

Angle Acres farm on Mt. Zion Road, Fairmont, in Marion County was recently awarded Century Farm recognition by the Monongahela Conservation District. The farm on Little Creek was established by Madison Carter on August 22, 1863. Madison fought with the Union Army, Company C of the 6th Virginia Loyal Artillery. He served with Captain Malsby and with General Phil Sheridan in the Shenandoah campaign. He was captured and imprisoned in Libby prison in Richmond, VA where he subsequently was released on a prisoner-of-war exchange. After the war, West Virginia Governor Arthur I. Boreman commissioned Madison, Colonel. Returning home to Little Creek post-war, Madison and his brother, Eldridge, bought various tracts of land and increased the size of the farm to approximately 400 acres. Madison was a farmer and also involved in a family timber operation. It is reported that Madison's daughter, Lillie, helped lash logs together on the Monongahela River, and rode them to Pittsburgh, PA for sale.

Upon Madison's death, Lillie and her husband, W.G.H. Crawford, inherited a tract of 121 acres of the original farm. Lillie and W.G.H. built a home, barn and several outbuildings for their son, Clarence Carter Crawford, a World War I veteran, and his wife Harriett. The home of Clarence and Harriett was adjacent to the original home of Madison. The farm was active in the production of timber, hay, corn, swine, dairy and beef cattle. In 1947, the farm passed to Clarence and Harriett's son, Jim Crawford (a World War II veteran) and his wife, Enid. Jim and Enid elevated the farm to new heights. In 1953, they won the Farming for Better Living award. At that time, the farm had beef and dairy cattle, horses, sheep, poultry, swine, hay production and timber. Jim had an egg route where he delivered eggs to many customers and restaurants on the East side of Fairmont. They purchased more parcels to increase the farm to 400 acres and won several awards. In 1984, they were awarded the Outstanding Farm for the Monongahela Conservation District. The West Virginia Tree Farm of the Year was won by Jim in 1971, and Enid won the award in 2000 after Jim's death. The farm also was selected as the best Tree Farm in the Northeastern region of the U.S. in 2001.

Around 1953, Jim made a system of forest roads that he planned and constructed for wildfire access and removal of forest products. The Crawford farm was enrolled in the Tree Farm program in 1963 making it the second oldest Tree Farm in Marion County. The Crawfords believed in education, and they made it a goal to use the farm for this purpose. Students from West Virginia University and Fairmont State University, along with state and county landowners have toured the farm. In 1981, the farm was the site of a tour by scientists from England (Dr. John Gibbs, British Forestry Commission, Farnham Surrey) and France (Dr. Jean Pinon, Department of Agriculture, Nancy) who were interested in timber stand improvement and forest tree diseases. Dr. Gibbs was quoted in the local newspaper as saying, "I have toured the United States many times and Jim Crawford's woodland is better than many of the arboreta I have visited". Dr. Colin Bert from Warwickshire, England, a forest geneticist, toured the farm in 1983 looking at superior tulip poplar seed.

The farm was divided among Jim and Enid's four children, Michele Miller, Martha Snyder, Melinda Double and Bill Crawford. With the help of service foresters, forest management plans

are in place. Additionally, hay is harvested, hops are grown while vegetables gardens, strawberry and blueberry plants showcase the continued functionality of the farm. Melinda's husband, Mark Double, an emeritus staff member from WVU, has a chestnut orchard along with shiitake mushrooms and an apiary. Melinda's daughter, Erin and her husband Jeff Hamilton live in the original farmhouse along with their two children, Grace and Grant, making them the 7th generation to call Angle Acres home. The farm over the past 158 years has provided resources and comfort to returning servicemen and their families, and a home for seven generations.