

The Faires/Coltharp Cabin

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The Faires/Coltharp cabin was originally located approximately 3 miles from this spot near present-day Gold Hill schools. The land historically associated with this cabin extends from Hwy 160 (formerly Steele Creek Rd) back to the India Hook Community and north of the India Hook Branch, now known as Dutchman Creek. The cabin was moved to the ASCG in 1994. It was built sometime between 1778 and 1813. Many researchers have asserted that the cabin was constructed in 1813 by Jesse Faires, son of Alexander Faires. However, archival evidence points to an earlier date of construction, likely as early as 1778.

Alexander Faires, planter and blacksmith, was born in Ireland in 1740 and immigrated to America in his early childhood. His family settled in Delaware, where he eventually met and married his wife, Jenet Hall.¹ Tradition says that Alexander and Jenet came to Fort Mill (then known as the York District) in 1776, on horseback. Shortly after their arrival, Alexander entered Sumter's Army in the American Revolution. He was severely wounded and captured at the Battle of Fishing Creek (August 1780), and marched, together with many others, to Camden that same night.² On the second night he escaped and, according to family tradition, made his way home to his wife at "India Hook on the Catawba." After she nursed him back to health, he returned to the war.³ This reference makes it clear that he was living on this land well before the 1813 lease. In addition, he can be found residing in the area on the 1800 and 1810 U.S. Federal Census records.

Although the original lease cannot be located at this time, additional references support Alexander Faires living and working on land in this same area. One particular lease granted on November 6, 1787 is described as being, "land adjoining Thomas Drennan, Alexander Faires, John and James Robinsons' plantations."⁴ Several years later, on September 22, 1801, Alexander Faires struck up an agreement with William Blackstock to construct a mill dam, saw mill, and cotton machine on Blackstock's property. His property was described as being near the Old Nation Ford, Catawba River, Indian Land York County, SC.⁵

Alexander and Jenet Faires had eight children: John (b. 1774); Thomas (b. 1775); Mary Ann (b. 1777); William (b. 1779); Samuel (b. 1780); Jesse (b. 1787); Jennet (died after 1828); and Alexander (b.1785). In 1824 the lease passed to Jesse and his brother William after their father died.⁶ Jesse took over the property and continued to live there. He was recorded as paying the lease to Nancy Harris (of the Catawba Nation) since 1813, total of \$80.⁷

¹ Faris, Thomas Murray, "Faris Line: (Faries-Faires-Ferris-Farris), 1698-1966," unpublished manuscript, on file with Louise Pettus Archives, Rock Hill, p. 4.

² Johnson, Joseph, M.D., *Tradition and Reminiscences, Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South*, "Charleston: Walker and James, 1851. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

³ Faris, Thomas Murray, "Faris Line: (Faries-Faires-Ferris-Farris), 1698-1966," unpublished manuscript, on file with Louise Pettus Archives, Rock Hill, p. 4.

⁴ YCDB B, #144, p.287-289.

⁵ YCDB F, #368, p. 508-512.

⁶Faris, Thomas Murray, "Faris Line: (Faries-Faires-Ferris-Farris), 1698-1966," unpublished manuscript, on file with Louise Pettus Archives, Rock Hill, p. 5.

⁷ *Surveyor's Plat Book and Indian Commissioner's Rent Book*, p. 16.

Jesse Faires, married Margaret Alexander Garrison (1787-1845), date unknown. Family history states that Jesse was a school teacher. Jesse and Margaret had 10 children. Their 7th child, John N. (b. 1831) inherited the lease and the cabin. It is interesting to note that another of Alexander and Jenet's children (Samuel) married into the Garrison family, who were neighbors.⁸

John N. Faires married Esther Jane Garrison (1836-1875) before 1856. They had three children: Mary Missouri (b. 1856); Isaac Leonidas (b. 1857); and John D. (b. 1861). Sadly, John never met his third child. John volunteered to fight in the Civil War and joined the Confederate States (C.S.) Army, Company H, South Carolina 6th Regiment, in June of 1861 as a sergeant.⁹ He was wounded six months later, on December 20, 1861, at the Battle of Dranesville, VA. He died on Christmas morning at Camp Centralia, VA.¹⁰ According to a letter written by Lt. J. W. White to John Faires' wife, he wrote, "In the death of John you suffer a great loss, and our country a brave, generous, and noble man. During his suffering, he was always calm and I did not hear him complain or moan. He was rational to the time of his death."¹¹ Due to a lack of finances, John's widow was unable to bring his body home. Therefore, he was buried in a government cemetery at or near Centralia, VA.¹²

Esther Jane Garrison Faires, now widow, and mother of three, married Josiah Hartwell Coltharp (1833-1921) after the war.¹³ Coltharp, served with John in the Civil War and was their neighbor. The Coltharp family emigrated from England in 1754 and settled in Southampton County, Virginia. How the family came to York County is unclear at this point.¹⁴ However, it is known that Josiah H. Coltharp was born to John and Malinda Coltharp, on a farm on the banks of Sugar Creek in the section of Fort Mill then known as "Little York."¹⁵

J. H. Coltharp lived his whole life in this community and contributed to it greatly. He was a master mason and farmer. He joined the Confederate Army in in March of 1862, and was assigned to Company B, 6th South Carolina Regiment. He was wounded and/or sick from June that same year, until February of 1863

⁸ Faris, Thomas Murray, "Faris Line: (Faries-Faires-Ferris-Farris), 1698-1966," unpublished manuscript, on file with Louise Pettus Archives, Rock Hill, p. 3. US Federal Census records, 1820-1860.

⁹ Faris, Thomas Murray, "Faris Line: (Faries-Faires-Ferris-Farris), 1698-1966," unpublished manuscript, on file with Louise Pettus Archives, Rock Hill, p. 7. Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from SC Units: www.fold3.com

¹⁰ Faris, Thomas Murray, "Faris Line: (Faries-Faires-Ferris-Farris), 1698-1966," unpublished manuscript, on file with Louise Pettus Archives, Rock Hill, p. 7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Dranesville; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from SC Units: www.fold3.com

¹¹ Letter written by Lt. J. W. White to Esther Jane Faires, 12/26/1861 on file with the ASCG.

¹² Letter written by Lt. J. W. White to Esther Jane Faires, 12/26/1861. On file with the ASCG.

¹³ Yorkville Enquirer (York, South Carolina) · Thu, Aug 9, 1866 · Page 3. This is advertisement for the sale of 135 acres having belonged to John N. Faris. The sellers are J. H. Coltharp and his wife E. J. Coltharp.

¹⁴ Faris, Thomas Murray, *Coltharp; Notes on the Coltharp Family, 1745-1971*. Unpublished Manuscript, on file at the Louise Pettus Archives, Rock Hill, SC.

¹⁵ US Federal Census, 1850. "An Interesting Letter from 'Splinter'," *Fort Mill Times* (Fort Mill, South Carolina) · Nov 21, 1907, Page 3.

and spent a great deal of time in the hospital. Coltharp fought in the army for a total of 3 years before returning to his home in Fort Mill at the end of the war.¹⁶

Esther Jane and Josiah had five children together (four survived into adulthood): Sylvester LaFayette (1866), Marcellus (1868), Mich (1869), Brantley (1870), and Will J. (1873). Esther Jane died in 1875 at the age of 39, leaving her husband with all these children to care for.¹⁷

Sometime before 1877, Josiah married his second wife, Elizabeth (Mabel) Ann Harper. They had at least two children together: Fannie (1877) and Josiah Harper (b. 1879; died 1881).¹⁸ In 1893, Coltharp had a new house constructed for his family: the house that is now used as the Nature Center for the ASCG. Elizabeth died sometime between 1901 and 1910.¹⁹ In 1910, Josiah was living with Fannie and her family. By 1920, he was residing alone, perhaps back in the cabin, but that is just speculation.

Josiah died from chronic kidney disease in 1921.²⁰ In his obituary, Coltharp was described as “a man of large intelligence, correct principles, and...no man in his neighborhood stood higher in the estimation of all the people.”²¹ He left the majority of his land and personal property to his daughter, Fannie.²² Who lived in the cabin between 1893 and 1994 is unknown at this time.

¹⁶ <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F9V4-7YW>; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from SC Units: www.fold3.com

¹⁷ Faris, Thomas Murray, “Faris Line: (Faries-Faires-Ferris-Farris), 1698-1966,” (p. 4) unpublished manuscript, on file with Louise Pettus Archives, Rock Hill, p. 22.

¹⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101248425/josiah-harper-coltharp>

¹⁹ US Federal Census records, 1900, 1910, 1920. Elizabeth was alive and living with J. H. Coltharp in 1900. By 1910, J.H. Coltharp was listed as a widow.

²⁰ Death Certificate found at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-XCZ9-3RJ?i=694&cc=1417492>

²¹ Obituary of J. H. Coltharpe, *Yorkville Enquirer* (York, South Carolina) · Jun 24, 1921, p. 4.

²² The will of Josiah Coltharp: Will Book D, p. 271.