

FAMILY TREE NEWSLETTER September 2025



85th Annual Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Reunion is Saturday and Sunday Oct. 4th and 5th. Let's celebrate family, friends, and history

Boarding House, and a **handicapped accessible port-a-john** will also be provided.

Google Maps Location: 34.50234, -81.35908

Sunday Festivities



The Feasterville Grounds and Registration Tent will be open by 10AM, Liberty Church service will start at 11AM followed by our CFM business meeting which concludes by 12:15PM.

Experience a worship service in a rustic, 195-year-old country church, and then hear the latest news of the Association.

Of course, the high point of the Reunion is the food. Tables filled with home-cooked main dishes, side dishes, desserts, and sweet iced tea. The secret to a covered dish dinner is the individual quality of each item, made with extra care by families that are a part of something grand and historic. The cost of all this? Bring a dish, register and pay dues at the registration table, and enjoy the afternoon.

The Association provides plates, utensils and napkins. Some tables and chairs will be provided, but bringing your own is always a good idea. We have two bathrooms in the

Chimney Repairs a Success!



Early this year we made a plea for donations to repair the deteriorating chimneys on the Boarding House and Kitchen at Feasterville. This was no cosmetic touch up. The upper bricks and mortar had deteriorated with age to the point that it was a serious structural issue. (see photo above)." We raised a significant amount in response to that plea which helped greatly in covering the cost of these repairs (specific numbers are available upon request). We are happy to report that the work has been completed, and the chimneys are restored, capped, and look great. A huge "Thank You" to those who donated to support this project and to all of you who support our Association so that we can keep these buildings standing for future generations.



To the left is a photo of one of the completed chimneys. A big “Thank You” also goes out to Bob Blair for coordinating this work, Teddi Miles for handling the financing and Carolina Chimney Service for doing the work.

Tour of Historic Sites

**Saturday October 4th, Meet at
Feasterville Boarding House 9:30AM**

This year we are taking a casual approach to the Tour giving folks lots of options. Ron Chicone will be at Feasterville to lead folks on a driving tour of historic sites guided by participant interest. Liberty Church, Antioch Church, local graveyards, the ghost town of Shelton, the ruins of the world-renowned Shivar Springs, and various historic homesites are all on the list. Bring a lunch and we will picnic at the Boarding House. These historic sites may require some walking over rugged terrain so bring your hiking shoes, water and sun protection. No need to RSVP, we’re playing this one by ear. We will also have a self-guided driving tour of the Feasterville historic sites available.

The Letter

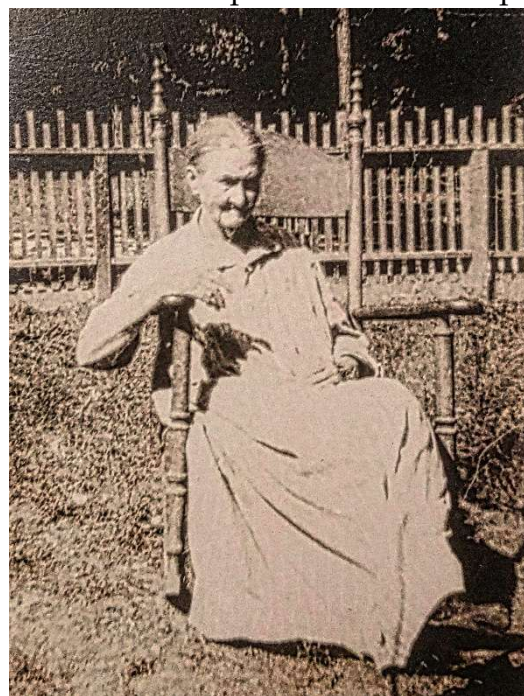
By Sandra Parham Turner

The bell jingled as a visitor walked through the doors at the Dallas County Museum in Fordyce, Arkansas. I looked up from the desk as a woman with white hair like cotton candy

approached me, carrying a crumpled brown paper bag. “Hey, Sybil,” I said, “what’s in the sack?”

Sybil May Hearnberger Lansdale was an old family friend. I knew from my mother that Sybil was somehow connected to me through my father’s family, but Mama was forever explaining how this or that person was related to me; I never bothered to make sense of it. She was our family historian, not me. But when she died in 2015, I felt an obligation to preserve decades’ worth of her genealogical research and brought all of it to my house. Thus, Sybil saw me as a potential keeper of the flame for the branch of our shared families - the Colemans and the Feasters.

Sybil explained that her mother, Edith Feaster May, a granddaughter of David Roe and Victoria Rawls Feaster who had died in 1999, held all kinds of artifacts from those families for many, many decades, stored in the sack in the bottom of her trunk. Sybil was ready to pass them along to me. I rifled through the contents and almost immediately found a photo of a diminutive, elderly woman sitting outside in a large rocking chair. The back identified her as Harriett Coleman Feaster. I gasped and exclaimed, “This is my great-great-grandmother!” The photo is now displayed



beside a piece of paper with a proclamation handwritten by my grandmother, the wife of Harriett's grandson, "Grandmother Feaster always said, 'What can't be cured, must be endured.'"

I pulled a few more interesting pieces out, and Sybil and I discussed what they were. After she left, I set the sack aside and later drove home with it, putting it away in my home office. That was in 2019. It would be 2022 before I began in earnest the task of going through the rest of the papers.

Back in March of this year, I sent a message to the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association's Facebook page, explaining how I am a descendant of Henry Jonathan Coleman and Harriet Elizabeth Porter Coleman Feaster and had come into possession of various items from their families. I attached several photos I had taken of a ledger I believed to have once belonged to Captain David Roe Feaster. They showed pages of scribbles, doodles, diary entries, and notations with various signatures. It was hard to tell who the ledger really belonged to, though. Either the owner liked to write other people's names, or the whole family used it to practice writing their signatures - "J. R. Feaster," "Miss Mary Victoria Feaster," "Captain D. R. F.," "Miss Alice G. Faucette," "John R. Feaster, June 17, 1879," as well as "Feasterville, South Carolina." I honestly was not sure anyone with the association would see my message. However, the next day, I received a reply from a Trustee of the Association, and we struck up a correspondence. I had a lot to tell.

David Roe Feaster was the second husband of Harriet Elizabeth Porter Coleman Feaster. Her first husband, Henry Jonathan Coleman, was known as "Foot" (or "Foote") Coleman, I was told, so she was called "Hattie Foot." They were the parents of five children. Unfortunately, "Foot" Coleman died at 42, leaving his 27-year-old widow with four children under the age of 7 and a baby on the way. On December 1, 1878, at 32, she married

45-year-old Captain Feaster, a widower who had ten children by his first marriage to Victoria Rawls. Hattie helped raise six of his children who were still living at home, and together, they had six children; five born in South Carolina and the last in Arkansas. The move to Arkansas was inspired by a glowing letter touting the wonders of Dallas County from Robert William Parham, who had served in the Confederacy as a bugler under Captain Feaster. That letter was part of our family lore; the descendants had heard of it over the decades, but of course, would never think that it still existed.

In 2022, I asked my father, who was then 89 years old, to look through the jumbled contents of the sack and a box that Sybil had later given me. I left Daddy in a back room at the museum to study the papers and went about my business. I returned to find him still as a mouse, with a letter in his hand as he read its contents. He turned to me, almost in shock, and held out the pages to me. It was "the" letter, written on February 15, 1887. On further inspection, we found more letters from Parham and even one written by his father, Dr. E. H. M. Parham, a noted Fordyce physician.

Those letters convinced Feaster to uproot his family from South Carolina and move them 800 miles west. Parham promised him, "You will have plenty of good neighbors. Tell your daughters (unmarried) that I know just exactly what kind of associates they mean...Tell them I will have each one of them a handsome beau when they come." A diary kept by Feaster showed he and his family moved in December 1888. One of the handsome beaus Parham promised Feaster's stepdaughters, including Mary Emily Coleman, was his son Mettauer "Taud" Parham, who was two years her senior. Taud and Emily may have courted, but it was the father who won her heart. In 1891, at age 19, Emily married 45-year-old Parham, who by then had become a widower with at least three children at home. A year later, her stepfather sued Parham in the Dallas County courts at Princeton. The jury ordered Parham to, within

ten days, restore to Feaster "said property...six bushels of corn at \$3.60 and seven hundred and fifteen bundles of fodder at \$7.15, three hundred and eighty-four bushels cotton seed at \$50.30 total \$61.05." That would be over \$2,000 today!

The move to Arkansas may not have worked out quite as planned for David Roe Feaster, but it was a success for Parham and his subsequent descendants. He and Emily had six children, including Wiley Jennings Parham, my father's father. Without his letter promising the Feasters the wonders of living in Arkansas, I wouldn't be here today!

When Sybil's estate was settled this past year, even more papers were discovered, placed in a large box, and brought to the museum. Among them were a copy of *The Mobleys and Their Connections* by William Woodward Dixon, a 1970 map of historic Fairfield, and abstracts from diaries kept by Captain Feaster. I am



David Roe and Harriet with their sons (none of the daughters were pictured), sometime before he died in 1910, sitting outside the courthouse in Princeton, Arkansas.

grateful to her and her mother, Edith, faithful stewards of our families' histories. There is so much more to be discovered!

Honorable Mention

By Ron Chicone

Looking through past C-F-M Newsletters, as one does on occasion, I came across this tidbit from **August 2012** that caught not just my eye but my heart.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK CREWS OF THE REUNION (2012)

Every Reunion has an experienced and dedicated crew of workers who make the various and necessary pieces fit together. Harry Jeter and Billy Hendrix get volunteers and set out tables and chairs. Sally Gamer makes sure the tea is made, and that plates and utensils are in place. Michael Blair provides ice. Teddi Miles runs the registration desk. Allison Blair sets out the Communion elements. Ted Morton leads the church service and Henrietta Morton plays piano. James Green is host of the genealogy exhibits at the school building. Probably left some names out.

Yes, we have always had a great team putting together the Reunion. Many of those mentioned above are still with us, and several are still able to be actively involved in keeping things going. (Bob Blair, who was the Newsletter Editor in 2012, humbly left his own name out.) However, time marches on and many of our members who loved the Reunions and were instrumental in making them great events, are no longer with us. Two of these are mentioned in the above article. I really miss Harry Jeter, who we have been without since March of 2022. And I have just heard the sad news that Billy Hendrix, Jr. has passed. We are all grateful to have known such giving and considerate people. Billy's obituary can be viewed online at: [Tribute Arcive - William Brooks "Billy" Hendrix, Jr. Obituary](#)

Five Cheese Heaven

From *Southern Voice* by Beth Yarborough

The king of all casseroles, the ruler of all comfort foods, the undisputed grand champion of suppertime - in my house, at least - is this macaroni and cheese. Perfected over the course of several decades, it sits on the throne with humility - made of simple ingredients with very little creativity necessary. There is a reason you often hear the phrase during Thanksgiving week, "don't mess around with the mac and cheese". Basically, that means "if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it." I learned that lesson way back...The real key to this dish is that it should be homemade, with the very best cheese available. Clearing those two hurdles will cover a multitude of lesser sins.

Here is my recipe. I hope you will enjoy it as much as we have through the years.

BETH YARBROUGH'S

MACARONI AND CHEESE

2 cups of elbow macaroni
1 stick (1/2 cup) of butter
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
4 cups whole milk
1/4 cup flour
1/4 cup American or Velveeta cheese
4 cups extra sharp yellow cheddar cheese
1 cup Irish cheddar (such as Dubliner)
1 cup extra sharp white cheddar
1 cup mozzarella cheese

Partially cook the macaroni noodles in boiling salted water for about ten minutes, drain, cover, and set aside while you make the cheese sauce.

Melt the butter in a heavy bottomed sauce pan over medium high heat. Whisk in the flour, salt, and cayenne pepper and sizzle/bubble just long enough to cook the flour. Stir in about a third of the milk -, gradually - blending thoroughly and allowing the sauce to thicken before adding another third of the milk. Repeat until all the milk is added and blended, then remove pan from heat and stir all five cheeses into the hot sauce until they are thoroughly melted. Reserve a cup of the sharp yellow cheddar. Pour the cheese into the container of the cooked noodles and combine thoroughly before pouring all into a 9x13 buttered baking dish. Bake uncovered at 350 for half an hour, then add the last cup of reserved cheddar to the top and bake for another half hour. Serve while hot and bubbly.

C-F-M Family Association Website

Our Association President, Eddie Killian, has uploaded many pages of documents, newsletters, photos, family information and history on our official Association website. Just google "coleman feaster mobley" and it comes right up, as does our facebook page.

Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Reunion Feedback Survey

Our Reunion has been a cherished tradition for decades. However, in recent years attendance has declined. We want to understand why, and your honest feedback will help us to improve the Reunion and make it an even more worthwhile event for everyone.

It's only seven questions! Go to:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8KR52CV>

Rules about food: Please practice good food safety. Put your name on your dish and provide a serving spoon if necessary. The Picnic depends on the honor of each family and attendee providing a good amount of "covered dish" food so we can fill the tables.

Update from the Board

- Chimneys repaired and stabilized (see article above)
- Doors at Antioch Church replaced. Thanks to Bob Blair and Micheal Blair
- We lost another ancient tree to a summer storm. The ancient Southern Red Oak that stood by the old road in front of the School House
- An antique display cabinet was added to the Boarding House with various artifacts. Thanks to Mark Rigsby for finding it, and Bryan Greer for transporting it and Ron Chicone for filling it
- We had great input for Newsletter articles. Sandra Parham gave us an all new perspective on David Roe Feaster's life after leaving Feasterville, Mark Rigsby and Ken Feaster both put together awesome articles about John C.C. Feaster and old Country Stores, respectively. They will be included in the next edition (due to

limited space), and Beth Yarborough permitted us use of her blog.

- This is the first year for a digital/E-version of the Newsletter
- We have a new volunteer for Secretary – Loretta Killian. We need more volunteers for committees
- Last year's Reunion was impacted by Hurricane Helene storm damage. A few still came to tour the grounds and the Fairfield Museum
- Helene was the third weather-related event in the last ten years to disrupt the Reunion. Plus, Covid in 2020 makes four of the last ten Reunions missed. How is this impacting the Reunion and the Association?

Schedule of Events:

Friday Oct 3rd

- Fairfield County Museum, Winnsboro open 9AM to 5PM
- Tent and RV (no hookups) camping set up all day. Please RSVP on CFM website

Saturday Oct 4th

- Feasterville tour of historic sites 9:30 to whenever you get tired. Bring your own picnic lunch
- Fairfield County Genealogy Society DNA Committee will be having a workshop on Saturday night at 7 PM; with supper included. For details, email Eddie Killian: fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net

Sunday Oct 5th

- Registration, Dues, Donations and visiting 10:00 - 11:00
- Services at historic Liberty Universalist Church 11:00 - 11:45
- Annual Business Meeting at Liberty Church 11:45 - 12:15pm
- Reunion group photo 12:45 - 1:00
- Association and friends family picnic at the Feasterville Boarding House 1:00pm – Until

Association Officers and Committee Members

President	Eddie Killian, fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net
Vice-President	Pelham Lyles, fairfieldmus@truvista.net
Secretary	Loretta Killian, loretta.killian@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Teddi M Miles, milesteddi@gmail.com
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Past President	Dru Blair, drublair@drublair.com
Nominating Committee.....	Vacant
Communion Committee.....	Wylie Blair Parham, Allison Blair Hunter
Picnic Arrangements	Sally Garner, Samantha Blair, Garrett Hunter, Chris Parham, Coleman Whitesides
Cemetery Committee	Robert Blair, Jr. (Chairman)
Fort Wagner Monument.....	Bryan Greer
Trustee	Robert Blair Jr., rblair1926@gmail.com
Trustee.....	Teddi M Miles, milesteddi@gmail.com
Trustee.....	Ron Chicone, Jr., rchicone@yahoo.com

Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association

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Questions? Ron Chicone, Jr. 321-946-6352, rchicone@yahoo.com or Robert Blair, Jr. 803-635-1054