

Mealtimes

Breakfast was around 7 a.m., after we finished the morning chores.

The morning chores included feeding and taking care of all the animals, milking the cows and washing the milking equipment.

Pa woke us each morning around 5 a.m.

He did that by saying quietly, "Boys it is time to get up.", from the bottom of the stairs.

Pa never ever said it twice.

Dinner was the noon meal which is now called lunch.

Supper was the evening meal which we now call dinner.

We ate our evening meal at 5:00 p.m., immediately before going to the barn at 5:30 p.m. for the evening milking. That took about two hours and included washing all the milking equipment and feeding all the animals.

The Cellar of the Old House.

The ladder to the cellar was in the southwest corner of the kitchen.

Ann said the access was through a trap door in that corner.

The steep wooden steps faced east as they descended to the dirt floor.

The cellar was less than half the size of the kitchen and was added at the same time as the kitchen.

Ma stored jarred foods down there. She did a lot of "canning" in sealed jars in those years.

She would send me to the cellar to fetch jars of green beans, or peaches, or pickles for dinner.

There was a light switch at the top of the stairs.

But only a dim, hanging light bulb.

The cellar was dark, dusty, with mice and spider webs.

Worst of all were the spotted salamanders that would dart around the jars.

I did not like that job, but I never mentioned that to Ma.



Tom, along the southern foundation of the kitchen.

The foundation of the house was very well made.

The same expert workman made the foundation of the original house and the later kitchen addition.

He used local boulders, which were abundant, chiseled and split to produce fine footings.

All of the foundation was buried in a refuse pit in the center of drive/yard when the new house was built.