



"BELLE MEADE"



"We see and feel the old time over all."

"Belle Meade"

ONE of the most picturesquely romantic homes of the South was "Belle Meade" farm on the Harding Pike.

Historic from every standpoint is this splendid old property—historic in its first ownership, and in its long and splendid life; in the famous men it has sheltered, and the famous stock it has bred; historic as a type of the Southern home of a period that has passed away, and in the life and service of the men who made its greatness.

In 1779, John Harding of Virginia came to Tennessee, and in 1803, on Richland Creek, he laid the foundation of the wonderful plantation that was to arouse a national admiration. However, it was William Harding, the second master of the place, who brought "Belle Meade" into her world-wide reputation as a nursery of great stock, and in his declining years, General William H. Jackson, his son-in-law, relieved him of his heavier responsibilities, taking charge of the place. General Jackson's life was of much historic importance. A young soldier, just out of West Point, he served in the war with Mexico, and on the frontier he fought against the Indians in company with Kit Carson and La Rue, the famous French guide. Last of all, he

fought for the Southern cause in the Civil War. In his Memoirs, General Grant gives an interesting account of how he narrowly



*"Across its antique portico
Tall poplar trees their shadows throw."*



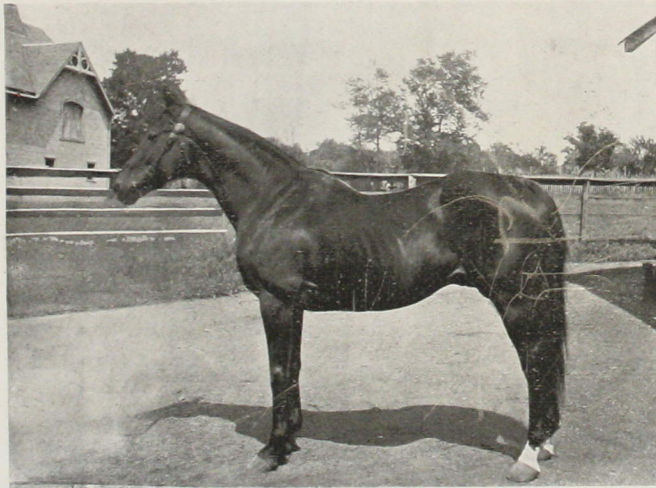
"Uncle Bob's Cabin"

escaped capture at the hands of General Jackson near Memphis, Tennessee. General Jackson was a charming host, and many famous men have crossed the stately threshold of "Belle Meade"

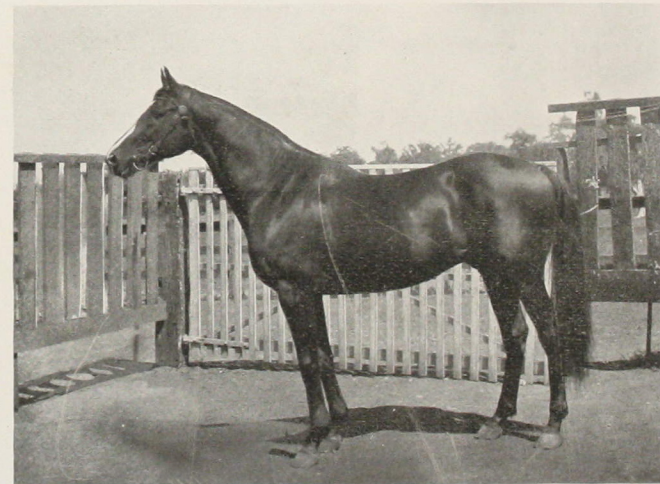


Uncle Bob, Body Servant of General Jackson, and the Last of "Belle Meade's" Faithful Grooms.

homestead. Many distinguished guests have looked out upon the sloping hills and the gentle valleys which formed such a beautiful picture. Here Grover Cleveland and his young bride



"Luke Blackburn"



"The Commoner"



*"And the faint lowing cattle almost seemed
Some far intoning choir."*

were entertained. Immediately following the days of the Civil War, weary old Confederates met here to discuss the large and difficult problem of rebuilding their lost fortunes and their devastated South. Theodore Roosevelt visited the master of the mansion, and with him helped to found the Boone-Crockett Hunting Club, to which no man was eligible to membership until he had brought down some one of the three big game of America—the bear, the elk or the buffalo. Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States, once visited "Belle Meade," and many other famous and historic characters from all over this country and from Europe have enjoyed the hospitality of this historic home; and here the Hon. J. M. Dickinson for a brief season made his home.

"Belle Meade" was the oldest thoroughbred breeding establishment in America. General Harding, who was a devoted lover of fine horses, always spoke of them as "The Royal Family."

Among the noted horses of his day was the famous Priam, sire of Crucifix, winner of the One Thousand and Two Thousand Guineas and Oaks; Bonnie Scotland, Great Tom, Sovereign, and John Morgan, whose bones are buried on the soil whose fame was their own. The great mares, Gamma and Mariposa, are also buried at "Belle Meade," and here, too, lies Iroquois, famous as the only American horse to win the English Derby, and winner of the St. Leger and Prince of Wales stakes. Luke Blackburn, peer of any racing horse in America; Proctor Knott; the Enquirer, to whose greatness the *Cincinnati Enquirer* erected the monument at "Belle Meade;" and last of all, the Commoner, who still lives—are but a few of that famous establishment.

In speaking of all these great horses, we must not fail to mention their faithful groom, Uncle Bob. With his placid

black face and true loyal heart, he outlived the several masters of the estate on which he was born. On his dying bed he sent for the young widow of his last master, and he exacted a promise from her that his bones should be carried back to "Belle Meade" and there his dust should rest until the last awaking.

On the death of General William H. Jackson, his son, William Harding Jackson, assumed control of the property, which gave gallant promise of retaining its prosperity, when the young owner was stricken with fever and after a brief suffering passed away. In the death of William Harding Jackson was sounded the death knell of "Belle Meade" the Beautiful; the queen of Southern farms passed under the hammer.

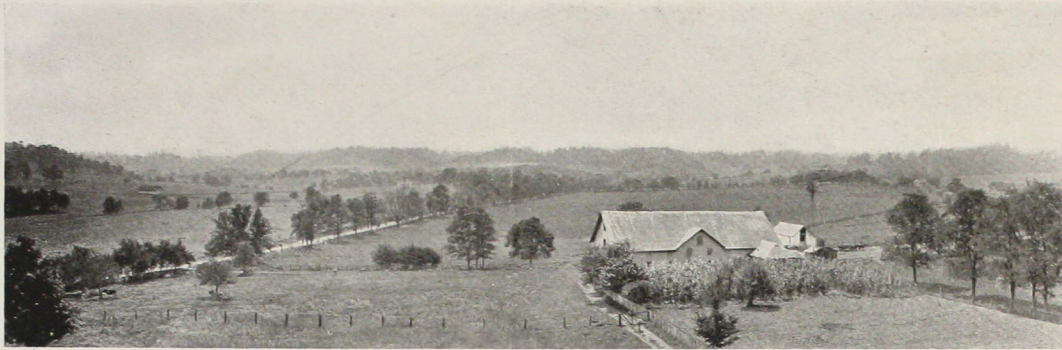
—WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE



*"Warm summer sun, shine kindly here;
Warm Southern wind, blow softly here."*



"WEST MEADE"



An Extended View of "West Meade." "The vales stretching in pensive quietness between."



A Type of the Old South

"West Meade"

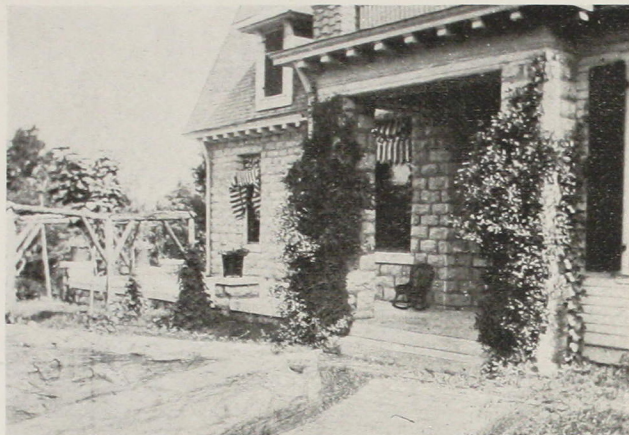
THE home of the late Howell E. Jackson, ex-Senator and Supreme Judge of the United States, is a farm of 2,600 acres which was originally a part of the famous Belle Meade tract of land, and was given to Mrs. Jackson by her father, General William G. Harding. The residence is located on the Harding Pike, seven miles from Nashville, and was built by Justice Jackson in 1886.



*"Mildly and soft the southern breeze
Just kissed the stream, just stirr'd the trees."*



"HONEYWOOD"



A Side View of the House



A Portion of the Garden

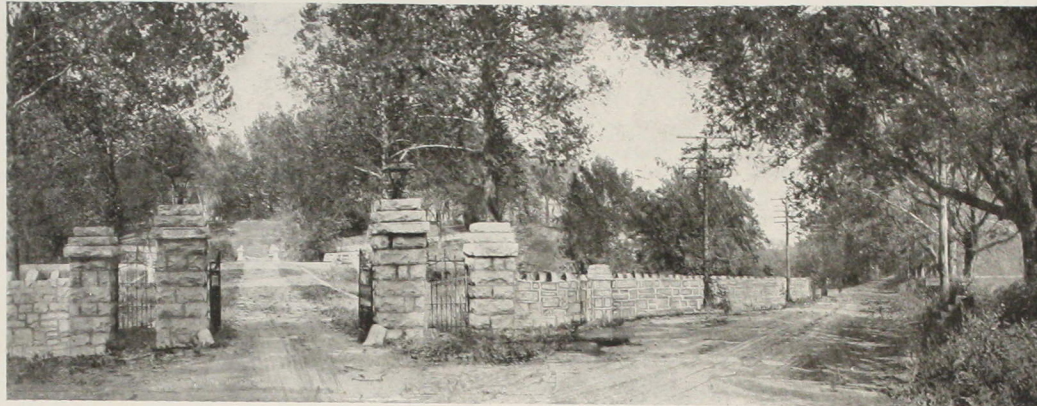
“Honeywood”

JUDGE THOMAS H. MALONE gave this name to his place—situated five miles out on the Harding Pike—because of the growth of locust trees which covered the site at the time the house was built. The place was originally a part of the McGavock tract of land, which embraced many acres on both sides of the Harding Pike. It adjoins the celebrated Belle Meade deer park, and was purchased by Judge Malone, who here started the raising of Jersey cattle. He was one of the first importers of this variety of stock.

The original home was completely destroyed by fire in 1903, and it was replaced by the present house. It is built of stone found on the place. This stone is not only of a peculiar color and composition, but is said to be entirely fire-proof. The new home was occupied by Judge Malone and his family but a few years before his death occurred.



"CLIFF LAWN"



“Cliff Lawn”

THE home of Mr. W. J. Cude, is situated about four miles from Nashville, on the Harding Pike. This fine old ante-bellum place was originally the home of Mr. Francis McGavock, who owned extensive lands on both sides of the pike. At his death it was inherited by his daughter, Mrs. Archie Cheatham. It has been the scene of much charming entertainment. At Mrs. Cheatham's death it passed into the hands of her daughters, who recently sold it to Mr. Cude, who has made extensive and beautiful improvements.



“There are memories that can not die.”



*"I hear the wind among the trees
Playing celestial symphonies."*



The Cliff Lawn Ponies