



CEDAR TREE

Two young men who had preceded him had married two of the old man's daughters. The first condition was adhered to but not so for the second. When James Davis finished his course, he married Catherine Ross.

When the State Hospital or Asylum was established in Columbia, Dr. Davis was the first man to head the institution. He specialized in mental disorders and treatment for them, doing extensive research in other fields of medicine. He was one of the first men to recognize mosquitos, fleas, and other insects as being carriers of diseases.

During the Confederate War LONGLEAF was raided by Sherman's men. While they were pillaging the place and chasing the livestock and poultry about the yard, little Eloise, one of the younger children, ventured out onto the upstairs balcony. A Yankee soldier noticed her and called her a "pretty little Rebel." She did not like his words nor his attitude and would not answer him. Then he said, "Pretty little Miss, come down and give me a kiss!" Her response was a surprise; she spat down the stairs into his face and ran to her Negro mammy, burying her face in the protective folds of her nurse's skirts.

After the war the Davis family continued to reside at LONGLEAF until the family grew up, married, and moved away. The property came down to Mrs. Ruff. It is now owned by her granddaughter, Mrs. Palmer Matthews (nee Eloise Cork) of Winnsboro. The Matthews renovated and restored the old house and lived there for a number of years. They now reside in Winnsboro but still have a strong affection for the home of their forebears.

CEDAR TREE

PALMER — DESPORTES — BULOW — VAN EXEM

CEDAR TREE plantation house was built in about 1853 by Edward G. Palmer of VALENCIA for his son, Doctor John Palmer of Ridgeway. It is well-located on a high elevation a few miles from the town of Ridgeway.

This is a comfortable, roomy, one-and-one-half-story building with a gabled porch on the front, supported by well-proportioned columns. In the roof, on the front, and on the rear are attractive dormer windows. The structure is further embellished by a beautifully kept walled garden, containing boxwoods, rare shrubs, and blooming flowers for all seasons. The garden is entered through an intricately designed wrought-iron gate. The major portion of the wall around the grounds is covered by Cherokee rose vines that were planted more than one hundred years ago; they still bloom profusely in season. The lumber and eighteen-inch heart-pine siding of which the house is built were cut on the plantation. From foundation to roof the building is in an excellent state of repair.

Many of the original outbuildings are still in use. The smokehouse, kitchen, washhouse, and the old farm bell that used to call the plantation hands to work and meals are still a part of the place.

Near the house is an ancient cemetery containing the weathered grave-stones and tombs of those who once lived here. Beneath one of these rests Colonel Dunbar, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

CEDAR TREE remained in the Palmer family for many years, and since their ownership it has belonged to the DesPortes, Bulows, and Van Exems. Local tradition has it that one of the early owners was quite a gay and reckless sportsman and that he lost this lovely old place in order to pay a gambling debt.

The Bulows were Charlestonians engaged in the mining of phosphate. They purchased the place in the early years of this century. The property passed from them to Mr. Van Exem whose widow now resides here.

Mrs. Van Exem is one of South Carolina's charming great ladies. After the death of her first husband — a distinguished lawyer and statesman, who was Congressman from the Sixth District — Honorable Allard H. Gasque of Florence, South Carolina, she was the first woman from this state to be elected to Congress. Mrs. Van Exem is also a writer, dramatist, and patron of the arts.

MOUNT HOPE

THOMAS

by

CHARLES E. THOMAS

MOUNT HOPE, in lower Fairfield District about one mile west of the village of Ridgeway, was built by John Peyre Thomas, M.D., between 1835 and 1840.

The three-story brick-and-frame house is described as "plantation style," its first or ground floor of brick sometimes referred to as the "summer floor." The second and third floors of the house are entirely of locally grown heart-of-pine timber. Steps from the ground lead to the front and back porches of the main or second floor of the house. Each floor has halls or "passageways" running the full length of the building, with four large rooms on each floor, with two smaller rooms on the main or second floor at either end of the back or north porch. As was the custom at that time in order to take full advantage of the prevailing summer breezes, the house faces the south. It was presumed that the morning and evening breezes that generally were from the south to north would thereby cool the house through the long hallways.

The oversize bricks throughout the two-foot-thick walls of the ground floor, including not only the four exterior walls but the inside partitions between the ground floor rooms and along the open passageway underneath, were all baked in kilns erected on the plantation for the purpose of making bricks and tiles for the house. The ground floor is paved with square, red clay tiles, and all the hearths throughout the house are of the same tile. The four outside forty-foot-high chimneys are of the same large-size brick, most of which are in a good state of preservation after 125 years. There are no fireplaces in the ground or summer-floor rooms, as these rooms were designed for summertime use only. Each of the four rooms on the main or second floor and three of the four third-floor rooms have fireplaces. There is no fireplace in the "boys' room" on the theory that no fire in the winter mornings would make for faster dressing on the part of the boys of the household who slept in the dormitory-like top-floor room. The only other brick baked in