

A History of Kingston Chase

by Ian Jones

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 sold to a developer, once served as the final link to a thriving dairy operation that encompassed 800 acres of land, including what today has become Kingston Chase. Through a great deal of assistance from Freeland Young, Jr., who (until fairly recently) owned and resided at the farm, 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 amounting 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. The Orrison's also established a small family cemetery that is still located on 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 only ten exist today.

Although seven acres of the 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 "modern" history of Kingston Chase begins in the late 1920's 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 and moved the family to a five bedroom farm house that is still in good condition today and can be seen from 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 ston Chase and a portion of the Hiddenbrook subdivision. The twelve acres of the Folly Lick Farm, bordering the Kingston Chase pool, was held by Freeland Young, Jr. who attended American University in Washington, D.C., and then returned to the farm to help with the family business. For many years after the diary farm ceased operations, the Freeland's 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.

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Fast forward to 2004 and the Folly Lick Farm, or “Young Farm” as we’ve come to call it, has been sold to a developer for Ryan Homes. Development of the farm was put on hold when the real estate market had a predictable slow-down in 2006 after an unusually rapid rise in sales and home prices. The land was cleared in 2007, and anticipated sales and building of the new homes is expected to begin in the spring of 2008.