

# Family Tree Newsletter

THE COLEMAN-FEASTER-MOBLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
167 Rutledge Road, Greenwood, SC 29649



## FAMILY REUNION WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 1st AT FEASTERVILLE

Fall, 1995

Our Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Reunion is scheduled for Sunday, October 1, at Feasterville. We hope that you and all your family are planning to attend.

The Boarding House will be open from 10:00 till 4:00 o'clock on Saturday, September 30th. There will be some historical items, old family pictures, and genealogical materials set up for your browsing pleasure. The Fairfield County Genealogical Society will have materials on display and the Family Association will have some old family documents, plats, legal papers, etc. that pertain to the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley families and their close connections. We have an album of pictures taken at reunions in past years. You are invited to bring photos and memorabilia of your own line to share with others. Directions to the sites of the Coleman, Feaster, and Antioch Church cemeteries will be available at the Boarding House for those who wish to visit the cemeteries.

We hope to have a large crowd and a good time on Sunday. In the absence of Chaplain W. C. "Chap" Lauderdale, Dr. Ted Morton will lead the worship service at Liberty Church at 11:30. This service will be followed by the Association's annual business meeting. Then, at 1:00 pm, the blessing will be said and the picnic and fellowship time will follow.

Some of these displays will still be set up on Sunday - the family pictures will be on display, but the people who can answer questions and explain connections will be tied up with the business of the worship service, business meeting, and picnic details.

We are sad to report the recent death of good member and fine genealogist, Sara Mason Bolick (Mrs. Sam P.). We will certainly miss her. In March we received notice that Milton Mobley, who had collected Mobley records for fifty years, had died. If there are others who have passed away this year, please give the names to our Secretary, so their names can be recorded in the Minutes of the 1995 meeting.

On the weekend of August 19-20 the Georgia Universalist Convention held its 157th Meeting at Clayton Memorial Church in Newberry. As part of that meeting, the minister at Clayton Memorial, the Rev. Daniel W. Weck (who attended our Reunion here in 1994) arranged for the group to visit our Liberty Church and the Boarding House and School. This group holds Liberty Church in Fairfield in high regard among the first churches of their denomination. They consider it the "mother church" of their Convention. Mr. Weck was most appreciative of our willingness to open the church for their visit. Bob Blair hosted their visit. He opened the gates and the buildings, and Marion Bolick had the grounds well manicured.

### Greetings from Isabel Alexander

It is an honor for me to serve as the new president of our Association, and I sincerely hope that many of you may be inspired to served as officers and committee members in years to come. The Church and "Boarding House" will always be special to me as my mother, Mae Allen Wright, myself, and my son, Burley Shedd were all married at Liberty Universalist Church. My fondest childhood memories include the July reunions at the Boarding House. Let us together now look to the future with the anticipation of many more good times together.





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1994 MINUTES

The Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association's 54th Annual Reunion was held on October 2, 1994. The Business Meeting was called to order by the President, Henrietta Morton. She thanked Chaplain W. C. Lauderdale for the meaningful worship, Coleman Bolick for the beautiful flowers, and Pauline Lauderdale for preparing the communion elements.

The Minutes of the 1993 meeting, read by Sally Garner in the absence of the Secretary, Pat Ligon, were approved as read. George R. Lauderdale, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$671.30 in the checking account on October 1, 1993, dues and donation income of \$1,627.00, a credit of \$4.22, expenses of \$2,007.58, and a transfer from Savings of \$500.00 for an ending balance of \$2802.52. The ending in the Money Market Account on August 31st was \$5,110.86.

Bob Blair for the Trustees reported the passing of long-time trustee, Sam Bolick, in June. The two remaining Trustees, Mary Bess Coleman and Robert C. Blair, have submitted the name of Henrietta Morton to fill the position held by Mr. Bolick.

Happy Birthday was sung to Miss Mary Bess Coleman, oldest member present, who will celebrate her 97th birthday on November 1, 1994. Erin Lee Garner, last year's newest member was present and was recognized. Newest member reported for 1994 is Alexis Blair, daughter of Michael Blair born in March 1994. Deaths reported, other than that of Sam P. Bolick, were Larry Bolick of Blair and Edith Grantham of Nichols. Out-of-state members and guests represented Alabama, 5, Florida, 6, Mississippi, 2, California, 2, as well as North Carolina, 8, and South Carolina, 17.

John Coleman in Mobile sent a master copy of J. P. Coleman's book which he had computer scanned and indexed. The President says the Association will have to get a price for copying the complete book for sale copies, but she has brought copies of the *Index*, which are available today for \$10.00. Fred W. Field of California has sent back copies of his *Coleman World* newsletter (copies back to 1986) for the Association. They are on display in the Boarding House. Individuals may subscribe.

### Old Business

Henrietta Morton send out a Family Tree Newsletter in September. Bob Blair's fine letter from Milton Mobley was the only article submitted for publication. She asked that news and articles of interest be sent to her. She would like to do as many as four newsletters as year, but will need help. James Green suggested that names of persons attending the Reunion be included; if not a complete list, then the ones attending the Business Meeting.

Bees are still in the back wall of the Boarding House. Harry Jeter said he knows a man who can help and will see Bob Blair and Henrietta Morton today about arranging to get them removed.

### New Business

The President appointed Sally Garner, Harry Jeter and Pete Ragsdale to serve on the 1995 Nominating Committee. Sally Garner, Harry Jeter, and Pat Ligon have served on this year's Committee. Sally Garner presented the Slate of Officers for 1995-97 as follows: President, Isabel Wright Alexander; Vice President, William S. Morton; Secretary, Pat Ligon; Treasurer, Shirley Chicone; Trustee, Henrietta Morton to replace Sam Bolick. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made that the Nominations be closed and that the Slate be accepted by acclamation. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed. The president than asked that the new officers be prepared to take office on November 1.

Sally Garner, Acting for the Secretary

### Association Officers:

President . . . . .	Isabel Wright Alexander, 417 Chesterwoods Court, High Point, NC 27860
Vice President . . . . .	William S. Morton, 1169 Ambling Way, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
Secretary . . . . .	Pat Blair Ligon, PO Box 6, Blair, SC 29015
Treasurer . . . . .	Shirley Coleman Chicone, 105 Rollingwood Drive, Lexington, SC 29072
Chaplain . . . . .	William Chapman Lauderdale, PO Box 36, Due West, SC 29639
Genealogist . . . . .	James W. Green, III, Route 5, Box 720, Winnsboro, SC 29180
Trustees . . . . .	Mary Bess Coleman, Robert Coleman Blair, Henrietta Rosson Morton
Newsletter Editor . . . . .	Henrietta Morton, 167 Rutledge Road, Greenwood, SC 29649-8992



## Civil War Reminiscences of George W. Coleman, Feasterville, South Carolina, 1920

On the expiration of our enlistment for one year made at Summerville, South Carolina, we were sent to Orangeburg (Orange) Court House, Virginia. Captain Ed Means left us and went to the Navy, we were told. Boykin Lyles and Captain Weston of Richmond, Virginia got enough members between them to form a company. Lyles was made captain and Weston, first Lieutenant. I can not recall the other officers. This enlistment was for three years or the length of the war with a fifty dollar bounty. Brother Allen and I enlisted. I went in this company to war in the battle of Malvern Hill.

In the meantime ex-governor John Hugh Means had raised the 17th Regiment and Dr. Press Coleman raised a company. The lieutenants were Burley, Coleman and Ed Stanton. They were sent to the coast of South Carolina. Andy Mobley and John Banks were members of Coleman's company, and later this regiment was sent to Virginia.

Allen and I were told to go to Press' Company and Mobley and Banks wanted to go to the 6th Regiment so the swap was made, they to the 6th, and we to the 17th. We joined the 17th the evening before the second battle of Manassas. There were five brothers of our family in that company then: viz, Henry, Allen, Preston, Franklin and George.

The second Manassas was fought the next day. The fifth of January the Zouaves were in our front. Brother Preston lost a leg; Bob Crowder, Hiram Dickerson and Lieutenant Ed Stanton of our company were killed and some others that I have forgotten. I never saw Preston any more.

We left the next morning for Maryland, crossing the Potomac at Leesburg, Virginia. I heard for the first time the song "Maryland" on an instrument I had never heard before. There was a trooper on horseback in the center of the Potomac giving it to us on the Clarionet (clarinet). In crossing we stripped, fixed bayonets and stuck all our belongings on them and waded across the river. The water was around our waists. We marched on through Fredric (Frederick) City, Maryland and the papers here stated that their N. Y. Zouaves came out of Manassas battle with nine men out of the five hundred.

We went on to Booms Boro (Boonesboro) and here we drove back the Yankee Calvary (Cavalry). Bill Jenkins was in the fight and never has been heard of since. We went on to Hagerstown, then to Sharpsburg and here there was a hard battle fought. We then crossed Potomac, wading into Virginia, and on down to Brucetown and here we stayed in camp for some time. Captain Press Coleman's leg was amputated on the Manassas battlefield, and Lieutenant Frank Coleman was left with him.

By the time we made the trip through Maryland, Press had gone to South Carolina, and Lieutenant Frank joined us here at Brucetown. He was here only a few days when he took typhoid dysentery (dysentery) and was sick only ten or fifteen days when he died. He was buried at Crane Brick Chappel (Chapel) in a nice fenced-in yard adjoining the brick building. We then came on down to Richmond and on to North Carolina. We guarded a bunch of prisoners to Charleston. We were then sent to Wilmington, North Carolina, and on out to Topsail Sound, seventeen miles east of that City. We had a fine time there, and we also had Brigade Drill by Captain Tansil.

From here we went out to Jackson, Mississippi, through Augusta, Georgia, and on through Montgomery, Alabama, to Selma on the Alabama, then by train to Demopolis, then by steamer to McDowell's Landing in Tombigby (Tombigbee) River, then by train to Jacksonville, (Jackson) Mississippi. Here we were in the siege for some weeks. We were too late to save Pemberton from sailing out, so we were told. From here we returned by the same route to Eufola (Eufaula), here deviated coming by Columbus, Georgia, and on to Savannah, and on down to Isle of Hope. We had a nice time for a few weeks and from here we were sent to Wilmington, North Carolina, where we were for some time. Brother Jacob took sick and died, May 20th, 1864. I found out when I saw he would die, that they would not let me ship or accompany his remains home, so I wrote his wife to send old Tone, a trusty negro, so he could see him buried and could come with some white man and show where he was buried. I put up a good heart pine board, and in a few months Bill Mobley with old Tone came and took the remains up and shipped to Lyles Ford, South Carolina, where he is now resting in the John Feaster's Cemetery, only a few hundred yards from John Feaster's old resident (residence).

As soon as I saw my brother laid away, I went to Virginia and joined my company at Bermuda Hundred (that is between Richmond and Petersburg). Here we had a tough time for some weeks. Then we

(Continued next page)



went in a hurry to Petersburg, and here a few of us began establishing the famous battle lines near Petersburg. Here Brother Allen was wounded on the seventh of July and died next morning at eight o'clock. Here the Yankees undermined us. We could hear them digging but we could not get into the tunnel without our digging, and at last the mine was sprung, and the bitter fight began to retain the line, but they were licked and had to give it up with a big loss, with a majority of them negroes. Lieutenant A. J. McConnell was killed that evening after all the fighting was over with, as well as my memory serves me. Brother Allen and Watt Crowder were the only men we lost here in these trenches. Here we suffered for days and nights, a long while. Our brigade was sent down to Hatches (Hatcher's) Run some eighteen or twenty miles from Petersburg, where we had a pretty hot skirmish. After being here some time Adjutant S. R. Fant (now at rest in Beaver Creek Cemetery) came around with orders for us to be in line at dark. This was the evening of March 24, 1865. We made the trip in quick time, went and captured it but could not hold it. We marched back to Hatches Run and reconstructed around there and near Dinwiddie (Dinwiddie) and wound up at Five Forks, Virginia.

On April 1st about sunup Sheridan's calvary (Cavalry) soon appeared in our front, dismounted and we soon began to exchange shots. This was kept up for some time. Finally, on looking back, we saw a dense column of Yanks in our rear. Mel Dickerson, Bob Jenkins, John Curry and I were together. There was a Sargent (sergeant) in front of the Yanks shouting for them to come on. We were firing some at the rear and some in front. The Sargent (sergeant) we saw dropped and they came rushing on, in front and rear and soon had us prisoners. Mel Dickerson's son was then missing, and he told me that he skipped out to the right, but they got him later.

We disarmed and marched toward City Point on James River, and the next day we were marched onto a steamer and down the river to Point Lookout on Chesapeake Bay. Here we were humiliatingly treated and suffered until the twenty-seventh of June, then paroled and sent to Richmond, Virginia, on a steamer. From there we worked our way home as best we could, getting there the fourth of July and found all stables, ginhouses, screw and sixty-two bales burned up, and all mules and horses gone. Mother and granddaughter, Edith and her son, David R. (mother's son), his wife and son Roe were here in the old home.

*Source: The Catherine Ladd Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Woodward, South Carolina, 1919-20  
Reprinted from Recollections and Reminiscences, 1861-1865,  
Volume III, SC Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy.*

## SEEK IDENTITY OF OLD LETTERS FROM THE 1930s

A black notebook with loose pages filled with letters written during the 1930s has come into our possession. The letters are written from "Ruby" to "Mama, Papa, and All" from a Memphis, Tennessee, address. The letters have been removed from the envelopes, so there is no way to tell to whom they were addressed. There are numerous clues throughout the letters - names of persons in the family, but none to precisely identify the writer or the ones to whom written.

In the front of the book is written: "Letters from Nov 27th, 1934, to June the 1st, 1935, from our only Daughter Ruby. We thank the Good Father for her and her Beautiful Life and the Blessings these letters have brought to us. They have kept us 'on the Way.' Papa and Mama - - God Bless her and make her useful in His Kingdom."

This notebook containing the letters was found in some old papers at Shelton in Fairfield County. They may have a connection to some of the Colemans. On one is a penciled reference to "Narcie." Ruby's last name may be Brown. Her husband is Herman, and her children are Peggy and Buddy. She refers to having moved to 404 North Avalon in Memphis, phone 2-3398. She encloses a religious tract that had been addressed to Mrs. H. B. Brown, 1936 Mignon, Memphis, Tennessee.

We are very much interested in getting these letters to someone to whom they will mean a lot. They are becoming very fragile, but are in good condition for reading, and could be preserved. The only requirement for someone who wants to claim the letters is that they make an identification of the persons mentioned and explain their connection to these persons. Contact: Henrietta Morton, 167 Rutledge Road, Greenwood, SC 29649



## HILL RECORDS FOUND IN OLD BOOK

Entries in ink in the front and back of an old book titled: *Letters written on Board His Majesty's Ship the Northumberland and at St Helena; in which the Conduct and Conversations of Napoleon Bonaparte and His Suite, during the Voyage and the first Months of his Residence on that Island, and faithfully described and related; by William Warden, Surgeon on board The Northumberland. Journal Office, New-Haven, 1817*

Simeon Hill  
Elizabeth Hill  
Zion Hill

Zilphy West  
Jehew Hill was born June the first 1821  
Mary Hill was born March the 27 1820

Simeon Hill/his Book

January the 15

Price 25 cents

Jehew was born in the year of our Lord 1821, June the first

Mary Hill was born March the 27, 1820 --- Simeon Hill

Elizabeth Hill and Simeon Hill was married January the 22 1817 --- Lord

Simeon Alexander Hill was born in the year of our Lord January the 7th 1829

Book is now in possession of Mrs. Henrietta Morton, 167 Rutledge Road, Greenwood, SC 29649, found among old books and records of William J. Shelton of Shelton in Fairfield County, SC.

(Copies of original pages available upon written request. Please enclose a #10 SASE.)

## GIFTS TO THE COLEMAN-FEASTER-MOBLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

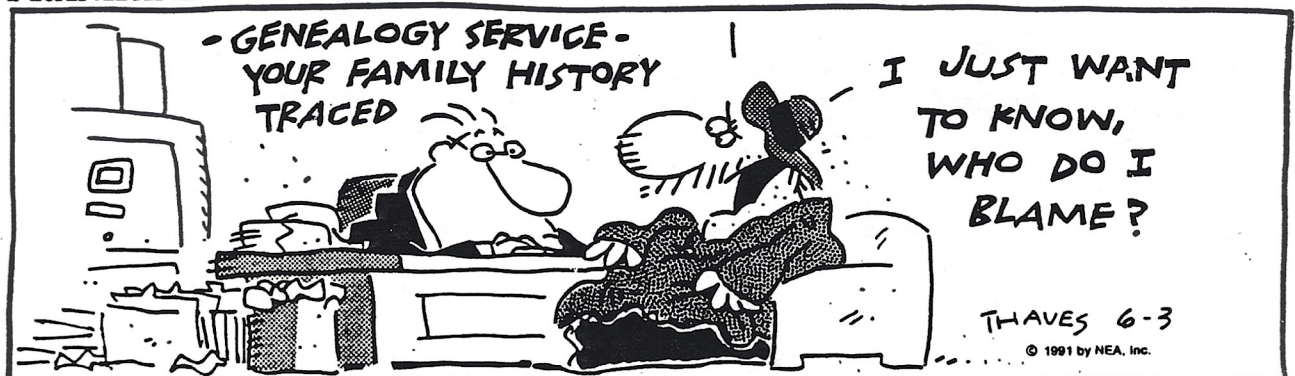
All gifts for the Family Association are both needed and appreciated. We have about five acres of land that the descendants inherited from our ancestor John Feaster on which are located Liberty Universalist Church, the "Boarding House," which originally housed students at the Feasterville School during the week, and the Old School Building itself. In addition the Association maintains the Feaster and Coleman family cemeteries. Three years ago the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church deeded to our Association Antioch Church and its cemetery, which we are now maintaining. Many Colemans and their connections are buried there. The Church was considered "abandoned" and the cemetery was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain by the Antioch Cemetery Association, whose members were growing older and fewer in number.

The Association is now chartered as a not-for-profit organization. As such, all gifts and dues made to the Association are tax-deductible. Gifts may be designated for memorials, cemetery upkeep, or general maintenance and repair. Checks should be made payable to the *Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Association* and should be mailed to Shirley Chicone, 105 Rollingwood Drive, Lexington, SC 29072

We hope you will support your Family Association by both your attendance at the Annual Meeting and by your financial gifts. Many thanks for both!

**FRANK AND ERNEST**

**By Bob Thaves**





## HESSIANS IN BROAD RIVER AREA

*Taken from a letter written by Etta Allen Rosson (Mrs. B. H., Jr.) of Shelton, in Fairfield County, to Mrs. Lowell E. Burnell, the National Historian General, NSDAR, in Washington, D. C., dated 30 October 1956. Copy is in Mrs. Rosson's Genealogical Files."*

Replying to your question, "What became of the Hessians?" I give you the following:

My sister-in-law, Alline Harmon Allen, joined the DAR on the record of a Hessian, the Reverend John Yost Meetze, and I give you the following proof of his service, which is taken from Salley's History of Orangeburg Co, S. C., 1704-1782, page 27:

"Rev. John Yost Meetze, born Hesse Cassel, Germany, was one of those Hessian soldiers sold by their hereditary Prince to the King of England for the subjugation of the rebels in America. One night he was called from his father's home by a band of soldiers, who seized him and compelled him, against his will, to follow them. He bade farewell to his parents and the rest of the household, and was forthwith shipped to America. Soon after landing he deserted the British at Charleston, S.C. and joined the American forces under Greene at Bacon's Bridge.

"Later, he was captured by the British, taken back to Charleston, where he was subjected to a series of tortures prior to sentence to execution for desertion. By some miraculous manner he escaped and again joined Greene's Army, this time at Cowpens, S. C. He served until the close of the War as private and chaplain."

The above record is also carried in Edwin J. Scott's "Random Recollections of a Long Life."

In addition to the above there is in northwest Fairfield County in South Carolina, in a community called Feasterville, near the postoffice of Shelton, S. C., a hill known since Revolutionary War days as "Hession Hill." Two Hessions lived here long after the War, and when the last one died, it is said that one of the ladies in the community wept for him, because he had "lived so far from his own people, and had no one to mourn him except his neighbors." It is possible that these two also deserted and went over to the American forces; but we have no record of their names, nor of their families.

I have read somewhere that the English believed that the German-speaking people, these Hessians, would not be able to talk with the colonists over here, so no danger of desertion; but that when the Hessions reached the Dutch Fork\* section of South Carolina (in the area between the Broad and Saluda Rivers), they found their own German-speaking people, and immediately "fell in" with them.

\* English interpretation of the German term "Deutsche Volk" or German People.

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