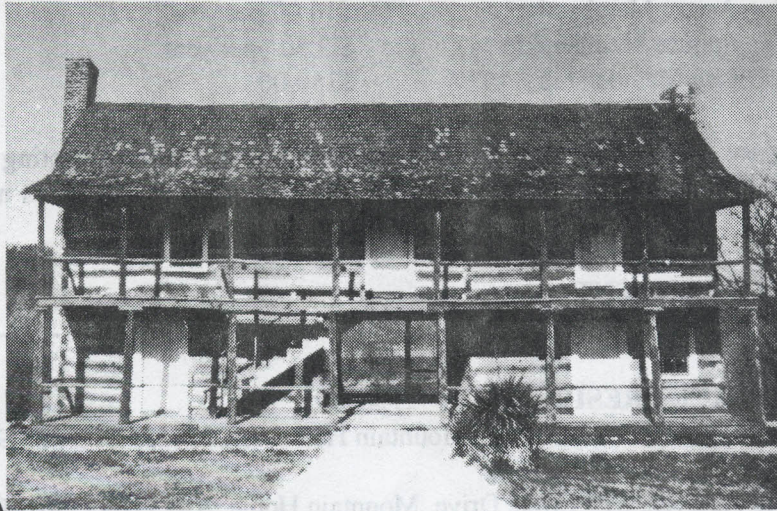


Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

**BAXTER COUNTY'S
BURIED TREASURE
IN THIS ISSUE**

**VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2
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BAXTER COUNTY BURIED TREASURE!

FINDS KEY TO BURIED TREASURE

Oscar Janow, a young man of Norfolk, is living in just same halo expectancy as the only heir of a rich uncle, who knows the uncle has only a few hours to live. Janow is just before being worth \$100,000 in gold. He holds the magic key to that much wealth, if he can decipher the combination of the lock.

A few days ago while walking along the side of a bluff near that place, either on the White or North Fork rivers, he refuses to divulge which, he came upon a flat rock in a small cave, on which the date, 1787 was inscribed, also a message and a map. the message stated that the writer had planted \$100,000 in gold in the mountain and there was a spot scratched on the crude map where it was supposed to be located. Janow thinks that he has identified that section of the bluff that he found the rock on, with the map, and expects to locate the spot at an time. Every man who owns land around there on the bluffs on either river, thinks Janow found the rock on his land. While Janow is not reluctant about showing the rock with the message on it, he is absolutely silent when he is quizzed about where he found it. His story about how he found the rock is as follows:

Several days ago he was out hunting and was walking along the side of the bluff, when a small cave attracted his attention. According to his story, it only extended a few feet into the mountain. Inside the small opening were two large flat rocks that had been leaned together at the top forming a stone tent shelter. On the ground under these was a flat shale rock about three quarters of an inch thick and eight inches square. The positions of the rocks seemed unnatural; as if someone had placed them just so, and he walked up to the place and investigated. He picked up the thin shale stone that lay flat underneath the other two and examined it. It was covered with moss on both

sides except at the upper left hand corner of the side that was lying next to the ground. On this exposed corner his eye caught a few dim scratches. He took his knife and peeled the moss back, and saw immediately that the scratches were figures and writing, but illegible in the present condition. He took the rock home with him and gave it a thorough washing, and let it dry, and after an hour's careful study deciphered the following inscriptions:

"In this mountain I plant \$100,000 in gold, and if I should die and not multiply, and if some would find it, I will mark the rock and spot it's in."

There had been a signature in the lower left hand corner, but the surface had eroded to such a degree that it could not be deciphered. In the upper left hand corner of the rock was the date 1787, and in the upper left hand corner was a crude map with a spot marked where the supposed treasure lay. The map is in the shape of the lower part of an "A" with a cross bar at the top, inside is an inverted V, the whole having lines drawn through it.

Janow says he has traced the "V" in the map, in the topography of the bluff side. He also states that he thinks the map only describes a very small area of ground. That only in the immediate vicinity in which the rock was found. The message on the rock was scratched in writing, and is now about one eighth of an inch deep. It was probably twice as deep as thick as the rock has eroded to some extent. Janow is elated over his discovery, and seemed to think it only a matter of a short time before he lays hands on the treasure the message describes.

John H. Page

Commissioner of Agriculture

---Baxter Bulletin October 15 1915.

Ed: Does anyone know if the treasure was ever found?

*If money talks that explains my
quiet pockets!*

LOOKING FOR LOST SILVER MINE

Two men who have been mysteriously at work running lines and hunting certain land marks in the mountains near Rush, on the other side of Buffalo river, left last week after being in camp there for over two weeks. No one was able to get acquainted with them or learn their names. From their actions, however, and from what guarded inquiries they made, it was inferred that they were from Kansas City, Mo., and were hunting for the lost silver mine, which is located, according to tradition, somewhere in the vicinity of the head of the Silver Hollow, in Marion county. The men had maps with them and located accurately the section in which the mine is supposed to be.

The legend which has been handed down about the lost mine is that the mine was discovered by the early Spanish explorers, who took out silver ore of fabulous value. The location of the mine was known to the Indians and to some of the early settlers. It is said that a record of its exact location and maps are still hidden in one of the many caves in that vicinity. The men who left last week were evidently making strenuous efforts to locate this cave, as the natives who saw them occasionally say that they crawled into every cave and opening in that vicinity. What they found no one knows. They left as silently as they came in.

Many men have hunted for this lost silver mine, but none has ever found it. Zinc they have found in paying quantities and the Silver Hollow, at the foot of which is the Silver Hollow zinc mine, took its name from this tradition of the lost silver mine. Many of the natives believe in the tradition and believe that some day it will be found. The mining men of the district, however, believe the legend mythical, or that some one found a zinc mine and though it was silver.

There is no question but what the early Spanish explorers prospected and mined along the White River bottoms where they smelted their ore and by other old unaccounted for workings. One of these old slag piles was found some time ago near Trimble Flat in Baxter county. A legend of a lost silver mine has been in circulation for years in that settlement. The slag pile where they had smelted their ore was prima facie evidence that they had found ore and

the story was given more or less credence. A mining man from Joplin by the name of Ben Ansell heard the story and prospected the river bluff above the palace where slag was found and after several weeks' work located quite a rich run of lead ore, but no silver mine. As lead and silver ore look nearly identical, it is thought that these silver mine traditions which the old-timers tell about are really not silver, but lead and zinc.

--May 9 1913 Edition Baxter Bulletin

ANOTHER TREASURE HUNTER

Chas. Durbin of Guion, a man about 40 years old, has spent the past four years in searching for a buried treasure that is said to be located somewhere in the bluffs on the White River in the Guion vicinity. Durbin is not a man of means and works between times in order to make a living. He firmly believes that he will find it before he stops. He pins his faith on a story that has been told in that neighborhood since the Civil War.

A stranger came into that section shortly after the war, took sick at a house across the river in Stone County and died. On his death bed he states that he was one of a band of bank robbers that had robbed a bank in North Missouri of \$135,000. That they had been followed into Arkansas and buried the money in a bluff in a small cave, near a big cave.

Durbin has spent many months looking over every bluff near Guion, and has found what he thought was the location several times. At one place where he found a large cave and a small cave close together he spent quite a lot of time excavating but as far as anyone knows he never came upon the treasure. He has also worked at other places, encouraged by the hope that he would be rewarded by great riches. He seems to have explicit faith in the story and expects to find it before he dies.

--November 12, 1915 Issue of the Baxter Bulletin

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*A school is a building
With four walls
And tomorrow inside.*

LEGENDS OF LOST MINES IN NORTH ARKANSAS

Baxter and adjoining counties in the North Arkansas lead and zinc field, are full of legends of lost mines and if one wants to spend a real vacation searching for the "sign of the turtle", the old Spanish sign of buried treasure, and trying to chase it to the end of the rainbow, there is a lot of interesting sport in it to say the least. There is nothing so fascinating; nothing that raises the hope of sudden wealth in one's breast like hunting for a lost mine. And the best part of it is that nearly all of the lost mines in North Arkansas, are lost silver mines, which makes the search more alluring, than if one was hunting for a lost zinc or lead mine, which if the region has many that haven't yet got lost in the woods like Little Red Riding Hood.

It isn't hard to strike the trail of one of these lost mines. Meet up with most any old timer in this section of the Ozarks and he will tell you a yarn that will make your heart beat fast with expectancy.

He'll open up about what his grandpap told him about a Mexican or a Spaniard, that came into this country way back yonder with a map of sheepskin, hunting for a lost silver mine. "No sir, they didn't find it. They didn't look on the right side of the hollow. The derved mine's still there lost in the woods." And he really believes it's there, and it might be, and like as not, if you offer to go fifty/fifty with him, he'll help you hunt for it as long as you will hunt, and probably not charge any board either.

It doesn't make much difference what neighborhood you drop into, either, for nearly every one has a lost mine legend. And some of these old lost mine legends have proven up, too, but when they were finally found, they were either lead or zinc mines, the ore of which had been mistaken for silver by the early settlers.

It is said on good authority that the Big Hurricane Zinc mine, one of the big producers during the war, was a lost mine and was located by the prospector who found it, by following the sign of the turtle, carved on rocks and boulders, to the ore outcrop.

"Silver Hollow", a long hollow running into Buffalo River, near the mouth of Rush Creek in Marion County, gets its name from a lost silver mine. No one has ever found the silver mine, but there have been a lot of zinc mines opened

up in that section during the last 20 years, and no doubt but what one of these deposits was in fact, the lost silver mine.

The best geological authority says that there is no gold or silver in the Ozarks, and no doubt this is correct for none has ever been found of commercial value. Yet the early prospectors were persevering in their search for it. John Wolfer and associates, who discovered and opened up the Morning Star mine on Rush Creek, firmly believed they had a silver mine. They were so strong in the faith that they employed two Bohemians to build them a smelter in which to reduce the ore. After many weeks of hard work it was completed and charged with charcoal and ore, and they waited patiently for the melted silver to flow out into the sand molds at the bottom. Instead of silver coming out of the bottom, beautiful rainbows came out of the stack. They were caused by zinc fumes, but it was many days before they could be convinced that the ore was zinc and not silver. The old smelter still stands at the foot of the mountain, below the mine and is pointed out to visitors as a relic of the old days when geological information was not so accurate as it is today.

Old slag piles along the banks of White River, in this county and Marion County leaves little doubt but what the Spaniards prospected this section in the early days. It was probably a small party from De Sota's expedition, which crossed the White River near Augusta. Field notes from when Baxter County was cross sectioned but gave no information as to who smelted the ore. One of the piles near the mouth of Bruce Creek in Baxter County was found to contain pure copper that had fused in the smelting operation but had not run off.

There is another legend about a lost silver mine near the mouth of Bruce Creek in Baxter County. It is to the effect that it was worked by the Indians, who captured the early settlers and members of their family, and made them work in the mine. The lost mine has been searched for hundreds of times, but has never been located.

An old slag pile on the banks of the White River in Marion County, near Bull Shoals, Mountain, was found to contain iron. An Oklahoma prospector conceived the idea that silver ore had been associated with the iron ore, and had been saved, the iron being left because it was worthless. After many months he found a deposit of lead ore associated with iron ore and

he was convinced that he had found the source of the ore they had smelted and no doubt but what he was right in his conclusions.

Another legend recounts a lost vein of lead that crosses the bed of White River in the vicinity of Bull Shoals. Old settlers used to gig lead off the vein to get lead to mold bullets for their muzzle loading rifles. Some old men are still alive who will vouch for the truth of the story. In later years it has been hunted for many times but has never been located. It has probably been covered up by shifting river gravel.

Many of the lost mines in the Arkansas Ozarks are not lost mines at all. In the early days, the settlers used to mine what little lead they needed for bullets from small deposits scattered over the hills. Then pounds of lead, smelted in a hollow log and run into bullets would last them a year. The little gouge in the mountain that gave them the lead has grown into a mine of fabulous value as the years rolled by.

Mexicans are persistent prospectors. One turned up occasionally with a prospectors outfit. They were probably more frequent a century ago. Maybe they found something, maybe they didn't, yet every one was good for a lost mine legend, and so the legends have stacked up one upon the other, until lost mine hunting has become a popular and exciting sport, with a lot of game in the woods.

FAMILY FOR THE BIRDS

Mrs. William Robbin of Louisville, KY, was recently married to David Buzzard. It is her fourth matrimonial venture.

She was a Miss Martin, daughter of one of the best known Bourbon Company families. She first married Robert Crow. He died and she married John Sparrow six months afterward. She and Mr. Sparrow did not agree, and a divorce followed. Mrs. Sparrow became Mrs. William Robbin, but again a divorce was found advisable. After a year of lonely life, Mrs. Robbin became Mrs. David Buzzard.

She had two Crows, one Sparrow, one Robbin and a Buzzard at her home.

LOOKING FOR IOWA TOMBSTONES?

Many Iowa tombstones were carved from native sandstone which over the years eroded and/or crumbled.

However, during the 1930s, the WPA made a survey of Iowa cemeteries. The cemetery survey information is available. To find information about a particular cemetery, write Capital Complex, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Be sure and give the county in which the cemetery is located.

CEMETERY MAPS AVAILABLE

Did you know that many times cemeteries are shown on county highway maps and on Topographic maps? They are not always identified by name, but by a symbol. Topographic maps can be ordered from Distribution Branch, US Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center Building 41, Denver CO. 80225.

THE SOCIETY WILL BE ON SUMMER VACATION. NO MEETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST

WAS IT YOUR NEPHEW?

The word "nephew" is a derivative of the Latin word "nepos" which is literally translated to mean "grandson". When researching old documents such as wills and deeds, the genealogist should be aware...there are many variations in the meanings of some of today's common words. In this case, a nephew could mean a man's grandson. Also the terms "Junior" and "Senior" in early records, do not always signify a relationship, and a careful researcher should always be aware of the earlier meaning of these two terms. They were usually used in conjunction with each other and usually signified an older man and a younger man of the same name, possibly (but not necessarily) residing in the same town at the same time. The researcher should also be aware that the term "tertius" after a name, is a Latin term that means "the third", as in the third person of this name in a town or area.

**WANTS UGLY GIRLS
BUT FINDS THEM SCARCE!**

**G. B. Griswold of Cotter Pencil
Factory says he had trouble
keeping help.**

E. B. Griswold, owner of the pencil factory at Cotter, was attending court here last week. Incidentally Mr. Griswold was keeping his eyes peeled for likely looking girls to work for him at his plant. He is not looking for the plump, peachy kind with goo-goo eyes, either, but rather the opposite.

In an interview with Mr. Griswold on the girl question as he sees it, he said: "Ordinarily it takes from 20 to 30 girls at our plant to keep the pencil slats sorted and away from the saws. My hardest proposition is not to keep the slats coming out of the saws, but to keep them sorted and away. Unfortunately for me, the girls which I have been fortunate enough to hire have all been extra fine looking girls, the kind that the hills of this section produce and they all find their affinities all too soon for me. About the time I get a girl broken in good, some likely young fellow comes along and takes her away from me. Mrs. Griswold objects to polygamy, and there you are. I have been running the plant at Cotter some two years, 24 months and have had 24 marriages from the plant, or an average of one a month. I am thinking seriously of advertising the place as a matrimonial bureau. The last time Cupid robbed the plant was last week, when Lulu Tabor, a buxom lass of the hill type, married one Rufus Weatherman. Miss Lula was an excellent hand, having worked at the pencil factory at Branson, Mo, for several years. She dropped down to Cotter where no one knew her, to make the price of her wedding fixings. The couple spent their honeymoon in Branson, making the trip from Cotter on foot, a distance of 80 miles. No, no more good looking girls for me if I can get the other kind, but I don't know where I will go to find them."

--Baxter Bulletin, December 13 1912

*Happiness is living each day as
though it were the first day of a
marriage and the last day of a
vacation!*

ELECTRIC LIGHT FRANCHISE

On Monday night the town council granted an electric light franchise to L. J. Goodrich and H. M. Tatum of Spartman, Ark., and Dillen Underhill of this place. The life of the franchise is 30 years and the town has the privilege to purchase the plant at any time within the next five years. The company put up a \$500 bond to have the plant completed and in operation within the next 60 days. The plant will be a dandy plant, much larger than is really needed now to take care of the business, but the company expects the town to grow and are taking care of their capacity in the installation. The dynamo will be a 60 kilowatt machine capable of carrying 3000 lamps. The franchise calls for a \$.15 rate, with a minimum rate of \$1.00. Also when the business runs as high as 200 houses, the kilowatt rate will be reduced to \$.12. These rates are very reasonable. It is expected the town will take enough lights to illuminate the square. The plant will be installed in the Mountain Home Roller Mill and will be driven by the mill engine. Messrs. Goodrich and Tatum were interested in this section by C. C. Feemster.

--October 22 1915 Issue of the Baxter Bulletin.

AGE 112, WALKS 6 MILES

Elmira Wagoner, 112 years old, known as "Granny" Wagoner over this section of the Missouri and Arkansas Ozarks and the oldest woman in Arkansas, astonished her friends and family last week by walking from her place to Protom, Mo., staying all night with friends at that place and walking back home again the next morning. "Granny" Wagoner lives in Marion County, Ark, almost on the Missouri and Arkansas line, and the distance from her place to Protom is three miles. She made the trip each way in an hour and a half, and felt no ill effects.

It has been four years since she made the same trip, and in an interview some time ago said then that she did not think she would ever make it again. Her long duress through the winter and spring months, however, in her lonely little cabin, made her nervous. She was tired of staying at home and longed for more companionship and old familiar faces. She got

a stout stick and announced her intentions of walking to town to her daughter. Protestations were in vain, and she would allow no one to accompany her. There was only one thing that interrupted her peace of mind, and that was that her young chickens might go neglected at home. This worried her after she had arrived in Protem, and it was only by the strongest persuasive efforts of her friends that she was prevented from walking back home that night.

"Granny" Wagoner's hair turned white over a half century ago and now is taking on a yellow cast. Her step is still steady and her eyes need no glasses. Her skin is white and of supernatural clearness. Her speech is unsteady, and when excited somewhat incoherent, but she can always be understood.

Corn bread is her regular diet. Flour biscuits she considers a luxury. She has toiled since she was a little girl. She lives with her daughter, an old woman, and a grandchild on a homestead. The little log cabin has long since fallen into a state of incurable decrepitude beyond redemption. She has a strong strain of uncouth sentimentality in her make-up, believing in only one marriage for man and woman and bemoans the fact that her husband passed away so many years before her. He was killed in the civil war. Her wants are few and she seeks happiness with her pipe and in the care of her chickens and small garden.

—Baxter Bulletin, May 30 1913 Issue

*BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS,
CHURCHES AND THEIR KEY
PEOPLE*

Excerpts from An Address by Lynn McGuire, Author of
"The County Church"

Presented to the Baxter County Historical Society March
4, 1993

Tonight, I will talk about people I have met and enjoyed and who were the "glue" that kept the various denomination groups together. I think that we can refer to this [address] as "New History" or "History Being Made".

For the dedication in 1979 of the new Roller Funeral Home on North Highway 5, it was decided that a book of local churches would be published as a part of the activities. Denver Roller suggested that fifty short histories be used to represent the area served by the funeral home. There were sixty nine active church

congregations in Baxter County in 1979 when I was actively engaged in my project. In the past there may have actually been more. I gave him a list of fifty six and asked him to tell me which ones to use. He could not reduce the list so the 56 selected were those printed. The result is the booklet "The County Church".

My project started as visits and conversations with pioneers of the area. I had been away for 25 years. The original intent was to concentrate on early day church congregations. I was employed by the Drummond Citizens Life Insurance Company [owned by the Denver Roller Organization] which had absorbed the Baxter County Burial Association enrollment, thus giving me a perfect opportunity for research. This effort became a massive data base including pictures produced under the careful coaching of Ray Grass, a member of the Historical Society. However, for various reasons, this manuscript has been destroyed, so this history will be told as I have remembered it from a youngster until about the late 1940s.

There has been a fascinating growth in church physical plants in the past few years so my previous work is badly out dated. The Methodist Church, where I used to be a member, now has new facilities on West Road. The Gassville and Cotter Methodist churches have united in a new home between the two cities. The First Baptist church of Mountain Home has a large facility at Golf Drive and Spring Street. The First Presbyterian are now on Spring Street in a beautiful new building. The Twin Lakes of the Nazarene just moved to their new locations on South Highway 5. This list could go on and on if extensive additions and renovations were listed as well.

The Freewill Baptist Church was the church available to me. My mother or grandmother played the old pump organ. (My brother recalls pumping the organ) Dad and Grandfather led the singing. We all sang from a very early age. The location, through the fields, was about a quarter of a mile west off the present site of the King Quarry. Two men in particular are remembered: Brother Carl Davis and Brother Wilkes Partee. Brother Carl was a circuit rider and his schedule was one week end a month with a two week revival in the summer. Other churches on his circuit were Zion Baptist at Clark Ridge, Trimble Flat, Chris Pence, Pleasant Flat, also known as Amos School

House. I am sure there were others including Davis Chapel, his home church. I'm not sure all the churches in Lakeview area were in use at the same time. These churches finally came together to form the Lakeview Freewill Baptist and was dedicated by Brother Carl on November 19 1967. It is presently being used. I am not sure Brother Wilkes Partee ever worked independently of Brother Carl. He had a fascinating exhortation that was distinctively his. There is not an existing biography of either of these men that I am aware of. What a pity. I understand that Brother Carl's notes were destroyed in the fire that destroyed his home at Elizabeth.

The Mennonite's quiet influence has had a profound effect on this area. My first memories of them goes back to a man named Christian Horst, who owned a chick hatchery between Mountain Home and Gassville and was their leader. They approached Baxter County with the proposition that if the county would build a rest home they would run it. This building still stands at Midway (now a worm farm) My grandfather McGuire died there.

The Culp Medical Center later to become the Calico Rock Medical Center, was founded by the Mennonite's. In 1937 the Bethel Springs Mennonite Church held services in the Table Rock School house until the present structure was completed. This beautiful little church sets beside the road that connects Push Mountain Road and Highway 5, south of Calico Rock. It's on land donated by Joseph and Zelda Emmett, whose picture hangs on the wall beside a picture of the congregation made in 1947. The medical clinic was constructed in 1945. Dave and Rhonda Wenger lived there. Dave was the general overseer of the properties while Rhonda was the Mid wife and performed minor medical services. A school for grades 1 through 12 was completed in 1950 and Dorthea Martin was the first teacher. An Amish group purchased the properties in 1969 and constructed other buildings in which the Calvary Bible College now holds 12 week sessions mostly in the winter.

We were directing a funeral at the Lone Rock Church of Christ for one of our natives. A carry-all drove up and two young ladies and two young men came in to tell me that they would be furnishing the music. Of course, it was acappella and absolutely beautiful. They were

from the college class then in session. This was typical of their giving nature.

Dr. Grasse is also a Mennonite and another person deserving of further research. He is still living and was featured by a story in the Baxter Bulletin some years ago. Floyd Miller is or was the pastor and caretaker of the properties. In his spare time he janitored the IZARD County Bank and substituted on the Mountain Mail Route out of Calico Rock. He is known for this 100% cooperation with the other denominations in the area. Holding joint revivals with them. To set on the porch of this tiny church and have a long conversations with Floyd is an experience of a lifetime.

The Jehovah Witnesses had their local base across the White River. Henry Harris of the McPherson Community can be credited with the organization in this area. The Harris family has continued this leadership. Jewel Harris and Essie Young were grandchildren of Henry. I loved to visit with both of them. Lydia, Jewel's wife would always give my wife an arm load of roses which she grew in profusion in her yard. Both Jewel and Lydia are dead now. Bessie is still going strong. Some of you might remember her and her husband as the operators of the Shipp's Ferry. She has a mobile home on the old family place. The Harris family cemetery is in her front yard and she keeps it meticulous. She carries her water from the Cold Water spring. Seth Dickerson married one of Jewel and Lydia's daughters and is one of the Witnesses leading speakers for services and funerals, etc. The Witness takes great pride in their speakers abilities. There was a man named Worley, who managed the local Goodyear store, who is one of the finest speakers I have ever heard. When they moved their church to this side of the river they were first on 201 South then moved to South College after buying the Luke Block Company building. They rebuilt and later sold to the Baptist Church formed by Dr. Tommy Carney and moved to a new building on 201 North.

Rev. Harold Lake came to Mountain Home in 1948 and held a revival in a tent, I believe, where the Ozark Shopping Center is now. From this beginning came the Twin Lakes Church of the Nazarene. Harold drew the plans and supervised the building of a church building where the Medical Arts Pharmacy is now. Later he did the same thing for the building built on Market Street on land purchased from Helen

Market Street on land purchased from Helen Lahr. This church has just completed a new facility on Highway 5 South. I know that Harold had a part in it just like he had answered the call of the people in Horseshoe Bend at least twice. He is one of those kind and generous people you like to know.

The first Apostolic Church on Canna Baker Road as I understand it, is an off shoot of the Pentecostal Church on West Road and was a protest of that church's becoming nationally affiliated. The church was formed in the home of Rev. James Eddings in Whiteville in March 1971. They used the Cumberland Presbyterian Church property on College street until the property on Canna Baker Road was built. This is a sovereign church as there is no parent organization to regulate administration. They are very proud of the fact they became debt free on this beautiful church in five years.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church building in Cotter has been renovated and now serves as the administration building for Gay Apparel [company]

I close this with the full knowledge that the larger denominations have not been discussed. Each are a source for massive amounts of data.

The Methodist and Baptist histories are long in this area as well as the Christian Church where my Father and stepmother were very active. Volumes could be written about the local Churches of Christ. The Catholic Church had a real struggle over the years to become the largest. The Lutherans now have three churches and the Mormons and Seventh Day Adventists continue their good works.

I suggest, if you are interested, the following books are available in the Arkansas Room at the Library: "Walking Preacher of the Ozarks" and "Arkansas Angels & our Religious Heritage"

Ed-Space requirements forced the editing and using of excerpts of Lynn's talk. If you desire a full copy of his speech, it is available. Write to the editor and include \$1.00 for copying & mailing costs.

*Most folks may succeed because
the're destined to, but most folks
succeed because they are
determined to.*

DE SOTO VISITED BAXTER COUNTY.

EXPLORER VISITED THE BIG SPRING AT COTTER IN 1543

Sometime during the summer of 1912, it was suggested that an Historical Association of Baxter County be formed and that annual meetings be held during the County Fair. No interest seemed to be taken and the matter was dropped.

But one citizen (Ed: Name unknown now) became interested in the early history of the state and found among other things that the famous explorer, Hernandez De Soto, had spent some time in camp at the big spring where Cotter now stands., and he has kindly placed his findings at the disposal of the Baxter County Fair Association.

The citizen referred to, found that both legend and folk-lore as well as history prove that this was once a populous Indian village located at the big spring, the site chosen, no doubt because of the spring and its beauty as a camping spot.

The Baxter County Fair Association having this material, proposed to use it as a basis on which to present a panoramic and scenic revival of the reception given De Soto by Chief Ozarkus - - who ruled over the Province of Coligoa at that time - at the annual fair to be held in Buford from September 2 to 5, 1913.

The following extract from "An Original Account of De Soto's Journey Through Arkansas" by a gentleman of Elvas, first published in 1557 in Elvora, Spain, gives in part that which relates to that village when visited by De Soto in October in 1543.:

"The governor (de Soto) again came to Quiqante * * The cacique (chief) and his two wives were in the lodgings of the governor when he asked them which way the country was most inhabited? They said that toward the south were great towns and much people. And that toward the northwest, there was a province in certain mountains that was called Coligoa. The governor and all the rest thought it good to go first to Coligoa, saying that peradventure the mountains would make some difference in the soil and that there might be gold and silver.

The Indians of Coligoa had knowledge of the Christians (De Soto's band) and when they

came near the town, by the command of the cacique (Chief Ozarkus), within three days came many Indians with presents of mantles and deer's skins and two ox hides, and they reported that five or six leagues to the north there were many of these oxen (buffalo?)

The town of Coligoa stood at the foot of a hill on the banks of a river of the bigness of Cayas, the river that passeth by Estremadura. It was of fat soil and so plentiful of maize that they cast out the old to bring in the new. There was a great beauty of French beans and pompions. The French beans were greater and better than those of Spain and likewise the pompions and being roasted they have almost the taste of chestnuts."

We can give but little of the original account which may be referred to in "Vol 1 of the Publications of the Arkansas Historical Association. However, De Soto found at the town of Coligoa, which was located where Cotter now stands, two other good things. As a promotion of the Fair, the Fair Association sealed the name of the other "two good things" and ran a contest and as a reward a free ticket good for every day at the county fair in 1913 was to be awarded.

--Baxter Bulletin June 13 1913 Issue

*GHOST SEEN IN
SHOAL CREEK HOLLOW*

*APPARITIONS APPEAR
NIGHTLY IN
FORM OF A WOMAN*

The neighborhood around Shoal Creek, near Norfolk, has been thrown into great excitement during the past week by a ghostly apparition which has been appearing nightly in that neighborhood in the vicinity of an old still house, long ago abandoned. From the reports of the people who claim to have seen the strange phenomenon, they state that it appears in the shape of a headless woman dressed in flowing robes of pure white; and that it not only appears as walking on the ground but glides above the ground in spectral silence at times rising above the timber. When it appears on the ground, it is of small form, appearing to expand into an ethereal mist as it rises but still keeping its shape. There is much conjecture as to the personality of the ghost, some claiming that is

the departed spirit of some woman who husband dissipated his life away in the early days at the old still.

Three persons claim to have seen the ghostly visitor at close range. They are Joe Fowler, Wm. Lance and Bill White, all farmers who live in the neighborhood. A few nights ago Joe Fowler, hearing of the nightly visits of the ghostly visitor, went in company with a few others to watch it. It appeared as reported, so they say, and swept directly over Fowler's head. As it passed over him, he made a slash at it with a knife but the blade came in contact with nothing earthly and he was smothered down to the ground choking.

In an interview with Bill White a few nights ago he stated that while on his way home, just as he came to the ford of Shoal creek he looked up and in the gathering dusk saw what appeared to him two women dressed in white coming down the road on the other side of the creek. They came to the ford and in ethereal silence crossed the water, as Bill said, "without makin' nary ripple". Across, they turned up the bank and through a panel gate into the field. The gate was not opened by them and he could see the panels as they passed into the field through their misty ghostly forms.

-- June 13 Edition of the Baxter Bulletin

*DAVID CROCKETT, AS I KNEW
HIM
BY
UNCLE BILLY RIDGEWAY OF
BUFORD, ARKANSAS*

As reported in the San Antonio Texas Express
1912

William Alexander Ridgeway, who was 87 years old in 1912, is the last living man who knew Davy Crockett, famous trapper, hunter and hero of the Alamo, who died defending the old mission.

Mr. Ridgeway tells of Davy Crockett:

"Davy Crockett was a large man, more than six feet in height and weighed near 200 pounds, but was not fleshy. He was one of the wittiest men I ever heard make a speech, and I hear him make his last public speech while canvassing for a second term in Congress. Crockett was a No-Party man but always opposed Andrew Jackson.

The Congressional District in which he lived was largely Democratic. I think he had an opponent the first time, but I have forgotten, as I was quite a small boy; but I remember well the name of the man he unsuccessfully ran against for a seat in Congress. Adam Huntsman, a one-legged lawyer from Madison County, Texas.

Huntsman was a Democrat and a great friend of Jackson and his wooden leg was the reason he beat Crockett, who contended Jackson should not have vetoed the United States Bank Bill. It was about the time of the beginning of the great controversy between the two parties; Whig and Democrat. Crockett was so witty and kept the crowd so constantly in hearty laughter that, though a boy, as I said, my attention was attracted and riveted and I recall very well some of Crockett's remarks as he closed. He said Huntsman had accused him of saying that if beaten he "might go to hell" and he would go to Texas: He said: "Now Huntsman, I didn't say that. I said "you may go to Congress and I will go to Texas". History shows how he made his word good.

It is said Crockett had but little education; he was entirely a self made man. He served one term in the legislature-I think he then lived in Madison County Even then he was famed as a frontiersman and a great hunter of wild game. His last residence was in Gibson County, Tenn.

Crockett was not a dissipated man. At that time whisky was as common as spring water, almost, and at the speech-makings, during political campaigns, it was a common custom for candidates to treat the crowd. Huntsman accused Crockett of being a whiskey man and the latter took occasion not long after to pay back the one-legged candidate.

One night they both remained at the same place. Huntsman's false leg was not made of cork but of some kind of light wood. It was the fashion for men to wear pants very large, or voluminous, but short in length, coming a little below the calf of the leg. Crockett obtained a coal of fire and laid it on Huntsman's leg after they had retired and the latter had fallen asleep. The coal burned a black place as large as a dollar and of course the lawyer's pants were too short to hide the burned place. I remember Crockett saying: "Now, Huntsman has been accusing me of being a whiskey man. We stayed at the same man's house and I had a little whiskey just for my stomach's sake. Huntsman got hold of it, got drunk and fell in the fire,

burning his leg. Don't you see the place?" Sure enough it was plain to be seen.

True name of Davy Crockett was a popular byword when I was a boy. Many children were named Crockett. I had several cousins bearing that name. There is a station on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad near where I once lived and where one of the Crockett shanties stood, a place he would use for a camp while hunting, called Crockett Station, so christened after the railroad was built. The passengers would get an ax and cut off pieces for souvenirs and when I left that country it had disappeared, every piece, every splinter, everything had been taken away.

Crockett County Tennessee was formed, with ten miles square from four other counties, to honor Davy Crockett. It's county seat is named Alamo in honor of the hero's memory.

My uncle was Crockett's neighbor for many years. One time Davy's hound dog was rummaging in my uncle's outdoor kitchen (or camp) and my Uncle killed the dog. He had the job of telling Davy about the dog's death. He said: "Crockett always was a good neighbor and now he will be mad at me for killing his dog. I must go and apologize to him, telling him I was sorry I killed it." Early next morning he went over to Davy's and after exchange of greetings, my uncle said: "Well, Davy, I killed one of your dogs who was rummaging in the pots and pans in my camp last night. I was out of temper and I am sorry I did it."

"Dick, what kind of a dog was it?" asked Crockett. My uncle described the dog. "Well, Dick, That was my main bear dog, but I reckon I'd have done the same". said Davy, without seeming the least offended at my uncle for killing his chief dog.

In 1880 I traveled in Texas and stopped one day with a man named Smith. Smith told that his father told him that Crockett had become displeased with General Houston for some cause and that when Houston sent a courier to Crockett to know if he wanted reinforcements, Crockett told him he could hold the Alamo with what men he had. An American woman was in the Alamo at the time of the siege. After Crockett and all his men were killed, the Mexicans told her that Crockett killed sixteen of them before they killed him. They said it was a pity to kill as brave a man as Crockett.

I have seen John Crockett, son of Davy, several times. He was a brilliant lawyer of Tennessee, but died before he was 50 years old.

Bobby Crockett, son of John died a few years ago at Stuttgart, Ark. and I was told he was the best of men.

If Davy Crockett had lived until Texas had gained her independence, I believe he would or could have been President of the United States, and it would be good for the country if we had such men as Davy Crockett to administer the affairs of our Government.

--W. A. Ridgway - His story was written in 1912 at the request of his grandson T. H. Ridgway, an attorney at San Antonio and printed in the "Sunday Express"

William A. Ridgway's father John Ridgway, was born in Halifax County, Virginia on August 8 1791, and was the son of James Ridgway, whose father came to this county when 14 years old. John Ridgway died in 1872, when 81 years old. It is a long-lived family. Mr. Ridgway's grandparents were all more than 80 years old at the time of death. His paternal grandmother is said to have lived to the ripe old age of 104, and had the unusual experience of living to see her grandchildren's grandchildren.

Ed.: A biography published in 1834 tells that David Crockett was born in Limestone Tennessee, on the Nolackucky River on August 15 1786 and died at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas on March 6 1836. He was sent to school at age 12, but after a quarrel on the fifth day left school and fled from home to avoid his father's wrath. He roamed for 5 years and then returned home, attended school for two months and learned his "letters" *****

RAILROAD HOBOS

In every bluff along the White River Division of the railroad can be seen the evidence of hobo camps. The hobos traveling over this section of the country do not resort to the barns as a place of shelter for the night, but to caverns in bluffs of which there are many.

At one place a couple of gates have been arranged in a cavern in such a shape as to form a bed. At another, rough boards have been thrown together into a pen about seven feet high, an overhanging ledge of rock making a roof. The White River Division has been a favorite trail this winter for the down and outs, between the North and the South.

--May 7 1914

You don't need references to borrow trouble.

A NOSTALGIC LIMERICK

*The demise of the catalog from
Sears
Has brought me to the brink of
Tears
It seems that for
Ages
I've perused it
Pages
And used it out "back" for
years!
---Anon

I.O.O.F.*

The Odd Fellows celebrated the 95th Anniversary here on Saturday May 7 1914. Gus Sewall of Yellville, who was down as principal speaker, failed to arrive and his place was taken by Capt. B. F. Bodenhamer and Joseph Ward, both local Odd Fellows. The Mountain Home Band was engaged for the occasion and kept things lively. The Odd Fellows all formed in regalia on the square and marched to the College where they were joined by the student body and all marched to the City Park near the public school where the program was given. A great many Odd Fellows from different lodges in this section were present.

--Editor: Was the anniversary celebrated above the 95 year of Mountain Home area Odd Fellows or was this the anniversary of the Grand Lodge?
Does anyone know?

*

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

When researching in old newspapers you might come across the following abbreviations often: "Inst" and "Ult"

"Inst" comes from "instant" and means the present or current month. E.g. "Married on the 17th inst. by Rev. Schramm were John Smith and Mary Jones."

"Ult." is the abbreviation for "ultimo" which means of or occurring in the month preceding the present month, that is the previous month. E.g., "on Wednesday, the 29th ult., the telegram arrived."

--Adams Co. Gen Soc., Quarterly Newsletter via Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois.

THE TRACY FAMILY OF BAXTER COUNTY

The Tracy name is a well known and respected name in Baxter County history. This pioneer family is known to have settled in Baxter County prior to 1850.

The earliest known Tracy ancestor of the Baxter County Tracys is believed to be James Tracy, a French soldier who came to America with General Lafayette to assist the Colonies in their struggle with the British during the Revolutionary War.

Polly (last name unknown), who was to become the wife of James Tracy, lived in Charleston, South Carolina, at the time of the Revolutionary War Battle at Charleston. She had gone to the battlefield to search for loved ones among the war dead. She noticed a young French soldier who had been left for dead, but was in fact, still alive. She took him to her home where she nursed him back to health. They were later married. According to the family story, the soldier was the son of the Count of Duchy of Tracy, which is located north west of Paris, France. James was one of General Lafayette's soldiers who came to the aid of the Colonists in their struggle with the British during the Revolutionary War. The Tracy's, in order to escape the ravishes of the war around Charleston, relocated to Spartanburg, North Carolina. James and Polly died in North Carolina.

Their son, Nathaniel H. Tracy, married Polly Ann Henry who died 1869. Nathaniel is reported in Spartanburg, NC in 1830 as a grocery store owner. He was also the owner of several slaves. Between 1840 and 1850 Nathaniel and most of his family began a westward trek that was to take them as far west as the Indian Territory before they finally decided to settle in Bennett's Bayou in what is now Baxter County. Here he again followed his trade and opened a general mercantile store.

The store became the scene of death and destruction. After the "Emancipation Proclamation", "freed" blacks, who had been given free "booze" by the Bushwhackers, entered the store and proceeded to destroy the contents. No amount of pleading by James T. Sr. could

stop the destruction. The rioters knocked James T. Sr. to the floor and he was stomped to death.

James T. Tracy, Sr., who was the son of Nathaniel H. and Polly Ann, was born about 1818. He had remained in Spartanburg possibly to operate the family grocery, until his father was settled. He joined his father in Bennett's Bayou about 1850. He married first Elizabeth Fulcher and they had 5 children; Jesse Harrison "Harry"-born about 1839, Nathaniel H.-born about 1841, Joseph-born 1843, William born about 1846 and Olive born about 1848. Elizabeth died after 1850. James Sr. then married Rebecca James, daughter of James S. and Latha James. They had one son James Terrell Tracy, Jr. He was born December 28 1860 in Baxter County. Rebecca died about 1861-reportedly of "Milk Leg"

A family story tells of James T. Sr, hiding a pot of gold to prevent thieves and bushwhackers from finding it. He had his old slave "Nigger Ben" carry it some distance. He then told Ben to return to the house and not look back. James T. then took the gold further into the night and buried it. He never told anyone where he had hidden it. After he was killed by rioters in his store, the gold was never found. However, the land was later sold and the purchaser was suddenly able to pay off his mortgage. It is believed he may have found the gold.

James Terrell Tracy, Jr. married Betty Frances Douglas on 16 July 1886 in Baxter County. She is the daughter of William A. and Abbie Jane (Dickerson) Douglas. Her father, William A. (born November 8 1837) had a farm in the country. On June 28 1890, while on their way to town from the farm, the horse shied, overturning the carriage. William A. was fatally injured. He was buried in what is known as the Douglas Cemetery. William A. had served with the Confederate States Army in the War between the States. He had been captured and was held prisoner in Illinois. He met Abbie Jane in Illinois. She lived in Pama, Christian County, Illinois. They had fourteen children. The children were: Sarah Elizabeth born 1858, James Burton born 1864, George Franklin born

1865, Tennessee born 1867, Betty Frances born 1869, John Albert born 1872, Melinda Jane born 1874, Thomas Levey born 1877, Charles Walter born 1880, Mary Cooline born 1882, Mettie May born 1884, Robert Granville born 1886, Hattie Ann born 1889 and Laura E. born 1889. He had brought his family to Baxter County about 1860 after being in the Indian Territory and in Texas for a few years.. William A. Dickerson's father was D. F. Dickerson, born in 1817 in Indiana.

Abbie Jane was best remembered by her children and grandchildren for her visits when she would come with a basket, wearing her bonnet and apron and a riding habit. She would be riding side saddle on "Old Duster", her riding horse. When she suddenly became a widow, she marshaled her sons together, took command of her life, stifled her grief and accepted the challenge of life without her husband.

In 1897 James T. Jr. had moved his family to Mountain Home where he operated a mercantile business on the west side of the square for about 40 years. He was much admired in the town. When he died, all of the businesses in town closed for his funeral. He sold many articles, among the items were lead for bullets, candy, plow points, rakes, seed corn, yardage material, etc. He also owned a farm on Tracy Ferry Road and often retreated to the farm to escape the life in town and possibly, the nine females in his family.

James T. Jr. and Betty Frances had 10 children: May Olive born 1888, Albert Leslie born 1891, Ethel Rebecca born 1892, Tillie Faye born 1894, Nellie Belle born 1895, James Monta born 1897, Virgie Pearl born 1899, Ruby Inez born 1900, Jewell Gertrude born 1902 and Laura Gem born 1906. He was a life long member of the Methodist Church.

Betty Frances was a very outspoken women. She was also a warm and loving but not demonstrative lady. She cared for everyone and was always ready to help feed, and clothe many needy people. She had a natural healing ability. At an early age she had nursed her family, who were stricken by Typhoid Fever, without contacting the disease herself. She had a good basic knowledge of beneficial herbs and practical nursing and employed them to take care of her family. She also had great interest in her flowers and garden.

James Terrell Jr. and Betty Frances had 31 grandchildren. Several of James Terrell Tracy,

Jr. descendants still live in the Area. Among these are their daughters Nellie Belle (Tracy) Mitchell, whom at the age 97, still operates a news stand on the square in Mountain Home and Jewell (Tracy) Nelson.

--Information and research for this article came several sources including excerpts taken from the booklet "A History of the Tracy Family in America" written by Jane (Jones) Anundson written in 1973.

--Gene and Margie Garr

First Neon signs in Mountain Home were installed at Hackler Chevrolet and at Leo's Service Station.

--Baxter Bulletin, December 24 1937 Issue

FIRST ALFALFA HAY IN BAXTER COUNTY

The Baxter Bulletin of November 1 1912 reported that Alfalfa hay was still growing on the J. Will Baker Farm near mountain home. The first seed brought to Baxter County was brought from Colorado in 1887 and is still in evidence 25 years later.

CUB SCOUTS LITERN HISTORY

The Cub Scouts, meeting at St Peter Catholic Church on March 29, 1993, heard a talk on early Baxter County history by Editor Gene Garr. He told the scouts about the early history of the county and the town of Mountain Home. They viewed a model of of the Buford Blacksmith shop.

ONE LONG FENCE!

On May 1 1914, the Baxter Bulletin reported what it claimed was the longest fence ever constructed in this part of the state.

W. C. McCabe, who owned 7000 acres of land in the corner of Baxter, Stone and Searcy counties near Big Rock, is building a 15 mile hog and cattle tight woven wire fence. His fence will enclose a great many small farms in the mountains in the vicinity of Big Flat.

THE HISTORY OF THE HEISKILL CEMETERY

By Max Parnell

The Heiskill Cemetery is located about one quarter to one half mile east of Arkansas Highway 126 between Buford and Buffalo in what was once the Laytonville Community. The original road from Buffalo through Laytonville to Buford passed alongside the east side of the cemetery.

It is unclear when the Heiskill Cemetery was first used. Earlier histories have indicated that the oldest marked grave was that of George Heiskill. Born April 18, 1859, Died March 20 1872. When a survey was being made of the cemetery in April 1992, a child's grave was found that apparently had previously been overlooked since it was not listed on earlier surveys. The inscription on that small marker under decades of mold reads as follows: William Heiskill, born April 1 1860, died June 7, 1863. His burial may have been the first, or some of the graves that were marked only with field stone's may have been there even earlier. The Beavers, Casteel, Covington, Cunningham, Fletcher, Haney, Heiskill, and Sinor families account for most of the burials. All of those families were early day settlers of the area.

It was assumed by many that the Heiskill Cemetery was named for the family that donated the land, but apparently it was named in honor of the first family to bury a family member there. Mr. Jackie Cooper of the Baxter County Abstract Office in Mountain Home did some research and found that the first Heiskill shown to own the land, made the purchase in 1902. According to Mr. Cooper, John H. Hems purchased the 80 acres of which the Heiskill Cemetery is now part. on May 1, 1860. No Heiskill had been shown as owning it prior to that date. On February 1, 1864, Hems sold it to Laban J. Beavers, who did not move to North Arkansas until 1869. In March 1873, Laban J. Beavers and his wife Febe Ann sold the 80 acres, except for two acres for a cemetery to David Jordan. That land transaction is the only one that has ever shown a mention of the cemetery which is known as the Heiskill Cemetery. To even make the mystery even more suspenseful, Laban John Beavers died in January 1877 while still living in the same area,

but it is unknown if he was buried in the Heiskill Cemetery (for which he made an exception on the deed) or somewhere else. Because of Court House fires, the land record for the tract is missing from 1873 until 1883 when William R. Casteel made the 80 acres over to his wife Martha A. Casteel. Apparently David Jordan had sold the land to William R. Casteel, or Casteel had purchased it from a subsequent purchaser. Martha A. Casteel later sold the 80 acres to Heiskill, and he patented it in July 1902. That was the first time that an official patent was made on the land even though earlier ownership had been registered in County Offices.

Burials in the cemetery have been light in recent years. from 1970 through 1979, nine people were interred there, and five people have been buried since 1979. The Heiskill Cemetery Committee has been making improvements in recent years. One of the latest projects have been the identifying of as many unmarked graves as possible, and the erection of permanent markers for those graves. So far, 38 graves previously marked only by fieldstones have been identified and marked with permanent markers. With these 38, there are now 115 marked graves in the cemetery. There are at least 36 graves that are unidentified, with the possibility that the number is greater because some grave locations may have been lost over the years. In addition to the 115 marked graves, three future burial sites for widows of men buried there are marked through the use of double markers.

Ed: Max is a new member of the Society. The latest inventory of the Heiskill Cemetery was made 31 August 1992 by Eudell and Sue Fletcher, Route 8, Box 484, Mountain Home, AR. 72653. Sue is also a new society member

Max also furnished the Society a complete inventory of the Galatia Cemetery]

OLD TIME REMEDY

To cure the itch: Thicken homemade lard with sulphur and a few drops of whiskey. Spread over entire body for several hours. "Scratch No More." BURN all used clothes and put on clean ones

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FLAG HOLDERS

Flag holders on Civil War graves were provided in the north by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, an auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of veterans of the Union Armies of the Civil War.

Neither organization is now listed as active. Figures on the flag holders represent the wife and child of a veteran, an Army and Navy veteran shaking hands and a wounded veteran. There is an eagle, representing peace-and an ax, representing war. The number 61 is inscribed at the bottom- representing 1861, the year the war began. The flag holder issued by the Grand Army of the Republic is much simpler with a five pointed star with symbols for the infantry (crossed rifles), artillery (crossed cannons) Navy (an anchor), cavalry (crossed sabers) musicians (bugler) in each star point. Inside a double set of rings were the dates 1861, and 1865. Replicas of these flag holders may be purchased through monument dealers.

--courtesy of Wisconsin State old Cemetery Society.

CCC RECORDS AVAILABLE

Civilian Conservation Corps were established in the 1930s during the depression. Over three million young men between the ages of 18 and 25 were inducted into this Corps. They engaged in public construction and conservation while learning vocational skills.

CCC records available are two types: Personal Records and records of Work Projects and Camps.

To obtain a personnel record, you will need the enrollee's date of birth, year entered, location of camp; and company number. A written signature of the member is required or proof of this death. Write National Personnel Records Center, Civilian Personnel Records, 111 Winnebago St., St. Louis, Mo. 63118 for proper forms and fees.

Records of Work Projects and Camps are found in the National Archives Collection under (1) Forest Service, Record Group 95; (2) Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49, which includes the Grazing Service and Surveyor General Records, (3) Soil Conservation Service, Record Group 114; (4) Fish and Wildlife Service Record Group 22; and (5) National Park Service

Record Group 79. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 79 covers CCC activities on the Indian Reservations.

Info from *"The Archives-A guide to the National Archives Field Branches"* by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargraves Leubking, published by Ancestry, Salt Lake City, UT. 1988

WORKING ON YOUR ESTATE PLANS?

Are you working on your estate planning? If so, you might consider remembering the Baxter County Historical Society, Inc.

There are some advantages to sharing your estate with a organization such as the Society. And of course, there are many benefits when you share your resources so that others may benefit in the future from our organization.

You should check with your legal and tax consultants for your specific situation.

TAPS - LIGHTS OUT

Taps is probably the most popular of all bugle calls used in the Armed Services. It was written during the Civil War, by General Daniel Butterfield, a talented musician. In July 1862, heavy losses had been suffered, the men were discouraged and homesick. The General, hearing the lack of harmony in the "lights out" call that had been used since the early days of West Point, started combining notes in his mind and copying them down with a pencil on an old envelope. He sent for his brigade bugler, Oliver W. Norton, and whistled the notes over and over until Norton was able to blow the music well. That night the new melody was heard throughout the valley. It was so well received that it was officially named the "Lights Out" call and was printed in Army Regulations.

*The best time to do something is
between yesterday and tomorrow.*

*Friendship fills up those little ruts in
life's road.*

BOOK REVIEW

"THE BATTLE FOR
THE BUFFALO RIVER"

A Twentieth-Century
Conservation Crisis
in the Ozarks

By Neil Compton

[Fayetteville: University of Arkansas

Press 1992. Pp xii, 481 \$50.00]

Review by Tom Dearmore

Not often does a man affect the course of history and then live to be the historian of his achievement. In this volume, Neil Compton gives a full account of the marvelous rescue of a national treasure--the Buffalo River and its environs in North Arkansas. Here, the primitive majesties and delicate beauties of yesteryear are found, as in no other part of the Ozarks. Here, the battle was joined over a proposal of the Army Corps of Engineers to erect two mammoth hydroelectric dams that would have flooded much of the scenic valley. The pro-dam forces lost twenty years ago, owing mainly to the organizational and inspirational efforts of Dr. Compton.

Indeed, it may be said that the Buffalo valley is to the Ozarks what Yosemite is to the Sierras--a special, transfixing spectacle. And it may be said that Neil Compton is to the Buffalo what John Muir was to Yosemite and other western treasures--the man most responsible for ensuring preservation. He is modest in this book and gives credit to dozens of others who sacrificed heavily of time and treasure in the effort to save the river from the dams. It sometimes seemed like a hopeless endeavor, especially in the fight against fervent dam supporters in the Marshall area. The story of Compton's victory is a tale of tenacity on his part. In this well-illustrated book, we see him as a boyish type in 1932 standing in the Buffalo; at the end, we see him as a man of eighty, having spent a lifetime enjoying and defending the river. He recounts how his first trip to the "unknown Buffalo" sixty years ago implanted in him "the seed of interest" that brought him to pursue the verities of nature, not only in the Ozarks, but worldwide (p. 40)

But those other dams and their lakes were popular; the program was advocated in Congress as one resembling the Tennessee Valley

Authority, a project to create a new industrial and tourist economy in a poor region that was losing small farms by the thousands. However, as damming of the Buffalo approached, many people began to see that stream as a necessary exception to concrete-and-steel economics. Time had stood still along much of that valley, with its rich forest and varied minerals, and its major archeological treasures. More and more canoeists were enraptured by it. One could imagine, beyond the campfire in a remote stillness, Indians standing in the shadows. It was almost as they had left it.

This Bentonville physician brought the priceless ambiance to life for thousands of people as he spoke far and wide against the dams, showed color movies and slides, debated the dam issue and implored politicians. Finally, when the anti-dam movement swelled, The Ozark Society was formed under his leadership in 1962, mainly to protect the Buffalo, and waffling members of Congress began to see the preservation side. National attention was gained when US. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and artist Thomas Hart Benton, having floated the river, came to its defense. Governor Orval Faubus finally endorsed the national park concept. The Ozark Society learned the ropes in Washington and Little Rock and enlisted J. William Fulbright and John Paul Hammerschmidt to press for legislation to establish the Buffalo as a national river. Even as President John F. Kennedy was criticizing opposition to federal dams in his dedication of Greers Ferry Dam at Heber Springs in 1963, the president's own secretary of the interior, Stewart Udall, was working back in Washington to prevent the damming of the Buffalo.

Not is this tale of the triumph of aesthetics over cement a dull recitation; there is a literary beauty here. Dr. Compton has a gift for the singing line, and the book itself is a valuable gift of history that could only have come from a rich field of memory.

--Ed: Tom Dearmore is a new member of the Society and a very well known native local personality. He was co-editor and owner of the "The Baxter Bulletin" published in Mountain Home. After selling the Bulletin, Tom went on to many journalistic assignments, finally retiring as Editorial Page Editor of the San Francisco Examiner.

**DR. BEN SALTZMAN-COUNTRY
DOCTOR, TO ADDRESS SOCIETY
Builder of Mountain Home's 1st
Hospital**

Dr. Ben Saltzman, a native of Ansonia, Connecticut, who is a graduate of the University of Oregon Medical School and former Panama Canal Zone Army Doctor, was convinced by his brother-in-law, a doctor in Batesville, that Mountain Home would be the place of the future for a young doctor to practice.

He arrived in Mountain Home, a town of about 1200 located in a county with a population of about 8,000, in 1946, to find a hot, dusty town. The court house had just been built and the dust was very evident. To lure Dr. Saltzman here, he had been made promises of a new car and a house that would be made available to him. However, these promises did not materialize. But he moved into a small office that had served as the office for a doctor who had just retired. It was located on Sixth and Hickory street. The office contained a small potbellied stove and a burlap curtain that could be drawn across the room to provide an examining area. The building also contained a bed in the back where a person could lie down in an emergency.

He had intended to leave the town before he became rooted here, but the people turned out to be very good and friendly and his stay here became a life time.

As soon as he moved here, he was going night and day. For three years he was the only practicing physician in the area. Dr. Saltzman soon saw the need for more doctors in Mountain Home and Baxter County. He was averaging about four hours sleep a night and he feared the consequences if he became sick or incapacitated. He began promoting the idea of a hospital in the area. By taking on a partner, Dr. Gerald Pierce, and borrowing on his life insurance, a bit more from his father and a loan from a local bank, he was able to add an eight room hospital onto his clinic which had grown from the room with the burlap curtain.

It was in this small hospital that Dr. Saltzman began a practice that has become a national

trend; rooming newborn babies in the room with their mothers until they were ready to go home.

Dr. Saltzman was the chairman of a committee formed to bring Baxter County a County Hospital. When the first "enormous" 50 room County Hospital was constructed, Dr. Saltzman began converting his small hospital to office spaces and invited more doctors to join him in the clinic.

Dr. Saltzman has been active in local civic affairs, serving eight years on the Mountain Home City Council and a active member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary club. When he retired from his practice he became the chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Arkansas Medical School. At age 67, retiring from the University, he became the State Health Officer for six years. He then became Pulaski County's Health Officer. He has been involved with the Lung Association and Cancer Society, Arkansas Enterprises for the Developmentally Disabled, American Academy of Family Physicians, the editorial board of the Arkansas Medical Society Journal and in the drug prevention program for Rotary International

Dr. Saltzman will address the Baxter County Historical Society at the September 1993 meeting. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Saltzman join our long list of great speakers. We urge all our members to attend and hear this dearly loved Baxter County physician. Dr. Saltzman is also a member of our Society.

Rust ruins more tools than overuse does.

To find the exact location of your ancestor's homesteaded property, write the Civil Archives Division of the National Archives and Records Services, GSA, Washington, DC 20409. to learn if your state is one of the seven states where homestead records were cross indexed by the landowner's names. If you have an ancestor who acquired land under the 1862 Homestead Act, or bought land from the government, his application will be on file. The files include a four page questionnaire filled out by the homesteader listing names of family members and personal information

Part II

"I AM NOTHING BUT A POOR
SCRIBBLER"

SILAS TURNBO
AND HIS WRITINGS

By Lynn Morrow
Editor White River History Journal

TURNBO DOING HISTORY A
SERVICE

At age 63 Silas was in failing health and often punctuated his correspondence with, "If I live, I want..." Turnbo sent copies of his portrait taken in Yellville, Arkansas, to Connelley and tried to encourage Connelley's publishing plans by sending transcriptions of favorable comments on *Fireside Stories* from Ozarkers and Ozark immigrants in western states. For example, Ethan Smith wrote in response to Turnbo's stories in the newspapers forecasting, "Turnbo is doing a real service to history...His style to be commended - simple, direct in his expressions, he puts plain, neat clothes on his homely stories When another century has left its footprints upon the land of my boyhood home, some Walter Scott will arise, search out from some musty garret these simple folklore tales and weave them into a romance." F. P. Kirkpatrick of Carrollton, Arkansas, wrote, "His quaint way of putting things convinces me that he himself is one of the genuine old timers we all love so well."

In early July 1907, Turnbo wrote that he had "near 500 copies" of *Fireside Stories* but admitted that he had not tried to sell any books for months. He planned to leave several with White River merchants and continue working on more collecting and writing. He wrote, "I have penned their incidents down as they were given me," and by late July, 1907, Silas had given *Fireside Stories*, part three, to the editor of the *Harrison Times* for publication, but the manuscript remained unpublished. Continuing to work, Turnbo wrote Connelley that "I can write more regularly when the temperature turns cooler."

The summer heat did take its toll on the traveling gatherer of Ozarks lore. In August, 1907, he suffered a heat stroke and "went wild." Turnbo was four miles below Oakland, Arkansas, in Marion County, when young

Theodore Clark and his father, Lee Clark, discovered Silas lying unconscious on a road near the Pace Ferry crossing on White River. The elder Clark, a former Unionist, was hauling lumber in a wagon. He left his son to tend to Turnbo and drove his team to Oakland where he summoned Andrew Turnbo and a local doctor who drove his buggy, followed by Andrew, to the stricken Silas. Theodore Clark had poured two buckets of water over Silas and after a couple of hours all returned to Oakland: Andrew took his older brother back to daughter Elizabeth Herd's house at Pontiac. Silas, writing later in the year, claimed he felt the ill-effects of his August heat stroke into late fall.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY, 27 ARKANSAS
CONFEDERATE INFANTRY.

By November, 1907, after Turnbo had read several of Connelley's complimentary books, Silas asked Connelley to be free in his editing of his Ozark stories. "You can arrange it in a way you think best, I leave it with your judgment. If the headings are not appropriate you are at liberty to change them and if you deem it proper you can consolidate the very short stories, say two or three or more to one...It might be that some of the accounts are not exactly correct but I do not think that if they are not precisely correct they are not far wrong." Silas hoped to be finished with his Ozark stories soon and to begin writing a regimental history of the 27th Confederate Arkansas Infantry. He told Connelley that "It would be best to have a copyright which I want done in both of our names."

In December, 1907, Silas wrote his "Much Esteemed Friend" Connelley. He sent more manuscript material that "completes nearly all the main part," except revisions and additions to his published *Fireside Stories*. Silas said "Part of it is badly written and bad composition, some of it badly spelled. Hope you will excuse me for it." Silas now turned his attention to his partial Civil War diary and his "defective memory" and began his regimental history.

Connelley wrote on December 29 1907, that he though he could publish the Civil War account as soon as Turnbo sent it. Silas responded that he would "keep battering away at the history of it until I complete it." In June, 1908, Turnbo mailed his finished Civil War

chronicle from Cotter, Arkansas, to Connelley in Topeka.

For six years, 1902-1908, Silas Turnbo had actively collected Ozarks lore, published two *Fireside Stories*, prepared a third volume, written his regimental history, and entertained hopes that Connelley would publish more of his material by sending unsold copies of *Fireside Stories* to Connelley for use as promotional books. During this time his base of operations had been his daughter's home near Pontiac.

By Fall, 1908, Silas and Tilda began alternating their stays among other children and Silas would receive permission for intermittent stays at the Missouri Confederate Soldiers Home in Higginsville. The Oklahoma Confederate Home at Ardmore refused to admit him because he was not a native of Oklahoma. Silas spent several weeks, February 25, 1909 - April 7 1909, in Higginsville.

Over the next fifteen years, Silas occasionally returned to the White River Valley... Although Turnbo wrote in July 1911, that is was "my intention to spend the rest of my days in the White River hills where I was born and reared," he would remain dependent upon kin folks for support. He split his time with daughter Elizabeth at Pontiac and sister Margaret Jones at Protem; daughters Mary Ann Jones and Fanny Jones (who had married brothers) at Broken Arrow, Hadley, and Jenks, Oklahoma; and son James F. Turnbo in Montoya, New Mexico (son George Turnbo lived for a time at Big Cabin , Oklahoma, but died in 1916). Sometimes his wife Tilda traveled with him.

In February, 1909, Connelley wrote that he had visited several metropolitan publishing houses in the upper Midwest and Northeast. He claimed that there was some interest among New York publishers for Turnbo's stories; however, Connelley qualified potential optimism saying that "the publishing houses were full of material which they had not yet used . . . but it depended entirely on the manner in which I sent the material to them." He added, "I feel sure that I can send it in such form that it will be pleasing to them. Meanwhile, Connelley mailed a copy of *Sports Afield* to Turnbo. At year's end, December, 1909, Connelley sent his new book, *Quantrill and the Border Wars*, as a Christmas present.

During the next several years the frequency of correspondence between the two men

decreased. In spring 1912 in Oklahoma, Silas worked briefly soliciting subscriptions for the *Kansas City Star*. He said the *Star* attracted his attention for its ban on whiskey advertisements (one of famous editor W. R. Nelson's campaigns). Connelley in August, 1912, asked Silas for information on the location of good zinc or lead mining property for sale. A level-headed Silas responded that the larger sales were conducted only by speculators and that investments "did no pay out well."

In November, 1912, Silas moved again to the Confederate Home in Higginsville... Connelley sent him a copy of Harold Bell Wright's *Shepherd of the Hills*, published in 1907. The Ozark chronicler had not seen the book, in fact, he said, "I did not know that such a book was in existence." Silas had never traveled in northwest Taney or Stone counties except by railroad. He concluded, "The language used [by Wright] is in good plain style. I like the book well."

Turnbo left Higginsville in mid-March, 1913, for son James' residence in Montoya, New Mexico. Connelley wrote about being in Boston to seek a publisher for his new book, *The Life of Preston B. Plumb*. Finally, in April, 1913, Silas wrote, "Say, Mr. Connelley, if you will deem the articles I sent you worthy of notice..I would be glad to sell the articles to you. I have run short of means is the reason I propose this." Within a week Connelley replied, "I should like to have an idea of what the material is worth. I find that there is less and less money in books."

Connelley went on to describe the increasing difficulties in getting publishers to commit themselves to projects. On April 24, 1913, Silas responded that he did not have any idea what his material was worth. he admitted to the large expensive task of preparing his writings for any publisher, but considered Connelley a "fair and reasonable man" and thanked him for his many kindnesses. Silas' immediate problem, however, was the lack of train fare to return to Oklahoma; his son James was badly in debt and could not provide the ticket. Turnbo suggested, "If you can advance me twenty-five or thirty dollars on it and if it is worth any more you can send the rest some other time. If you do not think it is of any value to you I do not want anything for it.

- - -TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT QUARTERLY.

--Ed: Printed by permission of the author Lynn Morrow. Lynn is currently Editor of the White River Valley Historical Society Quarterly. He is also the supervisor of the State of Missouri's Public Records Preservation Program in the Secretary of State office. He and Jim Keefe are co-authors of a manuscript titled "The White River Chronicler": S. C. Turnbo's Man and Wildlife in the Ozarks Frontier"

DODGING BULLETS

FROM:
TURNBO'S TALES OF THE OZARKS, INCIDENTS,
MEAN TRICKS AND FICTITIOUS STORIES.

It is probable the following war incident may be put a little too strong but the author if it, Mr. Peter Keesee, assured me the account was given him by reliable authority. But I think there must be a slight mistake in the connecting links of the shooting of the man or men who did the shooting were very careless in their work or were in a hurry to get away. I leave it to the reader to make his own comments and if there should be a mistake in the account of it, I hope that someone who knows will make the proper corrections.

In giving the story, Mr. Keesee said Jim Hall was a brother of Willoughby Hall and a son of Dave Hall. One day in the year 1856, Jim Hall killed John Tolbert near Tolberts Ferry on White River, ten miles east of Yellville, Arkansas. John Tolbert was a son of Cimeron Tolbert. When the war broke out, Jim Hall was living on Gooleys Spring Creek just over the line in Missouri.

"One day during the war some of Mr. Tolbert's friends captured the murderer and took him to the foot of one of the Three Brothers in what is now Baxter County, Arkansas. The intention of the men was to put him to death by shooting. The man Hall was stout, robust and active and just before he was compelled to stand up before the firing line, he made up his mind to make a strong effort to dodge the bullets. When the men cocked their guns and aimed at him, he jumped, rolled, tumbled and whirled about so fast that he escaped the aims of the guns and the bullets inflicted only slight wounds.."

"Finally Hall became greatly exhausted in strength in repeating this so often that he resorted to another ruse to deceive his enemies by falling on his face as if he had been shot dead. The believed he was dead but after his

enemies stood around him a few seconds, one of the men concluded to make a test and see if life was really extinct and picked up a small stone and struck him a light blow on the head with it. He believed if there were life left, Hall would flinch from the effects of the rock but Hall never moved. Hall heard the man remark about the stone and he knew it would be death if he did move and nerved himself to bear the peck on the head the man gave him with the rock."

--Editor: This Turnbo Tale was sent to us along with a package of Talburt information by Society member Ron Talburt of Springfield. We appreciate receiving this interesting story.

*If the truth is in your way
you are on the wrong road*

TOM DEARMORE, EDITOR ADDRESSED SOCIETY

Tom Dearmore, former owner and editor of the Baxter Bulletin, addressed a large group at the April meeting of the Baxter County Historical Society. Many of Tom's old friends were in the audience of more than 50 people.

Tom's topic for his talk was his experiences as a young man growing up in a Newspaper family and its influence on his life. Tom's grandfather was Tom Shirras, who with his brother Ennis, owned the Baxter Bulletin for many years.

Tom has a lifetime of newspaper experience beginning with the Bulletin, then on to the Washington Star as Editorial writer and eventually becoming the editorial editor for the San Francisco Examiner. Tom is now retired and resides in Springfield, Missouri. Tom is a member of the Baxter County Historical Society.

This is an example of the fine and interesting speakers who have addressed our Society. Many other fine speakers are slated for future meetings. If possible, plan to attend one of our meetings and enjoy these great programs.

*A minute is a little thing,
But minutes make the day.
So crown in some kind deeds
Before it slips away.*

OOPS!
1880 MASONS CORRECTION

In Volume 18 Issue Number 4, on page 100 and 102, some of the members of the 1880? Masons of Gassville were incorrectly identified. Several members have written to correct the caption.

Member Richard Jones, who originally furnished the picture, has corrected our caption. The correct caption should show "1st Row: Center (wearing hat) is H. H. Hilton with Nehemiah Lamb to his immediate left and Capt. Toney to Nehemiah Lamb's left. T. O. Horn is on H. H. Hilton's right. H. H. Hilton was omitted in the original caption.

Member Bettie Byrd Hickman writes to tell us that the man sitting to the left of H. H. Hilton (man with hat on) in the front row is her great-great grandfather Nehemiah Lamb, not Capt. Hayes as shown. We regret the error and appreciate the corrections. Thanks much for setting us straight.

ARKANSAS GENEALOGY

For a brochure of "Historical & Genealogical Source Materials" from the Arkansas History Commission, write One Capital Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201. The Research room hours are Monday through Saturday 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Closed on all state holidays.

MORE OLD REMEDIES

To get rid of a toothache, try spitting into a frog's mouth, kiss a donkey or strangle a mole. If really desperate rub your face with cow manure.

For the more adventurous try obtaining a tooth from a murdered man or executed criminal and apply it to the aching tooth in a graveyard at midnight under a full moon.

--Academy of General Dentistry.

The Average person thinks he isn't.

Gossip is the "knife" of the party.

BLUE BLOODED PEOPLE

There is no "Blue Blood" but the term generally used in a complimentary sense as denoting gentle birth, does really hark back to color origin. Not of blood, though, the reference is to the color of the veins.

Families, who through several generations possess sufficient wealth to enable them to escape manual labor, developed skin of a very fine texture, and through the latter the veins show blue. That would be especially apparent in the hands and forearms. The skins of those who, unblest with wealth, had to work became hard, and the veins were hardly discernible.

Thus, although "Blue-veined" or "fine-skinned" would have been more correct, the term "blue-blooded" came into use to denote the aristocracy and, it would seem, from old writings, that it was the popular belief that the term expressed the literal fact.

FIRST BABY BUGGY BOUGHT

[Baxter Bulletin-March 7 1930 Issue]

Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Curlee, Mr. Curlee, age 78 and his wife, [formerly Miss Alice Smith age 70]. They married February 28 1880. They purchased the first baby buggy and the second cook stove in Baxter County.

He has been in the drug business in the county for 52 years and in Mountain Home for 39 years. They were married 50 years in 1930.

HISTORICAL PARK WORK BEGUN

During the month of May the reconstruction of the log cabin has begun. Several "Work days" days were held. With the assistance of the Park Dept, The logs have been sorted by size and the erection began.

Several nice donations have been received earmarked to the "Historical Park Fund". These are really appreciated!.

*You don't need references
To Borrow trouble*

SCOTTISH?

If you are of Scottish descent and would like to get a bimonthly newsletter, you should consider receiving the "Family Tree" published by the Allen Payne Odom Genealogy Library. The last issue was 34 pages! It contains a great amount of genealogy information for all genealogists. Subscription is free. Just write and request to be put on the waiting list. (The mailing list is confidential. They do not sell, trade or distribute its mailing list) A postage donation is greatly appreciated. Just write: Editor: The Family Tree", % The Odom Library, PO Box 1110, Moultrie, GA 31776-110

COMING IN NEXT QUARTERLY

SHIPPS FERRY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

*More New Members in 1993
since last quarterly*

[See Vol. 19 No. 1 for other 1993 members.]

Bob Qualls, Editor Baxter Bulletin, 16 West 6th St.
Mtn Home, AR 72653 425-3133
Robert Bell 702 E 2nd St. Mtn Home, AR 72653
425-4767
Jay Etta Blaesing, PO Box 65 Alden, MI, 49612
Marion Burnes, P.O.Box 365 Yellville, AR 72687
449-4514
Wanda Clutch, 708 Broadmoor, Mtn. Home, AR
72653
John Doshier 74 E. 11th St. PO box 123
Heber, CA 92249
Sue Fletcher Rt 8 Box 484 Mtn Home AR 72653
425-2662
Bob & Cleo Fouts, PO Box 53789 Fayetteville, NC
28305-3789
Virginia Hirsch, , Meadowbrook Dr. Mtn Home,
AR 72653 425-3400
Dixie M. Love, 802 Robards St. Shreveport, LA
71105
Gwen Khayat Rte 5 Box 111 Mt. Home, AR 72653
James Morris, 3605 Wren Ave Ft. Worth, TX 76137
Mary F. McVicker, 5503 Castle Pond Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78218
Max Parnell, PO Box 280072, Memphis, TN
38168-0072

*To become perfect just follow the
advice you gave others.*

TAX RECORDS-AID TO GENEALOGY

One method in tracing those dead ends ancestors, is to consider a search of the tax records where you suspect they may have lived. Often you can examine the tax lists to find an obscure ancestor or with the tax records you can prove that he lived or owned land in a certain area.

Since before the Revolutionary War days, tax lists have been compiled. Some early taxes were imposed for land ownership, merchandise brought in to the country, for furs exported, etc.

Later voters in many areas were required to pay their taxes levied in the year preceding the coming elections. Slaves were taxed in many southern states.

So if that ancestor seems to vanish in a certain location, try the tax lists. They might just give you the clue you need..

NEW BAXTER COUNTY RELATED BOOKS

"Growing Up in the Ozarks " is a new book by Dumas Payne, a native of the Norfolk Area.

The author reminisces about the ways of life around the Leatherwood and Push Mountains of the Ozarks. His book is available by writing Dumas Payne, RR 1, Box 64, Xenia IL 62899 Phone (618) 678-2802. Cost is \$18.95 in hardback and \$13.95 is soft back.

"Hatch, Match, and Dispatch" II, is now available from Margie Garr. This book continues indexing Births, Marriages and Deaths from "The Baxter Bulletin" published in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Book I covered the period December 20 1901 through December 31 1915. Book II covers period January 7 1916 through December 29 1922. Cost of Book II is \$16.00 plus \$2.00 mailing and handling. Margie's address is on inside cover.

CIVIL WAR MOVIE MADE AT NORFORK

The Ozark Mountains around Norfolk, Arkansas, was used as back drop for the motion picture drama "Thou Shalt Not Kill" made here by Geographics Photoplay Company of Hollywood, CA.

The production began when Director Raymond Wells, with other representatives, leased a building belonging to Mrs. M. L. Hogan, to serve as a studio.

"Local characters were used in some of the scenes while the cast of 20 was brought here from Hollywood. The work was expected to be completed in about three months. The pages of the Baxter Bulletin recorded the events as follows:

September 1927:

The first motion picture to be filmed in the Ozarks is being filmed in and around Norfolk. The peaceful scenes of that community have changed during the last two weeks. A troop of soldiers, forlorn and dispirited, in tattered gray uniforms, with bare toes bulging from travel-worn shoes, crossed the turbulent North Fork River in John boats above the old mill dam and trail up the river hill on the Iuka road.

At the crossroads they throw off their packs and stop to wait for a small troop of fatigued blue coats, in decrepit garb, also weary of war, trampling north. When the blue coats come up, they stop, bandy words, tobacco is handed back and forth, and both squads take up the weary march again. A Confederate colonel comes down the road on a roan mare and stops at a house for a drink. A girl comes out, draws a fresh bucket from the well, carries it out to him and he quenches his thirst from an old gourd dipper. One of the younger of the Buck family, who lives in the bottoms across White River on the Hutcheson farm, wades across the river at a shallow shoal, with murder in his heart and slays one of the Lily boys who lives up on the ridge on this side of the river.

Almost all are new scenes to this generation, and was all play, but they arouse memories of real scenes in the mind of the old veterans who

live in this section and who are taking active part and interest, as extras in the picture.

These scenes are being re-enacted now in "Thou Shalt Not Kill" which is being filmed on locations at and adjacent to Norfolk by the Geographic Picture Company of Hollywood. The village scenes all will be shot there. The rest of them, in the mountains along the White and North Fork rivers, adjacent to Norfolk. Raymond Wells, director of the company, says it will take two months longer to complete the present picture and that after it is completed, they may make several others here in the heart of the Ozarks.

When Wells arrived here a month ago, after having been in correspondence with the Chamber of Commerce at Mountain Home, and told the citizens of Norfolk he was going to shoot a picture there, they were skeptical. When he leased a building there for a laboratory and paid down the hard cash in advance, it made it look a bit more real. About 10 days ago, when he arrived with a half a carload of costumes and equipment, camera man, and assistants, the project became real and business began to pick up.

He immediately leased several of the oldest log houses in this area, made his locations and began hiring extras and started to work. From 25 to 80 extras have been working every day; they are paid in cash each night when the day's work is completed and the company throws in a good dinner extra. In some of the scenes yet to be taken, Wells states he will use as many as 300 extras, and he will find no trouble in getting them in this section as everyone now is hunting a job in this Baxter County Hollywood. The payroll now runs from \$150 to \$250 a day. Crops are laid by and there is nothing to do until gathering time. No one is overlooking the chance to work before the camera at good wages. Needless to say, business in the village is picking up, and all business men report better daily cash sales.

"Why did you select Norfolk and the mountains adjacent to it along the White and North Fork Rivers as a location for this picture, Mr. Wells?

"Thou Shalt Not Kill" is a mountain story, the prologue being laid immediately after the Civil war. On my search for a site, I was hunting out not only topography and types, but a real background for my story as well and I found them all here.

Local people who were taking some of the leading parts as extras are Isau Luther, Uncle Tom Hamilton, Ed Rouse, Charles Martin, Ed Cunningham, Paul Hogan, George DeVore and Mrs. Joe Martin. Norfolk was practically deserted one day recently when Wells sent out a call for 80 extras, which took a large part of the citizenship.

In a scene which called for a large number of men to take the part of Confederate and Union soldiers, some of the old Confederate veterans refused to drape themselves with blue and a half hour's argument resulted. Some of the younger generation had to step out of the gray uniforms and give them to the veterans before the scene could proceed.

September 30 1927:
Movie Feud is Ended:

Scenes similar to those which took place more than 100 years were enacted at Norfolk on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, inside and in front of the historic log house built a stone's throw south of the mouth of North Fork river by Major Wolf of White river in 1810. [Ed. Note: This date was later proven to be in the 1820s]

Going back a century this two story structure of hewn pine logs, with a huge fireplace at each end was the courthouse for a large part of North Arkansas. Horses were tied to the racks in front of the house, and so they were this week, as the Lilly family gathered and neighbors by the score heard the pleas to exterminate or not to exterminate the Buck family, feud rivals of the Lilly's

History has been turned back 100 years because a motion picture company has been making the film "Thou Shalt Not Kill" in the vicinity of Norfolk with the aid of about the whole countryside as extras.

In the story the Lilly family, which met at the old house this week to enact scenes, is dissuaded from exterminating the Buck family by Tom Lilly, circuit rider of the Lilly family, who uses as the theme of his pleas. "Thou Shalt Not Kill." Eventually he brings about a truce and ends the feud. The picture will be completed about October 20.

October 30 1927
New Star Found?

President Furst of Geographic Pictures predicts fine future for local boy in films.

If President Furst, of the Geographic Pictures Company, which is filming "Thou Shalt Not Kill" at Norfolk, is right in his prediction about Buddy Barton, the movies will have another child screen actor who will make a bigger success than Jackie Coogan. Buddy Barton, is the ten year old son of Hugh Barton, station agent at Norfolk, and takes the part of Buddy Lilly in the picture they are making. Mr. Furst says he has a camera face, displays remarkable intelligence for a child of his age, and takes a keen interest in his work. When they finish the picture Buddy and his mother will probably accompany them back to Hollywood, where he will be given a tryout in some vehicle best suited to his talent.

IN THE OZARKS

By Mae Lackey Campbell

Did you ever go a'fishing
In the mountains, deep in June,
Where the birds, the squirrels and fishes
And all nature seem to turn?
Where the speckled trout are leaping,
Blue-birds calling, torrents sweeping
'Tween the Ozark hills in Arkansas

Did you ever go a'camping
In the mountains, deep in June
Where the whip-poor-wills are calling;
Bull-frogs croaking at the moon?
Where the rippling waters lull you,
Dove's mournful notes enthrall you,
'Tween the Ozarks Hills in Arkansas

Did you ever go exploring
In the mountains, deep in June
Where o're crags a pal adoring
Guides your steps from morn till noon?
When you feast by springs at leisure,
Watch each moon-rise with new pleasure
'Tween the Ozark hills of Arkansas

*Some people dream of worthy
Accomplishments,
While others stay awake and
Do them.*

Another Baxter County Group's History:

*WELCOME WAGON CLUB &
WELCOME WAGON ALUMNAE
CLUB*

The **Welcome Wagon Club** of the Twin Lakes Area had its origins in 1878, having been started by Shirlene Tullgren, the Welcome Wagon International Representative. Its purpose was to provide a social outlet for the newcomers to the area, by acquainting the newcomers with other newcomers and the community itself. Its purpose was to assist the newcomers to get active in the many activities and common interests in other groups of the area. Janice Anderson was the first president.

The Welcome Wagon International has headquarters in Memphis and derives its profit from advertising through its Welcome Wagon activities; introducing new residents, new mothers and new brides to the products and services of the community. Membership to the Welcome Wagon Club was offered to each person contacted by the Welcome Wagon Representative.

The Welcome Wagon Club is a non-profit organization separate from the Welcome Wagon International, except it shares its name and trademark and is governed by By-laws established by the parent organization. Each local club's goals are to aid our country, our new community and form new and lasting friendships. Each year donations are made to various charitable organizations in the community.

The club, through the years, has participated in the Christmas Parade, sold a recipe book, distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, sponsored a girl scout troop and holding a silent auction, with proceeds donated to local charitable organizations.

Currently the Welcome Wagon Club meets monthly, holds three major events a year jointly with the Welcome Wagon Alumnae Club, which includes a Christmas Dinner-Dance, and sponsors various Bus trips for members.

The first years ended with the Club having 71 members. In 1993 there are 208. Club rules dictate that after a certain number of years, members graduate to membership in the Alumnae group. Currently the length of time in the Welcome Wagon Club is 4 years.

In 1981, those who had belonged to Welcome Wagon for three years were no longer eligible for membership. In April 1982, the group formally voted to organize in a club known as The Welcome Wagon Alumnae Club. Dorothy Jones was the first president.

Currently, the "Alumnae" group, among its many activities, has several luncheons a year, three special social events with the Welcome Wagon Club, and the bus tours. Like the Welcome Wagon Club, the group also adds its financial support to various local charitable organizations.

In May 1979 at the end of the first year, the "Alumnae" group numbered 71 members. Twelve of the original 71 still belong to the group in 1992. Total membership, now totals 182.

--Submitted by The Welcome Wagon Alumnae's Secretary, Pat Melsoln. Thanks so much, Pat!

Ed: Are you a member of the many clubs and service groups in Baxter County? If so, suggest to your group that their historian should submit their group's history to be recorded in our Quarterly.

*TALBURT LEONARD LOGS
TESTED*

On Saturday, May 29, 1993, Steve Sierzchula and Navada, Montagu, of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville's Tree Ring Laboratory, were at Cooper Park to take samples from the Cabin logs.

The samples will be taken back to the University and tests performed to ascertain the date of the logs. The lab will examine the samples taken from 10 logs at the site and will furnish a report on the age of the logs to the Society. Steve said that the lab would not only be able to determine the year the logs were cut, but would be able to determine the month as well. A report will be furnished to the Society upon completion of the testing.

*If you don't know where your are
going
You might miss it when you get
there*

TELEPHONE PIONEER TALKS TO SOCIETY

At the June meeting of the Baxter County Historical Society, Virginia Hirsch, age 96, veteran phone operator and former manager of the Mountain Home Telephone Company, addressed the group and told of the history of the Telephone Company in Baxter County.

The Mountain Home Telephone Company was purchased from the Southwestern Bell Company by Don Casey in August 1899 for the price of \$200. At that time it was known as the Intra States Telephone Company. Virginia's father E. Edwin Price Harned bought the company in November 1927. At that time the total number of phones in service was 56. He then changed the name of the company to Mountain Home Independent Telephone Company. By December of 1929 he had increased the plant to 86 stations. At that time the Mountain Home College was operating here.

During the depression of 1930 the stations dropped to 62 phones. Virginia came to assist her father in 1932 and shortly after, the office and her home burned. The company for a brief time after the fire was located in the Court House and then moved to a room over where the Oklahoma Tire and Supply was then located. To cope with the fire aftermath, the company established long distance toll service with a single line to Norfolk where the toll service was connected. Incoming messages were hand delivered to the customers. Local business lines were tied directly to their employees lines, similar to a rural party lines. They soon bought a new switchboard and reestablished service to all their customers.

In 1933 the company was housed in a new house which was floored only where the switchboard was located. The rest was a dirt floor. At that time they only had 46 telephone customers. An operator was hired to operate the switchboard.

In 1935 the Henderson Bridge was built. The company built a line to Henderson for the construction of the bridge. Total cost of the 18 mile single line to Henderson cost \$172. Cedar poles cost 30 to 50 cents each, wire was \$4.42 a hundred pound roll and labor was \$1.00 per day. After the Henderson line was completed, a rural line was extended to Three Brothers.

In 1939 The Army Corp of Engineers began drilling for the Norfolk Dam. Service was installed to their offices in the McClure building located over the Mountain Home Hotel (now the Dryer Building) at 6th and Main. Later a line was installed to the Norfolk Dam main construction office.

By 1942 customers had grown to 137. But due to war time, it was difficult to add more customers due to a lack of phones.

In August of 1946, the company was incorporated and the name changed to "Mountain Home Telephone Company." At that time the customer list had grown to 152 phones.

A new building was built in 1947 and in 1948 the line was built to the contractors office at Bull Shoals. The contractor who built the line over the rough terrain to the dam said that it was the first line he had built that had more guy wires than poles.

In 1949 \$15,000 of Preferred Stock was sold. In June of that year a new 3-position switchboard was bought. A loan was secured for an extensive construction program that was to run several years. In 1952 common stock was offered to the public. Dial service was established in Gamaliel in March of 1954, followed by Lakeview in July, Henderson in August and Norfolk in November.

In November of 1954, 849 telephone stations were in service. 16 employees were managed at that time by Virginia.

Virginia told of the old line to Norfolk and how it was built without setting poles by fastening wire to existing trees by an insulator. The line was extremely noisy in a rain storm when leaves brushed against the wire. It served Charley Luther, Hutchison Store, Hutchison Hotel, Swearingen's store and Dr. Sheid. The line had been built by the people that it served.

The Fire Siren for the town was located behind the Phone company.

Virginia has performed many tasks in the phone company's history. She installed phones, operated the switchboard, collected bills, solicited new customers. She had many interesting stories of incidents in the phone company history.

--Ed: Virginia Hirsch, at age 96, has just become a new member of our Society!
Welcome Virginia!

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, (county, major cities, 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 as space allows. Send queries to the president's address listed on the second page.

93-5 Linda Bower, 298 E. Lindbrook Ln.
Fresno CA 93720

Seeking info on **William A. Williams** b-1827 Tenn. Son of **Moses** and **Nancy Williams**. m-**Nancy Wilder** 1848. Lived in Tenn, KY, Ark for years, then died in Ore. Children: **Lizzie, Moses, Nathen, Frank, Louisa, John, James M., (Marthey ?) M. C., Henry, Luie, David, & Mary**

93-4 Juanita Rieger, 275 Luneta Drive, San
Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Seeking info regarding **Joseph Stinnett** born about 1842 in Fulton County and spouse **Moriah Taylor** born about 1845 in AR. Stinnett's were found in Lawrence Co. Mo. Terr. and were among the earliest settlers of what became Fulton/Baxter counties. Believe Joseph is son of **William Stinnett** and **Martha (Green?) Martha** m-2nd **William Moulder** abt 1845 and m-3rd **James Cockram** about 1875. She died 1909 in Mountain Home and was living with son, **Martin Moulder**. Related to **Elizabeth Minyard** and **Abner Stinnett** of Fulton Co. and **David Stinnett** of Marion Co. **Eager to exchange info.**

93-5 Sue Pipkin, 6916 W. Dogwood,
Springfield, MO. 65802

Seeking info on Hutchings family. **Alexander M. Hutchings**, born ca 1847 IL. and wife **Keturah E.** born ca 1845 IL. has son **James**, b-Aug 1859 TN, who married ca 1877 in IL. **Louisa F. Issue** b-Oct 1863 IL-dau of **William Issue.** Father and son were in Baxter Co. in 1880 census. James's family went to Indian Territory (now Ada, OK.) They may have

returned to Baxter Co. in 1903-1904? **Does anyone know where either or both are buried in Baxter Co.? Also looking for any deaths of Hutchings children in Baxter Co.. Also looking for "Issue Family" of 1800-1890 period.**

**

Ed: To our membership: If you have any info about people in the Queries, please take the time to write to members requesting info.

MASON LODGE RECORDS

Persons researching ancestors who may have been Masons in Arkansas lodges may find information available by writing to the following:

Grand Secretary James Weatherall
700 Scott
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

LARGE PEACH CROP SHIPPED

20 Carloads of peaches, the largest quantity ever shipped from Baxter County was shipped this season. The White River Fruit Growers Assn. grades and inspects all peaches shipped, insuring a better price for the fruit. Most of the peaches shipments are made from Cotter, Norfolk, Haney and Buford.

The following are the owners of peach orchards: C. E. Evans, C. E. Pond, Bob Payne, Wm. Thornley, C. E. Hopkins, Mrs. Dave Robertson, C. A. Watt, F. M. Cantrell, Dr. Strider, Lee Jones, Will Houser, James Gillihan, Zeke Sorrels, G. W. Bayless, M. T. Allman, John Cochrum, J.N. Eubank, Bob Jordan and the Hipp Orchard.

--Baxter Bulletin, August 1915

Have you something to add to the queries? We encourage you to write to the people seeking information about their Baxter County families.

Also feel free to use the column to aid your research? It could just give you the little hint that you are seeking.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES BAXTER COUNTY LISTINGS

Baxter County has several structures listed on the "National Register of Historic Places" Following is a listing of those structures:

1. The Wolf House at Norfolk Arkansas. The house was constructed by Major Jacob Wolf, using Indian and slave labor, in the early 1820s.. It is a two story building constructed of Yellow Pine logs. The Major was an accomplished blacksmith and made all the hinges, locks, much of the nails and other hardware used in the building. The Wolf House has served as the first court house of IZARD County. Major Wolf ran a trading post and served as the US Indian agent for the area. He represented his district at the State Legislature

2. The Casey House located at Wade and South Street in Mountain Home. The home was constructed by Col. Randolph Casey in 1858. The site was also the location of the first court and the Rapps Barren Post office. Col. Casey settled in Baxter County after serving as an escort for relocating Indians to the Indian Territory.

3. The Ruthven Bridge carrying Route 62B over the White River at Cotter. The 1850 foot concrete bridge was built in 1929 incorporated a patented Marsh Rainbow Arch design by the Marsh Engineering Company of Topeka, Kansas. It was constructed by a unique cable way over the river. It is also listed as the first structure recognized as "First National Historic Civil Engineering Land Mark in Arkansas". The State of Arkansas has recently restored the bridge to good condition and restored the lighting in its original type.

4. The North Fork Bridge at Norfolk, Arkansas carrying US route 5 over the North Fork River. It is a steel deck, Warren-truss span, one of only eight such bridges in the state. It was built in 1937. It was designed by the State Highway Department and was built by the Vincennes Steel Corporation of Vincennes, Indiana.

5. The Case-Shiras-Dearmore Home located at 351 East Fourth Street in Mountain Home. The home, a vernacular farmhouse in the plain traditional type, was originally constructed in 1880 and was built for Dentist Dr. J. H. Case , a Union Army veteran, and his wife Jennie. After

the Doctor's death Jennie established the home as a Hotel and it became a favorite stopping place for travelers. A associated stone outbuilding is also cited for its association of the lifestyle of the farmers who lived here. The home was placed on the Registrar in 1992.

-Editor: Is the listing of the "Register of Historical " complete? Take time to tell me about it!

GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS

The long awaited and long planned Garage Sale was held at the Armory in Mountain Home on Saturday, March 20. On the 19th, several members of the Society met at the Armory and set up the sale. Others were on the road rounding up the sale items from our many donors. On Saturday, the bargain hunters began their hunt and invaded the Armory. By noon the pickings were getting slim and the crowd had thinned out.

A bake sale was progressed with the Garage Sale. The several dozen donuts donated by Harlow's Donut Shop were eagerly purchased. The many cakes and cookies were all gone by noon.

The following Society members worked at the sale: Bob & Beckie Baker, Jimmie and Imogene Lowe, Beverly and Henry Schol, Nita Jones, Bob Underhill, Sue Wanless, Dorothy Messick, Garvin Carroll, Stella Jackson, Rex Bayless and Gene Garr. Manning the phones for many days soliciting items for the sale were Frances Ruthven, Ellen Ramey and Margie Garr. Great job, Crew!

When the dust settled and the cash was added up, the Historical Village fund was \$546.07 richer. Many thanks to all who donated, worked and purchased items at the sale! (I heard some talk that we should make this an annual event)

The Quilt drawing was held at noon at the sale and the winning ticket #842118 was bought by Mrs. Rae Young of Mountain Home. The net sales for the Quilt was \$633.50. Many thanks to Chairman Becky Baker for both a very successful Quilt offering and the huge garage Sale

The average perosn thinks he isn't