



Arthur and Marian Reist enjoy collecting antiques such as this sleigh, which rests in front of the farm's red-brick house.



Marian Reist displays a surveyor's draft of the land purchased by Simon Reist in 1848.

History-Loving Couple

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The farm was split between the eldest two sons, Henry and Linnaeus, Arthur's grandfather. Linnaeus took the northern half of the property, where there weren't any buildings. Within three years, before Linnaeus was 21 years old, he had built a tobacco shed, barn, and brick house for himself and his bride, Susan Herr Landis Reist.

"Susan lived on a noble and beautiful large farm, Windam, consisting of 14 buildings near Millersville," said Arthur. "She came from a prominent and old, established family having connections with Hans Herr, the original settler of Lancaster County."

Home built on wooded hill

Linnaeus' family urged him to build his home in the center of his land, but that didn't suit him. "He wanted to build his house on the northern edge, here on the hill, which was wooded," Arthur explained. "You can see Lancaster, Ephrata Mountain, the river hills in southern Lancaster County, Leola, and Cannon Mountain in Brickerville. We give hay rides, and people can't believe that we can see as far as we do."

The two-story red brick house was built among red oak and tulip poplar trees, thereby prompting Susan to name her new home Oak Lawn Farm.

The brick house now is home for Arthur's son, Arthur E., and his wife, Rachel, and their family. Arthur and Marian live in the white frame tenant house that Linnaeus built in 1878 about 300 feet from the main home.

Linnaeus went on to become prominent in Lancaster County serving as a bank director, county commissioner, county fair director, and a leader in several agricultural organizations.

Susan and Linnaeus had three children of which the eldest, Linnaeus L., is Arthur's father. In 1889 Linnaeus purchased an adjoining 57-acre farm on which his son, John, a tobacco merchant and farmer, settled on. Arthur's father eventually purchased the home farm in 1941. Anna, Arthur's aunt, was a missionary in Korea for most of her life.

Arthur's father married Frances and together had six children, and in 1983 the farm was purchased by Arthur, who still works the farm with his sons, Arthur and Alfred, who raise prize-winning registered Belgian horses. The farm also produces tobacco, corn, alfalfa, and pumpkins.

Farmer-turned-author

In the mid 1970s, Arthur put some Lancaster County history on paper by publishing a booklet in which he told the story of tobacco, specifically Lancaster County-grown tobacco. Some of the booklet's illustrations come from Arthur's collection of antiques.

One year later, Arthur penned a history of the Conestoga wagon, a subject he felt close to because one of his ancestors, Jacob Reist, was a wagon driver accompanying the ill-fated Braddock military expedition into western Pennsylvania during the campaign of 1755. Arthur is fortunate enough to own a Conestoga wagon.

Both books are available for purchase by writing to the Reists at 1050 Eden Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601. The tobacco book is \$5, while the Conestoga Wagon booklet costs \$6.

Antique collection

About 35 years ago Arthur and Marian began collecting antiques. While their collection is extensive, it isn't quite as large as that of Arthur's relatives, Henry and George Landis, whose collection led to the founding of the Pennsylvania Farm Museum at

Landis Valley. Arthur helped to start the Sperry New Holland museum.

At any one time, parts of the Reists' collection are on loan to museums. In addition, they rent out various

pieces, especially their horse-drawn vehicles.

Arthur has served on the board of the Heritage Center Museum in Lancaster and is on the board of the Pennsylvania Farm Museum.

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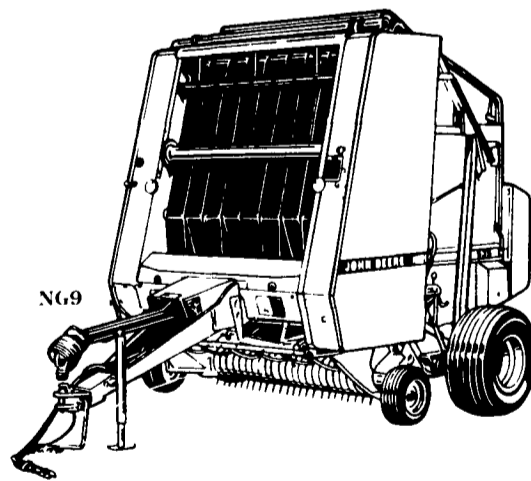
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