HISTORIC BRENTWOOD

We'll spend a few weeks on genealogy -- who begat whom in Brentwood. It's not the most exciting subject in the world and not likely to win a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting, but we'll try to keep it spiced up.

There are several Brentwood families who live on land that has been in their families for generations. Callie Lilly Owen, a Sneed descendant, lives on land that has been in the Sneed family since 1798. The Herberts, Holts, and Frosts live on ancestral property that dates back to the early 1800's. But so far as this writer knows, only two families live on land that was an original grant. They are Edmondson and Hunt descendants.

Miriam Fly Hildebrand lives on Edmondson Pike on land that belonged to her ancestor John Edmondson. It was in turn deeded to him by his uncle, another John Edmondson, who received the land as compensation for his services in the Revolutionary War and specifically the Battle of Kings Mountain. He holds the distinction of being the only man in the Revolutionary War who was shot by a ramrod. Apparently, a British soldier, being hard pressed for time, failed to remove the ramrod from his muzzle loader before firing it. Edmondson received the shot, but lived to tell the tale.

Edmondson Pike takes its name from the Edmondson family. Their land began about the county land and extended south along both sides of Edmondson Pike.

The Hunt property is on the northeast corner of Edmondson Pike and Concord Road. It originally included what is now Chenoweth Subdividsion and property on the northwest corner of Edmondson Pike and Concord Road. The Hunt descendants who own that property are Houston G. Little, Jr., and Charles W. Little, II. You may see Houston at the Amoco Station in Brentwood most any time.

Other Hunt descendants who own part of the property include Dr. William R. Little, Jr., a Memphis surgeon, and his sister Barbara Little McCanless. Rhea Little, Brentwood tire monger, is also a Hunt descendant.

The original ancestor to come to Brentwood was Gersham Hunt. He came from Rowan County, North Carolina, so his tombstone says, and was the sone of Jonathan Hunt, a colonel during the Revolutionary War and Colonial big wig. Gersham Hunt was a prominent local planter, a justice of the peace, captain of the local militia, county ranger and one of the founders of Liberty Methodist Church.

The Hunt family when they first came to America from England settled on Long Island, New York, in the 1600's. Each successive generation moved south until they ended up in Rowan

County, North Carolina, which was the jumping off place for the Hunts and thousands of other Tennessee settlers.

Gersham Hunt's son, William Carroll Hunt, inherited the homeplace. He was a Franklin attorney. From him it passed to William Gersham Hunt, who was called Captain Bill Hunt for services during the Civil War. He was county surveyor.

Captain Bill Hunt had two daughters, both of whom married Robert Milton Little, but not at the same time. The two daughters were the ancestresses to the Littles who now own the old Hunt place.

The Hunt place and the Edmondson place were next to each other. Today a part of the old Hunt place is owned by Edmondsons, who are also Hunt descendants (Tommy Edmondson, Myrtle Farris, and Bill Primm). A Hunt married an Edmondson way back there somewhere. Anyway, they kept it all in the family.

We hope you are keeping copies of these articles. It might be in your best interest to do so. Keep tuned in.

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