

# Pisgah Historic District... A Heritage Worth Preserving

by Lexy Dotson

Breathtaking...pure... fresh... peaceful...these are some of the words that ran through my mind as I took a ride through the Pisgah Historic District. This area of Woodford County is overwhelming with natural and raw beauty. I have lived here my entire life and have never doubted that it is one of the most beautiful and historically rich places in the United States, maybe in the whole world. In addition to its rich history, it also remains one of the most agriculturally important areas in the state of Kentucky.

The historical importance of this region is best summed up by Chris Amos, National Register of Historic Places Application, 1987. She stated, "The Pisgah Rural Historic District contains the buildings, structures, sites, and landscapes that are the physical evidence of historic events and an active rural agricultural community from 1784 into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The majority of the property is comprised of land that has been devoted to farming for over 200 years. The properties of the Pisgah Rural Historic District physically express the traditions, beliefs, activities, and values of an intimate agriculturally-based rural community in the Bluegrass." Founded in 1784, the Pisgah Presbyterian Church, which is still active, graces the landscape of the region. It is one of the most well known and photographed historical sites in Woodford County. The church cemetery is the burial site of seven Revolutionary War soldiers. Twenty-five farms located in the district are listed on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's list of Historic Farms for remaining in the same family for over 100 years. These are just a few aspects of the area's rich history.

As I traveled down the country roads of the Pisgah Historic District, I remembered why I love living here. I took note of the crisp, country air and the rolling hills that seemed to never end. In these rolling hills and lush pastures I saw some of the most gorgeous creatures run and graze freely, the amazing horses, for which Woodford County is particularly known. Some of the most well-known horse farms in this area are: Brittany Farms, Buck Pond Farm, Three Chimneys Farm, and WinStar Farm. These farms create many jobs that all revolve around the Thoroughbred industry including tours of the horse farms themselves. Another reason why this region is one of the most productive agricultural places in the state is it's fertile soil and calcium-rich limestone. Equally important to the region's agriculture are family-run farms that raise cattle, corn, tobacco and other crops.

The agricultural and historical significance of the Pisgah Historic District is undeniable. Vital to preserving and protecting the region's integrity, history, economy, and tradition is the Pisgah Community Historical Association. This association reminds us of what an amazing and beautiful place the Pisgah Historic District was in the past, what it continues to be, and what it can be in the future.