

## The Plantation Houses that made up the early Knightdale area.

The largest landowner in the early days of Wake County (then Johnston County) was the Hinton family. One of their early grants was a simple 136 acre parcel located on the west bank of the Neuse River. This was followed shortly with multiple grants which eventually led to their having some 22,000 acres which followed the Neuse River and extended to Clayton.

**Panther Rock House** (cir 1743) is probably the first home of Col John Hinton and wife Grizelle Kimbrough. The house was located on the east side of the Neuse River some 2 miles south of the present Hwy 64 on land granted by the Earl of Granville. This is the house written about by Mary Hilliard Hinton in 1903 in which she describes the house as not having a door at ground level, but instead had a trapdoor on top which was accessed via a ladder that could be taken up to prevent undesirables. (indians and animals). *Still in research*

The **Square Brick** house, home of Col John Hinton II & Grizelle Kimbrough.

The Square Brick house (cir 1750) was built on the east bank of the Neuse River approximately 3.5 miles South of the Hwy 64 or Milburnie area. The general location was just north of the bend in the river and south of Poole Rd., across from his original first grant of land. The house burned down in 1786.

The **Clay Hill Plantation**, home of Maj John Hinton III & Pherbee Smith.

The Clay Hill Plantation house (cir 1768) was built on the east bank of the Neuse river just adjacent and south of present day Hwy 64 and within several hundred yards of the river at the top of a hill leading up from the river. The plantation contained about 5400 acres and was worked by about 19 slaves in the time frame of (cir 1790). The home was also said to be the location of many secret Ku-Klux Klan meetings. The house burned in 1923.

Behind the house and toward the river was a garden and the Hinton cemetery, which remained until about July 2007 when it was reinterred to Historic Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh. This large cemetery was established in 1869 and the Confederate section alone contains over 2800 soldiers.

The Hinton Cemetery had approximately 10 grave sites, but only 4 had proper readable markers. The complete site had been surrounded by a short 3 ft high by 1 ft thick granite wall. Old field notes from May 1986 indicate the site to be about 18 ft by 30 ft and facing on a diagonal to the 4 points of the compass. The one corner of the wall is broken down by the growth of a 3 ft Oak stump and nearly centered in the plot is a growing 1 ft diameter Water Oak. At the time of the field study there were 9 stones in the plot, including the large stone placed more recently by Ann Willis Mordecai for Mary – Daughter of John and Pherebee Hinton. Stones that could be recognized were as follows:

**The Hinton Cemetery**

No.	Stone	Markings	Birth	Death	Comment
1	J. H.		3-14-1748	10-19-1818	John Hinton III Jr.
2	P. H.		10-16-1748	12-19-1810	Pherebee Smith Hinton *
3	Hinton	Mary	6-1766	5-9-1813	Spl Stone – Dau J.H. & P.H.
4	Hinton	W		1806	Most likely son Willis – Died young

5	P.L.				Unknown – fragment (face down) **
?				1802	Most likely son Samuel - Died young
?				1865	Elizabeth Hinton “Aunt Betsy”

\* Daughter of the Smith Family, founder of Smithfield, North Carolina

\*\* Believed to be the original stone of Polly Lane, whois Mary Hinton

? Not proven, but assumed via other documents.  
Some stones were actually just foot stones

The **slave cemetery** adjacent to Clay Hill contains well over 150 grave sites and is still in very good condition. Remnants of Indian burial mounds have been located in this area also.

The **River Plantation**, home of Charles Lewis Hinton & Ann Perry

The River Plantation (cir 1836) was located on the east bank of the Neuse River in an area about 3 miles south of Hwy 64 (then Tarborough Rd) . An early map shows one of the Hinton roads leading west to the river place from the Oaks.

The **Midway Plantation**, home of Maj David Hinton Jr & Mary Boddie Carr.

The Midway plantation house (cir 1848) was located on Hwy 64 (Tarborough Rd.) about ¾ mile west of town. This fine Greek Revival style house is still the property of a Hinton family member and was recently moved some 3 miles or so to the north of where it stood. The house and all out buildings are reassembled in the same configuration and direction that they had originally. The original land is now the site of a large shopping center. The Midway got its name from being *midway* between the Beaver Dam house and the Oaks Plantation house. (See pics in Gallery).

Across Hwy 64 from the Midway and a bit to the east is/was the site of a good sized **slave cemetery**. The cemetery was surveyed and the results turned over to the county. A rough estimate of the number of graves during the survey numbered approximately 130. Some time after the building of a subdivision in that area it became clear that houses were more important than the remains of the many slaves that worked these plantations. The subdivision now has one small area of trees and undergrowth that remain on a hill adjacent to the pool and clubhouse with black wrought iron fence. This area is at this time unmarked and does represent only a very small amount of the original slave cemetery. At the time preparation for this subdivision was taking place a paper was written stating that there were as many as 50 graves and indication that there were many more. The letter went on to define that the present owners did not have enough slaves to have this type of burial ground, and that no church could be identified with the grounds. The error in all this attempt is that no attention was payed to the very fact that the land was originally Hinton land and that they had slaves numbering into the hundreds at various times and spread over all of the plantation sites.

The Hinton family treated their slaves very well and had a small school building located next to the Midway for their schooling. Many of these folks were long time employees of the Hinton's and served in the many plantations.

The old Hinton road (creekbed / ditch) ran south across Hwy 64 from Midway in the direction of the Oaks House. This road even though not straight by any means in those days ran along the future east edge of Planter's Walk and could be plainly seen by those who lived there in 1990. At that time I had walked the back area of PW and adjacent to the railroad there are still the remains of a bridge that would have crossed Mingo Creek. The road continued south from there and in its time would have taken you to the front of the Oaks Plantation House which then faced west. (opposite of now).

The **Beaver Dam Plantation**, home of Col William Hinton & Candace Rosser

The Beaver Dam Plantation house (cir 1800) is located some 2 miles due north of town. It has been refurbished and is exactly as history has left it. The house which was furthest north is in reality now the house midway between the Midway and the Oaks after the move of the Midway.

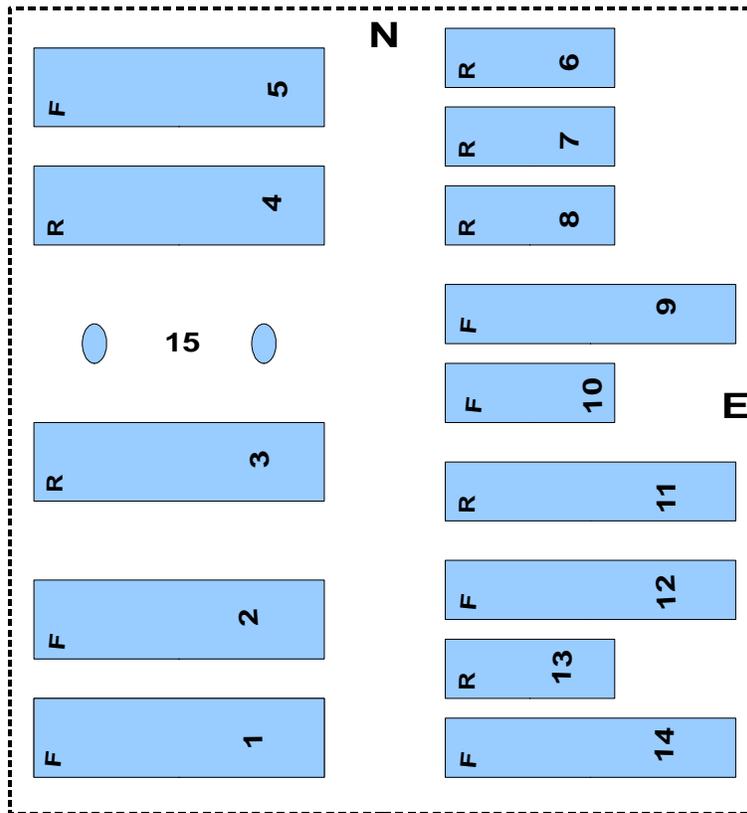
The Beaver Dam plantation had some 4000 acres and about 50 slaves. In 1817, they also started a school for the children of the slaves.

The **Oaks Plantation**, home of David Hinton Sr. & Jane Lewis.

The Oaks Plantation house (cir 1790) is located several miles south of town and is still in fine condition on the exterior, but has seen much modernization in its internal upkeep. This plantation of 100 acres now, but formerly 2200 acres and 13 slaves, is also the site of a cemetery that for lack of terms I refer to as "The Oaks cemetery". This cemetery is the burial location for a number (14) of Hinton family and relatives. This site is also surrounded by a much larger stone wall which is about 3-4 foot tall with an entry way on one end. In the early 1900's the Oaks served as a Wake County Prison.

The following pages will give the details of the cemetery.

## The Oaks Cemetery



### Descriptions

The graves all face basically east and as such I show the names (numbers) as reading from this point. Numbering on the graves is my choosing as well as the direction.

- F** - Is a grave that is basically flush with the general topography and all consist of a 4 to 6 inch thick concrete cover as traditionally seen on graves of this time frame.
- R** - Is a grave that is raised above the general topography by about 1 foot. They also consist of the 4-6 inch concrete top which then has the names and dates engraved.

**Individual Grave info.**

No.	Last Name	First Name	Birth	Death	Comment
1	Hinton	Mary Hilliard	6-7-1869	1-6-1961	Dau – David & Mary Boddie Carr
2	Hinton	Mary Boddie	7-18-1833	7-30-1911	Wife – David Hinton
3	Miller	Isabella Willis	1-25-1802	2-2-1842	Wife – Henry Miller (I. W. Hinton)
4	Hinton	David Sr.	10-6-1770	10-10-1850	Son – John & Grizzelle
5	Hinton	Charles Lewis	1-18-1793	11-23-1861	b = Oaks, d = Midway
6	Hinton	Mary Jane	9-28-1821	10-29-1822	Inf Dau – Charles & Ann
7	Hinton	Cornellia Ann	11-22-23	6-19-1824	Inf Dau – Charles & Ann
8	Hinton	Green Perry	3-31-1831	1832	Inf Dau – Charles & Ann
9	Hinton	Ann Perry	4-10-1803	12-22-1832	Wife – Charles Lewis Hinton
10	Hinton	Charles Lewis	3-31-1829	6-29-1835	Son – Charles & Ann
11	Lewis	Annie	12-15-1832	6-21-1857	Wife – J.W.Lewis (Ann Perry Hinton)
12	Hinton	David Jr.	10-6-1826	2-26-1876	Son – Charles & Ann, d = Midway
13	Hinton	David	11-7-1857	12-22-1858	Son – David & Mary
14	Hinton	Betsy	10-1-1855	2-21-1865	Dau – David & Mary Boddie Carr
15		2 Rocks, No visible grave.			

**Additional Notes – to those above**

No.	Notes
2	Dau – Jonas Johnston Carr & Elizabeth Jane Hilliard. b = Hilliardston, d = Midway
5	Son of David & Jane Lewis
9	Dau – Joshua & Mary Boddie Perry

The **Red House**, home of Kimbrough Hinton.  
The Red House (cir 1780) location unknown.

The **Silent Retreat**, home of Col James Hinton & Delilah Hunter.  
The Silent Retreat plantation (cir 1775) was located south of town on what is now Poole Rd, exact location not found. This plantation may have had up to 7000 acres and support of 36 slaves.

The home of Malachi Hinton may have been located on his first land grant in the present area of Wake County known as Shotwell. He received his first grant there on Jul 22, 1761 for 430 acres and it was located on both sides of Popular Creek in Johnston County at that time. This transferred out of his possession to Thomas Mial in Jun of 1777 and he later received another grant for 640 acres in Oct, 1782 in about the same area on the north side of the Neuse River.

### **Homes of Hinton Daughters**

The **Joel Lane House**, home of Joel Lane & Martha Hinton & later Mary Hinton.

The Joel Lane plantation house was originally called Bloomsbury and was located around the present site of NC State Univ. It was later moved to a site in downtown Raleigh on W. Hargett St.

The **Mordecai House**, home of Henry Lane & Polly Hinton.

The Mordecai House (cir 1850) may be considered a Hinton Plantation from the very fact that Henry's wife Polly was a GGgranddaughter of Col John Hinton. The house is part of a museum along with several other buildings and is actively used in downtown Raleigh.

### **Other plantations nearby**

The **Wilders Grove House**, home of Col Hillory Madison Wilder & Esther Avery

The Wilders Grove plantation is located about 4 miles West of town, about midway to Raleigh. In the 1830's Col Hillory began buying land and in 1837 he built his ten room two story frame house at Wilders grove in the midst of 1,800 acres. He owned many slaves and lived on the plantation until his death. Son, Maj Gaston Henry Wilder and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Hinton remained on the land until his death in 1873. Wife Sarah continued living on the plantation until 1890 when she moved to Alabama with some of her children. All 4 above and 4 others are buried at the Wilders Grove Cemetery on Hwy 64.

## Wilders Grove Cemetery

No.	Last Name	First Name	Birth	Death	Comment
1	Avera	Esther	10-15-1786	11-9-1857	Wife – Col Hillory M
2	Hinton	Sarah Elizabeth	7-5-1831	6-12-1901	Wife – Gaston H., Dau – James I.
3	Hinton	Ransom	7-22-1807	4-21-1842	
4	Wilder	Col Hillory M.	5-18-1784	3-22-1849	Origin – Wilders Grove
5	Wilder	Elizabeth R.	10-20-1807	7-11-1856	Wife – Ransom, Dau – Col. Hillory
6	Wilder	Frances	10-1-1809	1863	Dau – Col Hillory, *
7	Wilder	Maj. Gaston H.	4-1-1814	8-5-1873	Son – Col Hillory
8	Wilder	Hillory M.	9-3-1823	6-23-1849	Son – Col Hillory, (MD)

\* Wife – T. Bridges & J. Smith.

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The **Oak View** Farmstead is one of Wake County's last 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads. It sits on a ridge at the corner of Poole Road and I-440 beltline just about three miles from Downtown Raleigh. An antebellum farmhouse, kitchen, carriage house, cotton gin house, livestock barn, and family cemetery are included on the property.

Benton and Burchett Williams originally began the land purchase in 1829 for the farm. By 1860 the farm produced cotton, corn, wheat, oats, livestock and butter, with ten slaves assisting. Both original owners died by 1886 and the land moved through several owners over the years. Between 1955 and 1984 Chauncey and Ella Jones owned the farm. They were also owners of the Needham Jones farm on Smithfield Road, a bit south of town.

Oak view is now the property of Wake County and is open to the public as Historic Oak View County Park.

Sources: The North Carolina Booklet – Mary Hilliard Hinton  
The Hintons of Nash & Johnston Counties – Judith Garner Hinton

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