

# When the Yankees Camped At

**A**N INTERESTING story surrounds this home, which might well have been Margaret Mitchell's Tara in "Gone With the Wind," for it was here that General William Tecumseh Sherman made his headquarters for eight days while he was waiting to cross the swollen waters of the Catawba river on his famous march through the South.

This house, which was built in 1830 by James Barkley, a wealthy planter and slave owner, is still in the possession of the original owner's descendants, Mrs. John G. Johnston and her daughters, Mrs. Gladys J. Dye and Miss Kate Johnston. The house was named "Rocky Mount," the name by which the community also was known. It is located a few miles south of Great Falls near the Rocky Creek power plant in the northeast corner of Fairfield county.

The architecture of this two and one-half story mansion's facade with its graceful fanlight doorway and the four massive columns is typical of the Old South. Handcarved mantles, paneled wainscoting and broad floor boards of its interior are reminders of the days when Southern hospitality was in flower. The brick used to build the three large chimneys were imported from England to build Fort Dearborn, a Revolutionary fort on the Catawba river near Great Falls. When the use of the fort was discontinued, Mr. Barkley bought the brick to build his chimneys.

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General Sherman arrived soon after February 17, 1865, and pitched his tent in front of the Barkley home. His officers had their quarters in the house.

The tall, clean-shaven, reddish haired general dressed in

the blue uniform of the Union army was striking in appearance. Although General Sherman has been roundly cursed by many a true-hearted Southerner, the residents of this home found him to be a gentleman with a pleasant and courteous manner toward his men and others with whom he came in contact. His shining boots and neat uniform were envied by the young Johnston boys, who proudly wore brass "rebel buttons" on their coats.

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The first morning after the Union soldiers arrived Mrs. Johnston invited several officers to breakfast. The fare consisted of bread, meat and rye-coffee with no sugar. Later the officers showed their appreciation of her hospitality by preventing the soldiers from piercing portraits with their bayonets and breaking up the piano and other furniture. They also stopped the soldiers from tearing up the floor to patch the pontoon bridge across the river.

A barrel of molasses on the back porch was continually being pierced by soldiers with their bayonets. An officer had the barrel rolled into a room and locked the door. Soon afterward a soldier slipped into the cellar and bored a hole

By SARAH FLEMING

## Residents lived in terror during Sherman's eight-day stay at this historic Fairfield county home

man's encampment the residents of this home were: Mrs. James Barkley, Miss Sarah Barkley, Mrs. James G. Johnston and her small sons, Barkley and John.

The arrival of Sherman's army at Rocky Mount was preceded by tales of terror, of plundering, the burning of homes, barns, ginhouses and cotton, the killing of livestock and the laying waste of fields. For no home, however small or obscure, escaped the destruction of the Union soldiers.

and ceiling and that was saved although there was a strong smell of smoked meat in the garret. Some large handmade quilts, which were designed of imported French Calico, were also saved in a similar manner. Most of the silver that was hidden out was found and carried off by the soldiers.

When the Yankees arrived, Mrs. Johnston thought they



through the floor to drain the the syrup out. The auger hole where he missed his mark by inches is still to be seen.

As the Yankees were leaving Rocky Mount some of General Joseph Wheeler's men came up and there was a skirmish. General Wheeler advised the women and children to lie flat on the floor during the fight. The Yankees thought Wheeler's entire army was in pursuit and they left hurriedly. General Sherman made his departure on a large black horse with a Negro boy as a valet. One of the rebels chased a Yankee through the house. The Southerner's gun was cocked and it shot a hole in the floor which is still being preserved. Bullet holes from the skirmish are still visible in the weather boarding of the house.

When the soldiers were gone the place was bleak and bare for there was nothing left except the house and land. The Barkleys and Johnstons felt that the Confederacy was at its lowest ebb and there was nothing with which to rebuild. However, J. Barkley Johnston, age eight years, caught an old crippled horse, which was left behind. The horse, Billy Sherman, plowed the first crop after the war.

Years afterwards in Atlanta a friend of Mrs. Johnston met an ex-Union soldier from Ohio and he said, "I have often thought of a lovely old house in South Carolina, where General Sherman had his headquarters for a week while his army was delayed on account of the flood waters on the Catawba river," and he described Rocky Mount.

Thursday, July 25, 1963

## Tribute to Mrs. T. H. Ketchin

(N. E. M.)

Though she has passed beyond mortal sight and touch and we are emotion-filled at separation, from her dearly familiar tiny form, her sprightly step and her gentle inquiry, Mary Flenniken McMaster Ketchin lives on in the hearts and lives of those who claimed her as friend — and they are countless, for in even a casual or infrequent contact with her there was conveyed a germ of friendship and a bond was made.

Expressed feelingly by her minister at the funeral services on June 21 was this summation of her character: "She was both an inspiration and example of Christian virtues which are the out-growth of love" — a selfless love, always giving, never seeking. Of strong religious convictions and faith in God, she had, also, faith in her fellowman and a genuine understanding of human frailties, tempering her judgments with kindness and patience. The scorn she felt for wrong-doing halted there. This combination of personal qualities is rare indeed and is a benediction to a community. It lifts us up and for it we give thanks.

"The true saint is a good mother, a good neighbor, a good constructive force in society, a fragrance and a blessing." — Rufus M. Jones.

For her varied and useful life, Mrs. Ketchin was well endowed intellectually, temperamentally & physically. Her education and background were assets which she used as such. Following her education at Mt. Zion Institute and the former College for Women in Columbia, she entered the School of Nursing at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, having there the interesting advantages of working and studying under the "Big Four" of medicine at that period. After her graduation, she continued in her nursing career at Hopkins until her marriage to T. H. Ketchin of Winnsboro in 1905. Soon afterwards, her husband purchased the home of her father which had been built about 1880. As the center of the family circle, which consisted of three young sons and Mr. Ketchin's children by his first marriage, and as hostess in the home, she presided graciously, extending with her husband and family from near and far. During her husband's tenure of office in the S. C. Legislature and Senate, she proved a valuable helpmeet.

Early in World War One, Mrs. Ketchin took a leading part in organizing and operating a local chapter of the Red Cross. She was director of the program for making and supplying surgical dressings, bandages, etc., needed by the armed forces for the duration. Her activities with the Red Cross continued as long as there was a local unit functioning and after that she took part in the annual campaigns for funds.

Nurtured and reared in the atmosphere of the Confederacy, her father and mother both having been engaged in several phases of the 1861-65 struggle, Mrs. Ketchin was an interested and active member of the John Bratton Chapter of the U. D. C., for more than fifty years. She was one of three members who were specially honored at the Memorial Day exercises in May, 1962.

The first woman elected as a trustee of Mt. Zion Institute, she served faithfully for a number of terms.

It was to the work of her church, Bethel Associate Reformed Presbyterian, that she gave, perhaps, the most devoted services of all. She was a regular attendant, a member of the Ladies' Class in the Sunday School and of the Woman's So-

Thursday, Febr

## Lions Club Regular Meeting Patton Is

The Fairfield Lions Club regular meeting was held at the Inn this week, with a large attendance of Lions from the club. They were Pat Patton, J. H. Young, Dr. Y. well chosen remarks in support of the club and an eye bank collection.

Lion Walter Grant that the Lenior Band, consisting of would visit Winnsboro on March 23rd. Lion Bob Wallace resolution to the B. D. Corley.

Lion Claude Rag a very enjoyable evening by himself and Lion the Whitmire Lions H. G. Wright, chairman, program committee, ever interesting to G. F. Patton, who the club with a view of the Battle of the fought in 1864.

Mr. Patton likened his days to our days in that the men who bravely were struggling to serve their way of life. The Battle was fought Easternside of the River on May 5th. The Federal forces, Grant, were advanced and met the Confederates on the banks of the river to Mr. Patton, the Virginia was under the three generals who commanded a corps. Gen. Hill on the front by Gen. James Longstreet was a 24-hours' man South.

The Armies met and suffered severe losses for Gen. Longstreet's men who finally arrived the day and halted the Army. Gen. Longstreet in the Battle.

Gen. Gordan, a distinguished himself as one of the greatest soldiers of the A Directors' meeting held after the meeting.

Thursday, November 20, 1969

The News and Herald, Winnsboro, S. C.

Thursday, January 17, 1957

John Bratton Chapter of UDC Meets Friday at the Home of Mrs. R. Y. Turner

Members of the John Bratton Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, were entertained on Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. R. Y. Turner, on the Old Camden Road. House plants and other greenery and berries were used about the rooms and hall.

Bratton Chapter of UDC Meets with Mrs. Nash; Mrs. J. H. Aiken Talks

The John Bratton Chapter, UDC, was entertained on Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Henry Nash on North Vanderhorst Street. The rooms where members and guests gathered, were attractive with pretty containers of fall flowers and permanent arrangements.

Mrs. William Dunlap presided,

Thursday, January

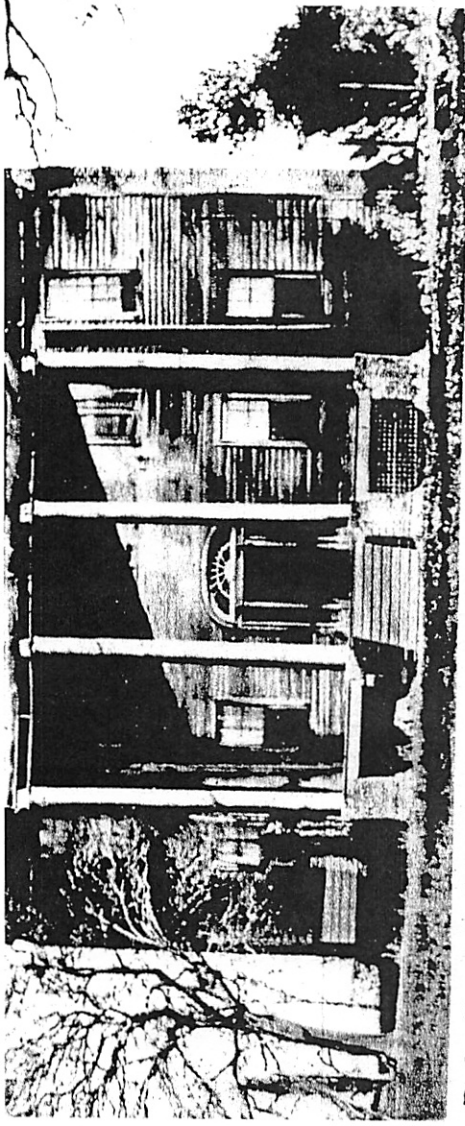
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