

Welcome to the Elrod House (3673 Gotts Hydro).

There's an old saying that goes, If walls could talk...Well, they do, and if, you listen with your eyes, as well as your ears, you'll see the history of this wonderful place come to life.

Beginning in the early 1800s the Elrod family built this home from truly, raw materials. Most of which, were found on the property itself. Looking at the construction you will see their history, and the Elrod house story unfold.

The reflection of German building influences can be found in the cabin notching, the wooden pegging and the hand molded & kilned brick work. Along with hand hewn & crafted finish lumber, all creating the sturdy frame of this 200 year old home.

Imagine the sight, the family & local tradesmen digging the large pit necessary to fire the brick, which required days of firing, or the loggers cutting large timbers using only mules dragging these heavy timbers over the hillside. While somewhere, a blacksmith crafted the nails for the finishing touches, and carpenters created lovely modest mantels.

As a testament to their labor & skill, she has survived the early & wild days of Kentucky statehood, the Civil War, the penny auctions of the Great Depression, and every war every fought. Standing unshaken, housing generations of people.

Her occupants over time have witnessed weddings, births and deaths. All of which, have left some remnant behind.

Much like a finger print in time. Some have enhanced her spaces, others have repaired her walls, and some simply appreciated her utility. Each contribution appreciated, while adding their part of the story to her unique history.

Some of the orals told of the home include an encounter with Jessie James. The story tells of Jessie riding up, hitching his horse to the post near the old side entry, being served tea, while consulting with Mr. Elrod Sr., about shooting a pair of men from Bowling Green. Supposedly, sometime after robbing the Smith's Grove bank. Mr. Elrod, in his wisdom, advising Jessie to go home, and leave the men be. Jessie, assuming he had enough problems, took Mr. Elrod's advice, doing just that.

Another oral tells of the Elrod family watching Civil War prisoners being marched off to Camp Andersonville (via the now, closed road in the front of the house). The women watching from the upper porch, while the Elrod men stood stoutly on the lower porch, as they passed.

Other orals are more of daily life. Such as the small windows in the upper bedrooms being intentionally small, as to prevent the randy children from climbing out at night. And, the necessity of the back stairwell, being the only access to the upper bedroom. This prevented the male children from accessing the main hallway to the upper porch, or possibly from congregating with the female visitors occupying the room across the hall. A doorway has since been added, opened up by another occupant, allowing passage to the two rooms from the main hall. Thus, leaving their finger print here.

In simple utility, one occupant kept her jelly inventory written on the door jam, under the main staircase. Her handwritten inventory is still there, and admired for her craft, as well as her household management.

Some orals tell of how the property was deeded to Mr. Elrod, from a war warrant, after the Revolutionary War. This parcel being cut from larger Logan County, sometime around 1797, containing some 600 acres and the modest cabin originally, as told. The larger part of the home being added in 1856 by the younger Elrod son. The cabin and the larger portion were once connected by a dog-trot, later that dog-trot became the interior kitchen. Again, another finger print in time.

Now, we leave, waiting for the next set of prints to be left, adding to the amazing history of the Elrod place.