

Baxter County History



**The Wolf House is the most historical
building in Baxter County.**

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

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**THE BAXTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

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To Observe Anniversary



-- Photo by Cronk

MR. and MRS. IRL PAUL

(1964)

Mr. and Mrs. Irl Paul of 1343 Highway 62 S. W., Mountain Home, will observe their 50th wedding anniversary next Sunday, with an open house scheduled that afternoon at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Trammell.

All friends of the couple are invited to call at the Trammell residence, at 1323 Highway 62 S. W., from 2 to 5 p. m., it was announced.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul were married on May 24, 1914, at Horn Creek, south of here on Highway 62. Officiating at the ceremony was Rev. F. G. Villines, then pastor of the Mountain Home Methodist Church.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Paul are members of pioneer Baxter County families. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Nelson, came to this area from Mississippi in 1870 in a covered wagon caravan, some drawn by oxen. Mrs. Paul's mother, Mrs. Nannie Nelson, is still alive and resides at 919 S. Main Street.

Mr. Paul is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Paul. His family came to Baxter County from Tennessee, traveling by steamboat up the White River and landing here on March 4, 1868.

The couple are members of the First Baptist Church of

Mountain Home, and have been active in church work for many years. He has been a deacon of the church for 40 years, and Mrs. Paul has been a member of the Women's Missionary Union for 50 years.

They are the parents of two children. A son, Rex Paul, who is married to the former Neva Hill of Russellville. He resides with his family at Greenville, Miss. Their daughter, Nannie Lee, is married to Kenneth Trammell of Mountain Home. The Pauls have six grandchildren; Dawn Trammell, David Trammell, Nan Ellen Trammell, Nelson Paul, Mary Paul and Diane Paul.

Mr. Paul was associated with Shiras Brothers Printing Company for more than 50 years, retiring in May, 1961. He has been active in civic affairs, serving as chairman and secretary of the Baxter County Democrat Central Committee for 20 years. He has also served on the Mountain Home city council and as city treasurer, was treasurer and served on the Home Service Committee of the Baxter County Red Cross Chapter during World War II. He is a charter member of the Mountain Home Lions Club.

Mrs. Paul has been a member of the Twentieth Century Club of Mountain Home for 50 years.

THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

Published by the
BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Regular Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Day Service Center, 222 East Wade Street, Mountain Home.

Active Membership	\$5.00 per year
Associate Membership	\$2.50 per year

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER AT THE JANUARY MEETING OR CAN BE MAILED TO HER. The fiscal year begins January 1. New Members may join at any time.

PRESIDENT

James L. Lowe, 1500 Manor, Mountain Home

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

D. Garvin Carroll, 905 East 4th St., Mountain Home
Helen H. Tanger 367 East 5th Street, Mountain Home

CO-EDITORS

James L. Lowe, 1500 Manor, Mountain Home
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wick, 147 Mashie Drive, Mountain Home

Correspondence concerning membership dues, orders for the "History", and other business matters should be sent to the Treasurer.

Contributions of material for the "History" should be sent to James L. Lowe. These contributions are very much needed. They may include pictures. The originals will be returned to the contributor.

The Society or the Editors do not assume any responsibility for statements made by the contributors.

1988 Meetings July - December

July 5	An Old Time Movie at Cinema Classic Theatre - Guests of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wright
August 2	A Ferry Boat Tour on Lake Norfolk
Sept. 6	"Making Pictures from Old Photos Without Negatives" by Mr. Shaw of Mountain Home Photo.
October 4	"Arkansas Architecture" by Linda West Joslin of Arkansas Preservation Program and Reception for Owners of Historic Homes of Mountain Home
Nov. 1	"By the Ozark Trail: The Image of the Ozarks in Popular and Folk Songs" presented by Bill McNeil of the Ozark Folk Center of Mtn View
Dec. 6	"The History of Christmas Carols" presented by Mrs. George Buckmaster.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Statement - January 1988 thru June 1988

Income	Balance Forward	\$2,672.02
Memberships	235.00	
From Hist. book acct.	307.17	
Books & Donations	524.75	
Baxter Co. Q. Court	500.00	

Total Income	1,566.92	
Expenses:		
A.P.L.	48.64	
Repay Loans, Books	500.00	
Other expenses	152.31	

Total expenses	700.95	Ending Bal 3,537.99

Financial Statement - July thru December 1988

	Balance Forward	3,537.99
Income:		
Memberships	67.50	
Books & Donations	373.40	

Total Income	440.90	
Expenses		
A.P.L.	35.27	
Other expenses	690.72	(includes Homes Book)

Total Expenses	725.99	
		Ending Balance 3,252.90



Mr. & Mrs. George Backmaster

REPORT



Total Expenses



Centennial Corner



Historical homeowners recognized

By KATHY BLACKBURN

The Baxter County Historical Society has been busy this year. At a recent evening reception held at Nettie's Cafeteria for owners of historic homes built in Mountain Home 60 or more years ago, the society presented certificates and plaques to the following people in addition to those shown in the photo: Barney Larry & Associates (1873), Tom Embach (1880), Mrs. Jeannie Wolf (1884), Mrs. Jewel Tracy Nelson (1890), Lane and Judy Strother (1890), George Pickett (1894), Richard Paden (1896), Dr. John Ahrens (1900), Perry Nelson (1900), Lloyd Ashburn (1902), Tank Rea (1903), Mrs. Cora Clinkingbeard (1904), Will Triplet (1905), Mrs. H.L. Huett (1915), Dr. James Clarke (1918), Mrs. Virgie McClure (1921), Mrs. Nelli Mitchell (1927) and Jack Jones (1928).

The Historical Society wished to register these special homes that are no longer standing today, but held a special place in the heart of the community in

the past:

Casey/Boswell/Mooney home (1875), A.A. Wolf (1889), Brewer/Nelson (1890), Wiley M. Dyer (1870/1895), Clem/Neil Eatman (1886/1916), John T. Baker/Lizzie Baker (1895), W. Jay Baker (1900), C.A. Johnson/MHBC Boys Dorm (1906).

Frances Eatman Ruthven, chairwoman of the committee that put together two books complete with photos and the history of each of the historic homes, presented Mountain Home Mayor Jim Stevens with a copy which will be placed in the Baxter County Library for public access. The book, however, must be read on library premises and cannot be removed. The other copy will be retained by the Historical Society.

Mrs. Ruthven explained that a lot of research was required to get accurate dates on the homes and thanked several area abstract and title companies. She also presented special "TNT" buttons to her

committee members Garvin Carroll, Ellen Shiras Ramey, Dorothy Pendergrass, Ruth Gustafson Acton, Alyce Curlee Marbury and Millie Tullgren. "TNT" stands for time and talent, of which much was given for this special centennial project.

Mrs. Ruthven commented that while she was working on the project people would often ask her what was in the book. She replied, "history and sentiment." She explained, "When folks read this book, they will not just be looking at houses, they were homes — homes to our ancestors of many different types of backgrounds; people who contributed to our community in several ways."

All the members of the Baxter County Historical Society, including myself, encourage you to take some time to review the book of historic homes thereby "Preserving the Past," and I hope we will all work toward "Pursuing the Future" for our wonderful community.

Photographs on Page 28

Owners of Historic Homes who were presented certificates and plaques bearing the year their structure was built are shown on page 28. Standing left to right: Charles Blackburn, 1893; Jack Register, 1920; Eric Colliander, 1904; Robert Ritlinger, 1905; Darrel Bennett, 1917; Dudley Acton, 1908; John Anderson, 1928.

Middle row: William Keck, 1896; Brenda Register, Anne Colliander, Ellen Ritlinger, Merle Bennett, Ruth Acton, and Janice Anderson.

Seated in the front row are Camille Keck, Baxter County Judge Joe Dillard, accepting for the Casey House, 1858; Jim Wingard, 1880; Helen Hubbell, 1890; Zella Wolf, Leah and William Carter.

(Thanks to Kathy Blackburn and Baxter Bulletin for this photograph and story.) Also, we want to thank the Baxter Bulletin for permission to reproduce the articles on "Time Capsule" and "Trail of Tears Meeting."

Irl Paul and his wife, Jessie, are seen with Alberta Cronk (on the left), whose husband, Seymour Cronk, made the picture. The Pauls and the Cronks lived near each other and visited frequently.

HISTORIC HOMES

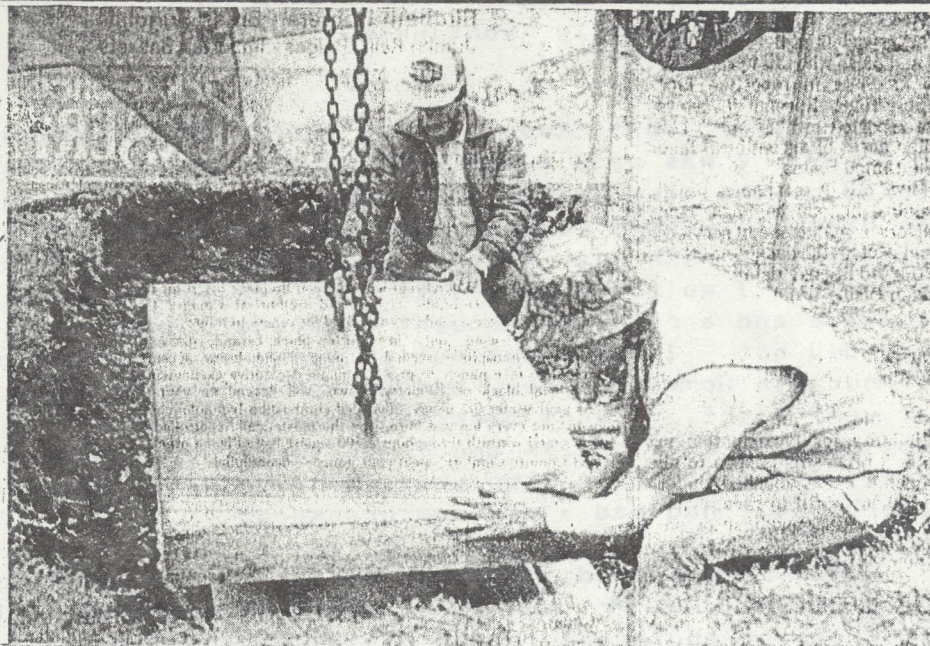
(Home)	(Location)	(Year)	(Present Owner)
Randolph D. Casey	Co. Fairgrounds	1858	Baxter County
James L. Leonard	1125 S. College	1873	Barney Larry & Associates
Case/Shiras/Dearmore	351 E. 4th	1880	Tom Embach
Primary School/Hurst	156 S. Main	1880	Jim Wingard
Asa Baker	104 E. 10th	1884	Jeannine Wolf
Z. M. Horton	Hwy. 62 SW	1886	William Keck
Bodenhamer/Ramey	920 S. Main	1890	Jewell T. Nelson
Alley/Baker	308 W. 6th	1890	Mrs. Donald S. Hubbell, Sr.
Talburt/Morris	940 E. 4th	ca 1890	Lane Strother
MHBC Girls Dorm.	321 S. Coll.	1893	Chas. Blackburn
Redus/Underhill	1140 S. Main	1894	George Pickett
Bucher	802 Bucher	1895	Gary M. Carter
B. S. Halbert	139 S. College	1896	Richard Paden
H. Wayland/Carter	701 S. College	ca 1900	Dr. John Ahrens
James Jones	1013 Grey	ca 1900	Perry Nelson
T. Murphy Davis	E. 6th & Coll "	1902	Lloyd O. Ashburn
Steve Wayland	936 S. College	1903	"Tank" Rea
Seward/Clinkingbeard	414 S. Foster	1904	Mrs. Cora Clinkingbeard
J. E. L. Cooper	146 S. College	1904	Eric Colliander
R. C. Paul	E. 6th & Coll.	1905	Will Triplet
Randolph Russell	1501 N. Hwy 201	ca 1905	Robert Ritlinger
James Paul/Acton	320 S. College	1908	Dudley Acton
Will Eatman	203 E. 2nd	1915	Mrs. H. L. Huett
C. C. "Lum" Bryant	306 Wade	1917	Darrell Bennett
Charles O. Howard	449 W. North	1918	Dr. James Clarke
O. B. McClure	1311 S. Hwy 5	1920	Jack Register
Aylor/Conley	607 S. College	1921	Virgie McClure
J. T. Tracy	931 S. Main	1927	Nell Mitchell
Robert Russell	118 N. College	1928	John C. Anderson
Albert Baker	213 W. 6th	1928	Jack Jones

(Homes No Longer Existing)

Casey/Boswell/Mooney	S. Main	ca 1875
A. A. Wolf	10th & Baker	1889
Brueer/Nelson	9th & Main	ca 1890
Capt. M. N./Wiley		
M. Dyer	W. 6th	1870/1895
Clem/Neill Eatman	N. Main	1886/1916
John T. Baker/		
"Lizzie" Baker	W. 6th St.	ca 1895
W. Jay Baker	N. Main	ca 1900
MHBC Boys Dorm	2nd & Foster	ca 1906



Centennial Corner



Two city of Mountain Home employees work to bury the Mountain Home Centennial time capsule. Buried in front of the Mountain

Home Municipal Building, the capsule is scheduled to be opened in 2038.

(Photo by Kathy Blackburn)

Burial of time capsule symbolizes end of Mountain Home Centennial

By KATHY BLACKBURN
The special container made out of waterproof, acidproof, bulletproof material donated by Merle Delany of Epoxyn Products was sealed with a gasket, then the lid was bolted together in several places, and it was made ready for burial.

The time capsule was placed within a cement vault, painted with water sealer. The top of the cement vault was placed onto the container after the lip was coated with silicone asphalt sealer. The silicone asphalt sealer was guaranteed on its label to last 50 years. It also is waterproof. The top of the vault is dome-shaped to allow for ground water run off, and the earth was prepared with a peat gravel sump basin at the south end of the excavation to allow for any excess water that might collect in the area to dissipate.

Buried more than three feet into the ground, the vault should not be affected by above-ground temperatures of extreme heat or cold. A special cement podium, to be placed next spring, will contain within it directions on how to open the vault in the year 2038. On top of the podium will be a brass marker donated by Kirby Funeral Home. The marker

will mention that below is the time capsule to be opened in the year 2038 and the fact that it was created in honor of Mountain Home's 1888-1988 Centennial.

For me the day the time capsule was buried was mixed with sadness. Memories of all the centennial activities flowed through my mind. The happiness of watching the whole community work together to "Celebrate in '88" and the joy of making new friends like Sally Rae, and the strengthening of old friendships as with Dea Self.

I have grown, through this centennial year, to learn the rewards of volunteering for the good of the community; how nice it is to meet new people, and the feeling of accomplishment when working toward our goal motto that Dea created, "Preserving the Past, Pursuing the Future."

I feel that we as a community should be proud of all that we accomplished this year. Many of our area clubs and organizations undertook special centennial activities.

The people of Mountain Home and surrounding areas came out in strong force to show their support of the centennial celebrations and many of them recaptured the

old-fashioned feeling of neighborliness.

History came to life in the Twin Lakes Playhouse's special performance of "The Man Who Was Almost Hung" which was re-enacted at the 1858 home of Col. Randolph Casey, free to the public, during Mountain Home Homecoming this June.

History will be preserved for the future in the Baxter County Historical Society's register of historic homes in Mountain Home. They have compiled a special notebook filled with histories and photos of the homes that is available for viewing at the Baxter County Library in Mountain Home.

Many other special projects, too numerous to mention here, but I have tried to mention previously as they occurred, have happened during this special centennial year.

Filled with over 50 donated items, the time capsule will send a message to the future residents of Mountain Home in 2038 about our past, our present and our future hopes. I wish to thank each and every donator, your gifts are special. If you would like a copy of the complete list, you may stop by the Blackburn office at Fourth and College streets.

THIS IS THE THIRD AND FINAL INSTALLMENT OF THE

PAUL FAMILY HISTORY

History of Paul Family (continued)

It was my job to keep all the wheat shocked which was cut in a day. I was paid \$2.50 a day and my board. I had not worked on the farm in two or three years and not been out in the heat. I worked several days and started having hard chills again with high fever. I had never had them before or since. I quit and went into town and got me some medicine and a room. I thought they would soon stop, but they did not. I was about out of money and decided to return to Mountain Home. I barely had enough to buy my ticket and eat very light. I went back to Mrs. Bodenhamers. I continued to have chills and fever for a while after I was home. I did not know then what my trouble was but decided later that I had had a nervous breakdown.

After I recovered, I worked by the day at anything I could get to do. Mr. Lee Jones had a livery stable that stood on the southeast corner of the square and a farm west of town. I hauled manure from the stable to the farm. I was paying \$3.00 a week for board and room and was not getting rich.

Mr. Mark Gault, who had worked for my father and had taken care of his cattle on Pigeon Creek had a large ranch in Ozark County, Missouri. He was associated with the Harlin Brothers. He came down to Bodenhamers one day for dinner and asked me what I was doing. I told anything I could find. He asked me if I would work for him. I told that I would be glad to. I went to work for him and was paid \$15.00 a month. It was hard work and long hours, but I enjoyed doing it.

I was behind \$5.00 with Mrs. Bodenhamer on my board bill when I was ready to leave. I had never borrowed any money from Uncle Lee even when he offered to lend to me in Texas. I thought that I would borrow the \$5.00 from him to pay her. I asked him for it. He said that he could not let me have it. I told him that I would pay the first pay day I had. It was a hard blow at the time, but I think that it was a blessing in disguise. From that day on up to now, Mother and I have never had to depend on any one. With God's help we managed to get along so far as borrowing money from any individual. He told me later that it would not have hurt him to give it to me, but he wanted me to learn self reliance.

Historu of Paul Family (continued)

I worked on the cattle ranch until they were getting ready to have their sale and dissolve their partnership. One of the Harlins lived in East St. Louis, Illinois. His brother asked me if I would go there and work for him as a cattle salesman for his commission company. Before I heard from him, I had a letter from Tom Shiras to go to work for them. Shortly after Tom's letter came I had a letter to come on to St. Louis. I have never been sorry that I did not go.

When we left for Texas on the trip which I wrote about, we camped one night in Harrison. Mother (Jessie Nelson) was there recovering from an operation for appendicitis. She came down where we were camped and visited with the Redus girls. I had been in school with her in the college and had known her, but that was about all. I considered that she was out of my class and was much sought after by better charmers that I thought I would ever be. She was a beautiful girl and had lots of dates. I still think she is beautiful. This was in May, 1910.

After we left Harrison, she want back to her home at Buford. I started writing to her. She would reply occasionally. I would write to her and propose to her, and she would ignore my letters, but I kept on. In the four years that followed, she and I went with many other girls and boys, but I could never get her out of my mind. When I was here, I would go to see her. After I returned to Mountain Home from Texas and Kansas, I would go to see her as often as I could. It was over 20 miles from the ranch to Buford. Sometimes I would ride a mule down there. I never cared much for anything that was easy to get. I think most anyone can get anything they want if it is right and if they want it bad enough.

My persistence finally paid off, and we were married May 24, 1914, at what is now the Horn Creek bridge on U. S. 62 between here and Gassville. It was on a Sunday, and I drove to Buford for her in a buggy. I had planned to ask her Father and Mother for her and had quite a speech thought out. When I arrived I found to my great pleasure that they had gone with other neighbors on a picnic not knowing what was going to happen. Her aunt, who is now Mrs. R. I. Norton, had remained at home with her and helped her dress. Her wedding dress was white. She weighed less than 100 pounds, and I think she was about the most beautiful girl that I ever saw.

History of Paul Family (continued)

There was no Baptist minister here at that time. I had made arrangements for the pastor of the Methodist Church, Rev. F. G. Volines, along with Russell Leonard, his wife, Len Bodenhamer, and his girl friend to meet us at the Horn Creek where we were married. I was so excited that I don't think that I knew all that went on. It guess that it was hard to believe that a long hoped for dream was being realized.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. M. Horton had invited us to stay in their house until we could get our house that I had rented furnished and ready to move into. The house was a new one on College Steet. It has since burned down. I was making a grand total of \$8.00 a week when we married.

Norma moved in with us and paid \$10.00 a month board. This helped out some. Our house rent was a little over \$8.00 a month. We had no utility bills to pay then. We paid \$1.00 for a load of wood. That was the only kind of fuel there was then. Almost everything else was priced in proportion. There was an army surplus store here. I would buy some of my winter pants and shirts there. We walked everywhere we went around town. There were no cars.

Mother had been used to having everything she wanted and needed. Mr. Nelson had a large and well stocked country store. He also had about 1,000 acres of land and raised lots of wheat. Mother never complained, and we were happy. We had to make many sacrifices and do without a lot of things we would have liked to have had. Our first child, a fine and beautiful girl baby, Ruth, was born November 14, 1916. She was born dead.

World War came in 1917. Ernest and Fay, the two eldest Nelson boys went into the Navy. Help was hard to get. Mother was working in the store when we were married. Mr. Nelson wanted us to move to Buford and run the store for him so he could devote all of his time to his farm. He came to see us and offered to sell us a half interest in the store. He had a good business. I have never felt that it was best to be associated with Kinfolks in business. I told him we would come to take over the store and postoffice and help him until the War was over or he could find someone. This we did.

History of Paul Family (continued)

We moved back to Mountain Home in April, 1919. Rex was born May 30, 1919. He was born in the house where Mrs. Homer Smith now lives on College Street. He was a beautiful child with long blond, curly hair. He was very much our pride and joy.

Our next blessed event came when Nannie Lee was born, May 18, 1922. She was a great girl and has always been a source of pride and lots of pleasure to us. She was born in a house we had bought just north of where the College stood. The house has since been torn down. We were able to buy a piano for Nannie Lee when she was young. She took her first lessons from her Aunt Jewel Nelson. She went to college at Central where she had more music. She was pianist at the First Baptist Church.

I had bought a few acres off of the north side of the farm from Norma and paid it out in payments. In 1924 we started our house. I borrowed \$1,200.00 from the Peoples Bank. We paid 10% interest. We were the first house in this area except one across the road from us. We moved in December 1, 1924.

There had been a storm through where our house is and a lot of big trees had been blown down, and it was grown up in thorn bushes and really a mess. I had some of the larger trees sawed into lumber, and we used it for dimension lumber in the house. I had a lot of it cut up into firewood and sold the part we did not use. I would come home from work and pick up rocks and often burnt brush and logs at night. It was a job to clean up.

We fenced a garden in the back. I set out a number of apple and peach trees and a row of grapes. We had some nice fruit for several years. One day, I had a fellow working over here. He let fire get out and killed a number of them.

There was no bridge across the creek for several years after we built over here. When the creek would get up, I had a foot log down in the field. I would have to go down there to cross. I walked to and from town making two trips and sometimes more a day. I came home for dinner. We walked through most all kinds of weather. I remember one morning Mother and I walked to town and it was 20 degrees below zero, the coldest I every recall it being here.

History of Paul Family (continued)

In 1927, Mother went to work in the Robertson's store. She worked for 20 years. We bought a used car about 1930, I think it was. She worked as cashier and put in long hours. Often it was 8:30 or later before she would get home at night. Her salary was \$60.00. It was a lot of help. She has always done more than her part.

When Rex began to grow up he and Pete Shiras would take times about sweeping out the Bulletin office. They both worked there some during summer vacation.

We kept a horse, Daisy, which Mrs. Horton let us have. I had Mr. Mitchell, the blacksmith, make a wagon out of the wheels and frame of a model T. He built a bed, a springseat, and made shaves for it. Rex and Lon Jones, Jr., would haul off people's cans and sell them dirt for their flower beds. The hole where they dug the dirt from is still down in the bottom. Sometimes they would load up the wagon with boys and a camping outfit and go down on Big Creek and camp out for the night.

We had two Collie dogs; the first one's name was Buck. He was very devoted to the children and liked to ride with Rex in the wagon. He always went to Sunday School and church with us. The Baptist Church stood just west of the southeast corner of the square. The bell was always rung on Sunday morning. One morning we did not go since we were sick. Buck went alone. I guess that he heard the bell. Rev. Cooper, who was the pastor mentioned it to us. He always remained outside until the service was over.

In the summer, Rex with others spent much time along the creek. It was a beautiful stream then and not so grown up. He went with his companions and caught minnows and crayfish with their hands. Buck would wade along and snap at crayfish and minnows sticking his nose under water.

On one occasion Rex went to the river on a camping trip for several days. Buck would not eat. Mother had to take him in the car down where Rex was.

Bennie was the next dog we had. He belonged to Lon Jones and finally took up over here. He was a collie. Lee adopted him after the children left and took him to the river with him. He was a very smart dog.

History of Paul Faimly (continued)

On April 1, 1926, Rex Bodenhamer and I bought an interest in the Baxter Bulletin from Tom and Enness Shiras. I traveled about thirty years in North Arkansas and South Missouri selling printing and office supplies. I worked three generations with the Shiras family. In May, 1962, I sold my part to Rex. I worked about two years part time after I sold out. All of them have been wonderful to me. The reason that I sold was due in part to my health and age, and I thought fifty years was long enough.

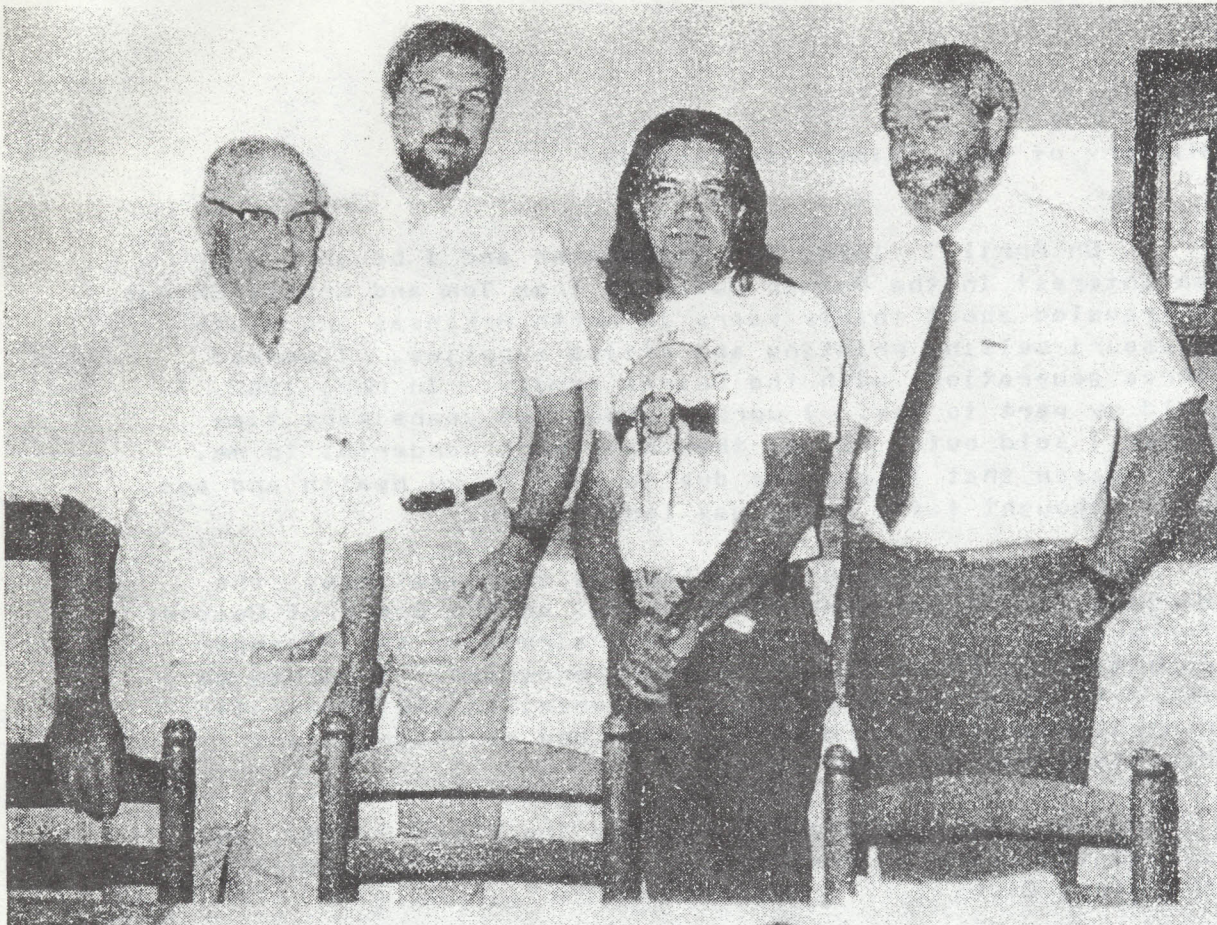
I have belonged to the following organizations: the Baptist Church for over fifty years, on the Board of Deacons for about forty years, served as chairman of the finance committee on three church building programs. I served on the City Council and as City Treasurer, on the Democratic Central Committee of Baxter County and as Chairman and Secretary for about 25 years.

Mother and I helped to organize the first P.T.A., and I served two years as President. I was a charter member of the Lions Club.

Neil Eatman and I brought the first airplane to Mountain Home about forty years ago. A man who had been at Calico Rock for the Fair called me and said he would come up here and haul passengers for \$5.00 each if we would guarantee him \$50.00. Neil and I made the guarantee and he came. He made much more than that. It landed in the field across from our house. I went up in it.

I have seen many changes in the 75 years that I have lived. There were no airplanes, no automobiles, no submarines, no radios, or television sets when I was born. There was no electricity. I have seen many things come into existence.

It is regretable that many of us when we grow older forget that we were ever young. I believe that young people today are as good if not better than they were when I was young. They know much more and have many more problems to deal with. I think that most of the progress of the world has been made on young people's ideas and their willingness to carry them out. I think that older people should have more patience, tolerance and understanding than most of us do. THIRTY.



The Baxter County Historical Society and Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a meeting Tuesday regarding the propos-

ed marking of the Trail of Tears. Guest speakers were Dr. James Lowe, Ken Eastin, Jim Peters and Bryan Keller. (Photo submitted)

BC Historical Society is working to get area Trail of Tears marked

By KATHY BLACKBURN

The Baxter County Historical Society and Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a meeting Tuesday regarding the proposed marking of the Trail of Tears.

Guest speakers were Dr. James Lowe, Baxter County Historical Society president; Ken Eastin, Trail of Tears coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism; Jim Peters, Arkansas Indian Cultural Center board chairman and Bryan Keller, director of the outdoor recreation grants program for the Arkansas Department of Parks and

Tourism.

Lowe recently wrote to Jo Luck Wilson, director of Parks and Tourism for Arkansas, regarding the omission of the Baxter County route of Trail of Tears in a report recently published by the Department of State Trails.

As a result, Eastin and Keller held an open meeting at Mountain Home to explain that the National Park Service did not have the funding to do research and therefore basically relied upon previously documented areas that were qualified by "primary sources" — documents made at the time the forced removal of the Cherokee

Indians occurred — such as official records.

They said, however, they would be receptive to marking a "secondary trail" in the North Central Arkansas area if documents such as army records could be produced proving where the Trail of Tears existed. Keller further explained that the complete trail could not be marked but "highly visible" representative sections more easily accessible by the public — such as Highway 71 to Fayetteville which is to be marked — would more likely be considered.

Kellar said the project is not yet completed and that an "appropriation bill" still needs to be passed to fund the project and a "management plan" is needed to determine how much of the trail to mark and where the interpretive centers are to be placed.

1500 Manor
Mountain Home, AR 72653
January 8, 1989

Representative Bill Alexander
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Bill:

I thank you for your letter of October 28, 1988, regarding the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. I'll tell you what we have been doing and then make some recommendations.

In 1983, the Congress authorized a study of the Trail of Tears. This study was completed by June, 1986, and was the basis to authorize marking the Trail of Tears. The Report explains the Trails System, outlines the History of the Cherokee Removal including routes taken, and assesses the environmental impact. I assume that your office has a copy of this Comprehensive Report. If not, you should acquire one from the National Park Service.

I not only wrote to you but also to the Secretary of the Interior, Director National Park Service, Director Arkansas State Parks, Senator Dale Bumpers, and Representative J. P. Hammerschmidt. I received a response from all of these.

In the spring of 1988, I visited the Cherokee National Museum and Historical Society at Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

In August, 1988, the Baxter County Historical Society and the Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce held a meeting in Mountain Home in an effort to create interest in the Trail of Tears. I am enclosing a clipping about it. We had some members of the Fulton County Historical Society and several persons from the Indian Cultural Center at Cherokee Village. Most persons attending were from Baxter County. We hoped that we would have a wider representation.

Alexander, January 8, 1989, Page 2

The Report of the National Park Service summarizes the background for the Indian removal and the Trail of Tears.

The routes the Cherokees took during the summer of 1838 and winter 1838-39 are described. By June, 1838, about 5,000 Cherokees were conducted by the military on the water route up the Arkansas River to Indian territory.

General Winfield Scott allowed the Cherokees to conduct the remainder of the removal in the fall of 1838. There had been much loss of life on the journey.

Thirteen parties of about 1,000 each were organized for this overland route. This is the part we are concerned with. Nine contingents departed in October and four in November. It seems that all or about all of these came to the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Cape Girardeau. According to the Report, the groups drove through Missouri and across the northwestern corner of Arkansas or through northern Arkansas (Smithville, Batesville or Fayetteville) into Indian Territory.

The Report recommended that one principal overland route be designated (P. 3-1). Apparently the Missouri Route had more documentation since it was designated as the principal route. You indicated in your letter that you obtained a directive for the National Park Service to study the possibility of side and connecting trails.

Evidence is available to indicate that at least one group of Cherokees came through north Arkansas. Dr. John Ferguson, Arkansas History Commission, sent me a citation in the Arkansas Gazette quoting a Batesville paper which told of Cherokees passing through that area. This information is also given by Grant Foreman, p. 308-309.

Alexander, January 8, 1989, Page 3

The National Park Service in preparing the Report listed an extensive Bibliography, pages A21-A26, which consisted of books and other printed sources. Bryan Kellar indicated that funds were not available to consult original sources such as letters, army documents, diaries, etc.

I purchased two books which seemed to be major sources quoted in the Report. Historical Sketch of the Cherokee by James Mooney was originally published as a part of the 19th Annual Report of the American Bureau of Ethnology about 1900. Mooney, an anthropologist, lived among the Cherokees, learned their language, and described their history and way of life. His information about the Trail of Tears came not only from printed sources but also from the survivors among the Cherokees and military personnel. However, he devoted only a few pages (126-129) to the actual movement of the Indians to the West. The book does give valuable information about the Cherokees.

Grant Foreman seems to be the recognized as the foremost writer about the Five Civilized Tribes and other Indians in Oklahoma. Grant Foreman, Indian Removal, The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes, was first published in 1932 with later editions being printed. The book relates the tragic history of the forced removal of the Five Civilized Tribes--Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Seminole. The story of the Cherokees is found on pages 229 through 294.

Foreman states, "This book is written in the main from this large mass of unpublished correspondence, reports, and journal of events, in the office of Indian affairs and in the war department." He also lists Senate Documents, historical journals, missionary writings, various books, and more than 40 newspapers.

Foreman prints a map showing the Cherokee land route going through south Missouri and one through north Arkansas. A similar map has been printed in general American history books such as An American History by Rebecca Brooks Gruver, Appleton-Century-Croft, 1972, page 369.

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What evidence in Arkansas is there for the route of the Trail of Tears?

1. Some county histories state that the Trail of Tears ran through their counties. Some historical society publications contend that the Trail runs in their area. Plaques to commemorate the Trail of Tears have been placed in court houses and along the roads in various places. An evaluation of these statements needs to be made and documentation found for them.

2. Ray Watts of Calico Rock is a descendant of a Cherokee who came to that area in 1837, the year before the forced removal. He has prepared a map showing the route through Izard County. He says that he has family information and consulted history books to prepare the map.

3. The Arkansas Gazette, November 22, 1987, has an article about Arthur Long of Mammoth Spring. He was to testify before a Subcommittee of the House about the location of the Trail, but was unable to go to Washington.

4. There may be other persons who claim to know the Trail based on tradition. All of the statements need to be checked. It may be that some accurate information and documentation can be located in Arkansas. Perhaps, there are other newspaper accounts, business records, or other documents which may turn up. There were few towns and a small population in Arkansas in 1838. Few roads existed. Information can be solicited from historical societies and interested individuals.

Recommendation:

We need some qualified person to sift through all the available information in Washington archives and Arkansas sources to try to locate specific information on the 1838-39 Cherokee movement through Arkansas.

Some Congressmen have a summer scholarship or internship program. If you could arrange such a program, I suggest that you find a graduate student in History probably at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and have him or her spend the summer working on this project of the Trail of Tears through Arkansas.

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It would be a wonderful experience and excellent training for this person to read books and then search through the original materials, military correspondence, government reports, diaries, and other records. It could be a Master's thesis.

Foreman stated that he did not find a day to day account of any of the thirteen groups traveling to Indian Territory. Perhaps, there is one somewhere that would give locations in Arkansas.

This student could also gather information from county histories, historical societies, and individuals.

I think that the National Park Service and the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Department realize that they can not mark an exact Trail of Tears because it can not be located specifically in all places and it would deviate from the highway system. A solution might be to designate the only major East-West highway across northern Arkansas, U. S. 62 or 412, as a commemorative highway and then call attention to other places where the Cherokees may have been if they can be located.

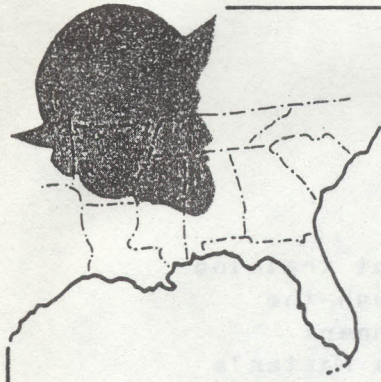
The parks people want to commemorate the Cherokee trek and also to provide recreation to the public since that is their function. They want to point out the recreation facilities along the Trail.

When Bryan Kellar and Ken Eastin, who is replacing Kellar as Trails coordinator, were here, they indicated that they were willing to work with groups and individuals in locating and marking a secondary Trail. It seems that the National Park Service may rely on the State Parks personnel in each state to help set out the Trail as they begin to implement the program this year.

We shall try to assist in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

James L. Lowe
President
Baxter County Historical Society
1500 Manor
Mountain Home, AR 72653



De Soto Trail Study

Proposed National Historic Trail



A PROPOSED NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In December 1987, Congress enacted the De Soto National Trail Study Act (Public Law 100-187) which directed the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study of the "...De Soto Trail, the approximate route taken by the spanish explorer Herna[n]do de Soto in 1539, extending through portions of the States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi to the area of Little Rock, Arkansas, on to Texas and Louisiana, and any other States which may have been crossed by the expedition." Although other Europeans had already explored the fringes of southeastern United States, the De Soto expedition was the first to penetrate and explore vast interior areas of the continent including the

lower Mississippi River. De Soto learned that the great wealth and elaborate societies anticipated did not exist nor were there large numbers of peasants whose labor could be exploited for the cultivation of crops. Although considered a failure by contemporaries, De Soto and his men were among the first Europeans to encounter and record southeastern aboriginal life.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE DE SOTO TRAIL

Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto and 600 men landed on the west coast of Florida on May 30, 1539. They explored the southeastern United States for more than 4 years, searching for gold and silver, and fighting repeated battles with native Americans. More than 300 soldiers, including De Soto himself, died during the expedition.



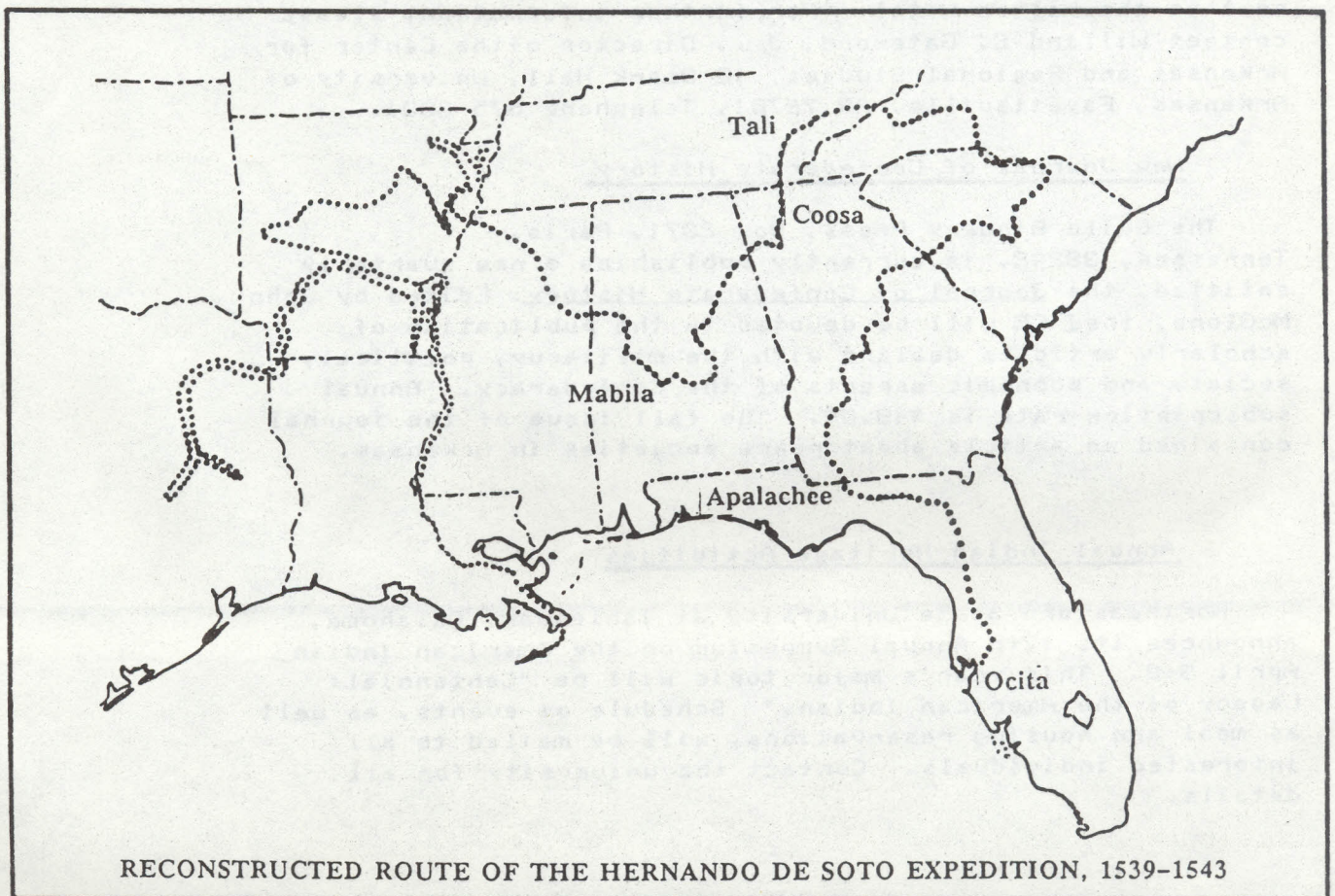
After marching through Florida, De Soto's group traveled northeast through Georgia and into South Carolina and North Carolina before turning west and southwest into parts of Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. On May 8, 1541, the expedition sighted the Mississippi River, then headed into Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. They then returned to the Mississippi River where De Soto died on May 21, 1542. The remaining members of the expedition sailed down the Mississippi River and along the Gulf Coast to Spanish settlements in Mexico.

CONDUCT OF THE STUDY

The Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service is responsible for the De Soto Historic Trail Study with the assistance of the Southwest Regional Office. Staff members of both offices serve on the study group and provide planning coordination with States in their respective Regions. This group is responsible for determining the feasibility and desirability of national historic trail designation; identifying trail issues; developing management options and alternative plans; and assuring public involvement. A study manager has been assigned

from the Southeast Regional Office to coordinate study activities and report preparation. Dr. Charles Hudson, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, is assisting the National Park Service by preparing historical descriptions of the expedition route.

Each State affected by the route of the De Soto expedition has appointed one or more representatives to serve on the De Soto Trail Commission instituted to establish the De Soto Trail and promote research related to Hernando de Soto. At the request of the National Park Service, a De Soto Trail Advisory Committee has also been organized with representatives from each of the ten involved States. Both the Commission and Advisory Committee will support activities of the study group by providing relevant information, reviewing draft materials and assisting with public involvement. Special interest groups will be encouraged to provide information either directly to the group or through Commission or Advisory Committee members. In addition, citizen and local input will be sought through a series of public workshops to be held in September and October of 1988.



NEWS FROM ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Schools Required to Teach Arkansas History in 1991-1992

Last year, the State Board of Education committed itself to a policy for teaching Arkansas history in our public schools.

Tentatively scheduled for the 1991-1992 school year, all eighth grade students in Arkansas public schools will be required to take a one-semester course in Arkansas history. Other provisions, also tentatively scheduled, require that elementary students be exposed to Arkansas studies in grades K-3 and that fourth graders receive no less than six weeks instruction in Arkansas History.

Women's History Institute to Co-sponsor Conference

On March 30 and April 1, 1989, the Arkansas Women's History Institute and the Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, will present a conference on "Refocusing the Past; Women in Arkansas and Neighboring States."

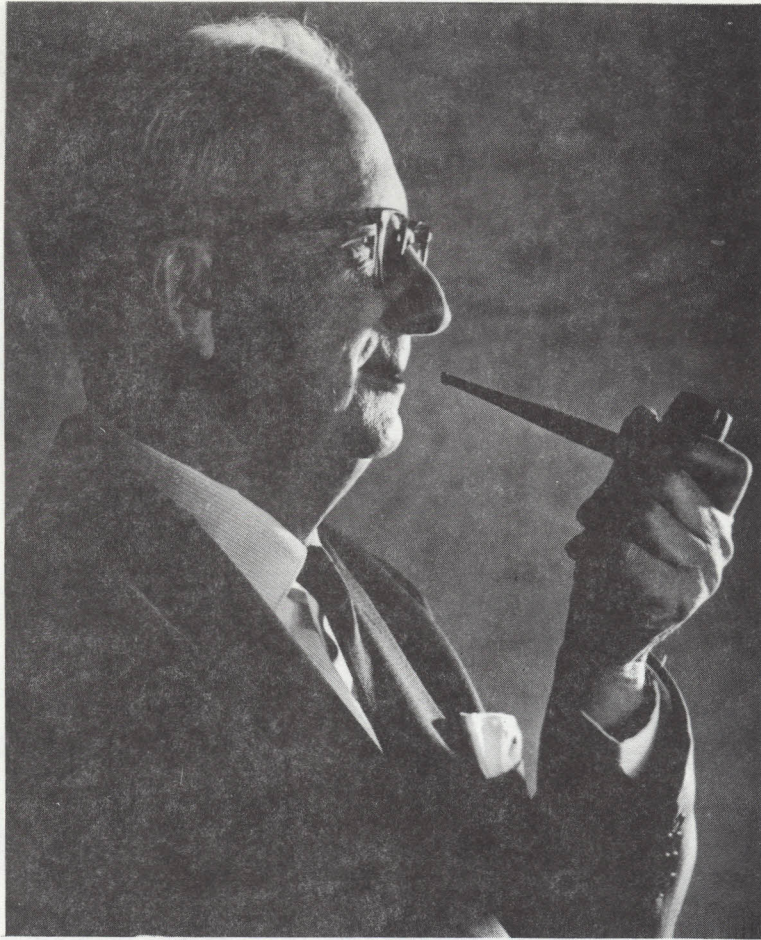
The conference will be held at the university's Center for Continuing Education, located in downtown Fayetteville next to the Hilton Hotel. For further information, please contact Willard E. Gatewood, Jr., Director of the Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies, 12 Ozark Hall, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, Telephone 575-3001.

New Journal of Confederate History

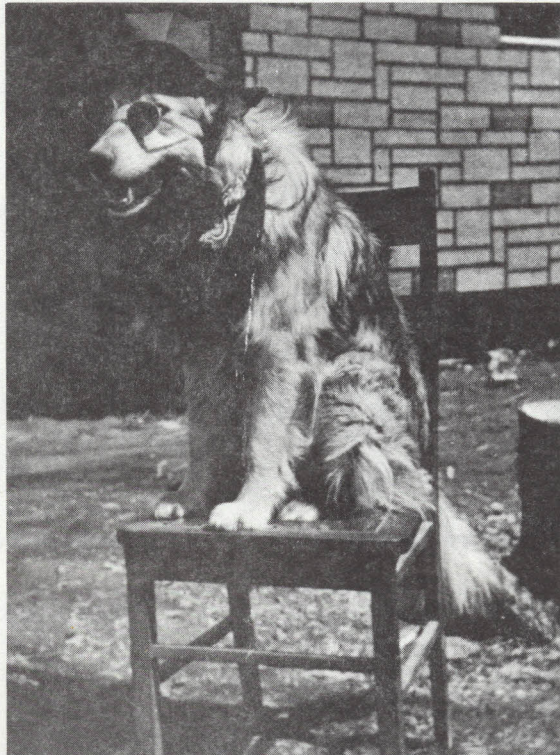
The Guild Bindery Press, Box 2071, Paris, Tennessee, 38242, is currently publishing a new quarterly entitled, the Journal of Confederate History. Edited by John McGlone, the JCR will be devoted to the publication of scholarly articles dealing with the military, political, social, and economic aspects of the Confederacy. Annual subscription rate is \$48.00. The fall issue of the journal contained an article about peace societies in Arkansas.

Annual Indian Heritage Activities

Northeastern State University at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, announces its 17th Annual Symposium on the American Indian April 3-8. This year's major topic will be "Centennial: Legacy of the American Indian." Schedule of events, as well as meal and housing reservations, will be mailed to all interested individuals. Contact the university for all details.



Earl
~~Earl~~ Paul



"Benny"
"Jimmy"

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