

David Roe Feaster

He was a Confederate soldier, enlisting in the Buckhead Guards, E. J. Means, captain; Boykin Lyles 1st lieutenant, Robert Starke Means, 2nd lieutenant; J. Y. Legg, 3rd lieutenant and S. B. Clowney, 1st sergt.

Mr. Feaster first married Victoria Rawls. On her death, he married Hattie Coleman, a widow, with five children. These, with the seven by the first wife and the six that he begot by the second wife, made a tribal family of 18, under one roof. The first time I dined with them, I was a horse back mail rider, 16 years old. I could not help from turning to my hostess and asking her if she were the mother of all. She smiled back and said "yes." It remained for Capt. Feaster to explain the wherefore.

Capt. Feaster's memory after a half century is still cherished in Fairfield. He did his part in wresting the government from the hands of Scott, Moses, Chamberlain and Cardoza and should have been given more recognition for his services than he received in his life time. He was one of the organizers of the Grange, out of which grew the reform movement of the farmers of 1888 and then merged afterwards into the Farmer's Alliance. I used to listen to him at Porters Mill, when he would converse on the subjects of free silver and green back money. His ideas expressed were about as follows: "The jugglers of high finance, try to show a distinction between the government's promise to pay in specie and a simple promise to pay. Reduce this to a final analysis and you find a distinction without a difference. A silver or gold certificate or a greenback bill promise to pay each depends upon the perpetuity of your government. If the government ceases to be a nation, it can no more pay its silver and gold certificates than it can meet its greenback promissory note. Have we not come around to his way of thinking? This was 50 years ago.

All the time, since those who prospered most have produced least, and it is this class you find who are shedding tears for Hoover's return and have an attitude toward the present administration that Alexander Pope so well described, those who:

"Damn with faint praise,
Assent with civil leer,
And without sneering, teach
The rest to sneer.
Willing to wound and yet
Afraid to strike,
Just hint a fault, and
Hesitate dislike."

Mr. Hoover and his racketeers are fighting hard to preserve the poverty-breeding corpse of the old financial system and refuse to face the pressing problem of squaring production with distribution. This specially privileged crowd now, as in the past, still believe or profess to believe that all wealth should be identified with gold. With iteration and reiteration, they would have you believe that the debts of the farmers, of the merchants, of the municipality, and the state which were contracted through the operation of a wild cat inflation, of manufactured book-keeping money, and checking accounts, should be paid back to them in honest, sound currency which simply does not exist, nor has existed since 1873. They are opposed to the philosophy that the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof and that he who owns property cannot use it or its increase contrary to the common good. Such thoughts and ideas were in the brain of Dr. Feaster 50 years ago and he was hooted at. Was he in advance of his age?

Sleep on brave patriarch in thy grave in far off Arkansas and to your young kindred now in South Carolina I repeat the lines that you said to me one day in riding from the mill to your home:

"Sow an idea and reap a thought;
sow a thought and reap an act; sow
an act and reap a habit; sow a
habit and reap a character sow a
character and reap destiny."