

The Stone House on the Dutchman

by Eliza Myers

“I was born in the Stone House on the Dutchman near Elvan. Jacob Virts built it in 1810. He was married to Elizabeth George, the daughter of John George. Jacob and Elizabeth had one daughter, Betsy Virts.

“Betsy, who had inherited the farm house, had married a Conard, and one of their children, Jane Conard, married Charlie Johnson. Jane and her family lived on the farm for many years.

“R. G. Johnson, one of the many Johnson children, was the father of Esther and Frieda Johnson and Columbia Wire.

“When the elder Johnson died, John Ebb George bought the property in 1908. It still was owned by a descendant of the builder, Jacob Virts, since John Ebb George’s wife was Ora Virts, daughter of Henry Virts and grand-daughter of Jacob.

“Subsequently, Samuel Henry George and Cecilia McKimmey George lived on this place most of their lives. They were my parents and the parents of my sisters, Edna Albaugh and Margaret Kenna, who now own the property jointly with me.

“Although I did not live here for many years, I have always thought of the Stone House on the Dutchman as home. When I returned a few years ago, I began at once on a program of restoration and improvement, which is still in progress. I am fortunate for the house.

“Since *Lovettsville: The German Settlement* is a history, it may not be amiss to add a word about life on this farm during the War Between the States. According to the Johnson girls (Esther, and Columbia), Cousin Matt Conard fought off the soldiers when they came to ride off with their fine horses. The Johnsons had always been interested in maintaining fine horses. They had a racetrack in the field behind the barn where Curt Johnson trained the animals. Many of the fine steeds were sold in the District of Columbia.

“In conclusion, I am proud to report that for most of the time, the farm land here at the Stone House on the Dutchman, has been used for general farming.”