



*This postcard sent to Lyman B. Speaker in Hills Grove is of a 1909 wheat field in No. Dakota that yielded 24 1/2 bushels per acre and claimed the Wells & Dickey Co. of Minn. could do the same for Mr. Speaker. Thus, advertising yield to promote seed product in Pennsylvania.*

Nov. 9, 2016

## **TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting**

Darwin and Phyllis Higley attended the Century

Farm awards at the Sullivan County Conservation District annual dinner meeting in October. They received their sign and certificate for 149 years of family owned farm land. They didn't speak about their farm's history but later that evening were asked if they'd be willing to tell some of the history of the farm for the museum archives. "Oh yes" was the reply and we all parted ways. Then there came in the mail to the museum a week later a hand written history from Phyllis. She has given permission that we transcribe it here in this article. She also gave permission that we can tell you she was born in 1936, that's 80 years young. So here is their story:

"As all happy stories start – Once upon a time there was a piece of land in Sullivan County, Fox township, near Shunk, called Piatt. As the story goes it was passed to three minor children. The attorney from New York state came to combine the three parcels into one. Attorney B. Morris Ellis and J. George Heartung sold it to my great grandpa, Christian Caseman in 1867. My great great grandpa Jacob Caseman always lived with great grandpa Christian. He paid the land tax of \$2.20. On Nov. 17, 1908 it passed to my grandpa George Caseman. Sept. 7, 1943 it passed to my mother (Luetta Brown) and my father Floyd Caseman.

"The four rooms made of logs, two downstairs, 2 upstairs is where we live today, my parents added a living room, store room and a downstairs bedroom.

"On Dec. 10, 1957 we bought the farm, added an apartment, kitchen and a porch for my parents along with the bedroom and bathroom down stairs. Our son Clayton lives in the apartment now making six generations.

"Every morning when I wake up in the upstairs bedroom I was born in almost 80 years ago.

"Darwin and I raised out six children by milking cows and making hay. It's hard work but always enjoyed the farm.

"Thanks to the Sullivan Co. Historical Society. We will hang our Century Farm sign of 149 years with pride. And may we all live happily ever after, Thank You, Phyllis and Darwin Higley."

Now, isn't that sweet? If you could've seen the pride that they walked up to the podium with then you'd understand just a bit of the pride families have in the land they've toiled on. This project has been a labor of love all the way around.