

Huntsville  
December 5, 1950

Mr. T. C. Reid, Director  
Agricultural Center Board  
515 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery 1, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Reid:

The story of the Jersey cow, Lily Flagg, is still much talked about here in Madison County and everyone seems to be agreed on the fundamental facts of her record. She was undoubtedly an outstanding cow.

According to the records of the American Jersey Cattle Club, her name was Signal's Lilly Flagg 31035, and in a one-year's test ending in 1892, she produced 11,339 pounds of milk and 1047 pounds and 3/4 ounce of churned butter. Her owners were W. E. Mathews and Mrs. Milton Humes of Huntsville. General Samuel Moore was listed as an owner in 1892 about the time she completed the test, but it isn't clear whether he bought her or just acquired a third interest in her.

The remainder of Lily Flagg's career is taken from copies of the Huntsville newspapers of her day. It seems that after she was proclaimed "World's Champion Butter Producer," she became quite a social belle. The highlights were as follows:

1. Exhibited at the Columbian Exposition of 1892.
2. A Grand Ball in her honor at General Moore's home in Huntsville on July 21, 1892. Fifteen hundred engraved invitations were sent all over the South; a special platform was constructed for her and lighted with the first electric lights in Huntsville; and Italian orchestra imported for the occasion; and the guests were served champagne and fifty different kinds of cake.
3. Alabama Dairy Association gave a party for her atop Monte Sano Mountain.
4. Her milk was used for the ice cream at a lavish Benefit Supper of the Huntsville Presbyterian Church.
5. She was exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

She was finally sold to the C. I. Hood Medicine Company of Lowell, Massachusetts. The company wanted to use her picture on the label for their products. She died shortly afterward because (so it is rumored) of improper milking.

That about sums up the information we can collect on Lilly Flagg. The contemporary news articles and other information sources I have seen indicate that she was the most famous cow of her time. We hope that you can carry out your plans of recognizing her in the Coliseum. Mr. John Pinkerton, Bryson Studio, Huntsville, has the negative of a fairly good photograph taken from the invitations for General Moore's Ball.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.