



Sixth Generation Ranch Family Tracing Back To Civil War Program Saturday

Moxley Hall Herefords at Council Grove, Kansas, at one time one of the most prominent seedstock operations in the world, is a memorable part of "the story."

Before that, J.J. Jerry Moxley was a Percheron Draft Horse breeder, producing "Kansan," a champion of many national shows and rated as the top American-bred Percheron in the 1930s. That's more of "the story."

The "whole story," begins with the effect of the Civil War on a Kentucky tobacco plantation, and continues through six generations of Flint Hills cowboys.

"Unraveling of 'the story' will be Saturday, March 1, at 1:30, for the Prairie Talk Ranching Heritage series, designed to share the culture of agriculture, at Pioneer Bluffs near Matfield Green," according to Lynn Smith, executive director of Pioneer Bluffs, which advertises on 580 WIBW and promotes on www.WIBWNewsNow.com and www.KansasAgNetwork.com.

"This Prairie Talk will be on the same day as a tree pruning workshop at Pioneer Bluffs, which begins at 10 a.m.," Smith noted.

"Those wishing to come early on March 1 are invited to lunch at noon prepared by Pioneer Bluffs volunteers. There is no charge for this Prairie Talk, the tree pruning workshop, or for lunch, but donations will be gratefully accepted," Smith said.

Lunch reservations are requested and can be made by contacting Smith at 620-753-3484 or lynn@pioneerbluffs.org.

The Moxley story of ranching heritage will be shared by Rep. Tom Moxley, who now operates the historic ranch, and also serves the 68th district in the Kansas House of Representatives serving the people of Morris and much of Dickinson counties.

Tom Moxley's great-grandparents made a courageous decision when they left home at Moxley Landing on the Cumberland River in Kentucky with their 11 children after the Civil War. They sought a peaceful home to raise cattle, crops, and children, and found that in the Flint Hills of Kansas in 1871.

"In settling Kansas, our forbearers often left despair behind and saw great promise in a new life on the prairie," Tom Moxley said. "The resilience, forthrightness, and concern for their neighbors were a survival trait of those times, and those qualities still show through in the current generation of ranchers.

"Moxley Ranch has evolved to nearly all calves and yearlings that are run on Flint Hills tall grass pastures and in our back grounding yard," continued Moxley, son of J.J. Jerry Moxley of Moxley Hall Herefords' international recognition and fame.

As is customary in the area, some of the pasture land cared for by Moxley and his employees is owned by outside investors, and the cattle by yet other owners.

Virginia Moxley has retired as dean of the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University. Tom and Virginia's children are Amy Westfahl (Jerrod) and Angela Weltz (Andy). Amy and Jerrod have three children, Eden, Cade and Isaac who, when horseback, became the sixth generation of the Moxley family connected to the ranching legacy.



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Padre says:

"The first farmer was the first man. All historic nobility rests on the possession and use of land."