

II

Beginnings of the Neighborhood

In its primal state the area was the hunting grounds for the Chickasaw Indians.

Its swamps and its fallen timbers left by the great "harricane," its tangled undergrowth and thick cane-breaks all gave shelter to an abundance of game. Besides, the Fourth Bluff had for more than a century been recognized as (the) port of entry and their (the Chickasaw Nation's) access to river travel.¹

In 1818 the Chickasaws ceded their land to the U. S. government. Prior to that, land speculators had bought up tracts of land "to be held in trust until Indian claims could be extinguished."² After the Treaty of 1818 with the Indians, the federal government honored these prior land grants.

John Rice of Nashville was among those who purchased 5,000 acres of land on the Chickasaw Bluff in 1789. Rice had a short period of ownership, for he was killed by the Indians in 1791. His grant was sold to another citizen of Nashville, Judge John Overton, outstanding jurist and a far-sighted businessman. Judge Overton shared the property with his partner, Andrew Jackson, who later sold it to James Winchester. They became the proprietors of this small village on the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff which they named Memphis. Though Jackson sold his portion, Overton "hung on to his half through thick and thin, eventually becoming one of the wealthiest men in the state."³

His daughter, Ann, married R. C. Brinkley, a prominent Nashville lawyer. They moved to Memphis where Brinkley became a leader in organizing the Memphis and Charleston Railroad and many other civic projects in addition to overseeing the Overton property. Their daughter, Ann Overton Brinkley, married Robert Bogardus Snowden, a wine dealer from Nashville and a Civil War hero. Two sons and three

daughters were born of this marriage. The Snowden brothers, Robert Brinkley and John Bayard, and their sisters inherited land on all sides of Memphis and Shelby County. One sister, Mary, married Lawson H. Treadwell; another, Imogene, married Edward L. Boyle; and Annie married John T. Fargason. Bayard Snowden married Roberta Galloway, the daughter of Colonel Robert Galloway, whose mansion remains intact on Overton Park Avenue. Consequently, Bayard Snowden's interest in the area was increased.⁴

As the twentieth century commenced, Overton heirs in Nashville and Memphis started to dispose of their large land holdings pertinent to this neighborhood. That land was south of Vollintine, Lots 2 and 4 of the Rice grant, an area of approximately 1,068 acres which ran from Watkins to Trezevant and from Vollintine to Autumn.⁵ Overton Lea of Nashville, who inherited Lea's Woods sold it to the Park Commission in 1901 for Overton Park. Brinkley and Bayard Snowden continued the real estate office of their father, Colonel Snowden, and devoted much of their time to developing the family's property. It was said of them that they never gave their firm a name; they never incorporated. "When they decided to divide a tract, they just got together and did it."⁶

The land north of Vollintine as far east as Evergreen was part of the land given by state grant to William Lawrence,⁷ surveyor of early Memphis, who came down from Cairo, Illinois in the spring of 1819 with M. B. Winchester, brother of James.⁸ Lawrence possessed approximately 340 acres. A small portion of this property became the R. A. Terry farm. Prior to that time, the property was transferred many times. By 1825, 265 acres were conveyed to Thomas D. Carr, and in the division of his estate this property was allotted to Thomas O. Parham.⁹ Thomas A. Parran acquired this land and gave a trust deed to R. K. Turnage in April, 1855.¹⁰ Research failed to indicate how Parran acquired the property. It is possible that the two names, Parham and Parran, are the same and were misspelled at some time in the old records. In January, 1857 Parran transferred 41 acres to K. J. B. L. Winn¹¹ and sold the remaining property to Hiram Vollentine in January, 1859.¹²

Vollentine, an attorney, acquired more land and by 1862 he developed Vollentine Subdivision, which spread from Claybrook to Lick Creek, Vollintine to Daisy.¹³ While this last subdivision is west of our neighborhood, its developer left the legacy of his name to a school, one of the major streets in the area, and the neighborhood itself.

In January 1856 Parran also transferred an additional 80 acres to Byrd Hill by warranty deed.¹⁴ This property ultimately transferred to the Paine (Payne) estate.¹⁵ A portion of this property was advertized as being sold at auction in 1872:

There will be an important sale of real estate tomorrow at the south door of the Oddfellows Hall, being 100 acres in Shelby County on the north side of the New Raleigh Road and on the new narrow gauge railroad on Cypress Creek. The estate of Constantine Paine, deceased, it will be sold in lots of 12 to 16 acres. Most of the land is cleared and well adapted to farming, having a perienial stream of water running through the property. J. M. Williamson. Royster, Trezevant and Company, Auctioneers.¹⁶

Twenty acres of this land were purchased by a pioneer couple, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allen Terry, who had traveled by wagon from Holly Springs, Mississippi, in 1876. Their arrival in this Tennessee frontier was hazardous and discouraging. At the end of the first day's journey, they camped in the vicinity of White Station. Robbers attacked them and stole their possessions.¹⁷ In spite of this, they pushed on west and found a place to rent. By the next year, 1877, they had saved enough money to buy a 20 acre tract.¹⁸ The land, north of Vollintine, was lot 6 of the Constantine Paine estate of 80 acres.¹⁹ This was the original Terry Home Place. J. N. Paine (Payne) and his wife, Susan, retained another 20-30 acres which they farmed. They continued to live north of the Terrys "back there on the creek bank."²⁰

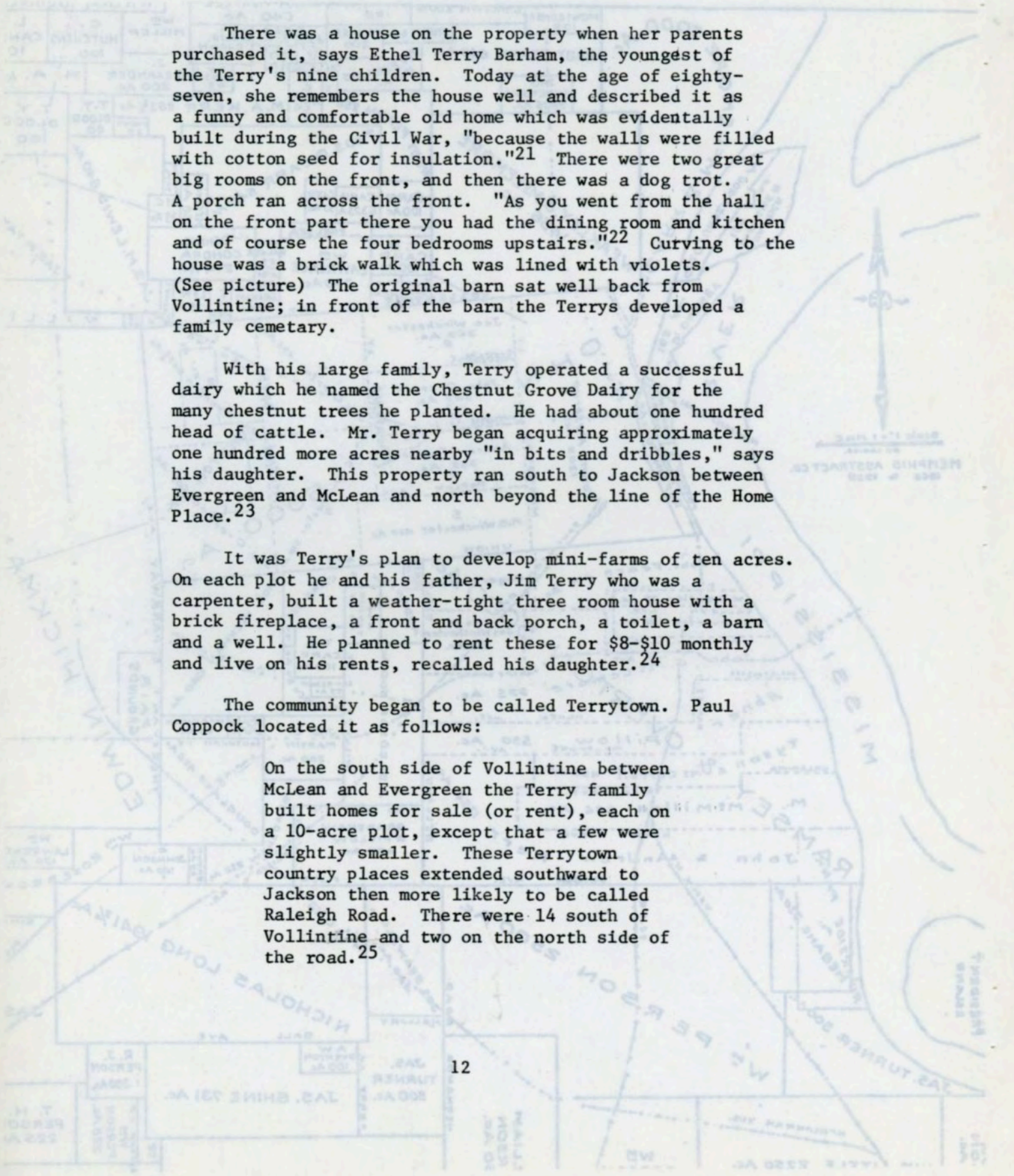
There was a house on the property when her parents purchased it, says Ethel Terry Barham, the youngest of the Terry's nine children. Today at the age of eighty-seven, she remembers the house well and described it as a funny and comfortable old home which was evidently built during the Civil War, "because the walls were filled with cotton seed for insulation."²¹ There were two great big rooms on the front, and then there was a dog trot. A porch ran across the front. "As you went from the hall on the front part there you had the dining room and kitchen and of course the four bedrooms upstairs."²² Curving to the house was a brick walk which was lined with violets. (See picture) The original barn sat well back from Vollintine; in front of the barn the Terrys developed a family cemetery.

With his large family, Terry operated a successful dairy which he named the Chestnut Grove Dairy for the many chestnut trees he planted. He had about one hundred head of cattle. Mr. Terry began acquiring approximately one hundred more acres nearby "in bits and dribbles," says his daughter. This property ran south to Jackson between Evergreen and McLean and north beyond the line of the Home Place.²³

It was Terry's plan to develop mini-farms of ten acres. On each plot he and his father, Jim Terry who was a carpenter, built a weather-tight three room house with a brick fireplace, a front and back porch, a toilet, a barn and a well. He planned to rent these for \$8-\$10 monthly and live on his rents, recalled his daughter.²⁴

The community began to be called Terrytown. Paul Coppock located it as follows:

On the south side of Vollintine between McLean and Evergreen the Terry family built homes for sale (or rent), each on a 10-acre plot, except that a few were slightly smaller. These Terrytown country places extended southward to Jackson then more likely to be called Raleigh Road. There were 14 south of Vollintine and two on the north side of the road.²⁵



The community extended on the north to Brown which was in those days known as Red Bud, just a "little bitty old cattle lane."²⁶ It was so named because of the line of beautiful redbud trees up and down the path.²⁷ Terrytown became increasingly self-sufficient. In the early 1890s Mr. Terry built a one-room school, Terrytown School. Located on the northeast corner of McLean and Vollintine, it had grades 1-6. He paid the teachers himself until the county furnished an instructor.²⁸ The school remained in existence until 1915.²⁹

Mr. Terry's success with his community attracted other relatives to move from Mississippi. "In all about twenty people moved from Holly Springs."³⁰ Among them were the Baggetts, the Pinkstons, and the Crumps. The Pinkstons operated a small dairy on the 10-acre plot at Jackson (Old Raleigh Road) and McLean, which they rented from the Terrys.

In addition to the Terry and Pinkston dairies there were more nearby. T. J. Briggs' 28-acre dairy was located at the northeast corner of May and Vollintine. "They had a big dairy. Tommy and Harry and all of that gang. . . we all grew up together," recounts Mrs. Barham.³¹

Other dairies were listed in the 1900 City Directory:

J. S. Court, north side L&NRR 2 east of Springdale; R. H. Crawford, May Avenue, 3 north of Vollintine; Samuel Edwards, May Avenue, 4 north of Vollintine; Garner Dairy, Old Raleigh Road, 2 east of L&NRR; J. L. Jones, Old Raleigh Road, northeast corner Springdale; W. J. Percer, northside Vollintine, 1 west of McLean; C. J. Reed, Old Raleigh Road northeast corner Watkins; Rook and Rook, southside of Raleigh Road, 1 west McLean; J. W. Shults, west side Trezevant, 4 south of Old Raleigh Road.³²

Mrs. Terry's sister, Missouri Tennessee, was married to Jack Crump; he was not related to E. H. Crump. They and their four sons moved to Memphis "soon after Mamma and Papa," says Ethel Barham. "Papa built the store for them," says Mrs. Barham.³³ Jack Crump opened a general store on

Jackson between Evergreen and McLean. A house occupied by W. O. (Will) Crump and his wife, Irene, stood on the northeast corner of Jackson and Evergreen. Next door to the house the Crump Brothers store fronted on Jackson, which was a two-lane gravel road at that time. The store advertized "Groceries, Feed and Plantation Supplies. Cotton and Country Produce Bought."³⁴ There was a trough in front for the horses. The store was very successful and added to the convenience of Terrytown, which soon had a blacksmith shop operated by John McClung,³⁵ the Ross harness shop, and a slaughter pen along Jackson.³⁶

Two of the Crump sons, W. O. (Will) and Claude, worked in the store. One day when Claude was there, a pretty young woman from a nearby farm came in to purchase groceries. Claude completed the transaction and gave her change; she left. In a short time Claude discovered a serious error. He had given her change for a hundred dollar bill rather than the correct one dollar change. He had to find her.

Claude learned that her name was Esther Wilbur and that she lived at Woodlawn, a handsome, two-story home, owned by Captain and Mrs. Joseph Burney. It was located at approximately the present day site of Buckman Laboratories. The large magnolia trees seen at the company were planted by the Burneys for their garden.³⁷

Burney, a civil engineer, immigrated to America from England to seek his fortune. He achieved many of his desires, one of which was the purchase of this property on the northern outskirts of early Memphis. His land, which he used as a horse farm, extended from Chelsea back to Cypress Creek and from McLean more than half way to Evergreen.

Esther's parents had died when she was young, and she was reared by Captain Burney and his wife, Cornelia Davis Burney, daughter of Memphis historian, James Dick Davis.

Esther and Claude corrected the mistake over the change, and he soon began to court the pretty miss. They married January 1904 at Woodlawn. Soon there after, the Union Railroad bought all the Burney property. The railroad took the large house, split it down the middle and made four

houses out of it. Some are still there, says Miss Alice Crump. There is also the old cistern on McLean about fifty yards from Chelsea.

The newly-weds, Claude and Esther Crump, joined the other members of his family in Terrytown. They lived in a white frame cottage on the south side of Jackson, the site of the present day Exxon Station.

Claude and Will continued to run Crump Brothers General Store and became cotton factors as well with bales of cotton brought to the store. (See picture) The brothers prospered as statements in an early ledger indicate. In 1900 they had "about enough cash to pay our indebtedness."³⁸ The next year they had a 13 month gain of \$1,447.07. By 1910 they recorded a net gain over 18 months of \$46,438.12.³⁹ That year the Crump Brothers needed more space especially for their cotton business; they separated their partnership and moved from Terrytown.

The Claude Crumps moved south to 1587 Lamar where they built a home, and nearby at 1570 they built a warehouse. This was never used for cotton, for this branch of the family organized Crump Lime and Cement Company, which has been in business almost seventy years at Willett and Lamar.

Will Crump and his family moved to 2619 Jackson Avenue and opened another rural-type general store and commissary which remained Crump Brothers until 1959 when it became P & S Nursery, named for John Pierce and Ben Stroud both of whom married Crump sisters. John married Gladys and Ben married Clarice. They were in business together through 1978 when John Pierce retired. Today Clarice Crump Stroud owns and operates the nursery from property her family has owned since 1910.⁴⁰