



# Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

## Count down to 125 years

*“The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders’ Association was born on Wednesday evening, November 21, 1883, at a meeting in Club Room No. 2 at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Chicago, Illinois,” Keith Evans documents in his history of the American Angus Association. Sixty members had purchased 62 shares of capital stock at \$10 per share to fund the organization’s startup.*

### Organizing

Two years earlier, in October 1881, seven Angus breeders met in Saint Louis, Mo., to discuss the best ways to promote the interests of the breed in America and to consider publishing an Angus herd book. In Kansas City, Mo., a year later Angus breeders convened again, adopting a committee report recommending the formation of a permanent association and forming a committee to draft a constitution and bylaws.

The constitution was adopted at the November 1883 meeting. Elected to the first Board of Directors were W.T. Holt, president; John Geary; H.C. Burleigh, vice president; Charles Gudgell, secretary-treasurer; Abiel Leonard; Stephen Peery; Wallace Estill; A.M. Fletcher; and Abner Graves. Annual Meetings were scheduled for the third Wednesday in November in Chicago.

As Evans details in *A Historic Angus Journey: The American Angus Association 1883-2000*, Gudgell reported a membership

of 69 and a treasury balance of \$651.20 at the Association’s first Annual Meeting the following year. The first volume of the Angus Herd Book was published in June 1886. Of the 5,200 entries, 2,250 were recorded to 178 American owners. The remaining entries consisted of the registry’s Scottish ancestors.

### Celebrating 125 years

So began an organization that will celebrate its 125th year next November in Louisville. In the Association’s 2007 annual report, distributed in this issue, executive vice president John Crouch reports annual registrations of 347,755, consolidated assets for the Association and its entities of \$33 million and 34,511 active members.

There have been many milestones along the way as the Association has progressed to the flourishing organization it is today. This year, as we count down to the Association’s 125th birthday, we’ll reflect on some of those milestones and the glue that has held it

### Aim High topic site

Cattlemen seeking guidance on how to produce for the *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> (CAB<sup>®</sup>) brand target have a new resource available online. Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) and Angus Productions Inc. (API) recently launched “Aim High” as the newest addition to API’s lineup of topic sites. Each topic site is formatted to provide access to a wealth of online information regarding a particular subject of interest to cattlemen.

[www.aimhighwithcab.info](http://www.aimhighwithcab.info) provides a gateway to genetic, management and marketing information to help producers target the CAB brand.

### Range Beef Cow Symposium

Don’t miss API’s online coverage of the 2007 Range Beef Cow Symposium. The conference will be Dec. 11-13 in Fort Collins, Colo. Visit [www.rangebeefcow.com](http://www.rangebeefcow.com) for information about the conference and for real-time coverage of the event.

together — a shared love for the breed, the breeders and the lifestyle.

### Share your memories

If you have pieces of Angus history that you would be willing to share with fellow readers of the *Angus Journal*, please send them to me at [shermel@angusjournal.com](mailto:shermel@angusjournal.com) or Shauna Hermel, Pieces of History, Angus Journal, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506. We’ll include snippets of Angus history in the *Angus Journal* throughout the coming year.

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