

# POTTERSVILLE

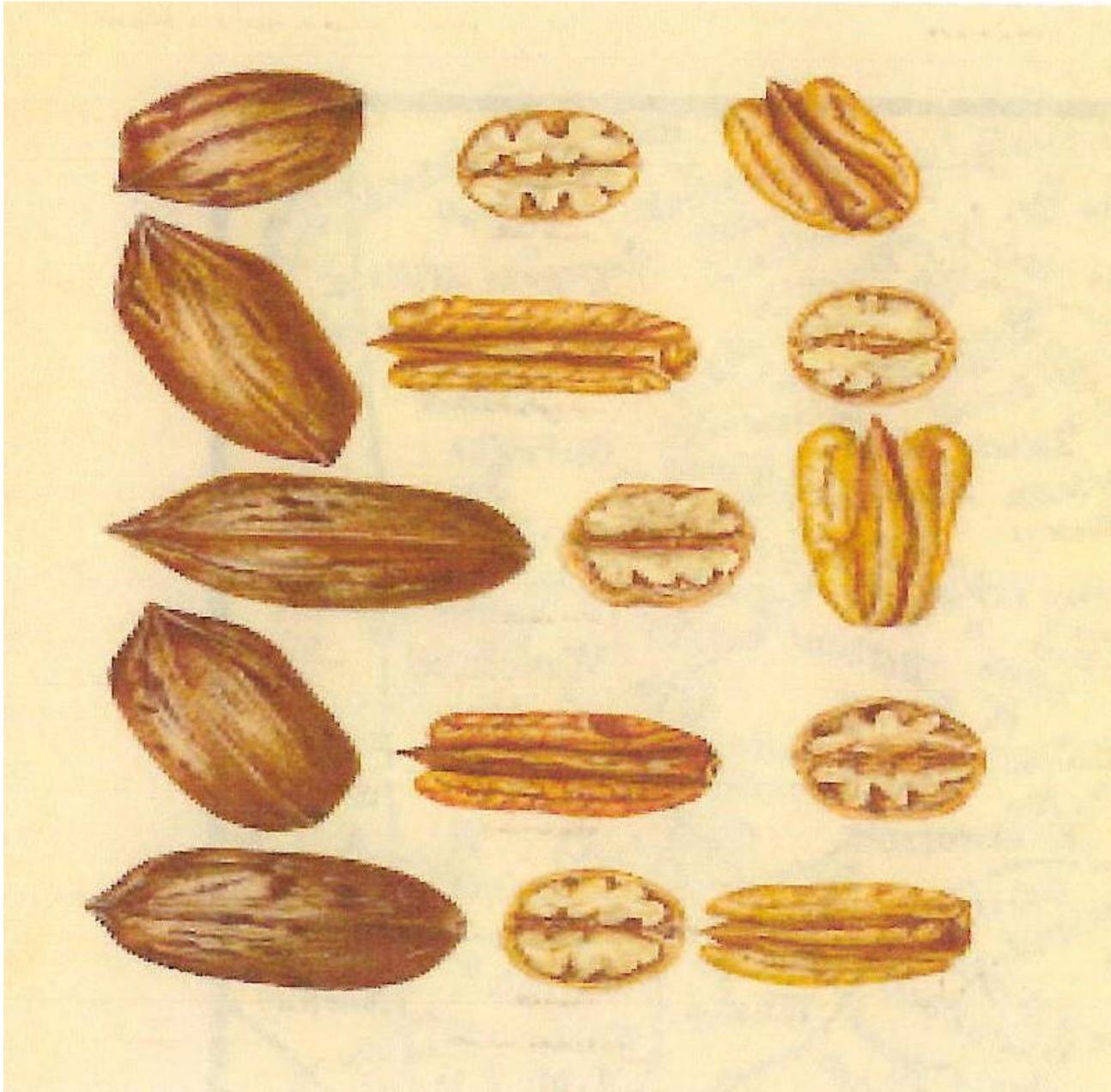
Presented by: Dr. Tim McClendon

**PERSON**



Doctor Landrum has lately discovered a Chalk<sup>m</sup> in Edgefield district in this state, which is represented to be of superior quality—equal at least to that which Edgeworth manufactures near Liverpool—there is a great body of this chalky substance in said district, and will soon become highly useful to the country and profitable to the proprietors.





The Committee on the Governors Message No.1 to whom was referred the Petition of Abner Landrum Praying for Legislation assistance in the Establishment of a Queensware or Porcelain manufactory. Report that they have only concurred the same and are of opinion that it will be worthy of the Legislature to hold out a fostering hand to its infant manufactories they therefore recommend that the sum of two thousand dollars be loaned the Petitioner for the term of three years on his giving satisfactory security for the faithful payment of this said sum of two thousand dollars and the annual sum of one hundred and fifty dollars as Interest therefore.

Signed John Johnson Jr. Chairman Dec. 14 1812

The Honorable the President Members of the Senate

Your Petitioner begs leave to represent to your honorable body that he has for the last three years been prosecuting at a considerable expense of time, labor, & money an exhaustive course of experiments on the chemical properties of the different earths; by which he has been enabled to produce specimens of the most elegant Porcelains or Chinaware; various kinds of Glass from the black green to the best double flint; a good quality of Delft or Queensware; a quality of Stoneware superior in texture and glazing to the best European, with the additional advantage also over that of enduring, uninjur'd quick transitions from heat to cold; a composition of mortars superior to those of Wedgwood; Crucibles, preferred by the artists to the best Hessian; also artificial flints which promise to supersede those imported from Europe. The most of these experiments have been reduc'd to practical purposes; but the limited finances of your Petitioner has hitherto prevented him from making it of a general and of extensive utility to the country, as the processing of good workmen in earthen ware and glass must be attended with considerable expense; your Petitioner therefore humbly prays such legislative aid as your honorable body may think proper to grant and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

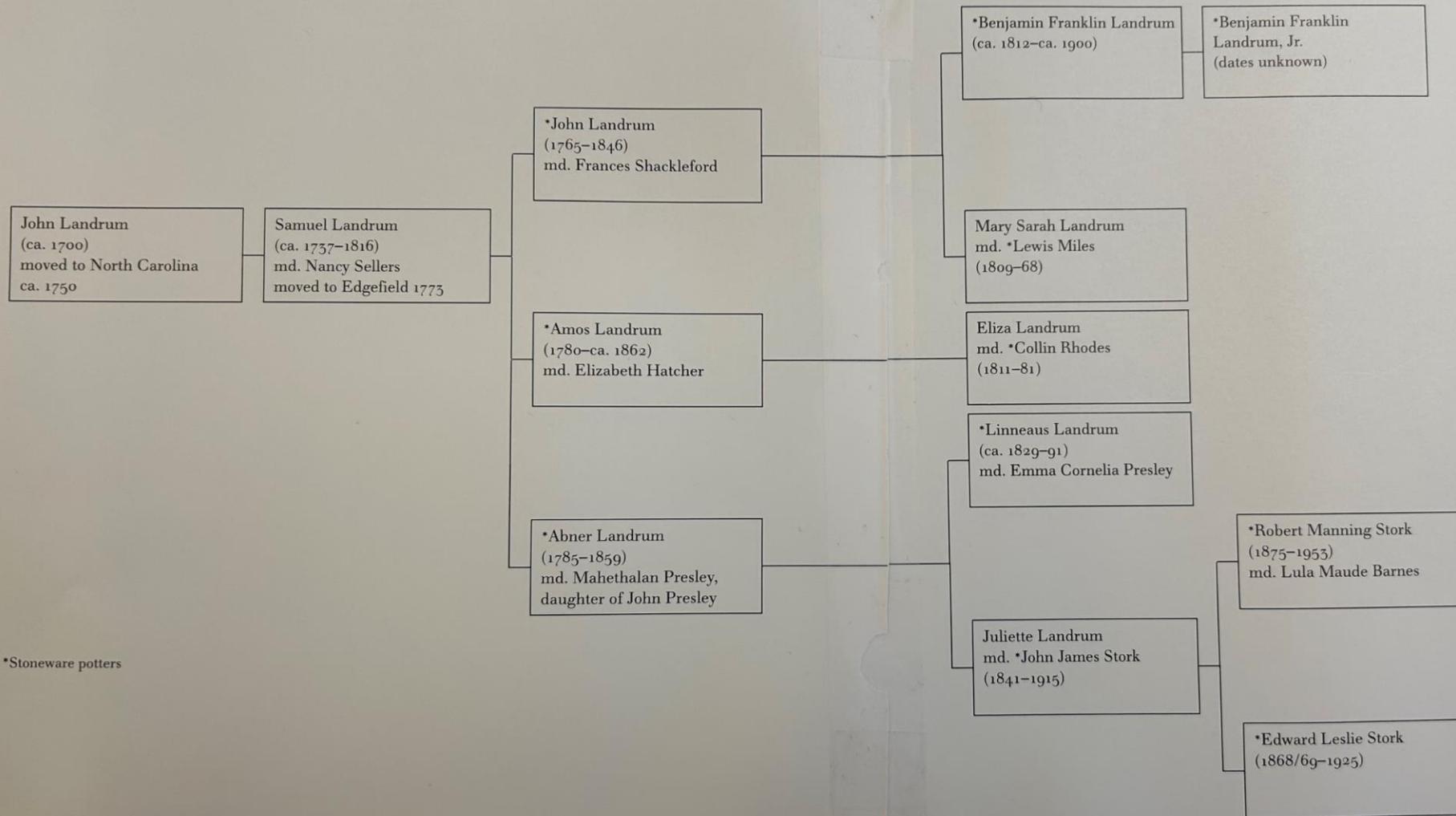
Signed Abner Landrum (emphasis original)

SC Gov Report 1816

There has been left with us a Porcelain Milk Pot, manufactured in Philadelphia, from a specimen of white clay, from the Chalk Hills, as they called, in Edgefield District in this state. We understand that the supply of this clay is inexhaustible. As the Rail Road is expected to pass immediately through these lands, this clay may one day become an article of inconsiderable value to the proprietors of the soil, as well as profit to the Rail Road Company

*-Edgefield Hive March 1830*

*Landrum Family Pottery Dynasty*



\*Stoneware potters





ORIGINAL SITE OF  
LANDRUM BRICK & POTTERY CO.

1832 ——— 1911

R. M. STORK BRICKYARD

1911 ——— 1970

ORIGINAL CHIMNEY ERECTED IN 1800'S &  
ENCASED WITHIN PRESENT CHIMNEY IN 1935



### The Late Dr. Abner Landrum.

MR. EDITOR: You will please publish the following notice of the late Dr. Landrum, which is suggested by the announcement of his death, at his residence in the sand hills, near Columbia, April 3, 1859:

He was born in Edgefield District, in the vicinity of the village, and bears a name which in that enlightened community has been long associated with honesty, industry and the sterling virtues which distinguish the good citizen. Dr. Landrum received his education at the celebrated academy of the Rev. Moses Waddel, in Abbeville. Having a good understanding and large industry, those of my readers who have heard the name of that renowned teacher, will feel no surprise when I say that he returned to his home with a mind well stored with elementary knowledge. He determined to pursue the medical profession, and with that view entered the office of one of the most distinguished physicians of Augusta, Georgia. Other pursuits, however, became more attractive to him, and in a short time he abandoned the practice of medicine for the more quiet vocation of the planter. Here he displayed great energy and industry. He believed that science could be brought to bear in the culture of the ground, and to this end he engaged largely in experiment. I will not say that he reaped any pecuniary reward, for I know otherwise; but I will say that he was among the first to direct the attention of the people of Edgefield to scientific agriculture; and that in his case, as in many, others have

reaped the benefit. Dr. Landrum is the father of the *pottery business* in Edgefield, having established a manufactory near the town of Edgefield, at a place which, in the progress of time, became a large and flourishing village, known as Pottersville. I trust that I will give no offence to the citizens of the ancient and worthy town of Edgefield, if I add that little village, which at first seemed but a speck in the distant heavens, increased to such dimensions as to threaten to overshadow it, and rob it of its brightness and glory. There was a time when Pottersville boasted a population of hundreds; when to the factory were added hotels and stores, of every description, the shops of various artisans, a carriage manufactory, a school-house and a church. But this is not all. The editor of the *Edgefield Advertiser*, that most worthy and intelligent gentleman, who is ever ready to battle for the renown of his ancient city, will pardon me for reminding his readers that there was a period within the memory of man when her citizens looked to Pottersville for food for the body and light for the mind. Never shall I forget that Pottersville was once a young Cincinnati; that she slaughtered hogs by the thousand; that she had houses filled with the precious substance, which makes rich blood and strong muscles, and that a vast multitude, day by day, repaired to the spot, as if to a holy shrine, to make its adorations.

But still more. Time was when the cheering light of the *Advertiser* had not burst upon the world—when, to drop metaphor, no newspaper was published in the town of Edgefield. The "*South Carolina Republican*," the "*Carolinian*," no longer had existence in that community. Was it not a period of darkness? To Pottersville she looked, and from that vil-

l'age went forth the light of civilizati on. The reader will pardon the train of thought in which I have indulged. The only paper in that portion of the State was published and edited by Dr. Landrum, and I think he conducted it with great ability. In its latter days, it bore the name of the "Edgefield *Hive*." Let not the town of Edgefield forget its indebtedness; let it hold Pottersville in eternal remembrance. It lived freely upon the honey from its hive; and no less a person than Gray tells us:

"The bees collected treasures sweet,  
——but sweeter yet  
The still small voice of gratitude."

This was the period of the great nullification struggle. Dr. Landrum espoused the cause of the Union party, and was largely in the minority in the community where he resided. But he attracted the attention of the Union party of the State, and was invited to Columbia by a committee of that party, to take charge of a newspaper. Accepting the invitation, he removed to that place in 1831. There he labored with great zeal, but on the termination of the controversy, dissolved his connection with the press. While conducting his paper, he had the honor of being elected State Printer, and he discharged his duty with great fidelity. He retired to the sand hills about 1837, and from that period to his death, was engaged in the occupation of a planter and the manufacture of pottery-ware.

Dr. Landrum was known to the whole community of Columbia. It was his misfortune, if it be a misfortune, to be poor, and engaged in an humble occupation. But poverty is not

a crime. Distinguished for his intelligence, his industry and his integrity, no one was more respected. He was a man of rare virtues. His personal morality was unexceptionable, and he has left to his family a legacy far more valuable than gold or silver.—Carolinian.



IN MEMORY OF  
ABNER LANDRUM  
1785 — 1859  
METHELUM PRESSLEY LANDRUM  
1801 — 1886  
JULIA LANDRUM STORK  
1847 — 1887  
LINEOUS MEAD LANDRUM  
1829 — 1891  
EMMA CORNELIA LANDRUM  
1837 — 1928

**Over noble Dr. Landrum's head  
May guardian angels visit his bed**

**Abner Landrum died April, 3, 1859**

**Dave Inscribed on April 14,  
1859**

# **Place, Technology &** **Transportation**

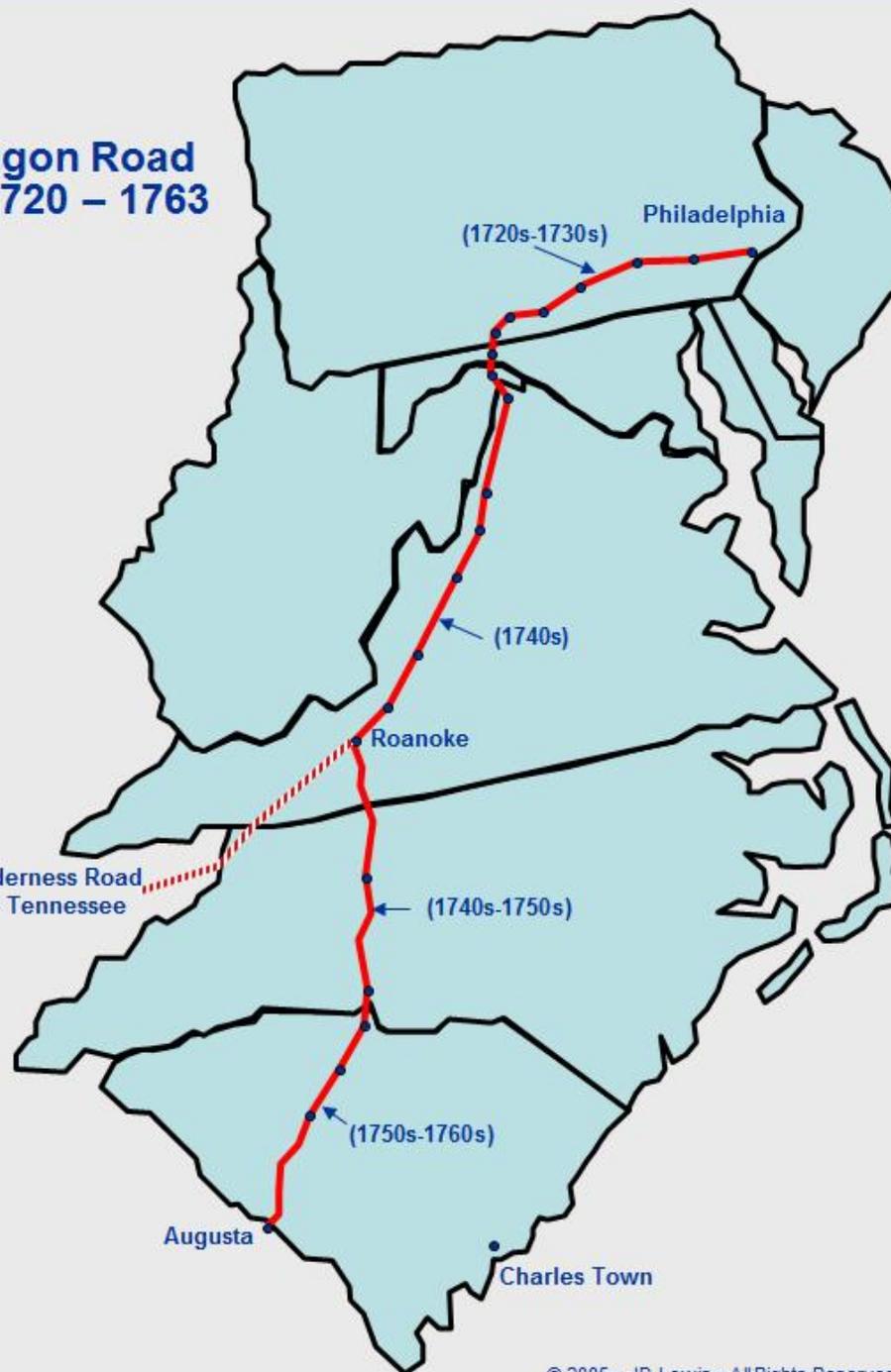
“Edgefield has had more dashing, brilliant, romantic figures, statesmen, orators, soldiers, adventurers and daredevils than any other county in the country.”

- William Watts Ball

## The Great Wagon Road Constructed 1720 – 1763

Philadelphia, PA  
 Downing Mill, PA  
 Lancaster, PA  
 York, PA  
 Gettysburg, PA  
 Chambersburg, PA  
 Greencastle, PA  
 Hagerstown, MD  
 Martinsburg, WV\*  
 Winchsester, VA  
 New Market, VA  
 Harrisonburg, VA  
 Staunton, VA  
 Lexington, VA  
 Fincastle, VA  
 Big Lick, VA (now Roanoke)  
 Salem, NC  
 Charlotte, NC  
 Rock Hill, SC  
 Chester, SC  
 Newberry, SC  
 Augusta, GA

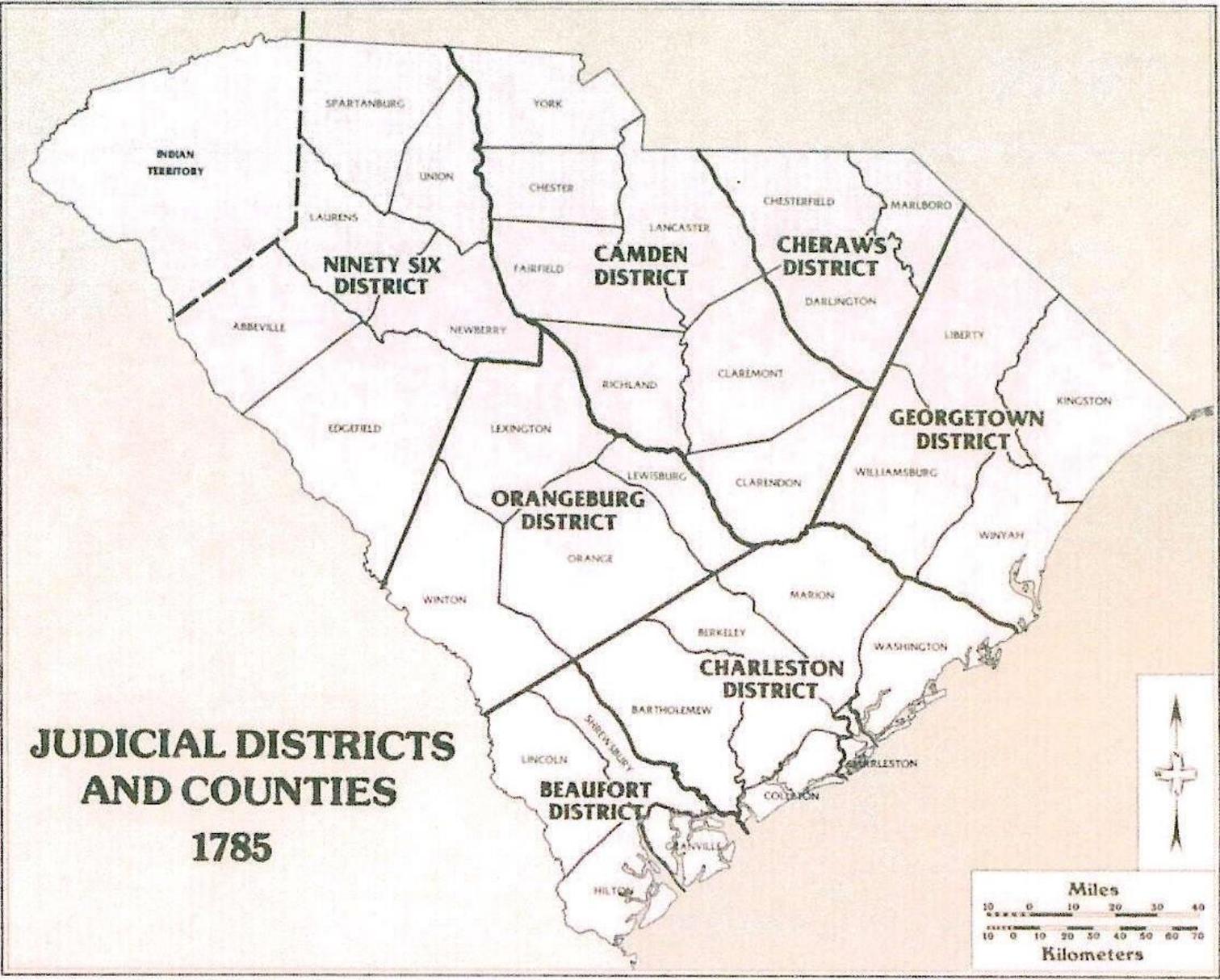
Wilderness Road  
 To Tennessee

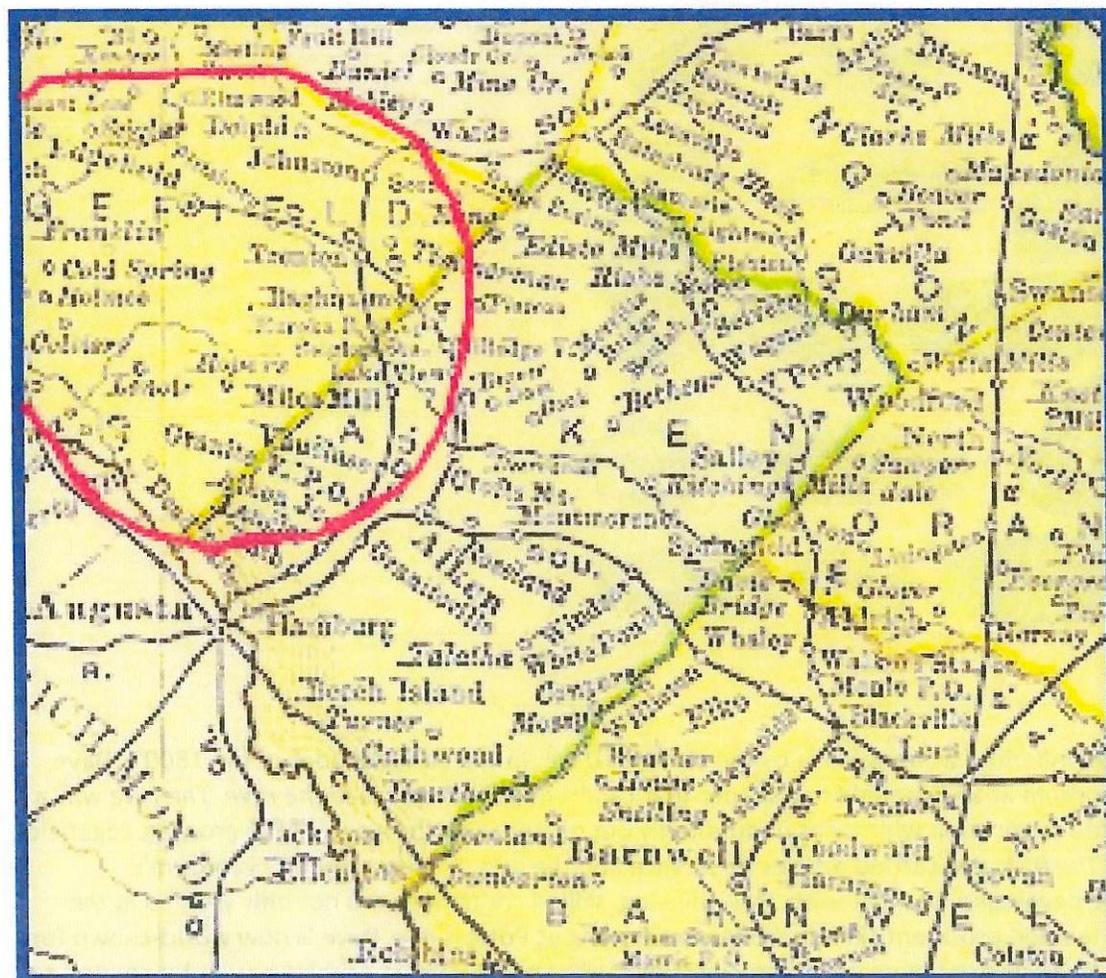


\* WV not a Colony/State  
 at that time. Part of VA.



Figure 4.25. Map display of North Carolina and South Carolina showing the route taken by Thomas Griffiths in search of “Cherokee clay,” Vlach 1990a: 1.





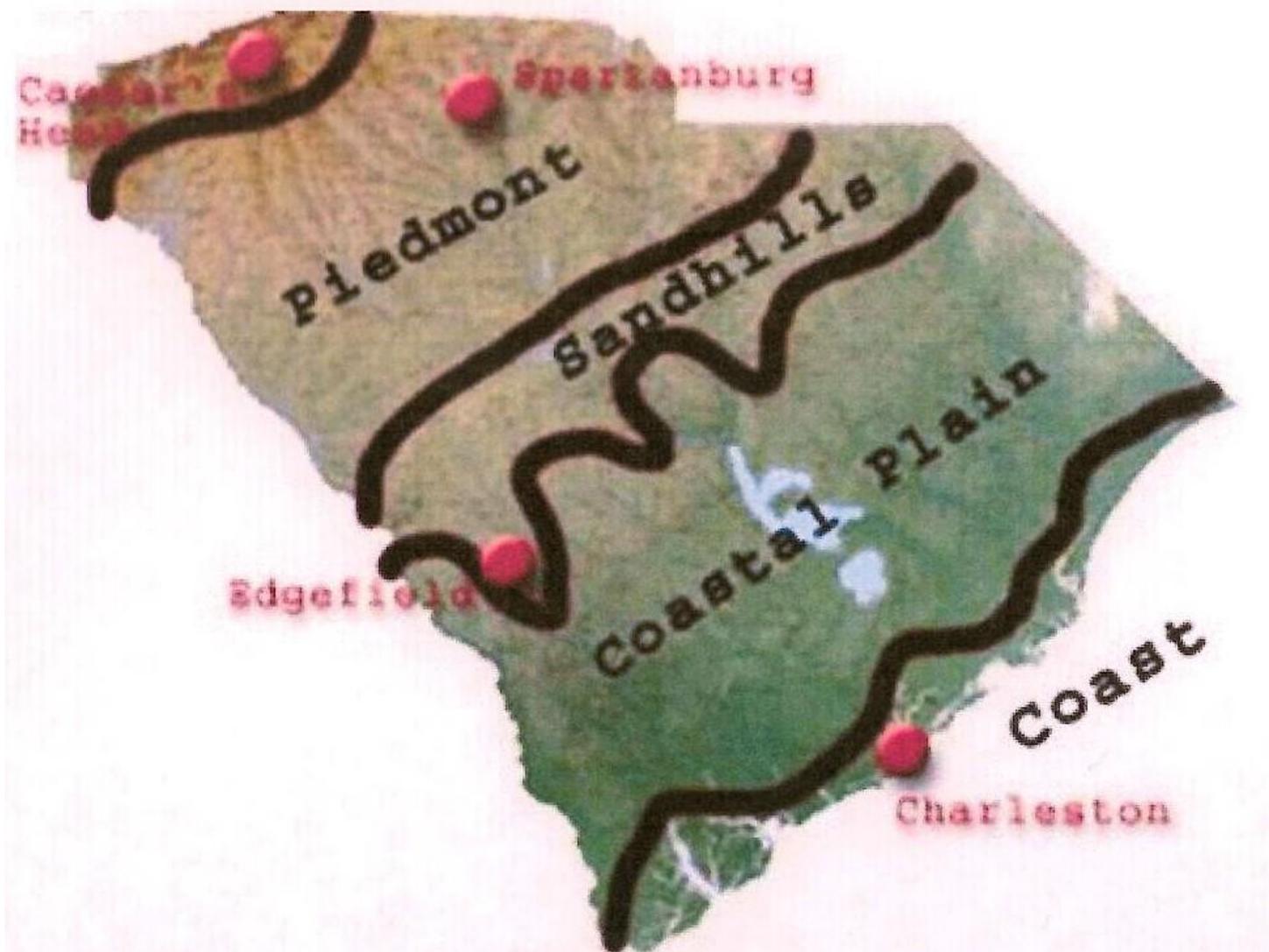
## The kaolin belt

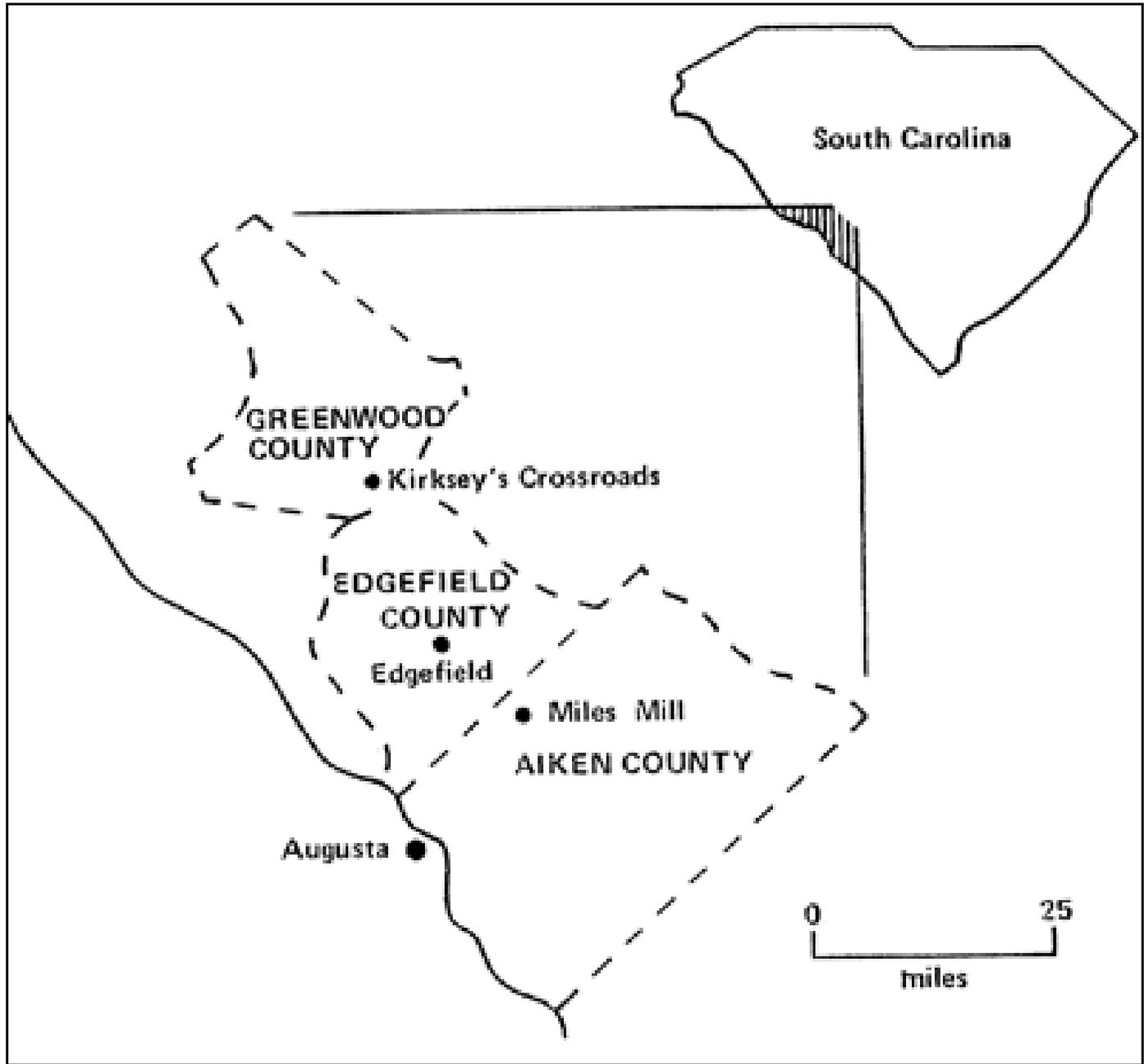
Georgia's kaolin mining covers 13 counties extending along the "kaolin belt" from Americus to Augusta. The belt also extends into South Carolina, where some of the richest deposits are found.

Mining counties











New Windsor Township

The Aiken Railway has roots going all the way back to 1827 when the [South Carolina General Assembly](#) chartered the [South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company](#), one of the first railroads in the United States and the longest railroad in the world - 136 miles - at its inception. Aiken itself was founded as a stopover on the SCC&RR, which was completed in 1833. The second line to North Aiken, South Carolina was built in 1879 as a portion of the [Edgefield, Trenton, & Aiken Railroad](#). While most famous today as the winter home of late 19th century equestrians, Aiken wasn't originally built to be a Winter Colony for the rich. It was actually a railroad town in 1835, built as the conclusion of the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Companies' line from Charleston to the Savannah River.



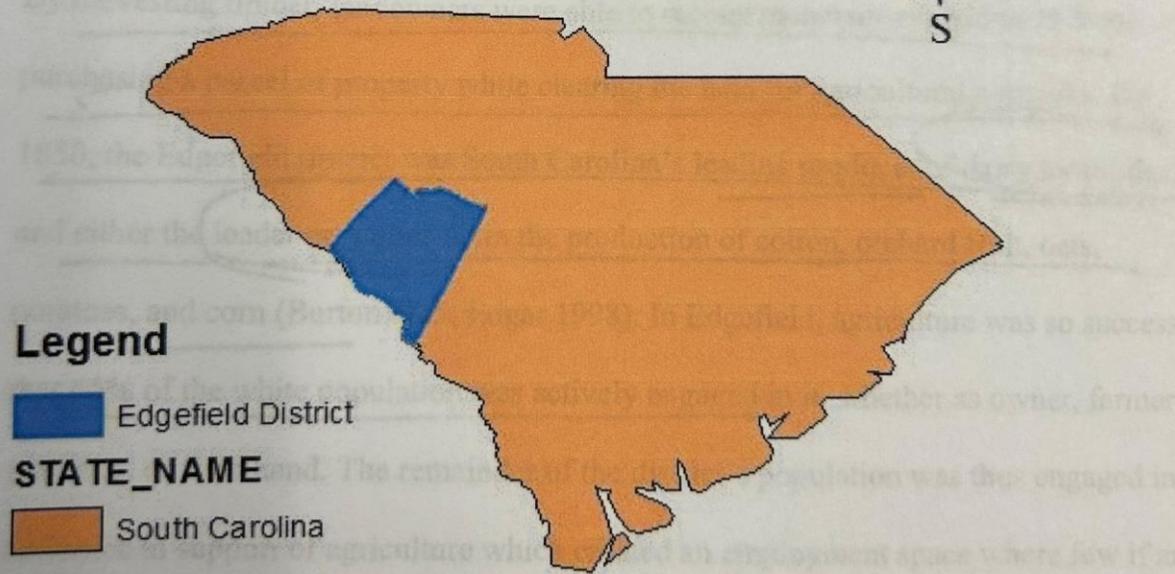
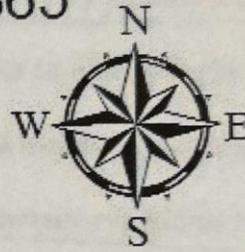


**POLITICS**





## Edgefield District 1785-1865



Map Created by George Calfas  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
National Historic Geographic Information System

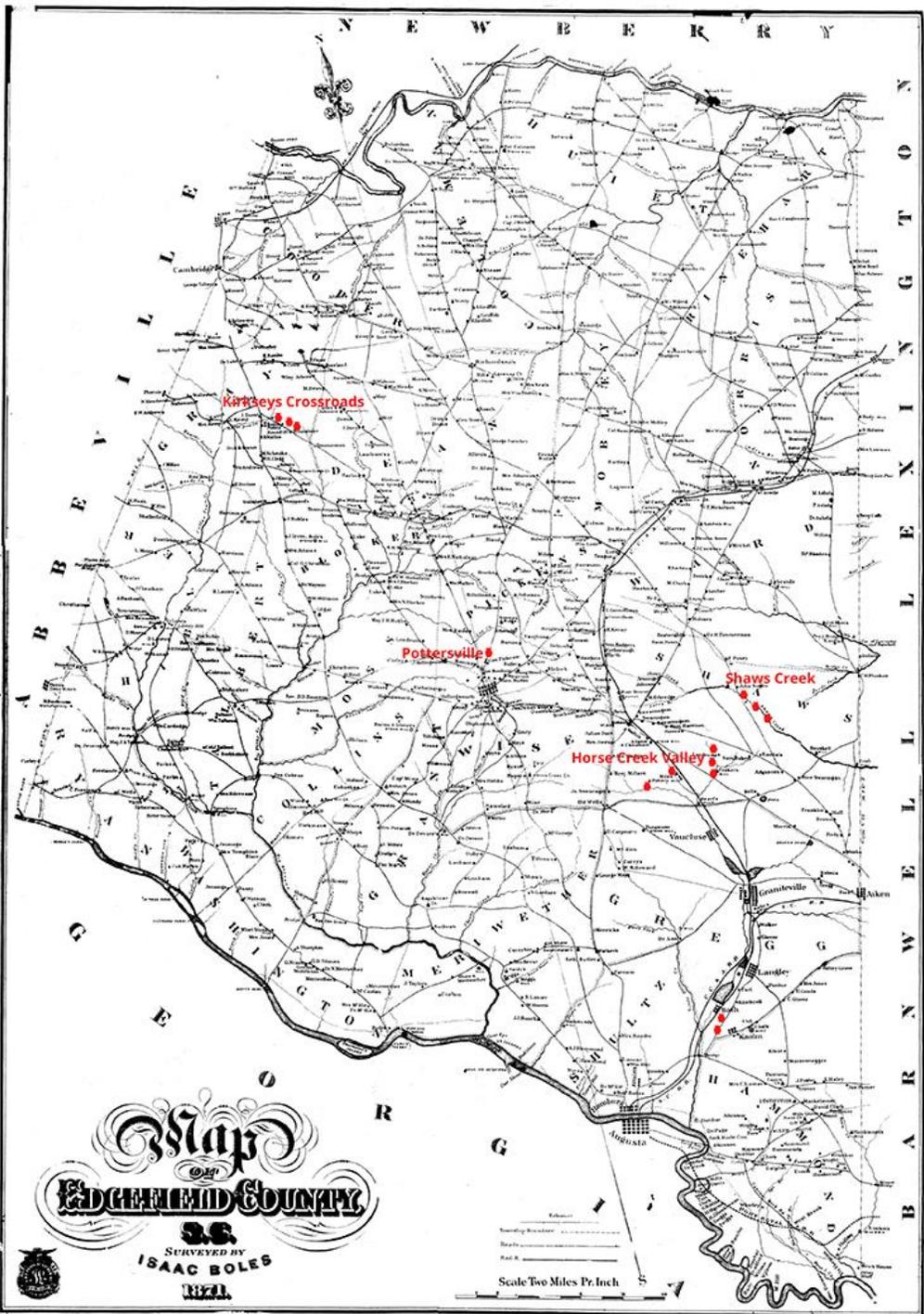
Figure 3.10. Edgefield District 1785-1865

Landowners within the Edgefield district relied upon the soil and the blood and

# Edgefield's Ten Governors

<https://www.exploredgefield.com/our-infamous-history.html>

Edgefield County Map 1871



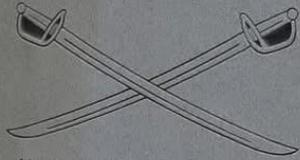
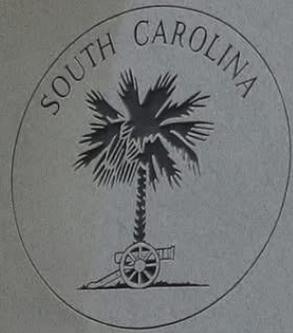


*Portrait of a man in military uniform*



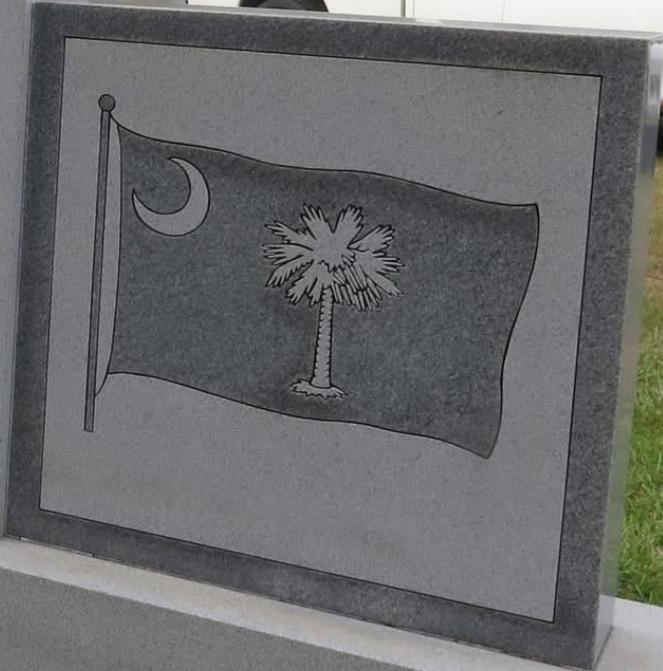


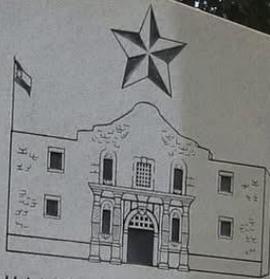
Lt. James Butler Bonham was a hero of the Mexican War, who bravely sacrificed his life in the defense of the Alamo from the Mexican Army. Bonham was born near the present-day town of Saluda, South Carolina, and attended South Carolina College. He studied law and practiced in Pendleton, S.C. Bonham moved to Alabama and then to Texas where he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Texas cavalry. He left the Alamo twice during the siege by the Mexican Army in a futile attempt to secure reinforcements. Knowing the situation was hopeless, he returned through enemy fire to join the defenders of the Alamo. He died on March 6, 1836, defending the fort.



WILLIAM BARRET  
TRAVIS  
AUGUST 9, 1809  
MARCH 6, 1836

BORN IN EDGEFIELD DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA  
LOST HIS LIFE IN DEFENSE  
OF THE ALAMO AND THE FIGHT  
FOR TEXAS INDEPENDENCE.





# WILLIAM BARRET TRAVIS LT. COL., COMDT.

COMMANDANCY OF THE ALAMO -  
BEXAR, FEBY. 24 TH, 1836 -  
TO THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS & ALL AMERICANS IN THE  
WORLD.

FELLOW CITIZENS & COMPATRIOTS -  
I AM BESIEGED, BY A THOUSAND OR MORE OF THE  
MEXICANS UNDER SANTA ANNA - I HAVE SUSTAINED A  
CONTINUAL BOMBARDMENT & CANNONADE FOR 24 HOURS  
AND HAVE NOT LOST A MAN - THE ENEMY HAS DEMANDED  
A SURRENDER AT DISCRETION, OTHERWISE THE GARRISON  
ARE TO BE PUT TO THE SWORD, IF THE FORT IS TAKEN - I HAVE  
ANSWERED THE DEMAND WITH A CANNON SHOT, & OUR  
FLAG STILL WAVES PROUDLY FROM THE WALLS - I SHALL  
NEVER SURRENDER OR RETREAT, THEN I CALL ON YOU IN  
THE NAME OF LIBERTY, OF PATRIOTISM & EVERYTHING  
DEAR TO THE AMERICAN CHARACTER TO COME TO OUR AID  
WITH ALL DISPATCH - THE ENEMY IS RECEIVING  
REINFORCEMENTS DAILY & WILL NO DOUBT INCREASE TO  
THREE OR FOUR THOUSAND IN FOUR OR FIVE DAYS, IF THIS  
CALL IS NEGLECTED, I AM DETERMINED TO SUSTAIN MYSELF  
AS LONG AS POSSIBLE & DIE LIKE A SOLDIER WHO NEVER  
FORGETS WHAT IS DUE TO HIS OWN HONOR & THAT OF HIS  
COUNTRY -

### VICTORY OR DEATH

WILLIAM BARRET TRAVIS  
LT. COL., COMDT.

P. S. THE LORD IS ON OUR SIDE - WHEN THE  
ENEMY APPEARED IN SIGHT WE HAD NOT THREE BUSHELS OF  
CORN - WE HAVE SINCE FOUND IN DESERTED HOUSES 80 OR  
90 BUSHELS & GOT INTO THE WALLS 20 OR 30 HEAD OF  
BEEVES -  
TRAVIS



THE SONS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF TEXAS



OLD EDGEFIELD DISTRICT ARCHIVES  
SALUDA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE BIRTHPLACE AND BOYHOOD HOME OF  
COLONEL WILLIAM BARRET TRAVIS, DEFENDER AND COMMANDER OF THE ALAMO, ONCE  
STOOD A SHORT DISTANCE EAST OF THIS MARKER







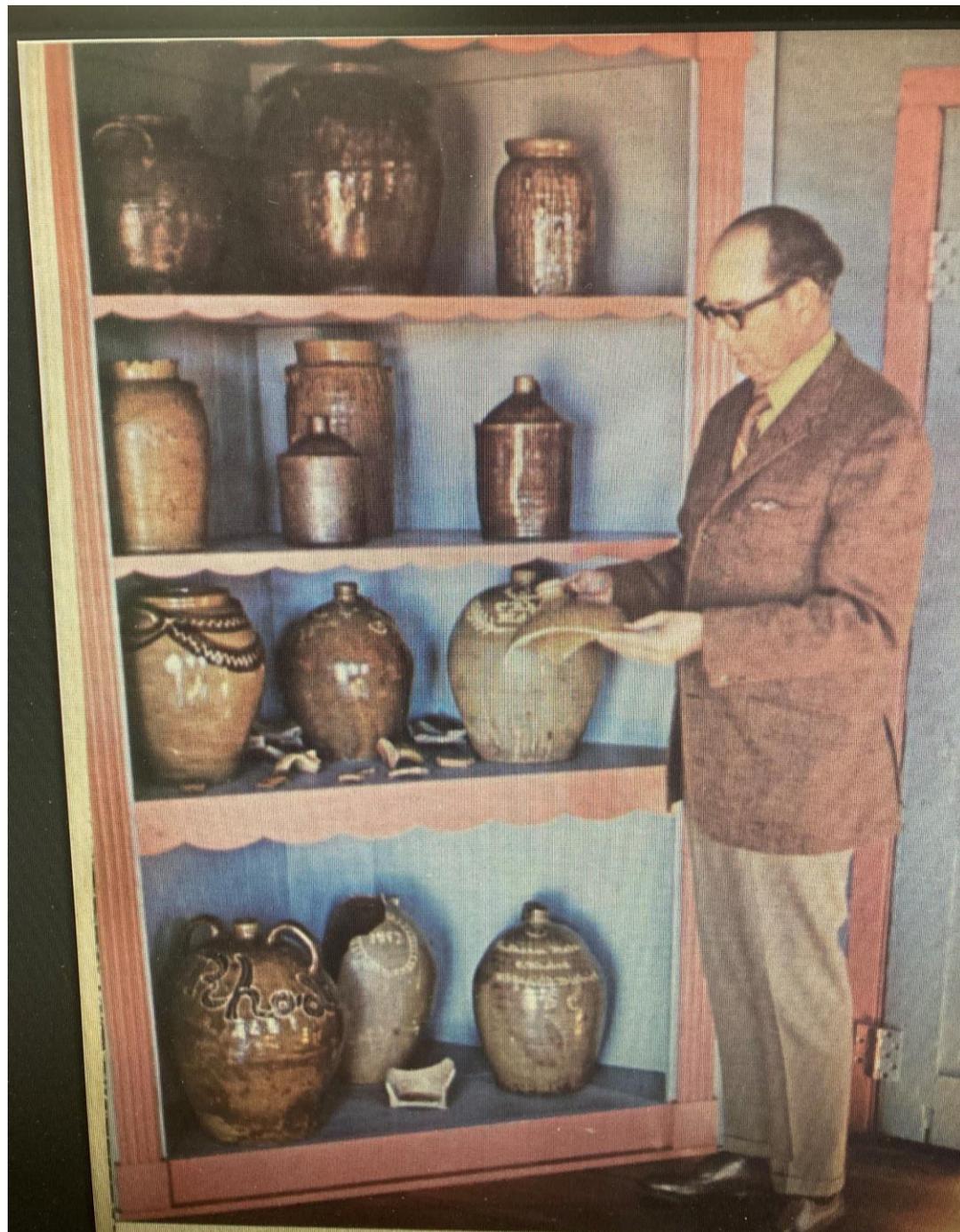




# POTTERY



*There is a village of sixteen or seventeen houses, and as many families, within a mile and a half of Edgefield courthouse, called the Pottery, or Pottersville, but which should be called Landrumville, from its ingenious and scientific founder, Dr. Abner Landrum. This village is altogether supported by the manufacture of stoneware, carried on by this gentleman; and which, by his own discoveries is made much stronger, better, and cheaper than any European or American ware of the same kind. This manufacture of stoneware may be increased to almost any extent; in case of war, &c. its usefulness can hardly be estimated*



# Edgefield Recalls Days Of Pottersville Craftsmen As Tricentennial Week Opens

By LEAH SPIRES  
Index-Journal Reporter

Edgefield County opened its week of Tricentennial celebration with dedication of the Pottersville Museum Sunday.

Third District U.S. Rep. W. J. Bryan Dorn and his daughter Olivia were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremonies before a crowd of about 225 on-lookers.

Dorn said, "South Carolina's Tricentennial celebration is a proud story — the story of an illustrious history and dedication. Let's tell this story this year.

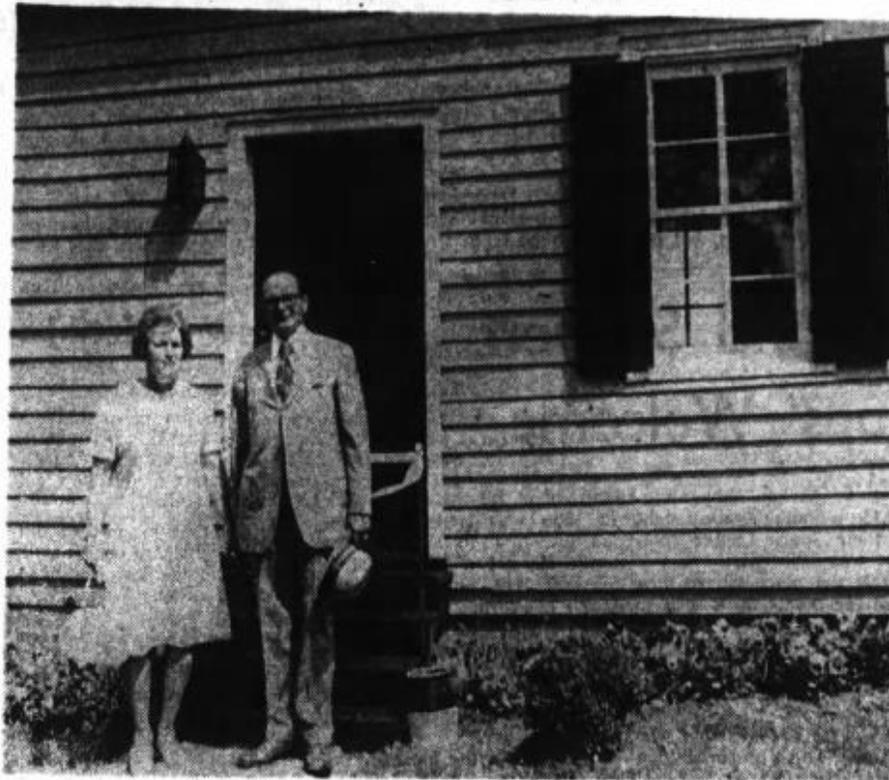
"I'm proud my folks were born in Edgefield County," said Dorn. He spoke of the area's hospitality and good manners, and good labor and race relations.

Pottersville Museum, located one mile north of Edgefield on Meeting Street Road, is the result of a series of accidental discoveries by the Ralph T. McClendon family.

From about 1810 until the Civil War, there was a thriving village named Pottersville devoted almost exclusively to the production of pottery. Since that time, however, there has been little mention of the small village. The McClendons did not realize that their home on Meeting Street Road was sitting in the center of the old pottery fields.

Carlee McClendon, the family's eldest son, recalls that broken pieces of pottery assumed to be Indian products turned up almost every time they scratched the earth.

Through research of the Edgefield area, Carlee



## McClendons At Pottersville Museum

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McClendon stand in front of the Pottersville Museum, which was dedicated Sunday. The museum resulted from research by the McClendon family into a village of potters which flourished in an area around their home in the early 1800's. (Index-Journal photos by Leah Spires)

continuously turned up references to a place called Pottersville. The result is the Pottersville Museum, a family project begun in 1966.

The museum itself is a kitchen building found in a field. It was being used as a corn crib. The building was

part of the original Pottersville village. Pieces of pottery manufactured by the Pottersville potters Abner Landrum, Collin Rhodes, Lewis Miles, J. P. Bodie, T. M. Chandler, Nathaniel Ramey, Peter Emmanuel, Hahn, and Dave, are displayed in the museum

along with examples of other South Carolina pottery-producing areas, such as the southern part of old Edgefield District and Camden.

Pottersville Museum consists of the restored kitchen and a larger frame building behind it which features in a

country store setting antique items for sale. The land and the structures are tended by the McClendons.

ABNER LANDRUM, the most prominent name of Pottersville, is regarded as the guiding force behind the establishment of pottery-making in the area.

Tradition has it that Landrum secured potters that had studied under some of the European masters of pottery.

During Edgefield's Tricentennial week the museum will be open weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays. After the opening week it will have the same Sunday hours. On Saturdays it will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on weekdays by appointment.

The McClendons will present an antique pitcher of Edgefield District pottery to Vice President and Mrs. Spiro T. Agnew when they visit Edgefield Saturday.

A potter will be demonstrating his art daily during the week. Mrs. D. F. Hollingsworth will be the museum hostess.

Visitors marvelled Sunday at George McCauley, a ceramics major at Carolina, as he kicked his pottery wheel, producing a piece of art work by guiding the clay with his fingers. "After the clay has been formed it is dried and fired twice. The second glaze firing produces the glass finish," explained McCauley.

Items made by McCauley and others designed after pottery made by the Pottersville craftsmen in 1810, will be marked with a special stamp and placed on sale at the museum.

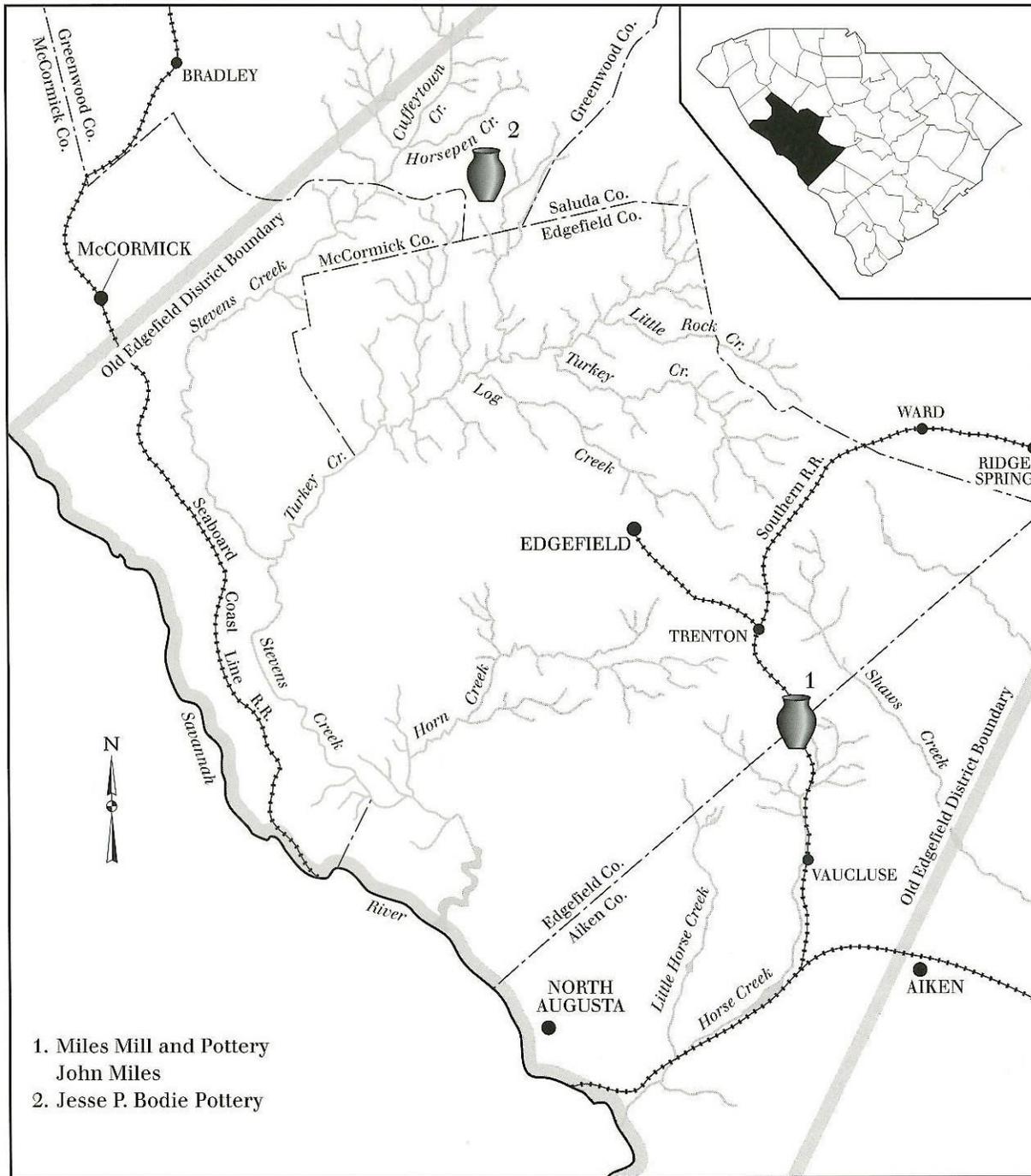


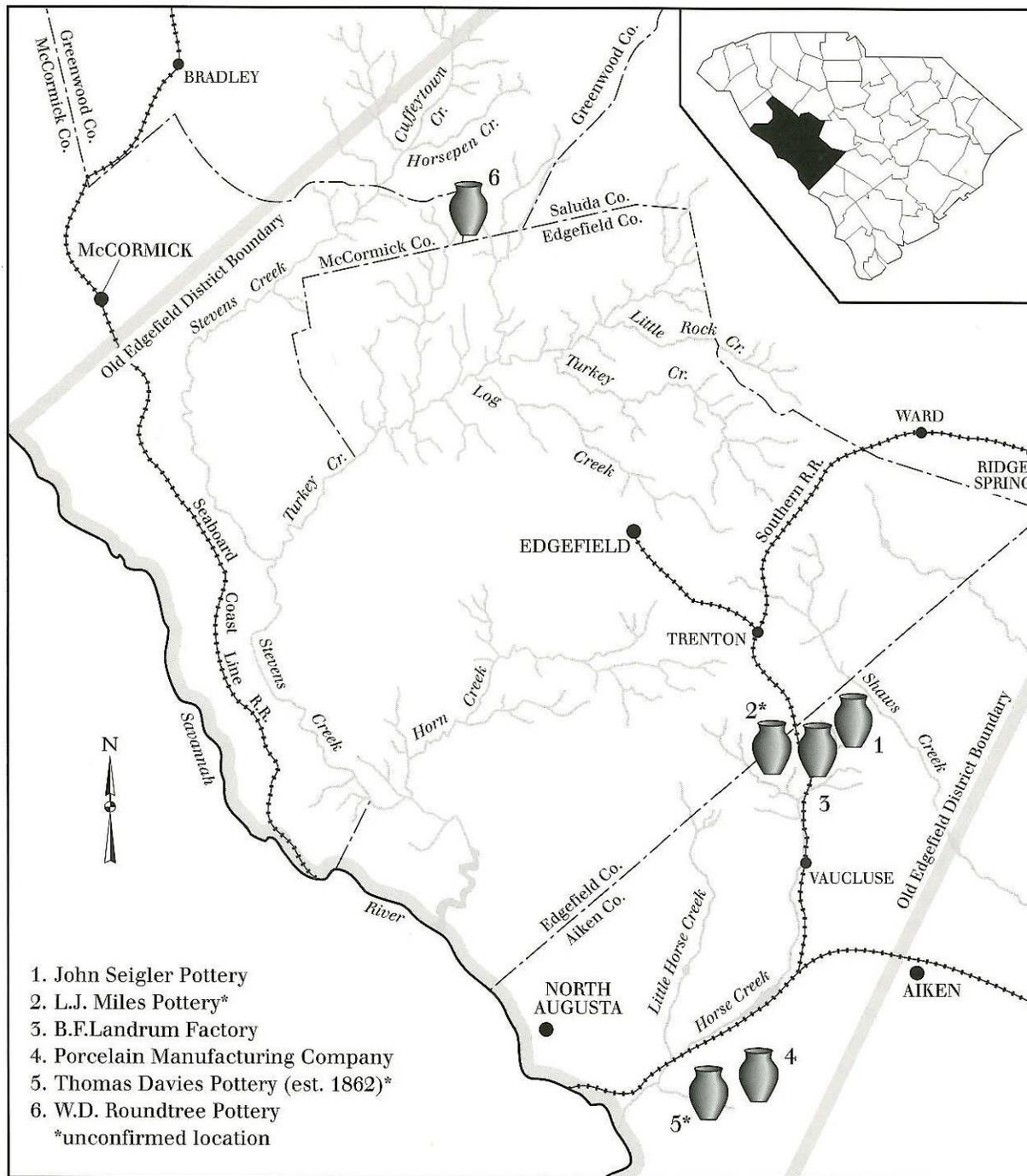
## Edgefield District pottery factories

Dozens of potteries operated during the 1800s throughout South Carolina's plantation strewn "Edgefield District" north and west of Augusta. Here are 10 locations of known factories:

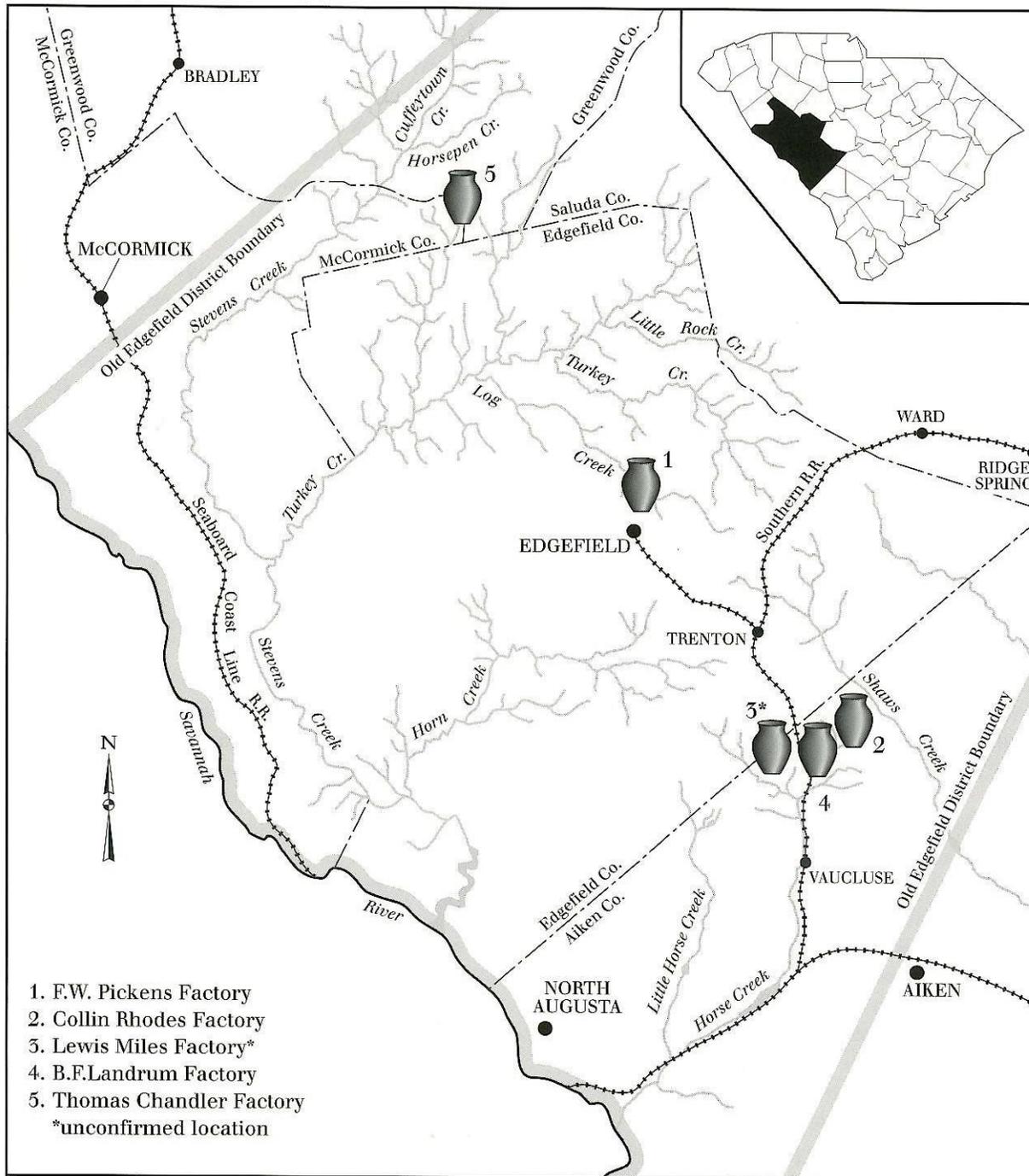
1. Pottersville Stoneware Manufactory
2. Rev. John Landrum Pottery
3. Lewis Miles Pottery
4. John Presley/John Durham/Trapp-Chandler Factory
5. Phoenix Factory
6. Collin Rhodes Factory
7. B.F. Landrum Pottery
8. Thomas Chandler Factory
9. Miles Mill and Pottery
10. Southern Porcelain Manufacturing Co.

Source: McGossick Museum

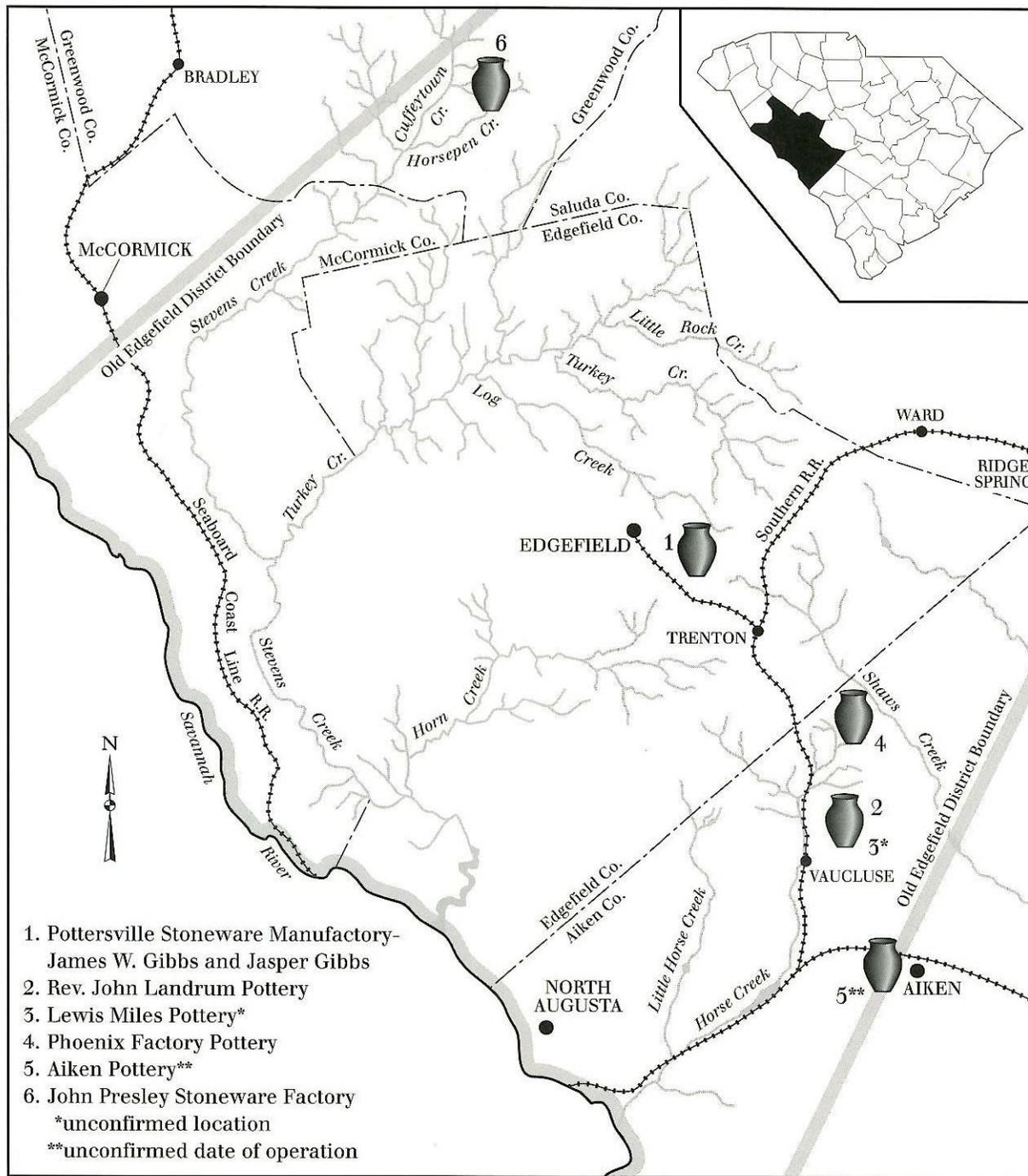




1. John Seigler Pottery
  2. L.J. Miles Pottery\*
  3. B.F. Landrum Factory
  4. Porcelain Manufacturing Company
  5. Thomas Davies Pottery (est. 1862)\*
  6. W.D. Roundtree Pottery
- \*unconfirmed location



- 1. F.W. Pickens Factory
- 2. Collin Rhodes Factory
- 3. Lewis Miles Factory\*
- 4. B.F. Landrum Factory
- 5. Thomas Chandler Factory
- \*unconfirmed location



- 1. Pottersville Stoneware Manufactory-  
James W. Gibbs and Jasper Gibbs
- 2. Rev. John Landrum Pottery
- 3. Lewis Miles Pottery\*
- 4. Phoenix Factory Pottery
- 5. Aiken Pottery\*\*
- 6. John Presley Stoneware Factory  
\*unconfirmed location  
\*\*unconfirmed date of operation

Traditionally, the Edgefield District potteries can be categorized into four broad geographic areas as shown in Figure 3: Edgefield Court House, Shaws Creek, Horse Creek Valley, and Kirksey's Crossroads. The map in Fig. 3 also marks the locations of each manufactory site. Just north of Edgefield Court House was Pottersville. At Shaws Creek: Amos Landrum's pottery; Phoenix Stoneware Factory; Colin Rhodes's pottery; and John W. Seigler's pottery. In the Horse Creek Valley: Rev. John Landrum's pottery; B. F. Landrum's pottery; Lewis J. Miles' potteries (Stony Bluff and Miles Mill); Joseph G. Baynham's pottery; and William F. Hahn's pottery. In the southern part of the district, near Bath: The Southern Porcelain Company and Thomas Davies's Fire and Brickworks. Near or adjacent to Kirksey's Crossroads: the Isaac Durham Pottery; Trapp-Chandler pottery; Thomas M. Chandler's pottery; and Jesse P. Bodie's pottery.

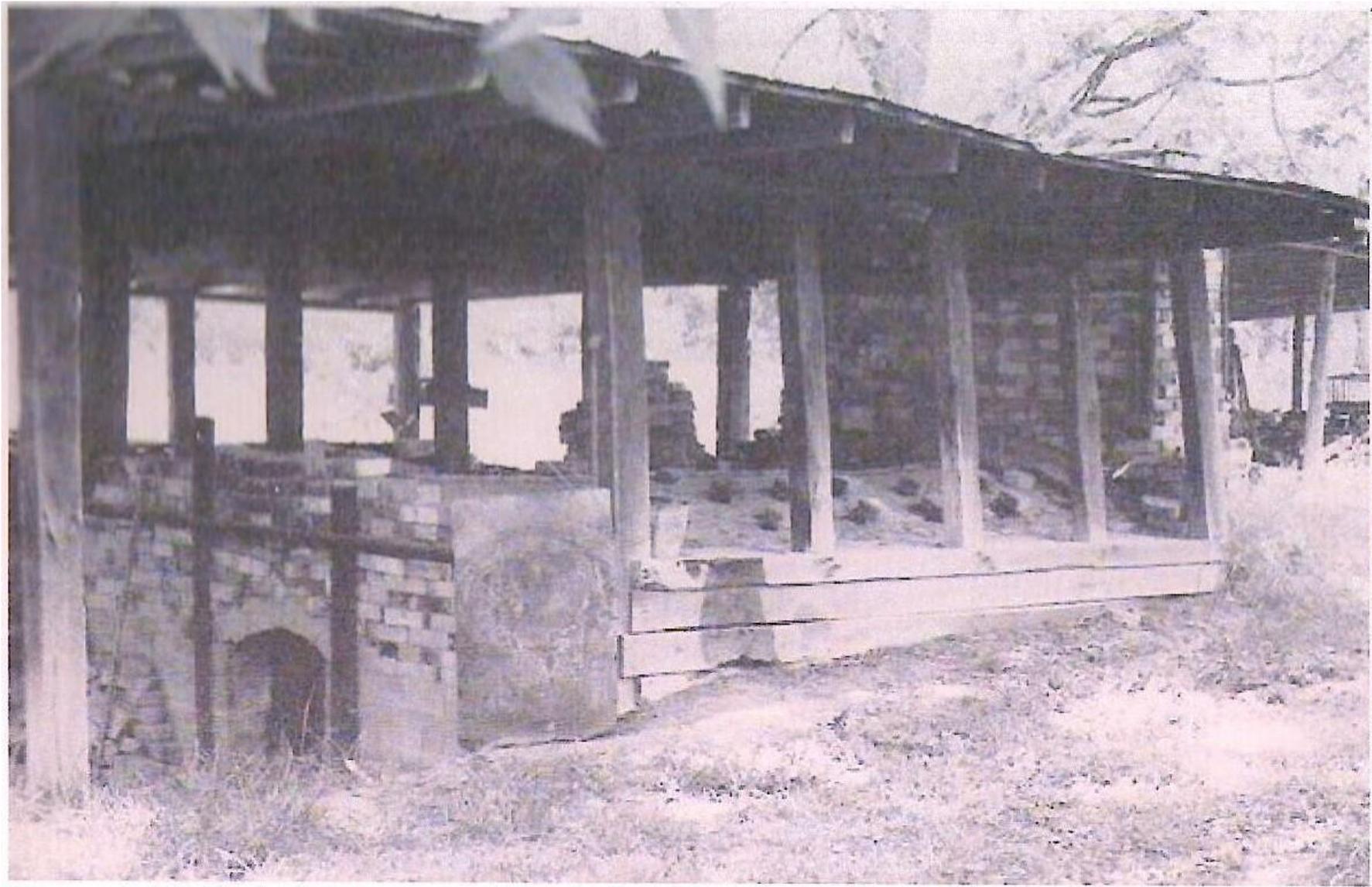


Figure 4.18. Early 20th century North Carolina Groundhog kiln, Courtesy Lucien Koonce

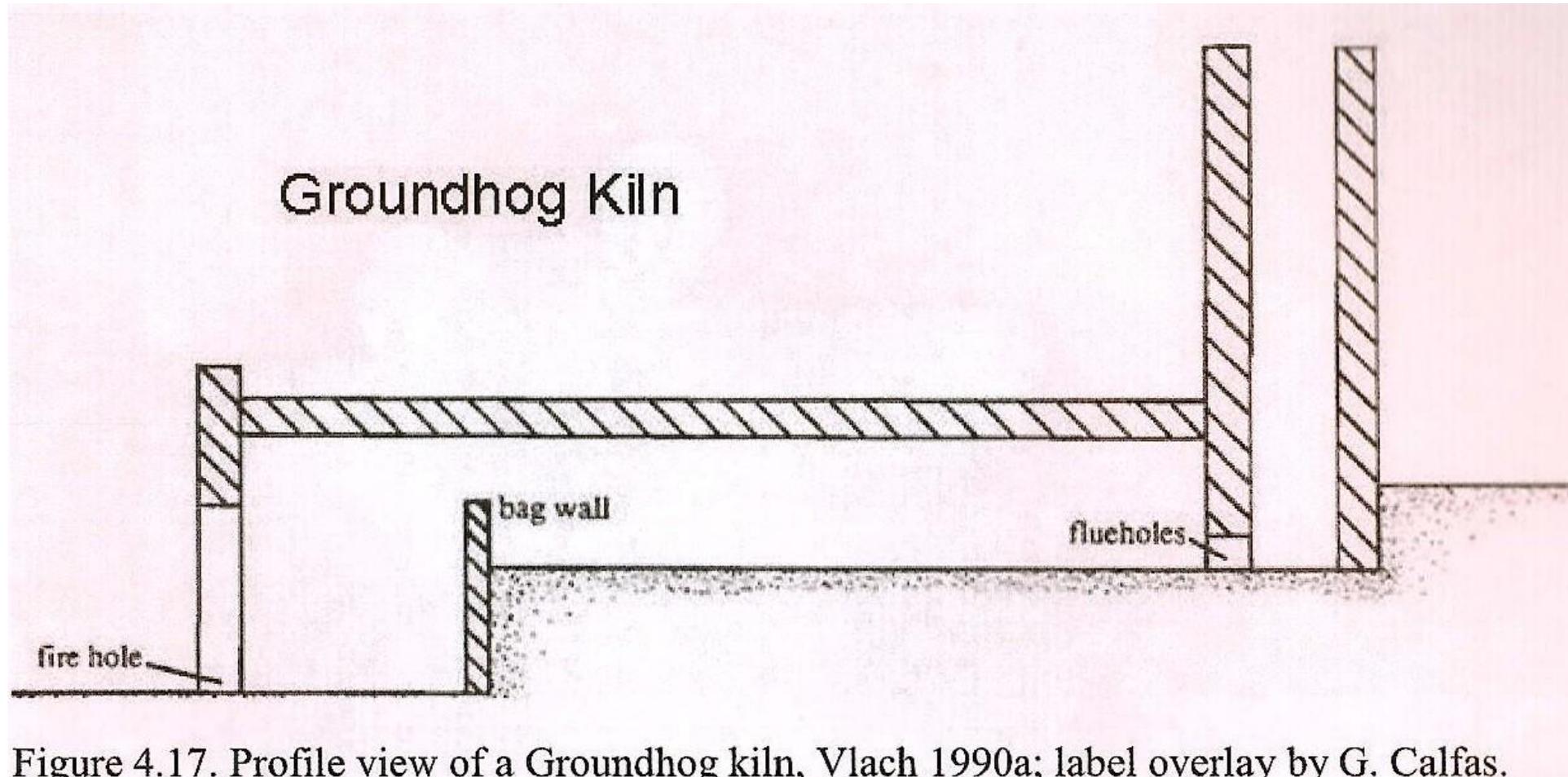


Figure 4.17. Profile view of a Groundhog kiln. Vlach 1990a; label overlay by G. Calfas.



# The Dragons of Old Edgefield

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/45585b7305b042ba8b17bb98ce23e2be?>

Dragon kiln firings in China suggest that a 100-foot kiln takes approximately two to three days to load, three days to fire, three to five days to cool, and two days to unload for a total estimate of 11 days (Finlay 1998; Needham 2004; Sayers 1951, 1987). Thus, it is plausible that Pottersville, and other Edgefield kilns, could be loaded, fired, and unloaded two to three times in a single month. At some point during firing operations the

Pottersville kiln was possibly fired three times per month based upon the wood purchase agreement, "*no more than 24 firings per year* (Edgefield Deeds, Baldwin 1993, emphasis

## Firing Cycle

Handwritten scribbles and initials on the right margin, including a large vertical mark and the letters 've' and 'C'.

salt glaze had to be transported from neighboring regions. The discovery of alkaline glaze provided a locally available and effective means to glaze stoneware. The Edgefield pottery district possessed an abundance of the required elements needed for producing an alkaline glaze mixture for use on stoneware; 1) silica (most notably sand), 2) slaked wood ash and lime, and 3) kaolin clay (Zug 1986). Local potters engaged with these local materials to create yet another variation on utilitarian stoneware.

## Edgefield's Abundant Glaze Ingredients

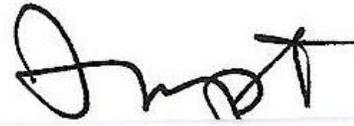
More perfect transparent glazing prepared with wood-ashes

Take of sand forty pounds, of wood-ashes, perfectly burnt, fifty pounds, of pearl-ashes ten pounds, and of common salt twelve pound

This will make an admirable glazing, where the ashes are pure, and a strong fire can be given to flux it when laid on a ware. It will be perfectly free from imperfection of the above, and will be very hard and glossy; and where the expense can be allowed, it may be made more yielding to the fire by the addition of borax, in which case no alteration need be made in proportion of the other ingredients (Dossie 1795: 377).

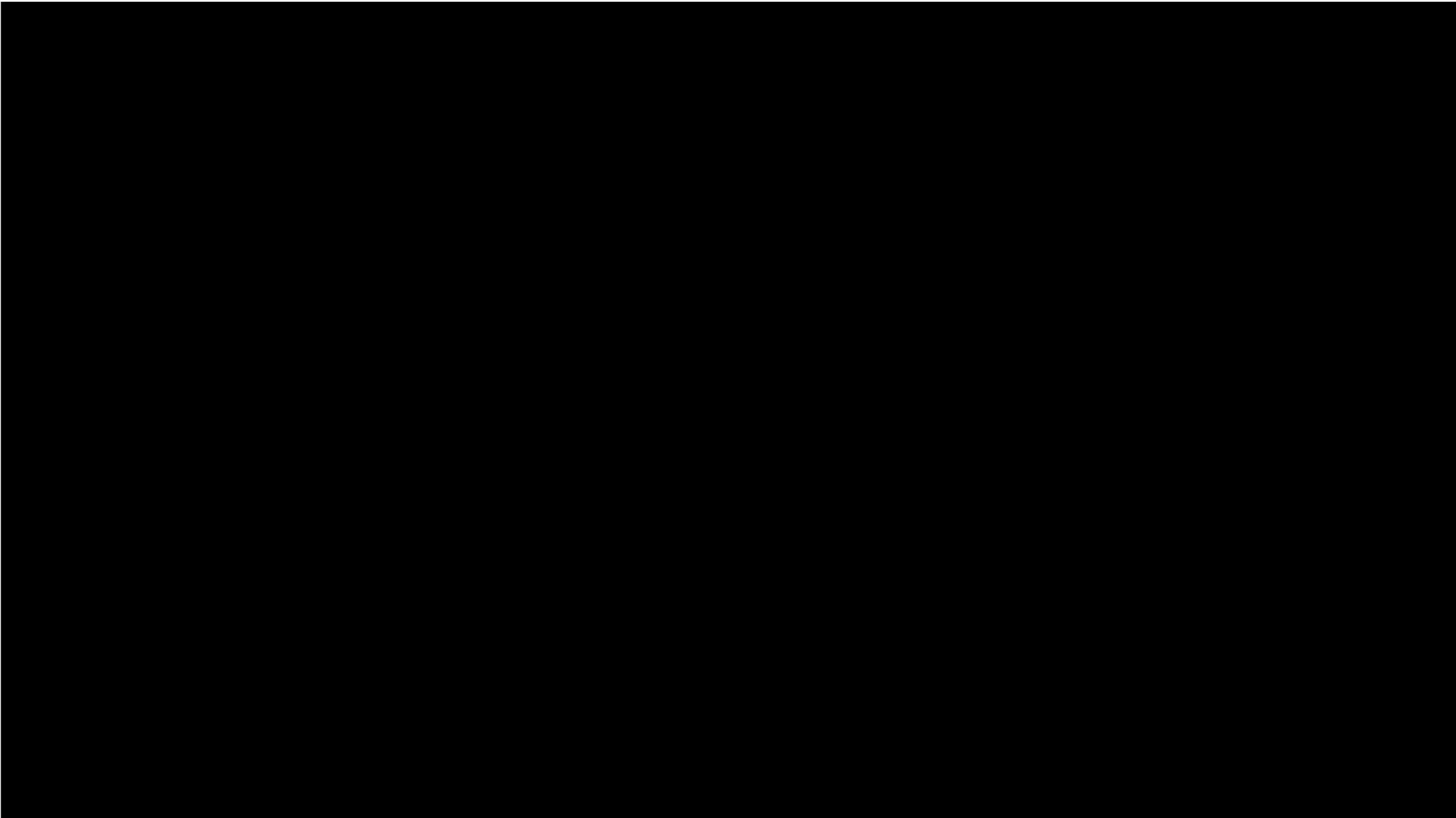
He also described each specific color of glaze, to including subdivisions of minor colors within colors ranges (Dossie 1795: 388).

Another preparation of a fine green glazing

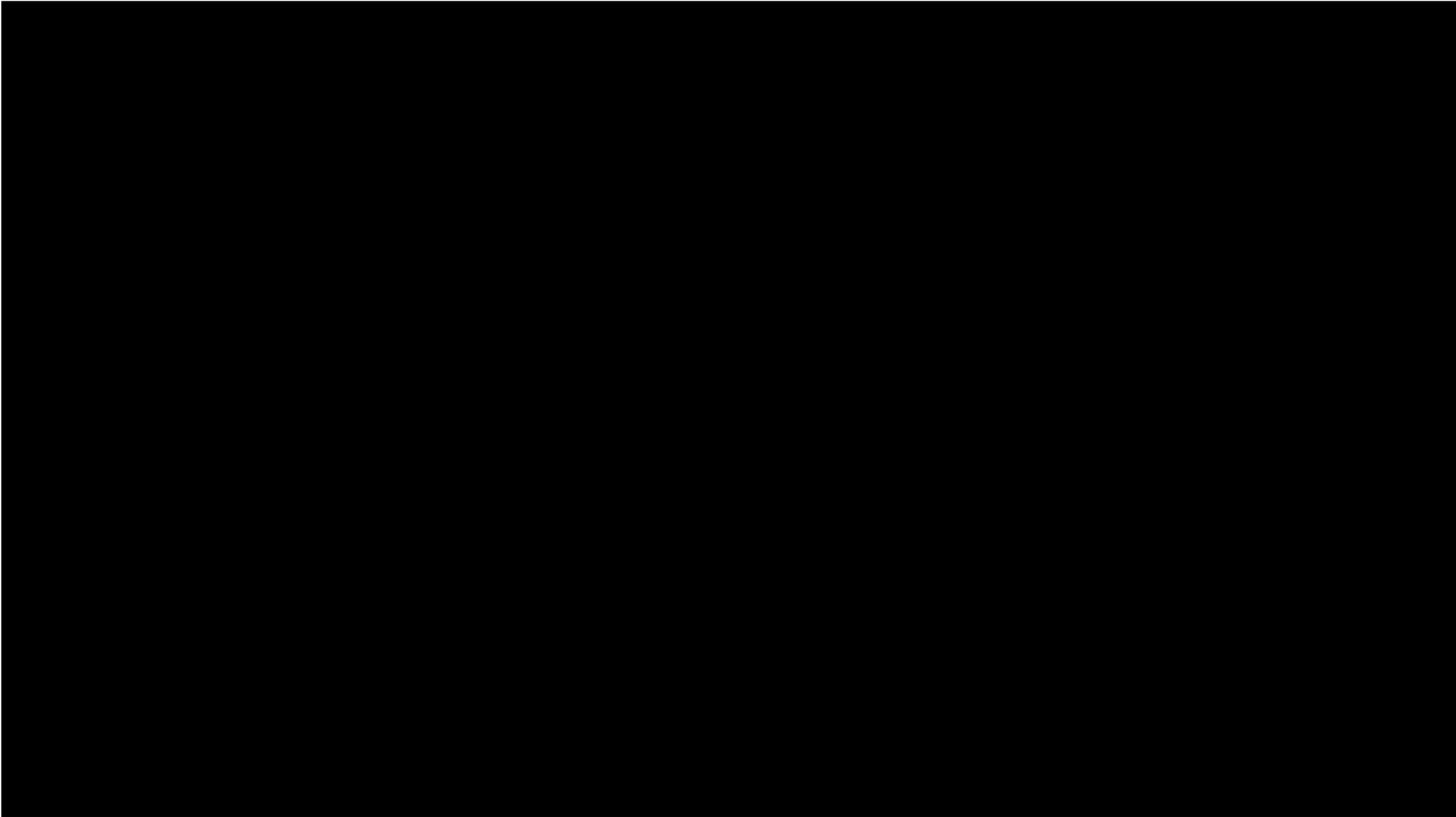


Take of any the yellow glazing already given, and add to it an equal quantity of any of the blue glazes given below. Mix them thoroughly well together by grinding, and they will produce a green that will be bright and good, in preparation to the yellow and blue used for its composition

This is the readiest way of forming greens for every purpose, as by the choice of the kind of yellow and blue, and the variation of proportion of one to the other, all shades and tints of green may be certainly produced.



Southern Pottery Alkaline Glazes Explained



Early Edgefield Alkaline Glaze video



A Southern Tradition Alkaline Glazing Process





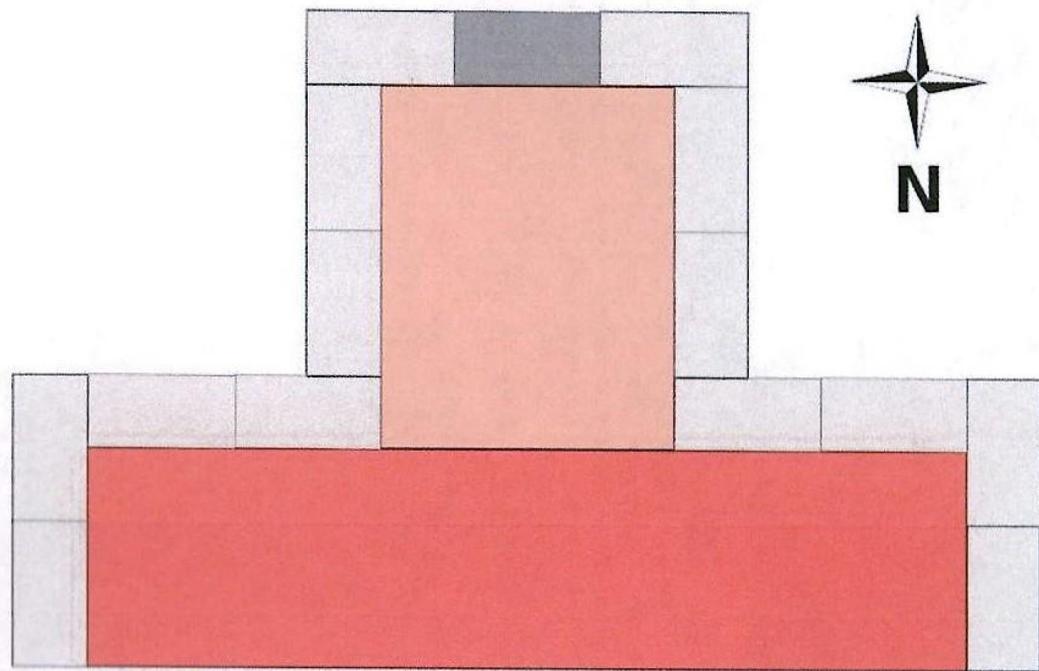


Figure 6.14. Google Earth image that displays the proximity of the Pottersville kiln the likely clay borrow pit.





# Overhead View Feature 5-Chimney



Chimney

Ware Chamber

Kiln Brick

Door Footer

0 1m 2m.

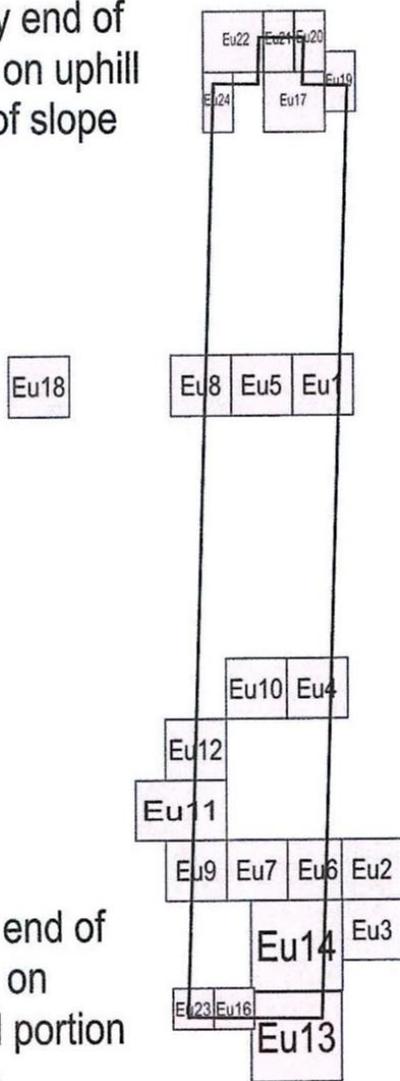


Arch Brick

Walkway

POTTERVILLE  
3880 11  
BLK  
A2  
19 JUL 11

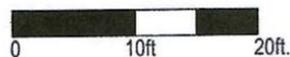
Chimney end of  
the kiln, on uphill  
portion of slope



Firebox end of  
the kiln, on  
downhill portion  
of slope

Eu15

Feature 1 outline  
of the entire  
structure of the  
Pottersville Kiln,  
105ft. long and  
12ft. wide





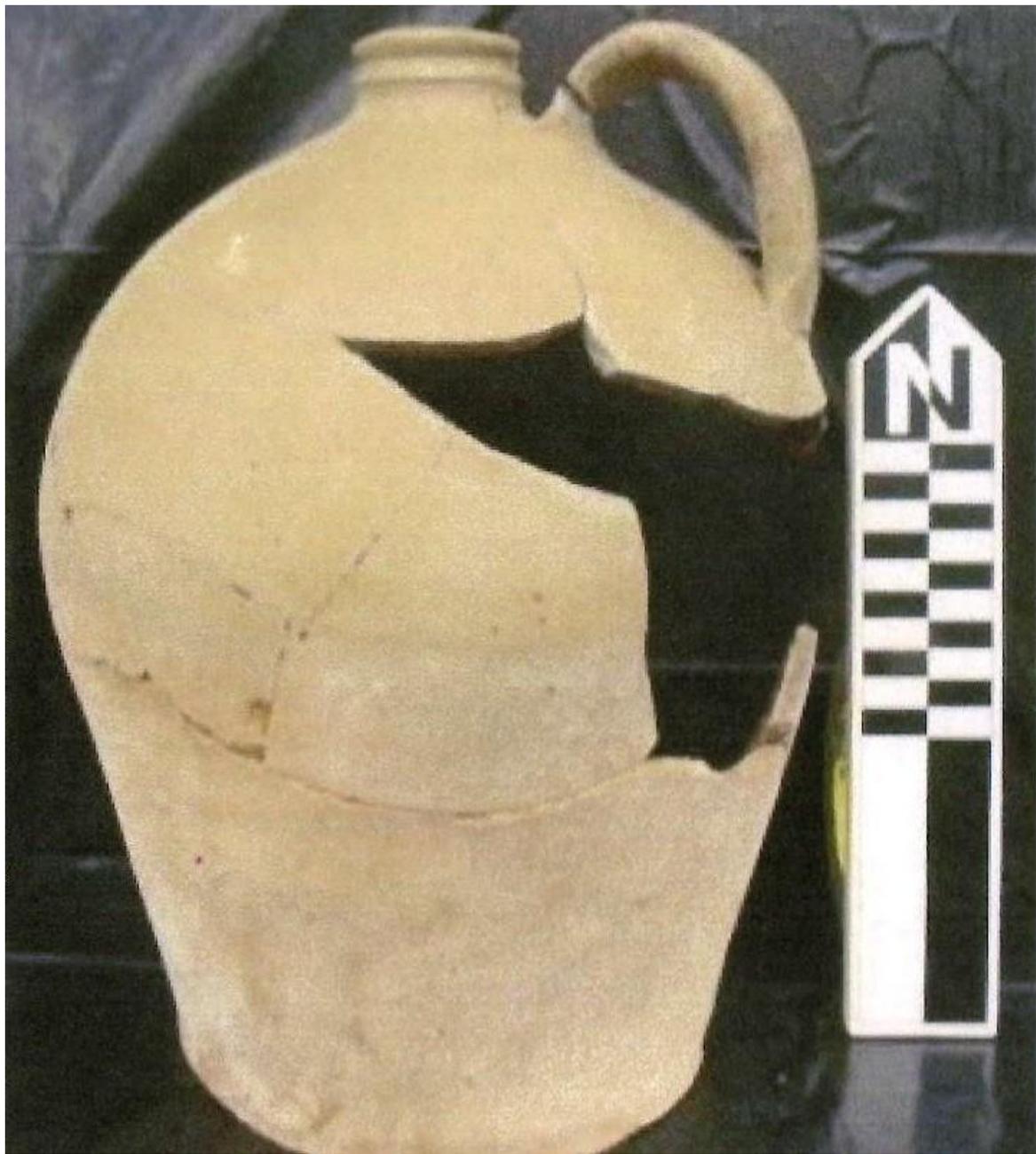
*Excavated elements of Landrumsville  
"dragon" kiln, built circa 1815*



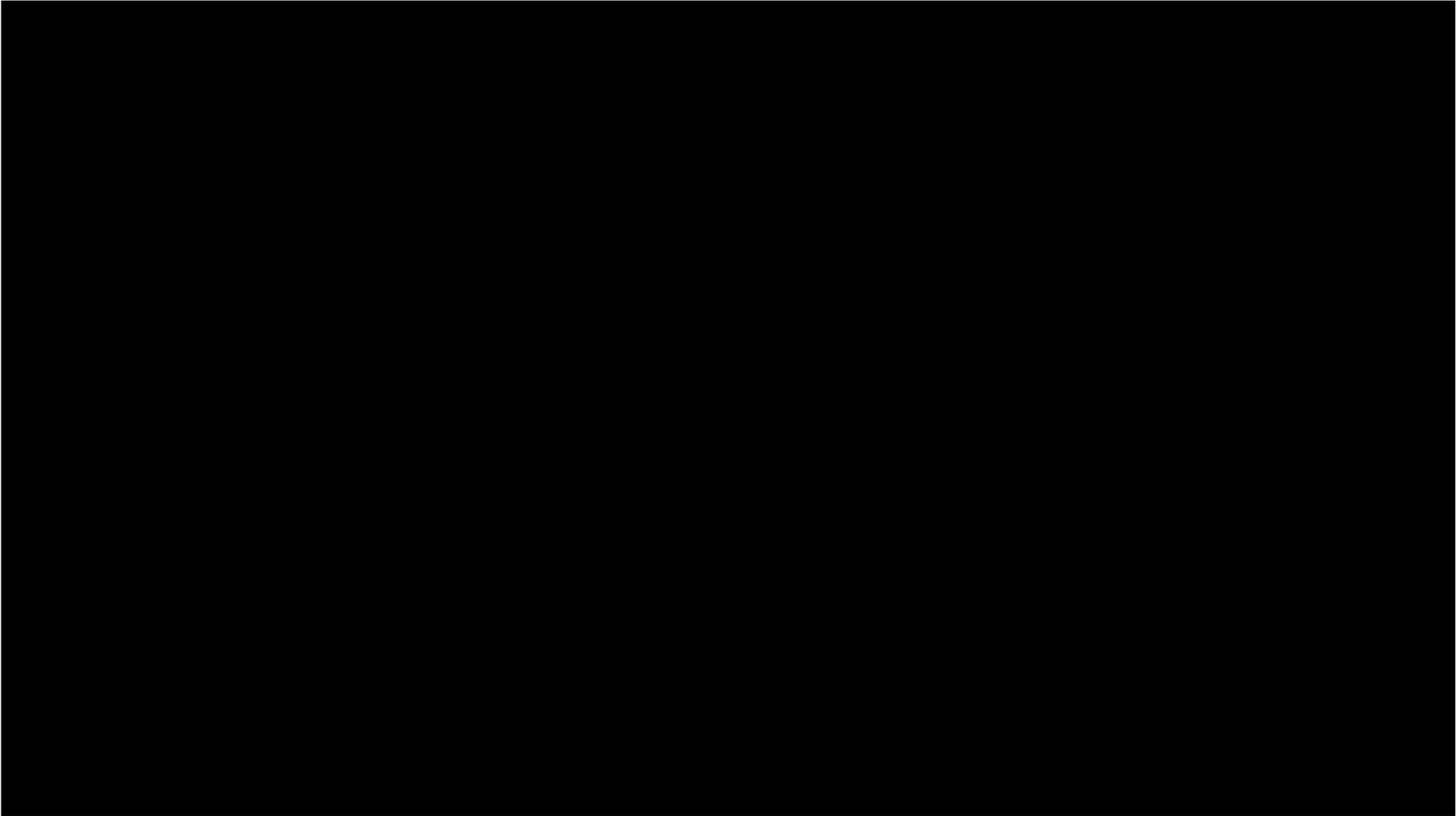


Chimney base end  
of 105 ft. long kiln

Opening and fire box end  
of 105 ft. long kiln at  
Pottersville







Wood Firing Dynamics











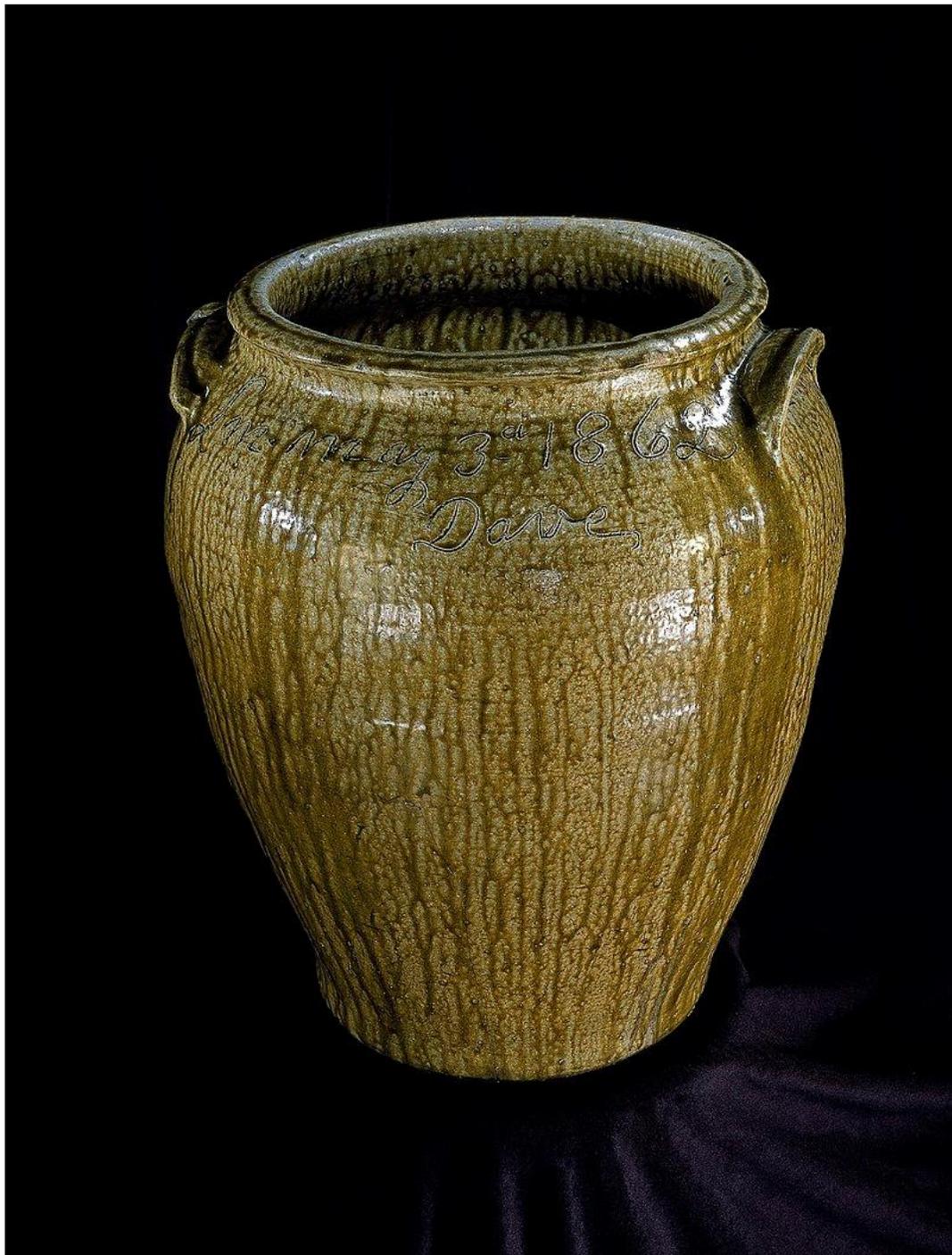












May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1862  
Dave





L m  
masch 12-1857



J. W. S. & CO.  
PINE HOUSE  
S. C.

4

CROCKER FARM





W. F. HAHN  
TR. SC















**SLAVERY**

I at this Twentieth day of September  
in the Year of our Lord one thousand Seven hun-  
-dred & Ninety Nine - Signed Seal: & Delivered

In presence of Rich: Tull Junr  
Gabriel Tull

South Carolina Edgefield County

Personally appeared before me Russell  
Wilson one of the Justices assigned to keep the  
peace for the County aforesaid, Rich Tull Junr.

& Made oath on the holy evangelists of almighty  
- God, & that he was present & saw Gabriel  
Tull sign his Name to the within Bill of Sale  
to & for the uses & purposes above mentioned -

Sworn to before me this 20th Mo<sup>o</sup> 1799  
Russell Wilson J. Rich Tull Junr

Nann Swearingen Junr. to Ezekiel M. Clendon

Received for Record of November 1795  
State of South Carolina This In-

-venture made this sixth day of September in  
the Year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred  
and Ninety and in the Fifteenth Year of the Uni-  
-ted States of America Independence Between

Capt: Nann Swearingen of the district of Ninety  
Six in Edgefield County of the one part &  
Ezekiel M. Clendon of the same County and  
District of the other part Witnesseth that the

P. Nann Swearingen for & in consideration of  
the sum of Ten Shillings St. Money of the  
State aforesaid to him in hand Well & Truly

## [Diary entry: 21 May 1791]

The house at which George Washington dined was the Piney Woods House, a log tavern near present-day Trenton, S.C. The house belonged to Capt. Van Swearingen of Edgefield County, a veteran of the Revolution. Swearingen's daughter Frances Swearingen apparently inherited the tavern about this time and ran it with her husband Ezekiel McClendon (NAMES IN S.C., 11 [1964], 44). ODEN: The census of 1790 lists four families of Odens, three of Odums, and one of Odem in Edgefield County ([HEADS OF FAMILIES, S.C.](#), 62–63, 65–66). The house is said to have been near present-day Ridge Spring ([SALLEY \[2\]](#), 25).

Our country-born negroes, particularly in the upper country, are as ingenious, and considering their opportunities, as intelligent, as the mass of our laboring white population. One advantage, our manufacturers will find in using their slaves in this new species of enterprise in the South, and it is sufficient to outweigh the disadvantages of inferiority of ingenuity, if it existed – their establishments will not be subject to those sudden derangements, which in other countries, follow the whims and caprices of those who are entire masters of their own persons and services  
(*Edgefield Hive* 1830).



time, Jasper Gibbs, departed for Mississippi (*Edgefield Advertiser* April 12, 1843; Baldwin 1993; Castille et al. 1988).

Stoneware produced at Pottersville was made available throughout the Edgefield district. One particular marketplace for Pottersville stoneware consisted of plantation operators who employed enslaved laborers. Pickled pork was the primary food product provided in rations to enslaved workers. Food products such as pork, potatoes, cornbread, greens, and corn were included in weekly ration allotments. James Henry Hammond, an Edgefield planter, wrote that a field hand should be provided three pounds of pork per week (Faust 1985; Vlach 1990a). The pork pickling process took approximately four weeks and a five-gallon vessel held approximately 20 pounds of pork. Vernon Burton's research indicates that half of the Edgefield plantations maintained groups of 25 or more slaves with a total enslaved population of nearly 13,000 in 1820 (Burton 1985). If a plantation owner were to provide 3 pounds of pork per week to 25 field hands, the plantation would empty 4 to 5 of the 5-gallon vessels a week. Thus a plantation owner would very likely prefer to own a minimum of 20 stoneware vessels just to pickle pork. To provide enough pickled pork for the entire population of 13,000 enslaved people in the Edgefield district, plantation owners, for example, could have utilized more than 11,000 of the 5-gallon stoneware vessels. Plantation owners very likely presented a market demand for such affordable food storage vessels and Edgefield stoneware manufacturers were eager to take advantage of that market (Burton 1998: 41; Vlach 1990b, 1991).

In addition to providing storage for distributing food rations to the agricultural work force, stoneware was also very likely desirable for other storage uses for the high

The very slaves of America (for the most part) have plenty of meat, bread, and other vegetables. Many after performing the portion of service required by their masters, earn from 25 to 37 1/2 cents for themselves, the balance of the day: and this day's work is often performed by a hired slave – here the proprietor is satisfied as well as the secondary who hires; and still a portion of the slave's time can be appropriated to his own benefit! Seeing such then is the condition of the slave how much more comfortable must be the situation of the master, or even the non-slave holding citizen of the republic, who husbands with prudence, all the means in his power to procure the comforts of life and the blessings of education  
(*Edgefield Hive*: Pottersville, May 14, 1830).

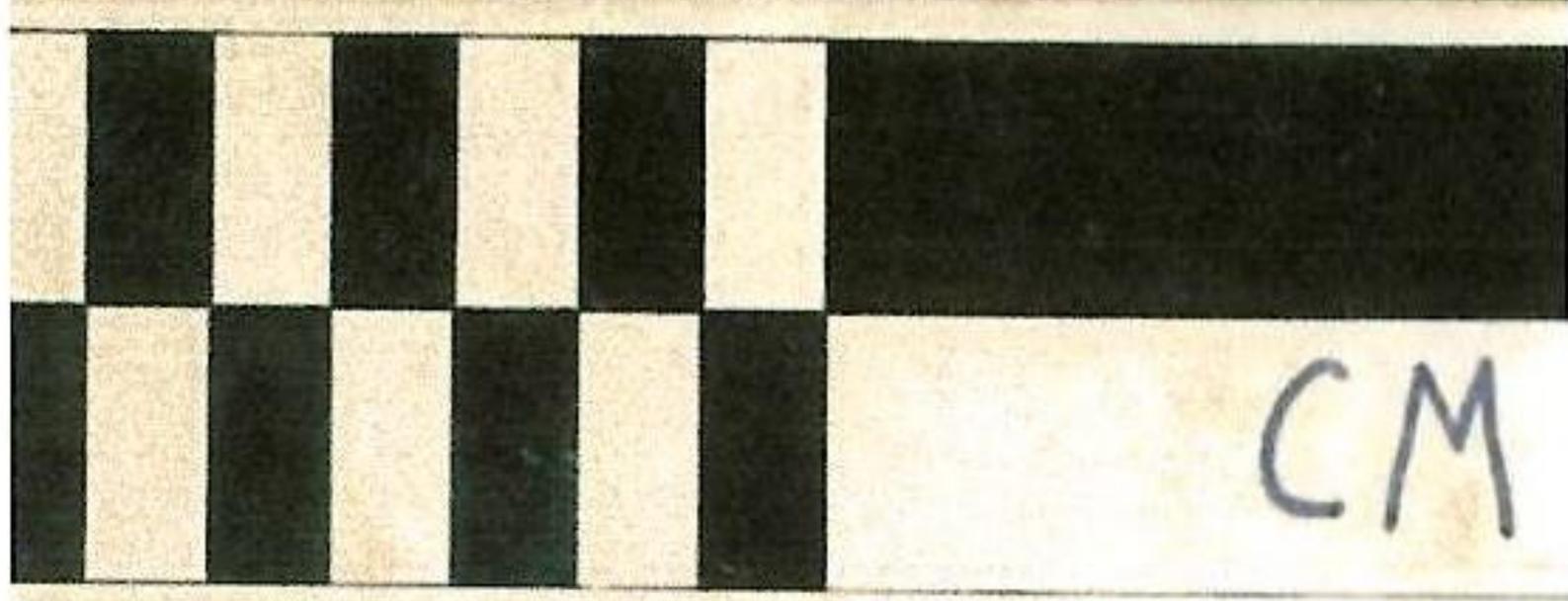
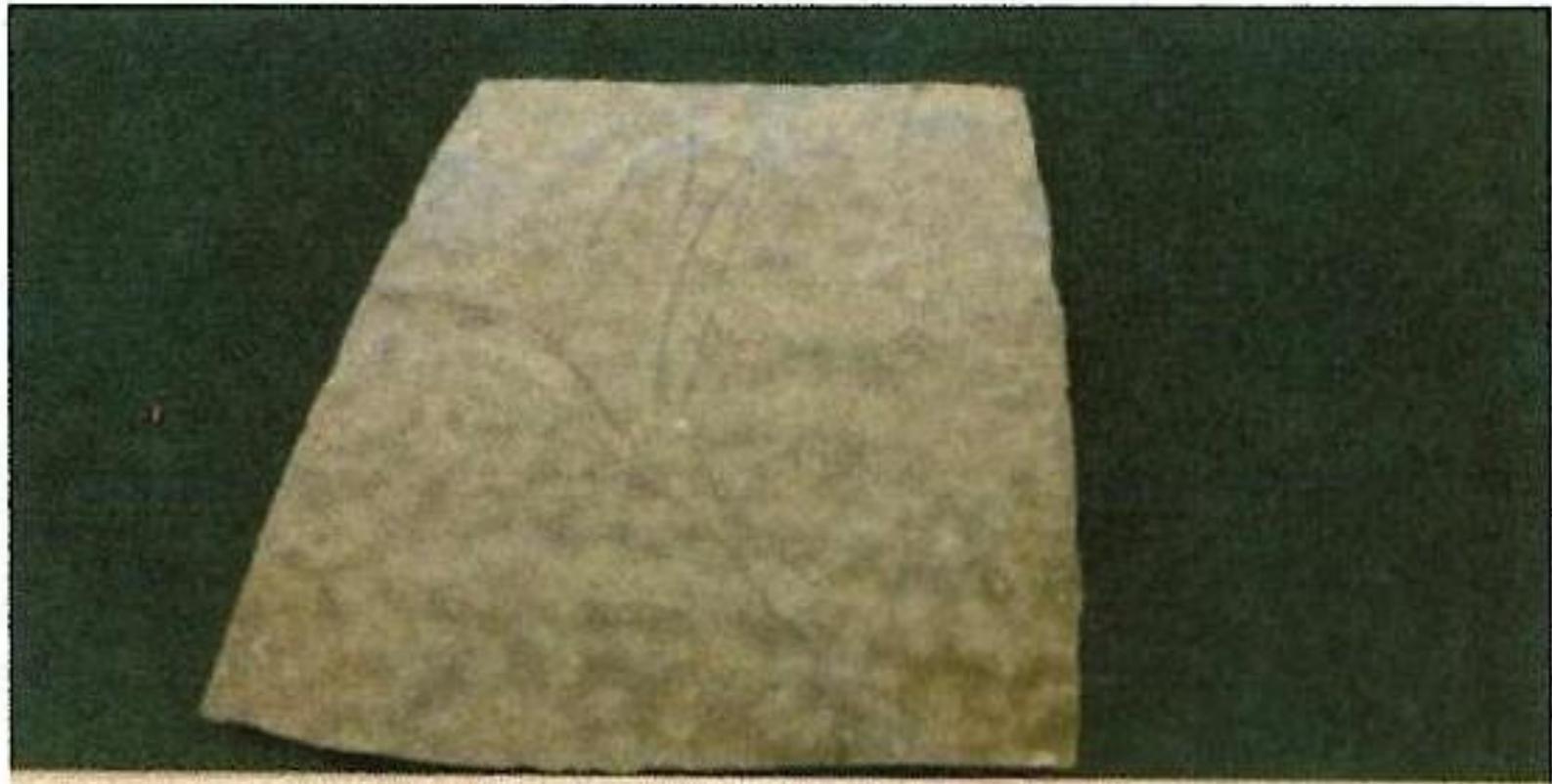
## Slave Incentives

*I made this jar = for cash  
Though its called = lucre Trash*

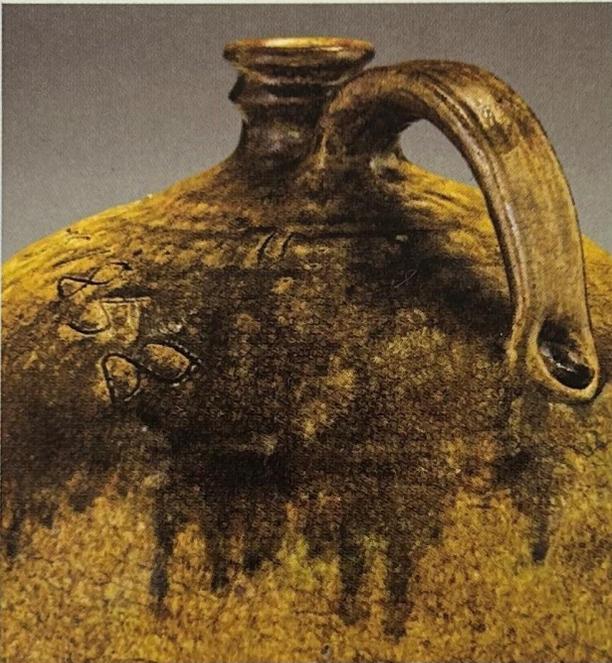
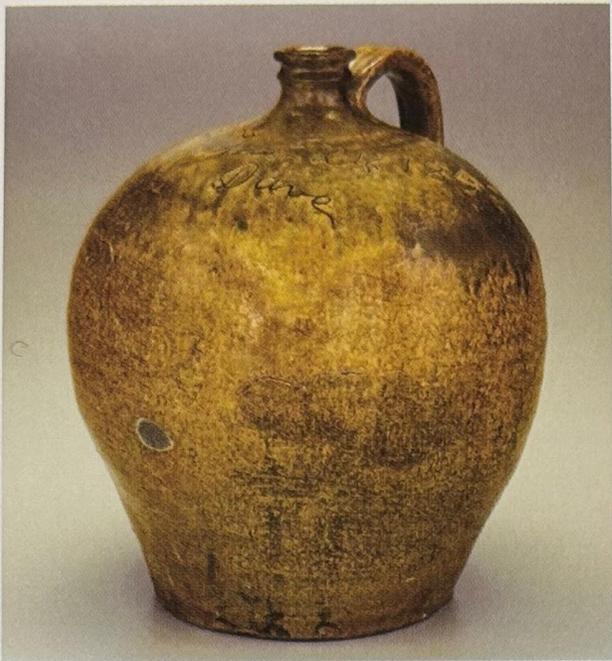
Made by Dave

August 22, 1857 for Lewis Miles at Stony Bluff  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

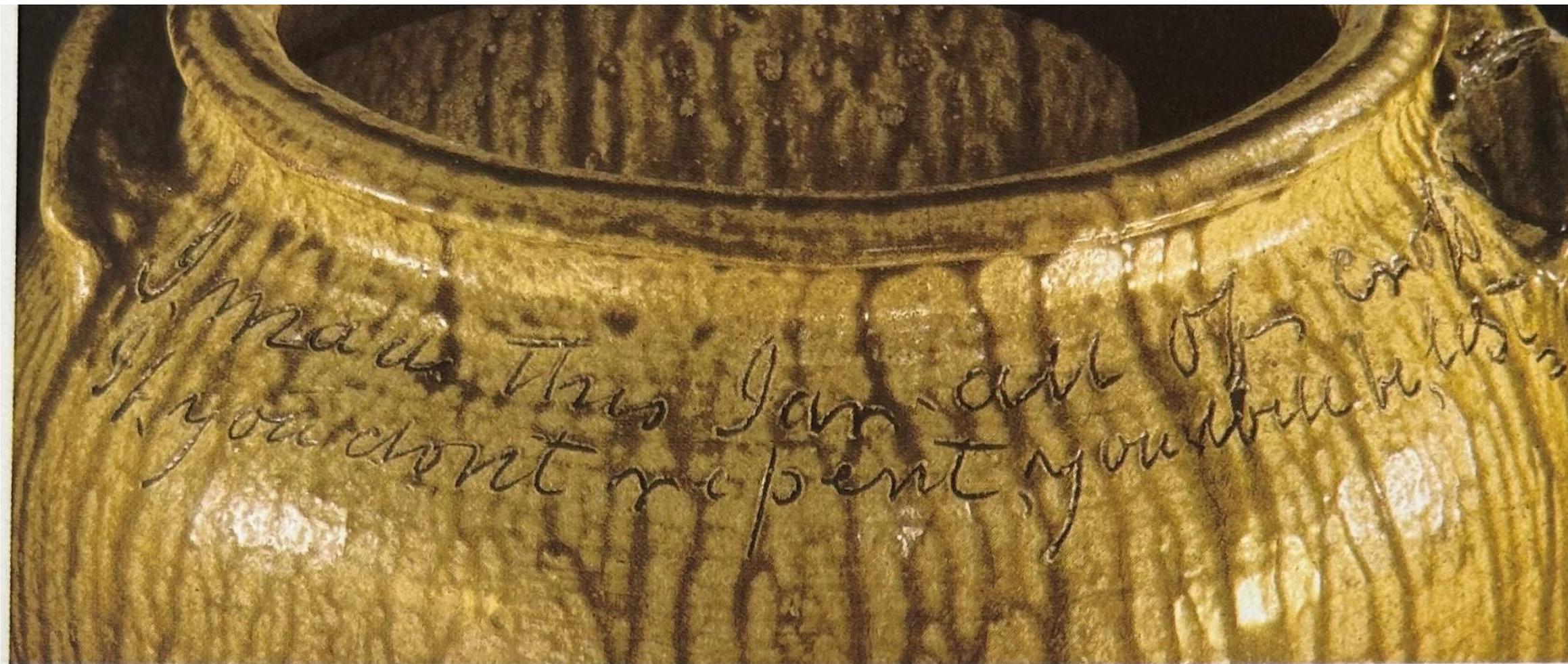
19 inches tall



# **Dave's Poems**



Three views of a jug, dated February 24, 1858. In the middle photo, the oval impression at the base of the strap handle is the imprint of the end of Dave's finger. It is characteristic of his handles of this type and is considered almost a second signature.



Storage jar, dated May 3, 1862. Turned in the midst of the Civil War, this is Dave's last known pot inscribed with a poem. He wrote the couplet as a warning: *I, made this Jar, all of cross / If, you dont repent, you will be, lost =*



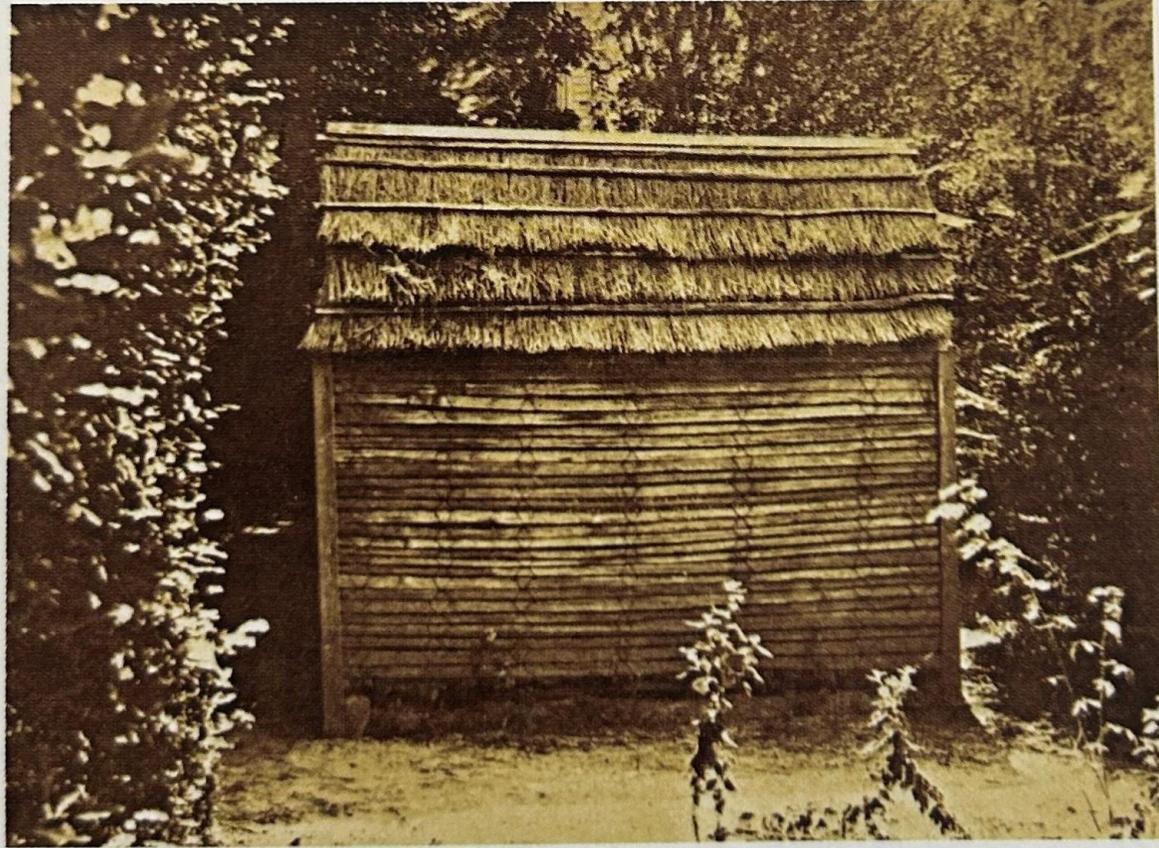
Face vessel, probably for holding umbrellas or walking sticks, about 1870. At 28 inches in height, this is by far the largest known Edgefield face vessel. Its size and craftsmanship indicate that it may have been made at Miles Mill by Dave, who was the only potter turning such large pieces in the district at that time.



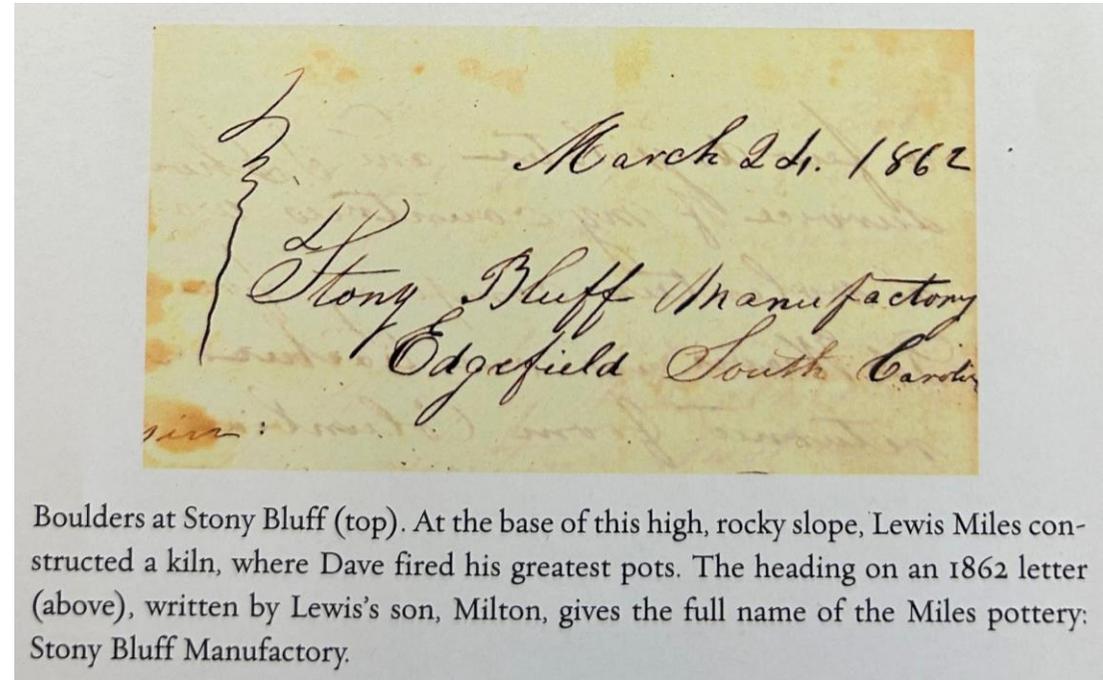




Three former Edgefield slaves pictured in 1908, fifty years after their arrival in South Carolina on the *Wanderer*. From left, they are Ward Lee (known as Cilucangy in Africa), Tucker Henderson (Pucka Geata), and Romeo (Tahro). Romeo may be the connection between Edgefield face vessels and Africa, because a slave by his name worked at the pottery where such items were first noted. Descendants of Ward Lee, who still live in the Edgefield area, helped with research for this book.



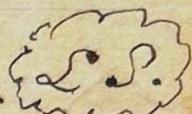
Face vessels (top). These contemporary stoneware containers, made by Steve Ferrell, closely recall those fashioned by black Edgefield pottery workers as early as 1862. The creative impulse that shaped the original vessels may have come to the district in 1858 with Africans from the illegal slave ship *Wanderer*. Slaves from this group also wove African-style baskets and built the thatch-roofed house shown above.



Boulders at Stony Bluff (top). At the base of this high, rocky slope, Lewis Miles constructed a kiln, where Dave fired his greatest pots. The heading on an 1862 letter (above), written by Lewis's son, Milton, gives the full name of the Miles pottery: Stony Bluff Manufactory.



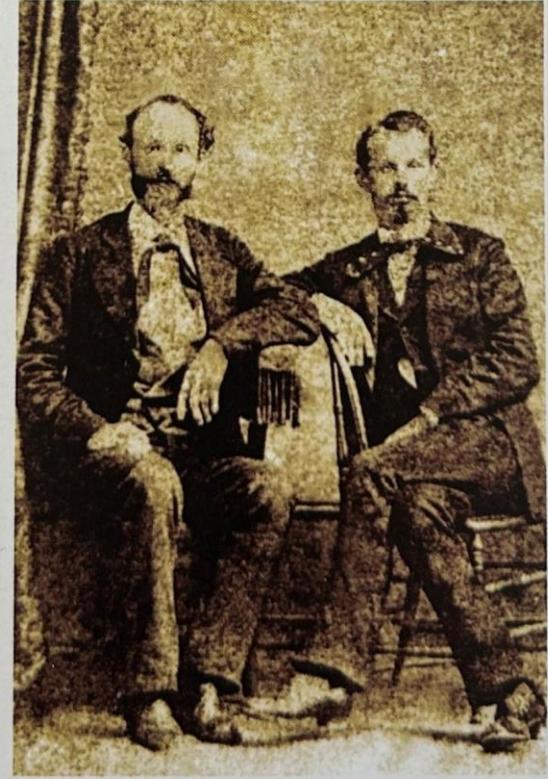
use to obey orders, nor will we  
 do, agree furthermore to make  
 use to make fires in the kitchen  
 & catch horses as we formerly  
 affixed our seals, this 15. day  
 sixty six.

L. S. Miles 

Willis <sup>his</sup> Harrison, 

Pharaoh <sup>in wife</sup> (Jack.) Jones 

Mark <sup>his</sup> Miles   
 mark

Signatures on an 1866 lease agreement (top). Lewis Miles owned two kilns, one at Stony Bluff and another at Miles Mill. After the war he leased one of them, probably Stony Bluff, to three of his former slaves, Willis Harrison, Pharaoh Jones, and Mark Miles. Lewis's son John operated the pottery at Miles Mill after Lewis died in 1869. John is shown above on the left with his brother, Langdon, in 1875.