A Memoir of the Life and Times of Riverside Farms
Bethel Maine History—The Bethel Journals
1782—1914

How the Bartlett farm in Mayville became Riverside Farm

In 1824, John Bennett and his six sons, Frederick, John, Peter, Gilman and Ransom became the third family to settle on the Magalloway River.” John traveled to Wilsons Mills from Gilead, Maine. “Here they cleared a farm and were known as hunters and woodsmen. John’s fifth son, Gilman, met and married Mary Wilson in 1852.” My great-grandfather, Arthur Eugene Bennett, was their first son followed by five more children to complete the family. They lived on a farm on Errol Hill until the youngest son contracted tuberculosis of the hip.. Then, at the insistence of my great-great-grandmother Mary, the family moved to Newton, Massachusetts, where medical treatment for her son was more easily obtained.

Arthur E. Bennett returned to Maine in 1875 where he was employed as a surveyor, farmer and lumberman. Here he married Celia Mary, daughter of William and Emma Rose Thurston, in 1877. He purchased the old homestead on Errol Hill and made his home there until 1914. The Thurston family were of English and Scottish decent, and all the many branches of the family in this vicinity are somewhat related.

Edward Eugene Bennett, the only child of Arthur and Celia, was born August 7, 1878. He grew up on the Errol farm, attended school and learned farming and logging operations from his father and mother. On Thanksgiving Day, 1900, he married Minnie Olson, daughter of John and Betsy Fickett Olson. John Olson was a farmer and a guide for the Parmachenee Club; he came from Risor, Norway, when he was about 16 years old. Betsy was a daughter of Lemuel Fickett, an original settler of the Magalloway group of families.

The newly-weds returned to the Errol farm where their life together began. Celia Bennett who was poor in health died in 1904. By 1914, the Bennett family included three boys, Elmer, Harold and Percy and two girls, Thelma and Ruth. With school and medical care one of the foremost concerns of the family, a decision was made to move to Bethel.

In May 1914, Arthur E. Bennett came to Bethel and purchased the Eli “Leel” Bartlett place in Mayville from Mr. Bartlett’s widow, Emma. In 1782, Eli Twitchell, a Revolutionary War veteran, brother or Eleazer Twitchell had come from Sherburne, Mass., to settle on this land. His father, Joseph Twitchell, was president of the plantation proprietors.

The Twitchell—Bartlett Farm

According to William Lapham’s History of Bethel, Maine, Eli Twitchell divided his original grant of land into two sections. Eli lived in the southern section and his son-in-law, Barbour Bartlett, and daughter, Julia, built their home and lived in the northern section.

During the era of the second generation, this is what seemed to have happened: Barbour and Julia Twitchell Bartlett had a number of children but two of the boys became heirs to the farm. Curatio Twitchell Bartlett owned the southern section and Eli Twitchell continued to live there with his grandson until his death in 1845. Spencer Bartlett owned the northern section which his father had either been given or had purchased from Eli Twitchell at the time of his marriage to Twitchell’s daughter Julia.

Arthur Bennett purchased the southern portion of the larger Twitchell-Bartlett farm.
The house and farm buildings purchased by Arthur Bennett in 1914 had been built by Curatio Bartlett in the mid-1830’s.

Some of the background of these people is quoted here from Lapham’s book because it is worthwhile to know the property’s background.

**Captain Eli Twitchell** was the son of Captain Joseph Twitchell and was born in Sherburne, Massachusetts, February seventeenth, seventeen hundred and fifty-nine. He marched with others to the vicinity of Bunker Hill immediately after the battle, and by carrying a very heavy gun on his shoulder, he contracted a disease of the bone of the arm, a portion of which was removed. This unfitted him for severe bodily labor. He came to Bethel probably in seventeen hundred and eighty-two and commenced operations on the farm afterward owned by his grandson, Curatio Bartlett. He came on foot to Bethel in the winter, and was so chilled and exhausted that he was compelled to walk on his hands and knees for the last two miles before he reached his brother Eleazer’s house. He built a comfortable farmhouse on the borders of the interval below Mr. Bartlett’s house. [Curatio Bartlett’s was on higher ground than the house Eli Twitchell built before the flood of 1785.] He kept bachelor fare for some time, though it is said that the young ladies of the day were fond of visiting him, and, received in return some of the West India goods (rum and sugar) which he kept for sale. He was the first person in town who brought such things into town for sale.

(Later) He married Miss Rhoda Leland of Sherburne, Massachusetts, who died in 1794. His second wife was Lucy Segar, who died in 1844.

In consequence of his lameness, he directed his attention to mechanical pursuits in which he was very ingenious. He made brass clocks, and guns, and repaired watches and jewelry. The Indians brought their jewelry to him from Canada (St. Francis Indians) to be repaired. During the great freshet in 1785, he stepped from his door into a boat and went over to the spot where Ayers Mason house now stands (later known as Sunset Farm). At the organization of the town (in 1796) he was chosen Captain of the Militia. He built a large house on the spot where Mr. Bartlett’s house (see photo of Mr. Bartlett’s house below) now stands, which was burned some years ago (before 1835). He had four children by his first wife, and one by his second. Captain Twitchell died in November, 1845. He was a man of public spirit, and was much of the time in town office, as collector, treasurer, clerk and selectman. He also was a land surveyor and Justice of the Peace.”
After Arthur E. Bennett left Errol to live with his son and family in Bethel, no members of the Bennett family lived there again. By the middle 1940’s the house had gone, burned, and the barn remained although it was open to the weather and the floor damaged. The farm homestead was situated on the uphill side of the main road from Errol to Bethel with a magnificent view of the Presidential Range. Fifty years later the hillside was so overgrown that locating the home and barn site was impossible without leaving the road and exploring on foot.
Errol right: Edward Bennett, 21, in 1899. Far right, Minnie Olson Bennett and Edward in 1905, after five years of marriage. The couple were married in Bethel on Thanksgiving Day 1900 at the home of Alphonse Van Den Kerckhoven. Their wedding night—at the Bethel House. By 1905 they had two young boys—a family farm on Errol hill.

Mayville — about 1924, ten years after moving to Bethel—note the Chevy pickup truck—front row, left to right, Thelma, Arthur O., Ruth; rear, Edward, Minnie and Betsy Olson, Minnie’s mother.

Mayville—the stable and carriage house in the photo made up the homestead’s buildings to the left of the main house as one faced them from the road. Here the Bennett milk route vehicle is a Model T Ford. This photo was probably taken before the one above.
EARLY 1930’S—MAYVILLE

Top photo—the Bennett family parade float used in the 1931 Indian Raid Sesquicentennial celebration in Bethel. The vehicle—another Model T—the farm’s milk truck. A calf road in the “corral” of birch poles built temporarily into the truck’s body.

Below the truck and barn photo is one of the last photos of Arthur E. Bennett with his grandsons—David and holding Wayne Bennett. When Arthur died the following year he was buried beside his wife Celia in the cemetery at Errol.

Bottom photo: Arthur E. Bennett is seated holding David Bennett. Patricia and Elmer Bennett stand behind Arthur and David. Rear: Left to Right: Edward Bennett, Robert Lord, Ruth Bennett Lord, Thelma Bennett, Minnie Olson Bennett, Evelyn Crosby Bennett and Harold Bennett. Elmer and his family moved into an apartment in the ell of the main house. Bob and Ruth Lord lived next door in one of the apartments connected to the Thurston office and store. Harold and Evelyn Bennett lived in Arlington, Mass. Thelma at the farm.

1932 BETHEL FAIR —An attempt to revive the once popular Bethel Fair was launched in 1932—October 14 and 15. Henry Boyker then owned the fairgrounds. E. E. Bennett - head of the Cattle Department. Boyker was president of the association and D. Grover Brooks, Vice Pres. Philip Chapman was in charge of the Gate; Euberto P. Brown, Pulling; Sherman Greenleaf, Fred Hall and Raylisherness: Racing Cmte.
Arthur Olson Bennett, the youngest child—his Gould Academy graduation portrait—a steady worker, excellent farm hand and carpenter.

The Log cabin—built by Elmer and his grandfather, pictured—(1920’s ?), later Elmer worked for the Grand Trunk/Canadian National. Cabin stood in the woods behind the main farm house.

Last view of the “Old Place” - mid 1930's. Compared to an earlier photo, the buildings are freshly painted with vines and shrubbery flourishing. The main house was a wayside “Rooms for Tourists” boarding house. Minnie (Nana) Bennett painted and papered all guests rooms each spring. After 1932, Elmer Bennett built a gas station in front of the barns—Tydol gas—with two pumps. It was the only gas station in Mayville until 1994/5 when Big Bob’s/later Irving opened.
Arthur O. Bennett, 1942. Arthur left the farm for the Army; he completed his basic training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. After his military service was over he did not return to the farm—became a New York mortician. He graduated from Gould Academy in 1938.

Robert and Ruth Bennett Lord. Photo taken at the “Old Place” about the time of their marriage in 1931. Ruth had been a steady worker in the family dairy business. After Lord’s Garage in Bethel closed circa 1947, Bob worked at Riverside Farms—“the milk room man”.

Elmer Bennett heads for home with a load of hay.
At home in Mayville, 1920, the census showed Edward and Minnie, sons Elmer, Harold, Percy and Arthur, daughters Thelma and Ruth living at the “new” farm. The two older sons were available to help their parents in farm work and milk delivery. But the situation had changed somewhat by the time of the 1930 census. Those living at home then were the parents, Edward and Minnie, sons Elmer and Arthur, daughters Thelma and Ruth plus Arthur E. Bennett, Edward’s father, and Edith Wilson, a cousin of Minnie. Percy, the third son had died of diabetes and Harold was in Massachusetts working for his father-in-law, Howell Crosby. By this time, Edward was 52 but still had the help of two capable sons. Ruth helped as much as a son and Thelma was working in Bethel as a dental hygienist.

There is very little in the way of notes and photos that tell much about the milk route which had now been a family business for 13 years. Joan Bennett Saxe wrote (And I have excerpted) “The years that the Bennetts lived on the Bartlett Homestead were, all in all, very fruitful. Grampa increased his milk business, and the sand pit and wood lots helped to increase his income. In the summer Nana filled the large house with tourists....

The depression years were little felt by the family as the milk business held at about the same level. The huge garden supplied vegetables and berries, eggs and poultry were raised, and a pig killed each year. The few customers who reneged on payment of milk bills were Grampa’s only worry, and you may be sure that his Yankee shrewdness never allowed any deadbeats to stay on his books for long.

In 1932, when all the family was grown, married and away from home, Elmer and his family moved in to an apartment in the ell of the house to help Grampa with the farm. Along with the milk business, Elmer operated a Tydol filling station which was situated in front of the huge set of buildings.”

The only evidence we have of what income the milk business might have produced comes from a neighboring dairy’s monthly bill—the neighbor was Alonzo Chapman (1879-1934) who lived only two houses away from the Bennetts. His milk route in town was probably of about the same size.

The Chapman’s customer milk bill shows that he sold 47 quarts of milk at 14 cents per quart for a monthly total of $6.58 to Roy Andrews. $8.02 was due on an old bill. It would be assumed then the Edward Bennett was selling milk that year for the same 14 cents a quart. (During the existence of the Bethel Dairy Association, milk prices in town were set by the association.)

Harry Kuzyk, gave me this copy of the Chapman bill—Harry once delivered milk for Riverside Farms in the 1940’s after serving in World War II.
May 14, 1936—on a windy day sparks from the main house’s chimney set the barn a blaze and all buildings are burned to the ground.

Twenty two years after Arthur E. Bennett had bought the landmark Bartlett Farm, a spark from the chimney in the main house started a fire in the barn that at the end of the afternoon burned all the buildings to the ground. Saved by the wind and many helping volunteers all of the house furnishings were removed including even the bathroom toilet fixtures.

The Bennett’s fire disaster along with other fires in Bethel that all occurred in the same month spurred the town to modernize the town’s fire department. Had only a moderate fire fighting capability been present the main house could have been saved. With the winds blowing from the east, the fire had to advance against the wind toward the house. However, the lack of water pumped onto the house caused it to catch fire eventually and succumb.

The Oxford County Bethel Citizen May 21, 1936.

Last Thursday afternoon the buildings of Edward Bennett in Mayville were burned flat at an estimated loss of $10,000 which was partially covered by insurance. The blaze was discovered in the barn about 5:30 and then it was impossible to rescue the horse, bull and two pigs were there. The wind was of much assistance as it kept the flames away from the house, ell and shed to some extent. All household furnishings were saved with little damage, although later estimates show a loss of personal property totaling about $1,500. All bottles, cans etc., used in the milk business were lost.

The place was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bennett and son Arthur. Another son, Elmer, and family occupied an upstairs rent. The house had just been newly refinished in preparation for the summer tourist business.

Mr. Bennett and family have lived there since 1914. The set of buildings included the two and a half story house, and ell, shed, stable, barn and other buildings all in a good state of repair. The place was formerly occupied by the late E. L. Bartlett and was built about 100 years ago.

The family is now occupying the A. F. Chapman place.

The Chapman Farm house and barn as they looked in 1936 when they became a welcome but unplanned home for the Bennett family. Although smaller than the house that burned, it had four bedrooms on the second floor and had beautiful interior finish of natural birch framing, the work of Mr. Tripp. More importantly, the barn had a tie up ready to handle the cattle now also looking for a new home.

FIRE PROTECTION

As a footnote to the Bennett’s fire episode, The Bethel Citizen of June 11, 1936 ran a front page announcement of a meeting calling for a Bethel Fire Department improved water pumping capability.

Following the Bennett’s fire, on June 6, another large set of farm buildings in Mayville were completed destroyed due to inadequate firefighting equipment. Pumper assistance from Rumford had arrived too late to stop the fire at Henry Enman’s place (in 1999 across Rt. 2 from the Briar Lea Bed and Breakfast).
1936-1945
The Bartlett Place becomes The Old Place

Citizen news of the fire ended with the sentence that the family is now occupying the A.F. Chapman place. Soon the family was referring to their former home as the “Old Place”. However, the new property shared a common boundary with the old property on both sides of the Bethel to Rumford highway. This made it easy to move the dairy herd back and from their new barn to familiar pastures.

Alonzo “Lon” Chapman was only 55 when he died and had been a well known, active dairy farmer with a long established milk route in Bethel. For the Bennetts the only way to describe the days following the fire was it was “one hell of a week”. Details of how the family coped with their resettlement, caring for and milking the cows and recovering from the loss of all their milk room equipment and bottles never made into writing that got handed down.

In all likelihood, the Chapman’s milk room may have remained equipped with the coolers, bottler, washing up facilities, etc., that milk dealers at that time used. The Bennetts’ milk room was located in the basement of their new home and it remained that way for the next 31 years. The cow barn was certainly “cattle ready”. The hen house was “hen ready”. Overall the Chapman property consisted of the main house with four upstairs bedrooms and one bath and a small possible bedroom on the ground floor. The house had an attached garage/wood shed. The barn could house about 15 cattle and one bull plus a grain room and stairs to the hayloft. When the change took place the barn had a silo connected to it. A camp and ice house were separate buildings standing near the main house. Some distance behind the barn and at the edge of clearing there was a large, lean to style tool shed. Thinking back to the years after the fire, the farm equipment stored there could have been a mixture of Chapman and Bennett equipment. One curiosity item was an old gasoline powered washing machine with two wooden tubs. There were horse drawn plows, spring tooth harrows, and other miscellaneous field tools.

On July 9, 1936, Emily Chapman signed the deed transferring the Chapman farm to Edward E. Bennett, his heirs and assigns, for “one dollar and other valuable considerations”.

The Bennetts’ one horse was lost in the fire and not replaced. Edward Bennett used a make-shift stripped down truck as a farm tractor that towed a converted horse drawn mowing machine, a side delivery rake and had a connection for what had probably been a horse drawn hayrack. The farm’s hay loader was hooked to the hayrack and drawn by the old Ford truck. In the fall, one of the truck’s rear wheels was jacked up enough to slip on a belt that powered a table saw.

About 1939, a three bay garage was built next to the house and by that time, the silo had been torn down. Many wood silos rotted quickly and Edward Bennett did not have corn harvesting machinery.
1939 “the school should buy pasteurized milk, …”

Gould Academy was a major wholesale customer of E. E. Bennett. While Dr. George B. Farnsworth, Dr. Gehring’s stepson, was President of the Board of the Gould Academy Trustees, he sent streams of letters and memoranda to the academy headmaster on virtually everything having to do with the school’s operation. * Sometime in 1939/40 he sent a memo to the headmaster directing him that “the school should buy pasteurized milk”. It is hard to believe today that a privately run school like Gould would be serving students raw milk but that was the case.

E. E. Bennett was either called by telephone or received a letter from Gould Academy that when the school opened in the fall, the milk had to be pasteurized (or the implication was that Gould would look for another supplier).

The Bennett’s decided that they must find a pasteurizer and meet the academy’s demand. At this time, other small dairies like theirs were dealing with similar situations in their respective towns. Not far away, however, was the largest milk distributor of them all, the H.P. Hood Company which had a major distribution center in Auburn. For a local dairy to resist the step to provide pasteurized milk was to basically invite the Hood milk trucks to roll into town.

Ed Bennett found a second hand pasteurizer in Auburn. Since the Bennett family had moved into their “new” house in Mayville after the old farm buildings had burned, the milk room was in the basement of the house. Soon the basement received a 75 gallon pasteurizer, a wood or coal fired boiler, a larger milk cooler, milk pump and the necessary piping to carry the warm pasteurized milk from the vat to the cooler and then into a bottling machine.

By the time Gould Academy opened in the fall of 1941, the E.E. Bennett’s dairy was selling pasteurized and raw milk. It did not take long for the pasteurized milk to become the larger seller of the two. Yet many customers still wanted the raw milk, preferring its sharper slightly bitter taste to the pasteurized milk flavor. At the same time Gould Academy started receiving pasteurized milk, the dairy’s other large wholesale customer, The Bethel Inn, also switched. There was plenty of preference for pasteurized milk. The Bethel Inn and Bethel area restaurants had always wanted part of the milk they bought delivered in half-pint bottles for serving directly to guests. Once milk was being pasteurized, all the milk that was bottled in the half-pint bottles was the pasteurized milk.

The Good Humor Man -

From 1942 until the summer of 1945, Elmer Bennett was frequently the family member delivering milk in town. In 1942, before auto and truck manufacturing was stopped due to the World War II restrictions, Ed Bennett bought a new 1942 Chevy pickup for his deliveries, replacing a Model A Ford truck.

During these years, Elmer divided his time between his insurance business and the needs of the milk business. In the summer he would start out with the morning delivery loaded into the new Chevy. By this time a top had been made to cover the load in the truck bed. Kid's riding on the outside would stand on the running boards and hang on to the top's posts.

Elmer's route on most mornings started at the farm heading for town with stops at the Ladd’s Wayside Inn, Mrs. Campbell’s house, the Twitchell’s (afterwards, the Douglass’s) and then the Richardson’s before crossing the Androscoggin River bridge. During the war years, the New Yorker was closed. After crossing the bridge, there were stops at the Marshall’s (Pat Murphy, later ) and four other homes on Bridge Street. After crossing the railroad on the overhead bridge, he would deliver at Gardner and Marie Brown’s house and head up Elm Street where often he gained some extra help.

When the morning deliveries were finished, Elmer would make his final stop at Bosserman's Drug Store and treat his helpers to a milk shake before dropping them off at home. Today with all of our safety and liability consciousness, most people would be horrified to see a business vehicle carrying kids on the outside and zigzagging through the streets of Bethel.

The house and wing that housed the Bethel Tel and Tel Co office is visible in the right side rear of the photo. Eugene Van den Kerckhoven and his family owned and operated the telephone company. Besides the regular switch board and the women who worked as operators, there was one or two booths for the public to use to make long distance calls. Although the house is gone, the property is owned and used by Oxford Networks for its switching terminal in 2004.

Elmer Bennett and helpers circa 1943. L. to R. Arlene Bennett, Elmer, Harry Wilson, Barbara Wilson (their house is just behind the truck), Laura Belle Bennett, Lawrence (Young Cad) Bennett. Once Elmer reached the Wilson's house on Elm Street the summer helpers climbed aboard and did the delivering while Elmer drove and gave out the orders. When finished, Elmer treated the crew to milk shakes at Bosserman’s Pharmacy. Alton Carroll, the pharmacist was the expert milk shake maker of the day. As another bonus, sometimes the Bethel Inn stop would get the crew fresh pastries or donuts from the bakery. In 2004, the Bethel Inn bakery and kitchen layout was about the same as it was 60 years ago when this photo was taken.
Life on the farm

In 1942, the senior Bennetts had been dealing with farm life for 42 years. Kitchen life in their new home involved a wood-fired cooking range and an electric refrigerator. In the kitchen near the range was a large wood box. A sizable shed separated the kitchen from the attached garage. The latter space was a wood shed primarily used for the kitchen stove wood. Nana—Minnie Bennett—often ended up splitting her own kindling for the kitchen stove. The men of the house ate breakfast before doing chores. So Nana was the first up to get a kitchen stove fire started and to get breakfast ready. Along with breakfast she would be up and down stairs to the basement milk room where she got the boiler fired up to make steam for heating the pasteurizer.

The men did the milking. After about three years of settling in, the barn sported a milking machine for the south side tie up. Cows on the north side still had to be milked by hand. Cans of milk were carried from the barn to the milk room where it was poured through a strainer again. In the meantime, Nana was bottling raw milk for that morning’s delivery.

In the 1940’s there were grandsons coming to a helpful age. They were particularly helpful during the haying season and in getting cows from pasture plus mowing the lawn and delivering milk.

Not the Future Farmers of America but…. future manpower to help Grampa.

All cousins—left to right: Laurice Lord, Wayne Bennett, standing David Bennett with Bobby Lord in front, Donald Bennett. The pony’s name is Beauty—a gift to Wayne from his grandmother Muzzy Mulligan.

The old willow tree by Twitchell Brook was one of the most beautiful spots in Mayville enjoyed by the cows and people—many fine trout came from this brook.

Time off from farming—Songo Pond, shown left, Sunday River ledges, and Screw Auger Falls were family favorites for summer evening and Sunday afternoon picnics. Often when the day’s haying was done the Bennetts and Lords found Daisy Kimball’s Songo Pond beach recreational area the best place around for a picnic, swimming and boating. Photo left shows water slides that were part of the guest facilities—two boys in water are Laurice Lord and Donald Bennett, circa 1943.
Bethel Farmers have Good Method of Milk Delivery—(two columns wide article):

Calling Edward, Edwin, the article said Edwin Bennett, Bethel and his son, Elmer, have about as good a dairy business as is to be found. Not large, but big enough for two men to handle comfortably, and to get a living. The article briefly listed Edward’s long Grange commitment.

Years ago, Mr. Bennett established a milk route in Bethel and it has been going well ever since. He has two good sized customers that are very satisfactory. He supplies the Bethel Inn and the Dormitories at Gould Academy. These together with a good sized retail trade, make a good business. The wants of the two customers work in very well together. All through the winter the demand at the academy is steady. By the time school closes in June the business at the hotel picks up for the summer. Thus without it being necessary to increase his production by the purchase of more cows or to buy milk, Mr. Bennett is able to serve both customers satisfactorily.

Also noted that as the son has come into the business, it gives the father a chance to let up a bit, enjoy his Grange and other outside work. Besides the dairy business Mr. and Mrs. Bennett have opened their house for tourists and it has been a help along with the farm work. The new set of buildings, purchased to replace those lost in a fire, have a house well adapted for taking tourists and a barn well equipped for the dairy business.

1943—Edward and Minnie Bennett are 65. Time to make definite plans for retirement.

The time had come when the Bennetts said “Enough is enough”. They wanted a comfortable place to live in Bethel near other members of the family and close friends. They had plenty of land from which to pick a house lot. They had plenty of timber on the wood lots from which to get building material. War time conditions and restrictions made picking an exact date and year difficult, however.

Their son Harold and his wife Evelyn who lived in Arlington, Mass., were interested in returning to Bethel and taking over the farm and milk route. However, Harold was committed to manufacturing contracts that would not allow him to leave Arlington until 1945. The senior Bennetts picked a two acre lot on Route 2 that was located on the southern corner of their property and bordered the highway. Starting in the winter of 1943, Bethel logger, Jim Croteau, began cutting timber for a new house and an additional barn that came from the large wood lot in the west range of the Bennett’s property.

Besides manufacturing in his Arlington shop, Harold was also in the farm equipment business so he began planning on what new equipment he could afford to bring for replacing the horse drawn machinery in use on the farm. Farm equipment was partially exempted from wartime restrictions.

Harold and Evelyn (Ellie) would buy the farm, cattle, milk business, and equipment for $8,000 and pay Harold’s parents over a number of years. As it turned out the final payment was made in 1961, 16 years later, and only a few months before Harold died.

During the time the senior Bennetts were working on their new home, making it ready to occupy, they continued to enjoy their same bedroom and at-home living comforts without the 365 days a year call of farm work.

Part 1 Introduction    Read Part 3 of Riverside Farms 1945-1967    Home