



(L-R) Front Row, Fielding Turner, Joe Ray, Sice Green, Nathan Walls, J. M. Redmon, Dick Webb, Jim Stoner, Nute Avery, Bill Tippet. Back Row, Son Hicks, Watt Cantrell, Tom Jones, Jim Dasson, Pat Cantrell, John Loring, John Van Hooser, James Monroe Rankhorn, John Cotton, John Womack, W. B. Ward, Ed Hodge, Cap Rose. These men were veterans of the Civil War. Men who served with identified units are Co. A 16th Tennessee Regiment: Turner, Redmond, Cantrell, Van Hooser, Womack and Ward. Joe Ray was assigned to Co. G of the same regiment. Others may have served with the same regiment, but the difference in the spelling of names makes this difficult to determine. This photo, submitted for publication by Mrs. Ike Adcock, Rt. 2, Smithville, was made at a reunion held at the old Seven Springs Hotel. (J. M. (James) Redmon was the grandfather of Mrs. Adcock's husband.) Although the date the picture was made is not known, the number of veterans had dwindled to only a few at the time, and the reunion may have been one of the last held.

Seven Springs Summer Resort

Seven Springs, a summer resort hotel, was built in the late eighteen hundreds on Sink Creek in DeKalb County, TN, about two miles from New Bladod. The hotel got its name from the seven mineral wells located on the hotel grounds. The waters were listed as: Freestone, Lithia, Chalybeate, Alakin, Black Sulphur and Saline Magnesia.

When the mineral wells were first found, they were only about twelve inches in diameter. Later, they were walled up with field stones. Water was dipped from the well with a metal cup attached to a long slender pole. These wells were across the creek from the hotel and could be reached by a swinging foot bridge spanning the creek. The sulphur odor could be smelled on the hotel lawn.

People came from long distances and even from other states to drink the mineral water which were believed to be beneficial to ones health. Some who did not remain as guest of the hotel would bring containers and take the water home with them.

In a time period of no radio, no television, no automobiles, and no daily papers, the resort was a very special place to spend ones vacation or just visit for a Sunday afternoon.

The building was a unique, large, and rambling two-story wooden building with intricate gingerbread trim. A wide porch with carved banisters wound around the building on three sides and one outside stairway led to the balcony. This was used by the guests to sit and enjoy each others company and the sound of the creek as it wound its way down the stream on the south side of the lawn.

A familiar sight was horses hitched to a hitching post placed conveniently for visitors to use. Buggies and surries with the fringe on top were also a common sight. Ladies riding side saddle on sleek, fat horses could be seen. Two of them, May Lassiter and May Freeman, could be seen in a race now and then on a Sunday afternoon.

A favorite time at the hotel, one which drew large crowds, was the annual 4th of July Picnic. Women in long dresses with leg-o-mutton sleeves, leg-horn hats tied with sheer scarves and high top shoes with spool heels were lovely sights.

For recreation, there was a tennis court and croquet court; horse shoes was also a favorite game. Some time in the period before World War I a merry-go-round was set up. This was a fascinating addition to the picnics. For refreshments, there were food stands or tables and a large galvanized wash tub was filled with lemonade. Ice was brought from a nearby cave where it had been stored during the icy winter. A phonograph was first heard in that area at one of these picnics.

At night the sound of fiddles, mandolins and five string banjos could be heard coming from a large ballroom on the second floor. These were played for square dances. People came from Smithville and McMinnville, as well as nearby villages such as Shiney Rock, Keltonburg, Blue Springs, Bethel and Blidad to participate in these dances. Some of the favorite musicians were John E. Ferrill on the violin, Tait Harden on the mandolin, and Jim Parish on the banjo.

Other entertainment for special occasions was the Dibrell Brass Band. This was made up of Isham Grbble, Tom Chaistain, Walter Bragg, Hall Tempenny, John Roy Bragg, Perry West, Jim Green, Bob Clark, Clyde Potter, G. W. Hinkley, Dr. G. G. Fisher, and Brown Oliver. Their instructor and conductor was Hacket Barnes.

