

History of Glen Leven, 1779-1876

- North Carolina native Thomas Thompson arrived at the Nashville settlement with James Robertson in 1779.
- Thomas Thompson was a signer of the Cumberland Compact, the first governance document of the Nashville settlement.
- In 1790, Thomas Thompson acquired a 647-acre tract (that includes the current 65 acres), and built a log home on the property, near the site of the current Pepsi bottling facility on Thompson Lane.
- Thomas Thompson's son, John (b. 1793) built the Greek Revival home that stands today for \$7,444 in 1857.
- John Thompson grew the plantation to more than 900 acres, including property on both sides of the current Franklin Pike.
- During the Battle of Nashville in 1864, the house fell between Confederate and Union lines with the farm providing provisions to both sides.
- Glen Leven became a Union field hospital. Mary Thompson was said to have nursed soldiers inside the home and on the grounds.

History of Glen Leven, 1876-1919

- John Thompson died in 1876, and left Glen Leven to his son, John M. Thompson (b. 1852) who married Mary McConnell “Conn” Overton Thompson in 1878.
- In the late 1880s John M. and Conn undertook the only major renovation of Glen Leven, prompted by the death of their beloved 5-year old daughter, Harriet, from diphtheria. The family moved to Mary’s family home, Traveller’s Rest, during the extensive renovation, hoping to rid the house of disease.
- John M. was a farmer and an attorney. He also served as Speaker of the Tennessee State Senate and as Commissioner of Agriculture.
- John M. grew corn, wheat, and cotton at Glen Leven, as well as garden produce, which he marketed to the Maxwell House Hotel (owned by his in-laws, the Overtons). He also raised livestock, including a short-lived venture in thoroughbred horses as co-owner/director of The Hermitage Stud.
- The Hermitage Stud was best known for a horse named Wedgewood – the horse was so popular that the road from the Cumberland Fair and Racing Association (now Centennial Park) to Franklin Pike was named Wedgewood Avenue.

History of Glen Leven, 1919-1968

- John M. Thompson died in 1919, and the property was divided among John M. and Conn Thompson's five surviving children.
- Conn Thompson died in 1924, and the home place was held by John M. and Conn's daughter, Conn Thompson Harris and her husband, Dr. Albert W. Harris.
- Between 1925 and 1945, the Harrises saw many changes at Glen Leven - the widening of Franklin Pike (and resulting changes in the stone walls and spring house landscape), the installation of an upstairs interior bathroom, connection to city water and further subdivision of property among family members.
- Dr. Harris died in 1941, and in 1946 Conn T. Harris moved to Athens, Georgia to live with her daughter, Conn H. West.
- In 1946, Conn T. Harris' brother Overton Thompson and his wife Margaret moved to Glen Leven. Overton happily farmed the property, growing hay and soybeans, planting trees, maintaining the gardens, and raising cattle.
- In 1968, Overton Thompson died, and the property was sold to Shelby Singleton (*Harper Valley PTA*), who never lived at Glen Leven.

History of Glen Leven, 1971-2006

- In 1971, Conn T. Harris and Dr. A.W. Harris' granddaughter, Susan McConnell West, purchased the house and property after two years of vacancy and vandalism. Susan West grew up in Athens, Georgia with her parents Conn H. West and Robert West, but enjoyed long stays at Glen Leven during her early childhood.
- Susan West immediately endured challenges during the construction of I-65 on the eastern edge of the property, and then in the 1980's she fought the Armory Drive interchange, which eventually cut into over nine acres of farmland.
- Susan West owned the house and land for over three decades, and utilized the land employing the latest farming, soil conservation and livestock methods - carrying on the tradition of her historic ancestors.
- In late 2006, Susan West died, and, wanting the property to be protected forever, she willed Glen Leven to The Land Trust for Tennessee, a non-profit, non-government organization dedicated to conserving the unique character of Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes and sites for future generations.
- Her will generally stipulates that the property may not be developed or subdivided, but remain as open space, and that the structures must be maintained in good condition.