

LIPSCOMB PLACE

Late 1830's
The hearth of champions

The LIPSCOMB PLACE, snuggled in a picturesque valley near Cross Bridges, is as Middle Tennessee as sour mash whiskey, smoked ham and the fine horseflesh that has made this old Bigby Creek plantation famous.

Begun in the late 1830's by Maj. George Lipscomb, a veteran of Jackson's Florida campaigns, this early Maury County hearthstone was once the home of the celebrated stallion, McMeen's Traveler. As an ancestor of Star Pointer, the first harness pacer in history to break the two-minute mile, Traveler was also the sire of a colt that would gain fame right after the Civil War as the proud Prince Pulaski.

When the closing months of the War brought Yankee raiders galloping over the hill toward the LIPSCOMB PLACE, both Traveler and his three-year-old son, the future Prince, were confiscated from Maj. Lipscomb.

Unfortunately, Traveler would die of old age by the time the Union Army reached Shelbyville. After the southern surrender, when all captured livestock was sold at the Federal contraband corral in Nashville, his thoroughbred son was bought by a Maj. Allman of Marshall County. To the Major belongs the credit for developing this half-starved young stallion into the famous Prince Pulaski.

By the time he was sold to a group of Maury Countians in 1870, the Prince had "... taken more premiums ..." than any horse, in his class in all of Tennessee.

Five years of defeat and Reconstruction had been less kind to Maj. Lipscomb, now forced by finances to stable and board the very horse he had once owned. Even more pitifully ironic were the size of his fees: \$5 for the season and a pasturage charge of fifty cents a week.

A happier note was added to the story of the old LIPSCOMB PLACE more recently, however, when another of its fine thoroughbreds, Ebony's Miss Blaze, won the World Championship in the Yearling Class at Shelbyville's 1974 Walking Horse Celebration.

One of the distinct charms of the LIPSCOMB PLACE is that it has been touched only lightly by the fingertips of time and change. What has been added or altered with the passing years has been so subtly and tastefully done that this old house is much the same as it was when it sent three of Maj. Lipscomb's young sons off to fight for the Confederacy more than a century ago.



This information was furnished from the book "Majestic Middle Tennessee", written by Reid Smith, and published by Paddle Wheel Publications (1975).