

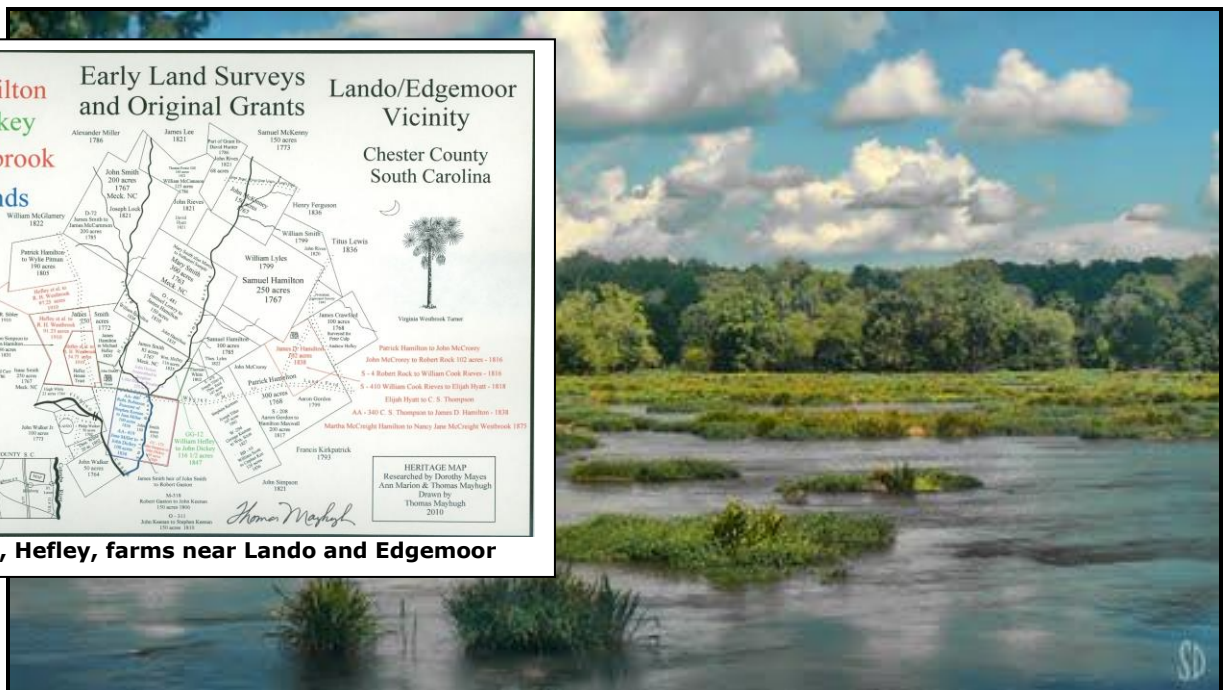
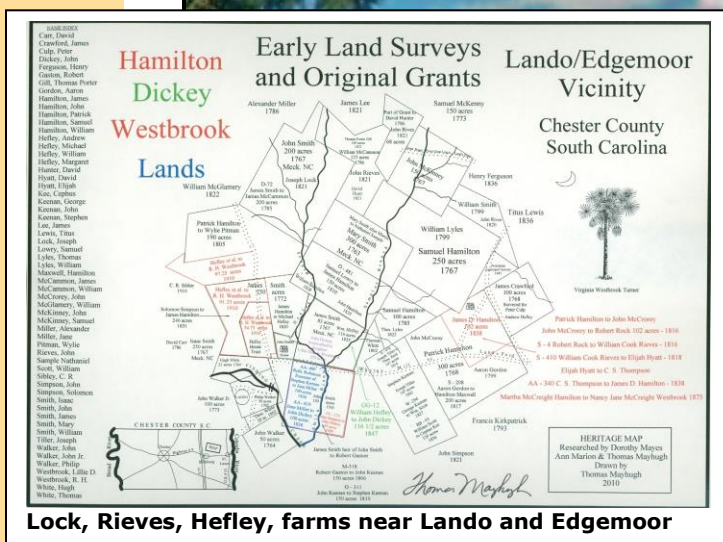
# The Locke Family Newsletter

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## Calling all Lockes...

Our reunion is fast approaching, and this is just a friendly reminder that we will converge on **Landsford Canal State Park** along the historic **Catawba River** on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Not that it matters, but I have prepaid for the large log cabin this year, and I trust that the \$140.00 won't be wasted. After last year's strong attendance, I'm confident that we'll have another good group on hand, and that the food you bring will be a celebration of our Southern heritage. I've heard from Lockes as far away as **Arkansas** that they are coming. With the addition of *air-conditioning* this year, the summer heat and occasional showers should not be factors to keep people away.

If you weren't able to join us last year, make a point to drive down to the park and experience the beauty and history of this special place. Our Locke ancestors settled on land just a few miles west of the river, and there's nothing quite like being so close to our roots. The walk along the **Catawba** will take you back to a time over two hundred years ago when brothers **Josias** and **William** fished and hunted here with their sons, and when their daughters set up housekeeping in a cabin very much like the one where we will be gathering. The view across the expansive stream will be the same view that they would have known. What better way to honor them than by walking in their footsteps? When does any family have that opportunity?



The shallow swift waters of the Catawba are home to the largest collection of the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily in the world. The Landsford Canal was built to bypass these amazing plants growing on rocks, and you can see the remarkable 200 year old stone work of Scottish masons all along the western bank of the river. Locks, bridges, walls, and channels remain to this day, a testament to their engineering skills. The inset shows the boundaries of farms west of Landsford. The Lock property is in the upper left area of the map, listed as "Joseph Locke", not Josias.





Intricate stone work has ensured that the canal walls will survive...



Our reunion log cabin...



Landsford is popular for bridal photo shoots...



One of the stone bridges over the ten foot wide canal



Civil War re-enactors cross the Catawba River at Lands Ford



The same men pose at the most famous of all the canal bridges...

You will have plenty of time to explore the old canal locks and bridges. They were designed by the same architect who designed The **Washington Monument** in our nation's capital. The ancient Indian north-south trading path crossed the river at this place, and the bridge where the Confederate re-enactors are posing was built specifically for this path to cross the canal.



## Emily Alyssa Whisonant

On February 22, 2014, **Tim** and **Suzanne Ho Whisonant** welcomed **Emily Alyssa Whisonant** to their family. Tim is the son of **Lewis** and **Jenny Whisonant** of **Lesslie, South Carolina**, and great-great granddaughter of **Minnie Belle Locke**. **Emily** lives in **Sacramento, California**, where Grandma Jenny and Grandpa Lewis have already paid her a visit. She was born on Jenny's birthday.



## Everly Bell Hecht

The second great-grandchild of **Ray** and **Bruce Davis Howell** was born to **Whitney Howell Hecht** on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Whitney is the daughter of **Christopher Howell**. **Ray Howell** is the younger son of the late **John** and **Mae Helms Howell**, and grandson of **Mattie Locke Helms**. Congratulations to the proud parents, and grandparents.

## Delaney Ann and Madison Carol Kukulski

While I was in South Florida last month, I spent the evening with my brother **Eddie** and his wife **Carol** in their **Ft. Lauderdale** home. Eddie's daughter, **Sherrie Ann**, was kind enough to bring her two daughters over so I could meet them. **Delaney** just turned two, and her little sister, **Madison**, was born on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and had just turned five weeks old. Both little girls are named after their late grandmother, **Carol Ann Slater Helms**. Also joining us was my brother **Wade**, and his wife **Vicki**. Our sister, **Nancy**, regretted that she had previous plans and couldn't join us.



Sherrie Ann and Madison



Mom with both girls



Delaney Ann



Wade and Vicki with Madison

## Eric Scott Helms

**Wade** and **Vicki** are enjoying their new grandson, **Eric**, and I got to meet him when I was in Florida. He just turned five months, and he is a very aware little guy who loves to smile. His dad is my nephew, **David**, and his mom is **Stephanie**. Currently, Wade, Vicki, and their younger son, **Matt**, are visiting Ireland, England, and France. Matt plays *Ultimate Frisbee* for his college, *The University of Central Florida*, and while he is in *London*, he has lined up an *Ultimate* match in *Hyde Park*. More power to him...



Yours truly and Eric...



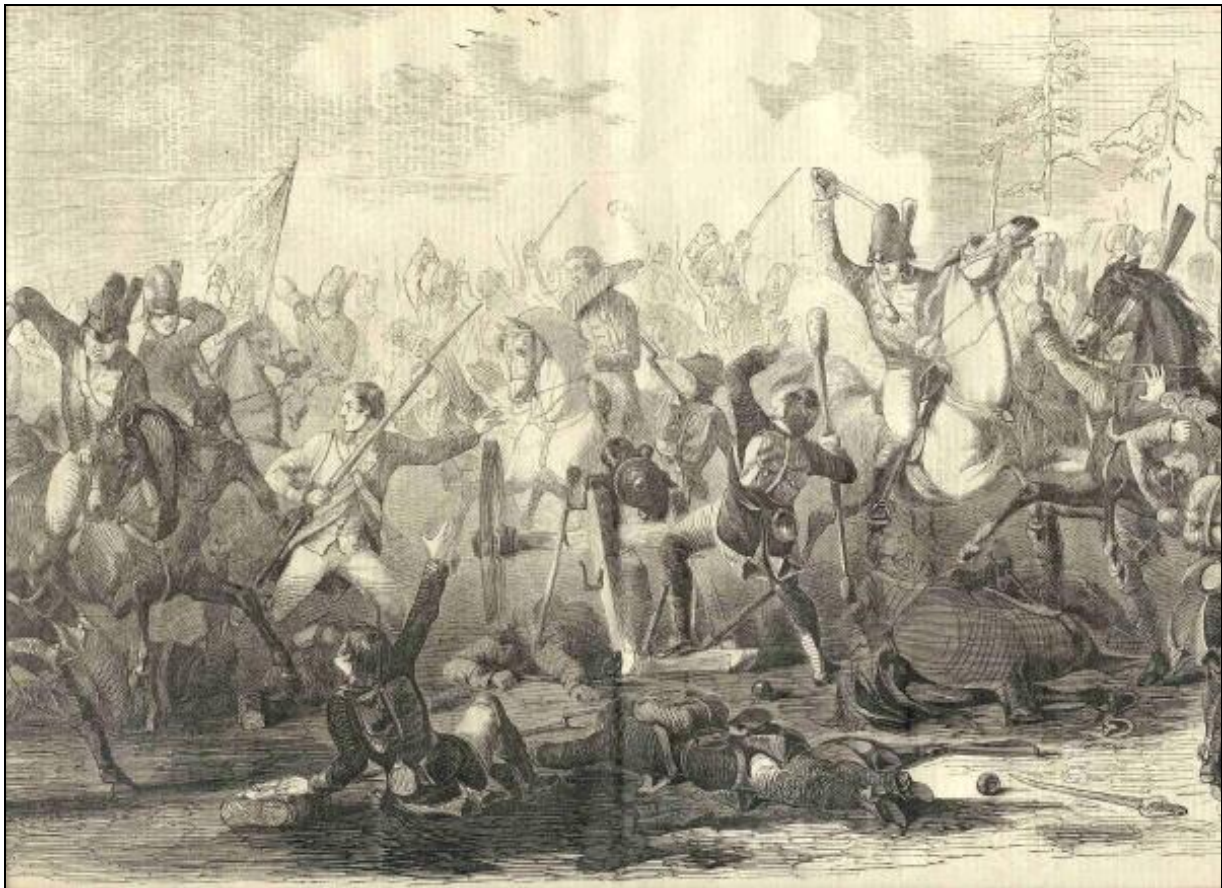
### Keep Maddy Boyce in your Thoughts

If you've been to our reunions over the past five years, you know **Maddy**. She had successful open heart surgery on July 1<sup>st</sup> to repair a congenital valve defect, and was home within three days. Please keep **Maddy** in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers, and prepares for high school. She's a fighter, and she'll be like new, real soon. We might even see her at the reunion. We love you, **Maddy!**

# Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church

Located just a few miles east of *Landsford Canal Park* is the most historic church in the Carolina backcountry. *Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church* was founded in 1750, and continues to hold services to this day. The first known sermon was preached by **Rev. John Brown** in 1753. In 1758, **Robert Miller**, schoolteacher, minister, and brother-in-law of **General Andrew Pickens**, donated 4 1/2 acres to the congregation. The first ordained minister was **Rev. William Richardson** who served from 1759 until 1771. The current building is the fourth and dates from 1896.

The church served as the center of the *Waxhaw* settlement and played a prominent role during the *American Revolution*. With the fall of *Charles Town* (Charleston) May 12, 1780, there was only one organized military force left in *South Carolina*. A detachment of *Virginia Continentals* under the command of **Colonel Abram Buford** had been on their way south to assist in the relief of *Charles Town*. Learning of the surrender, **Buford** was retreating to American headquarters in *Salisbury, North Carolina*. **Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton**, commanding the *British Legion*, was dispatched to destroy them.



This engraving of Buford's Defeat appeared in an 1858 edition of Harper's Weekly

At 3 o'clock on a Monday afternoon, the Americans were overtaken. The most notorious battle of the *Southern Campaign* of the *American Revolution* was about to begin. In minutes, the majority of Buford's men would be either dead or so badly wounded that they would not survive. The dead and wounded were taken to the *Waxhaw Presbyterian Meeting House* to be cared for after the battle.



With the destruction of *Buford's Regiment*, the British believed that *South Carolina* was theirs. However, the story of the slaughter of Buford's men galvanized American resistance in the Carolinas. "*Tarleton's Quarter*" became a proverb for wholesale cruelty -- and a rallying cry for the patriots. Less than a year after the church was used to nurse the wounded from Tarleton's slaughter, the *Meeting House* was again the scene of destruction when **Lord Rawdon** sent Tory **Major John Coffin** into the Waxhaw settlement.

"Hearing of their approach, the settlers, without delay, appointed the Waxhaw meeting house as a place of rendezvous, that they might the better collect their scattered strength, and concert some system of operations. About forty of them had accordingly assembled at this point, when the enemy approached, keeping the Tories, who were dressed in the common garb of the country, in front, whereby this little band of patriots was completely deceived, taking them for captain Nisbets company, in expectation of which they had been waiting. Eleven of them were taken prisoners; the rest with difficulty fled, scattering and betaking themselves to the woods for concealment. Of those who thus escaped, though closely pursued, were Andrew Jackson and his brother, who, entering a secret bend in a creek that was close at hand, obtained a momentary respite from danger, and avoided, for the night, the pursuit of the enemy."

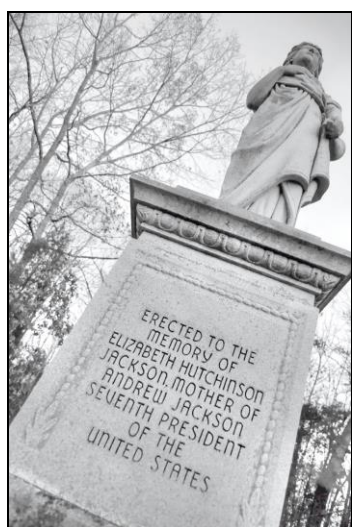
*from The Life of Andrew Jackson, published 1817,  
by John Reid and John Henry Eaton*

During this skirmish on April 9, 1781, the British burned the Meeting House. The Buford battlefield is just east of Lancaster on SC 522, a quarter mile south of the intersection with SC 9. A mass grave is marked with an obelisk.



Daughter of Elizabeth Locke

**The church cemetery is the oldest in the backcountry    This tombstone for 4 year old Margret Crockett is from 1764**



Among those who lie in the churchyard are:

The father and brothers of **Andrew Jackson**, seventh President of the United States. There is a monument dedicated to Jackson's mother who died in Charleston and was buried in an unmarked grave there.

**William Richardson Davie**, founder of the University of North Carolina. Also here are his parents and several other members of his family including his uncle, **Reverend William Richardson** and Rev. Richardson's wife, **Agnes (Craighead) Richardson Dunlap**, daughter of **Rev. Alexander Craighead**.

The parents of Revolutionary War General **Andrew Pickens**.

**Major Robert Crawford**, brother of Andrew Jackson's uncle, **James Crawford**.

**James Hervey Witherspoon**, a Lt. Governor of South Carolina, and his wife, **Jean (Donnom)**, granddaughter of **Major Robert Crawford**.

The graveyard was placed on the National Register September 11, 1975.



# Antebellum Plantations near Landsford State Park

Within a short drive of the **Landsford Canal State Park** are many historic plantations that figured prominently in the early lives of the aristocracy in the **South Carolina** piedmont district. It was the need for better transport of their cotton and tobacco crops to northern cities that brought about the construction of the canal in the first place. The railroads were still decades away, and the shallow rocky shoals of the **Catawba River** made water transport impossible. Most of the original houses have long since disappeared, but the ones that survive give us a window into the genteel lifestyle of these landowners who depended upon the labor of enslaved Africans for their livelihood. Although skilled stone masons were brought in from **Scotland** and **Ireland** to build the locks and bridges of the canal, the majority of the backbreaking work of excavating the channel was done by enslaved men.



As you drive toward the state park from **US 21**, you will see a large two story house off to your left. The house was the center of **Wyoming Plantation** (left) that included thousands of acres of farmland. It was built in the 1830's, at about the same time that **Jesse McCullough Locke** and his brother **Joseph** were moving their families to Eastern **Tennessee**. The **Locke** farm was just five miles west of this house, and chances are that the owners attended **Harmony Baptist Church** two miles west, or **Neely Creek Church** just a few miles to the northwest.

**Wyoming** was her sister house at **Mount Holly Plantation**. The frame structures were almost identical, but sadly, **Mount Holly** has not survived. Just to the east, on a bluff overlooking the Catawba River, was **Tivoli**, the home of patriot and statesman, **William Richardson Davies**, who is buried at nearby **Waxhaw Church Cemetery**. The homesite is now part of **Landsford State Park**. The house was lost many years ago, but recent archeological excavations have uncovered the original foundation. Very few of these homes were made from brick, and time has not been kind to them.



**Mount Holly Plantation (demolished)**



**Springfield- Fort Mill 1805**



**Walker-Mills Plantation Chester 1830**



**Magnolia Hill Richburg near Lando 1910**



## South Carolina Plantations are on the Market... by Harriet McLeod

CHARLESTON, S.C., March 3 (Reuters) - The privately owned historic plantations that dot South Carolina's low country don't switch hands often, but a tough economy and generational changes in family ownership have resulted in a crowded market for the rare properties. Finding buyers for the elite, antebellum plantations that once grew the indigo, rice and cotton that made South Carolina rich can prove quite the challenge. Asking prices range from just over \$3 million to \$20 million for plantations of 350 acres to as many as 7,000 acres. Costly maintenance ups the financial pressure for any potential owner.



Millbrook Plantation



Millford Plantation



Seabrook Plantation

A plantation "is not for everybody," Charleston real estate broker Helen Geer said. "These places are very, very expensive to take care of, and people are cash-strapped right now." At least eight plantations currently are for sale. They can be found at the end of gated, long dirt roads overhung by grand, centuries-old live oaks draped in Spanish moss. Rural neighbors sometimes don't know the places exist, but they are heavy with history from colonial times through the Civil War.

The properties include **Seabrook**, a former Sea Island cotton plantation on Edisto Island with a house built in 1810 that once hosted General Lafayette. He attended a family christening and gave his name to the child, Carolina Lafayette Seabrook, whose portrait still hangs in the home. First Lady Michelle Obama's great-great-grandfather, Jim Robinson, is said in family oral history to have lived on **Friendfield Plantation** near the city of Georgetown. The property, on sale for \$20 million, still has standing slave houses. **Medway**, an 18th-century rice plantation for sale in Berkeley County, has been in the same family since 1928, said Bob Hortman, who has managed it for decades. Surrounded by 6,700 acres of timberland, Medway's pink stuccoed brick house was first built by a Dutchman in 1686, gutted by fire and rebuilt in 1704. Conservation easements prevent it from being developed. Owner Bokara Legendre, 70, inherited the property from her mother, the late Gertrude Legendre, a noted socialite, African big game hunter and World War Two spy. But Bokara Legendre has houses in New York and California and isn't able to get down to the plantation as often as she would like, Hortman said. Plus, the place costs "at least \$500,000 a year" to maintain, he said. After its price dropped over time from \$25 million to \$15 million, the sale of Medway to a foreign buyer is expected to close this month, Hortman said.



Medway Plantation



Friendfield Plantation



Arcadia Plantation

Buyers from outside the region have long helped keep plantations afloat, say those familiar with the properties. Southern plantations that survived the Civil War were almost impossible to maintain without slave labor, and most became derelict to the point of default, Geer said. "Lord, please send me a rich Yankee," plantation owner Samuel Stoney, whose family owned Medway in the 19th century, once wrote in his diary, Hortman said. An infusion of "Yankee money" after the Civil War saved and preserved many historic southern plantation houses and land, said real estate broker Chip Hall, who markets large rural properties throughout the South.



In 1867, a dozen Union soldiers who had passed through South Carolina with General William T. Sherman bought 13,000 acres of land to hunt on, paying as little as 3 cents an acre for it, he said. Northern "robber baron types" followed and accrued vast tracts of plantation land for quail and duck hunting. "South Carolina is certainly not at the level of Connecticut or New York or Los Angeles or Colorado as far as property values are concerned," she said. "We don't have as many \$8 million-plus properties available for sale in this area. But that buyer is always out there."



**Middleburg Plantation**



**Davant Plantation**



**Mansfield Plantation**

Plantation buyers include absentee owners interested in timber investment, hunters, and families who just want a retreat, said Max "Macky" Hill III, whose family has owned **Middleburg Plantation**, built in 1697, for more than 30 years. "Some are looking for the rarity of a surviving period house as if it were a gigantic piece of antique furniture," Hill said. "The people who want them truly value land for its own sake. The majority of the rest of the population can't imagine why you would want to own land, much less take care of it."

Other properties now on the market include **Davant Plantation**, a hunting property with a circa-1770 house and barns that were featured in the movie "Something to Talk About" with Julia Roberts, and Combahee Plantation, which was built by the family of Thomas Heyward, who signed the Declaration of Independence. Tombee Plantation, a rice plantation on the sea island of St. Helena, has a house built in 1795. John Parker, who owns an automobile dealership in Asheville, North Carolina, bought Mansfield Plantation in Georgetown County about eight years ago because his family had owned the almost 1,000-acre property in the 19th century, he said. Parker runs the house as a nine-room bed and breakfast, timbers the land and plants grasses for bobwhite quail. "I don't look at any of it as a burden," Parker said. "I look at it as a blessing." (Editing by Colleen Jenkins)



**Wavering Place**



**The Oaks**



**Hopsewee Plantation**



**Kensington Plantation before and after**



**Kathwood Plantation**



# Antebellum Mansions of Madison, Georgia

When General Sherman burned Atlanta in 1864 and marched to Savannah, his troops were ordered to burn every plantation home they passed. One town that was spared was Madison, Georgia, just west of Augusta. It seems that a prominent citizen of Madison, Joshua Hill, had been the roommate of Sherman's brother at West Point, and a special plea to the general from that citizen was honored. Here are just a few of the 100 houses that were saved. Every May, the homes are opened for special tours.

All photographs by Vann Helms



Stokes-McHenry House 1820

Wade-Porter-Fitzpatrick-Kelly House 1852



Boxwood 1851

Joshua Hill House 1835

Broughton Hall 1837



Heritage Hall 1811



Boxwood

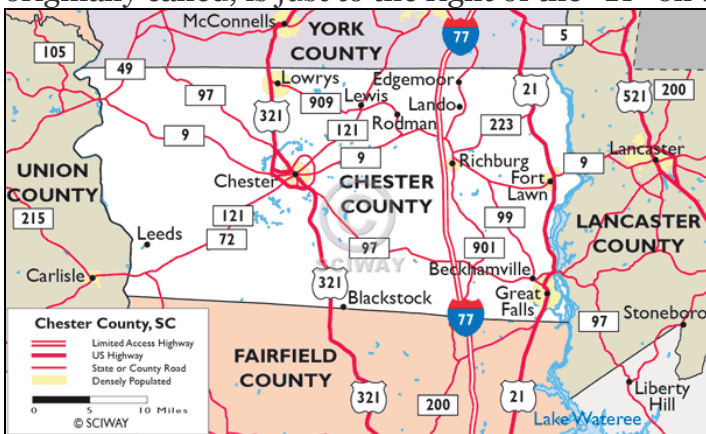
Honeymoon House 1851



# Chester County in 1804



I recently located this map of northern **South Carolina** from **1804**, the same year that **William** and **Josias Lock** moved their families from **Halifax County, North Carolina**. It was drawn as a way to pinpoint geographic places for the upcoming **1810 U.S. census**. Just above the center you will see the name, "**CHESTER**", with the **Catawba River** just to the right. Directly under the "**R**" in **Chester** was the location of the **Locke** land, along **Fishing Creek**. "**Land's Ford**", as the river crossing was originally called, is just to the right of the "**R**" on the river, to the left of the town of **Lancaster**.

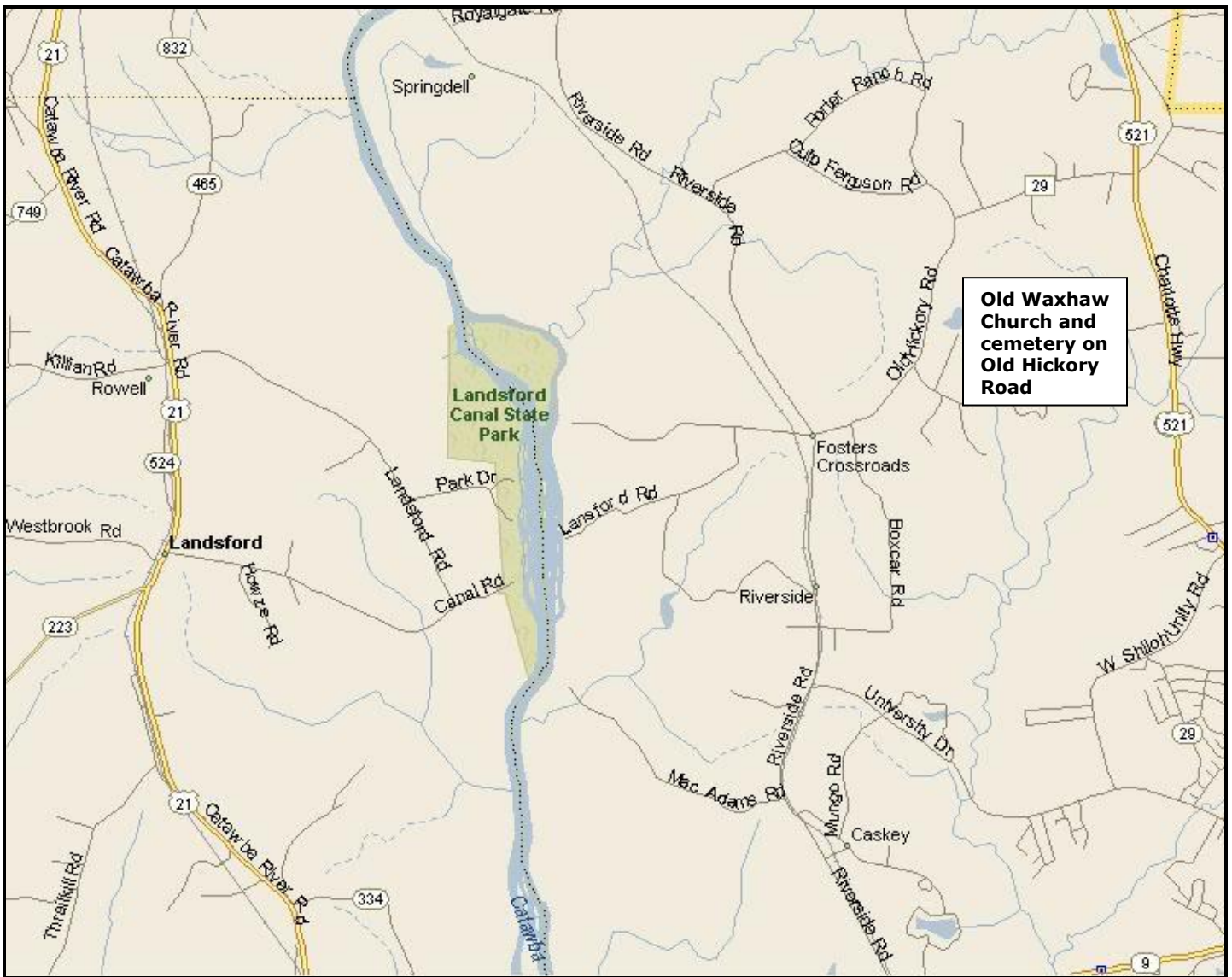


Edgemoor and Lando, location of Locke farm...



Chester County Courthouse- circa 1890





**Landsford Canal State Park** is just east of **US-21** off of **Landsford Road**. From **Charlotte**: take I-77 exit 77 to Highway 5 & 21. Turn left (south), travel 16 miles to the **Landsford Canal State Park** sign and turn left. The park entrance is on the left. From **Columbia**: take I-77 north to exit 65 to Highway 9. Turn right and travel 2 miles to Highway 223. Turn left on Highway 223 and travel 9 miles to Highway 21. At Highway 21 turn left and travel 2 miles to the State Park sign. Turn right and the park's entrance is on the left. My cell number is **828-333-0603**. My home phone is **828-288-4142**. [mountainvann@gmail.com](mailto:mountainvann@gmail.com)



2011



2013



2005



2012