



“Glenstrae”

“**G**LENSTRAE,” the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Baird, is one of the old homesteads near Nashville, located on the Granny White Pike, five miles southwest of the city. It was the site of one of the earliest “stations” erected as outposts to the fort at Nashville, and is mentioned in the account of several attacks by the Cherokees and Creeks on the settlements on the Cumberland. A part of the present building is an old “blockhouse” built of brick, evidently burned on the spot, the walls of which are sixteen inches thick, with loop-holes still to be seen.

At a very early period the place was the home of a family named Johnston, of which no survivors are known. Near one of the corners of the present tract, just over the line in a small coppice, is a forgotten burial plot, in which are headstones of members of the Johnston family whose births date back well into the eighteenth century. Later and for many years the place was the home of the late John Johns, a number of whose descendants still live at Nashville, and the place is still known to old residents as the “Johns Place.”

It may be mentioned that the old home at “Glenstrae,” now considerably enlarged from the pioneer days, was the headquarters of General A. P. Stewart for several days preceding the bloody battle of Nashville. General Stewart, with several of his staff, narrowly escaped capture in the house by a squadron of Federal cavalry sent out from Nashville, effecting their escape only by leaving untouched a fine breakfast prepared by Mrs. Johns. All over the place minnie balls, solid shots, fragments of shrapnel, broken bayonets, belt buckles, etc., are yet to be picked up—grim reminders of the desperate but ill-starred effort of the gallant Hood to wrest Tennessee from the grasp of the invaders.

Of far older history is the evidence to be found in all the fields of the fact that the neighborhood of the beautiful spring, which is just back of the house, was a favorite spot with the Indians. Though, when the white people first came to this region the valley of the Cumberland was claimed by no tribe as a place of residence, and according to traditions, then current, had been for generations a sort of neutral hunting zone between the Southern tribes of Creeks, Chickasaws and Cherokees, and the Northern group of tribes inhabiting the Miami Valley, the evidence is conclusive that at one time, and for a very long time, the region was populous with a resident people, the name and ethnology of which are alike unknown. Everywhere—and this is true of the whole region about Nashville—the stone-encased graves of these old-time forest dwellers underlie the fields. These graves are nearly invariably paved at the bottom with broken pottery, still bearing the fire marks received in use. Erosion and the plow have broken up thousands of these graves, and the bits of pottery, containing fragments of half burnt river shells, glistening in the sun, are a familiar feature of the upturned soil.



"NOELTON"



early part of the engagement, and when the Confederates fell back, the Federals took possession of it and converted it into a field hospital. The house was seriously damaged and was filled with the most gruesome sights and stains which it took years to obliterate. In the year 1878 the place passed into the hands of its present owner, Mr. O. F. Noel.



“Noelton”

THE home of Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Noel is situated on the Granny White Pike, and is probably one of the oldest houses in this section. In 1835 Dr. Thomas Gale, of Mississippi, purchased the land from Mr. Nathan Ewing, grandfather of Mr. Orville Ewing. Dr. Gale built the house with the view of making it his summer home. When Nashville passed into the hands of the Federal troops, Dr. Gale and family were in Mississippi and they did not return until the spring of 1864. At that time Hood's Army was drawing near Nashville. His picket was stationed at a barn which then stood on the western corner of the place. A Federal battery was stationed at what is now called Belmont Terrace. General Walthall, who commanded a division of the Confederate Army, threw up breastworks which ran diagonally through the Noel place. The house was shelled in the



“And the landscape lay as if new-created in all its beauty and freshness.”