

“LEALAND”



"LEALAND"

## "Lealand"

THE home of Mr. Overton Lea, is situated on the east side of the Granny White Road, six miles south of Nashville, and contains about twelve hundred acres. The larger part of the tract, and that upon which the residence is located, is a portion of the original estate of his maternal grandfather, Judge John Overton, and has been in possession of the family for over a century. Three of the "Harpeth Hills," which attain a considerable elevation above Nashville, are embraced within the premises.

The road to the city, skirting the western boundary, is called "Granny White" in honor of an old lady of the name, who owned a small farm, now part of "Lealand," at the foot of the gap through the Harpeth Hills. This road is part of the old "Natchez Trace," and the original road to Franklin and the South.

Thomas H. Benton, who represented Missouri in the United States Senate so long and so ably, lived at one time on an emi-



*"The touch of an eternal presence thrills  
The fringes of the sunset and the hills."*



*"And ever and anon the wind  
Sweet-scented with the hay."*

nence in the rear of the present dwelling house, and read law with Judge Overton. He knew "Granny White" well, and immortalized her in several of his speeches in the Senate. The old lady was very thrifty, and on one occasion he likened the United States government to her, holding on tightly to what she had, and ever grasping after more. On another occasion he described her farm as so fertile, and the hillside so steep, the pumpkins had to be fastened to stakes to prevent them by their own weight from rolling down into the valley.

The battle of Nashville, fortunately not characterized by large fatalities, but most important in its results, was fought in part on the second day upon "Lealand." The Confederate line extended from west of the Granny White Road along the entire front of "Lealand," and through the premises, now owned by Mr. V. L. Kirkman, and those owned by the heirs of the late Col. John Overton, to the "Peach Orchard Hill," north of and near the old homestead of Judge Overton. The first break was west of the road, and as the line held, proceeded east, the greater part of the defeated army made its retreat through "Lealand."

General Hood, in command of the Confederates, established his headquarters in the lawn. The late Judge John M. Lea, the father of Overton Lea, used to relate an amusing incident connected therewith. General Hood requested a pitcher of water be sent to him and Judge Lea called loudly and several times for his coachman, who finally emerged from behind a stone wall and approached, dodging from tree to tree. On learning what was required, he replied, "Now, Mars. John, if you wants de water, I'll go get it from the spring, doe de bullets is flying mighty thick, but if Mr. Hood wants it, he'll have to send a sojer or go get it hisself," and Judge Lea himself carried the water to General Hood.



*Some of Mr. Lea's Fine Essex Cattle*

To this present day, in the plowing season, unexploded shells and cannon balls are frequently turned up on the surface, and scarcely a storm blows that some old tree, sapped of its strength by these missiles, does not fall; all silent witnesses of the dreadful days of the early sixties of the Nineteenth Century, when fratricidal war devastated this fair region.

THE Granny White Pike gets its name from old "Granny White," who kept a tavern on this highway where travellers stopped for refreshment. She was quite a noted character in pioneer days. If memory could take us back to those old days, we should see; "By the log fires in winter or out in front in summer, the guests discussing the topics of the day until time to retire—the War of 1812, the crimes of John A. Murrell, the growth of Nashville, the career of Napoleon, or the next series of races to come off at Clover Bottom; out on the road the mellow moonlight, the limbs of the wayside trees making giant shadow-spiders in the dust; over on the hills the flicker of a torch, and now and then the music of trailing hounds."

W. T. H.



*Where "Granny White" had her Famous Tavern*

The attempt was made to carry away about thirty pieces of artillery, parked near General Hood's headquarters, that became stalled in the orchard nearby and were abandoned. Two batteries of Confederate artillery, behind, hastily constructed intrenchments, still plainly visible in an adjoining woodland, engaged in a duel for some hours a Federal battalion of artillery, stationed on the hill in the southeast corner of Glendale Park and suffered little loss, except to their horses. These were tethered some distance in the rear, and when the order to retreat was received, not enough were left alive to man a single gun and all were spiked and left.