

[Fairfield County Genealogy Society Books in PDF, Death-Notices Fairfield Papers](#)

These death notices are from the Fairfield Herald, July 4, 1866 to September 6, 1876, and The News and Herald, October 19, 1876 to February 24, 1916. Both newspapers were published in Winnsboro, South Carolina. These papers had a tri-weekly edition and a weekly edition. The majority of the death notices are from the weekly edition, which was published on Wednesday. Because of the missing issues there are large gaps in the death notices. This is especially true from 1907 to 1916, as there are no issues for the years 1907 through 1910 and a very few for the remaining years.

December 2, 1874 Issue

Col. David Province died of pneumonia near Strothers', Fairfield County on the 24th inst. He was a native of Kentucky. Previous to the war he moved to Arkansas, where he has made a Colonel of a regiment and returned to Fairfield County after the war.

[Fairfield County Genealogy Society 2003 Newsletter, Volume 16, Number 4](#)

Further Incidents and Anecdotes of the Olden Time

Rock Creek

I forget to mention Col. David Province, who died not long since. He was a native of Kentucky, removing to Florida many years ago, where he practiced the profession of law, until he married a lady of our State, and removed to Fairfield County and settled on Terrible Creek. He again removed to Arkansas and served as an officer in the western campaign with distinction, was taken prisoner of war and sent to Rock Island, where he suffered untold cruelties, as he told me, until exchanged after the close of the war. He returned to his home and was a practical planter until his death. Colonel Province inherited a sound, practical mind, was a useful citizen and left an intelligent and amiable family at his death. W. E.

[Fairfield County Genealogy Society 2007 Newsletter, Volume 20, Number 2](#)

W. W. Dixon Writes Interesting Facts About Fairfield County and People

Men are not always courageous according to their size. When Col. Province married a daughter of Daniel Hall, Jr., her father gave them a plantation in the western part of the county and there they lived and really prospered. His intimates were Trez. Feaster and Dr. Francis Fant. One day Col. Province and Dr. Fant were taking a train for Columbia, Province was a small man. A large drummer (traveling salesman) preceded them into the coach and took the only available seat. (The train was crowded.) Province followed by Dr. Fant, stopped at the seat and said, "Sir, you have my seat." The drummer made room saying, "It is big enough for two." The Colonel took out his watch and said. "I am Col. Province. I will give you just ten seconds to vacate my seat sir." The portly drummer arose and slunk down the aisle. After being seated and the laughter of the occupants of the coach had subsided, Dr. Fant said: "Province do you realize that was a dangerous thing to attempt? Suppose the giant had refused to give up the seat; what would you have done?" The Colonel laughed and replied: "Why I would have just slunk down the aisle as he did, but you had better enjoy our seat." The Colonel's body was interred at Rock Creek Church. His widow remarried, in our estimation, a sage and truly great man, Samuel McCormick of Longtown, and had two children, a daughter, Hallie and a son, Samuel McCormick, Jr., who

married the oldest daughter of our esteemed friend, Charlie S. Ford, Sr., who was so esteemed as a first rate orator and on the stump as having many purple patches of English in his forensic debates with his contestants. Many amusing things I could relate that transpired in this western part of the county, told by my law partner, the late Glenn W. Ragsdale.

From the April 14, 1905 Issue of The Herald and News, Newberry, S. C.

A STRANGE STORY

Desecration of a Grave Seems to Be Fulfillment of a Premonition

A small card in the Columbia State of Sunday from the town of Blairs, in Fairfield County, says the Columbia State, brings to mind a romantic story and one which has its pathos. This card was as follows:

To the Editor of the State:

The grave on Col. Provence at Rock Creek Church was dug up and the casket broke open a few nights ago by parties unknown. We understand Col. Provence was buried about 31 years ago.

Something should be done by the right parties, whoever they are, to see if the perpetrators could not be apprehended and dealt with according to law.

Is it possible we cannot rest in the grave?

The friends and family will regret to learn this. Not knowing the address of any of the family I take this way of notifying them and hope you will publish same.

Blairs, April 7 J. W. Blair

In the course of conversation yesterday, Mr. W. H. Lyles told of certain circumstances which make the act of vandalism doubly strange.

Mr. Lyles knew Col. Provence well, for they made their homes on adjoining plantations, and although Col. Provence was at the time of his death about 60 years old and Mr. Lyles was a young man, the friendship between the two was strong.

“The account of the desecration of the grave of Col. David Provence” said Mr. Lyles, “arouses in my mind sincere regret, as it seems to be the fulfilment of a premonition which was entertained by Col. Provence for months before his death.

“For many months before his death he frequently spoke to me of his dread that his remains should someday be disturbed, or that the plowshare should turn the soil above his grave. At that time my family owned the land on the other side of the public road from Rock Creek Church, and on a beautiful knoll opposite to the church and a few feet from the public road was a large rock with a V shape opening facing the church. His special request to me was that he might be buried in that opening in order that his grave should be protected forever from the plowshare. This was done, and when the tract of land was subsequently sold a small square was reserved on account of the grave. Now, 31 years after his death the thing that he dreaded has come to pass; the casket has been torn open and his bones ruthlessly scattered upon the surface of the ground.

“He was a man of brilliant intellect and of rare qualities of heart. He had served gallantly in the Mexican War and was promoted on the field of battle at Buena Vista from gallantry and received a captain’s commission. He was one of the principal heroes of the defense of Port Hudson during the War of the Confederacy as the colonel of one of the Arkansas regiments holding the centre of the works of defense of that town, and it was said of him in this account of his life from which I read that during the entire siege he left his post only when he sallied forth to destroy the enemy’s works or thrust the bayonet into his loins. Although in feeble health, neither dangers nor privations, nor exposure, nor physical infirmity abated one jot of his martial valor or his unceasing vigilance. Having married Miss Hall, of Fairfield District, he purchased and settled on a plantation adjoining my father’s, and in the troublous times subsequent to the war I came to know him well.”

Mr. Lyles said that he could in no way account for the desecration of the rude rock walled sepulcher. Col. Provence was buried with no jewels and enmity is hard to believe, for he knew few who hated him enough to so profane his last resting place. Had the act been committed shortly after his death, a reason might have better been sought for, but not after 31 years, it is a mystery.