

CLARENCE O. FLOOK, SR. FAMILY AND DAIRY FARM HISTORY

MOOSEUM FARMS # 42 & 43

BOYDS AND GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND

By
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The Clarence Flook family who filled out the “MOOseum Template of Questions” for developing a family and dairy farm history. In 2013, Bill Duvall interviewed Clarence O. Flook, Sr. and his son Clarence O. Flook, Jr. for material for Bill’s write-up for the James and Macie King Farm Family History. More recently, Richard Rowe interviewed Natalie Flook Parnell and her father Clarence O. Flook, Jr. to gather additional information and photographs.

Appreciation

The King Barn Dairy MOOseum in Boyds, Maryland is mapping and collecting the dairy farm histories of the families that shipped milk or sold milk and cream in Montgomery County Maryland. The history of the two Flook Farms was made possible by the information, photographs, remembrances, and other help and input received from the Clarence Flook family. The result is this family and dairy farm history. The King Barn Dairy MOOseum is very grateful and appreciative of the efforts of all of those who participated in helping us write and capture and share part of Montgomery County’s rich dairy farm history.

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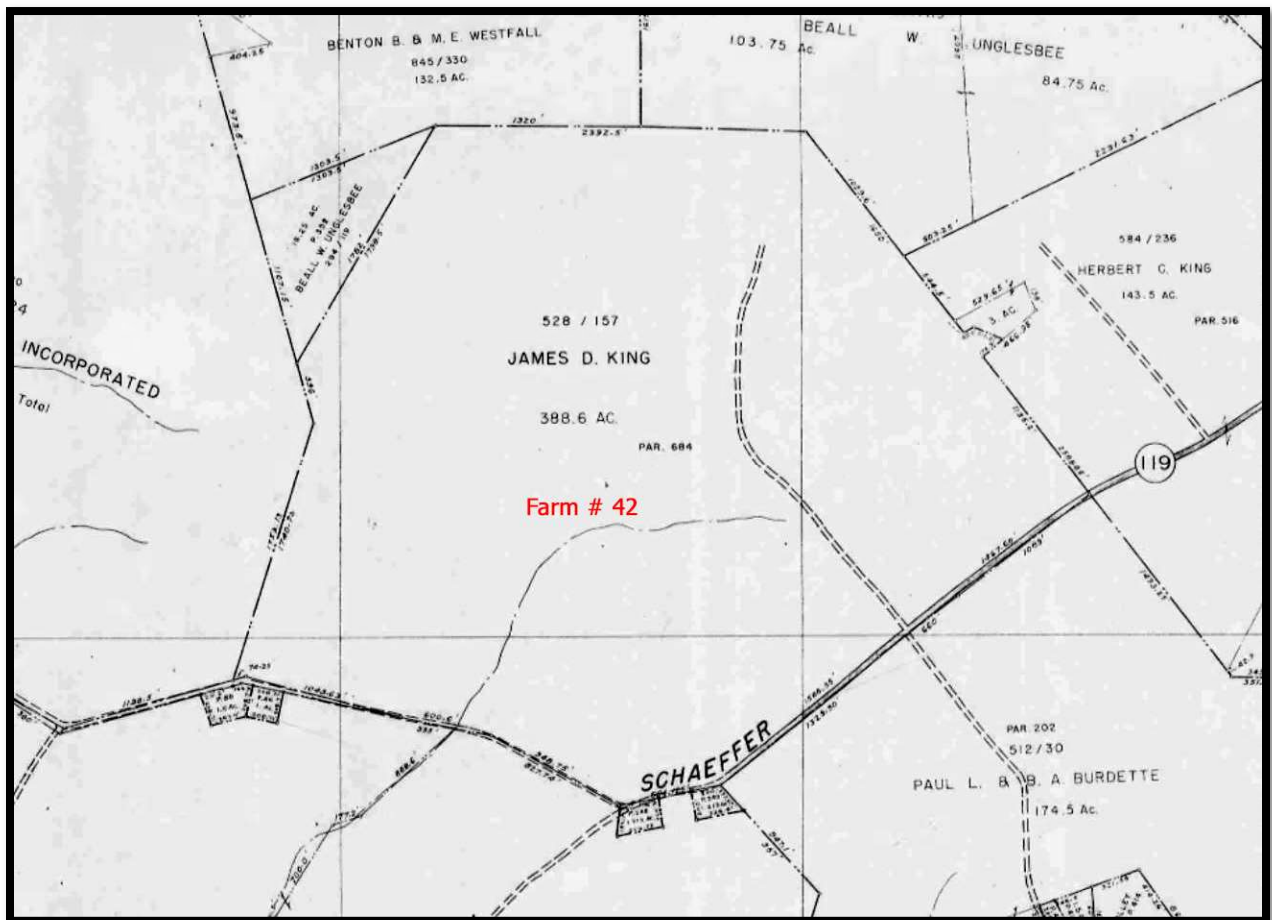
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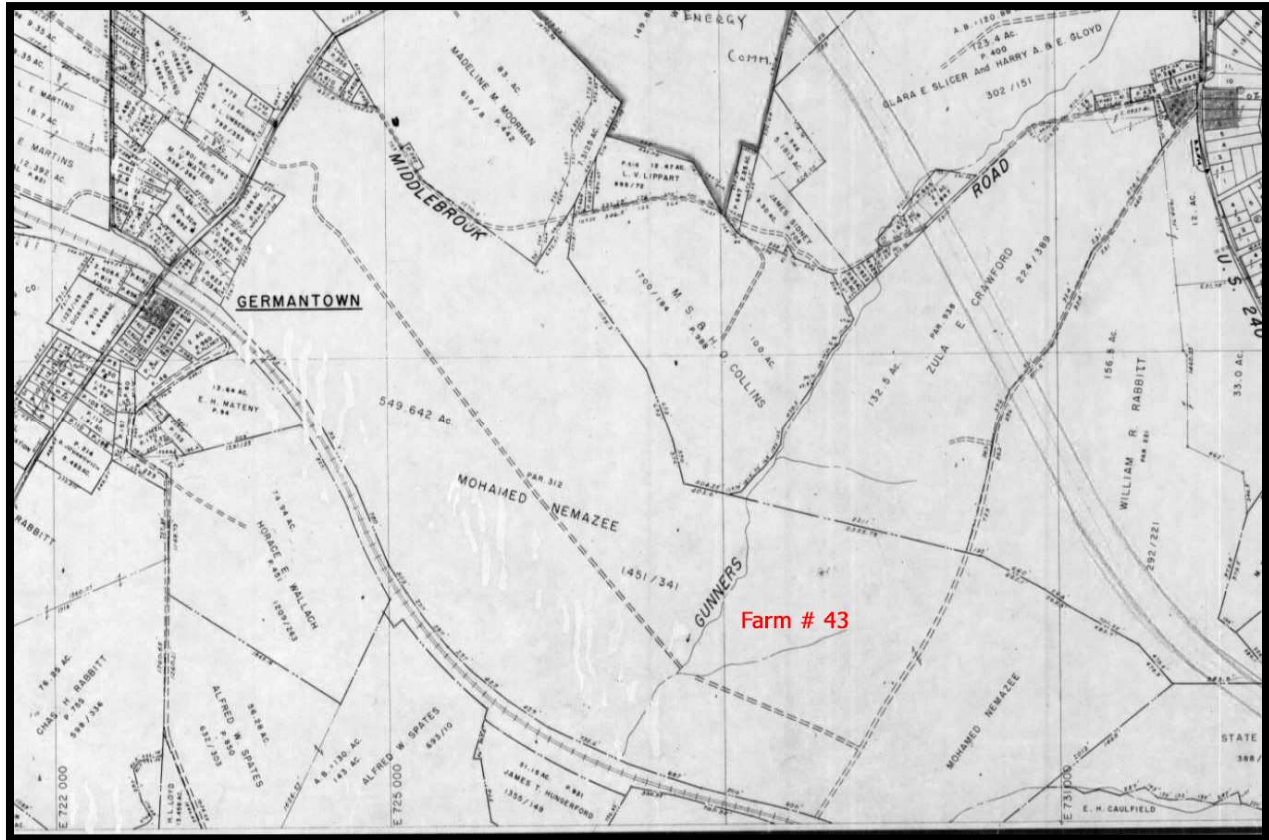
The Farms

The Clarence Flook family rented two dairy farms simultaneously; one originally owned by James D. and Macie King on Schaeffer Road in Boyds (MOOseum Farm # 42) and the other on Germantown Road in Germantown owned by Montgomery County Board of Education (Farm # 43 - formerly owned by the Hall of Fame pitcher Walter P. (“Big Train”) Johnson and later called Hassan’s Farm). The following maps show the farms as depicted in the 1956 Upper Montgomery County Land Use Map. Prior to renting the King farm, Mr. Flook (a life-long dairy man) rented the John Gaines dairy farm (Farm # 134) on the corner of Cattail Road and Rt. 28 near Poolesville.



Clarence Flook rented the James D. King farm from James’ widow, Macie King, for four years (1959 – 1963) and then from a series of owners (e.g., John Steele,

Sam Eig, and the Maryland-National Capitol Park Planning Commission (1963 – 1980).



Mr. Flook rented Hassan's Farm 1970 to about 1980 from Montgomery County.

The Flook Family

Clarence Oscar Flook, Sr. (also known as "Jack"), was born September 4, 1918 in Myersville, Maryland and died April 20, 2015. His wife, Deloris Geraldine (Young) Flook (also known as "Mary") was born February 6, 1920 in Omaha, Nebraska and died February 18, 2010. They are both buried in Boonsboro Cemetery, Boonsboro, Maryland. The Flooks had three children: Shirley (Flook) Rexroad, born March 12, 1940; Clarence Oscar Flook, Jr. (also known as "Pete"), born October 1, 1943; Richard Eugene Flook (also known as "Rick") born July 15, 1951. Natalie Renee (Flook) Parnell, daughter of Pete, was born August 23, 1963.

Clarence Flook's parents were Oscar Leslie Flook (born 1891, died 1949) and Della L. (Hooper) Flook (born 1891, died 1951). Both are buried in the Mt. Zion Methodist Church Cemetery in Myersville, Maryland. Copies of Clarence's and

Deloris' obituaries can be found in Appendices B and C, respectively. Below is a photo showing (L-R) Clarence Flook's son Pete, Clarence at age 94, and Bill Duvall (MOOseum researcher) when Bill interviewed Clarence and Pete in 2013 in Walkersville, Maryland. Next to that photo is one of Natalie, Chris, Deloris, and Laura taken in 2011.



The following photos are Clarence and Deloris and a group shot (left to right and back to front) of Pete, Rick, Jackie (Joseph Rexroad), Nancy (married to Pete), Shirley (married to Jackie), and Natalie in the front row.



Farm Buildings

The King Farm buildings consisted of a large 72 stanchion cow barn, a dairy, three silos, a 50 stanchion bank barn, a two-sided corn crib with equipment shelter in between, a loafing shed, various storage buildings, the main house, and three



tenant houses. The 72 stanchion cow barn, the dairy building, and two (replacement) silos are still in existence and are being used as the King Barn Dairy MOOseum. The corn crib was preserved and relocated to

the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary on Mt. Nebo Road outside Poolesville, Maryland where it can be seen today. Here are some photos of the farm buildings



provided by Natalie Flook Parnell and Bill Duvall. They show the 72 stanchion cow barn (above), the 50 stanchion bank barn, and the corn crib. We do not know the exact configuration of the buildings on

Hassan's Farm, but a 1938 aerial photo at the Germantown Historical Society shows one large cow barn, three smaller barns and several out buildings in addition to the main house and the four tenant houses along Germantown Road. The next



photo, from the Library of Congress collection, shows Walter Johnson inside his cow barn which is likely the same one used by Clarence Flook and his dairymen.



The following photo, courtesy of the Germantown Historical Society, shows a small boy and some out buildings on Hassan's Farm in the Walter Johnson era.



Dairy Operation

The Flocks milked grade dairy cows, primarily Holsteins, with some Guernseys and Ayrshires on the two farms over a period of 22 years from 1959 to 1980. They had 140 cows on the old King farm and 100 cows on Hassan's Farm. Lucian Hensley ran Hassan's Farm for Mr. Flook. They belonged to the Maryland – Virginia Milk Producers Association. The milk truck drivers' names were Howard Repass and Jake Johnson. They used De Lavall vacuum milkers and stainless steel cooling tanks. Farm help included Lucian Hensley, Stonewall Nichols, and Donnie McCracken among many other hardworking farmhands over the years.

They had a bull and used natural insemination to breed new cows. They bought supplementary feed from Bowman's Mill, Liberty Mill, and Bryants. Appendix E shows that Clarence Flook qualified for a bonus from the MD-VA Milk Producers Association in 1952.

Raising Hogs and Butchering

They raised some hogs for sale, saving a few for family use.

Crops Raised on the Farm

The Flocks raised orchard grass, timothy, alfalfa, and field corn. They filled three silos on the King farm with these crops.

Farm Equipment and Operations

They had four tractors: International 1466, 1066, and 806 as well as a Farmall H. They always had Ford pick-up trucks in addition to a New Holland hay baler, and a Kenworth tractor trailer for the tractor pull contests. Here is a photo of an International 1466 tractor on the farm.



Gardens

The family had a large garden which Deloris planted and Clarence weeded. I assume the children weeded, too. The produce from the garden was used by the family and tenants rather than being sold outside the farm.

House and Home

The King farm had four houses: the large King family house in which the Flook family also lived and three tenant houses. All the houses were built after the devastating fire in 1926. Pictured here are the main house and one of the tenant houses (photos courtesy of Bill Duvall). Although the main house is gone, there is a very good replica of it, built by MOOseum volunteer Jack Davis, that can be seen in the King Barn Dairy MOOseum.



The next photo shows one of the tenant houses on the King Farm.



The photo below shows the house on the Hassan Farm where Walter Johnson and, perhaps, Lucien Hensley (Mr. Flook's farm manager) lived. (Photo courtesy of the Germantown Historical Society.)



Tractor Pulling

The Flooks were avid participants in tractor pulling events in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Clarence's son, Richard, drove using the International 1466 and 1066 tractors winning numerous trophies at various events. Clarence Flook also attended mega tractor pulls in Louisville, Kentucky every year with a



group of local farmers/friends. This photo shows many of the trophies won by the Flook family.

Horses

The Flook family did not have work horses, but had as many as 30 horses roaming the farm. The most beloved of the horses were Ginger (belonging to Deloris), Thunder (belonging to Pete), Blaze (belonging to Rick), and Sonji (belonging to Natalie). Thunder, a mare that was fast, raced at the fair and lived to be 30 years old. Below is a photo of Thunder's offspring, Star, and her colt.

The photo below left shows Blaze. The next has Nancy riding Thunder in 1967. The final horse photo (lower right) is Thunder with two offspring, Hotshot and Miss Little Thunder. This latter photo also has some of the King Farm buildings in background.



Appendix A – Family Remembrances

1. One day while Clarence was out in a far field cutting corn, the blade became jammed, so he exited the tractor to check the problem and free the debris from underneath. Suddenly, the blades were active again and Jack was injured. He then began the long walk through the fields back to the house and knocked on the open door until Deloris came to see what visitor she may have and there she found Clarence bleeding and missing three fingers including his wedding ring finger. He was scooped up and taken to the hospital, but they were not able to recover and reattach any of the fingers. From that day forward Jack worked with a forefinger and thumb on his left hand and he was never able to wear a wedding band again.
2. Life on the farm was a tough never-ending job; always flies and the smell of manure or a fresh crop. Though it was also a place of togetherness with family dinners every Sunday, whether riding horses or motorcycles and even a snow mobile, a great time and a never-ending trail of wonderful memories will live on forever at the King Farm for the Flook family and all of those who shared a hot summers day on that wonderful farm.
3. Deloris (“Mary”), originally from Nebraska, migrated east with her family of eight by Model A Ford to the Boonsboro area. Jack’s family, originally from Virginia, moved to Myersville where Jack was born and that’s where Jack started his dairy life helping on the farm and delivering milk to Myersville residents by horse and buggy.

Clarence (“Jack”) aspired to run his own farm and did so when the opportunity came for Clarence to move the family to Montgomery County to rent, first the Gaines Farm, then the King Farm. After years of success, another opportunity to expand operations arose at the Hassan Farm which was located on the corner of Route 118 and Middlebrook Roads. Part of this farm was to be the future site of Seneca Valley High School. This brought about a new set of challenges for Clarence at the Hassan Farm with the high schoolers sneaking over to explore and smoke in the bank barn.

Clarence needed a trusted employee to lead at the Hassan Farm and so Lucian Hensley moved his family from the King Farm to the Hassan Farm to be Clarence’s right hand man on premises. There Lucian and the farmhands milked another 100 cows.

At that time the Flook's multi-farm operation was one of the largest in the area, but there was still something missing. Clarence and Deloris wanted to own their own farm. In 1980 they purchased a farm on New Design Road in Frederick County MD. There Clarence installed a state-of-the-art automated milking parlor and continued operations until retiring in 1988 when Clarence and Deloris settled in Middletown, MD to live out their golden years.

With a lot of hard work and dedication Clarence and Deloris realized their dreams of running a successful business, owning their own farm and raising a beautiful family along the way.

Appendix B – Obituaries for Clarence O. Flook, Sr.

“**Clarence O. Flook, Sr.**, 96, of Middletown, Maryland, passed from this life on Monday, April 20, 2015 at the Frederick Memorial Hospital in Frederick, Maryland.

Born on September 4, 1918, in Myersville, Maryland, he was the son of the late Oscar L. and Della L. (Hooper) Flook. His wife of 72 years, Deloris G. (Young) Flook, preceded him in death on February 18, 2013.

Clarence was a lifetime dairy farmer.

He was member of the Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association for 62 years and the Boonsboro Bible Church in Boonsboro, Maryland.

He is survived by three children, Shirley Rexroad and husband Joseph of Sparks, Maryland, Clarence O. Flook, Jr. of Gaithersburg, Maryland, and Richard E. Flook of Middletown; three grandchildren, Natalie Parnell of Poolesville, Maryland, Laura Barrow of Frederick, and Christopher Flook in Washington, DC; and two great grandchildren, Garrett Zimmerman of Poolesville, and Travis Flook, of Washington, DC.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Regina Babington and Catherine Rice.

A funeral ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2015, at the Bast-Stauffer Funeral Home, 7606 Old National Pike in Boonsboro. Rev. Ernest G. Best will officiate. Final resting place ceremonies will follow at the Boonsboro Cemetery.”

Appendix C – Obituary for Deloris G. (Young) Flook

“Deloris G. (Young) Flook, 93, of Middletown, Maryland, passed from this life on Monday, February 18, 2013 at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

Born on February 6, 1920, in Omaha, Nebraska, she was the daughter of the late James Cicero and Effie (Spencer) Young.

She helped on the family dairy farm and enjoyed going to her grandchildren's sporting events. She will be fondly remembered for her love of dogs and Welsh ponies.

Deloris was a member of the Boonsboro Bible Church.

She is survived by her loving husband of 72 years, Clarence O. Flook; one daughter, Shirley Rexroad and husband Joseph of Sparks, Maryland; two sons, Richard E. Flook of Middletown, and Clarence O. Flook, Jr. of Gaithersburg, Maryland; one sister, Bonita Shank of Boonsboro, Maryland; three grandchildren, Natalie Parnell of Poolesville, Maryland, Laura Barrow of Frederick, and Christopher Flook of Washington, DC; two great- grandsons, Garrett Zimmerman of Poolesville and Travis Flook of Washington, DC. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Virginia M. Green; and five brothers, Willie L., James, Raymond E., Arnold S. and Dean R. Young.

A funeral ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2013 at the Bast-Stauffer Funeral Home, 7606 Old National Pike in Boonsboro. Rev. Robert D. Welty will officiate. Final resting place ceremonies will follow at the Boonsboro Cemetery.”

Appendix D – James D. and Macie King Featured Farm Reunion Photograph

This is a photograph taken on August 22, 2013 at the King Barn Dairy MOOseum on the occasion of the James D. and Macie King Featured Farm reunion. Pictured are persons who were born on this farm, were children of persons that worked on this farm or rented and worked on this farm, or were relatives of the Kings. Among the attendees was Clarence O. Flook, Jr. (Pete) who is fourth from the left in the back row.



Appendix E. – MD-VA Milk Producers Association List of Bonus Recipients

Producers Qualifying for Bonus - Month of April 1952

Thomas M. Anderson	Mrs. B. E. Gray	W. A. Riely
Leon Andrus	Chas. B. Gray	Richard T. Schaeffer
R. L. Armstrong	D. M. Gray	Best Seek
W. E. Beall	J. N. Gregg	Albert Sellman
Clarence Bender	Carroll U. Grossnickle	Allen Shackelford
Harry J. Biondi Jr.	W. W. Gulick	H. M. Smith
J. W. Birkett	W. J. Hahn # 1	Gerard C. Smith
Blakeford Farms	W. J. Hahn # 2	W. E. Stanford
Dallas M. Brady	C. M. Janney	J. C. Stewart
Edward Burling Jr.	Mrs. Luella Hoover	Vincent Sutliff
Mrs. J. D. Butler	A. L. Hulsizer	C. J. Tolson
Fred M. Campbell	B. T. Isner	Mabel A. Tregoning
Mrs. J. E. Carroll	J. P. Jenkins	Edwin M. Trenis
John Cassell	A. R. Johnson	Walker & Murphy
W. A. Chapman	Mrs. Nettie M. Jones	McKendrie Walker
Mrs. Leona L. Clements	William C. Kahler	C. A. Watkins Jr.
Thomas E. Cole	C. E. Knill	Philip C. Watkins
Floyd W. Cregar	Chester M. Leishear	Granville Watkins
C. F. Crowder	C. G. Linticum	W. B. Weaver
J. E. Darby & Son	Clyde Lomax Jr.	Dorsey G. Webb
Chas. H. Davis	Harry G. Lowman	Ovid H. Wells
F. C. Day	Paul R. Marsh	Michael S. White
F. M. Day # 2	Dr. J. R. McGriff	Newton H. White
D. B. Diamond # 1	Blake Merson	W. M. White
Sherwood Dickinson	Allie Messer	S. R. Wiles
Mrs. Georgia M. Dosh	E. W. Messick	William H. Zimmerman
Robert & Mabel Duvall	Andrew D. Miller	Bauermaster Bros.
M. J. Eader	Mrs. Sarah C. Miller	L. K. Beall
Edgewood Farms	Mrs. Carolyn D. Moore	Leo Beeghly
J. W. Eustice	J. W. Moore	J. W. Cessna
William Fahnstock	Lawrence Moore	R. H. Glessner Jr.
Carl J. Flemer	Elwood Nehouse	Carl Howsare
Lewis C. Flemer Jr.	J. V. Nicholson	George Keim
Aubrey E. Flaming	Alice W. Nourse	H. Murrell Kline
Clarence O. Flook	August W. Nagel	J. W. Knepper
Edwin D. Fry	Elizabeth M. Peters	Mary E. Knepper
George C. Fry	J. W. Peters	Carlton Livengood
Wade Funkhauser	Wilson C. Poole	M. F. Martin
W. G. Gardiner	C. A. Pumphrey & Son	W. W. Morgret
Paul M. Gaver	William D. Pyles	Wilbert R. Paul
Upton Gladhill	Bertram W. Randles	Geo. W. Stair
D. D. Godfrey	W. L. Ray	Lloyd E. Yoder
William D. Good	Samuel B. Read	N. L. Yoder

