



HIGHLAND VIEW

Homeowners Association

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Historic Highland View

Stories from The Past

**Presented to the Highland View
Subdivision**

Prepared by Gil Hutchison

August 25th, 2007

HISTORY OF MCCLANAHAN HOLLOW

Presented by Elizabeth McClanahan Mayfield on March 15, 1988, at Scales School, Brentwood, Tennessee

When I started thinking and writing this research last week, I thought that I should check with Lula Fain Major, as I knew that she had done research on the Catos. I didn't reach her that day, so I called Williamson County Historian, Virginia Bowman, to see if she had any Cato information. She had Lula Fain Major's research on the Catos.

Levin did purchase six hundred-plus acres for less than a thousand dollars. Mrs. Bowman quoted the figure, which, as I recall, was very minimal. This was in 1823. Levin married Widow Martha Wyatt while living in North Carolina. Martha had several Wyatt children and she had her own money. She and Levin signed a marriage contract and she bought a farm on Manley Lane. Martha traveled back and forth to North Carolina. Moses, the son of Martha and Levin, was born in North Carolina December 23, 1823 and he died January 4, 1894.

Levin had a general merchandise business Carolina, with a Mr. Armstrong. It was known as Cato and Armstrong.

After coming to the valley, Levin purchased additional land to round out the Cato valley. Levin was born October 18, 1770 and died March 15, 1848. He is buried near Beech Creek on his farm, Highland View, which is now being developed into a subdivision. Levin worked hard building little cabins and clearing the land. Levin had none of the good life, as we will see that his son, Moses, had. There were an Indian lady and her husband who lived and worked all their lives for Levin and are buried near his grave on Beech Creek. This we were told by Levin's granddaughter, Ophelia. Levin and Martha Cato also had a daughter named Martha Cato McAlaster. Levin had a nice still and made good liquor for his wife and whoever desired a good drink of whiskey. Levin's wife died from palsy in 1839. The last three years of her life she could not travel back and forth in their valley; she stayed on her own farm where she was when she died.

"Moses Cato inherited this beautiful valley in 1848 upon his father's death. Levin's daughter, Martha Cato McAlaster, inherited one hundred dollars from her father's estate. Levin was an old man of fifty-three when Moses was born. Levin's own home was in shambles when he died at age seventy-eight, but he did leave Moses stock and machinery to get a good start. Levin was a very old and broken-down man at the time of his death due to primitive conditions and hard work. His son, Moses, rode fancy horses and raced in horse races here in this valley as well as at the Hermitage and other places." (This is a quotation from Ophelia to me.)

In 1852 Moses married Mary Sicley Edmiston, one of the many daughters of Major William Edmiston who served under Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812. Their plantation was several hundred acres of land. It was located on Edmiston Road and Hillsboro (now Old Hickory Boulevard). The white brick house and smoke house still stand. This house was built in 1830. The log house was torn down. The land is now Laurelwood and Wildwood subdivisions.

Mary and Moses' first child was Mary Ophelia. She was born December 23, 1855 and died May 16, 1927. Mary Sicley died from childbirth with her second daughter. The child died November 24, 1857; Mary Sicley died November 30, 1857. Several years later Moses married the widow, Harriett DeMoss from Bellevue.

Mary Ophelia divided her time with her father and stepmother and her many Edmiston aunts and uncles. Ophelia was a beautiful child and young lady. Her hair was so long that she could sit on it. I'm told that she did not comb her own hair until she was sixteen years old. It was done by servants.

Moses really worked hard here in this valley, but I am told by my grandmother, Ophelia, his daughter, that he strutted here on his fancy horses and he was known as "Mr. Cato". Moses was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. Dorothy Boyd Dale was told by her grandfather that this valley was one of the most beautiful places that he had ever had the opportunity to visit. He said that the mansion, the cabins, barns, fences and fields were perfectly manicured. Moses would have big barbecues two or three times a year for the slaves, neighbors and friends... they would play music, dance and eat for two whole days.

Everything was provided for, and made, here on this place. Moses had his own sawmill, sheep-shearing equipment and fabric-making machinery. There was a gristmill, also. Bricks were made near where I now live. There was also a lime kiln that supplied the fields with lime. Coal was mined from one of these hills, a poor grade I'm sure, that was used in the blacksmith shop for shoeing horses and repairing machinery. Coal was also used for other purposes. We never knew which hill supplied the coal. However, the valley was absolutely self-sustaining.

Moses started building his southern mansion in the late 1850's. He would help Ophelia down from the buggy and she would open the gate for him when he would bring her over to see the house being built. Ophelia would tell this when she was in the mood to reminisce. Moses did not finish the house until the early 1860's. The house was made of yellow poplar lumber that he

obtained from a neighbor, as all the poplar had been cut by Levin and used on this property. The house had four front rooms and an entrance hall with a spiral stairway. The downstairs rooms had thirteen-foot ceilings and the upstairs rooms had ten-foot ceilings. There was a back wing of eight rooms with a ten-foot-wide porch winding around the entire back of the house and a beautiful buggy house, as I recall. There was also a huge brick smokehouse built by the slaves in the yard. Moses bought the best of parlor furniture and a baby grand piano for Ophelia, who was an accomplished pianist. (Ophelia graduated at the age of sixteen from Fanning's Girls' School in Nashville.) The parlor furniture and piano were saved when the mansion burned in 1913. The furniture is now in Earl McClanahan, Jr.'s home in Memphis. The piano wouldn't fit into anyone's home at the time and was stored in a barn. The barn burned in the 1930's...piano and all.

The Yankees cleaned Moses out when they came through during the Civil War. They took all the horses, mules, sheep, cattle, hogs, chickens, ducks, geese and all his machinery. They left him with one old blind mule and a broken-down wagon. Ophelia often told us how broken her daddy was from all the destruction by the Yankees. She said he would watch them tear the sides from the barn and buildings and burn the lumber. Each group that came through would add additional damage to the plantation.

Moses was a very broken and bitter man from all this loss but he did start over, and once more restored the plantation to its original beauty. Grandmother Ophelia said he remained bitter until his death at age seventy-one. His bitterness was a result of all the Yankees' destruction. Ophelia carried the family jewels sewed into her clothing around her waist to keep the Yankees from stealing them.

Moses was called upon to help solve many problems during these times. I would like to pass along one story of kindness that Moses performed after the war. A widow who lived across the road in a log house on the property that is now owned by Jim Charron needed help. The lady's husband had been killed on Broad Street. His mules ran away with him and his wagon. He was thrown under the wheels and died, leaving his wife with four small children and an unborn child. Her husband owed a relative an unpaid note of several hundred dollars and the relative demanded payment. The widow could not feed her children, much less pay a note. She sent her oldest son to Moses Cato's house and asked that he come down to her home. He went without delay. She tearfully told him the story and he told her that he would be back. He rode down to the relative's house, asked to see the note and told him to sign it "Paid in Full". Moses paid him, came back and told the widow she did not have to move and she did not have to pay him back...he took the note home for safekeeping. I could tell you who this widow and the relatives were, but this would serve no purpose, and I choose not to do so. This is one of the many kind deeds that this beloved man did for his fellow man.

One of Moses' last requests was to tell his daughter, Ophelia Cato McClanahan, that it was her responsibility to take care of his ex-slaves and their descendants as he had done with his father's slaves. With this note we leave Levin and Moses Cato's reign in the valley that lasted almost one hundred years.

Now we move on to the valley, which became McClanahan Hollow. Moses' only surviving child, Mary Ophelia Cato, married William Byrd McClanahan from Centerville, Tennessee. The wedding was performed at Stockett Presbyterian Church, which is now known as Harpeth Presbyterian Church. They were married on December 12, 1882. Ophelia and William moved into the mansion with her father and stepmother, Harriett. Ophelia and William had seven children: Thomas Edward, Frank Cato, Lee Bullock, Katherine Reid, Mary Sicley and Earl Berry. One child died at birth. After the birth of three of these children, Moses and Harriett decided that they would get more peace and quiet on Harriett's farm in Bellevue. William Byrd McClanahan was a well-read and informed person. He was much in demand for speaking and debating; he would debate anyone. In fact, in the early 1900's, the International Harvester Company hired him as a sales person. He became a top sales representative very soon after joining the company.

William Byrd McClanahan kept books for all food and supplies for all the workers as Moses had taught him. Fabric was no longer woven on the place. Ophelia bought material by the bolt so that all the workers could have nice clothes for Sundays, Easter and Christmas. The recession of the late 1880's and '90's wiped out a nice bank account that Ophelia and her father had together. It became such a burden to feed and clothe so many people; but Ophelia never asked that anyone leave.

They would kill close to one hundred fifty hogs two or three times in the winter months to feed everyone all through the year. They would dry their beef and also dry fruit. William and Ophelia set out a large orchard of ninety acres, which was very productive when the frost didn't kill all the fruit. Fruit, wheat, corn, barley, cattle, hogs, sheep and dairy products were William and Ophelia's, and their farm families', livelihood. Ophelia bought the Guthrie place (about ninety acres), which is on either side of Murray Lane and to the first hill that one comes to going toward Franklin Pike (owned by the St. Charles family). It had a nice house on it and this is where Ophelia died. She bought a small tract where Sam Moran, Jr. now lives (Murray Lane) to tie her in with her inheritance from the Edmiston family on Edmiston Road (now Old Hickory Boulevard).

In 1890, the first log one-room Ballew School burned. It was on top of the Ballew hill on the old stagecoach road on property now owned by George and Frances Harris. Moses and Ophelia deeded land on the side of Beech Creek Road for the second Ballew School. Ophelia and William had the logs cut and sawed, and their workers built most of this school. This school became known as

Punch'n'Point. A student would punch his seatmate and point toward the window to the travelers. Ophelia and William sent their boys to Branham and Hughes School in Spring Hill, Tennessee; the girls went to Saint Cecilia and Nashville Bible School (later David Lipscomb College). There were many fires on this plantation . . . one big barn burned during Moses' life and he lost many beautiful horses. Moses won a sterling silver water pitcher from an Andrew Jackson rider during one of their races. My cousin, Anna Mary Hammonds Price, has this pitcher. I am sure that Moses was quite young, as Andrew Jackson and Levin Cato were too old and "stove up" to racehorses.

The mansion burned in March 1913 from a chimney fire. My grandmother, Ophelia, lost many treasures and records. Ophelia and William McClanahan lost their son, Frank Cato McClanahan, in World War I. He was the first Williamson Countian to lose his life in the First World War, and he died in Ballou Woods, in France, on June 7, 1918. He was such a brilliant young man, and this was a sad time for this family. There was much in the papers regarding this soldier's death.

Roads. . . In 1919, Ophelia bought a tractor to use to help build roads. She wanted to get the roads out of her fields and woods. The road she wanted removed was through her property directly in front of the Highland View entrance, and to the left, when traveling toward Holly Tree Gap Road and Murray Lane. It was where Ola McClanahan's road entrance is now. It meandered through the fields and woods and came out on top of the first hill you come to on the new- Murray Lane. I have traveled this road many times in a buggy. Ophelia asked the county to send their graders down to grade off the side of the hill on the present Murray Lane. Williamson County did not send the grader to help her with the building of the new road. She started at the present three-pronged intersection of Holly Tree Gap Road and Murray Lane and went toward Franklin Pike, building two bridges over a creek and a one-mile road, then deeded this to the Williamson County Highway Department.

In the 1920's, Ophelia obtained Jim Lazenby's permission to go through his field. With her workers, neighbors, friends and a barbecue, a road was made out of Beech Creek...which is now Jim Charron's property...and built in front of what is now Jim Charron's property. I have traveled this creek road in a Model T and in a buggy. I carried ice water in a gallon bucket from a barrel to these workers. This creek road 'an all the way to what is now Beech Creek Road and the bridge behind what was Mr. Bob Sawyer's farm. Mr. Sawyer had previously put the road in front of his property prior to the big workday so we only had to tie into the road on his farm, which is now Duncan McDonald's farm.

Also in the 1920's, Ophelia and her son-in-law, Tyler Hammond, begged and pleaded with Williamson County to get a bridge over the Little Harpeth River near the present Johnson's Chapel Road. She furnished the rock and workers to help build the pillars for this bridge. This was

built about 1923. I almost drowned trying to ford this river coming from school one day. In the 1920's, Ophelia furnished the locust logs for the first replica of Fort Nashborough that was built on the Cumberland River. The logs were not picked up for some time after her death. Ophelia also gave the logs for the new Johnson's Chapel Church building that was dedicated May 27, 1925. Lee and Tom McClanahan and workers helped haul these logs to Julius Morel's saw mill to be sawed into lumber for the building of this church. Julius Morel donated his time and labor to help build this new chapel, along with Lee and Tom McClanahan. The building of this new church was a community project, as well as a church project. In 1920, Ophelia gave an acre of land to the Blacks for a church, which was called Beech Creek Baptist Church. There are fifty-seven Blacks buried there who worked here or were descendants of workers on this property.

Moonshining...Sometime in the early 1920's, moon shining became a big industry in McClanahan Hollow. The Whites and Blacks all rode around in shiny new cars, and we were stuck with our old Model T. I saw my first still when I was about nine years old up on Stage Coach Road, just north of Ballew School. My mother made my father move because she was so tired of seeing little airplanes flying over, and in a few days the headlines would read, "Another Big Copper Still Destroyed in McClanahan'Hollow." It seems that Ridgetop and McClanahan Hollow were vying for top place in the headlines for moon shining. A group of revenueurs came to ask my grandmother Ophelia if she knew that her workers were making whiskey. She was bent over from rheumatism and arthritis and she was almost stone deaf. She told them that "as long as they don't ask me for money, I don't care what they do." She also said, "How do you think that I can walk these hollows and creeks and see who is making whiskey?" I am told that after the revenueurs left Ophelia laughed. McClanahan Hollow got the most publicity as it was larger and had more people, but, I can tell you that whiskey making was rampant at other places besides McClanahan Hollow.

The plantation was getting to be a burden...people were moving away to the city; it became so hard to provide for Miss Ophelia's workers, but I remember her saying that one of the workers came and said, "Miss Ophelia, my little chaps are not gonna have any Christmas." Miss Ophelia told the workers to go in the Ballew field hollow and cut shakes, shingles and ax handles and take them to town and sell them for their Christmas money. This they did for many years afterwards. This is just a tip of the so-called iceberg of all the contributions that the Cato and McClanahan families have made for the beauty of this hollow.

William Byrd McClanahan was born in Centerville, Tennessee, January 15, 1848, and died March 23, 1940. Mary Ophelia Cato McClanahan was born December 23, 1855 and died May 15, 1927. They are buried in the McClanahan cemetery plot at Mt. Hope in Franklin, Tennessee. Moses Cato was removed from Mt. Olivet Cemetery and is also buried in McClanahan plot in Mt. Hope in Franklin. Frank Cato McClanahan was born February 1, 1886, and died in Ballou Woods in France,

on June 7, 1918. He was moved to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville and then to McClanahan plot at Mt. Hope in Franklin, Tennessee.

Now it's my turn. In 1975, I could not fight the Williamson County School Board to keep them from putting a school on this (my) property. I had been in and out of hospitals in California for six years from two spinal surgeries. I chose not to fight the battle. When I sold this property for this school, I asked that it be put in the contract that the school be named, preferably, McClanahan School, or, secondly, Cato School. The Superintendent of Schools said one had to contribute some land, or something to the community in order for a school to be named for him/her. He said it had been decided to name the school W. P. Scales.

In the 1960's, McClanahan Road (formerly Beech Creek Road) that runs in front of this school, without any opposition from the County Court, was named Murray Lane. Adding insult to injury, this past February 18, 1988, Pat Jones and I met at Highland View to try to find Levin Cato's grave and stake it so that it would not be bulldozed by developers. When I turned into Highland View, I saw that a beautiful brick smokehouse, built by slaves before the Civil War, had been felled by the developer. I was under the impression that it was going to be saved. Pat Jones and I walked down and found Levin Cato's grave. Two workmen came over and one said that it really hurt him to see a historical slave-made structure destroyed; the other gentleman said that he begged that the smokehouse be saved. He also said that he and a friend of his made a whole roll of pictures of the structure and that I could have some of them.

Destroying that beautiful landmark ends the Cato and McClanahan contributions and ties to this beautiful valley that has been known for over a hundred years as McClanahan Hollow.

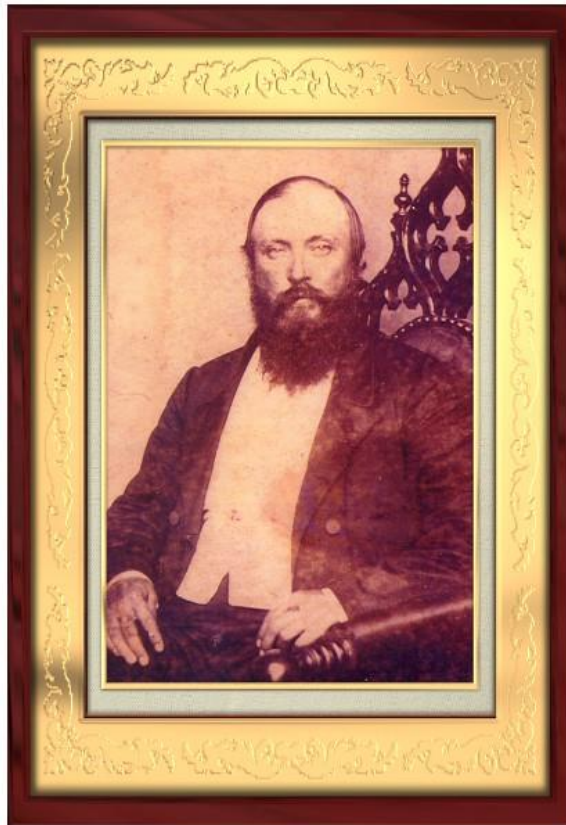
HISTORY OF MCCLANAHAN HOLLOW

THE STORY CONTINUES!

(Based upon conversations with some of our residents, web research and working with Brentwood's City Historian, Vance Little, we were able to identify the living descendant's names, as well as some local historians that may have information on the area. A number of the living McClanahan family members have been called, some who still live here, but those with any recollections are well up in years. One relative, Raymond McClanahan, who lives in San Diego now, actually did extensive research on his family. The following article is based upon telephone conversations with Raymond McClanahan of San Diego, CA, Dan Moore and Sadie McClanahan, both of Brentwood TN. - Gil Hutchinson)



(Taken by Sandra Shumate Curtis of her mother's (Dorothy Lee McClanahan Shumate) painted picture of Highland View)



(Moses Cator. Photo provided by Sandra Shumate Curtis)

January 22nd, 2006 Update

The development of Highland View began in 1989. The entire area was once part of a huge plantation owned by the Cator (Not "Cato" as was written in the original article!) and McClanahan families. In the early days, this area was known as "McClanahan Hollow". The valley was a lush, vibrant farming community. Huge pastures abounded. Dirt roads were the only means of transportation. Cattle were driven to the Little Harpeth during the summer twice daily to get water because of the heat. "Moon shining" was a popular past time as well!

"Back in the day", Holly Tree Gap Road actually stopped near the Holly Tree Farms subdivision. An old school, the "Bellew School", was up on the left-hand side as one travels towards Franklin Road. One of valley residents interviewed, Dan Moore, who used to work on the farm some with "Uncle Earl" McClanahan, actually went to the school. Nothing remains now, just a flat piece of land where the school once was.

As referenced in the original article, there was a Beech Creek Baptist Church. It was off Johnson Chapel Road, right past the curve and on the left-hand side. This church was attended by the black families that resided in the valley, many of who were descendents of the families that once worked on the farm. Monthly services were held there until the late 60s. Raymond recalled sneaking over to the church during services to listen to the beautiful voices that sang hymns. Sadie recalls that the church had a very large cemetery and believes markers still exist today.

Tracking Down A Rumor!

A "rumor" that had persisted during all these years was that there were "graves" on our property. Some thought they were "slave" graves from the pre-Civil war era. Others believed they were for descendents of the original McClanahan and Cator families and workers from the farm.

There is a reference to a gravesite in the Williamson County Burial book as well, but no proof existed, however, as whatever headstones may have been there were removed years ago.

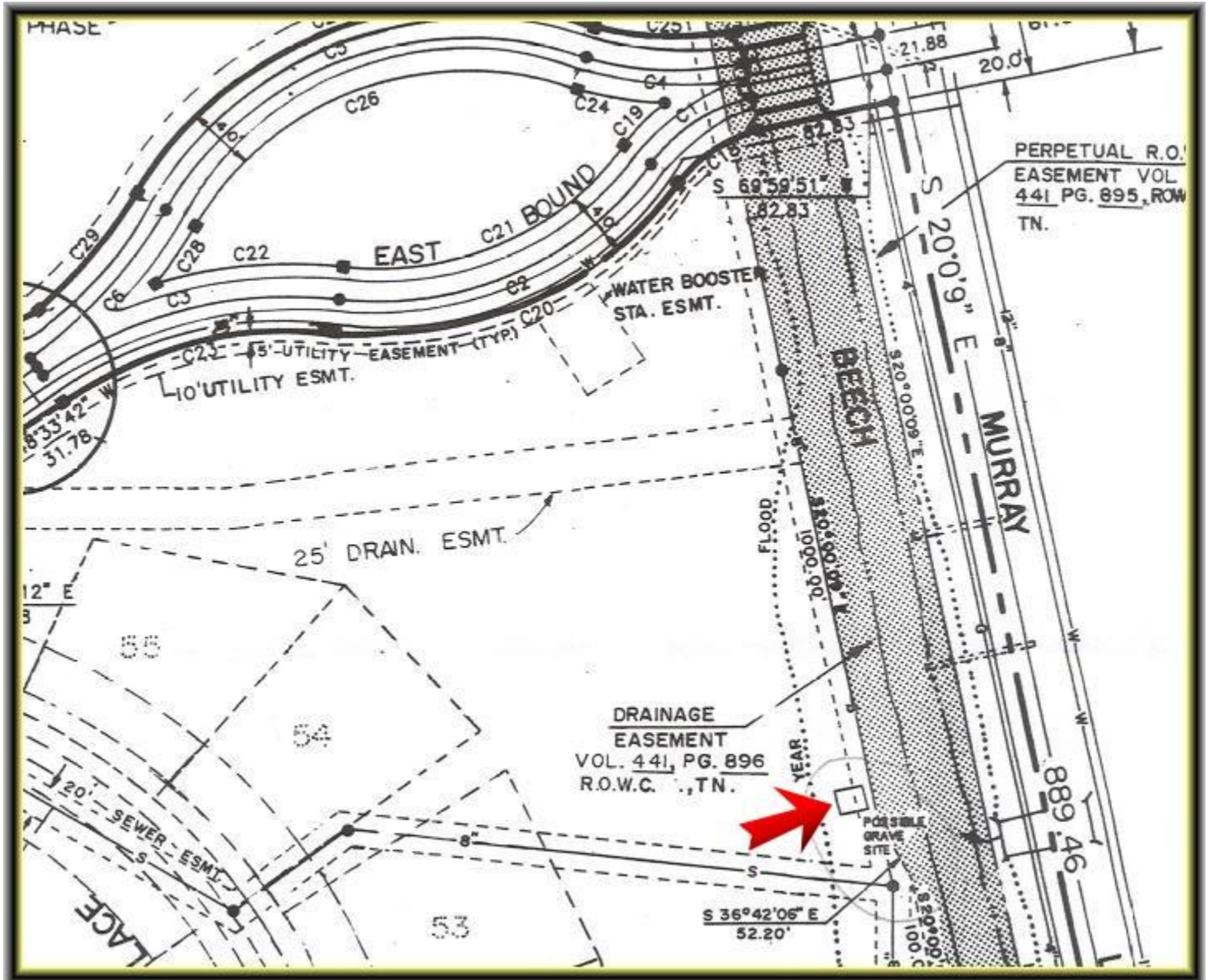
from Directory of Williamson County TN. Burials
Wm. County Historical Society 1991
LEVIN CATOR CEMETERY

Location: 7th District near the bank of Beech Creek. The place is being developed now; the last member of the family to own the place was Earl McClanahan, great grandson of Levin Cator. There is nothing there now to show where the cemetery was, but Elizabeth McClanahan Mayfield remembers the tombstones that used to be there. She told Lula Fain Major that buried there are:

CATOR, Levin; B. Oct. 18, 1770; D. March 15, 1848. His tombstone was 4-5 feet tall.
McCLANAHAN, infant boy of W. B. McClanahan who was the child born between his sister, Mary, and brother, Earl. (Mary was born April 7, 1891 and Earl was born July 16, 1894. L. F. M.) This infant son died the same day he was born.

Mrs. Mayfield also says that two Indians, a man and his wife, who worked for Levin Cator were buried here.

There is actually a symbol on the original plat as a "possible grave site" down near the creek by the bonfire area.



The original plat did show a "possible grave site". The lore continued for years.

The Fall/Winter months are the best time to do this kind of exploration, as the weeds are gone and the ground is soft for probing. The research process began in December 2005 when Nick Fielder of the State Department of Archeology came out to Highland View to look around. It was recommended that the first step be to see if any proof (pictures, personal accounts etc.) could be found to make the exploration easier.

Several calls to Raymond were placed in December 2005 and early January 2006. Raymond is 84 years old, but still sharp as a tack and his memories open the window into an era of Highland View never seen before. Raymond wrote his recollections of his "Uncle Earl's place" in a letter on January 6th, 2006. His memories as a child during the 1930s are as vivid to him as they were back then.

6 January 2006

Dear Jil

Enclosed is a collection of information I've collected over the 15 years on the Cator and McClanahan families and I'm in hopes it will be of value to you in search of information on the Cator property.

I've given you a rough sketch of the farm as I remember in 1935-36. If the present bridge to highland road is in the same location as I remember it was. There was a small area roughly 10x12 feet that was enclosed in a wire fence and had a small tree was told that ~~Levin~~ Cators grave plus two Indian graves, the fence was to prevent the goats from eating the tree. The best I can remember it would be around 150' from the road and 100' from the creek. This would be 157 ^{yes.} years. I have talked to my cousins here in California and also one in Tennessee to get their knowledge of this and they were never told anything concerning Levins grave. There was a babys grave to left side of the old home. There was a graveyard of roughly 15-20 graves in the area that is in flood zone, these was possible slaves or black races, no names on the stone, just numbers. There was also a graveyard on the property owned by Mary Sicley, this was in an area we called locust hill and was mostly for black race.

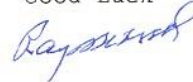
Research and Comments

During the last several years of research on the Cator Family there is a couple of times that someone has referred to the name Cato. The name has been Cator from birth, his father was name Cator. The family came from Maryland where there was many Cators. Levins first wife was in Maryland and she made several trips to Tennessee with Levin before he finally settled in this area as his permanent residence. What happened to her was never determined. His marriage to Martha was in Maryland also. All of the Wyatt children came to Tennessee when the permanent move was made, she and two of the Wyatt children died within a year of each other. There was two children to the Wyatt and Cator marriage a daughter who disappeared after his death and a son who inherited the estate.

Martha had a large farm off Manley Lane, Her youngest Wyatt son was living with her at the time of her death. Levins older brother Moses E. Cator also came to Tennessee and was located on Sneed road, there is a large cemetery and his family is buried there. This Moses was a large to Martha. The remainder of the family remained in Dorchester County Maryland the remainder of their lives and buried there or in Baltimore.

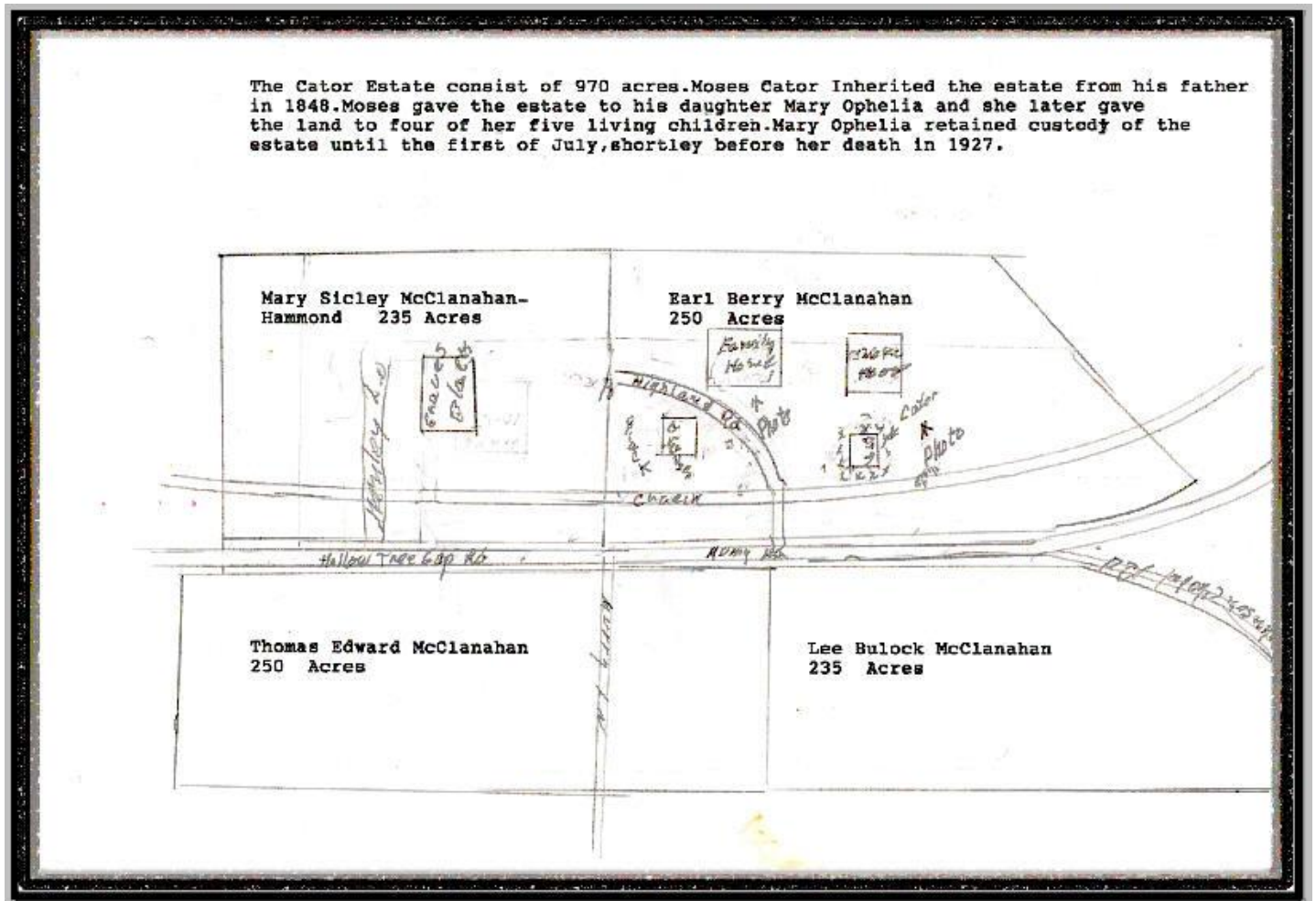
Jil. I will give you a call in a few days after you receive this.

Good Luck



Raymond sketched the area as he remembered it...

The old home burnt down in 1913. Its location was about "500-600 feet up from the creek." One of the tragic losses that occurred during the development of Highland View was the destruction of a large brick smokehouse used to cure pork (a poor copy of a picture of the smoke house is on file). Its location was to the right of the old home's location and probably near where the pool area is today.



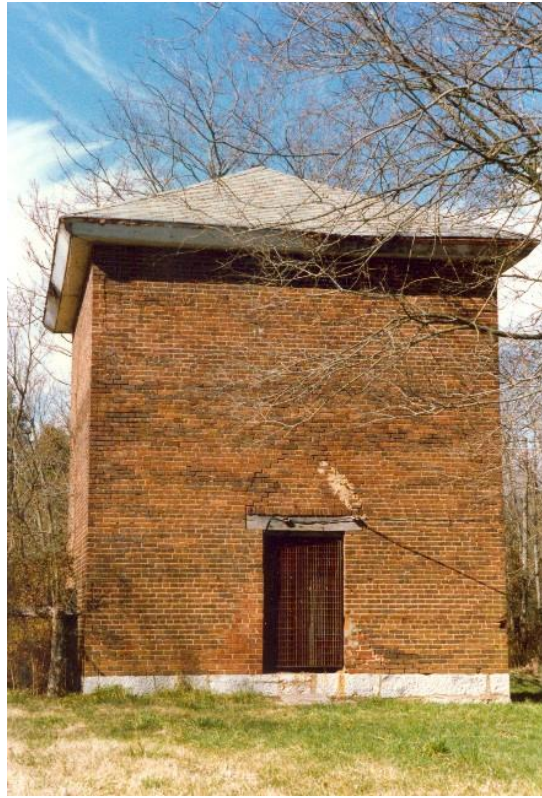


Early 1900's

Left to right: McClanahans - Frank, Earl, Mary Ophelia, Mary Sicily, Thomas Edward

The foundation remained there for years after the fire, until his "Uncle Earl" later built a stone home on top of the original foundation.





(Photos provided by Grandson John McClanahan, June 27th, 2007)

This home remained on the property until the development started.

Raymond recalled as a child seeing "15-20 grave sites" down by the creek in the flood plain. No names were on the stones, but they were marked with numbers. He referred to them as "black graves", so it is assumed that they were workers who once lived or worked on the property.

He also recalled seeing a 10 x 12' fenced in area about 100' off the creek, and about 100-150' feet to the right of the road. This was Levin Cator's grave, along with two servants that worked for him. There was a headstone and a little tree (the large hackberry today perhaps?) and the grave was "two steps" towards the creek. The fence was to keep the goats from eating the tree. Raymond recalls the old stonewall and said a pigsty was on the other side of it. The grave was somewhere in between the road and the wall.

Raymond had heard that to the left of the old house the grave of the baby that supposedly died was there as well, but he didn't know much more.

Are There Graves in Highland View?

Nick Fielder came back out to Highland View January 20th, 2006. The primary method still used for gravesite research is using a metal probe. The ground never really settles and the probe will go right through the ground where a grave exists "like butter".

Most graves in that era were cedar or pine boxes, typically 6' long and about 2' wide. The pattern is to place them in an "East/West" direction, with the head at the western end. The pattern is about 2 or 3 feet apart if there is more than one. It was not common practice to move graves, and Raymond never heard that any grave in Highland View was ever moved.

Raymond's sketch gave Nick a rough idea where to look. Strictly on probing alone, and only for a few hours at that, Nick did not immediately locate any gravesites where Levin Cator's grave is purported to be. Nor was there any indication of gravesites found near the bonfire area.

BUT...

A possible location WAS found near the dry creek about 100' off Beech Creek. Nick's comment was *"based upon my 30 years of experience, I think this is quite possibly a grave."*

What's Next?

The Highland View Board of Directors has expressed an interest during the year in learning more about this possible gravesite. It is our belief that if such a gravesite truly exists, that it should be identified and properly marked. IF the site can be found, the City will possibly register the site as a historic cemetery and place a historic sign on the site. Other opportunities may exist to conduct a memorial, provide a marker, fencing, landscaping etc. through the Association, maybe even involving the living relatives.

The next steps would be to continue to probe around to look for a pattern by marking several potential areas to see if other indications exist. If patterns exist, then Nick would like to scrape off about a foot of dirt or so to see if a grave truly exists or not. He knows what to look for. The possibility of using ground-penetrating radar available to him may exist as well later on.

So, who knows at this point? There are some compelling indications, but it's still an unproven rumor for now. If nothing else, we've been able to learn a lot more about our neighborhood and further document it's history!

Stay tuned!

Graves in Highland View?

Fact or Fiction?

Tracking Down A Rumor, Continued

February 21st, 2007 Update

The search for gravesites in Highland View ground to a halt in early 2006. While there were strong indications of their presence, it became clear that relying solely on visual assessments and ground probing alone were not the answer. Site after perspective site were searched, only to come up dry.

Nick Fielder had suggested that the Association contact Middle Tennessee State University's (MTSU) Center for Historic Preservation due to the possible existence of slave graves from the old plantation. After numerous discussions with MTSU, they agreed to help fund the time of Dan Allen, a noted expert on grave location and restoration in May 2006. Due to Dan's extremely busy schedule, however, nothing happened until late December 2006.

But it was worth the wait!

With Dan's assistance, 3 gravesites were found in the island coming into the neighborhood near the creek on December 20th, 2006. Dan documented and supported his findings with the use of ground penetrating radar, the results which are attached herein.

Based upon conversations with Raymond McClanahan of San Diego, a relative of the late Earl McClanahan, the last member of the family to own the land, there is every reason to believe that an additional 15 possible slave graves may be in the flood plain area near the creek as well.

Mr. Allen did find some very strong indications of these graves, but still needs further time to determine whether or not they actually exist.

Stay tuned!

Levin Cator Cemetery Site

Highland View Subdivision, Brentwood TN

Source: Dan Allen, December 20th, 2006

1. The Search!



Dan Allen using ground penetrating radar as residents Scott Hutchinson, Grant Templeton and James Elliot look on!

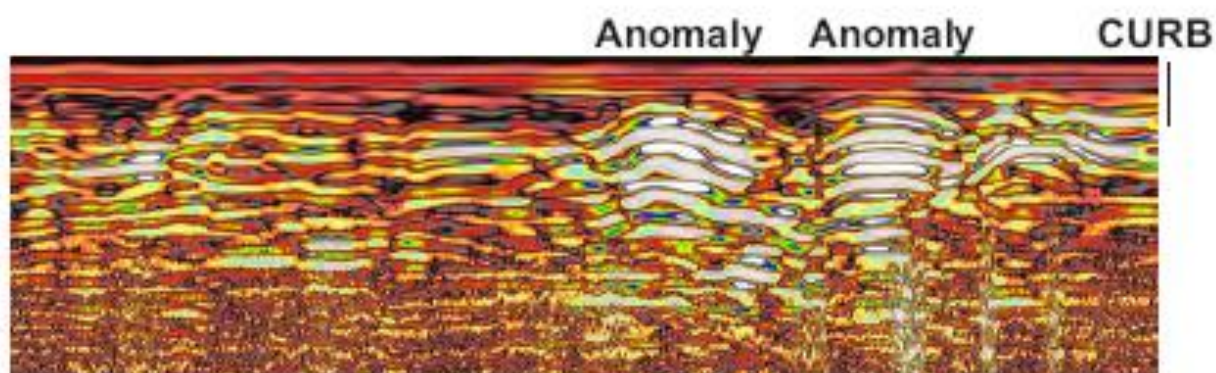


Marking the 3 grave sites

2. Map and GPS Coordinates



3. Image from Ground Penetrating Radar



C:\DATA\07\CONSULT\ALLEN\HIGHLAND VIEW\HIGHLAND001.DZT

File Name = HIGHLAND001

Created: Dec, 20 2006, 16:03:36 Modified: 00:00:00 Channel(s): 1 Samples/Scan: 512 Bits/Sample: 16

Scans/Second: 153 Scans/Meter: 50 Meters/Mark: 0 Delay Constant: 8

CHANNEL: 1 GSSI Position: 0 nS Range: 50 nS Position Correction: -46.88 nS Horiz IIR Stack: TC = 3 Vert IIR HP N = 2 F = 100 MHz Vert IIR LP N = 2 F = 800 MHz Range Gain (dB): -7.0 46.0 67.0 77.0 77.0

Comments:

PULL approx 10 meters, North to South, stopping at roadside curb.

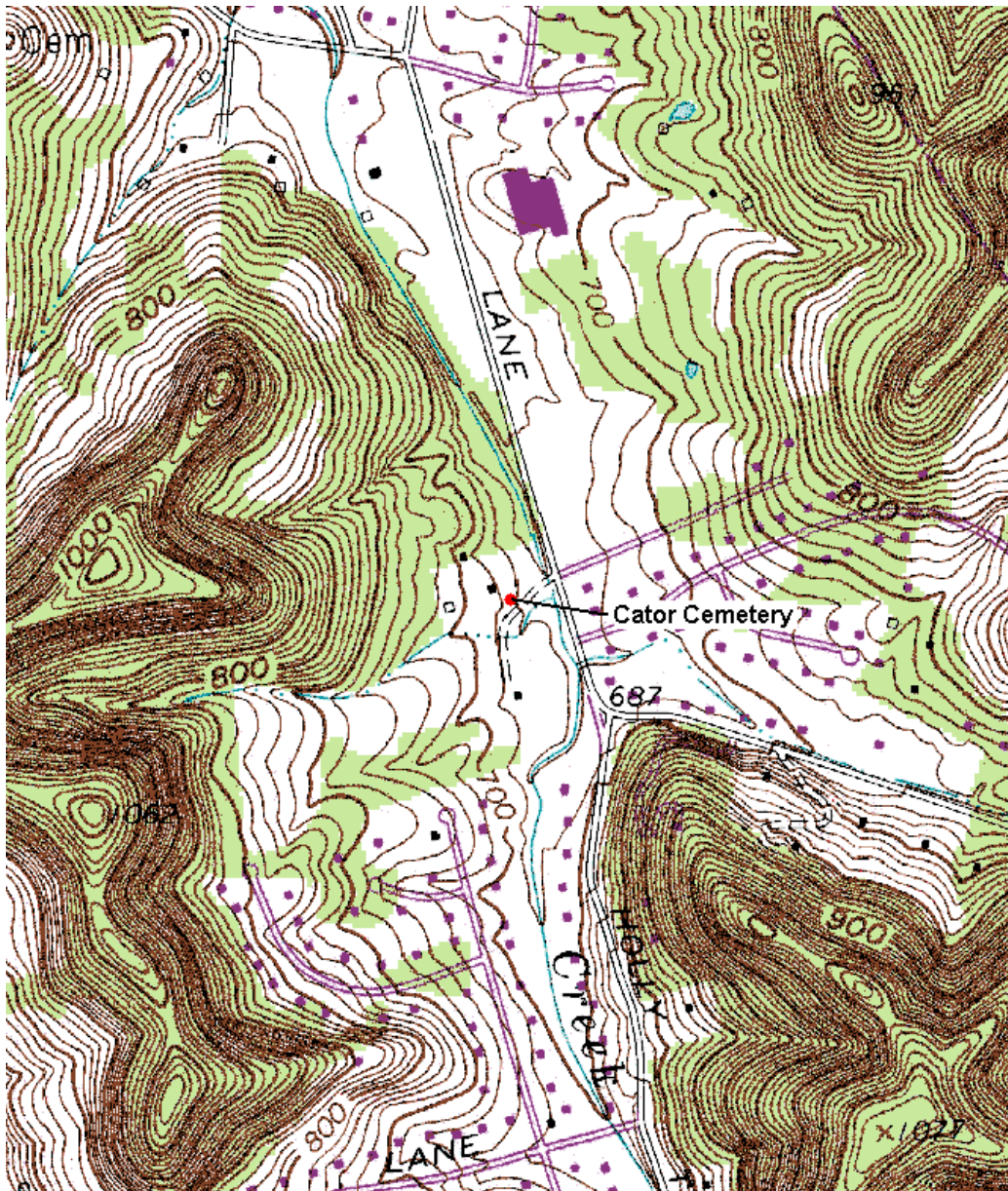
86° 50' 51.104" W

36° 01' 02.914" N

WGS_1984

Two designated anomalies consistent with GPR reflection pattern of human burial.

3. Topographical Map (1980)



June 28th, 2007

The historic sign provided by the Brentwood Historic Commission for the Levin Cator Cemetery was finally placed June 28th, 2007! This Cemetery, located in the island near the pump house, dates back to 1848 and contains the remains of the original owner of the plantation, Levin Cator, and two of his servants.



Marker provided by the Brentwood Historic Commission

Research continues on possibly 15 other graves of slaves and workers from that era that have been identified by living descendants as being in the flood plain.

Stay tuned!