

OUR HISTORY &

Our Commitment



Landon Estate sits on land that holds a complex and painful history. Built in 1828, this property was once a working plantation, its beauty and longevity made possible through the forced labor of enslaved Black men, women, and children. We recognize that the story of this house cannot be told truthfully without honoring the lives and legacies of those individuals.

As current stewards of this land, we do not take that responsibility lightly. We know we cannot change the past, but we believe we have a duty to acknowledge it fully, learn from it, and use this space to foster respect, dialogue, and remembrance.

In partnership with Black Wide Awake, a Black-led historical research initiative, we are actively uncovering and preserving the names, stories, and contributions of the enslaved people who shaped this place. Through this document, we share some of that work, and outline the steps we're taking to ensure that history is not hidden, but centered.

We hope this effort reflects our belief that celebration and remembrance can coexist and that honoring the past is essential to creating a more just and compassionate future.

ACTION

- *Memorial and Reflection Spaces: Coming 2026!* As we grow, we are committed to creating permanent spaces on the estate that honor and uplift the names, lives, and legacies of the enslaved individuals who built and sustained this property.
- *Community Engagement:* We welcome and support local organizations, especially Black-led initiatives, by offering our space as a gathering place for dialogue, learning, and community-building.
- *Remembrance Dates:* Each year, we will reserve January 1 (Emancipation Day in North Carolina) and June 19 (Juneteenth) as days of remembrance and reflection, ensuring that the history of this land remains centered in our stewardship.

Should you or anyone you know have information, photographs, documents or other artifacts pertaining to anyone with African American ethnicity that is associated with the name Sanders, in and around Johnston County, please reach out to us if you wish. We would love to hear from you!



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BLACK WIDE AWAKE

Documents of genealogical and historical interest to researchers of North Carolina's African-American past, curated by Lisa Y. Henderson.

ABOUT

Henderson received a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School and a Master of Arts degree in American History from Columbia University. A native of Wilson, Henderson has invested her expertise in the recovery and recognition of Wilson's African American history. She created the Lane Street Project, which has led efforts to reclaim three African American cemeteries in Wilson and to bring to light the difficult history of these sacred spaces. Since 2015, her blog, Black Wide-Awake, makes publicly accessible numerous historical and genealogical documents, providing a vivid and important window into Wilson's African American history in addition to surrounding counties. Her work exemplifies the importance of public history, sparking meaningful conversations between the past and present.

ESTATE RECORDS

[The Sanders Myatt House](#)

[Nearby Plantations & Relatives](#)

In partnership with Black Wide Awake, we are working to uncover and preserve the names, stories, and contributions of the enslaved individuals who once lived and labored on this land.

The documents and records shared reflect just a portion of that ongoing research. Some are estate records; others are newspaper notices, legal filings, or oral histories that provide a glimpse into lives too often erased from the narrative.

We share these findings not as a completed archive, but as a growing effort to restore memory, dignity, and rightful place to those whose labor shaped this property.

LIVES REMEMBERED

[Known Names of The Enslaved](#)- Compiled from estate records and local research, this list reflects the names of those whose forced labor sustained the early life of this home.

[Baldy Sanders Collection with Johnston Co](#)

[Celebrating Black Brides](#)

[Hardy Sanders](#): Education for Black Students

Ambert Sanders [Owning land](#) and [The Fight to Keep It](#)