

A FAIRFIELD SKETCHBOOK

by

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with

INTRODUCTION

by

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and

SECTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

by

- I. History of Ridgeway and Longtown Charles E. Thomas
- II. History of Winnsboro Bryan Roberts
- III. History of Jackson Creek and Lebanon Estelle S. B. Dill
- IV. History of Blair and Feasterville Etta A. Rosson
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LONGTOWN

by

CHARLES E. THOMAS

LONGTOWN, the easternmost settlement in Fairfield, and the oldest in that part of the county, is perhaps the least chronicled. It is probably due to its antiquity that much of LONGTOWN's early history has been lost, for many of its oldest and grandest homes have been destroyed by fire and other ravages of time and war.

"Through the wooded land ran a picturesque Indian trail" is the way one historian described the beginning of LONGTOWN. This was the Indian fur-trade route from North Carolina and the Piedmont area of South Carolina that followed the western slope of the Wateree River south to the Santee River and Georgetown, Charleston, and Savannah. LONGTOWN is said by Fitz-Hugh McMaster in the HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (Columbia 1946) to have first been known as LOG-TOWN because of the log houses built along the Indian trail, the name later becoming LONGTOWN. In any case it has been well named, for it is hard to define the limits of LONGTOWN.

The "town" of LONGTOWN is that area which borders the Ridgeway-Camden Road and covers the area from near Fairview, the old Ridgeway Hunting Club, southwest to the Kershaw County line, and east from the Wateree River to Dutchman's Creek, and west to the old Winnsboro Road.

The earliest settlers in LONGTOWN came from North Carolina and Virginia, and were Quakers, Episcopalians, French Huguenots, Presbyterians, and Baptists; about the same time came Swiss, Dutch, and German Roman Catholics, Dutch Huguenots, and Lutherans from across Broad River on the west side of Fairfield County. Printed records indicate that Nicholas Peay came from Hanover County, Virginia, to Pine Tree, now Camden, about the time of the Revolutionary War, and built MALVERN HALL in LONGTOWN. About the same time Charles Tidwell came down the Indian Trail to LONGTOWN from the area of Jamestown, Virginia, and settled in the Bryant Hill section of LONGTOWN. His grave at Bryant Hill Cemetery, with his birth-date of 1690, might well be the earliest gravestone extant in the county.

LONGTOWN was also discovered by the German and Swiss settlers of Richland and Lexington Counties before the Revolution, for we have the record of Colonel David Myers of the Brick House, Bluff Road, near Columbia, owning plantations along the Wateree in Fairfield County soon after 1786 when his mother was reimbursed for a "black horse taken for public service" for the use of the Continental Army. His father, Jacob Myers, was paid for "144 days militia duty in 1787-88." Colonel Myers' son, John Jacob Myers, M.D., lived at SOLITUDE plantation in LONGTOWN, noted as a "luxurious and imposing structure and the scene of lordly hospitality, many celebrities being entertained there." Dr. Myers represented Fairfield County in the state House of Representatives in 1840-41. He served as assistant surgeon to a regiment which escorted the Marquis de la Fayette from the North Carolina border to Columbia on his visit to South Carolina in 1824. It is reasonable to surmise

that from this and the foregoing statement that General de la Fayette was entertained at SOLITUDE in Fairfield County, as well as in Camden and Columbia.

Other early LONGTOWN settlers were the Machettes, Wagners, and Zieglers from Holland, Germany, and Switzerland, and the Robertsons, Harrisons, Dixons, Picketts, Reeves, Stewarts, and Joneses through Virginia and North Carolina from England, France, Scotland, and Ireland. The Tidwells were English and the Peays French Huguenots. McMaster writes, "Before the Confederate War much wealth was accumulated, finer, larger homes were built, and so the name of LOG-TOWN became LONGTOWN." There was an academy near the Kershaw County line, with Professor McCandless (or McCandlers) in charge. He was said to have come from Georgia and was an "educator of high type." Boarding students came from Camden and Liberty Hill with day scholars from the entire LONGTOWN area. The professor had many visits from the irate mothers, whose sons he is said to have whipped on frequent occasions.

Austin Ford Peay, the son of Nicholas Peay of MALVERN HALL lived at FLINT HILL in Fairfield County. He was known as the "wealthiest man in that section." When he made a trip to Camden or Columbia, he travelled at night with a mattress put in his carriage in order not to lose sleep and to be fresh for his day in town. This could well have been the origin of Mr. Pullman's first railroad sleeping cars. When in 1809 there was an embargo on the export of cotton, Mr. Peay decided to take his cotton to market. He went in his carriage, escorted by a long wagon train to Philadelphia from FLINT HILL. It is recorded that his cotton was sold for \$25,000.00, a handsome price. He died at FLINT HILL in 1841 and was buried on his plantation, now flooded by the Wateree power development. The gravestones in this cemetery can be seen at low water. In the United States Census of 1860 the farms of the estate of N. A. Peay are listed at \$253,000.00, by far the largest in Fairfield County.

MELROSE, called the grandest plantation house in upper South Carolina, was built at LONGTOWN above the Wateree by Austin Peay's son, Nicholas Adamson Peay. It has been described as a "massive structure of brick, stone, and marble of thirty rooms, broad piazzas and wide halls." It is said by descendants of his slaves to have had a garden on the roof with a pool in which fresh fish were kept for use at the table. The mansion was equipped with a water system supplied by fresh springs below the hill on which MELROSE was situated. Water was pumped to the roof by a hydraulic ram. Colonel and Mrs. Peay, the former Martha Cary Lamar, died before the Confederate War. Colonel Peay had served in the Seminole War in Florida in 1835. He represented Fairfield County in the state Senate in 1856, and died in office the next year.

When Sherman's Army invaded Fairfield County, MELROSE was one of the few plantation homes burned in the southeastern part of the county. The story is that a Union soldier rode his horse up the marble steps, through the piazza of MELROSE into the front hall. Tying his horse's reins to the ceiling candle chandelier, the Federal soldier rambled through the house and found the wine cellar where he lingered and imbibed too long. Soon other soldiers

set fire to Fairfield's finest mansion, and the drunken soldier and his horse were consumed in the flames.

WISTERIA, the Tidwell-Myers family home, just across from the present Harrison-Dixon home in LONGTOWN, is said to have been saved by Nicholas Peay Myers, an intrepid Confederate son of the Peay-Myers families in LONGTOWN. Family tradition admits that Nick, a brave young man, acted as a spy for the Southern cause. He is reputed to have saved many helpless women and children, and even to have ambushed a few Yankees. He was wearing a Union Captain's uniform and insignia when he ordered the Yankee soldiers away from WISTERIA and saved his home from the torch. It is said that there were "Yankee skulls" in the attic at WISTERIA until Mrs. David William Tidwell (the former Mattie Myers) had them buried with the family and slaves at Bryant Hill Cemetery some time before WISTERIA was accidentally burned about 1935.

WISTERIA was one of the fine LONGTOWN plantation houses and was full of history, lore, and tradition. There were grease spots on the walls and even the ceilings of some of the upstairs closets where the Myers and Tidwells hid their hams and pork shoulders before Sherman's raid. These same bedrooms were papered after the war with Confederate money, it having become valueless, and paper being scarce.

LONGTOWN's Baptist Church was a great force in the early years when MELROSE commanded the area. It has been the burial place of some of the earlier families. The church building no longer remains, however, the Presbyterian Church which flourishes today has generally been supplied by the pastor of Ridgeway's historic Aimwell Church. Its cemetery is now the burial place of many influential LONGTOWN families, some of whom had been among the earliest settlers.

In 1854 when the Episcopalians in Ridgeway were building St. Stephen's Chapel, Colonel N. A. Peay offered to give \$100.00 on the condition that the new church be built east of Ridgeway on the LONGTOWN Road "for the convenience" of his sister, Mrs. John Myers, the former Sarah English Peay. Colonel Peay was not an Episcopalian, and it was understood that Mrs. Peay was not to know of the gift as she, the devout member of another denomination, would not approve. Colonel and Mrs. Peay are buried in LONGTOWN's Baptist Cemetery, with one of the most imposing monuments in the state. Until the days of the Confederate War Mr. Richard Matchette of Dutchman's Creek and the LONGTOWN Myers attended Saint Stephen's in their colorful native Dutch costumes. Contemporaries describe them: "the men in knee-length pantaloons with big silver buckles and matching silver buckles on their shoes and belts; long flowing coats with wide leather belts and silver buckles; and broad-brimmed, low-crowned black and white hats. The ladies wore long skirts that touched the ground, colorful blouses with full sleeves, bright bonnets with flowing bows, under which their long, blond, tightly plaited tresses hung over their shoulders — and some below their waists, so long was their beautiful hair." The Dutch Episcopalians were devout and loyal Huguenots and Protestants.

WISTERIA was perhaps most noted for its fox hunts, although it is recalled that "the hounds disturbed Mrs. Tidwell's fine Wagnerian ear." Her descend-

ants have inherited her ear for music. There were eight Tidwell sons, and more horses and hounds, and so with a few friends a fox hunt was easily organized at WISTERIA. It began with a pre-dawn breakfast served by Hence, a slave born at WISTERIA; the menu: steak, eggs, hominy, and biscuits, for the day would be a long one, especially if the fox happened to be a red one. The hunt crossed Tidwell Flats toward Wateree to the east of Dutchman's Creek to the north and west. If a grey fox was hounded around Bryant Hill Cemetery, the chase might be a short one, but if it was red, the hunt would go as far as FLINT HILL or BUCKHEAD or even across the river to Liberty Hill. However, no matter what time the fox, whether red or grey, was stopped by the hounds, the hunters returned to WISTERIA to find one of Mrs. Tidwell's and Hence's magnificent WISTERIA dinners ready for them.

Dutchman's Creek is another historical landmark of the early influence of the German-Swiss-Dutch families like the Myers, Matchettes, Zeiglers, and others who settled in this part of Fairfield County and gave their name to the creek.

History records the many wild animals of the Wateree-to-Broad-River area of Fairfield. They are listed as deer, foxes (red and grey), raccoons, wildcats, opossums (our only marsupial), cottontail rabbits (hare), grey and flying squirrels, wharf and blue rats, wood and muskrats, minks, weasels, leather-winged bats, moles, and mice. Among the one hundred or more birds mentioned, many are still native to the area; others are extinct or are today rare, like pileated woodpeckers, blue and white herons, and wild turkeys. Deer are said to have been common in the area until 1880, and about the same time Mr. Hugh S. Wylie is reported to have said that he saw "Not thousands but hundreds of thousands, possibly millions of wild pigeons in flight. They would darken the sky." He adds that wild turkeys were plentiful as well. Both the great naturalists, Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon, described seeing wild pigeons in such numbers as this earlier in the century in various parts of America.

But alas, WISTERIA burned in 1935 and the Tidwell lands are now a part of the extensive Bowater Paper forests. Time, war, and fire have taken many of LONGTOWN's ante-bellum mansions — and its finest, like MALVERN HALL, SOLITUDE, MELROSE, and WISTERIA. However, many of the descendants of these early Fairfield County families remain, some nearby and others scattered throughout the state and the neighboring states. LONGTOWN has a proud heritage and a long, rich history, full of thrilling facts and colorful fancy.

Among the families that settled at LONGTOWN before and during the Confederate War were the Rosboroughs, Walkers, Hunters, Parkers, Boyles, Rions, Edmunds, Ollevers, Mobleys, Stuarts, Spurriers, Boyds, Hamiltons, Rochelles, Crowders, Haynes, Mellichamps, Boulwares, Bolicks, Moores, Crumptions, Dixons, Gozas, Wilsons, and Martins. The above-mentioned families are only those who owned lands along the main roads that pass through the section.

BLINK BONNIE

JONES — ROBERTSON — KIRKLAND

BLINK BONNIE, in the Longtown section of Fairfield, commands one of the most majestic views in the county. From its spacious veranda portions of several counties, towns, and settlements may be clearly seen without the aid of binoculars. In the summer the varying shades of green melt away into purple tints where the heavenly blue of the sky meets the horizon. Several glistening creeks, the Wateree River, and Lake Wateree cut their own patterns through the forest. The panorama from this point is a challenge to any artist who might try to capture it on canvas.

In 1822 a Camden banker, Darling Jones, built this house for a summer residence. The design and construction of the commodious home show that the builder had all the good taste and hospitable traits of the era.

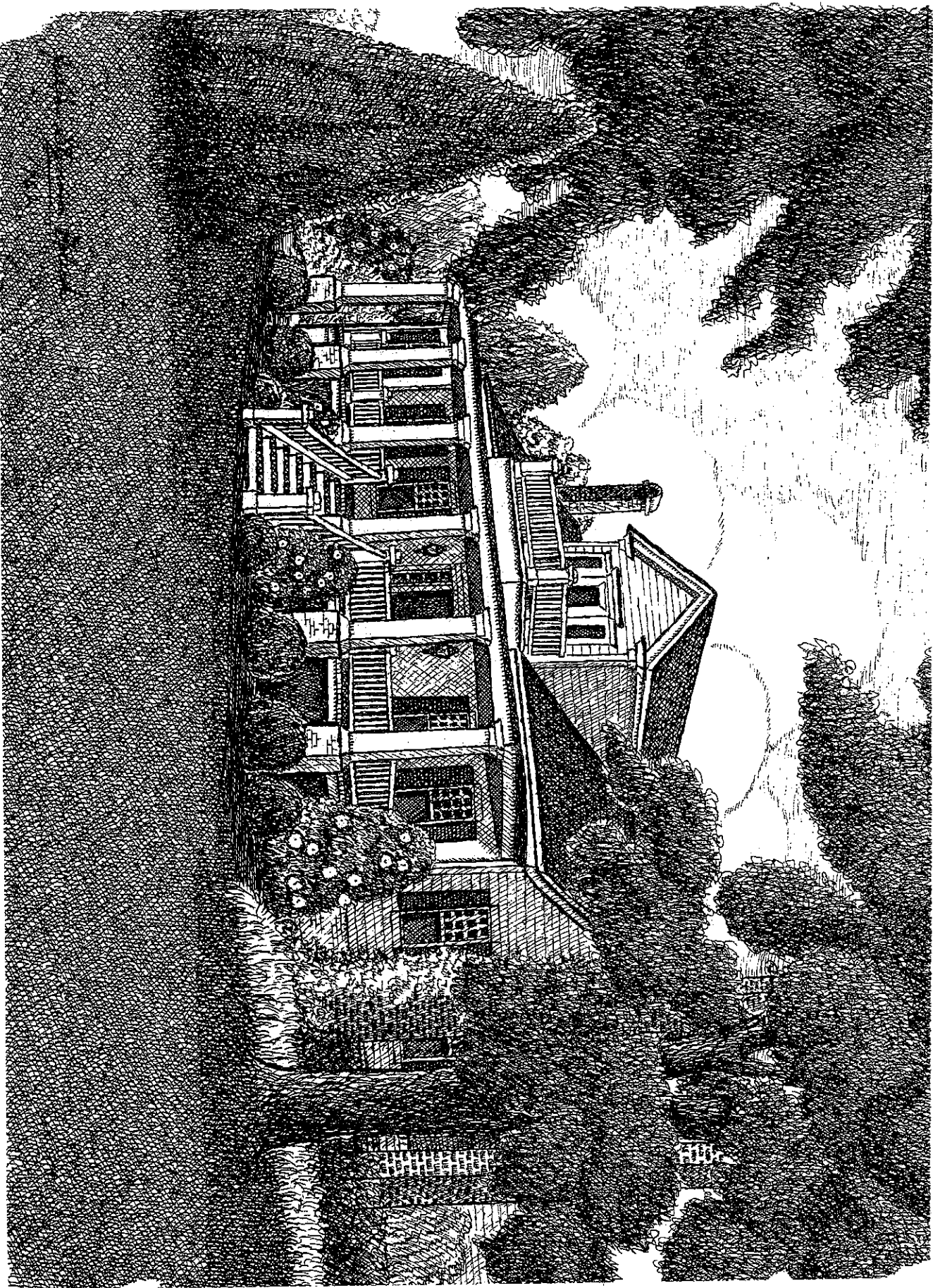
The main body of the structure is rectangular, with a wing to the left. Across the front is a wide, spacious piazza, supported by graceful, well-proportioned square columns. An outstanding feature of the house is the two enormous central hallways on the first and second floors. They extend all the way through the middle of the mansion. These served a dual purpose: first, they added greatly to the summer comfort of the three large, square rooms flanking the halls, and, secondly, they afforded ample space for entertaining on a grand scale. The decorations such as mantels, wainscotings, and cornices are simple but handsome. The walls and ceilings are plastered, and the formal rooms have elegant chandelier rosettes in the ceilings.

The left wing is off from the formal dining room and serves as a kitchen and family room. All the walls are paneled, and the cabinets are built of time-cured, mellow, red-heart pine.

In the back yard, to the left of the dwelling, is the unique old brick kitchen. This little building in itself is a gem. It consists of two rooms with large open fireplaces, ovens and warmers. One of the fireplaces still has its swinging cranes and spits. The floor is laid of brick. Due to the brick floor and the thick masonry walls, even on hot days the little house has a refreshing coolness, for it is well-ventilated with windows on the front and rear.

The little brick kitchen at BLINK BONNIE is still in use. Many discriminating South Carolina housewives, who pride themselves on serving rare delicacies, are well familiar with its trademark. Mrs. Kirkland, the present mistress of BLINK BONNIE, is a woman of many talents. She is not only a connoisseur of fine foods but also an artist in the preparation of them. Among her friends her artichoke relish and pickles became a legend. Now, during the artichoke season, the old kitchen on her plantation is a busy place, giving employment to several of the good cooks of Longtown, who under her careful supervision prepare the most delicious of all South Carolina relishes, Blink Bonnie Artichoke Pickles, Relish, and Iced Tomatoes. Some of the artichokes are raised on the place but the demand for her finished products has become so great that the farm people all over the county are planting artichokes to help meet the demand for this spicy side dish made famous by her recipe.

BLINK BONNIE



IX

After the death of Darling Jones the place passed to his son, Abram Jones, who continued to use it in the same manner as his father. The Jones' entertained on a lavish scale, and this fine old home was the social center of the community where the Virginia reels, quadrilles, and cotillions were danced. It was probably an inspiration for the fabulous Peay mansion, MELROSE, which was built in the 1850's.

When the Confederate War ended, there was a great change at BLINK BONNIE. The war had cost the Jones family their fortune. The plantation was sold at public auction and was bought by W. O. Robertson, who with his family occupied the place for many years. When the Robertson family moved away, BLINK BONNIE was used as a stage house or "station." Then it was rented to a long succession of tenants. Finally, after falling into bad repair, it became vacant for some time, a sad reminder of bygone splendor.

This deplorable plight ended in 1950 when the plantation was purchased by the M. A. Kirklands. Kirkland, a native of Camden and a descendant of the Kirklands who were among the first settlers in this section before the Revolutionary War, had long admired the old place. He and his talented wife began a restoration of the house immediately after they bought the property. Today BLINK BONNIE again stands proud and majestic in all the magnificence and grandeur that made her famous in the past. The present owners still have plans to further glamorize and embellish the house and grounds.

DIXON HOUSE

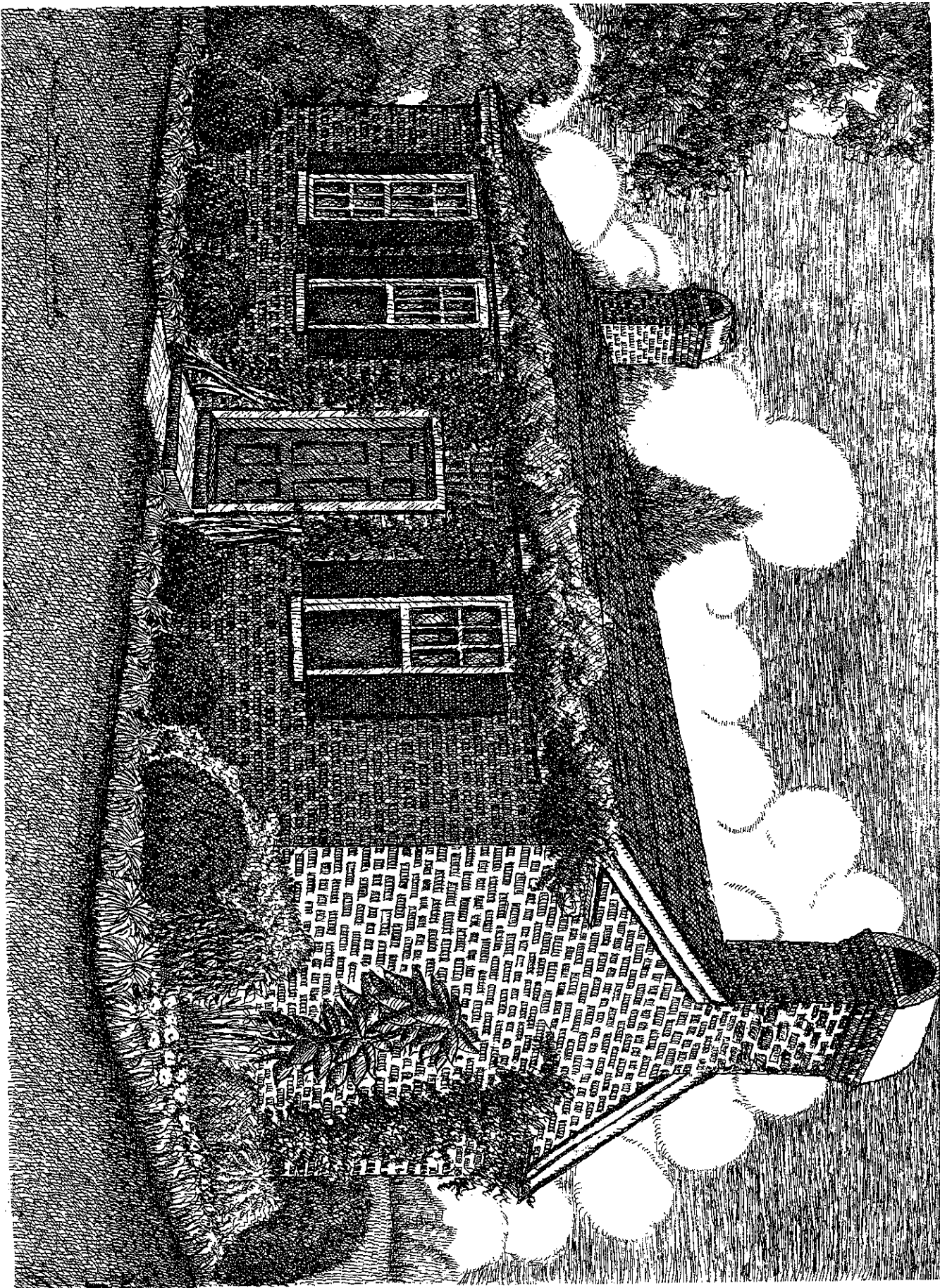
HARRISON — MOORES — HARRISON — DIXON

This old landmark is sadly in need of restoration but it still stands, defying time, in spite of its sad plight. The front doorway is still beautiful and outstanding in design, giving the old place a lasting semblance of dignity and refinement.

The place belonged to Reuben Harrison, a Revolutionary soldier. In the period before the war he was associated with Thomas Woodward, the "Regulator," in keeping law and order. He was twice married; Lucy Burge was the first wife and Nancy Kirkland the second. He died in 1835 and left each of his eight children two thousand acres of land. In addition to this he built homes for his three daughters, leaving the home place to his widow for her life.

One daughter, Frances, married a Brevard. Her home was behind the Darling Jones House and was built similar to it. It was razed a few years ago but the fine old mantels and woodwork were saved and are now still in use in a house near Camden. Nancy, the second daughter, married a Rochelle, and their big three-story house stood on a hill near what is now "Fairview," The Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center. It finally fell into disuse and was taken down a few years ago. The third daughter, Mary, married Charles Moore, and their house is the only one left standing of the many Harrison homes.

About 1830 all of the daughters and their families sold their property and moved West. John Harrison bought most of his family's estate as his brothers and sisters moved away. He was a very rich man, owning thousands of acres of land and listed as one of the largest slave owners in the upcountry. He



BLINK BONNIE KITCHEN

was also a sportsman and lover of fine horses. His animals were raced on all of the South Carolina tracks, taking many honors and trophies. His son, Eli Hunt Harrison, who married Elizabeth Fleming Douglass, became owner of the Moores' place. Eli and his three sons were all in the Confederate Army. His daughter, Lucy Rives, married Samuel Dixon, from Liberty Hill and owned and lived at the Moores' place which is now called the Dixon place. It is still owned and occupied by their daughters who are all well along in years.

John Douglass Harrison, Jr. came back by way of Washington, D. C. after his service in the Confederate Army. He was a barefooted, ragged, scantily clothed young man as he made the long homeward journey by foot. In passing through the nation's capital he encountered unusually large crowds of people on the streets. After inquiring he learned that they were waiting for President Lincoln's funeral procession which he waited for and witnessed.

When he finally reached home his mother saw that he had a proper hero's welcome. He was given a hot bath, fresh clothes, a wholesome, festive supper and a clean, soft bed in which to relax and sleep to his heart's content.

Before awaking the following morning a detachment of Federal troops rode up to the house. They told the inhabitants that they were looking for the notorious Nick Myers (his family's home was across the road from the Harrison place) and with no more ado entered and began to search the house. When they found young Harrison asleep in his bed they seized him, thinking that he was Myers, and dragged him into the yard with the intention of hanging him to the nearest tree. The boy's mother and others of the household pleaded for him and told the soldiers that they did not have the man that they were seeking. Finally the leader of the group agreed to send to a nearby plantation for someone to further identify the prisoner. When the good neighbor appeared on the scene he said, "For God's sake, John, what are they hanging you for?" This statement satisfied the Federals that they had the wrong man so they removed the rope from his neck, untied his hands and hurried on their way in search of "Old Nick."

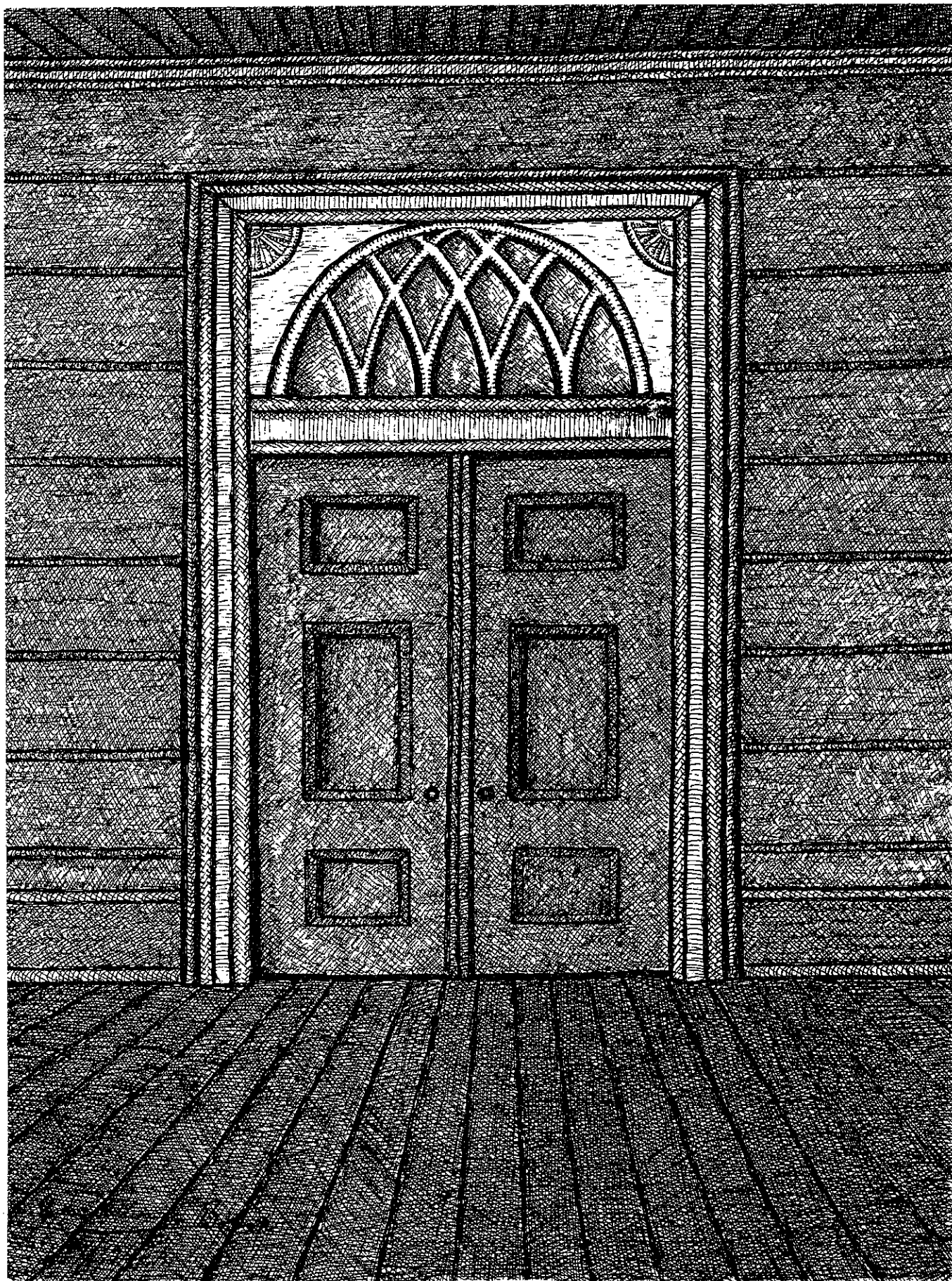
Mrs. Robert Hayne McKelvey, the former Edna Dixon, one of the present owners of the old house, states that according to family tradition Cornwallis passed by and rested at the site of this place on his way from Camden to Winnsboro during the Revolutionary War.

GOZA HOUSE

TIDWELL -- HARRISON -- ROCHELLE -- HARRISON -- GOZA

This old house stood on a high hill below FAIRVIEW until it was razed during the past decade. This sketch is done from a picture that was made before the house was dismantled.

The property on which the house was located was a part of the original Harrison tract that was granted the first of that family to come to South Carolina from Virginia before the Revolutionary War. Reuben Harrison, a son of the first settler, owned this property after the Revolution. He built the house for one of his daughters who married into the Rochelle family. The Rochelles moved West with other members of the family in the 1830's and in 1835 Mrs. Rochelle's brother, John Harrison, purchased her property.



DIXON PLACE (DOORWAY)

Little can be learned of the place from this point until after the War Between the States when the place was occupied by the Goza family. They lived here for many years and the plantation became known as the GOZA HOUSE. One member of this family who was reared in the old building was the late Mr. E. C. Goza, who was for many years postmaster at Columbia, South Carolina.

When the Gozas left the house several tenants inhabited it and the last to live here was a Negro family. After them it remained abandoned and vacant. It was a bleak, eerie-looking old building, with its porch gone and rear wing falling in, as its empty windows seemed to peer down the road from the lofty perch on a rough hilltop. Many stories and legends became linked with the place and it finally became known as a "haunted house" or the "Ghosty House." The latter name probably originated with and became confused in pronunciation with "Goza."

An interesting episode took place in this old house just after the close of the Confederate War.

A young Confederate soldier had but recently returned home from Lee's surrendered forces in Virginia. He was staying with an elderly uncle who had a plantation in the Lebanon community near old Jackson Creek Church. While defending his uncle's property and honor he shot and killed a Federal soldier. The soldier was a Negro who had formerly belonged to the uncle.

He reported the deed to friends in Winnsboro and asked for advice. Some told him to flee the country but others counseled that he surrender to the sheriff before he was apprehended by the military. At the time the sheriff was at his plantation at Longtown. The troubled youth rode out to find him but upon reaching Ridgeway he was informed that the soldiers were already looking for him. He was instructed to hide with a widow at her house near the town and not far from the sheriff's home where he should remain until receiving further word.

When he reached the place, the good lady had already received her instructions. She was to house the refugee for the night and at daybreak send him back to Winnsboro where the sheriff would be awaiting him at the jail to give him proper protection from the soldiers.

After a light supper he went upstairs to rest while his hostess remained on watch for the night.

The weather was rainy and disagreeable. The harassed young veteran was genuinely thankful for his haven and shelter in the warm old house. His peace and comfort was short-lived, for before he had time to sink into the warm featherbed, a Yankee officer and four soldiers arrived in search of him. When he heard them, he climbed out onto the porch roof and concealed himself under the sweeping, wet branches of a tree that grew near the porch. After the search was completed, he heard the officer tell the men that they would spend the night and renew their quest after an early breakfast.

Two of the upstairs rooms contained two double beds each. Three of the men occupied one of these rooms and the officer the other. The fourth man was left on watch for the night.

When the miserable and uncomfortable young man on the porch roof heard heavy breathing and snoring coming from the officer's room, he stealthily



GOZA PLACE

crept back through the window, wrapt himself in a blanket taken noiselessly from the empty bed, and fitfully tried to rest for several hours. When he thought that all was clear, he opened the door, hoping to slip downstairs and make his getaway. He was astonished when he saw the man who was posted on guard, nodding on the narrow stairway.

Retreating again to the room, he realized that his only escape would be through the window. Climbing cautiously back onto the roof, he leaped to the rain soaked ground without hurting himself and made a dash to the stable. Leading his horse some distance from the house before mounting, lest its hoofs plodding into the wet mud and striking against the bare rocks might be heard. Once astride the animal he raced madly through the woods and country roads and reached the jail in safety.

Upon his arrival at the jail he was treated as a guest by the sheriff and his family until his trial was arranged and he was cleared. A romance developed during this interlude which ended in his marriage to the sheriff's beautiful daughter.

HUNTER HOUSE

FERGUSON — HUNTER — RION

Well back from the Old Camden road, peeping over an old-fashioned stile, is one of the most attractive old homes in the Longtown section.

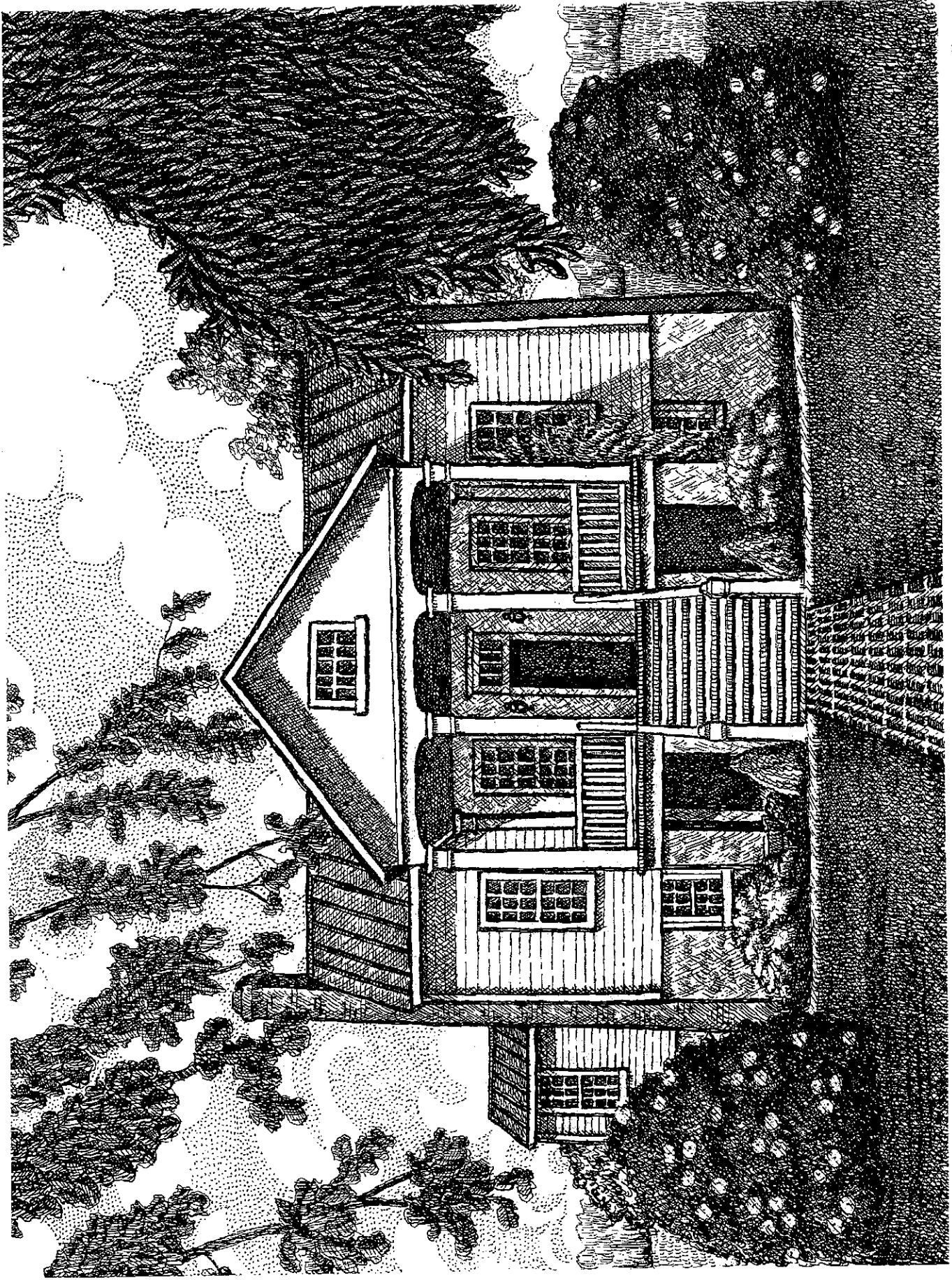
Its proportions are pleasing but deceiving, for the house is much more spacious than it appears to be at first glance. The first floor is on the ground level and is built of brick. The second or main floor is fronted with a portico, supported by slender columns and enclosed with plain picket bannisters. The interior walls are paneled with wide pine boards. All of the trim and decoration is simple, and some of the old English-made locks are still in use.

One of the most attractive features of the house is the back porch, which extends across the east side of the rear wing on two floors. The second-floor porch commands an excellent view of the countryside. It is enclosed with turned pickets, and a flight of steps leads down to the first floor, which is covered with brick tile.

The house was built before 1820, for it was in that year that the will of the builder, Abraham Ferguson, was probated. He left the property to his adopted daughter, who at that time was attending the Chesterfield Academy. She later married a Mr. Hunter, and this became known as the HUNTER PLACE.

The Hunter family lived here until after the War Between the States. When the North finally emerged as the victor after this hard-fought contest, Mr. Hunter, a staunch Confederate, made the statement that he would never live in a country ruled by the Yankees. He was a man of his word, who was also true to his strong convictions. As soon as he could, after the war ended, he got his affairs in order and with his family moved to British Honduras. His descendants still reside there. Mrs. Hunter and one child are buried at St. Stephen's in Ridgeway.

Since the Hunters left the house, it has had many tenants, and in spite of the absence of tenant-owners it has remained in a good state of preservation



HUNTER PLACE

due to the superior materials used in its construction by Abraham Ferguson.

Several years ago Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Rion purchased the property. They have completely restored the house in a most charming manner and use it as a country home. The Rions reside in Columbia but they spend part of each week at the quiet, secluded little house on the old Camden Road near Ridgeway.

VAUGHAN HOUSE

VAUGHAN

Many years ago Simpson's Turnout was one of Fairfield's busy rural communities. It is located on one of the main roads to Columbia, between Winnsboro and Ridgeway. One of the centers of activities in the ante-bellum days was a large old house that stood near the road. It was known as the STATION or STATION HOUSE.

On the old stage route from Columbia to Winnsboro this building was the first stop out of Winnsboro and the last out of Columbia. Horses for the "fast stage" were changed here, and sometimes, when the weather was severe, the passengers would spend the night in the rambling old house. Mail for the community was taken to and dispensed from this building.

Little more can be learned of the old landmark other than it was the scene of many gatherings, parties and entertainments. Judging from the construction of the building, it has been in existence for about a century and a half. For a great number of years it was owned and occupied by the Vaughan family.

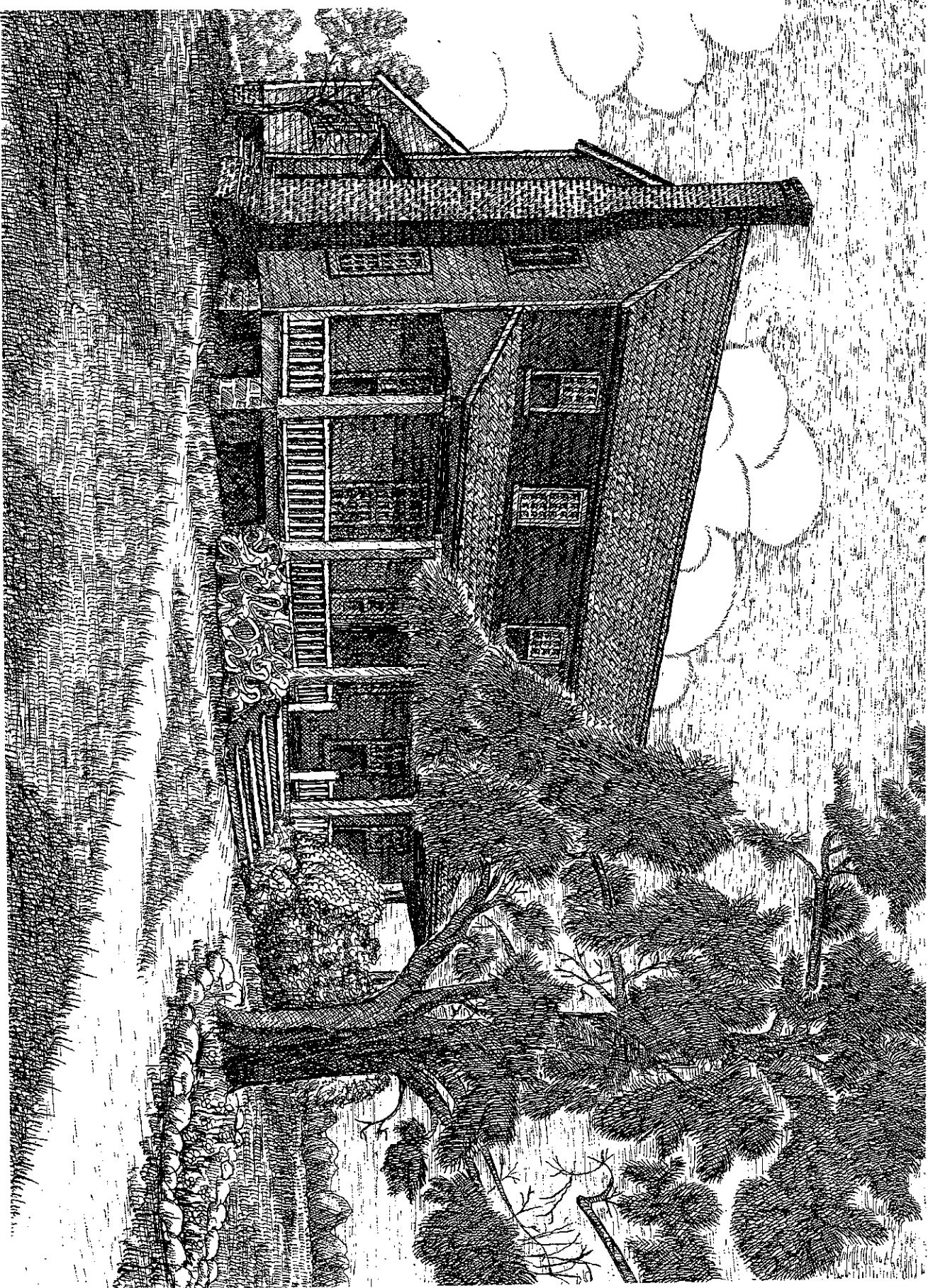
TOCALAND

WOODWARD — GADSEN — BIGHAM — JOHNSON

TOCALAND is just on the outskirts of Winnsboro, near the Rockton station. It is an interesting "Mosquito Cottage," a ground-level basement with a story and a half above. The basement walls are constructed of large granite blocks that were quarried on the property; their thickness makes these rooms delightfully cool in the summer. The pillars supporting the porch are tall granite slabs, quarried all in one piece. In the basement rooms most of the floors are tiled.

The second floor has a gabled porch across most of the front, supported with square wooden columns. A wide central hall bisects the second floor, with two rooms on either side and a quaint little stair against the left wall, leading up to the hall and two rooms on the third floor. There is also an inside stairway from the second-story hall down to the hall in the basement. The interior woodwork is refined but simple. Two massive inside chimneys afford fireplaces for each room. Originally there was a small wing on the right side of the house but in recent years it has been removed. This was used as a conservatory or greenhouse.

TOCALAND was built in 1854 by Major Woodward for his daughter, Regina, who married Christopher Gadsen of Charleston. Mr. Gadsen was



VAUGHAN PLACE

a son of the eminent Bishop Christopher Edwards Gadsen of the Episcopal Church, who was for many years rector of Saint Phillip's Church in Charleston. Bishop Gadsen was a close friend of John C. Calhoun. They were classmates at Yale, who continued a close relationship on through life. It is thought by some that Bishop Gadsen was responsible for the body of the famous statesman being buried in Charleston.

Young Christopher Gadsen, Jr. was a noted horticulturist and landscape gardener. Before coming to Fairfield he did work in several of the famous Charleston gardens. During his early years in the upcountry he designed and planted many of the houses and gardens in Fairfield County.

Needless to say, the grounds at TOCALAND were beautifully landscaped with boxwood, rare shrubs, bulbs, roses, and flowers for every season. Boxwood, privet, and native holly were used for the hedges that were laid out in formal geometric patterns. Some of the boxwood and holly hedges still remain and are in amazingly good condition. A rare tree, locally called "the Coffee tree," still retains its original position.

The orchards of this plantation were famous. Apricots, peaches, apples, pears, pomgranates, and figs were in abundance and were planted in patterns to carry out the general design of the landscaping.

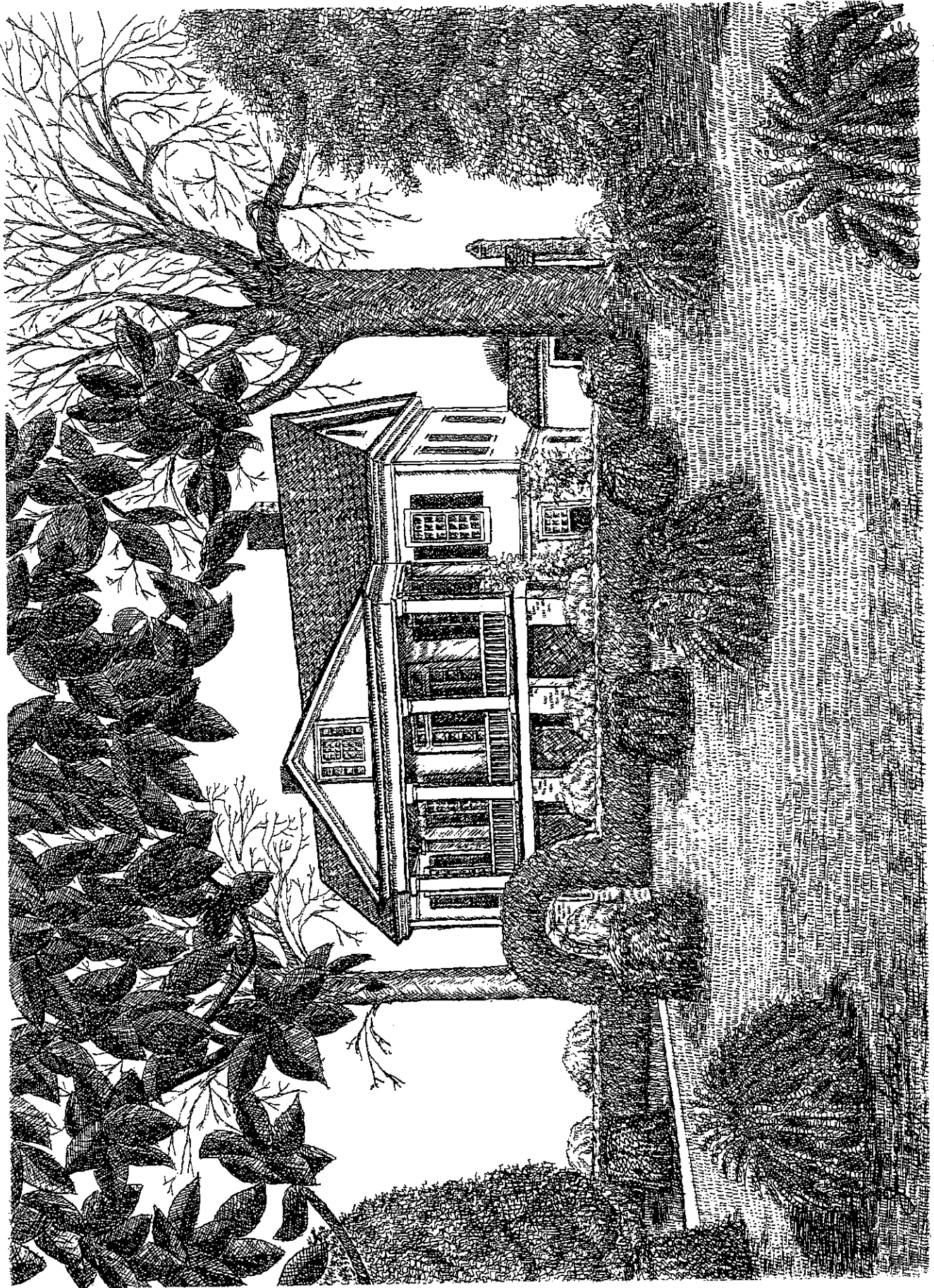
Most famous of all were the vineyards. Grapes of all varieties were to be found but most favored of all were the Tokay vines, natives of Hungary, which were world-renowned for their sweetness and the excellent wines derived from them. From these the plantation took its name.

The Gadsens lived happily here until the War Between the States, with their sons, Frank and John. Mr. Gadsen went into the Confederate Army and was killed in action. In 1865 Sherman's men raided the plantation when they passed by but by some good fortune the old house was spared. The Woodward-Gadsen family burying ground is just across the Southern Railroad from TOCALAND on the highway.

After Mrs. Gadsen's death the place passed to her son, Frank. He and his wife, Lilla Rabb, lived here until his death. His widow kept the house and gardens in good condition as long as she was able to do so. She died in 1962 and is buried here.

In the 1930's or 1940 she sold TOCALAND to Mr. George Bigham whose family resided there until it was purchased in 1953 by Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson.

The Johnsons are proud of the old place and cherish it. They are in the process of modernizing and restoring the house, carefully retaining and emphasizing all of the charm and antiquity of the building. What is left of the old garden is being preserved and plans are to restore it in the manner of what it was in the past.



TOCALAND