

## **Architecture-Judkins Road**

**Contents:** Documents featuring homes on Judkins Road in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

**Location:** Vertical Files at B.S. Ricks Memorial Library of the Yazoo Library Association | 310 N. Main Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

# BLOWN AWAY



N THE STORM THAT CHANGED YAZOO FOREVER

# Still Standing: Yazoo County man rides storm out in 170-year old home

By JASON PATTERSON

It's Wednesday morning and Norman McLean just buried his dog.

"That's the last thing he left me," he said, pointing to a scratch on his face. "He was a good dog."

A veteran who's worked hard all his life, McLean has seen a lot of things, but nothing like the storm that ripped through Yazoo County on April 24, 2010.

He was in the hall of the old Curran family home on Judkins Road when the storm hit.

"I was watching out the window, and the first thing you know everything was quiet all of a sudden," McLean said. "Then it hit."

In an instant the entire neighborhood was leveled.

"It didn't take long — just a few seconds. You wouldn't think something like this could happen in just a few seconds," he said.

Somehow McLean's home survived the storm. Virtually every tree in the yard, including enormous pecan trees that were right next to the house, were down. The sheds in the yard were dismantled.

But even though it was battered the home was still standing right where it's been since it was constructed in the 1840s. McLean has rented the home from the Curran family since 1980.

Suzanne Curran and Chrissy Curran Lydick visited the family home the following week to evaluate the damage with an insurance adjuster. Their grandfather, M.J. Curran purchased the property in 1908 from a Vicksburg riverboat captain.

"We used to come out here a lot to eat with our great-aunt in the 60s," Suzanne Curran said.

The old cypress used to build the home has weathered many a storm over the years, but the fact that it was still standing in the midst of the destruction that surrounded it on Saturday almost seems to be a miracle.

The Judkins Road area was hard hit, and the Curran home fared far better than most. Just down the road, Nikki Bradshaw Carpenter, a 31-year-old mother of three, was killed as she covered her sons in their mobile home.

In the week that followed the storm linemen worked to restore downed power lines in front of the shells of homes. The first home on Judkins Road coming off of Ridge Road was still nearly covered by an enormous tree.

Curran and Lydick both said they were amazed at the number of volunteers, including members of the Bentonville Volunteer Fire Department, who showed up after the storm to lend a helping hand.

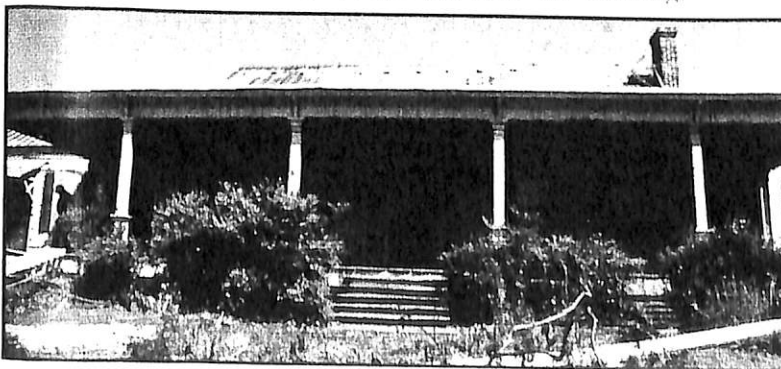
McLean, who couldn't even get out of his driveway until volunteers cut the trees away, shared those sentiments.

"There were some good people who came out here, I wish I could remember all of their names, because we sure were in trouble," McLean said. "People out here are hurting."

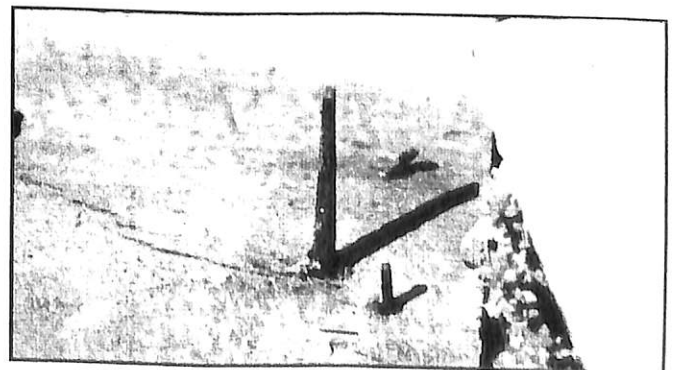


Jason Patterson

**Norman McLean looks at a photo of his great-nephew, the late Clyde Rogers, milking a cow in 1947. McLean took shelter from the storm in the hall of the Curran family home, which was built in the 1840s.**



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**The Curran home was purchased by M.J. Curran from a Vicksburg riverboat captain in 1908.**

**Old square nails are exposed from where boards were ripped from the home.**