

Family Tree Newsletter

THE COLEMAN-FEASTER-MOBLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

1926 Old Blair Rd Blair South Carolina 29015

December 15, 2015

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 2015 AND OTHER TALES OF THE ANNUAL COLEMAN-FEASTER-MOBLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

By Ted R Morton Jr, Association Chaplain

The late United Methodist Bishop Paul Hardin (a native of Chester and South Carolina's first Methodist Bishop when the South Carolina Conference became a separate Episcopal area in 1960) told the story of the unfortunate man who lost his life the Johnstown (Ohio) flood on May 31, 1889. It was a horrendous event and more than 2,000 deaths were recorded; 750 bodies were never identified. The cause; a dam that failed from lack of maintenance! Shades of Gills Creek in Columbia.

When the Johnstown victim arrived at the Pearly Gates, according Bishop Hardin, he was so excited about his experience he could not refrain from saying to Saint Peter, "I want to tell others about my experience." St. Peter responded "we'll see what we can do about that." Check-in completed, the fellow went to his room. Days went by and no word from St. Peter, so he decided to go back to the Gate and have a word with St. Peter by way of reminder.

St. Peter said "I'm glad you came; I was about to call you. There is an Assembly this afternoon in the Big Tabernacle; the program starts at three, and we have you on the program." In a burst of jubilation the fellow replied, "Thank you, St. Peter; I'm really looking forward to telling about my amazing experience. That flood was the greatest phenomena I have ever seen."

"I'm happy," St. Peter said "that we could fit you into the program. Just one word of caution: I must remind you that Brother Moah will be in the audience."

Suffice it to say that we would not attempt to "top" Noah's flood report – or even that from Jamestown. But we sure

had more water that we knew what to do with the first few days of October! The Weather Channel reported that from Charleston to Greenville the rains fell over a four-day period in a swath fifty miles wide, riding the river channels from the Coast to the Mountains.

The C-F-M Association Officers made the call: it would not be safe to get out on flooded roads – many bridges washing away – further, we could not use the Picnic Shelter for Sunday's lunchtime meal, and our roads to the Boarding House and Liberty Church are certainly not the "all-weather" type. Bob Blair braved the elements to make a run from his home in Blair to the Boarding House in case anyone had risked the travel. James Green, Eddie Killian, and Harry Jeter – all of whom had Reunion responsibilities – had faithfully "reported for duty." And thus the great South Carolina "Flood" ended the day for the 2015 C-F-M Association Annual Reunion.

Dru Blair, Association President, speaking with other Officers, agreed "There is always next year." The Board of Directors will meet in early 2016 to begin planning for that "next year," which will be October 1 and 2, 2016.

Members have been responding with notes to say they are sorry the Reunion was rained out and had to be cancelled; they missed seeing "cousins," many of whom they see only at Reunion time.. Also, a number have responded with contributions noting that while cancelling the Reunion was necessary and a prudent decision, the expense of maintaining the Association properties did not get "called off due to inclement weather." Elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter is a report from Association Treasure Teddi Miles.

If you have a 2016 calendar handy, mark the dates for the 2016 Reunion and save them so you and your family may attend.



Photo of tree damage (not flood related) taken on November 28, 2015.

Robert (Bob) Blair, Jr. is elected to serve as a new Trustee for Feasterville properties

By Henrietta R Morton, Trustee

“There comes a time...” At one time or the other we have all said it. During summer 2015, Trustee Frank Blair notified his fellow Trustees, Feaster Coleman and Henrietta Morton, that “The time has come to find another Trustee to serve in my place.” Robert Blair Jr – Bob to all the family – has been elected as Frank Blair’s successor.

Under the terms of the Will of Andrew Feaster, the Feasterville Academy properties (the Boarding House, Kitchen, School and Land) were placed in a Trust to be managed by three Trustees. Initially Feaster’s sons served as Trustees; successions through the years have seen a long line of persons holding office under the Feaster Trust. The Trustee arrangement provided that when a resignation or death created a vacancy, the remaining two Trustees would elect a new Trustee. Had the 2015 Reunion not been rained out, a report from the Trustees would have been made during the Annual Association Business Meeting. The report at the Business Meeting is simply for information and does not require further action.

“We are very fortunate,” said Trustee Henrietta Morton, “that Bob Blair is willing to take office as a Feaster Trustee. Bob lives nearby in the Blair Community (a “plus” for Frank who also lives at Blair) and he is currently serving as Editor of the Family Association newsletter. He knows our property, the Association business and like Frank Blair, he knows how to get things done!”

1000 Year Rainfall Event

Mostly during the period of October 1 – 5, 2015, South Carolina suffered what was called by some weather reporters as a “conveyor of rain”. The conveyor ran a two or three county wide path from Charleston to Greenville. Mount Pleasant recorded 26.88” during this time. Columbia broke its 1-day, 2-day, and 3-day rainfall records. Feasterville had about 10” (best guess). Nine counties in SC recorded rainfall over 18 inches.

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(Continued from page 2) Roads flooded. Dams broke. The Columbia Canal was breached. Lives were lost. Seventy miles of I-95 were closed. There were at least 211 road closures and 43 bridge closures. Even now there are still 32 roads closed and 23 bridges still out. There were 36 dams that failed, most of these in the Columbia area and towards Charleston. Our Feasterville properties suffered no damage.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – December 5, 2015

By Teddi M Miles, Treasurer, C-F-M Family Association

A REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATION TREASURER

If your mailbox works like mine, hardly a week goes by without three or four appeals from charitable organizations! As far as I can tell, they are all appeals for good causes, but, there is a limit to my ability to support good causes; I must make choices. High on my list of “good causes” is support for the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association. Since the IRS recognizes the Association as a 501-c-3 “charitable entity”, I can claim my contributions on my annual Income Tax Report. Since I pay the bills for the Association, I know money is used with great care. I hope you share that feeling.

The rains and floods that came on Reunion Weekend (October 3-4, 2015) made it necessary to cancel the Reunion. As a result, the report I usually make at the Business Meeting could not be made. I will spare you most of the details, but would like to report some highlights.

With all the changes taking place in the banking industry, I found it impossible to invest our few dollars of Permanent Funds without the bank’s fees not only eating up all the Interest Income, but actually costing us money. Some of you have probably had the same kind of banking experience. Accordingly, we now have one bank account, and I track current donations for “general operations” (Operating Funds) and for “specific operations” (Permanent Funds) separately in my books.

We began the year with a balance of \$18,644.11, after I made deposits for annual Dues and Contributions collected on Reunion Sunday (October 5, 2014), and received by mail. Donations in the amount of \$9,182.00 were received for the year – of which over \$3,000.00 were collected at the Reunion! Some donations were designated as Memorial contributions in memory of C-F-M family members, Honorariums in honor of C-F-M family members, or gifts specifically appropriated to assist with the cost of maintaining our Historic Buildings and Cemeteries. Donations labeled for general use wherever needed the most, and all unlabeled donations, were appropriated for budget expenses.

During the year we have paid for electric utilities, insurance, termite service, repairs, upkeep of the grounds, reunion picnic supplies and miscellaneous items such as postage and newsletter expenses. A grand total of \$4,847.22 was paid for all of the expense items. Thus, at year’s end (that is, at Reunion time 2015), we had a balance of \$15, 839.44 in our account.

It is not hard to do the calculations: missing a Reunion Weekend hits our fund-raising a hard blow. I am happy to report that many of you have already taken note of this and have sent your Dues and made other special contributions. Remember how I started my report speaking of appeals from charities? I make my appeal on behalf of our Family Association, and I hope you will include the C-F-M Family Association on your list for a Christmas gift, end-of-the-year contribution or other special gift – just the same as you would have at the Reunion. Editor Bob Blair told me he would get out an End-of-Year issue of the Newsletter if I would make the appeal. “Keep those cards and letters coming, folks.” We appreciate your faithful support of the C-F-M Family Association.

Association Officers and Committee Members

- President Dru Blair, 2592 Buckhead Rd, Blair SC 29015
- Vice President Eddie Killian, PO Box 39, Gaston SC 29053
- Secretary Kim Noonan, 392 St Thomas Church Rd, Chapin SC 29036
- Treasurer Teddi M Miles, 167 Rutledge Rd, Greenwood SC 29649
- Chaplain Ted R Morton Jr, 167 Rutledge Rd, Greenwood SC 29649
- Genealogist James W Green III, 285 Agnew Rd, Winnsboro SC 29180
- Historian Henrietta Rosson Morton, 167 Rutledge Rd, Greenwood SC 29649
- Webmaster Nancy Jo Ross Smith, PO Box 295, Pleasant Garden NC 27313
- Past President Preston H Coleman, 392 St. Thomas Church Rd, Chapin SC 29036
- Trustees Henrietta Rosson Morton, Feaster S Coleman Jr, Robert C Blair Jr
- Newsletter Editor Robert C Blair Jr, 1926 Old Blair Rd, Blair SC 29015

Nominating Committee: Isabel Alexander, John L Feaster

Communion Arrangements: Wylie Parham, Allison Blair

Picnic Arrangements: Harry Jeter (Chairman), Michael Blair, Billy Hendrix Jr, Sally Garner, Teddi Miles

Cemetery Committee: Frank Blair (Chairman), John Collins, Nancy Jo Ross Smith, Val Green

Fort Wagner Monument: Bryan Greer

Past President Ronnie Feaster, 560 Coldstream Dr, Columbia SC 29212

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