

## ANDREW FEASTER

The Feasters (Phister) came to America from the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It was here that Andrew Feaster, son of Peter Feaster, was married. The name of his first wife is unknown. His second marriage was to a widow, Margaret Frey Cooper, who had two children by a previous marriage, Adam and Eve Cooper.

The story of Peter Feaster's philosophy and faith in his Maker is traditional in the Feaster family. When plans and preparations were being made for the move from Pennsylvania to new lands, one of the chief concerns was for Peter Feaster. He was advanced in years and in failing health. It was felt that he would not be able to withstand the rigors of travel. But, he steadfastly refused to be left behind or have the plans postponed on his account, saying that should he die he would be as near to God in one place as another. As was feared, he died enroute, and was laid to rest somewhere in Virginia.

Andrew Feaster continued his trek southward and settled in the northern part of western Fairfield County, S. C., giving his name to that area that is still known as Feasterville.

He was an advocate of the Dunkard faith. German Baptists, or Brethren, as they were usually called, held to trine immersion with a kneeling position and forward bending of the body in the rite of baptism, which earned them their nickname.

Andrew Feaster was credited with having the power to conjure, or "using" as attested to by an excerpt from an article written by William Ederington in 1880. "Being at leisure, I though I would add something in regard to four or five Tunkers who were amongst the first settlers on Beaver Creek that I saw when a boy, viz: Andrew Feaster, Sr., Adam Cooper, William and Isiah Mobley, and Matthew Hoosh, a Hessian. The first four wore long beards and I think the last did also. These were called Dunkards and were the only men seen with unshaven faces then, and forty years afterward. This denomination is called in history, German Baptists. Andrew Feaster, Sr. was a native of Switzerland and removed here from Pennsylvania, as I was informed by his great-grandson.

I rode behind my mother about the year 1811 to Old Daddie Feaster's a distance of six miles, her purpose being to get him to cure one of her arms which was paralyzed. On riding up to the house gate my mother hallowed, and the first object that attracted my notice was the big white hogs, the next the old man's long white beard, the first I had ever seen. We alighted and were invited into the house by the good old man. I kept my eyes on him until we were seated in a chair when a long rope attracted my attention...this was used for the purpose of drawing up bags of flour into the loft. (After dinner), my mother was seated in a homemade chair. Exposing her bare arms to view, the old man knelt at her side, rubbing her arm from the hand to the shoulder and muttering unheard of language to me, all the time. This was called "using" for the purpose of curing maladies such as felons, wens, cancers, warts. Whether "using" cured the arm or not, or the faith she reposed in the old man's mystic art, or time, I know not, but it was after a short time well as before."

The children of Andrew Feaster were: Martha, a daughter by his first wife, and Andrew, Jacob, John, Susan, Alice, and Margaret, children of his second wife, Margaret Frey Cooper.

Andrew Feaster, Jr. died a tragic death while still in the prime of his life. His brother-in-law, Ezekiel Wooley, a constable, had a warrant for the arrest of Shadrack Jacobs. As the two approached the vicinity of Jacobs house Feaster was killed by a rifle shot, fired by Jacobs.

Jacobs fled to Georgia and some 20 years elapsed before he was returned to Fairfield County to be tried. Testimony at the trial brought out the fact that Andrew Feaster was riding Wooley's horse. The shooting occurred at dusk, and Jacobs had mistaken Feaster for the constable. For this unwarranted deed Shadrack Jacobs was sentenced to death and was hanged by Sheriff Moore in 1829.

Jacob Feaster married Margaret Kennemore and died without issue. They are buried near their old homesite, in unmarked graves.

John Feaster wed Drusilla Mobley, daughter of Samuel and Mary Wagner Mobley, granddaughter of the pioneers, Hans Wagner and Edward Mobley. John Feaster built a two story frame house, where he lived until his death in 1848. This house was purported to have had the first glass windows north of Beaver Creek. He carried on extensive farming operations and amassed a vast estate. He is noted for having built the Feasterville Male and Female Academy and a dormitory, (or Boarding House, as it has always been called) for students attending the school from other areas.

He donated the land for the Liberty Universalist Church. Ederington's "History of Fairfield" states, "Liberty Church was built by those of the Universalist faith, and it was intended as its name indicates for the use of any and every denomination that was disposed to worship in it. There were others who contributed to the building besides Universalists."

#### Children of John and Drusilla Feaster:

Jacob md. Isabelle Coleman  
 Andrew md. Mary Norris  
 Savilla md. Robert Gregg Cameron  
 Susan md. Robert F. Coleman  
 Mary md. Henry Jonathan Coleman  
 Chaney md. Henry A. Coleman  
 John Mobley md. Kisannah Pickett

Martha Feaster, daughter of Andrew Feaster by his first wife, married William Colvin, son of John and Hannah Price Colvin. William Colvin served in the Revolution.

William and Martha Colvin made their home in Chester County, S. C., where they reared eleven children. All of these children, except Andrew, the eldest, removed to the West, going to Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. William and Martha Colvin, accompanied by some of their children moved to Alabama.

#### Children of William and Martha Colvin.

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Andrew  | John    |
| Hannah  | Jacob   |
| Thomas  | Charner |
| Susan   | Edward  |
| Mattie  | Bynum   |
| William |         |

Alice Feaster married Hundley McShan of Union County, S. C.

Children: (List not complete)  
 Feaster md. Lucy Ann Coleman  
 Judith md. Isaac Coleman  
 Ferdinand removed to Arkansas  
 Andy removed to Mississippi

Susan Feaster married Moses Cockrell, and lived in Fairfield County. Their daughter Margaret, married William E. Hill. They had a son, John Feaster. No data on other children.

Margaret Feaster married Ezekiel Wooley, removed to Edgefield Co., S.C. and later to Georgia.

Eve Cooper, step-daughter of Andrew Feaster married Jacob Stone, a Revolutionary soldier.

All the descendents of the step-son, Adam Cooper, went West.

Andrew Feaster, Sr. died in 1821, in his will (Fairfield County, S. C. Records- Apt. 15, File 170) he named the following-

Wife - Margaret, a servant man, named Cane, household furniture, and a share of the estate

Children of deceased step-daughter, Elizabeth Stone, late Cooper

Hariot Beam - \$50 (no relationship given)

Children - Martha Colvin, John Feaster, Jacob Feaster, Margaret Wooley, Susannah Cockrell, and Alice McShan.

"My wife has grown old and is not able to conduct her own affairs in the best manner." John Feaster and D. R. Coleman appointed her guardians.

In the Feaster Cemetery at Feasterville, S. C. is a tall monument inscribed on four sides:

1 - Andrew Feaster, Sr. died July 15, 1821, 86 yrs. 4 mo., born County Bern, Switzerland

Margaret Frey Cooper, a widow, died Oct 10, 1823 aged 95, native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2 - John Feaster died 17 March 1848, 80 yrs old, native of Lancaster Co., Penn. also his wife Drusilla, died April 15, 1807, 33 years old.

3 - To Memory of Florence Grace Feaster, daughter of Trezvant D. and Mary C. Feaster, born in Columbia, S. C. March 18, 1864, died Daytona Beach, Fla. Nov. 8, 1929

To Memory of Trezvant DeGraffenreid Feaster, son of Andrew and Mary Feaster, born Feasterville, S. C. Sept 23, 1826, died Feasterville, S. C. Sept. 7, 1897

4 - Andrew Feaster, Jr., died Jan. 25, 1808, 32 yrs., native of Lancaster Co., Penn.

In Memory of Andrew, son of John and Drusilla Feaster, born Feasterville, S. C. Aug. 25, 1793, died at Sand Point, Fla. April 15, 1869 - and also Mary his wife, daughter of Nathan and Mary Norris, born Edgefield, S. C. April 5, 1800, died Aug. 23, 1878 Sand Point, Florida

Hans Wagner was one of the pioneer settlers of Fairfield County. Prior to his coming to South Carolina he was on the Yadkin River in North Carolina.

On October 8, 1753, a company of 15 Moravians left Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to settle Wachovia. After a journey of six weeks they reached their destination. On their arrival they found an abandoned cabin, that had been built by Hans Wagner the preceding year. The cabin was not large enough to provide sleeping room, so a second story was improvised by stretching hammocks from wall to wall.

In a journal kept by the Moravians, Hans Wagner was mentioned several times:

Feb. 19, 1754 - "In the evening Hans Wagner's son came. He asked for four brethren to come help raise his father's new house on the Elkin(Yadkin) 16 miles away, but so many brethren are working on the road we could not promise."

Feb. 20, 1754 - "Hans Wagner's son went home."

Feb. 21, 1754 - "At noon Brother Loesch returned from the Elkin where he had ordered some meal from Hans Wagner. Wagner was very busy with his new house and about 20 people were helping him, but thins never go well at such a gathering, for the more time is spent in drinking brandy than in working."

Aug. 12, 1754 - " Brother Kolerlahn went to see Hans Wagner who has been very ill, but is now better."

Shortly after the above date, Hans Wagner and his family joined a caravan composed of the Edward Mobley family, and traveled southward. The two families settled in northwestern Fairfield County, S. C. on Beaver Creek. The Wagners on the west side, at the junction of Reedy Branch and Beaver Creek, and the Mobleys on the east side.

It was on this site that Hans Wagner built a fort of white oak logs hewn 12 inches square. According to Mills Statistics, "Fort Wagner was erected on Beaver Creek, six miles above its mouth, and into this the poor scattered inhabitants flocked and received its protection, until the end of the Cherokee War." It is recorded that John Wagner of Beaver Creek furnished supplies during this conflict. A granite marker, erected by a D. A. R. chapter, on highway 215, is inscribed, "Fort Wagner site one mile east, at junction of Beaver and Reedy Branch, built in 1760 by Hans Wagner as a refuge from the Cherokee Indians."

Morgan Edwards, one of the earliest and most respected American Baptist historians, traveled through the back country of the middle and southern colonies gathering material for a history of the southern Baptists. In 1772 he wrote - "Beaver Creek a little branch running into Broad River.....They hold their worship from house to house. The families number about 25, whereof 50 persons are baptized. They had their beginning in this manner. About the year 1748 Micheal millers, Jacob Conomore and Laurence Free, with their wives, arrived hither from Connecocheaque; after them came Rev. George Martin and Hans Waggoner and their wives. These united in communion the month of July 1759.

Hans was a miller, and was referred to in North Carolina as a "German Trapper". He built a dam across Beaver Creek to power a water wheel for his

milling operation. At this writing(1981), remains of the old dam are still visible, also three chimneys that were constructed of field stones, and the old Wagner Graveyard. These are located on lands of the late John Lafayette Dickey, now is possession of members of his family.

He was married five times. The name of his first wife is unknown, the others were Marie Delashmette, Elizabeth Johnston, Mrs. Fair, and Margaret \_\_\_\_\_ . Of these unions the following children were born:

Mary md. Samuel Mobley  
 Margaret md. John Halsey (Halsell)  
 George  
 Isaac md. Emsey Haleyfield  
 John md. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Susannah md. George Hill  
 Nancy Anne md. Capt. Andrew McClain  
 Suka md. Ned Mobley

George Wagner had a land grant on Turkey Creek in York County. His will is recorded in York County, probated January 13, 1818. The will frees all of his slaves and names the following legatees - John Beam, Mary Wagoner, daughter of John, deceased, Elizabeth Hill, Margaret Halsey, Catherine Halsey, Catherine Delashmett, Mary Mobley, Susannah Camp, Anna McLean (wife of Andrew) Isaac Wagner, Louisa McLain, Margaret Watts, Mary Sutton(wife of James), one share each to Messina and Rachel McClain.

The 1790 Census listed Isaac Wagoner as a resident of Chester County. In 1800, 1810 and 1820 he was shown in Rutherford County, N. C. Isaac moved with his family to Moultrie County, Illinois. He fought in the Revolution, and received a pension afterwards.

John, the other Wagner son, moved to Kentucky. He was granted land in York county, which was in possession of George Wagner in 1811, when his will was made.

Hans Wagner had land grants totaling 800 acres. His name appears as John in these documents. At his death the land was left to Samuel Mobley, who married his daughter, Mary. He rests in the old Wagner burying ground. Although he was a man of some means, for that period of time, his grave is marked only with a field stone. Tombstones had to be brought up from Charleston which was a long and arduous journey.

#### References:

History of Wachovia - Clewell  
 Mills Statistics  
 S. C. Archives  
 Lutherans in North and South Carolina - Bernheim  
 S. C. Colonial Soldiers and Patriots - Andrea  
 Morgan Edwards Ms.- Crozier Theological Seminary

MARY WAGNER      Md.      SAMUEL MOBLEY

CHILDREN:

|           |     |                                   |
|-----------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Edward    | md. | Mary Mabry                        |
| Samuel    | md. | Elizabeth Whitehead (nee Pickett) |
| Biggers   | md. | Joannah Corbell                   |
| John      | md. | Catherine McLean                  |
| Elizabeth | md. | Richard Mansell                   |
| Susannah  | md. | John Taylor                       |
| Mary      | md. | David Shannon                     |
| Drusilla  | md. | John Feaster                      |
| Lucrecy   | md. | John Robinson                     |
| Savilla   | md. | Tom Colvin                        |
| Dorcas    | md. | William Price                     |

MARGARET WAGNER      md.      John Halsey (Halsell)

CHILDREN:

|           |     |                      |
|-----------|-----|----------------------|
| Gabriel   |     |                      |
| Thomas    | md. | Nancy _____          |
| Peter     | md. | Sarah <u>Combest</u> |
| Elizabeth |     | unmarried            |
| Mary      |     | unmarried            |
| Silas     |     |                      |
| Dorcas    |     | Thomas Williams      |

NANCY ANNE WAGNER      md.      ANDREW MCLEAN

CHILDREN:

|             |     |                  |
|-------------|-----|------------------|
| John        |     |                  |
| James       | md. | _____            |
| Mary        | md. | James Sutton     |
| William     | md. | _____            |
| Andrew, Jr. | md. | _____            |
| George M.   |     |                  |
| Mark        | md. | Mary Evans       |
| Nathaniel   |     |                  |
| Jonathan    | md. | Elizabeth Wright |
| Catherine   | md. | John Mobley      |