

# Western Fairfield notes

by John Collins

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With perfect posture and a firm step belying her 91 years, Miss Julia Faucette, senior trustee of the Coleman-Feaster-Moberly Family Association, marched up the aisle of the Liberty Universalist Church. Her entrance signaled the beginning of the 39th annual reunion of the association, always held on the fourth Sunday in July at the Boarding House and Universalist Church in Feasterville. It brought together approximately 250 descendants of the three pioneer Fairfield County families of Colemans, Feasters, and Moberlys.

John Feaster in 1845 built the Boardinghouse as a school for young ladies and men of the area and the church for his people. He believed that if he built the church, then God would supply the ministers.

Although there have been trustees for the property beginning with John Feaster's sons, the Family Association itself was not organized until July 29, 1941. The late Mrs. Etta Rosson of Shelton, for many years the group's genealogist, dedicated the Association in a moving speech. It is quoted in total herein:

"For ten years or more several of us have talked about organizing a family

association. There are few if any sections of South Carolina that have a richer historical background than Fairfield County, and this Feasterville section of the county is as rich in history as any section of it.

Our ancestors were the original white settlers of the Feasterville neighborhood. Some of them came from Wales, England, Switzerland and Ireland. All of them were deeply religious people and they were brave people because they endured many hardships to come this unknown country and face the dangers of the wilderness. We owe much to them because if it had not been for their coming, we would today be still in Europe and suffering what the people of those countries are suffering.

We owe it to them to perpetuate the memory of those families who came as pioneers to this great wilderness and paved the way for this civilization we have today. We are proud of them and want to instill that pride in our children. We feel that the best way to do this is to acquaint all of the descendants with this background of our families through the organization of a family association such as we are planning."

Following the services at the church conducted by chaplain Chapman Lauderdale of Due West, and a business meeting presided over by President Robert Coleman Blair of Columbia, the members moved to the grounds of the Boardinghouse. There the star of the afternoon's entertainment was unveiled, a 40 foot long buffet table filled with food cooked by members from all over South Carolina and many other states. Until 3:00 the families spread over the grounds of the Boardinghouse, in the grass beneath the huge oaks, enjoying the food and gossip with distant relatives they seldom see and often don't know.

Judge J.P. Coleman of Ackerman Mississippi, a member, summed up the aim of the group in an earlier year. He said, "Our forefathers when they settled in South Carolina found nothing to tear down but everything to build, and so, they were builders. First they built houses, then a church and as soon as possible a Court House, showing their love of family, of God, and of law and order."

It is with this spirit that the Coleman-Feaster-Moberly Reunion is held each year. Not only to honor those first pioneers but to acknowledge their allegiance to the continuation of their forefathers ideals of God, Family and Country.