at Noordeloos; my brother-in-law had passed away two days before my arrival.

I remained with them until the close of September when I left for Hull, England, where by arrangement I met my parents and sisters, intending to continue our journey to New York from Liverpool. After a sea journey of 17 days we arrived in New York and from there we traveled direct to Noordeloos, Ottawa County, Michigan. I had paid the transportation expenses for my parents, sisters and brother-in-law, Arie Hoekwater. I purchased five acres offland near Noordeloos and a half share in a small steam sawmill and built a nouse on this land.

My financial condition until January first, 1866, was as follows:

September, 1854, My immigration debt,	56.00
May 1st, 1855 " " "	56.00
May 1st, 1856 " " "	56.00
Dec. 1st, 1856, Indebtedness due me, (This \$8.00 never paid.)	8.00
April 1st, 1857 to Grand Rapids, with bal.	2.00
Sept. 18, 1861, when I enlisted I had on hand about	600.00
Aug. 15, 1865, after discharge from service,	1,500.00
Oct. 15, 1865, after trip to Netherlands	900.00
April 1, 1866, after purchase of land, buying mill and building house, in debt,	200.00

I personally constructed a barley mill in the saw mill and operated that mill that year. On February 9th, 1867, the mill burned down, leaving me with only the land and house and \$200. debt. I resumed my carpenter work. June 23rd I was married to Barbara Herweyer, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Herweyer of Zeeland, Michigan. Was rich but not in money and possessions.

Ottawa County was thickly settled by Hollanders and many began to discuss opening up new settlements, mention being made of good Government lands north of Big Rapids, in Michigan. As a result of this agitation, meetings were held and it was decided that inasmuch as I had the most knowledge and experience with forests and land conditions I should inspect this proposed land. As companions and also for the purpose of passing their judgment concerning the land and its quality, three other persons were chosen to accompany me on my journey. Early in October, 1867 we started off in a wagon for Big Rapids and Hersey. From this place we went on foot northeast on Middle Branch and Clam Rivers, locating Government Land at Clam River, which appeared to our party

to be very favorable. After a two weeks trip we returned, made our report, and went to Grand Haven, walking. From Grand Haven, went via boat to Manistee, walked from Manistee to Grand Traverse, at which place on November 7th, 1867, I together with other persons took up a homestead in Missaukee County, the first in this county. We then traveled on foot from Grand Traverse to Missaukee County, 60 miles, through thick forests without a road to follow, from there again on foot to Noordeloos, in Ottawa County, there being no railroads or other means of transportation in this section of the country at that time.

On October 6th, 1868, I departed with my wife and one child, Derkje (Dora), my wife's brother, Jacob, and sister Eiftje (Eva), Hendrick Zagers and wife, Hendrick Westveld and John Abbing, using wagons as conveyances. Me and mine with an old wagon and span of oxen arrived on April 18th at our destination after traveling twelve days. I owned the South East quarter of Section 20, Town 21 north, Range 6 west. We arrived with two borrowed wheels on the old wagon, the wagon having broken down several times on the trip. We camped along the road as we traveled. We had \$30.00 in money with which provisions were purchased at Big Rapids. Arriving, we built a log shanty for each on their homesteads, planted some potatoes and corn and were happy. Sundays we gathered to read and sing. The following fall my wife's parents and my parents followed and thus the settlement grew in numbers. Frequently, together with others I was compelled to travel through the woods 60 miles to Traverse City to take up more land. Soon after that I became interested in pine lands and camped very frequently in the woods. A man was hired to cut down my forest, clearing during the summer and planting in the fall.

In 1871 I drafted a petition for the purpose of organization the Township which succeeded, and the Township was named Clam Union, at the same time two other townships were organized, ---Reeder and Riverside, in the spring of 1872 I was elected Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, Highway Commissioner of the Township of Clam Union, and Judge of Probate for Missaukee County, which offices of Judge of Probate and Supervisor I filled for a period of years.

During the summer of 1872 I assessed two townships in 40 acre parcels, placing a valuation for taxation according to the value of the land and the timber. During the fall of that year I assumed a lumber position, estimating two million feet of logs, and realized one million eight hundred feet, which yielded no profit. The following winter I did not follow lumbering but sold the yield of my land and worked on my farm such time as I could spare after discharging my official duties. The fall of 1874 I purchased more Government and State land which was covered with pine. Followed lumbering that winter and made a profit, enabling me to open a general store the following summer, starting on a small scale in our log house, as I was now the owner of a frame dwelling house in which we lived. I followed lumbering that winter, purchased more pine land and sold logs at Muskegon. Each winter I handled from two or three to five million feet of logs. During the summer of 1876 I served two months on the Jury in the United States Court at Grand Rapids. I also contracted to have a large frame store built and kept steadily adding to my stock, bought up produce which was sold again to supply lumber camps.

In 1872 a church Congregation was organized and a school opened.

Church and school were built on my property, which I freely gave for this purpose. In 1872 I opened another store at Lake City, the County Seat of Missaukee County. Soon thereafter I sold a half interest in this store to Arlington C. Lewis, which partnership was continued for three years. During 1878 a Government Post Office was authorized and named Vogel Center, the office being conducted in my store. I also sold General Merchandise at Falmouth five miles from Vogel Center, on commission, my agent being Dr. L. Morehouse, which contract I rescinded the following year. I also rented and operated a saw mill at Falmouth at this time. From then and until August, 1881, my principal business was lumbering in logs and conducting a general store, although at the time I had accumulated a general a good farm, consisting of about one hundred acres cleared land and in addition 45 acres of stump land, sown with grass, a stock of cattle, horses, etc. During the spring of 1881 I had five million feet of pine logs in the river and lost \$3,000.00 as a result of this venture, this was due to difficulty experienced in attempting to transfer the logs out of the West Branch of the Clam River into the Muskegon River, which discouraged my lumbering activity and resolved to give up that business.

I also decided eventually to change my place of residence, northern Michigan being too far north for profitable farming. Early in August I determined on a trip through the West, and purchased 320 acres of land in Lancaster County, Nebraska, at a price of \$8.00 per acre, and also bought two city lots in Lincoln, the Capitol of that State. I rented my store at Vogel Center, sold my stock of 14 horses, all other stock and chattels, rented the farm and moved to Muskegon, accepting a position with Torrent & Ducey, at Muskegon, at a salary of \$1,200.00 per year, as their agent to purchase pine wood and logs and as Superintendent and Paymaster for transportation of logs for their mills. On October 10th, 1881, we moved to Muskegon. During the fall of this year I spent five weeks in the northern part of the State of New York, where in Franklin County, on St. Regis River I purchased for my employers 53,000 acres of land for the price of \$130,000.00, returning home to take charge of operations on the Muskegon River. June 19, 1882, I left Muskegon for the Upper Peninsula, to purchase pine land, arriving first at the City of Marquette, and spending some time in the woods. Returning to Muskegon on July 13th, I found my entire family afflicted with measles and not yet recovered. Especially, I found my beloved child Maggie very sick, who to our very great sorrow passed away on the morning of the 16th, and was buried the next day. Our new house being completed, we moved into it on the eighteenth. This house was located on Terrace Street. The two lots were purchased for \$600.00, the house with fence and water costing \$1,900.00. A few days later I again departed for Lake Superior county, remaining there until September 21st, purchasing while there, for Torrent & Ducey, approximately 195 million feet of standing pine for \$110,000.00 Part of this being Government land. The following fall I continued to buy and supervise their operations on the Muskegon River.

From time to time I sold my holdings in the vicinity of Vogel Center, Missaukee County, where including my farm of 165 acres I owned about 5,000 acres of land, being sole owner of some of it and having a 1/2 or 2/3 interest in the balance. I had previously purchased 80 acres of land from my father, Frans Vogel, but he being too old to continue to work his farm; part of the consideration for such purchase being that I was to furnish a home for my parents as long as they lived. Therefore, in the spring of 1883, I built them a new house on my farm at Vogel Center at a cost of \$250.00.

On July 27, 1883, I sold my homestead farm of 160 acres to Rev. Jan Schepers, at a price of \$4,200.00, reserving one acre with the house I built for my parents where they were to live the remainder of their lives. Also reserving the land I had previously given for School and Church. I continued during all of that year to work for Torrent & Ducey of Muskegon, at a salary of \$1,200.00 per year, purchasing pine land and supervising their logging operations on Muskegon River.

On January 2nd, 1884, I started from Muskegon up river with Mr. John Lynch, who was a partner in the Ducey Lumber Company with John Torrent and William S. Hofstra, to buy timber and logs for their mill at North Muskegon, upon an agreement that I was to have 1/4 interest with them in the logs and timber and they each also 1/4 interest. They owning the mill, and I to pay them for sawing at the prevailing rates. Also to pay interest on the money invested in stock of logs and timber. I obtained this year about 20 million feet of logs, and we all made a good profit.

John Torrent was President of the Company, taking no active part, William S. Hofstra and John Lynch managing the mill and lumber business. I was to procure the timber and logs to the mill, do all up-river work, including getting logs to the mill.

During 1885, we proceeded in the same line and by December 31st had logged and skidded and part hauled to the river amounting to 35,148,532 feet. We made a fairly good profit that year also.

In 1886 we continued the same work. The Ducey Lumber Company being unable to saw all the logs at its mill that I sent down the river, also bought another mill at North Muskegon, called the old Farr Mill. We had a fairly profitable year. Continuing along in 1887 in the same way until December 13th, when I bought from Mrs. H.O. Langher share of the capital stock of the Ducey Lumber Company, of the par value of \$13,125.00 with the accumulated undivided dividends, agreeing to pay thereafter \$20,000.00, part in cash and balance in notes, which were all paid with interest in one year, giving me about 1/5 of all the stock in the Lumber Company and its earnings, instead of paying the Company a saw bill on my 1/4 of lumber cut, which turned out a profitable arrangement for me.

In 1888 continued along the same way, buying timber and logs

and operating the two mills of the Company at North Muskegon, the logs in the river scaling over 36 million feet. This was our biggest year in lumber. One of our mills burned down and we soon rebuilt it, so that within 90 days had it operating again. At the end of the year, the Company showed assets of \$292,720.79 over liabilities.

In 1889 we proceeded along the same lines, and I put into the river about 15 million feet of logs, but it was not a very profitable year as the price of lumber was low. We did not lose money but made some, and on November 6th, I sold some of the Company's stump lands, amounting to about 46,000 acres, to George S. Frost & Co., of Detroit, for \$44,781.00 and also bought about 9,000 acres of pineland in the Upper Peninsula from the same firm for \$175,000.00, for John Torrent 3/4 and for myself 1/4.

The Ducey Lumber Company gradually closed up its business as a Company after about five years of successful operation. I bought for John Torrent and myself from George S. Frost & Co. all of the pine timber left on stump lands, to be cut in two years, and began to cut it and put into the river on my own account, using what money I had and borrowing such additional money as I needed.

In 1890 I bought John Torrent's interest in logs put in river, being about nine million feet, for about \$55,000.00 and had them sawed at Torrent & Co.'s saw mill in Muskegon for \$1.75 per M. feet. I also attended to closing up the matters of the Ducey Lumber Company, as it still had many logs that year and also lumber to sell. I received this year out of the Company about \$18,000.00 cash on my share, after paying for stock and accounts and expenses of putting my nine million feet of logs in the river. Price of lumber was not high.

In 1891 I got about 11 million feet of saw-logs in the river, but it proved a very eventful year on account of failures striking me, by which I lost practically all I had, by direct losses and results therefrom.

In January I had bought 31 new houses and lots, flats, cottages and a corner store for about \$48,000.00, owing thereon \$37,500.00. These were all new brick buildings, intending to pay what I owed on this property out of proceeds of lumber during the summer, when failure struck me and finally I lost this property also, except 215 acres of land in Adams County, Ohio, being 60 miles up the river from Cincinnati, which I got in trade for my equity in Chicago property. I even had my homestead in Muskegon mortgaged for \$1,500.00 and had to commence all over again at 52 years of age.

In 1892 I moved to Chicago with my family, trying to get from under property load with as little loss as possible. I also engaged in the real estate business there but this did not pay either and on August 5th I left the Chicago business in disgust. I went to see some lumbermen in Wisconsin, then on August 19th

I went to Muskegon. I made a contract with John Torrent to move his mill to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and manufacture timber in the Upper Peninsula, in which I had 1/4 interest with \$5,400 paid on it. I worked on that job of taking down and moving the mill the balance of that year and also did some timber estimating in the Upper Peninsula where I took sick and was laid up for a few weeks. At the end of the Torrent being dissatisfied and arbitrary, knowing my present financial condition I settled up with him, losing what interest I had in timber and work. From then on I engaged to work for wages at \$100.00 a month until I could do better. Needing daily support for family I accepted this and took charge of a lumber camp near North Muskegon. I had moved my family back to Muskegon in September and we lived in a rented house, our old one being occupied by my daughter Agnes and family. The end of this year was very discouraging to me.

In 1893 I worked for John Torrent for monthly wages up to June 3rd. Then I commenced to look around again for myself to get hold of some timber lands, but found it very hard to work without funds. Finally I secured some credit and to pay in logs, starting some logging camps in the fall, selling the logs to Muskegon mill men. On the whole it was a very hard year for me.

In 1894 it proved an unfavorable winter for logging on account of lack of snow and was costly. I made no money on the logging and in the spring had not money enough to pay for labor, supplies, camp outfits, tools and teams, so I turned over all I had, as near equal as possible, to creditors and quit the logging business. I paid some of my creditor's later on when I could, and on April 24th I went south to New Orleans, upon letters received from my former partner in the Duecey Lumber Company, Mr. W. S. Hofstra. Most of the balance of this year I looked over land and estimated pine and cypress timber in Louisiana, for daily wages of \$5.00 per day and expenses. This is a hard life to get a new start.

During this year my father Frans Vogel died of old age, at Vogel Center, aged ninety years and ten days, his death occurring on Saturday, August 25, 1894, at 8:30 A. M. He was noted particularly for his honest and upright character all through life.

(I am not sure but that the dates at the first and second paragraphs above should be 1893 and 1894 instead of 83 and 84. I am, however, copying exactly as written. Never the less, pages 9 and 10 show quite conclusively that the dates above are wrong. I am therefore writing the above dates in pencil what I believe to be right. FCH.)

In 1895 I continued land looking and timber estimating in various southern states, mostly of cypress and pine timber for J.D. Lacey of New Orleans and also for some others. This was a year of very hard work and little headway financially, but I kept on the watch for chances.

In 1896 I proceeded to continue the work until July 1, when I commenced my employment for Louisiana Cypress Lumber Company at

Hervey, Louisiana, to take charge of the woods, logging and towing of Cypress logs to the mill at a salary of \$1,800.00 per year. This was a very hard and complicated job with one hundred twenty men in the woods camp, both black and white. The work was done with steam machinery to get the logs out and with three tug boats to tow the logs sixty miles to the mill at New Orleans. There was all water and mud in the woods, also alligators, large snakes, frogs and innumerable insects in the water and air.

In 1897 I continued with Cypress Lumber Co. until my year was out and then I commenced to work on a yearly salary of \$2,000 and expenses for D. A. Blodgett of Grand Rapids, my work being to take entire charge of his southern pine lands in Mississippi and Louisiana and to buy more when found desirable. Also to look after title and pay taxes, regulate assessments, prevent trespassing and prosecute where necessary. I was to receive \$2,500 annually after the first year. Mr. Blodgett has between 300 and 400,000 acres in nine counties in Mississippi and in three parishes in Louisiana. My headquarters were at Hattiesburg, Miss. I have several assistants in the woods and all the responsibility is left to me. I make monthly reports and always have promptly all the money I called for. This business is much more agreeable and gives mutual satisfaction.

In 1898, 1899, and 1900 I continued with Mr. Blodgett in the same way that I have above described. I have a very busy and responsible position but the work is pleasant and when it is appreciated it gives good satisfaction to the principals as well as to myself. In the later part of 1899 I can see that I made some headway for myself and also the beginning of 1900. On February 13, 1900 I made for myself a purchase of some timber land Mr. Blodgett had rejected an option on. I obtained the option myself from the Southern Pine Co., and sold it to the Gage Land & Improvement Co., making a commission of \$4,652.40. Out of this I paid remaining indebtedness on our home at Muskegon, bought piano for daughters and other needed goods. I had some money left to buy some land on my own account for profit. This was the first real good year that I had had since 1889.

In 1901 I continued with Mr. Blodgett but wrote him in January tendering my resignation to take effect at the end of the year, or at any time prior to that at his option. I did this to give him reasonable time to secure the right man to fill my place, and I did not want all my time tied up in the service of others, desiring to work on my own merits, and help my sons, Frank and Otto, into the land business. I made this year outside and above my salary of \$2,500.00 an additional sum in land sales on my own account \$1,447.25. It was also a very profitable year for Mr. Blodgett and was very satisfactory to him. I had all his timbered land in Mississippi re-estimated, there being about 375,000 acres, averaging about 9,075 feet per acre, making 3,403,125,000 feet worth then at least \$2.00 per M. Feet. This is outside of ~~about~~ about 200,000 acres in Louisiana.

In 1892 I started an office for general land business at Jackson, Miss., under the name of John Vogel and Sons, with my sons, Frank C. and Otto Vogel. We worked in part for others, estimating timber and tried to sell land on a commission. We also bought some land on our

own account to sell at an advance. We did a fairly good business but the chances were getting smaller as land in the south had been so closely bought up by large holders that there was then but little offered at a price for profit. During 1901 and 1902 J. M. Garrish and myself had bought in Scot and Newton Counties, Miss., along the Alabama and Vicksburg R. R. about 11,000 acres of pine land at an average price of \$25,000.00 from John W. Blodgett of Grand Rapids. My sons and their families lived at Jackson, Miss.

In 1903 we continued in the same business until about May 1st and then closed up our affairs there for the reason that prospects in this line were not as good as in the past as I have already stated and we do not like this south country and people as well as in the North. This in the early part of May, Frak and his family again moved to Chicago where he engaged in office work while Otto and his family moved to Muskegon, he working there in a store as bookkeeper and collector. I for myself continued some work estimating timber in the south for various parties, looking after my personal land interest and taking some rest. On January 8th Mr. Gerrish and I sold out land in Scott and Newton Counties, Miss., for \$57,125.00. It cost us up to that time about \$33,000.00 leaving a profit of \$24,125.00 one half of which went to each of us, as well as the money that we actually had in the land besides the money that we had borrowed. This was to be a cash deal but on getting abstracts of title to part of the land bought of the railroad Company, a law suit being pending against that company and payment for that part of land was deferred until it could be settled in the Courts. The other part of the sale was transferred and proceeded to pay our debt on it, this leaving our investment and profit hung up for court decision. This case was not decided until July 10th, 1905 when the Mississippi Supreme Court rendered a favorable decision settling the title question and we then received our money out of it, being yet \$29,360.00 of principal and \$1,800.00 interest and taxes, a total of \$31,360.00. After paying remaining indebtedness, interest and expenses left my share about \$8,715.00 cash. I then felt in much easier circumstances than I had for over 13 years, during all of which time I put in very persistent effort. Now again I made home improvements. On August 25th I received \$6,720.00 cash for the sale of 840 acres in Lauderdale County, Miss., for which I had paid in 1902 the sum of \$3,940.00 and I have forty acres of land left. I also have a 1/4 interest with R. W. Butterfield of Grand Rapids, Mich., in Calhoun County, Miss. lands, there being between 7,000 and 8,000 acres, to which we are gradually adding by purchase land is offered for sale and titles cleared, I obtained through an arrangement I had made with Mr. Butterfield under a contract signed October 5th, 1903. Under this contract he furnished the money to buy the land and I looked after the estimating of timber there on, taking care of the taxes, looking after trespass, etc., my interest being 1/2 and to be paid by me when the land was sold.

On October 2, 1905 myself with my sons Otto and John C. and other hired help went again to Mississippi to estimate pine, cypress and other timber on large tracts of land on a contract price per acre, Otto

being in partnership with me. I was engaged at this work until about July 1, 1906, estimating by forty acre lots about 320,000 acres of land, at from 3¢ to 5¢ per acre, making very good pay amounting to \$8.00 per day, and sometimes much over that; besides paying hired help and all traveling expenses and boarding the men, and taking out July and August for rest and vacation. In the meantime I continued to increase by additional purchases my interest holdings in Calhoun County, Mississippi, timber land with Mr. Butterfield, so that in 1906 I had an interest in 11,000 acres costing for the entire acreage at that time about \$40,000.00.

On July 23, 1906 I bought 1,000 shares of stock in the Casa-Diablo Gold Mining Co., of Mono County, California, for 35¢ per share and on August 2nd I bought 2,000 shares more at the same price as follows.--for myself 800, my wife 600, Frank and Gertrude each 200, and Effie and May each 100. This stock, from the best obtainable information looked very proposing in the near future.

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The foregoing are the details of the life of John Vogel, as written by himself. He died at Muskegon, Michigan, on September 23, 1907, leaving surviving him his widow, Barbara Vogel, and ten children, Dora Baker, Agnes Vanderwerp, Gertrude Vogel, Frank C. Vogel, Effie Baker, Otto Vogel, Mattie Cotie, Katherine E. Dunn, John G. Vogel and Mary M. Birch.

Gertrude Vogel died on November 23, 1923, and Mrs. Vogel on January 29, 1926.

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As noted by me, F. C. Hirzel--

From the diary of John Vogel as herewith copied and from Mrs. Charles "Bess" Robinson of Grand Haven, Michigan,-- John Vogel married Barbara Herweyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Herweyer of Zeeland, Michigan. This couple settled in Missaukee County on October 6, 1868. They had one daughter, Dora before they moved to Missaukee County. She is Dora Baker mentioned above. Agnes it was, who was the first white child ever born in Missaukee County. This important event took place on June 20, 1869. This girl, Agnes, later married John Vandewerp who for eighteen years was Circuit Judge of Muskegon County. Mrs. Vandewerp died December 22, 1935. Mr. John Vogel and family left Missaukee County on October 10, 1881. Two of the other children besides Agnes were born in that County. Dora Vogel Baker was the mother of Mrs. Charles Robinson to whom I am indebted for this copy of her grandfather's diary.

FCH