



The lovely red brick home set back from the road off Highway 20 in Dover Township was built by Charles Mead, a native of either England or Scotland, on land that he purchased from the government in 1843. He first built the small log cabin on the property, and lived in it while completing the ten-room brick and fieldstone house. The bricks were hauled from Milwaukee by oxcart. According to legend, the home was built, with a twelve by eighteen foot chapel on the second floor, so that he and his bride-to-be could be married there. She never arrived. Some say that she married another man; others, that she died en route from England.

Mead then turned his attention to planting a variety of trees on his land, many not native to Wisconsin. One that remains is a beautiful *Magnolia Acuminata*, the state record tree of this variety. It is also known as a "Cucumber Tree" or "Northern Magnolia".

The Mead homestead was purchased in the early 1970's by Marv McCray and Lory Anderson, who were married there in the chapel on the second floor.

*Liz Noble*