## **How Homer Met Mary**

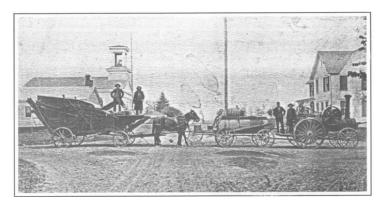
The question married couples are always asked is, "How did you meet?" My father, Homer Bullock, and my mother, Mary Florence Rector, would reply thusly: "We met when a group of lumbermen, including Homer, came to Mary's farm to cut down trees." To my knowledge, additional information such as who were the men and why did they cut down the trees was never discussed.

When I came to Penn Yan in 2013 to research my family history this was one of the first research areas I addressed. Looking through the YCHC's extensive archives I found one interesting document and also some interesting entries when searching and reading some of the diaries that Mary E. Collins had transcribed. I collected and copied that material but never did anything with it. During the COVID-19 lock down with nothing to do, I thought getting back into this would be a good way to pass the time.

Cogent entries in the Charles E. Guile 1908 diary	People named in the diary
Charles E. Guile 1900 daily	Stephen M. Rector was Mary's father, my maternal
Wed. Jan. 1, 1908	grandfather. He lived on Hoyt Road about 3 miles southeast of
I went to STEPHEN RECTORS & met Uncle	Second Milo and 6 miles northeast of Crosby.
HERMAN BULLOCK at Fathers & we went over the	
price of pine & estimated the unit. & I got home at 7.	Herman Bullock was Homer's father, my paternal
P.M The roads are very rough.	grandfather.
Turas Iam 7 1009	
<b>Tues. Jan. 7, 1908</b> I met S. RECTOR in regard to his timber	George W. Finton was Herman Bullock's brother-in-law;
It snowed some P.M	Herman's wife, Drusilla, was George's sister.
It showed some I. M	Charles E. Guile was George's son-in-law; married to
Sat. Jan. 11, 1908	George's daughter "Hattie". That's why he called Herman
Rector was here & we made a contract with him	"Uncle Herman".
for a piece of pine & with Uncle HERMAN	
BULLOCK to cut it up for us.	T. Warner Windnagle was also George's son-in-law; married
	to George's daughter "Mattie".
Sat. Jan. 18, 1908	
I settled up with Uncle HERMAN BULLOCK	The above except Rector lived in Crosby on the East Lake Road;
A.M. & WARNERP.M. I settled up with Father	all within less than a mile of the presently abandoned Viking
Finton	Motor Inn.

A **summary** of these four Guile diary entries: Guile, Windnagle, and Finton were bargaining with Rector to buy his "piece of pine". Furthermore, Bullock was to "cut it up".

We do know that in 1908 Herman Bullock was in the portable sawmill business. He and his team would take the sawmill to the timber, fell the trees and cut them up into salable lumber. The photo to the right shows a steam engine drawing a thresher going south on what is now Rt. 14A through Second Milo. Note the Second Milo Baptist Church and the rural school house to the left behind the thresher. Herman would have his steam engine pulling his portable sawmill.



Without a doubt, the document to the right was signed by S. M. Rector and Guile & Windnagle on the January 11, 1908 meeting mentioned in the Guile diary. The main points in the document are:

Guile & Windnagle will purchase certain timber from Rector for \$1,226 (approx. \$35,000 in today's dollars)

Timber must be removed by January 1, 1911

Guile & Windnagle can use the barn, stables, and house at the nearby Snyder farm

About this time in early 1908 Guile and Windnagle were spreading their wings. For years they had been working with their father-in-law, George Finton, in his basket making businesses. In February of 1908 they, as Guile and Windnagle would purchase Seneca L. Pratt's basket making business in Penn Yan. It wasn't long after that the two basket factories in Crosby were shut down.

Sometime in 1908, Herman and Drusilla purchased land on the Isle of Pines located 40 miles off the southern coast of the island of Cuba. They and some family members, including Homer, travelled to the Isle in December of 1908. They stayed until the summer of 1909.

I have concluded, that Herman's portable sawmill team, including Homer, "cut up" the Rector "piece of pine" during the spring and summer of 1908 before the trip to the Isle of Pines. Furthermore, that Homer was billeted at the Snyder house near the Rector house and shazam **Homer met Mary**.

They are shown on the right as they looked in 1911.

PDBullock – April 18, 2020 bullockpd15@gmail.com AGREEMENT Made this lith day of January, 1908 between Stophen M. Rector of the town of Milo, Yates County, New York, party of the first part, and Gaile & Windnagle of Penn Yan, N. Y., party of the second part:

The said Rector hereby sells to said Guile & Windnagle all the pine timber and, wood upon the farm formerly belonging to Jacob T. Rector, deceased, situated in the town of Milo at the price of Twelve Hundred and Twenty-six Dollars (\$1226.00). Said Guile & Windaggle have until January 1, 1911 to cut and remove said timber. No hemlock to be out. Due care to be exercised to protect trees not out. - Guile & Windnagle have the privilège of using the south part of the barn on the farm lately belonging to the late Hawley Snyder for storage purposes until May 15, 1909. The said Rector reserves the right to the granary therein and access thereto. Said Guile & Windnagle are also to have the right to use the stables in said barn as they may need them until the timber is out and drawn. Party of the second part is to use due caution with reference to the use of lanterns or other lights about the barn and no smoking is to be allowed about the barn. The said Guile & Windnagle are to have the use of the house on the Suyder place until the timber is cut and worked up. They are to have the use thereof without rent unless the said Rector shall have an opportunity of renting said house but in that event they are to have the first privilege at a price not to exceed Twenty Dollars per year. for a ferred of most less their fir worth from afril 1. 1908

Guiles Windnagle S.m. Recht

