

August 1891

*send to Lemmon
family files*

A LARGE FAMILY REUNION

Never has our correspondant spent a happier day than on the 12th of August at a reunion picnic near Little River, on the plantation of Mr. James Lemmon.

This day had been selected by the descendants of that venerable Christian lady, Mrs. Mary Ann Lemmon, to celebrate her approaching eighty-ninth birthday. Mrs. Lemmon came to this country at the early age of 14, in the year 1817, with her father, William Lauderdale, wife and three sons, Thomas, Dr. David and William. It took them three months to cross the Atlantic. The trip can now be made in seven days. It took them six days to come from Charleston to Fairfield. Now, we can eat breakfast in Charleston, and take dinner in Winnsboro, making the trip in six hours.

In conversation with Mrs. Lemmon, she contrasted the broad acres of our American farms with those of Ireland, stating that for generations her family had lived on ten acres of land, which fully supplied their every want.

The family was so well contented in old Ireland that it took several letters from her uncle, Captain Hugh Milling of Revolutionary fame, who had preciously imigrated to this country with his three brothers, to induce her father to break up and cast his fortune in America.

The following children, grand children and great grand children with their husbands and wives, making 69, were represented:

The oldest daughter, Mrs. Jane Young, her second daughter, Mrs. Mary Ann Owings, and son James M. Owings and three children, Thomas D. Owings, wife and nine children, Susan Owings, Mary A. Ladd, Husband and seven children, Dr. O. Y. Owings, Elizabeth Milum, husband and two children. The oldest son, John M. Lemmon, wife and six children; the oldest one of this family viz. Robert Y. Lemmon, with his wife and four boys could not be present on account of sickness.

Those present: Mary, with her husband four children; Janie, Belle, and Sue, with sons, William and Lauderdale.

The daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Turner, with her daughter, Anna J. Stevenson, husband and two children; Emma Pope, husband and one child; a grandson, Marion Scruggs, and sons, William and John.

Second son, James Lemmon, wife and five children, Son John, daughters, Mamie, Sarah Belle, Daisy and Lilly.

Four generations of Marys sat at the same table.

The three year old daughter of Mrs. Ladd, the mother 36 years old, grandmother 65, and great grandmother 89.

The love of home which is the mother of patriotism is fully shown in this family, all except two living within 8 miles of the old family and none outside the limits of the state.

Page 3

Mrs. Lemmon's health is good, her memory remarkably retentive of persons and dates all along her evenful life. She still takes a delight in gardening; and her descendants were surprised at the fine Johnnie cake she baked on a board she used 75 years ago.

May God bless this grand Christian, and spare her to us for many days.



LEMMON PLACE

This large, old house is situated near Little River and Bell's Bridge on the Newberry Highway. Although close to the road it is almost obscure to the casual passerby. Shaded and secluded by giant trees and enclosed by an old-fashioned picket fence it is a comfortable and homey old place once it is found. The shrubs and flowbearing trees in the yard are somewhat overgrown but they bear evidence to the dignity and charm of the old place.

The house is built along the same lines as so many of the Fairfield plantation houses of its time. It is large and comfortable with four rooms and a hall on each floor of the main body of the building and it has a wing extending to the rear. In the attic is a dormitory type room that has always been used for storage and overflow. A portico fronts the building. Originally this consisted of two open porches but some time during the history of the old house the upper portico was enclosed for a room.

James Lemmon bought the plantation on which the house is located from a Mr. Trapp in 1829. Immediately after purchasing the land he constructed the house and made it the seat of his large estate. Mr. Lemmon's wife was the former Mary Ann Lauderdale, the daughter of a prominent early settler of Fairfield. Their son, James Thomas Lemmon, inherited the place. Mr. Lemmon Senior was one of Fairfield's leading and wealthier citizens during his life. He owned several plantations, much property in Wimsboro, and was an excellent builder and cabinet maker. Before his death he gave each of his children a home and slaves.

This plantation with its grand old house now belongs to Miss Lillian E. Lemmon a daughter of James Thomas and Mary Ann Lauderdale Lemmon. Miss Lillie lives here alone with many family heir-looms and cares for the old place, keeping it much as it has been for almost a century and a half.

