

The most vivid memory that I have of my grandfather and has remained all my life - occurred when I was 3 years of age; on a cold snowy day in Dec. 1911. He brought my daddy to tell mother, garrette and I goodbye! Grandpa stayed in the wagon - huddled in his coat from the cold - to mind the horses. Small in stature - possibly like his Cherokee Indian mother - he had dark, curly auburn hair and beard. He did not talk much and I was told any exciting news brought to him by others - his response would be "by gum!" no telephone was ever installed in their home and few if any papers received by mail, as they had no time for such luxuries. He proved his S.O.A. claim by remaining on it for a year - in a dugout with his two sons. The farm remained clean and neat, due to his labors. Crops were good on the virgin soil. His first home was built over the dugout, lumber was from Clay Center, and ^{measured} about 24' X 12', one room and loft, finished mostly with the tongue & groove boards. The 2 story's ^(4 rooms) built later ~~were~~ plastered. a lot of hard work ensued through the years and he did not live to enjoy an old age.

It seems my first meeting with Grandma was when they stopped in on their way to town. She also was one of few words and anything that displeased her would start her off to the well to get fresh water! The well was at least 100 ft from the house and deep! By the time she pulled up the heavy oak bucket and got back to the house, she felt better! Her days were hctic with 10 children and no labor saving gadgets those days, a large ^{garden} sand orchard kept her close to home. She walked barefoot in summer to save her shoes, and when she had eggs or butter to sell, walked about 4 1/4 mi. south to

Manchester townsites then, Neighbor women along the way would join her - it was really a fun day for them to visit along the way. She mentioned Mrs Grep and Mrs Powers and others I don't recall. Butter was about 10c lb and eggs .05 a doz. calico .05 yd. She was proud of her good fortune. Through the years she had a "Home Comfort" range - known for being the best stove and had a good oven. It also had a water reservoir on the front by fire-box that could be moved by a crank away from it when no hot water was needed. Also one of the first sewing machines - a cupboard full of dishes including a Blue Willow ware set - glass ware - some gold trimmed and bone handled cutlery and a piano for the two daughters.

She never let them learn to cook in her kitchen! They learned working for neighbors! Didn't want food wasted! as she was a large stout Penn. Dutch mother, they didn't protest!

Her last 15 yrs were spent in bed to age 93 years! She said she was "just happy to be alive!" Being my son's only great-grandparent I took him as a baby to see her - she had to have him in bed with her! Several years later he informed her he had some little cats Aunt Cora gave him and she asked him to go get them for her to see and hold!

We were never together very often, but I loved them and enjoyed the times we were with them.