

Goodykoontz Family Background: *Following are excerpts from The Floyd Press, July 1, 1976, p.14B :* George Hans Gutekunst/Goodykoontz arrived from Germany on the Osgood 9/29/1750 in the Port of Philadelphia. He appeared before the mayor and was qualified. He had various real estate transactions, bought and sold, and was naturalized by the court of Philadelphia. George was in Co.5, 2nd Battalion, of the North Hampton County Militia, Penn. This put his family living in Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War. Margaretha and their children migrated through Maryland and as far as Winchester. George joined them in 1781 following the war and died May 3,1784.

George & Margaretha's eldest son, Jacob Goodykoontz, purchased "hundreds of acres of land on both sides of West Fork of Little River, extending from Will's Ridge to beyond the Brick Church." Jacob's mother, Margaretha, joined him after settling the Winchester estate after George's death. She died in 1819 and was among the first to be buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, a small slab marked her grave. In the early 1970s a new granite monument was erected by her gr-gr-gr.sons, Hans Wells Goodykoontz and Robert Goodykoontz with the following inscription: "Margaret Goodykoontz, Mar. 1819. Widow of George Gutekunst (1732-1784), a soldier of th Revolution, from North Hampton County, Pa., born in Herterbach, Wurtensburg, Germany, buried Frederick County, Va. Their children: Marie Magdalena (m.George Phlegar); Jacob (m.Margaret Beaver); George II (m. Mary Beaver); Margaretha (m.Abram Phlegar); Elizabeth Eva; Mariah (m.Wm. Gilham); Catherene (m.Chrestian Stipe); David (m. Hannh Beaver)

"After her death, George II bought 742 acres from Jacob (his brother) on Jan.16, 1819. According to the "Memories of Robert Goodykoontz" [*published in The Floyd Press , July 1, 1976*], "the last Indian seen in this section was shot from the cliff in front of the house. He fell into the river and for fear of reprisal he was buried in the cellar of the home (dirt floor)."

There was an old Indian fort about two hundred yards southwest of the Goodykoontz homeplace near the banks of West Fork. This fort was still standing in William Goodykoontz's time. William (Robert's father) sold the farm in 1903and moved his family to Roanoke. In William's early years, he had played in the fort, a two-story log house with portholes in the upper story; the fort had been surrounded by a high stockade (poles planted close together with sharp tops to prevent the Indians climbing over). Within the enclosure was a bold spring and space for a garden in the rich soil. On the day of the sale that William held before the 1903 move, a box containing hundreds of perfect arrowheads, tomahawks and a pipe stem of stone about three inches long with a hole neatly drilled through the stem (all of which the Goodykoontz family had gathered in the valley along Dobbins Creek and Spurlock Creek, tributaries of West Fork of Little River) was stolen. Kathleen Ingoldsby shared that another box of Indian artifacts was sold at the Benton Alderman sale in 1968.

Robert Goodykoontz also told of the tan yard located under the hill in front of the Goodykoontz homeplace. Vats, which were square holes four or five feet deep, had sides and bottom lined with planks and were water tight. Green cowhides were placed in the vat between layers of crushed oak tree bark and covered with water. The cowhides remained in the tanning bark ooze for several months; after removal, the hides were finished into leather. The large stone used to crush the bark was dated 1827 and may be seen in the yard. William Goodykoontz filled the vat holes with dirt. In the blacksmith shop, all of the farm's plow points, horse shoes, gate and door hinges, wagon wheel rims, and tools were made using the anvil and leather bellows to heat the

iron. The Goodykoontz slaves were tanners, harness makers, blacksmiths, and shoemakers. The ice house which served the community was on the bank between the house and the river. A two-story log house, "just across the Dug Spur Road" from the main house, served as slave quarters; after 1936 Benton Alderman demolished the two upper stories and built a double garage on the native stone foundation. After the Civil War, when hired whites took the place of slaves; Jack Reynolds, with a family of 17 children, moved into the slave quarters and made baskets, chair bottoms, and mattress mats to cover cord/rope beds; he taught each of his children his trade.

A unique feature of the house is that it has three stairways, each going to a particular part of the house; this requires retracing steps (from the girls' room) and taking a different stairway to get to the boys' and guest room, another part of the second floor. The kitchen stairs lead only to the room over the kitchen. In early years, the dining room was referred to as the Community Room, for it was the site of community gatherings and dances; the dining furniture was moved to a side porch facing West Fork (now enclosed). All outside doors were locked from inside and had with strong wooden bars across the doors to lock out Indians and robbers.

During the Civil War, it was referred to as Alkoontz Inn when it served as a central Confederate supply location; that made it a target for raiders/robbers/deserters. Probably the most famous door in the house is the front door which carries the mark of a minie ball, put there during an attempted robbery by a deserter during the Civil War. The bullet went through the two-inch thick, handmade door and buried itself in the dining room wall. This robbery was stopped by a return shot from a Methodist minister (Rev. B.W. Bishop who married a Goodykoontz daughter and lived in the house) which injured one robber at the front gate. [*See The Floyd Press, Jan. 1951, remembrances of Virginia Pitzer Williams Peterman as told to her daughter, Jessie Peterman*] However, the robbers returned and burned the barn and 10 or 12 horses inside it.

The main part of this home was built in 1841 and was occupied by members of the Goodykoontz family until 1903. It was added to and has had changes made as ownership has changed hands: to Milton & Hester (Underwood) Belcher until 1907; Caleb & Alice (Hylton) Harman until 1909; Jacob & Laura (Harter) Alderman until 1936 when Jacob died, and it was bought by his son Benton m. Effie (Pratt) Alderman. The home and land were bought by Kermit & Frances (Dulaney) Grim in 1968; their sons Andy and Mark now own the greater part of the Goodykoontz land, and Mark & Myra (Thompson) Grim live in the home.