Louis and Florence Hauck  
By Fred Hauck

Louis and Florence met in about 1920. Louis grew up on his father’s farm near Luthersburg, PA. His father, Daniel W. Hauck, was a blacksmith by trade, and many of his blacksmith skills were passed on to Louis. On our farm, we had the wagon, anvil, forge and blower, and other tools that were passed from father to son. Those tools were used now and then, but the wagon was used extensively for about 18 years.

Florence was raised in Curwensville, PA. Her father was a Raleigh Man, and sold farm supplies from a wagon drawn by a team of mules.

During their courtship, they were driving in my dad’s Model T Ford when they ran over a log on the road and tipped the car on its side. They pushed it back on its wheels and had a good story to tell for many years.

The first child, Louise, was born at the Daniel Hauck homestead in 1922, in a room above the kitchen. In 1923 they went to Vermont for one year to work on a tunnel construction job. Florence bought a Gearhart Knitting machine and made socks while in Vermont. For a while, they lived in Luthersburg, PA, then moved to Bridgeport, just a mile from the farm. Dean was born in Luthersburg.

The twenty-five acres of woodland that was turned into a farm was purchased in about 1927. Louis salvaged a one room school house to build the house. A third child, Henry, born in 1927, lived but one year. Louis built a tractor from his Model T and began clearing land for crops. I was born at the farm in November, 1930, during a heavy snow fall. The doctor had to walk a half mile through 11 inches of snow to attend the delivery. Ernest was born in 1936 and Gretchen in 1937. The small house was getting a bit crowded.

The Louis Hauck farm was located about two miles west of Curwensville, PA. The 25 acre farm was adjoined on the north by Ned Spencer’s 140 acres, on the east by Clarence Bell’s 30 acres, on the west by Amos Thomas’ 5

Louis on a load of loose hay, skillfully built to withstand side hills and rough roads. The horse, Judy, is the last horse used for farm work before buying a Farmall Tractor in 1946. The horse stopped to rest in our driveway, about 100 yards from the barn. The wagon came from the Daniel Hauck homestead. Photo taken about 1944.

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acres, and all these were surrounded by huge acre-age of wood lands owned by one land owner. My Uncle Charlie Hauck, his wife Martha, and daughters, Donna and Ruth, lived at the western edge of our farm. Half of our farm was woodland and the other half was under cultivation or pasture. The rocky and hilly terrain made cultivation of crops a challenge. A mine shaft was dug into the side hill to provide coal for home use. The 14 inch vein of soft coal was not productive enough for commercial mining. Dad worked at the local brick yard and ran the farm on spare time. He was busy at all times. The family was kept busy tending cows, pigs, chickens and doing the farming chores. All the heavy farming was done with one horse.

A chicken house, outhouse and horse stable were built very early.

In 1933, a railroad steam engine set fire to the woods in the valley south of our house. The fire moved up hill toward the house and chicken coupe, and it prompted mother to send the kids over to Ned Spencer’s home to wait for the fire to run it’s course. It burned out after it burned most of the trees above the barn. None of our buildings were lost. The following year, dad built a two-story barn. I remember the barn under construction. While the roof was being nailed down, I climbed up to a loft and looked through a knot hole where my uncle Charlie was driving nails. He spit tobacco juice in my eye, and I can tell you, tobacco juice in the eye stings like the dickens. Over the years, additional enclosures were added. A milking stall for 4 cows was attached on the south. On the west side a roof was built to shelter pigs, and on the east, a corn crib was hung on the side of the barn wall. In 1938, a silo was built on the north corner, and in 1943, a granary nearby.

About 200 feet up hill from the house a spring collected underground water, so water was piped to the kitchen. The water was always clean, cool and great tasting.

About a half acre was used for a garden, and the rest of the cleared land was put in buckwheat or oats to “tame” the soil. Stumps were still being pulled in the 1950s.

In 1940, Louis and Florence joined other farmers and opened a farm market in Curwensville. We made three freezers of ice cream, baked items, meat and eggs, plus a variety of farm produce for the market.

Louise went for nurses training and Dean left for the army as soon as they left high school.
That left me to do the major lifting.

I helped dad with the farming until age 17, then soon joined the Air Force. Ernest was taking over the lifting by then. Before long, Ernest and Gretchen married and left the farm.

In 1945, Louis had his first heart attack. He had rheumatic fever when young, which was blamed for his weakened heart. He lived to age 66. Florence learned to drive at age 60. Mother lived on the farm until she had a stroke and went to a nursing home in Curwensville. She passed away at age 96.

There is lots more to write about Louis and Florence. More will be added to their story as time permits. Old pictures will be added to show features of the farm land and buildings. The pictures are of vehicles, etc., but unknowingly recorded loads of information about things already mentioned.

This snapshot of Fred’ Model A Ford, taken in late fall of 1946, includes a wall of the farm house on the left and in the back ground, the outhouse and chicken coup. The small building seen behind the Ford is the smokehouse constructed in the early 40s. The tall pin oak had a swing on the bottom limb and was used for climbing practice regularly. To the right of the pole, the house in the far distance belonged to uncle Charlie Hauck, Louis’ younger brother. The snow covered field way back behind the Ford belonged to Amos Thomas. The barn built in 1934 was about 50 feet to the right of the power pole.

The snapshot of the Model T was taken in about 1939 while it was parked in uncle Charlie’s driveway. The girl standing on the running board is Donna Hauck. The camera was facing east toward the Louis Hauck farm, which gave a glimpse of how the land and buildings were arranged. The woods to the left in the picture were burned by the fire in 1934, and the fence posts below the woods mark a fenced in pasture with numerous stumps from early land clearing. The stumps were still being removed as late as 1950. Our barn and silo are visible far right. The shadows on the barn, silo and under the Model T show the picture was taken about 1:00 or 2:00 PM on a bright mid-summer day. On the right side of the barn, the lean-to addition was the cow stall where four cows could be milked and kept over night. Finally, a short distance behind the Model T there is a fenced in area of low shrubs where we had pigs for several years.

The Model A and Model T in these pictures prompted the author to write detailed stories of growing up on the farm. Those stories are published elsewhere in the “adventures” of a farm boy.