

Paslay Home - 1784 & 1785 (?)

One of the oldest houses in Laurens County is situated midway between Beaverdam Church and Mountville. Originally, the plantation extended from Beaverdam to Mountville. The structure is a six room house of early colonial pattern, small but sturdily built. The first owner and builder was Captain Robert Paslay, who served in the Revolutionary War under General Francis Marion. While on a scouting party, Captain Paslay came to this section of the country. He was originally a resident of the Low Country, but after the war, he obtained a large tract of land, probably in payment for services rendered during the war. It is on this land that the Paslay Home is located. Plans were made by an architect and in 1784 and 1785 the two story, six room house was constructed. Only the ^{very} best materials were used. Even today, the once beautiful wainscoting and colonial decorations bear the original paint. The house still bears the same plastering and weatherboarding of 1784.

A stairway opens on the front porch through a large six panel colonial door. All other doors are of this same structure.

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The second story ceilings of the Paslay Home are decorated with beveled beams. Plain, black mantels, typical of the age, are found throughout the house.

In the large living room, a beautiful corner cupboard with frieze at the top is built into the wall. The fireplaces are rather large, each measuring four feet in length.

Several antiques which have remained in the house since the time of construction are still in use. One of the oldest antiques is a small, rosewood-mahogany piano with harp strings. The date in the piano, which was one of the first after the spinet, is 1772. An old walnut secretary with cathedral doors was one of Chippendale's originals.

A Highboy, which is a tall chest of drawers, was typical of the Colonial period. This was accompanied by a smaller chest of drawers known as a Lowboy. This smaller chest was made of walnut with inlaid maple drawers.

An old wine table, that contains two small drawers, bears the date 1650 on top. There is also one half of an octagon shaped dining table; very old and worn, but still in use.

Originally, there was a long porch, which had square columns and railings.

Typical of a Colonial home is a large basement. The basement of the Paslay House contains two rooms running the entire length of the house. Brick was the material used for making the walls which are two feet thick. This basement was once used as a kitchen with a stairway leading up to the ground floor.

Captain Robert Paslay and his wife are buried in the family burial ground near the old home place.

The old time flower garden at the side of the house featured such things as snowball, English dogwood, roses, and various other flowers. These were placed in squares and edged in boxwood. There were brick walks across the lawn leading to the road, the kitchen, and to the buildings at the back, such as the barn, the grainery, and the smoke house.

Captain Paslay and his son operated this farm until the time of his death. The son, Edmund Taylor Paslay, continued the work. He was known as Captain Paslay, although he was not in service during the war. He was zealous in getting local units organized and thereafter he was called Captain by his friends.

Several boys of Capt. Edmund Taylor Paslay served in the Southern Army. One, a young boy of 14, died in camp from a malady. Another, who was an officer, was killed by a bomb while planning a battle. Two of the boys came home after the war. B. H. Paslay was a member of a senior class of 13 or 15 at the Citadel. They took French leave from their college and volunteered for service. B. H. Paslay was a Cavalryman and a member of a group that never surrendered.

This person, named above, was the oldest brother of the sisters who continued to live at the home. Florence, the youngest, was a small child when the war ended. She had gone to one of the several gates above the house and had climbed on top of the gate post. Young Florence saw a jaded horse and tired looking rider approach. To her childish mind he typified a Yankee in appearance. Frightened, she jumped from his horse and chased her to her mother. He wasn't a Yankee but her oldest brother returning after hiding for a while till excitement died down. To her death, Florence

never forgot the incident.

Five generations to date have lived consecutively at this old Paslay home. Two of Captain Edmund's daughters lived there till their death. One of their sons now occupies the home. There was also a grandson reared there.

Originally, the Paslay family came from Paisley, Scotland and settled at Williamsburg, Virginia. From there, they came to S. C. Lord Paisley was Claude Hamilton before being given the title of Lord by the King of England.

The Paslay Court of Arms is like that of the King of England. The Paslays are descended from a ruling king of England of long ago.