

MIDWAY

BRENTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB (LONG TERM LEASE)

BRENTWOOD COUNTRY CLUG
FRANKLIN ROAD
PO BOX 1466
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

(615) 373-2552

as
the
lease
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be
subject to
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Situated halfway between Nashville and Franklin beautiful Midway, a McGavock stronghold for one hundred and twenty-five years, is one of the show places in the Brentwood area.

However, long before the McGavock family settled here, it was the home of aboriginal tribes whose identity perished with them over a thousand years ago. Archaeologists have found the McGavock land to be one of the richest sources for scientific research of this primitive people. Attracted by the abundant springs and fertile river bottoms which were ideal for their agricultural pursuits, they settled here in considerable numbers judging from the graves and campsites uncovered over the years. Their relationship to the American Indian, if any, is unknown since the savages questioned by Nashville's earliest settlers disclaimed any knowledge of the ancient people.

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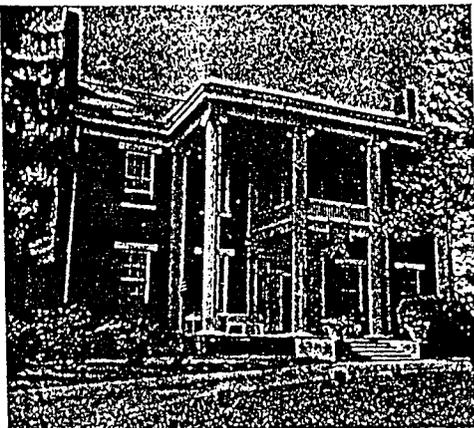
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Part of the tract of land on which Midway was built was inherited by Elizabeth Crockett (1795-1862) who married Lysander McGavock in the early 1820s, while some of it was bought from her brothers. Her parents, James and Mary Drake Crockett, had come to Williamson County when members of the Crockett family migrated here from Wythe County, Virginia, and settled around Brentwood in 1799.

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The beautiful family cemetery, enclosed by an iron fence, is north of the house. Here Lysander and Elizabeth McGavock rest with their six children—Ephraim, Cynthia, Sally, Emily, Hugh, and Margaret. Here also are resting the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Lysander Hayes and McGavock Hayes.

In 1956 the property was leased by the family to the Brentwood Country Club. With its white columns gleaming through a vista of rolling meadows and shade trees, it is one of the most imposing sites to be found in an area abounding in elegant ante-bellum homes.

MIDWAY AND HAYESLAND

The histories of Midway and it's neighboring Hayesland are much entwined and for that reason I have more or less combined them.

Midway, two miles south of Brentwood, to the west of Highway 31 and so named because it is "midway" between Nashville and Franklin was built in 1829 by Lysander McGavock. The original house was partially destroyed by fire in 1846. Rebuilding began the next year and the present 14 room Georgian home was completed on the same site.

Lysander McGavock came to Nashville with his father, David McGavock, from Virginia in 1780. He married Miss Elizabeth Crockett and they came to Brentwood to build their home at Midway. In 1852 their daughter, Emily, married Oliver Bliss Hayes, Jr. This couple had built a beautiful new home atop a hill on property to the north of Midway, which they had named Hayesland but the house burned while they were on their wedding trip. The second house, somewhat smaller, was built on a different site on the farm. Their daughter, Elizabeth, married Dr. W.W Martin, a Methodist minister and teacher of Hebrew at Vanderbilt and they continued to make their home at Hayesland. Their daughter, Miss Emily Martin, still makes her home in Nashville.

In 1924 the home at Hayesland, with a small portion of the land, was sold to Mrs. William Smart and the remainder of the property, which was extended as far north as Old Hickory Blvd, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harry Hughes. In 1935 Mrs. Smart sold her portion of Hayesland to Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Dyer (he of Nashville Bridge Company). The land had been quite neglected but the new owners brought it new life. The fields were restored to farm land and orchard; a lake was constructed and stocked with fish and a flock of wild mallards stayed to make it their home. Hayesland, now called Boxwood Hall, bloomed again.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes and Mr. and Mrs. Dyer have all passed away and now the acres that once comprised Hayesland have given over to yet another subdivision, to the riding fields of Maryland Farms, to homes of the pre-subdivision era along the highway, to part of the business section of Brentwood.

A son of Oliver Bliss and Emily McGavock Hayes, was married in 1888 to Miss Hortense Cox and they went to Midway to make their home and her sister, Miss Margaret McGavock, made her home with them. Their daughter, Margaret, married Ferdinand Powell of Johnson City. Their son, McGavock Hayes, continued to live at Midway and in 1927 married Miss Ella Blanton Smith of Atlanta. They had two daughters, Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Frank Blair, Jr.) and Margaret McGavock (Mrs. Jack McAllister) both of whom live in Nashville.

The Little Harpeth River flows through the farm at Midway, and during the time of Mr. and Mrs. McGavock Hayes' residence many a children's wading party was enjoyed here. The mothers on these occasions were ably assisted by Mrs. Laura Miles, who still makes her home with Mrs. Hayes. For a number of years the Brentwood Methodist Sunday School picnic on the Fourth of July was a delightful affair hosted on the river bank by Mr. and Mrs. Hayes. The home, with its wonderful collection of furnishings, was often

opened for pilgrimages and for social affairs of the church and community. Also remembered in connection with the river and still with a little shiver of apprehension, are the gypsy encampments on it's banks beside the highway, just outside the fences of Midway, when the band was making the trip to bury the dead in Nashville.

Five generations of McGavock and Hayes families made their home, but ill health forced the last McGavock Hayes' retirement from farming and in May, 1956, Midway was leased on a long term basis to the newly formed Brentwood Country Club. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes moved to Forest Acres Drive, north of Brentwood where she still lives. Mr. Hayes died in August of 1956.

Some renovations and alterations have been made at Midway and the usual club recreation facilities added-tennis courts, swimming pool, 18-hole golf course-but the beautiful old home remains much the same in outward appearance and the family cemetery in the garden remains undisturbed.

In the very early years, a family by the name of Ormes owned a piece of land near the present entrance gate on which they had a tavern and a stage coach inn, in which the "Good Springs" post office was located. This land was later bought by the McGavocks to round out their holdings. There was also a neighborhood school on the farm, about a quarter of a mile from the house, and when the fire occurred in 1846, the children came from school and helped save a good portion of the furnishings.

Midway and the area surrounding it are indeed rich in history. Lucinda McGavock, a niece of the builder, married Jeremiah George Harris, who was with Commodore Perry when the trade treaty was made at Tokoyo Bay. Harris, a "political editor who had no equal in Tennessee," helped make James K. Polk governor and then president. As a reward for his work he as commissioned commercial agent in Europe and then disbursing agent for the Navy. His wife died in 1847 and their two children, Joe and Lucie, grew up at Midway, so many of the interesting mementos of Jeremiah Harris' world travels came to stay at Midway.

Midway was in the midst of considerable fighting during the Civil War and was used as a hospital for the wounded on both sides. One source mentions the Battle of Brentwood here, where the Confederate First Tennessee Cavalry Regiment defeated the Union forces. (Thomas W. Davis was a member of this regiment and took part in this battle.) At this time, Joe Harris was a Captain in the Confederacy. He had come home for a visit and had taken refuge in the attic; however, when the fighting became so sharp, he came down to take part and was captured on the grounds. Jerimiah Harris, who was on the Federal side effected his son's release and Joe was sent-or went-to London, where he died in August, 1865.

When Midway was leased in 1956, an auction sale was held of an amazing collection of beautiful and interesting articles and furnishings that had been gathered together over the years. Still among the many treasured possessions of the family are the cavalry sword of Captian Joe Harris, the Naval sword of Jeremiah Harris and five calf bound Bibles printed in 1737, owned by one Joel Hayes, a long ago preacher, which in time will be handed down to Joel Hayes McAllister.

References: Roxie C. Batson

HISTORIC BRENTWOOD

Midway Plantation and the McGavock Family

For the past few weeks we have been discussing early families of Brentwood. We are sure that we have conveyed the impression that all of them were "wealthy and prominent," good looking, and lived on Franklin Road plantations. Au contraire, some of them were decidedly ugly. But many of them left legacies to posterity, one of which is Midway Plantation (Brentwood Country Club).

Midway was originally a Revolutionary War Grant to James Crockett. It is usually associated with the McGavock family because it passed into that family in the early 1800's when Emily Crockett married Lysander McGavock. They built the first Midway Mansion and so named it because of its being midway between Nashville and Franklin, using little imagination.

Both the Crockett family, whom we have already discussed, and the McGavock family came to Middle Tennessee early (late 1700's). Both families came from Ireland, maybe at the same time and eventually located in the same area in Virginia. They fought in the Revolutionary War together, intermarried and generally knew each other well long before coming to Tennessee. Both families had extensive land holdings in Davidson and Williamson County. Both, especially the McGavocks, built substantial homes such as Two Rivers in Nashville and Carnton in Franklin.

The progenitor of the McGavock clan in America was one James McGavock. He was born in the early 1700's in Ireland at "Carnton" (also the name of the McGavock mansion in Franklin). He came to America as a young man and eventually made his way to southwest Virginia, where he operated Fort Chiswell, the jumping off point for migration into Kentucky and Tennessee. He amassed thousands of acres of land in Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. He sent two of his sons Randall and David to Middle Tennessee to develop his land here. They did and prospered. Both became active in civic affairs. Randall became mayor of Nashville before moving to Franklin and building Carnton.

The first Brentwood home of Emily and Lysander McGavock burned and the present house was built in the late 1840's. It was occupied by five generations of McGavocks and leased to the Brentwood Country Club in 1954. It was sold for development in 1984. When the golf club was built, many Indian remains were found as well as breastworks dating back to the Civil War..

McGavock lands also included what is now Meadowlake and Iroquois Subdivisions. It was given to Emily daughter of Lysander and Emily McGavock upon her marriage to Oliver Bliss Hayes, Jr. The first house built there also burned while the couple were honeymooning in Europe. McGavock houses were prone

MIDWAY

The original Midway was built in 1829 by Lysander McGavock, son of one of Nashville's earliest and most prominent settlers. It was built on what was a Revolutionary War grant to the Crockett family but passed into the McGavock family upon the marriage of Martha Crockett to Lysander McGavock. It takes its name from being midway between Franklin and Nashville. The present structure was built in 1846 after the first house was damaged by fire. It was occupied by five generations of McGavocks and was leased in 1954 to Brentwood Country Club. There were several skirmishes on the grounds of Midway during the Civil War. The house served as command headquarters for both armies as they marched back and forth between Franklin and Nashville. When the golf course was built, well preserved trenches and breastworks were found, as well as many Indian artifacts dating to a much earlier date.

Brentwood Brochure

MIDWAY PLANTATION

Lysander McGavock, owner of Midway Plantation, was born in 1801. In the 1820's he married Elizabeth Crockett, daughter of James Crockett, who owned the land that later became Midway Plantation. They built a home on the land after their marriage. This home burned, and they built the present structure in 1846.

Midway Plantation was in its heyday in the 1850's. According to the Slave Census of Williamson County, Lysander owned 38 slaves in 1850. According to the Agricultural Census of 1850 the plantation was 1,000 acres, 600 acres of improved land and 400 of unimproved land. The plantation was valued at \$25,000 for tax purposes.

On the plantation were 33 horses, 5 mules, 25 milk cows, 130 head of other cattle, 150 sheep, and 275 head of swine. The value of the livestock totaled \$4,720.00.

Also in 1850 the plantation was expected to produce 100 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of rye, 10,000 bushels of corn, and 1,600 bushels of oats. Corn and tobacco were the main cash crops.

Lysander McGavock died in 1855. The plantation was divided among his heirs.

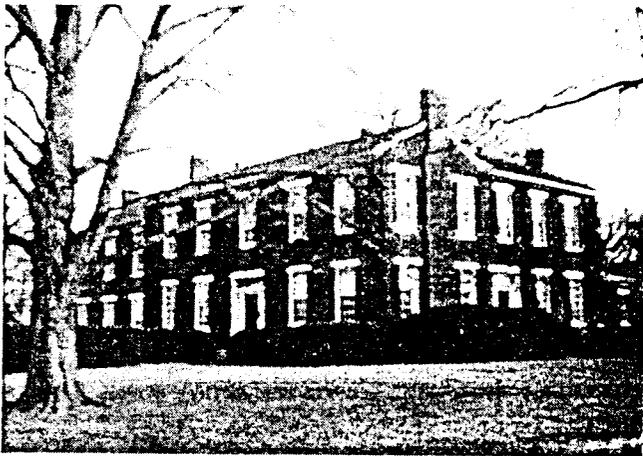
the Revolution receiving his captaincy at the age of twenty-two in the First North Carolina Infantry. He was at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Cave Creek, and was at King's Mountain where he was badly wounded. He married first a Miss Livingston and secondly, in 1786, Hannah Holmes (1768-1837) the daughter of Archibald and Margaret McCulloch Holmes of North Carolina.

The Hadleys were in Williamson County by 1808 taking up grants of land and buying additional acreages. Their large log home stood some ten miles south of Franklin off the Lewisburg Pike just west of where the gravestones of their old cemetery rear up in a grove of trees.

Joshua Hadley was living in Sumner County when he died, but it is thought his body was brought back to this cemetery for burial. No stone remains but a sink in the ground beside his wife's burial place indicates a grave. Old timers in that section used to say that Andrew Jackson was in the large crowd attending the funeral service.

Joshua Hadley had the distinction of being one of the original members of the Society of the Cincinnati and was a man of considerable wealth and prominence. Solomon Oden bought his homeplace about 1840. Mr. Hadley also had extensive holdings near Brentwood where members of his family later lived.

There were at least six Hadley children among whom was a son Denny Porterfield (1797-1871) who, in 1821, married Elizabeth C. Smith (1800-1876), the daughter of Alexander and Sarah Jane Leiper Smith. They built this elegant home upon 200 acres given them in her father's will. It was part of the grant received by the heirs of Captain James Leiper after his death at the Battle of the Bluff in 1781.



Green Pastures, originally known as Hadleywood

The house, originally called Hadleywood, rises from slavemade brick at the end of a long gentle rise and has one of the most beautiful approaches in this section. With blooded horses grazing upon the rolling pastures that have never known a plough, it presents a rare scene of plantation south at its best.

Under the few primeval trees still standing Forrest's cavalry camped during the war days. After the battle of Nashville the house was used as a hospital, and Federal troops occupying the residence and surrounding woodlands

often wrought havoc until ranking officers called a halt to their disgraceful behaviour. One soldier was ordered shot for his insolent and abusive language toward Mrs. Hadley. There were several Hadley sons in Confederate service which did little to improve Yankee dispositions.

When the house was constructed around 1840, Asa Vaughn, a local master builder, was employed as contractor. The woodwork is handcarved; the floors are of white ash. There were extensive orchards, including rare fruit trees in which Mr. Hadley took great pride. His wife's fragrant and spacious gardens ran back of the house and were outstanding in a day when every lady prided herself on flower and kitchen plots, often quite intricately and artistically arranged.

Denny and Elizabeth Hadley were buried in the large family cemetery on Concord Road. Their tombstones were among those destroyed by developers a few years back. The property went out of the family long ago and was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mason Houghland for many years. Perfectly preserved, Green Pastures is owned today by Mr. and Mrs. William Hail.

Midway

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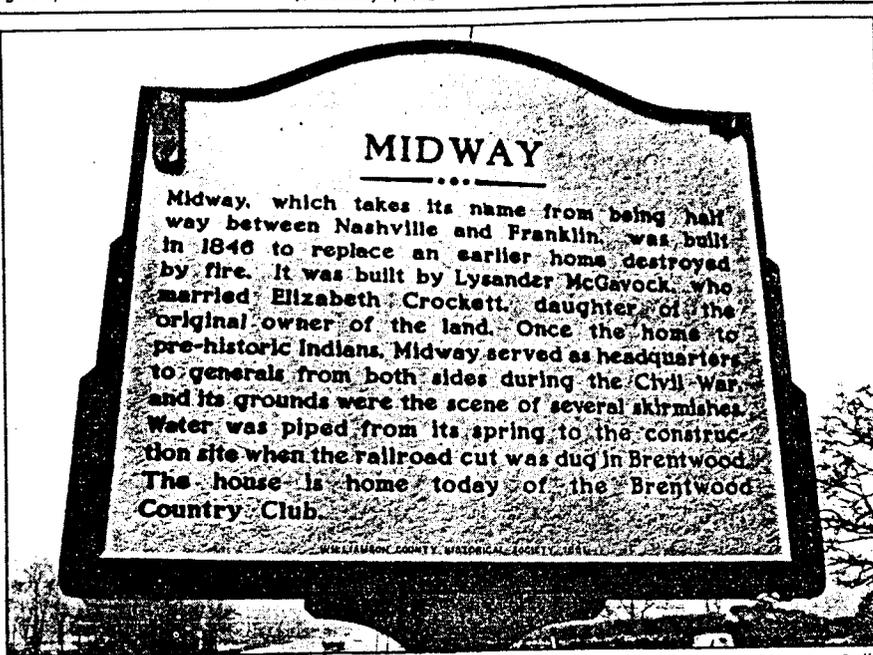
Mountview



Mountview, once the Rozelle place

One of the beautiful ante-bellum Brentwood homes is Mountview located on the west side of Highway 31 in spreading lawns and flanked by rolling farm lands. Built during the early part of the 1860s by William A. Davis, it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Wilson today.

Buck Davis, as he was more generally known, married Judith Robertson Owen, the daughter of Everett Owen whose fine, brick home was nearby. The Davises were living here when, late one autumn evening in 1865, a lone horseman stopped and asked shelter for the night. He introduced himself as Ashley Rozell and said that his home was on Stones River in Smyrna near the Sam Davis residence. As he talked with his host before retiring, he mentioned that he was on his way to Franklin where he



Gill Traugher-Staff

History unveiled

A historical marker detailing Midway mansion was unveiled last week in front of Brentwood Country Club. Doing the job were T. Vance Little (left), Brentwood historian; Gladys Hullett, a representative of the Nine-Hole Ladies Golf Group which raised the funds for the sign; and Richard Belsito, BCC president and a homeowner.



Midway/Crockett



Billy Easley ● Staff

Midway mansion, club house to the Brentwood Country Club for 32 years, still looks the part of an old South plantation house. It takes its name from being half way between Nashville and Franklin. Some of the Midway farm land is to be used for building new houses.

'Good Spring' figures in Midway history

● FROM Page 1

house — built of homemade brick and surrounded by slave quarters and other buildings necessary to the operation of a major plantation — was a fine, red crown for the rich, rolling land that swept upward toward it like the folds of a royal robe.

Midway's antebellum splendor can still be seen, beautifully maintained by the country club. But another of the plantation's more interesting buildings unfortunately no longer stands.

Described by Bowman in her book *Historic Williamson County*, Midway's smokehouse stood until recent years, its "nail-studded door, huge iron key, and hewn poplar salting trough" still in place.

In a 1964 speech during groundbreaking ceremonies for an addition to the country club, Mrs. McGavock Hayes told of the family's using a "false roof" in the smokehouse as a hiding place for meat during the Civil War.

As the smokehouse supplied meat, the spring poured forth good water for Midway folk and passersby as well. At some point it was protected by a large, stone springhouse, the walls of which still stand. When the railroad was built through Brentwood in the mid-1800s, pipes were laid from it and laborers were treated to its cool freshness.

Just a few years after the railroad hands drank from it, the spring became a refuge for thirsty soldiers. The fields knew fighting then, not cultivation, as Confederates and Union soldiers skirmished on the rolling hills.

Although no mark of war remains visible on the land — Confederate

earthworks having been obliterated by construction — McGavock descendants have tales of wounded soldiers being tended in the old house's hallways; one federal casualty was buried on the place. Bowman records that almost a century after the conflict's end, McGavock Hayes discovered his grandfather's Confederate sword, hidden for decades in Midway's walls.

Like the prehistoric Native Americans, the McGavock, Crockett and Hayes families maintain a symbolic hold on the land even today. In a grove behind the mansion, just a few feet from the clubhouse, Lysander McGavock lies with his wife and children in a small cemetery whose majestic granite markers point skyward in incongruous juxtaposition with swimming pool and golf carts.

It's easy to get nostalgic in an old cemetery — not so easy with February rain pouring into your golf cart — but the fact is, the McGavocks were famous for knowing how to have a good time. And if they could have seen their plantation-cum-country club during the past three decades, they'd probably have enjoyed it as much as the members.

With much laughter and reminiscing, Cecil Roach described the 1955 process of turning a stately mansion into a country club. The land to the south of the house was ideal for a golf course, never having been cultivated, he said.

On the night that construction of the swimming pool was completed "we stayed up all night, filling the pool for the Fourth of July party," Roach recalled, chuckling. "The water was 57 degrees, but when it was full, we jumped in with our clothes on."

Of the original members, four — Roach, Elaine Gary, Cooper Holt and Leo Wege — are still active in the club, Roach said. "There were a lot of 'Old Franklin' people in it at first, but now it's almost all newcomers," he said.

"Several country music artists were members at various times, including Faron Young and Billy Walker. The Gatlin brothers belong now."

In the early days, "Cousin" Minnie Pearl, a former member and enthusiastic user of the tennis courts, "used to call it the *country* country club she'd ever seen," Roach recalled. "Back then on a Saturday morning, the parking lot would be full of pickup trucks — of course, it's all Cadillacs now."

As future construction changes the landscape, the club — which will own its own land for the first time — will improve the golf course, raising some of the greens as much as 4 feet, said Roach.

As for changes in Midway — called "the clubhouse" by members — the club has no plan for drastic changes yet, Roach said on a golf cart ride across the course. A questionnaire on the subject is being circulated, he added.

Whatever changes come next on the old McGavock plantation, it seemed certain, that morning last week, that they might touch but not alter Brentwood's heart.

As rain sluiced down its old stone walls, the everlasting spring was scrubbing lost, red-and-white golf balls with the same ceaseless motion with which it once cleansed lost arrowheads. After uncountable centuries, the water was still so clear that only its motion made it visible.

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Unfailing big spring fuels life

BRENTWOOD — To call this large spring the heart of Brentwood would not be exaggerating, for throughout recorded time, it has never ceased to pump life into this fertile region.

One of the few spots that has remained almost changeless in this rapidly changing area, the spring and the rolling acres around it are part of the property known locally as the Brentwood Country Club.

One factor in keeping the spot on busy Highway 31 unchanged is that descendants of the McGavock family, who developed the acreage as a plantation, held on to the spring and adjacent lands for 160 years, leasing it to the country club for the past 32 years.

But change is coming. According to a club spokesman, the land recently was sold to a developer who plans to build new homes there, although an agreement has been reached that will enable the club to purchase part of the property, including the spring.

“RUNNING WATER is an absolute necessity for a golf course,” said Cecil Roach, one of four original members still active in the club. “No matter how dry it gets in the summer, the spring never stops running.”

In the long history of this place, running water has been necessary for much more than golfing, and in telling its story — from wilderness to plantation to country club, to its planned reincarnation as a residential development — the spring is an ideal starting point.

For untold centuries before the arrival of white pioneers, Native Americans and migratory wildlife shared this miracle of everlasting water. It's said that sometimes, winter rains still loose ancient tools from the ground — arrowheads, broken spear-points — evidence that even those long-vanished inhabitants have not quite let go of this land. Many of those relics are now housed in the Smithsonian Institution.

THE LARGE spring was not the only clear-running water on the grounds, and pioneers in the early 19th century gave the area the appropriate if unpoetic name “Good Springs.” For a while that designation served to name the little settlement, which was situated on the west prong of the Harpeth River — into which the largest spring flows.

In those days travelers between Franklin and Nashville took their rest at the local stagecoach inn operated by a family named Ormes. In 1827, two years before the property's first great manor house began to rise on the slope above, the area's first official post office was established nearby and called Good Springs.

Described by local historian Virginia Bowman as a “McGavock stronghold,” Lysander McGavock's house was one of many fine homes built in the region by members of the McGavock family during that era.

LYSANDER McGavock's father, David McGavock, and Randal McGavock, his uncle — builder of Carnton — had acquired massive acreage in the 1780s, accounting for the unusual number of great homes with McGavock connections.

When Lysander McGavock married Elizabeth Crockett, Midway's history was linked with another of the area's earliest families. Arriving in 1799, her ancestors were among the first to settle near Good Springs.

The first McGavock house was destroyed by fire in 1846, and “Midway,” its replacement, was completed the next year and named for its location halfway between Franklin and Nashville.

When complete, the classic manor

● PLEASE See Page 2

8 Wednesday, March 4, 1981



ANN
MOSS
BETTS

Times Past



BOYD McNAIRY HOME.

The Civil War left house and garden wrecked, "a ghostly reminder of a brilliant past."

FROM A WATER COLOR (BY E. CALVERT, 1875).

MIDWAY
The McGavock-Hayes Place
Nashville

A MILESTONE in the history of Tennessee, on a hill between Franklin and Nashville, stands Midway, the home of the McGavock-Hayes family. Built in 1847, of brick made by servants on the place, with a foundation of local limestone blocks, the present house is a memento of a still more distant past, the building materials having been salvaged from the burned ruins of an earlier home.

During the Civil War, Midway served as headquarters for more than one General, and was the scene of several skirmishes between the Confederates and the Federals. There was sharp fighting on its lawn and under trees which still shade the grounds. The wounded from both sides found shelter within its walls.

Linking the place with much earlier history is the fact that an Indian mound, reached by a narrow passage, may be seen on the place. The relics found in its depths are now in the keeping of a museum.

Still in the possession of descendants of its first owner, Midway has been remarkably well preserved. The servants' quarters and the old smokehouse, with its nail-studded door, and its huge iron key, remain.



The old home of the McGavock-Hayes family.

The garden, perpetuated since 1840, has among its many flowers the old pink crepe myrtles, bush honeysuckles, and moss roses.

A large spring flows from the southern slope of the hill site, overhung by two venerable oak trees of tremendous size, which afforded shade for the red man long before the white man penetrated the forests to uproot him from his home.