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## HISTORY OF EDGMOOR

Edgmoor is ten miles from Rock Hill and is situated on the Seaboard Air Line Railway. It was first named Ashland, but later changed to Edgmoor. This name was suggested to John C. Dickey by General A. F. Hoke, President of the Seaboard Air Line Railway.

When the railroad was surveyed in 1883 only three white families lived in what is now known as Edgmoor. J. C. Dickey, W. D. Orr and Mrs. Nancy Robinson.

The town was incorporated in 1889. The first "City Fathers" were W. F. Adams, W. C. Woods, J. F. Chambers, R. D. Robinson, and W. E. Dickey.

W. C. Dickey owned the first merchantile establishment, operated a gin and saw mill, was the first post master, the post office being in his store.

Other merchants were Glass and Ardery, Crawford and Ardrey, R. A. Willis, T. F. Clinton and son, A. H. Orr, Nunnery and Orr and W. C. Nunnery. A drug store was operated for a short time.

The late merchants are: W. H. Hamilton Company, organized in 1910, H. G. Hitchcock's Estate and George S. Glass. Mr. Glass at once operated a garage and grist mill. Mr. Glass was born near Glasgow, Scotland and came to Edgmoor in 1913.

J. D. Glass, uncle of J. S. Glass, a prosperous farmer of Edgmoor, is of Scottish descent. His parents were from Glasgow, Scotland, but he was born in Montreal, Canada. He came to Edgmoor in 1885.

James Shaw was the first agent for the S. A. L. Railroad.

Edgmoor at one time claimed a shoemaker in the person of John Bunyan Ferguson. He was crippled but an efficient workman.

The town and surrounding country were conveniently served by a telephone office. The stock holders were: J. D. Glass, W. L. Walker, and Manetta Mills.

Prior to 1883 the children of Edgmoor and surrounding communities attended school at Hefley School House near Iando. Some of the teachers were: Dr. Jeff Strait, Miss Cora Westbrook, and Miss Anna McFadden. The parents decided this was too far for their children to walk to school, so in 1883 a school building was erected on Sidney Robinson's land near Edgmoor. This school was called High View. The first teacher was Miss Alice Evans. Miss Hattie Ratteree followed her. Later this house was torn down and rebuilt on property given to the trustees by J. C. Dickey. This was in the year 1889. In 1905 the first brick building was established. Dr. J. N. Gaston and J. D. Glass were the trustees.

Later Edgmoor was consolidated with Wylie's Mill and Harmony districts, and on September 3, 1925 a picnic celebrated the near completion of a large brick building known as Edgmoor High School, and the placing of the cornerstone of this building. The trustees at this time were L. S. Lyle, W. C. Nunnery, and R. H. Westbrook.

Two school busses were secured to convey the children to school. More than a hundred pupils were enrolled in the eleven grades of this accredited school.

Through the influence of congressman Finley, a Rural Free Delivery Route was established. R. D. Robinson was appointed carrier. He served for many years and was retired on a salary. Later Route #2 was established, with W. C. Nunnery as carrier. Both he and Mr. Robinson used horse and buggy as a conveyance. W. C. Nunnery's horse ran away, threw him out of the buggy and injured him severely. R. J. White substituted for him during 1906. A. H. Orr was appointed carrier January 1, 1907 and has served



faithfully for forty years.

A very distinct cyclone passed through Edgmoor March 22, 1890. W. E. Dickey's store, the drug store, and a tenant house on John Dickey's plantation were blown down, and the depot unroofed. The A. R. P church, which was nearing completion, was destroyed. Sidney Robinson's store was demolished, a negro killed and the manager, J. M. Crawford, severely injured. Other buildings were damaged. S. C. Robinson's slogan was "never give up," so he rebuilt the store. A few years later his gin house, with a number of bales of cotton and hundreds of bushels of seed, was destroyed by fire. He did not rebuild, but put his entire time to his extensive farming.

Edgmoor has an A. R. P. church. This is a nice brick veneer structure. Dr. R. A. Lummus is pastor and resides here. He has served the church for over forty years.

Edgmoor has a resident physician, Dr. J. N. Gaston, Sr.; <sup>He has</sup> ~~Time Saml.~~ Dr. Frank P. Gaston of Rock Hill, and Dr. J. N. Gaston, Jr. of Chester. Other doctors who located at Edgmoor were; Drs. W. W. Fenell, Sr.; and Woodham.

Edgmoor has grown from three white families in 1888 to a population of about 350.

### THE WYLIE HOUSE

The Wylie house is located in Richburg directly opposite the Masonic Lodge. The Strouds built the house about 1840 and it was called the Stroud house for a long time. There are seven rooms in the house.

After the Strouds moved, Dr. Sam Anderson moved into this house. After Dr. Anderson left Dr. Wylie moved in and practiced medical surgery. He had his office in one of the rooms. Bill Wylie, a doctor in Winston Salem, was born there. Dr. Wylie died in this house. The Wylies still have the house and are operating a store in Richburg.

### LEWISVILLE

The first Lewisville school was between the place where Mr. E. B. Burns and Mrs. Virgie Martin now live. Negroes now live in the old school house. Some of the teachers were Mrs. Sue Gaston, Mr. J. G. Board, Miss Sally Kee and Miss Sally Atkinson.

About the year 1882 a new Lewisville school was built by Mr. Pink Polk. The land on which the new school was built was given as a gift by Mr. J. C. Burns. This school consisted of two rooms and a hall. One room was downstairs. In the front part of this room there were shelves used for the dinner buckets. In the back there was a platform. The teacher's desk sat on the platform. When anyone had to write on the blackboard they had to go up on the platform to do so. The room upstairs was for the primary department. There were also blackboards in this room.

Josiah Moffatt was the first principal.

A few months after the school was built there was a windy day. The principal, Mr. Moffatt, sensed the danger and sent all the children home. Within an hour the building collapsed. Soon after the event the building was quickly rebuilt. While the school was being rebuilt school was held in a negro house on Rev. C. B. Betts' place. The second school was braced. Dr. Oliver Johnson was the first principal in this building which still stands. Mrs. Lizzie Martin Robbins was the first primary teacher. Some of the other



teachers then, and in later years, were Daniel L. Baker, a juvenile lawyer in Charlotte, Robert Miller, Mrs. Esther Cochran, Mrs. Della Whiteside, Mrs. Jim Patton, Lois Hamilton, and Mrs. Janie Burns Roid.

On one occasion there was a graduation. Eleven pupils graduated. They had to give speeches and the winning speaker received a medal as a reward. Mr. Dan Lewis won the medal.

About the year 1908 the present frame building near Richburg was built. Dr. Ellie Simpson was the first principal. Other principals were Mr. Lowry, Mr. Epting, Mr. Roberts Kilgore, Mr. Hemingway, and Mr. Joe Moore. Mrs. J. H. Clawson was the primary teacher under Mr. McGraw.

State High School certificates were not given at the Richburg School until 1926, so many students had to go to Oakley Hall in order to get their high school certificates.

About the year 1926 a new Richburg School was built. This new brick building was built beside the frame building. It has two stories. Downstairs there are three classrooms, a hall, and an auditorium. Upstairs there are three classrooms, a hall, an office, and a library.

The first superintendent was Mr. Cox. Others were Mr. Curry, Mr. R. C. Campbell, and Mr. J. G. Hollis.

In the year 1945 the three high schools, Oakley Hall, Edgmoor, and Richburg consolidated. A new building which was to be located between Mr. W. A. Burns' and Mr. D. C. Reid's store was found impractical to build on account of the advance in prices, so the Richburg school building was borrowed temporarily to be used for the high school and the name, "Lewisville," was given to the school. The grammar school pupils who formerly attended Richburg School went to Oakley Hall or Edgmoor School. All the high pupils from Oakley Hall and Edgmoor came to Lewisville. The frame building is used for a lunch room, home economics and science classrooms. The first and present principal of Lewisville is Mr. H. H. Scott. Mr. J. G. Hollis is superintendent of all the schools.

The chairman of the board of trustees from each school now makes up the Lewisville board of trustees. They are Mr. D. C. Reid, Mr. W. B. Westbrook, Mr. W. W. Gaston, and Mr. Harry Heath.

## THE HISTORY OF RICHBURG

Tradition has it that the section between the cross roads---one in the direction of the Chester of today, another to Rocky Mount, another North to Steele's Fort and into the Old Saluda road, the other south to Winnsboro---was called "Rich Hill" because the land was so poor it would not produce. At any rate it was called Rich Hill as early as 1830.

Among the families who have lived in and around Rich Hill, we find the following names, Babers, Andersons, Koes, McDaniels, Strouds, Crocketts, Knoxes, Fergusons and divers others.

Being situated in the "cross roads" Rich Hill became a meeting place, or center, for all the residents of the eastern part of the county.

In the late thirties or early forties Capt. O. Barber, Capt. James Drennan, Capt. O. A. Wylie, Capt. J. A. Thomas, and John O. Harden lived in Rich Hill. Some of these men represented Chester County in the General Assembly.

Capt. Thomas was born in the western part of the county. His parents died while he was a small boy, and he came to Rich Hill to



live with his uncle. He stayed at Rich Hill until the commencement of the Mexican war. He served in the Palmetto regiment, and lost one of his arms at the capture of the City of Mexico.

It has been said that Capt. Thomas and Judge T. J. Mackey were the youngest men of the regiment and were among the last survivors. After the war Capt. Thomas was tax collector (now called treasurer) for a time. He owned considerable property in and around Rich Hill. He had ten children, and they were all born in a house, which is the present site of the Methodist parsonage.

He organized a company during the Confederate war and was elected captain. When his company was ordered to Virginia his friends persuaded him to resign because of his having only one arm. He reluctantly gave it up, and Capt. W. L. Roddey, then of Lewisville---later of Rock Hill---took charge. Capt. Thomas moved to Harmony Station, where he died in 1906.

In front of his house was an open field used as a mustering ground during the Confederate war, and was also used for any forms of outdoor amusements the little settlement might have.

Dr. Sam Anderson, another splendid citizen, lived part of his life and died at Richburg. He was a direct descendant of William Anderson, who was killed on Fishing Creek during the Revolution.

The first house in Richburg was owned by a Mrs. Eckles (this lot is now owned by J. O. Barber). Her son-in-law built the first store building which was used as a music room. Later two Jews, Wolfe Wittowsky, opened the first store in Richburg, occupying this music room. Melton Bros. Store now stands on the site of this building.

Some years later Capt. Hugh Simpson had a furniture shop here.

Miss Sarah McMillan was the first postmistress. The post office was in one room of her house. Mrs. Eliza Wylie's home is situated on this site. Mrs. Alex Barber was one of the first residents of Rich Hill.

Union A. R. P. church was the first one erected. It was organized in 1795. In 1796 it united with Hopewell and New Hope in a call to the Rev. John Hemphill. He was installed as pastor on September 19, 1796. His pastorate continued until his death, May 30, 1832. The first house of worship was a log building. The present handsome building was erected in 1848. After the Rev. Hemphill's death the Rev. Warren Flenniken was ordained and installed in Nov., 1832. Following him was the Rev. L. McDonald, who was called December 10, 1839. Then the Rev. C. B. Betts was installed in May 1871. In 1904 ~~Dr. Betts gave up the charge~~ and the present pastor, Dr. R. A. Lummus, was called. This church is about a mile from the town of Richburg.

The Richburg Presbyterian church was the first house of worship to be erected in the town of Richburg. The deed to the property was recorded January 8, 1883, from O. Barber to the congregation, ~~thru~~ their representatives, James Drennan and B. E. Fripp.

The first pastor was the Rev. J. H. Lurkin. Some of the other ministers who have served this congregation are, Revs. McMullin, Robinson, White, Wade Boggs, J. R. Millard, J. H. Wilson, J. P. Marion, Sr., J. J. Brown, Hope, Hartman, Paul Moore, W. L. Latham, R. Roy Brown, and B. A. Meeks. The present pastor is the ~~Rev. George W. Irby~~ *Rev. G. J. Dundy*

The Methodist church at Richburg was organized in 1887 by Rev. G. E. Harmon. Due to the loss of records by fire, the sketch of this church is brief. There were fifty-one members when organized.

One day Miss Sallie Backstrom, who was teaching school in a



little building (near the present site of *Mr. J. B. Roddey's* residence) was standing in the back door of the school house talking to some of her pupils, among them Miss Sallie Kee, when she said. "I wouldn't be surprised if some day a railroad would run right along here."

That was in 1861. In January 1878 the first train rolled into Richburg.

A handsome new high school building stands as a monument to the ambitions of the people for the education/advancement of their community.

Mr. W. B. Roddey of Richburg says Rich Hill was changed to Richburg in 1880. Mr. Roddey has some letters addressed to his father. The address Rich Hill was on the letters until 1880. There was another Rich Hill in the State which was confusing so the Post Office Department changed Rich Hill to Richburg.

### THE FRANK FUDGE HOUSE

The Fudge house is over a hundred years old. It was put together with pegs and years ago the house was used for dances.

When it was first built there was no ceiling or partitions to separate the rooms. In 1800 planks were put over the logs, and walls placed between the rooms. In 1900 a great improvement was made. Every room was ceiled, the roof was covered, and nails were put in where some of the pegs were. About twenty years later it was painted and remodeled. The house now looks quite different from the way it was in the beginning.

The Fudges have an organ, several chairs, two tables, a clock and a sewing machine in the house which are over a hundred years old.

### MR. BARBER'S OAK TREE

In 1812 Mrs. Osborne Barber had a house built opposite the present home of Mr. J. O. Barber. Mrs. Osborne Barber said the oak tree was a large tree at that time. About fifty years ago, Captain John Wilson, who was seventy years old at that time, said he played leap frog under the big tree at the Barber's when he was a boy.

Mr. J. O. Barber says it's legend that the horse of Cornwallis bit the top off the tree as Cornwallis passed through Richburg during the Revolutionary War.

This tree was the center of the mustering ground as early as 1835. Drilling was done around the Richburg square from the Oak tree. During the War between the States practically all the boys around enlisted under that tree. Mrs. J. R. Reid says her father, Mr. Peter Hollis, enlisted there. Captain Alex Thomas was put in command of the men that enlisted. Because Captain Thomas had only one arm, ~~which~~ <sup>the right arm</sup> was lost during the Mexican war, the officials thought the work was a strain for him so Captain Lyle Roddey took his position.

During the Carolina maneuvers in World War II, an artillery general set up his command post under this tree. His orders were sent out by runners in jeeps, by sound-powered telephones, by "Walkie-Talkies" and radio. This manner of communication changed man's method of fighting and certainly was different from General Cornwallis' way. How much the oak tree of one hundred and fifty



years could tell us if it could talk!

### THE W. A. BURNS' HOME

The original owner of the Burns' house nor the exact date that it was built is not known, but it is known that the house was built before 1845.

William Andrew Burns was married and brought his bride to the house in 1845. He was a school teacher during the "War between the States."

When Miss Flora Burns married Dr. C. E. Betts another room was built to the house in order to have more room.

Mr. John C. Burns, also brought his wife to the house to live after they were married. They lived in the house for about nine years. They then moved to their other farm which Mr. T. P. Padget now rents from the Burns' Estate.

The three grandsons of the original W. A. Burns, ~~which were~~ John, Edward, and William, ~~each~~ brought their brides to the house. John and Edward lived there only a few years, but William still occupies and owns the home.

Long ago the home was surrounded by many beautiful oak trees. Now only one old oak stands. It is in front of the house and is believed to be over one hundred years old.

The living room and the room built in 1870 are the only original parts of the house left. Many additions and alterations have been made through the years and the house now consists of seven rooms, a bath, an attic, and the back and front porch.

### WYLIE'S MILL

Three miles east of Richburg on Fishing Creek and right by the side of what was once known as the Chester and Lancaster highway is the mill from which Wylie's Mill post office and later the community got its name.

The mill was first built and operated by a man named Simpson more than a hundred years ago. It was later owned by William Caldwell (grandfather of R. B. Caldwell of Chester.) After Mr. Caldwell it was owned by the wife of Capt. O. A. Wylie. Mrs. Wylie was a daughter of William Caldwell.

In 1891 C. M. Ferguson and brother bought the mill from Mrs. Wylie. It has been in possession of the Fergusons ever since.

### BASCOMVILLE

Bascomville was named in honor of Bishop H. B. Bascom of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, who had preached there on an occasion long ago.

The Lancaster and Chester Railroad came through Bascomville about 1878 or '79 and about 1880, it went as far as the Catawba river. Mr. William Henry Hardin was then the President of the road.

In 1858 there were only three families living at Bascomville, Mr. Peter Hardin's, Mr. Chappell Howze's, and Dr. W. J. Hicklin's.

The old home, which belonged to William Hicklin, father of Dr. W. J. Hicklin, is still standing---at least part of it. It is on a slight elevation on the left, and near where the road branches and leads to Fishing Creek and Catawba river.



The house where Mr. Peter Hardin lived was torn down to make way for the Lancaster and Chester railroad.

Bascomville had a female academy. It was called Bascomville Female Academy and was taught at one time by the Misses Henkle. Later Mrs. Joshua Blake came from the North to teach there. She married and lived at the house where Mr. John Howze now lives. In 1869 Mr. John H. Buchanan taught at the Bascomville academy.

Mt. Prospect was once celebrated for camp meetings. There was a large wooden tabernacle, and many pretty tents of wood, where whole families would stay for the week or ten days.

In later years an effort was made to revive the camp meetings, when a "Brush Arbor" was used.

Major McCully had a store in the building, which was later transformed into a dwelling for Dr. W. J. Hicklin. Major McCully was the first person, according to reliable information, to be buried at Mr. Prospect church. A beautiful stone stands to mark the place where this gallant man is buried.

Hopewell Baptist church is situated near Bascomville and is one of the oldest churches in the county.

### LANDO

Situated in the eastern part of Chester county, two miles south of Edgmoor, five miles north of Richburg, on Fishing Creek, is the manufacturing town of Lando. The name Lando was given in memory of Captain Lane and Captain Dodson. The former was the first conductor, the latter the first superintendent of the Seaboard, which ran from Edgmoor to Fishing Creek.

People were living there before the Revolutionary War. Tradition has it that Lord Cornwallis and his officers spent the night there in a house on the hill when they marched through a part of this country. The house stood for a long time, but was torn down some time ago to make room for a more commodious building.

The early settlement there was known as White's Mill. A family by the name of White early emigrated from Pennsylvania and settled at Fishing Creek. A mill was erected and became known as White's Mill. A few stores soon sprang up in the neighborhood. Major Eaves owned it after Mr. White, and had the mill operated for many years. He was an officer in the Mexican War, and he was a very influential man in the county. Jess Williford bought the place from Major Eaves. Hon. F. H. Barber was the next owner. In 1880 he began collecting material and laying the foundation for the first cotton mill there. Operation started in 1882. Colonel Heath of Charlotte bought Fishing Creek Manufacturing Company in 1896. He greatly improved it and increased it in size. The name was changed from Fishing Creek Manufacturing Company to Manetta Mills, in honor of his two wives. Today it is the Manetta Mills incorporated.

The old Methodist church was built about 1894 and the Baptist church in 1911. The school house was finished about 1907. The new Manetta Mills store was built in 1921.

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## OAKLEY HALL

The community life of Oakley Hall revolves around the school house. More than fifty years ago a little school house stood across the Rodman road from where the present Oakley Hall is now located. This little building was in a pasture and could be reached only through a red gate. So naturally, the school had "Red Gate" as its name. This gate was on the highway and guards were placed there so that Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, could pass by undisturbed. Mr. Leroy Poag, father of Mrs. Cloud Hicklin, who taught successfully at "Red Gate" for a number of years, was one of these guards.

Mrs. Anna Poag Hicklin and Mr. W. D. Knox, our former county superintendent of Education, were the teachers. Thinking that a prettier name could be secured for their school, they began searching and soon decided to call it Oakley Hall, the name of the family home of Mrs. Augusta Saye, who donated the land upon which the school is located.

When the present Oakley Hall came into being by consolidating the Rodman, Pleasant Grove, Knox, and Pryor schools, it was only natural that this same lovely name should be used. The first Oakley Hall at the present location was a little three-room building which is now used as a lunchroom. The present brick building was erected in 1922.

The life of this thriving rural community is centered around its school so all who live here are known as residents of Oakley Hall. The present citizens are faithfully carrying the torch that was handed to them by loyal supporters of home and county through the ages.

## THE SAYE HOUSE

This house was built about one hundred and fifty years ago. Mr. Gibbs from Charleston who was seeking a summer home for himself and his family built it. It is a spacious building and is a counterpart of the Gibbs home in Charleston. New Port, Rhode Island, was likewise founded by Charlestonians seeking a cooler climate.