

Milton Groseclose (1/28/1873 - 9/13/1944), a farmer and stockman, and his wife Fannie, a teacher and artist, and five children (one who died in infancy) were the fourth family to find shelter in this house. Here in their home, they survived the depression and lived a quiet life dedicating themselves to their family, church and community.

Conrad Neal Groseclose (11/26/1909 - 6/21/1977) was the fifth generation to inherit the Home place. He never married. His life was dedicated to serving his church and community. He lived happily at the Home place and operated the farm until his death. At age sixty-eight, he was laid to rest in Sharon Cemetery near his ancestors who had also lived in the Henry Groseclose home.

The Henry Groseclose house still stands today carrying a message from Americans of yesterday to all Americans today. A span of two hundred ten years lies between it and us. During that time it has known twenty-five births and twelve deaths.

Nostalgia creeps in as I think of the formative years of my life when I lived in Henry and Elizabeth's Dream House. It was here that I acquired life values and learned to love my family. These people, my treasures, will forever live in my memory. They were ordinary people who left extra-ordinary memories.



We Welcome You to Henry and Elizabeth's Dream House

Groseclose Family Reunion, 2003



¹ No doubt the first white man to gaze upon this favorite hunting ground of the Red Man was awe-struck by the wild beauty of the panorama before him. He saw the fertile valleys dotted here and there by small natural clearings and watered by cold rushing streams. The tinkling mountain branches falling over moss-covered rocks down deep ravines, filled with thick laurel beds, furnished music that filled his soul with gladness. As his gaze swept upward along the colorful mountain slopes, covered with dense forests of hardwood, on to the towering peaks, he thought what more could mortal man want. This is home!

¹ Bland County History

Mae Heslep, Raleigh, NC

Unaware of the struggles and hardships ahead, Peter Sr., in 1750, left Miesau, Germany, the land of his nativity, hoping to find in America a land blessed with opportunity. He first settled in Pennsylvania and later moved south to what is now Ceres, Virginia, an area in the beautiful mountains of Southwest Virginia.

In 1793 Peter Sr. built this log home for his son, Henry, who married Elizabeth Copenbarger. The land which it occupied was part of a land grant signed by Patrick Henry. This structure was characterized by hand-hewn hardwood logs cut from trees felled from the surrounding mountains and put together with wooden pegs. There was a two story front porch, rooms with long straight beams, a rock chimney and a winding stairway leading to the attic where the original logs are still visible.

As originally built, there was a breeze-way between the main house and the servants' quarters. In about 1850 this was replaced by a kitchen and dining room adjoining the main part of the house. Although both the exterior and the interior of the house have been changed to enhance the beauty and to meet the needs of the times, it still maintains its character and distinctive colonial appearance.

Scattered around the house and farm were other buildings including three log barns, one of which still stands today, a log spring house, a granary and a smoke house.

Few houses have had more occupants or have had a more vigorous and varied life. Since Henry's Dream House was built in 1793, five families have lived in it, and it still stands as a model of life in this area at the time.

In 1793 Henry (1771 - 5/1/1836) and Elizabeth, eleven children and three slaves (Tom, Hannah, Polly) were sheltered in this house. They were pioneers in a land of beauty, but one inhabited by warring Indian tribes. Their challenges and sacrifices were many, but they were survivors who accumulated land and property.

William Henry Groseclose (4/21/1810-6/14/1871) and Adeline were the parents of seven children. One son, William Lockhart, died at age ten. Dr. William played a part in the formation of Bland County, and at its first court was elected presiding Justice. He was a worthy citizen, dedicated Christian, devoted husband and father, and an eminent physician. One day after his death between 5 and 6 o'clock p.m., he was laid to rest in Sharon Cemetery.

"The zephyrs never sighed more deeply than now, nor the gentle breezes of full spring, than that sad and lonely requiem of the departed who sleeps in peace under his grave of flowers." (Copied from obituary)

Adam Dallas Groseclose (12/27/1856-8/20/1929) and Parthena, the third family to occupy the house, had two children.

Adam Dallas, a Civil War veteran, was in Company F, 51st Infantry. He and his brothers Henry (Captain of G Company) and James A.T. (51st Virginia Infantry) were captured by the Union Forces at the Battle of Winchester. The three were sent to Fort Delaware where they remained prisoners until released on June 17, 1865.

After the war ended, James A.T., lured by the rolling hills and looking for an easier and better life, moved west to Idaho. He sold his farm to Adam Dallas. It remains today a part of the farm surrounding the Henry house.

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