

Feasterville Needs Your Help!



This is the view from the roof of the Boarding House. Getting dizzy yet? What you are looking at is the top of a 185-year-old chimney, one of two chimneys running up through the center of the historic structure. These chimneys are in such bad shape that they can't even be capped properly without first being repaired. These photos were recently taken by an employee of Carolina Chimney Service while assessing the condition of all three chimneys on the Feasterville grounds - two on the Boarding House and one on the kitchen.







These chimneys have become extremely vulnerable at the top where they have been exposed to the elements for so long: summer heat, winter cold, windstorms, rain, ice, etc. They are standing strong but the elements are taking a toll, seeping moisture, thermal expansion and contraction, eroded mortar and wildlife gaining access to the buildings, all can wreak havoc on a chimney, the adjoining wood structure, roofing, and interior decor. Therefore, this is a repair that cannot wait. These repairs will consist of restoring the damaged brick and mortar, waterproofing and capping each of the chimneys, and will move forward as soon as possible.

However, as you know, house repairs are not cheap! As a participant in the family history, community and tradition of this organization, you have to decide if these properties have any value to you or if they should be someone else's responsibility. Everyone can do something, even small contributions of \$20, \$30 or \$50 are important, and are appreciated.

Endowment Fund

With the creation of our endowment/building fund, which included several large donations to establish, we have some funds which will build up over the years to maintain our Association properties. You can earmark your donations to be invested in this fund that is set

aside for repairing our structures.

All of our donations and expenditures are available to our members upon request and are presented at the annual business meeting.

The challenge we face today

Declining participation.

The table to the right documents our attendance over the years and shows the decline in participation, and a big reason that donations are not what they were in the past. We've also had three sever weather events and Covid since 2015.

Reunion Attendance Over the Years		
2024	0	Hurricane Milton disruption
2023	72	
2022	37	Hurricane Ian disruption
2021	63	Killian Reunion joined us
2020	0	Covid
2019	60	
2018	64	
2017	99	
2016	93	
2015	0	Severe Flooding in SC
2013	118	
2012	136	
2006	143	
1980	145	
1961	300	

So, what are we doing about it?

The current Board and dedicated participants are working hard to reverse this trend in order to preserve our Association for years to come.

- We have stepped up outreach with our newsletters, website and facebook page.
- We are conducting more historical research and genealogical research.
- We are taking care of our Feasterville Academy grounds,
 Liberty Church, Antioch Church/Cemetery, Feaster
 Cemetery and Coleman Cemetery.

- We are doing tours of historic sites in the area and coordinating with the Fairfield County Museum.
- We are reaching out to folks for whom the Feasterville area is their ancestral homeplace, as well as those who are a part of the local community.

It takes a strong and willing Association to work together to accomplish these things. We are appealing to all of our members to help do their part in achieving this goal of sustaining our Association.

Dues help us cover light bills and mailings but it's really the donations that pay for the big expenses like landscape and building repairs. Remember, the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association is a 501c3 organizations and your donations are tax deductible.

Historic Antioch Methodist Church



Another repair that could not wait and has already been completed is replacement of the severely deteriorated and nonfunctioning entrance doors of the 1891 Antioch Church. We think that its weathered, crumbling doors were not original to the structure. With no overhang protection from the rain, water damage has probably been an ongoing issue over the years.





This restoration project was coordinated by Trustee Bob Blair and installed by carpenter Michael Blair. Gazing at these before and after photos, I can certainly feel the gratitude of the old church, and of its past parishioners who I like to think are looking on from above. According to Bob, "The installation was difficult. Besides the building being over 100 years old, it had been about 15 or so years ago restored and raised on stone piers. Nothing of the door openings remained plumb, level or square. After installation, the building is still over 100 years old, and the new doors know it."

To help, please go to our website:

https://fairfieldgenealogysociety.org/Family-Associations/CFM-Association/CFM-Donation.htm

Or write to:

CFM Family Association c/o Teddi Miles (CFM Treasurer) 104 Leisure Lane Ninety Six, SC 29666

We are aiming to include all members on our email correspondence so please share this with any family member that may not be receiving this!

If you want to know more about the repairs or anything else, please feel free to contact Ron Chicone, Jr. (Newsletter Editor) at rchicone@yahoo.com or 321-946-6352. Or contact any of our Trustees and Board members listed on the above website.

Thank you so much for supporting and caring for these special places.

Also check out our facebook page here: Facebook

Our Company | Contact Us | FAQs | Privacy Policy

CFM Family Association | 7148 Hwy 215 N | Blair, SC 29015 US