

Edgefield Settlers



New Windsor Township

An interesting county in South Carolina was Edgecombe. It adjoins Augusta, Georgia where some of the earliest families came to America and a number of Indian trading posts dotted the region. Also, the religious colony of New Windsor was established there beginning about 1737 and still had remnants of German Presbyterians listed on the 1790 Census. This religious colony was instigated by John Tobler of Switzerland who brought Swiss and Palatine immigrants into the region. It was located on the east bank of the Savannah River directly opposite to Augusta. Tobler, a self-taught mathematician, astronomer, musician and collector of books, owned a store on the bluff overlooking the Savannah River near the present-day site of Sand Bar Berry Bridge.

Settlers from Maryland

During 1805 a large number of persons came from Maryland and settled not far from the Saluda River. Jared Edwards was a soldier in the Maryland Line under General Gates and was in the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780

when Gates suffered a shameful defeat. Edwards later settled in Edgefield and was married to Rebecca Bell, the youngest daughter of Captain Benjamin Bell who was killed in the campaign against the Cherokees in 1779.