

Kershaw County was created in 1791, from the lower portion of Lancaster County. It is in the area originally called "Camden District." There is also a page for [Old Camden](#), which covered the area that now makes up York, Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Richland, Claremont (now defunct), Clarendon, Sumter, and Lee counties. County boundaries moved and county names changed with great frequency in early South Carolina, so be sure and check surrounding counties for your families!

The county is named after Joseph Kershaw, who came from Charleston to Fredricksburg (which no longer exists) and established a store on a tract of 150 acres originally surveyed to William Ancrum on June 12, 1758. He called the place Pine Tree Hill, which is in the southeast corner of present-day Camden. A circuit court was established by the Assembly April 12, 1768, at "Camden, lately called Pine Tree Hill." The naming of the town is attributed to Joseph Kershaw, in honor of Charles Pratt, Lord Camden. There is also a town of Kershaw, named after Joseph Kershaw, but don't look for it in Kershaw county. When county lines were being drawn, the town was sitting on the dividing line between Kershaw and Lancaster counties. To avoid that particular problem, the county lines were drawn around the town, and it sits completely in Lancaster county.

Early Kershaw County South Carolina Newspapers

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May 1802

The Carolina Journal (or the Camden Advertiser)

Published by J. Martin Slump, at the corner of York and Church Street, Camden, SC

1803

Camden Intelligencer

John B. Hood was editor.

April 4, 1816

Camden Gazette

Printed by P. W. Johnson, King Street, Camden, SC (For sometime prior to this, there was no newspaper published in Camden). The Gazette was edited by Dr. Wm. Langley for a time.

1818-1821

The Gazette was purchased by Willie Vaughan and the name changed to Camden Gazette and Mercantile Advertiser

1821

Camden Chronicle

1824

The Southern Chronicle, Published by Tarbox and Addison, during same year Chas. A. Bullard became editor, and renamed the paper The Southern Chronicle and Camden Aegis

1825

The Camden Literary and Political Register

1826

Camden Journal, founded January 1826 by Chas. A. Bullard. In 1828, this paper was edited by C. F. Daniels, from Connecticut.

1831

The Camden and Lancaster Beacon, published by Major J. D. Cocke.

1833

The Camden Republican, published by Samuel Weir

1836

The Camden Journal and Southern Whig, edited by J. C. West, purchased in the same year by Robert McKnight.

1837

Camden Commercial Courier (ended in April 1838 and Camden was without a newspaper)

May 6, 1837

Commercial Courier

Camden, SC May 6, 1837

Our Citizens has for some time been subject to much inconvenience for the want of a public channel of communication which is so essentially necessary in a community like ours, almost altogether commercial. Trusting therefore to their wants and willingness to sustain a paper for this purpose, Mr Jones & Co. became the purchasers of the Camden Journal Press, from which will now be issued "The Camden Commercial Courier", devoted exclusively to commerce, agriculture and amusement. In order to ensure satisfaction, no expense or trouble has been spared in obtaining steady and competent workman. We therefore trust, that a liberal public will afford that patronage which, the Proprietors, by their undivided attention, will endeavor to merit. The first No. of the Courier will be sent to all the patrons of the Journal, which if not returned will be considered subscribers and the paper regularly sent to them. The accounts of the Journal are left in our hands for collection. Those indebted are therefore requested to call and settle the same, or forward at our risk, the amount by mail.

1839

The Camden Journal, edited by Thomas W. Pegues, followed by C. F. Daniels in 1829 who for forty eight years printed the Journal until his death in January 1878. Edited by Wm. B. Johnston from 1839-1848. In 1849 the Journal was edited by Thurlow Caston. 1850-1861 the paper was edited by Thomas J. Warren. He also edited the South Carolina Temperance Advocate in Camden.

1861

Camden Confederate, edited by J. T. Hershman.

A weekly newspaper

1864

The Camden Weekly Journal, edited by Daniel D. Hocott

1864

The Daily Journal. edited by Daniel D. Hocott (a daily newspaper)

1864

The Daily Bullentin, edited by W.K. Rodgers (a daily newspaper)

1865

Journal and Confederate, edited by J. T. Hershman

1866

The Camden Journal, published by Thomas W. Pegues, purchased in 1871 by John Kershaw, purchased in 1873 by W. D. Trantham and J. T. Hay in 1873. In 1878 it was sold to G. G. Alexander who published it until it expired in 1890.

1873

The Kershaw Gazette was published by Frank P. Beard. It was edited for several years by L. W. R. Blair. The newspaper expired in 1888

1884

The Wateree Messenger, was published by C. W. Birchmore. The Wateree Messenger never missed an issue as was stated at the forty-first anniversary in October of 1925.

1888

Camden Chronicle, published by W. L. McDowell

1904

The People, published by W. A. Schrock. Discontinued in 1909

1909

The Camden News, published by J. W. Hamel until January 1913 when it was sold to the Camden Chronicle.