

find it if she did not take them to it. The old woman showed immediate interest and let her thirst overcome her angel's command. She permitted her victim to get the spirits for her. The cunning housewife insisted that she drink some before using the hatchet for it would give her more courage. The old woman heeded and took one drink and then another until she became so drunk that she could no longer hold the death weapon. The next day the unfortunate old creature was bound and loaded into a wagon and was taken to town by some of the plantation hands where she was placed in the county jail from whence she was committed to the State Asylum.

FONTI FLORA still remains in the Pearson family. Its present owner is Mrs. George W. Tomlin of Columbia, South Carolina, who was born Katherine Pearson. Mrs. Tomlin and her family dearly love the old place and are now in the process of a restoration which is being supervised by Mr. Tomlin.

ROSE HILL

HALL — PROVENCE — LONG — BLAIR — PARKER

This property was given to Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hall by her father as a dower when she and Colonel David Provence were married. Colonel Provence came to South Carolina from Kentucky in 1836. After he and Miss Hall were married he enlarged and remodeled the house adding a wing to the rear and the bay windows on the front. A Mr. Jennings who worked for him did the work.

The house is an odd little building. Entering it from the front is a reception hall with a room on either side and from which the stairway extends to the second floor. To the rear of the hall is a large, long dining room and another smaller room. The kitchen is behind the main building but connected to it by a covered back porch. The bedrooms are on the second story and a porch extends across the front.

Colonel Provence was an eccentric gentleman, very proud and proper. He loved horses and racing and enjoyed entertaining and being entertained. His grave is a short distance from the house and across the road from the Rock Creek Baptist Church and cemetery. One story is that he requested to be buried here and not in the cemetery with "the common herd." Another is that he was a Catholic and requested not to be buried with "the heretics." The third story is that due to his faith the members of the church objected to his interment among them. Be all of this as it may the fact remains that the solitary grave with a handsome marker stands alone on a hill opposite the church.

After the Colonel's death quarrying operations were begun at Blair's and the first of the operators and stonemasons were Italians. They heard local stories about the late Colonel and that he was a rich man who had requested that a fortune be buried with him. Believing this story a group of these men exhumed the old man's body during the hours of darkness and on finding no treasure except his watch and ring, left the casket and the almost mummified body beside the open grave.



ROSE HILL

Occupants of the house and people of the community say that Colonel Provence still haunts the house and the road leading to his lonely grave. Strange noises are heard in the house and locked doors mysteriously open and slam.

Mrs. Hannah Long Blair, now in her nineties, moved into this old home when she was five. Her father was Captain James I. Long who bought the property from the Provence estate and later gave it to her after she was married. In recent years Mrs. Blair has passed title to her daughter, Mrs. George Blair Parker. She still resides here with Mrs. Parker and her family.

McCANTS PLACE

Of early American log construction this old remnant of the past on the outskirts of Winnsboro is said to be a haunted house. It has belonged to the McCants family for several generations.