

THE OLD COTTON MILL AT CEDAR SHOALS

About two miles west of Fort Lawn on the old No. 9 highway is the wreckage of an old cotton mill, one of the first to be built in South Carolina and there are few who pass by the place who are familiar with its history. The place was once known as Cedar Shoals and not one of the houses which once were there are now standing, but the wreckage of an old lumber framed cotton mill is there to show that the wheels of industry once moved in that quiet spot.

Residents of Fort Lawn are not able to tell just when this mill was erected but they say it was shortly after the Civil War. Mr. Will Nunnery, who lives at Fort Lawn says that his father built the mill some time before he was born, which was in 1874.

This mill was operated until about thirty years ago. Water power was used and a flour and grist mill was operated in connection with the cotton mill. It is on Fishing Creek and the falls at this place gave the place the name of Cedar Shoals. It was known as the Barber Mill and the property there is still in possession of J. O. Barber, of Richburg, the son of the man who operated the mill originally.

Only cotton thread was made there and a cotton gin was operated in connection with the mill. The cotton was purchased in the seed and at that time cotton seed was practically worthless and it was thrown in the river.

In the days when this mill was built there were high hopes of the Catawba River being used for navigation. Locks were built along this river at various places and the locks at Landsford may still be seen. It is said that one trip was made by small boats up as far as North Carolina before the project was abandoned.

At about the same time the mill at Cedar Shoals was built by Mr. Barber another mill was erected by his brother at Lando. This mill at Lando has long since been abandoned, but the Manetta Mills took its place and is still being operated.

It is believed that the oldest cotton mill in the upper part of South Carolina was erected where Great Falls now stands and was known as the McCullough Mill. However, some residents of the Fort Lawn vicinity say that the Cedar Shoals mill was the first cotton mill to be operated in this state for any length of time. — *Lancaster News*