

# Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

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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	\$10.00 per year.
Spouse Membership	\$ 2.50 per year
Life Membership	\$150.00

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.

# THE HISTORY

Volume 18 No. 2 April, May and June 1992

## GENEALOGY QUERIES

Members 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. 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 listed on the second page.

NO. 3-92 Susan Walker Jones, 7810 Topanga Cyn #212, Canoga Park, CA 91304

Seeking any information about **Jesse Walker** (b-1826 Tennessee) and his wife **Melissa** (b-1822 Tennessee) Three of their sons lived in Baxter County and are buried in Walker Cemetery. Where was Jesse (died between 1900 and 1910) and Melissa (died 1907) buried **Seeking any information about Jesse and Melissa.**

NO. 4-92 Olabell Talbert Stevenson, 3125 Grand Avenue, Port Arthur, Texas

Seeking any information regarding father, **Earl L. Talbert**, b-Mountain Home in 1892 moved as a baby with family to Texas. His father was Albert Olander Talbert, Mother is Rosa Bell (Jordan) Talbert, grand-father Simon Talbert **Seeking any and all information regarding this family.**

NO. 5-92 Cindy L. Jones, PO Box 504, Mountain Home, AR 72653

Seeking info on **R. M. 'DOC' HENDERSON** Born 1838(?) in Illinois. Lived in Missouri, moved to Arkansas. He was pioneer doctor in Henderson, Hand and/or Bennett's Bayou areas. Married (1) Nancy J. \_\_\_\_\_ she born 1840 in Tennessee. married (2nd or 3rd) **Lizzie Forister** she born 1861 in Missouri, daughter of William (born 1861 Missouri) and Nancy Forister (born 1870 Indiana). Need info on where "Doc" was born, where did he live in Missouri? Need info regarding the Forister's. **Any information will be appreciated!**

No. 6-92 Margie Garr, 1505 Mistletoe, Mountain Home, AR 72653

Do you know this family? Parents **Anderson Whitfield Thompson** b-1856 Ozark Co. MO. d-March 1925, Baxter Co. AR and wife Jennie (Janie) Clark b-1872 AR. Children Ralph O. Thompson b-March 1892; Elsa Thompson b-Sept 1895; Henry C. Thompson b-July 1878 and Rosa C. Thompson July 1878. Anderson had three other children by his first wife Barbara "Mandy" Morris namely: Winnie E., Myrtle J. and Benjamin Harrison, all born Baxter Co. **I need spouses of children and dates of deaths and especially need info on Jenny Clark's parents. Help!**

Editor: If you know any facts or information concerning anyone mentioned in the **queries Column** be sure to take the time to write the people. It will help them and help the Society by assuring the success of the column. If you are doing research on your family history be sure to make use of the column. We are growing in membership all the time and the queries will reach a large number of people.

## ANOTHER LAND MARK BECOMES HISTORY

On Monday, June 13, 1931, the Old Cotter Ferry Boat made its last trip, the cable was lowered, rolled up, placed on the boat, and on Tuesday the craft was pushed out into midstream and began its journey to Norfolk, drifting slowly along with the current as though reluctant to leave old scenes. The boat was bought by Tom Warren of Norfolk and will be put into service crossing White River at that point.

There has been a ferry near this bend of the river since long before Arkansas was a state, when it was yet a part of the Louisiana Territory. Years before any one now living, there was a ferry at or near the present Cotter townsite, from a mile above to a mile below town, ferries have been operated. Many a tale, many a romance, many a stirring scene hangs over the old ferry and awaits the telling.

\* \* \*

If your ancestor is deceased, it is possible to get a "Social Security Packet" for him or her from the Social Security Administration, 4-H-8 Annex Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235. This packet may contain a copy of the Social Security application, which could contain the applicant's parents' name and other information. There is a charge for the service, so be sure to write first for the order form, and for information on the fee.

A computerized index to almost 40 million Social Security enrollees, who died between 1962 and 1988, is available at the Family History Library (LDS) and elsewhere.

\* \* \*

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

From the Mountain Home Rotary Club Bulletin "Tattler" Thursday March 12 1992  
Special Credit:

"A big "Thank You" to Lane Strother for his recent efforts in behalf of our community while serving on the city Council. His foresighted effort to encourage the establishment of an area in Cooper Park as a site for valuable historical buildings was accepted by the city council with only one member abstaining. The city is now able to display some of its valuable heritage buildings in an easily accessible area as a tourist attraction as well as being beneficial to the local people, including our school students. - - This is what Rotary is all about: Its members being involved in their community for the betterment of all. Lane, the club congratulates you for this commendable deed. And, again, "Thanks" from all who will benefit from your efforts, and also from the Baxter County Historical Society whose members (some of our Rotarians) will be working side-by-side with the city to make this historical area a reality as quickly as possible."

\* \* \*

Anyone who would steal an old man's meat has a soul so small it would have more room in a gnats bladder than a tadpole would have in Lake Superior!

—A editorial comment to a thief report 1895.

## EARLY HISTORY

### Report of Committee on History to the Old Settlers Meeting of Baxter County On July 4th, 1891

We. O. L. Dodd, A. J. Truman and Z. M. Horton, your committee on the History of Baxter County submit the following report as the result of our enquiry in that behalf.

Baxter county was created by the act of the Legislature of the state of Arkansas March 24th, 1873, from territory taken from Marion, Searcy, Izard and Fulton Counties.

The counties from which Baxter was taken, were respectively, made of territory taken from counties made from the territory of what was once Lawrence county. Lawrence county was formed by the act of Legislature of Missouri territory June 15 1815, and of territory taken from New Madrid county, Missouri territory, being the 2nd county formed, of the county names preserved in our state. Arkansas county was the first of the counties of the state that was organized. It was created Dec 13, 1813, by the Legislature of Missouri Territory and comprised most of the present state of Arkansas, outside of the territory formerly in Lawrence county. The territory from which these counties and the state was formed was a part of what is known as the Louisiana purchase, a diplomatic deal, by which the U. S. for \$15,000,000,000 (sic) received more territory than was ever before transferred from one nation to another. The Louisiana purchase was effected in 1803. The Governor of Mississippi territory William C. C. Clairborne, received the Louisiana territory, for the U. S. and for a time governor of the province of Louisiana, and consequently Governor of Arkansas, and Baxter county. So our first American Governor was Governor Clairborne of Mississippi territory. From the territory which hereceived and over which he presided, as a province, or dependency of the state of Mississippi; had been formed the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Idaho, North and South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Nebraska and Oregon and parts of Kansas, Minesota and Colorado, besides the Indian Territory and a large part of Wyoming and nearly 6000 square miles now in Mississippi and Alabama, hence we were once in the same county with all the states and territories just named, (think of it, Washington Territory, now state, in the same county or province with Mountain Home).

From 1804 to 1812 the district of Louisiana was governed by the Governor of Indiana Territory, William Henry Harrison, afterwards President of the U. S. and grand father to Benjamin Harrison, our present chief executive (it is his hat we read so much about in the newspapers). Hence we may truly claim, that the Governor of Arkansas and his grand son, have each been President of the U.S. So we are not as far behind some of the older states as you might suppose.

In 1812, congress changed the name of Louisiana Territory to territory of Missouri. Louisiana took its name from a line of French Kings, of the name of Louis, reigning at the time the French took possession of and colonized the country. When it was changed to Missouri territory, June 4 1812, Captain Clarke, of the famous Lewis and Clarke expeditions, was appointed Governor and remained Governor until 1819, another celebrated name, enrolled among our early governors. in 1891 (sic) the territory of Arkansas was cut off from the southern part of Missouri territory, embracing the territory now known as the state of Arkansas. The state was admitted into the Union in 1836. The first Governor elected was James S. Conway.

The territory now embraced in Baxter county was formerly occupied by the Osage Indians. The lands was obtained by treaties in 1808 and 1818. Many of our pioneer settlers came here while the forests were yet the lurking place of the savage. We have citizens in our county yet, who can remember when the north west portion of the state was occupied exclusively by them, but owing to the limited time and space for this report, we have not the opportunity to enter into details of the aborigines or the battle with the wilderness fought by our ancestors to reclaim our present prosperous common wealth from a savage wilderness.

## EARLY SETTLERS

The Early settlers of this county were a hardy race of pioneers, who made their living at home and who, like first inhabitants (sic) of all new countries, endured many hardships. They\_\_\_\_ (I can't read two words—they are at the break in the copy. If you find out what they are, please let me know - JRS. ) and peltries was a legal tender for all debts between individuals, and was also receivable for taxes, but we regret that we have been unable to learn the price at which those commodities was current. Perhaps we may obtain authentic information on that subject by our next annual meeting. Had we all the names, space forbids any thing like a complete list of all the pioneers of this county in this report.

Among the names are the following:

Jacob Wolf, sr., father of Jesse H. Wolf, Mrs. Tobitha Russell, Miss Nan Wolf and Mrs. J. M. Casey.

Walter Talburt, sr, father of Noah Talburt. This veteran pioneer still lives and was one of the organizers of this association.

Simen Talburt, sr., father of S. H. and Walter, James and Thomas Talburt, Mrs. Toney and Mrs. Hammonds -- all citizens of the county at present; Frederick and Bazel Talburt. These were all brothers.

John A .Beck, now living in the county

Peter Adams.

Joseph Adams, father of J. I. Adams, of this township

Robert Livingston, father of Robert F. Livingston, Mrs. Tom Garton, Mrs. Charley Talburt and Mrs. Woods Blevings.

John Stone.

James Tracy.

Jesse Mooney, father of Clayton Mooney and a numerous progeny whose names we did not obtain.

Isaac Trivitt.

John Hargraves, sr., father of Uncle bob and W. P. Hargraves, and Fred Hargraves and Sim Hargraves, late of Baxter county.

Fielding Herron, father of J. P. Herron

Geo. Goodall, father of Mrs. Casey Livingston, Mrs. Geo. Foster and Mrs. Wyley Stinnett.

W. L. Shipp, father of CApt. Will C. , John s. and Miss Amanda Shipp

Joseph Webber, was also a pioneer. The names of

James Cockrum

Elisha Smothers

Sidney Stratton

Green Toney

William Wesley

Mart Green

James Littlefield

James James

James Duggins

John Painter

David Jackson

N. C. Tracy

Rev. V. B. Tate

R. W. Tate

William Casinger

T. B. Goforth

Calvin Luther

cent., during the short time it was in existence before the war. It was destroyed by fire Dec 12, 1984. It was rebuilt after the war, principally through the efforts of its former founders. Prof. Truman and Mrs. Truman, Prof. Howard, et.al., conducted the school for many years, during the time it was the only high school, in this section for many leagues around.

Time forbids that we should enter into details of the heroic effort and teachers and students in those days, when many young men and women were battling against odds for education, or to give a list of those now filling responsible stations in life, who were by their own efforts educated here, but hope at some future meeting of the association, their names will be read, in the presence of the rising generation, together with a full history of Mountain Home school from the close of the war to the present, that the youth of to-day, hearing of and appreciating the self denial, sacrifice and earnest effort of teachers and students of former times, may profit by their example.

Respectfully submitted.

Z. M. Horton

Secy. of Com. on History.

--From the Baxter County Citizen

16 July 1891 Vol. X NO. 40

Reprinted in The Baxter Bulletin

Thursday 10 July 1969, -. 6A

Owned by Rex and Neva Paul

Copy of page given to Judith Frances (Ramey) Sharp

[This was typed originally by Judith Francis (Ramey) Sharp;. "I have corrected no spelling or punctuation. To the best of my ability, it is typed as it was printed" April 6 1991 - Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands.)

#### TALBERT/LEONARD CABIN PROJECT

Plans to place the cabin are progressing slowly due to inclement weather. Unusually rainy May and June has delayed the preparation of access to the Historical Park area in Cooper Park.

The cabin site has been selected and staked. A Local Contractor-Art Vandersteck-has agreed to install the foundation for the cabin. His work is, of course, held up pending the preparation of the access to the park area.

The committee have planned to construct an authentic rail fence along the three sides of the cabin. The individual rails cost approximately \$2.50 each. A "Buy A Rail (or two, three, or more) Campaign" has been started to buy the necessary Rails. We think it is a good way for our members and citizens with limited means to participate in the project. The committee will accept any donations for as many rails as you would like to purchase.

We have had a moving contractor look at the Flouty School. He has advised us that the building is not suitable for a move the distance required. It will require dismantling and reconstruction on the new site. The committee is considering that proposal and is also exploring other options.

Plans are being formulated to also move the "Shot-Gun" house as soon as possible. Tentative plans call for 2/3 of the Shot-Gun house to become an on site Museum for the park. More details on this will be coming in the future.

The committee met with the Talburt Reunion in June to bring them up to date of the progress of the Talburt Cabin reconstruction.

Wiley Brewer  
 Robert Carson  
 Henry Lance  
 John Fletcher  
 Hiram Wells  
 Denis Hawkins  
 Wilburan Baker  
 Perry Tucker  
 Charley Finley, sr.  
 Dick Hutchinson  
 William Rimm  
 John Jenkins  
 Joel Sinor. (? - JRS)  
 John McGee  
 Stephen Norris  
 Dr. Frizelle  
 T. T. Travis  
 Dale McCormick  
 David Robertson  
 Allen Bagwell  
 Col. Morgan  
 J. T. McCrackin  
 Daniel Anglin

There are a number of others we would like to name who are inseparably connected with our county's history. They are among the names to which we will be led to (sic) the next generation, when we abstract the titles to the lands of this county and when we search those names in ancient deeds, we will be reminded of those who reclaimed our country from the wilderness. Most of these lived here from fifty to sixty years ago.

Many of them were citizens of Arkansas Territory and some of them were here when it was yet a part of Missouri Territory or the District of Louisiana.

Later came

Col. R. D. Casey  
 Col. O. L. Dodd.  
 Dr. Dodd  
 T. Y. Casey  
 Judge J. S. Russell  
 Dr. J. M. Casey  
 Judge J. H. P. Wallis  
 Prof. J. S. Howard  
 Prof. A. J. Truman  
 Hugh Calhoun

and a number of other we could mention, who, though not among the first settlers, were here before the last war, and assisted materially in the development of the country, and especially in establishing Mountain Home Academy, the first high school in the territory now in this and many adjoining counties.

That institution was first built near the sight of the present academy. It was begun in the winter of 1858 and finished in 1859. T. B. Goforth, our present country surveyor, was the contractor. It was built by subscriptions as few of our inhabitants then were. Prof. Howard was the first teacher. It had scholars from Batesville, Jacksonport and many other places and in the country for one hundred miles around. It flourished apace. It increased the value of real estate 300 to 400 per



## GRADE SCHOOL TO STAGE TOM SAWYER (From May 21 1937 Edition of the Baxter Bulletin)

An operetta, "Tom Sawyer" given by the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades at the Legion Hut Thursday night, 7:45, will be the last of the school's closing programs. It is under the direction of the teachers of these grades, Mrs. Louis Cooper, Mrs. Chas. Gillespie and B. B. Foster, Miss Kathryn Collie will play the piano accompaniment and Virginia Willett will read the poem. The cast is: Aunt Polly, Dalah Cowart; Tom Sawyer, **Bobby Baker**; Joe Harper, James Fick; Amy Lawrence, Maxine Wolf; Becky Thatcher, Ruth Dyer; Huck Finn, J. H. Girkin; Injun Joe, Neil Collie; Muff Potter, Sollie Messick; Widow Douglass, Opal Cypert; Nigger Jim, Jim Hogan Love; Dr. Robinson, Nollie Tucker; Sid, Tommie Lee Dearmore; Ben Rogers, Bruce Halbert; Alfred Temple, Lawrence Fairbanks; Reverend Walters, Clarence Young; Judge Thatcher, Richard Barker; Gracie, Sallie and Susie Jo, Frances Thomas, Margaret Stanislawski, Willa Dean Keeter; Mary, Lora May Smith; Pard, Hal Bodenhamer; Billy Fisher, Paul Martin; Johnny Miller, Jack Mitchell; Chorus of Sunflower girls, Joyce Wolf, Glenna Sue McClure, Norma Jean Taylor, Norma Jean Cranfill, Mildred Campbell, Bertie Mae Murphy, June Robertson, Lucille Massey, Jean Messick, Flolene Cypert and Karthryn Dryer; skeletons, Earl Young, Jerome Lutz, Wilburn Scott and Len Jones.

Chorus of old men; Francis Lance, Billy Morgan, Clois Campbell, Junior Griffin, Billy Hudson, Bill Mayes, Jimmy Morris and Phillips Jones.

—furnished by Member Francis Ruthvin

\*Bobby Baker\* is Society member Dr. Robert Baker!

\* \* \*

## LOOKING BACK AT SCHOOLS IN BAXTER COUNTY By Ron Foster

—This article appeared in the "Ridgerunner", a magazine published by a special English class at the West Plains High School in neighboring West Plains, Missouri and was written by student reporter/writer Ron Foster. It is reprinted hereby special permission of the co-editors Jessica Landis and Monica Gunter. The article may not be reproduced without the permission of the editors.

Prior to the Civil War there were very few school day memories in Arkansas. In 1860 there were only twenty-five public schools in the whole state. All the other schools were associated with churches or they were privately owned. Most of the children received their education at home. They usually were taught to read out of the Bible which was usually the only book in the home at that time.

In 1853, Professor J. S. Howard opened the "Mountain Home Male and Female Academy." At that time there were a number of these privately owned schools in Arkansas. Usually they were segregated, either male or female, not coeducational. The original academy was housed in a two story, white framed antebellum type building on land donated by Orin Dodd. The building was destroyed during the Civil War but it was rebuilt in 1868 three blocks south of the present square, where the school administration building is today. The school was successful from the very first, necessitating several additions to the building and the faculty. Soon Professor A. J. Truman of New York State joined Professor Howard at the Academy.

In 1902 the boarding enrollment at the academy was one hundred. Many students were from out of the county. Several of the fine old homes in Mountain Home were turned into boarding homes for these students. Besides the out of town students, many other students lived in Mountain Home and the surrounding county communities. Those who lived out of town walked or rode horseback. The schools had stables to accommodate the horses.

The role of the academy played in present schools' development can never be fully counted. Here ministerial students could attend tuition free. Young men and women were able to receive an education they could not have received without leaving the county. Normal training was provided for the county's teachers after the public school system came into being.

The school was visited by many prominent educators. It was conducted by A. W. Hicks. The county examiner W. T. Hopper said, "The intelligence and hospitable people of Mountain Home made the normal training the theme of their conversations and Professor Howard's Academy can take a good deal of the credit for our awareness of the importance of education."

Cultural education was emphasized early at the schools. At first singers from the county were accompanied by professor Howard's daughter on her melodeon. Later a piano was purchased with Captain M. N. Dyer's wife giving piano lessons. Soon recitals and musical plays became a welcome addition to the cultural and social life of the county.

It seems that something good often does come out of everything. Something good that came of the hated carpet bag rules after the Civil War was the public school system. This provided for the creation of school districts in each county for the enumeration of all persons between the age of six and twenty-one, and for the levying of taxes to support the schools. In 1876, the scholastic population of Baxter County was 1,384. Four hundred and forty-three actually attended school. There were eleven male teachers with a salary of about sixty dollars a year. There were thirteen school houses, nine log houses, and four frame houses in the Baxter County area at that time.

By 1886 county examiner W. B. Schoggen reported an enumeration of 2,772 with an enrollment of 1607 in the forty districts. There were thirty-six teachers, twenty-eight male and eight female, with salaries of forty dollars a month for men and thirty dollars a month for women. There were seventeen school buildings, five frame and twelve log. There were only six districts that had any tax levied. The districts had no buildings, they held school in churches, empty barns, sheds, or under trees. School was held during the hot weather because there was no windows or heating systems in most of the buildings and the feeling was it was better to be hot than cold.

From the 1880's to the first part of this century changes came at a slightly slower rate. After World War II, the one-room schools began to diminish rapidly and many changes came to the educational system in the Ozarks. Modern buildings, larger schools and the advent of the school bus made up some of the major differences. But our roots in education go back far, from home education to the male and female academies, from the one room public school to the present.

\* \* \*

## REGULAR BAPTISTS

Practically all the early Frontier Baptist Churches were located on streams, and took their names from the creeks, valleys and rivers. Services were frequently held in houses of members and the few buildings used were rude structures erected by the joint labor of the settlers. Congregations were small and the simple services were conducted by laymen in the absence of preachers. Associations generally were organized as soon as four or five little churches had grown up.

There was little doctrinal discord on the early frontier. The baptists prior to 1801 had been divided, chiefly on practices, into Separates and Regulars. The Separates were particularly revivalistic and separated from the churches which did not support the Revival. They and the Regulars (who did not separate) came together in 1801, took the name United Baptists and adopted confession combining Calvinistic and Armonian views.

## JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS STUDY AT CASEY HOUSE

An April 28th and 29th, Teacher Scott Moye brought several of his Mountain Home Junior High School American History classes to the Casey House to study. On the first day the students were required to visualize how the original family living in the house would perform the daily family functions. They also had to compare their life to the way they were envisioning the early family lived. Each class was allowed to roam around inside and outside the house and were required to make notes and answer several specific questions posed by the teacher.

On the second day the classes measured the home and made exhaustive studies of the structure. A work lab is scheduled later in which each student's theories, calculations and findings will be pooled and a report will be made by the class. The Society will be given a copy of the report. Several findings were already reported to Mr. Moye by his students such as each "bin" rooms of the Casey house were of difference sizes and are not perfectly rectangular. They also found several artifacts such as pieces of an old medicine bottle and several square nails. These were left on display at the Casey House by the class.

--editor: The classes' report will be published in the "History" at a later date.

It is exciting when the students of our area can view and appreciate the Casey House. It was our pleasure to have such a great group of well behaved and serious students visit and study the building. This was the third year that a large group of History students visited the old building.

\* \* \*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HAZEN!

## CHARTER MEMBER OF SOCIETY

(Following article printed in the Baxter Bulletin and reprinted  
by permission of the author, Louise Fleming)

# Hazen Bonow is 90 years young

By LOUISE FLEMING

It'll be a happy 90th Monday for one of this area's most active retirees.

Hazen Bonow will celebrate her birthday at home near Lake Norfolk, where for nearly a quarter of a century she has tended a large flower garden — mostly wildflowers — fed thousands of birds, raccoons and other wildlife and presided over a rock and gem mineral collection which has fascinated folks of all ages. She's well-known to many for her expertise in these and many other areas of enthusiasm.

For years, Mrs. Bonow was active in the local Audubon Society, the Ozark Earth Science Club (Rockhounds), garden clubs and other groups. Now she has to restrict active membership to just one of the organizations reflecting her varied interests, the Baxter County Historical Society.

She's no longer able to attend the First United Methodist Church, either, but listens each Sunday to its radio broadcasts. "I join in the singing," says this life-long Methodist, whose favorite hymn is "Amazing Grace."

Mrs. Bonow was born April 27, 1902 at Nashville, Ill., to Oscar and Ella Gill Burnett, and resided in Illinois until moving here in 1968. As head of an Illinois coal company, her father moved his family to Riverside, where she met and married Walter Bonow.

For many years, the couple owned and operated a grocery store in Riverside. Every February, however, the Bonows took off, along with their friends Howard



Hazen Bonow

and Olive Knight, for camping trips across the country. They moved to Baxter County after the Knights retired here several years earlier.

Along with local well-wishers, Hazen looks forward to a birthday visit with her son and daughter-in-law, Burnett and Barbara Bonow, and grandson, Peter, all of Ellensburg, Wash., and other relatives. Her other son, Bill, and a granddaughter, Bambi, are deceased. She has three grandsons and a granddaughter living

in Washington, and another grandson, Bill Bonow Jr. of Joliet, Ill. There are six great-grandchildren — three boys and three girls.

Hazen Bonow's philosophy may be one of the reasons for her perennially-youthful outlook. "See the good things in life, and forget the rest" is her favorite motto. It's an outlook she extends to everyone she knows, as well as to life in general, and is guaranteed to send good feelings back in turn. Happy Birthday, Hazen.

**HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**  
**Early settlement of the White River Valley**  
**(Originally written for the "Melbourne Clipper" in 1877)**  
**CHAPTER III**

Republished June 7 1895 in the "Mountain Echo"

For a time, commencing as early as 1810, was a very remarkable period in the early history of White River. Quite a sprinkle of the inhabitants and every year bringing its four-fold increase without any restrictions of law, presented a scene very little to be envied. Almost every grade of character known among men was found here, some hunters, stock raisers, horse thieves, murderers and refugees from prisons east of the Mississippi comprised this promiscuous mass; nor was ignorance by any means a prevailing trait among these pioneers, men of education, men who had seen better days, were here, nor was the valley of White River so much a scene of terror and bloodshed as it was a resting place, a hiding place for the robber, whilst he played upon the early commerce of the Mississippi and the fine stock of Kentucky and Tennessee. It seems that a scene of this kind had been played upon the Ohio River, with a hiding place or depot at a place known among early inhabitants as Cave Rock (or some name) but the strong arm of the law reached that country and the organization was reestablished on White River.

At an early day, perhaps as early as 1810, old man Wilson with his three sons Dan, Dick and Jerome, settled at the mouth of Rocky Bayou; here the first shadow of a town made its appearance on the river--it consisted of a black-smith shop by Dick Bean and pair of race tracks on a high sand bar--and Bob Dean run a little trading boat up here and exchanged salt, whisky, powder and lead for buffalo hides, bear skins and peltry. The inhabitants would meet here and have a good time of it. On one of these occasions Dick Wilson's horse flew around the track, run under a leaning tree, and killed him. Some of the inhabitants from about this center went on the Blue Mountain, cleared a piece of land and made a crop of corn, but the buffalo and bear eat it up in the fall. During this period, one of the Friends built a mill near the present site of Buffalo City, to grind corn by water. Some years afterward Jim Darnald built on Mill Creek near Melbourne. What the capacity of these mills were, we are not advised: we have been informed, however, that Darnald's mill would grind one bushel and a half in twenty-four hours. These were the first water mills in the White River Valley. The ordinary substitutes might be found before every man's cabin door as the necessity--the sweep and mortar--they were made by cutting a stump smooth on top and the requisite height, then burning and pigging a mortar in it, then fastening the butt end of a long spring-pole to a tree, near the ground, then propping the pole up mid-way with forks and suspending a pestle to the little end directly over the mortar, with a pin through this pestle for a handle. The corn was prepared by placing in a vessel and pouring hot water over it, then placed in the mortar and they came down on it, by which means it was divided into husks, grist and meal. We have described this primitive mill thus particularly for this reflection of those who never saw frontier life.

About the year 1811, the Trimble brothers, Wat, Bob, Hill, John, Joe and Jim Trimble-Lewis Partee, Tom, and John Ramsey and Andy and Thompson Hawthorn all came up this river from Kentucky. Thompson Hawthorn, a remarkable character, was a native of South Carolina, a lawyer by profession, and had at one time flourished as a Colonel of a Regiment in Carolina, brought with him a library into the wilderness of White River, he abandoned associations and died a hermit in a hut in the Buffalo Mountains.

The most daring of this crew of emigrants was said to be Bill Trimble who was killed on the south side of White River about three miles above the mouth of Calico Creek at the place where widow Finely now lives. It seems that a man by the name of Grant followed him from Kentucky. Keeping himself in disguise he soon got to be very intimate with Bill Trimble. They made an arrangement to go down the river in a canoe hunting. The first day out they stopped at Hawthorn's for dinner. (the place where I. H. Talley now lives) Trimble was drinking and Grant pretending to be. Whilst here Hawthorn's mother, a very old woman, cautioned Trimble that she was uneasy for his welfare from a dream she had the night before. There is a rock standing in the field the size of an ordinary house. She dreamed, she said, she saw an owl sitting on that rock, and it flew down; she went to it and it was Bill Trimble. They left Hawthorn's late in the evening to where Trimble was killed, to stay all night where two Carter Women lived. After dark Grant professed to be pretty drunk, picked up his gun and stepped out of the house., swore he was going on that night, but Trimble followed him out and prevailed on him to go back, which he did but left his gun out doors. He soon after made another start to go, and went out of the house carrying Trimble's gun with him to the door, trying to get him back when Grant shot him dead with his own gun. The women were greatly alarmed, and he went back into the house to quiet them. told them he would not hurt them for the world, that his real name before, that it was his wife that Trimble had abused in Kentucky. It seems they each had their rifles [named]-Grant called his "Jack of Diamonds" and Trimble (named) his "Sweet Lips". He told the women that "Sweet Lips" had spoken a big word but "Jack of Diamonds" would speak another soon. He turned Trimble over to see if he was dead and bade the women good night. "Sweet Lips" remains a relic in Izard County to this day.

Grant was not heard of any more until he got to Wat Trimble's at the head of Trimble's Island in lower White River, where he landed, went up to the house and found him almost dead with disease and unable to walk, he told Wat his name, that he had killed his brother Bill, and had stopped to kill him, but that his maker was killing him fast enough and he would let him alone. He got into his canoe and was never heard of on the White River any more.

From some cause or other--perhaps superstition had its weight--they carried Bill Trimble back and buried him where the old woman saw the owl alight on the ground.

\* \* \*

#### CHAPTER IV June 14 1895

In the fall of the year 1814, three families, Col. Stewart, Rev. George Gill, and Robert Livingston, left Kentucky with wagons and teams for the purpose of making permanent settlement on White River. They cut their road from the settlement in Lawrence County to White River, coming up Caney Fork to Strawberry, down Mill Creek, Wideman, to the mouth of Ruthie's Spring Branch; here they camped a week, Christmas week 1814, selected their homes on the river, cut roads to them. Gill settled at the Watkins place opposite the mouth of Pine Bayou, cutting his road into the mouth of Wideman, he crossed here. Livingston and Stewart cut their road down Pelham, and Stewart settled at Mt. Olive. Livingston crossed the river and settled at the mouth of Livingston's Creek, and each set to work making themselves homes; during their Christmas Camp they each blazed a pine and put his name and date upon it--two of these pines stood until a few years past--one was cut down and perhaps both.

#### COL. STEWART

Col. Stewart settled and built his house on the old ridge at Mt. Olive, of Cedar logs, one of these houses has since been moved across the field from the road near the Cedar Springs, where it now stands, an ancient relict, remarkable as being the oldest house standing in IZARD County and remarkable also, as being the first house on White River in which the Gospel was ever preached. He brought some negro property with him, but losing two children with fever and living with constant dread of robbers, he fell back to the settlement on Black River where he remained the balance of his life. He was probably a Kentuckian by birth of Irish descent.

#### REV. GEO. GILL

Rev Gill settled his place and got some comforts about him. He remained here about six years, kept up regular preaching at the Stewart place, but about the year 1820, the south side of the river being ceded to the Indians, they moved in on him and he was compelled to abandon his place, and moved across the river. He settled at what is known as the White House place, a mile and a half above the mouth of Piney Bayou, where he remained the balance of his life. He was a South Carolinian and was in the war of 1812. He assisted in removing the Indians, as Colonel under General Harrison. Mr. Gill was 40 years a Missionary Baptist preacher.

### CHAPTER V Reprinted June 21 1895

Among the many characters to be found in the valley of White river who had come into notice east of the Mississippi, was the Woods family--old man Woods and son Big Bill Woods--they were worthy of note from being the father and brother of John Woods, who was court martialed and shot in Jackson's army in the war of 1812. It seems that General Jackson had some trouble trying to enforce subordination, his army being composed of raw troops fresh from the country. Old man Woods and this two sons, John and big Bill, enlisted in Tennessee for the campaign south against the Indians. The young men were good soldiers, but somewhat reckless. John Woods was on picket duty and left his post; he was court martialed and condemned to be shot, with a recommendation of mercy. Jackson had reprieved others, but notified the court he would not reprieve any more--John Woods was next and his life was in one end of the balance, and General Jackson's word in the other. The General's word was the heaviest and John Woods fell. His father and brother stayed with him and cared for him--dressed him for death--and when the file of soldiers marched him off, they went in another direction in agony, refusing to see him shot. They soon after deserted the army and came to White River and settled at the ford of the river, three miles above Mt. Olive. It was believed that Jackson was glad they deserted as there were no efforts made to bring them back to the army. Through life the old man and Big Bill took this unfortunate matter greatly to heart; at the mention of Jackson's name Big Bill would grow frantic with oaths, and the old man would melt into tears.

The Adams family, who have been referred to in these sketches, were very numerous on White River. They were Kentuckians of Irish Parentage, and noted for being men of strong native intellect and retentive memory. John Adams was the first sheriff of IZARD county, and in after years was a delegate to the convention from IZARD to frame the first Constitution of the State of Arkansas. Peter F. Adams, noticable in these sketches from his connection with the death of Dr. Edward St. Leger Hough, was a man of good property, cold, forbidding appearance, said but little, but sealed what he did say with oaths of the bitterest character. He was very determined man and in the main a good citizen.

# THE WAY IT WAS IN 1850

## POPPING CORN INSTRUCTIONS

Fill in a pot with sand, and place it on the fire till the sand is very hot. Two or three pounds of the corn is then thrown in, and mixed with the sand by stirring. Each grain bursts and throws out a white substance of two or perhaps four times it's bigness. The sand is separated by a wire sieve and is returned into the pot to be again heated, and repeat the operation with fresh grain. So it is that corn thus prepared is sometimes pounded in a mortar, and may be kept a longer time. It is said an Indian will go long journeys with a small bag of it, taking only six or eight ounces of it a day mixed in water.

\* \* \*

## A REMEDY FOR ASTHMA

Slake one-half pound of quicklime with two quarts of hot water, and stir in two spoonful of tar. Let the mixture stand and settle. Take half a pound of wild turnip, half a pound of milkweed roots, and a small handful of lobelia and bruise and infuse them in two quarts of wine; set the whole in a warm place for twenty four-hours. Then strain and press, add to it lime and water, then bottle for use. It is a very excellent remedy for asthma, coughs, consumption and hysterics.

\* \* \*

## CLEANING BLACK SILKS

To bullock's gall, add boiling water to make it warm, and with a clean sponge rub the silk well on both sides; then squeeze it well out, and so precede again in like manner. Rinse it in spring water, and change the water till it is perfectly clean; dry in the air, and put it on the table; but first dip the sponge in glue-water, and rub it on the wrong side; then dry before the fire.

\* \* \*

## EVERY DAY BATHING

Those who wish to keep the body clean and free from colds would do well to bathe themselves every morning, as soon as they get out of bed, in cold water, all year round. A good practice is to have a pail half full of water in my bed room at night, in the center of a piece of Indian Rubber cloth, about four foot square. 1st put your head in the water, and with the assistance of a sponge wash the body all over, drying with a coarse towel. The time to do this from time commencing to being fully clothed should be about 1 minute.

\* \* \*

## BAXTER COUNTY FACTS

Baxter County is approximately 600 square miles and has elevations ranging from 800 to 1400 feet. The County was created on March 24 1873 and was formed from parts of Fulton, Izard, Marion and Searcy Counties. Baxter County was the 68th county to be formed in Arkansas.



## DAM DAYS TO BE CELEBRATED IN THE TWIN LAKES AREA

On July 2nd, 3rd and 4th the Twin Lakes area will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Dam history in the area. In 1952 President Truman arrived on a very warm July day to dedicate the Bull Shoals and Norfolk Dams. That ceremony officially marked the completion of the two large projects. The area was to witness the largest change in its history.

The dams were built under the Flood Control Act of 1938 which specified that flood control reservoir on several Arkansas streams would be built. These would include 6 on the White River.

The legislation that provided for the flood control projects did not include funding for power generation. In 1940 many prominent citizens of the area demanded that hydroelectric power be included in the project. Congress was mindful of the growing tension in Europe and authorized the electric generation portion of the project as a national defense project.

With the plans being drawn up for the two dams, Mountain Home became the focal point for headquarters for the dam project. To accommodate many of the workers, the "Government Village" was built in Mountain Home. After the completion of the dams, the Government planned to tear down the housing. Instead it was subdivided into single home and duplex lots and people were allowed to place bids on the houses and lots sold for about \$1200. Many of the homes still stand today but most have been extensively remodeled. A complete worker village was also set up in "Salesville" near the site of the Norfolk Dam. This village had complete facilities for the workers and their families. This village was dismantled at the end of the project.

Construction of Norfolk Dam began early in 1941. With the advent of World War II beginning, the dam became a project under the War Emergency Act. The War effort around the country, including war plants, military bases and growing civilian needs, would require much electricity. Around the clock shifts were set up at the dam site. More than 300 workers were put to work getting the dam and power station completed as soon as possible.

Weather set backs were experienced as the construction was progressed. The lake began to fill as the dam was constructed. In the spring of 1943 flooding was experienced and the water did extensive damage to the dam. A train that hauled the materials for the dam was washed away. But the Norfolk generation went to work early in 1944 and the total work on the dam was completed in 1945. The lake that was created by the dam now covered 31,000 acres at the flood control elevation.

Bull Shoals Dam construction was started after the end of World War II. The construction of the "Bull" was facilitated by the longest material handling conveyor belt system in the world. 21 section of up to 2,500 ft long brought the materials to the dam construction site. More than 650 tons of limestone could be conveyed in a single day. With this system 6,650 cubic yards of concrete could be poured per day. The "Bull" was completed in 1951.

The "Baxter Bulletin" September 4 1952 Issue reported the first Generator was started in ceremonies at Bull Shoals by Sen. John L. McClelland.

The dam construction caused much change for the area. Many of the best farm sites in the area were in the river basins. These all became just lake bottom. Row crop type farming was virtually eliminated from the area. Many of the farmers and farm laborers became workers in the construction of the dams. Many of them also worked clearing the lake sites. After the lakes were formed many of the displaced workers found lake-oriented work and some formed businesses.

Several communities were eliminated by the rising waters of the lakes. The town of Oakland was moved to higher ground. Cemeteries that were located in the lake area were relocated. But most people agreed that the Dams were the best thing that ever happened to the area.

President Truman, accompanied by his cabinet, journeyed by train in his presidential car to Norfolk, Arkansas. and on July 2, 1952 dedicated the big dams. He told of how much the people had gained by President Roosevelt's "New Deal". He also cited in his speech the "virtues of Hydroelectric Power" A luncheon was served to the President and visitors at the dam site. He then journeyed by car to Cotter where he boarded his special car and train for his trip back.

During the many years of the Dam's history, several hundred people have worked on the dam projects. A "40th Dedication Reunion Celebration" has been planned for some time to welcome back as many of the workers as can be located and notified. The area Chamber of Commerce, tourism associations and many civic clubs have joined to make this a successful celebration.

Some of the events that are planned are:

July 2 Dignitaries will be taken to Norfolk Dam by antique autos for ceremonies at 9 a. m. The motorcade will then journey back thru Mountain Home and on to Bull Shoals for the rededication ceremonies at 11:a m. From Bull Shoals the motorcade will go to Cotter for a luncheon and square dance festival. A Banquet will be held in Mountain Home, starting at 5 pm..

July 3. "Taste of The Twin Lakes" celebration at Baxter County Fairgrounds, complete with craft show, food booths, and entertainment. Fishing rodeo and sunset cruises will be conducted on Norfolk Lake, with a fireworks display at Henderson Marina at Dusk.

July 4; Public breakfast at Bull Shoals VFW. Triathlon at Lakeview AR Marina at 7 a m. Sporting events at Bull Shoals and other locations at 10 a.m. Fish fry at Bull Shoals State Park lakeside pavilion. The U.S. Army Band will perform at 2. p.m. and fireworks will conclude the day at Bull Shoals Dam Overlook. Bus tours, free tours of Bull Shoals Dam, boat rides, musicals and live stage plays are also planned.

The Casey House in Mountain Home, staffed by Baxter County Historical Society members, will be open from 9:a. m. to 4 p. m. during the celebration.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE CONSTRUCTION

The contract for building the Mountain Home Baptist College was let to-day, to Arthur Boyle of Mammoth Spring, at \$9,450, and the great part of the work is to be completed by Dec 1st, 1891. It is expected that the college will be completed in the next twelve months. A subscription of near \$10,000 has been secured, much of which has been subscribed by Methodists and citizens of other Churches. If the Baptists of North Arkansas would be as liberal toward this College in proportion as other people, it would take but little time to raise the fund to erect and furnish one of the finest Colleges in all this North Arkansas. Baptist people are said to somewhat backward about paying their money to such causes, but they are not all that way. Let the Baptist of Marion Country help their brethren in this noble work of establishing a grand educational institution in North Arkansas.

-Mountain Echo - Aug 7 1891

\* \* \*

## A WOOD CHOPPING HELD

The Mountain Echo of Yellville reported on an old time custom which was observed during the week of Jan 11 1889: "A "Wood Chopping" was held at Mrs. Nelson's last Wednesday. Such old time customs should be encouraged, especially when it is a widow for whom the wood is chopped. When you read this, look around you and see if there is not some widow or sick family out of wood. If so, get your neighbors and go and replenish the wood pile. By doing this you will receive the lasting gratitude of the person so assisted and be happy in doing good yourself."

\* \* \*

## DR. LINDLEY, INDIAN AGENT, WRITES OF HIS CHARGES

Mountain Echo June 26 1891

To Editor of the Echo:

According to a promise made some time since, I will write you a short article for publication:

When I was appointed to a position in the Indian service in the early part of 1889, I knew very little of Indian agencies and the people that inhabit them. I had heard and read of the "Red Man" and had seen him pictured in books, but I had never heard of him as he actually is. To those who have no actual knowledge of the Indian and his advancements, the mere mention of the name conveys the idea of a wild cruel people. There, doubtless, do exist a few semi civilized tribes in some of the Western Territories, but they are fast becoming civilized and christianized. Believing that, possibly, I might interest some of your readers. I will give you a short description of the Quapaw Agency and the people that surround it. There are two hundred thousand acres of land included in this agency, upon which twelve hundred Indians live. The population is composed of eight small tribes. Each one of these have a distinct language, a peculiar complexion and build by which they may be recognized and distinguished. All except one tribe, are thoroughly civilized and have adopted the ways and custom of their white neighbors. The Indian of today is not the Indian of even ten years ago. Those who knew him then can hardly realize the advancement he had made

since, and rapid progress he is making now. In their original state they were ignorant, ill fed, savages, living in huts of bark and wigwams of skins, and for subsistence hunting their competitor, the wild beasts of the forests, or as history tells us, following the voice of their chief to stand as marks for the cross bows, engaged in the war dance, dressed in outrageous attire and making the woods ring with the war-whoops. Today a majority of them are an orderly quiet people, realizing fully the march of civilization and the necessity of being ready to fall into line. School and church houses dot their reservations and the time is not far distant when their farms and farm houses will equal, if not surpass, those of the states adjacent.

A few years ago Congress passed a bill authorizing the allotment of lands, in severalty, (sic). Since that time two thirds of the Indians of this Reservation have had their lands set apart; heads of families receiving 160 and the other 80 acres each. With the Indian as well as the white man, industry and thrift have their roots in ownership of the soil. The patenting of lands in severalty creates individual interests which are absolutely necessary to teach the benefits of labor and induce the following of civilized pursuits. Indian children are required to attend school ten months in the year. There are two large boarding schools within the limits of the agency. Here the children are clothed, fed and educated entirely at the government's expense. The boys are required to work on a farm, provided for the school, so many hours each day and the girls are taught to cook sew and do general housework. My work is mainly in these schools. They are located, one twelve and the other, four miles from the agency. My duties are to make regular visits to these schools and look after the sanitary conditions as well as to administer to any afflicted ones I may find in my rounds.

Many of your readers have doubtless heard of the Modoc War in Oregon in 1873. The government, in order to restore peace in that section, purchased four thousand acres of land from one of the tribes of this agency and placed one hundred and fifty of these savage warlike Modocs upon it. Virtually, they are to this day prisoners of war. Considering their rude barbaric state seventeen years ago, it is conceded by all who know them that they have progressed more than any other tribe during a similar period. They are still furnished with supplies, consisting of monthly rations, horses, cattle and farming implements. Most of their superstitious customs have been abandoned, many of them are church members and some consistent christians. Scarfaced Charley, the Modoc Chief, and one of the instigators of the massacre, lives near this agency, and is a quiet inoffensive old man. Captain Jack who led all the attacks is buried near here, having died about five years ago.

It is said by those who are posted in Indian affairs, that at no distant period this country will be thrown open to white settlers. After the allotments are all taken, the only thing to be done is for the government to purchase the surplus, which in some tribes exceed the actual allotments.

I have already trespassed far on your valuable space. In conclusion will say that I am pleased with the Indian and Indian service, delighted with their country, and were it possible for me to be adopted by blood or otherwise, I would be pleased to make this my future home. If I remain in the service (which is not certain now) I hope to visit Yellville during this summer, then I will tell you the rest.

Resp't J. S. Lindley

IN THE MATTER OF THE INCORPORATION OF  
THE TOWN OF BIG FLAT, BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

BAXTER COUNTY COUNTY COURT:

Now, on this 3rd day of Feb., 1939, this cause coming on to be heard upon the petition of the petitioners of the town of Big Flat, Baxter County, Arkansas, by their Agents, W. R. Sutterfield, J. H. Thomas, and R. L. Farris for the proposed incorporation of said town; the Court finds that a petition was circulated among the inhabitants of said town and that every qualified elector but two in said town signed said petition; that a map giving the correct description and the limits of said town has been prepared and attached to said petition; said petition was filed in the Office of the County Clerk and a thirty days notice given to a County paper having a bona fide circulation in said County of Baxter, which notice has been published in four consecutive issues of said paper.

It is therefore considered, ordered and decreed by the Court that the said Town of Big Flat, Baxter County, Arkansas, should be incorporated; that the name of said town shall be Incorporated Town of Big Flat, Baxter County, Arkansas; that two transcripts of the copy of this Record shall be made out by the Clerk, the one to be forwarded to the Secretary of State and the other one to be delivered to the Agents hereof and that the Agents pay all costs of these proceedings.

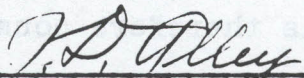
R. M. Ruthven  
County Judge.....

- C E R T I F I C A T E -

STATE OF ARKANSAS )  
                          ) ss.  
County of Baxter )

I, J. D. Alley, County and Circuit Clerk within and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within and attached Court Order of the County Court of Baxter County was filed in my office on February 6th, 1939, and that the same has been made a matter of record as reflected by Record Book No. 13, at page 383.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto placed my hand and seal, of said office, on this 6th day of Feb., 1939.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk, Baxter County.  
State of Arkansas.

The following lands are embraced in the  
Incorporation of the Town of Big Flat, Baxter County,  
Arkansas, to-wit:

The South Half of the North West Quarter; the  
The South West Quarter; The South West Quarter of the  
North East Quarter; the West Half of the South East  
Quarter of Section 19; The North West Quarter and the  
West Half of the North East Quarter of Section 30 all  
in Township 16 North, Range 13 West, of the Fifth  
principal meridian in Arkansas. More particularly des-  
cribed as follows:

Beginning at the NE Corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 19, Twp. 16 N. R. 13 W; thence West  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to  
NW corner of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 19; thence  
South  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles to SW corner of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec-  
tion 30, Twp. 16 N. R. 13 W; thence East  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to  
SE corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 30; thence North  
 $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile to point of beginning.

Below follows a complete list of the names of the  
citizens signing petition to incorporate Big Flat,  
Baxter County, Arkansas.

J. T. Sutterfield  
J. T. Kelley  
H. R. Rorie  
W. R. Sutterfield  
R. L. Farris  
Amanda Kelley  
G. B. Kelley  
J. R. Carter  
A. S. Kelley  
J. H. Thomas  
E. E. Adams  
M. F. Adams  
F. L. Long  
Douie Lee Long  
W. R. Phemister  
Dr. J. C. Pate  
Harriet Farris

U. G. Rorie  
Neal Morris  
Mrs. M. C. Rose  
Vaner Pemberton  
Bert Sutterfield  
L. E. Sutterfield  
Mrs. U. G. Rorie  
Otis Sutterfield  
David Sisk  
Berry Sutterfield  
Edd Treat  
Earl Richardson  
Mrs. J. C. Pate  
J. F. Wynn  
Obie Sutterfield  
Ray Richardson

## CLASSIC WOLF HOUSE STANDS AS MEMORIAL TO THE FRONTIER

Pioneer log homes were often considered temporary quarters, built with available materials using varied building techniques. As soon as saw mills appeared, many cabins were demoted to farm shops or barns, and frame structures became preferred dwellings.

A few homes were built to last. Perhaps Arkansas's best example is the Wolf House at Norfolk. In fact, this two-story structure is nationally known as a classic of its type.

Built in the early 1800s by Major Jacob Wolf, the old home has been a city-owned memorial since 1937 and is presently administered by a regional committee appointed by the mayor of Norfolk. Local businessman Robert Bounds is the current chairman of the 10-member panel.

Major Wolf was born May 12 1786 in North Carolina and his father, Michael Wolf, is listed there in the first U.S. Census of 1790. By 1800 the Wolf family had moved west to Bowling Green, KY., where young Jacob grew to manhood.

Just when Jacob Wolf came to Arkansas may never be known. Some believe he moved to the area to serve as an Indian agent and built the family home about 1809. Others place the date of construction about 1825 which may be more correct as Jacob and Michael Wolf appear in the 1810 Hopkins County, Kentucky, census.

On a hill near the confluence of the North Fork (Norfolk) and White Rivers, Major Wolf supervised construction of his Ozark home. Virgin yellow pine was used exclusively and each log was carefully hand-hewed and dovetailed and notched to fit perfectly

The four rooms of the main house each measured 18 feet square, with a 12-foot wide hall way or "dog trot". Great fireplaces of sun-dried brick warmed each room and wide verandas extended the length of the house on two sides. A blacksmith by trade, Major Wolf fashioned the iron hinges and rivets for the house in his nearby shop, according to tradition. By frontier standards, the house was pure grandeur and Major Wolf's wife, Mildred, referred to it as "the mansions".

Jacob Wolf served ten years in the Arkansas Territorial Legislature and when Izard County was formed in 1825, the Major offered his house as temporary courthouse. Through the years the house served as a post office, Church, trading post, boarding house and residence.

The little village which developed around the Wolf House became known as Liberty. In those days the settlement was the southern terminal of the old Salt Trail, which meandered through the Ozarks from Missouri. Salt and manufactured goods were shipped from New Orleans upriver to the Wolf House to be traded for fur, bear oil, and other raw products.

\* \* \*



## STRANGE FINDING IN TISHOMINGO

A strange discovery was made near Tishomingo, Chickasaw Nation, in 1892 by some woodchoppers, per a dispatch in the Fort Worth Gazette. They cut down a large oak tree which was partly hollow. but the entrance to the hollow portion had almost entirely grown over, leaving only a narrow slit in the outside of the tree.

When the tree fell to the ground it was split open by the shock, and there, lying in the center of the broken wood, was the skeleton of a man. On the ankle was a band of iron attached to a piece of chain, evidently from the manacles which had been upon his person when he sought refuge in the hollow tree. From all indications the skeleton had been entombed for at least 190(?) years for the tree had grown sufficiently to almost cover the opening through which he had crawled to hide. Two of the ribs were broken in such a manner as to lead to the belief that it was done with a bullet. The supposition is that the man had escaped from some prison and had fled with a portion of his manacles, and being shot and hard pressed, had sought refuge in the tree and there died. As there is no record kept of the past criminal history of this nation, his identity will no doubt remain a mystery. One peculiarity of the skeleton is that the tree had grown partly around one of the legs and it was solidly encased in the wood. This specimen is now on exhibition at Tishomingo.

\* \* \*

## QUERIES ACCEPTED

Gloria Bogart Carter who edits a "Genealogy Column" for the Sunday News-Leader of Springfield, Mo. writes:

Genealogy Queries are needed for the Sunday News-Leader. Send queries to Gloria Bogart Carter, Rt 7 Box 276, Springfield, Mo. 65802, phone 417-869-7060.

Back issues of queries are available, Vol I 5 Apr 1987 - 25 Dec 1988, Vol II 1 Jan 1989 - 16 Sept 1990, Vol III 23 Sept 1990 - 21 Jun 1992 Cost are \$9.00 each. Each volume are indexed by every name, subject, countries, states and cities in queries. Name and address of those submitting queries and state and cities of submitters.

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## 12TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE DATE ANNOUNCED

The Ozark Genealogical Society invites your participation in its 12th Annual Fall Conference, September 25 and 26, 1992 in University Plaza Hotel, St. Louis Street at John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield, Missouri.

Helen F. M. Leary, Certified Genealogist, from Raleigh, NC. will be the primary lecturer. Other speakers and genealogy subjects will be also featured.

Reservations should be sent to: Conference Registrar, Ozarks Genealogical Society, PO Box 2494, Springfield, Mo. 65808 Cost-\$23. paid by Sept 21. \$28. at door.

## BUFFALO CITY GOAT FARMERS

Down Buffalo Road near Buffalo City, Frank and Alice Wicker operated for many years, one of the few commercial goat dairy in Baxter County.

The Wickers came to Baxter County and the Buffalo community in the early 1940s from Nebraska via Colorado and Missouri. They purchased a 200 acre farm and began raising cattle. But they later discovered that Goats were a lot easier to take care of, tend and that they ate a lot less feed. They would devour almost anything. They soon acquired a herd of Alpines and Brown Toggenbergs goats. The sale of the milk furnished a good cash income and the animals also provided the family with their meat and milk for cooking as well as drinking. An added benefit was realized as the goats, with their ability to eat most anything, kept the fields free of brush and undergrowth.

At their peak, the Wickers were milking about 100 goats with the herd usually averaging between 70 to 80 animals. Later in their life the Wickers began to reduce the size of the herd and started taking it easier. The herd was then reduced to about 30 animals.

The goats would produce about one-half gallon of milk daily per animal. Some would give eight pounds of milk. Goat milk is naturally homogenized and is easily digested. It was in demand for older people and babies, ulcer patients and people who just preferred the taste. It tastes richer than cow's milk. Goat milk produced on the farm was sold to the Yellville dairy where the milk was processed and canned. Milk from the Yellville dairy was sold all over the country.

The Wickers first had tried farming in Colorado but decided to go to warmer climes. They first chose Missouri and then moved to Arkansas. The Wickers are the parents of Society Member Mrs. Barbara (Carl) Holland of Yellville. Barbara is a former Baxter County Public Health nurse.

-information furnished by Society Member Barbara Holland.

\* \* \*

Do You have an interesting story concerning your family or your family's history such as Barbara shared with us? If so, send it to the Editor so we can record it and share it with our members thru the pages of the "History"

\* \* \*

## GENEALOGY SEMINAR IS A SUCCESS!

The Seminar, sponsored by the Baxter County Historical Society on May 2 1992, was a very successful day for the 78 family history buffs attending from at least 4 states and many adjoining counties. The lectures conducted by the Everton Publishers representatives, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, covered many subjects of interest to the genealogists present. They also offered many interesting publications covering many subjects. In recognition for the large attendance, the Society was presented with a microfiche copy of the "Computerized Family File" of 250,000 Family names on family group sheets. These will be presented to the Baxter County Library by the Historical Society. Refreshments were served by the Society Members to the attendees.

\* \* \*



### DAR CHAPTER BEGINS IN MOUNTAIN HOME

Installation of officers of the newly organized local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was held Saturday at the home of Mrs. George W. Bonson of Mallard Point Road, Miss Karen Coverdale, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coverdale of Henderson, was a special guest at the meeting and was presented with a Good Citizen's Pin. Miss Coverdale, a senior, was selected by the Chapter as "good citizen" of Mountain Home High School.

Mrs. Winslow Spousta of Rogers, DAR state vice regent, installed the new officers and was speaker of the day. Shown above from left in front row, are Mrs. Spousta, Miss Coverdale; and officers Mrs. Frank W. Shaw, historian; Mrs. R. J. Dixon, chaplain; Mrs. Richard S. Amis, national defense chairman. From left at rear are Mrs. Pat Herrington of Calico Rock, Regent; Mrs. John McGhee, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Bonson, vice regent; Mrs. Marc Liston, registrar.

Mrs. Bonson stated that the local organization has been named the Captain Nathan Watkins Chapter in honor of the state regent, Mrs. Edward Westbrooke of Jonesboro, a relative of Captain Watkins. He served as Captain of Company D. 26th Regiment under General Gates, Mrs. Bonson said, and fought in the War of the Revolution from 1775-1782. He was captain of the Minutemen at Bunker Hill, she said, joined the expedition to Quebec, fought in the battles of Princeton, Trenton and Bemis Heights. Captain Watkins' commission, now in the possession of Mrs. Westbrooke, was signed by John Hancock.

Objectives and purpose of the DAR was outlined by Mrs. Spousta when she spoke to the group on "what the Daughters do." Mrs. Spousta said, the Daughters strive to acquire and preserve historical places, documents and relics and encourage historical research; "promote as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge;" and foster true patriotism and love of country and secure the blessings of liberty for all mankind.

Mrs. Coverdale, Karen's mother and Mrs. Paul Cobb were also guests at the installation ceremonies.

Assisting Mrs. Bonson and cohostesses for the luncheon were Mrs. Liston and Mrs. McGhee. Regular chapter meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of Each month.

--Baxler Bulletin Thursday April 22 1965



## AN AFTERNOON CHAT WITH EVELYN

During the afternoon, on a beautiful May day I had the pleasure of chatting with a very fine lady named Evelyn (nee Gillaspie) Cockrum who is a resident of Flippo's Nursing Home. I was introduced to Evelyn by Dorothy Salisbury, who is a friend and volunteer at the nursing home. Evelyn is a 87 year young lady who was very gracious and welcomed me to sit and chat about some times she had experienced in her lifetime.

Evelyn's father brought her to Baxter County when she was a small girl. Evelyn had been sickly and her parents had left the "low lands" of Arkansas for the healthier climes of Baxter County. Her father bought farm land across the North Fork River near Henderson. Evelyn recalls that it was both river bottom land and hill land. There they raised cotton, corn, and much garden stock. The farming power was furnished by several large mules. Evelyn told of working in the fields and working with the mules. She told of one of the mules that knew when noon time was and at the precise time began braying. She told of an experience when the mules, disregarding her, decided the day was over and started running for home while pulling a "Disc" which she was riding on. She quickly set the disc to its greatest digging limits, thus putting the most load on the mules. They did stop, but only when they got to the gate!

Almost everything the family required was grown on the farm. A few commodities such as sugar, syrup, coffee and salt was bought at the local store at Henderson or on the special occasions when the mules were hitched up and the family journeyed to Bakersfield in Missouri. There a larger store was able to serve their needs better. Most trips to Mountain Home were made to visit relatives. Flour and corn meal were secured by taking the grain to a mill in Missouri. The family always made molasses. Animals were butchered when the weather turned cool in the fall. Most meat was "cured" by salt process or by smoking in a smoke house using hickory chips. Some meat was also canned. Fish from the nearby streams were also preserved by canning.

All vegetables, and a lot of fruit and berries were grown on the farm and the entire family assisted in getting it canned and preserved for winter. Some had to wash jars, some had to peel or wash the fruit or vegetables. Several thousand quarts of food were preserved each year. Beans were cleaned and dried a short time in the oven.

Evelyn relates that their way of keeping milk was to dig a pit in the smoke house and pour cool water into it. Milk could be kept in there for a short time. It then had to be used, usually for butter or cheese.

She helped her dad clear land and put up the winter supply of wood. She could pull the end of a double cross cut saw. She proudly told of being able to saw with the double handled saw by herself when required to get in the daily supply of wood. In her home, like most in those days the bedrooms were not heated. The first thing in the morning the kitchen stove was fired up and all would go into the kitchen. The cooking was done on a "range" fired by wood. It had a large reservoir of water on one end. The filling of the reservoir was another chore that had to be done daily.

Her mother always made their laundry soap. Ashes were collected and kept dry during the winter. When she began the soap making, she would soak the ashes and allow the water to soak thru them. The liquid collected from this process would be the acid required to make

what she called "soft soap". When she made the bar soap, she did buy the canned "lye" available at the local store. The fats required in the soap making were collected when the animals were slaughtered.

As the bedrooms were never heated, it required a lot of bedding to keep warm. It was necessary to always have a quilt being made. Evelyn says at resting time or when she could sit down, she always had some sewing or quilting near to work on. Clothes had to last a long time as money was always short and that always meant that a lot of mending was necessary.

Evelyn went to the Henderson Grade School until the last portion of her education. As that School was going to require all to have Small Pox vaccinations, her father, who did not believe in the vaccinations, moved the children to another school in the area.

Evelyn's grandmother at that time in her life became bed ridden and required much attention. Evelyn elected to be the one to stay at home and help her mother take care of her. She told her sisters to go on to school-she would stay home. Her education ended after completing eight grades.

Her father operated a ferry across the North Fork river for many years. The farm that they originally bought upon arrival in Baxter County is now under the waters of the Norfork Lake.

Evelyn married P. A. Cockrum near the age of 19 on December 22 1923 and had the first of nine children when she was 20. She has always lived on a farm and told of the changes to her life as progress was made. She washed clothes for the family, including nine children, on the wash board and then went to work in the fields in the afternoon. A great improvement in her life was made when they got an "Ice Box". She tells of later getting a small refrigerator - one with a round circular "thing" on top.

Evelyn's recollection of early Mountain Home was of a very small village with a few homes clustered around an unpaved square. As Mountain Home was over ten miles away, trips were a rarity and were usually made to visit relatives in town.

Evelyn remarks that she would not want to go back to the rigorous life and hard work again but she does miss many of the things that happened in her life. She especially misses the good food raised on the farm, the great tasting meat that was "cured" on the farm. She does believe that children of this age would greatly benefit by experiencing some of the rigors of the early times.

It was a great afternoon for me!

--Gene Garr

\* \* \*

Mr. Ezekial Davis was in town Tuesday mixing with the boys and "setting up" the cider promiscuously. He was in excellent spirits and seemed "as happy as a dead pig in the sunshine". We thought he was feeling good over his alleged prospects of being the next assessor, but on going over to the clerk's office we discovered the real cause of all his mirth, and "don't-give-a cuss" mood. He had secured a paper authorizing the matrimonial tying of himself to the apronstrings of a lady who resides in North Fork Township and he wasn't caring a continental about being assessor. One vote was all he wanted and he got that by a handsome majority, and consequently he had just cause for rejoice. May his shadow never grow less!

—Mountain Echo August 27 1886

## THE FORGOTTEN STATE

"The State of Franklin" was an almost successful state. It was formed in 1784 and like the bonafide other states, had its own government, courts, etc.. As first formed it included only land below the Virginia-North Carolina line with North-western North Carolina, and land north and west of the Tennessee River. By 1785 it had grown and was composed of southwestern Virginia, southeastern Kentucky, western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, northeastern Alabama and the extreme northwestern tip of Georgia.

As it finally was formed, it lay east of Elk River in Tennessee, east of Tombigbee River and West of Coosa River in Georgia and Alabama, and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The land laying in Kentucky was mostly east of the Cumberland River and south of West Virginia. The state failed for many reasons with the main reason being the state was never officially recognized by the Federal Government. It quickly disappeared, absorbed by other states and is for the most part forgotten today..

The Sheriffs in Franklin were appointed by North Carolina and the transactions in land were all filed in North Carolina. Many of the records of the forgotten state were maintained in North Carolina.

In addition to "State of Franklin" several other areas attempted to become states; "Transylvania"-an area involving all of Kentucky except for the extereme part west of the Cumberland River, and that part of present-day Kentucky which lies north and east of the Kentucky River. In 1775 a group known as the "Transylvania Company" made an attempt at creating a state.. The project never quite got off the ground, did not prosper and was soon out of existence, but many of the settlers lured to the area remained and become citizens of the states which assumed the land.

Another was "Westsylvania" proposed by another land company called the "Westsylvania Company" was formed in 1776 to settle land in a large area west of the Appalachian Mountains. The territory took in land from southwestern Pennsylvania, all of what is now West Virginia and the northeastern part of Kentucky. The same fate occured to this company as it did to the Transylvania Company.

This has raised some interesting questions among people doing genealogical research in the "Lost State of Franklin" and the other attempts at statehood. Research should be performed in the state archives of those states mentioned, and in the counties in existence at the time Franklin and the other failed states were attempting statehood. Researchers of the Franklin state should be mindful of the records kept in North Carolina.

-adapted from materials furnished by Society Member Hazel Ballard.

\* \* \*

### A MEMBER WRITES;

**From: Richard Jones, 4880 N. Henny Rd, Choctaw, OK 73020**

Enclosed are dues-Baxter Co. History. Enjoyed the Baxter Co. map! Would like to see abstracts printed of early land owners in Gassville and Whiteville.

Hope to write you some info on William H. Hays & family later, who settled near Whiteville about 1871. Keep up the good work, Richard Jones

"BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY"

BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

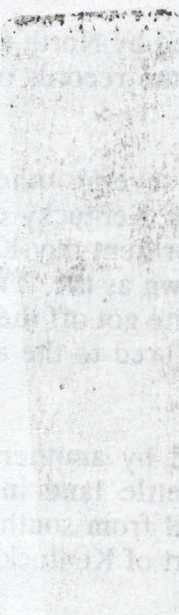
Stella Jackson, Secy.

Rte. 2 Box 116

Mountain Home, AR. 72653

THE FORGOTTEN STATE

"WE HELP PRESERVE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY"



The State of Franklin was an almost successful state. It was formed in 1774 and the possible other states had its own government. Some cities as that formed a included land below the Virginia-Tennessee line with parts western North Carolina and north and west of the Tennessee River. By 1787 it had grown and was composed of northwestern Virginia, southwestern North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, northeastern Alabama and the extreme northwestern tip of Georgia. As it finally was formed, it lay east of the River by Tennessee, east of the Ohio River, west of the Cross River in Georgia and Arkansas and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The land lay in Kentucky was mostly east of the Cumberland River and the West Virginia. The state failed for many reasons with the main reason being that it never officially recognized by the Federal Government. It quickly disappeared and other states and it for the rest of the world today.

The people in Franklin were a patriotic people and they wanted the transition in 1780 to be in North Carolina. Many of the people in the forgotten state were from North Carolina.

In addition to "State of Franklin" people were also interested in becoming states "Transylvania" as a first involving all the territory except for the extreme part west of the Cumberland River and all part of present day Kentucky which has north and east of the Kentucky River. In 1775 a group known as the "Transylvania Company" made an attempt to create a state. The first step was to go off the ground, to get the land and was not out of existence, but many of the settlers lived in the area and had no chance of the states which assumed the land.

Another was "Westsylvania" proposed by another land company called the "Westsylvania Company" was formed in 1776 to settle land in a large area west of the Appalachian Mountains. The territory took in land from southeastern Pennsylvania and all of what is now West Virginia and the northeastern part of Kentucky. The same fate occurred to this company and it did not become a state.

This has raised some interesting questions among people doing genealogical research in the "Lost State of Franklin" and the other attempts at statehood. Research should be conducted in the state archives of those states mentioned and in the county archives at the time Franklin and the other failed states were attempting statehood. Researchers of the present state should be mindful of the records kept in North Carolina.

FROM: Richard Jones, 4280 N. Henry Rd, Clarksville, TN 37040  
 CONTACT: 615-438-8400, Co. Henry, Engine Co. 1000, Clarksville, TN 37040  
 Website: www.richardjones.com  
 Hope to write you some time on William H. Hays & family later who settled near Whiteville about 1875. Keep up the good work - Richard Jones