A    TRIP    DOWN    MEMORY    LANE  
5-31-16  
  
My Grandparents home place is a wonderful site that we often visit on return trips home to the "Valley."  The white farmhouse is the first site at the end of a graveled dirt road, saying welcome.  The farmhouse symbolizes something about yesteryear living in the "Valley," farm work and rural life.  However, life is much different today compared to yesteryear's farmstead.  
  
The white farmhouse --  five rooms with a fireplace in four for heat and a wood cook stove in the kitchen;  open windows and a breeze for cooling;  an attic for storage;  a pantry for Grandma's canned goods plus a cellar for vegetable storage mainly potatoes and cabbage.  The Grand Porch encircles 3/4th of the house providing for family gatherings and visitors.  Jus image the hustle and bustle within the house spilling over to that Grand Porch and enjoying everyones fellowship.  
  
There was a smokehouse out back for meat curing and storage;  a springhouse for water and cooling;  a large chicken house and Grandma's wash house.  These buildings make-up the farmstead and livelihood of my Grandparents, but are deteroiteing with age.   
  
A large weathered barn stands a short distance from the farmhouse.  As you enter, observing where Dad painted Grandpa's name.  On the left are two large stalls where Grandpa housed his team of gray horses, used for working the farm lands, and two other stalls for various livestock.  The short hallway to the feed manger is where the work horses harnesses were hanging and ready for work.  The right has a stall where the family Jersey milk cow was housed along with two other stalls used to raise veal calves.   
  
A rather large corn-crib is in the rear of the barn for storing corn raised for livestock feed and grinding meal for family cooking.   
  
Climbing those twelve foot stairs to the loft where loose hays were stored for winter feeding of livestock.  The old hay tract, rope and hay fork stands in the top of the self-supporting barn roof today.  Its been many moon's since this has been used.  Close your eyes and dream -- you can hear commands to horses and individuals as hay is hoisted to the loft.  
  
The smokehouse and springhouse are missing but that cool spring water, that served as cooling for milk, butter, buttermilk and a bit of cheese, is as cool as ever providing a refreshing drink.  Plus, water for Grandma's wash house activities.   
  
Also, outback was a large chicken house and about an acre garden.  The chicken house provided eggs and fried chicken, mostly for Sunday dinners.  The garden provided -- rhubarb, green lettuce, onions, beets, carrots, radishes, tomatoes, sweet corn, pole and bush beans, sweet and irish potatoes and strawberries.  These vegetables were good cooled briefly in the springhouse and served for many meals, plus canning for winter time meals.   
  
The rustic farmstead activities doesn't relate what agriculture looks and feels like today but these sites brings back many fond memories of yesteryear.  
  
These historical structures are an important piece of yesteryear and just how my Grandparents persevered through the years and how agriculture has evolved to provide food, fiber, fuel and shelter for an ever growing population around the world today.  As the family farm grew with technology, we discovered more efficient methods to raise crops and livestock.  Like most farmers, we haven't forgotten our heritage.  The farmhouse and farmstead buildings serve as reminders as to why and who we are today.    
  
Maybe my trip down memory lane will stir a few others memories and offer a symbol of respect for where we came and what we have become.  
  
Articles of interest   
1- [We Are Farmers](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/we_are_farmers.docx)  
2-[Earth Day](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/earth_day.docx)  
3- [A New Agriculture](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/new_agriculture.docx)  
4- E[xplaining Agriculture](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/explaining_agriculture.doc)  
5-[Super Bowl 50 and Agriculture](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/super_bowl.docx)