

A Sketch of the Life of First Lieutenant John Albert Feaster Coleman A Brave Confederate Soldier

In the northwest section of Fairfield County in the state of South Carolina, in a setting among its grayish red hills, its rich farm lands and silent, flowing streams, about which poets have dreamed and writers spoken, is located the old historic, neighborhood of Feasterville.

It was here at the home of his parents on the 9th day of June 1828, that John Albert Feaster Coleman was born. He was the son of Henry Alexander Coleman, ^{Jr.} and Choney Feaster Coleman a grandson of David Roe Coleman, ^(Daddy Doo) and Edith Beam Coleman and a great great grandson of the first Robert Coleman and Elizabeth Roe Coleman, who were early pioneers to settle in Fairfield County. Also, on his maternal side he was the grand son of John Feaster and Drusilla Mobley Feaster, ^{who built the Feaster female and male acad.} and a great grand son of Andrew Feaster, ^{a Revolutionary War soldier} and Margaret Fry Cooper Feaster for whom Feasterville was named.

On his father's family line he was a lineal descendant of the Colemans of Wales, England and Virginia, and the Roe family of Halifax N.C. and through his mother's line, he descended from the Feasters, Mobleys, Frys, Wagners, Govejors and De Lashmettes, all of whom made up some of the earliest pioneers of this part of the county and upper South Carolina living on estates adjoining each other on Beaver Creek - Bonny Fork

2) Reedy Branch and McBlure's Creek, as well as other small streams. They were considered thrifty and well off planters and farmers with comfortable homes.

John A. F. Coleman as he was usually called by his friends, spent all of his life in this neighborhood living on lands inherited and formally owned by his forefathers. Not only was he a planter, but also a farmer, who knew how to work as well as have it done. It has been said, that he, himself, could cut a ditch in a new ground, that looked like a painted picture. He loved his native soil, and had great pride in his home, his family life, and community, also, always had an abundance of this world's goods, which he often, shared generously.

He had six sisters as follows—

Savilla married William M. Yonque of Fairfield

Edith - died young - unmarried

Margaret Drusilla married James Leroy Hunter of Powder Springs, Georg

Susan Isabelle married Thomas Manning of Cobb County, Georg

Mary died young - unmarried

Ballie Amanda married Andrew Jackson McConell, Jr. of Fairfield

(He was a Confederate soldier, and member of The Buckhead Guard)

His Brothers were as follows (three)

David Andrew married Sarah Ann Yonque.

Henry Alexander married Rebecca Yonque

(He was a Confederate soldier and member of Buckhead Guards.)

Robert Charles - unmarried

(He was a Confederate soldier - drowned near John's Island off Charleston Co. Ga)

John Albert Feaster Coleman was the fourth child of Henry Alexander Coleman, Sr. and Chaney Feaster Cook and was married to Juliana Stevenson October 13th 1869.
(He was a Confederate soldier and member of The Buckhead Guards)

3) He was born June 9th 1828 and died April 30th 1898
His wife born July 14th 1831 died December 3rd 1912
Their children were:

Samuel Stevenson married (1st) Rebecca Gladden
(2nd) Alice Faucette
Jennie Isabelle married Edward Wilson Coleman
Sarah Drusilla unmarried - died young
Henry David (called Harry) married Narcissa Welling
Mary Feaster married Charles Washington Faucette, Jr.
Chaney Savilla unmarried - died young.

My Grandfather was one of the great men of his county. Highly respected and admired, he was ^{especially} loved by his folks and friends - always ready with wise counsel and necessary aid, he gave freely of his time, means and talents. Being public spirited, he stood for the right - putting principle before policy and the public good before private gain. Coming from a ^{long} line of illustrious, thrifty and worthy ancestors, he, like they, was a builder too, in this great country and nation of ours. Possessing much intellect, he was a deep thinker, an understanding reader and a good writer. He believed ^{deeply} in education and culture - attended the Feasterville schools, and enjoyed the study of the arts and classics, also music. In his early youth, between the ages of twenty and twenty five years, he kept daily records in book form, which he called his Journal. It is a most

4) valuable manuscript, preserved down through the years by his daughters, and is now a possession of his grand children, Mrs. Mary Teaster Coleman Faucette's children. It is often referred to, and quoted by them.

At the age of twenty five, he married (in 1853) built his home, inherited, and bought land near his fathers and grandfathers. John and Juliana were a happy, devoted couple, - there was such a good life - well spent in living each for the other and both for God. The Christian life was shown in their home, ^{daily} and a sincere welcome for kinsfolks and friends, ^{always present.} - all done for the glory of God and His Kingdom. Living, when possible, if needed and in every way they were friends and neighbors to all, and especially to widows and orphans, as well as others in adversity. A relative said, "They were one of God's best gifts to humanity" and a blessing to mankind."

Not only was John A. T. Coleman a noble citizen, but in times of strife and turmoil, that try men's souls, he was a brave and gallant soldier. In 1861, when war was declared between the North and South, leaving his wife and three children, he at once entered the Confederate Army from the Buckhead Guards of Fairfield County of which he was a member. He was placed in Company B - First South Carolina Volunteers, of the 17th Regiment, under Colonel Fitz William McMaster in command.

5) Because of his remarkable courage and quality of mind, he was soon promoted to First Lieutenant, and later was acting Captain, in which capacity he served until close of the war.

St. Colman was in nearly every battle of his regiment, and in all action and danger was quiet capable, and daring, but calm, quickly alert, very decisive and unassuming. Those under his command, feeling his forcible and striking personality, responded with great love, respect and admiration, ^{for his} ability and leadership. Being a general favorite, he was looked upon as a proper leader through many trials and battles. During the second year of the war he was wounded, but with immediate treatment, soon was back in active duty. Also, he had a very severe case of pneumonia, and was sent home for treatment and recuperation, which was a furlough of several weeks.

He had much love and admiration for his Colonel, - (Colonel Fitz William McMaster) who he said, was one of the finest, ablest and best men he had ever known. During those years of trying times together, there developed between them, a lasting friendship, which both cherished the remainder of their lives, and a companionship, that meant so much to each.

After four years of hard marching and fighting - most of the time in Virginia, the war came to a close April 9th 1865. The Confederacy was gone. The horrors of war were over, but there were many gaps in the lines, and so much devastation and destruction to try to forget. We know that every joy has its sadness and to Grandpa, the joy of peace brought

young brothers, and especially his sister; Sallie's husband, First Lieutenant, Andrew Jackson McConnell, Jr. his Tent mate, and brother-in-law, whom he loved as a brother - theirs was a very close relationship, and "Andy or Uncle Andy" was an special favorite, in the Coleman Family as well as his own family and community. It was at the "Nine Blow-up" at Petersburg, Virginia, that Lt. Andrew Jackson McConnell, Jr. was killed by a "sharpshooter" and he is buried in the old Coleman Graveyard, beside his wife and baby - also, near his "Tent mate," St. John Albert Feaster Coleman -

Now, that the war had ceased - the struggle was over, at Appomattox Virginia on April 12th, 1865. three days after General Lee's surrender, having received his parole, Grandpa and Prime, his body servant started for home - along with them on the homeward trend were many other war-worn and weary hearted soldiers. Trading his watch for a horse, he rode most of the way home, in company with Captain Crawford of York, with whom he spent the night as it was long after dark when they reached there - but Prime couldn't wait, so he came on - walking all night he was seen coming over the hill in front of the house, next morning -

Grandma and children, with the slaves gathered around had been waiting and watching for days, for their arrival, and now with only

7) Prime in sight, had only one thought in mind, that Grandpa had been killed or captured, but Prime faithful as always, thinking first of his Master and Missus called as loud as he could, that Marse John was coming on behind, and in a few hours, he was at home with his loved ones, again.

During the war, Lieutenant Coleman kept a Diary which is most interesting, very informative and considered priceless and a treasure by his family. After resting a few weeks, he took up his life at home, again and began to plan the planting of a crop, also helped to restore the affairs of his neighborhood, county and state. Everywhere was destruction, poverty, broken homes, and sorrow, all of which seemed to remind him of how terrible war is - How he loved peace, and in his ^{war} Diary, our hearts are touched by his prayers and petitions, asking our Heavenly Father for peace in our land.

Being a devout Christian, he was a great Bible reader, and from early youth was a faithful member of Liberty Universalist Church in Featherville, and an officer of the ~~Sanctuary~~ - John A. F. Coleman was a man of wise counsel and strong convictions.

Those in close contact with him, knew best his full worth, his utter frankness, love and sincerity. His loyalty and unselfishness made you feel that he was one in whom you could have implicit faith and confidence, and his patience was long suffering - In him, was a forgiving heart, and a soul filled with the light of Christ.

COLEMANS--FEASTERS--MOBERLEYS WHO WORE THE GRAY UNIFORM
in the 1860's.

COLEMANS

C. S. Coleman, private in Fairfield Fencibles

H. A. Coleman, private in the Pickens Guard

John Albert Feaster Coleman, private to Captain, Buckhead Guards

F. D. Coleman

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Henry Jonathan Coleman, Jr.,

"

Dr. Henry Allen Coleman, surgeon

"

Allen Griffin Coleman

"

Robert Charles Coleman)

"

George Washington Coleman) Sergeants

"

Henry Alexander Coleman, Jr.

Dr. William Preston Coleman, Captain

Dr. Benj. Franklin Coleman, 1st Lieutenant,

Jacob Feaster, 1st Lieutenant

Edward A. Coleman

Robert L. Coleman

James W. Coleman

Robert Hiram Coleman

FEASTERS

John Christopher Columbus Feaster, color bearer

David Roe Feaster

John Coleman Feaster

Nathan Andrew Feaster

Jacob Norris Feaster

Trezevant D. Feaster

MOBLEY

J. C. Mobley, 4th corporal

David Mabry Mobley

C. Mobley

Zebulon Mobley

Oliver R. Mobley

Andrew Jackson Mobley

Many others, of these names, served from other
counties, and we do not have a record of their
service.