

CROCKETT SPRINGS
NASHVILLE GOLF AND ATHLETIC CLUB

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Crockett Springs Planning To Include Condominiums

By Greg Tucker

The golf clubhouse construction and the first phase of residential condominium development in Crockett Springs are scheduled to begin in July of this year, according to Tom Whitsett of John Coleman Hayes, Jr. and Associates, consulting engineers for the development.

"The golf course layout is complete and we are now waiting for the grass to grow," explained Whitsett in a recent interview with the Resident. The course for the Crockett Springs National Golf and Country Club was designed by the firm of Von Hagge and Devlin, Inc.

The course encircles a residential subdivision called Crockett Springs Estates, Section One. This subdivision is already approved by the Brentwood Planning Commission and registered with the county. The 22 single-family, minimum one acre lots in this section have been sold, primarily to the club founders.

The club founders include Frank Rogers, Chet Atkins, Alvin Beaman, James Blevins, Archie Campbell, Glen Campbell, Lew Conner, Floyd Cramer, John Eubank, Amon C. Evans, Bobby Goldsboro, Herb Lubiano, Oscar, Hubert Long, Robert A. McDowell, Jerry Reed, Glenn Roberts, Joe M. Rodgers, Wesley Rose, Mason Rudolph, Jack Stapp, Bill Walker and Cohen T. Williams.

The 550-acre development is bounded to the north by Moore's Lane, partially on the east by Cook's Lane, and to the west and south by the Brentwood city limits.

According to T. D. Trotter, recording secretary for the Brentwood Planning Commission, the Crockett Springs property was originally thought to be outside the city. However, a study by City Attorney Frank King showed that the property was part of the old 15th Civil District of Williamson County and was therefore properly within the city limits.

"The people in the area had

been voting and paying taxes in the 15th Civil District which was all included within the city limits when Brentwood was incorporated," said King.

The southern boundary of the city has always been ill-defined, according to King, and was clarified when questions were raised last Fall about Crockett Springs. By being within the city the development will have

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Looking north down the driveway from the top of the Crockett Springs National Golf and Country Club, the Crockett Springs Estates residential subdivision is on the hill to the left.

Crockett Springs

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access to the city sewer system.

According to Whitsett, the development is now approved for condominiums. However, King reports that as of October 25, 1971 when the city's multi-family zoning provisions were repealed, no multi-family developments were approved or tentatively approved.

Trotter recalls that an "informative plan" representing the "ideas" of the developers was presented to the Planning Commission about a year ago. "Except for the subdivision (Crockett Springs Estates, Section One) and the golf course, everything will have to come before the Planning Commission for approval," said Trotter.

"The first interest of the developers is the golf course,"

said Whitsett, "but some of the condominiums will be necessary for the project to break even."

A \$2 million loan for the construction of the clubhouse and residential development was recently secured from Equitable Life Assurance Society in cooperation with Guaranty Mortgage of Nashville.

CROCKETT SPRINGS

Crockett Springs was built in the early 1800's as a log house by Joseph Crockett who came to the Brentwood area in 1808 to take up the 640 acre land grant willed to him by his father John Crockett, who died in 1799, in Wythe County, Virginia. Joseph Crockett married his cousin, Polly Crockett. They reared a large family here. The house was built of logs cut on the place. It originally faced the old road that ran from Wilson Pike to the Nashville Pike, the bed of which can still be seen between the house and the cemetery. The place remained in the Crockett family until 1955. The outline of the old house can be seen under the framing. The stone chimney in the kitchen is original. Today the house forms the central part of the clubhouse for Crockett Springs National Golf and Country Club.

Brentwood Brochure

THE KNOX CROCKETT HOUSE

The Knox Crockett House was built by Major Andrew Crockett, who settled here in 1799. At that time Major Crockett had to take his rifle with him to the back fields to protect the workers from the Indian attacks. Typical of early architecture, the house was originally two log rooms with a "dog trot." The kitchen was a separate building in the back. Later a second story was added. The logs were covered with clapboards and the outbuildings were joined to the main structure in later years. A skirmish occurred on the grounds of the Knox Crockett House during the Civil War. The family still has many artifacts that remained after the skirmish.

Brentwood Brochure

beautiful and has been authentically restored. Dados of poplar come up to the windows which are framed in cedar or walnut with the same wood in the doors. All floors are white ash boards of varying widths with some as much as two inches thick and all put down with a foot adze.

The house was built in 1808 by Samuel Crockett III (1772-1827) whose parents were Andrew and Sally Elliott Crockett. This large connection settled on huge tracts of land which lay south of Brentwood and lived along bold forest streams in log cabins until bricks could be burned and timbers seasoned for more substantial dwellings.

Samuel Crockett married Joanna Sayers (1772-1812), the daughter of David and Mary Beatty Sayers, and built a log forge here giving the property its name. He skillfully produced one of the frontier's most necessary items—guns. A few of these weapons, collector's items and very rare, are in existence today. They can be identified by their excellent handiwork and unmistakably by the initials "S. & A. C." engraved on the barrel. The letters stand for Samuel and Andrew Crockett since the latter assisted his father in his profession. They operated another forge near the square in Franklin in early days.

Andrew Jackson stopped at Forge Seat on his way to New Orleans to buy guns for his men who were indifferently armed with anything from flint locks to butcher knives.

Andrew Crockett had been born in Virginia in 1798 and was brought to this county as an infant in arms. In 1818 he married Catherine Walker Bell (1798-1890) whose parents were Samuel and Margaret Edmiston Bell. When he died in 1852 he was buried north of Forge Seat with other members of his family.

David Crockett, the famed frontiersman who perished

at the Alamo, once spent the night here. He stopped first at another family home nearby with his Indian companion and not being well received came on to Forge Seat. Some of his relatives frowned upon Davy's somewhat unorthodox behaviour. This bothered him not in the least and in no way affected his honored place in American history.

Forge Seat was for many years the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Liggett Carpenter. It was bought from their heirs by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Gregory who have restored the home to its original early American charm and beauty.

Crockett Family Homestead

Some of the largest landowners in Williamson County were members of the Crockett family who started coming here in 1799 from Wythe County, Virginia. As was often the case in pioneer America it was their habit to marry within the family which makes it confusing for descendants and researchers since the names were often duplicated in each generation.

Andrew (1747-1821) and Sally Elliott Crockett settled near Brentwood and are buried in one of the two rock-walled cemeteries just north of Forge Seat. His brother John Crockett (1737-1799) remained in Wythe County at Crockett's Cove—the place bearing his name and the site of his grave. Andrew's son, John Hamilton, married his brother John's daughter, Nancy, and made the move to Williamson County with the large family group traveling in wagons, on horseback and afoot over the wilderness trails to the rich new lands. They settled in the Arrington



Forge Seat, built as home of Samuel Crockett

community off the present Wilson Pike. Here they built log cabins for shelter until a more substantial dwelling could be erected. As soon as bricks could be burned, John H. Crockett built two brick houses. One has been torn away; the other, with a large frame addition remains a landmark on Ozburn Road. The early children learned their numbers by counting the axmarks on the timbers in the oldest part of this house. Around 1855, when the frame portion was added a double row of cedars was planted to line the front walk. In their maturity they made an impressive site along with other fine shade trees in the wide yard which sloped to the road.

Among the Crockett's twelve children was a daughter, Jane, (1816-1887) who married Thomas Hilary Roberts (1812-1886) and continued to live at the homeplace. Their daughter Bettie, later Mrs. Frank Ogilvie, was the family chronicler who preserved many interesting facts of the past. She remembered hearing her Crockett grandmothers talking of the old days in Virginia. One story they told which so impressed her youthful mind was that of a young mother who, with her baby in her arms, was walking through the woods to a neighbor's house. Suddenly a bear reared up in the path and snatched at the infant. The mother's shrieks attracted the attention of woodcutters nearby who rushed to her assistance, but since they were on foot they were no match for the beast which went crashing through the underbrush. Weeping bitterly, the girl retraced her footsteps homeward and laid her poor baby in one of the Crockett ladies' lap. As she removed the little cap, Mrs. Crockett found its brains oozing from the fatal slash of the bear's paw. Many other happenings of pioneer days Mrs. Ogilvie wrote down for posterity.

Another of Thomas Hilary and Jane C. Roberts's children, Daniel Hilary, married Miss Mamie Cayce whose memory is still cherished by many Franklin friends. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts moved to Franklin in 1919 and from then on the house was occupied by families who worked the land.

A fascinating story is connected with this house. On a stormy day in 1820 a stranger knocked at the door and asked shelter from the rain. When no introduction seemed forthcoming after he was invited in, John Crockett asked him his name. With some hesitation the guest glanced at the roiling skies and announced himself as Mr. Cloud. His horse was stabled and in the open-handed hospitality of that day he was persuaded to spend the night. He was an attractive, articulate man—rather nervous and apprehensive, but obviously a gentleman of culture and refinement. He amused the children with stories and talked with intelligence and perception to his hosts about affairs of the day.

When he mentioned leaving the family set up an outcry, and he agreed to remain temporarily to tutor the children for his board. In this capacity Mr. Cloud unconsciously revealed to the Crocketts a highly educated mind by his knowledge of the classics, higher mathematics, the sciences and languages. The days lengthened into months, then years and nothing more was said of his leaving. When his duties in the schoolroom lessened, he turned his hand to other interests. He was especially skilled in woodwork, and a cherry table, the legs of which he painstakingly carved with his pocketknife, is still in the



One of two houses originally built by John H. Crockett

family. The hole underneath the drawer was made by Yankees when they could not unlock it to steal the silver.

Mr. Cloud was a source of endless conversation in the neighborhood. He was kind, wise, and generous with his talents, but the secret he brought with him out of the storm their most delicate probing failed to penetrate. He never ventured further than a mile or so from the Crockett place; therefore, the most of their contact with him was in that environs. While John H. Crockett lived, he shielded his guest as much as possible saying he more than paid his way as teacher, friend, and advisor in his home.

Twenty-seven years after his arrival here Mr. Cloud died, beloved and honored by his adopted family who made no difference between him and their own blood. He was buried in the cemetery near the house where his tombstone revealed no more of him in death than he had in life. It reads simply "Mr. Cloud. Died 1847". Nearby are the stones of his benefactors, "John Crockett, Ja 15, 1777-1827" and "Nancy Crockett, Au 16, 1781-May 12, 1844." Also buried here is Nancy Crockett's mother, Elizabeth Montgomery Crockett, of Wythe County, Virginia, who died while on a visit to her daughter.

Standing in the cemetery and looking northwest, the brick walls of the old Sayers house can be seen. The Sayers intermarried with the Crocketts time and again and their home, shadowed by an immense holly tree, joins what was Crockett land.

The John Hamilton Crockett place was sold by Mrs. Dan Roberts, Jr. in September of 1964. In an excellent state of preservation, it is owned today by Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Colebrook.

Ravenwood

Substantial log cabins beside bold springs in the Harpeth Valley around Brentwood were the first homes of the descendants of Thomas and Katie Carson Wilson when they came here in the early 1800s. Their son, James Hazard Wilson (1763-1838), was born in County Fermaugh, Ireland, but early emigrated to America where

Historic site's sewer line condition still unresolved

By **JOHN DEMPSEY**

State Writer

BRENTWOOD — State water quality control and city officials disagree on whether a city-approved sewer line in the historic Forge Seat estate has been given a "clean bill of health" by state health authorities.

John Grissom, Brentwood's director of water and sewer services, said state health officials told him "no remedial action" would be necessary to fix the line which alters the flow of water through a maze of spring-fed creeks.

City officials approved the line, which was hurriedly installed last June, so Crockett Elementary School could open for the fall term.

"There's nothing wrong with it," Grissom said.

State biologist Sherry Wang of the Department of Health and Environment said Friday officials thought it

wiser to leave the bulldozer-damaged stream bed the way it was instead of dredging out a thick coating of sediment. Brentwood officials offered to correct the problem.

"I don't call that a clean bill of health," Wang said. "For now, it's best to leave it alone. They admit things were out of control. But it is resolved."

Health officials first questioned L&C Contracting of Fairview about possible violations of the state's Water Quality Control Act after employees installed the Brentwood pipeline. Then last week, the state called a meeting on the issue.

In 1814, waters from the spring-fed creek cooled the musket-making furnaces of historic Forge Seat, from which armed Tennessee volunteers marched off to the Battle of New Orleans. ■

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Creek through historic estate running dry or muddy after sewer pipe installed

JOHN DEMPSEY

State Writer

BRENTWOOD — A perpetual spring-fed creek which meanders through Buzz Cason's historic estate either runs dry or runs thick with mud since a sewer pipeline was installed last June.

Portions of the tree-shaded creek, which has supplied drinking water for more than 180 years to the Forge Seat home of pioneer Samuel Crockett, have been obliterated by the freshly-bulldozed sewer pipeline, Cason said.

"It will dry completely up, which it's never done," he said, pointing to a trickle of water where six inches of depth stood two months ago.

"Up here, it's backed up more than it was," he said, pointing to an algae-covered pond. "I can't understand it."

Cason said he suspects water from the creek bed flows instead into the adjacent pipeline trench.

Closer inspection of the creek reveals that straw-and-grass erosion control efforts on the city of Brentwood sewer line stop where the creek, and the pipeline, slip under a railroad embankment which marks the rear boundary of the songwriter's 18-acre estate.

On the other side of the rail tracks,

mounds of raw dirt heaped on the bankrupt Windsong subdivision's already-scarred landscape from the pipeline's construction have silted up and all but erased the creek's outline.

Water from this same creek cooled the musket-making furnaces of historic Forge Seat when Andrew Jackson stopped by Samuel Crockett's home to pick up arms for his Tennessee volunteers on their way to the Battle of New Orleans in 1814, Cason said.

Last May, Brentwood officials allocated \$30,000 in emergency funding to contract out installing a missing 400-foot section of the bankrupt sewer pipeline, which held up completion of the new Crockett Elementary School.

L&C Contracting Inc. of Fairview submitted a low bid of \$23,000, City Treasurer Randy Sanders said Thursday.

However, the price on the as-yet unpaid bill was increased to \$30,256 because the pipeline had to be rerouted to avoid a wet-weather spring, Sanders said.

Repeated efforts to reach L&C officials yesterday were unsuccessful.

Brentwood Water and Sewer Director John Grissom and Inspector Richard Rigsby, who Cason said inspected the work, were both on vacation this

week.

"They asked me if I was happy with the work, and was until the creek disappeared," Cason said.

The pipeline contract specified the surrounding land was "warranted to be left in as good or better condition," and any unsatisfactory work can yet be corrected, said Building Inspector Lou Davio.

Brentwood's sewer pipeline work is covered by a single 1987 "nation-wide" Army Corps of Engineers-issued five-year permit, said William James, chief of the Corps' Western Regulatory System.

No inspection by the Corp of Engineers is given to holders of nationwide permits, which are issued in 26 separate categories, unless a complaint is filed directly with the Corps, James said.

"The city bears the responsibility of seeing that it's done right," he said.

Forge Seat is on the Brentwood Historic Register and will be one of nine homes included on a fall tour, said Linda Lynch, director of community relations.

The remains of Samuel Crockett's son Andrew's 1818 home, located less than a half-mile from Forge Seat, were cited as a safety hazard and leveled in June. ■

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