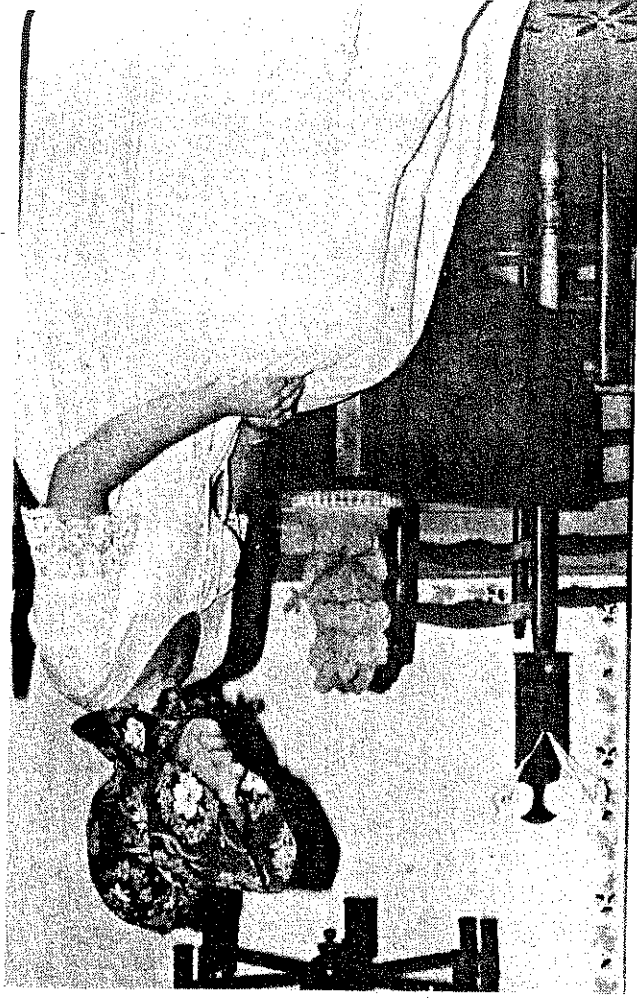


McWilliams Home Featured In Tour

McWILLIAMS HOME—Great Oaks will be featured in the DeKalb Historical Society Tour. Pictured is the house. Linda McWilliams in period dress accented by hand-stenciled walls and floor covering, and living room. (Photos By Carol Pennington)



for her children in Lithonia. She and her husband, S. Morse McWilliams, purchased their home, Great Oaks, in 1972. It was barely livable at the time, Linda remembers, and it took two years of planning and much hard work to make it into the home it is today.

To look at the McWilliams home on Welborn Road, you'd think generations of the family had lived in the home.

Linda McWilliams' own childhood bed keeps her daughter Halle warm and safe on winter nights; her daughter Amy's bed is also a family heirloom. The quilt on the McWilliams' own bed was made by Linda's great-grandmother.

Other pieces of furniture scattered throughout the 1880s house are family pieces that have been passed down to the young couple who decided they wanted a period house to match their family heirlooms.

Linda McWilliams is a transplanted Ohio native, who is putting down roots

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dates back even earlier than the McWilliams home. The oldest church in Dekalb County, it was established in 1823. The present building of this Baptist church was constructed in 1938. One of its founders was John Bittle, a noted road builder who died at the age of 106.

Other sites on the tour include the following:

—Lions Farm, perhaps the oldest farm in Dekalb. It is owned by the fifth generation of the Lyons family, George Lyon.

—Stonehaven, the summer home of Hugh Howell and former home of Sam Venable who at one time owned Stone Mountain and 1,000 acres in East Dekalb. Also built in the 1880s, the house features a three-story living room, a trap door and a hidden ladder with a large porch and columns to give it a Tara-like look. It also offers her children in Lithonia.

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also on the historical tour, The Macedonia Church, Welborn who lived in the house built by a Mr. C. Redan, is believed to have been built in the late 1800s.

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