

in the pasture from some trees that had fallen over where we could reach them.

One thing I remember about Grandpa, Aunt Addie and Aunt Mary is that wherever they lived, if there was a place in the yard where rain was washing the soil away, they would put a row of rocks across it to catch the soil, making a flat place after the soil was caught for a while. I can't remember people having lawns in those days. People swept their yards with "brush brooms", made of branches from bushes, especially a variety (Alder, I think) that grew along stream banks, or sometimes from a tall, bushy weed with thick soft foliage which we called Chickweed.

Grandpa Ballard had several brothers and half brothers, most or all older than he was, I believe. He told about one day when their father was to be gone most or all of the day, he told the older boys that when they worked in the field up to a certain stump, they could quit for the day. Instead of working in the field, they spent the time digging up the stump and moving it down to where the work was to begin. Grandpa didn't mention any punishment, but I guess the father was outnumbered anyway. Maybe he was the one I've heard quoted as saying "Raising boys is a Proposition"!

I don't remember seeing Grandpa Oxford more than once or twice. One time when we visited, Grandpa told Papa about seeing Clay (less than 5 years old) looking at his reflection in the glass front of the bookcase in the hall. Grandpa said "See the monkey in the glass ?" Clay said "Yessir, there's two of them". That tickled Grandpa.

Grandma Oxford died in 1926 (Grandpa had died in 1920), and possessions, farm equipment, farm etc. were sold at auction. Papa bought the farm, and we moved into the main house - where Papa and his brothers and sisters had grown up. Grandpa Ballard, Aunt Addie Huckaby (Arshie) and Aunt Mary Ballard moved into the house on the farm where we had lived before 1920. I don't remember who lived in the house west of the main house (toward Hollonville). Both these houses were on the south side of the road, and the main house on the north side about the middle of the farm, which consisted of acreage on both sides of the road.

The home place was 110 acres, but a lot of it was in woods, pasture, etc. There was still too much crop land for one man to work. Papa decided to keep each of his boys out of school one year to help with the farm work. I stayed out one year then joined the next younger class at school. I can't remember if that continued with Paul and Clay or not.

I consider that we were fortunate to live at the "home place" in such a nice house and to have many things that we enjoyed during some of our growing up years there - maybe I should say especially we four boys.

At that time the outside of the house was weatherboard painted white. There was a fenced flower garden across the road in front of the house, a fenced vegetable garden and some apple and peach trees back of the house, and a small apple orchard near by with several varieties of apples. I've heard Papa speak of peddling apples in Griffin (about 15 miles north). Near the east side of the yard were several pear trees and a large scuppernong (grape) arbor.

Near the garden was a kiln for drying fruit. It was somewhat like a large barbecue pit, made of rock slabs for the sides and top. It seems to me it was several feet square, with at least one slab support in addition to the sides, and long pieces of wood were used for the fire. It was covered with a roof, so fruit could be dried in rainy weather. In the equipment that came into our hands was a fruit parer, which you clamped on the edge of a table. You stuck the fruit on some prongs and turned the handle to peel it. There was also a cider mill and press, which was a free standing hand powered machine for chipping and pressing apples for making cider and vinegar. (Fermentation of cider makes vinegar).

In the back yard was a well with two buckets, one on each end of the rope, with one bucket going down while the other came up. Near by at the back edge of the yard was the wash house. The front side was open, there was a bench for the wash tubs along the back, and a long hinged section of the back wall which could be opened for pouring out the wash water, or for ventilation in warm weather.

I believe there was another well on the back porch, but I'm not sure. Of course in those days we didn't have electricity in the country, so all the water had to be drawn one bucket at a time, except a few people (Uncle Henry was one) had a water pump driven by a gasoline engine, which pumped the water into a storage tank.

There were many other things we enjoyed at this home place. Besides the nice yard with some trees on part of it, there were several buildings or structures scattered around the yard and beyond.

On the east side of the yard there was a smokehouse, a garage (that had held the Willys-Knight touring car), a mule barn with hay loft and a wide dirt "hall" through the middle, with stalls and a corn crib on the sides. There was a small log house used for farm tools etc. There was a large log "carriage house" open on the front, and back of the vegetable garden next to the woods was a blacksmith shop. We used it some for working with iron, but I think our most important use for it was sharpening scooters for plows. This was a strong iron flat slightly curved piece about 3 inches wide to be bolted on a plow at an angle to make it dig a trench into the ground when pulled by the mule. It was sharpened by removing it from the plow, heating it in the fire at the shop until red hot, then flattening the end by hammering with a heavy hammer while ^{WITH TONGS,} holding the scooter on the anvil. Other attachments were also bolted onto the plow along with the scooter, depending on the type of cultivation being done.

Back of the house and vegetable garden was a large square section of several acres of woods, which adjoined the road for probably several hundred feet to the west. In this woods were several varieties of hardwood, some pines, and and other trees and bushes, such as honeysuckles (native azaleas) sweet shrubs, a few buckeyes and one section of a sort of bog, with standing water. We used this woods for hunting, but more for cutting wood, both done mostly in winter.

For wood cutting we used axes and cross-cut saws (long saws used by a person at each end pulling it back and forth).