

THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAP

DRAWN BY EDWARD LEROY COX {LOCAL BOY} FROM MEMORY  
REFERENCE EXPERT CHARLIE THOMAS COX {DUKE POWER LAND AGENT}

THE MAP DEPICTS PART OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED MOUNTAIN ISLAND STATE EDUCATIONAL FOREST. THE MAP CENTERS AROUND THE "MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARMS" HEADQUARTERS, POSITION #9 ON THE MAP, AT ROUTE 1 BOX 97 MTN. ISLAND ROAD, MOUNT HOLLY NORTH CAROLINA.

THE FIRST PART OF THIS PAPER WILL DESCRIBE THE EVENTS PLACING MY FAMILY AND I {EDWARD LEROY COX} ON THIS PROPERTY. IN OUR HEARTS WE FELT WE LIVED THE MOST CAREFREE LIFE OF ANY KID ALIVE. BROTHERS, SISTER, COUSINS AND FRIENDS ROAMED THESE WOODS CONSTANTLY. WE DAMED THE BRANCH TO SWIM AND CATCH THE BIG MOUTH BASS MINNOWS, WHICH HAD SWAM UPSTREAM FROM THE LAKE. WE RAN FROM THE BEES AND YELLOW JACKETS. WE SWUNG ON THE VINES. WE ATE THE BLACKBERRIES AND PLUMS; PICKED UP PECANS. WE RODE THE COWS AND PONIES; RAN THE BEAGLES AND ALL THE STRAY DOGS AND CATS THAT PEOPLE PUT OUT. WE PLAYED ARMY, COWBOYS AND INDIANS. WE HAULED HAY; MILKED COWS; AND CLIMBED TO THE TOP OF THE WALNUT TREE AND LET THE WIND BLOW US BACK AND FORTH IN THE BREEZE. ARE YOU GETTING THE PICTURE YET? WE LIVED THE LIFE KIDS DREAM OF.

COX BEACH NOTED ON THE MAP IS ARGUABLY MTN ISLAND LAKES BEST. THE VIEW FROM THE BEACH IS THE DAM, THE BIG ISLAND AND THE WESTERN SKY AT SUNSET. HERE WE SWAM, COOKED HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS AND FISHED. DADDY AND UNCLE DAVE RACED THEIR PICKUPS TO THE RIVER WITH US KIDS IN THE BACK HOLLERING AND HAVING A BALL. WHEN WE WOULD SNEAK-OFF TO COX BEACH, PROBABLY A MILE THRU THE WOODS, WE COULD STILL HEAR WHEN MAMA CALLED AND WE KNEW! COME HOME NOW, OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES. MY BOTTOM WAS VERY CLOSE TO THIS PROPERTY, LITERALLY. OFTEN I RAN OUT THE BACK DOOR AND SCOOTED MY BACKSIDE ACROSS THE BACK YARD. THIS WAS INTENDED TO COOL IT OFF FROM WHOOPINGS, WHICH I TRULY DESERVED. I'M GLAD MY PARENTS LOVED ME ENOUGH TO TEACH ME THE TRUTH, JESUS LOVES ME, AND I'D BETTER BE GOOD OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS MERCY FOR ALL MANKIND. SPEAKING OF THE BACK YARD, BROTHERS JOHN AND DAN SET IT ON FIRE. PRAISE THE LORD IT BURNED OUT JUST SHORT OF THE OIL DRUM BESIDE THE HOUSE. MOMA MUST HAVE BEEN PRAYING AGAIN FOR JESUS TO TAKE CARE OF US KIDS AND HE SURELY DID. THOSE OIL HEATERS CAN'T BE BEAT FOR WARMING UP ON COLD NIGHTS. CURLED UP BESIDE THE STOVES' BLOWER, I LET BROTHERS TOMMY AND BUZZY HAVE THE OLD IRON DOUBLE BED GIVE ME THAT HEATER BLOWER!

THE HEART OF THE MAP, MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARMS, WAS ESTABLISHED AND OPERATED BY EDWARD DAVID COX. NORMAN COCKE {LAKE NORMANS NAME SAKE} HIRED EDWARD DAVID COX TO SERVE AS LAND AGENT FOR WHAT WAS THEN KNOWN AS SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY. EDWARD DAVID, USUALLY ADDRESSED AS MR. ED, SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1956. ED'S SON, CHARLIE THOMAS COX, ALREADY WORKING FOR THE NEWLY NAMED DUKE POWER COMPANY, TOOK OVER THE POSITION. CHARLIE THOMAS COX RETURNED HIS FAMILY TO LIVE ON MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARMS HEADQUARTERS WITH MOTHER GRACE FLOWERS COX.

DUKE POWER MAGAZINE STATED IN THE 1970'S THAT MORE COX'S WORKED FOR DUKE POWER THAN ANY OTHER FAMILY. ALL OF EDWARD DAVID COX'S SONS WORKED FOR DUKE POWER. SON ROSS, AT THE DUKE POWER STORAGE YARD {CURRENT DUKE TRAINING CENTER} ACROSS THE ROAD FROM PINWOOD SCHOOL, POSITION #1 ON THE MAP}. SONS DAVID AND NORMAN IN COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS. DAUGHTERS EDDIE AND LUCILLE ALSO WORKED FOR DUKE. CHARLIE THOMAS COX'S WIFE, VERTIE PEARL LOFTIN COX ALSO WORKED FOR DUKE DURING HOG KILLING TIME. I'M SURE EDWARD'S SON, LITTLE CHARLIE, WOULD HAVE ALSO, HAD HE NOT DIED UNDER ANESTHESIA TO SEW UP A HEAD WOUND FROM A MULE KICK WHEN JUST A YOUNG BOY.

CHARLIE THOMAS COXS' FIVE SONS, THOMAS, EDWARD, CHARLIE THOMAS COX JR., JOHN, DANIEL AND COUSINS GALORE, ALL SERVED AT FACILITIES WITHIN THE DUKE SYSTEM. CHARLIE'S ONLY DAUGHTER GRACE ELENA COX, NAMED FOR CHARLIE'S MOM AND VERTIE PEARLS MOM WAS AS TOUGH AS ANY OF THE BOYS. GRACE DID HER SHARE OF WORK ON THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARM AND WAS DEFINITELY THE BEST LOOKING IN THE BUNCH!

THE LAND IN THIS AREA IS DEAR TO THE COX FAMILY. MID 1700S GEORGE COX WAS GRANTED LAND AT THE MOUTH OF THE DUTCHMAN CREEK, NEAR THE HEART OF MOUNT HOLLYS' GREENWAY AT RIVERSIDE PARK. GEORGE WAS A LAND SPECULATOR AND BOUGHT AND SOLD THOUSANDS OF ACRES AROUND THE CHARLOTTE AREA. GEORGE'S DESCENDANTS STAYED IN THIS AREA. GEORGE COX JR SECOND HALF 1700, FLEET COX LATE 1700, DAVID PHILIPS "ROOSTER" COX EARLY 1800, WILLIAM LEE CHARNECK COX, MID 1800 {WOUNDED CIVIL WAR VETERAN} CHARLIE T. COX SECOND HALF 1800S, EDWARD DAVID COX LATE 1800'S, CHARLIE THOMAS COX BORN IN 1923, ME EDWARD LEROY COX 1952, MY SON JEREMY EDWARD COX 1976, THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE, AND THE LATEST IN THIS COX LINE IS HENRY EDWARD COX BORN 2005. AS EVIDENT EDWARD IS A FAVORITE NAME IN THIS COX LINE. THE COX FAMILY, HAVING BEEN HERE SO LONG AND MARRYING INTO INNUMERABLE FAMILIES IN THE AREA, FELT KIN TO EVERYBODY UNTIL THE RECENT INFLUX OF PEOPLE FROM EVERYWHERE. THE BEAUTIFUL AREA WAS CONSIDERED A SMALL FARM /TEXTILE COMMUNITY. TIGHTLY KNITTED WITH FAITH, IN CHRIST, FAMILY AND FELLOWMAN AS EVIDENCED BY THE OLDEST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE. ST JOSEPHS POSITION # 7 ON THE MAP, STILL SHINES CHRIST'S LIGHT AT THE INTERSECTION OF SANDY FORD ROAD AND MTN ISLAND ROAD.

THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND DAM WAS BUILT IN EARLY 1923. THE LAND WAS CLEARED BY EDWARD DAVID COX AND HIS CREWS WHICH INCLUDED SOME OF HIS SIX BROTHERS. THEY MOVED HOUSES AND GRAVES SOME OF WHICH WERE KINFOLK. FLEET AND WIFE RACHEL PHILIPS COXS' GRAVES WERE MOVED TO A HILL UNDER WHAT IS CURRENTLY A POWERLINE RIGHT OF WAY. THE POWERLINE PASSES THRU THE PRESTIGIOUS STONEWATER BAY COMMUNITY, ON MOUNTAIN ISLAND LAKE. BUILT BY CRESCENT PROPERTIES. CRESCENT LAND AND TIMBER IS THE ARM OF DUKE ENERGY, THAT CONTROLS DUKE'S LAND HOLDINGS. THE DEVELOPER BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED AND ADORNED THE GRAVESITE WITH BLACK ALUMINUM FENCING AND CRAPE MYRTLE TREES. STONEWATER BAYS' GREEN WAY ON THE POWERLINE GIVES PERFECT ACCESS TO THE GRAVES.

PROPERTIES ON THE MAP WERE PART OF A GREATER HOLDING OF DUKE PROPERTIES STATE WIDE. RENT WAS COLLECTED IN THE FORM OF CASH, LIVESTOCK OR CROPS FROM THESE DUKE POWER FARMS. THE HOMES AND BUILDINGS WERE NORMALLY PAINTED BARN RED WITH WHITE TRIM. A SAWMILL, LUMBAYARD, AND CARPENTRY SHOP WERE BUILT AND RAN AT THE ED COX MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARM SITE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN THE DUKE FARMS. THE ED COX FARM WAS PRIMARILY A HOG FARM. THE MOST MODERNIZED AT THE TIME, IN THIS AREA. FURNISHED WITH CONCRETE TROUGHS AND CONCRETE FLOORED KILLING AND WASH BUILDING, BLOOD DRAINING HOUSE, MEAT HOUSE {FOR CUTTING HAMS, GRINDING SAUSAGE, BOILING LARD, AND MY FAVORITE SQUEEZING CRACKLINGS}. THE SMOKE HOUSE HUNG FULL OF HAMS, WHICH THE ELITE OF DUKE POWER WOULD COME TO TAKE HOME. A HUGE WALK IN FREEZER SERVED AS A COOL PLACE TO STORE A FEW WATERMELLONS ALONG WITH THE SAUSAGE. TO ENSURE THE PRODUCTS, WHICH BORE THE NAME MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARMS WERE SOME OF THE AREAS FINEST, DUKE SENT EDWARD DAVID COX TO VIRGINIA. THERE HE LEARNED THE ART OF VIRGINIA STYLE CURED HAMS AND SAUSAGE, LARD, FAT BACK AND AGAIN MY FAVORITE CRACKLINGS. ED MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT STUDENT BECAUSE THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARMS BRAND WAS CONSIDERED THE BEST BY ALL THE WHITE HAired OLD MEN THAT HUNG OUT AT PAPA'S, MR. EDS MEAT HOUSE. AS THEY GATHERED AROUND THE KEROSENE STOVES TO WARM UP IN THE MEAT HOUSE, THEY ALWAYS HAD TIME TO GET US YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPERS INTO TROUBLE WITH THE THINGS THEY'D PUT US UP TO! TOO MUCH FUN? NAAAAAAAAA !!!

COMMUNITIES AND MANUFACTURING SITES NOW OCCUPY THESE FARMS. THE NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY IS CURRENTLY BUILDING ON THE OLD JOHN HARKEY {MR. JOHNNY} DUKE FARM. THE EARLY 1900 ERA BARN POSITION # 3 ON MAP WAS TORN DOWN DURING CONSTRUCTION. THE CLINT KEEVER DUKE FARM WAS TORN DOWN TO BUILD FREIGHTLINERS' MOUNT HOLLY TRUCK PLANTS' P.D.I. CENTER. DUKE POWER ARCHIVES CONTAINS MUCH OF THIS HISTORY. THE HOUSES, BARNS AND OUT BUILDINGS ON THESE PROPERTIES WERE DESIGNED AND BUILT BY MR. ED AND CREWS. MR. ED WAS ALSO A SURVEYOR AND MARKED MUCH OF DUKE PROPERTIES.

I HOPE THIS STORY WILL INSPIRE OTHERS TO RECORD THE HISTORY OF THEIR FAMILIES IN THE AREA ON THE WEBSITE SO THAT FUTURE AND PRESENT CITIZENS CAN UNDERSTAND THE LOVE PEOPLE HAVE FOR THIS AREA AND ITS LAND, RIVERS, CREEKS, BRANCHES AND MOST OF ALL IT'S PEOPLE.

#### MAP SPECIFICS:

SITE #1: PINEWOOD SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN EARLY 1970'S. THE IDEA WAS BORN IN THE HEART OF CHARLIE THOMAS COX WHO WITH THE HELP OF HIS FRIEND ROBERT BROWN CIRCULATED A PETITION REQUESTING THE SCHOOL BOARD BUILD PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY. GASTON COUNTY INFORMED THE PETITIONERS THAT A SCHOOL WAS BEING PLANNED BUT WAS YEARS AWAY. THE SCHOOL BOARD REALIZING THE SUPPORT FOR A NEW SCHOOL MOVED THE BUILD DATE FORWARD SEVERAL YEARS. TODAY PINEWOOD IS CONSIDERED AN ICON OF PRIDE IN THE COMMUNITY. GASTON COUNTY HAS INSTALLED WALKING TRACKS AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT THE SCHOOL. PINEWOODS' RECREATION FIELD IS USED FOR MANY YOUTH RECREATIONAL LEAGUE SPORTS. PINEWOOD IS POISED TO USE THE STATE EDUCATIONAL FOREST AND THE GREEN WAYS TO THE FULLEST, DUE TO ITS CLOSE LOCATION TO THE GREENWAY PATH. A WALKING TRAIL HAS BEEN IN USE AT THE SCHOOL SINCE ITS CONSTRUCTION. ALAN MAY FROM THE SCHIELE MUSEUM IN GASTONIA HAS DOCUMENTED AN ARROWHEAD ARTIFACT FOUND ON THE TRAIL BY EDWARD LEROY COX. ALAN MAY HAS ALSO DOCUMENTED OTHER ARROWHEAD ARTIFACTS FOUND AT THE CHARLIE AND VERTIE COX HOME ON MTN ISLAND ROAD. THESE ARROWHEADS AND POTTERY PIECES CAN BE FOUND ALL OVER THE AREA OF THE MAP. INTEREST IN INDIAN ARTIFACTS AND HISTORY WAS INGRAINED IN MY PERSONA DUE TO THE INDIAN HERITAGE IN MY FAMILY ON MY MOTHER VERTIE PEARL LOFTIN COXS' SIDE OF THE FAMILY. MY DADDY CHARLIE THOMAS COX POSSESSED A CORN GRINDING STONE APPROXIMATELY 2FT LONG, 1 FT HIGH AND 1 FT WIDE. A GROOVE WAS WORN IN THE TOP WITH DRAINS ON EACH SIDE. THE ROCKS LAST KNOWN POSSESSION WAS WITH RICK CONNELL AND BROTHER JAMES L. CONNELL. THE BROTHERS LEAD A BOY SCOUT TROOP IN MOUNT HOLLY AND HOPEFULLY SHARE THE VIEWING OF THE STONE WITH THE TROOP.

SITE #2: NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY DEPARTMENT STATION: THE RANGER STATION BUILT ON THE ADJACENT PROPERTY NORTH OF PINEWOOD SCHOOL IS HOME TO THE RANGERS IN CHARGE OF THE STATE LANDS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND STATE EDUCATIONAL FOREST. THE RANGERS FIGHT FIRES, EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON FORESTRY CARE, ENFORCEMENT OF STATE LAWS GOVERNING WILDLIFE, ISSUE BURNING PERMITS AND MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT PERTINENT TO PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES.

SITE #3: 1900 ERA BARN: THE BARN AT THIS SITE WAS DESTROYED TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL GYPSUM PLANT, WHICH WILL PROVIDE WALLBOARD FOR THE ENTIRE SOUTHEAST AND BEYOND. THE BARN WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY MR. ED COX AND CREW IN EARLY 1920'S. THE BARNS ON THE DUKE POWER FARMS WERE SIMILAR TO THE ONE MR. ED BUILT ON THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARM HEADQUARTERS. THE BARNS CONTAINED LARGE HALLWAYS TO ALLOW UNLOADING HAY OR OTHER CROPS INTO THE SIX LOFTS. TWO OF THE SIX LOFTS WERE LOCATED FRONT AND REAR OVER THE HALLWAY. THE HALLWAYS CENTER OVERHEAD AREA WAS OPEN, ALLOWING THE HAY TO BE TOSSED UP INTO THE BARN. TWO MORE LOFTS, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE HALLWAY RAN THE LENGTH OF THE BARN. TWO LAST TWO LOFTS WERE LOCATED OVER THE TRACTOR SHEDS ATTACHED TO EACH SIDE OF THE BARN. THE HAND HEWN



BEAMS AND LARGE TIMBERS DISPLAYED THE TIME AND LABOR EXERTED IN THE BARN'S CONSTRUCTION. A UNIQUE FEATURE OF THE BARN WERE THE VENTS RUNNING THE ENTIRE WALL PERIMETER OF THE BARN JUST BELOW THE ROOF. THE VENTS ALLOWED GREAT AIRFLOW TO KEEP THE BARN COOL AND CROPS DRY. THE BARN CONTAINED FOUR STABLES, TWO ALONG EACH SIDE OF THE CENTRALLY LOCATED HALLWAY. TWO FEED ROOMS WITH THEIR OWN HALLWAY ENTRY DOORS WERE LOCATED BETWEEN THE TWO STABLES. THIS ALLOWED FEEDING OF THE LIVESTOCK WITHOUT HAVING TO ENTER THE STALL. A GREAT SAFETY FEATURE AND CONVENIENCE. THE FRAMEWORK ABOVE THE CENTER HALLWAY OPENING CONSISTED OF TWO LARGE PLANKS 17" WIDE 3" THICK 23' LONG. THE TWO PLANKS WERE PLACED INTO AN X CONFIGURATION OVER THE CENTER HALLWAY ALLOWING BLOCK AND TACKLE TO BE ATTACHED FOR RAISING LARGE LOADS.

SITE # 4: MOUNTAIN ISLAND DAM: WAS BUILT IN EARLY 1920'S TO PROVIDE HYDROELECTRIC POWER TO THE AREA. THE DAM WAS AN IMMEDIATE ECONOMICAL BOOST TO THE AREA AS HOMES AND INDUSTRY BUILDING INCREASED. TODAY THE STATION STILL CONTRIBUTES TO DUKE ENERGY ELECTRICAL SUPPLY CAPABILITIES AND HELPS MANAGE THE WATER FLOW, PREVENTING FLOODS. THE LAKE IT FORMS PROVIDES SOME OF THE FINEST DRINKING WATER IN THE STATE.

SITE#5: FLAT ROCK CEMETERY: ONCE PART MOUNTAIN ISLAND CHURCH AT TATES' FACTORY WAS AN EARLY AREA LAND MARK. THE CHURCH IS NO LONGER STANDING. THE LAST TIME I {EDWARD LEROY COX} SAW THE BUILDING, IT WAS FALLING IN. WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE PLANKS WAS IN SHATTERED PIECES OUTSIDE IN THE YARD. THE CEMETERY HAS REMAINED INTACT AND IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS. THE OLD CEMETERY, FIRST CALLED MOUNTAIN ISLAND CEMETERY ACCORDING TO TERRY WALDROP LOCAL CEMETERY EXPERT, IS LOCATED ON THE ADJACENT PROPERTY NORTH OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY DEPARTMENT. THE CEMETERY IS BORDERED WITH STONE POST AND CABLE FENCING. THE NEW CEMETERY IS LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE OLD CEMETERY AND BORDERS THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND HIGHWAY. BOTH ARE WELL MAINTAINED AND CONTAIN CIVIL, AND OTHER WAR VETERANS.

SITE#6 THE FARRAR FAMILY GENERAL STORE IS THE OLDEST STILL INTACT OF ITS KIND IN THE AREA. THE STORE'S FRONT CALLS TO MIND AN OLD SALOON OF THE OLD WEST, BECAUSE OF ITS ROLLING ROOFLINE AND DOUBLE DOORS. THE STORE STILL HAS TWO LARGE WAREHOUSES ONSITE WITH THE STORE. DORIS COX FARRAR IS CURRENT OWNER AND MAINTAINS THE SITE. THE SMALL COMMUNITY THAT WAS BEHIND THE STORE WAS CALLED FARRAR TOWN. ONLY ONE OF THE SHOT-GUN STYLE RESIDENCES REMAINS, IT IS PRESERVED IN GREAT CONDITION. THE STORE'S MOST FAMOUS ITEMS FOR SALE WERE ITS JACKS {MULES}. THE ADVERTISEMENT POSTER, WHICH THE FARRARS HAVE, STATED THEY HAD THE BEST JACKS IN THREE STATES.

SITE#7 SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH IS THE OLDEST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE AS NOTED ON THE STATE HISTORICAL MARKER LOCATED ON SITE CORNER OF SANDY FORD ROAD AND MOUNTAIN ISLAND HIGHWAY. THE SLAVE BALCONY IN THE CHURCH AND MINITURE CATHEDRAL AT THE ALTAR, AS WELL AS THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS OVER THE WINDOWS; ALL TELL OF A DEVOTION TO GOD, BELIEF IN HIS SON, AND THE DESIRE FOR ALL TO POSSESS THE HOLY SPIRIT. MANY OF THE JOHN COX FAMILY ARE BURIED HERE.

SITE#8 HOLLY ROCK, A SMALL HOLLY TREE GROWING ATOP A BOULDER THE SIZE OF A LARGE SUV IS A TESTAMENT TO THE PERSEVERING DETERMINATION OF A HOLLY TREE TO LIVE. THE TREE THAT I {EDWARD LEROY COX} HAVE VISITED FOR OVER FORTY YEARS IS STILL ABOUT THE SAME SIZE. I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST SAW IT, OF COURSE I'M A LOT BIGGER NOW, BUT WITH VERY LITTLE SOIL ON TOP OF THE ROCK AND WATER RUNNING QUICKLY OFF THE ROCK, THE TREE HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB OF STAYING ALIVE. HOLLY ROCK, LOCATED JUST NORTH OF ROGUE RICHARDSONS SWIMMING HOLE. WHICH IS SHOWN ON THE MAP, JUST NORTH OF SIMS' COVE, JUST NORTH OF MOUNTAIN ISLAND DAM.



SITE#9 MOUNTAIN ISLAND FARM; ESTABLISHED BY EDWARD DAVID COX FOR SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY AS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR OVERSIGHT OF THEIR LAND AND FARMS IN THE AREA. THE PROPERTY IS DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL IN THE INTRODUCTORY HISTORY STATEMENT. THE COMPLEX WAS WELL LAID OUT. HAY BARN, MILK BARN, GRAINERY, PIG NURSERY AND LOADING RAMP BUILDING, HOG DIP POOL, POTATOE HOUSE, FOX HOUND HOUSE, SPRING HOUSE, WELL HOUSE, WAREHOUSE, WOODWORK SHOP, THREE BAY GARAGE, TOOL SHED, HOG {KILL, BOIL, SHAVE} BUILDING, BLOOD DRAIN BUILDING, SMOKEHOUSE WITH WALK IN FREEZER, MEAT HOUSE, WOOD HOUSE, MAIN HOUSE AND TENNANT HOUSE. THE LUMBERYARD WAS STOCKED WITH TIMBER FROM LOCAL WOODS AND THE SAWMILL AND WOODWORK SHOP ALL LENT TO THE BUILDING AND MAINTAINING OF THE FARMS. THE BUILDINGS WERE ALL PAINTED RED WITH WHITE TRIM.WHICH JUST HAPPENS TO BE MOUNT HOLLY'S SCHOOL COLORS.

SITE#10; FEATHER CUT STONES ARE AT NUMEROUS SITES ON THE MAP. THEIR NAME COMES FROM THE NORMALLY FINGER SIZE DRILL MARKS, INTO WHICH THE THREE WOODEN FEATHERS WERE INSERTED AND THEN TAPPED ON WITH A HAMMER TO BUST THE ROCK APART.

SITE#11; FOUR FOOT CORNERSTONE; FOUR OF THESE STONES MARK CORNERS OF PROPERTY ON THE MAP. THEY VARY IN SIZE THE LARGEST BEING FOUR FOOT. THESE STONES HAVE THE FEATHER CUT MARK'S MENTIONED IN SITE #10.

SITE#12 HANGING-TREE; NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE, THE SPOT IS LOCATED AT A SITE WHERE ROCK WAS CUT OUT OF BOULDERS ALONG THE ROAD. THE SPOT IS BETWEEN MOUNTAIN ISLAND ROAD AND THE RAILROAD TRACK.

SITE#13 ROCK CRUSHER; THE CRUSHER WAS LOCATED ACROSS THE ROAD FROM HANGING TREE AND WAS THE SITE WHERE THE FEATHERCUT STONE FROM THE AREA WAS BROUGHT FOR CRUSHING TO FORM THE MATERIAL TO BUILD THE LOCAL ROAD.

SITE#14 FIRST AREA BLACK SCHOOL; IT WAS LOCATED ALONG AN OLD ROADBED. THE ROAD BEGAN AT THE COX LAKE ROAD INTERSECTION WITH WHAT IS NOW LUCIA RIVERBEND HIGHWAY. THE ROAD RAN THRU WHAT IS NOW WOODS AND SWAMP INTERSECTING WITH WHAT IS NOW MOUNTAIN ISLAND HIGHWAY. THE ROAD IS NOW OVERGROWN BUT THE SCHOOLS' FOUNDATION STONES ARE STILL VISIBLE AND GIVE AN IDEA OF THE SIZE OF THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL. THE CHINNEY BRICKS ARE IN AN OVERGROWN MOUND OF MOSS AND LEAVES AND WERE PROBABLY FORMED ON SITE, AS WAS THE TREND IN THE ERA. A RIVER BEECH TREE WITH SMOOTH BARK WAS CARVED WITH TWENTY OR SO NAMES OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE. THIS TREE WAS CUT DOWN WHEN DUKE POWER CUT THE TIMBER OFF THE PROPERTY. THE TREE WAS JUST OFF THE ROAD SOUTH OF THE SCHOOL AND I'VE NEVER SEEN NAMES CUT SO CLEAR AND STAY SO WELL PRESERVED. THERE ARE MANY NAMES CARVED IN TREES IN THE AREA. MOST CARVING CRACK AND DISFIGURE OVER THE YEARS. THESE WERE OLD BUT NOT CRACKED OR DIS FIGURED. I WISH NOW I WOULD HAVE HAD THE FORSIGHT TO RECORD THEM. I WENT LOOKING FOR THE TREE AFTER THE TIMBER WAS CUT, BUT ALAS JUST AS ALL THIS HISTORY, UNLESS RECORDED WILL DO, THE TREE WAS LOST. THE FIRST RECORDED WHITE SCHOOL IN THE MAP AREA WAS IN RIVERBEND AND WAS DONATED BY THE RIVERBEND METHODIST CHURCH TO SCHOOL DISTRICT 31 ON JANUARY 19, 1884.

SITE#15 THE ROCKWALL; THE WALL RUNS ALONG THE OLD ROADBED MENTIONED IN SITE #14, THE FIRST BLACK SCHOOL. THIS ROCKWALL WAS BUILT TO STABILIZE THE ROADBED PAST THE SWAMP AND WASHES. ITS LENGTH IS NOT A CONTINUOUS RUN. THE WALL WAS CONSTRUCTED AS NEEDED ALONG THE ROAD AND IT EXIST EAST AND WEST OF MOUNTAIN ISLAND HIGHWAY. THE OLD ROAD WAY WENT TOWARD THE RIVER JUST PAST THE OLD SCHOOL THEN AND THEN FORKED. EAST TOWARD ABERNATHY FERRY LATER SOLD TO ROZZELLES AND SOUTH TOWARD TUCKASEGEE FORD.

SITE#16 HAND DUG WELL FULLY LINED WITH SMOOTH WHITE RIVER-ROCK. LOCATED IN THE WOODS ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF MOUNTAIN ISLAND HIGHWAY. A STREAM CALLED THE LITTLE DUTCHMAN RUNS BY JUST DOWN THE HILL FROM THIS WELL. THE ONLY BUILDING LEFT STANDING HERE AT THE MOORE HOME STAR D ON THE MAP, IS THE CORNCRIB, WHICH CONTAINS AN OLD TRIPOD FOR WEIGHING COTTON BALES. THE FLOOR IS LITTERED WITH COLORFUL PILES OF OLD SHOES FROM THE ERA.

SITE#17 SAND PIT; ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND HIGHWAY IN FRONT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY DEPARTMENT A DIRT ROAD LEADS DOWN TO AN AREA MADE UP OF SAND AND PIT GRAVEL. THIS AREA WAS USED TO FURNISH THESE BUILDING MATERIALS. THE AREA WAS ALSO USED AS A FIRING RANGE DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

SITE#18 CEMETERY CONTAINING REVEREND WILLIAMS, HIS WIFE AND THIRTY-EIGHT CHILDREN THEY WERE CARING FOR DURING AN EPIDEMIC IN 1918. ALL DIED FROM WHAT WAS SAID TO BE SWINE FLU. REVEREND WILLIAMS AND HIS WIFES' GRAVES ARE MARKED WITH MANUFACTURED ENGRAVED STONES. ALL THE CHILDRENS GRAVES ARE FIELDSTONES, MOSTLY QUARTZ. THE GRAVES HAVE ALL SUNKEN IN AND ARE OVERGROWN. THE SITE IS JUST ACROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS FROM THE NEW NATIONAL GYSUM WALLBOARD PLANT.

SITE #19 BLAST CRATER; PROBABLY AN OLD GOLD MINE THE SITE IS SURROUNDED BY A QUARTZ FIELD. IT IS FUNNEL SHAPED AND IS TWENTY FEET WIDE TEN FEET DEEP. A LARGE QUARTZ BOULDER SITS AT THE BASE OF THE CRATER WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE WOODS IN FRONT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY DEPARTMENT.

SITE#20 DUKE POWER FIELD OFFICE; THE HOUSE WAS ONE OF DUKE POWERS OLD FARMHOUSES. THE HOUSE WAS PAINTED DARK BROWN AND REMODELED WITH KNOTTY PINE TONGUE AND GROOVE PLANKS ON THE WALLS AND FLOORS. LANDSCAPED WITH ROSES AND AZALEAS, AND A DOUBLE CIRCLE DRIVE, THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE CREATED WAS BEAUTIFUL. CHARLIE THOMAS COX PLACED THE OFFICE INTO SERVICE AS THE FIELD OFFICE FOR DUKES LAND AGENT AND CREWS. ROWS OF WHITE PINE BEHIND A PLANK FENCE LED TO THE POWERLINE, WHERE THE WESTWARD VIEW OF SPENCER MOUNTAIN IS SPECTACULAR, ESPECIALLY AT SUNSET.

SITE #21 SPENCER MOUNTAIN VIEW; AS MENTIONED IN SITE# 20, THE VIEW DOWN THIS POWER LINE IS WORTH THE STOP ESPECIALLY AT SUNSET WHEN THE ADDITION OF A FEW CLOUDS CAN FLOOD THE WESTERN SKY AROUND THE MOUNTAIN WITH MAGNIFICENT SHADES OF PURPLE, PINK, RED, GREEN, YELLOW AND BLUE.

SITE#22 BEST VIEW HILL IS LOCATED ON A HILL EAST OF THE MOUNTAIN ISLAND DAM. THE HILL IS ON THE MECKLENBURG SIDE OF THE DAM. THE BEAUTIFUL VIEW IS THAT OF THE CATAWBA AS IT HEADS SOUTH DOWN PAST MOUNT HOLLY TOWARD BELMONT. THE STEEPLES SPIRES OF THE ABBEY CATHEDRAL ARE REACHING TOWARD THE HEAVENS. SPENCER MOUNTAIN AND CROWDERS MOUNTAIN ALSO ARE IN THE VIEW. BOTH OF MOUNT HOLLY TALL BALL SHAPED WATER TOWERS CAN BE SEEN FROM HERE ALSO. I DISCOVERED THIS VIEW WHEN LEADING A FIRE FIGHTING TEAM INTO A WOODS FIRE I SPOTTED WHILE TRAVELING ACROSS THE ROZZELLES FERRY BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 16. MY FATHER CHARLIE THOMAS COX STATED THIS HILL WAS IN FACT DUKE LAND AND THAT THE HILL WAS ONE OF GRANDPA EDWARD DAVID COXS' FAVORITE FOX HUNTING SITES. THE HILL IS NOW SURROUNDED BY HOMES IN THE MOUNTAIN ISLE COMMUNITY, BUT THE VIEW IS UNOBSTRUCTED FROM THE POWERLINE HILLTOP.

STAR A POSITION; MOORE FAMILY HOME; RUINS, STANDING CORNCRIB AND ROCK LINED WELL

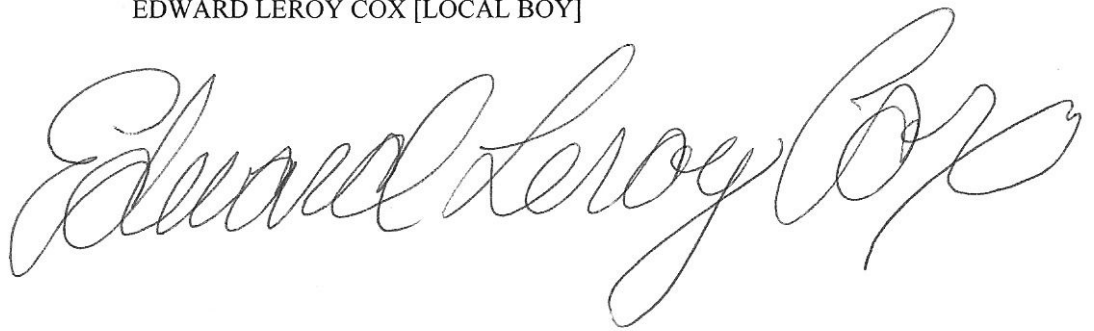
STAR B POSITION; ANOTHER MOORE FAMILY HOME; RUINS AND 12"PIPE WELL PLUGGED WITH TIMBER

STAR C POSITION; JOHN CARTER HOME; RUINS, DISCOVERED STEEL AXLE FROM CARRIAGE AT THIS SITE.

STAR D POSITION; ABERNATHY HOME [OWNER OF ABERNATHY FERRY} LATER SOLD TO ROZZELLES, THE FERRYS' BEST KNOWN OWNERS. THE ABERNATHY AND CANSLER GRAVESITE IS LOCATED ACROSS THE HORSESHOEBEND ROAD FROM THE ENTRANCE TO STONEWATER BAY DEVELOPMENT. THE ASH PIT FOR RIVERBEND STEAM STATION IS BEHIND THE GRAVESITE. THE RIVERBEND EPISCOPAL METHODIST CHURCH, FORMED ON JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> 1883, WAS LOCATED AT THIS SITE. THE CHURCH GAVE THE SCHOOL BUILDING WHICH WAS LOCATED ON CHURCH PROPERTY TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT 31 FOR A WHITE SCHOOL ON JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> 1884. THE CHURCH PROPERTY WAS SOLD MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> 1928 TO DUKE POWER FOR EQUAL AMOUNT OF LAND AND 1,000 THOUSAND DOLLARS. DUKE THEN BUILT A VILLAGE FOR ITS WORKERS AT THE NEW RIVERBEND STEAM PLANT. SERVICES WERE HELD IN THE COMMISARY AT THE RIVERBEND DUKE POWER VILLAGE UNTIL 1947, WHEN A NEW CHURCH BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED AT THE ENTRANCE TO HORSHOEBEND ROAD. THE CHURCH HAS NOW BEEN SOLD AND IS PRESENTLY A CATHOLIC CHURCH. THE RIVERBEND METHODIST CONGREGATION JOINED WITH SNOWHILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LOCATED IN LUCIA BESIDE THE ONE TIME LUCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. TOGETHER THEY FORMED THE NEW COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CONSTRUCTED A NEW CHURCH BUILDING ON THE BARKER PROPERTY ON JUNE 18, 1995, JUST SOUTH OF THE OLD LUCIA FIRE DEPARTMENT. LUCIA /RIVERBEND FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS NOW REPLACED THIS STATION. THE NEW FACILITY IS LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF OLD WAGON ROAD, WHICH WAS THE MAIN ROUTE THROUGH THE AREA THE ROAD CROSSED THE RIVER AT ALLISONS FERRY, OFF NECK ROAD IN MECKLENBURG. THE ROAD THEN HEADED SOUTHWEST TOWARD THE FIRST BLACK SCHOOL ITEM #14.

THE HISTORY CONTINUES AND THIS PAPER JUST SCRATCHES THE SURFACE, BUT HOPEFULLY OTHERS WILL ADD MORE OR CORRECT ME ON FACTS. I HOPE I HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE LOVE MY FAMILY FEELS FOR THIS LAND, TREES, ROCKS, BRANCHES, RIVER, CHURCHES AND AGAIN MOST OF ALL GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. PRAISE THE LORD JESUS FOR THE FAMILY I HAVE, THE PLACE I LIVE, AND ALL MY FRIENDS. TO ALL WHO MOVED HERE OR JUST COME TO VISIT. THIS PLACE IS A GIFT FROM GOD ENJOY AND BE THANKFUL.

EDWARD LEROY COX [LOCAL BOY]

A large, cursive handwritten signature of Edward Leroy Cox, written in black ink. The signature is highly stylized and fluid, with long, sweeping lines and a prominent 'C' at the end.