

Chapter Five

The first settlements were built on the hills. There were several reasons for this. The soil was richer because it was thickly covered with decaying plants. There were fewer trees on the hills which made it easier to clear for building homes. It was considered healthier than the swampy lowlands. The timber on the hills furnished materials for making charcoal and potash and also for the production of making maple syrup. The woodland was also valuable because it provided food and shelter for the cattle and other livestock.

The first thing the settlers had to do was clear off a portion of the land to build a temporary dwelling, which was built of logs. The settlers helped each other.