

of his fortune and he was forced to dispose of some of his property to pay his legal fees and costs.

Doctor Fant bought the house and plantation. He lived here during the War Between the States and for some time afterwards. Will Long, the present owner, bought the place from Doctor Fant's estate and has made it his home for many years. This past year he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in the old house with hosts of their friends and relatives.

## AIKEN PLACE

### BELL - AIKEN

This once attractive little house has fallen into bad repair due to absence of owners.

For many years this was known as the BELL PLACE. The first owner recorded is Mr. William Bell. He and his wife lived their married lives here. Mrs. Bell was born and raised here and inherited the place from her parents but we have no record of their names.

Robert M. Aiken married Margaret (Maggie) Bell, a daughter of the house, and lived here and raised their family. They had four daughters. One daughter, Robbie, married C. B. Starnell. Their daughter, Margaret Rose, married James Kilgore. She is the mother of Starnell Kilgore who wrote a complete novel, AGAINST TOMORROW, while still in her early teens.

The Robert Aiken family moved to Columbia and a sister-in-law of Mr. Aiken lived here for a number of years. Her name was Victoria Yongue Aiken but was called Vic by her family and friends and now the old house is called the VIC AIKEN PLACE. After this family occupied the place it has remained vacant.

## COLEMAN HOUSE

### COLEMAN

Doctor Robert Coleman was the third child of Henry Johnathon and Mary (Polly) Feaster Coleman. Henry Johnathon was next to the youngest child of the fourteen children of Robert and Elizabeth Roè Coleman, the first Coleman family to settle in Fairfield County. Polly was the daughter of John and Drucilla Mobley Feaster, also early settlers.

Henry Johnathon and Mary had sixteen children. Three of the sons, Robert Williams, William Preston, and Benjamin Franklin, were all doctors. All of them graduated from Bellevue Medical School in New York. Robert and Preston practiced in the Feasterville area and Frank in Louisiana.

When the Civil War started six of the nine sons enlisted with the Confederacy, Jacob, Preston, Allen, Franklin Henry, and George.

Doctor Robert sent George, the youngest of his brothers, to King's Mountain Military School to prepare him for service in the Confederate Army, though he was only seventeen years of age. All of the brothers were enlisted in the

Buckhead Guards before going into active duty. They were in Company B, 17th Regiment. Preston served as Captain and Frank as a Lieutenant. Robert was also a member of the Buckhead Guards but did not go to the war because he was unanimously selected by the people of the community to remain at home. They felt that he could not be spared. Henry and George were the only two of the six brothers to return. George was the only one of the family to live a long life and it is from him that many interesting stories and facts have been recorded. Robert was a counselor in his neighborhood during the Ku Klux Klan days. It is said that his counsel was never unheeded during those trying times.

The father, Henry Johnathon, was a soldier in the War of 1812. He was given several grants of land for his services. Henry was a farmer and a hatter. His father, Robert, stated in his will that he would like for his thirteenth child, Henry Johnathon, to follow his trade of making hats. His shop was located on what is now Highway 215. Henry carried out his wish and supplied all of the surrounding country with beaver and other varieties of hats. The shop was a short distance from his old home which sat on top of the hill west of the shop site. The water for the family's use and for the making of the hats came from a spring which was just across the road from the shop. It was, and still is, known as Hatter's Spring. It is a powerful spring and furnishes water for many families as well as for the passers-by.

While Robert was a medical student in New York he saw a house that he admired very much. When he returned home later he had one like it built for himself. This was little more than a hundred years ago. It was built in 1858 by a Negro named Peter. The lumber from which the house was built was sawed from trees growing on the Coleman plantation. They were hauled by ox carts to Charleston to be dressed. There the boards were hand planed and most of them were long enough to extend the full length of the rooms. The two front rooms were about twenty-five feet square and had very high ceilings. The house proper contained seven rooms, beside the medical office, and large front and back porches with bannisters around them. It was built high above the ground on large brick pillars. It took a full year to erect the building which was put together with pegs and hand-made nails. During the construction the lumber was kept in a log house built for that purpose. It was called the "lumber house." Under the "big house" was a small cellar used for the storage of fruits and vegetables.

The outbuildings included a kitchen, dairy, carriage house, harness house, cotton house, and a small residence for the cook and carriage driver. The slave quarters were a little more than a mile to the north of the home. After the slaves were freed the more faithful ones were given a few acres of land. One of these was Wyatt Coleman, but the other names have been forgotten.

During the Civil War when Sherman was making his way through South Carolina, some of his men raided this home. They put live coals in the medical office which burned a spot in the floor. These coals were removed by one of the house servants. A locked drawer and a bureau were torn open in the search for valuables. The old dresser still bears the scar, which is ever a reminder of those horrible days. The ladies were demanded to hand over their jewelry; the silver-ware was stolen, as well as the meat and all other food supplies. All of the live stock was herded away. During the raid the

master of the house was concealed in the little outhouse in the garden. He stayed here several nights previously not knowing when the Yankees might arrive.

Robert's ancestors before him had also experienced the horrors of war. Hans Wagner was in the war against the Indians. Andrew Feaster was among those helping in the Revolutionary War and his father, Henry Johnathon, was in the War of 1812.

On November 9, 1847, Doctor Robert Williams Coleman and Nancy Amanda McConnell were married. Both of them are buried in the Feaster Cemetery along with all of the Henry Johnathon and Mary Feaster family, excepting two sisters who lived in Georgia. "Doctor Bob" was a planter and a physician. He raised fine horses and had a splendid orchard. At times he enjoyed piecing quilts, knitting, and crocheting. He served as administrator in settling many of the estates of his connections. Papers showing this are still in the possession of his descendants. The Coleman Masonic Lodge No. 97 was organized in 1860. The warrant for this lodge was granted to John Christopher Columbus Feaster, W.M., Robert Williams Coleman, S. W., J. W., and John Feaster Coleman. Robert was serving as Worshipful Master at the time of his death.

Robert Williams Coleman reared a large family of children. His home is still owned by his descendants. His daughter, Lizzie, and her husband, Yongue Coleman, lived and celebrated their golden anniversary here. Their daughters, Kathleen and Mary Bess Coleman, now live on the place. When the Coleman, Feaster, Mobley Reunion is held each year the brothers and sisters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren attend it and they come to the old home where a second reunion is held of the Lizzie and Yongue Coleman descendants. A happy time is had when they all get together in the "House That Robert Built."

## THE BOARDING HOUSE

In the ante-bellum days this old house was alive with lovely young ladies who were attending the Feasterville Academy. This building was, and still is, called the BOARDING HOUSE. It was designed and operated under the direction of Mrs. Catherine Ladd who directed and operated the Academy founded and supported by the Feaster family. Mrs. Ladd's mother supervised the running of the house and the preparations of the meals.

A more detailed account of this building will be found in the INTRODUCTION TO FEASTERVILLE.