



"WOODY CREST"



“Woody Crest”

FOR ages it has been a maxim among the Brahmins, that to “whomsoever the soil at any time belongs, to him belongs the fruit of it.” In the year 1784, Captain John Rains, one of the first and most active of the Cumberland settlers, caused to be surveyed a tract of 640 acres of land on the waters of Brown’s Creek. In 1786, the State of North Carolina issued to him grant



*“There is a quiet spirit in these woods
That dwells where’er the gentle south wind blows.”*

No. 96 for the land, "with all woods, waters, mines, minerals, hereditaments and appurtenances belonging." From that good year there has not been a day that some of his descendants have not lived upon the land, and his tribe has increased to hundreds; but no part of it has been so well and beautifully kept as "Woody Crest," whose bosky verdures still delight the eye, and this notwithstanding the residence was the center of one of the fiercest conflicts that was fought around Nashville during the war between the States from '61 to '65, the residence having been used by General Wood, (who commanded the Federal forces), as headquarters, and which on this account became the target for the Confederate batteries. The walls of the older parts of the building still show marks of the bombardment through which it passed during that unhappy struggle.

It has been truthfully said that "One generation cometh and another goeth, but the earth abideth forever," and after passing through the fiery ordeal of war, "Woody Crest" has come down to this day more attractive and beautiful than ever before. There is no sentiment more deep-rooted in the human heart than the love of home. And it is well that it is so; for upon it is founded patriotism, philanthropy, and our civilization itself. It is this love that inspires us to improve and beautify the land, whether it be the mere shack upon the broad prairie, or the palatial residence upon the older and more cultivated parts of the country. Among the latter, "Woody Crest" stands as a conspicuous example.

This home, the property of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Robinson, which is naturally one of the most beautiful in the State, has been supplemented by whatever the most artistic taste could suggest. Since 1784, it has not been out of the Rains family, and still affords not only the most gracious hospitality to the stranger, but shelters and comforts the heirs of that hardy old pioneer even to his children's children's children's children.—*M. W.*



Peonies in the Garden