



Pierson does his own woodworking in the restoration of his ancestor's home, calling upon his years of experience as a high school vocational teacher.

house. The present owner of the land, Charles Betts Reid, gladly gave it. In fact, said Reid, he wished the old building could be restored. Pierson leaped at the chance and has been making the two-day trip from Ohio two or three times a year to work on the restoration. His first step was to bring in electricity and running water so that he could live in the ancestral home during his visits.

Clyde has found that his great-great-grandfather was quite a man. A pioneer in the broadest sense of the word, Daniel was a strictly religious, fiercely independent soul. Little wonder that he took the side of the patriots when war broke out with England. Daniel sent three sons off to fight, and then, tradition has it, Daniel joined the army himself.

By June, 1780—11 years after Daniel Elliott made his homestead—the Revolution had taken a fateful turn in the Carolinas. British troops had captured Charleston and with the Tories were trying to quell patriot resistance in the region. Terror reigned as bands of Tory and British marauders plundered patriot

farms and homes.

One such group rampaged through Chester County that June, reaching the Elliott place at a time when Daniel was home on furlough from the patriot militia. Led by the notorious "Bloody Bill" Cunningham, they robbed Daniel of practically everything he owned. Though stories of the incident vary with the passing of time, most agree that Daniel was first restrained by a son, Ebenezer, but then protested. One account tells of his striking a Tory with a rifle butt, another of his grabbing the reins of a prized horse. The protest was met brutally by the Tories, who shot Daniel Elliott dead in the yard of his home.

A daughter, Margaret, so the story continues, then intervened. She defied the Tory band, which quickly departed. Margaret is regarded by historians as a heroine of the Revolution.

Nevertheless, the damage was done; Daniel was dead and the family would never be the same. Once the sons returned from war, the estate was settled and the homeplace sold. Later, the burning

issue of slavery divided the heirs. Two sons remained in South Carolina, but the other children moved away, Clyde Pierson's ancestors settling in Ohio. Others moved to the nation's heartland and westward—settling in Illinois, Iowa, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. During the Civil War, the Elliott clan became a virtual house divided against itself.

With the coming of great-great-grandson Clyde, the divisive issues of the past are forgotten. This quiet, gentle man is in communion with the long-dead Daniel through the wood and bricks and nails of the old homestead. Clyde stands almost in awe of his ancestor's artistry.

"He was a real craftsman," says Pierson, his eyes sparkling with pride. "You can see it in the materials he used—the red pine, the hand-forged nails, the clay—and in the way he put them together. See how the outer logs dovetail perfectly. It's a perfect fit. He really knew what he was doing."

Pierson, too, is a craftsman. For 44

Below, after 200 years in the elements, Daniel Elliott's red pine walls still stand true—the fittings are as perfect as Elliott made them. Bottom, Pierson uses the same kind of wooden pegs that his ancestor did.

