

“Sampson” Year 1957

BY HEATHER [REDACTED]

One day, about fifty years ago, a cow was born. Of course back then it was normal. But the size of this calf was anything but normal. He weighed 175 pounds at birth, 85 pounds more than a calf should have been at his age, considering the kind of cow that he was (Holstein- Friesian). Warren named him Sampson, and Sampson had no idea that one day he would become the main course at party to welcome Warren [REDACTED] twin sons home from the services.

The story began when Alfred and Wilfred joined the army. They left their father and mother to tend to their farm in Guilford, Vermont.

“Warren, what are we going to do with Sampson? He’s already bigger than any of the other calves!” asked Nancy

“Yeah, I know. I’ve been thinking about that since the boys left. Maybe someday I will have an idea.” replied Warren.

One day, Warren was thinking about Sampson while he was working on his chores.

“Wait a minute!” Warren thought. “We could barbeque him when the boys come home!”

Warren hoped that it would not be too much longer because Sampson was growing up to be pretty big.

One day a notice was sent around that the boys would be coming home in about a month. That got everyone excited because other people had family members coming home too.

The day that Alfred and Wilfred got home, everyone sat down and planned the day that the party was going to happen and how much food and other things that they needed. They decided that they would sell tickets for people to come. Warren, Wilfred, Alfred and Nancy decided that they would hold the gathering on August 11. By the time of the barbeque Sampson weighed 2,125 pounds. They decided that they would sell tickets at \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. The family figured that all the family would want to come if they could make it, and most of the people in Guilford would come too. The next thing that the group had to decide was how much other food they

would need. They decided that they would get corn, potato salad, rolls, and things to drink. They also had to figure out the biggest problem; how they were going to cook Sampson, and who would cook him? They knew that it would take a long time to cook him but they had no idea how long.

One morning Warren got a call from Russell Dean and Russell asked him if he would like him to help cook Sampson. Raymond Stone also offered to help too. They decided that they would start to cook Sampson two days before the party so that there would be enough time.

As the weeks wore on there was a lot of work to do. Warren had a farm to take care of, and Alfred had a wife at home and a farm to take care of too. Everyone who helped to plan the party decided that they would buy 3,000 ears of corn and of course they gave Mr. Henry plenty of time to get all the ears picked. They also decided that Nancy would make more barbeque sauce as it was needed. Nancy and Warren bought 3,000 buns. They made 500 pounds of potato salad. Louis Pratt donated 2,000 cans of beer and soda for the occasion. They got the construction of the tent that they would cook Sampson in underway, and as things started to fall in place people started to call to ask for tickets for the barbeque. Most of the citizens of Guilford called ahead of time, or dropped by to pick up their tickets for the party.

On August 9th the boys started to get Sampson on the spit and over the fire. They had rented a crane so that they could lift the carcass over the fire. They attached a tractor to the spit so that they could turn Sampson all the time to make sure that Sampson was cooked evenly. Over the two days, every now and then someone would go out to the pit and put barbeque sauce on the beef. People started to come before the party even started so that they would not have to wait in line

,and the neighbors all just walked up to the farm. Everyone had a lot of fun during the party and many people came up to compliment the [REDACTED] for their work, and how good the food tasted.

After the party was over Warren, Nancy, and their sons and Alfred’s wife Frieda figured out that Sampson was devoured in about an hour, and most of the food had been eaten. They made more than enough money to pay for all the food and other expenses of the party. They had had about 1500 people at the farm the day before, and there were people from Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, Florida, Scotland, England, and Switzerland as well. They were sure that there had been people from other places as well, but they had found out those locations just talking to the people who were there.

Now jumping ahead around fifty years, the [REDACTED] still have parties just like that but on a smaller scale. Instead of a 2,125 pound cow, we just do a hind quarter. One thing that has not changed in our family is that when we throw a party it is fun and there are quite a few people there. My family knows how to have fun, but we always work hard and above all we are a responsible family. Well most of us, anyway. Warren [REDACTED] passed away about forty years ago, but his sons Alfred and Wilfred who are better known as Al and Bill still remember that day. Even though I never met my Great Grandfather I know that he had a lot of fun in his life, and he cared greatly for his family. The people who attended that party will never forget the great time that they had there and the people that they met.

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