

CommunityForum

Opinions and views of our readers

Goodpasture was good steward of Old Town

To the Editor:

I never met Henry Goodpasture, but ever since I've lived in Tennessee I have felt like I have known his family.

Mr. Goodpasture passed away last week at the age of 101.

For over 30 years his family lived at Old Town, an absolutely awe-inspiring antebellum home overlooking the Harpeth River along the actual footpath of the Old Natchez Trace. They had moved by the time we settled here in the early eighties, and the family that bought Old Town from the Goodpastures were some of our first friends in Tennessee.

It was Catherine Cooper who told me that Mrs. Goodpasture planted the daffodils which volunteer their golden heads along both sides of this historic canopied river road every spring. Each year now I look for-

ward to and depend on seeing those harbingers of spring. And each year they remind me of what a lovely living legacy Mrs. Goodpasture left for so many to enjoy.

The name "Goodpasture" holds much meaning for me, too. Not long after we moved here we rescued an abandoned and severely neglected old pony we named Jed. Catherine invited Jed to stay at Old Town to graze on the good pasture and rest his old bones on the Mississippian Indian mounds. During cold winters Jed was sheltered in the old red barn there. Years passed and Jed did too. He rests in a shady grove next to the good pasture alongside the Harpeth River. Now Jubilee, an old Appaloosa horse, grazes on the mounds. He is at home there with the Indians since his ancestors were bred by the Nez Perce

Native Americans.

During the summer months when I go to feed him around sunset and he walks up from the river and over the mounds covered with the good pasture of Old Town, the lightning bugs are flickering ... I feel connected to the past. And I am grateful. My heart hopes that the Goodpastures in their sorrow ill find comfort in the psalm many of us know by heart: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul." The Goodpastures were good stewards of Old Town and they are part of the rich history of our county which we should all treasure and protect.

The Turners

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