



# Farming was different on rebel side

By DIETER KRIEG

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Agriculture is the foundation of any civilization. During this Bicentennial Year LANCASTER FARMING has been saluting the area's farmers through feature stories on farms which have been in the same family for 100 years or more. This is the 27th such article in a continuing series.

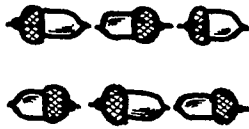
PYLESVILLE, Md. - Farming was a bit different south of the Mason-Dixon line, compared to a life on the farm up North. Whereas the settlers to the north depended largely on themselves and big families to get the work done, southern farmers often had access to blacks to help with the chores. Such was the case at a 120 acre farm near here which is presently owned by Major and Mrs. Tom Wilson.

Reluctant to use the term "slave," the Major explained that the several blacks on this farm lived with the family. They had separate quarters, but shared the same house and appeared in many of the family's pictures. Blacks stayed with the same families for generations, Wilson pointed out, and a few were still in the household when he was a boy. Remembering one lady in particular, he exclaimed "Irene used to make fabulous breakfasts - buckwheat cakes and sausage - we always had something good from Spring to Fall: cherries, strawberries, huckleberries, peaches, persimmons, etc." Irene was the daughter of a slave.

It was 193 years ago this month since the Wilson family came to America. Humphrey Wilson was the first, arriving on the shores of the upper Chesapeake Bay on Nov. 3, 1783

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*Bicentennial  
farm  
feature*



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