

Log House Contains Miles of Midstate History

PLEASANT VIEW — It's not just a house with a history; it contains history that stretches from the woods of southwest Nashville down through Dickson County and up into Cheatham.

Now standing in the hickory groves just north of Sycamore Creek near this Cheatham County town, this old house bears the high water marks of some memorable Middle Tennessee traditions.

From Dickson County to southern Davidson, and finally to upper Cheatham, tales of the two-storied, stone-chimneyed log house involve historical characters and periods ranging from Andrew Jackson to Jesse James.

Robert G. Neil, owner of the "new-old" home, recalled that putting the old logs together into a new house was "like assembling a jigsaw puzzle."

Putting the stories surrounding the logs themselves into historical chronology makes an intricate puzzle, too.

"The thing that got us started, was that we became concerned that Granny White's cabin was falling in," said Neil, who has lived in the Granny White Pike area most of his life.

The retired East Nashville High School principal's son



ANN MOSS BETTS
Pleasant View

High Water Marks

and son-in-law, Robert Neil, Jr. and Bill VanderLinden, share his interest in log homes, he explained.

"In the fall of 1982, we spoke with Col. Lynn Beasley, who inherited the land the cabin was on," Neil said. "He said to leave the chimney, but we reached an agreement about the logs."

The cabin stood on one of the most storied sites in

Middle Tennessee.

Lucinda White had passed her 60th birthday when she brought her two grandchildren over the rugged Carolina mountains to Tennessee. In 1812, she opened an inn near the Holly Tree Gap in the Overton Hills south of Nashville.

The children called her "Granny" and before long, the customers did, too; so she has been remembered ever since.

Convenient to a connecting road to the Natchez Trace, the widow's tavern became famous for "apple jack" cider made from the harvest of Granny's own orchard.

Prominent among her guests were the era's young lawyers, whose profession required extensive travel. Sam Houston, Andrew Jackson, and James K. Polk were familiar faces at Granny's fireside in the early 1800s.

As she prospered, Granny White expanded the inn by adding room after room, one opening into another. More than one bewildered guest is said to have called for help after losing his bearings in the labyrinth.

● PLEASE See Page 5

clipping giving some of the history of the tavern.

Clipped By:



bfarmer

Wed, Sep 7, 2016