



Hay Slide

The apparatus with slats, shown in the picture above, is a hay slide. It is suspended under the peak by two separate tracks beneath the hay carrier track. To dump the loose hay where wanted, the slide is moved either back or forth and tilted right or left before the carrier with hay is tripped.

It was used in the days when hay was hauled to the barn loose and stored in the hay mow. The hay was loaded in the field by a team of horses pulling a hay wagon pulling a hay loader. So the farmer could stack the hay from the loader onto the wagon by himself, the horses followed the windrow without being guided. After being loaded, the hay wagon is driven into barn to unload. With the help of a grabble fork, hay carrier, pulleys, rope, and a hand led horse, the hay is pulled up to the ridge and travels down the track until tripped unto the hay slide. The hay now easily slides off where wanted without hay mowing in the barn by hand. Without the hay slide, one or two men with pitch forks would be needed to spread the hay from the middle. Along with the attached corn crib, it was one of the many labor saving devices implemented by Schoulte.

By Ivan E. Hardt President of Hardt Pioneer Farms, Inc. 2013

proof



S.H.F. SCHOULTE (12/5/1841-10/12/1921)

S.H.F. Schoulte was born in Dubuque, Iowa in 1841. Henry, as he was known by his friends, reached manhood on his parents farm in Garnavillo township while being educated by local schools and later at Sinsinawa College, Sinsinawa, WS. He became very active in public affairs and was elected to various offices including Clayton County Supervisor. He was appointed commissioner responsible for building the famous Keystone Bridge in Elkader. He also was responsible for two stone arch bridges built next to his farm on Kayak Road that remain today.

In 1871 he purchased this farm of 315 acres and built this barn in 1875 for his livestock. Later with the help of labor saving devices he developed, 14 hired men and women, and 40 horses, he was able to expand his farming operation to over 1000 acres. A much larger barn was built for his cattle and this barn became a Horse Barn to stable 40 horses. According to an excerpt in 1882 Clayton County History, **“He has made agriculture a financial success, and his farm shows evidence of a master hand, containing many excellent improvements and conveniences not found on the average farm.”**

After dividing his holdings for his sons, his estate contained 240 acres. After remaining in the estate for 20 years, my parents, Ewald and Marie Hardt, bought the farm in 1940. It became part of Hardt Pioneer Farms, Inc. in 1986.



1950 Tornado Damage

You are viewing damage caused by a powerful tornado that traveled a straight line for miles from southwest to the northeast until it reached a point north of farm of Francis Schoulte, Grandson of S.H.F. Schoulte. For some unknown reason, the tornado did a right angle turn and damaged Francis's Barn and other buildings. It continued on to cause damage shown in picture above. Each one of the small white specks represent hundreds of White Pine stumps beginning with 10 feet tall until just before the barns 15 feet tall as the tornado was lifting and starting to dissipate. A characteristic of White Pine is that it has a very long tap root. This prevents it from being uprooted by a strong wind, like an oak or maple tree, but its trunk can be snapped in two as shown. Other damage included a flatten windmill and machine shed, the Horse Barn moved a foot off its foundation, and the 6' x 6' x 10' cupola weighing a ton or more was sucked out of the big barn* and dumped upside down 75 feet away on top of cattle shed.

The big cleanup question was, “How in the world does one get rid of the mess caused by hundreds of dead White Pine Trees?”. My Dad made lemon aid out of lemons. He hired Willard Tuecke to move in with his portable saw mill. He with his helpers sawed up all the trees into dimensional lumber. It was stacked on the home farm to dry and later sold.

*Big Barn struck by lightning and burnt to ground in 1995.

Restoration made possible by Iowa Barn Foundation, Hardt Pioneer Farms, Inc., and Ryan Bacon, Contractor.