

239 years of history recalled in Martin deeds

MARTICVILLE — Looking down over the living

room on the Andrew H. and S. Virginia Martin farm is a

painting of the operation as it looked in 1910.



Painted just after the turn of the century, this picture in Andrew and Virginia Martin's home shows the farm as it looked about 75 years ago.



Andrew H. and S. Virginia Martin's farm at Marticville has several buildings, including a press house and a spring house, which date back two centuries.

But the history of this Ripequea farm goes back 239 years - to 1741 when the farm was acquired for 76 Pounds Sterling (the British coin of the realm then in use) from the sons of William Penn

Purchaser of the 100 acre farm at the bargain price was Ulrich Stauffer, Andrew Martin's grandfather seven generations ago

Andrew is the eighth generation on the farm. The title passes through his father's father and his great-grandmother's side of the family.

The bite of inflation on Lancaster County farmland

was being felt even 200 years ago. By 1804 the farm was transferred for 2100 Pounds Sterling, or 27 times the original purchase price.

The seller wasn't going to take any chances on continental paper money. The deed specifies payment in gold and silver coin

Little by little the farm was increased in size to 148 acres. The youngest Martin son works on the farm. Of the current generation's crop of seven children, four are working on dairy operations

Today the Martin farm is a dairy, a change from days past when it was a typical

self-sufficient farming unit with a few cows, a few hogs, a few chickens and the like.

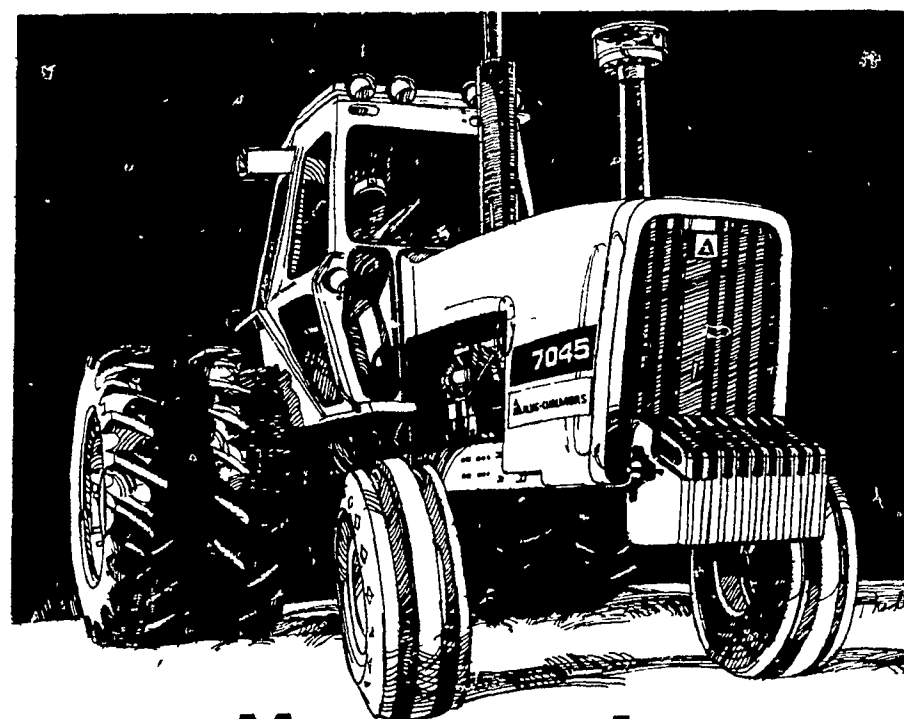
Of the buildings on the land only the summer house may be original. The present farm house was built in 1889

Much older is the unique barn, put up in 1834. It is a double-decked barn with three foot thick walls.

The press house has seen a lot of history, too. At one time it was used to make whuskey from corn and grain, an honorable old Pennsylvania farm product.

Later the press house was used to squeeze grapes for

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