



The Burge Story - Fifth Generation

Family Paths Diverge

After the death of their parents, ownership of Burge passed to John Bolton, son of Dorothy and Louis Bolton, and Dutton Morehouse, son of Ida and Merritt Morehouse. John Bolton sold the old house and his 230 acres outside the family in the 1960s. Dutton Morehouse retained Ida and Merritt's portion of the farm, about 860 acres.

The Morehouses and their three children lived in Lake Forest, Illinois, where Dutton managed the Chicago office of Brown Brothers Harriman, and his wife, Louise for many years ran a bookstore. The farm, now primarily a dairy operation, was rented and managed by Lewis Davis, who had worked at Burge since the 1930s, as had his father Cleveland Davis before him. The main house and surroundings were cared for by Theodus and Corene Perry and their daughter Joyce, who lived in a cottage behind the house. During the 1950s and 1960s the family visited Burge often, and Dutton brought an influential group of economists to the farm each year for a retreat and discussion of financial policies.

Following the example of Ida and Merritt Morehouse before them, Dutton and Louise retired to Burge in 1970. They became involved in the local community and continued the family stewardship of the farm. Dutton commuted to Atlanta for a few years to serve as a part time consulting economist for the Robinson Humphrey Company. By this time their three children, Dutton Jr., Alexander (Sandy), and Betsy Morehouse Simpson were married with families of their own. After college at Emory University and a stint in the Navy, Sandy settled with his wife Betsy in Atlanta in 1967. Their proximity to Burge increasingly involved them in the farm and its future.

Sandy Morehouse, his uncle Herman Lackner, Betsy Morehouse Simpson, Dutton Morehouse, Louise Morehouse, and farm manager Lewis Davis on a Burge quail hunting expedition, early 1960s



Sandy and Dutton Morehouse Jr., about 1955, clearing brush



Louise and Dutton Morehouse, about 1975



Joyce Perry Traylor, Corene Perry, and Joyce's three boys, Tony, Walter, and Michael, about 1970. The Perrys and Traylor's lived at Burge from the 1940s to the 1980s. Joyce attended Parks Grove School at Burge until 7th grade.

The Family Farms Again



James Elliott



Mort Ewing



Fred Key

In 1972 Lewis Davis died, and the dairy operation ceased. Sandy Morehouse, now an institutional stock broker with Robinson Humphrey in Atlanta, became heavily involved in Burge's farming ventures, relying on local managers James Elliott, Mort Ewing, and the steadfast support of longtime employee Fred Key. Over the next 15 years, Burge's operations included a cow-calf cattle operation, row crops, hay and soybean production, and a hay

brokerage business. Sandy's interest in farming carried on the family traditions, particularly those of his great-great-grandfather Thomas Burge and his grandfather Merritt Morehouse.

In 1986 Louise Morehouse died, and in 1991 Dutton Morehouse died, leaving control of Burge to their three children.

Sandy driving the tractor

