

THE MAYBEE FARM

An Enduring Family Name

Exhibit sponsored by



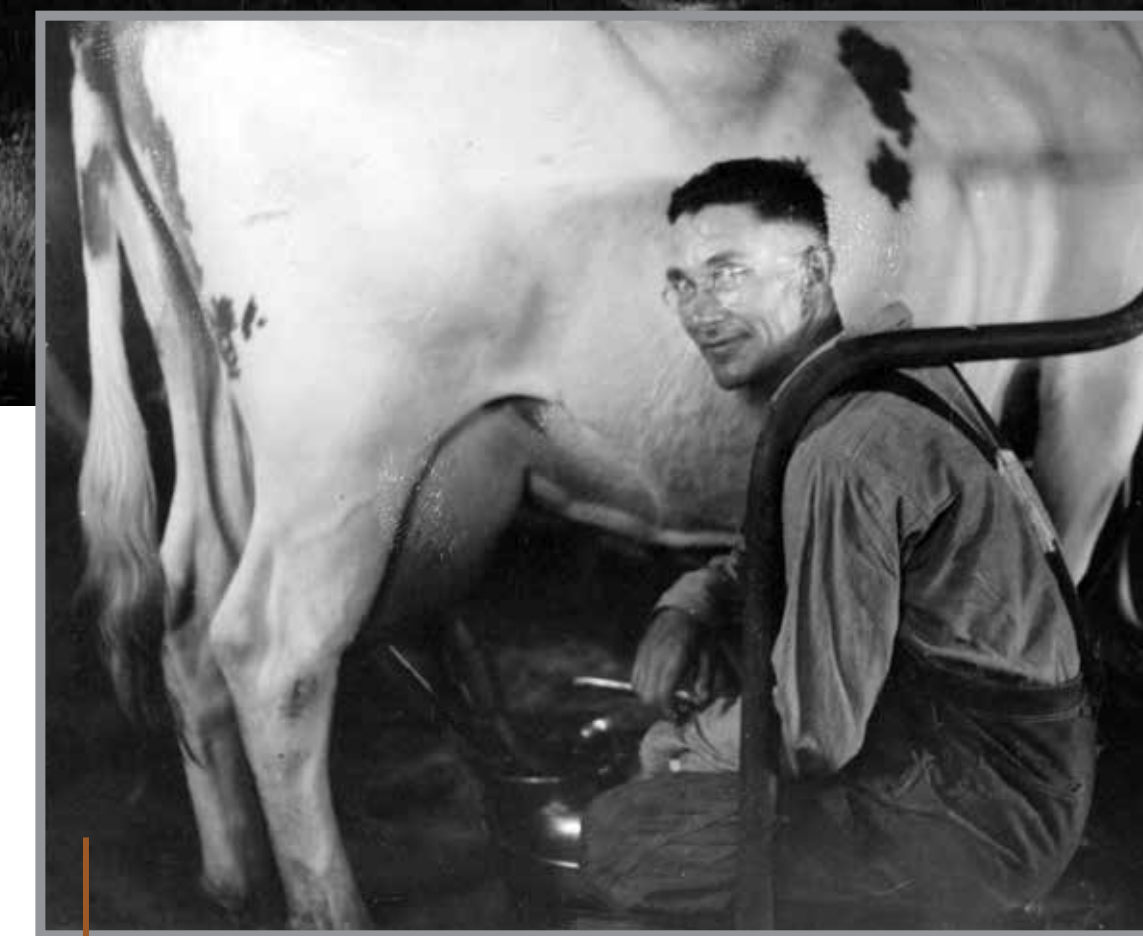
Malinda and John Maybee, in the 1850s. All images courtesy of the Clarkston Community Historical Society.

Generations lived on this farm along the road.

John and Malinda Maybee started it all when they left New Jersey in 1836 to take a chance on 80 acres of wooded land in Independence Township. Their success here as settlers was due to careful planning: They brought enough money, supplies and tools to survive for two years until their farm became productive. The family farm grew to 240 acres, including Spring Lake at its south end and a separate 80-acre “woodlot” a short distance down the road to the west. Five generations of Maybees thrived here, headed by John, Jesse, John, James Russell, and Charlotte Ann. They enriched the community and farmed this land into the 1950s.



The Maybee farm in the late 1940s. At that time, under the stewardship of James Russell Maybee, the farm was focused on dairy agriculture.



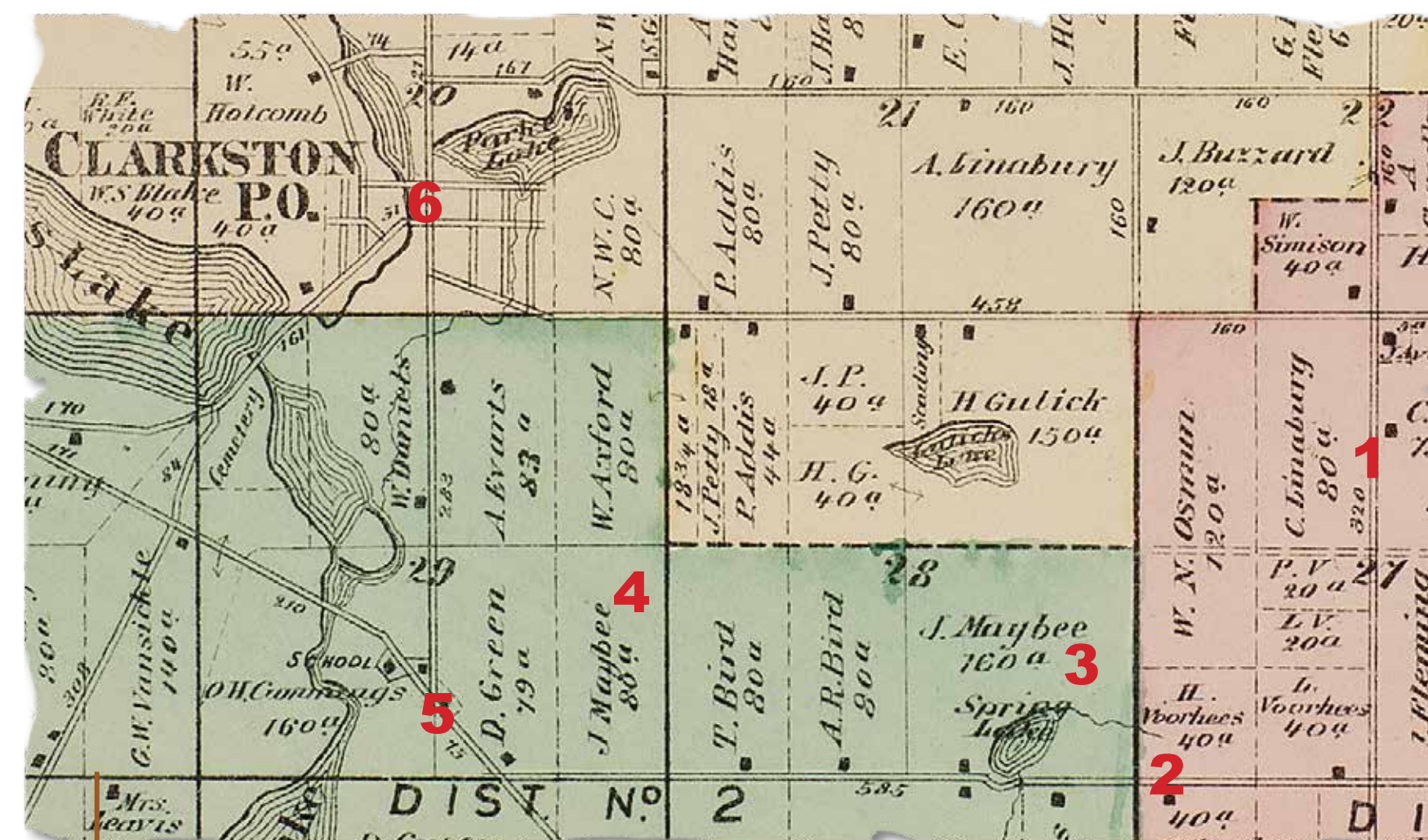
James Russell Maybee milking a cow, late 1940s. In 1933, he was honored by the National Dairy Association for his 11 cows, each producing an average of 316 pounds of butterfat for the year.



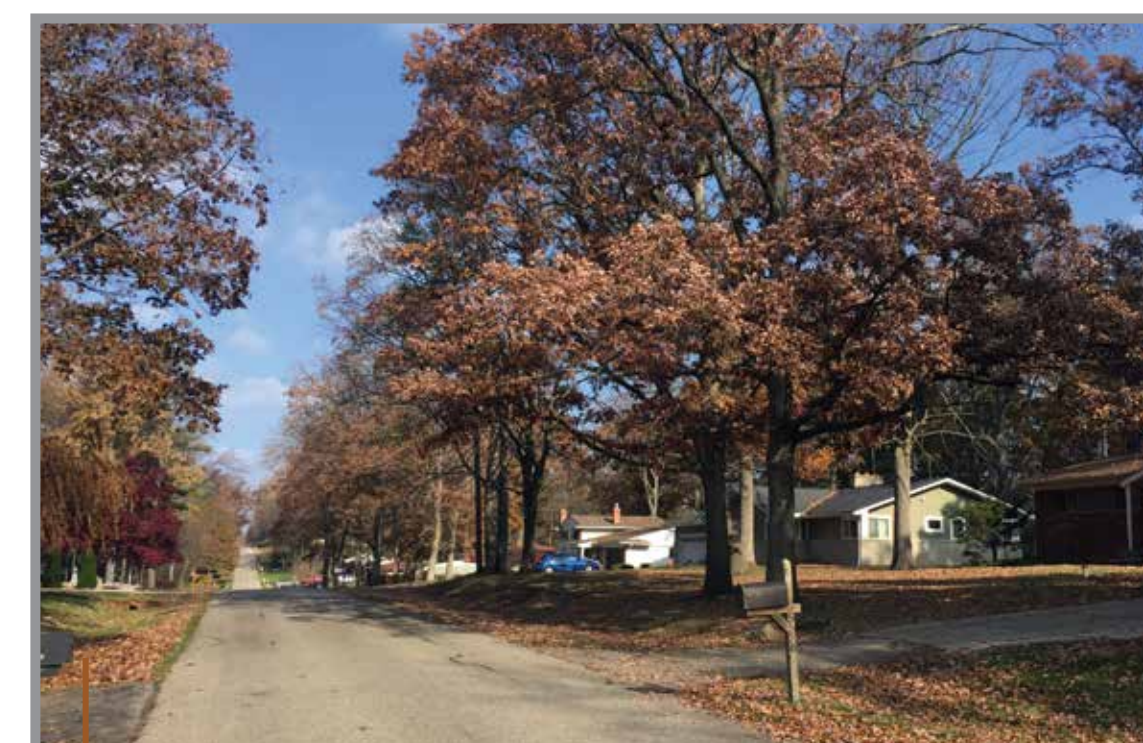
Cutting ice in 1911, on Spring Lake on the south end of the Maybee farm. Ice was stored for year-round use before electrical refrigeration became common.



Storing hay at the Maybee farm, late 1940s.



A portion of the 1872 map of Independence Township shows the location of the Maybee property. #1 is what became Sashabaw Road. #2 is what became Maybee Road. #3 is the 160-acre Maybee farm. #4 is their 80-acre “woodlot” property. #5 is the Saginaw Turnpike that became Dixie Highway. #6 is the village of Clarkston.



The Birdland subdivision along Maybee Road was built in the 1950s. It occupies the 80-acre “woodlot” property that the Maybee family maintained for wood for lumber and firewood. The Maybees’ careful conservation of this woodland is indicated in the large mature oak and other trees that endure among these homes.

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