



The Durham County Farmland Protection Program



L, M, & D Farm (D. Daye Farm)

Douglas Daye grew up spending time with his grandfather, Lucious Glenn, on his small farm in north Durham County. From his mother's father, Douglas learned the value of being a good listener, the importance of being thrifty and using only what you need, and the opportunity of having something of your own. In Lucious Glenn's case, a man of color born in the 1890s, having something of your own meant owning land, originally about 40 acres where he could raise his nine children with his wife, Mary.

Mary and Lucious grew most of what they needed from the land: vegetables, milk and butter, chicken and eggs, pork, wheat and corn. They also grew sugar cane for molasses and sold or traded what they didn't need in Rougemont and Durham for things like sugar, salt, baking soda.

Douglas remembers his days as a child on the farm and his time with Lucious and Mary.



Mary had a college education while Lucius only had a second grade education and they made a great team. Douglas learned important life lessons from them on how to work hard, be successful, and make wise decisions in order to manage your hard-earned assets. Douglas was one of 62 grandchildren and spent time playing with his cousins on the farm. After returning to the States from Vietnam as a Marine, Douglas would spend his evenings after work cleaning up the old home place, clearing the land that had grown up over the years.

In 1981 in Douglas' words, "*a part of the original homeplace fell into my hands*" and since then he has tended the land as if it were still his grandfather's. He currently raises beef cattle and grows hay, has a couple of fruit trees and grape vines, tends a small garden, and heats his home with firewood that he cuts himself. He also occasionally enjoys sharing the farm with his family for weekend gatherings.

In 2017, through the County's Open Space and Farmland Protection Program, Durham County will purchase a conservation easement from Douglas to ensure that the farm stays a farm forever and is never developed. The property may not be subdivided and any new buildings must be related to the farm activities and limited to no more than two percent impervious surface, one-third the amount permitted through current development regulations in the watershed. The farm is adjacent to Hill Forest and provides significant wildlife habitat and connectivity and is upstream from Lake Michie, a primary drinking water supply for most Durham residents.

In putting a conservation easement on this 24 acres along Hampton Road, Douglas honors the legacy of his grandparents, Lucious and Mary Glenn, and their commitment to their family and the land. This farm is the only registered Century Farm in Durham owned by people of color – it has been in their family for over 100 years. "This place isn't mine; it's my granddaddy's," says Douglas, and "this is my roots."



For further information on this conservation easement project or other Durham County open space projects, please contact Jane Korest, Division Head, Durham County Open Space and Real Estate at 919-560-7955.

Note: The L, M, & D farm is still privately owned as a working farm. Please enjoy the view from the road but respect the landowner's privacy.

