

***Birth, Death, and a Tractor: Connecting an Old Farm to a New Family* by Kelly Payson-Roopchand**

This book appealed to me because it could be the story of so many farms that surround Eureka. The author and her husband now farm land that was a family farm for generations, but not a family connected by blood to her own. Neophyte farmers, they have much to learn from the former farmers, and they graciously share their wisdom, while becoming “almost” grandparents to the couple’s toddler son. The small son is fascinated by the world of dirt, digging, and tractors, but his mother is drawn to the history of these acres and how life there on the farm changed with the decades before. Payson-Roopchand is a gifted writer and I enjoyed her descriptions of daily farming life, both in ages past and today. I don’t live on a farm, but my grandparents on both sides, and my ancestors before them, were nearly all farmers, so this was a small glimpse into what their lives were probably like. Very interesting nonfiction.