

○ From STORIES IN STONE BY TOM WEBER - 2011

ABOUT THE 6,000 ACRE W<sup>m</sup> B. UMSTEAD STATE PARK FORMED 1934  
AND THE FAMILIES WHO HAD LIVED THERE - RPU 25 JUL 2012

Attached are a set of extracts made for  
the above book with additional distribution  
of the extracts shown by the symbol "Δ"  
This book is especially important to me  
for two reasons:

- my high school mate & life long  
friend Joseph Samuel Gussman  
was heavily involved in the  
book & the community described
- The book mirrors some of  
what I need to do for my  
SCTWP History Project.

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EXCERPT

PGS 236, 237

TO HELP

RPU WITH

SCW -

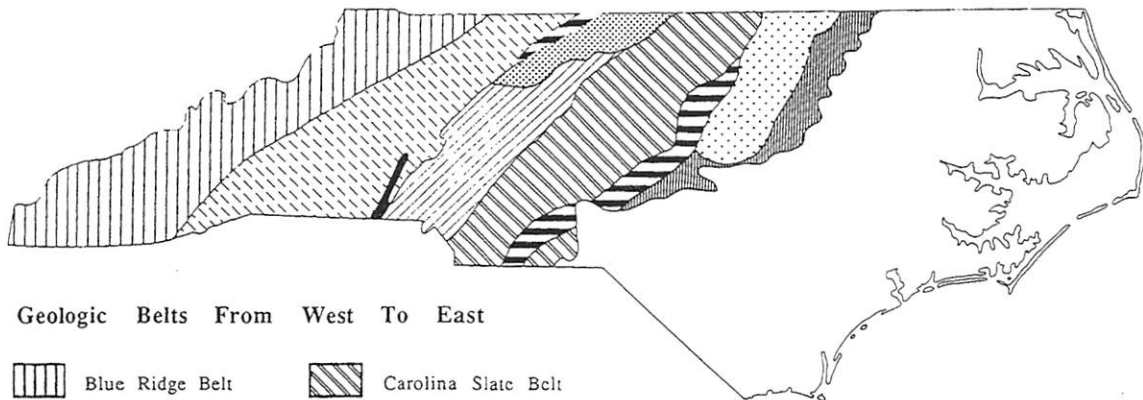
WC, NC

SOIL

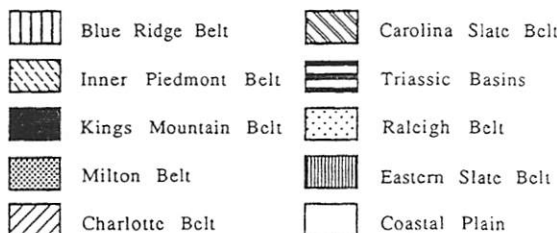
DESCRIPTION

- RPU

25 JUL  
2012



Geologic Belts From West To East



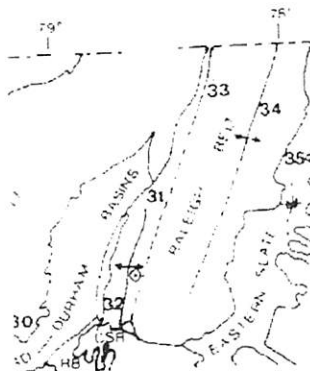
Rocks within the park include igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary types. The eastern two-thirds of the park is underlain by metamorphic rocks and igneous intrusive rocks that are between the Raleigh belt and the Carolina slate belt. The western one-third of the park is underlain by slightly metamorphosed volcanic and sedimentary rocks of the Carolina slate belt. Near the western park bound-

ary, unmetamorphosed sedimentary rocks of the Durham Triassic basin are exposed.

Raleigh belt rocks were originally deposited as sediments at a continental margin, probably during late Proterozoic or early Cambrian time. Rocks in the eastern portion of the park are primarily mica schist and mica gneiss intermixed with hornblende gneiss and ultramafic rock. They were probably deposited as mudstone, impure sandstone, and dark-colored intrusive rocks. Volcanic and sedimentary rock of the Carolina slate belt lie west of these rocks. All of the original sedimentary and volcanic rocks were altered by heat and pressure (metamorphism) and folded to form the gneiss and schist we see today.

About 200 million years ago during Triassic time, forces within the earth caused rocks to pull apart along the east coast of North America. Large areas of rock dropped down relative to rocks beside them and created long, narrow basins. These basins were then filled with sediment as rivers rushed over the side of the basins and then slowly meandered through the center of the basins. Up to 7,000 feet or more of sediment was deposited in some areas. The basins were much like the rift valleys in Africa today. Rocks from the Durham Triassic basin formed in this manner and are poorly exposed along the Western park boundary. The Jonesboro fault forms the boundary between the Triassic rocks and the igneous and metamorphic rocks in the park. Fossil evidence indicates that dinosaurs roamed some of the area during Triassic time. Vertebrate fossils found in blackshale include fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammal-like reptiles.

Map detail from "A Geologic Guide" shows Jonesboro fault (31) between Raleigh belt and Durham Triassic basin. Compare with chart on previous page.



## Appendix H: The Park's Geology & Soils

This appendix excerpts *A Geologic Guide to North Carolina State Parks*, published in 1989 by the North Carolina Geological Survey Section, Division of Land Resources, Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, edited by P. Albert Carpenter III. Names of park features that have changed since this guide was published have been replaced with the new names here. Definitions of geologic terms are in a glossary at the end of this section.

William B. Umstead State Park is approximately five miles west of Raleigh in the eastern piedmont physiographic province... Elevations in the park reach approximately 400 feet, with maximum relief of less than 150 feet...

### General Geology



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 [EXCERPT PGS 11-13 RE INDIANS TO HELP RPU ON SCTWR-WC, NC]

Native Americans were the first visitors to the area that is now William B. Umstead State Park. However, according to historian Dolores Hall in her manuscript<sup>1</sup>, "by the time of European settlement in the North Carolina piedmont, few if any Native Americans remained. As early as the late seventeenth century, only small groups of such tribes as the Eno, Shakori and Occaneechi were left after exposure to European diseases. Remnants of these groups banded together and moved to refuge areas elsewhere. It is doubtful if any evidence of protohistoric Native American sites exists within the Park."

However, the 1938 Park Master Plan Report says that arrowheads have been found within the Park borders.<sup>2</sup>

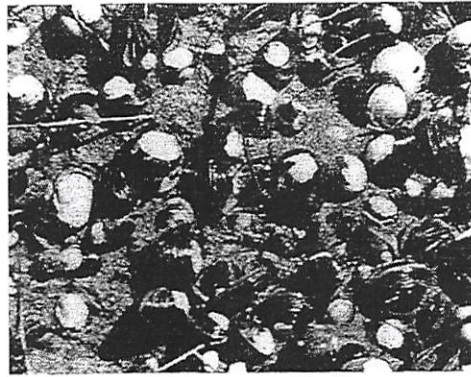
Continuing from Hall's works: "The area...has not been systematically surveyed for archaeological resources. However, investigations in adjacent areas and within the general vicinity allow us to devise an overview of the prehistory of the Park.

"Elevation, slope, soil type and proximity to water rank high as factors determining prehistoric site location. Any prehistoric sites within the Park would probably have been occupied on a seasonal or sporadic basis by hunters and gatherers, possibly the remains of groups from permanent villages along the Neuse River and its major tributaries. It is unlikely that the area would have been utilized for aboriginal agriculture due to the absence of large well-developed floodplains.

"Given the nature of the soils and the past use and abuse of the land, it is highly unlikely that the many prehistoric sites within the Park still retain any integrity. While aboriginal artifacts are undoubtedly found throughout the area, the eroded soils and disturbed sites offer little hope of significant data that would make these sites important or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

"The prehistory of this area of North Carolina is customarily divided into three periods: the Paleoindian, the Archaic and the Woodland. Although each of these periods can be further subdivided, for general purposes these major divisions are sufficient.

"The Paleoindian period (ca. 10,000 BC to ca. 8,000 BC) includes the earliest occupation of the region at a time when the climate was much wetter and cooler than today. Forests and grasslands covered the land and supported animals such as elk, moose and caribou. Paleoindians hunted these animals and gathered wild plant foods for sustenance. Coastal and riverine environments were likely exploited for fish and shellfish by these nomadic people. The fluted projectile points,



*Freshwater mussels in Crabtree Creek near Company Mill dam. "...Riverine environments [in the region] were likely exploited for fish and shellfish by... nomadic paleoindians," writes Dolores Hall. Arrowheads found in W.B. Umstead State Park indicate that Native Americans living in surrounding areas hunted there.*

distinctive to this period of time, have been recovered from at least three locations in Wake County. Unfortunately none of these discoveries were from a well-documented archeological context. Overall populations during the Paleoindian period appear to have been small, and known sites are few.

"The Archaic period (ca. 8,000 BC to ca. 500 BC) is by far the longest period in prehistory and contributed the majority of the sites within the general vicinity of W.B. Umstead State Park. Climatic conditions gradually became warmer and drier until, at the end of the Archaic period, they were similar to those of the present. As a consequence of the warming trend, the forests changed into the modern oak-hickory woodlands familiar today, and the Archaic period peoples adapted their survival techniques to their new environment. Within the resource-rich piedmont of North Carolina, the intensive hunting, fishing, gathering economy was immensely successful.

"The broadened subsistence base and technological innovations allowed larger bands of people to occupy seasonal camps, resulting in the appearance of semi-sedentary base camp sites along the minor stream systems.

"Based on an increase in the number and size of archaeological sites, it is likely that population density increased dramatically. The majority of the prehistoric archaeological sites located within the area surrounding W.B. Umstead Park date to the

Archaic period. Artifacts from this time include a wide range of projectile points, scrapers, atlatl weights, stone axes, steatite objects and vessels. Items made from wood, bone, hides and basketry were also part of the Archaic period material culture, but these items rarely survive.

"The Woodland period (ca. 500 BC to European contact) is not too well represented within the immediate area of the Park, although it is expected that many of the small lithic, or stoney, upland sites without diagnostic artifacts may date from this period. The major hallmarks of the Woodland period in piedmont North Carolina are the introduction of pottery, the bow and arrow, and agriculture. These gradual additions to the subsistence pattern of Native Americans resulted in a slow adaptation to settled village life, although certain activities still depended upon the seasonal exploitation of resources away from the main settlement. Key village sites of the Woodland period tend to be located along major rivers due, in part, to the more easily tilled floodplain soils. Small specialized-activity temporary campsites dating to this period, however, are probably located within the Park itself.

"Four separate archaeological surveys of the Raleigh-Durham Airport area were conducted between 1974 and 1982. Sixty-three archaeological sites were recorded as a result of these investigations, as well as nine historic period cemeteries. The majority of sites were small prehistoric lithic scatters which had previously been disturbed due to erosion and construction activities. None of these sites were recommended for additional investigation.

"A survey was made of 20.1 miles of interceptor sewer line along Crabtree Creek and its tributaries. Although none of the surveyed area was located within Park boundaries, much of it was on the periphery of W.B. Umstead Park in similar terrain. Eleven occurrences of isolated lithic material were recorded and evaluated. Of the nine prehistoric sites located, only three contained diagnostic artifacts and only one site was recommended for additional investigation."<sup>1</sup>

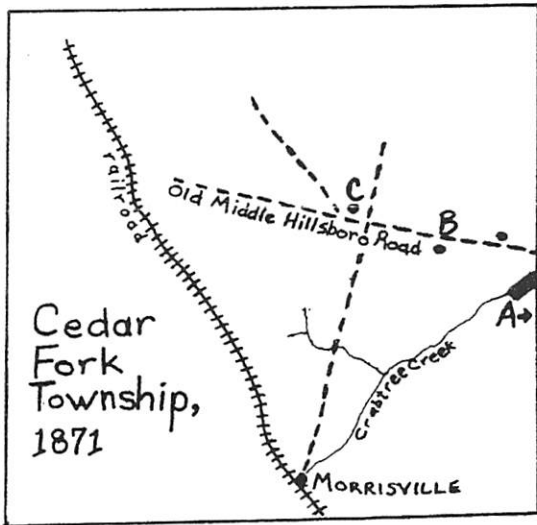


"In Indian days bobcats, bear, mountain lions, red wolves, skunks, passenger pigeons, and ivory-billed woodpeckers roamed this region," writes North Carolina State University ecologist Arthur Cooper. "Bison entered... between 1,000 and 1,600 A.D."<sup>4</sup>

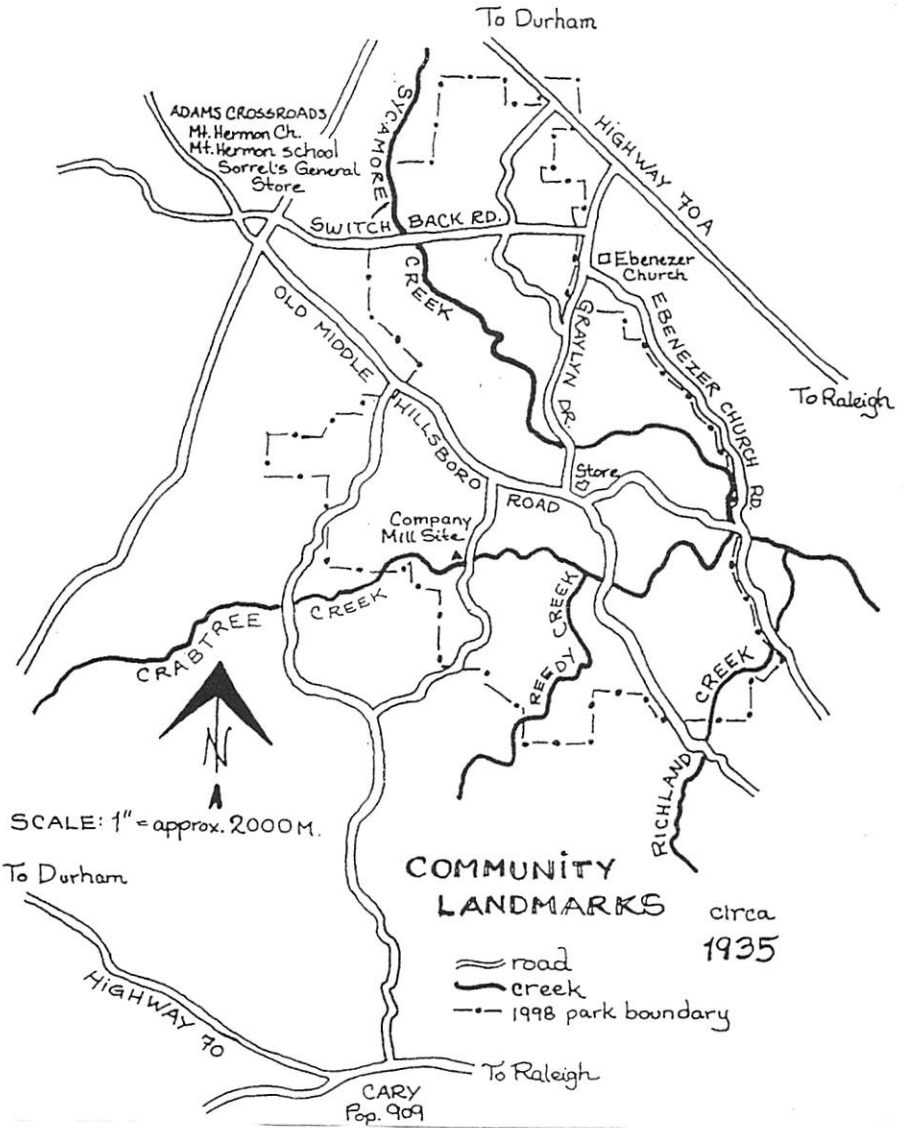


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EXCERPT PGS 15 & 17  
 TO REVEAL LOCATIONS  
 ROADS / STREAMS  
 PLACES



A) the Company Mill pond on Crabtree Creek,  
 B) the O. Page homestead, and C) Adams Crossroads.



WAKE COUNTY STREAMS:

- △ RICHLAND CREEK
- △ CRABTREE CREEK
- △ SYCAMORE CREEK

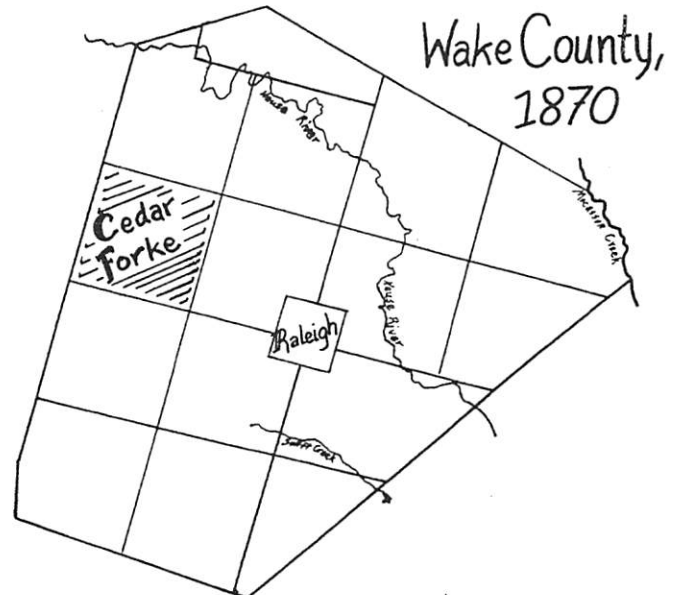
△ REEDY CREEK

WAKE COUNTY PLACES:

- △ EBENEZER CHURCH & COMMUNITY
- △ SORRELS STORE
- △ ADAMS X ROADS (NOW RD AIRPORT)
- △ COMPANY MILL (PAGE'S MILL) 1810
- △ A DAMPER / DICKINSON STORE

WAKE COUNTY ROADS:

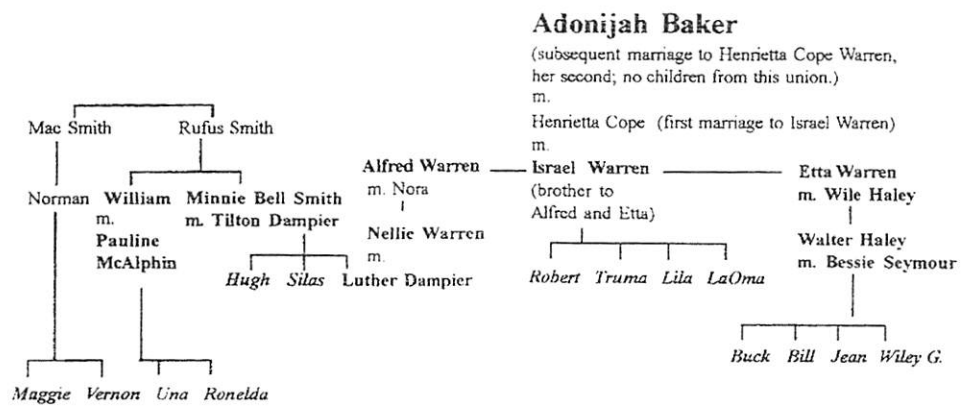
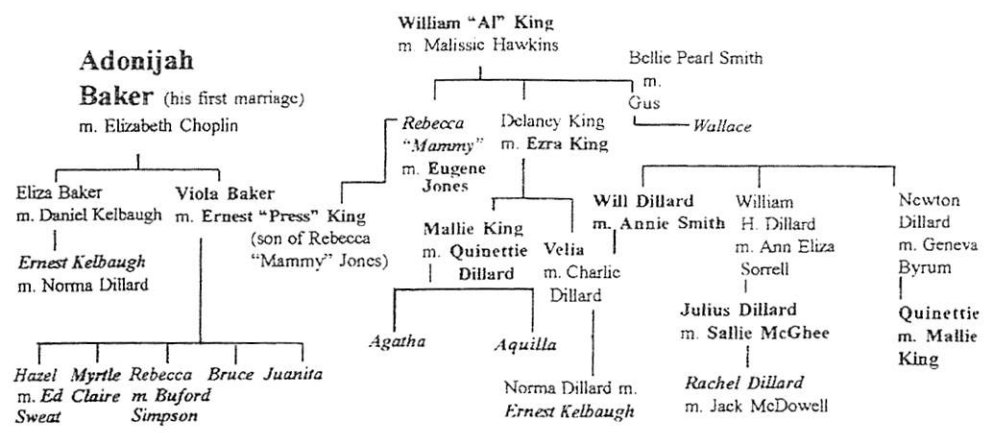
- △ OLD MIDDLE HILLSBORO RD
- △ GRAYLYN RD
- △ EBENEZER CHURCH RD
- △ SWITCHBACK RD



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EXCERPT OF PG 18 FOR BIOFILE SYSTEM OF RPU  
 SHOWING LINKAGE OF FAMILIES IN THE AREA  
 TO BECOME THE PARK:

- △ KING
- △ SMITH
- △ DAMPIER
- △ BAKER
- △ WARREN
- △ DILLARD





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EXCERPT PG 12-14 RE EARLY SETTLERS TO HELP RPU  
ON SCTWP-WC, NC

"In Indian days bobcats, bear, mountain lions, red wolves, skunks, passenger pigeons, and ivory-billed woodpeckers roamed this region," writes North Carolina State University ecologist Arthur Cooper. "Bison entered... between 1,000 and 1,600 A.D."

N.C. Archives and History researcher Michael Hill writes, "The first permanent settlers moved into the [Park] area around 1800; a second and larger influx took place during the 1850s."

What Cary historian Tom Byrd writes below of that town also applies to the nearby W.B. Umstead State Park area:

"Early landowners were primarily of British descent," Byrd notes. "Upon their arrival, they found a magnificent forest dominated by oaks. The uplands also had hickories and a few pines... most of the pines...seen today came in after the original forest was destroyed. Tulip poplar and beech were the native trees on moist, well drained soils. Sycamore, sweetgum, river birch, and willow oaks lined the creeks.

"The forest largely sustained the earliest settlers, providing...shelter, fuel and food. Wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, and squirrels were dietary staples....Another valuable animal was the beaver.... [S]ettlers earned their living from the soil, forest, or waterways."<sup>6</sup>



Aspects of what historian Elizabeth Reid Murray writes about Wake County-area farmers of 1750 also fit the first land grant holders in the Park area twenty or thirty years later:

"Firsthand accounts of everyday life in Wake County's earliest settlement years are virtually nonexistent. No private records in the form of diaries or letters have come to light to give word pictures of life at mid-[eighteenth] century. Many people could neither read nor write; and even those who could were far too busy clearing land, creating

shelters for their families and stock against elements and animals, and wrestling food from the new, unproven soil, to think of turning into recorded history the very real history they were making. Any word pictures, therefore, of early Wake homes and their furnishings, marriages, and births, illnesses and funerals, children's education, entertainment, social and religious activities, must be pieced together from bits and scraps recorded in the few documents that have survived, and from family stories handed down through generations to present-day descendants."<sup>7</sup>

1960s graduate student William Willis' notebooks contain a map showing the 34 earliest, mostly post-colonial, land grants for properties in the W.B. Umstead State Park area. Willis apparently got the information from A.B. Markham, who in 1973 copyrighted his map called "Landgrants to Early Settlers in Present Wake County, period 1739 to 1830." (Appendix C lists the landowners.)

The first grant in Willis' notebook, for William Warren, is notable because we have a genealogy of Warren's family covering parts of each generation from 1779, when Warren received his grant, to the 1930s, when the federal government bought the property to build the Park. The Warren grant is listed below:

(1) William Warren, grant #727 1779 170 acres on south side of Sycamore Creek, joining John Purdom, James Pye, Ralph Hollifield and his own. Begin at a pine at Purdom's corner in Warren's line runs south 200 poles to a pine, Pye's corner—then west 135 poles to a hickory in Hollifield's line, then with said line north 200 poles to a small red oak and then to the beginning.\*

Other early landowners were the Blakes, Pages and Dillards. Descendants of these early Park area residents are represented in the oral histories that follow.

Several creeks cut through the landscape, in places flowing through steep ravines. Sycamore Creek meandered northwest to southeast before meeting Crabtree Creek, which flowed west to east. Reedy Creek flowed north to meet Crabtree Creek. There were no natural lakes in the area."

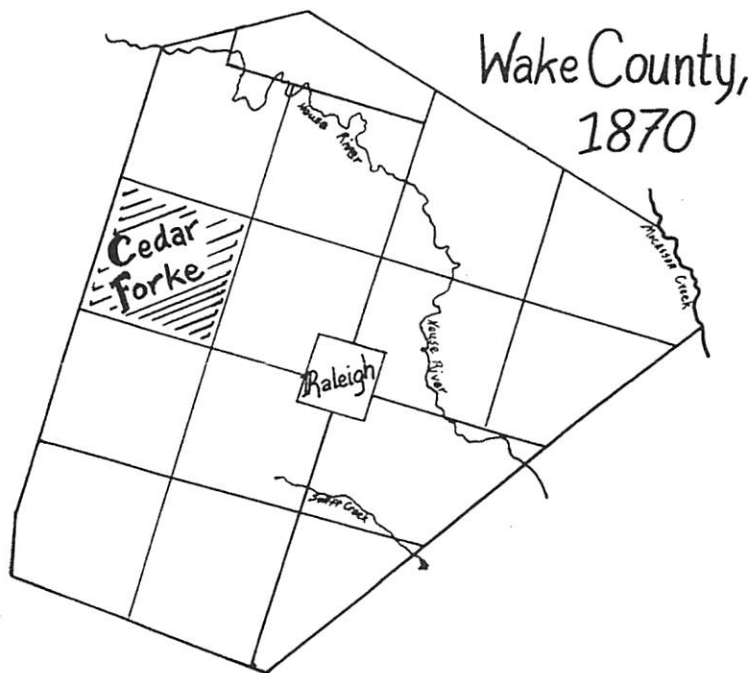
Along the creeks, water-powered mills were built during the 19th century. Page's Mill, later called the Company Mill, was built on Crabtree Creek about 1810; the George Lynn Mill was built by 1871 on Sycamore Creek, and another mill apparently existed on Sycamore Creek below where the Big Lake dam is now. Other mills included one on Reedy Creek and Cook's Mill on Richland Creek."

Farming life progressed rather uneventfully until the outbreak of the Civil War. Men from Park area families may have joined two Confederate military groups based in Cedar Fork District, which likely included the western side of the community

that *Stories in Stone* documents. Wake County historian Elizabeth Reid Murray states that, until surveyor Fendol Bevers made his Wake County township map in 1871, the county was divided into captain's districts, many of which had indefinite boundaries. Bevers' Cedar Fork Township map, shown in the drawing on Page 15, includes such pre-Park community landmarks as A) the Company Mill pond on Crabtree Creek, B) the O. Page homesite, and C) Adams Crossroads. See the Community Landmarks map on Page 17 for perspective.

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EXCERPT PG 15 TO  
GIVE RPU ANOTHER  
VIEW OF THE  
BOUNDARIES  
OF SCTWP, WC, NC





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EXCERPT PGS 107, 109 FOR THE BDFILE  
 SYSTEM OF RPU -

KING FAMILY

Below: The annual King family reunion, c. 1923.

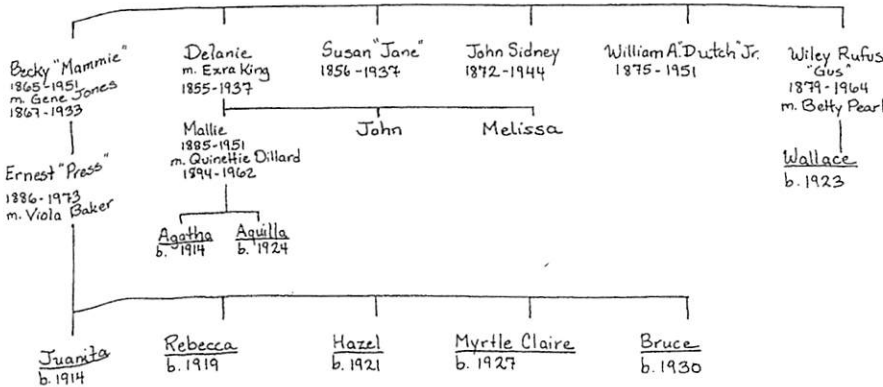
White-bearded Al King appears before the building with his sons.

An identification key to most of the people in this photo is on the following pages.

Appendix B shows how many of these people were related to William "Al" King.



William Alisore "Al" King 1829-1926  
 m. Malissie "Lucy" Hawkins Warren 1833-1902



People whose names are underlined are quoted in this book.

This is a partial Family Tree. See Appendix B for additional King family members.

August 31, 1923 King Family Reunion

1. Julius Dillard
2. Mr. Maynard
3. Maynard boy
4. Maynard girl
5. Gladys King
6. Annie Slater
7. Tom Blake
9. Fietta Blake
10. George Tyson
12. Emma Tyson
13. Thomas Slater
14. Robert Blake
15. Alcie King
16. Eddie Dillard
18. Sally S. King
19. Lee Slater (inf.)
20. Eunice King
21. Elvis King
22. Elva King
23. Mallie King
24. Rebecca Jones
25. Quinetta King
27. Delaney King
28. Melissa King
29. Susan King
30. Carletta King
31. Wm "Dutch" King
32. Rufus King
33. Wiley "Gus" King
34. Al King
35. Velia Dillard
36. Norma Dillard
37. John S. King
38. Andrew Shaw
43. Ernest King
44. Ernest's baby
45. Viola King
46. Delie Allen
47. Delie's baby.
48. Joe King's ch
49. Joe King
50. Minnie King
51. Minnie's baby
52. Jack King
53. Hortense King
54. Iola King
55. Eldridge King
57. Fenton King
58. Charles Brown
60. Bertie King
63. Una Mae Smith
64. Lola Slater Blake
65. Bervie Blake
66. Charlie Dillard
67. Millard King
68. Gordon King
69. Verena King
70. Lillian Dillard
71. Agatha King
72. Juanita King
73. Armour Dillard
74. Marvin Allen
75. Curtis King
76. Clyde Dillard
77. Etoil King
78. Rebecca King
79. Willard Allen
80. Macon Allen
82. Archie King
83. Elmer Dillard
84. Clifton King
85. Waylon King
86. Foy King

Unknowns: 8, 11, 17, 26, 40-42, 56, 59, 61, 62, 81, 87, 88

Identifications by Agatha King Johnson  
 Figures 61-66 appear on the next page.  
 Reunion host Al King (no. 34) is the man with the white beard.

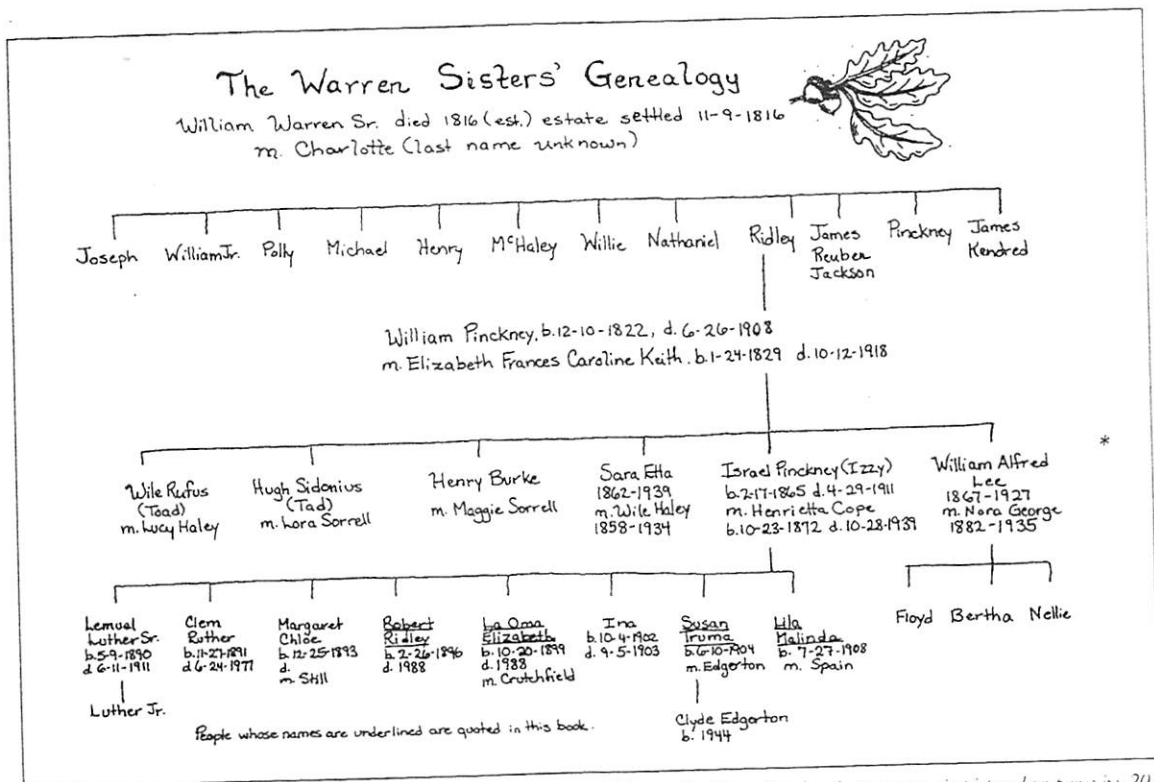
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EXCERPT PG 18 FOR RPU BIOFILE SYSTEM FOR THE

WARREN OF WC, NC. - Note that family lore says  
 I have Warren ancestors - but proof needed  
 RPU - 25 JUL 2012



Above, a partial genealogy of the Warren family. Warren sisters Truma, Lila, and LaOma, listed on bottom row, are pictured on pages ix, 20, 4, and 54. These siblings speak frequently within. \*Other children of William Alfred and Nora were Rommie, Lonnie, Charles (Club), and Luther (Coat); see photo, p. 246.



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EXCERPT PG 12 FOR RPU  
BIOFILE SYSTEM FOR THE  
△ DILLARD FAMILY  
AS YET NO SPECIAL IMPORTANCE  
EXCEPT FOR BEING AN  
EARLY WAKE CO, NC FAMILY)



Rachel Dillard McDowell's abandoned childhood home in 1990. Until recently it stood just outside the Park border.



Henry Dillard  
1750-1802



Merritt Dillard (born in Wake Co.)

1778-1859

m. Elizabeth (no maiden name)



Calvin Henry Dillard

1801-1881

m. Mary (Sauls?)



William H. Dillard

1829-1895

m. Ann Eliza Sorrell, 1854



Julius Everett Dillard

1869-1947

m. Sallie Estelle McGhee, 1924



Rachel Francis Dillard McDowell

b. 1928

m. Jack McDowell, 1951

Merritt Dillard was an early Park area landholder. This graphic ends with his great-great-granddaughter, Rachel Dillard McDowell (photo p. 46), the author of the Ebenezer Church history excerpted on pages 46-48. Rachel's parents, Julius and Sallie, are pictured on page 203.



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TEXT EXCERPT RE THE GRISSOM FAMILY - PGS 181, - 184

Site S10: Grissom Homesite

Little remains at the Grissom homesite but two large piles of rock, one of which partially retains a structural look. "It was a chimney," says Joseph Samuel Grissom.

He explains that there were two houses, one in which he and his parents and two sisters lived, and a log cabin next door where his great-grandparents lived.

The family had a cow and for a while a pig, too. Joe's father maintained the grounds at Camp Craggy Boy Scout Camp on the next ridge and did carpentry on the side. He built a chicken house behind the home. The rectangular foundations are still there.

Joe recalls that his mother washed the family's laundry next to a nearby stream. His father made a small concrete impoundment for a spring that is further down the rocky streambed. He scratched his initials and the words "Camp Craggy" in the concrete. You can still make out the words.



Virginia Rebecca Grissom visiting abandoned home ruin at the Grissom site (S10) in the 1950s



Chicken house foundations today at Grissom homesite.



Members of the Grissom family before one of two houses on their property, 1935. Left to right, Virginia Grissom Walden, Joseph Samuel's great-grandmother; Joe's sister Gladys; Joe; his sister Virginia Rebecca, in her mother's arms; Lucille Aldrich Grissom, mother of the children.



Joseph Stephen Grissom, father of Joseph Samuel and Virginia Rebecca, and his wife Lucille Aldrich Grissom, 1920s



Joseph Stephen Grissom was handy with a banner and paint brush. He stands beside a sign he painted for the Park staff before 1943.

Up by the house a tree had tipped over, leaving a pit. "My dog liked to curl up in there and go to sleep," Joe laughs.

Joe's boyhood chores included taking a long walk to a springhouse, lugging water buckets home, and going down to the Company Mill to get cornmeal from his great-grandfather, the miller.

Joe remembers how the friction of millstones warmed freshly ground cornmeal, and how the cornmeal warmed the metal pail he carried home.

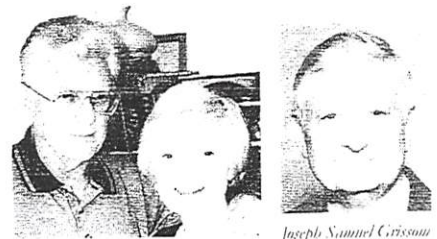
"When I was a little fellow, people bought their lard in a little tin bucket. Every morning my great-grandmother used to send me down to the Company Mill, where my great-grandfather worked, to get fresh corn meal. That was my chore. I'd have one of those buckets, and my great-grandfather would say, 'Put it under the hopper, boy! Don't spill it!' and the bucket would fill up with warm cornmeal. I liked to hold the bucket because it would get warm. My great-grandmother slow-cooked cornbread on low heat for lunch and supper. It took most of the morning."<sup>12</sup>

As a boy, Joe spent a lot of time playing alone in the woods. Occasionally Joe would see some Boy Scouts from Camp Craggy across the way. "We're going to camp out in the woods!" they'd exult. Joe thought that was a dumb idea.

Joe says that the Grissoms were neighborly but independent. His sister Virginia Rebecca (b. 1935) and her husband Guy Moore (b. 1928) recall a persistent neighbor who always knew where to find good things to eat.

"He knew where every grapevine was, about the time they got ripe, where every strawberry patch was, where anything good was, at the right time of the year," says Rebecca.

"He had a knack for knowing when the walnuts were ready," says Guy. "They said he could hear a walnut fall. When you turned the ice cream freezer he would always show up just about that time."



Guy and Rebecca Moore ca. 1999

Joseph Samuel Grissom

"I remember the day we made ice cream and [the neighbor] came," Rebecca says. "You didn't eat the ice cream as soon as it was ready, you let it sit awhile. You put a cover over it. It seems somebody in our family sat on the ice cream freezer until that fellow left."

"Becky's daddy sat on it and almost froze his behind because they couldn't get rid of the neighbor," Guy says.

Site S11: Camp Craggy

*A History of the Rotary Club of Raleigh, North Carolina, 1914-1955*, notes that, "The historic decision to purchase [for Camp Craggy] the Old Company Mill site... was reached at a regular meeting on March 28, 1927. The site had marked the business beginnings of a family famous in North Carolina, a member of which, Frank Page, was at that moment presiding as president of the club."<sup>13</sup>

To the right of the Camp Craggy stairs is a small pond contained by a stone dam. This is where the Boy Scouts swam. There

once was a diving tower. Joseph Samuel Grissom says: "One of my Dad's jobs was to clean the silt out of the pond."

If you go up the stairs to the left, you'll see a council circle made of quartz. "The scouts had stone benches in the circle at one time," Joe says. What appear to be pieces of these benches are up the hill near the camp well.

There were once scout cabins and an open area with a flagpole on the hillside below the circle, Joe says. Part of the flagpole is still there. Above the circle was the mess hall. "I remember when the mess hall burned down," Joe says. "The Park staff came out. They were very concerned about a forest fire."



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 ABOUT THE 6,000 ACRE WM B. UMSTEAD STATE PARK FORMED 1934  
 AND THE FAMILIES WHO HAD LIVED THERE - RPU 25 JUL 2012

[EXTRACT OF ADDITIONAL GRISSOM ARTICLES - RPU 25 JUL 2012] 1900  
 H.A.B.T.  
 PG 3 PG 172 PG 210 → I JOSEPH STEPHEN GRISSOM  
 M.D. LUCILLE ALDRICH  
 W.A. JOSEPH SAMUEL G. b. 1928  
 B. GLADYS GRISSOM b. 1937  
 C. VERGINIA REBECCA G. b. 1938  
 M.D. GUY MOORE

Garth Hamilton introduced me to Joe Grissom, whose great-grandfather had once operated the Company Mill on Crabtree Creek. My interview with Joe led to contacts with other former Park area residents from whom I gathered oral history. Many of these people shared documents and photographs with me.

PG 68

Joseph Samuel Grissom's (b. 1928, site S10, photo p. 182) father Joseph Stephen (photo p. 182), who was not a landowner, "pursued the carpentry trade and moved just outside of the Park near Carter Finley Stadium," his son says.

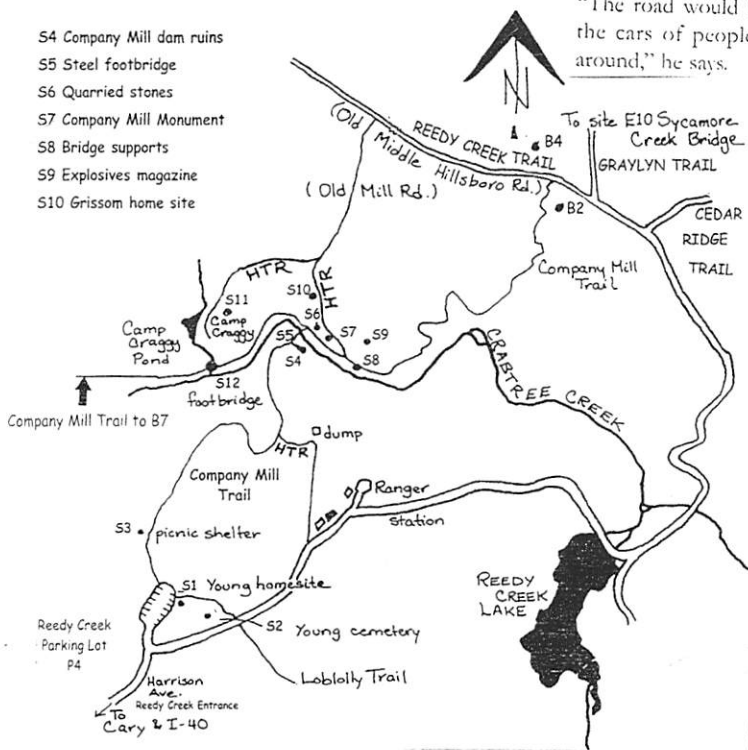
PG 82

British Sailors Stay at CCC Camp

William B. Umstead State Park history enthusiast Garth Hamilton recalls this anecdote from a walk he took with Joseph Samuel Grissom: "One of Mr. Grissom's most vivid memories [of growing up in the park area] was of the British sailors that were quartered at the CCC camp during World War II," Garth relates. "Every Saturday night there was a dance in the recreation hall and almost everybody in the community attended, including the kids. There was warm beer for the Brits and cold beer for the locals, ice cream and milk for the kids."

PG 71

- S4 Company Mill dam ruins
- S5 Steel footbridge
- S6 Quarried stones
- S7 Company Mill Monument
- S8 Bridge supports
- S9 Explosives magazine
- S10 Grissom home site



Site S10: Grissom Homesite

From the mound and bridge supports on the Company Mill Trail, retrace your steps west about forty-five yards to the trail marker with a "hil symbol, then continue fifteen more steps. The Mill Road cuts uphill about twenty yards on right (north) side of the Company Mill Trail. In the Old Mill Road opening, which is blocked several downed logs, and follow this path up. Go about one hundred yards, then enter the area just beyond a large pit to the left of the site. Some stone piles here mark the Grissom homesite.

PG 176

Joseph Samuel Grissom's (b. 1928, site S10, photo p. 182) great-grandfather was the last mill operator before the mill was damaged in a late 1933 flood. "You have to realize that in those days the creek was much higher, before they built all the impoundments upstream," Joe says. In those days sometimes the water flooded over the banks and covered the areas on either side of the creek, I remembers.

PG 180

The Boy Scouts closed down Camp Craggy in the mid-1930s. But the local community still used the lake, Joe Grissom remembers. "The road would be lined with the cars of people from miles around," he says.

Site S8: Bridge Supports for Bridge Landing

Approximately one hundred yards downstream on the right side of the Company Mill Trail are a flat-topped earthen mound and three steel-reinforced concrete structures.

"There used to be a [wooden] bridge right there," Joe Grissom says. Joe remembers standing by the creek as a child and seeing wood pilings protruding from the landing on the south bank.

Joe explains that the road on the south bank came from Cary: "Where I-40 is now was corn fields. The road came across about where Harrison Avenue is [into the Park area.]" He says that the road followed the same route taken by the modern hard-surfaced road towards the ranger station, then veered to the left at the first ranger house as it does today. A black family named the Browns lived on the ranger house site in the 1930s.

"The road from Cary went right by Patsy Brown's house," says Joe. He explains that the road continued straight down to the creek, where it curved sharply to the right, following the creek about 100 yards downstream to the bridge landing. Traces of that road are still distinguishable.

Below, a 1938 aerial photo showing curving sweep of Crabtree Creek (left to right at bottom), with Company Mill pond (white splotch at bottom center), Old Mill Road (white line leading down from top), Camp Craggy Road (curving to left off Old Mill Road), large white splotch at top left may be a plowed field; smooth areas on right may be open pastures. White splotches below split of Camp Craggy Road and Old Mill Road likely mark the L.L. Grissom and Grissom homesites, and the former Ford residence. White line at bottom center is sunken road leading to Company Mill. Black area may be the wing tip of the airplane taking the photos.

PG 170

