

MALCOLM BLUE FARM

<http://malcolmbuefarm.com/>

Short History & Directions

[\(click here for MapQuest directions\)](#)

Malcolm McMillan Blue, son of John Campbell Blue and grandson of Duncan Blue of Lakeview, was the owner of the Malcolm Blue Farm located on Highway 5/Bethesda Rd in Aberdeen. In 1833, Malcolm married Isabella Patterson who unfortunately died within a year of their marriage. He later married Flora Ray. Malcolm raised seven children on the farmstead, all the children of Flora Ray.

The Malcolm Blue house, built in 1825, is one of the few remaining examples of 19th century Scottish homes left in Moore County. On the National Register of Historic places, the farmhouse sits on 10 acres, and still retains a grist mill, stable, corn crib, tobacco barn, water tower and windmill. Malcolm Blue became quite prosperous in the Naval Stores industry before and after the Civil War. Naval Stores involved the “tapping” of longleaf pine trees for sap, which was then distilled into turpentine for lamps and tar or pitch for waterproofing wooden-hulled ships. Malcolm was active in the community and served as an Elder in Bethesda Church near his farm for 40 years, and as Clerk of the Session for 16 years. A successful businessman, Malcolm McMillan Blue left each of his seven children some 600 acres of land.

The Malcolm Blue farm was the site of a bivouac of a portion of Sherman's Cavalry under the command of Major Judson Kilpatrick in early March of 1865 after Sherman's march through Georgia and South Carolina. Yankee officers took over half of the Malcolm Blue house as well as Bethesda Church. (It is said that enlisted men slept under Bethesda Church, while the officers slept inside it.) Belle Blue (Pleasants), granddaughter of Malcolm Blue, remembered what it was like when she witnessed the occupation by Union troops as a small girl. This story (and the battle that soon followed it at Monroe's Crossroads about 8 miles away in Cumberland County) is intriguingly told in a new book by Eric J. Wittenberg, “The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads and the Civil War's Final Campaign” (Savas Beatie, 2006).

MALCOLM BLUE FESTIVAL

<http://malcolmbuefarm.com/events.html>

The Malcolm Blue Farm is the site of the Malcolm Blue Festival, one of the largest and most popular traditional festivals in the region. The festival is held annually on the last weekend of September. The Festival includes traditional skills and historical demonstrations, including pottery, bullet and basket making, metal and woodworking, carving, spinning and weaving and candle and soapmaking. Farm animals are on-site including a petting farm and pony and

wagon rides are available. Historical interpreters explain the different activities during the festival.

Folk and country musicians and dancers entertain throughout the 3-day event. In the meadow Civil War reenactment troops are encamped and hit n'miss steam engines are demonstrated. The museum houses such exhibits as the one on the Battle of Monroe's Crossroads. The festival has become one of the best inter-generational events in North Carolina.

There is a modest charge for the Malcolm Blue Festival, which relies on private support to maintain the Farm. Blue family members are encouraged to attend the festival in order to get a first hand view of how our ancestors lived in the mid to late-1800s.