

Our community shares a rich history that mirrors the pastoral past and rapid growth of Fairfax County. The twelve remaining acres of Folly Lick Farm, now developed as Herndon Crossing, once served as the final link to a thriving dairy operation that encompassed 800 acres of land, including what today is Kingston Chase. Through a great deal of assistance from Freeland Young, Jr., who owned and resided at the farm until recently, we have been able to trace back the history of the area to the Orrison family.

Joseph Orrison purchased the land on which our community is built on November 8, 1845 – a tract of land amount to 520 acres. It is believed that Mr. Orrison also owned adjoining land, bringing the total tract to around 800 acres. The functional center of the Orrison dairy farm was located just southeast of Permit Court. The compound contained a large farmhouse, working farm buildings and slave quarters.

Although seven acres of land were condemned for right of way by the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad, Joseph Orrison retained ownership of the entire tract until 1865 when he sold three tracts of land totaling over 250 acres. Sometime in 1875, Joseph Orrison died and willed the land to his descendants.

The Orrisons also established a small family cemetery that is still located in the wooded circle of Permit Court. The cemetery once contained over twenty headstones, some said to contain elaborate sculpture. Time and curiosity has taken its toll on many of the markers, however, and today only nine still exist. One of the graves bears the inscription: “Sacred to the memory of Jane E. Orrison, consort of Joseph Orrison, died Feb. 15, 1890 in the 73rd year of her age. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. f.s. J.E.O.” Kingston Chase HOA maintains this common area.

The modern history of Kingston Chase begins in the late 1920s when Freeland Young moved his family from southwest Virginia to the farm in 1928. Mr. Young worked on the dairy farm and in 1930 his son, Freeland Jr., was born in an old farmhouse near Permit Court. In 1933, the elder Freeland Young bought about 100 acres of land bordered to the east by Folly Lick stream and moved the family to a five bedroom farm house near the pond behind the Kingston Chase pool facilities.

In 1963, pressure from rapidly expanding suburban development and rezoning brought about the sale of land to housing developers. The land in that transaction is home to Kingston Chase and a portion of the Hiddenbrook subdivision. The remaining twelve acres of the Folly Lick Farm were held by Freeland Young, Jr., until 2004. Mr. Young, Jr., attended American University in Washington, D.C., and then returned to the farm to help with the family business. For many years after the dairy farm ceased operations, the Freelands ran an active horse stable and neighbors could hear (and smell) the sounds of a farm close by. Occasionally, the peacocks would jump the fence and visit the streets of Kingston Chase. Their loud squawks were reminiscent of a parrot or monkey, and could startle even a grown man.

In 2004, the Folly Lick Farm, or the Young Farm, as Kingston Chase residents had come to call it, was sold to a developer for Ryan Homes. Development of the farm was put on hold during a slowdown in the real estate market in 2006, but the land was cleared in 2007 and building of 19 new homes in the Herndon Crossing subdivision began in 2008.