

In his striving for authenticity, Clyde Pierson duplicates these nails hand-forged by Daniel Elliott. Store-bought items will not do.

Daniel Elliott did on this house, and I think to myself, 'That's the way I'd do it.'

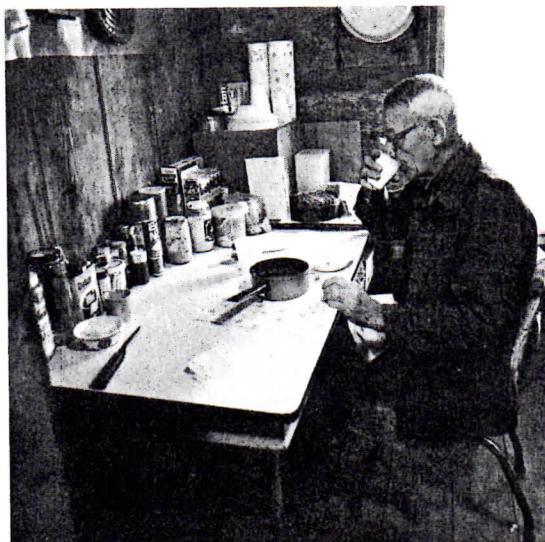
Pierson says he was born with "a chip in my mouth." His father was a wagon and carriage maker in Preble County, Ohio. And before that, the family (on both sides, Piersons and Ellotts) had worked with their hands. Clyde, in fact, was the first of the line to go to college.

Now, he looks with pride at the Elliott home, still standing erect and true. The construction was solid, with 12-inch-square white oak sills and 6-inch-thick log walls.

The design made maximum use of materials at hand. For example, the entire fireplace and chimney (fashioned of the

red clay common to the region) are enclosed within the walls of the house. That way, most of the heat stayed in—even radiating into the loft where the boys lived.

The flooring, fashioned with Daniel's broadax and adze, shows only shallow marks where the cutting was done. His touch was so fine that the boards are almost smooth despite the rough tools used to make them.



Life is spartan on the banks of Fishing Creek. Clyde Pierson takes his meals in a small downstairs room as he plans further restoration.

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