

# Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

VOL. 17 NO. 3

Published by

THE BAXTER COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## 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 Thursday of each month at the Day Service Center, 222 East Wade Street, Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Active Membership	\$5.00 per year.
Family Membership	\$7.50 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 and are always **Welcome**.

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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 the Editor. These contributions are really needed.

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

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3  
SEPTEMBER 1991

**SPECIAL FEATURES**

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**HISTORY BOOK AVAILABLE**

The Historical Society still has soft bound copies of the "History of Baxter County" by Mary Ann Messick. If you have Baxter County Roots you will want a copy of this popular history. Contact one of the officers. Cost is \$15.00 (if mailed please add \$2.00 for postage and handling) The book also comes with an index prepared by Dr. James Lowe of the Baxter County Historical Society.

\* \* \*

**NEW MEMBERS ADDED THIS YEAR**

Following are new members added to the rolls of the Baxter County Historical Society during 1991.

Becky Baker, Mountain Home, AR  
Rex & Carla Bayless, Mountain Home, AR.  
Mary Birrer, Yellville, AR  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Ford, Calico Rock, AR.  
Gerhard "Giggs" and Iona Behm, Lakeview, AR.  
Bettie L. Hickman, Rogersville, MO.  
Barbara Holland, Yellville, AR  
Richard Jones, Choctaw, OK.  
Don Ott, Lakeview, AR.  
Terry M. Poynter, Mountain Home, AR  
Jack Roberts, Edinburg, TX.  
Katherine E. Ryan, Los Vegas, NV.  
Jean Antrim, Mountain Home, AR.  
Irene D. Wilson, San Diego, CA

A big **Welcome** to all our new members!

**NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!**

The Executive Committee reported to the membership at the July meeting the results of a study of the cost of printing the "History". The cost of printing the last issue was \$1.27 per copy. Postal rates for mailing are now \$.75 per issue bringing the cost of printing and mailing is \$2.07 per issue. The cost to publish the History now exceeds \$8.00 per year. The Committee has pointed out to the membership that the dues should be adjusted. The dues of \$5.00 per year per individual has existed since the Society was created. After a discussion it was decided that the membership dues should be set at \$10.00 per individual and \$12.50 per family and directed the Board to, according to the By-Laws, arrange for the necessary amendments procedure.

With this issue the Board is notifying each member of The Baxter County Historical Society that a vote will be taken of the membership at the October meeting to decide if the increase should be enacted and to be effective Jan 1 1992.

\* \* \*

**MORE ABOUT FLAGS OVER ARKANSAS**

How did you do in the quiz in the April Quarterly concerning how many flags have flown over Arkansas?

The following from the "Our Town" column by Richard Allin in the Arkansas Gazette on Sunday June 9 1991 adds to the Arkansas Flag quiz:

"Douglas C. Jones, the noted novelist of Fayetteville, wrote to amplify my historical footnote the other day about Arkansas being a French possession when Thomas Jefferson made the Louisiana Purchase.

Actually, wrote Jones, Spain owned Arkansas almost up until the time that Jefferson wrote out the check to Napoleon. France regained possession of Arkansas with the blessing of Spain just in time to sell it.

The Capital of Upper Louisiana of which Arkansas was a part, was at St. Louis. And according to Jones:

"Not many people in St. Louis at that time knew Spain had ceded the Territory back to France, and the Spanish flag still flew over the governor-commander's headquarters".

"So when it was announced that the United States now owned it all, to satisfy all the legal formalities required, the Spanish flag was lowered and the French Flag raised, left to fly until the next day (March 11 ' 1804) when it was lowered and the Stars and Stripes went up."

This situation created a wonderful distinction for the few Arkansans who were then in the territory. "During one twenty-four hour period," wrote Jones, "they were the subjects of three different sovereignties..Spain, France and the United States."

\* \* \*

## MYSTERY ALMOST SOLVED!

by Gene Garr

The mystery of the Indian Painting found under the Casey House porch some time ago has been, at least, partially solved! While attending the Art Show in Mountain Home in June, I noticed a magnificent painting of an Indian Chief painted on Red Cedar boards. The more I looked at it the more I began to recognize the resemblance to our painting. A quick look at the name on it suddenly solved the mystery. There on the left bottom edge of the painting was the signature name "Cora of Marshall". I contacted, JoAnn Boyd, one of the officials of the show, who removed the painting and on the back was the phone number and address of "Cora of Marshall". We now know who the artist is but not how it got under the porch and that still remains a mystery!

A phone call was made to Cora and she told me about the painting. It was the first painting she did on wood, the first painting she sold. The painting was completed in 1970. On a trip to a mill she noticed what appeared to be the top of a crate. The wood grain pattern was noticed by her and she acquired the wood for the asking. Apparently the wood is a crating material made of cotton wood or similar wood. After painting the Indian on it she had displayed the painting in a real estate office of a family friend. A client of the friend purchased the painting, after some bargaining, for \$15.00. However his wife came in later and voiced her dislike for the painting and was very dismayed at him buying it. However another client came into the office and when he saw the painting he offered \$100.00 for the painting. The irate wife of the purchaser suddenly had an about face on the painting and said "It is not for sale!". Cora lost track of the painting until I called her.

Cora remarked that the painting was not of a particular Indian but as many of her paintings are, just a mental picture of what she wanted to paint. As the painting has suffered from its storage in the wood pile, Cora has offered to refinish the painting for us and is arranging to pick it up. She did comment about her first painting she had sold ending up in a wood pile but I assured her that it is wanted by us and will become a permanent item of our holdings!

Cora is a native of Reserve, Montana (near Plentyville) which was located about 30 miles from Canada and 7 miles from North Dakota. Her birthplace was adjacent to an Indian Reservation which I am sure has influenced her paintings. She had sold many of her Indian on wood type paintings and many of them have gone to Indian areas in Oklahoma.

Cora is married to Donald "Bruce" Morris who is a Baxter County native. His family lived in the old Talbert House. His grandfather was Baxter County Pioneer Bill H. Morris and he is a descendant of Dr. Morrow of Cotter. We hope to make Bruce's family history another subject for the "History".

The Morris family are now retired and live in the Marshall Arkansas area. Cora's other entry at the Art Show produced a 1st prize award in its class!

\* \* \*

## OLD TIMERS AFRAID OF FIRST TRAIN

Because of the unsophisticated attitude of "old-timers" towards new inventions, which is foreign to our nature today, many amusing stories are told of their ideas and reactions when the M. & A. Railway was built into this section in 1883. At that time it was the only railroad in this section and ran only between Seligman and Eureka Springs. It was known as the Eureka Springs Railway Company.

People came from miles away to see the train. On one occasion, it is said, an especially large crowd had gathered at the station when the train roared in. The engineer halted the engine and shouted, "Everybody move back, please. I want to turn around". It is said that the "moving back" amounted to a minor panic, to the engineer's satisfaction.

On some occasions people were as frightened at the noisy black engine as were horses. One old man and his wife had come in to the nearest railroad track to see the new train. The woman, sitting in the buggy, anxiously begged her husband to unhitch the horse so it wouldn't get frightened and run away with her. The man thought it was nonsense and told her in no uncertain terms that there was nothing in the world that horse feared. But the woman finally won her point and he unhitched the horse and took it into the woods out of sight of the track. Then the wife begged him to pull her back a little farther, too. "We never saw one of those things. It might be dangerous. We had better not be too close". The husband posh-noshed the idea but took hold of the single tree and began to pull the buggy back farther. Just as he started the train came in, so frightening him that he ran away, turning over the buggy and slightly injuring his wife.

Children, who now in their middle age marvel at nothing, were even worse than frightened by the prospects of seeing a train. One little boy was particularly anxious to see the train but each time his father took him he ran behind the station, hid his eyes against the wall and stopped up his ears when the whistle blew around the bend.

Today we do not marvel at the trains but only marvel at how people ever lived without them.

\* \* \*

### SAVE THE LEONARD CABIN!!

#### SAVE THE CABIN !

During the August meeting, a committee was formed to look into the purchasing the Log Cabin that emerged when the Leonard Home was razed. Named to the Committee was Beckie Baker, Gene Garr, Dr. Jimmie Lowe and Garvin Carroll.

The Chamber of Commerce was contacted and the Chamber Foundation has voted to support the purchase and has agreed to permit their group to be used as the fund raising unit. Donation made thru their organization will provide Tax Free status as their group has satisfied the Internal Revenue regulations. The BCHS will do the actual soliciting and collecting of funds.

VP Garvin Carroll met with the County Fair board on August 27 to secure their permission to place the cabin on the fair grounds. The decision is pending a meeting with their grounds Committee.



THE JAMES L. LEONARD HOME RAZED

The James L. Leonard Home, located at 1125 South College Street in Mountain Home, was razed during the months of May and June. This Historic Home was included in the 1988 project of the Baxter County Historical Society to list and catalog the Historic Homes of Mountain Home, Arkansas.

While removing the interior of the front room, a hewed log cabin, complete with a bricked up fireplace, was uncovered. The contractor dismantling the structure had found newspapers on the walls dating back to 1837. The contractor indicated he intends to retain the cabin timbers pending finding a purchaser for the logs.

Following is the write up in the 1988 "Book of Historical Homes:

At 118 years, this home is one of the oldest still existing in Mountain Home. Built by James LaFayette Leonard around 1870, it remained in the Leonard family for close to a century.

James L. Leonard, a lieutenant in the Civil War, left his home in Dalton, Georgia, in 1868. The family settled first at Newport, but finding it damp there, moved to the hill country, near Gassville, in 1872. In 1872, Leonard bought a ninety four acre farm in Mountain Home from Sam Talbert, who had homesteaded the land and build a log cabin on the property.

James built an addition to the cabin, and as his family grew, a room was built on the back. He also constructed a barn and smokehouse, which is still standing. At first a cistern was dug, then a well, which in time was followed by a drilled well.

James son, the late Oscar (J. O. Leonard), was a former president of Peoples Bank.

## INDIAN GRAVEYARD FOUND

From the Cotter Record December 10 1914

Many skeletons found on Old Bard Farm North of Cotter.

While plowing in his field last week I. T. Lindsey turned up a bone that he recognized as human and at once began an investigation which led to the uncovering of an entire skeleton. Friday, in company with Mr. Lindsey, the Record editor went over the ground and in an hour unearthed two more skeletons, both in the same grave and brought them to Cotter where they were submitted to Dr. Gray for examination and his opinion.

The bones have been buried for many years, certainly not less than 100 and possibly much longer. Dr. Gray says the length of time they have been buried cannot be told with exactness because of the character of the soil, that bones decay more quickly in some soils than in others. The skeletons are only fragments, badly decayed, with the exception of the teeth. The doctor's opinion was that both are of females, one an aged person and the other much younger. Both are small, the larger not over 5 feet 5 inches, the other about an inch shorter. He expressed sympathy for the elder one as she had suffered a good deal from toothache.

The bodies discovered were buried in a sitting posture with their faces to the north. No ornaments, or implements have been found, except pieces of pottery made from clay and mussel shells ground, mixed together and baked.

The ground where the skeletons were found has been in cultivation for at least 75 years, Mr. Lindsey says, and is two miles north of Cotter and about 300 yards from the river at the Denton Ferry, west side.

Dr. Gray said he would not pronounce the skeletons those of Indians, that the skull formation were not characteristic of the Indian, and they certainly were not negroes, and that if white people, they were not of a high order of intelligence. In each case there is no forehead, the skull sloping directly from the eyes to a point behind the ears.

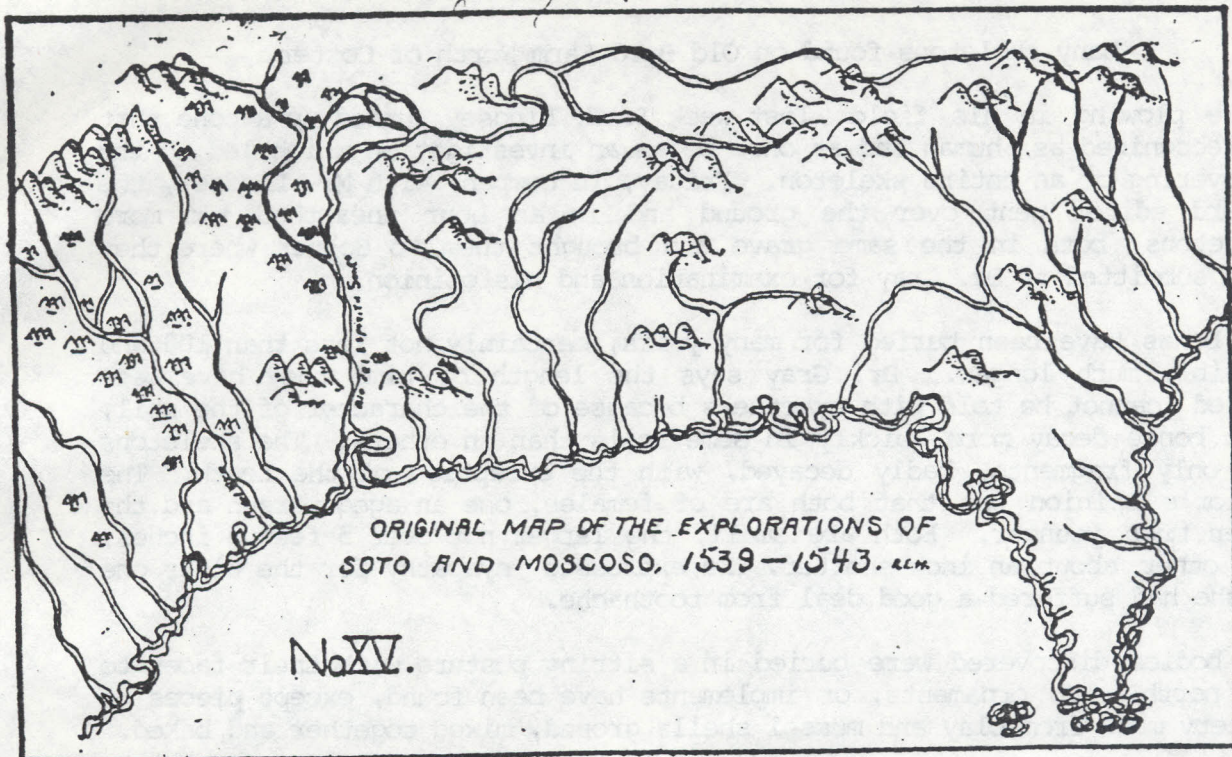
From the appearance of the ground where the bones were found there are many more skeletons buried there, and that it was a common burying ground. The spot chosen for burial was situated that it has neither washed away nor been added to by erosion. The skeletons were covered by 18 inches of soil.

There is no historical or other account of any tribe of Indians having lived in this vicinity for several centuries, but there are ample evidences that at some time in the distant past there was a populous Indian town across the river below the Iron Mountain bridge and above ferry landing. Many arrow heads, spear heads, axes, hatchets and other Indian relics have been found there. But no pieces of pottery or ornaments. It has been supposed for some time that there was an Indian cemetery at some point within two miles, but its location remained a mystery until last week. A careful excavation would no doubt reveal many interesting if not important remains of those who lived here and passed away so long ago that the only record they left is their decaying skeletons.

\* \* \*



OLD MAPS DETECT THE STATES CHANGES

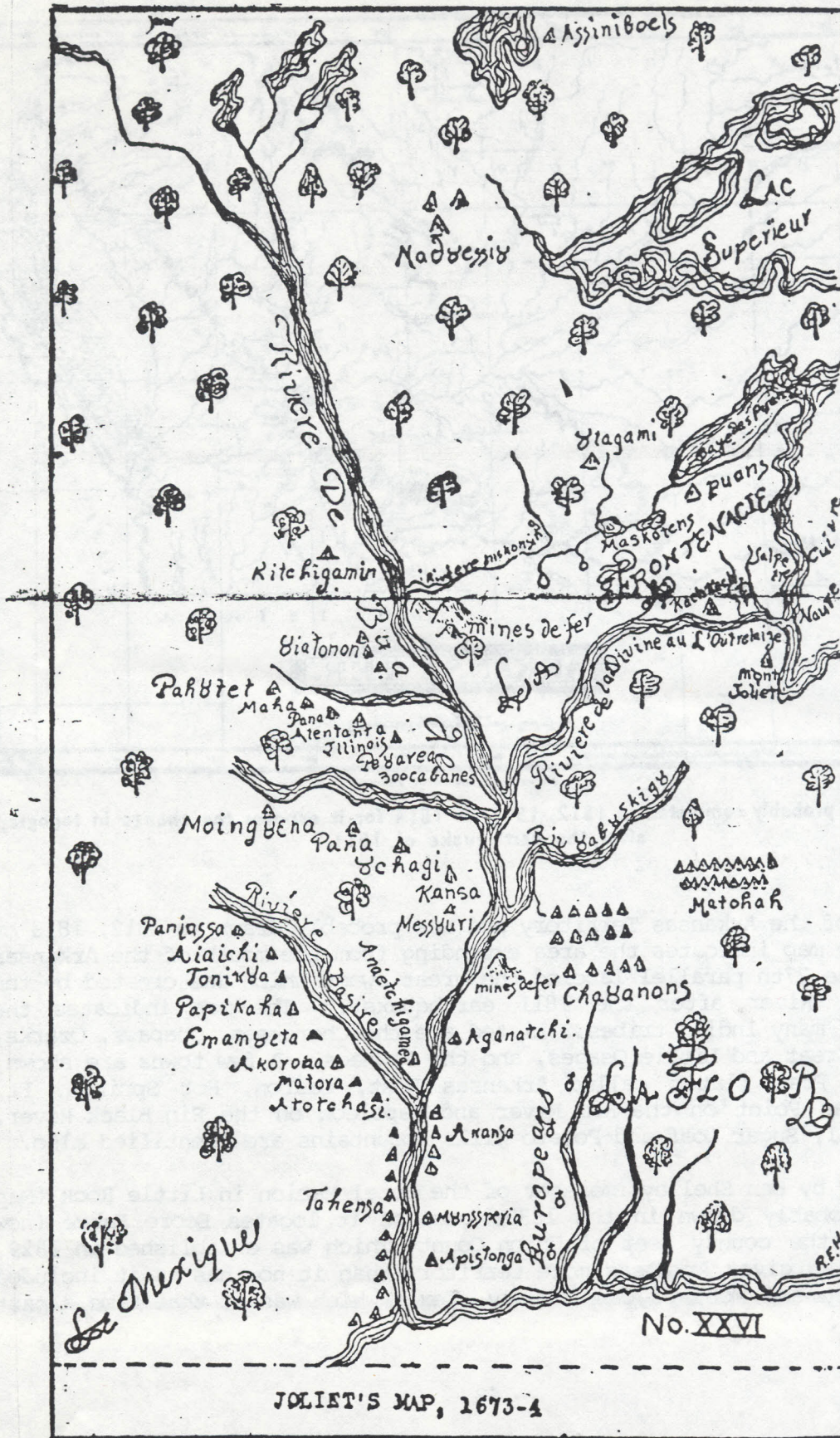


Map No. 1

Old maps portray history as it is being made. They have also faithfully indicated the topography changes such as New Madris region radical change after the earthquake of 1811. They have also recorded the changes the mighty Mississippi and other rivers has caused by their meandering and course changes which has eliminated towns, changed boundaries, etc..

Map #1 is found in Goodspeed's "General History of the Province and the States" and is one of the earliest maps that included the territory of Arkansas. The map is titled "Original Map of the Explorations of Desoto and Moscoso 1539-1543. It mapped their explorations and their discoveries of many rivers, Indian tribes and villages. History credits DeSoto and Moscoso being the first white men in the Arkansas Territory. Historians believe that DeSoto is buried near Helena, Arkansas. The first Christian religious ceremonies were observed by DeSoto near Wittsburgh on the St. Francis River.

163 years after DeSoto and Moscoso trek, next came Louis Joliet, who had accompanied Father James Marquette in exploring the Mississippi River Valley in 1673. A map from their expedition (map #2-next page) indicates that the region had become populated with Indian tribe. History does not record any further exploration by white men until the winter of 1681-1682 when LaSalle marched into an Arkansas Indian tribe and raised a cross bearing the arms of France.



Map No. 2



Drawn and Published by F. Lucas Jr.

Map No. 3 was probably completed in 1812, 1813 or 1814 for it exposes the change in topography after the earthquake of 1811.

Map #3 is of the Arkansas Territory and was probably drawn in 1812, 1813 or 1814 as the map indicates the area extending from the mouth of the Arkansas River to the 27th parallel labeled the great swamp which was created by the Mississippi River after the 1811 earthquake.. The map indicates the location of many Indian tribes. Listed are the Cherokees, Quapaws, Ozarks, Choctaws, Great and Little Osages, and the Pawnees. A few towns are shown, Arkopolis, Post (later called Arkansas Post, Cadron, Hot Springs, Ft. Smith, Pecan Point on the Red River and Napoleon on the Big Black River. The Cavanaugh, Sugar Loaf and Potato Hills mountains are identified also.

A map owned by Ben Shelley, manager of the Hotel Marion in Little Rock (Map #4) was probably drawn in the 1830s because it locates Ecore Fabre (now Camden) as the county seat of Union County which was established in 1829. This map also gives Arkansas more territory than it now has as it included Bowie County and most of Cass County, Texas which was at that time a part of Arkansas.

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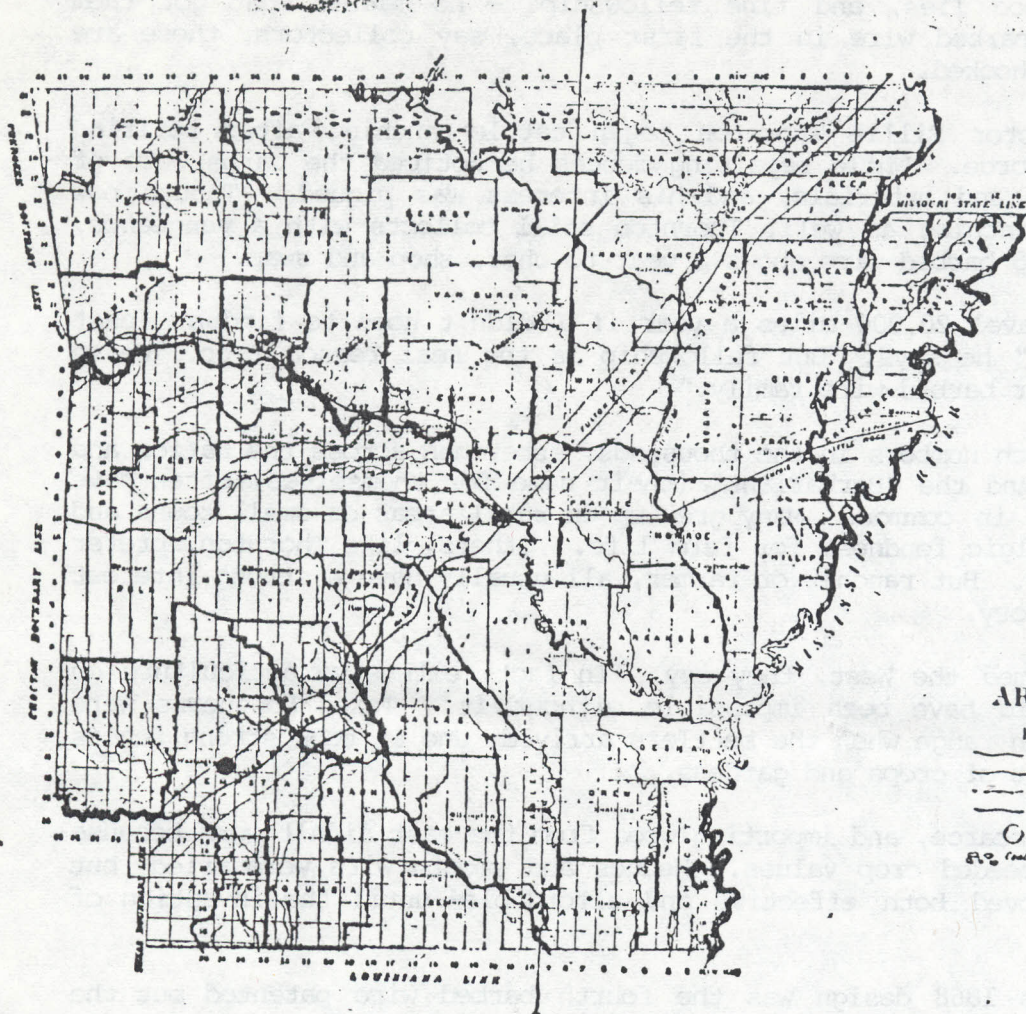
Map. No. 4 was completed early in 1830. It includes Bowie County, Texas, and a part of Cass County, Texas, in the (lower left) southwest corner of Arkansas.

#5 map (next page) is an early map which shows Arkansas with its canals, roads and distances. The map included a list of rivers with stopping places for boats going from Little Rock to New Orleans, Little Rock to Pittsburg, and Little Rock to Ft. Gibson. The map was drawn while Arkansas only had 46 counties. This map is undated.

Map #6 was dated Oct 2 1866. It indicated the land grant railroad strip, the seat of the land offices in the state, Little Rock, Clarksville and Washington. The Coal regions were also indicated. Many of the counties did not have county seats indicated on the map. Some indicated are not the same today.



Map No. 5 records the river routes, roads and distances, with Bowie and part of Cass County, Texas, as part of Arkansas.



MAP  
of  
ARKANSAS.

- Explanations:
- Land Grant Rail Roads
  - 6 Miles Road
  - 12 Miles Road
  - Rail Roads
  - Seat of Land Office
  - Coal Regions

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

General Land Office

October 2, 1866

*A. S. Sibley*

Map No. 6 records the land grants to railroads, seats of land offices and coal regions. Its date is set as Oct. 2, 1866.

By examination of the above 6 maps, you can see that history has been recorded by the many mapmakers today. If you compare these maps with maps of today, you will see how much man has been busy changing the face of Arkansas., Dams have been built, lakes formed and many settlements and town, roads, etc. have disappeared beneath them. Airports, Army camps, Expressways all appear on the late maps to help change the face of Arkansas and its history. As man continues on the road to progress, new maps will have to be made to continue following man's changes to our state.

\* \* \*

## THE SHARPEST HOBBY AROUND

By Sharon Cohoon

"Bad jokes, good lies, and fine fellowship" - no matter what got them interested in barbed wire in the first place, say collectors, these are what keep them hooked.

Colorado collector Billie Thornton began cattle-ranching after retiring from the Air Force. While repairing fences he noticed the barbs were of varying shapes and materials, and his interest was piqued. Though now retired from ranching as well, Thornton still collects with a vengeance, hitting about 15 barbed-wire shows a year to chat, shop and swap.

"I wouldn't travel 20,000 miles a year if I didn't hope to find at least one new piece," he says. "But fellowship is the real reason I go. We've become a regular barbed-wire family."

The family, which numbers in the thousands, stretches across the nation and into Canada. And the "Barbarians" (their name for themselves) often have more than wire in common. Many grew up in rural areas or small towns and retain a nostalgic fondness for farm life. Others, like Thornton, prefer the cowboy role. But rancher or farmer, all usually have a strong interest in Western history.

Barbed wire tamed the West, they say. In fact, extensive agriculture on the plains would have been impossible without it. Texas Longhorns were grazing the open range when the settlers arrived, and it took strong fences to keep them out of crops and gardens.

But trees were scarce, and importing wood from the east didn't work because costs often exceeded crop values. Hedges and smooth wire were tried, but no fencing proved both effective and affordable--until the invention of barbed wire.

Michael Kelly's 1868 design was the fourth barbed wire patented but the first produced in quantity. With millions of acres waiting to be fenced, however, other inventors soon jumped on the bandwagon. Add a new twist, throw in another barb, put a kink in it: That's all it took to create another patentable variety.

More than 1,200 varieties of barbed wire exist, and one of the country's first collectors, Jack Glover, identifies nearly 1,000 of them in his book **The Bobbed Wire Bible**. Further, he says new specimens continue to turn up. Some types are so odd collectors can't figure out how they were produced--or why. Some in fact are too convoluted to ever have been manufactured and sold profitably.

Today, though, complex designs bring handsome profits. Rare varieties command \$300-\$400 for the official 18-inch standard length; but with millions of pounds of the prickly stuff having been produced there is still plenty on the market for \$5.00 or less per length. And that's just fine with wire aficionados; they don't want high prices scaring off new comrades. Barbarians barter more often than buy anyway.

The annual spring event in La Crosse, Kansas, is among the nation's oldest shows and a good place to see barbed-wire collectors in action. Because it is restricted to wire or wire-related items, it attracts some of the biggest and most dedicated collectors. Each year Thornton artfully displays wire fencing tools and handmade barbed wire ornamented clocks.

And because it is more intimate in scale than general antique and Americana shows, you don't miss out on any of the bad jokes or good lies. Veteran collector Val "Old Feisty" Ferrin always has the crowd around him in stitches. He tells bad jokes and wire swapping yarns that make Faulkner's horse-trading tales sound tame. It's the general consensus that Ferrin has one of the best collections in the country--meaning more often than not he leaves a show without finding something new for his collection. But that doesn't stop him from attending: "Where else can you meet such good people, have so many laughs, and shoot so much baloney!"

Barbed wire shows are held around the country. The Texas Barbed Wire Association and the Kansas Barbed Wire Association (the nation's oldest such groups) celebrate 25th anniversaries this year in Vernon, Texas and in La Crosse, Kansas. For information on these and other shows contact the American Barb Wire Collector's Society, 1023 Baldwin Rd. Bakersfield, CA 93304: 805-397-9572.

\* \* \*

Editor--The Author Sharon Cohoo has given permission for the above article to be published in the Baxter County History and has requested that no further copying of the article be made without her expressed permission. The above article was published in the April-May 1991 issue of Modern Maturity Magazine.

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#### BARBED WIRE MUSEUMS

A number of museums already carry small barbed-wire collections, but two new museums devoted exclusively to the cable are scheduled to open in 1991:

A 14,000 square foot Devil's Rope Museum in McClean, Texas will house the Historical Museum of Barbed Wire and Fencing Tools, as well as a national reference library for the Barbed Wire Association. There will be room for conventions, shows and community events. Also featured will be the Barbed Wire hall of Fame and "Barbarian of the Year," the highest honor bestowed upon collectors. To learn more contact Curator Delbert Trew, PO Box A, Alanreed TX 79002.

In La Crosse, Kansas, a 5,400 square foot museum will feature wire and wire-related items and tools. A video room will show films on the history of wire. Write Kevin Moeder, % Farmers Bank and Trust, PO Box J, La Crosse, KS 67548.

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## OFFICERS CAPTURE THREE STILLs, MAKE THREE ARRESTS

from The Cotter Record, 1914

Last Saturday Sheriff Martin, Deputies Harve Collins and Jim Meeks assisted by City Marshal Mankins of Cotter, made a raid on the northeast part of the county, 15 miles from Mountain Home, captured three stills, a small quantity of liquor, about 300 gallons of mash and arrested G. W. Carroll, G. Reed and later Lew Holston came in and gave himself up. All three gave bond and were released.

The officers had information that moonshine was being made in the hills of North Fork and for some time had been laying for the "shiners". They drove to the G. W. Carroll farm where they found in an almost inaccessible gulch concealed in a clump of brush near a mountain stream, a small but modern still, copper worm and about 300 gallons of mash in barrels buried in the ground.

From the Carroll place the officers went to the Lew Holston farm two miles north where they found four gallons of liquor, and in a thicket about 400 yards from the house discovered a still from which a "run" had evidently just been made as it was too hot to be handled. A gallon jug of new whiskey was found in a thicket near by, and in two barrels buried in the ground was about 65 gallon of mash.

Next the officers drove two miles west to the G. Reed farm and as they approached the house, saw a man dart out and run around behind a smokehouse. They headed him off and found he was G. Reed with a gallon of liquor under each arm. About the same time they saw a man plowing corn near by and started out to interview him. He saw the officers coming, dropped the lines and raced off through the corn like a jackrabbit. Sheriff Martin fired in his direction a time or two and it was like stepping on the gas. The man simply disappeared in a fog of dust. He was Thurman Reed, son of G. Reed, and lives on the place near his father. The officers went to the house and found his wife in bed, apparently with a babe on her arm. A search of the house yielded nothing until Sheriff Martin politely requested her to arise. She obligingly complied and between the mattresses two copper coils were discovered.

The usual disposition was made of liquor, mash and stills, and the men under bond will have a hearing at the next term of court.

\* \* \*

## DID YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR IMPRISONED AT ANDERSONVILLE?

If you have documented proof—such as war records from the Archives—of your ancestor's imprisonment at Andersonville, send photo copy of proof for the files they have accumulated for the use of the public. There was a burial list kept secretly by the man in charge. His diary is published and available. For more information write: Superintendent, Andersonville National Cemetery, Andersonville, GA 31711.

\* \* \*

## OLDEST BAXTER COUNTY CEMETERY

The oldest cemetery in Baxter County is believed to be a cemetery located 4 miles south of Norfolk at the end of Dwelly Road.

With its first burials being made prior to 1823, it is considered the oldest in the county. The following pioneer families are buried there; Wolf, Adams, Hargraves, Herren, Findley, Sutter and Tinnon families.

In 1985 a general cleanup of the cemetery was made including clearing of brush and trees, erecting fences, area mowed and tombstones reset.

\* \* \*

### NEWSPAPER "GIRL"

#### NELLIE (TRACY) MITCHELL

Nellie (Tracy) Mitchell was born in 1895 on a farm near Northfork River where her grandfather Nathaniel Tracy settled in 1851. She, with her family of 9 brothers and sisters, moved from the homestead to Mountain Home in 1897 where her father J. T. Tracey operated a general store on the square. He operated the store until 1939. He sold everything from horse collars to cheese and crackers. They had moved into a dilapidated home in town but Nellie's mother "Dutch", who had worked hard in the store to get a new home, decided to force the issue of a new home, had the old one demolished one day when J. T. was at the store. They had to move the family into the back room of the store. J. T. arranged to get new home started quickly after that.

After completing her schooling in Mountain Home, Nellie ventured to Little Rock and later to Memphis Tennessee where she met and married Gene Mitchell. As a result of the Depression, Gene found himself out of work. Nellie decided to return to Mountain Home with her six children until times improved and Gene could find work. The family never reunited.

Nellie took over one of her children's paper route in 1943. She has continued her paper business continuously since. She still delivers the papers at dawn to a few select customers but mainly confines her business to a small newstand on the square in Mountain Home. There she sells, among others, the Chicago Tribune, USA Today, Grit, Barrons, The St. Louis papers and the Wall St. Journal.

Nellie was the local primary source of news at least a decade before the radio station was on the air.

Nellie, now 96 years young, likes to remember the way the town used to be when everyone had a milk cow in the back yard and life was a lot simpler. She also likes to remember how Mountain Home was before there were "**Too many damn Buildings and too many damn Yankees**". But adds that she has become a little more accustomed to both.

--From the Society's former Historian Hazen Bonow's Historical Scrap Book Collections.

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## GENEALOGY INQUERIES

Queries will be accepted for publication in the "Quarterly". All queries should have a connection to Baxter County or the surrounding area. Queries should be brief and include, when known, dates, locations (counties, major city and state) births, marriages, deaths and residences. Queries will be subject to editing. Members queries will be given preference. Queries will be printed as space allows. Those not printed in the next quarterly will be printed in a later issue. Send queries to the president's address on page 1.

No 5-91 Mrs. Carl Holland, Box 414, Yellville, Ar 72687

In the Vol 17, No 2 (July) issue of the "Quarterly" page 42, on the plan of the "Hand Cemetery" was listed, ie: **Grave #10-Infant of Sarah Holland**. Can anyone furnish more information on this infant or the family? What was the infant named? Was it a boy or a girl? **ANY INFORMATION APPRECIATED.**

No. 6-91 Richard Jones, 4880 N. Henney, Choctaw, OK. 73020

**William Wiley Hayes** b-GA. in 1870 Census. Has son Albert P. Hayes. William Wiley left for Oklahoma 1891 after his marriage. He was in Gassville-Whiteville area after arriving in wagon train about 1871/72. One child was born in Arkansas in 1872. **SEEKING INFO ABOUT FAMILY AND WAGON TRAIN.**

## WORLD WAR I DRAFT DATA AVAILABLE

The National Archives Branch, 1557 St. Joseph Ave., East Point GA 30044 has 24 million WWI registration cards that give birth date and place, parents, etc. To obtain this data you must supply complete name and address and a \$15.00 fee.

\* \* \*

## ELLIS ISLAND

Plans are being made for computerization of the data concerning the 17 million immigrants who came to this country via Ellis Island. Scheduled for implementation in 1992, it is planned to display 15 types of information, including the immigrant's name, name of ship, date of arrival, country of origin, port of embarkation, occupation, level of literacy, intended destination in the U.S.A., race, physical characteristics and data on any relatives already living in America. Visitors at the Museum will be able to get a print-out for an extra charge.

\* \* \*

## CAN YOU HELP?

Society Member Kathy Ryan, of 1404 Smoke Tree Ave., Las Vegas NV 89108 writes that her family tells her that town named "**Slagle**" was located near Mountain Home. She would like to know more about such a place if it existed. Can you help her? If so, drop her a line.

### CAUSE OF DEATH

Some years ago James C. Kirkpatrick was Secretary of State and was the overseer of the newly established record's management agency. After going over vital statistic records of the cause of death, he reported the records contained the following causes:

"Went to bed, feeling well, but woke up dead."

"Died suddenly. Nothing serious."

"Don't know. Died without aid of a physician."

"Blow on the head with ax. Contributory cause, another man's wife."

"Had never been fatally ill before".

\* \* \*

### EVER WONDER WHERE THAT SAYING CAME FROM?

A lot of old sayings or expressions used by colonial Americans before the Revolutionary War are still used today. Following are just a few:

"Good Night, Sleep Tight". As in olden days the mattress (straw or feathers) was supported from the bed frame by a webbing of thick rope. Almost every night the rope was tightened to keep the mattress from sagging. Thus "Sleep Tight" (Ed. - A rope bed of this type is on display at the Casey House)

"Bootlegger". This word used so much in the 1920's and 1930's, began in the 1800's. Smugglers would hide liquor bottles in the high tops of their boots-hence they were "bootleggers".

"Read between the Lines". In the 1700s paper was a very expensive item and just a few sheets would cost a day's wages. Only one side of the paper was smooth enough to write on, so letters were started at the very top of the paper and when full, turned upside-down and continued by writing between the lines already written. Sometimes it took a lot of keen eyed reading to understand everything that was crowded into a letter thus "Read Between The Lines" became a term for understanding complicated documents.

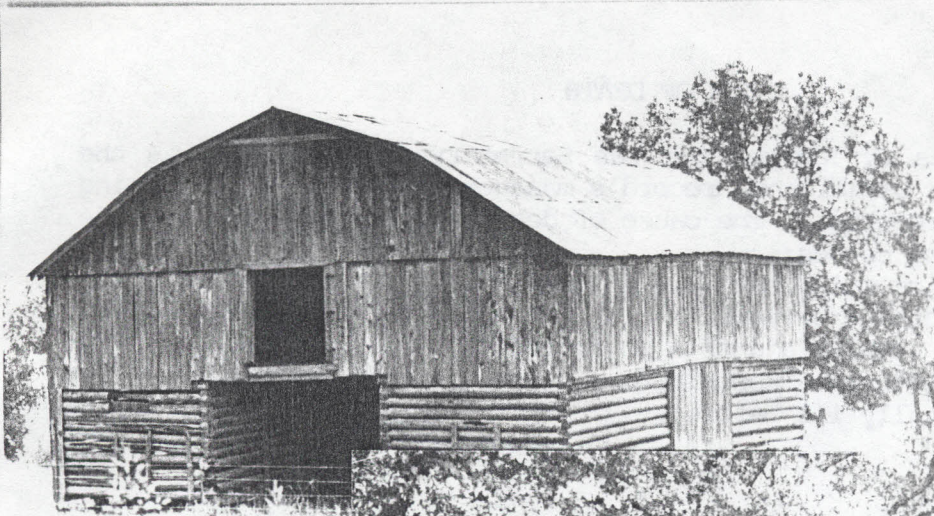
"Jerkwater Town" This expression came into use in the 1800s and is attributed to railroading. In large towns the railroad assigned some one to fill tenders of locomotives but as the engines required water about every 50 miles the train crew had to do the filling much of the time. To get the water to flow into the tender it required a hard jerk of a rope to operate the valve. These small towns became known to the train crew as "Jerkwater Towns".

"I'll eat my Hat" Two centuries ago **sugar** was a rare and expensive item and was sold in small cone-shaped packages called "Sugar Hats".

"Slush Fund". This expression came not from the colonies but from the British Navy of the 1700's. "Slush" was garbage consisting mainly of grease and animal fat from the ship's galley. An enterprising sailor decided to sell it and use the money to aid needy enlisted men. Thus "Slush Fund" began.

- - -From "Bluegrass Roots" magazine of The Kentucky Genealogical Society.

BAXTER COUNTY BARNS!  
GOING—GOING—GOING—



← - 1 -



↑  
- 2 -

↑  
- 3 -

**BAXTER COUNTY BARNES!**  
~~GOING GOING GOING~~

The barns on the preceding page are located in Baxter County and are the first of a series of photographs to record the barns!

- Barn #1. Log Barn located on State Route 341 near State Route #5 on Morton Creek near Norfolk.
- Barn #2 Cow Barn, just holding on, located on State Route #5 at Three Brothers.
- Barn #3 Large hay barn located on State Route 62 East-east of Mountain Home-owned by Society Member Mrs. Margaret Sharp. Built by her father Joseph Wotawa in 1930.

\* \* \*

**NORFORK DAM CONTRACTORS CAMP**

In the years 1941 and 1942 a new village was constructed near the town of Salesville with the knowledge that it would be torn down in a few short years. The construction of the Norfolk Dam required that the contractor construct a town to house and supply the many workers and their families that would be streaming into the area to work on the dam construction. The remote area dictated that the town not only furnish housing but would also be required to supply the workers and their families with food, staples and entertainment.

The camp was constructed on right side of the river downstream of the dam. The camp area was filled to raise the site above flood water levels with materials from initial excavation operations being performed prior to construction of buildings.

The camp included 50 buildings and provided housing for 41 families and 200 single men. Family houses were four-room structures, and quarters for single men were in four-to-six room dormitories. Buildings were of temporary wood frame construction with 1-inch exterior siding, interior was lined with prepainted board, and floors were of pine. The camp contained a mess hall with seating capacity of 165. Meals were served 5 times daily and a lunch counter was open at all times. A grocery store was built and operated by the contractor for convenience of the personnel.

A commissary building contained a confectionary, clothing store, bowling alley, and pool tables. The commissary burned with complete loss in December 1941 but was promptly rebuilt.

The contractor also built a field office of same type as other buildings in the camp and was approximately 20 feet by 80 feet in plan.

Water for the camp was obtained from a settling basin upstream and piped to storage tanks on the right abutment. Water to the camp was chlorinated. Sewer lines were of 6-inch clay tile connecting to a 10,000 gallon septic tank. Butane gas, supplied from two 1,000 gallon storage tank located in the camp area, was used for heating and cooking.

Four main warehouses in the camp area were constructed with a total floor area of about 15,000 square feet. Buildings were wood frame with corrugated sheet metal sides and roof. The largest warehouse, 8,000 square feet, was used for storage of materials to be incorporated into contract work, 4,000 square feet provided storage for small tools and operating supplies, 2000 square feet for storage of sack cement. Two covered pipe racks were constructed for storage of electrical conduit and cooling pipe.

A Shop Building was also constructed of wood frame with corrugated sheet metal sides and roof with both concrete and wood floors. The machine shop was valued at \$41,000 and during the course of the contract turned out work valued at \$540,000.

The Carpenter Shop, 80feet x 40 feet-of similiar type construction, was complete with all wood working tools and machines.

There were also individual small shops for Electricians, Pipe fitters, Core Drillers, Riggers, and Steel Workers.

A telephone system was installed by the contractor in all major shops and plants in the work area, to the government offices and to the railroad depot at Norfolk. Service was also provided at the controlling stations of the Cable Ways which handled the materials to the dam construction. The switchboard was in the Contractor's office. Temporary phones were installed at the inspector's field office and at each major concrete pour for direct communications with the Cable Ways operators.

Electric service to the camp and work areas was installed to the area by Arkansas Power & Light company who constructed lines to the area in 1941 from Newport, Arkansas.

The work area was illuminated for night operations. 14 wood light towers were constructed in the work area. Localized area lighting was also installed in the camp and storage areas.

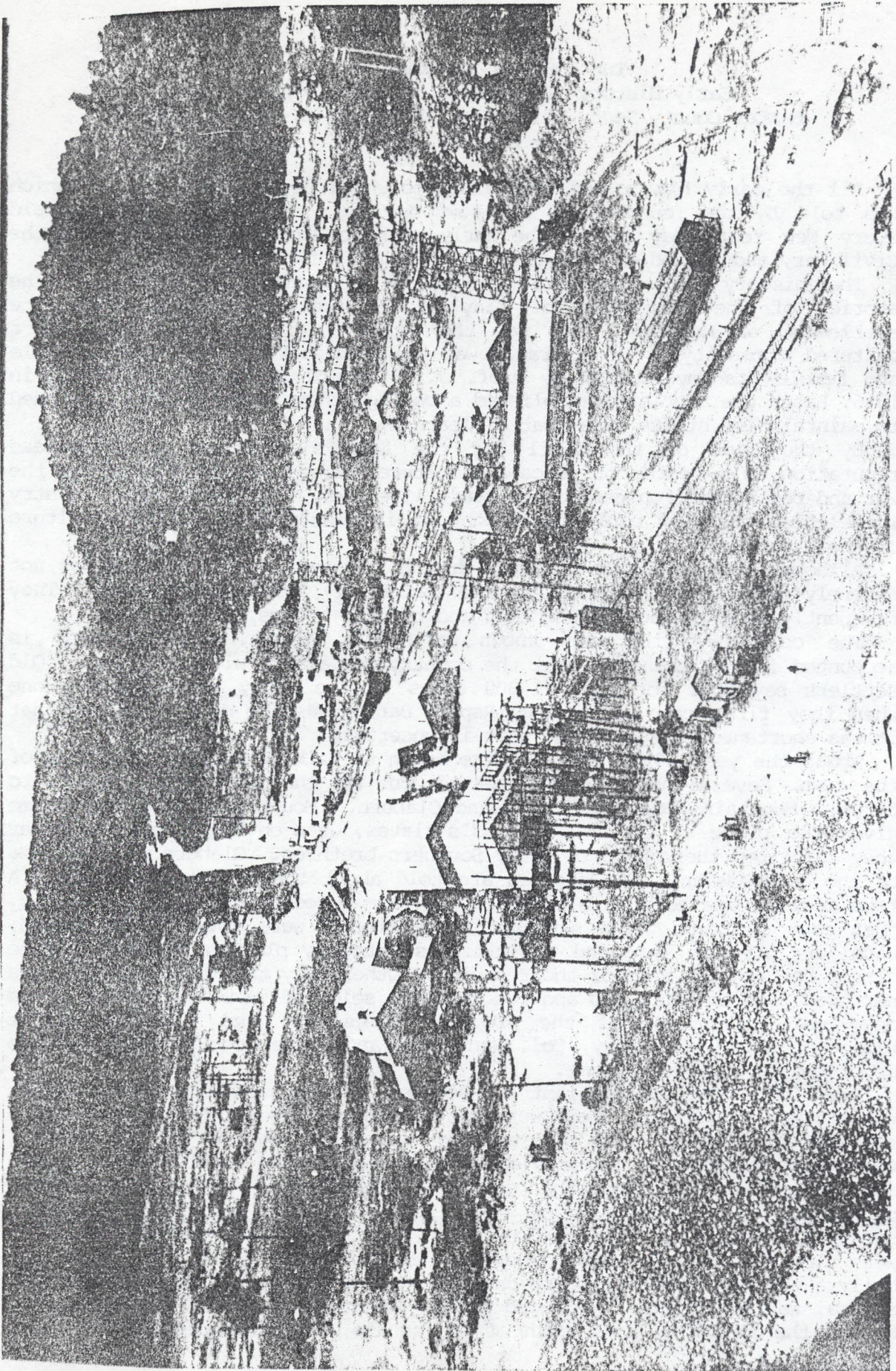
The entire camp was dismantled upon completion of the project.

-Taken from the "Completion Report" of the construction of the Norfolk Dam by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

\* \* \*

The American Battle Monuments Commission, Washington, D. C. 20314, will research its files, the Army, the Veterans Adm., and the Dept of the Interior for place of permanent internment of WWI and WWII dead. It will provide information concerning the place of the commemoration of the missing in action and the lost or buried at sea of WWI, WWII, Korea or Vietham servicemen.

The commission will provide relatives on request, with a photograph of the gravesite in the Commission Cemetery or the Section of the Tablets of the Missing where an individual is commemorated by name mounted upon a color lithograph of the cemetery or memorial concerned. A booklet describing the cemetery or memorial in detail accompanies the lithograph.



Contractor's shops, warehouses, and camp buildings.



**THE FOUNDING OF MOUNTAIN HOME**  
**Early History of Northern Arkansas Reflected in**  
**Baxter County Seat, Which Grew Up Around an Academy in 1856**  
By Frances Shiras

All the early history of Mountain Home which is known now is that which was told by the founders of the town to their children at meeting held every New Years Day during the early years of the settlement before the Civil War, and passed down by them to their children.

The history lacks most of the bloody accounts which embellish the stories of the settlement of many other towns. The motive for the settlement of Mountain Home was the building of peaceful homes and a cultured community. It literally was built around a school- the old Male and Female Academy-founded by Prof. J. S. Howard of Plattsville, Wis., in 1856. Later the Baptists established a college there and the town continued to maintain its status as a seat of learning.

By the time of the Civil War the town already had a widespread reputation as a center of peace and culture. Many families came during the war and reconstruction periods to start life anew in a fresh, quiet country where their children could be brought up in plenty and taught the culture of their fathers.

Although comparatively peaceful during the war, Mountain Home was not entirely unaffected because of the raids of the bushwhackers. They frequently went through, plundering and burning houses.

The community first was known as Rapp's Barren. The Barrens is accounted for by the fact that the country was almost without timber. Old settlers say that for every 1,000 trees we see today, they saw only one when they first came. Some say Rappid Barres was the name first and that it was shortened to Rapp's but that is uncertain.

About the year 1857, the settlers began to talk of changing the name of the town. Several names were suggested, but the choice finally narrowed to three. Mountain Home, Wild Rose and Claburn. Mountain Home was the name given the place by Col. O. L. Dodd's slaves, when on trips down the river they described their home to their Southern brethren. Claburn was the name of the congressman. Two stories are told about the names's selection. A town meeting was held in a field on the farm owned by Dr. J. H. P. Wallis, just east of town. Some say that three circles were drawn on the ground: each was given a name and the citizens voted by placing corncobs in the circle bearing the name of their choice. Others say that the selection was narrowed down to two names and two corncobs selected, a white one and a red one, each given one of the proposed names and that three prominent citizens, Dr. J. M. Casey, Col. Ran Casey and Judge John S. Russell, were appointed to draw for a name.

One of the first things that the settlers of Mountain Home thought about was a place to worship. There were not enough members for the denominations to build churches of their own, so they worshiped together at the academy, each group conducting services one Sunday a month and holding union Sunday School services. When the settlers became more numerous and more prosperous the group divided into four different sects; Methodists, Baptists, Cumberland Presbyterians and Christians. The Baptist, in 1876, were first to build a church; they used this building until 1935, when they buily a new one. The Methodist church, which was situated southeast of the square, was blown away in a wind storm, March 25 1904, and the Methodists bought the building just north of the square, which had been built by the

Presbyterians, who disbanded. The old Methodist church had two stories and the Masons and other fraternal orders met in the second story. The Christian church, which is still in use, was built just northwest of the square a few years later.

When Baxter county was formed, Mountain Home was made the county seat. Baxter was the sixty-eight county created by the state and its organization was approved by the legislature on March 24 1873. It was named for Gov. Elisha Baxter, the state's only Republican governor. The first "courthouse" was the store and postoffice build and operated by Randolph D. Casey. (This land and building now is about three-quarters of a mile from the present courthouse.) The first term of the court was held there July 7 1873. Until an election was held, three commissioners were appointed to transact the business of the court; they were B. F. Lance, O. L. Dodd and Byrd Deatherage. One of their first acts was to allow Mr. Casey the sum of \$7 per month for the use of his storehouse, to established a clerk's office and court. After a few months, however, the Joe Price boarding house, a large two-story log house, located at what is now the junction of State Highway 5 and College street, was purchased for the sum of \$600. On the record of court proceedings for October 6 1879, this house was "deemed entirely insecure and in a dilapidated condition," and the building fund, which at that time amounted to \$1,090.22, from a levy which had been made that year, was all appropriated and the building commissioners, Griffin Hogan, Martin Bodenhamer and James L. Leonard, were instructed to draw up plans and advertise for bids. A frame building was erected on the site of the present courthouse, which on February 23 1890, was destroyed by fire; many of the records were burned as there was no fireproof vault. The fire was said to have been incendiary, but there is no proof that this was the case. In October, 1890, the court levied a two-mill tax for a new building and a two story brick building was put up on the square. Several attempts have been made to move the courthouse from Mountain Home. During Judge G. W. Walker's administration the third story was added.

There was no jail for several years and any responsible citizen who would keep and guard the prisoners was paid by the commissioners. In 1876, a jail was built on a solid rock ledge just behind the east side of the square. Some holes in the rock which contained leg chains of the prisoners can still be seen. Later a stone jail was built southwest of the square.

The first store in Mountain Home was operated by Judge J. S. Russel and John Quincy Wolf, and it served also as a postoffice. It was located south of the present town and the building still is standing, a plain, one room frame structure. The first store, where the business section of the town now is located, was build and operated by Col. Ran Casey on the present site of Bryant's store. Dr. Casey built the second store where the Tracy building now stands, and Dr. Wallis built the third on the west corner of the square. Other businesses were soon established, including a flour mill built by Watt and Sim Talburt and Colonel Beck. Wheat was an important crop and all the flour was made of home-grown wheat. Before the mill was built it was hauled all the way to West Plains, Mo.-only about 60 miles, but quite a trip in those days-and then sold for only 50 cents a bushel. Jack Van Derverter built a brick kiln in 1874; Jim Wolf established an ice house in 1875; other businesses were Byler's tan yard, Mart and Jess Wolf's blacksmith shop, George Jones' tan yard, W. S. Chick's, N. H. Ballou's and Mr. Horn's wagon shops, J. M. Schoggen's shoe shop and others. The Quid Nunc, the first newspaper, was founded by N. H. Bigger of Marshfield, Mo., in 1875. Before 1880, a cotton gin was established in town by Dr. Casey.

It was an old-fashioned affair, with two long timbers coming together 50 feet in the air, where, with mule power, it could gin and press two bales a day. With the establishment of these industries, Mountain Home became a self-sufficient community, which was necessary as the only means of transportation and communication was the old mail hack and stage coach running to West Plains, the nearest railroad point.

The stages were large, strongly built wagons with top and side curtains and with two or three hard board seats and carried, besides mail, passengers and express. The stages, many times had such a load of whisky stacked on the floor that there was very little room left for the passengers to put their feet. The Postoffice Department finally made a ruling that no mail coach could carry liquor inside; it was then strapped in boxes on the outside. Mountain Home was one of the main mail distributing points in northern Arkansas during the time of the stage coach line-1883 to 1907, when the railroad was built.

Since the early days Mountain Home has had a large number of well educated persons and professional men in the community. There was never a lack of doctors, lawyers or school teachers. The first professional men included H. S. Colman, M. N. Dyer and Ben Brewer, lawyers; Edwin Dyer, O. M. Lucas, Elder Jones, Henry Messick and Van Tate, ministers; Doctors Casey, Wallis, Allen, Rothrock, McClure, Brewer and Simpson, physicians; the first dentist, Dr. J. H. Case.

Incorporation papers were filed May 18 1884 but Mountain Home was not incorporated until April 1888. At the first election, D. Brooks was elected mayor; J. R. Lubhter, recorder; W. A. Love, W.S. Lindsey Jr., J. M. Casey, A. A. Wolf and W. J. Baker, aldermen.

Land for the cemetery was donated by M. S. Paul and he was the first to be buried there in 1874.

People of Mountain Home never lacked entertainment and social life. They had large hunts and fishing trips as well as parties and programs. Sometimes the whole town would be practically deserted for a week or more at the time when almost everyone went to the river for a camping and fishing trip. May Day was celebrated here as it had been in early England. The first day of May was a holiday and a celebration was held on Dodd Hill. A queen, maids of honor and a bishop were elected at school and the pupils were dismissed the day before to gather flowers to make garlands and bouquets, to build a stage and erect and decorate a May pole. The silver cornet band, which was for many years an institution in Mountain Home, was organized in 1876 with Dr. Rothrock, William Baldwin, Randolph Paul, Lee Paul, Thornt Adams, Millard Adams, Tom Paul and Dr. J. H. Norman as members.

Later the custom of having an annual picnic and homecoming was established and these celebrations have been held for about 35 years.

\* \* \*

One of the interesting nuggets one finds in doing documents:

Example: In the tax records in one county it was reported that one taxpayer had gone to the "Missippy Terrytory". Another had gone to "Elinoy" while a third had gone to "Elenoy".

Petition to Incorporate  
town of Mountain Home, Arkansas.

In Vacation. April Term, 1888.  
April 12,

To the County Court of said County May Adjourned Term 1884.

The undersigned Petitioners and residents of said County within the territory described and prayed to be Incorporated as a town known by the name of "The Incorporated town of Mountain Home."

Most respectfully the court to grant an order incorporating the Town of Mountain Home embracing the territory indicated by the map or plat herewith filed consisting of O. L. Dodd's Plat of the original town of Mountain Home and A. J. Truman's and Wm. H. Lane's Addition thereto as follows, beginning at a point twenty seven rods due North of the Northwest corner of Block 44 of Lane's Addition in the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 9 Township 19 N Range 13 W; thence East to the line between the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 and NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of said Section and fifteen rods beyond into the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4; thence South to a point in the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the same section from which a line running due West will include the Mountain Home Cemetery and on to the Creek or branch running from O. L. Dodd's Spring, the said branch to where it crosses a line running due South from the S. W. corner of Lane's Addition, thence North by said line to the point of beginning along the Western boundary of Lane's Addition to said town, Z. M. Horton being appointed and authorized to prosecute this Application for and behalf of your petitioners who are majority of the Electors residing within said territory.

And we further pray that this Court will make such orders as may be necessary to the granting this Petition according to law.

Petition to Incorporate the Town of Mountain Home.

- |                     |                     |                       |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. B. F. Bodenhamer | 11. J. M. Schoggen  | 21. Wm. H. Morris     |
| 2. J. M. Wolf       | 12. J. H. P. Wallis | 22. J. H. Case        |
| 3. J. H. Wolf       | 13. G. W. Wallis    | 23. Ed M. Wolf        |
| 4. W. A. Love       | 14. J. T. Adams     | 24. J. H. B. Wolf     |
| 5. A. J. Truman     | 15. C. A. Eatman    | 25. H. C. Allen       |
| 6. J. L. Leonard    | 16. A. C. Hull      | 26. James Littlefield |
| 7. James A. Haley   | 17. W. C. Hull      | 27. W. D. Henderson   |
| 8. J. M. Casey      | 18. C. T. Hull      | 28. R. C. Wallis      |
| 9. J. B. Simpson    | 19. Z. M. Horton    | 29. A. L. Richey      |
| 10. R. C. Davant    | 20. A. J. Brewer    | 30. C. R. Boaz.       |

Amendment by Petitioners

Wherefore your petitioners would pray the court to make an order declaring the territory above described "An incorporated town" under the name of the "Incorporated town of Mountain Home" and for all legal relief. By Z. M. Horton, Agent for Petitioners.

In the matter of Incorporating }  
the town of Mountain Home }

Baxter County Court Record  
July Term, July 8th, 1884.

Record Book—C— page 169

ORDER

On this day was presented to the Court the petition of B. F. Bodenhamer et al. qualified voters within the limits described in said petition, praying the Court to Incorporate the town of Mountain Home in Baxter County, Arkansas, and accompanied by a Plat of the territory to be embraced in said Incorporation.

The Premises being seen and understood.

It is considered by the Court that said Petition be and the same is hereby granted and that the Incorporated town of Mountain Home as named and described in the petition may be organized as an Incorporated town under the laws and Constitution of the State and that the Clerk of this Court shall record the petition together with this Order endorsed thereon as soon as may be on the Record of this Court and shall file and preserve in his office all the original papers herein having certified thereon that the same has been properly recorded and shall further make out and certify under his official seal two transcripts of said records one of which he shall forward to the Secretary of State and the other deliver to the Agent of said Petitioners in accordance with law certified that the transcript has been sent to the Secretary of State.

John W. Cypert  
County Judge

Recorded April the 12th A. D. 1888.  
R. M. Hancock,  
Clerk and Recorder.

FURNISHED BY JACK COOPER  
BAXTER COUNTY  
ABSTRACT

### MA'S OLD GALVANIZED WASHTUB

(Author unknown)

Did you ever take yore Saturday Bath  
An' try and wash an' scrub  
While squattin' down on your haunches  
In a Galvanized Washing tub?  
If not then you ain't missing a thing  
But I'm telling you what's right  
I done until I wuz almost grown  
An every doggone Saturday night!

In summertime it wuz bad enuff  
But in winter it wuz really rough  
Spreading paper, filling buckets an' kettles  
An' all that sorta stuff  
But getting ready for that ordeal  
Wuz only half o' th' rub  
O' takin' a bath on Saturday night  
In a Galvanized Washin' tub.

Did you ever stand there stripped to the' skin  
A woodstove bakin' your hide,  
A dreadin' to put yore foot in  
For fear you'd burn alive?  
Finally you got th' temperature right  
And into th' tub you'd crawl,  
That cold steel'd touch yore back  
An' you'd squeal like a fresh stuck hog!

You' get outta th' tub next to th' stove  
An' stand there drippin' and shakin'  
The front o' your body's freezin' to death  
While the back o' yore body's bakin'  
A-shiverin' n' shakin', a burnin' n' bakin".  
That's the price I had to pay  
That awful ordeal will haunt me  
Until I'm old an' gray.

I ain't thru yet-there's somethin' else  
That I been wantin' to say.  
I wuz the youngest of all the kids  
What bathed each Saturday,  
Now we all bathed accordin' to age  
An' I fell last in order  
Which meant I had to wash myself  
An' in their same dad-blamed water.

I'm a man of clean habits  
And believe in a bath a week  
It helps to keep clean an' healthy  
An' it freshens my physique,  
But if I had my druthers, I'd rather eat a bug,  
Than to take my Saturday bath again  
In a galvanized Washing tub.

**BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY**

Baxter County Historical Society  
% Stella Jackson, Sect.  
Rte 2 Box 110  
Mountain Home, AR 72653

JOSEPH & IRMA BLOOM  
R 6 BOX 352  
MTN HOME AR 72653