

due to the superior materials used in its construction by Abraham Ferguson.

Several years ago Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Rion purchased the property. They have completely restored the house in a most charming manner and use it as a country home. The Rions reside in Columbia but they spend part of each week at the quiet, secluded little house on the old Camden Road near Ridgeway.

## VAUGHAN HOUSE

### VAUGHAN

Many years ago Simpson's Turnout was one of Fairfield's busy rural communities. It is located on one of the main roads to Columbia, between Winnsboro and Ridgeway. One of the centers of activities in the ante-bellum days was a large old house that stood near the road. It was known as the STATION or STATION HOUSE.

On the old stage route from Columbia to Winnsboro this building was the first stop out of Winnsboro and the last out of Columbia. Horses for the "fast stage" were changed here, and sometimes, when the weather was severe, the passengers would spend the night in the rambling old house. Mail for the community was taken to and dispensed from this building.

Little more can be learned of the old landmark other than it was the scene of many gatherings, parties and entertainments. Judging from the construction of the building, it has been in existence for about a century and a half. For a great number of years it was owned and occupied by the Vaughan family.

## TOCALAND

### WOODWARD – GADSEN – BIGHAM – JOHNSON

TOCALAND is just on the outskirts of Winnsboro, near the Rockton station. It is an interesting "Mosquito Cottage," a ground-level basement with a story and a half above. The basement walls are constructed of large granite blocks that were quarried on the property; their thickness makes these rooms delightfully cool in the summer. The pillars supporting the porch are tall granite slabs, quarried all in one piece. In the basement rooms most of the floors are tiled.

The second floor has a gabled porch across most of the front, supported with square wooden columns. A wide central hall bisects the second floor, with two rooms on either side and a quaint little stair against the left wall, leading up to the hall and two rooms on the third floor. There is also an inside stairway from the second-story hall down to the hall in the basement. The interior woodwork is refined but simple. Two massive inside chimneys afford fireplaces for each room. Originally there was a small wing on the right side of the house but in recent years it has been removed. This was used as a conservatory or greenhouse.

TOCALAND was built in 1854 by Major Woodward for his daughter, Regina, who married Christopher Gadsen of Charleston. Mr. Gadsen was

a son of the eminent Bishop Christopher Edwards Gadsen of the Episcopal Church, who was for many years rector of Saint Phillip's Church in Charleston. Bishop Gadsen was a close friend of John C. Calhoun. They were classmates at Yale, who continued a close relationship on through life. It is thought by some that Bishop Gadsen was responsible for the body of the famous statesman being buried in Charleston.

Young Christopher Gadsen, Jr. was a noted horticulturist and landscape gardener. Before coming to Fairfield he did work in several of the famous Charleston gardens. During his early years in the upcountry he designed and planted many of the houses and gardens in Fairfield County.

Needless to say, the grounds at TOCALAND were beautifully landscaped with boxwood, rare shrubs, bulbs, roses, and flowers for every season. Boxwood, privet, and native holly were used for the hedges that were laid out in formal geometric patterns. Some of the boxwood and holly hedges still remain and are in amazingly good condition. A rare tree, locally called "the Coffee tree," still retains its original position.

The orchards of this plantation were famous. Apricots, peaches, apples, pears, pomgranates, and figs were in abundance and were planted in patterns to carry out the general design of the landscaping.

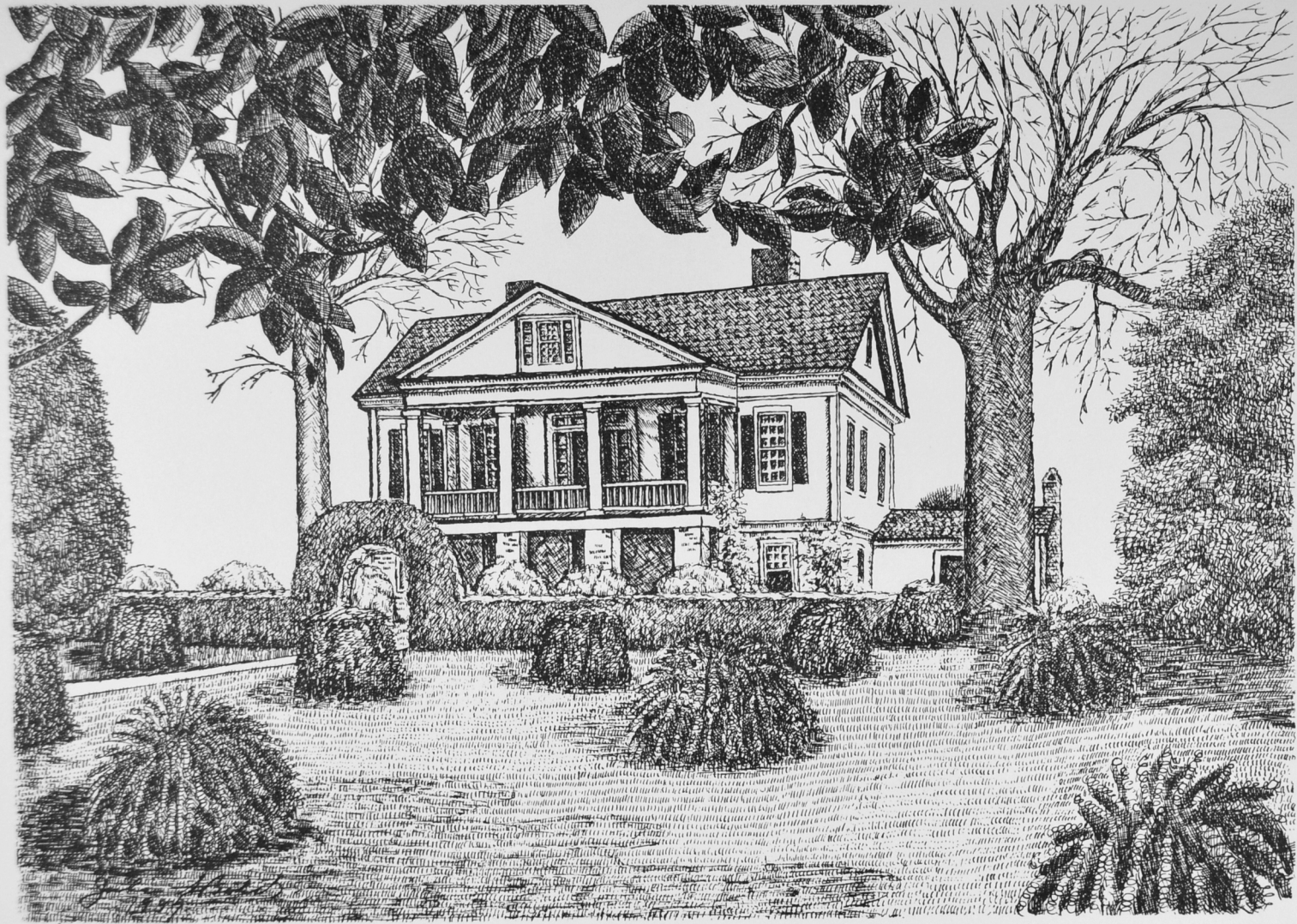
Most famous of all were the vineyards. Grapes of all varieties were to be found but most favored of all were the Tokay vines, natives of Hungary, which were world-renowned for their sweetness and the excellent wines derived from them. From these the plantation took its name.

The Gadsens lived happily here until the War Between the States, with their sons, Frank and John. Mr. Gadsen went into the Confederate Army and was killed in action. In 1865 Sherman's men raided the plantation when they passed by but by some good fortune the old house was spared. The Woodward-Gadsen family burying ground is just across the Southern Railroad from TOCALAND on the highway.

After Mrs. Gadsen's death the place passed to her son, Frank. He and his wife, Lilla Rabb, lived here until his death. His widow kept the house and gardens in good condition as long as she was able to do so. She died in 1962 and is buried here.

In the 1930's or 1940 she sold TOCALAND to Mr. George Bigham whose family resided there until it was purchased in 1953 by Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson.

The Johnsons are proud of the old place and cherish it. They are in the process of modernizing and restoring the house, carefully retaining and emphasizing all of the charm and antiquity of the building. What is left of the old garden is being preserved and plans are to restore it in the manner of what it was in the past.



TOCALAND