

Davis-Byrd family celebrates 150 years in Fairfield County

The descendants of Jesse Davis and Rob and Sally Triplett Byrd celebrated over 150 years of existence in Fairfield County during a family reunion held Aug. 19-20.

The event was planned and hosted by Viola Davis Kennedy, a direct descendant of the Davis-Byrd union. Over 130 family members and friends ranging in ages from two months to 88 years old came to Fairfield County from over 10 states to attend the activities.

The weekend began with registration and a hospitality hour at the Old Armory during the evening of Friday, Aug. 19. Many family members met each other for the first time and others renewed old kinships. Saturday morning, Aug. 20, was especially enjoyable and educational. The group made a tour of the old family home sites (some structures still standing), churches and cemeteries through the Blair and Shelton communities of Fairfield County. Two buses carried the group to 12 different sites where family members recalled family history. In addition to old home sites, the group visited three churches where family members still worship, Purity Baptist, Hassion Hill and the for-



Jesse Davis
1848 - 1936

mer St. Elizabeth. These churches also have cemeteries where dozens of both Davis and Byrd ancestors are buried.

Saturday evening banquet was held at the Old Armory where Rep. Tim Wilkes welcomed the group to the city. The banquet allowed family members and friends the opportunity to continue celebrating family history. The program, hosted by Inga Kennedy-Tucker, included a buffet style dinner and song, prayer poems and a speech by Herbert "Sonny" Walker Jr. of Columbia on the status of the