



Pauline, shown as young girl here, received a handsome new home in Washington as wedding present from her mother, Adelicia.



Victoria, as infant—oldest child of Adelicia.



Adelicia's Franklin children: Adelicia, Emma and Victoria

The mystery of the painting of the Belmont mansion—an architectural landscape returned to Nashville this year after an absence of almost 90 years and presented to the Tennessee Fine Arts Center—has been at least partially solved.

The question was: What happened to the painting in the 75 years between the time its owner, the fabulous Adelicia Hayes Acklen Cheatham, died in 1887 and the day it was discovered in a Washington attic in 1961?

Along with the clearing up of that puzzler comes news that seven more of Adelicia's long absent paintings are about to "come home" to Nashville. And it turns out that they came, years ago, from the same Washington home.

Key to both situations is Franck H. Kaiser of St. Louis, a great-grandson of Adelicia who was present at Cheekwood last May 7 when the painting of the Belmont mansion and grounds was presented to the Tennessee Fine Arts Center by Dr. Naomi Kanof of Washington in memory of her husband, the late Max Tandler.

"We had been invited to the ceremony, but we had no idea which of Adelicia's paintings was to be presented until we read the story and saw the picture in The Tennessean Magazine that morning," Kaiser's wife, Beverly, said later.

"We were shocked. We couldn't believe that no one knew where the painting came from, or how they got to the