



# Family Tree Newsletter

## August 2023!

*The springs of Feasterville  
Tree strikes Boarding House  
Recipe from the past  
The last days of Shelton, SC  
And More...*

**83rd Annual C-F-M Family Reunion is  
Friday-Sunday, Sep. 29th-Oct. 1st!**

### *Water. Cool, clear water.*

By Nancy Jo Smith

Three hundred years ago the top consideration for a site to erect a cabin would have been a nearby water source, be it a branch, a creek, or a spring. The first two locations were a necessity for livestock, the latter would have been a prized commodity for humans.



Cousin Jennie I. Coleman wrote in the early 1900s: "Wells for drinking water were very rare or unknown then, all the first homes were built near good springs. The "Daddy" Spring is fine and still giving freely of its good water over a hundred years since he (David Roe Coleman) settled near it. A splendid corn and wheat mill was built near it in 1867, owned by several Colemans and run by the spring water, and was a success for years. Gradually, it ran down, after change of owners. No sight of it left."

Here's another testimony to spring water: My grandfather, Yongue Coleman couldn't be located on Mother's (Nancy Coleman Ross) wedding day, August 26, 1925, because he had gone to the spring for a fresh drink of water. He chose the spring over the modern upgrades his schoolteacher daughters had recently gifted their parents – running water and indoor plumbing for their antebellum home place.



Feasterville in 2014 before tree-strike damage. Credit: Lara Chicone

Aunt Mary Bess Coleman shared her fond (cont. on page 2)

## Managing Well the Art and Science of Living with Nature in the Forest

By Ted Morton

Ever noticed? Writers make living in the woods with Mother Nature look so romantic? The Grimm Brothers knew how to spin a lovely "yarn" with the Forest as the stage. Just think "Hansel and Gretel." But here is a story you may not have heard. A Lumberjack was looking for work. He responded to an advertisement seeking experienced lumberjacks for a Timber company in need of workers. He was given a date and time to report for an interview at the Company's offices.

The employment Director said "I have a few questions for you, and the first is what kind of experience have you had in cutting timber?" The Lumberjack replied "I have had considerable experience." "Fine" said the Director. "Tell me about the last job where you worked."

The Lumberjack smiled and said "I am proud to say my last job was working on the 'Sahara Project'." "Do you mean 'Sahara' as in the name of the Desert," inquired the Director. "Yes," said the lumberjack, "that was the place." "But the Sahara IS a desert," said the director. "It is now," said the lumberjack.

CFM has been searching, not for a lumberjack, but for an arborist who can safely remove hazardous trees near our historic structures, an important and continuous responsibility. Old trees and historic buildings are beautiful together but the relationship inevitably has its "downfalls." This year the Boarding House was struck by a large limb from one of our old pecan trees; there was damage to both the exterior and interior of the side of the historic structure. Trustee Robert Blair, Jr. inspected the damage and reports it will cost approx. \$500.00 to repair. (Cont. on page 2)



Broken Limb. Credit: E. Killian

(*Managing* cont.) Trustee Blair also reported that two other hazardous trees were threatening Antioch Church and needed to be removed ASAP. A Contract with Gaycas Tree Service of Columbia was executed to remove the Antioch trees at a cost of \$1,400.00. The Contract price did not include cleanup work which can be done by Volunteers, saving the Association a charge of \$400.00.

Some CFM trees have a history as does the Boarding House and Antioch Church. Ron Chicone, Jr recalls being told that these old pecan trees beside the Boarding House were planted by Mary Bess Coleman when she was a Teenager which would have been around the time the Titanic sank. Sisters Mary Bess and Kathleen Coleman taught school at Pleasant Garden (near Greensboro, NC) but spent their Summers just down the road from Feasterville. People and trees do share a History.

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## CFM Permanent Fund Now Operating WILL HELP INSURE ASSOCIATION'S FUTURE

By Teddi Miles and Ted Morton



Goblin teller at Gringotts. Credit:  
Amanda Steel, *Screen Rants*.

The Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association does not make decisions that could be described as "made in haste." That is especially true if there is any money

involved. Creating a Permanent Fund that will function as an "Endowment Fund" was approved by the Association's Board when it was proposed by the Treasurer. The Permanent Fund is established, with Edward Jones and Company (Greenwood Office) providing Investment Services.

When the Fund was established, Dan Worthing, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, suggested consideration be given to the "Short Term" and "Long Term" nature of Investments and the Association's financial requirements. "While you do not anticipate a need for a quick turn around in the Association's financial needs, we should plan for them at the outset as we decide how long to invest the money." Accordingly, Treasurer Teddi Miles and Mr. Worthing, scheduled some Investments with Long Term Maturity dates and some with much shorter maturity dates.

"Endowment Funds are for future financial needs, not our day-to day expenses like Utilities or keeping the grass cut," the Association Treasurer has declared. "When the Board proposes a 'Capital expense,' it is our expectation that the Endowment Fund will have the Income to pay the cost. While this Fund is growing, we will do needed

planning; fencing Association cemeteries might be a good example of a long-term Capital expense."

The CFM Association membership is encouraged to consider the financial needs of the Association. The Association has been recognized by the Federal Internal Revenue Service and classified as a 501(C)(3) organization not subject to taxes on its income. Receipts are issued for all contributions. Contributors may give instructions on how they would like to see their gift used to benefit the Association. "We are fortunate," Treasurer Miles declared, "that some of our CFA members have been thinking about our future. Isabel Wright Alexander's Bequest expedited our moving ahead to establish the Endowment Fund. It prompted me do some 'research' in the Association's financial records so I could add all of our contributions that were 'Donor Restricted for Endowment' to the new Permanent Fund. When Year-End giving becomes a focus of financial planning in December, I encourage all Association members to budget a gift for the C-F-M Family Association."

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### *Water, Cool Clear Water, (Cont. from pg.1)*

memories of her school days in a letter to her cousin and classmate, Ruby Coleman Blair: "One of the highlights of a school day was a trip to the spring. One of us would ask the teacher if we might go to the spring for a bucket of water. If she said, "yes" we would get the wooden bucket and dipper from behind the door and off down the hill we would go. In the spring of the year we never stopped at the spring, for there was a mint patch a short way down the branch, then wild violets, and if we dared go far



Henry Jonathan Coleman house in the 1940s. Courtesy of  
Nancy Jo Smith.

enough sweet shrubs. After a quick gleaning from each of these treasures we would hurriedly fill the bucket with water and back up the hill we would go. As soon as the bucket was on the shelf again almost everyone in the school would have to have a drink of water."

That spring down the hill behind the Feasterville School was my first experience with drinking water that bubbled up from the ground. After attending a reunion meeting and picnic in the early 1950s, my brother, (cont. pg. 3)

(Water...Cont.) Coleman and I ventured down the hill to find the school spring and partake of the cool water. My daughter, Elizabeth Osborne, followed the trail down the hill in the 1970s to see the terra cotta encased spring; a dipper and crawfish awaited her.

Another spring located on the west side of highway 215, south of the Boarding House, is known as "Hatter's Spring." Henry Jonathan Coleman used it for his hat-making trade. *Ederington's History of Fairfield County*, published in 1901, touted his hats' durability: "They (HJC's brother, Wiley, was also a hatter.) made such everlasting hats that it was impossible to wear them out; they had to be thrown away if you wished to rid yourself of them." (Cont. on page 3)

When I was attempting to locate Hatter's Spring, Dobie Young, a Feasterville native now in his eighties, showed me the exact location. Interestingly, he knows it as "Hessian Spring." He and other schoolmates stopped there to fill their buckets every day as they walked by on the way to Hessian Hill School approximately a quarter of a mile south, just beyond John Brice Road.

From the diary of Narcissa Feaster (1839-1879), the youngest daughter of Andrew and Mary Norris Feaster, we learn that springs were also a destination. She mentioned several times walking to the spring. Her entry of May 16, 1862, was more specific: "Late this afternoon, Walker Cork, Hat, Andy, and I walked to the mineral spring. It was pleasant..."

Mineral springs were believed to have curative powers. N.F. and Ida Newbill Shivar who lived near Shelton bottled mineral water from four springs and shipped it across the country by rail and truck. Six massive cisterns, all that remain of the Shivar Springs Bottling Company, are now a curiosity.

As we return to Feasterville for the 82<sup>nd</sup> CFM Reunion, a perfect way to be in the presence of the past and connect with our family history is to enjoy a cool drink of water – cool, clear water.

## Tour of Historic Sites



1904 railroad truss bridge at Shelton

Saturday  
September  
30<sup>th</sup> – Meet  
at the  
Boarding  
House

We will have  
guided tours  
led by local  
experts.  
Starting  
with the

ghost town of Shelton and the ruins of the world-renowned Shivar Springs. Then one of the oldest landmarks in South Carolina, Lyles Ford. After lunch we

can visit other local sites like the Antioch Church, or the family cemeteries.

Tours will be from 9:15 AM to 12:30, break for a bring-your-own picnic lunch at the Boarding House, then head out again. These tours will require some walking over rugged terrain (especially Lyles Ford), so bring your hiking shoes, water and sun protection. Space is limited so please RSVP by emailing or calling Ron Chicone at [rchicone@yahoo.com](mailto:rchicone@yahoo.com) or 321-946-6352.

## Sunday Festivities

Liberty Church service and C-F-M business meeting will be held from 11AM to 12PM. This is a great chance to experience the Sacred as they did in the 1840s, and to hear all the latest news of the Association.



A few of the 2022 attendees at "Ye Old" Liberty Universalist Church.

Of course, the high point of the Reunion is the food. Forty plus feet of tables filled with home-cooked main dishes, side dishes, desserts, and sweet iced tea. The secret to a covered dish dinner is the individual quality of each item, made with extra care by families that are a part of something grand and historic. The cost of all this: Bring a dish, register and pay dues at the registration table, and self-serve. The Association provides plates, utensils, napkins and iced tea. Some tables and chairs will be provided, but bringing your own is always a good idea. Also, the ice cream truck will be joining us again.

**Rules about food:** Please practice good food safety. Put your name on your dish and provide a serving spoon if necessary. The Picnic depends on the honor of each family and attendee providing a good amount of "covered dish" food so we can fill the tables.

**We will have a convenient and extremely clean, handicap-accessible toilet on site again this year, in addition to our two bathrooms in the Boarding House.**



## Childhood Brownies

From *Southern Voice*, By Beth Yarbrough

"So who among us has spent the last few decades searching for those lost brownies from childhood? Go ahead, it's okay - shout it right out and admit it - today's brownies don't hold a candle to the ones we grew up with.

Looking back, I think our first mistake was to throw in with Betty Crocker and Duncan Hines and Pillsbury. After that, in an attempt to go back, we tried adding chocolate chips and giving them fancy names, but that just made matters worse. And then, for some reason, bakeries added to the misery. Try finding a good brownie in a commercial bakery today. I dare you.

The result of all this nonsense left me craving something original. It seemed only a distant dream from long ago. Maybe it never even was, I told myself. And then I ran across this recipe. It looked simple. Something about it rang true... This recipe is no more difficult than opening a box of mix, and it contains good, honest ingredients. In fact, during the process, I realized that our mamas (and most bakeries years ago) used cocoa - good old Hershey's cocoa - when baking anything chocolate. This recipe is full of it. I felt a glimmer of hope as I ran the pan in the oven. Confirmation came when I took the first bite. Clouds parted, angels sang, and I was once again tasting the original."



Check out Beth's excellent online blog at *Southern Voice* for some of the best stories about living in the South.

## Shelton Fading

By Ron Chicone, Jr.

South Carolina journalist John A. Bigham published a collection of his articles in 1990 entitled *Good People and*

*Great Places of South Carolina*. While thumbing through this fortuitous find residing on a friend's bookshelf, I was elated to discover that one of his stories was about Shelton! "It was mighty quiet in John Wright's store at Shelton last Saturday; a stillness occasionally broken by a crow concert along the riverbank or a small boy in search of a popsicle." Bigham writes about John and the town in "*Shelton and its Relics*," an article originally published in the *Columbia Record* newspaper in 1960.

One day, sometime in the 1950s, John B. Wright returned to Shelton seemingly out of the blue. A tall, slim, 50-something fellow, he was a Clemson University-trained electrical engineer who worked for a power company in Alabama. Why he left his life in Alabama and returned to his roots in Shelton was a mystery. At least to a young Henrietta Morton who grew up in Shelton and spent lots of time with her cousin Isabel, John's niece. Henrietta and others told me they were a bit afraid of John who was maybe a little surly at times. He was a life-long bachelor and the son of William Brooks Wright who founded the Wright Company store in Shelton and ran it until he passed in 1933. William had six other children: Annie, Billy, Grady, Buck, Bessie and James. Annie and Grady both worked for Shivar's Springs just down the road.



The Wright Co. and Post Office (left), the J.R. Shelton Store (right) in 1969. Photo by E. Andrieski. Courtesy of The Walker History Center

There wasn't much left of the once vibrant economy of the little town when John walked into his father's old store and claimed the title of "village postmaster and only merchant," as Bigham phrased it. It was around the time of the Korean War and the beginning of the Space Race; "Vietnam" and "hippy" would soon become household words. But in this ever more remote corner of South Carolina, the tranquility was broken only by the periodic rumble and roar of a passing train just 15 feet from the front of the Wright store. Bigham writes, "a freight thundered by... John may be used to such things but we are not... and it seemed for a moment that the 100-car train would pass right through the spacious domains of the Wright enterprise."

I don't know if John thought he might stroll in and single-handedly revive the little town, if only he (cont. pg. 3)

(Shelton cont.) could keep the store going till the local economy improved. Or maybe he felt some sentimental longing or duty to return to a place of memory that holds some promise of redemption and sanctuary. My guess? He knew the town's end was near and volunteered to hold the hand of this dear friend as she faded away. Bigham says, "John Wright stood with us beside the centrally located depot and identified first one and then another relic of Shelton's past. It was a recital that doubtless filled him with nostalgia..." John explained to Bigham that once "it took 7 or 8 men to wait on the customers who traded here." That was back in Shelton's prime, when agriculture flourished on both sides of the river and the ferries brought trade from communities in Union and Newberry Counties.



The Wright Co. and Post Office in 1969. Photo by E. Andrieski. Courtesy of The Walker History Center

But nothing could, it seems, stand in the way of the desolate fate that awaited Shelton. At some point not too long after Bigham visited the town, the Wright Company and post office closed. Soon after that the railroad company dismantled the passenger depot and sold it to a local resident. The 1969 photograph above captures a fading Wright Company Store that Bigham described nine years earlier. "We have been in few hamlets where crumbling and unused buildings furnished such a sharp backward look, or more ably reflected the decline of a community...these abandoned places bespeak a glory that is forever departed from this uniquely picturesque river town."



The Wright Co. and Post Office site in 2022.

## Update from the Board

- A **special** thank you goes to **Bob Blair** for finding a carpenter and an arborist to address emergency repairs to the Boarding House, and to remove two trees at Antioch Church. Also, want to thank Michael Blair for doing a great job making the Boarding House repairs, and Gaycas Tree Service of Columbia, for safely removing the hazardous trees hanging over Antioch Church.
- A reminder that the **Lyles Family Reunion**, usually held at Feasterville the weekend after ours, has been canceled. Considering that, we are extending an invitation to the Lyles folks to **join us** this year at the C-F-M Reunion.
- Both doors at Antioch Church are in critical condition and need to be replaced or refurbished.
- The Fairfield County Genealogy Society will have a booth again this year and we have a few other local vendors at the Reunion.
- A State Historic Preservation Grant is being applied for to help us with the cost of the major repairs and restoration work for all of our historic structures.
- Henrietta Morton suggested identifying all the associated family cemeteries in the Feasterville area and determining the feasibility of adding them to the cemeteries that C-F-M currently maintains.
- Bob Blair noted that the property containing the Yongue Cemetery off Ashford Ferry Rd. (also known as Moses Hill) is for sale. Many Colemans as well as Yongues and others are buried here.
- The Newsletter editor would like to thank Ted Morton, Nancy Jo Smith, Teddi Miles and Bob Blair for their indispensable contributions to this years publication.

## Check Out Our Stats!

Here's our facebook numbers for the last 28 days:

- Number of people reached – 931.
- Number of people reacting or commenting – 414.
- Top post was "How old is the bridge at Shelton?" It had 92 reactions, 30 comments, 4 shares and 103 "other clicks."
- Messenger has been a great tool for keeping in touch with members. We have been able to communicate with many people and have been able to share awesome history and family information.

Check out our **C-F-M Family Association Facebook** page for all the latest news and interesting stories.

## C-F-M Family Association Website

Eddie Killian has added many pages to this awesome collection of documents, newsletters, photos, family information, history on the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association website (just google it).

**Mailing/Email List:** Please make sure we have your correct information so we can keep in touch. Just go to the Update Address page of the website or contact Trustee Ron Chicone, Jr. (contact info bottom of pg. 6)

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### Schedule of Events:

#### Friday Sep 29th

- Fairfield County Museum, Winnsboro open 9AM to 5PM
- Feasterville Academy grounds open from 9AM - until
- Tent and RV camping Set up all day (please RSVP on CFM website)

#### Saturday Sep 30th

- Research assistance at Feasterville School House 9:00am - until
- Tour of Shivar Springs and old Shelton ghost town 9:15 to 12:30

- Bring your own picnic lunch
- Tour of Cemeteries, Antioch Church or other sites 1:30 - 5:00
- Fairfield County Genealogical Society Barbeque Supper and DNA presentation at Boarding House grounds, 6pm - until

#### Sunday Oct 1st

- Research assistance Feasterville School House 8:30am - 11:00am
- Registration, Dues, Donations and visiting 10:00 - 11:00
- Services at Liberty Universalist Church 11:00 - 11:45
- Annual Business Meeting at Liberty Church 11:45 - 12:15pm
- Reunion group photo 12:45 - 1:00
- Association supporters and friends family picnic 1:00pm
- After that, relax and enjoy the day with family and friends

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### Association Officers and Committee Members

President .....	Eddie Killian, PO Box 39, Gaston SC 29053 <a href="mailto:robertekillian@yahoo.com">robertekillian@yahoo.com</a>
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Communion Committee.....	Wylie Blair Parham, Allison Blair Hunter
Picnic Arrangements .....	Billy Hendrix Jr, Sally Garner, Bryan Greer, Samantha Blair, Garrett Hunter, Chris Parham, Coleman Whitesides
Cemetery Committee .....	Robert Blair (Chairman)
Fort Wagner Monument.....	Bryan Greer

Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association

1926 Old Blair Rd Blair SC 29015.

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