

“Life Stories from Old Flat Rock”

Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society

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By 1830, elite South Carolinians sought refuge in the mountains of North Carolina. Lowcountry planters, Charleston businessmen and foreign attaches fled the miasmic South Carolina summers for clean, cool, healthful mountain air.

When a few wealthy families, such as the Barings and Kings, built homes in what is today Flat Rock, North Carolina, many others followed. So many, in fact, that Flat Rock was known as “Little Charleston.” Architect Edward C. Jones of Charleston designed many of the Flat Rock residences as well as the expansion of St John in the Wilderness.

Many illustrious South Carolinians had summer homes in Flat Rock. Charles Baring of the Baring banking family, Judge Mitchell King, and during the Civil War, both Confederate Secretaries of the Treasury, Christopher Memminger and George A. Trenholm, had homes in Flat Rock. Later, Carl Sandburg acquired Memminger’s former home, now known as Connemara. Today, much of the village of Flat Rock is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information:

Historical Documentary:

To Protect and Preserve: Historic Flat Rock’s Legacy to Keep (developed and directed by Patricia Bradley and Michelle Mullen, One Life, One Legacy® Films). Selected for the Tryon International Film Festival, 2022. Film trailer: <https://vimeo.com/643201036>. (Ctrl + click to follow link)

Print:

Brewster, Lawrence Fay, *Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Low-country Planters* (1947)

Cuthbert, Robert B., *Flat Rock of the Old Time* (2016)

Helsley, Alexia Jones and Jones, George A., *A Guide to Historic Henderson County, North Carolina* (2007)

Linder, Suzanne, *Historical Atlas of the ACE Basin* (1996)

Reuter, Galen, *Flat Rock, NC*, Images of America (2015)