

RELIVING SHARP COUNTY

History

DR. AUDREY THOMPSON

Special to the Villager Journal

Aunt Tee

Mrs. Donaldson, known to many of her Hardy friends as "Aunt Tee," was interested in Hardy history. She provided much background information about Hardy.

An active person all her life, she explained her own good condition by saying, "I walk a lot and do not drink or chew."

Donaldson had a lot of pride in her family. The same pride was evident when she talked about the historic Beck place where she lived for so many years, which is now the site of Cutter's Grill.

One former Mammoth Spring resident remembers seeing Donaldson as a teenager, and gave this account. "She was dressed in a blue skirt, white midi, and red tie. The outfit accented the beauty of her smooth olive skin, dark hair and vivacious eyes."

In later years Aunt Tee was recognized as a remarkable lady.

Born in Hardy on July 10, 1895, she died in October 1980 at Eastern Ozarks Community Hospital at age 85. She was a member of the Catholic Church. Her husband, Oscar Steele Donaldson preceded her in death.

Dr. Audrey Thompson is president of the Sharp County Historical Society.



Photo/submitted

AUNT TEE'S PLACE: The home, shown in this sketch by Ray Smith, was a Hardy landmark for years.

Aunt Tee's Place

Down by Hardy Bridge the old house stood,
The siding sagging from the strain of rotting timbers.

'Twas once upon a time a stately house
With balcony that overlooked the town,
A cool retreat from summer's balmy nights
Sounds of Spring River tumbling down.
What oak wood beams rocked away inside?

Underbrush half hid the gaping window holes
from sun and rain.
The home-made gate hung from a rusty latch
And weeds had grown waist high
In what was once a vegetable patch.

WHAT COO-WOO SECRETS TUCKED AWAY INSIDE:
What laughter, joy and tears it must have seen.
And then it sat, dilapidated and run down
Silent sentinel — with secrets of old Hardy Town.
Irene Thompson
Hardy