

Magnolia Plantation



*631 Longtown Road
Ridgeway, South Carolina 29212*

*Compiled by Susan Thompson Harrington
2013*



*Magnolia Plantation, as our home was known to us,
has seen many changes over the years.
Our parents purchased the old house and 1000+ acres
in 1946 before most of us six children were born.
A large portion of the acreage was sold off to downsize to
a more manageable 300+ acre farm for raising cows, chickens,
pigs, and ponies, and for tending to the pecan orchard,
a large summer garden, and several fishing ponds.
We all participated in caring for our home, each other,
and the bounties of the land.
Our country way of life was simple, but very satisfying.*

But let's go back to when it all began...

Please enjoy our story...The Thompsons 2013



*Magnolia was built in 1854, less than a mile
east of the village of Ridgeway
on the Longtown-Camden Road.*

*It was the home of
Mrs. Samuel Peyre Rosborough Thomas,
after the death of her husband
at Valley Grove, in Fairfield County,
near Ridgeway, South Carolina.*



*A second floor was added onto Magnolia
by the son of the Thomas family about 1898.*

*Waring P. Carrington of Baltimore, MD, purchased
the house and surrounding property in either 1931 or 1938.
There is some speculation that he may have had the
house burned to the foundation because of possible
contamination due to an illness (maybe small pox),
from which a previous resident had died.
We have no verification of this happening.*

He either extensively remodeled this house or rebuilt it.



This is Magnolia which Warren P. Carrington of Baltimore, MD, moved his family into around 1931 or 1938. He had either extensively remodeled the former Thomas home or totally rebuilt on the site of the original Magnolia.

This photo was taken in 1949 after the home was purchased by Lawrence I. (Larry) Thompson of Mendenhall, Mississippi, and his wife Myrtle Sinclair Thompson of Camden, SC, in 1946.

(Their 5 year old daughter Betsy is seen in the photo.)



Shortly after returning home from Europe in 1945, Larry and Myrtle were determined to find a farm... not too far from her family home in Camden. Magnolia Plantation in Ridgeway proved to be the perfect place.



The house was soon filled with four children, Betsy, Ruth, Susan, and Larry.



In 1955, during the time in which 3 young foster children joined the family for a short while, Larry salvaged four stately Corinthian columns from a home being demolished in Laurens, South Carolina. New concrete bases were formed to provide the correct height for the front of the house.



Photo taken in 2013.

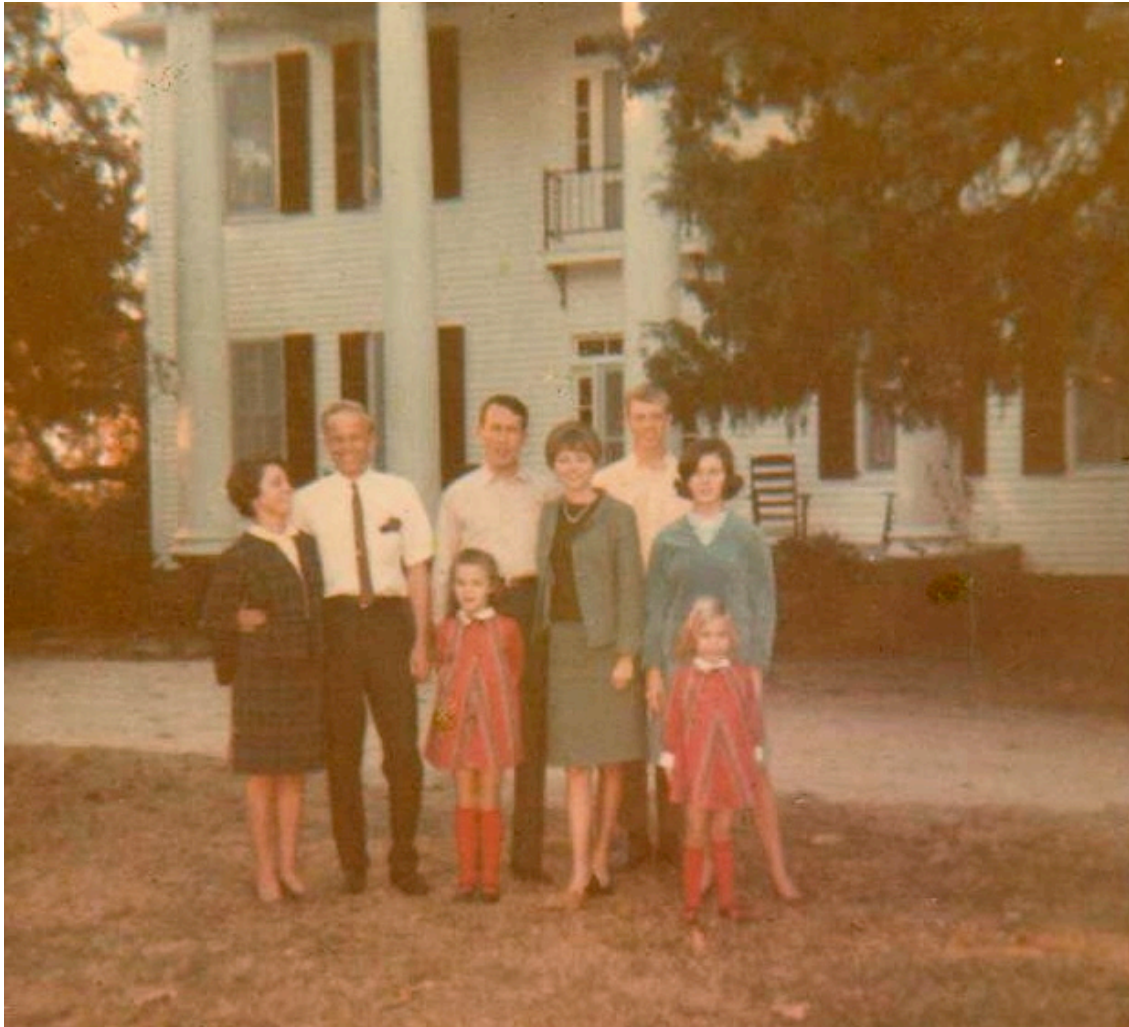
The front of the home was renovated in 1955 when the upstairs porch was removed and the four Corinthian columns were erected by Larry and a small group of helpers.

He constructed the small upstairs balcony in 1967 in preparation for daughter Ruth's wedding. Her bridal bouquet was tossed from the balcony.

1989 brought an extensive addition across the rear of the house when Larry and a carpenter friend constructed a den and dinette area, master bath, study for Myrtle, laundry room, and a carport.



*Larry became a teacher, coach, and then principal
of Ridgeway High School (grades 1-12).
Myrtle taught art and music to children at Ridgeway High.
After all six children were born, she went back to college
to earn her elementary teaching degree and principal's certificate
and taught for many years in the Fairfield County school system.
Meanwhile, baby sister Ellen increased the number of
children in the family to five.*



*Three years later, in 1962, along came the last,
baby sister Fran...the sixth child in the family.
And then the older girls started marrying,
increasing the number of family members.*



The old two-room “cook house” or tenant house sat just beyond the backyard of the big house. It was torn down around 2009.



The smokehouse on the outskirts of the backyard was used to smoke meat. The old hooks for hanging the meat still hang on the large beams inside. A fire was started in the brick fire pit, and smoke traveled through the flue into the smokehouse.



The playhouse, which now stands on the right side of the house, used to reside in the backyard. It afforded the children many delightful hours of playing “house” or “school.”



After the children were all grown, Myrtle created a beautiful garden of many colorful flowers and lovely plants to the right of the house... roses, daffodils, impatiens, begonias, coleus, azaleas, crepe myrtles, dogwoods, and more. Garden statuary depicting the grandchildren and garden bunnies adorned the path. Traces of the garden still linger today.



The Thompson "Era" in Ridgeway began to come to a close with the deaths of Larry in 2002 and Myrtle in 2012.

(At that time, Larry and Myrtle Thompson's clan was 56 strong with 6 children and spouses, 15 grandchildren and 11 spouses, 14 great-grandchildren, and 4 step great-grandchildren.)

Sixty-seven years of our time growing up there and going back home to visit have filled us with many memories which we shall never forget.

Magnolia...you were a wonderful home for us all!

All the Thompson Children