

The McLaren Home in Vienna

In the 1900 Federal Census, Peter McLaren, his wife Mary Celia (Dixon) and their two daughters (ages two and five months) were living in Pleasant Township, about three miles southwest of Vienna, on land originally settled by Peter's father. In the 1905 South Dakota State Census they had moved to the Dixon land, just east of the town of Vienna. We can reasonably assume they moved into the house pictured below, as all the family pictures after 1905 are centered there.



The photo above appears in the baby book of John D. McLaren, Peter's eldest son. Written on the back: "1909(?)" John D. was born on April 13, 1912.

Here is the house as it appears today, in September 2003. The porch has been enclosed and siding added, but it is remarkably unchanged. It is surrounded by rolling fields of corn and beans, as it has been for more than one hundred years.





Again, from John's baby book; obviously taken on the front porch.



This is John and his older sister, Elsie.



In this photo Peter stands behind young John. Mary Celia stands behind their daughters, Marion, Elsie and Marjorie. On the back of this photo is an exact date: June 28, 1919.

Marjorie on piano, Marion holds the guitar, Mary Celia listens. In the living room of the home.





Here is the back of the current house with the camera looking west. All the land to the right of the house was part of the Dixon farm. Remembering the picture of young John D., sitting in his wagon, it isn't hard to imagine him romping in these fields.

