

HISTORIC FLAT ROCK Where the Old South Lingers  
by Blanche Marsh & Photographs by Kenneth Frederick Marsh  
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Excerpts: Flat Rock became known as "The Little Charleston in the Mountains."

Charles Baring & Judge King acquired large tracts of land until between them they owned all the land of Flat Rock reputedly stretching for a distance of over 10 miles, totaling some 11,000 acres.

The Barings & Kings in turn sold large tracts of land to other leading Charlestonians. The settlement grew to include around 50 estates.

Bettie Miles, daughter of "Sugar Prince", General William Miles of the famous Mississippi Houmas Plantation, lived in Flat Rock as the bride of Henry I. Middleton of the Middleton Gardens family. .... General William Miles, 1883 president of the University of S.C. and owner of the famous Houmas Plantation. This 18,200 acre Louisiana plantation with its 20 million annual production of sugar gained for General Miles the title, "Sugar Prince".

St. John-in-the-Wilderness, first Episcopal church in the vast North Carolina area then known as the "Wilderness", began as the Baring's private chapel. In 1836 Charles Baring gave the deed to the chapel to Bishop Ives to accommodate the growing settlement. Since then the church has been the center of the life of the community. A wing was added in 1852 and after the war the slave balcony was removed. The choir was moved from the back to its present location in front. Headstones in the old cemetery beside the church bear the names of the great families of Flat Rock including C.G. Memminger, John Grimke Drayton, and the Count de Choiseul's son. Charles and Susan Baring are buried in a vault beneath the church.

Edward C. Jones, a Charleston architect, designed the church in the style of an English rural chapel. Its great beam arches were hewn from southern short leaf pine. The altar is a "Holy Table" believed to have come from England. The original pews were square in the English manner. Brass nameplate have been used over the years to designate pew holders.

Thought these few notes from above book might be of some help.  
We're expecting the Jr. McMillan's and Eu & Clarence Pinckney tomorrow evening.

Alice.