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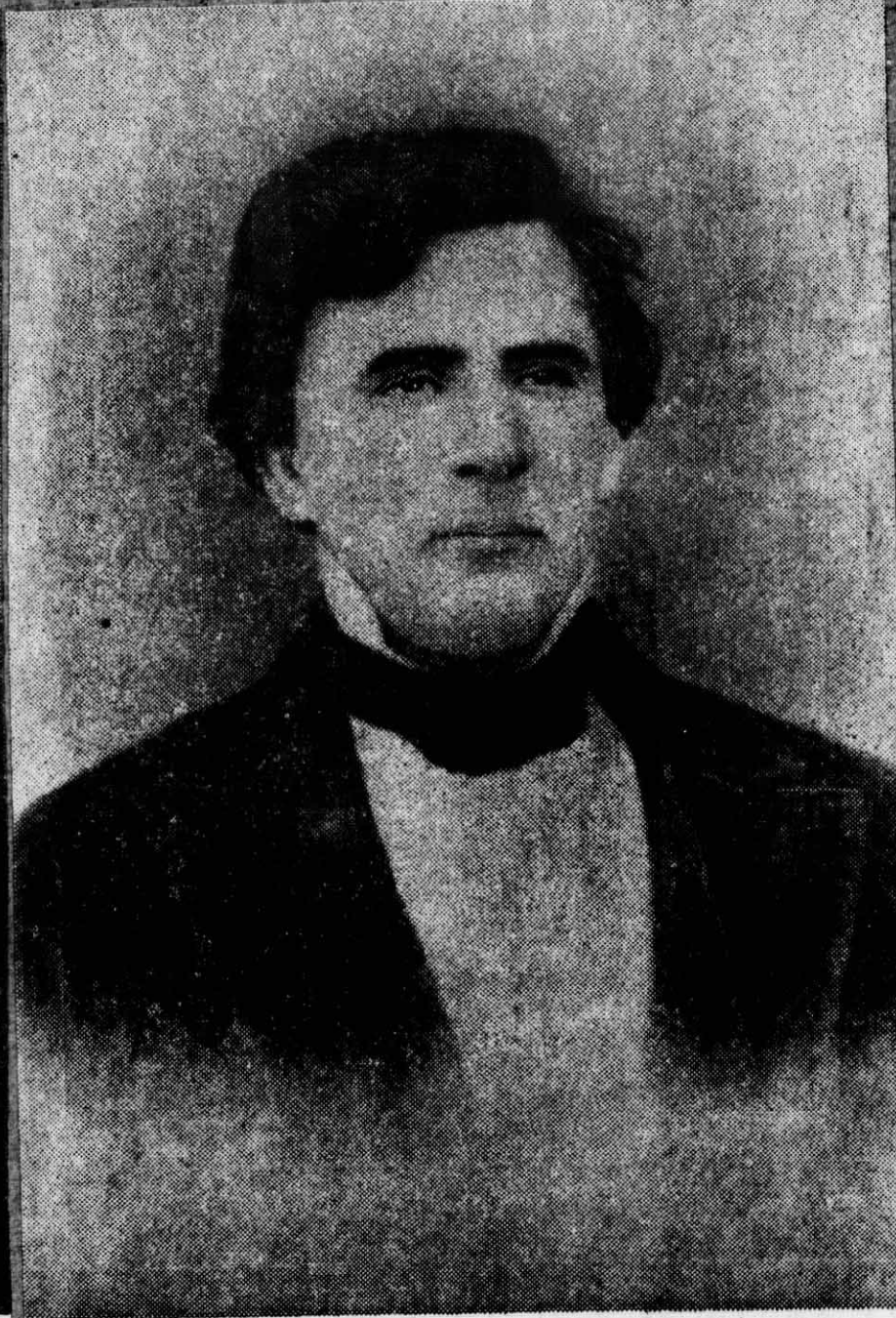
S.C. - Biography

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GENERAL DONOVANT



DR. T. W. MOORE

# The Chester News

Section B Published Thursdays

Thursday, January 26, 1961

**Charlotte Observer**  
**New U.S.**  
May 17, 1965  
**Park Open**  
**In S.C.**

By **WILLIAM E. BLACK**  
Observer Rock Hill Bureau  
CHESTER, S.C. — The Woods Ferry Recreational Area, part of the Sumter National Forest complex in South Carolina, was officially opened and dedicated

Sunday afternoon.  
More than 1,000 people came to the opening for picnicking, swimming and boating.  
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John A. Baker was the featured speaker in the afternoon program, which included a concert by the Chester High School Band and some hootenanny music.  
Chairman J. Bratton Davis of the S.C. Development Board and S.C. Sen. Paul Hemphill of Chester hailed the park opening as a milestone in providing more leisure and recreational facilities for citizens of the Piedmont Carolinas.

The new park area represents an expenditure of \$250,000 from the Area Redevelopment Agency (ARA), in conjunction with the U.S. Forestry Service.

The site has been under construction as part of the Accelerated Public Works Act since 1960.

It is in western Chester County on the Broad River, which is the boundary between Chester and Union counties.

In addition to modern boating ramps and nearly 60 picnic tables and grills, the park has several camp sites. It is landscaped with concrete walks to and from

swimming and boating facilities.

Officials of the new recreational area will begin charging admission of 50 cents per person today for use of park facilities. Park visitors, however, can purchase car stickers for \$7, which entitle a car load to the use of facilities not only at the Chester park but any national park in the United States for a year.

Money raised from admission charges, according to Baker, will go toward maintaining the park facilities and acquiring other areas for park use.

# Woods Ferry recreation area named for Col. Richard Woods

By ANNE COLLINS  
Herald Staff Writer  
CHESTER — Woods Ferry Recreation Area gets its name from Col. Richard Woods, a member of the Secession Con-

vention from Chester County when South Carolina seceded from the Union. His handsome brick home, the walls of which were still standing when the recreation area was started in

1963, was one of many antebellum plantation homes built up and down the river.

Col. Wood's step-son, Eli Alston Wilkes, who spent his boyhood years in the home by

the river, wrote this description in his book, "Echoes and Etchings."

"It was a beautiful place, the old brick home by the river. A woodland of tall oaks and poplar in front, very near, with a considerable undergrowth of dogwood and wild honeysuckle that were then in their first bloom. In the rear, the river ran silently at the foot of the hill, almost a stone's throw from the orchard. Northward, there was a wide stretch of 'bottom land' bounded by the river and a brook, affording a pretty view from the house when the grass sprang up and the willows were green.

"The house itself was well protected by large water oaks of wide extending branches, and by a dozen cedars and graceful elms. It was a lovely rustic retreat — there by itself midst charms of nature and views of river and meadowland — all surrounded by rough and rugged hills. It was a cosy spot where the sun, it seemed, softly fell, where the mockingbirds raised their young and warbled their sweetest notes during the vernal season.

"It was a silent place. When the 'hands' had come in from the fields in the evening, fed their mules, and each and all had retired to their cabins for supper and sleep. I've thought it was the stillest place in all the world. Even the old owl did not 'to the moon complain,' or else he shied away to some other spot. All animated na-

ture seemed to sink at early nightfall suddenly in the deepest repose under the silent stars — and there was a hush all around, save the gentle murmurings of the neighboring river that sang its requiems all the night long."

Col. Woods' father, Matthew Woods, came to the Broad River area about 1800 and settled on a large land grant. He died in 1826. His wife, Margaret Fawcette Woods, died on October 12, 1856.

A map of Chester district contained in Mill's Atlas of 1825 does not show a Woods

Ferry. This substantiates the belief that it was his son, Col. Woods, who later gave the ferry its name. The survey of the area for Mill's Atlas was made in 1818 by Charles Boyd, D. S.

Several of Col. Woods' descendants still live in Chester County. He was married three times. His first wife was Elizabeth Pinchback who bore him a son, Thomas Matthew, and a daughter, Mary Cornelia, and died at the early age of 37. His second wife, Susan Kel-

ly, also died young. He later married Mary Lou Hawthorne Wilkes, widow of Eli Cornwell Wilkes, a Confederate soldier who fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. Wilkes contracted typhoid fever soon after the battle and was carried to the home of Col. Yoncey on the Shenandoah River near McGaheysville, Virginia, where he died. Mrs. Wilkes married Col. Woods and became mistress of the river side plantation.

Evening Herald, Rock Hill

5  
Thursday, May 6, 1965

picture on back of board



Herald: May 6, 1965

Picnic Area At Woods Ferry

## CHARGE FOR ADMISSION TO WOODS

U. S. Forest Ranger Ed Harris of Union said today that a charge will be made for admission to the Woods Ferry Recreation Area in Chester County starting June 1, 1965. This is directed under the recently enacted Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

Harris said that there will be several methods that the recreationist can use to pay these charges: (1). Purchase the new \$7.00 Recreation Conservation car sticker. This sticker will entitle all passengers (up to 9) to enter all Federal recreation areas throughout the United States which have been designated as charge areas. These stickers are effective through March 31, 1966. (2). Pay a daily use charge of 50c per person, 16 years of age or over, or pay a

weekly fee of \$2.50 per person. (3). Special group fees available upon request.

The charge system will be in effect on the National Forests in South Carolina only during June 1 - August 31.

The stickers will soon be on sale at the Tyger Ranger District Ranger Station at Union and also can be purchased from uniformed U. S. Forest Service personnel at the recreation area. Daily and weekly fees can be paid to Forest Service employees at Woods Ferry.

Harris said that the fees collected go into a fund administered by Congress. Congress will then distribute these funds to the various states (on a matching basis) and to Federal Recreational Agencies to provide additional recreational areas and to

## RECREATION AREA

assist the states in planning, acquiring and developing outdoor recreational areas and facilities.

Harris also said that the Recreation Conservation sticker is the biggest bargain since it is an annual permit and covers all occupants of the car. He has urged all campers and picnickers who make many trips to purchase the sticker.

As previously, there will be no charge for the use of the Forest for hunting, fishing, hiking and the utilization of other less developed recreational areas on the Tyger Ranger District. Only the Woods Ferry Recreation Area has been designated as the charge area because of the extensive developments.

April 21, 1965  
THE CHESTER NEWS

## DESIGNATED FEDERAL RECREATION FEE AREA

Fees are Charged for the Recreation Use of  
This Area as Authorized by the

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT OF 1965



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Sign Warns Public Of Admission Charge

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