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Cedar Oaks Guild

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CEDAR OAKS GUILD NEWSLETTER

June July, 2021



We are excited to be making plans to return to Cedar Oaks this fall! The first meeting is scheduled for **September 14**. Board members Laura Harper, Tricia Copelin, Beth Ducrest, and Donna Fuller will serve as hostesses. In addition to our regular meetings, community outreach events are planned. Halloween Trick or Treating is scheduled for October 31 and Cookiepalooza will return December 5. Regular tour hours will also resume this fall.

Dues for 2021-22, still \$25, can be paid by mailing a check to Beth Ducrest, 144 Rosemont Loop, Oxford, or online with a credit card at <https://cedaroaks.square.site>. Can't remember whether or not you have paid? Beth will be happy to answer that question!

Several of our members have serious **food allergies**. If you have an allergy, please notify Tricia Copelin, latrdj@hotmail.com, so that she can alert the hostesses.

Landscaping: New benches have been placed in the sunken garden.





Thanks to **Keri Dibrell** for the lovely ferns at the front door.



Happy Summer Birthdays:

Melva Mortimer	June 4
Connie Lilly	June 14
Nancy Dupont	June 20
Shellie Harrison	June 2
Barbara Purdon	July 2
Dianne Fergusson	July 20
Tricia Copelin	July 25

1



Cedar Oaks Treasure: A Summer Home

Summertime, and the livin' is --- HOT !

Apparently it was even hotter on the Delta. The fourth owner of Cedar Oaks, George W. Faison, Sr. purchased it as a summer home in 1884 to escape the malaria, heat and humidity in Faisononia, his home near Indianola in Sunflower County.

George W. Faison, Sr. Rowland, Dunbar, ed. *Mississippi: Comprising sketches of counties, towns, events, institutions, and persons...* Vol. 3, p.259.



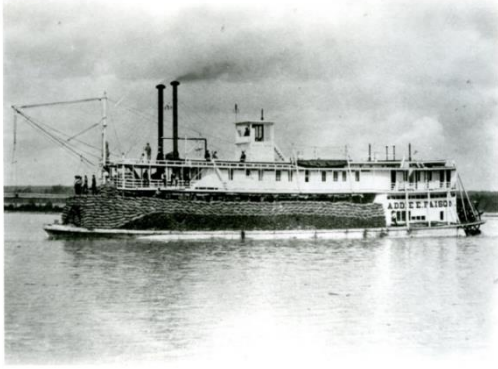
Faison was a prosperous planter and businessman, born into a prestigious family in Virginia. In 1851, when he was 21 years old, he left Virginia to establish himself in a new place. He went to Fayette County, TN, before moving to Mississippi in 1858. He went first to Sharkey or Issaquena County (reports differ) where he oversaw a plantation and had a store. Possibly there he married Ellen Rebecca Fields, daughter of early Issaquena settler Jesse Fields. Their son George Washington Faison, Jr. was born in 1861. In 1862 they moved to Sunflower County, where he worked as an overseer and then rented land from a Mr. Lee, which he later purchased from Lee's estate. The Faisons named their new location Faisononia, and lived on a riverboat for several years. Ellen died October 11, 1863, and is buried in Boyer Cemetery near Indianola.

During the Civil War, Faison served in the commissary department of the Mississippi troops captured in Vicksburg. (Issaquena Genealogy & History Project) In 1868, he began opening general stores in Faisononia, Johnsonville, Greenville, Shaw, and Indianola. A 1981 article about Faisononia in the *Enterprise-Tocsin* newspaper reported "There was also a general merchandise store there at that time with enough business to keep five clerks busy. The store sold 'everything from toothpicks to bear traps to coffins,' according J. H. Hill, present owner of the land." George, Jr. later went into business with his father and the businesses became Faison & Son.

There was also a riverboat landing and post office at Faisononia. According to John C. Willis in *Forgotten Time*, the family influence over postmaster in the area gave them "a position from which the business affairs of likely competitors could be monitored." (p.85) They had contacts with mortgage firms from outside the region and were able to get loans from Scottish-American Mortgage Co. at a lower rate than most businessmen. Contrary to Willis comparing him to Faulkner's Snopeses, local biographies praised Faison for his business ethics and community service.

In 1869, Faison married his second wife, Mrs. Ann M. (Smith) Waits in Sunflower County. Her father had been a circuit court judge and a member of the state legislature. They built at first a four room house, which was expanded to a seventeen room house. The WPA Guide to Mississippi described it in 1938 as "a story-and-a-half Georgian Colonial type cottage, unpretentious but roomy and gracious appearing. A large veranda is screened against mosquitoes, and the house sits high on brick pilings to protect it from Delta floods. About the house are many things that make for comfortable plantation life – shade of live oak, cedar, and pecan trees, servants' quarters, a carriage house (now used as a garage), fruit trees, and an artesian well. The boat landing on the river is a reminder of the days when Sunflower River was navigable and cotton was shipped downstream to New Orleans by boats that came back laden with imported luxuries."

Because river transportation was very important then, Faison purchased two steamboats to transport his cotton and wares between Faisononia and Vicksburg. They were named *Fair Play* and the *Addie E. Faison*, the latter being named for his daughter.



The Addie E. Faison

George and Ann Faison's children were:

Walter B. 1871-1934

William Murff 1874-1925

Addie E. (Adelaide Eugenia) 1876-1926

James P. Faison 1879-1913

Edmund H. 1881-1926

These children ranged from about 3 to 13 years old when Faison purchased the house in 1884, and surely spent many of their summers in Oxford. The oldest child, George, Jr., worked with his father in the Faison & Son businesses and would have been about 23. The younger George married Willie (possibly Welter?) C. De Jarnette in February, 1893. More on them next time.

George Faison, Sr. died in 1907; Ann died July 25, 1888. Both are buried in Indianola City Cemetery.

George W. Faison, Sr. purchased Cedar Oaks in 1884 from C. B. Howery. Ten years later, he sold it to R. W. Baird. I think the 'G. H.' when he sold it to Baird is a typographical mistake. There was no G. H. in the family.

Ac	KIND OF INSTRUMENT	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DESCRIPTION OF SUBDIVISION	NO. OF ACRES	
	NO.	DAY	YEAR				
33	423	Patent	6 28 1842	U. S. A.	Ho-Ka	Entire Section	640
4	125	WD	6 12 1836	Ho-Ka	Chisholm-Martin & Craig	Entire Section	640
2	252	WD	5 19 1848	Chisholm-Martin & Craig	Arthur S. Denton	Lot 131	
1	127	Deed	1 21 1848	Geo. T. Swan, Auditor	Allen Woolverton	Lot 131	
3	306	WD	5 5 1847	A. S. Denton et ux	Allen Woolverton	Lot 131	
4	377	WD	3 12 1849	Allen Woolverton et ux	Wm. F. Hickman	Lot 131	
5	351	WD	12 2 1852	W. F. Hickman	D. C. Mosby	Lot 131	
6	547	WD	3 3 1854	D. C. Mosby et ux	J. H. Viser	Lot 131	
7	511	WD	6 12 1856	J. H. Viser et ux	Wm. Turner	Lot 131	
8	122	WD	11 14 1868	Wm. Turner	P. B. Barringer	Lot 131	
9	17	Tax S	1872	Tax Collector	State	Lot 131	
10	84	Deed	1 10 1881	E. Lemly, Adm.	C. B. Howery	Lot 131	
11	729	WD	10 27 1884	C. B. Howery	Geo. W. Faison, Sr.	Lot 131	
12	126	WD	2 6 1894	G. H. Faison	R. W. Baird	Lot 131	
13	519	WD	3 13 1895	R. W. Baird	Addie A. Baird	Lot 131	
14	522	Dec. S	11 27 1903	Chancery Court	J. E. Pope, Com.	Lot 131	
15	104	OB. Dec	11 27 1903	Chancery Court	J. E. Pope, Com.	Lot 131	
16	602	Conf.	12 21 1903	Chancery Court	F. E. Matthews, et al	Lot 131	
17	67	Com D	12 22 1903	J. E. Pope, Com.	F. E. Matthews, et al	Lot 131	
18	224	ST	7 2 1904	F. E. Matthews, et ux	W. D. Potter, Cash.	Lot 131	
19	475	WD DT	9 2 1906	F. E. Matthews, et ux	Oxford B & L. ASSOC.	Lot 131	
20	222	DT	1 8 1912	F. E. Matthews, et ux	Oxford B & L. Assoc.	Lot 131	

Handwritten notes:
 - A circled '1' in the right margin.
 - 'Lemley' written near entry 10.
 - 'Barringer' written near entry 11.
 - '2nd husband of Addie Baird' written near entry 12.
 - 'Addie - Adelaide' written near entry 13.
 - 'Denton' written near entry 14.
 - 'Pat. SW' written near entry 15.
 - 'Pat. SW' written near entry 16.

Rowland, Dunbar, ed. *Mississippi: Comprising sketches of counties, towns, events, institutions, and persons, arranged in cyclopedic form.* Atlanta: Southern Historical Pub., 1976 reprint of 1907 ed. Vol. 3, p. 259-260.

Willis, John C. *Forgotten Time: The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta after the Civil War.* Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2000.

<http://genealogytrails.com/miss/sunflower/bios.html> Sunflower County biographies

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~msissaq2/faison.html> Issaquena County biographies

<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A245199> The *Addie E. Faison*

<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/32712558/the-enterprise-tocsin/> Faisonina

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_WPA_Guide_to_Mississippi/4GHpCAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=wpa+guide+mississippi+%22faisonina%22&pg=PT444&printsec=frontcover *WPA Guide to Mississippi*