

MAYFAIR

ALSTON – COOK – CHAPPELL – BRUCE – McMEEKIN

MAYFAIR was designed and built by Colonel William Alston in 1824. Colonel Alston was a member of the prominent and powerful Allston and Alston families who controlled and planted most of the famous rice plantations on the Waccamaw River in Georgetown County. These people were avid politicians, social and civic leaders, supplying South Carolina with two governors. Governor Joseph Alston, son-in-law of the Vice-President, Aaron Burr, was governor of the state during the War of 1812. His only child died in the summer of 1812 and his wife, Theodosia, was lost at sea in the same year. His early death some few years later in 1816 was attributed to grief and melancholia brought on by the loss of his loved ones. Governor Robert Francis Withers Allston was chief executive of the state in the stormy days just prior to the War Between the States. He was a scholarly, wise, and widely traveled man and did much to promote education, culture, and art in South Carolina. He died while still in his prime and before the war ended.

After MAYFAIR was completed Colonel William Alston presented the house and plantation to his daughter, Mrs. Burrell Cook, as a wedding gift. The Cooks entertained lavishly and were leaders in the social and political activities in Fairfield County, Mr. Cook having served several terms in the State Legislature. This family held the place from 1824 until 1883 when it was purchased at auction by Thomas Chappell.

The family of Thomas Chappell resided here until 1945. At that time it was purchased by his granddaughter (Mary Douglas Chappell), Mrs. R. C. Bruce. Mrs. Bruce repaired and partially restored the home occupying it at intervals for several years. Recently MAYFAIR was sold to Mr. Silas McMeekin of Columbia, South Carolina, a relative of the Chappell family and a native of the Jenkinsville-Monticello community.

This is quite an elegant house and reflects the Lowcountry influence of the builder both in style and design. The stairs, mantels, woodwork, and the entrance are especially beautiful. The carvings and decorative designs are among the finest to be found in the county. The back stairway is enclosed. The reason for doing this was to protect the young ladies of the household from exposing their ankles and limbs as they descended the stairs.

CHAPPELL PLACE

RUFF – CHAPPELL

A short distance from the main crossroad at Jenkinsville is a delightful old country home. Surrounded by broad green fields with wooded hills in the background is the old Ruff or Chappell house. The building itself is deceiving; on first glance it appears to be rather small and of a fairly late vintage. The deception is due to a room that has been added at one end