

were both well along in middle-age he heard of her father's death and came home again for his love. This time they were married and returned to Texas and their descendants are now counted among the well-to-do first families of that state.

## ROCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

The ROCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH appears to be a new building but such is not the case. It has merely been repaired and brick veneered in recent years which gives it this "new look." The congregation dates back to the very early 1800's and the little building probably to the 1830's. No history of this church has been made available but it is known that at one time a school was also located on the site and was sponsored by this congregation.

## FAIR VIEW

MEANS — BLAIR — FRAZIER

FAIR VIEW is situated on one of the highest hills along the Broad River in the Blair section of Fairfield County. For many miles from the Newberry County side of the river it can be seen boldly looking down from the pinnacle that it has crowned since its erection a few years after the Revolutionary War. This house was built to stand; it still does, and proudly, too, in spite of having been neglected and deserted for about a quarter of a century. To reach the site one has to walk over rough, rocky terrain through a fast growing forest that is veritably making its way to the front door of the old mansion. This place is so remote and overgrown that it reminds one of the castle of the "Sleeping Beauty" in the fairy tale by that name.

The builder of the house was General Thomas Means of Colonial and Revolutionary fame who died in 1807 and is buried in the yard. His grave and the weathered old tombstone may still be found hidden among the vines, overgrown shrubs, and briar roses that cover the place. General Means also represented Fairfield County in the Legislature in 1798 and 1799. His son, John H. Means, was Governor of South Carolina.

The house is built of hand-made bricks that were made on the plantation by the slaves. The main body of the structure is a rectangular two story building covered with a hipped roof. From the rear extends a two story ell with a gabled roof. This ell has long porches or galleries extending the full length of both stories on one side. The solid brick walls are twenty inches thick and are plastered on the interior. This plaster is still in remarkably good condition considering that the house has been open to the elements. The drawing-room ceiling has a handsome molded chandelier ring in the center of a beautifully molded circular floral design. The bricks on the outer walls are plastered with cement. In a semi-circle over the front door and molded into the cement



FAIR VIEW

is an American Eagle with outstretched wings bearing the shield of the United States. This patriotic decoration placed there by the Revolutionary soldier is disintegrating with time and exposure but during the Confederate War it saved the house from being burned. When the Yankees saw the United States crest and the American Eagle they would not set their torches to the building.

After General Means' death FAIR VIEW was sold to William Blair. During the long occupancy of the Blair family this old home was one of the social centers of the community. Stories may still be heard of the grand balls that were held here. William Blair was married three times and had a large family and connections as well as a host of friends who all took advantage of and enjoyed his unstinted hospitality. The place has remained among his descendants up to the present time, a period of about one hundred and fifty years. The current owner of FAIR VIEW is J. B. Frazier, Jr., a great-grand-son of William Blair.

An amusing incident is told by members of the family about the harrowing days when FAIR VIEW was visited by the Yankee soldiers. Captain William Blair was an old man and was at home during the occupation. The company which visited his plantation to loot and burn was under a Captain William Blair, a young man from New Jersey. When he was told by the servants that the owner of the place was also a Captain William Blair he was anxious to meet him and had the old man called out. The young captain was very affable and on seeing the patriarch said, "My name is also William Blair. I am from New Jersey. I wonder if we are kin?" To this the old man retorted, "No! If I had one drop of damned Yankee blood in my veins I'd slit both of my wrists to let it out!" So saying he brandished a long knife to further dramatize his statement. This amused the young man and the house was spared and before he left he and the old captain were on more congenial terms although the old gentleman remained restrained and somewhat distant. The above story was told by a descendant of Captain William Blair who now resides in Newberry, South Carolina.

## LYLES-CROWDER HOME

### LYLES – FEASTER – CROWDER

In the western part of Fairfield County along the Broad River the land is extremely hilly, bordering upon being mountainous. The steep wooded hills and deep narrow valleys make it a rugged country. Hidden among the hills, usually on their crests, like gems in a tiara, are some of the oldest and most historic homesteads in the county.

One of these is a time-worn, weatherbeaten house that was built in 1812 by Major Thomas Lyles.

Major Thomas Lyles was a son of Arromanus Lyles whose father was Ephriam Lyles, one of Fairfield's first settlers. Ephriam and his brother, Colonel John, took lands at the mouth of Beaver Creek on Broad River. The family was from Brunswick County, Virginia originally but they came to Fairfield from Butte County, North Carolina, about 1745.