

Passing down a family farming tradition

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

PLEASANT GROVE — It's a daily thanksgiving. It's that unique agrarian blood component that doctors have not been able to isolate or identify, that compels those raised on a farm to return to their roots. It's the closeness to neighbors, nature, and creation. And it's a parent's desire to see their children carry on a family tradition, a way of life.

It's all these things that in a miraculous fashion weave together the fabric that gives the family farm strength and unity enough to endure, even through the toughest farming times.

It is without a doubt this very farming heritage that fills the Charles Tindall family with pride as they speak of the generations of their family that have farmed their 160 acre farm in the small village of Pleasant Grove.

Charles "Chick" Tindall, his wife, Labertha, and two of their



children, Jeff and Delinda, still live in the house that was occupied by the first of Chick's ancestors to own the farm. A third son, Rick, lives nearby and works as a carpenter.

Only three miles north of the Mason-Dixon line the stone and brick house is rich with history. Made of native stone, the original stone farmhouse was built in 1814.

The walls were laid up with mud mortar, and could only be raised three feet at a time, allowing the mud mortar to dry and set completely before building higher. An addition was later constructed of conventional mortar and soft brick. The complete structure consists of more than 30 rooms.

The house and adjacent "double decker" barn have Peach Bottom slate roofs. Jeremiah B. Haines was the original owner of the house. He used the brick addition as a store from 1822 to 1843. For a time, around 1824 the residence was known as Huttons Tavern, serving both local residents and visitors traveling by boat on the nearby Susquehanna River.

Silas S. Herr, Tindall's maternal great grandfather and his brother David bought the farm in 1882. The Herr brothers lived on the farm for year prior to the purchase, paying a widow's dower to the widow of

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Jeff and Delinda, left, like their parents Charles and Labertha, have a love of the farm and home that has been in their family for 101 years. It will be up to them to uphold the family farming tradition.



Charles, Delinda and Labertha Tindall stand before their stone and brick home. The old brick end of the house was used as general store until 1969, and also served as the Little Britian Post Office.

Farm remains

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the farm with his family.

In addition to farming, Clarence is self-employed as a painter. He said the small size of the farm lends itself to his two occupations, explaining that as little as it (the farm) is, he can keep painting and vice versa.

In his farming operation, Clarence continues to grow the crops his great-great-grandfather raised. He also raises feeder cattle which he sells in the fall.

Just being together as a family is one reason why the Hershey family descendants have stayed on the

farm. "We're happy here," Clarence said and added with a laugh, "They'll probably have to carry me away from here."

Until then, Clarence said he plans to keep improving the farm and keep it stable. Adding a meadow fence and continuing to modernize both the farm buildings and the house, built in 1835, are just some of his goals.



The old "double decker barn" on the Tindall farm is made of hand hewn beams and wooden pins. Charles believes it was built over 150 years ago, and it is still used today for replacement heifers.



This 32-acre farm, owned by Clarence Shearer Jr., Washington Boro, has been in the Hershey family name for 101 years.



Elizabeth Shearer, left, and her daughter-in-law, Grace Shearer, represent the fourth and fifth generations to live on the farm purchased by Elizabeth's great-grandfather, Jacob Hershey.