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Story about:
Mr. + Mrs. William Meeker
Written by Ruth Meeker Schick

This is something I wrote for the Mt Washington Press, a local newspaper in Mt Washington. They wanted to know some history + some family experiences on the farm. These are some of the pleasant memories I have of the big farm in Mt Washington.

First my grandparents bought the large Wolf estate in the early 20's. They farmed the land and lived in the lovely old Gothic house. Later on + through the years they sold off the land. One of the buyers was Colonel Stausbery. He bought ~~all~~^{most} of the farmland + woodland. On this acreage he built a beautiful home, lived there for a number of years. When he passed away the family donated the land to the community. This land now is Stausberry Park.

My grandparents also donated a small parcel of land to the community. It also became part of the park. — ~~continue~~

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Family History

Grandma + Grandpa (Mr + Mrs ^{Wm} Meeker) bought the large Wolf estate ^{in Mt Washington} in the early 20's. The parcel of ground donated was the last piece of property from the original track of land. In this area there was a smoke house where grandpa smoked his hams.

My grandparents farmed the land + they lived in the large home on Beechmont Ave. It was a typical Gothic structure with a tower + a beautiful winding central stairway. As children we loved to climb up into the tower + then slide down the banister to the bottom floor. Huge beautiful trees surrounded the house. Beechmont Ave. was then just a shady road with lovely trees on both sides. The homes were set far back from the main road.

In back of the house on the corner of Corbly + Oxford was a large barn - here they kept a horse + a red fire wagon. This was Mt Washington's horse drawn fire department.

Grandpa + my Uncle 'Doc' farmed the land which is now Stansberry Park. Grandpa had a horse + a sled that could

be used all year round for carrying + moving equipment along with produce around the farm.

They had a large cornfield on the high ridge of the present park + a large apple orchard. We would help grandpa collect apples + put them in the cider press. This made ~~a~~ wonderful cider. We always had to be careful of the bees which were always present under the apple trees.

Another pleasant memory was Uncle Doc's berry garden fairly close to the orchard. We would go out + pick our own big red, juicy strawberries, blackberries + red raspberries. After we had our fill of berries + were hot we would hike down to the creek in the shade. There we would take off our shoes + go wading, collect pretty stones + go swimming on a grapevine over the creek.

The family always enjoyed visiting our grandparents. I remember some of the most delicious food ever served at grandma's table. Most of the food was grown on the farm. A typical meal that was served was fresh corn on the cob, fresh green beans, fresh lima beans, mashed potatoes + gravy, lettuce + tomatoes plus country fried chicken (raised on the farm). After all of this -

Three or four desserts were served, apple pie, peach cobbler + coconut cake were some of our favorites. After one of these meals we would all lay down + take a nap.

Time marches on and there are tremendous changes. The big old home was torn down + a Berger King was erected which has been sold to Hardies - The big barn (Mt Washington's Fire Department) was torn down many years ago. My Uncle Doc built a two family house on the spot. My grandparents saved a strip of ground at the corbly entrance to the park, there they built a brick Tudor home. They always had a garden, beautiful flowers and always fattened ^{up} a chicken in the back-yard area for Thanksgiving, Christmas + Easter. These were the good old days.

Ruth Meeker Schick —