



WADE AND SARAH CATHERINE RAMSEY, parents of Ola Stroud who says, "My parents were some of the first ones to come to Lando."

Ola Stroud

My parents were some of the first ones who ever came to Lando. There was just a handful of people there. The little mill made yarn and they fired the old boiler with wood.

I guess Lando was named by the Barbers. I always heard him called old man Ferg Barber. I've heard my mother and father talk of him. He was a real good friend of theirs.

My mother and them came here from Saluda in January of 1886 and they came to Lando, I guess, because there was a mill village had started there. It then belonged to the Barbers. The mill was making filling or yarn but it didn't have any looms, in fact it was not big enough. My mother said they only had about 24 houses and they were not completed, so you know there were not very many people there.

They had cows and chickens and pigs and they raised their food. My Daddy farmed the company property that belonged to the mill. It's all grown up in woods now, but my Daddy farmed that for years before he bought him a home of his own. They canned their food and milked 4 or 5 cows. We always had eggs and milk. She give milk to all the neighbors and her children as they grew up. We had a icebox from the time I could remember, then later we had a electric refrigerator when they first began to get popular around in here. They always butchered a plenty of hogs in the fall to do them with their meat through the summer months and all on until the next fall. She would prepare her sausage and back-bones and things like that and can them just like you can anything in fruit jars. And she'd put up anywhere from 400 to 500 jars of any kind fruit, vegetables, soups or anything through the summer - more than enough to carry her over because you see there all her children that came by, it was "Mama you got a jar of soup?" or "I want a jar of beans extra." or something like that.

She always had a patch on the field to dry her beans. She dried beans, she dried peas, she dried apples, peaches and all

through the summer - enough to do through the winter. It was very little that they had to go to the store really to buy because they raised everything. They raised their wheat, sent it to Monroe to the mill up there and had it ground into flour. So they really lived at home.

My Mama and Daddy never did change houses. They moved into that house before it was completely finished and lived there until they bought their home and moved up here. They lived in that house across from the transformers.

Mama had a picture of the old cotton mill. It had little children looked like 8 or 9 years old working down there. Mama said the women at Lando would send their children to school in the morning and at dinner time they come in from the mill; and the boss man at the mill, well if he needed them, he'd go to the school and get whatever children he wanted to come and work. Well, the kids didn't know no better so they went to work and the day that my sister Carrie was 9 years old, she taken her own sides to spin and her just a little bitty old girl. And Mama said that Mark was out playing in front of the mill while Mama worked and he was just a little old boy about 5 or 6 years old and the boss man came by and told her said, "Sally, I've put that little old boy of yours to work." And Mama said, "What boy?" And he said, "That little fellow that was playing out there in the dirt," And Mama said, "Well don't you know he'll get hurt?" He said, "No. I've put him over there with his aunts. He's taking empty bobbins out and putting full ones in." He was with Aunt Charlotte Ramsey and Aunt Mike Ramsey where they was working. But Mama said Mark rode around all day in the doff box and made 10¢ a day.

The other doffers would get him in the boxes and ride him around. But children worked. A lot of the older people, you know, didn't have very much education and just such as that is what was the cause of it. Cause they would go take the children out of school and take them to work even tho' their parents had put them in school and see, there was no child labor laws at that time. My brother Bill and John and Carey and all of them as children worked down there in the mill making 'bout 10¢ a day which was something then you know. They started early and they worked late. They worked 12 hours a day.

There was not a church in Lando when my parents moved there and my Mama was the mother of 2 children then - one born in August after they came there and one in January and so Mama and Daddy started going over to Harmony to the Baptist Church but they were Methodist. Then when they built the Lando Methodist Church they were the first members to join - Wade and Sara Catherine, but they called her Sally Ramsey and there was no school there but it was built later.

The first people that moved into Lando died and was buried in that old cemetery over there at the old school house. Well my Granddaddy and Grandmama, Samuel and Harriet Ramsey and my Aunt Jane Ramsey and my little sister Fanny Ramsey, they were all buried over there and they all had tombs. And now you can't tell where the cemetery was at. They've torn the tombstones down and they're all lost down on the creek bank and now you can't tell where the cemetery was at. The last

time I went over with Allen Heath to show him where they was at, there was hog pens over there. It just made me sick. I told Allen, "If there hadn't of been for these old people that were buried there, there would have been no Lando. Because they were the first people who moved in and had that little old dinky mill running there."



Old Cemetery

My mother had 10 children. They married and moved away to different jobs. I was the last one in the family to marry and I stayed at home.

I know you've heard of the year of the earthquake 1886. Well, my brother Jim, he was born the 31st of August the day of the earthquake. Mama said it rattled and broke some of the dishes in the cupboard or safe as some of the people called it. They tease my brother Jim about that. He was always cold and would shiver and shake. And they'd say he shook like that cause the earthquake happened on the day he was born.

I was rocked in a cradle and my boys was rocked in a cradle. We used cradles, not cribs. Then the mother usually made the baby's clothes. Now I had some sister-in-laws that made me up some clothes for my first baby. One made me up four or five little gowns and little dresses and I embroidered it just like everything. Why, I had the daintest little things made for my babies before they got here and both of them boys.

Mama didn't allow me to run around like the young people do now – here and yonder and everywhere. But before my feet would hit the floorboard of a car, I had an automobile. But I'd just ride around here and take my Daddy anywhere and everywhere he wanted to go. I'd have to slide up on the seat to push the brake pedal down. But they always wanted to know who I was with. I weren't allowed to get out and go to parties without my Mama and them knowed who the people were. When I was doing my courting and all, the boys came to the house to see the girls. They'd have regular date nights but the boy'd come to see you on a Wednesday night and Saturday night and on Sunday evenings. Probably, you'd go for a little short ride.

Our church group used to put on a little play if they wanted to raise money for anything. I remember one time Marion Garrison needed some money for the missionary society. Well all the girls she taught us a whole routine. And it was real cute and we raised oh I don't know how much money. But somebody played the piano don't you see through that whole little old musical thing. All in all, the kids raised in and around Lando had a pretty good time not to have no bigger place than what they did.

There was fine people in Lando. I've heard my Mama and them talk about Mr. Robinson used to own and operate the store down there and they were rich people. And Mama said

if the daughter in the family wore a dress and somebody else got one like it she didn't wear it no more – she got another one. They was that kind of people, kinda upper crust.

Then, the Heaths they bought from Barber and they lived for years there next to Mama and them. There was 4 bachelors of them and they had a colored man that would butler for them and did their cooking and everything. There was Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Ward and Mr. Harry and Mr. Ben. But that was long, long before my time. You know where that old house where you go down to the mill that sits up high on the bank. Well, thats where the Heaths lived until they all married and went to different places. Mr. Bascom Heath he lived in Charlotte and Mr. Ward and Mr. Harry I think did too.

Back when they built the upper part of the mill was when they started weaving. That was, I'd say, about 60 or 70 years ago.



Oscar and Ola now own a grocery store in the nearby community of Edgemoor.

Oscar Stroud

I didn't come to Lando until 1927 and it was very much like it is now except more people lived there then. Because so many people have built their homes and moved out of the village.

They used to generate the power for the mill off a water wheel and before that they run it on steam. A steam engine pulled the whole mill. I remember when they pulled the old steam engine out. That was before they ever got electricity in the village. Then they run wires and wired the houses and generated power off the water wheel and fed power to the village in 1927. They had wells over the village and drawed their water. Before that, they had the boiler and a big steam engine that pulled a big shaft that went all the way thro' the mill and they had counter belts running off of that running over to all the machinery. That steam engine pulled everything. I remember seeing them cut up that old engine and carry it out in parts.