

## **The Dale Engle Walker Farm**

### **The Dales**

The limestone house was built by Ulster-Scot immigrant Samuel Dale in 1793. At the time of his death, in 1804, Dale's estate included horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs, as well as tinsmith and wheelwright tools. The farm was left to one of his nine children, James, with life tenancy to his wife Eliza.

In the mid 1800's, farm managers for Dale's descendants were producing wheat, rye, corn and oats, raising cattle, sheep and pigs, and selling hay and butter.

The property remained in the Dale family over 100 years, although in the latter 1800s and early 1900s, the property was let to tenant farmers.

### **The Engles**

Jacob and Maude Engle purchased the farm in 1929. Jacob Engle was a descendant of German immigrant Engles and Moyers who settled at Klingerstown and Gratz in Lykens County, and Maude was a descendant of early Swiss/German immigrant Troxells and Shivelys, who had settled near Mifflinburg in Union County.

The Engles introduced contour farming to control the erosion that had been a problem on the hilly farmland. They had pigs, chickens, sheep and workhorses. The Engles also had milk cows - Holsteins, Jerseys and Guernseys - and established the Dale's Ridge (or J.B. Engle) Dairy. They delivered milk to Mazeppa, Forest Hill and Lewisburg. Extra milk was separated to make butter and cheese.

Although the 1930's were difficult times economically and there was little cash on hand, farmers such as the Engles could be nearly self-sufficient in producing their own food: cured meats and sausages, canned vegetables and fruits, grains and flours (milled nearby).

In the Engles orchard were Sickle and Bartlett pears, peaches, sour cherries, and varieties of apples such as Smokehouse, Pound, Winesap, Strawberry, Snow, Greening, and Strawberry. There were berry bushes, quince and nut trees.

Vegetable gardens supplied melons, squashes, greens, beans, corn, root crops, herbs and more. Flowers also graced the farm: violets and spring bulbs, roses, hollyhocks and lilacs. Wildflowers could be found all around the property.

Jacob and Maude raised ten children on the farm (Paul, Dick, Ruth, Millie, Anna, George, Grace, Nevin, Art and Jake) and many Engles remain in Union County today.

### **The Walkers**

Ralph Charles "Charlie" and Rosemary "Rosie" Walker purchased the property in 1957. They installed running water, electricity and modern heating in the house, and improved the cellar with a stone floor and rough-sawn walnut walls (made from the

property's trees). Rosie, a master gardener, cultivated extensive flowerbeds around the house.

In 1989 the 137-acre property was protected by a perpetual conservation easement held by the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy. The Conservancy maintains a two-mile trail along Dale's Ridge.

In 2001 the Walker estate bequeathed the property to the Union County Historical Society, which has worked to preserve and restore the house, create exhibition and storage space for the society's collection, and use the property for public programs and events such as *Rural Heritage Days* Wednesday, August 11 through Saturday, August 14, 2010.

For more information, contact the Society at 570-524-8666, [hstorici@ptd.net](mailto:hstorici@ptd.net) or visit the website: [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org).



The Jacob and Maude Engle Family