

GRANDPA AND GRANDMA HICKEY

"I would like to relate a few things I remember about Grandpa Michael and Grandma Margaret Hickey. Grandpa was a tall lean man with kind blue eyes and was soft-spoken. He raised large flocks of sheep and sometimes the mother sheep had two or three lambs and one would be orphaned, but Grandpa fed the little one with a bottle and nipple filled with cow's milk. Sometime he'd have five orphaned lambs and he made slots in the board fence to hold the bottles. Then each lamb took its place at feeding time... Grandpa Hickey raised chickens and ducks. There was a pond below the hill where the farm house stood, the pond was surrounded by willow trees and there the ducks hatched out their young in the sheltered area. When the ducks were very young they lived in the pond and by October the pond was a mass of color with the Mallards swimming about... Grandma made the best raisin pie and rolled sugar cookies... Grandma Hickey was short of stature and when she and Grandpa went driving; it was with the one-seated cart drawn by a mule – the cart was quite high so Grandpa would drop a small stool to the ground and then help Grandma down... Grandma kept her promise to Our Lady of Mount Carmel by always wearing the Brown scapular where she was enrolled in on her First Communion Day. Her desire was to be buried in a brown shroud. As she was bother by numerous heart attacks, to quiet her mind her daughters, Maria, Nancy and Margaret bought brown cashmere and the shroud (a very plain dress). Then Grandma was at ease, but in a few weeks, her good neighbor and friend, Mrs. Deegan passed away so the shroud was given to her. Grandma told the Deegan Family that her daughters would make her another one, which they did. One day the sad news came as the St. Catherine's Bell was tolling. It told of the death of Mrs. Doyle. She was another of Grandma's friends and neighbors. Grandma in her kindness gave the shroud again. "Love thy neighbor as thyself", was fully carried out, and her daughters made one more shroud."

September 9, 1977

Sincerely,
Margaret Doherty