

JUST FOR FUN

THE POWER OF OXEN

"Speaking of oxen and stumps, there was a pair of brothers out back here, name of John and Jim Edwards. One time they was breaking up with three yoke oxen. John was holding the plow and Jim was toting the gad stick. The oxen was big fellers and my, how they could pull. They come along to a great big stump and them oxen went right over it. 'Fore John could salt molasses

[Page 4]

that plow went clean through the stump like a hot knife through butter. They was going so fast that John sailed right up over the top and when the plow left the stump it snapped shet and caught him right by the seat of the britches. The oxen kept a pulling, the britches held, the stump stayed shet an' John hollared to Jim, 'Hy-ar, give 'em th' gad, John! It's comin' out, b'God! M' mother made these galluses!' The boys got ten cord of wood out of that stump!

A.A. Carleton Interview

Interviewer: Rebecca M. Haley Location: West Newberry, Vermont

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