

# THIS IS THE LAND

Brown C. Tucker

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," so spoke President Franklin D. Roosevelt at his first inaugural address.

Those were days when times were tough. Money was really scarce and financial institutions were closing their doors. My cash line balance amounted to \$270.00 in U.S. Postal Savings and about half that amount on deposit with the Post Quartermaster at Langley Field, Virginia.

These were the days when my father, Othel Tucker, and I stalked the creek bottoms of Northwest Calloway County in search of a farm with 25 acres of fine bottom land with good timber to help keep a family of twelve. We decided on Clear Creek. This creek is situated on the west northwest part of the county with a twin source near Stella and Kirksey and flows westerly to make confluence with the West Fork of Clarks River a few hundred yards south of Asbury Cemetery.

Financing the purchase was a small problem. Dad remarked several times during the transaction, "Don't have fear of spending your money to buy Clear Creek land. The soil is rich and the hills are covered with fine white oak and cherry trees." So with my savings and two members of the family signing a land note, the William (Bill) Scott farm was mine.

Dad became the operator and I returned to Virginia. What a relief for his large family with plenty of timber and bottom land that he loved.

We worked closely together in planning the future. With a few good crops, plans were set in order to build necessary barns and a house. As I returned each year for vacation, Dad and I continued to search for other farms in Clear Creek to add to our beginning. He always pointed out the historical sites and the people who settled the area in the early days of Calloway County.

"You know," he said one day, "the Revolutionary War men who staked their claims in the lower reaches of this bottom were not fools. They saw a place that provided the necessary things of life and an easy place to make a living." He added, "The Bazzell Brothers, James and Kendall, settled the other main part of the creek bottom."

Dad bought another farm adjoining my original purchase and another. We continued to go over the area mostly with gun and dog. As we sat on a chestnut log one day, Dad remarked, "Brown, why don't we plan to buy the whole creek bottom, for I see now this is the place for a poor man to be," he finished in a soft whisper, "this is the land we need; let's buy it all." I deeply pondered his words.

This is the land where Kimbro Ogilvie and Rowland Stone, Revolutionary War veterans, entered the land to make their homes.

This is the land that furnished the sand for construction of the first brick courthouse in Murray.

This is the land where my great-grandfather, William Henry Killebrew, nourished a family of twenty-eight children. He placed those bricks in that first courthouse.

This is the land where Mr. Max Hurt led the first classes at Murray State University for studies in plant and animal life.

This is the land where more petrified wood, known to the writer, reposes in Calloway County.

This is the land where the Chickasaw Indians told William Scott that if the white man knew what we knew about "this place," he would not have to work again.

Dad often pointed out, "Brown, you mark my word, the early settlers liked Clear Creek and I predict at some future time, people will want to return to this valley."

We owned 707 acres of this land. Dad passed away March, 1960. Signs of his prediction have already begun to appear. Mr. and Mrs. Preb Adams built a substantial home and made other

improvements. Seven farms cover the main part of Clear Creek bottom land. Six of these farms have already had beautiful homes erected; the seventh is in the planning stage.

And, this is the land where, today, many of father's descendants work and play.

And, we would like for Dad to be present to witness the fulfillment of his prophecy. We pray his soul rests in peace. We remain proud of his courage, his vision, his wisdom.

"We must remember."



EUPHRASIA EVALINE ANDERSON STRIBLING

widow of Robert Franklin Stribling  
and her three daughters  
left to right

Alleine Anderson Stribling Hawkins  
Annie Stribling Balch  
Leila Jane Stribling Mitchell