

ANDREW FEASTER

The Feasters (Phister) came to America from the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It was here that Andrew Feaster, son of Peter Feaster, was married. The name of his first wife is unknown. His second marriage was to a widow, Margaret Frey Cooper, who had two children by a previous marriage, Adam and Eve Cooper.

The story of Peter Feaster's philosophy and faith in his Maker is traditional in the Feaster family. When plans and preparations were being made for the move from Pennsylvania to new lands, one of the chief concerns was for Peter Feaster. He was advanced in years and in failing health. It was felt that he would not be able to withstand the rigors of travel. But, he steadfastly refused to be left behind or have the plans postponed on his account, saying that should he die he would be as near to God in one place as another. As was feared, he died enroute, and was laid to rest somewhere in Virginia.

Andrew Feaster continued his trek southward and settled in the northern part of western Fairfield County, S. C., giving his name to that area that is still known as Feasterville.

He was an advocate of the Dunkard faith. German Baptists, or Brethren, as they were usually called, held to trine immersion with a kneeling position and forward bending of the body in the rite of baptism, which earned them their nickname.

Andrew Feaster was credited with having the power to conjure, or "using"; as attested to by an excerpt from an article written by William Ederington in 1880. "Being at leisure, I though I would add something in regard to four or five Tunkers who were amongst the first settlers on Beaver Creek that I saw when a boy, viz: Andrew Feaster, Sr., Adam Cooper, William and Isiah Mobley, and Matthew Hoosh, a Hessian. The first four wore long beards and I think the last did also. These were called Dunkards and were the only men seen with unshaven faces then, and forty years afterward. This denomination is called in history, German Baptists. Andrew Feaster, Sr. was a native of Switzerland and removed here from Pennsylvania, as I was informed by his great-grandson.

I rode behind my mother about the year 1811 to Old Daddie Feaster's a distance of six miles, her purpose being to get him to cure one of her arms which was paralyzed. On riding up to the house gate my mother hallowed, and the first object that attracted my notice was the big white hogs, the next the old man's long white beard, the first I had ever seen. We alighted and were invited into the house by the good old man. I kept my eyes on him until we were seated in a chair when a long rope attracted my attention...this was used for the purpose of drawing up bags of flour into the loft. (After dinner), my mother was seated in a homemade chair. Exposing her bare arms to view, the old man knelt at her side, rubbing her arm from the hand to the shoulder and muttering unheard of language to me, all the time. This was called "using" for the purpose of curing maladies such as felons, wens, cancers, warts. Whether "using" cured the arm or not, or the faith she reposed in the old man's mystic art, or time, I know not, but it was after a short time well as before."

The children of Andrew Feaster were: Martha, a daughter by his first wife, and Andrew, Jacob, John, Susan, Alice, and Margaret, children of his second wife, Margaret Frey Cooper.

Andrew Feaster, Jr. died a tragic death while still in the prime of his life. His brother-in-law, Ezekiel Wooley, a constable, had a warrant for the arrest of Shadrack Jacobs. As the two approached the vicinity of Jacobs house Feaster was killed by a rifle shot, fired by Jacobs.

Jacobs fled to Georgia and some 20 years elapsed before he was returned to Fairfield County to be tried. Testimony at the trial brought out the fact that Andrew Feaster was riding Wooley's horse. The shooting occurred at dusk, and Jacobs had mistaken Feaster for the constable. For this unwarranted deed Shadrack Jacobs was sentenced to death and was hanged by Sheriff Moore in 1829.

Jacob Feaster married Margaret Kennemore and died without issue. They are buried near their old homesite, in unmarked graves.

John Feaster wed Drusilla Mobley, daughter of Samuel and Mary Wagner Mobley, granddaughter of the pioneers, Hans Wagner and Edward Mobley. John Feaster built a two story frame house, where he lived until his death in 1848. This house was purported to have had the first glass windows north of Beaver Creek. He carried on extensive farming operations and amassed a vast estate. He is noted for having built the Feasterville Male and Female Academy and a dormitory, (or Boarding House, as it has always been called) for students attending the school from other areas.

He donated the land for the Liberty Universalist Church. Ederington's "History of Fairfield" states, "Liberty Church was built by those of the Universalist faith, and it was intended as its name indicates for the use of any and every denomination that was disposed to worship in it. There were others who contributed to the building besides Universalists."

Children of John and Drusilla Feaster:

Jacob md. Isabelle Coleman
 Andrew md. Mary Norris
 Savilla md. Robert Gregg Cameron
 Susan md. Robert F. Coleman
 Mary md. Henry Jonathan Coleman
 Chaney md. Henry A. Coleman
 John Mobley md. Kisannah Pickett

Martha Feaster, daughter of Andrew Feaster by his first wife, married William Colvin, son of John and Hannah Price Colvin. William Colvin served in the Revolution.

William and Martha Colvin made their home in Chester County, S. C., where they reared eleven children. All of these children, except Andrew, the eldest, removed to the West, going to Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. William and Martha Colvin, accompanied by some of their children moved to Alabama.

Children of William and Martha Colvin.

Andrew	John
Hannah	Jacob
Thomas	Charner
Susan	Edward
Mattie	Bynum
William	

Alice Feaster married Hundley McShan of Union County, S. C.

Children: (List not complete)
 Feaster md. Lucy Ann Coleman
 Judith md. Isaac Coleman
 Ferdinand removed to Arkansas
 Andy removed to Mississippi

Susan Feaster married Moses Cockrell, and lived in Fairfield County. Their daughter Margaret, married William E. Hill. They had a son, John Feaster. No data on other children.

Margaret Feaster married Ezekiel Wooley, removed to Edgefield Co., S.C. and later to Georgia.

Eve Cooper, step-daughter of Andrew Feaster married Jacob Stone, a Revolutionary soldier.

All the descendents of the step-son, Adam Cooper, went West.

Andrew Feaster, Sr. died in 1821, in his will (Fairfield County, S. C. Records- Apt. 15, File 170) he named the following-

Wife - Margaret, a servant man, named Cane, household furniture, and a share of the estate

Children of deceased step-daughter, Elizabeth Stone, late Cooper

Hariot Beam - \$50 (no relationship given)

Children - Martha Colvin, John Feaster, Jacob Feaster, Margaret Wooley, Susannah Cockrell, and Alice McShan.

"My wife has grown old and is not able to conduct her own affairs in the best manner." John Feaster and D. R. Coleman appointed her guardians.

In the Feaster Cemetery at Feasterville, S. C. is a tall monument inscribed on four sides:

1 - Andrew Feaster, Sr. died July 15, 1821, 86 yrs. 4 mo., born County Bern, Switzerland

Margaret Frey Cooper, a widow, died Oct 10, 1823 aged 95, native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2 - John Feaster died 17 March 1848, 80 yrs old, native of Lancaster Co., Penn. also his wife Drusilla, died April 15, 1807, 33 years old.

3 - To Memory of Florence Grace Feaster, daughter of Trezvant D. and Mary C. Feaster, born in Columbia, S. C. March 18, 1864, died Daytona Beach, Fla. Nov. 8, 1929

To Memory of Trezvant DeGraffenreid Feaster, son of Andrew and Mary Feaster, born Feasterville, S. C. Sept 23, 1826, died Feasterville, S. C. Sept. 7, 1897

4 - Andrew Feaster, Jr., died Jan. 25, 1808, 32 yrs., native of Lancaster Co., Penn.

In Memory of Andrew, son of John and Drusilla Feaster, born Feasterville, S. C. Aug. 25, 1793, died at Sand Point, Fla. April 15, 1869 - and also Mary his wife, daughter of Nathan and Mary Norris, born Edgefield, S. C. April 5, 1800, died Aug. 23, 1878 Sand Point, Florida

HANS WAGNER

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Hans Wagner was one of the pioneer settlers of Fairfield County. Prior to his coming to South Carolina he was on the Yadkin River in North Carolina.

On October 8, 1753, a company of 15 Moravians left Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to settle Wachovia. After a journey of six weeks they reached their destination. On their arrival they found an abandoned cabin, that had been built by Hans Wagner the preceding year. The cabin was not large enough to provide sleeping room, so a second story was improvised by stretching hammocks from wall to wall.

In a journal kept by the Moravians, Hans Wagner was mentioned several times:

Feb. 19, 1754 - "In the evening Hans Wagner's son came. He asked for four brethren to come help raise his father's new house on the Elkin(Yadkin) 16 miles away, but so many brethren are working on the road we could not promise."

Feb. 20, 1754 - "Hans Wagner's son went home."

Feb. 21, 1754 -"At noon Brother Loesch returned from the Elkin where he had ordered some meal from Hans Wagner. Wagner was very busy with his new house and about 20 people were helping him, but thins never go well at such a gathering, for the more time is spent in drinking brandy than in working."

Aug. 12, 1754 - " Brother Kolerlahn went to see Hans Wagner who has been very ill, but is now better."

Shortly after the above date, Hans Wagner and his family joined a caravan composed of the Edward Mobley family, and traveled southward. The two families settled in northwestern Fairfield County, S. C. on Beaver Creek. The Wagners on the west side, at the junction of Reedy Branch and Beaver Creek, and the Mobleys on the east side.

It was on this site that Hans Wagner built a fort of white oak logs hewn 12 inches square. According to Mills Statistics, "Fort Wagner was erected on Beaver Creek, six miles above its mouth, and into this the poor scattered inhabitants flocked and received its protection, until the end of the Cherokee War." It is recorded that John Wagner of Beaver Creek furnished supplies during this conflict. A granite marker, erected by a D. A. R. chapter, on highway 215, is inscribed, "Fort Wagner site one mile east, at junction of Beaver and Reedy Branch, built in 1760 by Hans Wagner as a refuge from the Cherokee Indians."

Morgan Edwards, one of the earliest and most respected American Baptist historians, traveled through the back country of the middle and southern colonies gathering material for a history of the southern Baptists. In 1772 he wrote - "Beaver Creek a little branch running into Broad River.....They hold their worship from house to house. The families number about 25, whereof 50 persons are baptized. They had their beginning in this manner. About the year 1748 Micheal millers, Jacob Conomore and Laurence Free, with their wives, arrived hither from Connecocheaque; after them came Rev. George Martin and Hans Waggoner and their wives. These united in communion the month of July 1759.

Hans was a miller, and was referred to in North Carolina as a "German Trapper". He built a dam across Beaver Creek to power a water wheel for his

milling operation. At this writing(1981), remains of the old dam are still visible, also three chimneys that were constructed of field stones, and the old Wagner Graveyard. These are located on lands of the late John Lafayette Dickey, now is possession of members of his family.

He was married five times. The name of his first wife is unknown, the others were Marie Delashmette, Elizabeth Johnston, Mrs. Fair, and Margaret _____ . Of these unions the following children were born:

Mary md. Samuel Mobley
 Margaret md. John Halsey (Halsell)
 George
 Isaac md. Emsey Haleyfield
 John md. _____
 Susannah md. George Hill
 Nancy Anne md. Capt. Andrew McClain
 Suka md. Ned Mobley

George Wagner had a land grant on Turkey Creek in York County. His will is recorded in York County, probated January 13, 1818. The will frees all of his slaves and names the following legatees - John Beam, Mary Wagoner, daughter of John, deceased, Elizabeth Hill, Margaret Halsey, Catherine Halsey, Catherine Delashmett, Mary Mobley, Susannah Camp, Anna McLean (wife of Andrew) Isaac Wagner, Louisa McLain, Margaret Watts, Mary Sutton(wife of James), one share each to Messina and Rachel McClain.

The 1790 Census listed Isaac Wagoner as a resident of Chester County. In 1800, 1810 and 1820 he was shown in Rutherford County, N. C. Isaac moved with his family to Moultrie County, Illinois. He fought in the Revolution, and received a pension afterwards.

John, the other Wagner son, moved to Kentucky. He was granted land in York county, which was in possession of George Wagner in 1811, when his will was made.

Hans Wagner had land grants totaling 800 acres. His name appears as John in these documents. At his death the land was left to Samuel Mobley, who married his daughter, Mary. He rests in the old Wagner burying ground. Although he was a man of some means, for that period of time, his grave is marked only with a field stone. Tombstones had to be brought up from Charleston which was a long and arduous journey.

References:

History of Wachovia - Clewell
 Mills Statistics
 S. C. Archives
 Lutherans in North and South Carolina - Bernheim
 S. C. Colonial Soldiers and Patriots - Andrea
 Morgan Edwards Ms.- Crozier Theological Seminary

MARY WAGNER Md. SAMUEL MOBLEY

CHILDREN:

Edward	md.	Mary Mabry
Samuel	md.	Elizabeth Whitehead (nee Pickett)
Biggers	md.	Joannah Corbell
John	md.	Catherine McLean
Elizabeth	md.	Richard Mansell
Susannah	md.	John Taylor
Mary	md.	David Shannon
Drusilla	md.	John Feaster
Lucrecy	md.	John Robinson
Savilla	md.	Tom Colvin
Dorcas	md.	William Price

MARGARET WAGNER md. John Halsey (Halsell)

CHILDREN:

Gabriel		
Thomas	md.	Nancy _____
Peter	md.	Sarah <u>Combest</u>
Elizabeth		unmarried
Mary		unmarried
Silas		
Dorcas		Thomas Williams

NANCY ANNE WAGNER md. ANDREW MCLEAN

CHILDREN:

John		
James	md.	_____
Mary	md.	<u>James Sutton</u>
William	md.	_____
Andrew, Jr.	md.	_____
George M.		
Mark	md.	Mary Evans
Nathaniel		
Jonathan	md.	Elizabeth Wright
Catherine	md.	John Mobley

BOLLING WRIGHT

By- Mary Dickey Boulware

Bolling Wright was born May 12, 1759 in Brunswick County, Virginia, a son of Solomon Wright. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and served four tours of duty with the 2nd Virginia Militia.

In a deposition made in 1834 when he applied for a pension he stated that he had been a resident of Fairfield County, S. C. for some 45 years, having left Virginia 5 or 6 years after the Peace of 1783. Listed as his neighbors who could testify as to his character and truthfulness were: David R. Coleman, Thomas Lyles, Jacob Feaster, Robert Coleman, Andrew Feaster, John Feaster, Samuel Fant and Isaac Means.

He described his military service as follows:

First Tour

When called into service he was living in Brunswick Co., Virginia, was called out in the month of January, and marched to Portsmouth, where the troops were stationed throughout this tour. The houses were used as barracks. There was a small fort above the town on the north side, mounting 8 cannons, which was manned by some of the troops. Bolling Wright was stationed in the town. General Weadon commanded the whole militia. Asap Gregory was orderly sergeant. Bolling Hair and Lugar Sinclair, privates. Solomon Wright, father of Bolling, served as a private this tour. There were no regular troops along this tour and no engagement with the enemy.

Second Tour

He was living in Mecklenburg Co. when this and following tours were served. Was called this time during the month of December, and served under Capt. Oliver, Arthur Fox was first lieutenant. He was marched through Petersburg, on to a place called Pitch Landing, remembers the company stopping and getting turnips on their march above Petersburg.

When the company arrived at Pitch Landing it was placed under command of Col. Fleming, who was under Gen. Mecklinburg. There were some regular troops under his command. John Bolling was adjutant to Col. Fleming's regiment, and Jacob Beasley was orderly sergeant to the company Bolling Wright was attached to. Capt. Graves also commanded one of the militia companies.

There was no serious engagement with the enemy. Bolling Wright volunteered along with about 50 men, under Col. Fleming to reconnoiter the enemy, and drive in their regiment guard in the old field near Portsmouth; one of the party was wounded by a ball, in the thigh.

The troops had temporary huts erected at Pitch Landing, and were stationed there during the tour which was for three months. The object was to protect the country against the inroads of the enemy from Portsmouth.

Third Tour

This tour started in the spring, and the weather was very warm before he got

home. Cap. James Harrison was commanding officer, Wm. Lewis, 1st lieutenant. Bolling Wright's company was marched to Cumberland Court House, Virginia, and joined by another militia company; thence was marched to Purity Creek on the James River, and joined General Stuban, who had about 900 regulars under his command. Some of his men were Blacks. General Stuban had command of the combined companies.

The British were on the opposite side and fired cannon rounds. A horse belonging to Major Cunningham was shot. Gen. Stuban had no cannon, and retreated to Willis Creek. The regulars and militia separated and the militia fell under command of Gen. Lawson, and were commanded by him for the remainder of the tour. Tarleton was said to have been with the British at the James River. Bolling Wright became ill and had no knowledge of the movements of the enemy during the remainder of the tour, which lasted 3 months.

Fourth Tour

The fourth tour was in the year 1781. He remembers the year because it was the one in which Cornwallis surrendered at York Town. The company was commanded by Capt. Stephen Maberry, with Edward Kensington as first lieutenant - was marched to the Mattaway River, River James Bridge. The bridge (he believes) was in Amelia County, Virginia. They marched on crossing the Mattaway River at Hey Island, thence through Williamsburg Town, thence to Mattaponi River, one being of Little York River, crossed at Ruffries, thence over the Pawmunki, until the troops joined General Lafayette before York Town. They were joined by another company in the march between the Appomattox and James Rivers, at York Town. Bolling Wright's company was placed under command of a militia colonel. Graves was the major, General Washington commanded the whole American force and was on the other side of the river from General Lafayette who was the commander on his side. Nineteen days after his (Wright's) arrival in York Town, the enemy under command of Cornwallis surrendered. Captain Maberry and company remained at York Town for some time after the surrender, and until arrangements were made to secure the captured property and afterwards assisted in escorting the prisoners. The tour was for 3 months.

He kept no written record of his service at the time, and now (1834) due to his age and consequent loss of memory, he is unable to state months or years in which the service was rendered, but can clearly remember the tours, and the length of time served in each tour. He served 11 months as a private soldier.

FROM VIRGINIA TO S. C.

On July 30, 1787 Bolling Wright and Millie Sanders, daughter of John Sanders posted their marriage bans, in Mecklenburg. Co. They were wed August 4, 1787. At this time Bolling was 28 years old and Millie was 15.

Shortly thereafter, they left their families, friends, and neighbors and embarked on a journey southward to establish a home. What an arduous trip it must have been, over rough, rutted wagon roads, and at days end, the evening meal must be prepared without any of the comforts of a house.

At their journey's end they settled in up-state South Carolina, in the hill country of northwestern Fairfield County. In October 1788 their first child was born, a daughter, they named Elizabeth. Their next surviving child was born 8 years later, a son, William.

The babies that did not survive the harsh life of the back country were the first to rest in the family burying ground, located on a gently sloping rise, within sight of the house.

Over the years Bolling and Millie became the parents of six more children, Jones, Uriah, Mary (Polly), Lucinda, Nancy, and David. All of the children were given their mother's maiden name, Sanders.

Edrington's "History of Fairfield" states that of the 8 children, William and Uriah were the most notable. William was a "Baptist preacher of the old school." Uriah was a home doctor and his services were in great demand in three counties. He was called by nearly all, "Doctor Wright."

William married Gemima Mobley, daughter of Micajah (Cage) Mobley, and later removed to Georgia.

David and Mary also went to Georgia. On Decmeber 27, 1826, Mary married Sion Hill.

David Wright and Elizabeth Ann Bedingfield were wed February 11, 1841, in Walton County, Georgia.

On January 12, 1824, Uriah Wright and Pinkey Ackland Smith were united in marriage. Pinkey was the second eldest daughter of John Smith.

Edrington depicts Uriah as an avid fox hunter, who was justly proud of his pack of hounds. The three most outstanding of the pack were named Jolly Wright, Molly Clowney, and Ring Smith. According to Edrington, he was eccentric and erratic. Despite these characteristics, he had some redeeming qualities - he was generous and hospitable. He played the fiddle. (Three of Uriah's grandsons were known to be accomplished fiddlers, Randal, William, and Henry Jenkins).

THE FINAL MOVE

Bolling and Millie lived in Fairfield County for 53 years. In January 1840 Bolling Wright sold his land - 185 acres to Uriah Wright, and 55 acres to Meredith Meador. This was done in preparation for a move to Georgia. At that time he had reached the age of 81. This rugged old pioneer uprooted himself from neighbors and friends of long standing, and leaving the red hills of South Carolina behind, removed to Jackson County, Georgia.

He died January 12, 1841 at Jug Tavern (now Winder), Georgia. What a proud heritage he left us (his decendents). He lived a full and honorable life, and had an active part in the shaping of our country's history. His courage, fortitude, and perserverance should ever shine as a beacon to guide us.

References:

Pension file of Bolling Wright, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
 Mecklenburg County Marriages- Elliott, page 135
 A History of Fairfield- William Edrington
 Fairfield County Deeds- Book NN pp 270-271, 320-321

URIAH WRIGHT md. PINKEY ACKLAND SMITH

CHILDREN:

Harriet md. Thomas Jenkins
 Nancy unmarried
 Wiley Jackson md. N. J. Hill
 Milly Jane md. William E. Hill
 Isabella md. James W. Parnell
 Rebecca md. Thomas A. Crowder
 Lucinda unmarried
 John David
 Hiram S. unmarried

HARRIET WRIGHT md. Thomas Jenkins

CHILDREN:

Elizabeth md. John Q. Bolin
 Pinkey md. _____ Mullinax
 Crecy md. 1. Thomas Smith 2. Solomon Varnadore
 William md. Betty Bogett
 Thomas Randal unmarried
 Emily md. Thomas W. Jenkins
 Henry W. md. Eugenia Gatling

REBECCA WRIGHT md. Thomas A. Crowder

CHILDREN:

Savilla Isabelle md. 1. Billy Young, 2. Jack McLain
 James Uriah md. Ida Suber
 Robert Wiley md. Mary M. Suber
 Sarah Precious md. John Jenkins
 Jennie W. md. Jonathan Shedd
 David Walton unmarried
 Benjamin Franklin md. Julia Beam