Timothy is by far the most important hay grass cultivated in America and for a century at least has occupied this economic position. A peculiar interest attaches to this grass because it was first cultivated in this country. Owing perhaps to this fact nearly every American writer who has discussed the crop has given an account of its early history. These published narratives show, however, many discrepancies in details, as may be seen in the extracts here quoted.

Wiggins, writing in 1840, gives the history as follows:

"Timothy is a well-known favourite and native grass of the middle and northern states; it also flourishes well in the Carolinas, whence it was introduced into England by Timothy Hudson, about the year 1780. It is known in English practice as the meadow cat's-tail or timothy grass. In New England it is called herd's grass; while in other sections of the United States it is known as the herd's of the north, or red-top timothy."

Flint, a quarter of a century later, has the following less inaccurate account:

"The name of Timothy, by which it is more generally known over the country, was obtained from Timothy Hanson, who is said to have cultivated it extensively, and to have taken the seed from New York to Carolina. Its