







Corinthia (also Oak Wind) was owned by Charles Innes and Cynthiana (was Buenna Hill) by Robert Innes

Robert Innes
(Charles, I think)

Children of Robert & Saphera (Sophia) Innes:
Charlie, Lena, Anna (m. James Burgess),
Mary (m. John Gano), and another son

Charles Innes
(Robert, I think)

Malmaison

John Price Innes home,
land belongs to Rockefellers

Russell Cave Pike

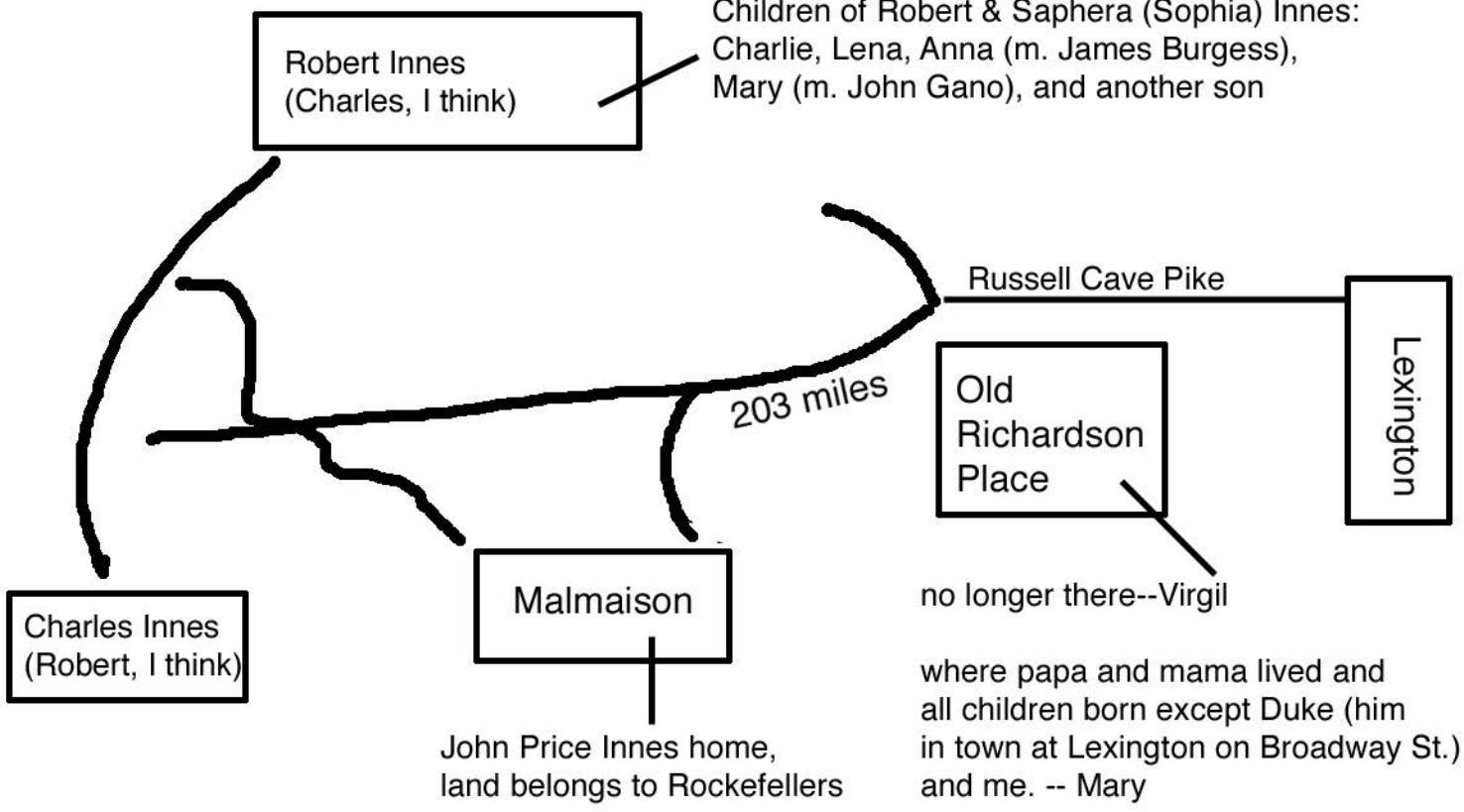
Old
Richardson
Place

no longer there--Virgil

where papa and mama lived and
all children born except Duke (him
in town at Lexington on Broadway St.)
and me. -- Mary

Lexington

203 miles





ROMAN DORIC—Built in the 1840's, the house is a Roman Doric example of Greek Revival architecture. It has ash floors, double poplar and single walnut doors downstairs, poplar woodwork upstairs.

By Betty Lee Mastin
Herald-Leader Home Page Editor

Good Hill, they may have meant to call the red-brick, white-pillared mansion that crowns a rise on Blue Spring Farm, the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Jones LeBus, 11 miles out Russell Cave Road.

The Greek Revival mansion was built probably in the late 1840's for Robert H. Innes, farmer and land-owner.

Presumably Innes gave it the name "Buenna Hill," combining (and misspelling) the Spanish adjective for good with the English noun.

Architect-builder of the house was James McMurtry, prominent in Lexington construction during most of the 19th Century.

Clay Lancaster, whose book, "Back Streets and Pine Trees," is a study of McMurtry houses, notes that much of the builder's known work still stands in Fayette County and that many more houses are attributed to him.

For both reasons, it is not odd that many local people call Buenna Hill a twin, pointing out the white-columned larger brick house directly across the road as its counterpart.

Some mistakenly say that this second house, "Corinthia," which was built in 1854, was commissioned by Innes for a son.

Actually it was built by McMurtry for Innes' older brother, Charles Webb Innes, and while it superficially resembles the earlier house, the two are not mates.

However, Buenna Hill does have a near match on the same road. It is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Reineman opposite Mount Brilliant on what now is Crown Crest Farm.

Buenna Hill and the Reineman home are simple, graceful Roman Doric; Corinthia is the more elaborate Corinthian, and for that style the house was named.

Doric columns have plain capitals (the uppermost part); Corinthian columns have capitals decorated with acanthus leaves.

Buenna Hill's columns and the portico they support add dignity to stout brick walls trimmed at the corners with coupled pilasters (quarter columns that only slightly protrude from the wall). More pilasters decorate side walls, becoming pillars for what once were side galleries. The galleries have been enclosed to form baths, a bedroom and sunrooms.

Inside, the floor plan is similar to the other Innes house across the road. A front hall gives access through enormous sliding double doors (these are poplar) into matching front parlors. Mrs. LeBus uses one parlor as drawing room, the other as living room.

As at Corinthia, the main stair is in a hall at right angle to the front hall. Behind this hall is the dining room; behind that, kitchen and service rooms.

Little is known about the man who had Buenna Hill constructed. Doubtlessly wealthy for his time and this locale, Innes was born in Fayette County in 1828, a son of a Henry Innes listed by one history as "one of the early settlers from Virginia."

A biography of Robert Innes in the same history notes that in 1849 "when he reached his majority" he married Sophia Flournoy. He is listed as a Democrat and a breeder of Shorthorn cattle.

Deeds in the Fayette Court House record that in 1884 Innes sold 487 acres of land on Russell Cave Road to America and George Whitney.

The house—seldom mentioned even now in deeds for farm land—probably went with the land.

Even so, it remained in Innes' hands. America was the daughter of a John P. Innes and probably a cousin to the first owner. A "Squire" John P. Innes was a grandson of a Hugh Innes of Virginia, just as were the owners of Corinthia and Buenna Hill.

Like his cousins, the "squire" owned a big house on Russell Cave Road, a home he called "Malmaison Hall."

Literally translated, "malmaison" means evil or sick house.

Which means that America, the new mistress of "Good Hill," once may have lived in "Sick House Hall."

(Blue Spring Farm with its mansion, Buenna Hill, is one of eight local homes and gardens to be open to the public May 17-19 as part of Open House in Kentucky sponsored by the Garden Club of Kentucky.)

*John Price Innes
was the father
of Sue Innes.
America was his
daughter from a
second marriage.*

Mansion, Cynthiana Hall, to go for auction

By Shelia M. Poole
Herald-Leader business writer

Cynthiana Hall, a white-pillared mansion built in the 1840s and listed on the National Register of Historic Homes, will go on the auction block this week along with its surrounding horse farm.

The spacious Greek Revival-styled mansion and farm, covering 38.9 acres, were most recently known for the lavish Kentucky Derby parties given by the owner.

The property is scheduled to be auctioned at 10:30 a.m. Monday.

It was bought by Clifford S. Perlman in 1980. His daughter, Robyn Perlman, lived there until she moved to New York several months ago.

Perlman bought the Russell Cave Road farm for \$1 million, said Sally Headley of The Headley Co., one of the managers of the auction.

The auction is being jointly managed by Ms. Headley and Doris Shouse of Turf Town Properties Inc. and Switzer/Lake Auctioneer/Realtors.

A first open house was held last Sunday and more than 60 people attended, Ms. Shouse said. Prospective buyers can view the property at another open house from 2 to 5 p.m. today.

Cynthiana Hall is located nine miles north of downtown Lexington.



Photo by David Caywood

The current owner has given lavish parties at the mansion on Russell Cave Road.

The farm includes an eight-stall horse barn, manager's house, four-plank fencing, a two-room office with kitchenette and bath, heated swimming pool and brick cabana.

Some furnishings in the home will be sold as part of the property during the auction. The furnishings include antique furniture, a brass bed, a Chippendale sofa and rugs.

The mansion has about 6,500 square feet of space. It has two enclosed porches, 10 rooms, a full attic and basement and 4½ baths.

The farm had been on the market for \$1.2 million, Ms. Shouse said.

She said the farm was being auctioned because it had not been sold "through regular channels. At \$1.2 million, you just don't have that many buyers.

"They (the Perlmans) didn't

want the responsibility of a large home that wasn't occupied," Ms. Shouse said. "They wanted to bring the issue to a head and sell it."

"It's a way of getting someone's attention," Ms. Headley said. "It's another method of selling."

Asked how much she expected the mansion and farm to bring, Ms. Shouse said that she was "hoping for a million, but I doubt if it'll bring quite that much."

Ms. Headley said there had been a lot of interest in the farm, including inquiries from as far away as England and from a well-known singer whom she refused to name. She would say only that the singer had stayed there several times.

Ms. Perlman could not be reached in New York for comment.

The house was built in the late

1840s by John McMurtry, a prominent Lexington builder and architect in the 19th century, for Robert Innes. Innes was a farmer and landowner who moved to Kentucky from Virginia.

Innes reportedly named it Buenna Hills, misspelling the Spanish word for "good."

The name was changed to Cynthiana Hall when Ms. Perlman moved there.

Ms. Perlman was the founder of WINGS, a non-profit foundation dedicated to expanding the cultural activities of Kentucky children.

Her father is a Las Vegas businessman whose interests included Caesar's World Inc., with casinos in Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Nev., and Atlantic City, N.J.

April, 1986
Lexington, KY

AUCTION

Tomorrow, April 28
10:30 A.M.

5900 Russell Cave Rd.
Fayette County
on premises



Cynthiana Hall

Classic architectural beauty, c. 1840

38.9 acres with 4 plank fencing, 8 stall horse barn, city & spring water.

Improvements include: historic mansion, heated swimming pool and cabana with bath and wet bar, brick office/guest cottage, manager's house.

Valuable furnishings will stay with the property. Complete inventory available upon request. A partial list includes: round mahogany dining table & chairs, antique chests & tables, Oriental rugs, Chippendale sofa & wing chairs, antique chandeliers & sconces, brass king size & twin beds, gold leaf console & mirrors, cabana, guest house, manager's house & pool furnishings, appliances and other numerous items.

Terms & Conditions: 10% day of sale, balance in 30 days.

OPEN TODAY, 2 TO 5 P.M.

The Headley Company
Sally Headley, Broker
252-4444

Switzer-Lake
Auctioneers-Realtors
1-234-2911

Turf Town Properties
Doris Shouse, Realtor
268-4663

Cynthiana Hall brings \$615,000

Herald-Leader staff report

Lexington builder Charles H. Moore is the new owner of historic Cynthiana Hall, after submitting the winning bid of \$615,000 for the mansion and surrounding farmland at an auction yesterday.

Moore said he had "no idea" what his plans were for the property.

"I'll probably take it and build a new home," Moore said. He said he would probably leave the white-pillared, Greek Revival-styled mansion standing and build on an adjacent tract of land.

"As far as Cynthiana Hall as a place to live — no," he said.

Sally Headley of The Headley Co., one of the auction managers, said that

about 75 people were at the auction.

The mansion, which was built by Lexington architect and builder John McMurtry, and 38.9 acres of land on Russell Cave Road had been placed on the market at \$1.2 million. The most recent resident was Robyn Perlman, who was known for her lavish Kentucky Derby parties.

The property was being sold at auction because it had not been sold through regular channels.

Moore said he would have bid as high as \$715,000 for the property.

The property includes an eight-stall horse barn, manager's house, a two-room office with kitchenette and bath, heated swimming pool and brick cabana. Some furnishings were also sold.

*April 1986
Lexington, KY*