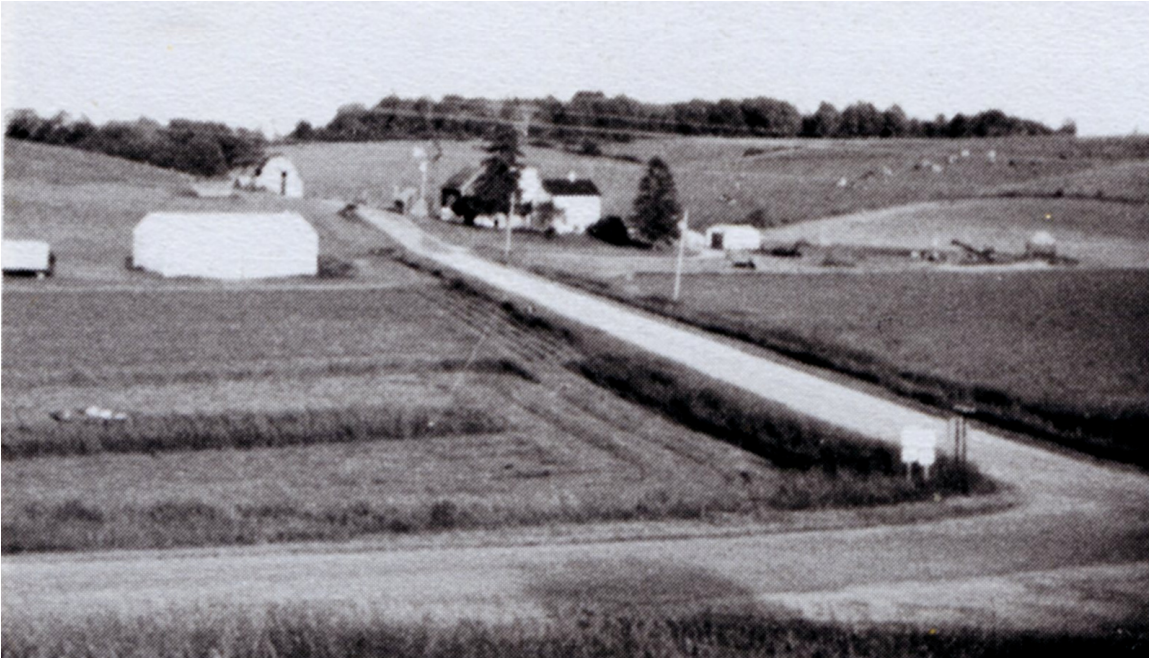


HAROLD AND STELLA (SIMPSON) SHIREMAN

Our families are both of English descent.



Shireman Farm — Sleepy Valley Road in Bloom Township

John Shireman married Harriet Durnford. Their children were William, Dick, Loys, Percy, Minnie and Charles. Dick and Loys followed their father in the veterinary profession. William and Percy became farmers.

Percy married Nellie Willis. Their first child, Hattie, died as a small child. Then came Edna, George, Harold, Gerald, Ralph and Robert. My great-great-grandfather, John Simpson, was a resident of Durnham County in England. His son, Henry, came to America in 1855 and settled in Richland County in Henrietta Township. My grandfather, Joseph, a son of Henry, married Aphia Woodman in 1877. Eight sons and one daughter were born to them on the original homestead: Clint, George, Victor, Raymond, Harry, Edward, Joseph, Mabel, and Frank. Three other children died young. Victor, my father, married Bertha McClaren in 1910. They bought a farm in the valley. At one time all the farms in the valley were owned by Simpsons. My parents had six daughters and one son.

Harold and I were both born in Richland County — Harold on the William Shireman farm on Horse Creek in the Town of Marshall,

and I in Simpson Valley in the Town of Henrietta. We were married in 1936 and lived in a small two-room house on his father's farm in the southwest part of Bloom Township. There was no electricity or water in the house. Later his parents moved to Richland Center and we moved into the big house. In due time the two-room house was torn down. At first we worked for wages. After we had worked long enough to have half interest in the cows, we rented the farm. Our children were born between the years 1937 and 1951: Harold, Jr., JoAnn, Jean, Joy and Justin. We have ten grandchildren.

After Harold's father's death in 1952, we bought the 160-acre farm from his mother. Following many years of working hard, saving and buying only what was necessary, we owned it. During these years, much work on the buildings was done to keep them in useable condition. In 1968, 40 acres were sold to Ed and Esther Beilfuss of Des Plaines, Illinois. They moved a mobile home there. Unfortunately, Ed passed away suddenly the next year. Esther has kept the land. Their family of two daughters and their husbands and five grandchildren enjoy their farm. They are good neighbors.

As time passed, we were not able to do the hard work. I worked at St. Francis Medical Center in LaCrosse as a ward secretary for 14 years. In 1982, Harold entered Lutheran Hospital with a diagnosis of cancer. After one month in the hospital and six weeks in the Hillview Nursing Home, he passed away. I retired and moved to Richland Center. Now the farm has others to care for it. Our daughter and her husband, Joy and Ray Propp, are trying to make a living there as so many other young people are in Richland County.

Submitted by Stella (Simpson) Shireman