

Cross

A Berkeley County Rural CommUNITY



A Historical Booklet by:
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CROSS
A BERKELEY COUNTY RURAL
COMMUNITY

IN MEMORIAM: NATHAN SMALLS



Mr. Nathan Smalls served as Principal of Poplar Hill Elementary (1955-1968), Assistant Area Superintendent (1968-1970), Associate Superintendent for Pupil Services (1970-1976), and Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services (1976-1991) during the challenging transition years of racial integration and consolidation of the Cross schools. The image is taken from "Crossopodia," the 1970 Cross High School Annual.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Willis Sanders shares his painted renderings of the Cross Community. Widely respected, he imprints the love and spirit of the Cross Community in his art and nestles it within a Berkeley County embrace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

History records division and unity. We have been witnesses to both in the Cross Community. We hope our small contributions to its story help show others that unity is possible and worth the efforts necessary to attain it. Had it not been for the help of others, our parts of the story would not have been as complete. We extend our deepest appreciation to the following people:

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FORWARD

Tourism and marketing studies consistently find that heritage and history attract visitors, home buyers, and investors to growing communities. History impacts the self-perceptions of a place and are the first interests of tourists. A thorough study conducted for the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism found that the most important criteria for visitors to South Carolina included interest in history.¹

In Berkeley County, we often miss opportunities to tell our story to residents and visitors. Thus, we should develop strategies that take advantage of this untapped resource. Strategies could include the establishment of a historic commission comprised of interested citizens to oversee the maintenance of a historic web page, and other media releases recalling significant Berkeley County events and contributions. The commission could design and erect historic markers indicating to all that they are experiencing a historically important part of South Carolina and the Nation. Initiatives to share and explain the community's long and rich heritage could find a marketable brand for the home-place, such as Berkeley County, Cradle of the Deep South. The County leadership should develop strategic initiatives for enjoying local history and reaping its benefits.

Unfortunately, few understand the long-muted story of the idyllic Cross Community. Thus, this exploration is an initiative to help Berkeley County residents and visitors understand, appreciate and benefit from its compelling past. We hope this rendering will make the Berkeley County story more complete by inspiring those who built and protect it today and tomorrow. But mostly this work is a labor of love.

¹ Trinkley, Michael, Director of Chicora Foundation, Inc. Lexington County, South Carolina, 1992.

CROSS

THE PEOPLE AND THE PLACE



South Carolina Road Map (left), 2020.

Cross is an unincorporated community in rural northwestern Berkeley County, South Carolina, with the 29436 zip code and 843/854 telephone prefixes. It is indicated near the center of the upper left quadrant of the above map between Lakes Marion and Moultrie, at the junctions of South Carolina Highways 6, 311, and 45. According to the 2020 Census, the population of roughly 4,500 residents live within an 81 square mile expanse identified as “Cross.” The residents are 56% African American, 41% European American, and 3% other genetic groups. The census record identifies the canal between lakes Marion and Moultrie as the northern boundary of

Cross. The census also identifies Holly Hill as the western boundary, and the Moncks Corner and Ridgeville census zones designate the southern boundary.

Cross endures a crime index below national averages, making it a safer place to raise a family. Merely 17% of the residents have less than a high school diploma, and 19% have completed post-secondary programs. The median age is 43, and the average income of \$40,000 allows most to own their homes. Due to increased residential, commercial, and industrial expansion in greater Berkeley County, the demographics of the Cross Community are rapidly increasing.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Carolyn Myers-Gillens, Ed.D., was raised in the Hussertown community of South Carolina. She received a Doctorate in Education Administration and is a retired school administrator of the Berkeley County School District.

Multi-talented, Carolyn Myers-Gillens (left) is a highly respected member of the Greater Cross community where she attended grammar and secondary school and persists today as a dynamic communal personality. She blesses many as a mother and grandmother and ardent community servant.



Michael James Heitzler, Ed.D. (right), earned a Doctor of Education Degree and is a Fulbright Scholar. He is a retired school administrator of the Berkeley School District and served as Mayor of the City of Goose Creek. He is the author of many books and articles rediscovering Berkeley County.

Michael J. Heitzler, Ed.D. (right), persists as a long time Berkeley County historian who is determined to tell its vibrant tales.



Willis Sanders, Ed.S., was born in the “HeArt” of the Cross Community. He received prestigious graduate degrees and served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent in the Berkeley County School District. He currently serves on the Berkeley Electric Cooperative, the Kennedy Center Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Sheriff Advisory Boards. He consistently models his motto: “Sharing Time, Talents and Treasures is the HeArt of a PurposeFUL Life.”

Willis Sanders' (left) dream of becoming an artist began while working in his parents' farm and grocery store in Cross. He drew figures on paper bags, replicating scenes from Norman Rockwell calendars, as well as memories of visits to nearby communities. The inclusion of the Cross and Heart on his “HeArt” series persists as a virtual reminder of his dynamic personality.



Salley Jo Eisenstein Dupree, MA+30, attended Cross Schools where her father served as the first permanent band director and, later, the principal of Cross High. Her teaching career commenced at Cross Elementary School and concluded at the Berkeley County School District Office. The Cross community continues to inspire her and provide her with fond memories and lifelong fellowships.

Salley Jo Eisenstein Dupree (left) is a reliable contributor to her beloved Berkeley County.

PIONEERS AT THE CROSS-ROADS

Pioneers from Africa and Europe dropped anchor off the Carolina coast in 1670. That crowded sailing ship with immigrants, slaves, and crewmen hailed from England by way of Barbados, an island in the Caribbean. The seafarers on that first ship, as well as immigrants arriving in subsequent months and years, pushed inland from the briny soils of the Charles Towne [Charleston] Peninsula to find fresh waters and arable land spanning, “A Broad, Stately Creeke [sic]....²” Subsequent arrivals named that waterway “Goose Creek” and pursued grants for land aside its winding shores.

Subsequent arrivals trekked inland from the Goose Creek waterway in pursuit of planting grounds that “lay near the head of a branch of a creek ... Oola Col [Back River].”³ There, on the fresh headwaters of Back River, more than twenty miles inland from Charles Town, determined families erected cabins, planted subsistence crops, and settled along the “Cherokee Trail” that reached from Back River into the ever-expanding frontier.

2 John Culpeper, Draught of Ashley River, 1671, notes “A Broad Stately Creeke [sic] [Goose Creek] that Runs many miles into the Country.” Among the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS), Vol. 5. Charleston, South Carolina.

3 Henry A.M. Smith, Smith Papers, Number 1102, p. 379, among the collections of the SCHS. Oola Col is likely the Native American name for Back River.

With the absence of wagon roads and reliable paths, the early pioneers obtained pack horses to carry essential trade items. At first, they trudged north to avoid the impenetrable Wassamassaw Swamp and followed faint foot falls along the “Cherokee Trail,” beyond Goose Creek, Back River, and further, to the headwaters of the Santee River.⁴ Pack horse traders typically led their horses twenty miles a day with more than one hundred pounds of trade goods strapped on the back of each beast of burden.

As native trade returned profits, a rutted pack horse road from Charleston accessed the emerging homesteads prompting “taverns” to emerge every few miles. Taverns were identified according to their distance from Charleston. Thus, the “18-Mile Tavern” stood near the Goose Creek Bridge approximately eighteen miles from Charleston. Typically, taverns provided trading opportunities, grazing grounds to accommodate the packhorses and other livestock, camping grounds where the traders rested in groups for common defense, and plenty of soup and beans for a penny or so to sate their hunger.

4 Journal of the Road from Charles Town [1730], “George Hunter’s Replicated Notes from the left margin of John Herbert’s Map.” See the appendix for the recording of the entire 726-mile pack horse journey into the frontier and back via the Cherokee Path.



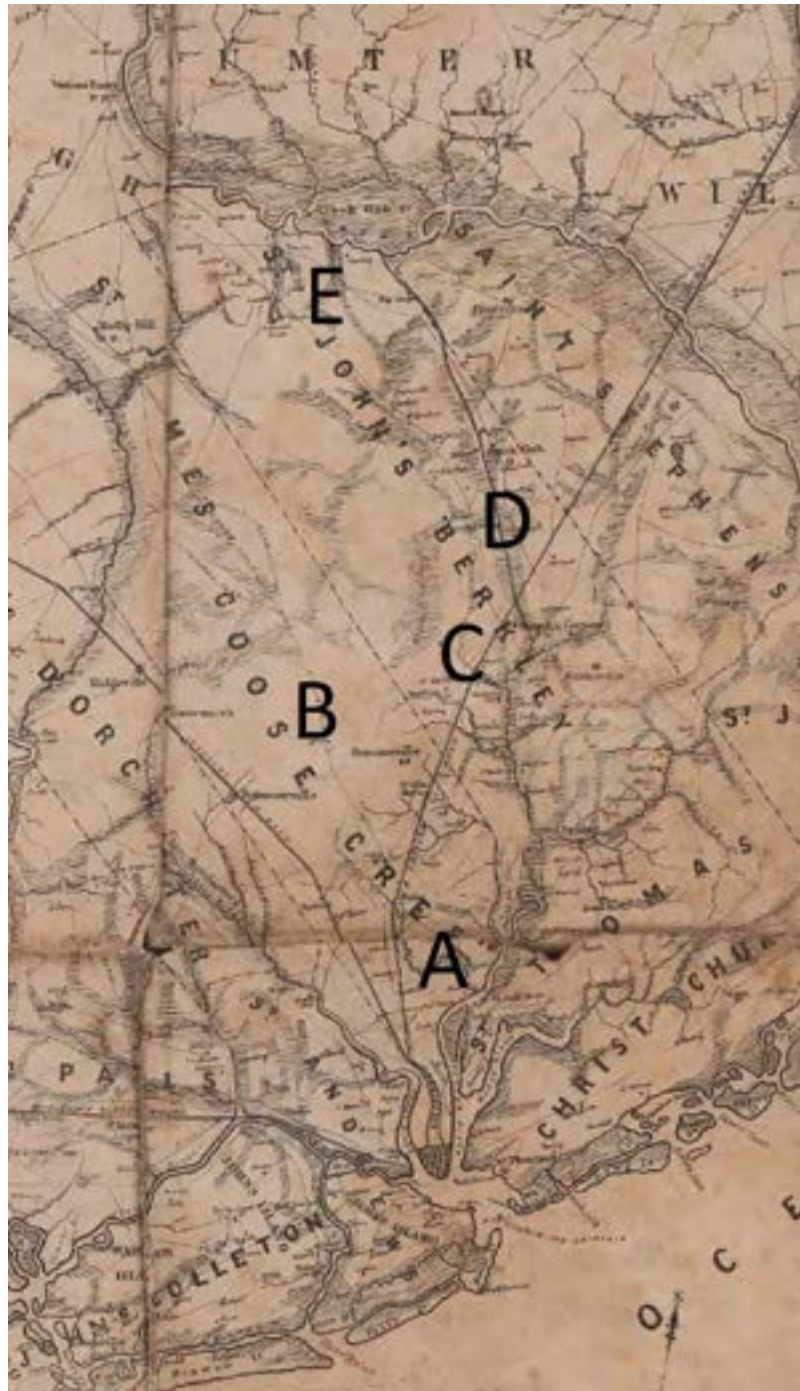
European-American packhorse traders coveted deer skins (above) obtained from Native Americans. Deerskins were cured to produce buckskin, as well as chamois cloth for sewing gloves, bookbinding, shoes, boots, jackets, coats, and much more for sale in Europe.



Goose Creek resident Tony Young drew this rendering of George Chicken (right), a successful planter in the Back River headwaters. The South Carolina Governor appointed George Chicken to serve as the Native American Commissioner and owner of the sole native trade center at the front door of the Cherokee Path that eventually led to the Cross Community.

The 22- and 23-Mile Taverns stood at the headwaters of Back River, and one more day's trek carried the traders to the 45-Mile Tavern along the native trail that led further west beyond the Wassamassaw headwaters. Thus, the pack horse traders trudged along the many Santee River streams until they turned their backs to that impenetrable watershed and led their pack horses further west by way of the Cherokee Trail in pursuit of profitable native tribes.⁵ As the 19th century dawned, determined pioneers, with their enslaved Africans, acquired property along the Cherokee Trail and beside the Santee River headwaters where the Cross and other families eventually settled.

⁵ The Indian Frontier in South Carolina as seen by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (S.P.G.), Frank J. Klingberg in the *Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (Nov., 1939), pp. 479-500, published by: Southern Historical Association Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2191829> Accessed: 15/04/2010 21:56



A section of the 1825 Mills Atlas (Above) is noted with alphabet letters for this publication to identify early European/African American communities. A: identifies the Goose Creek watershed where the first European and African immigrants settled. B: identifies the Cypress and Wassamassaw Swamps that prevented westward movement for more than a century. C: identifies Back River and its headwaters, with abundant fresh water and arable lands. D: identifies the Cherokee Trail. E: Identifies the headwaters of the Santee River, where the Cross Community emerged.



This detail of the 1825 Mills Atlas (above) shows the northwestern section of Berkeley County and notes families who settled there prior to the arrival of the Cross clan. Some of the earliest communities on the Santee River and its head waters included French Protestants, such as those named Porcher, Dubose, Ravenel, and Devaux. The red arrow and star added to this map at the lower left margin identifies the

45-Mile House Tavern (AKA Barnet's Tavern) alongside the Cherokee Trail at the bottom left margin. See the historic marker message in the appendices section of this work. Less than another day's march west from the 45-Mile House Tavern arose the Cross Community.

WASSAMASSAW WAS THE WAY

Native Americans traded animal furs and skins to the pack horse traders in exchange for imported manufactured items. Many traded at the 45-Mile Tavern on the Cherokee Trail, exchanging items such as shot, muskets, gunpowder, looking glasses, colored beads, axes, hoes, hatchets, cotton cloth, and whiskey for deer and other animal hides. An increasing number of European farmers produced items for native trade such as staves, shingles, beef, pork, rice, peas, corn, and leather from their tanning vats. However, the turbulent Yamasee Native American War of 1715, imbedded great distrust between the Native Americans and the European and African families, which greatly hindered business interactions. Greater angst reigned forty years hence when the so-called French and Indian War (1754-1763) terrorized all the thirteen colonies and greatly suppressed the number of adventuresome families willing to settle in the native territories where the Cross Community later emerged.

Government agents eventually enforced peace with the Native Americans after many frightful encounters. Militias stabilized the Santee River region and encouraged newly arrived families to shore up against the threatening uncertainties. It was during these years of transition that dozens of ambitious households sought precious farmlands along the route reaching to the Santee headwaters, as well as to Eutaw Springs, and farther northwest. The Forty-Five Mile Tavern accommodated pack horse travelers through the ancient Cherokee Trail, but the infant State of South Carolina soon forged a wagon trail many called the “Wassamassaw Road” that became the most reliable passage to and from Charlestown for Cross and other pioneer families during the early 19th century.⁶

⁶ Today, South Carolina State Highway Six follows the earlier roadway from Moncks Corner to the Santee headwaters where it turns west toward Holly Hill.



The impenetrable Wassamassaw Swamp (above) prevented all but the most determined and capable foot travelers from pursuing a western passage into the frontier.



The detail of the map (above) shows the western extent of the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, near the time of the American Revolution. Dean Swamp flowed west into Saint George/Dorchester while Wassamassaw Swamp reached across the St. James, Goose Creek Parish, preventing western passage.

After the War for Independence, the infant South Carolina State Government envisioned a reliable wagon road crossing the wetlands with multiple bridges to convey products by wagon from the northwestern part of the State to Charleston.⁷ It was the first State funded road in Carolina and it directly impacted the settlers along the Santee River who floated market items on flat-bottomed boats via the Santee River into the unpredictable Atlantic Ocean and farther to Charleston. Other families farther inland persistently negotiated the Cherokee Trail with pack horses and unreliable wagon trails, but the new roadway was envisioned to accommodate the families in the emerging Cross Community.

Levy F. Rhame, Chairman of the South Carolina Road Commission, and thirty-eight farmers signed a petition requesting that the new State improve the principal road to better connect the farms to the Charleston markets. The petition described the land on the East side of Wassamassaw “an uncultivated waste.”⁸ Nonetheless, it was an essential route to the Charleston markets. More tracts opened as refuge for families fleeing malaria and soil exhaustion

7 U.S. Route 176 runs 237.98 miles from Hendersonville, North Carolina, to US 52 in Goose Creek, South Carolina, via Spartanburg and Columbia, South Carolina, and parallels Interstate 26 (I-26) most of the distance.

8 Citizens of St. Johns, Berkeley, and St. James, Goose Creek, Parishes, living on Wassamassaw Swamp, petition for a charter for a road from Baylor’s Residence on the east side of Wassamassaw Swamp to Mr. Dehay’s Residence in St. James, Goose Creek. General Assembly Petition S165015, ND no. 2704, frames 492-495.

in the eastern section, and because of the loss of British world-wide markets, profit margins wrought from slave labor sharply declined, requiring families to travel into unclaimed lands with fewer bound souls.

The State public works project created a series of bridges and embankments traversing across the thirty-five-mile-long parish. Nearest to Charleston, a bold covered “Goose Creek Bridge” reached 200 feet over thick beams anchored at both ends by large brick abutments. That sturdy backbone supported heavy wooden risers “in the middle,” to prevent swaying in high winds, and featured “the best cypress shingles.”⁹ At Wassamassaw, a longer 300-foot conveyance of “heavy bridging” and “a much greater distance of embankments” traversed the quarter mile-wide swamp because those swamps were “utterly impassable without regular bridge maintenance.” Finally, another 1,197 feet of wooden passages, “corduroy bridging,”¹⁰ traversed the bogs and runs in the farthest reaches of the parish and within range of the Cross families arriving at the Santee headwaters with many other optimistic settlers.¹¹

9 Petition of John F. Poppenheim, Charleston Road Commissioner for St. James, Goose Creek asking to be allowed to establish toll gates on the old State Road. South Carolina State Archives S1655015, General Assembly Petitions, 1865, number 29, St. James, Goose Creek.

10 “Corduroy roads” traversed wet areas with a timber trackway made by placing logs, perpendicular to the road, over a low and swampy area.

11 Report of the Road Commission to examine Vances Ferry, South Carolina General Assembly Miscellaneous Communications, no. 13, 1851.

JOHN CROSS AND HIS NEIGHBORS

“Cross” was the surname of a rural family that greatly improved farmlands beside Santee headwaters shortly after the advent of the 19th century. An identifiable “Cross” community emerged aside many other families, including those whose last names were Austin, Grooms, McCants, Winningham, Droze, DeHay, Bradwell, and Livingston.¹²

12 South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS), “The Cross Family biographies and records,” SCHS 491.00. Cross family research files. Cross Brothers records, 1892-1952, 491.

The community’s name was implanted after John Cross purchased 500 acres of farmland from the Austin, Winningham, and McCants families in 1844. Soon after, he added more tracts from the Livingston and Droze households to assemble one of the largest and most productive home places in the upper Santee basin.¹³

13 Cross Family biographies. South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS), “The Cross Family biographies and records,” SCHS 491.00.



A section of the Gaillard Map (left) defines selected properties in northern Berkeley County. Six tracks are identified as “Cross” properties. This detail indicates where the Cross Community emerged early in the 19th century.¹⁴

14 John Palmer Gaillard (1874-1962) partnered with his son William Lucas Gaillard (1912-2001) in the firm of Gaillard & Gaillard Surveyors.

An arrow added to a detail of the Gaillard Map (right) marks the Cross neighborhood abutting the future Lake Moultrie.



Throughout the mid-nineteenth century, John Cross excelled as a community leader. He exemplified and widely shared many successful agricultural practices with his neighbors. Consequently, many recognized him as the community leader, and he soon emerged the leader of the Black Oak Agricultural Society, where he received a medal for his successful experimentation with agricultural lime fertilizer. Soon after, he was awarded a silver cup for a bay stallion that he successfully raised to champion size and speed.¹⁵

John Cross, a popular and skilled family man, taught his son, Adam the essentials for success as a business manager. He taught his grandson J. Pressley Cross (born 1877), as well, and once took him to the fair arranged by the Black Oak Agricultural Society.¹⁶ There, the child was particularly impressed by the large pits where an entire ox was butchered, barbecued, and consumed by the participants for days.¹⁷

15 Maxwell Clayton Orvin, *Historic Berkeley County, 1671-1900*, Comprint, 1973. p. 160.

16 T. Gaillard Thomas, M.D., *A Contribution to the History of the Huguenots of South Carolina*, New York, 1972, The R. L. Bryan Company, Address Gentleman of the Black Oak Agricultural Society, p. 3.

17 Assistant Superintendent, J. Russell Cross interview with author Michael J. Heitzler, at the Berkeley School District, May, 1984. Cross, p. 81.

As the 19th century progressed, more planters near the Wassamassaw Swamp, such as in Lebanon, Sandridge, and Cross, traveled in wagon caravans on the long road to Charleston, dominating the byway as they approached the port city. A Charleston tourist in 1818 noted that he “passed an astonishing multitude of wagons with cotton, Warsamsaus [sic] wagons ...for the Charleston market.”¹⁸

John and Adam Cross traveled among the “Warsamsaus [sic]” wagons and returned from Charleston with supplies, such as groceries, dry goods, hardware, building materials, livestock, wagons, plows, seeds, fertilizer, and other farming supplies, for their general merchandise business.¹⁹

The Cross-family store owners were held in such high esteem by both African and European American families that their large farm and store were not defaced by the Army of Northern invaders during the Civil War nor by the freed Africans. While John Cross was away in service with the home guard and Adam, his son, with the Confederate Army in Virginia, the African families hid all the livestock, including the Cross animals, in the swamps as a security measure against the hungry and assertive

18 Abiel Abott Diary, *Travels in South Carolina*, December 8, 1818. Abiel Abbot (August 17, 1770 – June 7, 1828) was a prominent clergyman from Massachusetts.

19 SCHS, Creator: Cross Brothers, owners of General merchandise store located in Upper St. John’s, Berkeley Parish, in Berkeley County, South Carolina.

Union soldiers. Also, the foreman, Henry Brown, a free African, convinced the Union invaders that the Cross home and store belonged to him and, thus, prevented its destruction.

Approximately, 100 farm families remained in the greater Cross Community after the Civil War, and many African Americans lived among them including the Gillians families²⁰. Among other freed African Americans who sought opportunity in Cross was an especially determined young man named Cuffy Campbell. He was especially talented and determined to find his way in the new South.²¹ Cuffy Campbell “grew up” on William Tennent’s plantation on Back River, but when his slave village collapsed in chaos near the end of the Civil War, he followed familiar faces to Charleston where he survived months on the city streets. Someone collected Cuffy, hungry and afraid, from the street and delivered him, with other black boys, to Ladson Train Station and then to a bed at a nearby rising orphanage where he recovered.²² Cuffy Campbell then worked on a road crew for years. He opened a

20 1870 and 1880 Agricultural Census, St. Johns, Berkeley.

21 Heitzler, Michael J., Ed.D., *The Goose Creek Bridge, Gateway to Sacred Places*, Author House, 1666 Liberty Drive, Bloomington, Indiana, p. 231.

22 Lamb Stevens donated some of his land to erect an orphanage for African American boys near the Exchange Park in today’s Ladson Community.

savings account with the Freedmen’s Bank in Charleston where he dutifully deposited pennies and nickels as investments into his vision.²³ He eventually relocated to a parcel of farmland in Cross that he purchased prior to 1880.²⁴

Adam Cross, upon returning from the “Confederate War,” reopened the family store at Moss Grove and because he refused to profit from his neighbors, he earned the reputation of keeping exceedingly reasonable pricing for all goods and services.²⁵ All recognized the Cross family as a significant attribute to the evolving community, especially when innovative Adam Cross expanded and diversified his store with innumerable services, machines and tools, such as a cotton gin, sawmill, grits mill, rice mill, and a turpentine still, all of which were in frequent use at his service center/store.

23 Record of Deposit for Cuffy Campbell, sixteen-year-old resident of Shaw’s Orphan Asylum, account number 2237, 10-9-1868, Records of Deposit, Freedmen’s Bank, Charleston, on microfilm at the Charleston County Library. The records report, “Cuffy Campbell was born in Goose Creek of parents William and Hetty, who brought [him] up at William Tennant’s Place.” Cuffy was among thousands who lost all their savings when the Freedmen’s Bank bankrupted due to mismanagement in 1874.

24 1880 Agricultural Census, St. Johns, Berkeley, South Carolina.

25 Keith Gourdin interview with Russell Cross, Author, Historian and Cross family patriarch in May, 1994.

John Cross built the “Moss Grove” manor house for his son before the advent of the Civil War. After the war, Adam relocated to his prestigious home where he regularly joined with neighbors to celebrate the kindness of his resourceful family.²⁶

The Moss Grove House is known as an “I-house” because of its distinctively rectangular form. It is a two-story structure with a gable roof and a chimney at both ends. The chimney bricks were salvaged from a previous home at Moss Pond that decayed beyond repair. Adam Cross (1844-1906) resided at his Moss Grove home until his death, providing vital services with his many mills and gins.²⁷

²⁶ Cross Brothers records, 1892-1952 (bulk 1915-1940) SCHS 491.00. See appendix for a thorough listing.

²⁷ Adam Cross was the father of Joseph Pressley Cross (1877-1942), Daniel Webster Cross (1873-1944), and John Adam Cross (1869-1911), who was the father of Robert Newton Cross (1897-1965), and Herbert Cross (1899-1982), notary.



Moss Grove Manor House (above) stands stoically today within sight of the main road in Cross. Moss Grove Plantation is one of the more unique properties in Carolina. The plantation was the site of a grist mill, rice mill, sawmill, and a turpentine still where many arrived from far and near via road or water to benefit from the tools and machines. This notable family home is merely a mile from a Lake Moultrie public boat landing.

Many families dined at Moss Grove on “Mill Day” sharing appreciations for the many invaluable services available at the Cross Store. Every person who visited the mills at Adam Cross’s store ate dinner as a guest. The food was grown on the farm where lambs were butchered most Fridays to resupply the table. The house was severely damaged by the Great Earthquake of 1886, but it was rebuilt to remain in the Cross family for seven generations. Mrs. Ethel Cross Langley acquired Moss Grove in 1885.²⁸

Understandably, the Cross store stood as an invaluable icon. In 1879, when the Postal Zone and Post Office were established, Adam was named the first postmaster. Thus, the postal community was called, “Cross Mill.”²⁹ The family influence spread persistently enabling grandson, W.K. Cross, to be elected to the South Carolina General Assembly in 1900.³⁰ Grandson John Cross was elected to serve as a representative in the Republican Party that met at Black Creek Church.³¹ J. P. Cross, D. W. Cross, and S. R. Cross operated the Cross Brothers Mortgage business during

²⁸ Douglas W. Bostick, *Sunken Plantations, The Santee Cooper Project*, The History Press, 2013, p. 65.

²⁹ Orvin, pp. 160 and 161. Adam Cross (1844-1906) was the father of Joseph Pressley Cross (1877-1942), Daniel Webster Cross (1873-1944), and John Adam Cross (1869-1911), who was the father of Robert Newton Cross (1897-1965), and Herbert Cross (1899-1982).

³⁰ Orvin, p. 204.

³¹ J. Russell Cross, *Historic Ramblin’s Through Berkeley*, The R. L. Bryan Company, 1985, p.245.

the 1920s and 1930s.³² They also operated a cotton ginning operation, and a tobacco company.³³ The Cross Brothers contracted mortgage loans against crops, livestock, and farm equipment, and the farmers seemed to have little problems paying the debts because they “made excellent” crops near the turn of the twentieth century. The typical Cross landowner produced a plentiful supply of “home cured meat,” and plenty of “banked potatoes.” Additionally,

32 This collection mainly consists of records of a general merchandise business in Cross. On a 1926 mortgage, the names J. P. Cross, D. W. Cross, and S. R. Cross are listed as copartners under the firm name of Cross Brothers. Also see 1880, Agricultural Census for St. Johns, Berkeley, 1880.

33 “Cotton Ginner’s Record Book,” 1918 to 1936, as well as numerous cotton tax exemption certificates, dating 1934 to 1936. Store records include account ledgers (1892-1943), the earliest of which is in the name of “Adam Cross;” records relating to the sales and taxation of tobacco (1920s-1934).

it was widely held that they were “blessed” with thick fields of corn, peas, and sugar cane. However, in 1900 the cotton yield sank notably, and production did not improve until the Charleston phosphate miners and processors, cost-efficiently, transported the lighter and thoroughly processed phosphate fertilizer more than thirty miles from the Charleston processing plants to the Cross farms.³⁴

34 Cross Brothers mortgages (1917-1938), 491.00, SCHS.

HOME PLACE ANTIQUITIES

The Cross area contains two early 19th century plantation homes, both on the National Register of Historic Places, several homes that were built in the 1900s, and memories of cabins once valued. All belonged to members of the early settlers or their offspring. A few are exceedingly attractive with styles that are grandly unique, such as Loch Dhu, Lawson's Pond, and Duck Pond;³⁵ others in disrepair.

35 Stockton, p. 36.

Loch Dhu Plantation



Loch Dhu house (above) is located on Ranger Drive at Country Pond Lane. Most of the plantation's former acreage lies submerged under Lake Moultrie. Loch Dhu is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (<https://www.loc.gov/item/sc0272/>)

Built between 1812 and 1816, the present Loch Dhu Plantation home is located upon a high bluff overlooking Lake Marion. The name Loch Dhu is a Scottish Gaelic term for "Black Lake" because a small, dark, natural spring once flowed near the house but was later washed away by rising lake waters. It was built somewhat differently from most of the houses in the area. It featured a high hipped roof with tall flanking chimneys. The structure is full two stories with the typical arrangement of windows.

After Philip C. Kirk, inherited the 1000 acre estate, he farmed 550 acres of cotton, corn, sweet potatoes and more.³⁶ He served in the South Carolina General Assembly from 1854 to 1864 and worked as a surgeon in the Confederate Army. During the Civil War, Loch Dhu was used as a hospital for wounded Confederate soldiers.³⁷ Dr. Kirk served at the house as a surgeon, and when Union troops arrived to burn the home place, the women caring for the soldiers refused to evacuate. Their stubborn bravery saved the home from destruction. When Lake Marion was constructed, many old plantation homes were lost to the waters, but Loch Dhu remains standing on a slight rise overlooking the expansive waterway.

36 St. Johns, Berkeley County, South Carolina, 1890 Agricultural Census.

37 Bostick, p. 65.

Lawson's Pond



Across present-day Highway 45 and south of Loch Dhu Plantation is Lawson's Pond Plantation house. The land was acquired in 1818 and the home built in 1823. More than 100 slaves there grew and marketed cotton as their principal crop. The estate was willed to Charles Cordes Porcher (1801-1878), son of Philip Porcher of Oldfield in St. Stephen Parish. He built the house as a residence in anticipation of his marriage in 1823 to Rebecca, the oldest daughter of Francis Dwight Marion. The plantation gets its name from a large pond near the Cherokee Path.

Peter and Elizabeth Couturier took possession of Lawson's Pond Plantation in 1880 and the family held it through the twentieth century. Elizabeth Simons, who grew up across the road at Loch Dhu Plantation is a first cousin of the Couturier family. She stated that "the carving at Lawson's Pond is the most beautiful... I have ever seen."³⁸

38 Bostick, p. 59.

Lawson's Pond Plantation (left) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
(<https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.sc0273.photos/?sp=3>)

Duck Pond Manor

Family patriarchs, Elvin and Benjamin Singletary, purchased land near the year 1900 upon which they created an exemplary rural abode. James L. Williams married into the family when he shared vows with Eliza Singletary and resided there until their robust family outgrew it. The Williams then relocated to Duck Pond to accommodate their twelve children. This house passed on to the oldest son, Jerry Williams, who enjoyed it until Hurricane Hugo destroyed the detached kitchen-dining room and porch.

Duck Pond Manor stands high on massive brick pillars bound together by hand-hewn timbers, and wooden pegs. A broad porch expands across the front and east sides of the abode. The house is constructed on a grand scale and is "greatly enriched" from the two matching front doors and "excellent trim" on all the doors, windows, cornices, and mantels. Because no exterior paint was used, weatherboarding gave a fascinating shade that beautifully protects the exterior.

Interesting Vernacular Homes

There are interesting vernacular houses in Cross and its vicinity, including the Robert C. Austin House, the W. W. Peagler House, the A. G. Metts House, the John M. Metts House, and the J. Russell Cross home. Each display practical uses and familial applications.



The Robert C. Austin House (above) was built in 1900. It features a gable roof and an exterior end chimney.



W. W. Peagler, Sr., House (above) built circa 1910 is like the Austin home. Peagler was a farmer and storekeeper with a sawmill and gin.



The A. G. Metts House (above) is a two-story structure that features an interior rear chimney in addition to an exterior one. The house was built in 1900 and moved to its present site near 1941 as Lake Moultrie flooded the area.



The John M. Metts House (above), built in 1900, is another variation of the local theme with one and a half stories and roofed porches on all sides.



Author Carolyn Gillens (above) visited the home of the J. Russell Cross family in 2023.

Cabins of Yesteryear



Cabin, Cross, Berkeley County (above), Historic Buildings Survey, Library of Congress.



Cabin, Cross, Berkeley County (above), Historic Buildings Survey, Library of Congress.

The unidentified cabin (below) on Ranger Drive suggests the presence of a long-standing tenant house.



CHURCHES – OLD AND NEW

The Cross forefathers persisted generationally to instill strong Christian values and ethics. Church attendance, family prayer time, ten commandments, and the many dynamic generational rituals served as the solid foundation for the lifelong growth of the Christian faith in Cross. The church persisted as the place for funerals, weddings, anniversaries, as well as civil and social gatherings. The positive impact on those who grew up in this strong spiritual environment molded the beliefs of most, and that determined belief system continues to be the core of daily living in Cross.

Churches That Arose in the Cross Community:

1770 – log Church of England Chapel of Ease near Forty-five Mile House that became deserted after American Revolution

1800 – Friendship United Methodist, still active

1804* – Rocks Church near Rocks Plantation but moved to Springfield Plantation in 1808; consecrated as The Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal) in 1844; congregation moved in 1942 to its Chapel of Ease in Eutawville, SC, now officially “The Historic Church of The Epiphany, An Anglican Episcopal Congregation”

1810 – Mt. Olivet Baptist, still active

c. 1866 – Black Creek Church no longer active but cemetery still maintained

1874 – Mt. Pisgah AME Church in Pringletown Community, still active (See “Schools” Chapter.)

1876** -- Jerusalem United Methodist Church, built with help from white members of Friendship United Methodist Church with whom they had previously worshiped with Reverend Edwin Washington serving as 1st pastor; only Life Center in Cross located here

1877 – Immanuel Reformed Episcopal Church; Greater St. Paul United Methodist Church, both still active

The Church Act of 1706 established the Church of England (Anglican) as the official, tax-supported religion of the Carolinas. Parishes were created, each to contain a parish church. However, other denominations were represented in St. John’s, Berkeley Parish, such as French Huguenots, Baptists, Methodists, and Episcopalians. Though the Parish system ended in 1868, the original Anglican churches became Episcopal churches after the American Revolution.

1881 – Ebenezer-Zion AME Church, still active (See “Schools” Chapter.)

1887 – Oak Grove United Methodist Church, still active (See “Schools” Chapter.)

1889 – Zion United Methodist Church, still active (See “Schools” Chapter.)

1900s to present – Jehovah AME Church; Poplar Hill Christian Church (See “Schools” Chapter.); St. Matthew AME Church; Unity Baptist Church; Galilee Pentecostal Holiness; Pressley Memorial Church; Antioch Holiness Church; Baha’i Faith, all still active

*When Santee Cooper created Lakes Marion and Moultrie, the only church site and cemetery left above the water line was Rocks Church, which is now referred to as Church Island and only accessible by water. Although the church no longer exists, The Historic Church of the Epiphany conducts an annual pilgrimage to the island to honor those interred there. For more information, contact the church.

**As with the other old churches, Jerusalem UMC started as a brush arbor, later replaced by a wooden structure, and finally replaced with a brick building. It was originally located on the Windsor Plantation in an area called Chapel Hill but had to be relocated in 1941 to Hwy. 6 in Cross due to rising flood waters resulting from the Santee Cooper Lakes Project.

EVERYDAY LIVING AND LOVING

“About 1765-67, Thomas Sumpter... kept a country store near...the fork where the Nelson’s Ferry Road branched off from the Road to the Congarees.”³⁹ Shortly after serving in the Confederate Army, Adam Cross operated a store at his Moss Grove estate. Between the 1920s and 1960s, stores owned by members of Peagler, Singletary, Cross, Orvin, Mitchum, and Causey families served most of the white community, while those owned by Elijah and Dorothy Wright (Wright’s Grocery), Preston and Corean Anderson, Garfield and Earnestine Sanders, and Bob Yeadon served most of the African American neighborhoods. In addition, Culey and Ruth Sanders and Derry and Sibbie Sanders owned and operated Sanders Social Club and Sibbies Sweet Shop, respectively.

It was common for these stores to sell on the credit or “pay later” system. Names and debts were recorded in “The Book.” At the end of the agreed upon day, week, or month, the customer offered partial or full payment and the cycle repeated. Accurate bookkeeping records were kept for stocking, inventory, and customer service. These experiences provided learning opportunities for family members to develop essential math, social, and accounting skills.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Willis Sanders interviews with Sanders family members, June, and July 2023.

The old “Sanders” Grocery Store (below) provided seed, fertilizer, clothes, remedies, farm and garden equipment, gas, kerosene, school items, meat, shoes, and dry goods in addition to food and beverages.

³⁹ Thomas Sumpter’s Store Historical Marker.





J. C. Bradwell Store (above), built circa 1925, is part of an establishment complex which included Bradwell House and two store structures across the street.⁴¹

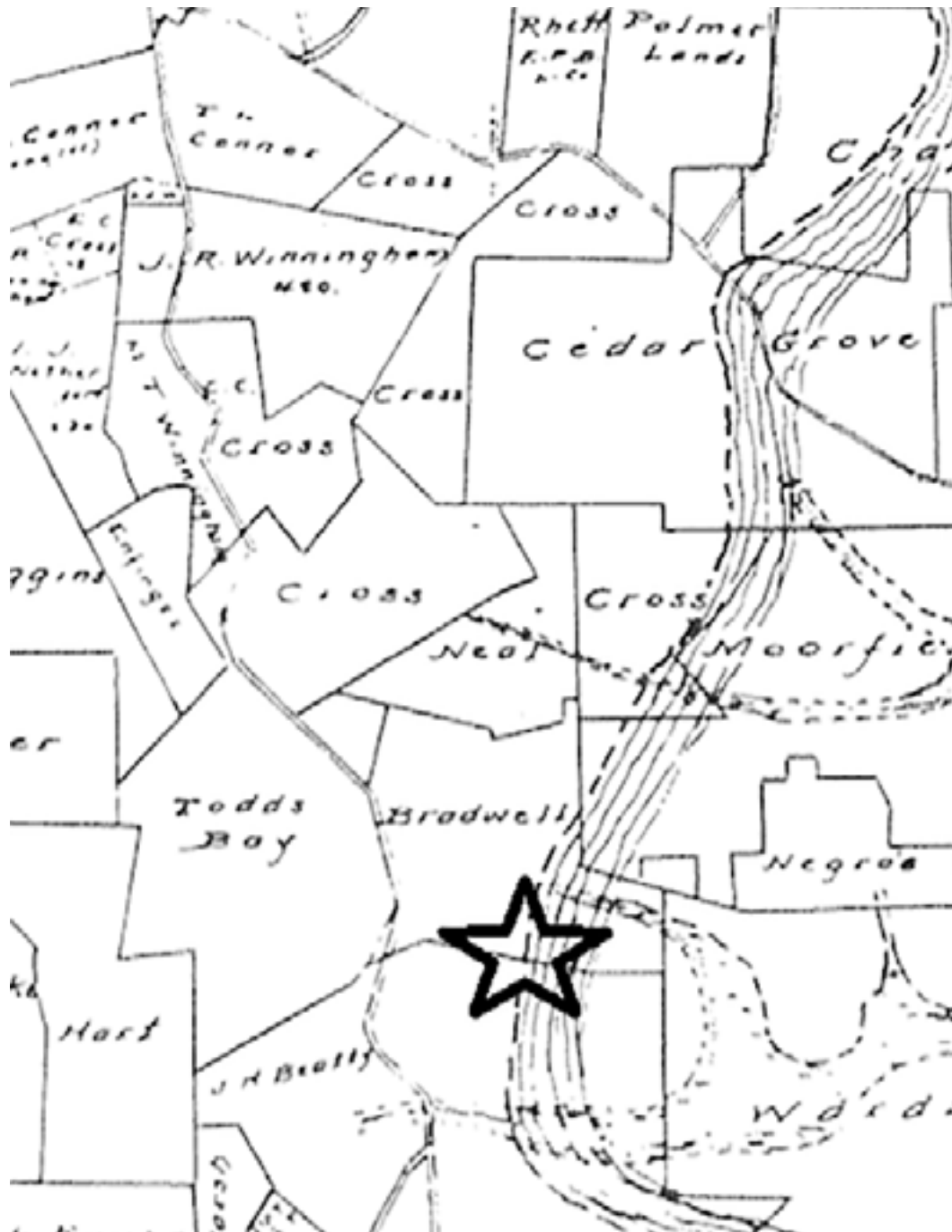
Of all the country stores that ever existed in the Cross community, the Bradwell Store and Mills stands out as the most famous. In 1900, John C. Bradwell opened a general store at Cross, where his business grew so rapidly that he expanded into a larger building with a warehouse and added a sawmill and a cotton gin five years hence. With the later introduction of gas pumps, the Bradwell complex had evolved into a multipurpose shopping center. When six of his sons partnered with him, Mr. Bradwell changed the name of the store to J. C. Bradwell & Sons. After Mr. Bradwell's death in 1916, his sons changed the name of the business to J. C. Bradwell Sons. In

⁴¹ Robert P. Stockton, p.36, 37.

1917, J. C. Bradwell Sons purchased a one-ton truck and soon decided to convert their retail business into a very successful merchandise distribution business serving rural stores in Berkeley and its neighboring counties. Though J. C. Bradwell Sons no longer exists, that decision brought national business attention to the small Cross community, a feat shared by “only three other such businesses like this in the United States”⁴² during that period. At the time of this writing, the old brick building houses “Cross General Store & Ancient Grounds Coffee.”

⁴² J. Russell Cross, *Historic Ramblin's Through Berkeley*, The R. L. Bryan Company, 1985, 301.

NOTE: To view the J. C. Bradwell Sons 1926 Store Ledger, Cotton Ledger, and receipts, contact or visit the Berkeley County Museum and Heritage Center.



A detail of the Gaillard Map (above) defines selected properties in northern Berkeley County. Bradwell property is identified south of the Cross Community. A star added to this image identifies the Bradwell property.

MOONSHINE AND MEDICINE

Since moonshining was an important source of income for many average persons, grocery store operators sold large quantities of grain and sugar to the moonshine producers until enlightened law enforcement began earnestly monitoring such purchases to eliminate the production of illegal whiskey. Berkeley County was an early and persistent provider of alcohol beverages for business, social, and medicinal “cures” reasons.⁴³

Maude E. Callen was born in Quincy, Florida, in 1898. She came to Berkeley County to provide nursing services in a poverty-stricken area including the Cross Community. She established her own practice as a nurse-midwife when she relocated in nearby Pineville to operate a clinic at her home, miles from the nearest hospital. It is estimated she delivered as many as eight hundred babies in her sixty-two years of practice.

⁴³ Sheriff S Duane Lewis (Author), State Constable Daniel J. Crooks (Author), *Lawmen And Lawlessness: Corruption and Murder: Historic Cases Investigated by the Sheriffs of Berkeley County, SC 1882 to 1970*, 77-83.

She provided in-home services in a 400 square mile territory connected via muddy roads and served as a doctor, dietitian, psychologist, and friend to thousands of desperately poor patients. Nurse Maude recalled that there were few cars in Berkeley County and none of the roads were paved. Thus, many of her patients arrived at her home in oxcarts at all hours of the day and night.



Maude Callen (above), “Ms. Maude,” is quoted as having said, on turning down an invitation from President Reagan to visit the White House, “You can’t just call me up and ask me to be somewhere. I’ve got to do my job.”

In 1936, Callen joined the Berkeley County Health Department as a public health nurse where her duties included training midwives. She taught young women the proper practices in prenatal care, labor support, baby delivery, and handling of newborns. Her duties included vaccinations, examinations, and keeping records of the children's eyes and teeth.

On December 3, 1951, Life magazine published a stunning twelve-page photographic essay of Callen's work that was circulated internationally. She received enough money from donations to build a health clinic endowed with her name.⁴⁴ Maude Callen provided midwife training for the infant home delivery and care at her Health Clinic. Until the early 1960s, most babies were born at home under the midwife system.

After her retirement in 1971, Ms. Callen petitioned county officials to start a Senior Citizens Nutrition Site. She managed the center that cooked and delivered meals five days a week, and provided car service to seniors needing transportation. In 1983, a CBS News segment of "On the Road" with Charles Kuralt, featured her upfaulting service to the rural poor. She persisted as a volunteer until her demise in 1990. She is buried at White Cemetery in Pineville, South Carolina.

⁴⁴ "Maude Callen Clinic." SC Picture Project. SC Picture Project, Nov. 21, 2019. Feb. 5, 2024. <https://www.scpictureproject.org/berkeley-county/maude-callen-clinic.html>

CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS

In the early establishment of the Cross Community, education fell to parents and churches. Cross School first appeared in South Carolina Directory of Schools in 1914.⁴⁵ It was under the leadership of Mrs. Rosalie Maude Fitts Bradwell, wife of Isaac Drayton Bradwell of J. C. Bradwell & Sons, and mother of Claudius Garnett “Buster” Bradwell, Principal of Cross Elementary between 1953 and 1979. The Cross Graded School appeared in the 1919-20 through the 1923-24 directories. Between 1925 and 1927, school seems to have been held at Friendship Methodist Church, and Cross High begins in 1927, with a new school building under construction, completed in 1929.

Christians justified education for African American children to accommodate their comprehension of the Holy Bible. Consequently, the earliest schools for African boys and girls in the Cross Community began in church pews, but soon transitioned to separate structures. Typically, the rising institutions of learning adopted the names of their mother church.

⁴⁵ School Directory of South Carolina 1914-1915, 9.

Four segregated schools arose on church grounds in the Cross community near mid-twentieth century. Ebenezer School arose on the grounds of Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. This proud institution served children residing near roads 311 and 176. The Mt. Zion School on the Mt. Zion AME church grounds welcomed boys and girls from Hussertown until it was destroyed by fire. The Hussertown children transferred to Poplar Hill Church where, in 1946, the community built a two-room school. Soon after, Mt. Pisgah School arose in Pringletown on the grounds of Mt. Pisgah AME Church. Oak Grove School arose on the grounds of Oak Grove United Methodist Church. These schools were two room institutions until Mt. Pisgah expanded to four rooms to accommodate the rapidly growing student body.

Starting their school day, the African American students in the segregated south walked to school without transportation. When they arrived, they swept the classroom floor, chopped, and collected firewood for the heating stove and drew water from the well. They took pride in their school and maintained it well.

In 1951, prompted by the pending *Briggs v Elliott* lawsuit, South Carolina passed its first universal sales tax (3%) to build new schools for its black children. The ruling of that case allowed the “separate but equal” clause of the 1895 South Carolina Constitution to continue, and new construction began in the Cross community.

In 1955, Poplar Hill Elementary School arose in Berkeley County. This school combined Ebenezer, Poplar Hill, Mt. Pisgah, and Oak Grove schools, requiring buses to transport children from the expanding neighborhoods. Poplar Hill Elementary school arose on ten acres of land sold by Hadrick Husser, Sr., to Berkeley County for \$10,000. This school housed grades 1-6 residing in the Hussertown section of Cross. Mr. Nathan Smalls, the first principal, served from 1955-1968. He greeted more than 180 students with his staff of six teachers and as many non-certified employees. Mrs. Judy Nelson Broughton, Mrs. Electra Gant, Mrs. Rosa Smith Johnson, Mrs. Julia Kitchen, Mrs. Matilda Montgomery, and Mrs. Gertrude Holman Smith, served as enthusiastic teachers while, custodian, Benjamin Jefferson kept the building and grounds clean and safe. Edith and Cora G. Husser cooked delicious breakfasts and lunches.

The first class of bright-eyed first grade students who matriculated through all the grades included: Bertha Pringle, Willa M. Ray, Archie Pringle, Inez Gaddist, Herman Pringle, Daisy Green, Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., George Mack, Jr., Alma Gilliard, Lillie Gilliard, Emma J. Husser, Thomas Wilson, Gurney Husser, Carl Nero, Diane Smith, Yvonne Pringle, Wesley Wright, Jr., and Carolyn Myers.

Central High and Central Elementary Schools, occupying separate sections of the same building, also opened in 1955. In addition to the required curriculum, school life included student bus drivers, sock hops, proms, club activities, plays, band and choir concerts, sports events, talent shows, and homemade school lunches.

In 1954, while “equalization” schools began construction, another lawsuit was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court that changed the course of history. The judges decided unanimously in *Brown v Board of Education*, which combined lawsuits from five different states including South Carolina, that racially segregating children in public schools was unconstitutional. Separation did not guarantee equalization. Thus, Berkeley County School District prepared to desegregate.

In the meantime, the white children in Cross and neighboring attendance areas had been attending a school built in 1929 and definitely needed room to grow. Therefore, they benefited from the new sales tax also.



In 1957⁴⁶, a separate Cross Elementary School was built beside the original school building which, officially, became Cross High School. When the gymnasium was completed in 1958⁴⁷, it included a stage that allowed Cross High's library to expand into the former auditorium. In addition to the required curriculum, school life at that time included student bus drivers, sock hops, proms, club activities, plays, band/choir concerts and competitions, sports events, talent shows, and homemade school lunches prepared in a separate cafeteria.

46 Cross High School. Crossopodia yearbook, 1962. Courtesy of Celeste, Judy, and Joe Cross.

47 Ibid.

This is a photo of the original Cross High (above) taken from the 1964 Crossopodia yearbook courtesy of Jennifer Yeager Risher. It was replaced by a modern elementary school building around 1996.

That original 1929 building housed a school bell "in the ceiling above the entrance. A bell pull hung down on the left side of the area. It was occasionally used when the power went out (not infrequent in the 1950's). I think the bell was used to indicate class periods before electricity arrived in Cross – probably for almost 20 years."⁴⁸ Although the building was demolished around 1996, that bell is now on permanent display inside the more modern Cross Elementary School's main building.

48 August 9, 2023, text message to Salley Dupree from Joseph Russell Cross, Jr., son of J. Russell and Julia Cross.



This photo (left) was taken by the Salley Dupree on July 27, 2023. Note that the bell is encased in glass, producing the glare.

Samuel B. Marshall, principals at Cross High and Central High, respectively, shared principalships at the consolidated high school. Mr. C. Garnett Bradwell and Mrs. Ruth A. Townsend, principals at Cross Elementary and Central Elementary, respectively, shared principalships at the consolidated elementary school. Mr. Willie E. Ford, who was Assistant Principal at Central High, became co-principal with Mr. Bradwell during a brief middle school existence before his promotion to principal of Cross High in 1972.

Sandridge Elementary continued as a local community elementary school through leaderships of Dr. Henry Brevard (1969-1977), Dr. Carolyn Myers-Gillens (1977-1986), and Mrs. Lynette T. Smith (1986-1990), until it was permanently closed in June of 1990 when its remaining students transitioned into Cross Elementary under the leadership of Dr. Carolyn Myers-Gillens (1986-2021). In 1991 the Berkeley County School district leased the school building to the Sandridge Community. The name was changed to Tri Community Center. That center is now the hub of all community activities. It is governed by a Board of Trustees with Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., serving as chairman. The closure of Sandridge Elementary completed the integration and consolidation of the Cross-area schools.

Cross schools remained segregated until 1966 when the Freedom of Choice process allowed African American students to attend the all-white Cross High. Many of the black students took advantage of this opportunity. Finally, the transitioning stage had begun.

Although Mr. Nathan Smalls led Poplar Hill Elementary through the early stage of transition, it was Dr. Henry Brevard who, in 1969, took over leadership of that school which had been renamed Sandridge Elementary, with a fully integrated staff and student body. In the summer of 1970, Cross High became an extension of Cross Elementary, and Central High became Cross High. The name Central Elementary was eliminated. During this consolidation period, Mr. Julius Eisenstein and Reverend



The movement from segregation to equalization and transition to consolidation was an arduous, oftentimes, frustrating process. Until 1955, whites had their schools, and blacks had their churches with affiliated schools. The children of each race had their collective school memories, apart from each other. The end result, however, has brought about a unification of the school community with an emphasis on equal opportunity for all children to succeed and thrive.

This image (above) is the modern and effective Cross High School.

CROSS COMMUNITY CANNERY

One of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" initiatives to help alleviate economic hardship caused by the Great Depression (1929-39) called for the creation of food canneries on school grounds in rural areas. It allowed a way for home gardeners to provide year-round food. When WWII began in 1939, "Victory Gardens" were reestablished, and school-community canneries became an essential part of feeding the front-line troops, the home-front families, and allies abroad during those dire years. School agriculture teachers supervised the canneries while home economics teachers instructed food preparation and canning safety.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ wordpress.ncsu.edu/2019/08/12/school-community-canneries-8-16-2019



Duffie Stone (left) supervised the cannery on Mondays and Wednesdays when he served as the Cross High agriculture teacher.

Samuel J. Cooper (right) supervised the cannery on Tuesdays when he served as the Central High agriculture teacher. This photo was from the 1966 Central High School yearbook, courtesy of Nicole Brevard-Hines.



Although a much smaller version of a commercial cannery, the Cross Cannery was equipped with the machinery and workspace needed for sterilizing, processing, and canning vegetables, fruits, and meats. The pressure steamers/canners were much larger than the small kitchen machines owned by a few people, and large boilers were used to boil the water used by those steamers and canners. The racial prejudices of the time necessitated a schedule that kept the races separated but allowed everyone access. Though the cannery would have been busier between its inception and the end of the war, by 1959, Mondays and Wednesdays were for the white residents during daylight hours, and Tuesdays were for the "colored" residents from early dawn into the dark of night.⁵⁰

Those two teachers substituted for each other at the cannery when prior commitments required. Both teachers were responsible for keeping the boilers lit and functioning properly, the giant pressure steamers working efficiently, the canning machines operating, and solving any other problems that arose. From 1959 until it

⁵⁰ Duffie Stone interview with author Salley Dupree August 8, 2023. Mr. Stone's photo is from the 1969 Crossopodia yearbook, courtesy of Rayna Eisenstein Stewart.



closed several years later, the cannery operated every summer through June and July. The use of the cannery gradually faded until it was no longer sustainable since commercially canned and frozen foods became readily available through local supermarkets, and government subsidies ended.

The map (above) indicates the location of canneries in South Carolina during World War II. The circled dot added to this map represents the Cross School Community cannery.⁵¹

⁵¹ Fravel, Philip M., *A History of Agricultural Education in South Carolina with an Emphasis on the Public-School Program*, 3-13-2004, 285.

TWENTIETH CENTURY PERSONALITIES

Councilman Caldwell Pinckney, Jr.



County Councilman, Caldwell Pickney (above) admirably serves his community. He is a committed public servant who shares his days with his bride, Margaret W. Pinckney, as well as his children, grands, and great grands.

Berkeley County Councilman Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., contends that the journey taken to find the calling in one's life sometimes has amazing consequences. Councilman Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., was born May 1949 in Cross. His sisters and paternal grandmother enthusiastically embraced him that day, and his father, Caldwell Pinckney, Sr., was especially excited to greet his only son and namesake. Caldwell Jr. grew up in a Christian home with nine siblings and loving grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins, all residing nearby where all referred to their homeplace as "Pinckney Hill."

At an early age and under the tutelage of Mrs. Lillie Pinckney, his paternal grandmother, Caldwell Jr. learned the importance of hard work and the accompanying ethics. At the age of five, he typically picked 20 pounds of cotton a day⁵² and soon enthusiastically entered first grade at the new Poplar Hill Elementary School. There, he met classmates from several of the Cross communities, including Hussertown, Pringletown, and Oak Grove. After completing elementary school, he matriculated to Central High School in Cross to complete his public-school education. He was an exceedingly bright young man who academically skipped grade eight.

Soon after graduation in 1966, he joined the United States Army and served in Vietnam. After his discharge, he returned to Berkeley County to serve as a corrections officer at MacDougal Youth Correction Center in Ridgeville until he retired as the first Major at the facility. He holds an Associate Arts Degree from Palmer College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Shaw University.

⁵² Carolyn Gillans interview with Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., September 13, 2023.



Caldwell began his journey in politics when community leaders asked him to serve a term on Berkeley County Council in 2000. He served effectively and continues to represent district seven on Berkeley County Council. His goal remains to improve the quality of life for his people and to protect them from injustices to the best of his ability. More specifically, he is working for safe drinking water, for essential roads that are adequately paved, and for Broadband access to every resident.⁵³ He is recognized by many as a widely knowledgeable representative who speaks from his heart and soul.⁵⁴

Caldwell Pinckney descended from a popular family in Cross who provided religious, civic, and educational governance.

53 Author Carolyn Gillens telephone interview with Councilman Caldwell Pinckney, October 2, 2023.

54 Author, Michael Heitzler interview with Joe Smalls, lifelong resident of Cross, via telephone October 2, 2023.

Benjamin Jefferson and Hadrick Husser, Jr



Benjamin Jefferson and Hadrick Husser, Jr. (left), loyal members of the Ebenezer AME Church, donate their labor and love to their congregation. Joseph Welch, congregant of the Spring Hill Methodist Church donated the land, and white church members helped the black congregants erect the church and parsonage. The wall plaque names include Caldwell Pinckney Sr. and Junior. Author Michael Heitzler took this photograph October 1, 2016.

Vester Owens



Vester Owens (above) returned home to Cross to celebrate his 100th birthday. The double-amputee veteran says it's been a long time and a long trip, but he's happy to be back home. The ROTC and band from Cross High School participated in welcoming this D-Day veteran.

Born in 1922 in Cross, Vester Owens left home when he got drafted into the United States Army in 1942 and participated in battle on the beaches of Normandy, France, on D-Day in 1944. He attributes his survival to his fellow soldiers since he didn't know how to swim and he was carrying a rifle and an 80-pound bag. After the war, he transitioned into the U.S. Air Force and served 27 years before retiring from the military in Texas where he lives at this writing. He owned a successful vending company in Texas. When he returned to Cross for his 100th birthday, he received a hero's welcome, one that he had missed on returning to the U.S. after WWII during the Jim Crow laws' era. On April 9, 2023, Handley Meadowbrook Community Center in Fort Worth, Texas, helped him celebrate his 101st birthday.

Rodriques “Rod” Wilson



The handsome Rodriques “Rod” Wilson (above) was a ball player and coach who came home to Cross, South Carolina.

A former American football linebacker and coach, Rod Wilson was a coach for the Kansas City Chiefs. The Chicago Bears drafted him in the seventh round of the 2005 National Football League Draft. He played college football at South Carolina, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and briefly for the Jacksonville Jaguars. He also coached at Charleston Southern University.

Russell and Julia Cross



Russell and Julia Cross (above) “We are challenged to take the best of the past into an even better future.”⁵⁵

Joseph Russell Cross, lifetime Cross resident, educator, and author of *Historic Ramblin’s Through Berkeley*, inspired many during his long tenure as a Berkeley County School District Assistant Superintendent. Undoubtedly, his passion for Berkeley County inspired many to enjoy his historic ventures. The previous image presents Joseph Russell Cross, 1914-2000 smiling with his bride, Julia Harrington Cross, 1914-2000.

⁵⁵ Cross, J. Russell, *Historic Ramblin’s Through Berkeley*, R.L. Bryan Company, Columbia, South Carolina, 1985, 304.



Preston Edwin Anderson and Corean Anderson (above).

Preston and Corean Anderson were strong leaders in the Cross Community. They married in 1942 and were proud parents of 15 children. They contributed immeasurably to improving the quality of life of citizens in the community. Preston served in the Army during the Korean War and returned to Cross as a disabled veteran who supported his family primarily by operating a grocery store and family farm, surveying lands, operating mills to crush corn into grits and sugar cane into syrup. He also operated a bus service in the late 1950s to transport children to school, as well as to provide transportation on a regular basis to Columbia and other places for families to travel afar as needed.

Preston also served as leader of several local organizations. He was one of the first parents who sent his children to integrate into the local high school under the South Carolina “Freedom of Choice” desegregation plan in the 1960s. Preston was a dynamic leader who was sought by local politicians for assistance and advice.

Reverend Corean Anderson was Preston’s wife and his “right hand.” She was shoulder to shoulder with him during the civil rights movement and other significant events in the community, and after Preston died in 1970, she continued the march to help improve quality of life. She was an ordained minister in the AME Church and was dedicated to improving education and the quality of life for children. She went beyond the call of duty to provide additional services to all.

Reverend Anderson was an extraordinary seamstress and known for her ability to design and create beautiful garments freehandedly which included ministerial and choir robes, school uniforms, draperies, and wedding attires. She was also known for her commitment to improving overall quality of life through her work and actions in the political, civic, and social actions activities throughout governmental and non-governmental agencies at the local, county, state, and national levels.

Dewayne “Tiny” Lund



Tiny Lund (above) caught a record Rockfish in Lake Moultrie near Cross, South Carolina.



Dewayne Lund stood well over six feet tall and weighed nearly 300 pounds. He operated a fishing camp near Cross on the shores of Lake Moultrie. The Santee Cooper lakes Marion and Moultrie were well known to the fishing public during the late 1940s and early 1950s. Nonetheless, it took a man better known for his stock car racing skills to put the lakes on the angling map. A colleague recalled that Tiny was “always late but finished first.”⁵⁶

56 James (Sonny) Deese, raced his Ford against Tiny Lund “many times.” Michael Heitzler, author interview with race car driver Deese, June 16, 2023, United Methodist Church, Goose Creek, SC. Also see, *The Road to Daytona*, Curtis Crawfish Crider, *Nascar Racing History* “1987.”

Dwayne “Tiny” Lund was a “hard race” driver with a heart that matched his size.⁵⁷

57 Curtis, “Crawfish” Crider, *The Road to Daytona*, Library of Congress Card 86-92091, 45.

Elijah Wright



Continuing his family's 81-year tradition, the late Elijah Wright owned and operated Wright's Grocery, across the road from Sanders' Grocery. He was the Chairman of the Cross Precinct for the Democratic Party and a member of the Cross NAACP. He became the "Unofficial Mayor of Cross" because of his connections with local, state, and national political figures. The late Mr. Harry L. Wright, former educator and Summary Court Judge in Cross for 28 years, was his brother. Mr. Elijah Wright had served in the US Army, and had worked for over thirty years at the Charleston Navy Yard and the Air Force Base. He helped rebuild the Cross Fire Department, served on the Franklin C. Fetter Health Center Board, and helped get improvements to Spier's Landing. The "Elijah Wright Health Center" provides services to the impoverished and underserved residents in the area.

The "Unofficial Mayor of Cross" (above) met Dorothy Evelyn Thomas, while she taught at Central High School when she was boarding with Willis Sanders' family. Elijah made Dorothy his wife on May 14, 1960.

Elijah Wright



John Arthur Anderson (above) accomplished his lifelong goal of becoming a doctor. He was a polio survivor and desired to help find a cure for that and other diseases.

Dr. John A. Anderson, brother of Mrs. Ethel Anderson Smalls, the wife of the late Mr. Nathan Smalls, was born to Theodore and Lessie Anderson on December 8, 1939, in Cross, South Carolina, and died on February 19, 2011. He graduated from Central High School in 1957 and from South Carolina State in 1961. He received a Master's degree in chemistry from Howard University in 1963 and graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree from Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1967. After his internship in Minnesota, he served in the Army as Head of the Army Hospital at Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland, during the Vietnam War. He moved to Portland, Oregon in 1971 and began his Residency at Good Samaritan Hospital in Internal Medicine. Later, Dr. Anderson joined Kaiser Permanente as a physician, where he worked until retirement at East Interstate Clinic.

HEART AND SOUL OF BERKELEY COUNTY

Pioneers from Africa and Europe dropped anchor off the Carolina coast in 1670. The seafarers on that first ship, as well as immigrants arriving in subsequent months and years, trekked inland from the briny coastal soils to the fresh waters of Goose Creek. Subsequent arrivals led their pack animals farther inland to planting grounds on the headwaters of Back River along the “Indian Path.” Long known as the “Cherokee Trail,” that narrow foot path reached into the ever-expanding frontier through which many of the early pioneers trudged north to circumvent the impenetrable Wassamassaw Swamp and to follow faint foot falls to the headwaters of the Santee River where the Cross Community arose.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Journal of the Road from Charles Town [1730], “George Hunter’s Replicated Notes from the left margin of John Herbert’s Map.” See the appendices for the recording of the entire 726-mile pack horse journey into the frontier and back via the Cherokee Path.

After the War for Independence, the infant State of South Carolina constructed the “State Road” to tie its vast farmlands to the Charleston markets. The reliable state-maintained road opened opportunities for hundreds of energetic farm families, including dozens of families in the Cross Community. The new route to world markets via the Wassamassaw section of the State Road remarkably exposed a rare set of ethics and trust to which the “Cross Community” families adhered. This community’s sense of trust played out when the Union Army swept through and found a racial sense of communal loyalty. After the war, schools evolved within infant Christian churches that kept ethics and morality in trusted regards.

Today, the place called “Cross” is shining as an unmatched destination for growing families, businesses, industry, tourism, with forest and water recreation. The twenty-first century will undoubtedly witness an emerging place of grandeur that will persist as the heart and soul of Berkeley County and an unmatched niche in Carolina.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Journal of the Road from Charles Town [1730]. George Hunter's Replicated Notes from the left margin of John Herbert's Map tracing a 726-mile pack horse journey from Goose Creek into the frontier via the "Indian Trail" and back.

Month	Day	Miles Walked	Name of Landowner	G. Hunter's Notes
March	11	15	Col. [John] Herbert	
March	12	12	Ja. Kinloch	23 Mile Marker
March	13	13	Alex Kinloch	Wampee
March	14	22	Max Nelson	Yewta
March	15	35	Cox's	
March	16	10	Capt. Russell	
March	17	18	Beaver Creek	
March	18	19	Congaree/Saxgotha	
March	19	19	18-m.cr [mile creek]	Sir. Alex left us
March	20	18	Saluda	
March	21	22	Buffela [sic] Swamp	
March	22	24	Caronale	
March	23	27	Barker's Creek	
March	24	23	23 m. Creek	
March	25	23	Kewohee	302 miles from Charleston
March	26	12	Ocony	
March	27			
March	28			
March	29			
March	30			
March	31	25	Tecoreehe	

Month	Day	Miles Walked	Name of Landowner	G. Hunter's Notes
April	1	24	Nurssey	
April	2	5		Met Sir Alexander
April	3	5		
April	4	0		
April	5	30	Chattuga	
April	6	25	Kewohee	
April	7	23		Sir Alex left me
April	8	25	Barker's	
April	9	27	Coranaco Swamp	
April	10	24	Buffelo Swamp	
April	12	22	Saluda River	
April	13	18	13 Mile Creek	
April	14	19	Congaree	
April	15	20	? Springs	
April	16	23	Durcants Cowpens	
April	17	31	Yew Tah Springs	
April	18	27	Grays Tavern	
April	19	13	Kinloch	
April	20	13	Orange Quarter	w/Sir Alex
April	21	13	Ja. Kinloch	726 miles

HISTORIC MARKERS AND OTHER MEMORABILIA





This Plaque (left) is Dedicated to the Honor of Grace L. Blackmon and Arnis M. Blackmon Who Founded Blacks Camp in 1951. Their Love and Devotion Will Always be Treasured and Remembered by many Who Had the Honor of Traveling Their Way.

SELECTED PRIMARY RECORDS

Title

Cross Brothers records, 1892-1952 (bulk 1915-1940)

Description

This collection mainly consists of records of a general merchandise business located in Cross (S.C.). On a 1926 mortgage, the names J. P. Cross, D. W. Cross and S. R. Cross are listed as copartners under the firm name of Cross Brothers. Also associated with these records are those of a cotton ginning operation, represented by five copies of a "Cotton Ginner's Record Book," dating 1918 to 1936, as well as numerous cotton tax exemption certificates, dating 1934 to 1936.

Store records include account ledgers (1892-1943), the earliest of which is in the name of "Adam Cross;" records relating to the sales and taxation of tobacco (1920s-1934); miscellaneous printed material, including brochures for farm equipment; business correspondence (1920-1938); records relating to prices and price stabilization (1945-1952); tax records (1930s-1940s), which include some store inventories; receipts (1927-1938); canceled checks (1917-1928); and a few legal and property records. Among miscellaneous items is a calendar (1950) headed "Herbert Cross, General Merchandise, Medicine."

Cross Brothers also made mortgage loans to various individuals, mainly on crops (cotton, corn and other produce), but also on livestock and farm equipment, the details of which are described in the mortgage documents. These mortgages (1917-1938) are arranged chronologically, then alphabetically by name within each year. There are also a few mortgages to other parties including Doyle & Co. (Holly Hill, S.C.), T. L. Connor, and Bennett Brothers (Holly Hill). Related records include arrest warrants (1917-1939), mostly relating to the disposal of mortgaged crops; notices of sale of foreclosed property (1920s); and bills of sale (1919-1941).

Note

General merchandise store was located in Upper St. John's, Berkeley Parish, in Berkeley County, S.C. Adam Cross (1844-1906) lived at Moss Grove Plantation, where he operated a cotton gin, grist mill, rice mill, sawmill, and turpentine still. He was the father of Joseph Pressley Cross (1877-1942), Daniel Webster Cross (1873-1944), and John Adam Cross (1869-1911), who was the father of Robert Newton Cross (1897-1965), and Herbert Cross (1899-1982), a notary.

Cite as: Cross Brothers (Cross, S.C.). Cross Brothers records, 1892-1952 (bulk 1915-1940). (491.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

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Michael J. Heitzler