

The Fairforest Story
By - Vera Smith Spears

piety and unspotted character. His heart was full to over-flowing with love of God, and was possessed with a charming manner."¹⁴

ELDER D. DUNCAN

Elder D. Duncan came to the Fairforest (Lower) Baptist Church in the 1840's. The first year he was assisted by Reverend Willis Walker several times at the Fairforest (Lower) Church. Elder Duncan did pastoral work for several churches in Union and Spartanburg Counties, and preached at the Bethel Association at its meeting in 1837. At the church service December 27, 1845, Elder Jacks preached, "Elder D. Duncan being gone to the West."¹⁵

MARK C. OWINGS

Mark C. Owings was living in Union County in 1850. He is listed in the 1850 Census as being born in 1808 and was a Baptist Clergyman. On September 25, 1847 "Conference met, unanimously called Elder M. C. Owings to supply this church for the ensuing year."¹⁶ He remained with the Church for four years. The members appeared well pleased with his services. On February 21, 1852, in conference met: "Resolve that we members of Lower Fairforest Church in token of our high esteem for the faithful and Christian manner in which Elder M. C. Owings has labored amongst us as supply for the last four years that each member extend to him the right hand of fellowship; and that we earnestly request Brother Owings to attend us as often as convenient in the future and especially for him the next twelve months, as we feel that our young supply Brother J. L. Norman, our present supply would feel much assisted in the arduous duties of his office."¹⁷ In the 1850 Census for Union County, South Carolina, Mark C. Owings had a wife, Nancy, and these children: 1. William; 2. Eliza; 3. Thomas; 4. Adolphus; 5. James; 6. Mark, Jr.; 7. Whitefield; and 8. Nancy.¹⁸

JOHN LEMUEL NORMAN

The Minutes of the Fairforest (Lower) Baptist Church recorded this item: "In January, 1855 Elder John L. Norman being present accepted the call of the church" to become its pastor. Reverend Norman was born in the