

Hereford Through the Ages

A glimpse back at the history of the American Hereford Association.

by Diane Meyer

When author, historian and former *American Hereford Journal* editor Donald R. Ornduff introduced his 1957 historical manuscript, *The Hereford in America*, he summarized its purpose with the following quote:

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past."

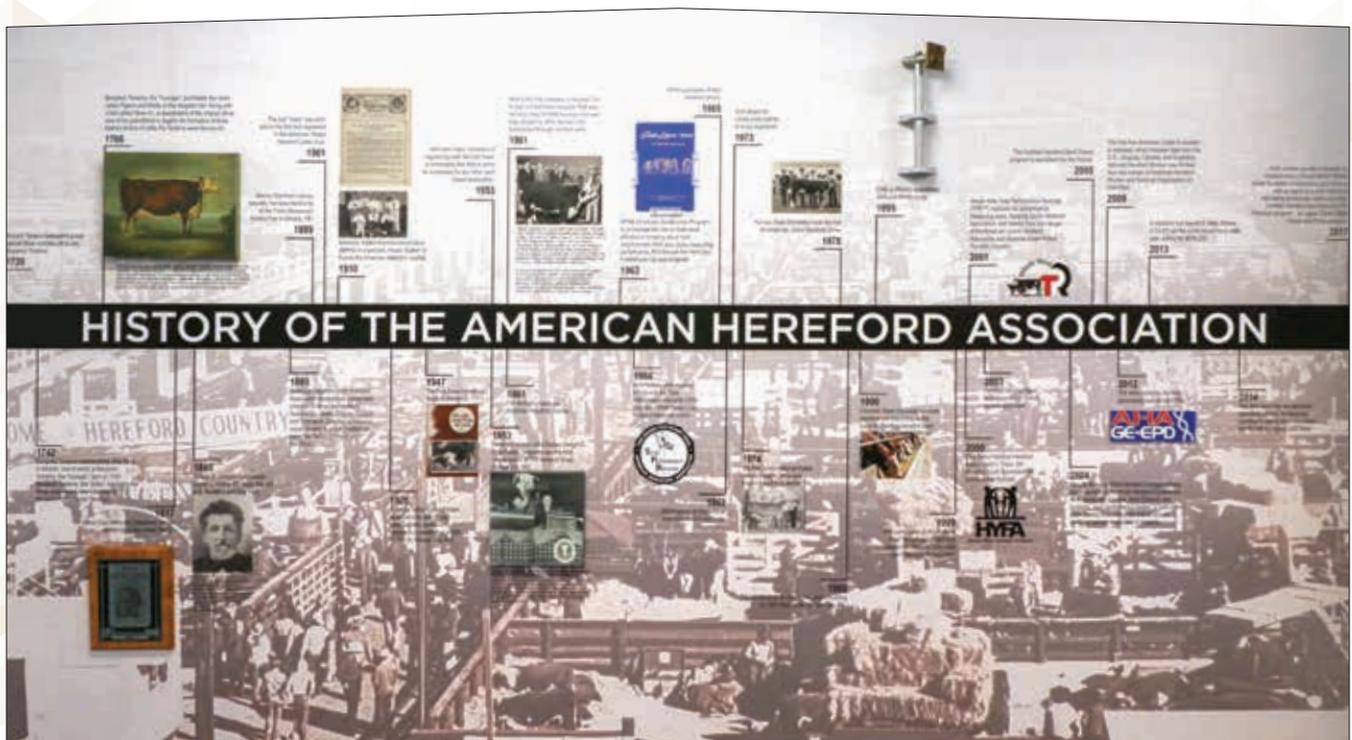
— American statesman Patrick Henry

The American Hereford Association (AHA) is an organization with immense history, one with a unique chronicle of turning points that have advanced the breed, its breeders and the beef

industry. History is just as much a part of our identity as are our white-faced cattle.

When the AHA moved to its present headquarters in February 2018, an idea came to light to build a mural of major events which have shaped the organization thus far. This timeline now graces the entrance of the Association's office, giving way to a collection of noteworthy Hereford artifacts and artwork.

As the saying goes, "Never look back except to see how far you've come." Before we continue the Hereford Drive, let's take a moment to review the many miles we have traveled over the last 300 years. Please enjoy the following display of prominent moments which have transformed the AHA into a leading breed association of the 21st century.



A shot of "Hereford Country" in the "Yards" at the National Western Stock Show serves as the backdrop of the AHA timeline mural.

Benjamin Tomkins, the "Younger," purchases two cows called Pigeon and Mottle at the Kingston fair. Along with a bull called Silver 41, a descendant of the original Silver cow of his grandfather's, begins the formation of three distinct strains of cattle the Tomkines were famous for.

1766



Pictured here is a cow named Silver, bred by George Tomkins, nephew of Benjamin the "Younger." This female was born in 1806 and is believed to trace back to the original Silver cow that was started by Richard Tomkins. Known as the Mother of the Breed, the Silver line has been well-documented as cattle with red bodies, a white face and having more or less white along the back. The Tomkines are credited as the first improvers and breeders of Hereford cattle and are regarded as being remarkable judges of stock.

Richard Tomkins bequeaths a cow name Silver and her calf to son Benjamin Tomkins.

1720

The bull "Giant" was born and is the first bull registered in the American Polled Hereford Cattle Club.

1901

Warren Gammon notices naturally hornless Herefords at the Trans-Mississippi World's Fair in Omaha, Neb.

1899



The American Polled Hereford Association (APHA) is organized.

Hayes Walker Sr. founds the American Hereford Journal.

1910

The AHA sets major milestone of registering more than 560,000 head. A remarkable feat that is yet to be surpassed by any other beef breed association.

1953

HISTORY OF THE

1742

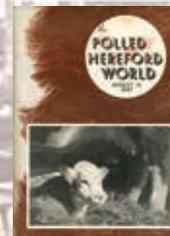
Benjamin Tomkins marries Anne, they have six children, one of which is Benjamin Tomkins, the "Younger," born in 1745. Benjamin Tomkins, the "Elder," maintains the Silver strain that is later inherited by Benjamin Tomkins, the "Younger."

1881

The American Hereford Cattle Breeders Association is organized (name later changes to American Hereford Association - AHA). Charles Gudgeon and Thomas A. Simpson of Missouri import Anxiety 4, a bull credited as being the "Father of American Herefords."

1947

The first *Polled Hereford World* is published.



1920

The AHA is the first beef breed association to own its own headquarters. Permanent residence is established at 300 W. 11th St., Kansas City, Mo.

1953

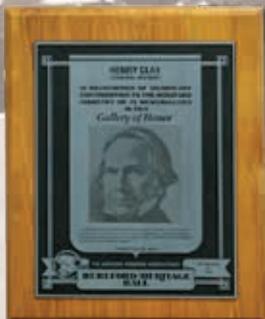
President of the U.S., Dwight D. Eisenhower, dedicates the second AHA headquarters at 715 Hereford Dr., Kansas City, Mo.



Though not completed at the time, the headquarters building of the AHA at 715 Hereford Dr. was sufficiently finished to provide for dedication ceremonies in October 1953. Presiding was AHA President Herbert Chandler who introduced the President of the U.S., Dwight D. Eisenhower, who made a formal dedication. Due to delay caused by an extended strike in the building industry, the building was not ready for occupancy until April 1954.

1817

Henry Clay, Kentucky statesman, brings Herefords to the United States.



Though first imported in 1817, it was in 1840 that the first Hereford herd was established by the partnership of Erastus Corning and William H. Sotham with 22 head Sotham had selected in Herefordshire and imported. Sotham was an early and militant breed promoter, remaining so during his long and eventful life.

The AHA is the first company in Kansas City to own a mainframe computer that was not only used for AHA business but was also utilized by other Kansas City businesses through contract work.



Officially starting the use of AHA's first computer — the IBM 1401 System that included magnetic tape memory storage — in May 1961, was HR Silver Image 70, the champion bull of the 1961 National Western Stock Show. The bull, bred by Herschede Ranch, Springerville, Ariz., was brought to the AHA building and led into the data processing center. There he stepped on a special switch that put in motion the equipment that produced the bull's complete pedigree back to Volume 1 of the English Hereford Herd Book.

In the picture are Everett Stoll, data processing manager; AHA Secretary Paul Swaffar; Homer Jennings, IBM Corporation representative; AHA President Earl H. Monahan; Joh Gottfried, owner of Hillcrest Farm, Pocahontas, Ill., who purchased the bull in the Denver sale at \$30,500; and Don Core, Hillcrest Farm manager.

1961



The APHA introduces the Guide Lines Program to encourage the use of tools most effective in bringing about herd improvement. The AHA also starts measuring performance, first through the Herd Sire Feedlot and Carcass program.

1963

1965

The APHA purchases the Polled Hereford World.

The AHA allows for calves produced by AI to be registered.

1973



Kansas State University hosts the first All-American Junior Hereford Show.

1978

AMERICAN HEREFORD

The AHA purchases the American Hereford Journal.

1961

1964

The AHA furthers performance efforts with the Total Performance Records (TPR) program.

The APHA Guide Lines Program becomes active.



1968

The APHA issues its first artificial insemination (AI) certificate.



1974

The first Junior National Polled Hereford Heifer Show and Forum is held in Nashville, Tenn.

1986

The AHA moves to its third headquarters building at 1501 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, Mo.



Certified Hereford Beef® is officially established.

The AHA and the APHA merge.

1995

The Certified Hereford Beef Choice program is launched into the market.

2005

Whole Herd Total Performance Records (TPR™) replaces old performance measuring tools.

The National Junior Hereford Association was started from the merger of the American Junior Hereford Association and the National Junior Polled Hereford Council.

2001



The first Pan-American Cattle Evaluation is released, which included data from the U.S., Uruguay, Canada, and Argentina.

National Hereford Women was formed from the merger of American Hereford Women and National Organization of Poll-Ettes.

2009

A Hereford bull named C Miles McKee 2103 ET set the world record for a cattle sale, selling for \$600,000.

2013

The AHA updates genetic evaluation by implementing a Mixed Marker Effects model for better incorporating genomics as well as applying a new method of calculating accuracies called sampling.

Certified Hereford Beef launches the Premium program — an upper two-thirds USDA Choice and Prime program.

2017

ASSOCIATION

1990

Colorado State University conducts the Hereford trial that forms as the basis for Certified Hereford Beef.



1999

The AHA participates in the National Beef Tenderness project that propels the National Reference Sire Program into existence.

2003

Certified Hereford Beef surpasses the 25 million pounds sold mark.

2000

The first Junior National Hereford Expo is held in Tulsa, Okla.

The Hereford Youth Foundation of America is founded.



2012

The AHA publishes the first genomic-enhanced EPDs.



2004

Results from the World Hereford Linkage Project are presented at the World Hereford Conference. The AHA, along with Canada, New Zealand and Australia, each performance tested 12 bulls within each country to demonstrate that an across-continent genetic evaluation is possible.

2014

The AHA launches the electronic recording system, *MyHerd.org*.

Certified Hereford Beef surpasses the 50 million pounds sold mark.

2018

The AHA moves to its fourth headquarters at 11500 N. Ambassador Dr., Kansas City, Mo. **HW**