

I feel, dear kin, that I want to tell you a little about this brick house. I want to tell you of the beautiful yard, the loom house, the brick kitchen, the rows of Negro cabins and the old house in which Mary Winn, my Mother, was born. The pioneer people's homes were all built of logs. No sawmills were available hence only those who were clever enough to burn brick and build their homes were the only ones who had brick homes. Grandmother and Granfather were married in 1818 and began their lives like all other pioneers. Their first home was made of logs and then the great loom house was built in the corner of the yard and the loom was a clothier you might say of the whites and of the family of slaves. The cotton grew very profusely on the new ground but frost killed it early. Therefore the pods were gathered very early and cracked open and the cotton taken out. Beautiful bedspreads were made from this cotton, some are yet in the family and are almost one hundred years old. These bedspreads were woven in yard widths and three strips were put together and then the knotted fringe was put around the spreads. These spreads were used on high postered beds. All beds of that period were the four postered beds. Drapery was always used over the upper part and well I recall drawing aside the curtains to climb in my mother's great bed. I always had to get up in a striped botton chair. There was always a great mystery to me about these beds. I would hide behind the curtains to listen to the conversations of those older. My mother was unfortunate enough to lose her bedspread in the whip wreck on the Red River in Texas, but after this wreck she returned to her land in Howard County in 1865. This dear grandmother of ours gave her part of her own which she had kept for years so as a child I grew up with these beautiful bedspreads and my mother always reminded us to be careful. She often said that some day we would wear them and alast, which we did. Only a small part now remain. Going back to the log house; my grandmother's children oldest were Richard and Sarah. Sarah married William Harvey of Roanoke, Missouri. Sarah and William Harvey died leaving five children. My grandmother took the five children in her home to raise. They had inherited quite a bit of property. She had ten living children of her own so you can imagine that there was plenty to be done in that home, but for some unknown reason the Harvey children had contracted tuberculosis and one by one they passed away while quite young. The last child was Rebecca. She died the day before she was 18 years old, so she could not make her will. The Harvey estate reverted to the Harvey and Winn heirs. This young girl, Rebecca Harvey, was educated in Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, until ill health took her out of the school. I have amongst my old papers an essay which she wrote while she was in Stephens College and on the top of it she has marked "my first essay". I was quite a child when she died. My mother inherited a good deal of her money and many of her beautiful college clothes were given to my mother. My grandmother's son, Richard Winn, married Miss Tooley of Glasgow. She was the mother of six boys and one girl. The one daughter is Mrs. Grace Beckelheimer of Salisbury, Missouri. Her children are Winn and Ernest. All of the five brothers are dead. Many children of these five brothers are scattered all over the United States. My mother, Mary Winn, was the third child. She was born in the pioneer home, December 4, 1827. The brick house was finished that spring and the family moved into it so my mother was denied the privilege of being born in this historical old house. She was the mother of eleven children. She buried many in infancy. She raised five of us.