

INTRODUCTION

The Hiwassee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, gratefully acknowledges the interest and assistance given by hundreds of people in the writing of this book. It would be impossible to list all who gave so generously of their time. The Publishing Committee of Hiwassee Chapter merely supplies the information given here with little attempt to do research or verify the old tales printed herein. Doubtfully such are true; none, only tradition.

In most instances the names given to the places reflect the names of the builders, but in a few instances the names are wholly and definitely American.

It is given to the names of these places, and as generally more than one name is given to the same place.

There are many names of places which are not given here, but which are of great interest to the history of the county, and progress in the future can only be accurately looking to the past.

Published December, 1952

Publishing Committee:
Mrs. Arthur H. Fowler, Chairman
Mrs. Wiley P. Zimmerman, Chapter Agent
Mrs. M. Sara Alexander, Chapter Historian
Publishers: Hiwassee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1952

BELOVED LANDMARKS
of Loudon County,
Tennessee

Published by
the Hiwassee Chapter
Daughters of The American Revolution

INTRODUCTION

The Hiwassee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, gratefully acknowledges the interest and assistance given by hundreds of people in the writing of this book. It would be impossible to list all who gave so generously of their time. The Publication Committee of Hiwassee Chapter merely compiled the information given them with little attempt to do research or verify the old tales printed herein. Undoubtedly most are true; some, only tradition.

In most instances the names given to the homes reflect the names of the builders, but in a few instances neither the builder nor date of construction has been preserved. All pictures, unless otherwise credited, are by Guy Thomas Taylor, of Loudon, Tennessee. Use of the official seal is by permission of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Above all, grateful appreciation is given to the owners of these homes, who so generously gave their permission for publication, as well as their cooperation.

There are many beautiful landmarks in Loudon County that are older than those included in this book, but little information about them has been preserved. It is our sincere hope that others will add to this material in the years to come, for our today will be history tomorrow, and progress in the future can only be measured by looking to the past.

Published December, 1962

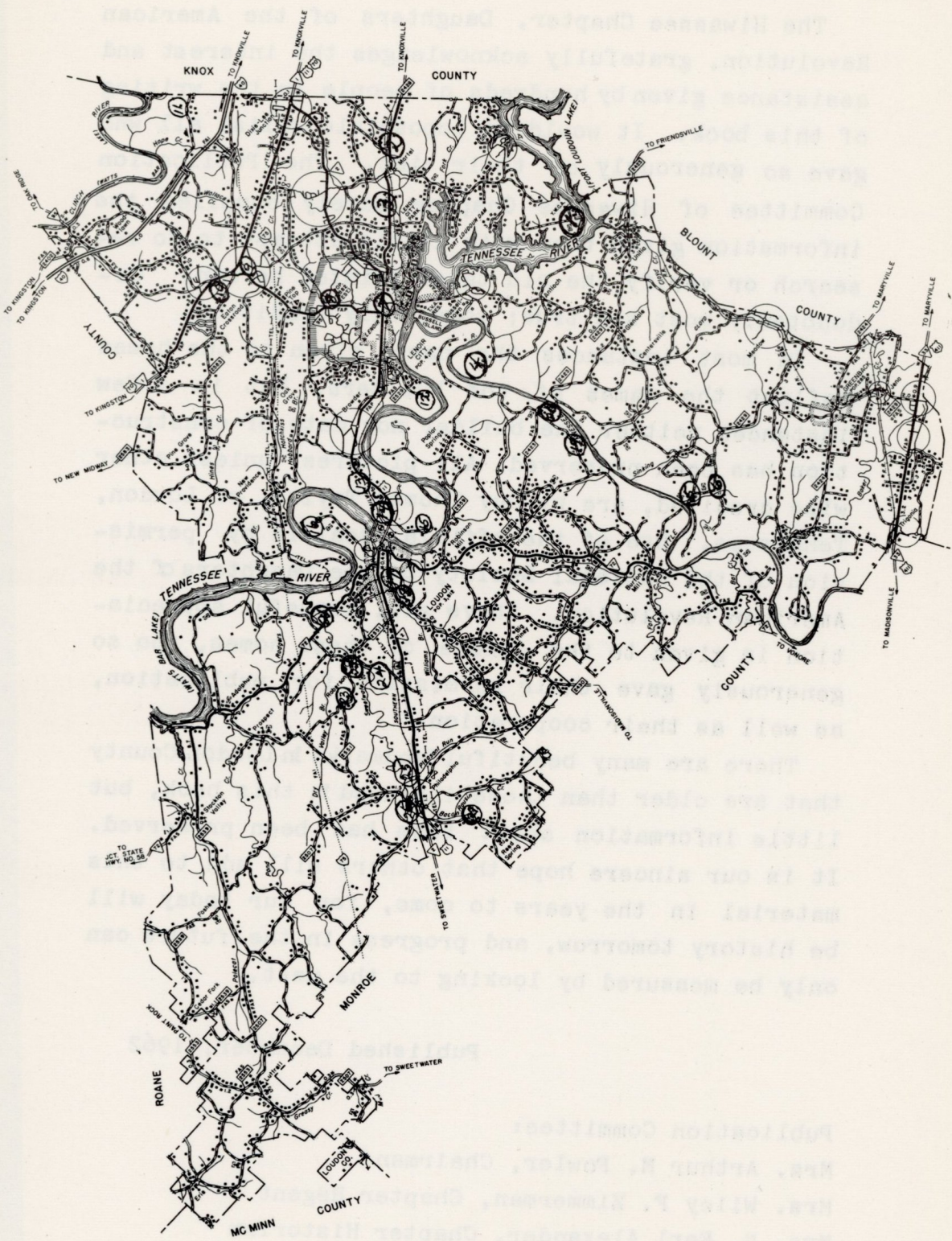
Publication Committee:

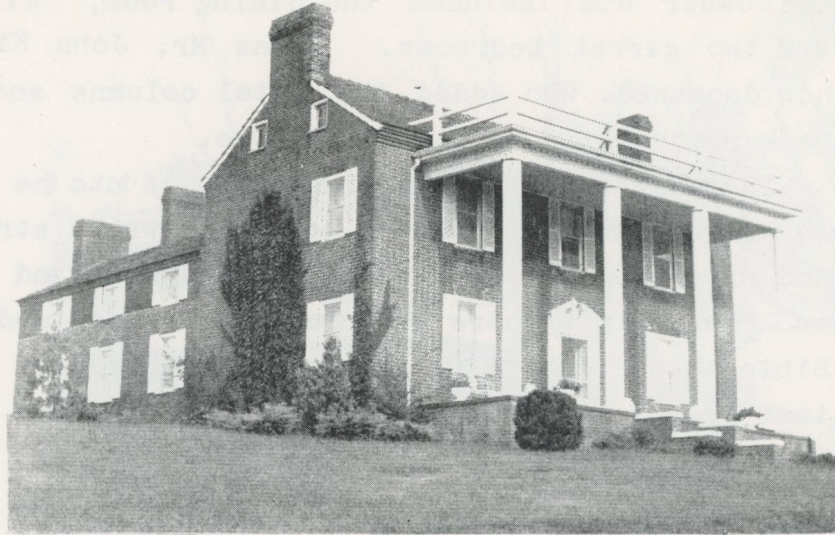
Mrs. Arthur M. Fowler, Chairman

Mrs. Wiley F. Zimmerman, Chapter Regent

Mrs. M. Earl Alexander, Chapter Historian

Publisher: Hiwassee Chapter, Daughters of the
American Revolution





"AQUARELL"

LOCATION: In the Martel Community. Take Martel Road at Lenoir City and pass the golf course. Continue on this road until it ends at the Prater home.

This stately home was built by Benjamin Franklin Prater and his wife, Nancy L. Prater, sometime after 1797. It was in that year that Mr. Prater purchased a seven mile span of river land which was still a part of North Carolina. At the time of the purchase the river was known as the Holston, but it was later renamed the Tennessee; presently, it is called Fort Loudon Lake. All through the years the house has been a prominent landmark, noted for its beauty and its commanding location overlooking Prater's ferry, one of the early river crossings. Due to many divisions of the estate, only 160 acres surround the present house.

As with all these old homes, the bricks were made by slave labor. It is estimated to have taken 100 slaves two years to make bricks for the front part of the house alone. All walls throughout the house are solid brick, some eighteen inches thick (that is, three bricks deep). The ell was added by a son of

the owner and includes the dining room, kitchen and two garret bedrooms. It was Mr. John Kinser, now deceased, who added the metal columns and the back porch while he owned the home.

There were four huge chimneys built into the walls, serving the dual purpose of making the walls stronger and providing heat. The doors are handmade and known as "Christian" doors - a cross at the top and open Bible at the bottom. The doors still have the original granite doorknobs. Pine boards $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick by about 7 inches wide provide the flooring. Each board has been cut to the exact length of the room. Nails used in joining them are oblong rather than round. Floor joists are 3" X 10" and put together with wooden pegs. During the Civil War the basement was used as a prison.

This lovely old home is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Carr.



CRADLE OF METHODISM IN LOUDON COUNTY

LOCATION: Martel Road near the railroad underpass.

One cannot separate this home of John and Arabella Cunningham Winton from the establishment of the Methodist Church in Loudon County. The Wintons came from Virginia where Mrs. Winton had embraced this "new" religious faith, and they first settled near Dandridge, Tennessee. Colonel Winton, too, became a Methodist and was ordained a local preacher. In those days there were traveling ministers called "circuit riders," and "local" preachers who had other occupations and preached without being subject to the orders of the bishop. John Winton was a very devout man, and he gave a part of his land to establish the Muddy Creek Methodist Episcopal Church, now called Martel Methodist. (History of Martel Methodist Church, 1795-1962, available from the editors, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duff, Martel).

When John Winton first came to Martel in 1795 he built a small frame building just west of the home pictured here. As his family increased he added wings to his house. It was in this house that Bishop Asbury of the Methodist Church often visited and preached,

and he frequently mentioned it in Bishop Asbury's Journal. It is noteworthy, too, that history even records the size of Colonel Winton. He weighed nearly 500 pounds!

Colonel Winton began construction of his home in 1812 but it was interrupted by war. Then, a nephew named John Cunningham Turnley stopped here on his way home from the war of 1812, and he completed construction in 1815. Bricks were made by the slaves who lived on the farm in log cabins. Many alterations have taken place through the years: a double porch was added on the front, and the free-hanging circular stairway was altered to make a platform entrance into the hall in the "L". Most of the woodwork, doors, mantles, and floor plan remain the same as originally built.

After Colonel Winton's death the house was occupied by a relative, Colonel Easley, and still later by the Mann and Armstrong Families. It was purchased in the 1940's by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Carson, and is in possession of their daughter, Mrs. Samuel G. Johnson of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Much time and effort have already gone into the restoration of the original frame home, and Mrs. Johnson plans future remodeling of the present stately brick. Although Mrs. Johnson is not a Winton descendant, she has undertaken the restoration of this home with great personal interest.



FROM LOG HOUSE TO MODERN HOME

LOCATION: Martel Road West of the railroad underpass.

Little is known of the early history of this lovely old country home. So extensive has been the remodeling that only in the basement can the exposed logs on the foundation be seen. It is generally agreed that the building date was 1840, for that figure appeared on one of the foundation rocks just to the left of the stairway leading to the porch. This date was covered during remodeling and is not visible today.

Tradition has it that this house was built by the Reverend John Grant, a son-in-law of John Winton. (See House #2, immediately preceding this one.) We presumed his son or inheritor was I. C. Grant, for he, too, lived in the home. It is believed that the rear of the house had a brick "L" addition which burned or was torn down, because the bricks found here were too many for just a walkway. Our oldest settlers recall a kitchen wing to the rear and say that a small school was conducted in one of the large "parlour" rooms on the front of the house. At one time Maryville College owned the house, and it stood vacant for many years until Judge James Carter of Knoxville and his sister,

THE GRANT JOB

a Mrs. Burdette, undertook to remodel it. They lived there for several years. It was then purchased by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bickley, who undertook extensive remodeling. In 1940 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Armstrong, who reside there and enjoy modern country living. Only our earliest settlers can remember its past; the outward appearance does not hint that it is one of the oldest homes in the county.



HOME AND BURIAL GROUND OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

LOCATION: Off Highway 95 between Lenoir City and Greenback in the section known as Jackson's Bend. Turn right two miles from Ft. Loudoun Bridge onto Jackson's Bend Road. House is approximately three miles from highway, and the road ends at the house.

James Wyly was born December 19, 1762, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He served in the Revolutionary War as a drummerboy while quite young and participated in several battles. Coming to Tennessee a widower, he took for his second wife Mary Whittenburger in 1828. He purchased over 1,000 acres of land at 10¢ an acre and built the lovely brick home pictured here in the same year, in 1828. The bricks were made by hand with slave labor. Originally it was an L-shaped structure, with a wing to the back, but this was removed by a descendant in later years; and then the garage was added to accommodate changes in transportation.

James Wyly died in 1850 and is buried on a high hill overlooking the farm. In August, 1961, the Hiwassee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

placed a marker to his memory in a military ceremony. A descendant, Charles Paul Chihasz, III, of Loudon is pictured at the time he unveiled the marker. James Wily is the only known Revolutionary Soldier buried in Loudon County.

Many stories have been told throughout the years about this old home, and from one of them it gained the reputation of being a haunted house. During slavery days one of the Negroes went beserk and cut off the head of another slave and hung it on a fodder pole in the field. This blood-curdling tale is not reflected in the serenity of modern surroundings.

The present owners are Ferd and Roy Stipe of Knox Count





BUILT BY EARLY STONE MASON

LOCATION: - In the Greenback community near the junction of Morganton and Jackson Ferry Roads.

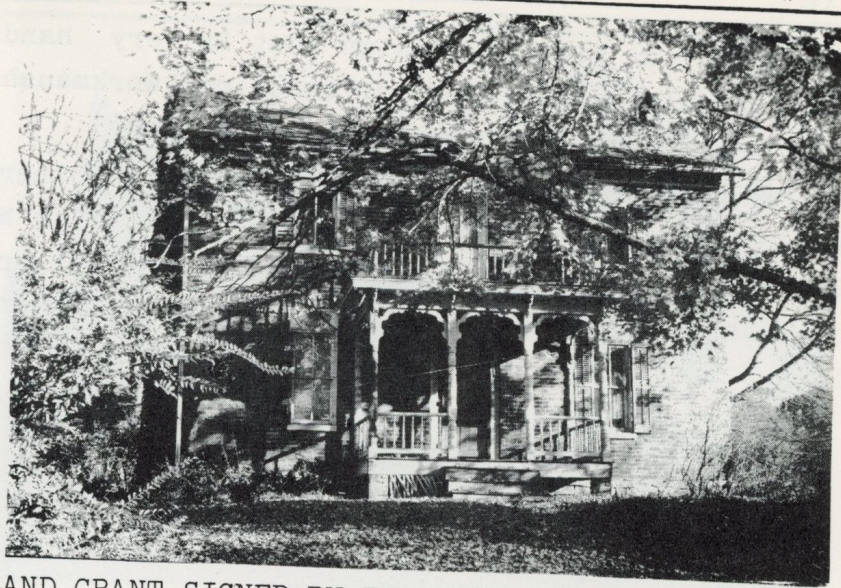
One of the most unusual homes in Loudon County is located in the so-called "Blount Fraction" on the Little Tennessee River some eight miles from Loudon. At one time Jackson's Ferry permitted travel directly to the county seat, but it has not been in operation for several years. This land was originally in Blount County, but it became part of Christiana County (later renamed Loudon.)

According to tradition, the house was built about 1828. Two Hughes brothers moved here from North Carolina, one being a brick mason and the other a stone mason. They built on adjoining farms, one using brick and the other stone as their construction materials. (The Hughes Brick, built by the other brother, is described as House #6, immediately following.) An examination of old pictures reveals that the floor plans of both are really very similar. However, this is seemingly belied by the difference in building materials,

as well as by the dissimilarity of later additions. It is evident that both houses were built before Indians were removed from this territory; some of the small windows and portholes on either side of the chimney undoubtedly were designed for use in warding off Indian attacks. Further proof of the builder is the name of "Hughes" carved on the chimney. No date is inscribed, however.

The house and farm long ago came into possession of Josiah Jackson, the eldest, and it has been the home of the Jackson family for five generations. The house has always gone by this name. It was extensively remodeled in 1908 and is now in the possession of Mrs. Hester Jackson Bell, who has resided in the home since 1903.

If only houses could speak, this one would be able, we are sure, to tell many interesting stories - for it spans the history of Indians, slavery, and the Civil War, and on up to the early days of the automobile and our present "atomic age." Yet this home seems as timeless as the ages.



LAND GRANT SIGNED BY TENNESSEE'S FIRST GOVERNOR

LOCATION: Near the Greenback community at the junction of Morganton and Jackson Ferry Roads.

This dignified but lonely-appearing brick home was built on an original land grant given to Robert Hughes and signed by William Blount in 1809. The house was built by him prior to 1840, and is two stories with two large rooms and a central hall on each floor. The bricks are an unusual shade of brown, which color was caused by the ore pigment in the clay. Remnants of the brick kiln where they were burned still remain near the site of the house. The timbers were hand-hewn or sawed by one of the old vertical saws, and the finished lumber inside the house clearly shows it was hand-planed. The walls are plastered, The ceilings wood, and the floors are wide pine boards put down with handmade square nails. The kitchen annex to the house was of frame, and it was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire. The outstanding feature of the house, however, is near the roofline. As with many of these early homes, the bricks are corbeled out to make a design in the cornice work. With this home, however, the bricks are laid at an angle to form a

triangular or rickrack design that is very handsome. This is only one example of excellent workmanship in this early home.

The house has never been owned by anyone other than a Hughes family member. The present owner, Miss Minnie Hughes, granddaughter of the builder, is an invalid but the home remains the same except for a lonely~~ky~~ look.



THE LENOIR INN

LOCATION: Depot Street, Lenoir City.

It is impossible to separate the founding of Lenoir City and, indeed, Loudon County from the Lenoir family. Hundreds of acres surrounding the present site of Lenoir City had been given to General William Lenoir for his heroic services at the Battle of Kings Mountain during the Revolutionary War. Since money was very scarce in those days and land was plentiful, our Continental Congress often chose this as a way to pay those soldiers. This huge land grant was awarded in 1795, but General Lenoir and his son, William Ballard Lenoir, spent fifteen years of court litigation because others claimed the same land by homestead rights. Finally, judgement was in favor of the Lenoirs; and in 1810 General Lenoir and his son, Major William Ballard Lenoir, along with the Major's family, came here from North Carolina. His wife was the former Elizabeth Avery, of another well-known family, and they had their four children with them. This was along the rugged frontier at that time, and only one home stood on the site of Lenoir City - a log house, belonging to homesteader Simeon

Eldridge. General Lenoir returned to North Carolina, but the younger Lenoirs moved into this log home and remained until completion of their new home, which was considered a mansion in those days. The Lenoir Home (or Lenoir Inn, as it was later called) was not completed until 1821. All bricks were handmade by slaves, the floors were of wide pine, and the moldings on all door casings were different. The basement is fully excavated, having served as the kitchen in slavery days. Food was then raised on dumbwaiters to the dining room where it was served. Mr. Simeon Eldridge had stayed on as overseer for the farm, and at one time it consisted of more than 5,000 acres, of which 1,000 was in cultivation. In addition the Lenoirs had a general store on the site of the present main office of the Charles H. Bacon Hosiery Mill. In 1837 a cotton factory was constructed for the manufacture of cotton yarn and cotton batting. This factory had a successful, uninterrupted career for fifty years before being sold to the Lenoir City Company. The Lenoir family also built on Town Creek a large flour mill, which burned in 1915. Subsequently the flour mill was moved to the site of the old cotton mill, where this type of business is still in operation.

After Major Lenoir's death, his four sons - William, Waightstill Avery, Benjamin Ballard, and Isarel Pickens - continued to operate the family interests.

During the Civil War the Lenoirs' general store was burned, as was the depot on the site of the Charles H. Bacon Hosiery Mill on Bond Street. Union Colonel W. P. Saunders was about to burn the flour mill (and probably the Lenoir home) when Benjamin B. Lenoir, an ardent Mason, moved among the army giving the Masonic sign and the mill was spared. Benjamin's brother, Isarel, was so impressed and curious that he, too, became a Mason.

Many tales have been told of the Lenoir Inn, because

it became the center of social gatherings in this area. The old Inn has had several owners and extensive remodeling. It was purchased in 1916 by the Ledbetter family and presently is owned by Mrs. Roy Ledbetter. Now known as the Ledbetter Apartments, it has about thirty rooms divided into eight units. Even the old must change with the new, so a modern touch will be added by the owner who plans to construct a fallout shelter in the basement.

The Lenoir homes which follow in this book were built by sons of Major William Ballard Lenoir.



GENERAL LONGSTREET'S CAMPING GROUND

LOCATION: One mile northwest of Lenoir City on Highway 95.

This house is rich in history, dating back before 1846 when it was constructed by an unknown builder. The back of the house is built of logs twenty-two inches thick, which now have been covered with weatherboarding. The four front rooms were added about sixty-six years ago.

This house first came into possession of the Jones family as a wedding gift to Susan Fuqua Eldridge and John Talliaferro Jones from the bride's father. The young couple moved to this home on April 25, 1846, along with two Negro slaves, also a part of the bridal gift. The house and surrounding farm remained in the Jones family until 1924, at which time it was sold. Numerous owners have occupied it since that time, and it is presently owned by Kingston Pike Baptist Church. The farm land is now within the city limits of Lenoir City and has become a subdivision.

Many interesting old tales have been told of this house through the years, especially of the Civil War period. The ceilings were removed from the staircases to hide coverlets, blankets and other valuables. Bee

gums were stored in the attic, with holes being made under the eaves so the bees could enter. Thus, the honey could be saved for the family, rather than be confiscated by hungry soldiers.

Confederate General Longstreet camped on the farm for two days on his way to the Battle of Fort Saunders in Knoxville. The family still has the old "corded" bed in which he slept, as well as the old Seth Thomas clock the General gave to his host, John T. Jones.



DIGNIFIED COUNTRY HOME

LOCATION: On Highway 95 at Eaton's Cross Roads.

Very little information is available about this old home except that it was built in 1830 by a contractor named Davis, who built the James Hope Home (House # 11) at the same time. The house was owned by Dr. Robert P. Eaton, a prominent physican, in what was Roane County at that time. This section in 1870 became a part of newly created Loudon County. Dr. Eaton had a small building at the foot of the hill below the house, and it was here he had his medical office. Nearby was a well house that was a well-known-landmark for several generations, offering water for thirsty travelers. When Dr. Eaton's office was torn down several years ago some of the materials were incorporated in the house. Two arched doors with handmade glass were made into a handsome built-in china press.

After Dr. Eaton's death, his son, also a doctor, died quite young. The home and grounds were sold then to the Hugh Bogle family. A son, Robert Bogle, continues to own and reside alone in the home. Great care has been taken to keep all remodeling within the simple original lines of this dignified country home.



ECHOES OF A LOST GRANDEUR

LOCATION: Junction of Highways 95 and 70 at Eaton's Cross Roads. Turn onto Hines Valley Road and continue approximately 500 feet.

This once-proud home perhaps has the most unusual past of any home in Loudon County. Its original owner was Sam Houston, the legendary figure who is known as one of America's most famous personalities. School teacher, friend and blood-brother of the Cherokee Indians, military leader, U. S. Senator, and governor of both Tennessee and Texas - the list of his accomplishments could go on and on. This famous leader once lived in a little log cabin just to the left of the house pictured here. Records at the Roane County Courthouse in Kingston show that Houston served jury duty (this land was then a part of Roane County.) helped his neighbors, and clerked in John McEwen's store in Kingston. But history had greater plans for Sam Houston; and he sold his 320 acres to James Lackey on April 28, 1834, and moved on west.

James Lackey, too, was a public spirited citizen, as the Courthouse records also will show. He had been born in Virginia but moved to this section around 1800. He had married Jane Matlock in 1824, so it is presumed he built this home soon after he purchased

the land. It must have been a very noted example of building in its day, because it was written up in an old book on early architecture.

The original house had the one-story porch, as shown, but the columns were fluted. Early residents speak of these columns as being the most beautiful they have ever seen. One of the Lackey sons married a Russell and built an exact duplicate, even to the fluted columns, in the Holston College community of Blount County. These very columns must have caused a problem, for they were later removed from both houses. An L-shaped wing to the rear of the Lackey home was removed several years ago.

The land surrounding the house was once a productive orchard, and admirers came from great distances to inspect Mr. Lackey's methods.

For many years, too, this was a stagecoach stop where fresh horses and accommodations for passengers could be obtained. Gradually the Lackey children and grandchildren moved away or died, and the famous old home was sold many times throughout the years. Presently it is used as rental property and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Morrell.



STARK AND BARE

LOCATION: Off Highway 70 near Eaton's Cross Roads. The house is on Hickory Creek Road, two miles from Hickory Creek Church.

Visible from Interstate Highway 40 is this once-proud home which James Hope built in 1830. Mr. Hope had come from Virginia with his mother, and they resided in another small house while bricks were made and the house was constructed. Mr. Hope had acquired about 1,000 acres in this valley, and his marriage to Miss Hardin joined the names of two prominent East Tennessee families.

Much admired through the years was the beautiful flower garden which provided the setting for a lovely home. The house fared well during the Civil War, for it was not damaged. It was in this period that the family hid their treasures under the porch floor and in the walls of the house.

The home passed from the family with the death of Mr. Welker Hope in the 1930's. Dust from a nearby quarry and highway expansion through the farm are reminders that "progress" does not always leave beauty in its wake. The present owners are the Maddox brothers of nearby Knoxville.



BUILT ON THE SITE OF AN INDIAN VILLAGE

LOCATION: On Riverview Road at the western limits of Lenoir City, just off Highway 11. Road ends at the Browder house.

This beautiful colonial home built of handmade brick stands today much the same as when built over 100 years ago. The exact date of construction is unknown, for the original owner, Joseph Browder, had no descendants to preserve this information. However, the house is almost identical to that built by John Blair of Loudon (House # 17), pictured elsewhere in this book. The Blair house was built in 1838, and it is presumed the Browder place was built about the same time and possibly had the same builder. Two large rooms on the front of the house are separated by a wide hall and stairway which are the size of a third room. A very large dining room covers the entire area back of these rooms, and an L-shaped wing to the rear houses the kitchen. Bedrooms are upstairs. This house is noteworthy for its beautiful built-in "presses" on each side of the living room fireplace. The paneling of these closet doors and those in the dining room are all planed by hand. This house, too, has "Christian" doors -- the cross

with the open Bible. Large iron holders are still attached on the inside door casings of those doors leading outside. It was customary to insert heavy wooden bars across the doors for protection.

When this house was built by Joseph Browder it was on the site of an Indian village. The house originally had a rail fence around it, with a wide rail or plank on top. Friendly Indians used to appear out of the woods and upon these rails take a nap in the hot sun. There are five Indian mounds still on the farm, and the present owners have boxes of Indian arrowheads which they have dug up. They also have a large unexploded cannon ball and numerous Mini'e balls found after the Civil War. A skirmish took place at the top of the hill near the old family cemetery.

This farm, with its beautiful view of the lake, is in a bend of the old Tennessee River. On one corner of the farm is the "Outlaw Rock," from which point the deeds in this section are begun.

Joseph Browder came from North Carolina with his cousin, John Browder, and they settled on adjoining farms. They married sisters, Joseph marrying Ann Matlock, and John taking Minerva Matlock for his wife. A third sister, Jane, married James Lackey (See House # 10). The thickly populated section between the two farms originally was where the slaves lived. After Joseph Browder's death and burial in the old family cemetery, his widow married a Mr. Ambruister, and remained on the farm. After Ann's death, Mr. Ambruister remarried, but the farm reverted to Browder heirs. Following the Civil War it was sold for taxes, and tradition says that Judge Brown, who heard the case, bought it for \$500 and gave it to his daughter. The home was later occupied by the Jackson and Eason families.

One story told about the old Browder place reveals that it once had a small "portico" on the front. A

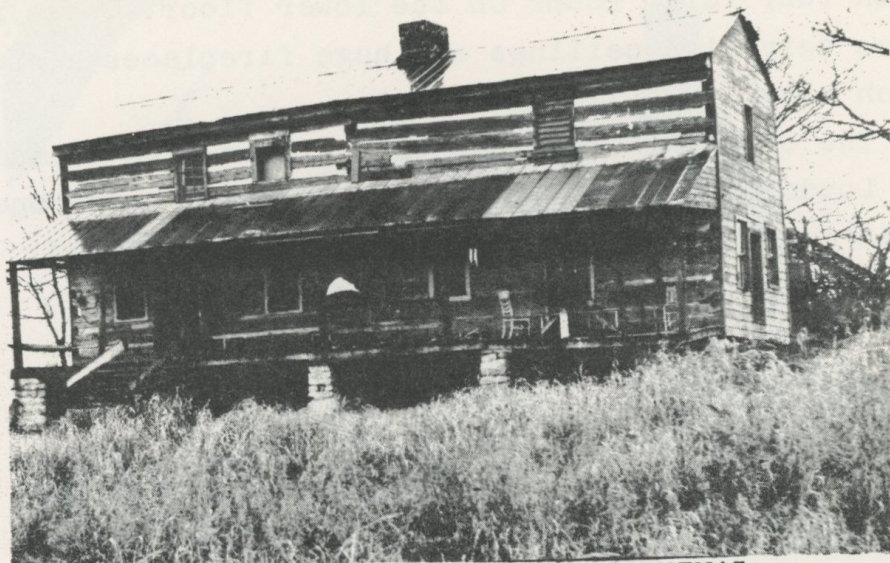


HOSPITAL DURING THE CIVIL WAR

LOCATION: On Highway 11 halfway between Lenoir City and Loudon.

Pictured here is the country home built by the widow of Wiley Blair in 1857. Mr. Blair was the son of James Blair, who owned 640 acres on the present site of Loudon, as well as several hundred acres on the opposite side of the river. James Blair and his family operated a ferry for several generations and gave the town its first name of Blairsville. He gave to his son, Wiley, a considerable amount of land on both sides of the river. Wiley had both a town house and a country house - the town house, which burned shortly after the Civil War, being at the present site of 800 Atlanta Avenue, occupied now by Mrs. O. V. Harrison. In addition, Wiley Blair planned the country home picture here, but before construction began he died during a cholera epidemic in 1854. His wife, Mary Johnston Blair, had the house completed in 1857.

Alexander McInturff was the contractor of this spacious home, and he gave great attention to details. All bricks for the foundation and chimneys were hand-made by slave labor; the remainder of the house is



STAGE COACH STOP FOR RAILROAD TERMINAL

LOCATION: On the east end of the bridge at Loudon on Highway 11.

The Carmichael Inn was of utmost importance to the bustling town of Loudon, because it served not only as the stage coach stop but also provided accommodations for railroad passengers. The railroad, serving points to the south, ended at Loudon. The passengers left the "cars," ferried the river, and received accommodations at the inn while waiting for a stage coach to Knoxville. Even in those days East Tennessee had several summer resorts of importance, and many passengers came through Loudon enroute to these resorts.

The log house was built by John Hudson Carmichael, who was born in 1780 and died in 1840. The exact date of construction is unknown, but it was built prior to 1832. His sons operated the inn, the ferry, and the stage. Two of his sons, James and Dan, fell in love with, and married, two sisters from Georgia, who were passengers of a stage enroute to the large resort at Tate Springs. Two of the descendants of these brothers have been well-known business leaders of Loudon County - Barksdale Greer, and the late Carmichael Greer.

The log house itself is one and one-half stories,

built of heart-of-pine brought from Georgia. The front of the house originally faced the river, for the highway was on that side of the house. However, the highway was changed, so the present owners remodeled extensively in 1935, adding the high porch and columns to face the new road.

During the Civil War, because it was unsafe for Mrs. Blair and her children to stay in their country house, they moved to their town house. Union troops invaded the country home and used it for both headquarters and a hospital. It is evident that some skirmishes took place around the grounds. Cannon balls and Minié balls have been found there, and parts of three earthen fortresses remain today. Since the house faced the river, a beautiful grove of trees extended in that direction. During the war Longstreet crossed nearby with his Southern Army, and Union forces cut the grove to fall like matchsticks in disarray to slow his progress.

The house and land have never been owned outside the Blair Family. Its present occupants are Mrs. Laura Blair Vance, Miss Kate Blair, and Mr. Albert Blair.



"THE ANCHORAGE" ("YON SIDE")

LOCATION: At the east end of the bridge at Loudon on Highway 11, turn south past the Visking Corporation onto Old Ferry Road.

This house was built by Hugh Blair at the close of the Civil War, and at the time of this writing (1962) it is approximately 98 years old. The land is a part of an original grant held by James Blair; his old log home stood near the house pictured here. James and his brother, John, were early settlers of Loudon, and were sons of the famed Captain John Blair of North Carolina. Captain Blair was a noted soldier in the Battle of Kings Mountain and received this land as payment for his services during the Revolutionary War. After James Blair's death, his son, Hugh, continued to live in the old log home, and thereby hangs a romantic tale. For many years Hugh courted Nancy Johnson who lived in another old log home just across the river. (Incidentally, Nancy's house is reputed to be the oldest standing house in Loudon County, but no history is available. It is owned by Mrs. Martha Robinson, and the late Dr. Halbert Robinson, and is now used as a tenant house.)

During all the years that Hugh courted Nancy he

traveled across the river in an old boat. Nancy would not consent to marriage, for she felt obligated to care for her invalid father. After Nancy's father died they were married on September 6, 1865. Hugh wanted a new home for his bride, so he turned to his nephew, Dr. James Blair, of whom he was very fond. (See House #17.) Although Dr. Blair was a busy practicing physician, he took the time to draw up plans and oversee the construction. Finally, he journeyed to Knoxville and selected the furnishings for his uncle's home, which was named "'Yon Side". The elderly couple lived there several years, and after Nancy's death Hugh continued to occupy the home.

Since Hugh and Nancy Blair had no children of their own, their estate was willed to a great-nephew, Jimmie Hugh Blair, a namesake. Jimmie Hugh and his wife, Effie Waller Blair, and their family resided in the old home until 1938. It was then purchased by Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Williamson, Sr., who extensively remodeled it and renamed it "The Anchorage". Through the years many have enjoyed the excellent food and gracious hospitality of the Williamson home.



SIMPLICITY OF EARLIER YEARS

LOCATION: On River Bend Road, Loudon, which ends at the house.

This home is one of only three in this book which are less than a century old. The land itself was settled prior to 1806 by James Harrison, who came with his brother, John, into what was Roane County at that time. James built the original log house on the Tennessee River just below the home pictured here. It was James' son, Benjamin Tolbert Harrison, who built in 1873 this house on the original land grant. This home is an example of early Loudon County architecture by two brothers, Eli Sutton Clarke and J. Wesley Clarke. These twin brothers traveled throughout this area building some of the most interesting structures still standing today. They resided in nearby Knox County; and it was their habit to move into an area, make the bricks at the building site, and return in a few months to erect the building itself. These brothers, who were master masons, also built such well-known landmarks as the Loudon County Court House and jail. Both of these structures were built in 1872 for \$7000, and the Court House is still in use today.

Since Mrs. Benjamin Tolbert Harrison was the former

Martha Rebecca Clarke, it was natural that her father and uncle would take an especial interest in this home. The original home had the usual "4 rooms down and 4 rooms up" with the stairway by the double-door entrance-way. There was also an "L" to the back, which the present owners removed before adding four more rooms. There are now fourteen rooms, most of which have a fireplace. In the basement were two rooms with a fireplace, presumably used as the kitchen and dining room in earlier days. So carefully has the original part of the house been preserved that the windows still have the hand-blown panes of glass with the characteristic bubbles.

This house was built on the site of an old log schoolhouse that was maintained as a private school for the "proper instruction of children" of the Harrison, Eldridge, and Coffin families.

At the time of the Civil War some skirmishes took place around the farm, as evidenced by the Mini'e balls, but no damage was done to the house. However, the strange fortunes of that war are told by Harrison descendants today. Both a Union and a Confederate soldier were sent to guard or protect the Harrison family, and while stationed at the home they heard a disturbance among the horses. Both soldiers rushed to investigate, and in the gunfire that followed the Union soldier was seriously wounded. The Confederate soldier stayed on to nurse him back to health. The patient formed such an attachment to the family that he came back from Michigan many years later to visit in the home.

Legend also says the first name for Loudon County - Christiana - was inspired here. That was the nickname given to Sarah Anne Clarke (daughter of Eli Clarke) who was known for her sweet and devoted nature. Sarah Anne's husband, Fleming Harrison, was a member of the Tennessee Legislature when the new county was formed, and he honored his wife by naming the county for her.

Unfortunately, the quiet charm of this home that beckons one toward a walkway of boxwoods, magnolias, and ancient shrubbery, also shields the house from the eye of the camera. The present owners of this interesting home are County Judge and Mrs. Benjamin B. Simpson, who began remodeling it in 1953. They have undertaken the restoration with great care to preserve its original simplicity.



"FAIRHOPE"

LOCATION: Steekee Road (Old Sweetwater Pike) in Loudon.

This well-known landmark of Loudon was built in 1838 by John Blair. He was a Virginian and a descendant of Captain John Blair, who achieved fame during the Revolutionary War in the Battle of Kings Mountain.

John Blair gave great attention to the building of his home, and was assisted by his son, Dr. James Blair, then ten years of age, who carried bricks. All of the original hand-carved mantels remain today, as do the heart-of-pine floors. Interior doors are solid pine, put together with pegs and planed by hand. All exterior walls measure eighteen inches because bricks were laid three deep. They are an unusual brownish color - not the usual red ones found in most homes in this vicinity.

During the Civil War this home was used as headquarters by Union troops who hung their meat in an upstairs bedroom. This proved a problem to the Blair family in later years, for large grease spots appeared

on the ceiling of the room below.

The room with the window above the entrance doorway was used as a pharmacy by Dr. Blair. The boundary of the city lot extended to the cemetery. A large flower garden fronted the road, with the vegetable garden hidden by a row of ancient boxwoods.

In 1929 the house was sold to Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Harrison, and in 1938 it was extensively remodeled. The section of the house fronted by the tall columns was added, the bricks being made by hand on the site to match the original ones. The addition provides garage space and a modern apartment.

In 1960 the heirs of Dr. Harrison sold the home to its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Alexander, who gave it the name of "Fairhope."



DEPARTURE OF INDIAN FRIENDS FOR THE WEST

LOCATION: Beside Steekee Cemetery on Steekee Road
(Old Sweetwater Pike), Loudon.

While this home is only 90 years old, it is included in this book because of its earlier historical significance. The land was originally settled by James and Rachel Martin Johnston in 1818, when they built a large log house very near the site of the present home. A smaller home just a hundred yards to the east, the residence of the W. E. Huff family, was built at the time of the original log and was used as the first store and post office in the community. Just across the road stood the log cabin of the Cherokee Indian Chief, Pathkiller, who sold to the early settlers the townsite and area surrounding Loudon. To the east is the old Steekee burying ground, which was the site of the first church. To the southwest in the meadow was the first schoolhouse.

In the corner of the yard beside the road stands a huge oak tree reputed to be over 200 years old. (See tree in foreground.) A sorrowful legend tells the story of this tree and of the mutual love and respect between some of the Indians and white settlers. When

the Cherokees were being moved to Oklahoma in 1836, they shook hands with the branches of this tree and wept as they started on their "Trail of Tears." This belies the belief of many today that our early settlers were always at war with the Indians.

This Victorian house was built by Joseph Johnston in 1872. Although this period of architecture is considered stiff and severe, this home has always been noted for its friendliness and hospitality. Much of the beautiful antique furniture is of an early period but seems completely at home, as does the casual visitor.

The present owner is Miss Linna Huff, who occupies the house along with Mrs. Ebb Huff and family.



INDIAN AGENT'S HOME AMONG THE CHEROKEES

LOCATION: Seven miles south of Loudon off Vonore Road (Highway 72). Turn left at Giles Store and pass Davis School. House is located on Little River Road and parallels the Little Tennessee River.

The history of this home would not have been preserved except that a newspaper article in 1925 was saved by a distant relative of the builder. Although this house is not the oldest one still standing in Loudon County, its builder, George Bowman, possibly was the first white man to build a permanent home among the Indians. George Bowman was born in Germany on September 20, 1772, and he landed in New York City in 1802, having made the trip from Germany in a sail boat. He claimed several hundred acres of land on the south side of the Little Tennessee River, building his cabin not far from the Indian huts. This first log cabin had only one room, with the floor being made of logs split into half and placed across the heavy sills. A huge fireplace supplied warmth both winter and summer and provided a cooking area as well.

Mr. Bowman first married Susan Bowman in 1787 and had only one son, John. After his wife's death in

1825, he married Miss Nancy Browder and by her had a son, James, and four daughters.

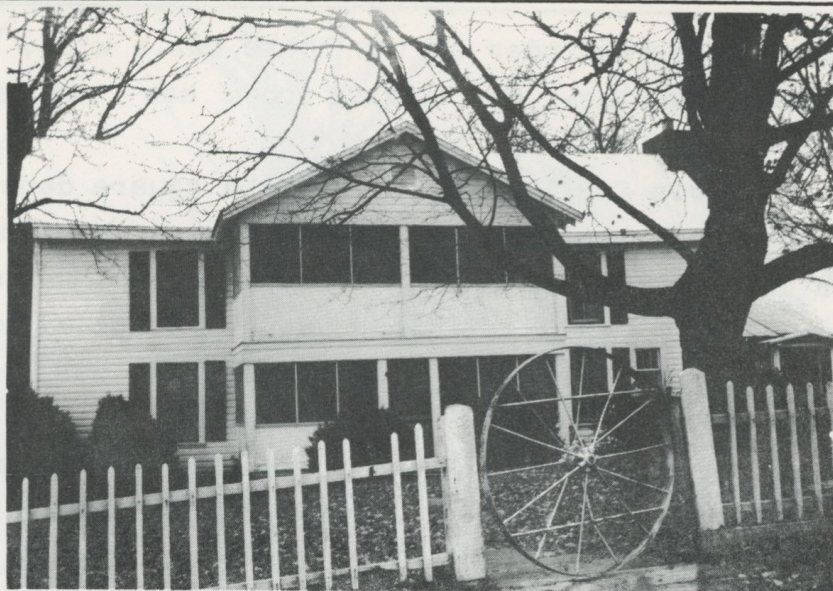
Mr. Bowman was a cooper and sold most of his barrels to the government. He also was a commissioned government agent for the Cherokee Indians. Having won their confidence and esteem, he often settled disputes and thus helped avoid many trips on the warpath.

At one time Mr. Bowman owned 7,000 acres, but he sold a considerable amount of land on the opposite side of the Little Tennessee River near the Indian town of Coytee. A spot near the old Coytee Springs was the site of one important treaty between the white men and Indians. It is presumed Mr. Bowman helped in these negotiations. Mr. Bowman was assisted in his farming by the Cherokees. In return, he taught them to make clothing and construct wells and cisterns.

In 1828 Mr. and Mrs. Bowman chose a hill site for their new home, which was the culmination of much planning on their part. The kiln to make the brick was built near the site of the house, and oxen were used to tramp the clay. The architect-builder was Jacob K. Ault, who had the limestone foundation rocks hauled from the quarry at Morganton in ox-drawn wagons. The two-story structure has four large rooms and a basement; two rooms and two porches were added later.

John Bowman was the first white man to preach to the Indians of the settlement. This family's interest in their church inspired the Bowmans to build a one-room log structure for worship, which served the community until Bowman's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was built.

The Bowman home remained in the family until the house and farm were purchased by Dr. J. R. Watkins in 1937. Presently the home is used as a tenant house.



"RIVERVIEW"

LOCATION: Follow Vonore Road (Highway 72) to Molar Giles store and turn left onto Davis Ferry Road. House is beside the Little Tennessee River and is located near the ferry.

Jonathan Davis and his wife, Sally, purchased this land in 1782. Located approximately eight miles from Loudon, this Davis family land at one time included 1200 acres. The couple had only one son, C. T. P. Davis, who built the old log home near the river in 1811 with the assistance of two Negro slaves. The bricks for the chimney were burned on the place, and the logs and other timber were cut from the Davis land. The appearance of the home when first built was very similar to that of the Carmichael Inn (See House #14). Originally, there was a log porch, the roof of which was supported by long rafters running the entire length of the house. The stairway to the second floor was not enclosed until the house was remodeled in 1940, at which time weatherboarding was laid over the logs and a double porch was placed at the entrance way. In the living room, the fireplace is stone faced with brick, and the floors are logs split in half and laid over

sills. The remainder of the house has a wide, heart-of-pine flooring. The living room has exposed log beams in the ceiling.

The Davis family dearly loved to square dance, and in the summer they built a platform in the orchard for use as a dance floor. Dances during the winter were held in a large, one-room wing especially built for this purpose. Above the dance floor was a dormitory-type room to accommodate the dancers, who sometimes stayed a week. The house also had, above the kitchen, a separate room in which the Davis family allowed slaves to hide. At one time there were eighteen slaves living there. The family later kept and educated two Negro children, one of whom became a lawyer and the other a teacher.

The Davis line of descent ran out with the death of Charlie Davis and his sister, Nettie, neither of whom married. The land had dwindled to 340 acres which, along with the house, were sold at public auction to Mr. and Mrs. William A. Graham. Extensive remodeling done in 1940 to this early log house has helped preserve it as one of the oldest homes in Loudon County.



GEORGIAN HOME NOTED FOR BEAUTY

LOCATION: Two miles northwest of Loudon on Highway 72 (Kingston Pike).

This stately mansion was built by Albert S. Lenoir in 1857 to replace a frame house constructed in colonial days. Albert was a son of William Ballard Lenoir, founder of Lenoir City. (See the Lenoir Inn, House #7). In 1837 Albert married Katherine Welker, daughter of the prominent Welker family of Roane County.

Albert Lenoir was well-known in his own right, being by profession an engineer and surveyor. In 1839 he went to "Ross's Landing" (as it was called at that time) where he laid out the city of Chattanooga. In fact, his oldest child, Elizabeth Lenoir, was the first white child born in Chattanooga, (Elizabeth later married Judge David McKendree Ker, who served as Postmaster General in President Hayes' cabinet.)

When the Lenoir family returned to Loudon County they built their home near the mouth of Sweetwater Creek. The elaborate double doorway can be seen through

a long walkway that is bordered by enormous boxwoods. The room to the right of the entrance way was used as a parlor and its window framings have beautifully carved paneling. The kitchen and dining room were on the basement floor until the house was remodeled, at which time they were placed on the main (or second) floor. A third floor houses bedrooms and modern baths. The outstanding feature of this house, however, is the beautiful, gracefully curved stairway connecting all three floors. (The upper part of this stairway is shown in the accompanying picture.)

In keeping with the exterior of the house, all furnishings are handsome antiques of this period. Several brick buildings used as slave quarters, smoke house, etc., are still standing.

Albert S. Lenoir and his eldest son, Henry, died during the first year of the Civil War and were buried in the family cemetery on the Lenoir farm. The widow, a young daughter, and three baby grandchildren were also buried there, but these tombs were later removed to a Chattanooga cemetery.

The Lenoir home remained in possession of family descendants until 1903, when it was purchased by L.M. Matthews. At his death, his son, Brig. General Hugh Matthews, U.S.M.C., purchased it. After General Matthews retired, he and his wife, Mary Higgins Matthews, resided here. They remodeled the home extensively, and its furnishings came from all over the world. Following the General's death, his widow returned to New Orleans to be near her brother, A. J. Higgins, the famed boat builder. The home was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Butler, who continue to reside there. When visiting the home today, one feels the clock has been turned back to reveal a gracious, unhurried way of living; yet, this house has kept pace with modern times.



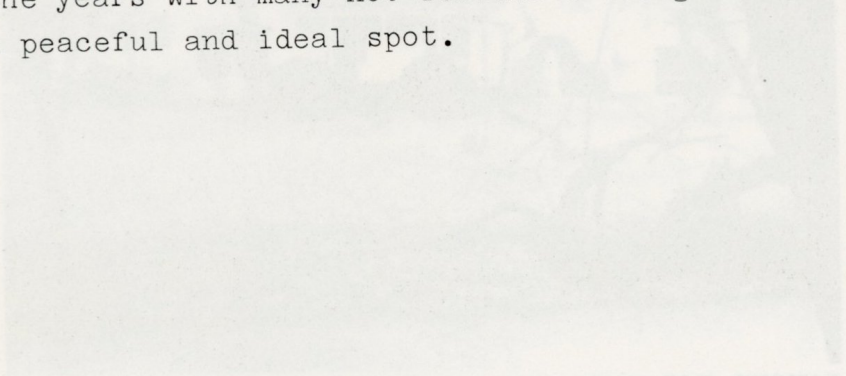
FAMOUS FOR PURE SPRING WATER

LOCATION: On Roberson Springs Road about two miles west of Loudon on Sweetwater Creek.

If this peaceful country home were removed from its setting, it is doubtful if many would recognize it. Located on a natural depression of ground with a small stream flowing on two sides of the house, surrounded by old, old trees, and reached by a narrow, old-fashioned bridge - this setting brings to mind a charm missing in most of today's homes. The land was first bought by an early settler who purchased it at the Hiwassee Land Sale and built an old log home on this spot in 1821. Joseph Roberson bought it in 1824, living in this cabin, which is now the back part of the house. The logs had been cut off the land and were of hand-hewn virgin timber. Joseph Roberson's son, Henry D. Roberson, was responsible for the addition of the front of the house; he remodeled it extensively in 1897. The dining room and another room, used as a den, retain the original exposed ceiling beams.

Another of Joseph Roberson's sons, Michael, built the home which follows this one (House #23). It is located on an adjoining farm approximately one mile further on Roberson Springs Road.

So large and pure are the springs on this farm that the City of Loudon obtains its water supply from this source. Members of the Roberson family also have graciously shared their private picnic area throughout the years with many not fortunate enough to have such a peaceful and ideal spot.



UNKNOWN FOR PURE SPRING WATER

LOCATION: On Roberson Springs Road about two miles west of Loudon on Sweetwater Creek.

If this peaceful country home were removed from its setting, it is doubtful if many would recognize it. Located on a natural depression of ground with a small stream flowing on two sides of the house, surrounded by old, old trees and reached by a narrow, old-fashioned bridge - this setting brings to mind a certain missing link in most of today's houses. The land was first bought by an early settler who purchased it as the highest land he could find and built his log house on this spot in 1824. Joseph Roberson bought it in 1834, living in this cabin, which is now the back part of the house. The lot had been cut off the land and was of hand-made virgin timber. Joseph Roberson's son, Henry D. Roberson, was responsible for the addition of the front of the house; he remodelled it extensively in 1897. The dining room and another room, used as a den, retain the original exposed ceiling beams. Another of Joseph Roberson's sons, Michael, built the house which follows this one (House #2). It is located on an adjoining farm approximately one mile further on Roberson Springs Road.



DEPARTURE POINT FOR UNION RECRUITS

LOCATION: On Roberson Springs Road approximately three miles west of Loudon

The imposing home pictured here was built in 1859 by Michael Roberson on land which his father, Joseph Roberson, had purchased in 1824. Since the home has remained in the Roberson family much of its history has been preserved. The builder was a Mr. Gray, who began construction in the spring of 1859 and completed enough of the house by Christmas of that year to allow him to "batch" in one of the rooms and enjoy his holiday feast. From that time until 1944, there was never a night that some member of the Roberson family did not occupy the home.

The lumber for construction was sawed at an old water mill on Steekee Creek. All studding was of 4" X 4" lumber rather than the 2" X 4" used today. Of course, all trimmings were carefully done by hand. Over the years the house had been remodeled twice, and interesting old pictures of its past appearance have been kept by the family.

Even after the construction, Mr. Gray and the Roberson family had remained close friends. Mr. Gray

joined the army during the Civil War and corresponded regularly with them until the Battle of Gettysburg. Since they never heard from him again they presumed he was killed.

During the Civil War the Roberson Family was sympathetic with the Union cause, and this home was used as a gathering place for Union recruits on their way to Kentucky to join the army. It was necessary for these men to dress in women's clothes until they crossed the picket lines. One of the Roberson daughters would then journey to the river and bring back the clothes.

Since both armies occupied Loudon County at intervals, the soldiers confiscated the corn crop but they did allow the family enough corn to keep bread for the children.

The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Roberson, continue to use an old log trough hewed in 1830 for salting their meat.

Today this home in its picturesque setting represents the ideal in country living.



BEAUTY SPEAKS FROM THE PAST

LOCATION: Three miles south of Loudon and about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile northwest of Highway 11.

This lovely old brick home was built long before the Civil War. It is believed to have been constructed about 1845, since that is the date on a brick in the cornerstone. The interior of the house is oddly constructed, quite different from most old homes of this period. Only two large rooms are at the front of the house on the ground floor, with a corresponding number upstairs. An L-shaped wing to the back housed a kitchen and one upstairs bedroom used as servant's quarters. There is no passage between the upstairs front wing and the upstairs on the back wing. The unusual foundations for the chimneys also compel attention; and entrance into the living room and kitchen is by separate porticos.

Damage done by Minié balls during the Civil War is clearly visible.

It is difficult to show the real beauty of this home because of shrubbery and the large magnolia trees surrounding it. The approach is up a long, winding driveway through an expanse of white fencing. Ori-

ginally a large grove of sixteen oak trees formed the background for this impressive home, but a cyclone around 1911 claimed all but two of these trees and narrowly missed the house.

There are several brick buildings surrounding the premises, and one of these -- a smokehouse -- is most unusual. A diamond design is laid in the walls by omitting a brick here and there. It gives a lattice-shaped effect that is quite handsome. Bricks were handmade with the unusual ingredients of straw and buttermilk along with clay and sand.

There is a legend -- true or not -- that a man once hid in the attic of this house for many months during the Civil War because he did not wish to fight for either side.

The builder of this home had only one son, who had no children. Oddly enough, this son, who was not a professed Christian, left his estate to be divided among "all churches." According to the terms of his will the property was sold, and thus passed from the Blair family. The property was owned by Mr. Henry Bell and his son, Henry (Peg) Bell, for many years, although the Bell family never resided there. It was then inherited and is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Gail Hein, who have modernized it with central heating and many other improvements.



"GROVE HILL"

LOCATION: The back of the home faces Highway 11 at the traffic light in Philadelphia.

This home was built by Walter Franklin Lenoir, who came from Lenoir City soon after his marriage in the early 1840's and purchased this land. The house was not erected until 1853. Located a quarter of a mile east of Philadelphia in a grove of stately oak trees, it was appropriately named "Grove Hill." In 1911, a cyclone uprooted sixteen of these large trees but the remaining ones stood until more recent years.

The house was built of hand-pressed brick made by family slaves; the lumber was heart-of-pine cut from a tract east of Philadelphia, then a part of the farm. The main structure of the house was two stories and square, containing eight rooms and a full basement, and faced west overlooking the Southern Railroad and the old highway. A brick kitchen was separated from the house by a large porch. Its walls were made of solid brick eighteen inches thick. Just back of the home was built a four-room servants' quarters and a large smokehouse, both of brick, which are still standing today. A large orchard stood at the site of

the present highway.

During the Civil War, the residence was used as headquarters of Colonel Frank Wolford, who commanded Union forces in the Battle of Philadelphia. W. T. Lenoir, a son of the builder, persuaded the commanding battery to spare the house and protect the family members residing there. However, the house was ravaged by bushwackers and still bears the marks of war.

The house gained a reputation for hospitality and refined living through the years. The Lenoir family continued to occupy the house until 1937, but it has changed hands several times since then. Presently, it is owned and occupied by Mrs. J. W. Lockett.



"ELMWOOD"

LOCATION: Spring Street in Philadelphia.

Little information is available about this home, except that it was built in 1854 at the time this land was a part of Roane County. William Knox had laid off the town in 1822 into lots numbering 1 to 70. "Elmwood" was built on lots 10 and 11. It is built of the usual handmade bricks but they have been covered with plaster. Mr. Pearson, the builder, sold it to E. S. Adkins, of Talbot County, Georgia, in 1865. It was quite a feat to move any distance in those days and the Adkins family had to come here by train. The Negroes walked, driving the cattle with them through the country.

Will G. Lenoir married Fannie Adkins and moved into the house in 1884. Members of the Adkins family lived in the home until 1916, when it was sold to J. W. Deaderick. In 1951 it was sold again, to the E. R. West family, the present occupants.



"DEL-DE-LIGHT"

LOCATION: One and one-half miles southeast of Philadelphia on Sunnyside Road.

Early in 1840, the Reverend Thomas Brown, who lived in Kingston at the time, began looking for a place to build a house where he would be more centrally located. The Hiwassee tract of land had been ceded to the United States, and in 1846 Thomas Brown purchased this tract for \$800. Not only was it a virgin forest, but it also had three springs, one of which was mineral water. After much thought, the decision was made to build the house in the valley, and there the six-room, two-story brick building was erected in 1848. Most of the materials for construction were obtained from the farm, including the clay for molding the bricks. Of interest are the double-front doors framed with small panes of glass.

During the Civil War years, life was hard for the Browns; Mr. Brown's life was threatened many times. On one occasion, when he was enroute to Kingston for a church service, he was threatened with death by a gang of bushwackers who demanded his horse. Mr. Brown refused, daring them to shoot. The cowards did not,

but they removed his shoes, which had become a valuable and scarce item during the war. Mr. Brown continued to the service without them.

At another time the entire family was ordered to evacuate the house because of danger from crossfire in the Battle of Philadelphia, Mrs. Brown, however, refused to leave her home to the mercy of marauders, and the house was spared. Family silver had been hidden in the hollow place on top of the china press; other valuables were put under the house. Many other stories and legends are treasured by family descendants who lived or visited there.

The home remained in the Brown family until 1954, when it was sold. The present owners and occupants are Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Barnett.

"THROUGH WISDOM IS AN HOUSE BUILDED; AND BY UNDERSTANDING IT IS ESTABLISHED: AND BY KNOWLEDGE SHALL THE CHAMBERS BE FILLED WITH ALL PRECIOUS AND PLEASANT RICHES."

PROVERBS: 24: 3,4