



SARAH JANIE AND STAFFORD HINSON about 1913.  
(Photo courtesy of Stafford Hinson)

## Stafford Hinson

I knew all of my grandparents and I knew my great grandmother. She lived here but not long. She was my great grandmother on my mother's side. See I was a Hinson on both sides. My people all came from Kershaw Co. My mother lived down near Camden and my father lived over near Black Creek High School and they couldn't find out any relation between 'em. There's three sets of Hinson down there – still is. My father was farming before he came here. Some of his friends had come over here and went to work and come back down in the area where they lived and they told him about it, so he come over here and went to work. Long then a boy didn't leave home 'til he was 21 years old. So when he was 21 he come over here, went to work for Manetta Mills and he stayed here all of his life. He started off doing whatever they wanted him to do and when he retired from down there he was weave room overseer. But he was just a country boy when he come here. He didn't know anything about the mill at all.

My grandmothers, neither of them, never worked in the mill. But one of my grandfathers, James Albert Hinson he worked in the mill – worked there 'till he died. But Grandpa Croft Hinson, my grandpa on my father's side, he never worked in the mill either.

I've heard 'em talk about the old gas lights they used to have in the mill. You had to strike a match and light the gas light. But when I went to work they had electric lights – but they made their own power with a water wheel. They had a large water wheel down behind the mill and they pulled the mill with a steam engine – a big steam engine down where the machine shop is now. They had a clutch down there in the card room and they would pull the carding dept. and all the lower end with water 'til the creek would get real low. Then they would pull out the clutch and stop the whole mill and start it up on steam. They'd pull that little ole' end with steam 'til they got another head of water caught up in the creek. They used to run some looms on the lower end with water. Sometime when they had to run by steam for a long time they'd run out of coal and have to fire it with wood – Well, it'd take a awful lot of wood to keep that steam up and they'd have 7 or 8 people down there firin' the boiler at one time. They had a wood yard next to the trussel, and they had wood shipped in here. They also sold card wood and you'd cut it up yourself. A lot of these farmers brought in wood already cut up. My father he always bought wood from Manetta Mills and we cut it ourself. It was a whole lot cheaper that way.

My parents married at Lando. You didn't have to have a marriage license then. I remember Mr. Ben Hernandez and Miss Jessie. My father carried them to get married. Right there where Mr. Walt Hyatt lived, that's where Miss Jessie and them was living at that time and they was havin' a party there and my father helped 'em steal away off to Edgemoor and get married in a buggy. There was no automobiles around here to amount to anything, maybe one or two and most everybody had a horse or a bicycle – a lot of people traveled on bicycle. My father always kept a good horse cause my grandfather he sold mattresses and blankets for Manetta Mills and he'd carry them thro' the country. He never worked in the mill. He'd take orders for the mattresses and they'd ship 'em in on the train. Whoever he shipped 'em to, why they'd have to be responsible for going to get 'em and they'd usually send 'em to Edgemoor. But he delivered the blankets. The mill'd sell 'em to him so they could make some money on 'em when he'd resell 'em. He had a hack – one of those two seater buggies with the fringe on top. If any of the drummers, they called 'em drummers then, now they're salesmen, if any of them come down on the train, Grandpa'd carry 'em down thro' the country to the country stores in his buggy and they'd take orders. Then he'd bring 'em back to Lando and they'd catch the train and go back to Edgemoor.

My uncle Simmie Hancock, he come here way back early, but he left Lando and went up here to Waxhaw and went to farmin' 'bout 1918. He was one of the early settlers. He come here when they was first building the village and helped build these houses on Benjamin St. They lived down there right in front of Mr. Will Hernandez. Them houses had already been built. In fact all the houses was built, except a few, as far back as I can remember. Some of the older houses was already here to start with before they ever started Lando. There was one right along there where Manuel Hefner's livin' and there was one right cross the road from the Church of God and there was one right where Dora Hefner's house is now.

Dora's house is one of the newer houses. And that one there on the corner where "Blue" lives was a old house — my mother said it was one of the old original houses. Walter (Billy) Haggerty's house is one of the old ones and the one above him too — that two story house. But there's been a few houses built all along 'til the last few years.

My uncle was hired to build houses, but after he got all the houses built, they give him a job in the mill. He worked in there awhile, but he liked outside work and he moved up to Waxhaw. He had a small farm and did carpentry work for people around Waxhaw on up 'til he was 70 years old. He was a handy man.



LANDO BASEBALL TEAM: Lemeul Hinson, manager. (Photo courtesy Stafford Hinson)

My father, Lemeul Hinson, was the manager of the earliest ball team I knew. That must a been around 1912 cause I was small. I remember they had a ice cream supper. I'll tell you the

## Lando Base Ball Team

### ICE CREAM

10 Cents

reason I remember it so well. My mother had a old timey organ with a big rack on the top. Well, they had a bunch of ice cream cones left after the supper and I would get up on the stool, — I was so little I had to get a chair and drag it up to get on the stool — then I'd get me a ice cream cone. I ate a whole box before they found out where they was going to. They had the suppers to raise money and then too the players would have box suppers to raise money. The girls would cook a lunch and put it in a box and their name would be on the

inside of the box and they'd sell it to the highest bidder and whoever bought the box got to eat supper with the girl. But Manetta Mills financed 'em anytime they needed any money for anything. They would have those suppers to have a little extra money for gas and somebody to carry 'em off. Manetta Mills furnished all the gloves, balls, suits and everything.

They played other mill teams and they had a good team everybody said. Luke Long and Fred Miller pitched, Lynn Garrison was the catcher. Luke had long fingers. He could wrap around that ball and cover it up and come back around to it. They was called the Lando Ball team. You can see it on their jackets. They played Chester, Whitmire, Lancaster, Rock Hill and Lockhart. It took a long time to get there, the roads was bad in that area. Sometime it'd be way over in the night or the next morning when they'd get back. Sometime the car would break down or they'd get stuck up 2 or 3 times cause the roads would be so bad.

They'd have 2 ball games on the 4th of July and they had a big feed over in the pasture. They had a band pavilion and they had a brass band that would play music on and off all day on the 4th of July and Manetta Mills would stop off their plant and they'd furnish a cow and Mr. "Dunc" Sanders and Mr. Ab Sanders would start and cook it all night long the 3rd day of July. Then the 4th of July about 11:30 or 12 they'd all gather around and have that BBQ stew and boy it was real good cause them Sanders boys really knowed how to cook it.

Somebody said The House of David baseball team came to Lando one time. They all had long whiskers, but I don't never remember seeing them. And they used to play the Indians over here at Catawba Junction. They lived on the reservation and had a team of their own. The reservation was all up and down the river. There'd be two or three houses then up the road would be a house or two. Most of 'em was farmers and a lot of 'em made pottery.

There was another bunch of Indians, the Waxhaw tribe, and they lived over next to Waxhaw. But my Uncle told me that the Waxhaw tribe got killed off by the Catawba tribe back in early history. My uncle showed me where they had their reservation, but he don't even remember when they had their battles. But his father told him about it. There's a graveyard back here behind our house. It's been here ever since I can remember. They have headstones out of rock. I always heard it called the Indian graveyard. Me and my cousin heard that the Indians buried all their treasures with them when they died — so one Sunday, me and him slipped off up the road here with nothing but a broke handle hoe and we was gonna dig into one of them graves. And we dug 'til it got kinda late in the afternoon and we still hadn't got very far and it got to gettin' dark in the woods and we got scared and left and we hadn't finished. My father showed me that graveyard when I was a little boy — when I used to follow him huntin'. Then I showed it to my cousin and that's when we decided to dig in.

My cousin's mother run the old boardin' house — Mrs. Ella Boone — she had married a Pittman the first time. This boy, my cousin, was Freeland Pittman. After his father died, Aunt Ella married a Boone — Daniel Boone was his name, really. They were livin' in Florida then and my father wrote