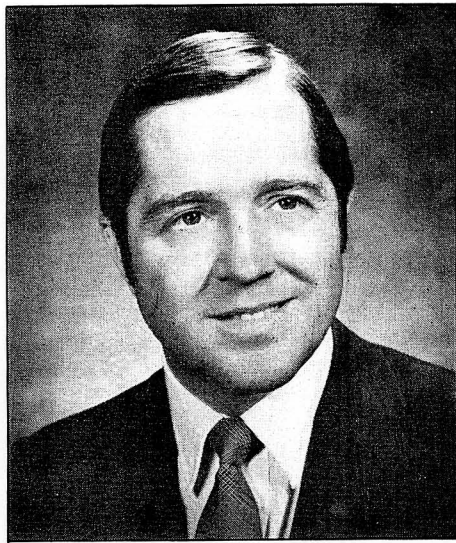


from the office

LEAD IN

By Richard Spader
Executive Vice President
American Angus Association



In volume one, page one, of the first American Aberdeen-Angus herd book, printed in 1886, is a drawing of an Aberdeen-Angus steer named Black Prince. The steer in 1883, the year the American Angus Assn. was founded, was winner of the sweepstakes prize for best 3-year-old at the Fat Stock Show in Chicago, Ill.

Destined to become the most significant and influential steer in the history of U.S. Angus, the animal was shown by Geary Brothers, London, Ont., and bred by John Maitland, Aberdeen, Scotland.

The Geary brothers participated in the founding of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Assn. and both men served in the early years on the Association's board of directors. The Maitland's represent a very old Aberdeenshire family at the time of the founding of the Aberdeen-Angus breed.

The selection of Black Prince as champion steer at the 1883 Chicago Fat Stock Show opened the eyes of many U.S. and Canadian cattle producers to the advantages and quality of Angus cattle. It also opened the door to the acceptance of Angus cattle in the United States. The breed grew in numbers and influence from that day to the present.

The Geary Brothers were more Angus importers and promoters than breeders, and their herd was dispersed in 1889 after it was

moved from Canada to Brookfield, Mo. The Maitland herd, or at least the Maitland family, producers of Black Prince, have not faded into the Aberdeen-Angus past. The grandson of John Maitland is the current president of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society in Scotland. He is William "Bill" Maitland, East Balhagardy, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. Maitland will head the Great Britain delegation and be one of the official delegates to the meeting of the World Aberdeen-Angus Secretariat when that group convenes in St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 16, in conjunction with the Angus Horizons Conference and 100th Birthday Celebration of the American Angus Assn.

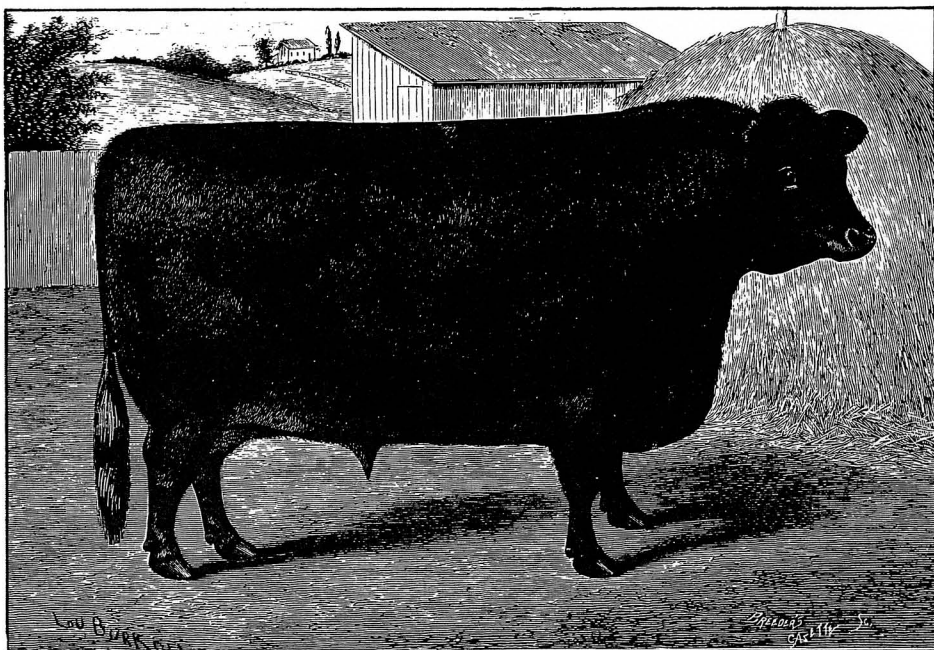
The Angus breed has a rich heritage and this heritage will be celebrated in St. Joseph on Sept. 15-16-17. If you attend this event you will have an opportunity to meet Bill Maitland and others in the Great Britain delegation who represent the first Angus beef cattle registry organization in the world. We will honor U.S. registered Angus herds that have been in existence for at least 50 years—some of these herds are older than the American Angus Assn. itself. A history

of the American Angus Assn. is being written and will be available either in September or November. The book will pull together the highlights and some of the interesting anecdotes that make up the heritage of the American Angus Assn.

If it is possible, you should be a part of this special event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the American Angus Assn. Most of us have no direct family connection to the founding of the American Angus Assn. or, as in the case of the Maitlands, the founding of the Aberdeen-Angus breed itself. But some today no doubt are members of families that will be breeding Angus cattle on the 200th anniversary of the Association.

It might be well for each of us this centennial year to keep in mind that the heritage of our children and grandchildren is composed of what we do today and pass on to them. In this context, I hope every Angus breeder is able to take part in as many of the 1983 centennial activities as possible, and help lay the foundation of a family Angus tradition that will be carried on for many, many years into the future. **AJ**

Volume 1, Aberdeen-Angus Herd Book



BLACK PRINCE, bred by J. Maitland, Balhagardy, Inverurie, Aberdeen, Scotland; owned by Geary Bros., London, Ont., Canada. Winner of sweepstakes prize for best 3 year old, judged by butchers, at Fat Stock Show, Chicago, Ill., in 1883.