# **Shy-Redmond House**

#### Compiled members of by the Leadership Brentwood Class of 2008:

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#### The information was compiled from the following sources:

- The Review-Appeal, September 7, 1944.
- Photos courtesy of Dick Dougall, Brentwood Camera Club ©2001.
- Recollections of Ms. Lee Chapman, owner of the home, February 17, 2008
- The Tennessean, Learn Brentwood by T. Vance Little, August 1, 2007

The Shy-Redmond home is located on Franklin Road across from the Baptist Children's Home. Because of its historic value, it was spared in the project to widen the road. The home was built in 1895 by Neil Vaughan, renowned homebuilder in the county at that time.

Jennie Belle Shy married Andrew Reed Redmond and they built the house for themselves and Redmond's mother. Shy and Redmond had three children but while they were still young, Redmond and his mother passed away. Jennie Redmond and her sister, Miss Maude Shy, lived in the home for the rest of their lives.

The Shy sisters were the nieces of the famous Col. William M. Shy of the Confederate Army, the namesake for Shy's Hill in Nashville. Col. Shy attempted to hold his position during the waning moments of the Battle of Nashville but an overwhelming Union force annihilated what was left of the Army of Tennessee. Col. Shy was killed during the action and he was buried at Two Rivers, the childhood home of Jennie Belle Shy, located on Del Rio Pike.

The house was remodeled around 1945 which included enlarging the front windows on the main floor and adding an upstairs bathroom where a balcony over the front porch once existed. With these exceptions the house is mostly in its original condition. Other than the Wolcott family that lived in the house in the 1950s, the primary occupants of the home have been women. Lee Chapman, who purchased the house around 1995, reports feeling "the presence" of someone. While she stops short of concluding the house has a ghost, she and her daughter, who together live in the house along with a granddaughter, refer to "the presence" as Mrs. Redmond.

A burial site exists on the property, believed to be about 14-18 graves. Not much is known about the graves.

## 50 SHY/REDMOND HOUSE (CIRCA 1895)



From a Xerox copy of a snapshot. Courtesy Mrs. Lee Chapman.



er 2000. Photograph by Dick Dougall, Brent-Famera Club for City of Brentwood Historic roject.



Summer 2000. Photograph by Dick Dougall, Brentwood Camera Club for City of Brentwood Historic Sites project. Old cook house used as art studio.



Spring 2001. Photograph by Dick Dougall, Brentwood Camera Club. Old cook house seen from back door of main house.



Spring 2001. Photograph by Dick Dougall, Brentwood Camera Club. Old spring house adjacent to river bed close to Franklin Road.



Summer 2000. Photograph by Dick Dougall, Brentwood Camera Club for City of Brentwood Historic Sites project. Front view emphasizes front door way.

#### The Review-Appeal September 7, 1944

#### WHO'S WHO-- In Williamson

To go to a home as a bride, have the children born there and husband pass away in his young manhood, then to continue to carry one, rearing two daughters and a son to maturity with only the aid of a very devoted sister, then to see them go forth into the world to shift for themselves and still to continue to "keep the home fires burning," the house and grounds in such a way that passers you the highway, passing in front of their door, turn to get a second glimpse of the attractive place, is not without its reward.

Such has been the experience of Mrs. Jennie Belle Shy Redmond, whose two-story home is on the Jackson Highway, just across from the Tennessee Baptist Orphanage, and is situated on a terraced elevation with a shrub bordered concrete walk leading from the porch to the perfectly kept hedge that runs along the entire front of the lawn, and steps leading to the highway. Locust, maple and cedar trees, planted by hands long since stilled by death, give abundant shade and the long wide porch extending the full length of the house overlooking the highway catches any breeze that may be stirring. With the comfortable glider, easy chairs and flowers of many varieties in attractive containers and vines trailing along the door facing make of it a most attractive summer living room When visitors arrive and are asked inside they at once exclaim, "O, let us sit out here where everything is so pleasing to the eye, comfortable and where we can watch the cars go by."

The nine-room house with its two large halls was built in 1895 by the late Neil Vaughn and, being a contractor noted for his honesty, nothing but the best of material was used in it structure. A coat of white paint applied at regular intervals and a close watch for the first signs of wear, which are promptly looked after, keeps the place in first class order. The screened-in back porch is used for the summer dining room and here also the flower lovers have arrangements of growing plants to

add to the attractiveness.

Electricity with its many labor saving appliances has greatly lessened the work for Mrs. Redmond and her sister, Miss Maude Shy, who several years ago reached life's zenith and began the long stretch down the shady side, and they find their household duties greatly simplified. The crowning pleasure of the day is to have an appetizing evening meal ready to be served when the six o'clock bus stops in front of the door and Mary, the younger daugher, arrives, having completed a busy day at the Nashville Terminals where she has held a responsible position since graduating from Franklin High School. The aunt remarked in the course of her conservation with her guest one afternoon in August, "The harder Mary has to work and the more exhausted she is when she comes home the brighter is her smile when she walks in the door, for she tried to hide her weariness from her mother and me. But I know her too well to let it fool me and it is only when she does not seem to enjoy her food that we have taken so much pains to prepare does she show her exhaustion. She is so very thoughtful of her mother and me that is is always distressing to us when she seems over tired."

Miss Maude, her late brother, Edeline, and older sister, Lizzie, were born at the old homeplace on the Del Rio Road, which they called Pine Grove, but by the present occupants, Mrs. Lucy Henderson Horton, her daughter, Mrs. Sallie Green; granddaughters, Lucy Buford and Marion Green, and great-granddaughters, Lucy and Evelyn Buford, the name has

been changed to Twin Rivers Farm.

Their father, Dr. J. L. Shy, later built a frame house neared the Harpeth River close to a large, never failing spring and it was there

the youngest daughter, Jennie Belle, was born. As the children grew up they attended the Franklin Institute, making daily the more than four mile trip on horseback and each of them developed into splendid riders. Under the teaching of the late Prof. Hugh Wallace they also became good students. Mrs. Redmond says the other three gave closer application to their studies than did she, for fun and good times were her main objectives.

Their father came to this county from Paris, Ky., to practice medicine, met and married Tennie B. Hughes, whose people were pioneer settlers of Hillsboro, and many of her kin are still worthy citizens of the

county.

The oldest sister, Lizzie, married Lem Oliver before she was out of her teens, went to Pulaski to live and here they reared a family, but after her husband's death she went to Dallas, Texas, to live with one of her children. Edelin, the brother and a gay, dashing, greatly beloved young fellow, generous to a fault, left them in early manhood, following a long illness when his sisters were his devoted murses, for to them "Brother" was the apple of the eye and his going left a vacancy that is still felt.

Miss Jennie Belle married Reed Redmond soon after he and the late Judge J. C. Eggleston returned from a stay of four months in Juneau, Alaska. The ceremony took place in the old Presbyterian Church which was later destroyed by fire and the present one erected on the same site. The officiating minister was the pastor, Rev. R. Mark Kenneday. They went to the present home to live with his mother and after the death of Mrs. Redmond and Reed, Miss Maude went to live with her sister and children.

James, Mrs. Redmond's oldest child and only son, with his wife and children, live in Louisville, Ky. His oldest son, who is 19 years old, is in England with the armed forces. The other three are at home with their parents. James was anxious to make money and quit school before he completed high school but possessing a bright mind acquired a good education rubbing shoulders with other men. Maude, named fo her aunt, graduated from Franklin High, became a trained nurse and is practicing her profession in Richmond, Va., but Mary elected to stay at home with "my two girls" as she calls her mother and aunt.

Mrs. Redmond directed the Red Cross work in her community during World War One and has continued it in the present war. She has failed to keep account of the pajama coats, bedside bags and kits she has made. She recently knitted and donated an afghan. She was also the main one to cut and assemble articles ready for making until not long ago when her oculist forbade her using her eyes for the present except for very necessary work. Now that reading is denied her she knits, a job in which she is so proficient she does not need to use her eyes, while her sister or daughter reads to her.

The family made its donation to the War Between the States, for their uncle, Will Shy, youngest colonel in the Confederate Army, was in the Battle of Franklin and was killed on a hill on the Hillsboro Road between Franklin and Nashville, which has since been known as Shy's Hill. Here within recent years the Franklin Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy have erected a marker to his memory, a silent testimonial to a gallant young soldier who was willing to give his all for the Southland he so dearly loved.

In the neighborhood the sisters are the ones to whom they turn in times of trouble and their requests never fall on deaf ears. Mrs. Redmond seems to have inherited her father's medical skill and knows exactly what to do in time of accident or sudden illness and pinch-hits until the doctor arrives. Living as they do on the highway the hungry

and ill-clad stop at their door for help which is never refused and have justly earned the name of the people "who live in the house by the side of the road and are friends to all mankind." No night has been too dark, rainy or cold to keep Mrs. Redmond from answering calls to help those in distress and she and her sister are just as faithful about attending services each Sunday at Owen's Chapel Church of Christ, where they have been members since leaving Berry's Chapel. Both are also active workers in the Lipscomb Demonstration Club.

Inviting their guest into the interior of the home they called attention to many treasures, among them being large hand-painted land-scapes hanging in the living room, hall and dining room. Neatness prevails everywhere and in the hall the white stairway is of an unusual design, attracting immediate attention and favorable comment from all-

who enter the front door.

After viewing the house and the large flock of Rhode Island Red chickens in the back yard, the visitor who has known the sisters since girlhood, going down the front walk to the highway to catch the south-bound bus thought, "Peace, that passeth all understanding, has an abiding place in the faces of those two kind, unselfish women. May they live long on the land which the Lord, our God, has given them."

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# Var soldiers

ai Lee: Chapman has i dodgedi the bullet Her Franklin Road home was originally scheduled to be demolished in the upcoming widening of Franklin Road Because of its being a 

Shy-Redmond House, was: built by well-known Williamson County home builder Neil Vaughan in 1895, Chapman, a former set decorator for the television show Hee-Haw, has lived in the house for the past. 14 years "W" | For many years, Mrs. Jennie"

Belle Shy Redmond and her sister, Miss Maude Shy, called the house home. They grew up at the old Shy home on Del Rio Pike, originally known as Two Rivers, built by Nicholas Tate Perkins Two Rivers was the second oldest of the several historic Perkins homes ain Williamson County: The home was bought in 1848 by Simeon. Shy when he settled in Williamson County after having moved here from Kentucky He and his wife, Amelia Hughes Shy, were the parents: of Col. William M. Shy.

 After: Jennie: Shy married: Andrew Reed Redmond, they moved to the Franklin Road home to live with his mother. Andrew Redmond died when the couple's three children were still small, and his mother. died soon thereafter. Jennie Redmond and Miss Shy lived there the rest of their lives.

The main claim to fame of the Shy sisters is the fact that Col. William M. Shy was their uncle. He was the famous Col. Shy for whom Shy's Hill in Nashville is named. He was killed defending that point, one of the last holdouts in the Battle of Nashville during the Civil War. The second second

#### He was a military man

Colonel Shy enlisted in Company H of the 20th Tennessee Infantry Regiment early on during the Civil War. He was a man of quiet and gentle disposition, always calm and collected even in battle. He was appointed to the regimental color guard. Because of his personal characteristics, he



rose rapidly through the ranks.

In the spring of 1862 after the Battle of Fishing Creek, he was elected in lieutenant. At the reorganization of the regiment . The battle continued the at Corinth, Miss. in May 1862, I next day. Col. Shy's men were colonel when Thomas Benton Smith received his commission to brigadier general.

### A PROPERTY OF Battle was final folly



The Battle of Mashville was the final folly of Gen. John Bell Was Shy's ~commander::

HOOD A The Battle of Franklin twas his next-to-last folly. On a late autumn afternoon in November 1864, after having allowed much of the Union army to slip by him in the middle of the night, he assembled his Army of Tennessee on Franklin's Winstead Hill in full view of Schofield's well-entrenched army. He launched a foolhardy frontal assault on Schofield's army. Five hours later the Army of Tennessee, which had fought bravely throughout the Civil War, was nearly annihi-

Hood rested during the night and roused his army in the morning ready to resume the fight. He had no one to fight. Scholfield had evacuated Franklin during the night.

Not to be outdone, Hood hurried his army to Nashville and prepared to do battle there. Nashville was called at that

time the most well-fortified city in America Hood took a position considered by many to be nearly impossible to Stanley Horn called the placement of Hood's forces at the base of the hill a serious blunder. Federal forces under Gen. Thomas attacked. The Confederate line crumbled before the assault right of this in stilling and

He did Overwhelming Union

forces attacked the hill. Colonel Shy and more than half of his men were killed in the assault. It was the final straw for the Army of Tennessee Those who were left fled the battlefield in a full-scale disorderly retreat. Shy was killed by a single bullet through his forehead. It was shot at

Word was sent to the family in Franklin that he had been killed. It would be futile for them to try to retrieve the body during the chaos after the battle. They appealed to Dr. Cliffe of Franklin. He was a Union sympathizer but greatly

respected by Union men and Confederates. Dr. Cliffe found it impossible for him personally to go to Nashville and defend. Civil War historian recover the body, but he sent his wife, Virginia Whitfield Cliffe, and a single servant in a spring wagon to perform the task. អ្នក ស៊ី ម៉ូស៊ី ចែក ដែលី ម៉ែ

Mrs. Cliffe later reported that she found Col. Shy completely naked, shot through the forehead and impaled on a tree with a bayonet. Mrs. Cliffe he was made captain of Com-some of the few left standing. brought the body back to pany H. He was promoted to like fine directly gave way Franklin. One version of the major of the regiment in 1863 floo. Shy's unit was the final story says that she stopped at and made lieutenant colonel hold out. Hood had ordered the Compton mansion on soon after He was made a full him to hold the hill at all costs. Hillsboro Road and rested or perhaps spent the night before continuing on to Franklin. Colonel Shy's body was taken to the Shy home on Del Rio Pike and buried in the family cemetery.

Colonel Shy was believed to "have been embalmed by Dr. Cliffe. He was buried in a round metal casket, which is on display today at the Carter. such close range that powder. House Colonel Shy's body lay marks were still on his face undisturbed for more than 100 when he was found a well-wyears, until grave robbers years until grave robbers struck the Shy cometery and disinterred the body investigators first believed that there was a murder since the body had been so well embalmed that it looked like it were freshly slain. After a second look, the true facts revealed.

The Shy-Redmond House stands as a reminder of the bravery of those who fought on, both sides of the Civil War. Congratulations to Lee Chapman for preserving this historic landmark.

Have a question about Brentwood history? Send it to local historian T. Vance Little at ttvlittle@aol.com or write in care of The Brentwood Journai, 121 Second Ave., N., Franklin, TN