

# DECEMBER

December finally saw a slower pace to the work on the farm. There was time for playing cards and Sunday afternoon sledding if it snowed.

The Christmas season brought special baking like fruit cake. It was also the season for school programs and plays to celebrate the holiday.

Christmas was ushered in at midnight Mass. It was a long trip to Olean by sleigh and team. Often the Klitz's would start early in the day before it got dark and stop at Grandpa and Grandma Schrage's. The dog often went along to keep the driver's feet warm! After midnight Mass everyone enjoyed a special treat of sliced tongue and homemade bread. Christmas gifts usually included candy and fruit at each of the boys and Kathryn's place at the table.

Grandpa Klitz celebrated his birthday on December 15th and Grandma celebrated her birthday on December 23rd.

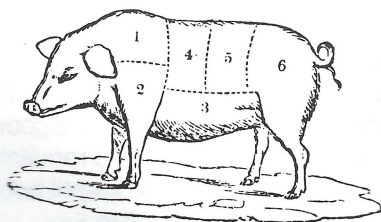


# JANUARY

Most people would think that January was a month to relax, but not on the Klitz farm. Grandpa and the boys would need to shell some of the corn that had been picked in the fall. The leftover corn cobs were a welcome sight to many people who lived in town and used them in the cook stove to provide heat for a cold house.

This was also a month to butcher. Often two hogs and one cow were processed. In early years all of the work from killing to cooking was done by Grandpa, Grandma and the boys. Later on the butcher from Dodge would come out and get the animals to the stage where they were ready to be cut up. After the meat was cut, they made sausage, rendered lard and made soap.

Rudy raised lambs when he was still at home and this was often the month that new baby lambs were born. Of course there was time for fun too. A snow storm often meant that there would be good sledding conditions for Sunday afternoons.



# FEBRUARY

February usually brought with it another blizzard, which meant working with the neighbors to clear the roads and open the yards for the animals. Even after the snow stopped and the roads were clear, a strong wind overnight would bring new drifts in the morning. February was the month for farm sales. Grandpa and the boys would go to the sales to look for tools and machinery they might need and it also gave them a chance to visit with neighbors and friends.

During February the ladies had a chance to get some quilting done. Quilts were not made only as works of art as they often are today, but rather for the purpose of keeping loved ones warm on a cold winter night. Clothing that was mostly worn out or out grown was often recycled into quilt patches. Feed came in printed cloth sacks which might have been used for quilts or clothing. Sugar and flour sacks also provided a source of fabric. The local general store carried fabric which might be purchased for special projects.

February's short days and long nights gave the Klitz's a chance to spend evening together playing cards, writing letters and enjoying Rudy's delicious popcorn!

