

Fairfield  
Genealogical Society

**NEWSLETTER**

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December 2008

Facts About Fairfield by W. W. Dixon  
Guardianships

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This may be our last newsletter. If we continue we will ask for dues in early 2009

**Your Society hoped that you had a good Thanksgiving  
and hope that you have a Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year and all those brick walls we all have  
encountered while seeking our ancestors crumble in  
2009.**

From the December 10, 1936 Issue of the News and Herald

## Facts About Fairfield

W. W. Dixon

Some weeks ago you published from the files of The News and Herald of 1856, a letter written by an "unknown farmer" to the paper in that year. To Mrs. Herbert Ruff of Ridgeway is due the thanks for the publication. It has attracted much public interest and comment, especially the mentioning of old inhabitants, establishments, and well known names and families, prominent 80 years ago. In keeping with this line of reading and historic preservation, the writer devotes these articles to historic houses in Fairfield.

### The Neil House



This is the second house South from the intersection of Vanderhorst and Liberty Streets, and on the West side of Vanderhorst, one block west of Congress in the town of Winnsboro.

It was built by Caleb Clark, a lawyer of the Winnsboro bar in 1800. Mr. Clark deeded it to an ancestor of the present Neal family. The members of the family now and John J. Neil of Columbia, Charles H. Neal, resident teacher in the Phillipine Islands and the three sisters, Misses Margaret, Nan and Lida Neil who occupy the residence today.

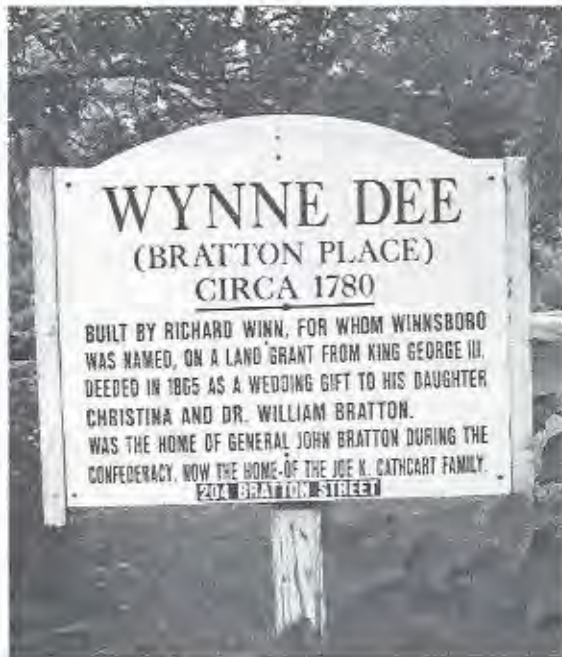
The architectural design is colonial. There are 8 rooms, 2 baths, and a kitchen. The rooms of the main body are 18x16 feet. The parlor is the most beautiful room in the ensemble. The molding around the ceiling is hand carved. The mantels in three rooms are in classic style, vieing, if not identical, in design and beauty with the McIntyre mantels on exhibition in the Boston Museum of Colonial types of ornamentation. One sees about the home pieces of Sevres China, an antique French clock, two Duncan Fife tables of mahogany, one a card table, the other with intriguing little



drawers, may be used as a lady's "keeping place" for hand mesh work, sewing etc. In the drawing room are silver ware—knives, forks, spoons and doilet rings—sterling silver, owned by the Barclay family (foreparents of the Neils) in 1840.

The oak trees in the front yard standing in regular rows were planted in the year 1811.

## Mrs. S. C. Cathcart's House



This home and location is replete with interest as a landmark of the Winn and Bratton families in the early days of Winnsboro. It is two blocks East of U. S. Highway 21 and Congress Street and the last house on the north end of Bratton Street. It was one of the first houses built about Mt. Zion Institute, a School incorporated in 1777. It was first occupied by one of the Winn family for whom the town was named, Winnsborough. The premises passed out of that family to Col. William Bratton, who had married a daughter of Governor John Hugh Means. On the death of William Bratton the widow was in possession for quite a number of years, the property subsequently being owned by the Beaty family, then by C. A.

Stevenson and the next owner our highly lamented fellow townsman, the late Samuel C. Cathcart.

Upon Mr. Cathcart's death the property as an item of his estate, passed to his widow the present owner and resident, Mrs. Tirzah Cathcart. The house contains ten rooms. It is a two storied frame structure, two bordering piazzas, front and side. There are some suggestions in the design of early Colonial architecture. The home is in a state of excellent order and preservation, and stands on a small eminence looking out, and over Mt. Zion High School campus. The landscape spreads out to the North and West in an expanse of woods covering 16 acres. The interior is well arranged for comfort and receptions. The mantels in the reading room and parlor engage your attention and interest, the fretwork panels of frame above these are beautiful, the like of which we have never seen before in any home. They are unique. The rooms are of good dimensions 18x18x12 we estimate. A straight staircase rises from the hallway in the center of the home. The chimneys on the outside of the house are of hand made brick, unusual in color, and masoned together on their way up in the pretty Flemish bond overlapping style, that charm your eye as you behold the work of an artist of those ancient days. The windows are furnished with original blown glass panes and protected with heavy Colonial blinds or shutters. The balustrades are Colonial. The steps about the porches are of Fairfield granite.

The grounds are well kept on which are two pecan trees over a 100 years old, four black walnut trees and a scuppermong arbor. Rows of boxwood line the walks from the streets to the entrance of the home. Indeed it is one the most beautiful, reposeful and alluring homes in Fairfield.

## The Bell House

Historic interest: It is one of the old taverns and places where the stagecoach stopped, passengers ate, and horses were changed in the early days of our country.

History: This house was built by a Creole family the De Bar De Labans in 1805, and added to in 1817. There is a brick with the date of 1817 at the top of one of the outside chimneys, visible to the bystander.

It was built on the old road leading from Charlotte to Columbia to get the patronage of travelers, a tavern to sell eats and drinks. The postmaster, Mr. William Blackstock received and distributed the mail in this house. It was a great place for the gentry to congregate and wet their whistles, a colloquial expression for taking a drink of rum or whiskey and exchange current news of the locality.

This house was the high point North in the march of Sherman's army in this section. It deflected East from this point above Columbia. Some of its officers quartered in the house which fact saved it from destruction. The invading army took the Rocky Mount road eastward and crossed the Catawba River at what is now called Great Falls; then proceeded into Lancaster and Kershaw counties.

Description: It is a large two story frame building, a Mosaic barn like structure. The four outside brick chimneys give it an ungracious appearance. A small hallway 8 feet in with runs thru the main body. The interior is common place.

The property was transferred to Charles Bell, Sr., descended to Charles Bell, his son who married Jane Neal. On the death of Jane Neal, it descended to the children, Charles Bell the third and his sister, Jane Bell, who are present occupants of the house. It is open to the public.

Relics: The grandmother, Mrs. Ann Jane Neal was born in Ireland on the day of the Battle of Waterloo. Her mother was once presented to Queen Victoria. She possesses a silver snuffbox presented her mother by the Prince of Wales. She also had in her possession a brass trinket or token that had to be presented at the communion table of the old covenanter church of which she was a member in order to participate in the sacraments.



## **The Fairfield Inn**

**Historic Interest:** This Inn is interesting on account of its age and early association with the colonial history of Winnsboro, the county seat of Fairfield County.

**Location:** It is at the southern limits of the town of Winnsboro, immediately on the western side of U. S. 21 Highway, the west side of Congress Street.

**History:** It was first owned by the Buchanans, a prominent family in colonial days. It passed from the hands of the Buchanans to Congressman W. W. Boyce; next to James N. Shedd about the period of the Mexican war, when the building was remodeled in the Spanish style of architecture as a home for the Shedd family. In 1869 James N. Shedd conveyed the property to Rev. Thomas W. Erwin, who next deeded it to Samuel B. Clowney who in turn made a conveyance of it to his wife, Margaret W. Clowney. The last named deeded it to A. S. Douglas, an attorney of the Winnsboro bar, who occupied it as a residence to the date of his death. The heirs of Mr. Douglas sold the property to the Winnsboro Mills. The corporation has remodeled it into a high class under the name of The Fairfield Inn.

**Description:** It is a 14 room frame building—two stories, equipped in every way with modern convenience for the accommodations of tourists and visitors.

On the grounds of the Inn is a putting golf course and an 18 hole golf course is just across the Southern Railway track that faces the lawn of the Inn. Tennis courts are laid out. The rooms are all large, 18x16. The dining room has seating capacity for forty guests. The Inn is open to the public.

## **S. U. Robinson House**

**Historic interest:** This house is interesting because it was the headquarters of Kirkpatrick and his officers during the War Between the States.

**Location:** On S-215 in Fairfield County one eighth mile South of Monticello and 5 miles South of intersection of S-215 and S-22.

**History:** It was built as a home in slavery times by Dr. James Davis whose father, Jonathan Davis was President of the Board of Trustees of Furman Academy, 3 miles west of Winnsboro in 1834. Dr. James Davis' mother was Rebecca Kincaid, whose father, Captain James Kincaid operated the first Cotton gin in this country. Dr. Davis was an extensive cotton planter. The Sultan of Turkey secured his services at a high salary to come to Turkey and direct his subjects in methods of cotton cultivation, production, and its uses. On his return about 1845, he brought back with him a jack ass, an Arabian stallion, some mares, Cashmere goats, blooded cattle, and even chickens. He was known afterwards as Turkey Jim Davis.

He built the handsome home now owned and occupied by Samuel Robinson. When Sherman and his armies invaded Fairfield in 1865, the Cavalry arm of the service was under Colonel Kirkpatrick. He made this home his headquarters for 11 days.

**Description:** It is a large two story house, four rooms down stairs, four in the second story divided by two hall 12 feet in width. The dimensions of all rooms are 18x18x14. There are windows to each room all protected by venations blinds. Projecting from the front of the house are upper and lower piazzas. The house stands on high pillars, 8 ft. high. On the side of the front entrance and above the front door are fan shaped figures of blown glass. The mantels are curious tracery, oriental in design and are hand carved. Oak trees in the yard are over 90 years old.

From the December 17, 1936 Issue of the News and Herald

## **Facts About Fairfield**

W. E. Dixon

Continuing with the old historical sites and homes commenced in your last issue we take four of these for the article,

### **Old Furman University**

**Historical Interest:** These buildings are of interest, due to the fact that they are old and were once a site of the present Furman University now at Greenville, S. C.

**Location:** The buildings are about 8 miles South West of Winnsboro and 2 miles West of U. S. Highway 21 on the Winnsboro-Jenkinsville County highway. The said road or highway passes through the property. One building is on the left of the road and one on the right hand.

**History:** The State Baptist Convention met in Charleston in 1834. Rev. A. W. Hodges suggested a committee be appointed that should enquire into the expediency of removing the institution from High Hills in Sumter County near Statesburg. The Convention elected the following as a Board of Trustees: Jonathan Davis, President, Judge John Belton O'Neal and I. L. Brooks, Vice President, J. B. Furman, Secretary and A. D. Jones, Treasurer. The school was transferred to 3 miles South West of Winnsboro and named for Dr. Richard Furman, Father and founder of the State Baptist Convention. Two buildings were constructed, one on either side of the road, one for students of Theology, the other as an English and Classical school. In 1851 Furman University and the faculty were moved to Greenville, S. C.

**Description:** Building No. 1 originally a three story brick structure, contained fourteen rooms with a 12 foot hall dividing each story. The third story has been removed and the structure is now owned by Mrs. Warren Castles. It is now occupied by G. P. Walker with his large family.

Building No. 2 is situated on the North side of the Winnsboro-Jenkinsville road or highway. It is a two story brick structure containing 8 rooms 18x18x16 and a hallway of 10 feet between the rooms in the lower and upper stories. It is in excellent repair and the premises were kept. The cedar trees, the holly tree and the oaks about the premises are a hundred year old. The house is used as a family residence of the owner, the widow, Mrs. Samuel P. Timms.

Old mahogany bureaus and side boards about the house are of great age and beauty. The mantles are hand carved and of delicate tracery in two of the down stairs rooms.

### **The Leonard Robinson House**

**Historical Interest:** This house is of interest because of its great age and as being the residence of the Revolutionary patriot, John Buchanan.

**Location:** One block East of U. S. Highway 21 on Bratton Street, second house South of intersection of College and Bratton Streets, on West side of Bratton.

**History:** The house was erected between 1775 and 1778. It is peculiar in that originally it was a two story house with only four rooms, two on the ground floor and two above. The rooms are 18x16. The ceiling of the lower rooms are low, 10 feet from floor to ceiling, the height from floor to ceiling of the upper rooms is 12 feet. In 1816, a counterpart of the original house was added on the

South side and now a ten foot hall separated the old and new structures forming one house. Distinction about the older part of the house is the mantle, ornamental and hand carved and the ceiling of the upper rooms made of rosewood, deep laying intricate curlicus which are worthy of study and incite your interest. Two beautiful deodora trees and one weeping willow lend grace and charm to the home and front lawn. It is now the resident of Mrs. J. Leonard Robinson.

## Old Brick Church



**Historic Interest:** This church interesting on account of its age, the place of the origin and organization of the first A. R. P. Synod in America, and from the fact of its visitation by Sherman's troops during the Civil War.

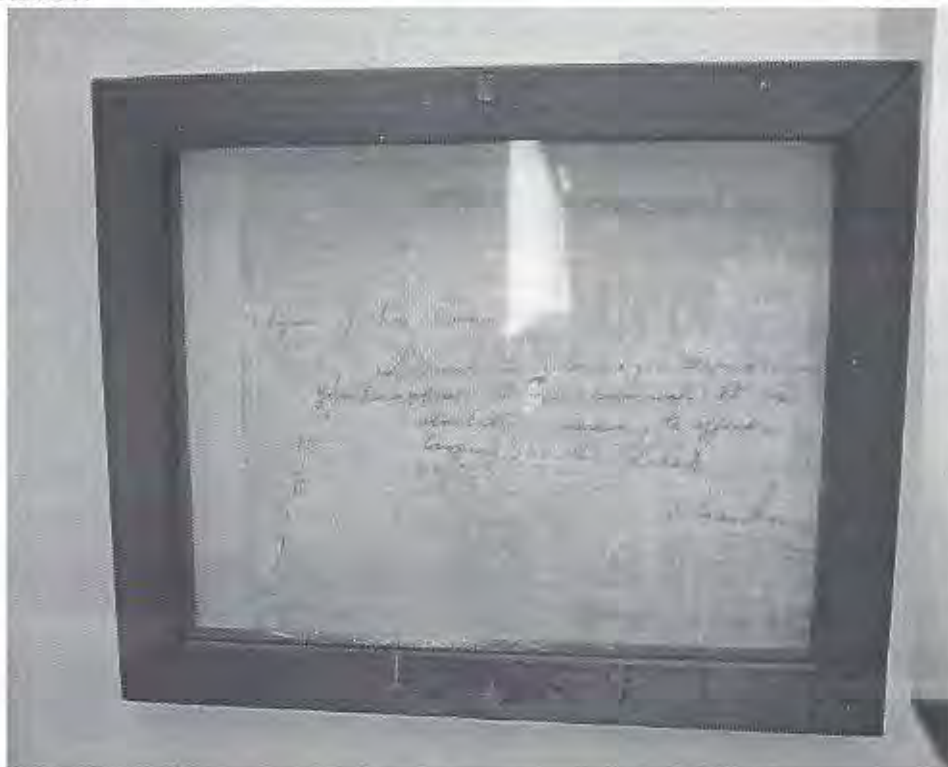
**Location:** On the west bank of Little River, where Winnsboro-Jenkinsville highway crosses the stream about 12 miles west of Winnsboro. From the church going west on the same road or highway you connect with U. S. Highway 215.

**History:** The cornerstone of this building is as old as the American Revolution. It is the place where the Seceders of the South, on May 9, 1803 organized their Synod, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the highest ecclesiastical body of that denomination, the centennial of which was celebrated in 1903. The original old log building was replaced by the present brick one in 1788. Just as it was built it stands today, uniform walls unadorned with small windows. Inside are plain wooden benches, and a small gallery for the use of the negro slaves.

Making the brick is an interesting story. After the crops were "laid by" the workmen would go to the brick yard and tramp the mud into the mortar, put it into moulds with their hands, carry it out into the sunshine to dry, then burn it in kilns by night and day. The church was completed in 1788. The Confederate soldiers in retiring before Sherman in his march through this part of the State destroyed the bridge over Little River at this point, and Sherman's men tore up the flooring and used the sleepers of the church for material to rebuild the bridge. The church has been repaired since but the following Notice written on a facing of the door has been permitted to remain for visitors to read:



Citizens of This Community: Please excuse us For Defacing Your House of Worship So Much. It was Absolutely Necessary To Effect A Crossing Over The Creek, As The Rebs Destroyed The Bridge—A Yankee.



## Robert Kilpatrick



The names of many heroes that came to this country and fought for American Independence are left unhonored and unsung in the annals and epic story of our country. One of these is Robert Kilpatrick an ancestor of Dr. S. B. Lathan of Chester and Walter Lathan of Blackstock. He came here and settled on the Wateree River in 1765. He was an Irishman, turbulent and pugnacious in physical disposition and an intense lover of liberty and freedom. He escaped hanging in the Old Country as a plotter for Irish freedom. Arrested and escaping, he with his wife disguised apparel, with hearts full of joy reached Charleston, S. C. in 1775. . It was but natural that fresh with the wrongs that he suffered across the sea that he should throw his lot with the patriots of the Revolution. His home was surrounded by nests of Tories



in Fairfield and Chester Counties. These were ineffable heartless and contemptible creatures who could not be said to be loyalists even, but were banded together to plunder the Whig women in the absence of their husbands.

Sometime during the disorganized condition of the Whig forces, Robert Kilpatrick learned that his children were down with the smallpox. He ventured to go to his house and perhaps look upon the faces of his children for the last time. He found his three little girls covered with the loathsome disease, not a mouthful of food in the house, the cow taken by the Tories and under such circumstances as he sat down the Tories who had watched his entrance rushed in like so many furies, dragged him from the house, placed a halter around his neck. A few moments and all would be over. He would not cower before them. He would not beg. Just as this critical moment a horse neighed on the opposite side of the house, and as the Tories were as greedy and covetous as they were inhuman, each rushed out to capture the horse for himself. Bob Kilpatrick seized the moment for escaped, dashed out of the door and into the woods, leaving both the Tories and his children in the hands of the Lord, who is not only a king Providence, but a mighty avenger. Not until 1781 did he see his family again. He was again captured in the neighborhood of Hopewell Church. Again the rope was about his neck and even the limb of a tree had been selected from which to suspend his body. With incomparable courage, he knocked down his immediate guard and under the fire of poor marksmanship of the Tories, escaped into the woods untouched.

Kilpatrick lived to see his adopted country free and the Tories who attempted to hang him cover with infamy and living out their lives in disgrace.

Three times this hero faced imminent death, once as an Irish rebel, twice as an American patriot, yet he died peacefully in his bed. A plain marker marks his resting place, in Hopewell A. R. P. Church Cemetery in Chester County. He died at the advanced ages of 115 years. If it be God's will, we hope many more years will be added to one of his descendents, Dr. S. B. Lathan who has reached his 94<sup>th</sup> year of honor and usefulness in our country's history.

## **Fairfield Country Club**

This is a chartered club. A. E. Jury is president and T. D. Rivers, Secretary-Treasurer. The club house is situated near U. S. Highway 21, one half mile South East of the town of Winnsboro and a 100 yards East of Southern Railway right of way, on land owned in fee simple by F. M. Roddey. The Club house is built of South Carolina Blue Granite, from the Winnsboro Granite quarries. It is a two story structure containing a ladies rest room, a men's rest room, a visiting or sitting room, a dining room and cuisine apartment, with a pantry adjoining.

The links for golf spread out to the South West of the Club house and contain about 20 acres. Golf has become a favorite amusement to many of Fairfield people and the links have been played on recently by noted visitors. The last occasion the players were matched as follows: Katheryn Hemphill and Melvin Hemphill against Lockwood Watkins and Harold Hall.

In the club house are card tables and a piano for the amusement and enjoyment of the club and its guests.

The membership of the club is 50. It keeps a caretaker in charge all the times and is open to the public.

From the January 7, 1937 Issue of the News and Herald

## Facts About Fairfield

W. W. Dixon

### The Johnson House



This home is of historical interest in that it was erected as a residence 101 years ago. Its first occupant was Samuel Johnson, a prominent citizen of Winnsboro and a large planter and slave owner of Fairfield county at that date 1836.

Location: In the town of Winnsboro, on the North side of West Liberty Street, two blocks West of Congress Street which is identical with U. S. Highway 21 as that highway passes through the center of the town.

Samuel Johnson's forebears were of Revolutionary stock, having emigrated from Pennsylvania and settled in the neighborhood of old Fort Dearborn in the vicinity of the great Catawba Falls. The builder, Samuel, came to Winnsboro that his family might secure the advantages of Mt. Zion College and the cultured society that Winnsboro was noted for in that day and generation.

By successive conveyances through the years that have elapsed the grounds and home passed to Margaret M. Flenniken, who deeded the property to Bethel Associate Reform Presbyterian Church in 1894. It is now the manse of that denomination of Christian worship in Winnsboro. It is at present occupied by Dr. Oliver Johnson, pastor of Bethel A. R. P. Church and his delightful family.

Description: The architectural design is distinctively Colonial. There are 10 rooms, two bathrooms and kitchenette, other than large closets and pantries conveniently situated about the



lower and upper rooms of the home. The rooms (estimate) are 20x20. All the rooms are beautiful. The ground floor rooms interesting—the beading herein, around the ceilings and mantels over the fire places are hand carved and unique enough to demand more than casual attention. The exterior of the residence is handsome and commanding in appearance, the graceful columns, porches and balconies satisfy the eye as to symmetry and proportion and for the height of the building the roof does not give it a top heavy, flat and smothering effect to the view of the beholder.

Abutting on Liberty Street is a granite coping wall, 3 feet high running the full length of the premises and on the West side of the residence is seen a well cared for garden containing many of the beautiful semi-tropical shrubs and flowers. The eastern front premises, one observes the magnolias and deoda trees. The large white structure with its 30 or more green blinds to the windows has a grandeur of appearance, unexcelled by any home in Winnsboro. And we linger with the thought that however handsome the exterior, however beautiful the interior it is an abode that dispenses strength, confidence and peace.

### **The Pryscilla Ketchin House**



This home is located on the west side of Congress Street and U. S. Highway 21, as it intersects the town of Winnsboro and is two doors South of the Carolina Theatre.

It is peculiarly interesting for the notabilities who have owned, lived in, or have been connected with it. If I “mistake not” it was constructed by the Prochers, a Charleston family. The front steps jutting out on the pavement suggests a reminder of so many Charleston residences that have this disturbing feature to pedestrians. It was built between 1842 and 1850. The title deeds were once held by P. P. Porchers in trust for the Van Wyche children. One of these afterwards was Mayor of New York City (Robert Van Wyche). The other, August Van Wyche became a Judge of the New York Court of Appeals.



This property or a part of it was once owned by Samuel Maverick, who emigrated to Texas in the early history of that State, fought for Texas independence from Mexico, became a cattle rancher and banker. One of the counties of Texas is named for him. One of his descendants, Maury Maverick is at present a Congressman from Texas. By the way the word maverick you find in the dictionary is derived from the fact that the slaves who were left in charge of Sam Maverick's ranch failed to brand the calves and neighboring ranchers got a good many of them, so now an unbranded cow is called a "maverick".

The brick structure came into possession of George Washington Ladd, a portrait painter who with his wife, Catherine Stratton Ladd, ran a successful school for boys and girls. She gave up teaching during the Civil War and her later history is well known to your readers.

The house is now well preserved and is now an apartment house, several families occupy the rooms which once were the dormitories of the school children.

From the January 14, 1937 Issue of the News and Herald

### **Facts About Fairfield**

W. W. Dixon

### **Mrs. E. D. Brice's Home**



Historic Interest: It is the birthplace of the late Dr. James H. Carlisle, President of the great Methodist Institution of learning, Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C.

Location: South east corner of Washington and Zion Streets, two blocks of U. S. Highway 21, which is identical with Congress Street, in the town of Winnsboro. The house, modernized and



newly painted, white, with the many green blinds to its 33 windows, the attractive green roofing presents a comely handsome appearance diagonally across the street from the Associate reformed Presbyterian Church.

History: It was first a two room cottage built by William Carlisle, who was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in 1793 and emigrated with his family to this country. Dr. S. B. Lathan is our authority for saying he was a man of little education, of great native ability and an eshorter of the Methodist faith and speaker of much eloquence and personal magnetism, exciting and swaying the crowd of people who always flocked to hear him. However he had a fault common to many preachers in that day and time, namely he was fond of wine and crude corn whiskey. Tradition tells that on one occasion in an inebriate condition he was lying in a fence corner and was in danger of being mutilated by a drove of hogs when rescued by those who loved and admired him. To his credit be it said that he was so pained with shame and remorse that he never touched a drop of wine or liquor in his life ever afterward.

The Scotch cottage consisted of two rooms with an outside chimney to the east room. In the east room Dr. James H. Carlisle was born in the year 1825. This house was built adjacent to the Methodist Cemetery, and the Methodist Church of Winnsboro was first constructed across Washington Street opposite the graveyard. Two old live oaks are still living and standing that mark the spot where the congregation shaded themselves before and after hours of church worship. The church building, an old landmark, was dismantled three decades ago, but the same organization has erected the handsome church at the corner of College and Congress Streets as a place of worship. By successive conveyance the cottage passed into the hands of Mrs. Catharine Caldwell Mobley who owned and lived in it as a residence many years. It was subsequently bought by the late E. D. Brice. It still remains in his family as a residence. As an evidence of what ideal of homing minds can plan and do with the aid of an architect, the two room cottage has been remodeled and transformed into one of the handsomest residence in Winnsboro. It has eleven living rooms and three bath rooms, with convenient closets about the lower and upper stories of the house. There are twenty-one steps in the winding stairway. The two original rooms are still preserved in the remodeled home, but the new flooring is built on and over the original floors and new ceilings cover the old ceilings. The parlor is still the old parlor of ancient days rendered attractive as stated by a hard wood floor and delicate woodwork ceilings. In here, the writer observed some thing he has never seen nor heard of in his life time. The fireplace is constructed of hammered iron. A local blacksmith of those ancient times must have been employed, to construct it in the fireplace. The sides, back and facings of the fireplace are solid plate iron. Interesting, too, is the mantel in the room and the decorated panels that give it a support. It has the coloring of grained dark-ivory. In this room also is a mahogany table that has come down to the home from Mr. Brice's line of the family. One of the best views from the home is from a window in the South East room of the second story. One can see nearly the whole Southern part of the town and under the near the eye may be seen the marble slabs of stone in the grave yard recording the love and death of the founder William Carlisle, that of his brother, James Carlisle and that of his friend, Captain John Buchanan, leaving you to feel constrained to congratulate the family on the possession of their lovely home, and the associations connected with it in that herein was born one of the greatest men of all times, Dr. James H. Carlisle, one tall enough in intellect and over soul to lift up thousands of youths to a higher level of usefulness to their country and to serve in the kingdom of the more abundant life.

From the January 21, 1937 Issue of the News and Herald

## Facts About Fairfield

W. W. Dixon

### The Old John Mobley Mansion

This old country home is interesting in account of its size and age, and the large Mobley graveyard adjoining the home grounds.

Location: Off U. S. Highway 21, about three miles west of Woodward station.

History: It was erected by John Mobley, an interesting character in his day and generation. A shrewd money-gatherer for 50 years, he grew tired of the pursuit of wealth and devoted the remainder of his life to philosophy and religion. Before the Civil War, he was unquestionably the richest man in the county. Born in 1794, he was the first man to volunteer from Fairfield and present himself for duty as a Confederate soldier. When the enlistment board refused him, he let his son forward, and his son, A. J. Mobley, has the honor of being the first Confederate soldier enlisted from Fairfield County.

Old Uncle John Mobley married Kate McLean and said of her, "She was muchly to be desired because she could dance with a glass of water on top of her head." He and his wife had the same birthday, March 27, but he was two years her senior. Their joint birthday was a neighborhood celebration for years—an occasion for family reunions of the Mobley kin people.

When he joined the Baptist Church, like the jailor of Holy Writ, he joined with his whole household—wife, children and even slaves that were large enough to be immersed. He immediately erected Fellowship Church, laid out the grounds for the cemetery that now contains the remains of his dead kin to the number of fifty or sixty, if recollection serves us.

A wonderful man was old Uncle John Mobley, deferred to and fawned on by hypocritical friends and feared by his foes. The Grim Reaper gathered him after the close of four score years and five. His body reposed in the cemetery of his gift. The stones about him mark the last resting place of his people. The dancing girl, delight of his youth, and the ministering angel of his mature years lies there beside him.

Description of the Mobley House: It is a two-story frame building, erected about 1833. The rooms are large, 20,x20 and the height from floor to ceiling is 14 feet. The house has ten rooms and is of the salt box style of architecture. The stairway and wainscoating, W. R. Doty and the writer agree, are of black walnut. The hall way is through the center. It is long and wide enough to accommodate two sets of cotillion at the same time. The walls of the hall are painted a dappled-yellow marble like color. Artist pronounce the coloring inimitable and aver that J. P. Morgan or Henry Ford would give a fortune for work of this kind, but for some unaccountable reason, it can't be duplicated. The method is one of the lost arts.

The house is constructed of excellent timber. The main body is in fair state of preservation, having stood the ravages of a century's usage well, but weathering has perforated the roof, rusted the iron work of the windows and these parts of the old mansion present a sad picture of dilapidation and mournfulness.

The property is now owned by the family of the late W. M. Patrick, of Woodward, S. C.



From the February 25, 1937 Issue of the News and Herald

## **Facts About Fairfield**

W. W. Dixon

### **The Charles B. Douglas House**

**Historic Interest:** This house is interesting because it was headquarters for General Judson Kilpatrick's Cavalry for three days during the Civil War.

**Location:** On U. S Highway 215, one mile south of Jenkinsville Post Office.

**History:** It was built by C. B. Douglas Sr. in the 1840's. The house was a family residence in the days of slavery. When the war came on between the states near the end, the extreme left of the invading army under the command of General Kilpatrick passed through western Fairfield. For several days every road in this part of the county was congested with the movement of marching columns of soldiers. The country was foraged upon and burned thoroughly; perhaps more so than any point along the route from Savannah to Rocky Mount (Great Falls, S. C.)

On February 19, 1865, Kilpatrick wrote to Sherman: "I reached Alston yesterday at 12:00 noon, but could not save the bridge. We are capturing some prisoners and doing well."

The General was in command of Cavalry. He had his headquarters at the home for a brief period of three days during which the surrounding country was pillaged and most of the houses burned. The stench from the cattle slain, and dead animals that they did not carry with them, was suffocating for days.

**Description:** It is a two story frame house, front and back verandas; brick chimneys at gable ends. It is owned at present by the heirs of C. B. Douglas, deceased.

### **The Nelson House**

**Historic interest:** This house is interesting because of its age and also because it contains a number of relics.

**Location:** On U. S. Highway 21, midway between Winnsboro and Ridgeway on the east side of the Southern Railway track and right of way. It is at the station of Simpson on the said line of railway.

**History:** The site was owned by James Nelson, a son-in-law of Thomas Woodward, the Regulator. The present house was constructed about 1833 by William Nelson, a grandson of the Regulator. It is now the home of Mrs. Eliza Nelson Parks, a descendant.

**Description:** It is of salt box style of architecture, chimney in the center. It is a two story structure, fire place in each room of the main body. Those rooms are 18x18. Two additional rooms were added in 1853. The mantels are ornamentally hand carved. The old well 119 feet deep still furnishes an excellent water and shows a good and healthful and shows a good and healthful analysis from Clemson College. The grave yard, a few rods on the eastern side of the home is interesting for the quaint inscription upon the tombs and one sarcophagus of marble in shape of a coffin.

**Relics:** There is a hand made sample of silk dated, October 29, 1819 and letters threaded on it which read: "Be it my only wisdom here to serve the Lord with filial fear."

There are three beautiful quilts of different pattern and design finished in 1853. When Sherman's army approached in 1865, they were buried with other valuables in the grave yard. The quilts show a few stains where the water of the rains seeped down and the iron in the soils

composition affected them. There is an old grandfather flint primer musket in the house, and a lamp which lard was used as oil as the fuel.

A curious old waffle iron is in evidence. The pans are at the extremity of the pronged handles. These handles are 3 feet in length making it comfortable to stand and cook the waffles in an open fire place.

Editor's notes: The information in this article was collected by the Federal Writers' Project.

From the March 18, 1937 Issue of the News and Herald

## **Facts About Fairfield**

W. W. Dixon

### **Mobley Meeting House**

This site is interesting because of a battle or skirmish that was fought here during the Revolutionary War in 1780. British officers and troops were dispatched in marauding parties to punish every Whig with utmost rigor and to call on the loyalist and Tories to aid the work of rapine, plunder and murder. A body of these mixed troops and vandals assembled at Mobley Meeting House in Fairfield County were attacked and defeated in June 1780 by a party of Whigs under command of Colonel Bratton, Major Winn and Captain McLure. (History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780, Ellet's Women of the Revolution, vol. 1, pages 238-241.) The question arises just where was Mobley Church or Meeting House situated in order to mark the historical spot. From all available material we decide that it was on Poplar Ridge, ten miles west of Winnsboro on the east side of Beaver Creek. Edward Mobley with his family settled there in 1758, built a house of worship and all denominations congregated there to worship God in Christian faith.

William White who was in the battle says, Captain McLure surrounded three sides of the House. An old map Major T. T. Woodward had placed the House on the west of the South-east fork of Little River on a public road leading from Buckhead to the residence of Isaac Means. The map was drawn by John Allen Tharpy, who lived on the Ashford Ferry Road, date of the map, 1812. Captain H. A. Gaillard once showed me an old map locating the battle site on the same spot as the Tharpy map. Mr. A. S. Douglas who was careful man in research work put his ability on locating the exact spot. He drew into his aid, Captain R. Wade Brice of Woodward. They established the fact that a schoolhouse on the Billy Yongue place was made from lumber in the gable end of the old Mobley Meeting House and Mr. R. W. Brice and Honorable T. S. Brice related that bullet holes were in some of the lumber made during the engagement. Mr. A. S. Douglas found that the site was on a tract granted to Mobley in 1760. Mr. Douglas' mother was a daughter of John Simminton who lived near the Meeting House. Some of her brothers were in the battle. Mr. Douglas, painstakingly (characteristic of him) traces the land from the Mobley's to Frances Coleman, from him to John Means, from the estate of John Means to William (Billy) Yongue. From where his father left off Mr. W. D. Douglas kindly pursues the chain of title from Billy Yongue to W. B. and S. R. Simminton thence to W. J. Burley and the present owner a negro, James Hopkins.

T. J. Douglas says he can point out the spot of the house because, his father, the late Dr. T. J. Douglas and the late A. S. Douglas, Esq., went out and located the spot, he a boy accompanying them.

Editors note: The material in this article was compiled by the Federal Writer's Project.



From the March 25, 1937 Issue of the News and Herald

## Facts About Fairfield

W. W. Dixon

### Jefferson Institute for Boys

In County Monaghan, Ireland on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 1768 was born a man who had and continues to have a great influence upon the educational, cultural and spiritual trend of society in Fairfield County, the State and the nation, James Rogers. He was graduated from Glasgow University, Scotland and studied theology at Selkirk, Scotland.

He was licensed to preach the Gospel, September 8, 1780, aged 22 years. He landed in Charleston Christmas day 1785. (A great Christmas gift to Fairfield). He was called to the pastorate of Ebenezer, now known, as the "Old Brick Church" in Fairfield, and remained it minister until his death, August 21, 1830. The first synod of the A. R. p. Church was organized here in 1803, and Mr. Rogers was its Moderator.

Early in his ministry he founded the Jefferson Institute for Boys and presided over and directed its affairs for 25 years. His mental attainments and cultivated tastes were felt afterward in the lives of the boys who attended his school. His first wife was Jane Murray who died in 1803; the second, Celia Davis, who died in 1818; the third, Jane Adger of White Oak, S. C., survived him. He left surviving him only one child by the first wife, John Rogers.

The school that he founded was located in Monticello on the spot, Mrs. Gus McMeekin informs us, where now stands the Woodmen of the World Hall. The school was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, who contributed liberally to its support as long as he lived. Its existence was brought to a close during the sad scenes of the Civil War. It was burned by the left wing of Sherman's Army and by a company of Cavalry under Col. Kilpatrick whose headquarters were in the Davis House now owned and occupied by S. U. Robinson.

Editor's note: The material in the article was compiled by the Federal Writers Project.

Mr. W. W. Dixon  
Winnsboro, S. C.

Dear Mr. Dixon:

I was interested in the article in this week's News and Herald on the Mobley Meeting House. I have an old map of Fairfield County made in 1820 and I looked it up and find that this map confirms your description of the location. The Meeting House was on the Chesterville Road, just west of Little River. I am making a tracing from this matter showing the Meeting House and other nearby points of interest. I note that this map did not show New Hope Church, which dates back into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. I note Hills Store, Terry's Tanyard, Lees Mill, Elliot's Mill. Possibly you can get some data on these.

Wishing you much success in your work, I am,

Yours very truly

K. H. Patrick

Mr. Patrick with the above letter encloses a copy of a section of this map. It clearly shows some points of interest other than the Mobley Meeting House, viz: (1) Moses Hill's Store and Meeting House. It is from this family that the late Moses Hill Mobley derived his name, "Moses Hill". (2) Captain Taylor's Place. This was Edward Taylor who after 1820 rose to the rank of Brigadier General of the State Militia. Sam Taylor of Ridgeway is one of his descendants. General Taylor had a brother, Meredith Taylor who became the champion fist and skull fighter of the State. You might say he was the Jack Dempsey of his day and times. (3) It marks the Simonton place. From the family many of the Brices and Douglasses are descended and have produced one Federal Judge, the late Charles H. Simonton, Speaker of the House of Representatives and appointed Federal Judge by President Cleveland. (4) The Isaac Means place, the heather that the notable soldier and governor trod on in his boyhood. (5) Concord Church erected in 1818. (6) Lee's Mill on a creek of that name running down through the old Watson place and near the Blair community of those ancient days. (7) Elliott's Mill near the Chester line. From this family come all the Elliots of Winnsboro. (8) We drop down to Cockrell's (now White Oak). This family provided us with a County Sheriff and a U. S. Senator from Missouri. (9) The William Adger place is still with us, the point being a railroad station and the site of the great planing mill of Williamson and McKeithan Lumber Co. The Adgers moved to Charleston, I think. They intermarried here with the Elliisons and in Charleston with the Smythes. J. Adger Smythe was mayor of Charleston, succeeding William H. Courtney in 1888. The Adger name is still preserved in the Ellison family in Winnsboro.

W. W. Dixon

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#### Some Guardianship Petitions found in Fairfield County Equity Records

Petition 1836 #2 – Thomas Lyles appointed guardian of David L. Foster, over 12; Rebecca Foster, over 12; Elizabeth Foster, under 12; Lucy Foster, under 12; and Susan Foster, under 12. Their father Josiah Foster had died. James Foster and Wm. T. Foster were his brothers.

Petition 1836 #3 – Cuthbert Harrison appointed guardian of his nephew, Cuthbert Martin, age 15. Both of his parents were dead.

Petition 1836 #4 – James A. McCrorey appointed guardian of Mary Adger. Mary's father James Adger had died, their mother was Margaret Adger

Petition 1836 #7 – Levice Woodward appointed guardian of her children: James Osburn Woodward, 15; Nancy Woodward, 17; and George Wiley Woodward, 12. Their father, James Woodward was dead.

Petition 1837 #1 – Nathaniel B. Holly appointed guardian of John H. R. Chappell, 17; and Laben C. Chappell, 15. Nathaniel was their brother-in-law.

Petition 1837 #2 – Laben H. Chappell appointed guardian of Nancy Chappell, 14. Their father was John Chappell.



Petition 1837 #3 – James B. Coleman appointed guardian of Nancy Boyd, 3; and Priscilla Boyd, 1. Their father Samuel Boyd had died; their mother was Melinda Boyd.

Petition 1837 #4 – Hugh Kerr appointed guardian of Nancy Matila Gladney, 13. Her father Charles Gladney had died.

Petition 1837 #5 – John Kerr appointed guardian of Joseph Gladney, 17; and William S. Gladney, 15. Their father Charles Gladney had died; their grandmother was Jane Gladney.

Petition 1837 #6 – Nathaniel B. Holly petitioned to be appointed guardian of Rebecca Chappell, 11. Her father, John Chappell had died; Nathaniel was her brother-in-law.

Petition 1837 #7 – John B. Jenkins petitioned to be appointed guardian of Rebecca Chappell and Hicks Chappell, both under 12. Their father, John Chappell had died. Their mother had married John B. Jenkins. John Chappell was their brother.

Petition 1837 #8 – Charles Gladney died and left the following family: Nancy, his widow-married Hugh Kerr; Jane Gladney, his mother; and his children: Joseph Gladney, William S. Gladney, Nancy Matilda Gladney, Richard Gladney, Jane Gladney and Rebecca Gladney.

Petition 1837 #9 – John Woodward had died and left the following children: Sarah P. Woodward who married William S. Lyles; Cynthia Woodward who married Clabe Clark, Jr.; Esther Woodward; and Ellen Woodward who died in 1824

Petition 1837 #10 – Charles Moore appointed guardian of his grandchildren: John Rochell, 10; Charles Rochell, 8; Henry Pinckney Rochell, 6; Eugene Rochell, 4; and Mary Rochell, 2. Their father James Rochell had died and their mother was Nancy E. Rochell.

Petition 1837 #11 – John Simonton, Jr. appointed guardian of Letitia Weldon, 5. Her mother was dead and her father, James Weldon died in Coosa County, Alabama. Her grandmother was Jane Gladney.

Petition 1837 #12 – Sterling Tidwell appointed guardian of his grandson, Blount N. Tidwell, 15. His father, Norman Tidwell had died.

Petition 1837 #13 – John Simonton, Jr. appointed guardian of William Weldon, 15 and Nancy Weldon, 13. Their mother, Letty Weldon was dead and their father, James Weldon of Coola County, Alabama had died. John Simonton, Jr. was their father and Jane Gladney was their grandmother.

Petition 1838 #1 – Alexander Dickey appointed guardian of his nieces, Jane Rainey Grossom, 17 and Livinia Caroline Grossom, 14. Their father died in Georgia and their mother had died. Alexander was a brother of their mother.

Petition 1838 #2 – Robert F. Coleman appointed guardian of William Hoopaw, 5. His father, Cooper Hoopaw died in September 1836. His mother was Elizabeth Hoopaw. The last name was also spelled Hooppaugh in the petition.

Petition 1838 #3 – Robert F. Coleman appointed guardian of John F. Hoopaw, 4. His father was Cooper Hoopaw and his mother was Elizabeth Hoopaw.

Petition 1838 – William S. Lyles appointed guardian of Esther Woodward, 14.

Petition 1839 #5 – Stephen R. Johnston appointed guardian of his children: Eli Johnston, 9; James Johnston, 7; William Johnston, 5 and Stephen Johnston 2. Their mother Mary Johnston had died. Rachael Griffin was their grandmother and Thomas Griffin was their uncle.

Petition 1841 #1 – James F. Craig appointed guardian of Joel Kennedy, 10. His parents were Samuel and Lucretia Kennedy.

Petition 1841 #2 – Mary Craig appointed guardian of Mary E. Craig and Robert W. Craig. Their father Robert W. Craig had died.

Petition 1841 #3 – James F. Craig appointed guardian of Arthur B. Kennedy. His parents were Samuel and Lucretia Kennedy.

Petition 1841 #4 – John Brice appointed guardian of Margaret Harrison, 19. Her mother was Mary Harrison and her father Daniel Harrison had died.

Petition 1841 #5 – John Brice appointed guardian of Mary Ann Harrison, 13. Her parents were Daniel and Margaret Harrison.

Petition 1841 #6 – Lucretia Kennedy appointed guardian of her children Lenoria Kennedy, 9 and Martha Jane Kennedy, 7. Their father was Samuel Kennedy.

Petition 1841 #7 – William Kennedy appointed guardian of his nephew James A. Kennedy, 18 a son of Samuel Kennedy.

Petition 1841 #8 – James T. Craig appointed guardian of Mary Ann Kennedy, 16 a daughter of Samuel Kennedy. James T. Craig was her brother-in-law.

Petition 1841 #9 – Robert J. Yongue appointed guardian of Charles Moore, 16. Both parents had died and a brother, John A. Moore had died in Alabama.

Petition 1841 #10 – Richardson W. Watson appointed guardian of his children Elizabeth M. Watson, 17 and Sarah L. Watson, 13. Their mother Harriet G. Watson had died and their grandparents James and Anna Spann were also dead.



Petition 1841 #11 0 Richardson W. Watson appointed guardian of his children James R. Watson, 9 and Lavrena A. B. Watson, 7. Their mother Harriet G. Watson had died and their grandparents James and Anna Spann were also dead.

Petition 1842 #1 – Asaph Hill appointed guardian of his daughter Elizabeth Hill, 14. Micajah Mobley was her grandfather.

Petition 1842 #2 – Asaph Hill appointed guardian of his son William Hill, 11. Micajah Mobley was her grandfather.

Petition 1842 #4 – Robert J. Yongue appointed guardian of Margaret J. Moore, 13. Both parents had died and a brother, John A. Moore had died in Alabama.

Petition 1842 #6 – William Wilson appointed guardian of his sisters Elizabeth Wilson and Sarah Jane Wilson, both over 12.

Petition 1842 #7 - Robert J. Yongue appointed guardian of James H. Moore, 10. Both parents had died and a brother, John A. Moore had died in Alabama.

Petition 1843 #2 – Harmon Coon appointed guardian of Henry Oscar Duke, 14; son of Samuel Duke.

Petition 1843 #3 – Harmon Coon appointed guardian of Amanda Duke, 12; daughter of Samuel Duke.

Petition 1843 #4 – Robert Durham appointed guardian of his children; John F. Durham, William T. J. Durham, Mary Durham and Emma Durham-all under 12.

Petition 1843 #5 – Minor H. Gladden appointed guardian of Lafayette Duke and Elizabeth Duke, both above 14, children of Samuel Duke.

Petition 1843 #7 – Musco B. Fogg appointed guardian of Mary Stone, daughter of James Stone and granddaughter of Samuel Stone.

Petition 1843 #8 – David Gaillard appointed guardian of Mary Gaillard, under 12. She was the daughter of Dr. Edwin and Mary H. C. Gaillard of St. Stephens Parish. John Gaillard of St. Stephens Parish was her uncle and Harriet Galliard of St. Stephens Parish was her grandmother.

Petition 1843 #9 – David Gaillard appointed guardian of Martha W. Gaillard, under 12. John Gaillard of St. Stephens Parish was her uncle and Harriet Galliard of St. Stephens Parish was her grandmother.

Petition 1843 #10 – David Gaillard appointed guardian of Joseph Peter Gaillard, under 21 and above 14. Mrs. Elizabeth Palmer of St. John, Berkeley was his grandmother and Dr. Samuel Palmer of St. John, Berkeley was his uncle.

Petition 1843 #11 – David Gaillard appointed guardian of Jane Gaillard, under 12. John Gaillard of St. Stephens Parish was her uncle and Harriet Galliard of St. Stephens Parish was her grandmother.

Petition 1843 #12 – David Gaillard appointed guardian of Edwin Gaillard, over 12. John Gaillard of St. Stephens Parish was her uncle and Harriet Galliard of St. Stephens Parish was her grandmother.

Petition 1843 #13 – John M. Hall appointed guardian of his son Newton Monroe Hall, under 5; and grandson of Samuel Dukes.

Petition 1843 #14 – John McCully appointed guardian of William W. Lavender, over 14, son of David Lavender.

Petition 1843 #15 – Lucy Lavender appointed guardian of Lucy A. W. Lavender, 11.

Petition 1843 #16 – Elijah Gayden appointed guardian of Anna M. Lavender, 16, daughter of David Lavender.

Petition 1843 #17 – Margaret Nelson appointed guardian of her children John T. Nelson, 13; Susan H. Nelson, 11; Fergus Calvin Nelson, 9 and William B. Nelson, 6; children of James W. Nelson who had died.

Petition 1843 #19 – Joseph Kennedy appointed guardian of Thomas Roebuck, James Roebuck, Isaac Roebuck and William Roebuck.

Petition 1843 #20 – Ephraim Wilson appointed guardians of his children John T. Wilson, William Wilson, Jesse Minor Wilson, Samuel L. Wilson and Virgil P. Wilson-all under 14. Jesse Wilson was their grandfather.

Petition 1844 #2 – Henry S. Caldwell appointed guardian of Alexander M. Caldwell, 17; son of Robert Caldwell who died on November 5, 1841.

Petition 1844 #3 – Jane S. Caldwell appointed guardian of her children William J. Caldwell, 13 and Robert C. Caldwell, 11 children of Robert Caldwell who died on November 5, 1841.

Petition 1844 #11 – Cynthia Kennedy appointed guardian of her daughter Martha Kennedy, daughter of Robert Kennedy.

Petition 1844 #12 – Cynthia Kennedy appointed guardian of her daughter Levinia Kennedy, above 12; daughter of Robert Kennedy.

Petition 1844 #13 – Cynthia Kennedy appointed guardian of her son Alexander B. Kennedy, son of Robert Kennedy.

Petition 1844 #14 – Cynthia Kennedy appointed guardian of her children Samuel Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, sons of Robert Kennedy.



Petition 1844 #15 – Elisha Scott appointed guardian of Mary Frances Gibson, 4. Elisha Scott married Jemima Jane Gibson, widow of Minor Gibson and mother of Mary Frances Gibson.

Petition 1844 #16 – Joseph Lauhon appointed guardian of Martha Kennedy, 16; Levinica Kennedy, 14; Alexander Kennedy, 14 and Ellen Kennedy, 11; all children of Robert Kennedy.

Petition 1844 #17 – Edward Lewis appointed guardian of his nephew Thomas B. Lewis, 13. Thomas Boulware was the grandfather of Thomas B. Lewis.

Petition 1844 #18 – Littleton Lewis appointed guardian of his son Thomas B. Lewis who was a grandson of Thomas Boulware.

Petition 1844 #20 – James S. Nelson appointed guardian of his sisters Nancy J. Nelson, 20 and Martha Nelson, 17.

Petition 1844 #21 – William D. Scymore appointed guardian of William L. Hoopaw and John F. Hoopaw. William and Elizabeth Hoopaw were their parents and they were heir at law of Cooper Hoopaw. Hoopaw was also spelled Hoopaugh several times.

Petition 1845 #1 – Samuel Brice appointed guardian of James Lee Roy Grissom. Samuel W. and Jane Brice Grissom were his parents, Samuel Brice was his uncle and James Brice Jr. was his grandfather.

Petition 1845 #2 – James Barkley appointed guardian of Lucinda Hall and Samuel Hall. They were children of Samuel and Nancy Hall. Samuel Hall died in 1839.

Petition 1845 #3 – Joseph Douglas appointed guardian of his children John S. Douglas, 7 and Joanna Louisa Douglas, 5. Their mother was Louisa K. Douglas and John Kelly was their grandfather.

Petition 1845 #6 – Philip R. Mayo appointed guardian of his sister Nancy L. Mayo. W. T. Mayo was their brother.

Petition 1845 #10 – Richard Neely appointed guardian of his son John Neely, grandson of John Broom.

Petition 1845 #11 – David Aiken appointed guardian of William T. Rowe, 19, son of David Rowe who died on February 28, 1837.

Petition 1845 #12 – William T. Ringer appointed guardian of Thomas D. Burns, Wm. R. Burns, John Calhoun Burns, Robert B. Burns and Francis R. Burns, all under 14, children of Marion and Catherine Burns.

Petition 1845 #14 – Thomas Stitt was guardian of Eliza Kenney and her three children.

Petition 1845 #16 – Alexander W. Yongue appointed guardian of Robert A. Yongue, 20, heir at law of William Yongue.

