

Recollections

Victor Doray recalls people & events that might be of significance to future generations.

June 27th, 2002

Great Granny and Topsy

We used to be taken in Pop's car to uncle Raymond's farm in Richford Vermont. The farm was right beside the border crossing between Canada and the USA.

Raymond and his wife Dot had 3 kids that I recall ; Mary (the eldest), Margaret & Sonny.

There also was a lady who I've always taken to be my great grandmother and who seemed to me to be over a hundred years old. . Mark Cullen who is doing the family tree of the Cullen's and Doray's recently indicated that Raymond emigrated from Canada to the States in 1922, says that Raymond's mother Bridget lived on the farm and she was 67 in 1930 . Maybe 'Bridget' is the lady I assumed was my great Granny and maybe she was 100 years old to my 8 year old eyes in 1938 ?

Regardless, as a child, I remember being at the farm on one occasion when a mother horse had died some months previously. She had got her head caught in a harness type thing for a cow, and broke her neck as she tried to reach the cow's food. She had just given birth to a foal named "Topsy". Because Topsy was just a baby she needed her Mom for Milk but Mom was now gone.

In steps 'great Granny' to fill the breach. She bottle feeds Topsy every day, till finally Topsy grows up to become a fine young stallion with beautiful markings on his black & white body.

Great Granny had a habit of walking across the pasture to swim or bathe in a stream on Raymond's farm. As Topsy grew in stature he began to realise that he had a special debt to this lady. He began to 'protect' her by ensuring that she was ok when in the pasture.

Even to a young boy, it was great to see this magnificent stallion pacing himself by walking behind an old lady to the water's edge, then standing on guard as she bathed and later accompanying her back across the pasture.