

OBITUARY

Arthur Garfield Danks, Agricultural Leader, Dies In His 80th Year



Funeral rites were conducted at the Tranquility Methodist church yesterday afternoon for Arthur G. Danks, retired manager of Tranquility Farms and holder of the State's citation for distinguished service to agriculture.

Mr. Danks was widely known as a judge of sheep and a breeder of dairy cattle. He had served 40 years on the Allamuchy Township Board of Education, had been a member of the Warren County Library Commission for many years and was still serving as chairman of the board of the Hackettstown National Bank.

His death occurred at noon Saturday, March 30, 1957, at Morristown Memorial Hospital after a short illness. His age was 79.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. W. B. McMullen, pastor of the Church, and burial followed in Tranquility Cemetery under the direction of the Cochran Funeral Home of Hackettstown.

Here For 66 Years

Although he was a native of Delhi, N. Y., where he was born on October 4, 1877, Mr. Danks had lived at Allamuchy for 66 years. He moved with his parents in 1891 when his father, the late Simeon H. Danks, became the herd manager at Tranquillity Farms, the extensive Rutherford-Stuyvesant Estate in Warren and Sussex Counties. His mother

was the late Fannie Hampton Danks.

Mr. Danks received his elementary education at the Delhi school and later attended the University of Wisconsin for short courses in agriculture. While a student there he was a member of the first intercollegiate judging team at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. It was at the International Livestock in later years, and at other shows, that he gained the reputation as an outstanding authority on sheep judging.

Mr. Danks became manager of Tranquility Farms in 1904, succeeding the late S. B. Jameson, who had held the position for 13 years. By the time of his retirement in 1948 he had worked for four generations of the Stuyvesant family over a period of 57 years. From 1917 until his death he continued to serve as manager of Allamuchy Farms, a smaller division of the extensive estates.

Son Is Successor

The managership of Tranquility Farms was taken over in 1953 by Mr. Danks' younger son, Edward H. Danks, who thus became the third generation of the family to serve in a managerial capacity at the estates. Some 5,500 acres in Allamuchy and Green Townships are embraced in Tranquility. Most of the farm properties comprising the estate today are operated on a cooperative basis by farmers who use their own machinery and equipment.

During the first 15 years of his managership, Arthur Danks devoted much of his time to the sheep department, making a trip to England to import breeder sheep for the Tranquility flocks.

He later traveled widely as an exhibitor and as a judge.

Development of the dairy industry and the forestry program on the estates was under his direction from 1909, and the enterprise still carries on its sheep raising, specializing in baby lambs for the metropolitan trade. Soil conservation and reforestation of marginal land are other important phases of the farm operation

Pioneer Breeder

The State citation bestowed on Mr. Danks at the 35th annual Agricultural Convention at Trenton in 1950 cited his fame as a breeder of Dorset sheep and noted that he was a member of the partnership who owned the famous "King of Ormsbys" bull, sire of many outstanding dairy animals in the Holstein breed. At Tranquility farms ne developed a herd of Holstein cattle which gained national reputation.

The citation also noted that under his direction and in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, contour farming and strip cropping were instituted in the state, and that he was one of the first agriculturists in New Jersey to establish reforestation as a major farm enterprise.

Mr. Danks was one of the founders of the Cooperative Artificial Breeding Association at Clinton, and for 11 years he served as a director. He was a member of the Sussex County Board of Agriculture when the first New Jersey county agricultural agent was hired.

Received Many Honors

Many honors came to Mr. Danks after his retirement in 1948. He was elected in that year as an honorary member of Alpha Zeta, national agricultural fraternity, by the Rutgers Chapter, and the next year he received an award for meritorious service to the 4-H Club organization in New Jersey. The Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers feted him at a banquet in June of 1949. Earlier that year he was saluted Cooperative Inter-Breed Cattle Association of New Jersey. His State citation came in 1950 and in 1954 he received a sterling silver award at the June Dairy Month Banquet for having served the milk industry in New Jersey for 48 years.

Mr. Danks retired from the Allamuchy Township Board of Education in 1953 after 40 years of service. He was first elected in 1913 and became vice president in 1918 and president in 1922, continuing in that office until his retirement. He served on the County Library Commission until the end of last year, when he declined reappointment. He was still a member of the official Board at Tranquility Methodist Church and was also a Trustee of the Tranquility Cemetery Association. He recently received his 50-year pin as a member of Independence Lodge, F. & A. M.. of Hackettstown.

Bank Director 25 Years

At the Hackettstown National Bank Mr. Danks had been a director since 1933, served as vice president from 1934, and as president from 1940, when he became chairman of the board.

Mr. Danks' first wife, the former Edith Hart of Allamuchy, died in 1944. He leaves his second wife, the former Mrs. Hazel Wiseburn Martin. His children are Dr. Cordon Danks of Ithaca, N. Y., professor of veterinary surgery at Cornell University; Edward H. Danks of Tranquillity Farms, and Mrs. John N. Hoff of Alphanos. He leaves nine grandchildren. Also surviving are a brother, J. R. Danks of St. Petersburg, Fla., and a sister, Mrs. Fannie Johnson of Hillside.

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NAME: Danks, Arthur Garfield

DATE OF DEATH: March 30, 1957