

History of Feasterville, Fairfield Co., South Carolina
by Mark McKee Rigsby

The Feasterville Community located in western Fairfield County is within the boundaries of the Blair, SC mail delivery route.

At one time the area was called Hill's Box after the voting site at Simeon Hill's home. It was said that during elections many candidates who had run well elsewhere failed there. "As Hill's Box goes, so goes the county," was a popular refrain. Hill's Box earned the nickname "Hell's Box" because it was known to be tough on candidates.

Feasterville is the namesake of Andrew Feaster, (1735-1821) who settled on Beaver Creek before 1780. He was a public advocate for the Dunker faith. His son John Feaster, (1768-1848) gave land and buildings for Liberty Universalist Church in 1832 and the School and Boarding House a few years later. Andrew Feaster (1793-1869) supervised the construction for his father.

Berryman, aka Benjamin, Withers led a group of workers who came to Feasterville from Lincoln County, North Carolina. In 1841 he wrote his brother, "Just as our last job was about finished, there came a gentleman wanting us to build him a large house ... we made a calculation and engaged the job at \$ 3,000, we [are] to find all the materials and board ourselves. We expect to do the best business we have ever done. The building is for a boarding house at the independent institution established lately by the Universalists, five miles northwest of Buckhead P.O. When this work is done, we have the promise of contracts for two more houses at this same place, worth \$ 1,500 apiece, and the people of the settlement warranted us work for five years to come."

From 1842-1844 Rev. L. F. W. Andrews, a Universalist minister, provided instruction in "the usual English and Classical branches" in the church before the schoolhouse was built. Initially known as [the Feasterville Female Seminary](#), with Catherine Ladd as principal, the school remained open until 1929 when the county consolidated seven rural one-teacher schools into a graded school at Monticello.

Through the years at various times the Boarding House and School building were each used as residences.

After the closing of the school, the Boarding House was used as the Feasterville Community Building. In the 1930s and 1940s the Feasterville Demonstration Club used the first floor and the Coleman Masonic Lodge No. 97 occupied the front upstairs rooms. The buildings were renovated as a WPA project. Mother Walker of Winthrop College supervised landscaping the grounds in 1937. The schoolhouse was used as a polling place until the 1980s.

The Coleman Masonic Lodge, chartered in 1860, originally met in a building on the grounds of the Boarding House complex. It was named for Dr. Robert Williams Coleman (Oct. 3, 1822 - May 27, 1873). It later occupied the upper floor of the Boarding House.

The Antioch Methodist Church built in 1891 by William James Jenkins on land given by Mrs. Charles W. Faucette, neé Mary Ann McConnell. Jenkins also made the pulpit and the pews from wood cut on the W. J. Wolling place and dressed at his sawmill.

The Coleman - Feaster - Mobley Family Association was formed in 1941. The group owns and maintains the Feasterville Boarding House and Schoolhouse, the Liberty Universalist Church, the Antioch Methodist Church and family cemeteries in compliance with John Feaster's will: "the lot of land on which the Female Academy and Boarding House stands at Feasterville, containing five and one-half acres, I give and bequeath to my three sons, Jacob Feaster, Andrew Feaster, and John M. Feaster, in trust and for the benefit of the Feasterville Male and Female Academy, and I hereby appoint and constitute them trustees of the same."

Each October descendants of the three families hold a [reunion](#). In 1997 members celebrated the centennial birthday of the group's oldest member, Mary Bess Coleman, who is the great-granddaughter of Henry Jonathan Coleman, (June 27, 1793 - February 3, 1861) one of the original trustees of the Feasterville Academy. She, herself, taught at the school in the 1920s and was a long time trustee of the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Association.