A WOLF HUNT – A BEAR HUNT

      All the settled portion of this section of the state suffered severely from the depredations of wolves. The deep recesses of the ravines formed for them secure retreats, where, during the day time, they could quietly digest the mutton of the night before. Sixty or seventy years ago wolf hunts were common. The people became exasperated at the loss of their stock, and formed parties to exterminate the animals. Meetings were held a various points, and plans devised. A certain section of country, containing ravines, was determined upon, and a simultaneous attack was made upon all sides. The men, early in the forenoon, formed a continuous line and entirely encircled the section. The number of men on the lines were sufficient to be within easy speaking distance from each other. The signal for advance would be given by the leader, and as it was returned from man to man, the lines moved forward in splendid order, growing more compact as they advanced toward the ravine and descended its side. No man was to fire his gun until he received the command, and it was known that the lines were closed up. Finally the order to fire was given and the signal gun discharged. Instantly the firing became general. After the first discharge of fire-arms the deer and rabbits within the lines became frantic with fright, making the rounds and seeking an opening through which to escape. After all the game that could be seen had been dispatched, a committee was sent within the inclosure to search under the logs and fallen trees to ascertain if any game had fled to any of these places for safety. After the return of the committee, the men, by orders, moved towards the centre of the inclosure, bringing in the game, consisting, sometimes, of two to a dozen wolves, one or two bears, several deer, &c. If a ravine was too large it was sub-divided, and one division after another was "*cleaned out*." After a few years it was only occasionally that wolves were troublesome, as they generally left for more secure quarters.