*Arbuckle -* **Belle Vue Farm **

**Chapter 1**

*THE SUGAR HOLLOW*

Hello! My name is Jim Arbuckle and welcome to Belle Vue Farm. In this first chapter, you will read some family history and some highlights of the Belle Vue farm house. Then a word description and video of me riding my horse around a place called the Sugar Hollow.

My great, great grandfather Alexander Welch Arbuckle bought a large piece of land north of Lewisburg from a Michael Baker, who was departing for Kentucky. No one is sure what he paid for the land, but it consisted of nearly 1,000 acres. My granddad once said 999 acres. If my great, great grandfather was anything like my grandfather, then the farm was built by hard work. John Dunn built the house in 1822. Dunn, a builder of many big brick southern style homes in the Lewisburg area - built a large two story brick house on a knoll overlooking the beautiful farmland. Dunn had been in the area for a number of years overseeing the construction of his handsome brick mansions. Alexander married Julia Bell, and in honor of his wife, he named the farm Belle Vue. Note: While the original spelling was probably Bell Vue or Belle View and not Belle Vue, it will read as Belle Vue in this website. Reason being, while I was growing up, the farm sign read Belle Vue, thus I became accustomed to that spelling.

My great grandfather Alexander W. Arbuckle II was born 1851. He took over the farm in 1873 following his father’s death. A.W. II married Elizabeth Creigh, daughter of prominent farmer David S. Creigh. Alex and Elizabeth’s children were Charles Creigh, Julia Bell, Emily Creigh, Mary Lynn, Alexander Wayt, Lockhart Davis, and James Edward, who died at birth. My grandfather, Alexander W. Arbuckle III was born in 1887, and took over the farm in 1920. He died in 1990 at the age of 103; however his son, Lockhart Arbuckle took the reins of the farm in the 1970’s, after working the farm his entire life, except for a brief stint in the service in the early 1950’s. All, including many siblings were born in the Belle Vue house.

Today, I am going to ride my pinto horse Cochise in a field called the Sugar Hollow. But first, I want to take you inside the Belle Vue house and show you a couple of the rooms. After I tell you about these rooms.

I hope you enjoy and welcome to Belle Vue Farm.

*The idea of this particular website came from the 1991 video, Belle Vue, “The Sugar Hollow.” Spending much of my childhood riding the farm, mainly on Sunday afternoons, I got the idea to remember and preserve some of my childhood memories and family history.*

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*As we come though the front door of the house, you are in the Hall, or modern day term for living room. In front of you is the beautiful stairway, carved by Conrad Burgess. The staircase winds all the way to the third floor attic. The attic is like most attics, a place for storage, but in the early days, the children of the family were schooled on the second floor landing by a Miss Janie Riddle, who lived in the house and the attic was her bedroom.*

*Standing in the Hall, the door to the right is the bedroom, where two generations of Arbuckle children were born. My grandparents Alex and Carrie occupied this bedroom throughout their entire marriage. And before that, his parents Alex and Elizabeth occupied this bedroom, and the same was true for the first generation Arbuckle’s, Alex and Julia.*

*As you stand in the Hall, the room to the left is the parlor. If you are standing in the front yard of the house, the parlor is through the lower window to the left of the front porch. Among the priceless antiques, is one of the many large maple mantel fireplaces of the house. All of the fireplaces in the house are grand, but the parlor fireplace and mantel are unique for a number of reasons. First, it is the tallest mantel of the house. It is also the only fireplace in the house that has the brick of the house as its hearth. Its distinction is the one large carved fan in the center, with two carved kettles on each side. While other mantels in the house have double and triple carved columns, the parlor mantel has one large single column on each side. And once again all the carvings and design on these fine mantels were mastered by Conrad Burgess. He was a man who loved showy work, and that is evident with his carved designs throughout the house. Burgess loved the beauty of a curved line and you will see that on the mantels, doors, stairway, and even the outside woodwork.*

*Across from the fireplace in the parlor, is the old piano of Julia Bell Arbuckle (1835-1873). And above the piano is the large portrait of Julia. Her age is not known when she was under the artist brush. However she looks to be in her 50’s and is sporting her white of the era bonnet. Although we do not know the date of her portrait, or read the signature of the artist on the portrait, historian Ruth Woods Dayton, in one of her articles, believes the artist may have spent as many as two weeks or more completing a painting of this size and detail. Mrs. Dayton, who was a scholar on the Lewisburg area in the 1800’s, believes the artist, who painted Julia Bell Arbuckle, was not a local artist. If this were true, the artist probably lived in the Arbuckle home during the time of the painting. We do know that he was a skilled and professional artist, as the eyes in the portrait follow you around all corners of the parlor. When I was a small boy, my grandmother Carrie pointed this out to me. Today as well as the mid 19th century, Julia Bell Arbuckle’s eyes watch and follow all who walk around the room.*

*Next time we will take a look at other areas and history of the Arbuckle house.* **To view pictures of the hall, stairs and parlor, Go to Video – Arbuckle House Part 1.** Or go *directly to YOU TUBE and type in “Arbuckle Belle Vue” and scroll down to* ***“The Arbuckle House Part 1.”***

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*Now, I am going to ride my horse around a section of the farm know as the Sugar Hollow. The 45 minute video of 1991 showed my colorful ride. Since the entire 45 minutes is too long for the website, I will attempt to describe in word the ride of that day. Then you can click VIDEO “The Sugar Hollow” and see the four parts, 7 minute ride.*

*“The Sugar Hollow”*

*On a hot July, 90 degree afternoon, I ride my horse through a gate on Arbuckle Lane that leads to the Sugar Hollow. Running along side of me is my black horse Fury. The sun is hot, and the deep summer green of the pasture is in front of me.*

**To view this video, CLICK ON VIDEO and then “The Sugar Hollow.” Part 1, 2, 3, 4.** Or you can go directly to YOU TUBE and type in “Arbuckle Belle Vue,” and scroll down to the 4 part video of

“The Sugar Hollow.”

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Written by…………………………. Jim Arbuckle

Created by…………………………. Jim Arbuckle

Music by…………………………… David Rose

Cameras by………………………… Charlie Hamrick

Photo development …………. Sandy Beasley

Filmed at Belle Vue Farm in 1991 by Signature Video

*From the time I was a small boy to the time I was well in my 20’s, I spent a lot of my time at Belle Vue farm. And with that time, plus almost every weekend, I saw a lot of family, met a lot of people and experienced many pleasant memories.*

*Come with me in chapter 2 for* ***“The Quaker”***

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