

# ROSA'S CABIN: Lifestyle

## 150 years old and totally new

by Wade Hudgins

Over two years ago, when my mom, Dyanne Sterling, had her accident, I'm sure she never had the idea that the *new* Rosa's Cabin would be the result. Mom's run-in with a broom and concrete floor had fractured her bones badly; months and months of bed rest would be needed for her recovery. I was living in Los Angeles at the time but decided I was more needed at home in Alabama. I packed up the house and dog into a large truck and headed 2000 miles eastward. Moving in with Mom again after 20 years away is an interesting experience.

My aunt, Yvonne Sterling (through Mom's marriage to the late Jerry Sterling), heard of my return and thought I might like to purchase her old cabin on 231 North in Rosa for my computer business. Well, looking on the inside and outside of this once handsome building did not instill confidence. Mom and I talked to Contractor Scott Moye about repairing the old building and log structure. Moye recommended demolition and rebuilding of the 1967 building leaving only the log cabin intact.

Over months we discussed the possible purchase and renovation of the Cabin (a.k.a. the former Willy's Meat House). Then we would dismiss it because of the huge commitment involved and we would then try to find space in Oneonta for the computer business. Several Oneonta rental spaces would appear perfect only to become un-rentable for one reason or another; so we finally decided to move ahead with purchase and construction on the cabin.

A strange thing had also happened; this tiny 1000-square-foot cabin project had blossomed into 2100 square feet with a second floor apartment for me to live. So in the European idea of living over my shop, we started construction of what was soon named Rosa's Cabin.

We sent a picture from *Southern Living* of a restored cabin to Scott Moye. Moye liked the design and incorporated it into the overall building concept. I planned the interior layout with the aid of a computer program. The old dark-wood cabin interior would be replaced and made more Williamsburg-like in style. Instead of rustic and gloomy, it would be light and cheery. Large period-style windows were added, and one of the side porches on the wraparound was enclosed. The crumbling interior fireplace was replaced with a beautiful wooden mantel and enclosure that Moye himself built. A wrought iron chandelier graces the old cabin interior and halogen lights spotlight Moye's new fireplace.

Our gift/antique booth we started in Treasures on Main in downtown Oneonta has been divided. Half has gone to the new cabin and the other half stayed there. The computer repair/web business is now at the cabin. We have space for rent for fine antiques and collectibles. Shelf space is offered for rental for people that might not have enough items to fill a large booth.

Eventually, we want a coffee shop or tea room, if you happen to know anyone interested in doing that venture. I am sure that large porch is made for a lazy afternoon sipping a latte' and enjoying fresh pastry. (If you are interested in space at Rosa's Cabin, call 274-9091. Currently open by appointment only.)

Mom's terrible accident with broom and concrete floor has brought our family back closer together. Two years later finds my mother much improved and me sad about leaving the home we shared for two years. I guess sometimes, you really can go home again and love it.



Rental space available at Rosa's Cabin for fine antiques and collectibles. Open presently by appointment only.