

The Dumville Farm

Bill Reimer, September 15, 2012

Hi Samantha,

This letter is about the Dumville farm in Rocanville that we visited. I thought you might like to see a photo of me when I was 4 years old and visiting that farm – plus hear a bit about the story.

I was taken to the farm by my two aunts: Aunt Lorraine and Aunt Elaine. You will know Aunt Elaine since you have seen her and Uncle Ralph at the family picnics and sometimes when you visited Mum. It was in 1948 that they decided to take a train trip to the farm and to take me along. I'm not sure why they decided to take me, but I expect that Mum enjoyed the break since she would have to deal with only 2 boys, and not 3.

There are two things that I remember from that trip. They are the earliest memories I have – that I know are MY memories and not reconstructions from a photo or something that someone said. The first thing is that I remember I must have wet my bed on the train trip, since there was some fuss with the porter at one point and I remember feeling embarrassed. I'm sure it was in the end no big deal, but for a small child – all excited about travelling across the country by train – it must have been somewhat traumatic.

The second memory is much nicer – from the farm itself. I remember the farm yard, the house, and the barn. The clearest memory is one of being in the yard when the threshing machine was operating. It was parked near the barn with a long belt to the tractor that provided the power. We saw one like it on our trip.

The picture below was taken when I was at the farm. I am 4 years old feeling big (and a bit scared) as I hang on for dear life to the horse's mane. The person beside me is my Uncle Ted (Debra, Dianne, Brenda, Joanne, and Jim's father) and the next person is my Grandpa Dumville (your Great-Great-Grandfather). He was really my Step-Grandfather since my Mother's biological father died in the First World War, but he was the Grandfather I knew on my Mother's side of the family. He was a kind, generous, and kid-loving grandfather. The person walking in the background is my aunt, I think. You can see the corner of the house at the left hand side of the photo and the barn in the background.



The photo I took this summer when you were there is almost exactly in the same place. I have included this recent photo below so you can compare the two.



Here are a couple we took in Rocanville as well. It was about the time you were getting tired of us taking your picture at every place we stopped!



Finally, I have included a few more of the farm houses since they give some nice views of the farm layout.



My Uncle Clifford sent me some photos of the farm that show some of the trees that Grandpa Dumville planted. Now that it's over 60 years later, you can see how much they have grown. They are the evergreen trees by our Westfalia in this last picture, I think.

