

Wilson farm accepted as historic farm

By Neil Poline

In celebration of this Kentucky Bicentennial, a piece of Nicholas County's past, in fact a large piece, a farm, has been admitted into the Kentucky Historic Farms Program (KHFP).

The Wilson Farm, owned by Margaret Burman, in Nicholas County has been approved by the KHFP as an historic farm by virtue of its remaining intact and in the same family for the past 150 years.

The Wilson farm, located on the Moorefield Road near the Bath County line, has been owned by the same family for 150 years or more, qualifying it as a Sesquicentennial Farm, according to the eligibility requirements of the Historic Farms Program.

"If the house could talk it could tell many interesting stories," Mrs. Wilson said.

There are many features about the house and yard that reveal the farm's historic authenticity.

The brick farm house, dating back to the early 1800's, is occupied by Mrs. Wilson's farm manager Sammy Dancy and his wife Dorothy.

The unusual brick work near the roof and the earthquake rods are similar to the ones found on the mansion at Forest Retreat Farm.

Many trees and plants, rare in Kentucky soil, can be seen in the yard. Mrs. Wilson said pointing to a cucumber magnolia and a catalpa tree dating back many years.

Other features of interest are a root cellar and smoke house. According to Neil Poline, Mrs. Wilson's daughter, they are original with the house and are still in use. In carrying with age old tradition, large hollowed logs, used for drying meats, are found in the smoke house.

It was one of the first in the community to have electric lights and indoor plumbing installed. They were installed in 1928 and 29, Mrs. Wilson said.

However, the farm itself is much more than an historic sight simply to view. For what makes history more than the stories, the occurrences human beings watched unfold from house's very steps.

Mrs. Wilson's daughter, Nell Poline, often tells the story passed down to her from her grandfather, Frank Wilson, of the night he stood behind one of the large trees in the front yard, watching the Night Riders ride out the old Bebe's to burn the tobacco warehouses in Bebe.

Another story involves a large cherry grandfather clock inside the house which once belonged to Francis Berry, who is believed to have built the house. The clock, as the legend goes, always started striking just before a death occurred in the family.

After a time, the clock was lain on the floor to prevent it from striking. The clock still exists, Poline said. It is now in the home of Mrs. Wilson's daughter.

Local researcher, Sherry G. Howard, went back five generations to qualify the farm for this honor by the Historic Farms program in the Bicentennial year.

The following is excerpted from Howard's research of the Wilson farm.

*All deed records dating from 1800 show that Francis Berry bought on two pieces of land and did not sell any until his death dating 1857. All records indicate he lived in Nicholas County from his first land purchase until death.

The markings for these land purchases are by trees, etc. Later markings will show a road which was built through the farm dividing it. Harrison Berry bought the

farm from his brothers and sisters, most of whom have moved to another state.

Harrison Berry was married three times. His last wife was Mary Clark.

When Harrison died there was a settlement and Peter Berry eventually acquired the land. When he died his wife had left went to his wife and two daughters.

A daughter, Nannie Cox,

bought her sister and mather out, leaving the land in her will to her surviving sister, then, at her death, the only child of said sister.

At the death of said niece, the farm was left to his wife, Howard wrote.

Mrs. Wilson inherited farms in Nicholas and Bath Counties from her husband, W. Berry Wilson, who died

in 1971, Poline said. Wilson is a Nicholas County native and life long resident. She has a deep love for the land and fills it to her duty to exercise proper stewardship of the land.

Mrs. Wilson's farm is the only one to qualify in Nicholas County.

Mrs. Wilson received a letter, certificate, and a plaque to recognize and honor

the farm from the Kentucky which the Wilson farm was listed in the Heritage Council and the Department of Agriculture on 650 farms across the state during its acceptance. have been designated and The Turner Publishing proudly exemplify Kentucky in Paducah will be tusk's tradition of agricultural publishing a Registry of tours over the last two centuries. Kentucky Historic farms in turise.



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Forest Retreat, Home of Kentucky's 10th Governor

Reprinted from Thursday, June 20, 1974
Forest Retreat Farm and Tavern

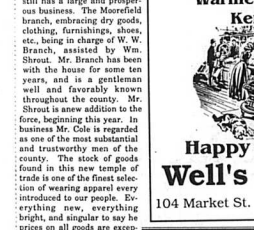
A look at the old C.C. Cole building in the 1900

Reprinted from 1900
To look at the handsome business block, recently constructed by Mr. C. C. Cole, representing a cost of full \$15,000, one cannot but conclude that the wave of prosperity has no in the least slightest. Carlisle. The building is situated on the corner of Main and Maple streets, late known as the old St. Cloud Hotel corner, it built of pressed brick, and trimmed with fine vitreous Limestone. It's three stories high, with basement, vertically a four story structure. The basement and first floors are Maple street and is divided into business rooms, having a plate glass frontage encased in stone. The second floor, formerly a store, facing Court Square, is used by Mr. Cole as a first class, modern up-to-date clothing store, gent's furnishing and foot-fitting parlors. This room with its elegant bright new stock, array of beautiful shoe cases (latest salesman pattern) polished hardwood counters and cases, splendid office, sumptuously appointed, presents a sheen of splendor duplicated not in this section of the country, and equal to the showing of metropolitan ideas. The upper floors, save a duplicate stock room, will be devoted entire to office rooms, and no fine office apartment can be had in the city of Carlisle.

Mr. Cole has been a merchant of the county for thirteen years, and a business man since reaching the age of nineteen, when in his home county, Mason, he embarked into merchandising, afterwards, moving to Moorefield, six miles from Carlisle in the year of 1867, and where he still has a large and prosperous business. The Moorefield branch, embracing dry goods, clothing, furnishings, shoes, etc., being in charge of W. W. Branch, assisted by Wm. Shroat. Mr. Branch has been with the house for some ten years, and is a gentleman well and favorably known throughout the county. Mr. Shroat is a new addition to the force, beginning this year. In business Mr. Cole is regarded as one of the most substantial and trustworthy men of the county. The stock of goods found in this new temple of trade is one of the finest selection of wearing apparel every introduced to our people. Everything new, everything bright, and singular to say he tries on all goods are expensive.

Nicholas county, is composed of four buildings owned by the 10th Governor of Kentucky, Thomas Metcalfe, whose residence, built in 1820; the tavern, 1816; the stable, circa 1820-1830; and Daniel Boone's cabin built in 1795.

Governor Thomas Metcalfe built the thick foundation of the Old Governor's Mansion in Frankfort. He is credited with erecting a number of stone buildings throughout the state, including the old courthouse at Greenville, which is the oldest in Kentucky, and Metcalfe was "Old Stone Hammer" was born in Fauquier County, Va., in 1780, Apprenticed to an older brother to become a stonemason. In 1797 Thomas Metcalfe built the thick foundation of the Old Governor's Mansion in Frankfort. He is credited with erecting a number of stone buildings throughout the state, including the old courthouse at Greenville, which is the oldest in Kentucky, and Metcalfe was "Old Stone Hammer" was born in Fauquier County, Va., in 1780, Apprenticed to an older brother to become a stonemason.



The Carlisle High School basketball team of 1924-25. Pictured from left to right: Francis Hughes, Lynn Burgess Poo, Margaret Harper, Freddie Feedback, and Meredith Thompson.

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Also originally owned by Metcalfe are the post barn and the tavern. The well-known Forest Retreat Tavern was built by Metcalfe and served as a stagecoach stop and early post office. On the farm is a cabin allegedly built circa 1795 by Daniel Boone with the help of Simon Kenton. Boone and his wife are said to have loved in the cabin from 1792 to 1799.

Metcalfe died of cholera in 1855 at age 75. He is buried in the family graveyard at Cincinnati, Ohio, who have spent nearly 30 years restoring three of the buildings, and Kentucky is named in his honor.

Forest Retreat Farm and story-and-a-half brick house. Tavern has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

Forest Retreat is owned by Dr. and Mrs. Elsie Aubrey of Cincinnati, Ohio, who have spent nearly 30 years restoring three of the buildings, and Kentucky is named in his honor.

Forest Retreat, a large story-and-a-half brick house. Tavern has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places.



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