

Miller Barn

This was a typical farm barn, built by Uncle Clarence's father at about 1900. John Miller bought a "stand" of Cottonwood trees with which he hand "hewn" the beams and posts forming the framework or structure of the barn. The beams and posts were fitted together and then fastened with hand carved oak pegs. Some of the families may have one of those pegs. I have several. The rest of the structure was bought at lumber mills. In particular, he bought Cedar siding and "bats" for the exterior of the barn. I salvaged several boards when the barn was taken down and used them to make a wood shed for our fireplace wood here in Atlantic. That woodshed will stand for another 100 years if not damaged by people. Cedar wood is almost self preserving.

We, the brothers, had an estimate made on the cost of preserving this barn in the early 1990's. We could see the barn was deteriorating and would like to have preserved it for posterity. The estimate came to something like \$ 35,000. Right or wrong, we decided it was too costly to restore the barn.

As a youngster, I spent lots of time in the barn. I helped Clarence milk the cows, usually a dozen cows or so. I remember that there were 4 horse stalls on the West side of the barn. There were hog pens on the North side, calf pens on the south side and stanchions for the cows on the east side. There was a huge hay-mow which held the winter feed for the cows and calves.

I wish each of you; second, third, fourth generations and on could have known Clarence and June Miller as my brothers and I did. The 5 Underwood "boys" have so many great memories of these people and the farm that was their home and life's work. It gives us an exciting connection to the farm, while to most of you and understandably, the farm is real property that we talk about at family reunions.

June and Clarence were the greatest of people. They were respected and loved by their neighbors, They were good farmers. They are the benefactors that passed this farm on to all of us. We are blessed in many ways by this legacy. So tonight, say a little prayer for Aunt June and Uncle Clarence thanking them for the generous gift of their life's savings.

God Bless them and each of you - Uncle Ray and Joan

