

OLD HOMES ^{9/8/1938} OF FAIRFIELD

Assuredly the many fine old homes of Fairfield county deserve mention in any edition setting forth the history, achievement and progress of the county. The list is not complete but should be sufficient to set the present generation to searching old records and writing down reminiscences of great uncles and aunts, and grandparents.

1. The Gen. John Means Home—This is an imposing and impressive old mansion built by the Gen. about about 1787, about one and one half miles from the station of Blair and about the same distance from Broad River. The house has been compared to "a sentinel looking out from its many windows upon every cardinal point."

Surrounding the house and garden can be seen the remains of an old dirt wall, which was used as a rampart during the early history of our county, as a protection from the Indians.

The house is built of brick and its walls are plastered. The brick were made on the place in a kiln, the signs of which still remain. The plastering is said to have been mixed and left standing in vats for three years before it was used. Over the door is carved in raised figures a large eagle with outspread wings, the emblem of these great United States. To this eagle is credited the fact that the house still stands. Gen. Sherman's men

gave up the idea and determination of burning it when they saw this symbol.

In the garden nearby, rests the remains of Gen. John Means, builder of the house.

2. "The McCreight Home: Just back of Dr. Samuel Lindsay's residence on Vanderhorst Street is the old home of Col. William McCreight who lived and died there. It is more than one hundred and fifty years old and claims the distinction of being the first wooden structure of any size erected in the county. Six generations have found a home there and it is still in good preservation. The old cedars in front of the house were planted by Racael Buchanan McCreight soon after the house was built.