

THE OAKS

HELLEMS — LEMMON — WELLS

The home of the late John Montgomery Lemmon and his wife, Mary Ann Yongue Lemmon, is located five miles from Winnsboro on the Jenkinsville road. It was built by a Mr. Hellems who came to Fairfield from Texas. There were twelve hundred acres of land in the tract on which the house was built.

Mr. Hellems supervised the construction of the house and saw to it that not one inferior piece of lumber was used. This accounts for the excellent condition that it is in today after standing for more than one hundred years. In 1856 Mr. Hellems sold the house and plantation to John Montgomery Lemmon for the sum of ten thousand dollars, after residing in it for a short time.

The house is large and spacious, typical of the better plantation homes of the period. Two mammoth chimneys are at either end of the building which is fronted with a two story classic portico. A wide, one story piazza extends across most of the rear of the house, with a room at one end of it. A gabled roof covers the building. In the gable over the portico is a well designed fanlight window. The front doors leading to the porches are large and flanked with sidelights. The name given this place was 'THE OAKS', a very descriptive title for the old house was framed and surrounded by a magnificent oak grove avenue.

During the War Between the States Mr. Lemmon went into the Confederate service, leaving at home his wife and small children. A neighbor, Mrs. McCreight, stayed with them during the war years.

Very often passing Confederate soldiers stopped in for food and lodging. One day a wounded soldier came. Mrs. Lemmon dressed his wounds and burned the bloodstained shirt lest it be discovered by Federal soldiers who were reported to be in the vicinity. Surely enough they came on the heels of the Confederates, over-running the house and shouting demands for food and supplies.

Soon they were demanding silver and jewelry but Mrs. Lemmon was adamant. When they increased their demands, embellished by threats and profanity, Mrs. McCreight being more fearful of them and whose silver was buried in the box with the Lemmon valuables under the rail fence, said, "Oh, Mrs. Lemmon, please, give them mine!" Thus the secret was out.

Besides carrying off the silver, they looted the smokehouse, caught all of the chickens except one, took with them all of the mules, killing the one that refused to go.

One soldier was left for a final deed. He came running down the stairs, falling from the landing into the room where the family was sitting. He made this statement, "Lady, I have started a slow fire in the attic." We wonder if this could have been the Yankee soldier that wrote on the wall of the old Brick Church his apology for taking up the floor of the church to span the river?

With the warning of fire some of the slaves were called to carry water up to the third floor and a watch was set up until all danger had passed.



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After the war the education of the Lemmon children was taken care of by a paid governess.

Through the years the Lemmon family has been known for its hospitality to friends and relations. Visiting ministers were entertained with loving kindness. It is said that a stranger asking for a night's lodging was never turned away.

The Lemmon home is one in which God was revered. Bible verses were recited by each one at the breakfast table through the week as well as on Sundays, and each evening family prayers were held.

Never were grandchildren given more love and consideration than by this family. For years the two maiden aunts, Janie and Belle, planned the Christmas celebration for the entire family connections, having a large Christmas Tree, decorated and laden with gifts, in the parlor and a sumptuous dinner for the many guests.

This home is today owned and occupied by a granddaughter, Marie Lemmon Wells and her husband, Johnnie Wells. It is well cared for, having been completely renovated during the past few years. Many rare pieces of old family furniture still remain in their original places in the spacious old rooms and hospitality is still practiced as it was in the old days.

MACFIE PLACE

MILLING – MACFIE

Captain David Milling, born in 1797, came to this country from County Down, Ireland in the early 1820's. He landed in Charleston, South Carolina where he remained for a short while and then moved to Columbia where he was a prosperous merchant. Other members of his family had settled in Fairfield County at an earlier period. He purchased one thousand acres in Fairfield and later came here and settled permanently. He was twice married. His first wife was Jane Wright and they had several children. One son, James, was a prominent physician who graduated from the South Carolina Medical College in 1855 and immediately afterward settled in Louisiana.

In 1850 Captain David Milling married Mrs. Sarah Yongue Milling who had several children by her first marriage. She was the widow of another David Milling, a kinsman of Captain David. She and Captain Milling had two daughters and three sons.

The house was built about the time that they were married and the family holdings had increased to two thousand two hundred acres and many slaves. The place prospered and the family was counted among the wealthy gentry of the county.

During the War Between the States the Milling plantation was in the path of Sherman. When the invaders arrived the meat supply in the smoke-houses was so great that it could not all be carried off so the surplus was burned. The soldiers heard stories of the handsome silver that had been in the house before their unwelcome arrival. When it could not be found they questioned the old Captain who refused to reveal the hiding place. After