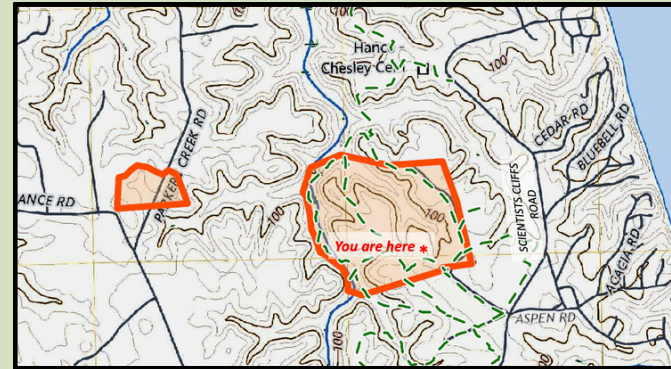


Lemuel and Annie Wallace: Farm, House, and Family



Lemuel and Annie Wallace's land. Green dashed lines are ACLT hiking trails.

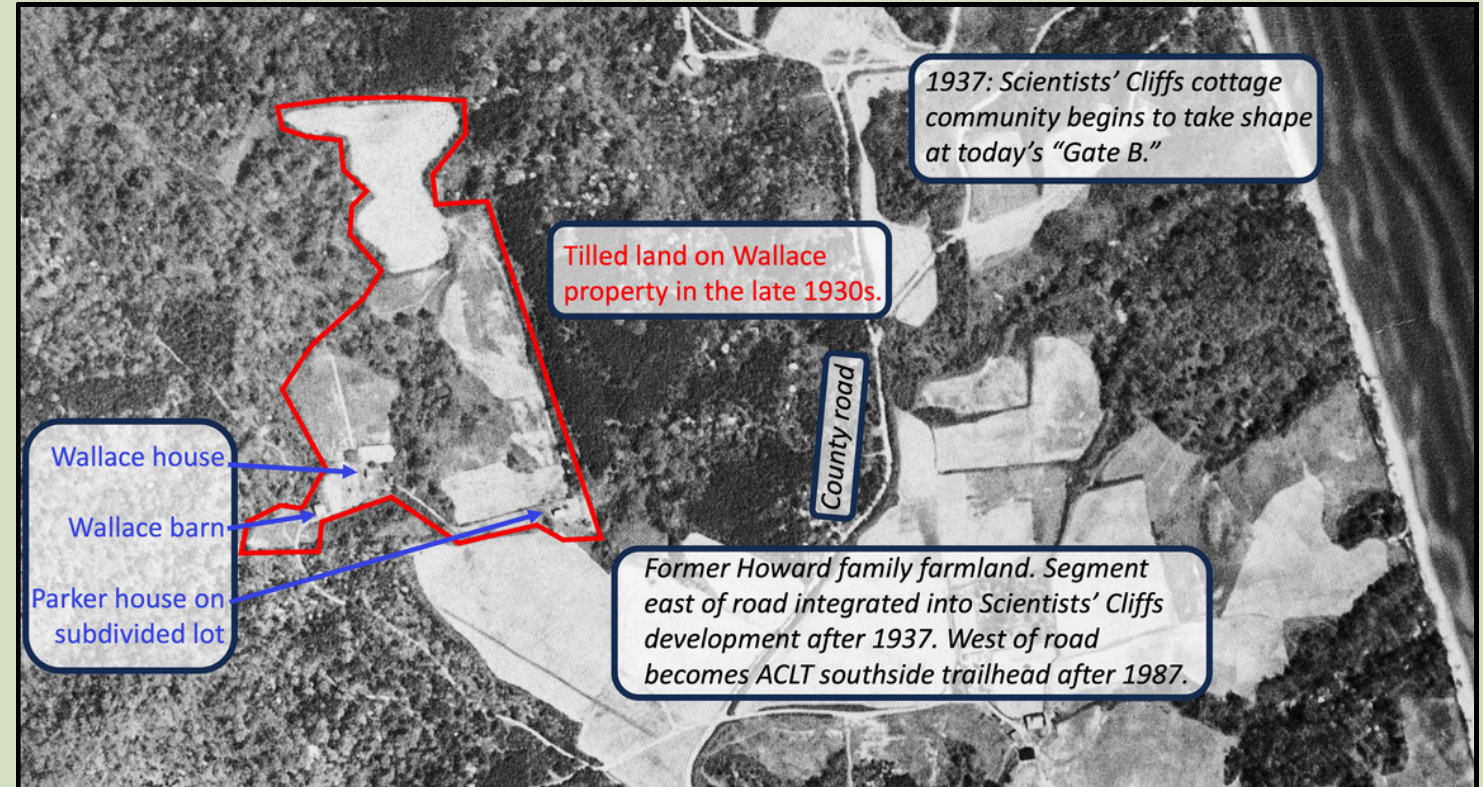
Lemuel Wallace (ca. 1850-1934) was an African American farmer. He and his wife, Annie Boots, had 11 children, born between 1873 and 1894. In 1909, Lemuel purchased the approximately 100-acre property marked by this sign. In 1910, he bought 7 acres three-quarters of a mile to the west, on Parkers Creek Road. Tobacco was the farm's cash crop, while vegetables, poultry, and hogs raised on the land put food on the table.



Weeding tobacco, 1988. Woodrow Wallace, Lemuel's grandson, with his grandnephew Derrick Parker and grandson Johnny Weems.



Left: Woodrow Wallace, Lemuel Wallace's grandson, at the Wallace house, November 1989.



Right: Detail from a 1938 Soil Conservation Service Aerial Photograph, explanatory overlays added in 2024.

Dwellings on Lemuel and Annie Wallace's land provided housing for some of their children and grandchildren. From 1910 to the 1930s, Lemuel and Annie and their younger children occupied a house on Parkers Creek Road (no longer standing). Meanwhile, Lemuel's son-in-law Nathaniel "Nate" Parker (born 1884) built the house (still standing) near this sign. It was home for Nate and his wife Rosa ("Rosie," born ca. 1893) until 1926, when Lemuel gave them a small lot where they built a new house (no longer standing). The next occupant of this house was another of Lemuel's daughters, Harriet (born ca. 1880), and her husband, Edward "Eddy" Carr, born 1876. Lemuel's son William (born 1873) also occupied this house for a time.

In 1930, Lemuel Wallace transferred ownership of the western property to his son John Cephas Wallace, who later subdivided it for family. In the face of the Great Depression and as he grew older, Lemuel Wallace's real estate taxes went unpaid from 1931 to 1934. In 1936, Flippo and Annie Gravatt purchased the larger property "on the courthouse steps," one of their acquisitions as they developed the Scientists' Cliffs cottage community. They did not, however, subdivide and develop tracts west of the county road, including the former Lemuel Wallace property. In 1987, the newly created American Chestnut Land Trust bought this still-undeveloped land from the Gravatt estate.



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