

Told by Ellery Perry, cousin of Roy Eldon Perry.
Ellery's parents were Moses Perry and Helen Steadman
Grandson of Albert Perry and Sophronia Coyer.
Recollections of Ellery (Perry)

My Grandfather's brother (Henry) who enlisted at the same time he did was a colorful figure all through the war. I was told several tales concerning him. For one thing he loved his liquor and seemed to have a way of getting into trouble and out again. I was told that he would go over into the southern lines at night and drink and play cards with the men of the south and then before daybreak, go back to his own regiment and fight the coming day. There were other stories concerning the war. I was told that he fought in every battle that his regiment was engaged in and he came out of the war without a scratch, honorably discharged and sent home. Now the father of these two brothers enlisted with the intent of watching out for these two sons, he never came home after the war as a canon ball from the Southern Artillery took the top of his head off and he was buried at Fredricksburg, Virginia.

There were 12 sons and daughters born to my grandparents, a terrible tragedy happened to 5 of the children in the nineteenth century, the diphtheria epidemic struck them and all five passed away in three weeks time. I am told that little was known about the prevention and treatment of diphtheria.

Now in the year of 1897, I was born and I suppose I was the pride of my parents. Now when I came to the age of two years old, my grandfather was stricken. He came in from the barn and told my Grandmotheer that he felt very bad and I believe he let her know that he had pain in his chest. He went and laid down on the bed. Grandmother proceeded to heat hot water for hot cloths to put on his chest. When they were ready, she went in to apply the cloths to his chest, she found that he had passed away.

In the year of 1899, my brother was born. Now back to the visit my mother, my brother and I paid my grandmother in the little town in the middle of the state of Vermont. I loved my grandmother right away for she was kind and loving. The house where she lived at the time is still standing. My young uncle had several cows that he took care of, beside one horse which belonged

to my grandmother. Uncle took my brother and I fishing in a little brook. Uncle caught several trout and put them in a small isolated pool which he formed to put the fish in.

I remember one thing about my great uncle. He had a long flowing white beard. It was said that one time he came home drunk. He had married a fine young woman, who was a seventh day Adventous, which he became. They had 3 sons born to them. The youngest became an Adventous and I understand that at one time he was a professor at Bering Springer College. The other 2 were very wayward and I believe died out of the faith. My great uncle drank a lot, but before he would get drunk, he would buy the groceries first. One time when he stumbled into the house with the groceries, he asked his wife if she wasn't sorry for him. She said no, I am not. Apparently she was very much disgusted. As far as I know, outside of his getting drunk, they got along well. Their youngest sons and my two youngest uncles were good pals and of course boys are often bright ideas would flash into their minds. My great uncle used to keep sheep and at lambing time he would watch over the Ewe when the little ones were born. Of course my Uncle kept a buck. Now this is where the brilliant boys put their heads together to create mischief and laughter. They plagued the buck and got him ill natured by teasing him to make a charge at them when they bent over. So it happened that the next time Uncle came to tend the lambs, of course he had to bend over to do so. He did not know that the buck was trained in doing harm to him, so when he bent over, the buck charged him and balled him over. Now I suppose Uncle was real furious by this time. I was told that he caught the buck, threw him down and spit tobacco juice in his eyes. It is said that the buck never charged him again.