

and was raised by these Aunts. They were good Christian ladies. They sure loved Bob as they raised him after Bob's brother (Billy) was shot by a group of Lemmon boys while in the woods hunting. They had a gun which was on the ground. They saw a rabbit all ran for the gun, it went off and killed Billy.

THE OAKS
HELLEMS - LEMMON - WELLS

This is all true as the Aunts told me this

Essie Mae Lemmon
Hooker

The home of the late John Montgomery Lemmon and his wife, Mary Ann Yonque Lemmon, is located five miles from Winnsboro on the Jenkinsville road. It was built by a Mr. Hellemms who came to Fairfield from Texas. There were twelve-hundred acres of land in the tract on which the house was built.

Mr. Hellemms supervised the construction of the house and saw to it that not one inferior piece of lumber was used. This accounts for the excellent condition that it is in today after standing for more than one hundred years. In 1856 Mr. Hellemms sold the house and plantation to John Montgomery Lemmon for the sum of ten thousand dollars, after residing in it for a short time.

The house is large and spacious, typical of the better plantation homes of the period. Two mammoth chimneys are at either end of the building which is fronted with a two story classic portico. A wide, one story piazza extends across most of the rear of the house, with a room at one end of it. A gabled roof covers the building. In the gable over the portico is a well designed fanlight window. The front doors leading to the porches are large and flanked with sidelights. The name given this place was THE OAKS, a very descriptive title for the old house was framed and surrounded by a magnificent oak grove avenue.

During the War Between the States Mr. Lemmon went into the Confederate service, leaving at home his wife and small children. A neighbor, Mrs. McCreight, stayed with them during the war years.

Very often passing Confederate soldiers stopped in for food and lodging. One day a wounded soldier came. Mrs. Lemmon dressed his wounds and burned the bloodstained shirt lest it be discovered by Federal soldiers who were reported to be in the vicinity. Surely enough they came on the heels of the Confederates, over-running the house and shouting demands for food and supplies.

Soon they were demanding silver and jewelry but Mrs. Lemmon was adamant. When they increased their demands, embellished by threats and profanity, Mrs. McCreight being more fearful of them and whose silver was buried in the box with the Lemmon valuables under the rail fence, said, "Oh, Mrs. Lemmon, please, give them mine!" Thus the secret was out.

Besides carrying off the silver, they looted the smokehouse, caught all of the chickens except one, took with them all of the mules, killing the one that refused to go.

One soldier was left for a final deed. He came running down the stairs, falling from the landing into the room where the family was sitting. He made this statement, "Lady, I have started a slow fire in the attic." We wonder if this could have been the Yankee soldier that wrote on the wall of the old Brick Church his apology for taking up the floor of the church to span the river?

With the warning of fire some of the slaves were called to carry water up to the third floor and a watch was set up until all danger had passed.

Bob's aunts Aunt Belle & Jennie Lemmon told us all about this I have one of the old Bells. They had trouble with them, they would to wrap things in.

Handwriting by
Lemmon
descendant