

Family Tree Newsletter

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



Summer 1997

57th REUNION SET FOR OCTOBER 5, 1997

- 11:00 a.m. Communion Service observed at Liberty Universalist Church in observance of Worldwide Communion Day
- 11:20 Business Meeting, Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association
- 11:45 Program Honoring Mary Bess Coleman on the occasion of her 100th Birthday Celebration planned for November 1stst
Presentation of cake & flowers with musicians and "minstrels"
- 12:30 p.m. Picnic Lunch Preparation on Boarding House Grounds
12:45 Blessing for Meal - Special table for Mary Bess and her cohort
(All guests over 90 years of age will sit with her)
- 1:30 Browse through the buildings; visit cemeteries; check family genealogies, drop-in and visit Mary Bess's Old Homeplace. Those who have brought their machetes can visit the School House Spring, Old Haunt of Courting Couples in "days of yore."
- 3: 00 - 5:00 Visit the Museum in Winnsboro, where George Washington Ladd's oil portrait of John Feaster is on display, along with other relics of Coleman-Feaster-Mobley families.

+ The strolling guitarists will continue to provide music for the afternoon.

+ Children are encouraged to bring games for outdoor play.

+ Adults: Bring yard equipment and help blaze a trail to the Old Spring.

- Watch and help rig a tree swing under the Oaks.
- Play horseshoes if the weather co-operates.
- Get acquainted with some of the cousins you have never met.
- Visit with friends till the gates are locked at sundown.



**A TRIBUTE TO MARY BESS COLEMAN,
OUR FAMILY ASSOCIATION'S OLDEST MEMBER
BORN NOVEMBER 1, 1917**



Mary Elizabeth "Mary Bess" Coleman was born almost 100 years ago in the house built about 1858 by her maternal grandfather, Robert Williams Coleman. "Dr. Robert" had seen a house which he wanted to build on family land in Fairfield County, South Carolina, while traveling to Medical School at New York University. According to Mary Bess, "The logs were cut on the plantation and hauled to Charleston by ox cart to be planed. A lumber house was built behind the house site to store the planed boards while the house was being constructed."

Mary Bess, daughter of Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" and William Yongue Coleman, grew up in this house less than a half mile north of Feasterville Academy. Along with her sisters Isabel, Kathleen, and Nancy, and brother Robert Yongue, she enjoyed a happy childhood centered around family, school and church. (The oldest sister, Fannie Maria, died in 1900 at age 10.)

At home she played with a china doll that Santa Claus brought her named Dorothy and with paper dolls. "We always let our dolls talk," she said. The family played cards, set-back, croquet, and romped on the joggling board. Mary Bess broke her arm when she "cut the butter" on the joggling board. Dr. Robert "Dr. Bob" Coleman, a cousin living just up the road, set and splinted her arm.

Her mother Lizzie had attended Columbia College. She was a talented seamstress. "Mother taught me to crochet, quilt and tat, but we didn't do those things on Sunday." The W. Y. Coleman family belonged to Salem Presbyterian Church, where Mary Bess has been a member "in absentia" since the late 1940s. Because Salem did not hold weekly services, the family attended Cool Branch and Beaver Creek Baptist Churches, Liberty Universalist and Antioch Methodist Church, where her parents and two sisters are buried. In her youth Sunday afternoons were for quiet times, such as reading, reflecting, or visiting with family and friends. No games were allowed on Sunday. However, they could play with their pets. Mary Bess especially remembers a cat named "Old Vick" and a pig named "Easter Lily."

Once, a visiting first cousin from New York City claimed to have a diamond ring. To test it, Mary Bess and her sisters wrote their names on the panes at the front door with the stone. Their names are still visible today as testimony to the ring's authenticity.

"Papa taught me to ride horses and I loved it," Mary Bess remembers. Yongue Coleman owned a pacer named Prince, winner of blue ribbons at the Chester County Fair. Pacer was her favorite horse to ride, but she also rode others. Her Papa also taught her to drive the wagon and buggy. She often accompanied him to take the grain to be ground at Hill's Mill on the Shelton Road. Yongue Coleman also played the fiddle for pleasure at home and for dances at Feasterville Boarding House. Mary Bess enjoyed square and round dancing.

Mary Bess, her brother, sisters, and many cousins attended a one-room school at Feasterville. (She recalls sharing one class with her sister Kathleen, who was two years older and her brother Robert Yongue, one year older.) She remembers Ruby Coleman (Blair), Edith Roe Coleman, John Feaster Coleman, and Boyce Boulware as being classmates her age. John Feaster stayed at the Boarding House at times when his parents lived too far from Feasterville

for him to commute. Ruby was the mother of Bob, Frank, Patsy (Ligon) and Larry Blair. Mary Bess especially enjoyed speeches which they made once a week. Recesses were as popular long ago as today. Games played ranged from baseball to "Andy Over." The object of the latter game was to see who could throw the ball over the Schoolhouse.

Mary Bess attended Winthrop College as did her three sisters. She taught at various schools in South Carolina, among them Feasterville, Thornwell Orphanage and Montmorenci in Aiken County. In the early 1930s she returned home to care for her mother, who died in 1941, then remained with her father. During this time she participated in community activities, ranging from Home Demonstration Club to serving as precinct registrar at Feasterville. Upon the death of her father in 1947, she inherited his position as one of the three trustees for the Boarding House/School properties that had been left in trust to the descendants of John Feaster. She later served as secretary for the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association.

Fifty years ago Mary Bess moved to North Carolina to live with her sister Nancy, brother-in-law, Guy Ross, and their family in Pleasant Garden. For a number of summers she and Kathleen returned to the home place, but Pleasant Garden remained her permanent residence.

Eventually, the home place and a few adjoining acres were sold, since it was not

feasible for her to maintain the property. The house has been updated and Mark Rigsby now owns and lives in it.

Upon arrival in Pleasant Garden, Mary Bess resumed her teaching career. She had received only an associate degree from Winthrop College, so it was necessary for her to return to college to obtain a teacher's certificate. Over a period of four years, while teaching second grade full time, she earned her BA degree from High Point College, receiving it in 1952.

Learning continued after college. She studied art, wild flowers, and the Bible. Her interests include attending sporting events, fishing, quilting, crocheting, tatting, puzzles, Chinese checkers, and croquet. Church and social activities continue to interest her. She is, or has been, a member of garden, book, and bridge clubs. Currently, on weekdays, she attends a luncheon and program for senior citizens.

Her dedication to family led her (along with sister Kathleen) to assist nieces and nephews financially with their college educations. Her indomitable spirit, as well as her strong and loving character continues to be an inspiration to her family, her students, and to all whose lives she touches. She is dearly loved by her nieces and nephews and her many grandnieces and grandnephews.

Note: not only is Mary Bess a Coleman, but both of her parents were Colemans, and through them both, she is also descended from Feasters and Mobleys.



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. About seven 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 Coleman, 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!

A Memory Book

LISTEN UP, this is our Idea! We'll compile a memory book from the CFM Association for Mary Bess. Please send some of your re-collections, photos, stories or poems for the book which we will present to her at the October Reunion. Please mail these by September 15 to: Nancy Garner, PO Box 4793, Rock Hill, SC 29730

VISIT MARY BESS'S OLD HOMEPLACE

Mark Rigsby now owns the old Robert W. Coleman Homeplace where Mary Bess and her family lived for so many years. He will have Open House on Sunday afternoon of the Reunion from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. It is located .3 mile from the Church.

GO BACK 3 SPACES AND READ THE MINUTES FOR 1996 - becuz.

The Minutes will not be read at the Business Meeting as is customary, in order to have time for all the special activities. Be prepared, however, to make any corrections or additions during the meeting.

AUGUST 23 WORKDAY

ALL DAY (WELL, LET'S SAY 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM) AT THE BOARDING HOUSE TO HELP SPRUCE THINGS UP FOR THE REUNION. BRING A BROOM, DUSTCLOTH, CLEANING BUCKET, CLIPPERS, RAKE, - AND A PICNIC LUNCH. DRESS FOR WORK, AND ENJOY THE DAY WITH EXTENDED FAMILY!

FACTS
19. 30
6
12
3. 04
3. 04

REPORT ON FUNDS AND EXPENDITURES

The estimated expenses of our CFM Association each year amount to approximately \$2,000.00, including insurance. With funds received of only \$2,000-2500 each year from 50-60 families, it will be difficult to maintain our buildings for future generations to enjoy and marvel over! Please give regularly and give generously.

From Past-President Isabel Alexander

Great-granddaughter of George Washington Coleman, granddaughter of Sarah Isabel Coleman, daughter of Mae Elizabeth Allen Wright -

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, give generously to our Campaign to raise funds for the Family Association. It's in honor of Mary Bess Coleman and all of our families. I, personally, pledge \$1,000.00 over a three year period, my time and my interest in preserving these buildings. THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART.

HONORARIA 1996-1997

In Honor of Robert C. and Alice Blair
In Honor of Ted and Henrietta Morton
by Isabel and Elmore Alexander

In Honor of Mary Bess Coleman
In Honor George & Pauline Lauderdale
In Honor of Bob and Alice Blair
In Memory of Feaster Coleman
by Ted and Henrietta Morton

DIRECTIONS TO CEMETERIES

Directions to all three cemeteries will be available at the Boarding House on Saturday and Sunday of the Reunion Weekend. Some may like to bring rice paper and charcoal for making rubbings of the tombstones. (Putting chalk or other alkaline or acid substances on the stones themselves is not recommended, but a light dusting with plain flour to make them legible is permitted.) The gravestone of John Feaster, as well as that of Robert and Elizabeth Roe Coleman will be prominently marked for easy location.

Association Officers:

President Feaster Coleman, Jr, 6915 Fairview Road, Batesburg, SC 29006
Vice President William S. Morton, 1169 Ambling Way, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
Secretary Roe Ellen Coleman Blair, 1411 North Street, Beaufort, SC 29902
Corresponding Secretary Robert C. Blair, 3719 Greenbriar Drive, Columbia, SC 29206
Treasurer Shirley Coleman, 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
Nominating Committee: Harry Jeter, Pete Ragsdale; Communion Chairman, Susan Bolick;
Music Chairman, Nancy Jo Smith; Picnic Arrangements, Harry Jeter;

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1996 MINUTES

Sunday, October 6, 1996, was the date of the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association's 56th Annual Reunion. The day in Feasterville began with worship services at Liberty Universalist Church at 11:30 AM. Services were led by the Rev. W. C. Lauderdale, and Henrietta Morton served as pianist. It was Worldwide Communion Sunday, and Holy Communion was served.

Isabel Wright Alexander, president, welcomed all present and called the Business Meeting to order. Thanks were extended to Susan Bolick for helping prepare for the Communion Service, and to Chaplain Lauderdale for the service, Henrietta Morton for the music, and Feaster Coleman for the flowers. Feaster was unable to be present, but the flowers were brought for him by Shirley Chicone.

The 1995 Minutes were read by Acting Secretary, Roe Ellen Coleman Blair and they were approved as presented. The Treasurer's Report was given by Shirley Chicone. It was read in its entirety, and the Report was attached to the Minutes. Cash in the bank as of 10/1/96 was \$1,923.27, and Money Market Investment account balance was \$5,483.25. It was noted that contributions to the Association were down this year, and additional monies are needed for substantial work in the near future, especially for termite control and painting.

Robert Coleman Blair gave the Trustees' Report, noting the termite problem in the Church, the Boarding House, and the Schoolhouse. The pesticide people will examine and will give an estimate for the work. Bob will follow up with the help of Harry Jeter.

The count of those attending the Worship Service was 61 persons. The oldest member was recognized: Mary Bess Coleman, who will be 99 years old on November 1. She again graced up with her presence at the Service and Meeting. The newest member reported was the granddaughter of Alice and Bob Blair: Margaret Ann Blair, 7 week old daughter of their son John and Sarah Blair. Out-of-state attendees at the Service were: 4 from North Carolina, 9 from Georgia, 1 from Alabama, 2 from Mississippi, and 1 from Arkansas.

Deaths reported since the October 1995 Reunion were Julian Coleman, Claude Ragsdale, Jack Gore, Billy Bolick, William Propst, Evelyn Norwood Cunningham, Jeanette Knox, Grant Fulton, and Bruce Grant. Narcie Bess Gore was recognized and thanked for bringing furniture to the Boarding House and for making the new curtains for the downstairs rooms.

All present were reminded to get nametags, sign the register, and pay dues at the Picnic. They were also encouraged to think of memorial gifts to the Association during the year. They may be sent to Shirley Chicone. Acknowledgments will be sent to families.

In Old Business, Henrietta Morton announced that she will add the history of Liberty Church in a later newsletter. She also noted that the Map and Index of Cemeteries has been done, and will be prepared for distribution. In New Business, James Green, historian and genealogist, announced that there is information on the Internet and Browse-web for those who are interested; also, he has E-mail disks available. He will be at the Schoolhouse and Boarding House during the Picnic to receive information anyone has to add to the computer information bank.

In response to an inquiry, it was noted that the Association will look into the feasibility of electrical and water connections, so that some Reunion visitors might camp on the grounds over Reunion weekend.

It was reported that a rifle belonging to John Mobley Feaster has been restored and will be on display at the Picnic. Henrietta Morton again brought old documents and pictures, some of which are of the Arkansas family of David Roe Feaster. Pat Blair Ligon, longtime secretary of the Association, was welcomed back after a long period of illness.

The Nominating Committee report was given by Sally Shedd Garner for officers to serve for the next two years: President, Feaster Coleman; Vice-President, Bill Morton, Secretary, Roe Ellen Coleman Blair; Treasurer, Shirley Chicone. These nominations were moved, seconded, and accepted by acclamation. James Green was asked to continue to serve as Genealogist for the Association. Robert Coleman Blair, was nominated for Trustee, Class of 1999. It was so moved, seconded and accepted by acclamation. Isabel Alexander and Susan Shedd will provide flowers for the 1997 Service.

Isabel Alexander presented a surprise photograph and certificate as the "Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Grandfather Mountain Runner" to James Green, shown running hard and dressed in his tartan and kilt. The picture was taken when he was at the Highland Games in NC in the summer.

There being no further business, the Business Meeting was adjourned by the President for the Picnic Dinner and Fellowship at the Boarding House.

Roe Ellen Coleman Blair, Acting Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

CASH IN CHECKING	3-31-97	\$	3 383.91
CASH IN SAVINGS	3-31-97		5 550.00
09/30/95	DUES RECEIVED AFTER CARDS MAILED - ABOUT 13 CHECKS		655.00
10/31/95	DUES RECEIVED AT REUNION AND MAIL - ABOUT 45 PEOPLE		<u>1 422.00</u>
			2 077.00
09/30/96	DUES RECEIVED AFTER CARDS MAILED - ABOUT 10 CHECKS		495.00
11/30/96	DUES RECEIVED AT REUNION AND MAIL - ABOUT 56 PEOPLE		<u>2 025.00</u>
		\$	2 520.00
ESTIMATED EXPENSES PER YEAR:			
	INSURANCE	\$	940.00
	YARD WORK		625.00
	MISC REUNION/SUPPLIES		510.00
	NAMES ON MAILING LIST		400
SAVINGS ACCOUNT RECORD:			
1983	TRUST FUNDS TO OPEN	\$	18 000.00
05/31/83	MATTHEWS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY		
	BH, 3 700.00; KITCHEN, 1 375.00 SCH, 1 940.00		7 013.00
01/07/86	WINNSBORO SUPPLY - PAINT		1 000.00
12/13/90	DAVID D. MILTON - ROOFING		4 015.00
1993	REPAIR TO STEPS		401.80
1985 TO 1994	TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCOUNT		7 350.00
CHECKING ACCOUNTS:			
08/16/85	FRAZIER COLEMAN CO, MOWING EQUIPMENT		1 734.15
OCT-DEC 85	PROVEN TUCKER - PAINTER		6 850.00
	CARPENTRY WORK		550.36
01/07/86	WINNSBORO BUILDERS SUPPLY - PAINT		1 620.38
11/14/88	DR KILLEM TERMITE TREATMENT		1 232.00
	DR KILLEM TERMITE RENEWAL		100.00
12/13/90	DAVID D. MILTON - ROOFING		3 000.00
11.21/91	BECKHAM FLOOR COVERING - CHURCH CARPET		506.24
01/05/93	D R COLEMAN CO - CHURCH GATE		295.00

ITEM OF INTEREST TO FEASTER CONNECTIONS

Mrs. Anna Tribble Howard died on May 15, 1996. She was the widow of former Clemson Football Coach Frank Howard who had died 26 January 1996. Mrs. Howard was the former Anna Tribble of Anderson, who was a direct descendant of Nathan Feaster, grandson of John Feaster and son of Andrew Feaster and his wife Mary Norris Feaster. Nathan Feaster, who was named for his grandfather Nathan Norris of Edgefield, was killed in the War Between the States at the Battle of Sharpsburg. Mrs. Howard was descended from his daughter Emma born of Nathan's second marriage to Emma Brown of Anderson County.

In recent years Mrs. Howard had inquired into her connection to the Feaster family of Fairfield. She was sent the information and was added to the Association mailing list. Unfortunately, her health and that of her husband was never good enough after that time to permit her visiting Feasterville.

NATHAN NORRIS OF EDGEFIELD

Mary Drucilla Norris, who married Andrew, son of John Feaster and Drucilla Mobley Feaster, was the daughter of Nathan Norris of Edgefield County. His wife was Mary Drucilla DeSaussure. Their children were Sally who married a Sawyer, William B., Elbert H., Mary Drucilla, who married Nathan Feaster, Sophia, Nathan J. and James Madison.

Nathan Norris, born about 1770 and died in 1851, was the son of William Norris and the grandson of William Norris of Pasquotank Co, NC. Nathan's father William married about 1769 Agnes Frederick. This William is credited with being the founder of the Quaker settlement in Edgefield District, settling at The Ridge about 1750 near West Creek. There is a Norris family cemetery there. The Edgefield County Quakers were connected to the Bush River Meeting in Newberry County.

The Quakers Meetings left the south because of the slavery issue in the early 1800s, most going to the Northwest Territory, but some going to the Northeast. Many of the families did not choose to move with the Meeting, however. Many stayed in the South, and most of these families joined either the Methodist or Baptist churches, which were at that time experiencing a phenomenal growth in the backcountry. After a few generations descendants of these early Quakers did not have any idea of their Quaker roots. Reference: *Quaker Families of South Carolina and Georgia*, by William F. Medlin.

WILL THE REAL ROBERT COLEMAN PLEASE MARCH FORWARD!

Susan Coleman of Amarilla, Texas, has written to the Fairfield Genealogical Society to say that it appears that Robert Coleman who married Elizabeth Roe may be the Robert Coleman who served in the Revolution as a sergeant under Capt. Lyles of the SC Militia. Her evidence is circumstantial based on a similarity of the signature of Robert Coleman in the Audited Accounts at the SC Archives with the signature of the Robert who signed as a witness to the Will of Charles Coleman, Fairfield County Estate Records. This is worth checking more carefully; our family has believed that our Robert Coleman was still in North Carolina at the time of the Revolution, and if he had service it would have been in NC.

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Mr. & Mrs. G. R. Lauderdale
P. O. Box 96
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