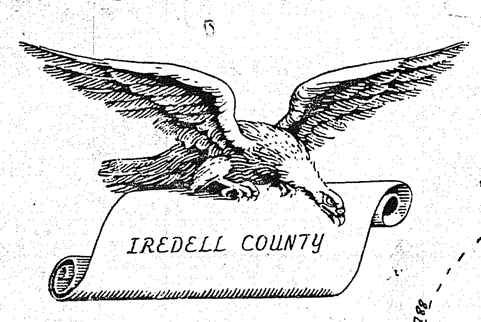
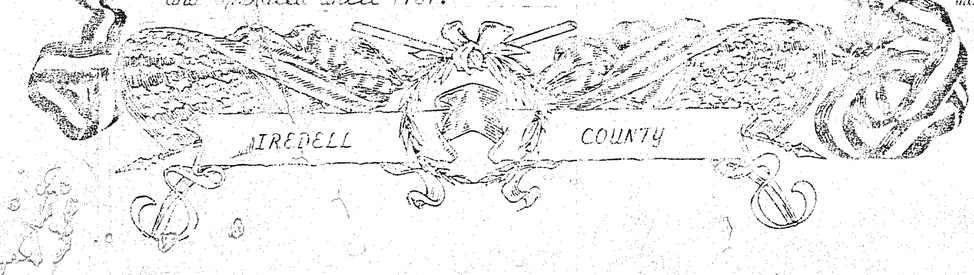


Fort Dobbs was built to provide protection for the early settlers from an increasing number of Indian attacks. The committee appointed by Gov. Dobbs made their report to the North Carolina Assembly at the fall session in 1756. They indicated that they found it "beautifully scituated in the forks of Fourth Creek, a branch of the Yadkin River." In 1759, Gov. Dobbs asked the assembly to provide additional funds for Fort Dobbs. The fort is long gone; however, the State of North Carolina has acquired deeds to the property, and in 1974, the site became Fort Dobbs State Historic Site.

Speculation land, totaling nearly 8,000 acres, accounted for an extensive area across the mid-section of northern Iredell County. Thus, this land was acquired from the speculators - Caldwell, Osborne and Sharpe - after 1800. Farms in that part of the county averaged 100 to 400 acres with about a third of the settlers owning larger plantations. Generally, the larger plantations were south of Statesville. Alexander Clarke owned 2431 acres in the Davidson Creek area, and the Chambers family were among the large land owners on Third Creek near the present Rowan-Iredell line.

Other speculation land was owned by Joseph Sharpe who received grants from the State in accordance with an old law that provided up to 3,000 acres to anyone who operated an iron forge. Sharpe and his son, Azel, were partners in Fair Hope Iron Forge from 1807-1827.

Two of the county's most prominent schools were older than the county. Both were classical schools within the bounds of Presbyterian churches. There is evidence that Crowfield which was near Centre was established as early as 1760, while some say that Dr. Charles Caldwell left Clio Nursery of Arts and Science in 1787 to establish a school at Osborne's which was Crowfield. Clio was located between Snow Creek and the South Yadkin river sometime after 1774 and operated until 1787.



Iredell County was formed on 18th November 1788 from Rowan County. It was named in honor of Judge James Iredell of Edenton, N. C.

SYMBOLS ON MAP

Main Roads ----------
*Homes ■
Mills ✲
Bridges)(
Fords)(
Churches ☩
Colonial Schools ☩
Forts ⊢
Taverns ▯
Sherrill's Path .....
Postoffices ○
Towns ★
March of Cornwallis -.-.-.

*In some cases landowner may not have lived on property.

Iredell County, North Carolina was created on November 18, 1788. To commemorate this important day in our history, we are providing this map showing some of the county's earliest settlers and historic landmarks. Used with the Map of the Fourth Creek Congregation dated 1773 and other available maps, the researcher can get a good picture of what life was like in the fifty years after the formation of the county. Lack of space does not allow all land grants to be shown here, but enough information has been provided to assist genealogists and historians to locate other sites.

For a detailed map of what is now Alexander County, see HERITAGE OF ALEXANDER COUNTY, maps by W. N. Watt. Appreciation is also expressed to him for his research on Sherrill's Path.

Genealogical Society of Iredell County