

## Coleman House on #215

This is a work in progress , there are still anumber of things to add , plus it has to be edited and profed .

The house was built for Dr. Robert Williams Coleman between 1848 and 1850 by a free African-American man named Spencer Bird. In 1848 from an account of Andrew Feaster for work at the Feasterville Boarding House ; " paid to Spencer Bird 9 days work at 75 per day total \$ 6.75 . He also paid his board for 12 days at 12 per day total \$ 1:12 & 1/2 . " Spencer Bird is listed in the 1850 census as 30 years old , a mulatto free black , carpenter born in Fairfield Co. S.C. As a free black , Spencer Bird would have had a guardian . In 1857 James Morgan is listed as his guardian . On the 1850 census for Farifield Co. James M. Morgan is listed as 27 -male - white - Planter - \$ 750 . vaule of real estate owned - born in Union , S.C. There are 5 people in his house-hold. James Morgan is a widower with a 3 month year old son named Hiram . His wife was Selitia Coleman who died 18 June 1850 . From the diary of J.A.F. Coleman May 2 1849 " Heard the joyous news of the marriage between James M. Morgan and Miss Selitia Coleman ( daughter of Wylie Coleman ) who were married on last night by Jacob Feaster, Esq. John C. Feaster and Miss Savilla Coleman as attendants. This union has been long anticipated , as they were courting several years ..... " She and Dr. R.W. Coleman were first cousins . Spencer Bird does not show up in 1860 census for Fairfield Co. but he is listed on the 1870 census as 55 ,male , mulatto, farmer , He ownes no real estate , but has \$ 500 in personal estate .There are 5 other people in his hosehold ; Lucy , 35 , female , mulatto ,keeping house , she cannot read or write ( but Spencer and his children can ) John 10 , male ,mulatto ,Spencer , 5 , male , mulatto ,and William , 3 , mulatto . There is also Cason L...ray a 21 year old farm laborer , male , black , who cannot read or write . Also Spencer Birds right to vote is denied on other grounds than rebellion or other crimes . On the 1870 argiculture survey Spencer Bird is listed as a farmer with \$ 25 of farming implements ; \$.100 of wages paid during the year including board . He has 1 mule or ass, 2 milk cows , 3 other cattle , 5 swine , the total vaule of all livestock is \$ 250 .He grew 25 bushes of winter wheat , 50 bushes of Indian corn and 1 bale of cotton .

On the 1880 census for Fairfield Co . Spencer Bird is listed as 65, Male , mulatto , laborer , wife Lucy F. mulatto 48 daughter Nancy ,7 , son David P. 4, daughter Mary 1 , son John 19 laborer , son William 11 laborer , daughter May 9. There is also a sister in-law Mary Hopkins , 28 , laborer Black , and Laura Hunt , 11 ,Black , F. niece

Dr. Coleman was listed as a physician in the 1850 census. age 28 , Nancy Amanda 19, A. F. Thompson 30 , Clerk and Spencer Bird 30 , in his household .His real estate is valued at 2,500. In the 1850 Argiculture Survey R.W. Coleman is listed with 76 acres improved arces and 80 arces unimproved . The farm is value at 2,500 dollors with 85 dollors of farm implements . He had 2 horses, 2 mules , 4 milk cows and 4 other cows , 20 swine . The livestock is valued at 480 dollors . There were 16 bushels of wheat , 300 bushels of Indian corn. He ginned 9 bales of cotton . There were 6 bushels peas and also of beans , 100 pounds of sweet potatoes . He had 35 dollors worth of garden produce . there was 160 pounds of butter and animal slaughterred was valued at 100 dollors. He is listed on the 1850 slave schdules with 12 slaves. It is not known where this slaves came from . It is possible that some came as a wedding gift from his father-in-law Andrew Jackson McConnell . A. J. McConnell had 99 slaves at the time of his death on 28 August 1855 . He was born 1803 .

In the 1860 census R. W. Coleman is listed as a planter and phsician with 8,300 dollors of real estate and 28, 472 dollors of person estate .In the 1860 Agriculture census/ schedule he is listed as having 415 acres of land , and on the 1860 slave schedule with 22 slaves.

On the 1860 census he is shown with 7 people in his household ; R.W. Coleman 38 , Nancy Amanda 28 , Frances Maria 8 , Andrew McConnell 5 , Mary Elizabeth 3 , Sarah Jane land a half , and Feaster Andrew 10 . The next house is the home of Francis McDuff , 45 ; Dr. Colemans overseer.

R. W. Coleman grew among other things 100 bushels of wheat , 20 bushels of rye , 800 bushels of Indian corn , 300 bushels of oats . He ginned 23 bales of cotten at 400 pounds each. There were 8 lbs of wool , 100 lbs of peas and beans , 100 lbs. of Irish potatoes and 800 lbs of sweet potatoes . 10 bushels of barley . His orchard produce was vauled at 50.00 as was his market garden. There was 365

pounds of butter produced along with 6 tons of hay , 11 lbs of beeswax and 100 lbs of honey. There was 750 dollars worth of animals slaughtered.

There was also \$ 20.00 of homemade manufactured goods.

The cash value of the farm was 8,300 dollars with 215 acres improved and 200 unimproved.

He had 3 horses , 6 asses & mules , 3 milk cows , 9 other cattle , 4 sheep , 52 swine . The total value of the livestock was \$ 2, 222 .

On 20 March 1861 R.W. Coleman buys from the estate of his father Henry Johathan Coleman ( who dies on 22 Feb .1861) the following slaves : 1 negro man Abarm @ \$1,500 , 1 negro man Nathan @ \$ 1, 510 , 1 negro women Ruthy and her 2 children Mich and Daphney @ \$1, 300 . This gives R.W. C. a total of 27 slaves . His fathers personal estate was vauled at \$ 60 ,000. He also buys 10 hogs @ \$ 95.00 , 1 red bull @ \$ 15.00 , 1 mule Bully @ \$ 74.00 , 1cow Beauty &calf @ \$ 20.25 , 1 mule Kelly @ \$ 80.00 . along with other farm implements . He spent a total of \$ 5, 758.55 .

On the 1870 census (Fairfield Co . ) Dwelling #243 in order of visition : Robert W. Coleman , age of last birthday 47, color White , sex male , occupation Farmer , Value of real estate owned \$3000 . , value of personal estate \$ 1000 . place of birth S.C. Male citizen of US over 21 , Male citizen whose right to vote is denied on other grounds than rebellion or other crimes . Also in the home are Nancy A. Coleman 40 , F. W. keeping house born in S.C. ; Frances M. 18 F. W. attending school , S.C. , can read; Andrew M.,14 M. W. attending school , S.C. , can read ; Sarah Jane 10, F. W. , S.C. attending school , can read , Mary Elizabeth ,8 , F. W. S.C. Allen F. Coleman , white, male , 18 , farm laborer and Lindsay M. Johnson , 11 .

On the 1870 Agriculture schedule Dr. R.W.Coleman is shown with 150 acres improved , 150 acres woodland and 100 other unimproved. The farm is vauled at 3,000 dollars . Farming implements and machinery 100 dollars . 2 horses , 5 mules and asses , 2 milk cows , 2 other cattle , 30 swine . The vaule of all livestock is 850 dollars . 200 bushels of winter wheat , 300 bushels of Indian corn , 100 bushels of oates . He ginned 6 bales of cotton at 450 pounds each . There was also 300 dollars in wages paid out during that year including vaule of board .

On 11 Jan. 1871 Dr. Coleman sold 292 acres to Joseph McMeekim for 2, 628 dollars. This deed was recorded 9 Oct. 1872 . This land came to R.W.C. from the executors of Jacob Feasters will of 3 Feb 1857. Jacob Feaster was Dr. Colemans mothers uncle. Prior to this on 9 March 1860 he sold 5 & 8/10 acres to John Stephenson for \$145.00 and on 10 Sept. 1853 Dr. Coleman sells 38 acres to Wm. E. M. Hill .

Dr. Coleman gradurated from the University of New York on 18 March 1845. He was the third child of Henry Johathan Coleman and Mary Feaster . He was born on 3 Oct 1822 .and dies on 27 May 1873 at 15 min. after 5o'clock A.M. . He was born , lived and died in Feasterville Fairfield Co. S.C. His obituary that is in The Fairfield Herald of June 1873 says " Death of Dr. R. W. Coleman , News has reached us of the death of Robert W. Coleman , of Feasterville in this county . He died last Tuesday after a brief illness . Dr. Coleman was a shining light in that section , and his death will be sorely felt by both the masonic and medical fraternities. He leaves a family and a large circle of friends to mourn his untimely death ." He married Nancy Amanda Mc Connell on 9 Nov. 1847. She was the daughter of Elizabeth Dawkins and Andrew Jackson McConnell Sr. She was born on 22 Feb. 1830 and dies on 4 Dec. 1887. They had five children , Frances Maria born 10 Nov . 1852 - dies 1903 , Andrew McConell born 28 July 1855 - dies 29 Jan. 1930 , Mary Elizabeth born 29 Aug . 1857 - dies 23 Jan . 1862 , Sarah Jane born 12 Sept 1860 - dies , and Mary Elizabeth Coleman born 6 Sept. 1862 - dies 3 Oct. 1941.

Fannie Maria Coleman and Dr. V.P. Clayton were married on 9 Nov. 1873 . Sarah Jane Coleman and W.B. Davis were married on 1 March 1881. Andrew McConell Coleman and Annie Feaster were married on 7 Jan. 1875.

Nancy A. Coleman was named executrix of Dr. Coleman's will. His personal property was valued at \$ 5,614.75 when it was appraised and inventoried on 17 Sept. 1873. This also included notes owed to Dr. Coleman.

In March 1878 there was an Execution Against Property filed on the estate of R. W. Coleman by Elizabeth Meador. At that time there was 290 acres.

On the 1880 census for Fairfield Co. Township one the following are listed as living in the house: Virgil P. Clayton married, Male, White, 30, birthplace Miss., Farmer. Fannie M. Clayton, wife, m, White, 27, SC, keeping house. Daisy M. Clayton, Dau. S, Female, w, 6, SC., Father's birthplace Ms. mother's, SC, Nancy A. Coleman, Mother, W, Fem. White, 48, SC, SC, SC, Sarah G Coleman, sister, s, fem., 19, SC, at school, SC, SC, Mary E. Coleman, sister, s, Fem, w, 17 SC, at school, Sc < Sc, Roland Howerton, son, s, w, 12, Sc, at school, Sc, Sc, Henry Chapman, other, male, Black, Sc, servant, Sc, SC, David B. Busby, other, S, Male, 32, SC, School teacher, SC, SC, Albert Clayton, S, M, W, SC, clerk in store, SC, SC, Marion Coleman, other s, Fem, w, 16, SC, at school, SC, SC, and Hattie H. Murdock, other s, fem, w, 16, SC, at school, SC, SC.

On the 1880 Agriculture Schedule taken on 11 June 1880 for Township #1 the "Coleman" farm is listed under Virgil P. Clayton as the person who conducts this farm. Owner, Virgil P. Clayton, with 2 people that rent lands George Philips and Peter Feaster. There is a total of 320 acres. Sixty of which are in two 30 acre plots that are rented. Virgil P. Clayton has 170 acres of improved and 90 of unimproved woodland and forest. His farm value including land, fences and buildings is \$500.00 with \$ 50.00 of farming implements and machinery and \$ 250.00 of livestock. The estimated value of all farm productions ( sold, consumed ) or on hand for 1879 was \$ 1500.00 He had 1 horse of all ages and 3 mules and asses of all ages. There were 2 milch cows with 1 calf dropped. Cattle of all ages, 1 purchased with 2 slaughtered. there were 200 pounds of butter made on the farm in 1879. There were 6 swine There were 20 poultry on hand 1 June 1880, exclusive of spring hatching, with 60 dozen eggs produced in 1879. Cereals: 29 acres of Indian Corn producing 490 bush. in crop. also 10 acres of oats with 200 bush. of crop. 2 acres of wheat with 10 Bush in crop. There were 45 acres of cotton producing 17 bales of cotton. Under Pulse there was 40 acres of cow Peas Under orchards there was 1/2 acre 50 Apple bearing trees, producing 100 Bushels. and 1/2 acre 25 Peach Bearing Trees making 75 Bushels. The total value of orchard products of all kinds sold or consumed was \$ 85.00 The Forest products amount cut in 1879 was 92 cords with value of all trees was \$140.00

George Philips rented 30 acres of land for a fixed money rent. He owned \$ 10.00 of farming implements and machinery and \$ 75.00 of livestock. The estimated value of all farm productions ( sold or consumed on hand ) was \$ 275.00 He had 1 mule or ass. He had 1 cattle that died or stayed, and stolen, and not recovered. He had 1 swine. He had 10 poultry that produced 30 Doz. eggs. There were 9 acres of Indian Corn with 90 bushels in crop. 2 acres in oats, with 20 bushels of oats in crops. He had 19 acres in cotton that produced 4 bales. There were 5 bush. of cow peas. He cut 24 cords of wood worth \$ 35.00 and Peter Feaster rented 30 acres of land for a fixed money rent. His farming implements and machinery was \$50.00 with \$ 75.00 of livestock. The estimated value of all farm productions ( sold, consumed, or on hand ) was \$270.00 He had 1 horse. There were 10 acres of Indian Corn with 40 bush in crops., 2 acres in oats with 20 Bush. in crops. He had 18 acres in cotton that made 5 bales of cotton. He had 1 other cattle and 4 swine. 10 poultry that made 30 Doz eggs. 10 bush. of cow peas. He cut 24 cords of wood worth \$35.00 Peter Feaster was a body servant / guard of Andy McConnell during the civil War and is buried in the Coleman graveyard.

On 6 Dec. 188 Sallie J. Davis deeded her one fifth share of her father's estate to her sister Mary Elizabeth Coleman for \$700.00. At that time there was 295 acres. This was before her mother's death on 12 Dec. 1887. The deed was recorded on 27 April 1893. On 24 April 1893 Fannie M. Clayton deeded to her sister her one fourth share of her father's estate for \$ 600.00. At that time there was 290 acres. This deed was recorded on 24 April 1893. In Dec 1893 Andrew McConnell Coleman ( son of Dr Coleman who is living in Arkansas ) sells his one fourth share in the undivided estate of Dr. Robert Williams Coleman and Nancy A. Coleman deceased to Thomas W. Taylor for \$ 750.00. At that time the estate contained

300 acres . This deed was recored on 13 Dec 1893 .

In 1895 Mrs Mary E. Coleman ( wife of William Younge Coleman ) paid \$ 10 :35 /6 on 145 acres and 4 buildings vaued at \$ 825. 1899 Mrs. Mary E. Coleman paid \$15:75 in taxes on 145 acres and 4 buildings valued at \$ 1, 125 . The land was in her name. In 1895 William Younge Coleman ( husband of M.E. Coleman ) paid \$4:74 taxes on personal property valued at \$ 310.00 and in 1899 William Younge Coleman paid \$ 5:75 taxes on personal property valued at \$338:00 .

Dr. Coleman was a trustee for the Feasterville Boarding House ( as was his father Henry Johnation and his son in law William Younge Coleman from 1908 till1 Jan. 1948 , and his granddaughter Mary Bess Coleman from 1 Jan. 1948 till her death on 5 July 2002 .) that his maternal grandfather John Feaster had built in 1842 by Berry Withers. He was also a member of the Coleman Masonic Lodge #97 and was S. W. at the time of it's founding and was serving as Worshipfull Master at the time of his death in 1873. The lodge was granted dispensations in 1859 by the Grand Master to open . The lodge met in the R. W. Coleman house untill a building was built on the grounds of the Boarding House . From "The History of Freemasonry in South Carolina . The building stood there untill a fire burned it in the 1930s and then met in the second floor of the Boarding House after Dec. 1939. The Coleman Masonic Lodge is still active and is further up 215.

In July of 1868 Dr. Coleman was president of the Feasterville Conservative Democratic Club , and on 10 Dec. 1870 he was requested to act as the chairman of the Feasterville Farmers club .

Dr. Coleman was a member of Liberty Universalist Church , which was founded by his maternall grandfather also . It was built in 1836 . He was also a member of the "Sons of Temperace Division " .

During reconstruction Dr . Coleman built a new school and supplied it without charge to W, H. Trapp's class of black students in Feasterville ,from " A Social and Economic History of Fairefield County. W. H. Trapps daughter was the second wife of David Roe Coleman ; a brother of Dr. Robert Williams Coleman .

Dr. Coleman enlisted in the Buchead guards during the Civil War , as did six of his brothers , but he was unanimously picked out to remain at home .During the war the house was raided by Sherman's troops and was set on fire. The burn spot can still be seen in the floor of the center room.

On 29 Dec. 1941 Isabell C. Shellhouse , Robert Y. Coleman , Mary Bess Coleman , Kathleen Coleman and Nancy C. Ross children of W.Y. Coleman deed 166 acres to their father .This was a portion of the lands formerly owned by R. W. Coleman and their mother Mary Elizabeth Coleman.

In 1942 Mr . W. Y. Coleman and family were given the "Better Farm Living in South Carolina " award by producing on the farm and conserving for home use at least 75% of their food and feed requirements . This was signed by the governor , State Supervisor Vocational Argicultural Education , the Director of Extension and the Chairman County Committee . And on 7 Jan. 1943 Mr William Y. Coleman and Miss Mary Bess Coleman get the U.S. Department Of Agriculture FSA Merit Award for having reached the goal set for him this year as his part in the nation's Food for Freedom Effort.

The house and land passed to Dr. Colemans daughter Mary Elizabeth who married William Younge Coleman ( a cousin ) on 31 Oct. 1889 at the house of her sister and brother-in-law Fannie C. and DR. V.P. Clayton's on Assembly Street in Columbia S.C. They were married by a Mr Garrell, a Pesbyterian minster , then to their daughter Mary Bess Coleman . At that time there was 236.2 acres.

William Young Coleman and Mary Elizabeth Coleman had the following children : Fannie Maria Coleman born on 25 Aug. 1890 died 19 Sept. 1900 , Chanie Isabelle Coleman born on 3 March 1892 , Sarah Kathleen Coleman born on 10 March 1895 , Robert Young Coleman was born 2 May 1896 , Mary Elizabeth Coleman was born on 1 Nov. 1897 dies on 5 July 2002

The house orginally had 7 rooms with two open piazzas . There were a number of out-buildings

that included a kitchen building , a dairy , carriage house , cotten house , lumber house among others. There were 2 slave cabins to the right and left back of the house ( the remains of one can still be seen ) with the others to the north of the house. The present kitchen was added between 1873 and 1874. The wall that made up the two rooms in what is now the center room was removed sometime in the 1880 -1890 area .

It has been hypothesized that Dr. Coleman was one the people involed with the " Feasterville Incident " that took place between 22 and 24 Feb 1865. where 21 Union infantrymen were found in a ravine about eighty rods from the road and three miles from Feasterville. Their throats were cut and they had been striped of their clothes.